

ST. CHARLES LWANGA (...Continued)

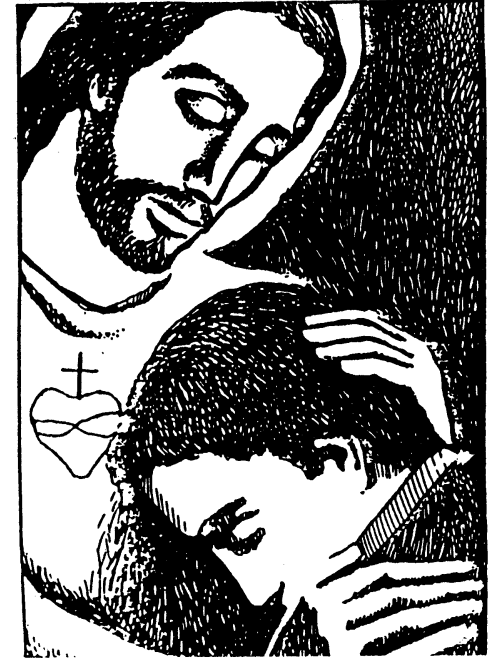
royal household as assistant to Joseph Mukasa, head of the court pages.

On the night of Mukasa's martyrdom for encouraging the African youths to resist the homosexual demands of the Bagandan ruler, Mwanga, Charles requested and received Baptism. Imprisoned with his friends, Charles gave them courage and his belief in God inspired them to remain chaste and faithful. He protected his fellow pages, age 13 to 30, from Mwanga and encouraged and instructed them in the Catholic faith during their imprisonment for refusing the demands.

For his own unwillingness to submit to the immoral acts and his efforts to safeguard the faith of his friends, Charles was burned to death at Namugongo, on June 3, 1886, by Mwanga's order.



Father John Harvey,
co-founder of *Courage*, in audience with
Pope John Paul II, December 1999



O Lord, my God, I take refuge in You. – Psalm 7

COURAGE is a support group providing fellowship to men and women who wish to live chaste lives in accordance with the Roman Catholic Church's teachings on same-sex attraction.

With the approval of The Archdiocese of Toronto

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COURAGE PRAYER

May Christ give us all the Courage to go the way He shepherds us.

If He bids us come to Him across the waters, may we go unafraid. If He bids us climb the hill, may we not notice it is a hill, mindful only of the happiness of His company.

He made us for Himself, that we should travel with Him and see Him at last in His unveiled beauty in the abiding city where He is light, happiness, and endless home.

THE FIVE GOALS OF *COURAGE*

The following five goals of *Courage* were created by the members themselves when *Courage* was founded.

1. Live chaste lives in accordance with the Roman Catholic Church's teaching on homosexuality. **(Chastity)**
2. Dedicate ones life to Christ through service to others, spiritual reading, prayer, meditation, individual spiritual direction, frequent attendance at Mass, and the frequent reception of the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. **(Prayer and Dedication)**
3. Foster a spirit of fellowship in which all may share thoughts and experiences, and so ensure that no one will have to face the problems of homosexuality alone. **(Fellowship)**
4. Be mindful of the truth that chaste friendships are not only possible but necessary in a chaste Christian life and in doing so provide encouragement to one another in forming and sustaining them. **(Support)**
5. Live lives that may serve as good examples to others. **(Good Example)**

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WHAT IS *COURAGE*?

Courage is a **Spiritual** support group of Catholic lay men and women who aspire to live chaste lives in accordance with the Roman Catholic Church's teaching on homosexuality.

HOW DID *COURAGE* ORIGINATE?

Courage began by the efforts of His Eminence Terence Cardinal Cooke of the Archdiocese of New York, in 1980. It was founded by Rev. John Harvey, O.S.F.S., who provided counseling to individuals with homosexual orientation, including clergy and laity. Fr. Harvey is also a professor of Moral Theology.

WHEN DID *COURAGE* BEGIN IN TORONTO?

Following publication of an article in the Catholic Register, January 1986, Fr. Harvey was invited to Toronto by the officials of the Archdiocese in May, and met with the founding members of *Courage*.

HOW DOES *COURAGE* FUNCTION?

Courage has a priest director and officers for organization and business purposes.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE IMPORTANT ELEMENTS INCLUDED IN THE *COURAGE* APOSTOLATE?

Prayer: Prayer is important in the life of every Christian. As *Courage* members, we ask for God's grace and comply with His blessings on a daily basis, following our spiritual plan as outlined in the "Goals of *Courage*". Devotion to our Blessed Mother, praying the rosary, private devotions to the saints, and our patron saint, St. Charles Lwanga, are important in order to follow the mandate of *Courage*. Our agenda includes an annual retreat. Members are required to perform charitable works, and works of mercy.

Mutual support: *Courage* members meet weekly to obtain and offer mutual, ongoing support, and to pray for each other.

Anonymity: This is an important tenet of *Courage*.

HOW CAN THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ASSIST *COURAGE*?

Your prayers for the *Courage* apostolate are the greatest gift one can give.

MESSAGE FROM *COURAGE* TORONTO

Thank you for your time and interest in reading our material. We hope you realize the importance of this ministry. The message is that there is hope for the Catholic homosexual person in the apostolate of *Courage*, in following the Magisterium, and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. We realize that the only sanctioned form of sexual activity is in the Sacrament of Marriage. *Courage* provides support for the inclusion of the Catholic homosexual person into the Catholic Church. It is also important for the Catholic Community to realize and support the *Courage* agenda. We are all members of the mystical Body of Christ in love and fellowship as Christ intended. It is important that *Courage* members be integrated into the Catholic community, and worship together in a Christian spirit. We are grateful to the Archdiocese of Toronto, and all our benefactors, for instituting *Courage* here in this Archdiocese and for providing effective direction for the Catholic homosexual person. If you are Catholic and homosexual, it may take *Courage* to be chaste. We can help! We ask your prayers for the *Courage* apostolate.

ST. CHARLES LWANGA

Patron Saint

One of 22 Ugandan martyrs, Charles Lwanga is the patron of youth and Catholic action in most of tropical Africa. He and the other martyrs were canonized by Pope Paul VI on October 18, 1964. Their feast is June 3.

A court page, Charles learned of Christ's teachings from two retainers in the court of Chief Mawulugungu in Uganda, Africa. While a catechumen, he entered the

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