



Courage & EnCourage
228 North Walnut Street
Lansing, Michigan 48933-1122
517-342-2596
Facsimile: 517.342.2468
caverart@comcast.net

ENCOURAGE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING
Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing Chapter

When: Sunday May 19, 2013 from 2:30 to 4:00pm

**Where: Holy Spirit Catholic Church
9565 Musch Rd.
Brighton, Michigan 48116**

Directions: US-23 to Silver Lake Rd. Exit (exit #55) West on Silver Lake Rd. to Whitmore Lake Rd. (a short distance). South on Whitmore Lake Rd. to Winans Lake Rd.(a three way stop). West on Winans Lake Rd. approximately one mile to entrance marked with a sign for Holy Spirit Cemetery and Holy Spirit Rectory and School. Turn left. We meet in portable classroom number four. [Look for Encourage Meeting signs.](#)

We hope to see you this Pentecost as we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit to His Church and to this ministry of Courage and EnCourage. God's Holy Spirit working through our beloved founder Fr. John Harvey, and now through his successor, Fr. Paul Check, continues to bless and lead us. It is their faithfulness to the leading of the Holy Spirit that provides consolation and hope to persons struggling with same-sex attraction and to their loved ones.

We have enclosed two communications from Fr. Paul and the Courage and EnCourage offices. Fr. Paul writes to ask for much needed and always deeply appreciated donations to this Spirit led ministry. We hope that you will not only consider, but actually give generously.

The second enclosure is our [Courage Conference 2013](#) brochure and registration form. We urge you to attend the annual conference. Conferences are spiritual retreats, in that they are opportunities to experience the Holy Spirit in the conference participants. The men and women of Courage and the parents and loved ones of EnCourage will bless your lives in marvelous ways. The liturgies are reverent and joyful, the presentations thoughtful and enriching, and the special events spiritually transforming. Please, make plans to attend.

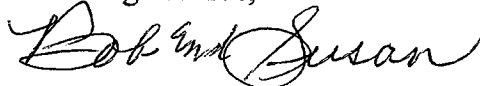
Remember please that we unite to pray each Thursday to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in reparation for our sins and the sins against human sexuality such as same-sex behavior and abortion. Reparation is making amends for the wrongs committed through our sinful condition. Additionally, we pray as intercessors for all our loved ones who will, like the prodigal, someday return home. We generally follow the model given to us by St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in the booklet ***Holy Hour of Reparation*** published by CMJ Marian Publishers. If you would like a copy of the booklet, we have a small supply in our office or you can order one by calling the publisher at 1-888-636-6799. Another beautiful prayer is the ***Chaplet of the Precious Blood*** that is available upon request. "That the necessity of reparation is especially urgent today must be evident to everyone who considers the present plight of the world, 'seated in wickedness'. The Sacred Heart of Jesus promised to St. Margaret Mary that He would reward abundantly with His graces all those who should render this honor to His Heart." (Pope Pius XI Encyclical *Miserentissimus*)

Please note if you cannot attend the May 19th meeting, our next regular meeting is June 23, 2013. Mark your calendar. You will also note that this is the fourth Sunday in June. We have moved the meeting so as to not conflict with Father's Day.

For more information regarding our meetings, or to talk about the issue of same-sex attraction in your lives, call our Diocesan office at 517-342-2596 or email us at caverart@comcast.net

We look forward to meeting with you. Let us remember, however, to always respect the right of each to complete confidentiality.

Trusting in Jesus,



Bob and Susan Cavera

"May the Lord send forth the spirit and renew the face of the earth."

Psalm 104:30



Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (Jn 14:27)

April 15, 2013

Dear Friends in Christ,

Jesus made many promises, among them, that He would rise from the dead, that whoever eats His flesh and drinks His blood will have eternal life, and that He would give us the peace the world cannot give *or* take. It may be easier for us to accept the first part of that last promise—that the peace of Christ is otherworldly—than the second part, that the world cannot, by itself, overcome the peace of the Crucified and Risen Savior. To reinforce His words quoted at the top of this page, He urged His listeners a little later: “I have said this to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Jesus spoke these words not only as a prophet—He foresaw the disorder and selfishness of today’s culture—but also as the Good Shepherd who knew, very personally, that you and I would need the strength and consolation His peace ensures, especially as man’s rebellion against his Creator and Redeemer intensifies and becomes more vehement. As the Supreme Court considers California’s Proposition 8 and the Federal Defense of Marriage Act, we know that the civil law may continue to move further away from its proper foundation on the natural law. This would be a grave tragedy for our nation and for the harm it will bring to many. But unless we ourselves forfeit the gift of peace, the divine promise remains secure.

“Now the company of those who believed were of one heart and soul.” (Acts 4:32) We hear these words at Mass during Eastertide: How wonderful the union of truth and charity among the disciples of the Master! Together with Jesus as the Head, the first Christians, under the leadership of the Apostles, gave witness to the Gospel to a world often hostile or indifferent to truth. In that sense, “there is nothing new under the sun.” (Eccl 1:9) A fallen world continues to resist the Light. Christians desire to give joyful and grateful witness to that Light, even at a cost...a witness that only the grace and peace of Jesus Christ makes possible.

Courage and EnCourage are communities of believers of one heart and soul, with Christ as our head, and under the leadership the successors of St Peter and the Apostles. The members of Courage and EnCourage give quiet but strong witness that what the Church teaches about human intimacy and love, marriage and family life, and homosexuality are true and part of the narrow path to salvation. How much more are such testimony and such authentic pastoral charity necessary now as confusion, anxiety, and isolation are more and more likely to afflict men and women with same-sex attractions (SSA).

This community of men and women with SSA who look to the Church for clarity and charity is often hidden, and so perhaps forgotten or overlooked. Theirs is a special kind of spiritual

poverty that can open their hearts to the Kingdom of God on earth (cf. Mt 5:3). Their struggle is an invitation to a special kind of heroism.

The principle work of Courage and EnCourage is the establishment of these communities, or chapters, as we call them, where, guided by the spiritual fatherhood of a priest, the goals of the apostolate—chastity, prayer and dedication, fellowship, support, and example—are lived in a given diocese. To that end, the central office also engages in the work of education, especially for clergy, about the Church's teaching on homosexuality, so that more chapters will be founded or revitalized.

Since my last letter, I have been to Mexico City for the annual Courage Latino conference; to southern California for a retreat for Courage members during Advent (now added to our annual calendar), for a presentation for the Carmelites of the Most Sacred Heart in Alhambra, and for a visit to Catholic Answers in San Diego; to Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit; to Stamford, CT for our annual winter retreat hosted by the Sisters of Life; to Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, CT, and to Birmingham, AL for a Lenten retreat hosted by the Sister Servants at Casa Maria.

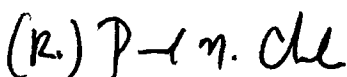
In January, I made a trip to Rome to further along our petition for canonical status directly under the Holy See, a project endorsed by our episcopal board still chaired by Cardinal Timothy Dolan. In November, Courage will offer its first workshop at a meeting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The initial presentation of our two media projects, to become widely available in 2014, will be made at that workshop.

Do look at our website for many additions: articles, brochures (for download), and posted or upcoming reflections on the spirituality of Courage, on friendship, and on forgiveness. The Courage handbook has been revised and is available for group leaders (via email). Revisions are also soon to come to Fr. John Harvey's Knights of Columbus pamphlet and his "Spiritual Plan to Redirect One's Life."

Enclosed in this mailing is our annual conference brochure. We are blessed again with a rich variety of speakers and workshops. Please join us. If you cannot attend, would you consider supporting someone else through a scholarship?

Finally, may I prevail upon you to write a **\$100 check now (or more if you can, please), or to make two \$50 donations over time?** We depend on your generosity to cover a good portion of our annual \$250,000 budget. You understand the indispensable character of Courage and EnCourage in furthering *the peace the world cannot give* to those we wish to serve. You know the need for *communities of believers* to sustain the Faith in hostile surroundings. I am in your debt.

In Christ,



Rev. Paul N. Check

DAWN EDEN is the author of *My Peace I Give You: Healing Sexual Wounds with the Help of the Saints* (Ave Maria Press, 2012) and *The Thrill of the Chaste: Finding Fulfillment While Keeping Your Clothes On* (Thomas Nelson, 2012). At age 31, she experienced a dramatic conversion to Christianity that ultimately led her to enter the Catholic Church. Dawn offers a Catholic spirituality of healing for adult victims of childhood sexual abuse. She holds a master's degree in theology from the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception at Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C., and is currently continuing her studies toward a doctorate.

FR. PAUL SCALIA is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Courage apostolate. He founded the Courage chapter in the Diocese of Arlington, VA, and still assists with that chapter. He is the Bishop's Delegate for Clergy for the Diocese of Arlington.

FR. EMMERICH VOGT, O.P. is a Dominican priest of the Western Dominican Province. Educated by the Dominican Order at its seminary in California, Fr. Emmerich went on to receive a M.A. degree in Theology from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, and a graduate degree in Near Eastern Religions from University of California. Fr. Vogt is the editor of THE 12 STEP REVIEW: Christian Friends in Recovery, a publication of the Western Dominican Province. He is also author of the book *The Freedom to Love: Recovery and the Seven Deadly Sins*.

SISTER MARYSIA WEBER, R.S.M., D.O., a Religious Sister of Mercy of Alma, Michigan, is a physician certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. She completed her residency and a fellowship in consultation-liaison psychiatry at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota in 1989 and practices in her religious institute's multidisciplinary medical clinic, Sacred Heart Mercy Health Care Center. Her primary work includes assessing and treating seminary candidates, priests, and religious. She has also offered numerous formation workshops on a variety of formation issues for U.S. Bishops and vocation directors.

MAIL FULL PAYMENT & REGISTRATION FORM TO:

University of St. Mary of the Lake
Conference Center-Registration
1000 East Maple Avenue
Mundelein IL 60060-1174

847-566-8290 (phone)
847-566-7971 (fax)
E-mail: night@usml.edu

ABOUT REGISTRATION

If you must register by mail, DO NOT send registration information and payment to the Courage office. All mail-in registrations should be sent directly to the conference center.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Both full conference attendees and commuters must complete on-line registration OR send in their registration and payment by **WEDNESDAY, JULY 17th, 2013**. We will not be accepting last minute/new registrations at the conference itself.

** PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE **

USML provides online registration. This greatly facilitates our need to keep conference administrative expense to a minimum.

Please go to the Courage Web Site. Roll over the "**Courage Community**" tab and choose "**Conferences**," then click the button for online registration provided on that page.
Courage Web Site: www.couragerc.org

ABOUT HOUSING

PLEASE NOTE: THE LODGE, WHICH IS THE MAIN DORM AT USML, AS WELL AS LOCAL HOTELS, WILL PROVIDE COMFORTABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR OUR CONFERENCE. SPECIFIC LOCATION, PROPERTY, AND ROOM PREFERENCE WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE, BASIS. TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM HOTELS TO THE MAIN CAMPUS WILL BE AVAILABLE. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND EARLY REGISTRATION.

AIR TRAVEL

If traveling by air, please make your reservation to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN THE AIRPORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

A separate link for **North Shore Car Service or Shuttle Van** is available on the Courage Conferences page of the web site immediately below the online registration button. To access **North Shore** online registration services directly, go to www.northshorelimo.com and enter Code ID #CC37136.

DETAILED FLIGHT INFORMATION IS MANDATORY WHEN MAKING THESE ARRANGEMENTS. Please be ready to provide airline name, flight number, and date and time of arrival and departure.

Shared transportation for two or more people can be arranged with **North Shore** during the online registration process. However, you may also contact **North Shore** by phone to arrange transportation: (847) 816-7474 or Toll Free 1-800-543-0037.

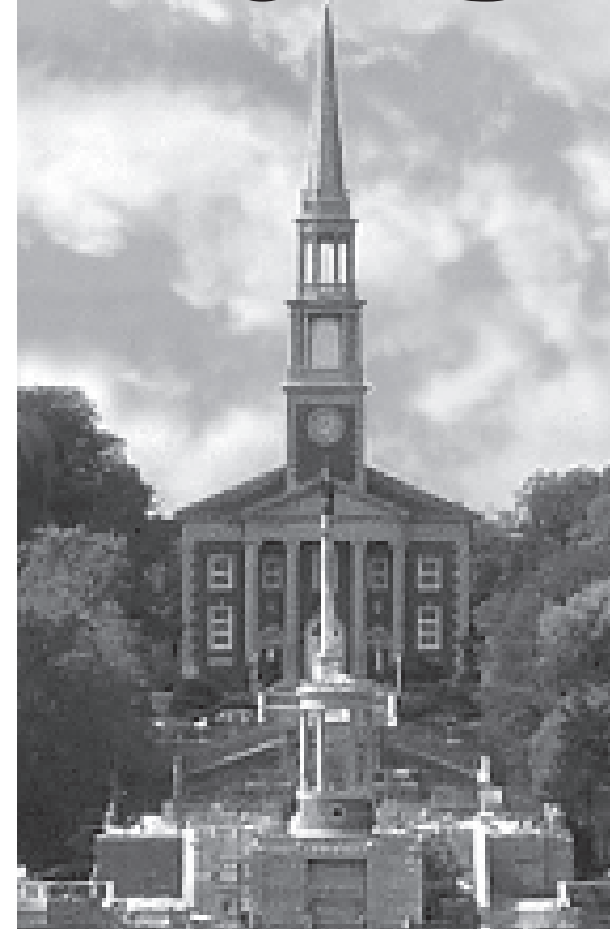
THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE IS DEDICATED TO:

**BENEDICT,
BISHOP
EMERITUS
OF
ROME**



COURAGE INTERNATIONAL, INC.
8 Leonard Street
Norwalk, CT 06850 U.S.A.
Phone: (203) 803-1564
E-mail: NYCourage@aol.com
CourageRC.org OR CourageRC.net

COURAGE CONFERENCE 2013



*A Spiritual Conference for Members
and Friends of Courage and EnCourage*

MUNDELEIN ILLINOIS
THURSDAY, JULY 25TH - SUNDAY, JULY 28TH



**PLEASE REGISTER ON THE WEB.
THIS IS OUR PREFERRED METHOD
OF REGISTRATION.**

To register online, go to the Conference Page of the
Courage Apostolate Web Site:

<http://www.couragerc.org/Conferences.html>

MAIL-IN REGISTRATION FORM

All personal information will be kept confidential by the
Courage Office & USML. **Please print clearly.**

Title Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone : _____

E-mail : _____

CONFERENCE ATTENDEE CHOICES: All Meals Included
_____ FULL CONFERENCE ATTENDEE: Includes over
 night accommodation at USML on Thursday, Friday
 and Saturday. Full Cost is \$375.00 per person.

_____ COMMUTER (Doesn't stay overnight):
Please circle which day(s) you will attend:
 Thursday: 1/2 day Cost: \$50 U.S.
 Friday: full day Cost: \$70 U.S.
 Saturday: full day Cost: \$70 U.S.
 Sunday: 1/2 day Cost: \$50 U.S.

_____ FRIDAY: Only attending Pastoral Seminar for Clergy
 There is no cost if attending only this seminar.
 A good will offering is welcomed! (Includes Mass & lunch)

_____ FRIDAY: Only attending Therapists Seminar
 There is no cost if attending only this seminar.
 A good will offering is welcomed! (Includes Mass & lunch)

All payments must be in U.S. funds. Checks or
 money orders should be made payable to: **USML**

MAIL FULL PAYMENT & REGISTRATION FORM TO:
University of St. Mary of the Lake
 Conference Center-Registration
 1000 East Maple Avenue
 Mundelein IL 60060-1174

___ I prefer to use my credit card. Please charge my:

Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Discover ___ AMEX ___

Account # _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

THURSDAY JULY 25th

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm -- ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION
 5:00 pm – MASS: Main Celebrant Bisop John M. LeVoir,
Bishop of New Ulm, Minnesota
 6:00 pm – DINNER
 7:30 pm – **OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
Dr. J. Budziszewski, “Why Is There Sex?”
 9:00 pm – CONFESSION (All Priests) & Charismatic
 Prayer Gathering
 PRESENTATION: Confraternity of Angelic
 Warfare, Fr. Raphael Salzillo, OP

FRIDAY JULY 26th

7:00 am – Spanish MASS (*Homily in English*)
 7:30 am – BREAKFAST
 9:00 am -- **SPEAKER: Bishop John M. LeVoir**
**“What Does It Mean to be a Human Image
 of God?”**
 10:00 am -- **PASTORAL SEMINAR FOR CLERGY: Led by**
Fr. Paul Check with a Psychologist & Witness
Note: *This seminar will break for Mass and
 lunch and then continue until 3:30 pm.*
• THERAPISTS SEMINAR: Limited to therapists
 with a professional license and graduate students
 in the mental health fields.
Note: *This seminar will break for Mass and lunch
 and then continue until 5:00 pm.*
 11:30 pm – MASS
 12:30 pm – LUNCH
 2:00 pm – **SPEAKER: Fr. Emmerich Vogt, O.P.**
**“Living and Working the Steps with
 Scripture and the Saints”**
 3:30 pm – WORKSHOPS:
 • Courage Men’s Meeting
 • Courage Women’s Meeting
 • EnCourage Meeting
 • EnCourage Spouses’ Meeting
 5:00 pm – **SPEAKER: Sr. Marysia Weber, R.S.M**
**“Internet Pornography Addiction: Medium
 and Content Collide with the Human
 Brain”**
 6:00 pm – DINNER
 7:30 pm -- **SPEAKER: Dawn Eden “Healing Sexual
 Wounds with the Help of the Saints”**
 9:00 pm – CONFESSION (All Priests)
 9:00 pm – ADORATION: All Night -- *We begin with a
 Holy Hour of Reparation and Rosary*

SATURDAY JULY 27th

6:45 am – BENEDICTION
 7:00 am – Spanish Mass (*Homily in English*)
 7:30 am – BREAKFAST
 9:00 am – **SPEAKER: Fr. Paul Scalia “Fearing the
 Lord ... and Not Being Afraid”**
 10:15 am --**SPEAKER: Dr. Bill Consiglio, “Attacking
 Sexual Addiction”**
 11:30 am – MASS
 12:30 pm -- LUNCH
 2:00 pm -- WORKSHOPS:
 • Courage Men with EnCourage Parents
 • Courage Women with EnCourage Parents
 • *Interior Purity: Tricky Temptation and Jumbo
 Chastity* - Fr. Jeffrey Keefe, OFM Conv.
 • *“Restoring His Image: A Model of Transformation
 for Persons with SSA”* - Andrew Comiskey, Living
 Waters Ministries
 • *Taking Your Local Chapter to the Next Level”*
 Bill H. & Karl M. (Philly Courage)
 4:00 pm -- WORKSHOPS:
 • *“Sacred Imagery in Art: Visual Representation of
 God’s Word from the Baroque to the Modern”*
 Dr. Jim O’Neill
 • Bob Moran facilitates a discussion of Francis
 Thompson’s Poem *“The Hound of Heaven.”*
 • Sports Camp Workshop & Volleyball
 • Courage Group Leaders Meeting - Fr. Paul Check
 6:00 pm – DINNER
 7:30 pm – COURAGE MAN & WOMAN TESTIMONIES
 9:00 pm – 11:00 pm SOCIAL: Music, Food, and
 Beverages

SUNDAY JULY 28th

7:00 am – Spanish MASS (*Homily in English*)
 7:30 am – BREAKFAST
 9:30 am – **CLOSING ADDRESS, Fr. Paul N. Check,**
**“The Joy of the Lord Will Be Your
 Strength”**
 11:00 am – MASS
 12:00 pm --LUNCH (Box Lunch)
 1:30 pm – Departures

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

**BISHOP JOHN M. LEVOIR, BISHOP OF NEW ULM,
 MINNESOTA** was ordained and installed as the Bishop
 of the Diocese of New Ulm on September 15, 2008,
 at the New Ulm Civic Center, New Ulm, MN. He served
 as Courage chaplain for the Archdiocese of St. Paul/
 Minneapolis for several years. On January 20, 2011,
 Bishop LeVoir was awarded the Pilgrim Shell by the Latin
 Patriarch of Jerusalem, and on November 1, 2012, he
 received the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award from The
 St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity of the University of
 St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota. His publications include
*Covenant of Love: Pope John Paul II on Sexuality, Marriage
 and the Family, Faith for Today: Pope John Paul II’s Cat-
 echetical Teachings, and Image of God Religion Series,* for
 which he served as theological consultant and author.

J. BUDZISZEWSKI (Ph.D, YALE, 1981) Is a professor
 of government and philosophy at the University of Texas,
 Austin. A former atheist and a convert to Catholicism, he
 is a specialist on natural law, on the basic moral principles
 that St. Paul described as “written on the heart,” and he
 has written especially about the suppression of conscience
 -- what happens when we tell ourselves that we don’t know
 what we really do. He is the author of a number of books,
 including, most recently, *On the Meaning of Sex* ([www.isi-
 books.org](http://www.isi-books.org)).

FR. PAUL N. CHECK has served as the Executive Director
 of Courage International since 2008. He was ordained for
 the Diocese of Bridgeport in 1997, and he holds an STB
 from the Gregorian University, an STL from the Universi-
 ty of the Holy Cross, and a BA from Rice University. He
 has served as a high school chaplain, parish priest, and
 chaplain to the Missionaries of Charity and the Sisters of
 Life. Fr. Check teaches fundamental moral theology and
 sexual and medical ethics to seminarians, permanent dea-
 con candidates, and religious.

DR. BILL CONSIGLIO, M.S.W., M.DIV., D.MIN. is founder
 and director of HOPE Ministries. His many years of
 University teaching, counseling, and pastoral work have
 provided a rich foundation for his internet ministry. He
 received his M.S.W. from University of Pittsburgh and his
 MA in Divinity and Doctor of Ministry in pastoral counseling
 from Trinity Theological Seminary. He was for 27 years
 Associate Professor of Clinical Social Work, SC State
 University and a part-time Christian Psychotherapist,
 specializing in the area of Sexual Orientation Resolution
 Therapy (SORT).