

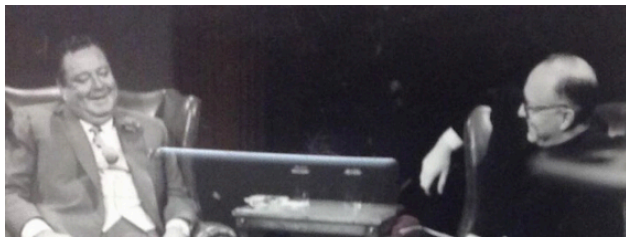
A Tribute to Fr. James Lloyd on His 99th Birthday

by a member of his Courage chapter



A young Fr. Lloyd and Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

Anyone would consider Fr. Lloyd an extraordinary man - even if he weren't 99! He loves being a priest and he's been at it for 72 years (as of May 1st)! In addition to his vocation as a priest, he's also taken on the roles of missionary, educator, seminary director, psychologist, author, NYPD chaplain, and weekly TV talk show host (for 15 years), just to name a few. You can read about some of his experiences in these roles at [this link](#) (which contains some great videos too).



Fr. Lloyd interviews Jackie Gleason on his *Inquiry* talk show.

But of all the important extra roles he's had during his long priesthood, he often says that he thinks the most meaningful one for him has been as a Courage chaplain the last 25 years in NYC where his group meets every week. Knowing all he has done in his splendid long life, we are truly humbled to hear that.

On our part, we members who attend Father's meetings are continually astonished by his abilities despite his age. He is gifted with clear insight combined with a heightened sense of empathy — like no other person most of us have known. He possesses a keen ear for what people are trying to express. Often a member is sharing “stream of consciousness” style and may even lose his train of thought, but Father always seems to find something in that sharing to use to encourage or uplift the person. One always feels better off after hearing Fr. Lloyd's reflection. And he does this every meeting for everybody who shares — which can mean 10, 15, sometimes 20 people.

Along with his compassion for each person who comes to him or attends his meeting is his desire to tell them the truth. He is a fierce defender of Church teachings. He will help and counsel anyone, but he does ask that anyone joining our meetings accept the goals of Courage and strive for chastity. Father often tells us “it's not complicated — God says if you love me, keep my commandments.”



Father's love of God is a joyful love. His message is always positive and optimistic. He doesn't regret or glory in the past — he very much lives in the present. He embraces the new technologies — he uses an iPhone, iPad, and computer. He immediately transitioned without a hitch to Zoom meetings when the Covid-19 shutdown began. And these online meetings are attracting even more than our prior numbers, but he seems to manage it well — providing the same level of helpful feedback to each member who shares.

Fr. Lloyd is a truly happy person, secure in the knowledge that God loves each of us and wants us to be happy. He wants us all to also be secure in that knowledge and believe it in our hearts. He uses expert psychological and caring priestly counseling to try to get us there, and he has a track record of getting many, many there — and along the way, vastly improving their lives with — as he always reminds us — the help of God. After God, he always gives a lot of credit to each individual for any positive change.

Another ingredient he emphasizes is the support of chaste friendships, which he encourages in the group. And in fact, his group has a record of many group activities and social gatherings — from dinners to card games to cruises! When he can join us, it is all the better. He has a wonderful sense of humor and is a joy to be with.

If you call his office phone, his message ends with “In the meantime, walk with God, say your prayers, and (short pause) ... have some appropriate fun.” To those who know him, that line captures Fr. Lloyd's spirit the best. He wants us to be good and he wants us to be happy, like a good father would.

Thank you, dear Father. May God bless and protect you. See you next week!

