

Fr. Kevin Belgrave
Courage Chaplain – Toronto Chapter
from the members of Courage Toronto



Fr. Kevin Belgrave is the current chaplain of Courage Toronto since 2014. We, the members of this Courage chapter, would like to thank him for being a kind, dedicated, and patient pastor who generously contributes his time for our group despite his very busy schedule as a professor of Moral Theology, a consultant in the field of Bioethics, and a spiritual formator of seminarians in the Archdiocese of Toronto. We have been struck especially by his solicitude and zeal in the sacrament of confession and the Holy Eucharist. During confession, he listens attentively, gives wise advice, and offers sincere words of consolation and encouragement. It is no wonder that the lineup is always long! The Mass is celebrated with reverence, and his homilies are well-crafted and steeped in theology, scripture, and the wisdom of spiritual masters such as St. Therese of Lisieux and St. Ignatius of Loyola. His intercessions during the prayers of the faithful are always mindful of the current concerns of the members and their loved ones, especially those who need healing, who are suffering, and who are dying.

Fr. Kevin listens attentively and empathetically to each member during the sharing component of our meetings. During the brief reflection he gives after each member has shared, he is quick to point out the most salient spiritual themes, whether it be dealing with a particular struggle, an opportunity to grow in virtue or to clarify Church teaching concerning doctrinal and moral matters. He then provides words of wisdom, consolation, or encouragement. Every tiny progress in the spiritual life is recognized and affirmed. Members have reported feeling much more joyful and hopeful, and have been impressed by his sensitivity, sagacity, and charity.

Another endearing quality about Fr. Kevin is his willingness to go the extra mile in being a pastor to us outside the Courage meetings. He would visit members who have fallen ill to offer his consoling presence and provide the sacrament of anointing. He would show up at the funeral of a member whose relative had passed away. He would spend hours reading books and articles concerning the pastoral and moral issues regarding same-sex attraction so that his talks during our annual Courage retreat would be strikingly relevant to the psychological and spiritual issues of us who struggle with this cross. He has made himself available to be a spiritual director to some of our members and regularly meets up with men and women who are discerning to become Courage members. He almost single-handedly organized the chapter's 30th anniversary which was attended by the Archbishop, the Sisters of Life, as well as priests, seminarians and laity who support the goals of the Courage apostolate. Ever since he became our chaplain, we have experienced significant growth in our membership.

We hope to have Fr. Kevin for many more years as our chaplain. We thank our Archbishop, Cardinal Collins, for appointing such a smart, loving, and fatherly priest. Thanks be to God.