



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 July 17, 2011 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 labored longer than we usually do in attempting to discern what we might enclose for your information this month. With so much happening, especially the tragedy of the New York State Same-Sex Marriage Law and the attended efforts by gay activists to persuade every state to follow suit, we know the efforts in this conflict will need to be intensified. We just returned from a little vacation in a neighboring state and noticed that the local paper contained two opinion pieces urging that state and every state to follow New York's lead. Many of us may soon be confronted with an invitation to a 'gay' wedding. Fr. Harvey often addressed this situation and one in particular was a pamphlet entitled *Courage and Encourage Prayerfully Explore the Text of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*. In it he addresses catechism texts 2357-7&8: "They (same-sex acts) do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they (the acts) be approved." Fr, Harvey then comments, "nor celebrated, nor endorsed, nor affirmed as a work of God". Father urged us to be clear, and succinct and to avoid what the Holy See has called "studied ambiguity". Our presence at a ceremony or attendant celebration is a witness, though silent, that communicates affirmation.

We have enclosed with this letter the repeat of an article by Bishop Joseph Naumann. In his essay, he urges us to be to be active, both vocally or through our example, in our response to a behavior we know violates natural law, God's law and

Church teaching. We also included an article entitled *Wrong Diagnosis, Wrong Cure for "Gay" Youth*. This article forcefully presents why we need to be vocal, visible and proactive. Our children and our grandchildren are a major target of pro-activists.

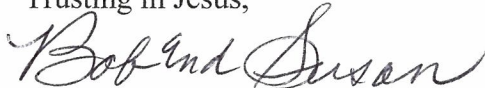
**Remember please** that we unite to pray each Thursday to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in reparation for our sins and the sins against human sexuality such as same-sex behavior and abortion. Reparation is making amends for the wrongs committed through our sinful condition. Additionally, we pray as intercessors 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. "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 July 17th meeting, our next regular meeting is September 18<sup>th</sup>.** We do not meet in the month of August because of the Courage Conference. We hope to see you there.

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)

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

"In God is my safety and glory, the rock of my strength. Take refuge in God, all you people, trust him at all times. Pour out your hearts before him for God is our refuge."

Psalm 62: 8-9

**Robert T. Cavera**

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**From:** <EJSBTB@aol.com>  
**To:** <EJSBTB@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 23, 2011 5:58 PM  
**Subject:** Wrong Diagnosis, wrong cure for 'gay' youth

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## Wrong diagnosis, wrong cure for 'gay' youth

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Posted: June 21, 2011  
1:00 am Eastern

By Linda Harvey  
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What's worse than asking ninth-graders intrusive and sexually explicit questions on a school survey, even if they do live in a liberal district?

It's discovering misbehavior, coming to exactly the wrong conclusion about the causes and recommending more harm be done.

A [new report](#) published by the Centers for Disease Control shows that teenagers in public schools who believe themselves to be homosexual or bisexual are taking more risks all across the board. While this should not come as a big surprise to the average American with common sense, it is a stunning revelation to our psychobabbly federal public health professionals. After all, they can't even bring themselves to say "Stop it!" to men who have anal sex with other men.

The National Youth Risk Behavior Surveys are given to high schoolers, and the Centers for Disease Control looked at the data from 2001 to 2009 in the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wisconsin and the cities of Boston, Chicago, Milwaukee, New York City, San Francisco and San Diego, locales where the schools permitted questions about homosexual identity/behavior, which isn't always the case in less "progressive" areas.

Teens who called themselves "gay, lesbian or bisexual," or who were unsure, as well as those who didn't use those labels but had sexual contact only with same-sex people or with both sexes, were found to be more likely than heterosexually identified students to engage in seven out of the 10 risk behavior categories. These were: 1) behaviors that contribute to violence; 2) behaviors related to attempted suicide; 3) tobacco use; 4) alcohol use; 5) other drug use; 6) sexual behaviors; and 7) weight management.

Now, I'm not in favor of asking kids these detailed sexual questions, and I'm not alone – many parents feel the same way. In fact, there are quite a few controversies in schools because of inappropriate surveys.

But now that we have this information, it gives an important snapshot, if we evaluate it appropriately.

However, the CDC researchers jumped to predictable conclusions. Among the solutions was the need for "supportive" school environments – meaning, approval of homosexuality – including more "gay straight alliance" clubs and pro-homosexual teacher diversity training. Also, health-care settings and workers need training to be more "open and nonjudgmental."

Yet haven't these researchers already been quite judgmental themselves? There's no way, apparently,

they considered the possibility that homosexuality might be a very wrong and unwelcome identity and behavior, nor that maybe these are desperately troubled kids, reflected in their histories of undesirable conduct.

I mean, which comes first, the "gay" feelings or the drug use? The smoking? Is there a cause/effect relationship? Or do they both stem from something else entirely?

The researchers believe these kids just suffer from low self-esteem – which may be true – but they assume it's the fault of others, including the general social stigmatization of homosexuality. Then, of course, with no supporting evidence, they apparently adopt the "gay" lobby's position that views against homosexuality are unwarranted and inevitably provoke bullying and self-harm. Homosexuality is either innate, or benign, or both, according to the unsupported, accepted narrative.

So the researchers submit the only possible answer: affirming homosexual behavior. Bullying and difficulties at school will be solved by molding others to a new homosexual "ethic" through favorable policies, re-education sessions and student "gay" clubs.

Yet let's look at some details of the CDC findings that don't jibe with these conclusions. For instance, are we actually supposed to believe that low self-respect or social rejection because of one's homosexual identity causes teens to refuse to wear seat belts? That was one of the risk behaviors higher among "sexual minority" youth. How about driving after having consumed alcohol? What about being abused by a date or being forced to have sex? Wouldn't that be "gay-on-gay" violence? This would put at least some "gay" kids in the category of "bullier/abuser." Whoops! There goes another talking point.

Seriously, the percentages reporting dating violence are distinctly higher among the "sexual minority" youth. Why aren't we seeing a proliferation of anti-violence programs aimed specifically at these kids?

Or how about having already, at their tender ages, had sex with at least four people? Is promiscuity a common reaction to real or perceived discrimination? Or failing to use a condom if they are having sex?

They were also more likely to have smoked, drunk alcohol, tried marijuana, or had sexual intercourse, all before age 13. Is anyone seeing a pattern emerge here? On this point, wouldn't this have transpired before most declared themselves to be, as they believe, "gay, lesbian or bisexual"?

The problem here, of course, is the solutions themselves are biased and discriminatory. Nor would they be applied in comparable situations. For instance, there's considerable evidence that overweight students experience bullying and social rejection more than others. And, these kids more often attempt suicide and engage in other risky conduct. So, where are the obesity-affirmation school programs? Why not recommend those?

As usual, political correctness has swallowed common sense. This data reveal troubled kids with issues that often pre-date puberty, heading down a road of self-harm. Others along the way may contribute, but the core dysfunction doesn't go away by joining a "gay straight alliance."

This misbehavior can't all be blamed on others. It's a picture of sad case histories where parents or guardians were most likely neglectful, abusive or both. Many of these kids raised themselves, aided primarily by our trashy culture. This looks a lot more like a combination of home troubles and rebellion than systemic social discrimination. And sexual deviance is most likely the result of the same factors responsible for the other risky practices.

Ironically, all this is being reported along with another alarming and related indicator. From another section of the CDC comes the latest HIV surveillance report with these findings about young males:

MSM [males who have sex with males] aged 13–24 had the greatest percentage increase (53 percent) in diagnoses of HIV infection from 2006 through 2009.

Yet public schools must keep on "affirming" this behavior? This is educational and medical malpractice. Truly caring adults would be looking at the big picture, not exploiting already troubled kids for a harmful political agenda. No matter what causes these kids to engage in dangerous behaviors, encouraging them to embrace one more – homosexuality – is only going to bring more heartbreak and harm into their already complicated lives.

# **Catholics Cannot Be Silent On The Issue Of Homosexuality**

by

**Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann  
Archbishop of Kansas City, Kansas**

One can deny the law of gravity. However, if one chooses to act like the law of gravity is not true by walking off a 10<sup>th</sup> story balcony, there will be harsh consequences.

The same is true of the moral laws that God has engraved on the human heart. We can deny their existence, but when we violate them there are inevitable consequences.

One of the most dramatic effects of the sexual revolution has been a change in our societal attitudes toward homosexual behavior. There is hardly an evening of prime time or cable television that fails to feature a situation comedy, drama or movie portraying sympathetically homosexual relations. The entertainment media has for many years been conditioning Americans to accept homosexual activity as normal and natural.

In this cultural context, it is not surprising that many Catholics are confused about what the church teaches regarding homosexuality and the rationale for its teaching.

To understand church teaching in this area, we must begin with a fundamental pillar of Catholic theology – namely, the innate dignity of the human person. We believe that each and every human being is of inestimable worth because he or she was created in the image of God, and the Son of God gave his life on Calvary for each of us. Therefore, every human being deserves the respect due one made in the image of God and one for whom Jesus shed his blood.

As Christians, we have a moral responsibility to show respect for individuals, even if we disagree with the morality of some of their behavior. We are all sinners in need of God's mercy. Despite our weaknesses and flaws, we still carry the image of our Creator.

The church has spoken out clearly against all expressions of hatred or acts of violence against homosexuals. Our Catholic faith calls us to have a respect and reverence for every human person.

Yet, this innate respect for the dignity of the human person does not mean that we must grant personal or societal approval to behavior that we understand to be harmful to individuals and to society as a whole. There are actions and behaviors that by their nature are immoral, wrong, sinful and, frankly, dangerous.

Natural law is a term used to describe truths that are inscribed on the human heart. For instance, we do not need Christian revelation in order to know that murder, stealing, rape and racism are wrong. Homosexual behavior is also something that violates natural law as evidenced by its nearly universal rejection by cultures and societies for millennia. Until a few decades ago, even the modern discipline of psychology considered homosexuality a disorder.

For Christians, we also have clear biblical teaching to assist us in understanding moral truth. In the beginning of his Letter to the Romans, St. Paul discusses those who have lost their theological bearings by the worship of idols. St. Paul goes on then to describe what happens when we displace the true God:

“Therefore, God handed them over to impurity through the lusts of their hearts for the mutual degradation of their bodies. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and revered and worshiped the creature rather than the creator who is blessed forever. Amen. Therefore, God handed them over to degrading passions. Their females exchanged natural relations for unnatural, and the males likewise gave up natural relations with females and burned with lust for another. Males did shameful things with males and thus received in their own persons the due penalty for their perversity.” (Rom1: 24-27)

In the New Testament, one can find several lists of sinful behavior which include homosexual activity.(e.g. I Tm 1:8-11 or 1 Cor 6: 10)

In addition to the Bible, Catholics also have the consistent teaching of the church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is quite clear in its treatment of homosexual behavior: “Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity, tradition has always declared that homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered. They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved.” (CCC 2357)

There is much that we do not know about homosexual orientation. There are many who believe that a person is biologically determined to be either homosexual or heterosexual, although there is no conclusive evidence that supports this hypothesis. There is some social science evidence that does show that at least for some a homosexual orientation is developed because of psycho-social environmental factors. Whether homosexual orientation is sometimes biological or is learned behavior does not really alter the moral analysis. Homosexual behavior always involves a moral choice and homosexual activity is always harmful to the human person.

The human body has been fashioned in such a way that it is obvious that genital sexual activity was intended between a man and a woman. Only heterosexual love can realize one of the essential purposes of sexual intercourse – the creation of new life. One of the reasons that our society and culture are so susceptible to accepting homosexual behavior is because of our acceptance of contraception with its destruction of the ecological balance God created by linking sexual intimacy with the power and responsibility of creating new human life.

In one sense, the moral demands on a person with a homosexual orientation are the same as those for heterosexuals. Everyone is called to live a chaste life. However, in living chastely, the homosexual does not have the same option for marriage as the heterosexual.

Homosexuals have much to contribute to society and to the church. Without the demands and responsibilities of marriage and parenthood, they have additional opportunities to excel in their work or chosen profession as well as serve society. They also have the opportunity to enjoy rich and satisfying friendships with members of both sexes.

However, if they choose to ignore the moral law written into our humanity by engaging in homosexual activities, there are inevitable harmful consequences for their health and happiness in this world, as well as for eternity.

Some would say that this is a private matter and the Christian should remain silent. I am afraid this is not a true option. If you notice your neighbor’s house is on fire,

but do not inform him and warn him because you do not want to upset him, you have done a great disservice and have failed to love.

The current initiatives to demand that the courts sanction same-sex marriages could have broad societal consequences. The courts could establish homosexuals as a privileged and protected class under the law. This would have disastrous effects.

There are some who attempt to compare advocacy for homosexual rights to efforts for racial and gender equality. This is a flawed analogy. Homosexual rights involve not just the protection of a group of people who happen to be a particular race or gender, but chosen activities that are constitutive of what it means to be a homosexual.

Massachusetts and Canada illustrate what could happen throughout our nation. In Massachusetts, children in public schools now are being subjected to indoctrination that promotes homosexual behavior as an acceptable lifestyle. Catholic Charities in Boston has been denied the ability to continue its long history of providing adoption services. Bishops and priests in Canada are being prosecuted for expressing views similar to those in this article. The consistent teaching of Christianity for 2000 years is being branded as hate speech.

In the few historical instances where societies began to condone homosexual activity, it reflected the weakening of family life and the imminent collapse of the culture. As Catholics, it is important that we know our church's teaching and its rationale. We must be willing and able, no matter the risks, to speak the truth with love.

We cannot be silent; there is too much at stake for our families, our culture and our nation.

*(This article appeared in The Leaven, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas)*