



Courage & EnCourage  
228 North Walnut Street  
Lansing, Michigan 48933-1122  
517-342-2596  
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## ENCOURAGE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing Chapter

**When: Sunday June 10, 2012 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.

**Please note that we are again returning to our original meeting site, which is Portable Classroom #4 up the small hill from the church and across from the cemetery.** The directions in the paragraph above will direct you to the correct location.

**Please also note** that we are meeting on the second Sunday of June, rather than our usual third Sunday, because of a conflict with Father's Day.

Enclosed with our letter is a letter from the Executive Director of Courage and EnCourage, Fr. Paul Check, and a brochure for the annual Courage Conference. Please take the time to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider both enclosures.

Sixteen years ago Susan and I attended our first Courage Conference, and our experience at the conference changed our lives. Fr. Harvey, the founder of this apostolate, urged us to attend. Fortunately we heeded his advice, and made the sacrifice of time, energy and money. We had the blessing of meeting Courage men and women who saw in us grieving parents and reached out to us in love. They embraced us, shared their stories with us and listened to our story. The conference remains for us one the most profound spiritual experiences of our lives. The conference itself, with daily Mass, reconciliation, adoration, prayer, informational and inspirational talks, is a combined spiritual retreat and educational seminar. We urge you to examine your commitments in July, and make every effort to attend.

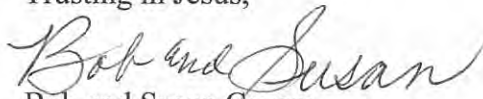
**Remember please** that we unite to pray each Thursday to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in reparation for our sins and the sins against human sexuality such as same-sex behavior and abortion. Reparation is making amends for the wrongs committed through our sinful condition. Additionally, we pray as intercessors 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 was enclosed in a previous letter. We would be happy to provide you with a copy. "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 June 10th meeting, our next regular meeting is August 19th. We are not meeting in July, because we will be preparing for the Annual Courage Conference.**

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](mailto:caverart@comcast.net) Your donation to help defray the cost of sending this letter and enclosure is always welcome and can be sent to the Diocese of Lansing.

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

*"Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."*

Romans 12:12



***Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. (Rom 12:12)***

May 7, 2012

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are happy to present the brochure for this year's conference at Mount St. Mary's, Emmitsburg, MD, July 19-22. Every other year, we plan to meet at Mundelein, IL because it is such a popular and convenient location. At the same time, I believe that it is important to hold the conference in different locations around the country, so that many other people will learn about and benefit from the work of Courage. Mount St. Mary's proximity to Washington, DC and to Baltimore will help achieve that goal, and the campus is a lovely, peaceful setting for prayer and fellowship.

We are blessed with a very good lineup of speakers. I am especially grateful for the steadfast participation of Bishop LeVoir and for Bishop Conley's acceptance of our invitation to be our keynote speaker and to offer the opening Mass.

The quote above from St. Paul aptly describes the Christian life in an economy of words. We rejoice in the hope offered to us by the Risen Christ that our desire for eternal life and peace will be fulfilled if we are faithful to Jesus who is "the way, the truth, and the life." (Jn 14:6) We persevere in the trials and disappointments of this world because the Cross of Christ gives meaning to our suffering and sacrifice. We remain constant in prayer in order to always unite our minds and hearts to the Lord who promised that He would not leave us orphans. (Jn 14:18)

I find that St. Paul's words characterize very well the work of our apostolate, and in particular, the life of our members. The men and women of Courage and EnCourage trust that the same Church who tells us that the tomb was empty on the first Easter Sunday morning is also an "expert in humanity," as Pope Paul VI said. Our Mother the Church knows her children best and loves each one dearly, and so she guards their souls by teaching them, in the name of Jesus Christ, how to live in a way consistent with their human nature, and correspondingly, by indicating plainly and firmly what must be avoided lest we offend the Good God and do harm to ourselves. In so doing, the Church continues the work of Our Lord: teaching us who we are, so that we then know how to think clearly and act rightly.

"You will know the truth and the truth will make you free," Jesus said. (Jn 8:32) In the mind of the God-Man, truth and freedom are inseparable. To be free from ignorance, from selfishness, from a bad conscience are goods we prize. Fidelity to

the truth of our humanity preserves and fosters the freedom that everyone treasures. We also all desire joy. Indeed, *joy* may be the word that best summarizes the reason why “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”: to restore our lost joy. Our Lord said, “I have told you this that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete.” (Jn 15:11) In the verse immediately preceding this one, what did Jesus just tell us? “If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.” (Jn 15:10) So here we find another connection within the mind of Christ: keeping the commandments—which express our human nature—and joy.

In a fallen world, and one increasingly at variance with the truth of the human condition, to hold faithfully to the teachings of Christ and His Church calls for all of the things that St. Paul commends to us: joyful hope, the “folly” of the Cross, and a vital interior life. Without these, we know that we will be adrift and engaged in a self-defeating search for happiness. With them, the struggle remains, more or less intense at times, but that struggle can become a noble adventure in and with the Crucified and Risen Savior. It is no lack of love on the Lord’s part when He calls us to what can be a heroic commitment to the truth. For this, we need the virtue of fortitude—of courage—so that we can “love the difficulties of this world for the sake of eternal rewards,” in the words of St. Gregory the Great.

I pray that the first several months of 2012 have been fruitful in expanding the work of Courage and EnCourage. Presentations have included: Immaculate Conception Seminary, Huntington, NY; Diocese of Syracuse, NY; Archdiocese of Santa Fe, NM (clergy); Diocese of New Ulm, MN (clergy); Diocese of Duluth, MN (clergy); Diocese of Springfield, IL (clergy); Archdiocese of New York (Family Life Conference); Diocese of Ft. Wayne-South Bend, IN (clergy); Diocese of Crookston, MN (clergy). Regional retreats were held in Stamford, CT and Birmingham, AL.

The fundraising for the two media projects has gone very well, Deo gratias, thanks in large part to a few very generous benefactors. I will look forward to telling you more about these significant initiatives at the conference. At the same time, fund raising for normal operational expenses continues, and I ask you to consider supporting our work through a contribution today, especially if you do not plan to attend the conference. Perhaps you might help fund a scholarship.

Finally, may I convey a word of sincere gratitude to our chaplains, group leaders, and listserv moderators, in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and overseas, for all of your faithful service. I offer my deep thanks to the men and women of Courage and EnCourage for your example of what St. Paul urges and what Jesus looks for in each of us.

(R.) P-N. Che

Rev. Paul N. Check  
Executive Director

of St. Paul/Minneapolis and has been a chaplain with Courage since 2004. He has served in parish settings and currently is a chaplain at a level one trauma hospital. He is a frequent speaker at seminars and retreats focusing on healing and spiritual renewal and often presides at prayer services and Masses for physical and inner healing.

**DR. TIM FLANAGAN** is the Director of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Rhode Island's Miriam Hospital and Brown Medical School. His work at Brown Medical School began in 1991. He has helped to establish a network of primary care for HIV infected individuals with a particular focus on women, substance abusers and individuals leaving prison.

**ANDREW COMISKEY** is Executive Director and Founder of Desert Stream Ministries which provides Christ-centered help for those struggling with sexual and relational problems. This help is founded on the biblical foundation of compassion, integrity, and dependence on God.

**FR. JEFFREY KEEFE**, a Conventual Franciscan friar, was ordained a priest in 1952. He has been involved with Courage since its founding in 1980, and is a member of the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality since it began in 1992. He is diocesan director of Courage in Syracuse NY.

**FR. JOSEPH KLEE** is the Courage and EnCourage Chaplain for the Diocese of Columbus, OH. He was ordained in 2001. He holds an MDiv. and an M.A. in Moral Theology from the Pontifical College Josephinum.

## ABOUT REGISTRATION

### REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Both full conference attendees and commuters must register by **FRIDAY, JULY 6, 2012**. We will not be accepting last minute/new registrations at the conference itself. **Please Note:** Overnight rooms fill up quickly. We strongly recommend you register early.

### PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE

We have partnered with RegOnline to support all conference registrations. This greatly facilitates our need to keep conference administrative expense to a minimum.

### TO REGISTER ONLINE

You may access the web registration process directly using the link below.

**RegOnline:** [www.regonline.com/courageconference](http://www.regonline.com/courageconference)

You can also go to the Courage Web Site. Roll over the "**Courage Community**" tab and choose "**Conferences,**" then click the button for online registration.

**Courage Site:** [www.couragerc.org](http://www.couragerc.org)

**IMPORTANT:** Registering online is password protected and totally secure for your benefit! Please make note of your password, as you will need it to gain re-access to your registration at a later time if needed.

If you are unable to register online, all payments must be in U.S. funds and paid by check. **Check should be PAY-ABLE to Courage International, Inc.** Mail your check and registration form (see front inside panel) to:

**COURAGE INTERNATIONAL, INC.**  
8 Leonard Street  
Norwalk, CT 06850 U.S.A.

### THREE ACCESSIBLE AIRPORTS

- Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI)
- Dulles Airport – Washington (IAD)
- Reagan Airport – Washington, D.C. (DCA)

**We suggest you fly to BWI (Baltimore Washington International Airport) if possible. The fares are often lower and it is about 25 miles closer to the conference location.**

### TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN THE AIRPORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

For car service or shuttle service to and from Mt. St. Mary's College and the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. airports, there are two options.

#### Frederick Airport Shuttle

Web: [www.frederickairportshuttle.com](http://www.frederickairportshuttle.com)  
Phone: 1-240-674-4735

Rates are flat rate, per car, **ONE WAY**. For 1 to 5 passengers, it's the same price:

- Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI) \$130
- Dulles Airport – Washington (IAD) \$130
- Reagan Airport – Washington, D.C. (DCA) \$170

#### Frederick Airport Transportation

Web: [www.frederickairporttransportation.com](http://www.frederickairporttransportation.com)  
Phone: 1-240-626-1147

Rates are flat rate, per car, **ONE WAY**. For 1 to 4 passengers, it's the same price. **Only serving Baltimore Washington International (BWI) \$110.**

**ALL RATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CALL AHEAD FOR CONFIRMATION.**

Other discounts are available for AARP, AAA members, and through the rental car companies' frequent renter programs. Rates change constantly.

To save more money on car rentals, check out [www.hotwire.com](http://www.hotwire.com). The rates are much lower, but you must reserve in advance. You do not get to choose the car rental company, and there are **NO REFUNDS/NO CHANGES ALLOWED**. If you can be certain of your travel plans/needs, this is a good option.

Another option, and possibly less expensive, is to rent a car at one of the airports, especially if there are two or more people per car. You can check out the rates at:

#### [hertz.com](http://hertz.com)

USA and Canada : 1-800-654-3131

#### [avis.com](http://avis.com)

USA: 1- 800-331-1212 • Canada: 1-800-879-2847

#### [budget.com](http://budget.com)

USA: 1-800-527-0700 • Canada: 1-800-472-3325

#### [thrifty.com](http://thrifty.com)

USA and Canada: 1-800-847-4389

THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE  
IS CONDUCTED ...

UNDER THE MANTLE OF  
OUR LADY OF LOURDES.



National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes

# COURAGE CONFERENCE 2012

**MOUNT ST. MARY'S  
UNIVERSITY**  
FOUNDED 1803

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

**EMMITSBURG, MD**  
THURSDAY, JULY 19- SUNDAY, JULY 22

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

RegOnline: [www.regonline.com/courageconference](http://www.regonline.com/courageconference)

**COURAGE INTERNATIONAL, INC.**  
8 Leonard Street  
Norwalk, CT 06850 U.S.A.

Other Contact Information

Phone: (203) 803-1564  
E-mail: NYCourage@aol.com  
Web Site: [www.CourageRC.org](http://www.CourageRC.org)

**MAIL-IN REGISTRATION FORM**

**EXCEPTIONS ONLY!** If you are unable to register online, detach this form and mail it with the requested information to the address above. All payments must be in U.S. funds by **check only**. Make checks payable to **Courage International, Inc.**

\_\_\_ **FULL CONFERENCE ATTENDEE:** Includes over night accommodation at MSM on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Full Cost is \$350.00 per person.

\_\_\_ **COMMUTER** (Doesn't stay overnight):

**Please circle which day(s) you will attend:**

Thursday: 1/2 day	Cost: \$40 U.S.
Friday: full day	Cost: \$60 U.S.
Saturday: full day	Cost: \$60 U.S.
Sunday: 1/2 day	Cost: \$40 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 lunch)

**MEALS ARE INCLUDED FOR ALL CONFERENCE ATTENDEE CHOICES**

All personal information will be kept confidential by the Courage Office & MSM.

Title Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail : \_\_\_\_\_

**THURSDAY July 19th**

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm -- ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION  
4:30 pm – Free Time  
5:00 pm – MASS: Main Celebrant Most Reverend James D. Conley, *Archdiocese of Denver*  
6:00 pm – DINNER  
7:30 pm – **OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS**  
Most Reverend James D. Conley *“Friendship, Modern Isolation, and the New Evangelization in the Thought of Blessed John Henry Newman”*  
9:00 pm – CONFESSION (All Priests) & Charismatic Prayer Gathering: Led by Fr. James Livingston

**FRIDAY July 20th**

7:00 am – Spanish MASS (Homily in English)  
Main Celebrant: Fr. Don Wainwright, Chaplain *Courage Latino*  
7:30 am – BREAKFAST  
8:30 am – Free Time  
9:00 am – SPEAKER: Melinda Selmys, *“The Straight Story”*  
10:00 am -- WORKSHOPS:  
• Courage Women’s Workshop: Melinda Selmys  
• Courage Men’s Workshop: Fr. Jim Lloyd, CSP  
• EnCourage Workshop: Bob & Sue Cavera  
• **Pastoral Seminar for Clergy and Persons Engaged in Pastoral Ministries: Fr. Jeffrey Keefe, OFM Conv., Fr. Jim Knapp, SJ, & Testimony by Courage Member**  
*\*\* This seminar will end at 3:30 pm \*\**  
11:30 pm – MASS  
12:30 pm – LUNCH  
2:00 pm – SPEAKER: Tim Flanagan, MD  
*“Providing Hope in the Midst of Despair: A Person Centered Response to the A.I.D.S. Epidemic”*  
3:30 pm – WORKSHOPS:  
• EnCourage Spouses’ Workshop: Fr. Joseph Klee  
Courage and EnCourage Chaplain, Diocese of Columbus, OH  
• Courage Reparation: Vera S., Moderator  
Courage Reparation Group  
• Andrew Gill, Th.Psy.D., *“Demystifying the Gay Standard”*  
• Steve Abell, Ph.D., *“Chaste Friendships in the Modern World: Building Healthy Relationships in a Sexualized Society”*  
• Fr. Basil Cole, OP, *“The Angelic Warfare Confraternity”*  
5:00 pm – SPEAKER: Fr. James Livingston, *“The Goodness of God: Reclaiming the Gift of Hope”*

6:00 pm – DINNER  
7:00 pm – Free Time  
7:30 pm -- SPEAKER: Andrew Comiskey  
*“Naked Surrender: Coming Home to Our True Sexuality”*  
9:00 pm – CONFESSION (All Priests)  
9:00 pm – ADORATION: All Night - *First hour will be a Holy Hour of Reparation*

**SATURDAY July 21st**

6:45 am -- BENEDICTION  
7:00 am – Spanish MASS (Homily in English)  
Main Celebrant: Fr. Don Wainwright, Chaplain *Courage Latino*  
7:30 am BREAKFAST  
8:30 am -- Free Time  
9:30 am -- SPEAKER: Fr. Jeffrey O’Keefe, OFM  
*“The Varieties of Guilt”*  
11:30 am – MASS: Main Celebrant: Bishop John M. LeVoir, *Bishop of New Ulm, Minnesota*  
12:00 pm -- LUNCH  
1:30 pm -- Free Time  
2:00 pm -- WORKSHOPS:  
• Courage Men with EnCourage Parents  
• Courage Women with Encourage Parents: Sally R., Courage Moderator, Archdiocese of NY  
• Living Waters Ministries: Andrew Comiskey  
*“Restoring Relational Integrity through the Broken Body of Christ”*  
• Group Leader’s Meeting: Fr. Paul Check  
3:30 pm – Free Time  
4:00 pm -- SPEAKER: Fr. Joseph Klee, *“A Simple Plan: Blessed Mother Teresa’s Perspective of Life”*  
6:00 pm – DINNER  
7:00 pm – Free Time  
7:30 pm – TESTIMONIES  
9:00 pm – 11:00 pm SOCIAL: Music, Food, and Beverages

**SUNDAY July 22nd**

7:00 am – Spanish MASS (Homily in English)  
7:30 am – BREAKFAST  
9:30 am – CLOSING ADDRESS: Fr. Paul N. Check  
11:00 am – MASS: Main Celebrant Fr. Paul N. Check  
12:00 pm --LUNCH  
2:00 pm – Departures

**ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS**

**MOST REVEREND JAMES D. CONLEY** was born March 19, 1955, in Kansas City, Mo. Bishop Conley, of Wea Indian descent, is the son of Betty and the late Carl Conley. He converted to the Catholic Church during his junior year of college. In 1980, he entered seminary for the Diocese of Wichita. He received philosophical formation at St. Pius X Seminary in Erlanger, Ky., and his theological formation at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD, where in 1985 he earned a master’s degree in divinity. In 1989, his bishop sent him to Rome, where he earned a licentiate in moral theology from the Accademia Alfonsiana.

On May 18, 1985, he was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Wichita. After more than 10 years of service in several capacities—associate pastor, director of Respect Life, and pastor of the Newman Center at Wichita State University—he was called back to Rome to serve as an official in the Vatican Congregation for Bishops. In Rome, he also served as chaplain to the University of Dallas-Rome campus, then as adjunct instructor of theology for Christendom College-Rome campus. In August 2006, Bishop Conley was called back to Wichita and named pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish.

On April 10, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI appointed him auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Denver. Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., ordained the Most Rev. James D. Conley on May 30, 2008, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, at Denver’s Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. Upon Archbishop Chaput’s appointment as Archbishop of Philadelphia on September 8, 2011, Bishop Conley was named apostolic administrator of Denver.

**MELINDA SELMYS** is a columnist and author who speaks directly to every Christian who has experienced same-sex attractions or knows someone who has. Her blog expands on her book, *Sexual Authenticity: An Intimate Reflection on Homosexuality and Catholicism*, and through it she continues to share her personal story of her Catholic journey.

**FR. PAUL CHECK** is a priest of the Diocese of Bridgeport, CT and was ordained in 1997. Bishop William E. Lori appointed him to be the chaplain of Courage in December 2002. In 2008, he was elected to succeed Fr. John F. Harvey, OSFS as the Executive Director of Courage International, Inc.

**FR. JAMES LIVINGSTON** is a priest of the Archdiocese