

An invitation, September 2021

(a date coming soon.... :)

A Discussion Panel: A decline in COURAGE?

Zoom meeting



The questions, quotes and materials provided below are a common starting point for our reflection and the second edition of an upcoming online international discussion panel.

The panel will be divided into two parts;

-the first part; short up to 5-minute speeches by invited guests and volunteers on the materials provided and their own answers to the questions regarding the subject matter.

- the second part; reflection on what has been said and read and free discussion (all participants).

- Is courage a virtue needed only in rare big historic moments or should it become our more and more common, conscious everyday practice?

- Is avoidance and procrastination a quiet enemy of courage?

-Why do I talk so eagerly when I should actually keep quiet and why am I tongue-tied when I should stand up and scream from rooftops?

-What excuses do I make when I shy away and don't pluck up the courage to act or say things when need arises?

-Do I exercise courage or am I deaf/numb/stuck/ happy enough in my comfort zone?

- Is courage teachable?

*“Maybe the most striking feature which an outside observer notices in the West in our days is that **the Western world has lost its civil courage**, both as a whole and separately, in each country, each government, each political party and of course in the United Nations. **Such a decline in courage is particularly noticeable** among the ruling groups and the intellectual elite, causing an impression of **loss of courage by the entire society**. Of course there are many courageous individuals but they have no determining influence on public life. Political and intellectual bureaucrats show **depression, passivity and perplexity in their actions and in their statements** and even more so in theoretical reflections to explain how realistic, reasonable as well as intellectually and even morally warranted it is to base state policies on **weakness and cowardice**. (...) Should one point out that from ancient times **decline in courage has been considered the beginning of the end?**”*

“You're no better-off than we were in the Soviet Union. The communists made us get rid of God from our lives, but You got rid of Him out of your own free will. Nobody forced you to. The decision was yours alone.”

ALEKSANDR SOLZHENITSYN, 1970 Nobel and Templeton Prize winner,(1918–2008); A WORLD SPLIT APART (the commencement address at Harvard University in 1978).

https://www.tjed.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/world_split_apart_eng.pdf

“Every thing, every great thing must cost and must be difficult. Only small and trivial things are easy.”

“We are to speak the truth when others are silent. Express love and respect, when others sow hatred. Be silent when others speak. Pray when others swear. Help when others don't want to. Forgive when others can not. Enjoy life when others show complete disregard for it.”

Bl. Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko

“In such a fearful world we need a fearless church!”

“Courage is not simply *one* of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point, which means at the point of highest reality. A chastity or honesty or mercy which yields to danger will be chaste or honest or merciful only on conditions. Pilate was merciful till it became risky.”

Clive Staples Lewis

“Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened.” **Billy Graham**

And the absolute must-listen, the core inspiration for the panel;

06/13/21 EVERYDAY COURAGE, **Fr. Mike Smitz**, podcast;

<https://bulldogcatholic.org/2021/06/14/06-13-21-everyday-courage/>

The aim of the panels is for Catholics from all over the world to come together and reignite the core values of Christianity, to gather strength and momentum to spread the Word of God in everyday life with even more drive, love and passion.

THE INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION PANELS;

I edition, 22 VI 2020 ; *A New Opening; Man’s search for meaning* (Frankl)

II edition, ... IX 2021; *A decline in Courage?; A world split apart* (Solzhenitsyn)

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