



**Courage** is a spiritual and fraternal support group for men and women who experience same sex attractions and desire to live in accordance with the Church's teachings on human sexuality. EnCourage assists parents, spouses, and other family members of those with same sex attraction. The Courage apostolate was founded in 1980 by the late Terrance Cardinal Cooke of New York, with the help of the late Fr. John Harvey OSFS who served as the apostolate's director for almost 30 years. Fr. Paul N. Check, Diocese of Bridgeport, CT is the present Executive Director. Timothy Cardinal Dolan chairs Courage's episcopal board.

### GOALS OF COURAGE MEMBERS

- To live chaste lives in accordance with the Roman Catholic Church's teaching on homosexuality.
- To dedicate our entire lives to Christ through service to others, spiritual reading, prayer, meditation and attendance at Mass, and the frequent reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.
- To foster a spirit of fellowship in which we may share with one another our thoughts and experiences and so ensure that none of us has to face the problems of homosexuality alone.
- To be mindful of the truth that chaste friendships are not only possible but necessary in chaste Christian life and to encourage one another in forming and sustaining these friendships.
- To live lives that may serve as a good example to others.

### CHAPTERS AND MEETINGS

Each local Courage chapter is guided by a priest, who is appointed by his Bishop. The chaplain meets privately with prospective members before they join the group to ensure that they understand the five goals. Trust and confidentiality are central to the work of Courage, so only those who participate in the meetings know its time and location. On-line support is available through the Courage website.

### REFERENCES

- USCCB Guidelines for Pastoral Care: Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination (2006) [old.usccb.org/doctrine/Ministry.pdf](http://old.usccb.org/doctrine/Ministry.pdf)
- Website for Courage and EnCourage: [www.couragerc.org](http://www.couragerc.org)
- Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 2357-2359
- Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith: Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons (1986)
- Fr. John Harvey: *Homosexuality and the Catholic Church; Same-Sex Attraction, A Parent's Guide; The Truth About Homosexuality*

