



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 18, 2014 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; located behind the cemetery. Look for Encourage Meeting signs.

May you continue to have a Happy and Blessed Easter Celebration!

Since Mother's day occurs the Sunday before our meeting, we also want to wish all mothers a **Very Blessed and Happy Mother's Day!** Unfortunately you only get one day, while the Risen Lord is celebrated these 50 days to Pentecost.

We have included with our reminder letter two articles that we thought might be useful in helping you to understand our loved ones who struggle with same-sex attraction. We also chose the articles because they speak to the influence of our culture that demands approval and condemns opposition to the behavior.

Many of you have already seen a fairly recent video entitled *The Third Way*, but if not, we would encourage you to go on line at www.vimeo.com/93079367 and view it. It is approximately a 30 minute presentation and is very well done. It chronicles the lives of several men and women for whom this issue has been, and perhaps continues to be, a struggle. While the participants share much of the pain this issue has brought them, they also share the joy of coming to Christ and to the Catholic Church.

We have also included with our letter a brochure for the Annual Courage and EnCourage Conference. This year the conference is July 17 through July 20th at Villinova University in Philadelphia. Please make plans to attend, because it will

bless your life in countless ways. The prayer, the teaching, the fellowship will change your life. I guarantee it.

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 18th meeting, our next regular meeting is June 22nd. **Please Note: We are meeting a week later on the 4th Sunday because Father's Day falls on the third Sunday.**

This letter and enclosures come to you through the generosity of our Diocese of Lansing. We are grateful for any donation, large or small, that you could give to help with our costs. If you are no longer interested in receiving our communications, please email or phone us.

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 courage@dioceseoflansing.org

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

"Only he, the Living One, can give meaning to existence and enable those who are weary and sad, downhearted and drained of hope, to continue on their journey."

Pope Benedict XVI

BREAKING FREE FROM HOMOSEXUALITY

One Man's Journey to Life in Christ

by David Prosen

My family consisted of my father, mother, and my younger sister, Darlene. My mother and I always had a good relationship, but my father and I did not. He was an alcoholic and often physically abused me.

While growing up, my Dad tried to teach me the things in life that he enjoyed, such as carpentry and landscaping. However, it would always end with him losing his patience, screaming obscenities, and calling me names. My dad never taught me sports such as baseball or football. At school, when it was time to divide in teams, I was one of the last picked. The team that ended up having me loudly complained and made it clear that I was not like them.

Everything associated with masculinity brought me much panic. As a child, I didn't enjoy playing with cars and toy guns. Instead, I enjoyed role-playing games such as house and, yes, even dolls. For as long as I can remember, I had an attraction to the same gender. When I reached puberty this attraction intensified and brought me much turmoil. This confirmed to me that my male peers were right; I was different.

At about age 15, an older male befriended me. I began to look up to him as an older brother. One night, this friendship was betrayed when he took advantage of me sexually. He played many mind games and emotionally abused me. I sank into a deep



despair as this sinful behavior continued for three months. I then decided to give Jesus a chance. At first, I was on an emotional high, but despite my years of catechism classes, I didn't understand my faith or the sacraments. For example, I didn't recognize the sustaining power of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. When the emotional high left, I became very lonely and felt once again that I didn't fit in.

Numbing the Pain

I began using marijuana and alcohol to help numb the pain. Once I turned 18, I went to my first gay bar. At first it was exhilarating. I felt like I finally could be myself, but the emptiness only worsened and I relied even more heavily

on substances to help deal with the pain. I had lived an active "gay" life for two years, but was given a special grace and realized how sinful I had been. From this point on I turned my life over to Christ several times, but again, still not understanding that conversion is an ongoing, daily process by which God's grace transforms us. I would always end up falling back into the bondage of sin and heading deeper into darkness. After one of these falls, I learned of places where one could go to have promiscuous sex. I so desperately wanted to be held and loved that I fell into a horrendous cycle of addiction. I would want to be held, fall into sin, feel worse, do it again to feel better, feel even worse, and on and on and on.

www.designpics.com

In the midst of all this pain, the worst was about to happen. My sister, whom I had become very close to, suddenly collapsed with a heart attack and died instantly at the age of 21. After working through some of the grief, her death forced me to face my own mortality. I needed to seriously work at building a strong foundation on Christ, instead of looking for the emotional highs that I had depended on in the past.

Light in the Darkness

I was chaste for five and half years by His grace and some awesome things started happening. I quit alcohol and drugs and completely dropped out of the "gay" scene. Also, God helped me forgive my dad and the relationship between us improved.

But I wasn't able to see these amazing things God was doing because every day was a living hell for me filled with shame. I begged God many times every day for a cure, but the attraction never went away. Some people said, "You don't have enough faith." Others said, "You must be sinning in some other area of your life." These statements only added to my shame. One day, a friend of mine said, "David, maybe God isn't curing you because maybe there isn't anything wrong with being homosexual." After much thought, I decided she might be right.

Although I went back into living a life of sin, I believe God used this imperfect situation to teach me some truths about what love really is. He never let go of me, even when I let go of Him. One day, I felt God say to my heart, "Yes, you never chose this attraction, but you *can* choose whether or not you will act on it." I picked up the Catechism and learned that this was a cross, and that we all have our crosses to carry. "Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mt. 16:24). He gives us the graces to carry our crosses; all we have to do is ask Him and be open to these graces. If it weren't for crosses such as Darlene's death, I am sure that I would be spiritually and physically dead.

Ongoing Healing

By God's grace I have been chaste for 10 years and this time there is no shame . . . praise God! I enrolled at Franciscan University of Steubenville last year and, since then, the Lord has been leading me on a journey of healing. The Lord had shown me that I was harboring anger toward my childhood male peers who mocked me and teased me. I learned that I transferred this anger toward any male that was perceived by me as extremely macho. By God's grace, I have let go of this anger and so many tremendous things have been happening.

For a paper in my Christian Moral Principles class, I read Dr. Gerard J.M. Van Den Aardweg's book, *The Battle for Normality: A Guide for (Self) Therapy for Homosexuality*. The Lord used this to bring about much more healing. I learned that the attraction I had toward males was actually an admiration of those who had masculine or physical traits that I felt I lacked as a child. In puberty, this admiration became sexualized. In addition, I learned that when I was living the homosexual lifestyle, I was coveting what other men possessed. I was affirmed when men who were more masculine or attractive than me showed an interest in me.

God has shown me that true love is not primarily about seeking affirmation, or attempting to have our physical and spiritual needs met. As Pope John Paul II says in *Theology of the Body*, love is a sincere gift of self, and our various needs will be met by God and others when we express love in this authentic manner.

God has brought into my life Catholic male friends who have spent time with me this past summer showing me how to throw a ball, catch, and hit. That child inside of me has been getting the affirmation he had so desperately sought. And as a result of these healings, I am feeling things toward the opposite sex that I haven't felt before. Do I still struggle with same-sex attraction? Yes, but the attractions are less intense. I don't know what God's will is for me, but I want to remain open to it whether it is the chaste single life or even marriage.

Courage

One thing I found very helpful in my journey is my involvement with Courage. Courage is the only Catholic support group for those with same-sex attractions that is approved by the Catholic Church. Members in Courage strive to live chaste lives in accordance with the Church's teachings on homosexuality. During these past 10 years, I desperately sought support from other Catholics who were going through the same struggles but who wanted to live chaste lives. In my former diocese, I found little or no support, and often what support I was given condoned the sin. This has helped me realize how important it is that we promote and support Courage.

I was blessed to be able to go to the National Courage Conference this past summer and was so impressed. Our Holy Father calls Courage "the work of God." I couldn't help but meditate on those words as I experienced God's love, power, and healing as attendees shared their stories with others who are on the same journey.

If a person is struggling with same-sex attraction, they are not alone, nor do they have to be alone in their journey. I encourage them to go to the Courage website, www.couragerc.net, and see if there is a meeting being held in their area. If not, a person can register on their website and communicate with other Courage members from around the world. The Courage website also has a recommended reading list covering many aspects of same-sex attraction, including what we know about the causes.

Some people told me that I had to be true to myself and accept my homosexuality in order to be happy. God has shown me that I am being true to myself by living in accordance with His Word. I am much happier now than I have ever been before. I no longer escape pain but, instead, I try to work through it. And each time comes growth. And with each growth comes a profound joy and peace in Jesus Christ.

David Prosen writes from Steubenville, OH. For more information on Courage, see p. 19 of this issue.

DAILY NEWS

Teaching Moments on Sexuality

Dec. 4 issue column on imparting Catholic teachings to teens.

BY JANET E. SMITH

| Posted 12/10/11 at 8:12 AM

On several occasions, Catholic parents have approached me about how to talk to their heterosexual teenagers about homosexuality. Many teenagers are very accepting of the homosexual orientation; they think it is just as natural as a heterosexual orientation.

They think that permitting homosexual "marriages" is a matter of civil rights, that sexual orientation is like skin color: It is wrong to use either to discriminate against people. And, being teenagers, they are very sure that they are right.

I believe the willingness to approve of homosexual unions derives from two sources: a faulty understanding of sexuality and compassion for those who are attracted sexually to members of their own sex.

It is very difficult for anyone in our culture, let alone teenagers, to have a correct view of sexuality. It is a rare TV show or movie that does not feature some form of sexual immorality as perfectly acceptable. Homosexual relations are now featured regularly on TV and in film — and always with approval. When young people are inundated with such impressions, it is very difficult for them to believe that sexual intercourse is moral only between heterosexuals who are married. If heterosexuals can engage in non-procreative, uncommitted sex, why can't those with homosexual appetites? And why should we forbid marriage to them if they believe making a lifetime commitment is fitting for the love they feel for each other? (And this at a time when more and more heterosexuals are claiming that marriage is not necessary for expressing a lifetime commitment?! It is hard not to think that the clamor for same-sex unions is more about acceptance than about marriage licenses.)

With the ubiquity of media attention given to same-sex unions, parents will not lack teaching moments. Setting the stage is a good idea. Assure your teenagers that you think that being ordered in respect to sexuality is difficult for everyone; indeed, in our culture, most heterosexuals are out-of-control sexually. Tell them you would be as reluctant to allow a cohabiting couple to share a bedroom in your home as you would be to allow a homosexual couple to do so. But that, generally, both would be welcome at your dinner table. Mention that you appreciate the dignity and gifts of all human beings; they are all beloved children of God.

Inform them how the acceptance of homosexual relations is relatively new and that there has been a concerted campaign by the media to mainstream acceptance of homosexuality. Call teens' attention to the fact that few people know many of the facts about homosexuality. Although the causes of a homosexual orientation are various, it is well established that many males who experience homosexual attractions were abused sexually by males or felt rejected by their fathers. Many lesbians were abused by males and no longer trust males. If one's desire for sexual intimacy with a same-sex partner can be traced to abuse or the perception of rejection, how natural and healthy can it be?

Although heterosexuals have increased their propensity for having multiple sexual partners, the average homosexual male has hundreds of partners in his lifetime — and a significant number with anonymous partners; they are looking not so much for "Mr. Right" as "Mr. Right Now." Fidelity among gays is almost nonexistent; when they say they have been faithful to their partner, they generally mean they have not brought another partner home, but will readily admit to having had other sexual partners. (See "An Open Secret: The Truth About Male Homosexuals" by Joseph Nicolosi online.) Indeed, Dan Savage, a gay advice



columnist, recommends that heterosexuals should learn from what he calls the "American gay lifestyle," which includes pornography, fetishes and "flexibility" in regard to fidelity.

Much of the activity in which gays engage, unfortunately, can only be judged to be degrading. It is even unpleasant to discuss explicitly what homosexuals do sexually with each other, but that information, again, shows how unnatural the act is; lesbians must use artificial devices and males must violate bodily parts meant for other purposes (hence the huge incidence of anal cancer). Even such indirect descriptions seem to violate discretion, but failure to deal with the facts of reality is very helpful to those who want to present the reality as something that it is not. While "gay pride" parades are not typical of homosexual behavior, a quick look at the pictures of such parades will give a flavor of what the "gay lifestyle" celebrates.

For good resources about the facts of homosexuality, direct teenagers to the websites for Courage (a support group for homosexuals trying to live a chaste life) and NARTH (National Association of Research and Therapy of Homosexuality) and/or hand them the pamphlet "Homosexuality and Hope" available from the Catholic Medical Association or the Our Sunday Visitor pamphlet "What the Church Teaches: Same-Sex Marriage." In fact, you might donate to such organizations as NARTH or Courage to show your commitment to assisting those with same-sex attractions.

Another major reason for the approval of homosexual unions is compassion. Many, if not most, persons with homosexual appetites seem to fear that if they are not permitted to be in homosexual unions they will live lives of miserable, debilitating loneliness. And we must admit that until they learn techniques of healthy relationships, their fears are not completely unfounded. Those with homosexual appetites seem to have a huge relationship wound in their being. They have not received the affirmation of their biological gender that they needed or are wounded in other ways, which drives them to seek intimacy with a person of the same sex, intimacy that becomes sexualized.

I think many of those who experience homosexual appetites have trouble having normal relationships with heterosexual males and females. Many gays report feeling like outsiders around heterosexual males and a sense of longing to be just one of the guys. Nor do they feel normal around females. The more effeminate might tend to think they are "one of the girls," but they know better. I believe the equivalent is true for lesbians; they, too, feel inferior around heterosexual women and are not "one of the guys," no matter how masculine they feel and act.

I think we have to recognize that the homosexual orientation is a particularly heavy cross. It is not easy to try to give those who experience homosexual appetites the affirmation they need without appearing to approve of their choices in respect to their sexual behavior. Yet that is the approval that they seem to insist upon in order to feel affirmed. We need to affirm them as beloved children of God, while at the same time calling them to reject the homosexual lifestyle; loving them in their dignity, as Jesus did with the woman caught in adultery, while inviting them to abandon their homosexual lifestyle. (We should do the equivalent for heterosexual friends who are fornicating, using pornography, etc.)

Teenagers have big hearts and a strong sense of justice. We should invite our teens to be leaders in showing loving respect to other teens manifesting a homosexual orientation. While making their objection to homosexual actions clear, they should rebuke those who mock homosexual kids and make sure they involve them in social activities. They should try to learn to express their disapproval of homosexual relations with sensitivity and clarity (just as they need to learn to express disapproval for fornication and pornography), while at the same time maintaining respect for those who engage in such activity. We need to let those who experience same-sex attractions know we love them and are sorry for the suffering they experience. They need our friendship, our involvement and our prayers.

Janet E. Smith is the Father Michael J. McGivney Chair of Life Ethics at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

receive five honorary doctoral degrees, write seven books about her faith and her life journey, and is the recipient of the The Mahatma Gandhi International Award for Reconciliation and Peace.

FR. JOSEPH W. KOTERSKI, S.J., is a member of the Philosophy Department at Fordham University, where he has taught since his ordination as a Catholic priest in 1992. He regularly teaches courses on natural law ethics and on medieval philosophy. He has produced videotaped lecture-courses on "Aristotle's Ethics," on "Natural Law and Human Nature," and most recently on "Biblical Wisdom Literature" for *The Teaching Company*. In addition to publishing various articles and book chapters, he has authored a monograph entitled *An Introduction to Medieval Philosophy: Basic Concepts* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009).

FR. DONALD TIMONE is a priest of the Archdiocese of New York. He has taught spiritual theology for over 40 years in various college and graduate programs. He has worked with Courage/EnCourage as a spiritual director for over 25 years! Father Timone served on the Courage Board of Advisors in New York. Father has also given presentations on Courage to diocesan gatherings of priests, seminarians, youth ministers and educators around the country.

ABOUT REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Both full conference attendees and commuters must register by **THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2014**. 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. All apartments are:

- air-conditioned and furnished.
- provide pillow, mattress pad, sheets, blanket, towels, wash cloths and bath mat.
- contain twin size beds.
- offer one set of shampoo, soap and plastic cup per guest in apartment at arrival.
- provides high speed wireless internet access

** 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. You may access the web registration process directly at www.regonline.com/courageconference2014.

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

Courage Site: 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 PAYABLE to Courage International, Inc.** Mail your check and registration form (see front inside panel).

COURAGE INTERNATIONAL, INC.

8 Leonard Street
Norwalk, CT 06850 U.S.A.
Phone: (203) 803-1564
E-mail: NYCourage@aol.com

AIR TRAVEL

We suggest you fly to PHL (Philadelphia International Airport) if possible. An alternate airport choice is EWR (Newark International Airport with a car rental).

TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN THE AIRPORT AND VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

For your convenience, we've listed below various methods of traveling to and from campus. Please check with each to find out specific schedules and for information.

AMTRAK (Goes to 30th St. Station. Transfer to Thorndale/Paoli Line.)	(800) 872-7245
SEPTA (Buses & Trains)	(610) 734-1300
Avalon Limousine/	(610) 527-5240
Shuttle Service	(800) 844-2240
Bennett Taxi Service	(610) 525-1770
Main Line Airport Limousine	(610) 525-0513

PARKING

Parking is free for guests who stay seven days or less. Permits or Guest parking passes must be displayed at all times. Parking is limited to the main **Lancaster Avenue lots** and the **West Campus Apartment lots**. You'll be able to download a parking permit during online registration. Parking violations will result in parking tickets and/or towing.

TRAIN

Another option is through the SEPTA Regional Rail service. **Coming from Airport:** Take the Airport Line to 30th Street Station, then switch trains and take the Thorndale/Paoli Line to Villanova's main campus. It makes frequent stops at the NW corner of Villanova's main campus. **PLEASE NOTE:** Check the SEPTA schedules online for times, since during peak hours or on holidays the train does not stop as frequently at Villanova's campus! **It's a short walk from the Villanova Station to registration at Jackson Hall.**

Returning to Airport: At 30th Street Station during peak times, the Airport Line to the airport leaves every 30 minutes on the "4's" (:04 and :34) of each hour. You should also check the Thorndale/Paoli Line schedule to insure enough time to check into the airport early. You'll need to know which airport terminal they are going to (A, B, C, D, or E/F), as the train stops at each terminal separately.

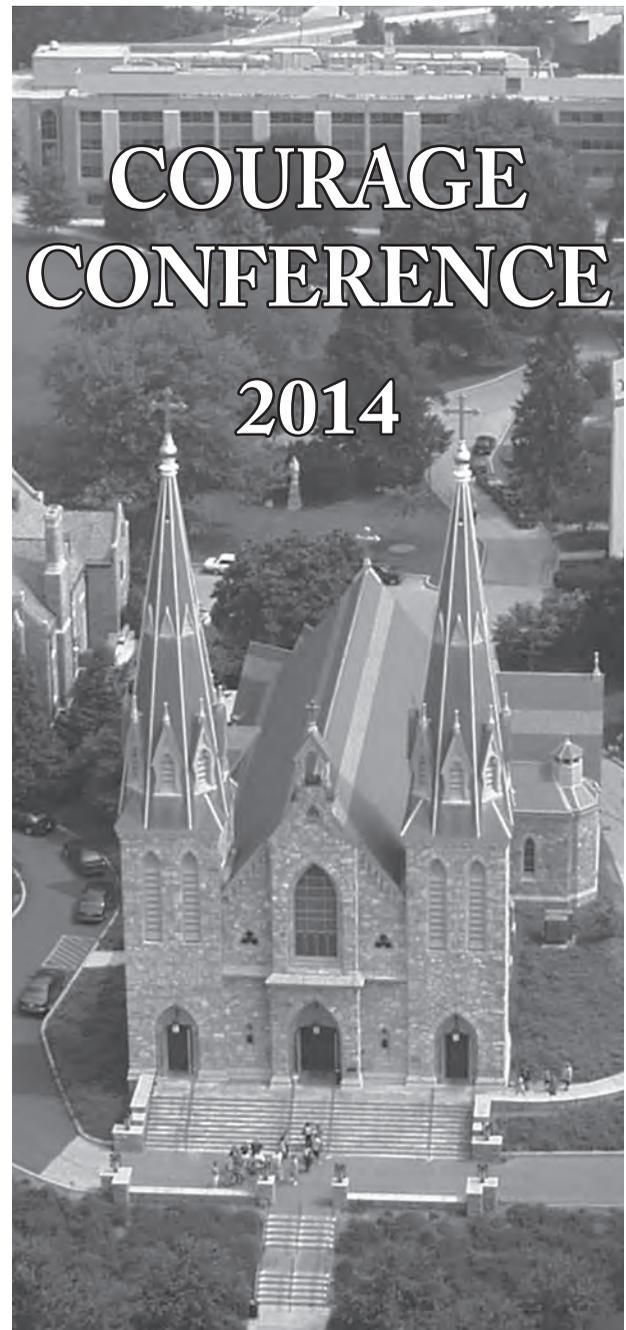
TAXI SERVICE

The airport taxi and shuttle services (such as Avalon, Bennett, and Main Line Taxis mentioned) run by off-campus companies frequently offer 24-hour service. You should be aware that transportation to Villanova from the airport can cost \$35-\$60 each way; you may wish to "carpool" to save on the expense. Please check with individual taxi/limousine services directly concerning transportation to/from the airport from Villanova.

WE DEDICATE THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE TO



POPE FRANCIS



A Spiritual Conference for Members and Friends of Courage and EnCourage

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
THURSDAY, JULY 17 - SUNDAY, JULY 20

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

www.regonline.com/courageconference2014

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

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 Thursday through Saturday; Includes meals Thursday dinner through Sunday lunch. **Full Cost is \$375.00 per person.** All apartments sleep 4 persons. List name(s) of preferred roommates:

___ **COMMUTER** (Doesn't stay overnight):
Please circle which day(s) you will attend:
Thursday: 1/2 day (Dinner) Cost: \$50 U.S.
Friday: full day (All Meals) Cost: \$75 U.S.
Saturday: full day (All Meals) Cost: \$75 U.S.
Sunday: 1/2 day (Breakfast, Lunch) Cost: \$50 U.S.

FRIDAY:

___ **Only** attending Pastoral Seminar for Clergy
___ **Only** attending Family Life/Student Life Seminar
There is no cost if attending only these seminars.
A good will offering is welcomed! (Includes lunch & dinner)

All personal information will be kept confidential by the
Courage Office & Villanova University.
Please Print Clearly!

Title & Name: _____
Mr., Mrs., Ms., Rev., Fr., Dcn. Sr.

Address: _____

Phone : _____

E-mail : _____

THURSDAY July 17th

- 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm -- ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION
5:00 pm – **MASS:** Main Celebrant - Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia
6:30 pm – DINNER (Ends at 7:30 pm)
8:00 pm – **OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
Fr. Paul N. Check, Executive Director of Courage
9:30 pm – WELCOME ALL NEWCOMERS (For those new to the conference or this apostolate)
Hudson B. (Courage Canada)
9:30 pm – Also, Charismatic Prayer Gathering with Confession (All Priests)

FRIDAY July 18th

- 7:30 am – **MASS**
8:30 am – BREAKFAST (Ends at 9:30 am)
9:45 am – **SPEAKER: Fr. James Brent, O.P., “From One Degree of Glory to Another: Chastity as Spiritual Beauty”**
11:00 am -- **WORKSHOPS:**
 - Courage Men's Meeting
 - Courage Women's Meeting
 - EnCourage Meeting
 - EnCourage Spouses' Meeting

11:00 am -- **SEMINARS:**
 - **Pastoral Seminar for Clergy:** Led by Fr. Paul Check
 - **Family Life/Student Life Seminar:** Led by Fr. Paul Scalia

*** These seminars will break for lunch and end at dinner, or until completed.***

- 1:00 pm – LUNCH (Ends at 2:15)
2:30 pm – **SPEAKER: Immaculée Ilibagiza “Immaculée’s Story of Faith, Hope and Forgiveness”**
4:15 pm – **WORKSHOPS:**
 - *“Sacred Imagery in Art”* Dr. Jim O'Neill
 - *“Working the First Step”* Bob M. (Courage New York)
 - *“Taking Your Chapter to the Next Level”* Karl M. & Bill H. (Courage Philly)
 - *“The Angelic Warfare Confraternity”* Fr. James Brent, O.P.
 - *“Bridging the Divide: Healthy Friendships Between All Persons”* Steve A. (Courage Detroit)

6:00 pm – DINNER (Ends at 7:15)

- 7:30 pm -- **SPEAKER: Helen Alvare “What If We Took Pope Francis at His Word?”**
9:00 pm – ADORATION: All Night - *First hour will be a Holy Hour of Reparation*
9:00 pm – CONFESSION (All Priests)

SATURDAY July 19th

- 6:45 am -- BENEDICTION
7:30 am -- BREAKFAST (Ends at 9:00 am)
9:15 am -- **SPEAKER: Fr. Joseph Koterski, S.J. “The Christian Meaning of Human Sexuality”**
11:00 am – **MASS:** Main Celebrant - Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas (Auxiliary Bishop, Philadelphia)
12:30 pm -- LUNCH (Ends at 1:45 pm)
2:00 pm -- **SPEAKER: Fr. Philip Bochanski, C.O. “Namugongo Jubilee: Lessons from Our Patron Saints”**
4:00 pm -- **WORKSHOPS:**
 - Courage Men & EnCourage Parents
 - Courage Women & EnCourage Parents
 - *“Courage and the New Evangelization: How Our Stories can Help Heal a Sexually Broken World”* Dan M. (Courage Grand Rapids) & Chuck Weber (SaintMax Worldwide)
 - *“Get a Grip on Sexual Addiction”* Dr. Bill Consiglio
 - Courage Group Leaders Meeting - Fr. Paul Check, Director of Courage International
 - Sport's Camp Workshop with Volleyball Darryl P. (Courage Members Action Committee)

6:00 pm – DINNER (Ends at 7:15 pm)
7:30 pm – Courage Documentary, *“Desire of the Everlasting Hills”* viewing, followed by panel discussion with Paul, Rilene, and Dan (Courage members in the film)
9:00 pm – 11:00 pm SOCIAL: Music, Food, Beverages

SUNDAY July 20th

- 7:30 am – BREAKFAST (Ends at 9:15 am)
9:30 am – **SPEAKER: Fr. Don Timone, “Coming Down from the Mountain”**
11:00 am – **SPEAKER: Andrew Comiskey, “Judge Not? Clarifying a New Testament Understanding of Judgement”**
12:30 pm -- **MASS:** Main Celebrant - Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano (Diocese of Bridgeport)
1:30 pm -- LUNCH (Ends at 2:30 pm)
2:30 pm – Departures (Apts must be vacated by 3:30 pm)

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

HELEN ALVARE is a Professor of Law at George Mason University School of Law, where she teaches Family Law, Law and Religion, and Property Law. She publishes on matters concerning marriage, parenting, non-marital households, abortion, and the First Amendment religion clauses. She is a consultant for the Pontifical Council of the Laity, an advisor to the USCCB, and an ABC news consultant. She cooperates with the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations as a speaker and a delegate to various United Nations conferences concerning women and the family.

FR. PHILIP BOCHANSKI, C.O. was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in 1999, and since 2004 has been a member of the Philadelphia Congregation of the Oratory, located at Saint Francis Xavier Church in Fairmount. A community of secular priests living a stable common life, the Oratory was founded in 1575 by Saint Philip Neri. Father Philip works with the Secular Oratory, a group for young adults, and is the chaplain for the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters (the Pink Sisters), the Philadelphia guild of the Catholic Medical Association, and the Philadelphia chapter of the Courage Apostolate.

FR. JAMES DOMINIC BRENT, O.P. is a Dominican Friar and the Promoter of the Angelic Warfare Confraternity for the Dominican Province of St. Joseph. He is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at The Catholic University of America, and has authored two articles on chastity. He also travels and gives retreats on various themes.

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 selected to succeed Fr. John F. Harvey, OSFS as the Executive Director of Courage International, Inc.

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.

IMMACULÉE ILIBAGIZA is a survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide that took the lives of nearly one million Tutsis, including her entire family except for one brother. Immaculée found shelter at a pastor's home, and during those 91 days of unimaginable suffering, Immaculée found her faith, taught herself English, and most incredibly, committed herself to a life of peace, hope and forgiveness. Immaculée has gone on to work at the United Nations,