

You are invited to a special CPCSM event . . .

Holding the Courage Apostolate Accountable

The Catholic Church, Homosexuality, and Reparative Therapy

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

St. Martin's Table Restaurant and Bookstore
(2001 Riverside Ave., Minneapolis)

5:00 - 6:30 p.m. – Soup supper (\$5.00)

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. – Program (free and open to the public)

Almost 30 years ago Archbishop John Roach called for “competent and compassionate pastoral ministry” for LGBT persons and their families within the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis (*Catholic Bulletin*, 9/21/1991) – a ministry that was built and maintained through the dedicated and tireless efforts of CPCSM leaders in cooperation with parishes and schools of the archdiocese. Sadly, under subsequent archbishops we’ve witnessed such ministry efforts undermined and usurped by rigid doctrinal fundamentalism and pseudo-science discredited by all mainstream professional mental health and medical associations.

Recently, the American Psychological Association (www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/publications/therapeutic-response.pdf) repudiated “reparative therapy” -- *i.e.*, attempts to change a person’s sexual orientation through therapy and prayer. Yet the Courage Apostolate of the Catholic Church (<http://couragerc.net>), which employs a 12 step-like program to help their members “recover” from “same-sex attractions,” continues to support individuals who seek “reparative therapy.” Courage also maintains links on its national website to pseudo-scientific organizations that endorse and/or offer reparative therapy.

On November 17, come hear three speakers share their perspectives on this situation and offer steps that can be taken to hold the Courage Apostolate accountable – both locally and nationally –for its support of reparative therapy.

Our speakers will be:

Dr. Simon Rosser, Ph.D., M.P.H., L.P.

Internationally renowned researcher on sexuality and sexual health

Philip Lowe, Jr.

Former member of the St. Paul-Minneapolis Chapter of Courage

Michael Bayly

Executive Coordinator of the Catholic Pastoral Committee on Sexual Minorities
and author of *Creating Safe Environments for LGBT Students: A Catholic Schools Perspective*

*The program component of our evening together is free and open to the public,
although a free-will offering will be requested.*