San Antonio Courage Hosts Workshop for Catechists and More

by a member of EnCourage San Antonio
(edited for clarity and brevity)

Courage's San Antonio chapter recently held a workshop entitled, "Proclaiming the Splendor of Truth with Love." This workshop was designed for catechists and directors of religious education (DRE), with an invitation to any Catholic interested in learning about the moral teachings of the Catholic Church concerning our call to holiness regarding chastity and about the apostolate of Courage. There were over eighty-five attendees, the majority being catechists, with several DREs, plus some priests and deacons.

Fr. Richard Samour's (Courage chaplain) goal for session one was to present the basic teachings of sexual morality and chastity and the catechist's role in teaching God's plan for human sexuality: how they can communicate with clarity and compassion the Church's teachings regarding same-sex attractions. Father Samour's presentation was accompanied by informative videos by Fr. Philip Bochanski and some slides. It drew from a wealth of resources including the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the writings of the Fathers of the Church (including St. Thomas Aquinas) as well as Archbishop Charles Chaput and many others who teach the Truths of the Church.

Many participants had never heard of the apostolate of Courage and were surprised that it has been around for forty years, including twelve years in San Antonio.

Attendees showed a high level of interest in the topics, as many had little knowledge of the Church's teachings on the subjects covered. They actively engaged in the workshop as they answered questions posed by Father Samour, offered their thoughts concerning the topics, and volunteered to read Scripture from their Bibles as a foundation to the teachings of the Catholic Church. There was a Q&A session to wrap up the workshop, which demonstrated a desire of the attendees to learn more about the teachings of the Church on chastity.



The workshop was endorsed also by the Lay Ministry Office of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The catechists received two credits for each session for their certification.

In closing, Father Samour challenged everyone, especially catechists, stating, “It is time for you to talk to your priests about teaching the moral values: respect, modesty, love, chastity, and the apostolate.” These virtues need to be at the center of teaching who we are called to be as sons and daughters of God, created in the image and likeness of God and rooted in dignity. We are all called to a life of holiness. “We do not walk this journey alone. The Church who speaks the Truth in love will help you to grow in all things into ‘Him who is the head—Christ’—who ‘causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love’ (Ephesians 4:14-16).”