



Dear Friends in Christ,

I am pleased to send you the brochure for this year's annual conference, returning to Mundelein on August 4-7. We will dedicate our time together to the memory of Fr. John Harvey, OSFS, in gratitude for his spiritual fatherhood. I have asked several of our speakers to share their reflections on Fr. Harvey's influence in their lives and his role in leading Courage and EnCourage for almost three decades.

As you will see, we are blessed with a wonderful lineup of speakers and participants. **His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke**, Prefect of the Apostolic Signatura, will offer the opening Mass, and he will give the opening talk that evening. The Cardinal was a close friend of Father Harvey, going back to the days prior to his being made Bishop of La Crosse, WI. His Eminence is one of Courage's most faithful and strongest promoters among the Church's shepherds.

Four other prelates will also join us. **Bishop Thomas Olmstead** of Phoenix will offer Mass on Friday and give a talk that morning. Longtime former Courage chaplain **Bishop John LeVoir** of New Ulm, MN will offer Mass on Saturday, and **Bishop Thomas Paprocki** of Springfield, IL will offer the closing Mass on Sunday. Longtime former Courage chaplain **Bishop Mark Seitz**, auxiliary bishop of Dallas, will also join us on Thursday and Friday. **Fr. Benedict Groeschel** and **Dr. Richard Fitzgibbons** will also be with us.

We have worked hard to keep the cost of the conference as low as possible: **\$350**. If you need a scholarship, please apply for consideration by writing a letter to the main office. If you would like to provide a scholarship, please let me know or simply send your gift to the office. May God reward your generosity.

Since my last letter to you in December, I have tried to give as many talks as possible, especially to **clergy**. Here are some of the venues: Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit; Catholic Charities, Diocese of Arlington, VA; Clergy Study Day, Diocese of Covington, KY; Clergy Study Day, Diocese of Lafayette, LA; Conference for Bishops, National Catholic Bioethics Center; Presbyteral Council, Diocese of Springfield, IL; Permanent Deacon Study Day, Archdiocese of Hartford; Faber Center for Ignatian Spirituality, Marquette University; Priest Retreat, Longlea, VA; St. John Fisher Seminary, Stamford, CT. I have been edified by the response of many brother priests and seminarians. I was also a guest on EWTN's *Life on the Rock* and for two 30-minute segments on a national radio program called, *Spirituality for Today*.

Upcoming clergy study conferences in June will include the Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS; the Diocese of Kansas City-St Joseph, MO; and the Diocese of Winona, MN. Whenever Courage is invited for a clergy study day, the plan is always to address the question of same-sex attraction from **four perspectives**: theological anthropology (the natural moral law and Church teaching on homosexuality); psychological sciences (presented by an MD or PhD who works with Courage); witness talk (a testimonial by a Courage member); and a talk specifically about Courage.

On June 11, our business manager, Jerry Lambert, will be ordained a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Bridgeport, and he will continue to work for the apostolate, in addition to his regular parish assignment, as an ordained minister of the Church. This will be a great blessing for Courage. Please pray for him. Jerry has done a superb job in all of the financial and operational aspects of the CT office.

I also want to thank Michelle Willis for her great work with our new website. We have many plans to continue to expand its content. And though he did not make the move to the new office in CT, Angelo continues to be an invaluable help as a part-time contractor. I cannot imagine not relying on his experience and expertise. Also, he and Jerry work closely together on many tasks.

Please think back for a moment to the day before you heard about Courage or EnCourage. You were very likely searching for answers, understanding, compassion, guidance and help...in short, the pastoral charity of the Church. Sadly, we know that many people are not aware of Courage and EnCourage, for a variety of reasons. To address that challenge, we are undertaking two projects.

- First, **EWTN** has invited Courage to produce a 5 part series (30 minute segments) covering material very similar to what we present at a clergy study day, and to include EnCourage.
- The second project, which I believe holds considerable promise for reaching many people, is a **documentary film**. We are still considering the form and scope of this work, and in time I will be grateful for suggestions and assistance, as I desire that the finished product reflect a lived-experience of Courage and EnCourage members that will offer hope for many other people. We want as wide an audience as possible.

Of course, the apostolate's standards of trust and confidentiality will always be preserved. Only those who wish to be part of this project will be included. At the same time, I believe, as Fr. Harvey did, that the testimonials of our members are among the most powerful means the Church has to engage the world in a complex, controversial but very personal discussion, and to bring the light of truth and the grace of peace to many minds and hearts. Please pray for Our Lord's guidance and Our Lady's mantle of charity, purity, and humility.

Courage also continues to depend upon your financial support. *Will you please consider a gift of whatever God's providence will allow?*

I look forward to seeing you in Chicago.

In Christ,

Fr. Paul N. Check  
Director, Courage