**Snapshots of beloved Courage chaplain and leader, Fr. Kazimierz Kowalski**
**From *Courage: A Ministry of Hope* by James A. Beers**

Page 149 (November 1990)

We had our first meeting in Saint Bernard's parish house on November 2, 1990. [This refers to the first meeting in this location, not the very first Courage meeting ever] It was a First Friday and the feast of All Souls, and Father Harvey celebrated Mass for us in the chapel before the meeting. While waiting to go into the chapel, I met a man in his late 30s. He introduced himself as Kaz Kowalski. I later learned that his full name was Kazimierz and that he was a seminarian at Saint Joseph's in Dunwoodie, about to be ordained a transitional deacon within a few weeks, and scheduled to be ordained a priest in May 1991. Kaz's mother was born in Germany and raised a Lutheran, and his father was raised in Poland in the Catholic faith. Kaz himself was raised Lutheran and attended Lutheran schools. Eventually, he was ordained a minister in that faith. In his mid-thirties, while pastoring a Lutheran parish in Queens [New York City], Kaz discovered what he calls "the treasure of the Catholic Church."

After being received into the Church by Father Groeschel, Kaz entered the seminary at Dunwoodie. Although not sharing our struggle with homosexuality, he was influenced by Father Harvey, and he realized a strong inner conviction to devote much of his time as a priest to the apostolate of Courage. Kaz began attending meetings at the White Plains group at St. Bernard's until his ordination. He has since become one of the most vital and determined leaders of Courage.

Page 159 (May 1991)

[M]any Courage members gathered at the Church of the Annunciation in nearby Westchester to hear Father Kaz celebrate his first Mass as a Roman Catholic priest. Many of his Lutheran former parishioners and other non-Catholic friends attended the Mass. I recall Deacon Tom J. commenting with joy that it was the first time outside of a Courage event that he had heard positive words about Courage.

A few weeks later, on the first Friday in June, Father Kaz shared the joy of his ordination with the Courage members at a Mass in the small chapel at Saint Bernard's. We were joined by some former classmates from his Lutheran high school who wished to show their support in his new ministry. Father Kaz told us that he was eagerly looking forward to attending the annual conference, for he had definitely decided that Courage would be an important pastoral ministry for him.

Page 165 (December 1991)

Courage members gathered for a day of recollection at the Cabrini shrine on Saturday, December 7. It was the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the theme for the day was "Our Blessed Mother and Courage." Father Kaz was the first speaker. He took us to the wedding feast at Cana in Saint John's Gospel. He began with Mary's words to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Father Kaz stated that Mary always points to Christ her son and draws us even closer to His love. Man learns generosity from Mary, and her tenderness makes life more bearable. Our Blessed Lady enables us to follow her example of submissiveness. In the mystery of the Incarnation all the universe is bound up with God, our creator who is infinite and gentle. She who knows her son intimately intercedes on our behalf.

Page 167 (1992)

Early in 1992, Father Harvey announced that he would be taking a six-month sabbatical to research the causes of homosexuality, especially the issue of nature or nurture. During that time, Father Kaz and Father William Young Jr. facilitated the meetings in White Plains and West 14th Street in Manhattan.

The last function that Father Harvey attended before beginning the sabbatical was a celebration of the first anniversary of the Brooklyn chapter. Bishop Thomas Daily was the main celebrant at the Mass at the Basilica of Saint James in downtown Brooklyn. Celebrants included Fathers Harvey, Shelly and Kowalski and Monsignor Murphy. A few members from Philadelphia attended with John N. There were about 60 participants in this memorable liturgy, and afterwards they proceeded downstairs for a social.

Page 170 (May 1992)

The Cabrini shrine once again was the site for a day of recollection on May 9, 1992. Father Kaz had prepared and distributed a booklet for this occasion and he led the group in morning prayer. After this we heard two presentations by Father Bill Young and Msgr. William B Smith.

Father Bill began his talk about the virtue of humility and self knowledge by inviting us to set aside our daily struggles for a while. …

Father Kaz celebrated the Mass at noon with concelebrants, Msgr. Murphy, Father Benjamin and Father Gregory. …

In the afternoon Monsignor William D Smith, a moral theologian and long time instructor at Dunwoodie seminary, spoke to us about virtue.
Page 192 (December 1993)

On December 16, Father Kowalski and Deacon Tom J. were interviewed by Johnnette Benkovic on "The Abundant Life"  on EWTN. They discussed the basic facts of the ministry and goals of Courage.

Page 262 (Late 1990's)

Sometime in the late 1990s Father Kaz Kowalski's succeeded Fr. Timone as the facilitator of the Saint Agnes [in New York] group. … Under Fr. Kaz the meetings followed the traditional Courage format.

Page 268-270 (August 1997 national conference in Quebec)

Our beloved friend, Father Benedict Groeschel, spoke to us on Saturday morning. …

Father Groeschel concluded, saying, "Be a witness! If you're not doing it perfectly, that is why we have confession, but struggle on. You are not attempting to do something easy. A life of sexual abstinence is not an easy life, and you have an important message and witness for the Church today. You have a witness to give and I am grateful to God that I have the opportunity to know this group, to know Fr. Harvey, Fr. Timone, Fr. Kaz and the many priests that are working with you because this is a light shining in the darkness. Amen."

Page 285 (1998)

Frank M's enthusiasm and vision for the upcoming conference prompted other members to dub it, "Frank's conference." One of his inspirations was a souvenir journal. … [The] pages of the book were full of testimonies from Courage chapters, members of Courage and EnCourage, and parishes from New England to the Philippines.

Fr. Kaz was responsible for the prayers and hymns in the journal. It was very convenient to follow as each day's liturgy was complete unto itself.

Page 416 (2001)

But the most exciting event of the weekend [annual conference in Mundelein, Illinois] may have been the world premiere of "Portraits of Courage," the much-awaited video produced by C-MAC. …

The video includes interviews with priests who have spent countless hours in helping shape the vision of Cardinal Cooke. Along with Fr. Harvey, our longtime friends Father Lloyd and Father Kaz delivered the truth that chastity is possible.

Page 424 (2004)

In New York City, we marked the sixtieth anniversary of Father Harvey's ordination and the fiftieth anniversary of the ordination of Father James Connolly, the long time Courage facilitator at Saint John the Evangelist.… On Sunday, June 6, Father Kaz Kowalski hosted a gala cocktail party at the rectory of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Manhattan to honor both Father Harvey and Father Connolly.

Page 473-474 (2010)

On December 27, the feast of Saint John the Evangelist, most of the Northeast was in the midst of a blizzard. At about 6 p.m. Bill H. called to inform me that Father Harvey had passed away. …

After the funeral, the New York chapter planned a memorial Mass. The Congregation of Saint Paul the Apostle graciously offered their church to us for this Mass which was celebrated at 12 noon on Saturday, February 19, 2011. The celebrant was Father Kasimierz Kowalski (Father Kaz). You may recall that in 1990, as a seminarian in his diaconate year, he was invited by Fr. Harvey to attend a Courage meeting. Fr. Harvey was anxious for newly ordained priests to consider the possibility of working in this apostolate. Twenty-one years later, Father Kaz is still active in Courage and very much appreciated.

An addition from Angelo S. at the Courage office.

In recent years (post his time as pastor at OLGC), he would attend Fr. Lloyd's Tuesday evening Courage meetings when it was possible.  He was also attending the NYC Friday evening meetings with Fr. Leo (maybe not every week, but he seemed to be present more often than not). He was also attending the Friday evening meeting via Zoom whether he was in the hospital or rehab. Actually, he was present during the Friday night meeting just two days prior of the Lord taking him Home!