



Catholics United for the Faith

Affirming Authentic Catholicism in Milwaukee

St. Gregory VII Chapter
February, 2019

Fr. Nathan Reesman will discuss ministry to those with same-sex attraction on Feb. 17

Fr. Nathan Reesman, is a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, who was ordained in 2006. He is the Shared Pastor of **Immaculate Conception Parish** and **Saint Frances Cabrini Parish**, both in West Bend. He graduated from the **University of Wisconsin** in Madison, **Saint Francis Seminary** in Milwaukee, and is a **Doctor of Ministry Candidate** at the **University of St. Mary of the Lake** in Mundelein.

He is also the “**Courage**” and “**EnCourage**” chaplain for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and he currently serves on the **Executive Board of Courage International**, an apostolate of the Catholic Church that ministers to men and women who experience same-sex attraction, but want help to live the Catholic faith. “**Courage**” was founded in 1980 by **Fr. John Harvey, O.S.F.S.**, author of *The Homosexual Person*. In the introduction, **Fr. Benedict Groeschel, O.F.M.**, writes, “When homosexually oriented people finally find their way to God through a genuine conversion, they are often among the most devout and faithful friends of Christ.” (p. 11)

Mark your calendar now, and bring a friend, to hear Fr. Reesman discuss:

“**Clarity and Charity: Ministering to People with Same-Sex Attraction**”

WHERE: St. John the Evangelist Parish

8500 West Cold Spring Road (Enter from north parking lot.)
Greenfield, WI 53228

WHEN: Sunday, February 17

TIME: 2:00 p.m. ~ Program

1:45 p.m. ~ Rosary

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An important message, regarding our April elections, from our president, Dr. Al Szews

In 1978 Msgr. Alphonse S. Popek, and several lay people, established the Saint Gregory VII Chapter of Catholics United for the Faith (CUF). The international organization was established in 1968. Margo and I have been members since 1982. I have been Chapter president for most of that time. I am 86 years old. Thanks be to God, Margo and I are in relatively good health today. At some point of course, within the next twenty years, I will be gone. However, I do not want our Chapter to die any time soon. So, it seems reasonable for me to step aside, and for you to elect a new president. This will allow Margo and me to be available to pass on whatever knowledge the new president may find valuable.

Over the years I have invited many of you to join the Board; some have accepted but most have declined the invitation. I think I know the thoughts of some of those who have said “no.” You just completed the intense parenting of your children and have decided that you are now free to “retire.” I had the same idyllic idea about thirty years ago, but here I am instead, asking you to help perpetuate the Chapter. Think about what God would want from you, and call me. Many of you have talents that would greatly benefit the Chapter. God bless you.

A reminder to check with WISN for a meeting cancellation in bad weather

To determine if a CUF meeting has been canceled due to snow or bad weather, go to www.wisn.com or WISN TV12. A decision to cancel a meeting would be made, most likely, on the morning of the event. For questions, call Al Szews at 414-321-9377, or email at CUFMIL@wi.rr.com

Plan to attend Aquinas Academy's 28th Annual Gala, "A Night Under the Stars," Mar. 9

"A Night Under the Stars," the 28th "Annual Gala" sponsored by Aquinas Academy, will be held on Saturday, March 9, at Fairways of Woodside, W235 N8518 Clubhouse Circle, Sussex, WI 53089. The evening will begin at 5:00 p.m. and will include a Buffet Dinner, a Silent Auction, a Live Auction, Dancing and Fun!! The program will feature Guest Speaker, Mother Mary Catherine, Mother Superior of the Missionaries of the Word. The cost of the Gala is \$90 per individual, \$50 for alumni and former students, or \$600 for a table of 8. To register, call 262-502-1540, or see: aquinas.ejoinme.org/2019gala R.S.V.P. is requested by February 22.

Did you know that...?

Because this Chapter has been active since 1978, many of you may be unaware of its many activities in the past. In 2001, when Archbishop Weakland proposed radical changes to the Cathedral, this Chapter collected, and spent, over \$16,000 to hire Alan Kershaw, an American-born canon lawyer living in Italy, to file a canonical lawsuit in Rome with the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments objecting to the renovations being planned. On July 2, 2001, the prefect of that Congregation, Jorge A. Cardinal Medina Estvez, sent a letter to Archbishop Weakland remanding "the plan for the interior renovation of the Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist to the renewed consideration of Your Excellency, bearing in mind the need for the project to be revised in accord with the above-cited canonical and liturgical requirements."

On July 5, 2001, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* published an Editorial stating that, "Archdiocesan officials have dismissed the local opponents as a small band of reactionaries, but the opposition is probably wider than officials would like to believe. It is also sincere and not without some power...the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments basically told Weakland to stop the renovations until new plans are submitted to Rome. It also suggested the archdiocese was wrong to promote the renovation with claims that some were required by liturgical law when in fact they were not." Unfortunately, in defiance of the Vatican, the "wreckovation" continued as planned. A small plaque at the Cathedral, marking the rededication on Feb. 9, 2002, states, "This Cathedral was restored. Not without difficulty..."

Catechetical Corner: Should we memorize the Confiteor said at the beginning of Mass?

It would be a good idea. "I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask Blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God."



Catholics United for the Faith

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Newsletter Editor

Margo Szews

Phone: 414-321-9377

Email: CUFMIL@wi.rr.com

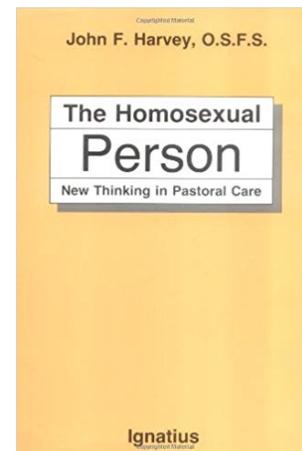
Website: www.cufmilwaukee.org

Book of the Month: *The Homosexual Person*

Author: Fr. John F. Harvey, O.S.F.S.

Publisher: Ignatius Press, 1987

"Fr. John Harvey, one of the world's foremost authorities on homosexuality, writes from his many years of experience in pastoral work. In this useful and informative book the author addresses the common problems encountered in counseling and assisting homosexual persons in the struggle to lead chaste lives. Fr. Harvey discusses the teachings of the Catholic Church on homosexuality, and presents and evaluates the views of dissenting theologians on the morality of homosexual acts. Fr. Harvey also discusses the possibility of change of orientation for homosexual persons. He provides much information about Christian individuals who have found healing and spiritual growth through acceptance of the "tough love" of the Gospel, and also summarizes what a number of psychiatrists and psychologists have written concerning the successful resolution of the homosexual conflict. More than any other person I know, Fr. Harvey has succeeded in helping homosexually oriented Christians who want to live a chaste life to do so." (Benedict Groeschel, O.F.M. Cap.)



Contributors of \$12 or more per year to the Chapter receive discounts on books displayed at CUF meetings, and can receive the Newsletter by First Class Mail.

"Bishop writes open letter to Gov. Cuomo"

By Most Rev. Edward B. Scharfenberger, Bishop of Albany

January 19, 2019

Dear Governor Cuomo,

Although in your recent State of the State address you cited your Catholic faith and said we should "stand with Pope Francis," your advocacy of extreme abortion legislation is completely contrary to the teachings of our pope and our Church. Once truth is separated from fiction and people come to realize the impact of the bill, they will be shocked to their core. By that time, however, it may be too late to save the countless lives that will be lost or spare countless women lifelong regret.

The so-called Reproductive Health Act (RHA) will expand abortion under the pretenses of choice and progress, which, in fact, it will do little to enhance. At the same time, this legislation threatens to rupture the communion between the Catholic faith and those who support the RHA even while professing to follow the Church, something that troubles me greatly as a pastor.

Contrary to what its proponents say, the RHA goes far beyond Roe vs. Wade in its aggressive extremism. Granting non-doctors permission to perform abortions does nothing to advance the security and health of women. Condoning coerced or involuntary abortions by repealing criminal sanctions even in cases where a perpetrator seeks to make his partner "un-pregnant" through an act of physical violence does not represent any kind of progress in the choice, safety or health of women. Removing protection for an infant accidentally born alive during an abortion is abject cruelty, something most people of conscience would deem inhumane for even a dog or cat. Finally, allowing late-term abortions is nothing less than

a license to kill a pre-born child at will. It is very difficult to understand how you can align yourself with Pope Francis and so vehemently advocate such profoundly destructive legislation. I find myself wondering how it can be viewed as "progress" to have gone from a society working to make abortion "rare" to one that urges women to "shout your abortion" as some advocates of this bill boldly announce. How is it progress to ignore the harm that this will do, not only to innocent

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infants, born and unborn, but to their mothers? Does the heartache of so many New York women who have been pained by their abortion decisions matter? Is anyone listening to them? How is it really "pro-choice" when a law, which claims to guarantee choice, moves to expand only one option for women?

If abortion is deemed a fundamental right in New York State, will the State then still be able to issue licenses to pro-life nurses or physicians? Will health facilities which do not provide abortions be certified? Will the law allow that even one dollar be given to maternity services without offering women the "choice" of abortion? These are unanswered questions but I shudder to think of the consequences this law will wreak. You have already uttered harsh threats about the welcome you think pro-lifers are not entitled to in our state. Now you are demonstrating that you

mean to write your warning into law. Will being pro-life one day be a hate crime in the State of New York?

Our young people especially, who have seen their sonograms and who follow the discoveries the sciences have made, know the lies and the despair that proponents of such dangerous and death-dealing legislation are promulgating, even if blindly or unwittingly.

Giving up on life is no excuse for us as a responsible and compassionate people. In so doing, we evade the challenge of accompanying women and the families they are trying to nurture on the long journey. They deserve our courageous and ongoing support in creating conditions under which they will be free to bear and provide for their children.

As a society, we can and must do better. The teaching and intuition of our common faith readies us to help. It is an essential part of our mission to support the lives of all, especially the voiceless, the most vulnerable and marginalized, as Pope Francis always reminds us to do.

Let's not bequeath to our children a culture of death, but together build a more humane society for the lives of all of our fellow citizens.

Mr. Cuomo, do not build this Death Star.

Sincerely yours,

Most Rev. Edward B. Scharfenberger,
Bishop of Albany

