

October 28, 2017

Dear Courage and EnCourage Friends,

Prayerful greetings in the Lord to you from St John Fisher Seminary.

It was a blessing to see many of you at the conference at Mundelein in July. Congratulations to Fr Bochanski and the central office staff for another fine program of speakers. I look forward to next summer and the tribute to our beloved Fr Harvey, when we return to Villanova.

I want to express my deep gratitude once again to those who contributed to the beautiful “Our Lady of Courage” vestment. I recently had the opportunity to wear it for the first time in the seminary chapel, for a votive Mass of the Blessed Mother. The Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles (<https://benedictinesofmary.org>), who made the chasuble (and all of the vestments that I have) are a wonderful community that I have known for all 20 years of my priesthood. I have thanked them for their exquisite and timely work, and I will do so in person when I make my annual retreat there in November. The Sisters love the men and women of the Courage and EnCourage, and I know their prayers helped me greatly during my time as executive director.

The seminarians here at St John Fisher, likewise, hold the members of the apostolate in high esteem. From time to time, I talk with them about my experience, and they are edified your example: a “sign of contradiction” to many, as we know, but a much needed “light to the world,” as well. *Deo gratias.*

Since coming to the seminary in January, I have been richly blessed by the Lord, just as I was during my time with Courage and EnCourage. A theme common to both assignments is the spiritual fatherhood of the priest for the souls entrusted to his care. The men you see in the photo are fine candidates for the priesthood, and it is a grace to assist them in their discernment and formation. Like the members of Courage and EnCourage, they "raise the bar" for me, as they strive for greater fidelity and generosity in serving the Lord.

Please be sure that you remain in my daily prayers at the altar, and I ask for a remembrance in your prayers and for seminarians of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

God bless you,

Fr. PNC