

In The Father's Footsteps XXVIII
OK Catholic Men's Conference – Be Strong and Courageous
March 9, 2024

Keynote Speaker 1

Chris Stefanick - "Modern Masculinity: Power, Authority, Dominance"

The world > Toxic Masculinity vs. Beautiful. Good Shepherd=Beautiful, a protector.

Away From vs. Toward (masculinity)

Grow up to NOT be vs BE (masculine)

Our society: many bad stats (40% born to unwed mothers, etc, etc)

Consequence > a ruined society

TEACH – love what you are (not toxic)

Jesus Christ is the model for masculinity...life giving power. What's the big story? He has RISEN!

What's the answer? Virility (power) – True man.

Find **POWER** in the right way to run toward who we are vs. away from!

Fathers: show God to your children, a loving father to son, be Christ to him, wrap arms around him, show love of God.

Be grateful for your vocation.

Authority – the power to say NO. Not go along to get along which is what the world would like. Not standing up for what's right. Weed out the strong. The world wants you to be NICE vs. Love.

Faith – encourage, nurture, protect from the wolves, confusion, chaos, destruction.

Create boundaries vs. act on feelings.

Dominance – directing our desires is essential.

Live your vocation with proper dominance.

Lust tied to desires to dominate – causes pain vs. self-giving, sacrifice.

Story: St. Maximilian Kolbe – take the place of prisoner to die. He blessed the evil man in charge, and he shook.

Final thoughts: **Jesus > Virile (Power), Authority, Dominance.** STAND UP FOR JESUS.

Keynote Speaker 2: Jeff Cavins – "Released from Shame!"

Focus on the heart of man.

Grow up > we heard, shame on you...go to your room (deal with it alone)

Fear revealed, unsettled in life, just deal with it.

Shame: painful, humiliation of wrongdoing – unacceptable.

Burden 24/7 – relationships effect every facet of life.

Hide from "it" (shame) Psalms 44: 15-16 + Adam and Eve in garden with evil, felt shame, separated from God.

Guilt= specific behavior or action (consequence)

Shame= who you are and how you feel about self covers you. [I am or carry shame for someone else]

It's inside you, dictates what you do or don't do [I'm not worthy]

St. John Paul 2 – Something private becomes public – full of shame.

In hell we bear our own shame forever. God does NOT want you to live in shame. Jesus takes sin/shame from us and carries it for us, so we don't have to. He is our Advocate – He stands in for us.

Cross/crucifixion – highest form of shame in Rome – control in death. The road was lined with crosses of many bore naked in shame as a sign of control of the people.

Jesus sets us free – a new man! Let it go...don't live in yesterday. Be free of it. Freedom, Joy, new Life

John 8: Woman caught in adultery.

1. Temple
2. Living Water
3. Division of people – go after Jesus
4. Shame woman – ruin life, die.
5. Writing in dirt – Bible research (wrote their names, oldest to youngest)

Jesus will not let Satan shame us – he sets us free just like the woman in story. Freedom to be free.

Isiah: Do not be afraid.

Closing thoughts: Be the man YOU are called to be.

Speaker 3: David Bereit – "Guardians of Life: The Catholic Man's call to defend women and children in a post-Roe/Wade America"

Story:

Boat, Storm – mother and child overboard. What do you do? Action or Passive, You or Someone/Something else? Are you the hero to save mother/child?

1. Spiritual Battle
 - a. #72 Ransom Ave Michigan – Churches then Abortion clinic 20,000 deaths, then office for Pro-life but first an exorcism. Evil left the building.
2. Calling
 - a. Pro-Life efforts – Vision of friend David: started 40 Days for Life movement. Prayer and fasting for life. Peaceful vigil praying Rosary. Spread quickly.
3. Worth It
 - a. Invite others to join in effort. Prayer, Time, Talent, Treasure.
 - b. Growth: 1 million volunteers, 24, 242 lives saved.

Story:

Friend David, father dying, was only one to be with him, each day his dad asked him to pray Rosary with him. He did it even though he really didn't want to. On 40th day he finally said Dad do we have to. His dad told him there was a teenage girl that got pregnant, the father wanted her to get an abortion, she did not, they got married and that child was you, my son.

Story:

A man brings a picture of sonagram with four babies, the doctor said three choices, reduce the number or abort all four and start over or high-risk birth of all four. Showed pic of all four healthy girls in bunny suits at early age and update they all just recently graduated from college.

Story:

Speaker's wife Catholic, he was not for 28 years. Went to Adoration – on his heart "begin" goes to RCIA, still doubting just before Easter, this time on heart "continue". Becomes Catholic.

Closing thoughts: It's a spiritual battle, are you called and it IS worth it!! Join the battle.

Speaker 4: Brett Attebery – Men's role in Empowering Women to Choose Life

Launched: Heroic Media and Marketing.

Story:

Lost son to abortion (Jesse). In Adoration years later, he was called to help other men/women empower women to be informed of support in a difficult time.

Repeated many times quote from St. John Paul 2:

"God has assigned as a duty to every man the dignity of every women."

Military term: Tooth and Tail – for one tooth in front line there are ten in tail to support front line.

Set up pregnancy help centers, now 1000's.

Survey: Of women who had abortions 6 out of 10 would prefer life. But emotional and worried about financial and unaware of options. Targeted advertising in OKC successful in creating awareness of options that saved lives!

Closing thoughts: Do a little or do a lot, but do something.

Speaker 5: Jim Beckman – Positively Dangerous

ACT 1: Contagion CV19

1. Social Distancing
2. Masking
3. Avoid Risks
4. Self-Quarantines

Compared virus to FAITH: Share – give it to many others.

1. Up close and personal (connections)
2. No hiding, no agenda, true self, see self and others
3. Abundance of risk to share the faith with others
4. Contact with others 1 Peter 3:15 – Hope, Love contagious

Book: Positively Dangerous – Live loud, be real, change the world

How is God inviting you to live differently.

ACT 2: I had a Dream

An amusement ride with explosions and danger.

1. We are at war!
2. Wake up – be aware, do not fear – 365X in Bible
3. Get out of the amusement park (Media)
4. Outside, see and help others
5. Take courage – most exciting time to be alive!

ACTION: Relationship with God – in your mind and heart.

ACT 3: Grow Up

Be Intentional, not by accident

Set Goals (G.R.O.W. - a model to follow)

G – Goals

R – Reality

O – Options to move from current to goals

W – Willing to do...What will I do

Closing thoughts: What is the Holy Spirit putting on your heart? Continue process beyond conference.

Another great OK Catholic Men's Conference! This one sold out with 950 men!! Moving to OKC Convention Center March 8, 2025 (capacity of 1800)

Go be Strong and Courageous!!

Notes by: Steve Krause spkrause@aol.com, 918-260-6905