



Courage & EnCourage
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ENCOURAGE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing Chapter

When: Sunday September 18, 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.

As you know our Encourage group did not meet in August, instead we attended the Annual Courage Conference held at St. Mary of the Lake University in Mundelein, IL. It was an excellent conference! Every year the conference is held at the end of July and/or the beginning of August. We would urge you to set aside the time now in order to attend this wonderful retreat and conference. We have enclosed with this letter an order form for the talks and testimonies from this year's conference.

We have also enclosed an article on a very current topic entitled *Gay Marriage and The Next Gulag*. The author quite vividly describes the effects of the gay marriage debate taking place throughout the world. Additionally, we included a brief article on the back page from the American Family Association that illustrates the consequences of this issues on persons who have a Christ centered perspective, and express themselves.

At the risk of overwhelming you, we also wanted to mention that the Episcopal Commission for Doctrine of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops have produced an excellent document entitled *Pastoral Ministry to Young people with Same-Sex Attraction*. It is too long to include with our mailing, but for those of you who are computer literate you can obtain the document from the following:

http://www.cccb.ca/site/images/stories/pdf/ministry-ssa_en.pdf

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 September 18th meeting, our next regular meeting is October 16th.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob and Susan".

Bob and Susan Cavera

"The form of the Church, and the form of every Christian life, is the form of the cross."

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. CAP.

On the Culture

Gay Marriage and the Next Gulag

By Dr. Jeff Mirus | July 05, 2011 12:04 PM



16 retweet

In a [Mexican case](#), Fr. Hugo Valdemar was found guilty on July 1st of illegal political activity because he stated that Catholics should not vote for candidates who support same-sex marriage. Fr. Valdemar's defense is that he wasn't speaking against a particular party but was merely stating the teaching of the Catholic Church. But the particulars of charge and counter-charge do not make a great deal of difference, apart from the strategies they suggest for legal maneuvering. There have been many similar stories over the past few years from around the world, especially in Canada and Europe. The writing is on the wall. Gay marriage is the lie that will create the next Gulag.

Indeed, gay marriage is the perfect totalitarian wedge, not least in a country like the United States, which has been capable of believing itself uniquely dedicated to liberty even in the midst of slavery and abortion. We Americans, it seems, will be quite willing to sing the praises of our liberty no matter how many of us lose it. It is our national myth, something we worship. But the cause of gay marriage fits the myth better than most issues because it really does seem that those who oppose it are denying life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness to others. This denial can be accepted for the unborn, in the name of the liberty of their mothers, as it once was accepted for African Americans, who shared judicial non-personhood with the unborn. But gays are well-educated, wealthy and—above all—a logically favored projection of our moral culture. To inhibit their happiness, for any reason, seems just plain wrong.

Why should this be? First, it is necessary to note that the word “gay” refers not to those with homosexual inclinations but to those who champion behavior based on these inclinations as good. In fact, homosexuals who are not gay are a sign of contradiction to the gay world. They are scorned accordingly, in ways that even straights are not. The key to understanding the whole matter is that to be gay or to support the gay lifestyle is to approve and promote sterile sex.

The Western world in general has been hard at work promoting sterile sex for nearly a century now. We began by sanctioning the break-up of families through ever-easier divorce. Divorce is a kind of pretense that the marital covenant is ultimately sterile, in the sense that children do not matter. Next we embraced contraception so that our sexual pleasures could not be diminished through responsibility. Promiscuity inevitably followed, and with it abortion, which is simply fruitfulness in denial. We've covered our eyes and stopped our ears. “Nyah, nyah, nyah, I can't SEE you! I can't HEAR you!”

A culture like this, a culture which embraces these values, has no argument against homosexual sex, no case against homosexual marriage. A huge percentage of our marriages are deliberately and totally sterile; most of the rest are deliberately sterile much of the time. Huge numbers of marriages, by deliberate design, result neither in children to preserve the race nor in future citizens to enhance and develop the social order. There is no conceivable public interest in such unions, and no significant personal interest in them either, apart from the fuel they temporarily provide for the couple's doomed *egoism à deux*.

Far from having a natural revulsion against homosexual intimacy, modern Western culture can hardly help seeing it as the jewel which crowns and protects its own warped vision of sex. We recognize and defend a right of men and women to engage in sexual intimacy without fruit. It follows that rank prejudice must be the only reason anyone could possibly oppose the same freedom between men and men or women and women.

No group is more hateful to modern society than the perceived moralistic prigs who, out of what most perceive as religiously-motivated prejudice, seek to diminish the personal sexual liberty of others. Nothing could be more obvious in our current culture than that such people must be silenced and, if necessary, restrained. Moreover, it seems only right and just that their denunciation of the gay lifestyle and their opposition to gay marriage should be criminalized. In fact, it should be criminalized in the name of liberty. That is why gay marriage is the lie that will create the next Gulag.

The insistence on ignoring vice is the hallmark of a debased culture, but the insistence that a lie be publicly affirmed as true is the hallmark of ideological totalitarianism. Such lies are always accompanied by the monopolization of education and other forms of thought control, and this is always made easier by the sad fact that huge numbers of people are convinced that those who are targeted are getting exactly what they deserve. The slightest intellectual resistance is perceived as a grave threat to peace and order. The truth becomes subversive. To speak the truth makes one either a social pariah or a traitor. The most obvious of realities must be denied. The most obvious of facts must be hidden. The most obvious of statements must be unsaid.

It is difficult to see anything that can be done about this without massive personal reform. Within the dominant culture, there is really no way to gain any traction to push back. The only thing that can possibly help is for those who oppose gay marriage to start living according to the understanding of sexuality communicated by the natural law. And almost the only way to do that in a culture incapable of recognizing the natural law is to seek the clarity and strength provided by Christian Revelation and grace. In other words, the only way to reverse the trend is to live the whole truth, sustained by Faith, rather than merely to argue about this or that part of it.

This means creating families and even whole communities marked by permanent marriage and fruitfully responsible sex, a lifestyle which—once one recovers from the initial shock—leads first to a deep sense of security and ultimately to a rich happiness. It is fair to say, I think, that

commitment to and communication with reality invariably produces these remarkable results. But the time for lip service is long past. The ultimate answer to every Gulag is the affirmation of truth through life—a vibrant demonstration that Christians have more heart to lose than pagans have to win.

It is important, too, that this witness be corporate, that is, visible not just in a few individuals but in a community which professes a Creed. This is another reason for continuing to improve discipline in the Church, and quickly. The Church need not (and should not) encompass only perfect Christians, but within broad limits, her members need to be at least willing to try the life she offers them.

After all, if we accept the Truth, we also believe, though perhaps sometimes only in a dim sort of way, that we will suffer under the impact of thwarted reality in this life and under divine punishment in the next, if we simply ignore what we believe. On precisely this point, St. Peter offers the wisest of counsels:

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is right? But even if you do suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence; and keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are abused, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing right, if that should be God's will, than for doing wrong. (1 Pet 3:13-17)

Too often those who revile the behavior of Christians have no cause to be put to shame. This must change. Nothing else will work.

[email the editor](#)



Jeffrey Mirus - President of CatholicCulture.org

If you found this helpful, our bi-weekly *Insights* emails can notify you of key commentary items. Also, please support this apostolic work.

From: "AFA Action Alert" <contact@afa.net>

Sent: Monday, August 22, 2011 3:03 PM

Subject: Florida school suspends 'Teacher of Year' over his support for natural marriage

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Florida school suspends 'Teacher of Year' over his support for natural marriage

This kind of flagrant, unconstitutional and unconscionable anti-Christian bigotry must not be allowed to stand.

August 22, 2011

Dear Robert,

A Florida teacher has been [suspended and removed](#) from the classroom in Mount Dora, Florida, for comments made on his Facebook page against homosexual "marriage." Liberty Counsel will be representing the teacher in court.

In response to New York's passage of a same-sex marriage bill, Jerry Buell criticized the new law in a pair of Facebook posts. He wrote, "If they want to call it a union, go ahead. But don't insult a man and woman's marriage by throwing it in the same cesspool of whatever. God will not be mocked. When did this sin become acceptable?"

Just minutes later, he added, "I will never accept it because God will never accept it. Romans chapter one."

This reference to Scripture and man-woman marriage has now been labeled as a "code ethics violation" by school officials.

Mr. Buell is currently subject to an Inquisition-type investigation. **The school will not let him back into the classroom**, says a school official, "until we do all the interviews and do a thorough job of looking at everything - past or previous writings."

Says Mr. Buell, "It was my own personal comment on my own personal time on my own personal computer in my own personal house, exercising what I believed as a social studies teacher to be my First Amendment rights."

It's worth noting that Florida's constitution prohibits recognition of same-sex marriage, the exact view Mr. Buell supports. In essence, he is now being accused of hate speech for expressing a view enshrined in the state constitution.

TAKE ACTION

[Send an email today to the Lake County school superintendent and school board](#), insisting that Jerry Buell be returned to the classroom immediately and that no disciplinary action be taken against him.

ORDER FORM 2011

23rd Annual Courage Conference

Talks and Workshops sponsored by Courage at University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, IL, Aug. 4th - Aug. 9th, 2011

	QUANTITY
Keynote Address: The Memory of Fr. John F. Harvey, Oblate of St. Francis de Sales and the Future of Courage/Encourage by Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke	_____
Blessed Are Those Who Believe: Faith and Fidelity Today by Most Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted, Bishop of Phoenix, AZ.	_____
Pastoral Seminar for Clergy and Youth Ministers by Fr. Benedict J. Groeschel, CFR	_____
Pastoral Seminar for Clergy and Youth Ministers Same Sex Attractions in Youth and Gender Identity Disorder by Dr. Rick Fitzgibbons	_____
Pastoral Seminar for Clergy and Youth Ministers by Fr. Paul Scalia	_____
A Tribute to Fr. John F. Harvey, OSFS, Co-Founder of Courage International, Inc. by Bob and Susan Cavera, EnCourage	_____
Self-Mastery to Self-Giving: Addressing Anger and Sadness by Dr. Rick Fitzgibbons	_____
Testimonies by Angelo and Tina	_____
Closing Address: The Triumph of Failure by Fr. Paul N. Check	_____

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