



Courage & EnCourage
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ENCOURAGE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing Chapter

When: Sunday June 14, 2015 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 Musch Rd. Turn left or West on Musch Rd. to Holy Spirit Catholic Church. The Courage group meets in the new school that connects to the church in the Conference/Lending Library Room. The The EnCourage group meets in a school classroom. Look for Encourage and Courage Meeting Signs.

So much has been going on in the world regarding morality and same-sex behavior that it is difficult to know where to begin in addressing these issues. There is the vote in Ireland embracing same-sex marriage, the fawning media celebrating transgender issues and Bruce Jenner, and the lawsuits seeking to prevent persons who regard their same-sex attracted feelings as unwanted and wish to seek counseling to, in fact, be prevented from receiving counseling. There are efforts in a number of states to make such counseling illegal. All this and so much more remind us of Ephesians 6:12 "*Our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens.*" An important step in addressing these and other issues is to be well informed and truthfully formed. We have enclosed a letter from the national office of Courage and EnCourage asking for assistance and inviting you to make room in your summer schedule to attend the annual conference. Look it over and prayerfully consider attending. We have also enclosed a copy of the prayer we always recommend the *Chaplet of the Precious Blood*. We pray this prayer at the conclusion of our meeting. Though we make the offer to send you a copy upon request, we decided to just send it with this mailing.

Please also remember 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. This beautiful chaplet has been modified to address the specific concerns of Courage and EnCourage members. We have chosen to add this powerful prayer to our Holy Hour of Reparation. Please remember, “that the necessity of reparation is especially urgent today and 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 14th meeting, our next regular Diocesan EnCourage meeting is Sunday, July 19, 2015. **Please also note:** We will not meet in August. The Courage Conference and a national conference for persons in ministry will be consuming our time and energy.

For more information regarding our meetings, or to talk about the issue of same-sex attraction in your lives or the lives of loved ones, call our Diocesan office at 517-342-2596 or email us at courage@dioceseoflansing.org We might also mention that the Diocese of Lansing supports this ministry even though more than half of our letters go well beyond our borders. Any financial help you can give us is greatly appreciated.

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

“Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil.” (Eph. 6:11)

CHAPLET OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

Adapted for the Ministries of Courage and EnCourage
Author unknown

The Chaplet consists of seven mysteries in which we meditate on the seven principal blood sheddings of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus.

Opening Prayer: Lord, we come before you today to offer this chaplet on behalf of all men and women who carry the burden of same-sex attraction in their lives. We pray they may commit to a life of chastity, find healing through your grace, and consolation in your love for them. We bring before you all the Christian faithful, especially our church and government leaders, that they may offer continual compassion and support for these souls in your truth, that not one of your sheep may be lost to the false promises of the gay lifestyle, and that no one may carry this burden alone. Help each of us here today to be open to your call at all times, that we may be bold, and ever ready to see and love you in our brother or sister who we see struggling against the sin of homosexual behavior, or trapped in the snares of the gay lifestyle. We would especially like to remember _____ in prayer, and thank you for calling us to do your will, remembering that whatsoever we do for the least of our brothers, we do for you. Amen.
V. O God, come to my assistance!
R. Lord, make haste to help me!
V. Glory be to the Father----
R. As it was in the beginning---

Response Following Each Mystery

- **Announce and read the mystery**
- **Our Father---**
- **Incline unto my aid, O God – O Lord, make haste to help me.**
- **Glory be to the Father-----**
- **We beseech thee, therefore, help thy servants – Whom thou has redeemed by thy precious blood.**

First Mystery: Jesus shed his blood in the Circumcision

Lord, we pray that all men and women who experience same-sex attraction, will receive the grace to discover and commit to a life of chastity in body and soul. Give them your consolation and strength, and may your most Sacred Heart be a refuge for them in times of temptation and trial in this world.

Second Mystery: Jesus shed his blood while praying in the Garden of Olives.

Lord, we pray for all members of Courage and other Christian spiritual support ministries for SSA, that through perseverance in prayer, each of them may come to know you intimately, and discern clearly your will for their lives until they are welcomed victoriously into your heavenly kingdom.

Third Mystery: *Jesus shed his blood in the scourging.*

Lord, we pray that you may call many Christians to SSA ministry in a spirit of mortification and penance, that through dying to self and cooperating with your grace, they may become an instrument of salvation for many souls from the eternal punishment due to sins of homosexual behavior. May we be always ready to lay down our lives and be scourged by the world for our brothers and sisters with SSA, when and wherever you may call us to do so.

Fourth Mystery: *Jesus shed his blood in the crowning with thorns.*

Lord, we pray for all men and women who are living or promoting the gay lifestyle, that they may be given contempt for worldly honors. We know it is pride that is the deadliest of sins, and so in removing the false pride of worldly honors, may these men and women find the courage to step away from a way of life that could never be pleasing to you or bring them happiness. Help them to find freedom in your truth, that they may be crowned for the virtue of purity in heaven.

Fifth Mystery: *Jesus shed his blood while carrying his cross.*

Lord, we pray for all Christians, that they may be granted the patience and wisdom to recognize SSA for what it is – an unwanted disorder and temptation that causes great suffering – that they may approach all individuals with same-sex attraction with compassion and love, continually praying for their salvation and strength in carrying this cross.

Sixth Mystery: *Jesus shed his blood in the crucifixion.*

Lord, we pray for those who are in the process of leaving the gay lifestyle, that they may have a true contrition for their sins that keeps them from going back. Help them to persevere through alienation, abandonment, betrayal, insecurity, and other trials this transition may hold for them. May you yourself be their consolation and their joy as they find peace and freedom in being crucified to their old life that they may live truly in you.

Seventh Mystery: *Jesus shed his blood and water when his side was pierced.*

Lord, we pray for the members of EnCourage and all family and friends of SSA individuals, that they may persevere in praying for their loved ones, and find consolation and hope in that great promise of Our Lord: "Seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened, ask and it shall be given unto you."

Final Prayer: Eternal Father, We offer you the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ in satisfaction for our sins, for the needs of Holy Church and for the relief of the souls in Purgatory.

We pray also for the spread of the Courage and EnCourage Ministries. Guide and protect them from the attack of the evil one. Grant us, your servants and church militant, the COURAGE we each need to persevere in doing your will here on earth, that when the battle is done and our sacrifices have been joined to yours, we may hear the voice of Our Heavenly Father saying: "Well done good and faithful servant. Enter, now, into the joy of your Master." Amen



Easter 2015

Dear Friends in Christ,

During this year that the Church is dedicating to a deeper appreciation of the sanctity and importance of marriage, sexuality and family life, we are becoming ever more aware of the necessity of proclaiming the Good News with clarity and with compassion. Our brothers and sisters in every walk of life, both inside and outside the Church, want to know what the Church teaches about homosexuality, and why. This is a grace-filled moment in which we are called to become evangelizers, and to proclaim with joy what the Gospel call to chastity and self-donation means for our lives as disciples.

I am happy to invite you to join us this summer at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake, also known as Mundelein Seminary, in suburban Chicago for the **28th annual Courage and EnCourage Conference**, which will meet from **Thursday, July 30, through Sunday, August 2**. We have assembled an impressive list of speakers who will discuss essential issues like identity, vocation, discernment and true friendship. I am confident that the talks and workshops will both strengthen your own spiritual life, and equip you with the tools to communicate the truth to others.

Our own work in this regard continues at a steady pace. Our documentary film, *The Desire of the Everlasting Hills*, is being widely distributed with a study guide in English and Spanish, and subtitles in other languages are in the works. This film will be followed soon by a five-part catechetical series on the Catholic Church and homosexuality, which will be available on DVD and will also air in the coming months on EWTN.

One reason for the creation of my position is an exciting increase in the invitations we are receiving to speak about the apostolate and to share Church teaching at numerous events. Since he wrote to you in December, Father Check has led clergy study days in the dioceses of Birmingham and Sioux City, and in the Archdiocese of Miami. A trip to Asia included clergy days in Singapore and Hong Kong, as well as meetings with lay ministers working in parish and campus settings. He also spoke at meetings of the National Catholic Bioethics Center and the Catholic lay leadership group Legatus. I was invited to speak to seminarians at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Newark about providing authentic pastoral care, and to address teachers at Trinity High School in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania.

The months ahead will bring opportunities to spread our message even further. We already have received invitations to provide clergy study days for dioceses in Kansas, Wisconsin and Louisiana, and several more are in the works. In June I will be taking part in training programs for lay missionaries working on college campuses, and for medical students at a program organized by the Catholic Medical Association. We will be attending the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia this September, and the Courage Latino conference in Mexico City in November. We are already receiving requests from both Catholic and secular media to share our message, and these requests will surely increase as the World Meeting and the Synod of Bishops draw near.

September 26, 2015, will be the 35th anniversary of our apostolate — on that date in 1980 the first Courage members gathered with our dear founder, Father John F. Harvey OSFS, in New York. From those humble beginnings we have grown to include chapters in more than 120 dioceses in the United States and in 14 other countries on 5 continents. In this anniversary year we are eagerly awaiting word of the final approval of our statutes as a Universal Public Association under the auspices of the Congregation for Clergy, part of the Roman Curia that assists the Holy Father in the governance of the universal Church. This approval will give us a unique status as an international Catholic apostolate recognized and supported by the Church's hierarchy at the highest level.

My few months here in the central Courage office have given me a new appreciation for the scope of our work, and a renewed desire to be of service to our members and their chaplains throughout the country and around the world. Our ability to help them depends a great deal on your willingness to help us, by your prayers and by your financial contributions. Please consider writing a check today for \$100, or whatever your means will allow, to support the work of Courage International. Perhaps this is the year you could afford a larger donation than usual, in commemoration of our 35th anniversary.

It will be a great joy to see you at our annual conference in Chicago. In the meantime, please keep us in the central office, and our Courage and EnCourage members and chaplains, in your daily prayers, and be sure that we are praying for you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Philip G. Bochanski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Father Philip G. Bochanski
Associate Director
Courage International