

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Established in 1887, the Catholic University of America (CUA) is the only institution of higher education founded by the Bishops of the United States.

The Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center—“The Pryz”—houses a full-service conference center and dining facility. The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, located on the campus of CUA, is the largest Roman Catholic church in North America, and contains expressions of Marian devotion from the many ethnic communities, religious orders, and Catholic organizations that make up the fabric of our nation.

CUA is located in the heart of the District of Columbia, and is easily accessible from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and from Amtrak’s Union Station via the Washington Metro. The campus is a short walk from the Brookland/ CUA station on the Metro Red Line.

THURSDAY, JULY 21

- 3:00 pm

Celebration of Mass

National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
Crypt Church
- 4:30 pm

Welcome for First-Time Attendees
- 7:30 pm

Opening Keynote Address

Father Paul N. Check
Executive Director, Courage International
- 9:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation and Healing Prayer Service

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

FRIDAY, JULY 22

- 9:00 am

The Triumph of Mercy: Set Free to Love

Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT
Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity
- 10:30 am

Celebration of Mass
- 1:30 pm

You Want Me to Forgive *Who?*

Rowena Slusser
Pre-Law Student, Liberty University,
Lynchburg, Virginia
- 2:30 pm

“Create in Me a Clean Heart” — The Perils of Pornography

Professor John Grabowski
The Catholic University of America
- 3:30 pm

Group Meetings

Courage Men | Courage Women
EnCourage Parents | EnCourage Spouses
- 7:30 pm

Unmasking Oscar Wilde

Professor Joseph Pearce
Aquinas College
- 9:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Eucharistic Adoration throughout the night

SATURDAY, JULY 23

- 8:45 am

The Five Goals of Courage as a Plan for Growing in Holiness

Father J.D. Jaffe
Courage Chaplain, Diocese of Arlington

- 10:00 am

Celebration of Mass

- 11:15 am

Fostering Chaste Friendships

Professor John Cuddeback
Christendom College
- 1:30 pm

Walking in the Ineffable Glory of God’s Mercy

Johnnette Benkovic
Host of *Women of Grace*, EWTN
- 2:30 pm

Chastity and the Noonday Demon

Deacon Patrick Lappert, MD
Courage Chaplain, Diocese of Birmingham, Ala.

- 3:30 pm

Breakout Sessions

Married Men with Same-Sex Attractions
Facilitated by Steve A.
Staying True to the Local Church
Andrew Comiskey
The Angelic Warfare Confraternity
Father Basil Cole, OP
Promoting Your Local Chapter in Your Diocese
Karl M., John and Annie T.
Forgiveness & Painful Memories (for women only)
Rowena Slusser

- 4:30 pm

Breakout Sessions II

Blessed, Broken and Scared: Getting Ready to Receive God’s Mercy — Brian Pusateri
Sports Camp Workshop and Volleyball Game
EnCourage Parents Meeting with Courage Men
EnCourage Parents Meeting with Courage Women
Group Leaders Meeting

- 7:30 pm

Courage Member Testimonies
- 9:00 pm

Social celebrating our Senior Chaplains

CELEBRATING OUR SENIOR CHAPLAINS

Since the first Courage members gathered with Father John F. Harvey, OSFS, in 1980, the role of the priest chaplain has always been essential to the success of the Courage and EnCourage apostolates. The priests who serve in this role (often with the dedicated collaboration of deacons and lay leaders) bring many personal and professional gifts to bear in their ministry, especially the gift of their spiritual fatherhood. Their presence signifies the pastoral welcome that the universal and local Church wish to extend to all those who reach out to Courage and EnCourage for accompaniment.

During this year’s conference, we will honor the contributions of chaplains who have been part of the work of Courage and EnCourage since its earliest days. Their dedicated service is an inspiration to us, and lays a firm foundation for our work in the future.

SUNDAY, JULY 24

- 8:45 am

“I have seen ... I have heard ... I know ... I have come.” (Ex 3:7-8)

Father Philip Bochanski
Associate Director, Courage International
- 10:00 am

Celebration of Mass

Most Reverend James Wall
Bishop of Gallup
- 11:30 am

Box Lunch and Departures

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Johnnette Benkovic is founding president of Living His Life Abundantly International. A prolific author, she is best known as producer and host of *Women of Grace* on the Eternal Word Television Network.



Father Philip Bochanski served as Courage chaplain in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for five years. In January 2015, he was appointed Associate Director of Courage International.



Father Paul N. Check has served as the Executive Director of Courage International since 2008. In addition, he teaches Moral Theology to seminarians and deacon candidates in the Diocese of Bridgeport.



Father Basil Cole, OP, joined the Dominicans in 1960, and was ordained a priest in 1966. He is a professor of Moral, Spiritual and Dogmatic Theology at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C.



Andrew Comiskey is the executive director of Desert Stream/Living Waters ministry, which he founded in 1980. His groups help people to find healing for sexual brokenness and to love with integrity.



John Cuddeback is a professor of philosophy at Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia, and the author of *True Friendship: Where Virtue Becomes Happiness* (Epic Publishing, 2010).



John Grabowski has been a member of the faculty of the Catholic University of America for 24 years. He serves on the Pontifical Council for the Family and as an advisor to the USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family and Youth. In 2015, he was appointed by Pope Francis as an expert at the Synod of Bishops on the Family.



Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, is a member of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity. She holds a Master's degree in Theology and speaks nationally on the topics of healing, personal conversion, beauty and abundant living.



Father J.D. Jaffe is director of the Office of Vocations of the Diocese of Arlington. In addition to a number of parish assignments, he has served the Arlington Courage apostolate since 2004.



Deacon Patrick Lappert is a retired US Navy captain and a board-certified plastic surgeon. In 2013 he was ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama, where he serves as the Courage chaplain.



Joseph Pearce was received into the Catholic Church in 1989, and has authored numerous books on Catholic literary figures. Since 2014 he has been the Director of the Center for Faith and Culture at Aquinas College in Nashville, Tennessee.



Brian Pusateri is the founder of Broken Door Ministries. He spreads the message of God's mercy and unconditional love to a worldwide audience through weekly "4th Day Letters" as well as talks and retreats.



Rowena Slusser is a wife, homeschooling mother of two, and a full-time student at Liberty University. She advocates for women like her, who have conceived from sexual trauma, and for children like her, who were conceived in sexual trauma.



Bishop James Wall was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Phoenix in 1998. In 2009, he was named Bishop of Gallup, with territory of more than 55,000 square miles in the states of Arizona and New Mexico.

TO REGISTER

Please register online through the Courage International website.
<https://couragec.org/courage/conference/>

Full Conference Package \$400.00 per person
Includes overnight accommodations (3 nights) and all meals from Thursday dinner to Sunday lunch inclusive.

Commuter Package Thursday: \$75.00
Includes meals. Friday: \$100.00
Saturday: \$100.00
Sunday: \$75.00

On-Campus Parking \$8.00 per day or
\$25.00 for the conference

Seminar for Clergy no charge
Special program on Wednesday, July 20. Includes lunch.
Free-will offerings gratefully accepted. Lodging may be arranged at the participant's expense.

All prices quoted in U.S. Dollars.

Registration deadline is July 10.

Problems registering online? Please contact us at the address or telephone number below.

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COURAGE CONFERENCE

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The Catholic University of America
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