

# *Be not afraid*

## AFFIRMING THE TRUTH ABOUT SEX AND IDENTITY



APRIL 27-29, 2020  
STERLING, VIRGINIA





DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

200 North Glebe Road, Suite 914 • Arlington, Virginia 22203 • Office (703) 841-2511 • Fax (703) 524-5028

April 27, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of the faithful, clergy, and religious in the Diocese of Arlington, it is my great pleasure to welcome all who have gathered in Northern Virginia for the 2020 Truth and Love Conference. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Courage International for organizing this conference as well as to all the volunteers and speakers for their generosity of time and talent.

The theme for your conference is *Be not afraid: Affirming the truth of sex and identity*. The first part speaks of the need for courage. In a culture that is increasingly hostile to our understanding of the human person and human sexuality, we must not be afraid to proclaim the truth. The second part of the theme emphasizes what is good for the human person and for society as a whole. Indeed, we are not afraid precisely because we know what we offer is an affirmation of the goodness of God's creation and design.

The patron of the Diocese of Arlington is Saint Thomas More. By his martyrdom he both displayed the courage characteristic of Christians and gave witness to the enduring truth of God's design for us. Through his intercession, may God grant you that same courage in Christian witness.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael F. Burbidge".

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge  
Bishop of Arlington





27 April 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the fifth *Truth and Love* Conference, co-sponsored by Courage International and the Diocese of Arlington. I hope that these days will be a time to grow in knowledge and in fellowship with others who share your dedication to pastoral ministry and evangelization.

As the Church prepares to mark the centenary of the birth of Saint John Paul II, on May 18, I hope you will join me in praying for his intercession, asking him to obtain many blessings for our work and our discussions over the next few days. In celebration of this important anniversary, during this conference we will be formally entrusting the work of the *Truth and Love* initiative to the patronage and protection of this great saint of our time. As we strive to “speak the truth in love” (cf. Eph 4:15) to the Church and to the world, we are constantly inspired by his commitment to proclaim, defend and teach the dignity of the human person, the beauty of God’s plan for sexuality and marriage, and the splendor of the truth that undergirds our faith and the moral life.

It is my hope that your discussions with experts, courageous witnesses, and your colleagues from around the country, will encourage and equip you to present the Church’s teachings with clarity and charity, and to provide authentic welcome and accompaniment to those whom you serve. I pray that your time here will be fruitful, and that our collaboration in service to God’s people may be long-lasting.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Philip G. Bochanski  
Executive Director

Monday, April 27, 2020

TIME	TALK NAME/ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	<b>OPENING KEYNOTE</b>	Fr. Philip G. Bochanski
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Plenary Session</b> Challenges of Sharing the Church's Teaching on Same-Sex Attraction in the Modern World	Bishop John Keenan
3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Break	
3:15 pm - 4:30 pm	<b>Plenary Session</b> Testimonies	Garrett Johnson, Avera Maria Santo, Hudson Byblow
4:30 pm - 4:45 pm	Break	
4:45 pm - 5:30 pm	<b>Plenary Session</b> The Importance of an Authentic Christian Anthropology	Fr. Philip G. Bochanski

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

TIME	TALK NAME/ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sexual Identity Track</b> Engendering Discussion: Recent Catholic Thought on Sexual Difference</li> </ul>	John Grabowski, Ph.D.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mental Health Track</b> Deepening Respect, Compassion, and Sensitivity Through an Understanding of the Psychological Sciences</li> </ul>	Timothy Lock, Ph.D.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pastoral Care Track</b> Friendship and the Soul's Pilgrimage to God</li> </ul>	Alphonso Lopez Pinto, STD
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sexual Identity Track</b> Bringing Transparency to the Treatment of Transgender Persons</li> </ul>	Quentin Van Meter, M.D.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mental Health Track</b> Developmental Outcomes with Same-Sex Parents: The Irreplaceable Advantage of Man-Woman Marriage</li> </ul>	Fr. Paul Sullins
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pastoral Care Track</b> An Authentically Welcoming Parish: Preaching, the Sacraments, and Parish Life</li> </ul>	Fr. Philip G. Bochanski



## Tuesday, April 28, 2020

TIME	TALK NAME/ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
3:15 pm - 4:15 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sexual Identity Track</b> Transgender Surgery &amp; Catholic Anthropology</li> <li>• <b>Mental Health Track</b> Charity &amp; Clarity</li> <li>• <b>Pastoral Care Track</b> "I Thirst": What We Who Experience Same-Sex Attraction Need from You in Pastoral Care</li> </ul>	<p>Deacon Patrick Lappert, M.D.</p> <p>Michael Horne, Psy.D.</p> <p>David Prosen</p>
4:15 pm - 5:15 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sexual Identity Track</b> Authentic Pastoral Care in Light of Confusion About Sexual Identity</li> <li>• <b>Mental Health Track</b> Guarding our Capacity for Authentic Love: The Importance of Affectivity in Daily Life</li> <li>• <b>Pastoral Care Track</b> Guarding our Capacity for Authentic Love: The Importance of Affectivity in Daily Life</li> </ul>	<p>Fr. Philip G. Bochanski</p> <p>Suzanne Baars, Ph.D.</p> <p>Suzanne Baars, Ph.D.</p>

## Wednesday, April 29, 2020

TIME	TALK NAME/ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	<b>Plenary Session</b> LGBTQ Ideology & Its Impact on the Family	Mary Rice Hasson
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Plenary Session</b> Love that Makes Sense	Trent Horn
3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Break	
3:15 pm - 4:15 pm	<b>Plenary Session</b> SOGI Laws: Reflecting and Forming Culture	Helen Alvaré, J.D.
4:15 pm - 5:30 pm	<b>Q&amp;A with All Speakers</b>	

Drawing from a variety of experiences and perspectives, this event gathers leaders in the faith and human sciences who have shown prudence and charity in their work with souls. Attentive to the challenges of those who experience same-sex attractions and gender dysphoria, the Church seeks to integrate their experiences and insights into authentic pastoral care.



**Father Philip G. Bochanski**, a native of suburban Philadelphia, received the degree of Master of Arts in Theology from Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Overbrook, and was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in May 1999. He has served in several parish assignments, as well as in special ministry as a high school theology teacher, a chaplain for cloistered nuns, and a spiritual director for seminarians.

An award-winning author, he has written and edited five books, five audio series and numerous articles on various aspects of Church history, catechesis and spirituality. His newest book is *The Virtue of Hope: How Confidence in God Can Lead You to Heaven*, published by Tan Books.

Father Bochanski served for five years as chaplain for the Courage Apostolate in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Founded in New York in 1980, Courage provides pastoral care and spiritual support for Catholic men and women who experience same-sex attractions and who desire to live chastely in accord with the teaching of the Catholic Church on homosexuality. In January 2015, he was appointed to the position of Associate Director. On January 1, 2017, Father Bochanski was named the new Executive Director of Courage International, Inc., which now includes more than 150 chapters in dioceses throughout the United States, as well as groups in 16 other countries on 5 continents. In 2019, Pope Francis awarded him the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, given in recognition of “sustained and exceptional service” to the Church.

### **The Importance of an Authentic Christian Anthropology**

The Church’s teaching about sexuality in general, and homosexuality and gender in particular, is rooted in its understanding of the human person. This talk will consider the fundamental teachings of the Church regarding personal identity, the ordering of desires, and the morality of actions, and provide terminology and perspective for communicating these teachings in a clear and compassionate manner.

### **An Authentically Welcoming Parish: Preaching, the Sacraments and Parish Life**

Ministry to the parish community is often characterized by what Pope Francis has called “the art of accompaniment,” and clergy and others in pastoral ministry must be prepared to welcome and accompany parishioners who are living with the experience of same sex attraction or confusion about sexual identity in their own lives or in the life of a loved one. Father Bochanski will discuss what the Church expects an authentic welcome to look like in parishes and schools. In particular, he will consider the guidelines that the Church provides for participation in parish life and ministry, and for the celebration of the sacraments. He will also consider the importance of adult faith formation and the Sunday homily among efforts to “speak the truth in love.”

### **Authentic Pastoral Care in Light of Confusion About Sexual Identity**

Our pastoral priority toward people who are experiencing confusion regarding their sexual identity, and towards their parents and loved ones, must be to welcome them in the name of Christ and to help them to understand and accept God’s plan for their lives. This talk will consider how “speaking the truth in love” to someone about his or her identity, vocation and relationships can lead him or her to a greater self-understanding and fulfillment in Christ. It will also consider the impact that the experience of confusion about sexual identity can have on the life of the parish, and how clergy and others in ministry should respond.



**Helen Alvaré, J.D.** is a Professor of Law at Antonin Scalia Law School, George Mason University, where she teaches Family Law, Law and Religion, and Property Law. She publishes on matters concerning marriage, parenting, non-marital households, and the First Amendment religion clauses. She is faculty advisor to the law school’s Civil Rights Law Journal, and the Latino/a Law Student Association, a Member of the Holy

See's Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life (Vatican City), a board member of Catholic Relief Services, a member of the Executive Committee of the AALS' Section on Law and Religion, and an ABC news consultant. She cooperates with the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations as a speaker and a delegate to various United Nations conferences concerning women and the family.

In addition to her books, and her publications in law reviews and other academic journals, Professor Alvaré publishes regularly in news outlets including the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Huffington Post*, and CNN.com. She also speaks at academic and professional conferences in the United States, Europe, Latin America and Australia. Prior to joining the faculty of Scalia Law, Professor Alvaré taught at the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America; represented the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops before legislative bodies, academic audiences and the media; and was a litigation attorney for the Philadelphia law firm of Stradley, Ronon, Stevens & Young.

Professor Alvaré received her law degree from Cornell University School of Law and her master's degree in Systematic Theology from the Catholic University of America.

### SOGI Laws: Reflecting and Forming Culture

This talk will discuss the current shape and status of sexual orientation and gender identity laws at both the state and federal level, their history and legal context, and their impact of the formation of culture.



**Suzanne Baars, Ph.D** is a licensed professional counselor and marriage and family therapist in Irving, Texas, where she operates her private practice, In His Image Counseling Center. Baars has worked extensively in the field of counseling since 1986 in both hospital and outpatient settings, and focuses her work on the integration of the Christian anthropology of St. Thomas Aquinas. She is also a popular presenter at Catholic conferences around the country, and has been a frequent guest on EWTN's Women of Grace.

Baars often presents the work of her late father, psychiatrist and author Conrad Baars, a pioneer in the field of Catho-

lic psychology. She has been on the faculty of the Institute for Priestly Formation since 2008, where she teaches diocesan seminarians. She is Past President of the Catholic Psychotherapy Association and holds a doctorate in Family Therapy from Texas Woman's University. Information about Affirmation Therapy and the Baars/Terruwe Model of psychotherapy may be found at [www.BaarsInstitute.com](http://www.BaarsInstitute.com).

### Guarding Our Capacity for Authentic Love: The Importance of Affectivity in Daily Life

Affectivity is our capacity to be affected or moved by the human emotions of love, desire and joy – emotions necessary for our ability to be moved by the goodness of things and persons. It is complemented by effectivity, or our ability to think and act effectively, to produce or achieve something. While both effectivity and affectivity – or mind and heart – are necessary for a balanced human life, so often we find ourselves striving to make things better, produce change, or fix problems – and wound already-wounded people in the process. While such goals may be commendable, the ability to love authentically develops more readily when one recognizes that it is the heart, or affectivity, that brings peace and resolves difficulties. When we learn to approach others with open hearts, our actions are more likely to be experienced as respectful and loving, and therefore bring healing.



**Hudson Byblow** is an increasingly sought-out speaker and author who discusses his experiences while growing-up along with some of the most difficult topics which face today's Catholic youth as they navigate their personal development and faith formation. Hudson has consulted for Catholic groups worldwide and has spoken across the United States and Canada at conferences, to school boards, college missionary groups, Catholic Universities, and at diocesan events. He consults for many well-known Catholic speakers, and has had his material published through *National Catholic Register*, *Crisis Magazine*, Lighthouse Catholic Media, among others. More information can be found at his website, [www.hudsonbyblow.com](http://www.hudsonbyblow.com).

### Witness Testimony





**John Grabowski, Ph.D.** earned his B.A. in theology at the University of Steubenville and his Ph.D. at Marquette University. For the last twenty-six years, he has been on the faculty of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. where

he is currently Associate Professor of Moral Theology and the Director of the Moral Theology/ Ethics Area. He and his wife were appointed to the Pontifical Council for the Family by Pope Benedict XVI in the fall of 2009 serving as a member couple.

John is also a current theological advisor to the U.S.C.C.B. Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family, and Youth. In 2015, he was appointed by Pope Francis to serve as an expert (adiutor) at the Synod of Bishops on the Family. Dr. Grabowski has published widely in the areas of moral theology, marriage, sexuality, and bioethics; has offered a variety of courses for adults, catechists, and lay ministers; and has presented at conferences across the United States. He and his wife Claire have five children, three grandchildren, and reside in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

### Engendering Discussion: Recent Catholic Thought on Sexual Difference

Recent Church teaching has warned of the dangers of “gender ideology” and its destructive impact on persons and families. But what positive resources does the Christian tradition have to offer a culture which now lists over 70 genders on Facebook? Surveying recent Catholic theology and Church teaching (particularly the Theology of the Body of St. John Paul II), the presentation will argue that sexual difference is best understood as two complementary personal expressions of the one nature of humanity. That is, sexual difference is accidental to human nature but essential to existing human persons.



**Mary Rice Hasson, Ph.D.** is the Kate O’Beirne Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C., where she also directs the Catholic Women’s Forum, a network of Catholic professional women and scholars seeking to amplify the voice

of women in support of Catholic teachings. Mary is an ex-

pert on culture, faith, sexual morality, and gender ideology. This past March (2019), at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, Mary was the keynote speaker for the Holy See’s event highlighting the value of caregiving and a panelist for the Holy See’s event on gender ideology. Mary previously was the keynote speaker for the Holy See at the UN Commission on the Status of Women in 2018 (on education) and 2017 (work and empowerment).

Mary speaks frequently at national conferences and universities around the country, writes for a variety of publications and websites, and is a frequent television and radio commentator on issues pertaining to women, faith, culture, and gender. She is the co-author of two books, and the editor of *Promise and Challenge: Catholic Women Reflect on Feminism, Complementarity, and the Church*.

Before joining EPPC, Mary worked as an attorney, writer, and non-profit leader for over twenty years. She is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the University of Notre Dame Law School, is married to Kevin J. “Seamus” Hasson, and the mother of seven grown children, and grandmother of one.

### LGBTQ Ideology & Its Impact on the Family

LGBTQ ideology is rapidly reshaping culture, language, identity, and behavior, leaving an indelible impact on family life. This talk unpacks the hidden assumptions and outright falsehoods of LGBTQ ideology and offers suggestions for strengthening the family in the face of these challenges.



**Trent Horn** After his conversion to the Catholic Faith, Trent Horn earned a master’s degree in theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville and is currently pursuing a graduate degree in philosophy from Holy Apostles College. He serves as a staff

apologist for Catholic Answers and specializes in teaching Catholics to graciously and persuasively engage those who disagree with them. Trent models that approach each week on the radio program Catholic Answers Live where he dialogues with atheists, pro-choice advocates, and other non-Catholic callers.

Trent is also a lecturer who travels throughout the world

speaking on subjects related to the Catholic faith and the co-host of *Hearts and Minds*, a weekly radio program that discusses timely issues from an eternal perspective. In addition to being a public speaker, Trent is the author of nine books. His book, authored with Leila Miller and entitled *Made This Way: How to Prepare Kids to Face Today's Tough Moral Issues*, deals specifically with issues of same-sex attractions and same-sex "marriage."

### Love That Makes Sense

Have you heard of LGBTQ+? Trent explains how our culture has rejected God's plan for marriage and sexuality and why His plan alone makes sense to our minds and brings peace to our hearts.



**Garrett Johnson** came back to the Catholic faith 6 years ago after years of living a godless pagan lifestyle. He joined the Arlington, VA chapter of Courage in 2013. He shares his journey with many through his website [brotherwithoutorder.com](http://brotherwithoutorder.com), has spoken at many Courage related events and has appeared on EWTN. He lives in Washington DC where he is a stylist and salon manager.

### Witness Testimony



**Michael Horne, Psy.D.** is Director of Clinical Services for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington. He received his doctorate in clinical psychology from the Institute for the Psychological Sciences (now Divine Mercy University) in 2009, where he specialized in child therapy and wrote his doctoral dissertation on violent video games and their impact on the player. Prior to pursuing his doctorate, Dr. Horne worked in television at KVR9 in Austin, Texas and Houston PBS.

Dr. Horne has experience working in several Catholic mental health clinics including Catholic Social Services in Lincoln, Nebraska and the Alpha Omega Clinic in Fairfax, Virginia. He has also had the opportunity to serve as a school counselor within the Diocese of Arlington. Dr. Horne and his wife, Kara, live in Fredericksburg, Virginia with their four children.

### Charity and Clarity

Given the current social and political climate of our country, conflicting messages are common surrounding the topic of male and female sexuality. This talk will examine common misconceptions held about same-sex attraction, with an emphasis on pastoral support, the dignity of all persons, and the importance of chastity.

**Bishop John Keenan** was born on 19th December 1964 in Glasgow. He was educated at the Salesian College, Shrigley Park, Cheshire; University of Glasgow 1984-1988 (LL.B); Gregorian University, Rome 1988-1995 (S.T.B., Ph.L).

Having studied at the Pontifical Scots College, Rome, he was ordained a priest on 9th July 1995 in St. Gregory's, Wyndford by Cardinal Thomas Winning, Archbishop of Glasgow. He was an Assistant Priest in Christ the King, Kings Park from 1995-2000 and Chaplain at Holyrood High School, Glasgow from 1997 - 2000. He was a lecturer in Philosophy at Scotus College, Glasgow from 1995-2005. He was appointed as Chaplain to the University of Glasgow from 2000-2014 and Parish Priest of St. Patrick's, Anderston from 2013-2014. He was appointed as Vocations Director of the Archdiocese of Glasgow 2013-2014.

He was nominated as Bishop of Paisley, by Pope Francis, on 8th February 2014 and was ordained as the fifth Bishop of Paisley on 19th March 2014 by Archbishop Philip Tartaglia, the Archbishop of Glasgow and his predecessor in Paisley.

### Challenges of Sharing the Church's Teaching on Same-Sex Attraction in the Modern World

The Biblical vision about what it means to be a person and about the truth and meaning of human sexuality is a noble and thrilling one. It reveals what it means for us to be created as persons who love each other in the image of our Triune God. Yet it also takes into account our Fall from grace

and has compassion on our straying and sadness along the way of our struggle for redemption. In the end it points us, by way of God's grace and purity in heart, towards the revealing of God's glory in our flesh, spirit and relationships. It is a vision that has been blurred by human attempts to propose an alternative version of personal fulfilment through self-fulfilment in this world alone. Engaging with society in its search for meaning and freedom the Church has, in recent years, tried to find new ways of expressing our vision that chime with the deepest experiences and highest aspirations of every person. The challenge for the Church is to make this vision known to Her faithful in such a convincing way that they find inspiration and courage to share it with all people of good will who, in their heart of hearts, only want what is good for themselves and best for others.

upon the Catholic understanding of the nature of the human person to illuminate the crucial moral questions that must be addressed in pastoral care.



**Timothy Lock, Ph.D.** has recently shifted his professional focus becoming full-time Director of Psychological Services at St. Joseph's Seminary (Dunwoodie) in the Archdiocese of New York, continuing private practice work part-time. Dr. Lock works

within a Catholic anthropology to provide psychological assessment, psychotherapy, and psychological consultation. While Dr. Lock works predominately with seminarians, he also specializes in the treatment of clergy and male and female religious. He serves on the Board of Courage International and of the Christian Counseling Center of Greater Danbury, where he also is the clinical supervisor.

At the request of his bishop, Dr. Lock also serves on the Diocese of Bridgeport Ministerial Misconduct Advisory Board. He has published professional articles and book chapters in the area of psychological trauma, traumatic memory, and the crisis in the Catholic Church, and has lectured nationally and internationally to seminarians, clergy, mental-health practitioners, and the general public. A practicing Roman Catholic, Dr. Lock lives with his wife of twenty-six years and their eight children in northwestern Connecticut, USA.

### **Deepening Respect, Compassion, and Sensitivity Through an Understanding of the Psychological Sciences**

Same-sex attraction (SSA) appears to be a condition that results from various psychological wounds and issues that develop during childhood. The psychosocial development of an individual who manifests same-sex attractions is often fraught with pain and anguish. Same-sex attraction is thought to be a symptom of these wounds. Those who offer pastoral care to the individual with SSA must grow in their understanding of the psychological issues that are concurrent with the development of same-sex attraction. Also, pastoral care will require an understanding of the "gay lifestyle" and the suffering present in many same-sex relationships. Finally, those offering pastoral care must be willing to develop authentic relationships and tolerate the sometimes cold reception that they will experience by those with SSA. The psychological sciences can foster growth



**Deacon Patrick Lappert, M.D.** is a Permanent Deacon in the Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama. He has been married to Patrice Ann Oberst for thirty-four years. They have six grown children. Deacon Lappert was raised in a Jewish home, but lived most of his adult life as an atheist. He converted and was received into the Catholic Church in 1995.

Deacon Lappert was trained and board-certified first as a general surgeon, then as a plastic and reconstructive surgeon. He is a veteran of the Naval Service, retiring with the rank of Captain, USN, after serving for twenty-four years. In addition to being the Chief of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery for the Portsmouth Naval Hospital, he also served the Surgeon General, USN, as the Specialty Leader for Reconstructive Surgery. Deacon Lappert established the Craniofacial Reconstructive Surgery Unit, as well as the Wound Care Center for the largest medical-treatment facility in the world. Additionally, Deacon Lappert served for three years with the United States Marine Corps, flying in the F4 Phantom with VMFA-451. He is also chaplain for Courage in the Diocese of Birmingham.

### **Transgender Surgery & Catholic Anthropology**

The subject of gender identity will be examined, including a review of the history, terminology, scientific evidence, and the medical and surgical interventions that are proposed for the care of self-identified transgender persons. We will call



in respect, compassion, and sensitivity that will ultimately decrease shame and stigma, “homophobia”, and isolation in a population that is yearning to know Christ’s love in the Catholic Church.



**Alphonso Lopez Pinto, STD** received his Doctorate in Sacred Theology at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome, and is an Associate Professor of Theology and Director of the Theology Cycle at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver, Colorado. Pinto also teaches online at the Avila Institute for Spiritual Formation. His doctoral dissertation focused on the relationship between sacred art and theology during the Catholic restoration of 16th-17th century Rome and Bologna, in the works of the artist, Guido Reni (1575-1642). Over the years, he has also done research on *Spiritual Friendship* by Aelred of Rievaulx (1109-1166).

### Friendship and the Soul’s Pilgrimage to God

This talk will discuss the proper context of spiritual friendship according to the medieval writer, Aelred of Rievaulx. In examining the differences between eros and agape, spiritual friendship seeks union with God as its goal. This is contrasted to problems in modern ideas of friendship that are self-seeking.



**David Prosen** graduated in 2006 with a year of theology courses in addition to an MA in Counseling from Franciscan University of Steubenville. He was the leader of the Steubenville chapter of Courage from 2004 to 2011 and has had several articles published in

Lay Witness, Crisis Magazine and Life Site News. In addition, Prosen has authored the book, *Accompanying Those with Same-Sex Attractions: A Guide for Catholics*, published by Our Sunday Visitor and self-published a booklet of his testimony: *My Journey to Truth, Authentic Love and Hope: One Man’s Story of Transformation and Chastity in Christ*. He has given numerous presentations across the country on same-sex attraction from a Catholic perspective, including his testimony at the 2015 Truth & Love conference held

in Rome, Italy. Prosen can also be seen in the documentary, *The Third Way: Homosexuality and the Catholic Church*, by Blackstone Films.

### “I Thirst”: What We Who Experience Same-Sex Attraction Need from You in Pastoral Care

How do we authentically love without condoning acts of sin? A Courage member and Catholic counselor who treats depression, anxiety, trauma, and more will speak about living with same-sex attraction and coming to embrace the Gospel call to holiness and chastity found in the Catholic Church. He will offer concrete strategies based on his own life experience as well as his educational and professional experiences, on how to reach out and support men and women who experience same-sex attraction.



**Avera Maria Santo** speaks and writes on her experience as a young adult in relation to the issues of same-sex attraction and Catholicism. She travels the country sharing her story, giving a tangible and joyful witness to the goodness, truth and beauty of the Church’s teachings. Santo blogs at *Inside My Holy of Holies*: [couragegulfcoast.wixsite.com/blog](http://couragegulfcoast.wixsite.com/blog)

### Witness Testimony



**Father Paul Sullins, Ph.D.** is a Senior Research Associate of the Ruth Institute. He recently retired as Professor of Sociology at the Catholic University of America, Washington DC. Father Sullins is a leader in the field of research on same-sex parenting and its implications for child development. He has written four books and over 100 journal articles, research reports, and essays on issues of family, faith, and culture.

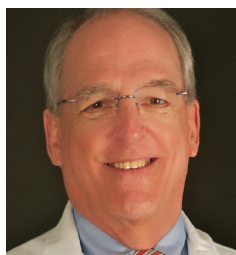
Father Sullins continues as Research Professor and Director of the Leo Initiative for Social Research at Catholic University, as well as Director of the Summer Institute of Catholic Social Thought. He also serves on the board of the Society of Catholic Social Scientists (SCSS), the Center for

Family and Human Rights (C-FAM), and the Natural Family Journal. He is a Fellow of the Marriage and Religion Research Institute (MARRI), and was Ignatius Loyola Fellow for Catholic Identity at the Center for the Advancement of Catholic Higher Education.

Formerly Episcopalian, Father Sullins is a married Catholic priest. He earned a Ph.D. at Catholic University in 1997 and taught there from 1998 until his retirement. He and his wife, Patricia, have an inter-racial family of three children, two adopted. He serves as Associate Pastor of the Church of Saint Mark the Evangelist, Hyattsville, MD.

### **Developmental Outcomes with Same-Sex Parents: The Irreplaceable Advantage of Man-Woman Marriage**

Despite pervasive ideological claims to the contrary, every unbiased random sample study reveals emotional and developmental problems for such children. Three possible causes of the harm observed are: 1) the parenting or partnership arrangements involved, 2) homosexual orientation as distinct from partnership, and 3) the array of gender distinctions that come with same-sex parent families. By rejecting a false consciousness that devalues sex and flattens gender, we are able to explore how the gender differences involved in same-sex parenting powerfully shape child well-being, illustrating how men and women are, in fundamental ways, made for each other, and jointly provide the best possible context for children to flourish.



**Quentin Van Meter, M.D.**, graduated from The College of William and Mary in 1969. He attended the Medical College of Virginia where he received his medical degree in 1973. Dr. Van Meter did his pediatric internship in 1973 and 1974, and his pediatric residency from 1974 to 1976, at the Naval Regional Medical Center in Oakland, through the University of California, San Francisco. He completed his pediatric endocrinology fellowship from 1978 to 1980 at The Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Dr. Van Meter worked as a staff pediatric endocrinologist at the Naval Hospital in San Diego from 1980 to 1986 and was Chairman and Director of the residency training program at the Naval Hospital Oakland from 1986 to 1991. In 1991, he retired from a 20-year career in the Navy Medical Corps

and moved to the Atlanta area where he joined the Fayette Medical Clinic as a Pediatrician and Pediatric Endocrinologist. To better serve the ever-expanding population of pediatric patients with endocrine disorders, he developed his own full-time endocrine practice, which today bears his name. He is an adjunct associate professor of Pediatrics at Emory University School of Medicine and an Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at Morehouse Schools of Medicine. He is currently the President of the American College of Pediatricians.

### **Bringing Transparency to the Treatment of Transgender Persons**

This presentation outlines the history of the transgender movement and how it was buried and shunned by academia until the infiltration of the Endocrine Society special interest group on transgender health, guided by WPATH from Europe. There are two pathways for evaluation and treatment. The counseling pathway (called “watch and wait” by transgender activists) has a very strong success rate, allowing upward of 90% or more patients to re-identify successfully with their innate biology. The “affirmation” pathway, which attempts to convert to the opposite sex by promoting a rejection of the innate sex and acceptance of an opposite gender identity, is favored by WPATH and the transgender activists, and it has no proven record of safety or long-term success and is blind experimentation on children and adolescents. It is high time that these two pathways for evaluation and treatment be evaluated for their scientific validity so that we can avoid a catastrophic disaster moving forward.

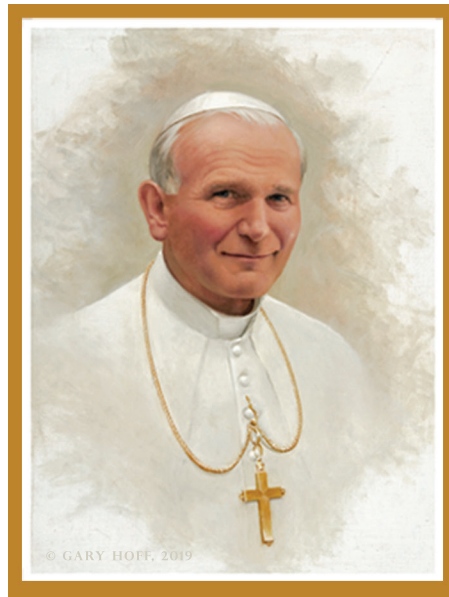


***Courage International extends its gratitude to the donors, vendors, volunteers, and all others who made this conference possible.***

[illegible]



*"DO NOT BE AFRAID. OPEN WIDE THE DOORS FOR CHRIST... DO NOT BE AFRAID. CHRIST KNOWS 'WHAT IS IN MAN'. HE ALONE KNOWS IT."*



*THIS YEAR, WE WILL MARK THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II BY ESTABLISHING HIM AS THE OFFICIAL PATRON OF TRUTH & LOVE.*



[www.truthandlove.com](http://www.truthandlove.com)

**Courage International**  
[www.couragerc.org](http://www.couragerc.org)



+1(203)803-1564  
6450 Main Street  
Trumbull, CT 06611