

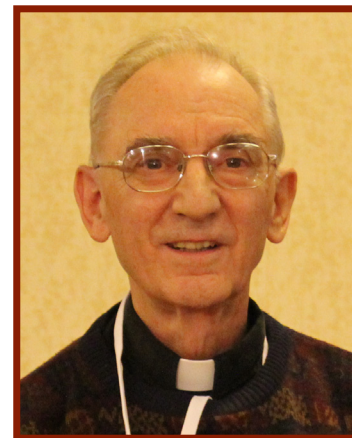


## President Father Bob's Final Letter

*by Father Bob Sears*

As I prepare to hand over the presidency to Denise Dolff at our September Conference, I find myself thinking of where we are in ACT at present. We are in a time of transition and of purification, as I see it. A time of gratitude for what God has accomplished in ACT, and a time of looking forward to what changes we will face to bring the healing ministry of Jesus into healthcare.

The time of transition is clear. We need to make ACT more visible, more accessible via the internet, more exciting and challenging to attract young professionals. Leadership is working on that by researching appropriate association management software programs that can automate new member applications, dues collection, event management – many things in our day that are expected and taken for granted. We are making ACT's writings – Journal articles and InterACT issues – as well as Conference tapes available via the internet, while still caring for those who continue to rely on surface mail.



*Father Robert Sears, ACT President*

The time of purification is also becoming ever more clear. We have been declining in membership and in income, a trend also found in denominational churches and religious orders. Yet people are also looking for an experience of God in new ways, for a deep and empowering spirituality, often in non-Christian ways. ACT has not yet succeeded in making healthcare the Lord's to any appreciable degree. It has become clear that if Jesus does not do it, it will not be done. But if Jesus does not shine forth more and more in each ACT member, He won't be able to do it, since God has given dominion to humans to let God bring creation into right order. God's kingdom must be lived by each member if it is to infiltrate healthcare. Our May Leadership Retreat expressed that awareness in our revised vision statement – "Advancing Christ-centered Healthcare, one healer at a time." The

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# InterACT

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The Association of Christian Therapists (ACT)  
6728 Old McLean Village Dr., McLean, VA 22101  
PH: 703-556-9225 ext. 118

Fax: 703-556-8729

ACT Email: ACTheals@degnon.org

## PUBLISHER

Douglas Schoeninger, Ph.D.

## EDITOR

Mike McCarthy

## CONTRIBUTORS

Ginny Antaya, Karen Cichon, Denise Doff,  
Danny Dutton, Meg Gorham, Kathy MacCarthy,  
Mike MacCarthy, Cathy MacDougal, Cheryl  
Marsh, Stephen May, Katie Moore, Nancy  
Morgan, Kathleen Murphy, Carolyn Plant, Janet,  
Douglas Schoeninger, Father Robert Sears, Kris  
Sendelbach, Maureen Thompson, Janice Wilkins,  
and the office staff of Degnon Associates, Inc.

The vision of ACT is to be an international, ecumenical association of Christian healthcare professionals, clergy, and associates equipped and extending the healing presence, heart, and mind of Jesus Christ to their patients, clients, colleagues, and institutions, under the power and guidance the Holy Spirit.

The mission of ACT is to provide resources and support to enable healthcare professionals, clergy, and associates to: **1)** Personally experience the healing power of Jesus Christ; **2)** Integrate their professional skills, spiritual development, healing ministry, and theological understanding; and **3)** Extend the healing presence, heart, and mind of Jesus Christ through their work and ministry.

We invite your comments/suggestions, written thoughts, or submissions. We reserve the right to edit submitted articles without notice. Your name can be withheld by request in *InterACT*, but must be included with a contact phone or email when your article is submitted. We also request that a current digital “headshot” photo of you accompany your submission.

The next *InterACT* deadline is **October 15, 2014**, for the Winter 2014 issue.

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*continued from page 1*

transformation must begin with the spiritual transformation of the practitioner.

The power to do this has now been given us, according to Jesus’ revelations to Luisa Piccarreta. Private revelations must be checked with Scripture, but there also we see that God himself promised that He would “seek out the lost and heal the sick ...” (Ezekiel 34:15-16) and that He would give us His Spirit and “make us live by his statutes” (Ezekiel 36:27). This is what Jesus did in His life, and clearly we haven’t been able to do it since to any appreciable degree because of the blindness and weakness of our wills. Jesus revealed to Luisa that beginning with her (she died in 1946) God is enacting a “Third Fiat” (a creative “Let it Be” to follow the Fiats of creation and redemption). He is giving His Will to those who submit their wills to Him, to actually carry out on earth what God wills in heaven. And what God wills, and Jesus has interceded to be accomplished, is that humans be restored to what God intended in the beginning before Adam and Eve sinned – when humans were living in the Divine Will and there was no death, sickness, or suffering.

We might ask, “Is that possible for a people deformed by sickness and suffering and blinded by our confused and distorted view of God?”

In Jesus it is, according to Ephesians 1:4, for “God chose us in Christ, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him.” It is not possible for humans – hence the need for purification – but the more we submit to Jesus’ Will in us, the more God’s power will be made manifest, for “nothing is impossible for God.” (Luke 1:37)

It is this conviction that I hope will grow in ACT as we move forward. I believe it is what I was called to communicate in my term as president, as I spoke on the Holy Family as foundation and goal for healing. I will be giving a workshop at our San Diego Conference on the relevance of what Jesus said to Luisa about Living in the Divine Will for the call of ACT. May we grow in our reliance on the effective intercession of Jesus and each one’s submission to His creative Will. Then, Jesus can and will accomplish what He has called ACT to be.

Blessings to you all.



# Editor's Note

## ACT International Conference on Prayer in Healthcare Practice and Healing Ministry

ACT will hold its annual International Conference in La Jolla, September 18-21, 2014. Non-members are encouraged to attend.

According to Conference Director Mike White, "Our conference is open to individuals who represent the wide variety of providers of healthcare and interested associates. We're asking those who may consider attending to answer the following questions:"

- Feel like you are alone in trying to live your Christian beliefs in your work environment?
- Feel like something is missing from your professional life?
- Are you weary and in need of Jesus' healing touch?

"ACT would like to hear the words in your heart," White continues. "We're about reaching out to those who seek to find Jesus in others and themselves - nurse, physicians, social workers, psychotherapists, clergy, physical therapists, chaplains, counselors, healers, and like-minded associates."

### Who is ACT?

ACT is an international nonprofit organization that is unique in integrating healthcare practice, spiritual growth, healing ministry, and theology as it relates to healthcare professions.

ACT recognizes that men and women in all the healthcare disciplines and healing ministries are in need of Jesus' healing touch to live this integration and bring it back to their professions, practices, and ministries.

ACT provides the support, empowerment, and witness necessary to live this integration.

ACT has been providing annual conferences for almost four decades offering attendees instruction, healing, fellowship, and spirituality. Attendees learn to be healers with the heart of Jesus. The goal of the conference is to renew (or refresh) and equip attendees to be the healing presence of Jesus Christ in their workplace and personal life.

ACT invites like-minded men and women throughout the world to join us, to know and make known the healing love of Jesus Christ and the healing power of the Holy Spirit to those in need.

ACT's San Diego conference, September 18-21, will provide an opportunity for healing prayer, spiritual and professional growth, as well as the chance to be part of a unique community that truly cares for its members with the heart of Jesus. Whether attending for the first time or for several times, attendees are valued and enrich ACT. They are invited to take the challenge of welcoming old friends and making new ones, of sharing their gifts with one another, of being vulnerable to receive all the Lord has prepared for them during this conference. Learn-



Mike MacCarthy, InterACT Editor

ing from one another as well as from the presenters and praying with one another, they join together to build up the body of Christ in healthcare and throughout society.

*Ephesians 3:20-21. 'Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.'*

**Those interested,** contact: (760) 633-3750, go to the ACT website: [actheals.org](http://actheals.org) or turn to page 17.

*Personal Note: This will be my third ACT conference, and each time I have come away with my heart and soul on fire with a greater love of the Lord.*

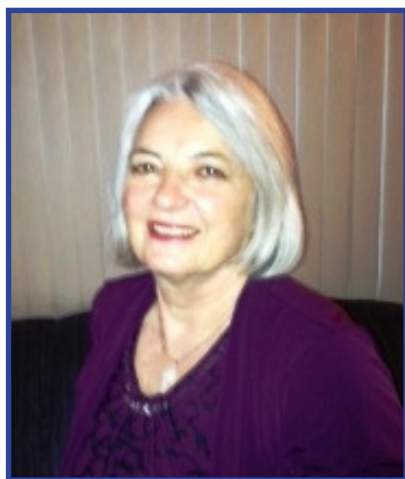




# Introducing ACT's Newly Elected Officers and Board Members

*(Editor's Note: Earlier this year, ACT held an election for future Officers and Board Members. The following members have been elected by the membership and hereby submit a brief overview of their background so that each of us can get to know them better and offer our enthusiastic support in the months and years ahead. The Nominating Committee would like to thank all the members who agreed to be nominees and to the members for voting. Please keep all our leaders and volunteers in prayer and continue to pray that all those called to leadership and service in ACT respond with a heartfelt "Yes".)*

## **President-Elect (2014-2020)** **Nancy Morgan, LMFT, MPC**



I am a Licensed Marriage Family Therapist in private practice in Encinitas, CA. I am a Christian of the Roman Catholic tradition. I was born in Standard, Illinois and moved to San Diego at age 10. I went to public schools until attending Mount Saint Mary's College in Los Angeles for my BA and teaching credential. My entire 26 year teaching career was with at-risk youth, working 22 years with teen parents. In 1993, I was state president of the California Association of School-Age Parents. My husband Larry and I are retired secondary public school teacher/counselors now involved with our children and grandchildren.

Feeling God's call from my earliest recollections, I have been in ministry all my life including: Amigos Anonymous in Mexico, teaching religious education, youth minister, Eucharistic Minister, Bible Study leader, Hospitalier at Lourdes, Co-Worker of Mother Teresa, and various parish ministries. Though not in the early

Charismatic Renewal, I was introduced to Charismatic prayer in the 70s. I felt called in 1996 to Father Joe Scerbo's Trinity College of Graduate Studies; called to join ACT in 2000; and called to ACT leadership in 2001 serving as Regional Coordinator of the San Diego region for several years. In 2010, I became the Chair of Regional Coordinators and joined the ACT board where I serve at this time. I was licensed in 2007 and began my private practice in 2008. I serve families in the child welfare system, individuals, couples, and medical care children, including referrals for low-income clients. I am blessed to share an office with another ACT member and incorporate prayer into my therapy when it is requested by clients. As we all do in ACT, I pray for the Lord's inspiration and healing of all my clients. Since the early '90s, I have been blessed, strengthened, and inspired by: serving three nights per week as an "adorer" at Perpetual Adoration; my participation in ACT events and leadership training; and by my 10+ year participation in an ACT SEW group (Support, Empower, and Witness) that now meets in my home. I try to live my life in response to what I feel is a call by the Holy Spirit to serve Jesus in ACT's ecumenical call to bring healing to myself and to His people in His churches, His hospitals, and His clinics. In serving as President-Elect of ACT, I am humbled and prayerful that I will be empowered to discern and inspire others to respond to God's call in their personal and professional lives for the glory and honor of God.

## **Secretary** **Kris Sendelbach (2014-2017)**



I became acquainted with the Association of Christian Therapists (ACT) via two families who introduced me to the group and the Charismatic Renewal. I joined ACT in 1986, staying on the sidelines for several years before becoming more active. I began as the secretary/treasurer for the MN/ND Region (14) and became the Regional Coordinator about 2006. Since 2013, I have been helping the Michigan Region (9) reactivate. I serve as the secretary for the Council of Regional Coordinators, and have served on the Nominating Committee from 2008 to 2012.

I am part of the Nurses Specialty Group beginning as the recording secretary for the group for four years then became chairperson and am in my third year. I continue to type the minutes for our conference meetings. One of my focuses has been on building up the Body of ACT by remembering those nurses who are elderly, chronically ill, and/or homebound. In addition, each nurse is remembered during National Nurses Week with a prayer and words of encouragement to help sustain us on our personal as well as professional journey. This encouragement helped me to see a way of helping my home-care clients when

I worked in community health/public health. Much of the work I did was weekly medication sets for the elderly and disabled who lived in remote, rural settings. I was able to see the power of prayer manifested in improved health and well-being of my clients via improved readings, blood tests, and decreased size of wounds. The Nurse Specialty Group is part of the Specialty Groups Committee. I have been the recording secretary for the last three years. Recently, I was elected to become Chair of the Specialty Groups Committee.

Over the past 28 years in ACT, I have had the wonderful opportunity to meet many new friends and experience the healing power of Jesus in my own life. It has been my call to assist others in finding the resources and support they need to feel God's healing power under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to help members integrate this into their own professions so that we, with the help of Jesus, may extend this healing presence of Jesus through our work and ministry.

God has blessed me with a special gift in being able to record information accurately and in a timely manner. This information, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, will help our leadership and organization grow more into what Jesus is calling us to become.

## Board of Directors

### Cathy MacDougall (2014-2017)



As a high school religion teacher, I must be very conscious of my responsibility to bring healing to the workplace by role modeling respectful language to my students in some of the most disrespectful circumstances. I have always brought

my knowledge of healing to my students through teaching healing prayers to them along with the importance of maintaining a right relationship with God. In my private encounters with students and colleagues, I distribute holy oil, counsel the heart broken, and walk with students in conflict towards Jesus. Most recently, I mentored a 13-year-old student with the information she needed to run a March Break youth camp for Saint Gertrude's Parish (Oshawa: March, 2014).

In my own life, I attend Healing Masses, prayer groups, and conferences, both local and abroad. I maintain relationships with others in the healing ministry. In 2008-2009, I worked with the late Al Balawyder to launch the Christian Healing School in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

My association with the Christian Therapists has helped me find the words to lead my students to healing. This relationship has given me the strength to counsel both students and their families on their journey to healing.

I will retire to Antigonish, Nova Scotia in June 2014. It my intention to continue to build the healing ministry through a liaison with the chaplains at Saint Francis Xavier, Saint Mary's, and Dalhousie, introducing both ACT and Christian healing to faculty and students.

### Stephen May (2014-2017)

I trained to become a chaplain from 1999 to 2001, and received certification in 2003. In 2002 and 2003, I spent two weeks on evangelization training at Grand Rapids, Michigan, at Ave Maria University. My experiences in the National Association of Catholic Chaplains (NACC) left me wondering how to pray with people--how to pray for healing with people, but did not give examples. I found what was missing from NACC in ACT and have been happy that the Lord led me to ACT.

I joined ACT in the 1990s, but was not always active during those years. In 1997, I attended a week-long conference on inner healing sponsored by John and Paula Sandford in Spokane, Washington. About 2001, I joined ACT again and I



have attended the International Conferences in Gulf Shores, Alabama, Covington, Kentucky, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Baltimore. Also about 2001, I attended another week-long conference on healing prayer sponsored by Francis and Judith MacNutt in Jacksonville, Florida. I always find the ACT conferences to be refreshing in so many ways, spiritually and professionally. The speakers are always top notch and hearing those in the healing professions speak about how they integrate spirituality into their services is something I look forward to. It is amazing how those in the counseling professions are so spiritually grounded as well, and that ACT is 'the' organization which gathers such professionals together.

Since 2005, I have served as Treasurer and Retreat Registrar for Region 12, Chicago area. We have an active region with regular meetings and annual retreats. Their annual retreats have also been on my schedule because they bring so many people from the healing professions together for various dimensions of spiritual growth and healing prayer. In 2013, I was asked to serve as District Regional Coordinator (DRC) for the Midwest and attended my first Leadership meeting in Chicago. As DRC, it is a challenge for me to find ways to maintain and increase membership.

For the last 13 years, my daily work and ministry has been as a lay chaplain at two hospitals, one catholic, one not. At both hospitals I do regular patient visits, and respond to emergency room and intensive care needs. I also lead spirituality groups

*Continued on next page*

for psych patients, children ages 5-12, teens, and adults. And I conduct Sunday chapel services for psych patients at the non-catholic hospital using an informal approach with dialogue.

I fully appreciate ACT's mission: To provide resources and support to enable healthcare professionals, clergy, and associates to: 1) Personally experience the healing power of Jesus Christ, 2) Integrate their professional skills, spiritual development, healing ministry, and theological understanding, and 3) Extend the healing presence, heart, and mind of Jesus Christ through their work and ministry. As a chaplain, I have sought to bring about more appreciation of the healing power of Jesus in each of the spirituality groups that I meet with in the psych units at both hospitals. I look forward to continuing our ACT mission at the ministries I work with in the future. I hope to maintain and increase membership.

### **Nominations Committee**

#### **Kathleen Murphy**

Another professional led me to join ACT in 1978. Since that time ACT has given me many spiritual opportunities of feeling the healing powers of Jesus. My background is in Nursing with an undergraduate degree from Villanova University and a Master's from the University of Maryland. Being a Regional Coordinator of the Delaware Valley area since 2007 has enhanced my awareness of extending the healing presence, heart, and mind of Jesus and I am willing to serve ACT in any capacity. In my local parish, Our Lady of the Angels, I am involved with Parish Nursing, Life in the Spirit Seminar, the Social Justice Committee, a Scriptural Prayer Group, and the Intercessory Prayer Group. I am also involved with a Telephone Scriptural group and a weekly rosary group. Additionally, I volunteer for the Red Cross weekly and am a member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians.



## The Connection

She was drawn to this man of  
compassion

With a woman's sixth sense

She knew -----

A man both loved and feared

She felt whole in his presence

She felt so many feelings

Whole healed bold tender  
complete

Without hesitation she approached him at table

To thank him with her gift of tears and anointing oil

And a need for intimate contact

With the man whose presence offered her relief

Who needed her tenderness before his departure

She washed his feet with tears from her heart

While her touch reached his soul

Her hair dried his feet of the tears

But the oil scent and her gentle touch

Remained with him

To his death.



Royce Johnston, June 11, 2014



# Meet the ACT Office Staff

*(Editor's Note: When any of us contacts the ACT office or meets them in person at our International Conferences, it's too easy to merely read their name tag without knowing anything about them. On the eve of our annual get-together—this year in San Diego—we thought you might like to know more about the talented ACT staff who works so hard to make things happen on our behalf and our collective mission to serve others.)*

## **Maureen** **Associate Executive Director**



Maureen is a seasoned Association Professional with a background in event/meeting planning and twenty year career in Association Management. Maureen currently serves as an account executive for Degnon Associates and is the Associate executive director for the Association of Christian Therapists (ACT). In this role, she works closely with the board and member volunteers to accomplish the mission and vision of the Association.

She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Kutztown University in Pennsylvania. In addition to her college education, Maureen has earned the Business of Meetings Certificate, given by the ASAE and the Center for Association Leadership that includes: Strategy and Marketing, Meetings and Expositions Excellence, Flawless Business Operations, and Leadership and Communication and has proudly served on multiple Customer Advisory Boards.

Maureen is a proud mother of a 12-year-old son who enjoys sports and spending time with friends and family. When she is not at work or watching her son on the pitcher's mound of his travel baseball team, she is happy in her studio space in her home making jewelry, mosaics/assemblage pieces, painting and pretty much tapping into her creative side.

"I enjoy solving problems and creating solutions. I approach my day-to-day "to do" list like I do my on-going art projects... with a creative perspective to achieve the best outcome possible, (often engaging the input and experience from others to make the best finished product). I work best in a team setting and am always impressed with the commitment of the ACT members that I have had the pleasure of working alongside as part of the program committee to help facilitate the International Conference. I enjoy learning from others and hope that I have the opportunity to share what I know along the way!"

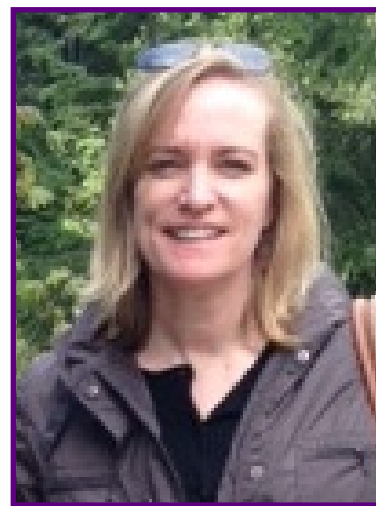
## **Katie** **Association Manager**



Katie started working at Degnon in May of 2013 as the Association Manager of ACT. Much of her work focuses on the membership, and she is the "go-to" person for all member-related questions or needs for ACT. She enjoys working with the membership and strives to streamline processes to keep everything on track and running efficiently. Katie also has more than five years of meeting/event planning experience in health-related associations, and she is able to use her experience and knowledge to help plan conferences and smaller meetings for ACT.

Katie grew up in McLean (and frequently visits her parents at home on her lunch breaks), and she currently is living in Arlington, Va. She attended James Madison University in Harrisonburg, majoring in Communication Studies with a minor in Spanish. She loves to travel and has spent months at a time living in foreign countries such as Spain, Croatia, and New Zealand. While not traveling, she enjoys being outdoors and spending time with friends and family.

## **Janice** **Senior Association Manager**



Janice started with Degnon in 2013 to help with the management of ACT, as well as special projects with Degnon Associates. She works closely with the rest of the ACT Management team on budgeting, meeting planning and logistics, and marketing materials, as well as collaborating on the implementation of all policies and procedures, and improving processes.

Prior to coming to Degnon, Janice spent 20 years as a marketing professional in the book publishing industry in New York City where she developed strong project management skills that

*Continued on page 9*

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compliment her work in the association management industry. She helped oversee an advertising/promotion department of 25, implementing creative and promotional campaigns working with sale representatives, authors, publishers, clients, and vendors.

When she is not lost in a good book... she enjoys getting lost in international destinations, as she loves to travel.

## **Meg** **Senior Project Manager**



Meg has been an employee of Degnon Associates since 1989, filling a variety of positions from receptionist to Associate Director for various clients. She began working on a part-time basis within Degnon when she started a family.

Currently, she reconciles monthly client/corporate bank statements and handles corporate billing in addition to working on creative layout and design of conference brochures, newsletters, surveys, slide presentations, meeting flyers, and any other print or e-material for clients. She creates on-line conference presentation pages for clients, updates client web pages, and assists with initiating or revising a variety of client and corporate programs and projects.

Meg is known as the “go-to” person at Degnon. She is a graduate of Virginia Tech, obtaining a degree in Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Management, and later earning her MEd in Elementary

Education from Marymount University. She currently helps with the design and production of the ACT quarterly newsletter, *InterACT*, and ACT's International Conference promotional materials.

## **Janet** **Webmaster**



I was first introduced to ACT in 2007 through Father Bob Sears, after having worked with him as webmaster for several years. Since then, I have worked with ACT as both volunteer and independent contractor. Over the years I have grown close to the organization in many ways: the wonderful family of members, ACT's mission and vision, and the many valuable services that ACT provides. I have a deep admiration for ACT's work in changing the lives of those who are touched by this special organization.

I have enjoyed working with ACT's many online projects, including the ACT website, *The Journal of Christian Healing* online publication and blog, the *InterACT* newsletter and blog, and ACT's social media pages (Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter). I also appreciate the opportunity to work with ACT Specialty Groups, Regions, and individual members—many of whom I've grown to know over the years. Working with ACT is much more than a job. It is truly a blessing, and I have grown spiritually, personally, and professionally through my work with the organization and its members.

My undergraduate work was in biology and environmental science. I also hold a graduate degree and license in social work. I first became involved with computer science through summer programming camps as a child. With coursework in computer science throughout both undergraduate and graduate school, I began work in the field of web development before ever earning my first degree. I work primarily with social, environmental, and public interest/advocacy nonprofit organizations, and take great pride in helping groups further their missions. I am also a published nature photographer, with works appearing in field guides, textbooks, educational websites, and artistic publications.

I would like all ACT members to know that I am always available to help with any needs they may have, and feedback is welcomed. Please contact me directly at: [webmaster.act@gmail.com](mailto:webmaster.act@gmail.com).



## **Current *InterACT* Display Advertising Rates:**

### **Rates for ACT Members:**

#### **1 Issue (3 months)**

1/2 page: \$200/Issue

Full page: \$350/Issue

#### **2 Issues (6 months)**

1/2 page: \$175/Issue

Full page: \$325/Issue

#### **4 Issues (12 months)**

1/2 page: \$150/Issue

Full page: \$275/Issue

#### *Notes:*

1. Artwork for each ad is to be supplied by the ACT member in a timely manner.
2. All fees are payable in advance (make checks payable to ACT and forward to the office in Virginia). We accept credit cards.
3. Ad placement is at the discretion of the Editorial staff; preferred placement is not available at this time.



# God Heals through Imaginative Prayer

By Ginny Antaya

During my Daily Morning Prayer: “*Oh Lord, let the power of Your light and Your love flow through my mind, will, intellect, memory, and imagination. Let my eyes see what you see, etc.,etc.*”

God must have taken this morning prayer regarding imagination quite literally during my habitual prayer at the 3-o’clock hour, the Divine Mercy Chaplet. I prayed a particular request that Jesus would place just a drop of His Precious Blood and water that flowed from His pierced side on whomever in this world was in need of His healing love. Immediately, I found myself as an observer of an exchange of firepower on a hill in Croatia. I saw a Serbian soldier literally obsessed with his machine gun and frantically shooting in the battle. I could see his face and saw a drop of the Precious Blood and a drop of water fall on the neck of this soldier. He seemed dazed, stopped shooting, threw his gun down the hill, and walked away from the battle. I expected to see him being shot as a deserter, but he just calmly walked away from the battle. I was rather stunned at what I envisioned and prayed a prayer of thanksgiving for Our Lord’s Mercy upon him. (Croatian-Serbian War, 1992-1995)

Years later (April 27, 1998), I was visiting my sister-in-law and her husband in New Jersey. During our visit, they showed me an announcement of the Sculptures for Peace Exhibit featuring the work of a young former soldier from Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina. They knew that I had led many pilgrimages to this Holy Place and with much enthusiasm we drove to the United Nations Building in New York to attend the event.

We found the exhibit by Jozo Ostojic-Josic. It was an amazing collection of sculptures carved from the many rocks in his home town of Medjugorje, where apparitions of the Mother of God were taking place. He said his work was inspired



*Ginny Antaya, Associate Member of ACT, the founder of the Mercy of God Prayer Center in Austin, Texas and the Vice-President of Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer Centers, Int.*

by Our Lady of Medjugorje and I am sure she was delighted to be invited to the United Nations, however, I am also sure this was not her first time there!

***I could see his  
face and saw  
a drop of the  
Precious Blood  
and a drop of  
water fall on  
the neck of this  
soldier.***

Among the many sculptures were rocks carved into Bullets engraved with a Prayer for Peace and an unforgettable “Refugee’s Tears” piece. Our Lady’s presence permeated each work of art and inspired a reverence that grips one’s heart with the mystery, sorrow, and tragedy of war. I was moved by Jozo’s journey through a tragic war and his chosen path of finding hope and healing through his artistic gifts.

After an introduction by Bianca Jagger and Cardinal John O’Conner’s moving reflections on the Serbian/Croatian War,

there was a sudden flurry of excitement that filled the room. As we moved closer into the gathering, I saw Jozo embracing a man and a quiet stillness filled the room. I was close enough to see the face of the man Jozo was embracing. I recognized him as the Serbian Soldier upon whom Jesus had placed a drop of His Precious Blood and water when I prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy years before.

He said he was a Serbian Soldier who deserted and found his way to a new life in New York City. He saw an advertisement for the Sculptures for Peace Exhibit and made a decision to attend the event. He said he came because he was in need of reconciliation and peace which he now found in the embrace of Jozo Ostojic-Josic.

Thank You, Jesus, for allowing me to see the fruit of the Divine Mercy Chaplet Prayer.

How great is our merciful Savior!

*Ginny Antaya, Associate Member of ACT, Founder of Mercy of God Prayer Center in Austin, Texas, and Vice-President of Society of Prayer Centers of Our Lady of Guadalupe, International*



**ACT 2014  
International Conference  
Where God and Healthcare Meet**

**September 18-21  
La Jolla Marriott Hotel  
San Diego, CA**

***“Healthcare in a Multicultural Context: Recognizing Jesus in the Other”***

**[www.ACTHeals.org/IC.html](http://www.ACTHeals.org/IC.html)**

# A Call to Dialogue

by Douglas Schoeninger, PhD,  
Chair, the ACT Ecumenical Relations Sub-Committee of the Spiritual Life Committee

ACT's Ecumenical Relations Sub-Committee of the Spiritual Life Committee (SLC-ERC) wants to draw members into an active interchange regarding views we may have been holding back for fear of offending those of other faith traditions. We think Jesus wants us to talk about what is important to us to help us love more widely and become open to dialogue. Ask yourself: What does Christ want me to share with ACT? What do I want ACT to be? What is my particular gift for ACT? We wanted to work those views into a series of columns for Inter.ACT, and invite responses dealing with such things as: What is the gift for ACT that I hear in this presentation? Where does it pinch me (i.e., cause resistance in me)? How might Jesus want me to respond to my resistance? We introduce the sharing with the three rules for ethical engagement we use in Board meetings:

1. Respond to the ideas of others by first crediting the person and some aspect of his/her idea, expressing what you value in their expression before you introduce what you would do or say differently. By first crediting the other, we show we are open to integrating their "value" in our own proposal. This furthers creativity.
2. Turn complaints or criticisms into proposals. Make input to others in the form of what you would like to say or see accomplished and why.
3. When someone expresses a criticism or complaint ask her/him to turn it into a suggestion or proposal. "What would you like to see done or accomplished?"

Through ACT members sharing our faith experiences in this forum we hope to enlarge and deepen our dialogue with each other within ACT on matters of faith.

Thus we encourage you to respond to this sharing with your experience, your faith stories, your understandings and convictions.

1. Within your faith traditions, what are your earliest experiences in your relationship with God?
2. What in your faith traditions has fostered your growth in relationship with God?

Respond through the Inter.ACT blog, by e-mailing the editor Mike MacCarthy ([mmmrites@san.rr.com](mailto:mmmrites@san.rr.com)) or by e-mailing me, Doug Schoeninger at [doug661@verizon.net](mailto:doug661@verizon.net).

## What I want to share with ACT from my Baptist Tradition: My Experience of walking with Jesus

by Douglas Schoeninger, PhD



Previously, in *Inter.ACT*, I wrote the following:

"As a young boy, in an American Baptist Church, I was encouraged to develop a personal relationship with Jesus. While I never heard an adult say, 'This is what Jesus communicated with me last night when we were talking together,' the hymns we sang and the way we talked assumed a personal relationship. My favorite hymn from those early years goes like this: 'And I walk with Him and I talk with Him and He tells me I am His own.....' (Title: *In the Garden*). Somehow all of the personal imagery and lyrics I was steeped in left me with a very warm and personal image of Jesus. He became my interior friend.

In summer Christian camp at age seven, I was asked—we were asked—to take a walk alone and talk with Jesus. I think about this today and want to ask the camp counselor who gathered us for this, 'What were you thinking?' It seems that she expected us to experience a direct relationship with Jesus. Yet I don't remember her speaking to us about how we might converse with Jesus. Upon returning we were asked to share with her and each other our conversations with Jesus. This left a lasting impression on me: He was alive and talking to me. I could practice this, and I did experience Him talking to me.

He spoke my name, 'Doug. You know me.'

I was startled. I could see Him, in my mind's eye, walking with me, and I could 'hear' words in my mind that seemed to come directly from Him.

I appreciate these Baptist beginnings even more today. The capacity to imagine/see Jesus next to me, and to 'hear' His words to me, has sustained me all of these years. It became, for me, a reliable way of relating to Him. As a psychotherapist, I look to see how Jesus is relating, loving, encouraging, challenging, the person(s) before me, and how He is loving and guiding me. In this way, He instructs me with my clients."

Recently, in my inner imaginings and conversations with Jesus, He has encouraged me to become very specific with Him in my requests to Him, specific as to the quality or aspect of His presence that is desired or needed. This seems to have grown from four years of meditating on Romans 4: 1 – 5, as I was inwardly directed to Romans 4 over and over again. "What scripture should I meditate on today?" "Romans 4" visually appears in my mind's eye again and again, just like that. "Okay I will trust this as a leading of the Spirit." Romans 4: 5 in *The Message* reads, "...trusting-him-to-do-it is what gets you set right with God, by God. Sheer gift."

Regarding certain changes I am planning in the way that I do my work, I hear Him

saying, "Will you let me do this for you?" Here He is pointing to His doing something for me that I have assumed was mine to do and which I feel somewhat unsure how to do. He wants to do certain things for me and to assign other things to me. I am to ask to experience His presence as wanting to and doing certain things for me, which He will specify; to allow Him to do these. I am to experience Him assigning certain tasks to me to do and to do them. "Well, okay, but I have to release the almost automatic tendency to try to do myself the very things You say You want to do for me; just so I feel responsible."

From this experience I have been inspired to take similar initiatives with several clients.

***I could see Him,  
in my mind's eye,  
walking with me,  
and I could 'hear'  
words in my mind  
that seemed to  
come directly from  
Him.***

On a number of occasions at various stages of psychotherapy, Alice has asked Jesus to be present and provide the love needed to heal childhood sexual trauma. Her wounded "inner children" have very gradually developed trust in Jesus' presence. Recently, in the context of particular memories, Alice made such a request. Then she became frustrated. "I feel nothing. No Jesus." Inwardly, I heard Jesus say, "She needs to know that I really want to do this for her. My pleasure, My joy, to do this for her. She knows that I can. She doesn't yet know that I want to. Tell her that you sense that I really want to. Just to wait a little longer."

So I said to her, "I'm praying with you and I sense that Jesus really wants to do

this for you. Would you be willing to wait a little longer?" She said, "Okay, I will go back to my inner child and encourage her to wait a little longer. I will tell her that you believe that Jesus really wants to do this for her." About five minutes later I saw a smile come across her face and felt a powerful peace fill the room. "He's here and He really wants to be here and help me. He loves doing this for me."

With another woman, struggling with worthlessness and shame, I asked, "Would it be okay with you if I asked Jesus to be present to you in the specific way that you need Him now." She said, "Yes, please." Inwardly and silently I asked Jesus, "What do you want to do." I felt and heard, "I want her to know how much pleasure she gives Me, how much I enjoy being in her presence, what a delight she is to Me. I just love being with her. Tell her." Which I did. She looked a little confused and incredulous, and hopeful and eased. A smile began to emerge. "Could this really be true, given the way I have messed up my life?"

I am so grateful for my Baptist upbringing. "..... He walks with me and He talks with me and He tells me I am His own....."

*Bio: Douglas W. Schoeninger, Ph.D. is a clinical psychologist and President of the Institute for Christian Healing in West Chester, PA. He grew up in the American Baptist Church and joined a Presbyterian congregation in 1972, where he was introduced to the baptism of the Holy Spirit and healing prayer.*



## In the Beginning

Was it a sound?  
What did you hear?  
Was it a sign?  
Perhaps a touch  
A laying on of hands in  
blessing

What passion drew you to  
ministry?

Obedience to teachers?  
Parental suggestions?  
For God

Take your time  
Remember back  
When you first paid attention  
To an Other's voice

For pure Scholarship?  
To care for His People?  
To die to self  
Then rewarded

Rewarded?  
How?

How was your calling  
revealed.  
An answer to your prayers?

"For Thine Eyes Only"

Royce Johnston  
April 16, 2009



# On Becoming One: Blooming in Place

by Karen Cichon

Back in the days of America's cultural revolution of the 60s and 70s, we saw a lot of poster wisdom expressing the new awarenesses of the time. One of the most ubiquitous was a lone flower with the aphorism: "Bloom where you are planted." I always had mixed feelings about that; positive because I certainly wanted to bloom wherever I was, but also resistance to just accepting where I was planted and wanting to choose a place for myself.

This morning, as I sought the Spirit's guidance on what to share in this column, I was filled with gratitude as I breathed deeply the smells and clean air of the forest and was surrounded by a symphony of birdsongs that never fails to make my heart sing. How blessed I am to be planted in two such marvelous places! One is the magnificent city of Chicago, where the energy of just getting on the bus that rides past my house and joining a mix of strangers on a trip downtown can make my soul hum; and the other is the peaceful, wild-life-filled forested dunes along Lake Michigan.

We are all called to set down roots, to plant ourselves fully in some soil out of which we draw our sustenance, in order to bloom into our full creation. That soil is where we connect with the oneness of all that has come before and that exists in the now. Paying attention to it can be a very fruitful spiritual practice which takes us both deep within and far outside of ourselves.

One of my dear friends from graduate school long ago defined her place

of planting as the world. She has lived in more countries than I can name and, since she joined Doctors Without Borders years ago, does not have her own home. She goes where she is sent and plants herself there, learning the language and customs and loving and caring for the people. She is a true citizen of the world and, I believe, experiences the oneness of all of us very naturally.

But even within our much smaller confines, awareness of what exists in our place can be a rich contemplative exercise. It is really quite amazing how much we can miss because our attention is elsewhere, usually on our "necessary" tasks. But if we just take a moment to shift our attention to what we are hearing and become aware of that and of what we are seeing, usually without seeing it at all and of what is there to be smelled and felt, our world opens up and we begin to be present to our own existence in time and space.

It is, of course, essential to do this without judgment. If we are judging what our senses bring us, we are living in the dualistic mind and fighting reality. It is in the acceptance of our reality, no matter on how small a scale, that we move into the Cross and live out our destiny as witnesses of Christ.

This morning, as my awareness shifted from "what shall I write?" to the layers of birdsongs blessing me, it was easy to feel filled with joy and gratitude. After awhile, however, I became aware of the drone of a



*Karen Kozica Cichon, PhD, is in private practice as a faith-based Licensed Clinical Psychologist in downtown Chicago. She welcomes comments at [karencichon@sacredmatters.net](mailto:karencichon@sacredmatters.net).*

truck on the highway in the distance and then a plane overhead. It would have been easy to judge and buck at that intrusion of humankind's business into places of nature. That is, indeed, a place of activism for me. But not at that moment. In the contemplative moment, it all just is. Whether the smell is not the best or the sight or sound not the most beautiful, it exists and you are there to witness it and let it be. It is at that moment that we are at our highest calling, to be conscious to our fullest extent and connected to the Mind of God, which holds all things. We have bloomed in place, and we are One.



# Growing in Spiritual Wisdom and Maturity

by Denise Dolff, M.A.

*The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*

*His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.*

—Isaiah 11:2-3 New Revised  
Standard Version (NRSV)

It has long puzzled me as to why those of us who grew up as Catholic Christians studied the above passage from Isaiah when we learned about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, while many other Christian denominations, especially of the more Pentecostal leaning, focused upon 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. Within ACT itself we are committed to teaching Life in the Spirit, which is an introduction to these Corinthian gifts, and it is these same gifts in which we encourage experience and growth, in order to more effectively bring the ministry of Christ's healing to our clients, patients, and professional peers, as well as into our workplaces. Where, then, do the Isaian gifts fit, and why is it important to understand them?

The key to these questions may be found in Isaiah 11:2 and 1 Corinthians 12:7. The first notes that "The spirit of the Lord shall rest on *him*" while the latter states "to each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the *common good*" (author's italics). In short, the Isaian gifts are for building up the individual believer, whereas the Corinthian gifts are for stepping out into ministry for the benefit of others. In the October 1999 Food for Life newsletter, Father Peter Coughlin wrote, "Sometimes people feel discouraged if they do not manifest some of the more extraordinary charisms" [referring to the nine gifts of the Spirit as outlined in 1 Corinthians 12]. He continues, "The Isaian gifts are given to all and are far more important than the Corinthian gifts for the building up and growth of the individual". Saint Augustine appeared to feel the same way.

In *Death of the Healing Ministry*, Francis McNutt stated that Saint Augustine was so focused on the importance of the Isaian gifts of the Spirit, that he deliberately ignored the Corinthian gifts, something for which, near his death, he later apologized. And as far back as 1897, Pope Leo XIII, in his encyclical *Divinum Illud Munus*, said of the Isaian gifts, "By means of these seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the soul is furnished and strengthened so as to be able to obey more easily and promptly His [God's] voice and impulse."

## *The Isaian gifts are then the foundational gifts, necessary to our personal Christian growth and development.*

In my traditional teaching growing up as a Catholic, I learned that we first receive the Holy Spirit at the time of our baptism. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are then further released within us through reception of other sacraments, especially of Eucharist and Confirmation. Until recently, I, personally, have never quite understood why, if we had already been given the Holy Spirit, it was then necessary to have the baptism of the Holy Spirit in order for the (Corinthian) gifts of the Spirit to be released. However, with the realization that the Isaian gifts are for the spiritual growth and development of the individual believer, in other words, they are for the good of the self, but the Corinthian gifts are for continuing the ministry of Jesus and for bringing glory to God, that is, for the good of others, this makes more sense. When we begin our Christian journey, this is the initial stage



Denise Dolff, ACT President-Elect

of our spiritual growth, our awareness of God, of God's love, and of Who God is. The Isaian gifts are then the foundational gifts, necessary to our personal Christian growth and development. After we reach a certain point of maturity, and we more cognitively and consciously respond to God's love, we then become ready to move out into ministry. It is at this point, that the Corinthian gifts, or ministry gifts, become significant. In desiring these spiritual gifts, it is therefore not an either/or, but a both/and, as both are necessary for bearing the fruit that glorifies the Father and proves that we are disciples of Jesus (John 15:8).

What are the Isaian gifts? Referring back to Isaiah 11:2-3, they are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude (might), knowledge, piety (as the first reference to "fear of the Lord" read in the Septuagint and Vulgate scriptural translations), and fear of the Lord. These will be unpacked in further detail in the next Healing Exchange. In the meantime, pray for a greater endowment of these gifts, for one's own spiritual growth and maturity.



# The Holy Spirit in Clinical Practice:

by Douglas Schoeninger, PhD

*In this issue, we feature the vision and work of Kenneth Fung, longtime ACT member and former ACT president. This is timely, as we are constructing an ACT interactive website devoted to dialogue toward developing a Christian Medical Model of treatment. The website domain name is [www.christianmedicalmodel.org/home](http://www.christianmedicalmodel.org/home), and it should be up and running by September 1, 2014. While we initially conceived this website as a context for interaction among Christian medical providers, we decided that, given the nature of ACT and our commitment to the whole person and interdisciplinary teamwork, we would call forth all ACT healthcare practitioners and healing ministry associates to contribute from the point of view of their clinical and ministry perspectives and experience. An e-blast will be sent to ACT members when the website is ready for use.*

## “CHRISTIAN MEDICAL MODEL”

Dr. Kenneth Fung, MD, MB, FRCS.(Eng.)

### Preface:

In my twilight years, having retired after 50 years of medical practice, I have one more goal--God willing--i.e. to demonstrate clinically by research studies how spiritual brokenness impacts your health by producing spiritual stress, a hidden factor in physical, mental, and social illnesses. It is my dream that such studies will confirm clinically that the human person is a spiritual human being and Christian Spiritual Holistic Healthcare--that incorporates the clinical model of physical, psycho/social, spiritual care--will become the normal and accepted practice of healthcare. I am presently doing a research project involving Christians suffering from clinical depression.

As Christians, we believe we are made of spirit and matter (physical, psycho/social) but one nature. It is the Spirit that gives life!

As Christian healthcare professionals, we acknowledge that the spiritual domain of our lives is vital as to how we view and serve our patients in our daily practice.



There are five basic challenges I would like to offer as most essential in serving and establishing a healing relationship with our patients.

1. Clinically, do I see my patient as the *Imago Dei*, a child of God, loved unconditionally, but possibly wounded/broken in her/his spirit; as it relates to his/her clinical state and symptoms?
2. Do I see myself as a child of God, a spiritual human being, loved unconditionally, called to serve as a Christian healthcare professional (healer) with compassionate love and care?
3. Do I believe, as a Christian healthcare professional, that I am a channel of God's healing love to my patient (seated, standing, or lying) before me, as I respectfully inquire about their symptoms, listening attentively with humility and compassion?
4. Clinically, do I recognise the spiritual domain and the physical, psycho/social domains in my patient?
5. Do I recognise how my clinical expertise and scientific knowledge complement the spiritual treatment and healing of my patient?

It is my opinion that if these five basic challenges are met, we open the door

towards viewing illness in a more holistic manner – spirit - mind - body – that would lead to treating the patient as a spiritual human being.

I believe it would lead us to becoming more aware of how spiritual brokenness can impact the physical and psycho/social domains of our patients, leading to clinical symptoms and illness.

Then it becomes more apparent how God's love heals!

Can our spiritual health impact our physical, psycho/social health and well-being?  
Yes!

The culpable factor is spiritual stress!

If the spiritual stress becomes acute, intense, or chronic, the physiological changes to the human body can contribute towards pathological changes, involving the auto immune system and all the other clinical conditions we associate with stress—conditions we treat but seldom cure.

## THREE CASE PRESENTATIONS

(all names are fictitious to protect the patients' identities)

### Case #1: Emotional and mental health problems.

A very nervous woman, Mrs B., 62 years of age, was widowed and soft-spoken, asking to renew a prescription for Ativan, stating her regular MD was not available. I listened attentively. I suspected she was addicted or abusing her meds. The thought “she is wasting my time” entered my mind but seeing her as a child of God, I said to her, “I am sorry I cannot give you those pills, but I would like to help you.”

Immediately she broke down and started to cry—telling her whole story. I listened and gave her time. She felt God was punishing

*Continued on next page*



her for having such a good and successful life in her younger years by taking away everyone she loved, including her husband, by death. She was very agitated and sad. By accepting and supporting her as a child of God and not as a neurotic addict, I gained her confidence and trust. During subsequent therapy, I felt prayer support would benefit her. I invited her to a prayer group for fellowship. At a Eucharistic celebration we attended, I invited her to receive the Eucharist, as she was a Catholic, which she did. After the Mass, she said to me, "Don't you ever do this to me again," and proceeded to tell me more of her story.

After her husband died, she made plans to move in with her sister a week later. The day she arrived at her sister's apartment, she found her dead in the bathroom, her body was decomposed. At the funeral Mass, on going up to receive the Eucharist, she froze, she could not open her hands or her mouth, to receive the Eucharist and remained that way for about 15 years until now. I discovered that following her husband's and sister's deaths, there had been about six more family deaths in a short time. She felt God was punishing her for the past sins of her earlier life. She was afraid to become close to anyone of her family for fear God would take them away.

Receiving the Eucharist made a complete transformation in her life. One month later, she went to visit her baby grandson, whom she had avoided since his birth for fear that if she visited him he would die. She found peace and love.

Summary: Seeing the patient as a child of God, loved unconditionally with unique gifts and talents but broken, healing her fear of death, by accepting the patient as she is, reconciling with God through the Eucharist, and finding the courage to visit her grandson helped this patient overcome her clinical anxiety, her dependency on anti-anxiety drugs, and be set free.

## **Case #2: Stroke.**

Many cases of stroke make good recovery, especially if treated within one hour

of onset. Sometimes the brain damage is permanent and any form of recovery becomes very challenging and prolonged. At times the physical healing power of God intervenes. This is one such story.

Egbert, 48 years of age, collapses in the emergency department. He is unconscious with severe brain damage as seen on a brain scan and his wife was advised there is nothing that can be done. Should he regain consciousness, he would be permanently paralysed and in a vegetative state. Wife refuses to sign the "Do Not Resuscitate" form, saying, "Only God gives life and only God takes life."

The internist asked me as his family physician to encourage her to sign the form. I felt it was appropriate to do so under those circumstances. She refused. For six weeks Egbert laid on the bed, his only movement was his breathing, everything else was "dead."

*As Christians, we  
believe we are  
made of spirit and  
matter (physical,  
psycho/social)  
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is the Spirit that  
gives life!*

On Tuesday evenings, I normally have a support group for my patients. That evening I felt led to ask a broken priest who regularly attended the group to celebrate Mass with healing intentions for Egbert, Maurice—who had terminal lymphoma and expected to die, and for the priest himself, who had chronic psychosis and alcoholic problems. He was at first reluctant, but with encouragement, agreed.

The following morning I felt something good was going to happen. I visited Egbert in the hospital, met his wife as we entered the hospital and told her what we did last night. On entering the room,

I saw Egbert's leg completely raised. He then rolled over on the bed facing me and said, "Oh! Dr Fung, how nice to see you." I was shocked! He had made a complete recovery and was discharged from the hospital in 10 days.

Maurice, who was in palliative care at the same hospital and expected to die, started to recover, had an abdomen scan, and was found to be cancer-free. He was discharged from the hospital. The priest also recovered and started celebrating morning Mass at the parish church. All three were healed! Praise God! I believe these were three miracles.

Summary: Yes, miracles do happen. When they do, like doubting Thomas, I have difficulty believing, although I say I believe in miracles. These three healings, which occurred after celebrating the Eucharist with those three intentions, reassured me that everything happens in the fullness of God's time and in the Healing power of the Eucharist.

They each remained in very good health for 10 years. At that point, Egbert had another stroke on the other side of his brain and has survived but with permanent disability. Maurice developed a new cancer, in his kidney, and died three years later. The priest relapsed into a psychotic state, was hospitalized, and died five years later in the hospital. We are called to do our best at all times, no matter how serious or discouraging it may be. Jesus I trust in you!

## **Case #3. Ovarian cancer.**

A right ovarian mass was discovered on Mrs. A, 68 years of age, during her annual examination. She had no abdominal symptoms. She was a Type II Diabetic. She was set for an abdominal hysterectomy and bilateral ovariectomy. She was advised by her gynaecologist that she would probably require chemotherapy after surgery. Before admission, we prayed together in the office for healing of her cancer and that God's will be done.

A frozen section at surgery confirmed she had cancer and the gynaecologist

*Continued on next page*

proceeded with the surgery. At post op, she was left in the care of a colleague as her gynaecologist was attending a seminar. The final results from examining the removed ovary and uterus came back as normal-- no cancer!

The colleague, not aware that her gynaecologist had told her before, "You probably have cancer and will require chemotherapy," told her the "good news" and that she could go home. The patient in turn felt her case was so bad that no form of treatment would help and she was not being told the truth.

I tried to reassure her that she was healed, but she was sceptical. The slides of the tumor were sent to three different hospital laboratories for confirmation. They were all reported as normal. The frozen section slide was also reconfirmed as cancer.

As each year passed and her health remained stable with no further treatment necessary, she eventually came to accept that she was healed. When I saw her last, it was 10 years post-surgery.

Summary: We pray for healing and sometimes when healing happens, we have difficulty accepting the healing. I am like doubting Thomas. Jesus I trust in you! I still marvel when healing occurs. Praise God!

*Dr. Kenneth Fung MD, FRCS (Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons), was born in Trinidad, trained in medicine at the National University of Ireland in Galway, graduating in 1961. He then got his fellowship in Surgery in 1967 and obtained his FRCS in England. In 1980 he joined the Association of Christian Therapists (ACT) and embarked on a journey that modified his personal and professional life.*



## Catechism of the Catholic Church:

### Chapter One: The Dignity of the Human Person

#### Article 3: Man's Freedom (1730):

God created man a rational being, conferring on him the dignity of a person who can initiate and control his own actions. "God willed that man should be 'left in the hand of his own counsel,' so that he might of his own accord seek his Creator and freely attain his full and blessed perfection by cleaving to Him.

"Man is rational and therefore like God, he is created with free will and is master over his acts."

#### Free Will

Free will is talked about  
But never explained  
How can authority  
Allow free will  
And remain in control

As water seeks a hole in the dike  
So free will leaks out of structure --  
Centuries of suppression reveal  
Challenges to male domination  
Women found ways to relieve pressure  
Without lasting effect until now  
With voices finding one another  
Around the globe  
Travel, photos, writing, the internet  
Have connected the oppressed --  
Scales are falling from ancient eyes  
Free will carries the banner

Women cannot back up now  
Without stepping on women  
Behind them with no memory  
Of the obedient subservient  
Enslaved women ---  
Free will is all they know.

Royce Johnston, July 2, 2014



## Association of Christian Therapists

*An Interdisciplinary Fellowship of Christian Healthcare Professionals and Associates*

# 2014 International Conference

## *Healthcare in a Multicultural Context: Recognizing Jesus in the Other*

*"Jesus himself came up and walked by their side...but something prevented them from recognizing him...he sat down at table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed, broke and gave it to them...at that moment their eyes were opened and they recognized him." Luke 24:15, 16, 30 & 31*



September 18 – 21, 2014  
San Diego Marriott La Jolla  
La Jolla, CA

**Register online!**

*See inside for registration details*

[www.ACTHeals.org/IC.html](http://www.ACTHeals.org/IC.html)



## General Information

### Why A Conference Focusing on a multi-cultural approach to Healing?

Healing work requires creative, focused clinical interventions. This conference will focus on maximizing patient/client outcomes by engaging their personal and cultural strengths. Identifying and utilizing these strengths may aid the practitioner in achieving a more lasting resolution of a problem. Plenary speakers and presenters will provide insights into diverse cultures prominent in our country, as well as insights into the art of determining strengths in others.

### The International Conference

The Conference is structured to provide opportunities for maximum learning and recharging of one's batteries, to renew and refresh friendships, and to create new friendships, with attendees who share professional and spiritual roles. It opens Thursday evening with an ecumenical healing service. Friday and Saturday provide a mixture of plenary presentations followed by processing time, speaker panel discussions, question and answer sessions, specialty group gatherings, workshops, opportunities for prayer, and liturgies. The Saturday afternoon Member Meeting is open to all attendees. Sunday is marked with closing liturgies. The conference ends after Sunday lunch.

### ACT Pre-Conference, Thursday, September 18, 2014

For our 2014 International Pre-Conference we are pleased to present two passionate professionals, who are servants of those in most need of healing. Dr. Ben Keyes and Fr. Chris Crotty have a deep understanding of how healing comes through the love of God and seeing Jesus in the other. They will be presenting their experiences of healing with people from various cultural and faith traditions and the common thread of God's love in all of them.

#### Ben Keyes, PhD, EdD 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Dr. Keyes has started the Center for Trauma Studies at Regent University. One of their programs is to train graduate students to be first-responders in situations of natural disasters and/or man-made disasters – practical skills for the real world. Dr. Keyes' team hopes to deploy to Sudan in the summer semester to work with training local leaders in trauma and working with villagers in both Southern Sudan and Darfur. He hopes to report on his experiences. In a previous trip his team was amazed at how powerful the need and response was. Jesus Christ is very alive in third world nations, but the need for workers equipped with His heart and Word is so very great. As Christian therapists, Dr. Keyes sees that the calling often means providing a way for clients (and sometimes ourselves) to be positively reconciled with God. This comes from a deep place of love and respect for those we work with and those who allow us to share in their walk and journey. His favorite scripture comes from I John 4:8 "... for God is Love." He believes that we are called to learn how to love in all its many aspects and that life itself is the classroom in which to learn the lessons.

#### Father Christopher Crotty 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Fr. Crotty is a priest who seeks to know the true heart of Jesus. Reaching out to the prostitute, the person in the satanic rock band, and the alcoholic, he has a message from Christ that He loves you in the midst of your brokenness and sin! Prison work has been an outreach for some years as well. He is a priest for God to transform souls. His message: true healing comes from love and brokenness comes from a lack of love. For the past several years Fr. Crotty has promulgated the rich teachings on the Holy Spirit and healing on missions and conferences. He teaches nationwide on radio and other media resources. He will be sharing his many experiences of healing through God's love with people from varied social, faith and cultural traditions.

### Association of Christian Therapists

ACT is a unique international organization nearing its 40th Anniversary of providing educational, spiritual and social benefits to Christian healthcare providers and healing ministry associates. ACT provides those involved in the healthcare fields and others an opportunity to join in the united effort of integrating spirituality with their professions under the guidance of Jesus Christ and The Holy Spirit. Utilizing resources of prayer, mentoring, education and training, ACT seeks to extend the healing presence, heart, and mind of Jesus Christ to colleagues, patients, clients and institutions. ACT invites like-minded men and women throughout the world to join us, to know and make known the healing love of Jesus Christ and the healing power of the Holy Spirit to those in need.

### Music Ministry

Carl Granieri will again be providing the conference music, and will also be involved in the Saturday evening social gathering. He is a Brother in Christ and a professional musician of the highest caliber, as evidenced by numerous positive remarks on our conference evaluations last year. God allows his team, *Hearts Afire 4 God*, to offer upbeat welcome music, inspiring reverent traditional music, spirit filled and sensitive music for healing, and joyful Christian entertainment.



### Saturday Evening Party

Let's dance all around the world! Let's dance as David danced with joy and praise. Let's dance to the great music of Carl Granieri, who we all enjoyed so much last year. Wearing a shirt, dress, or a costume from another country will even make the evening more festive!

*Recently, the Los Angeles Times reported that dancing helps you stay healthy, think more clearly and live longer. Let's prove them right!*

### CEU's

#### CALIFORNIA-Counselors/Social Workers/Nurses

This Pre Conference and Conference meet the qualifications for 16 hours of continuing education credit for MFTs and LCSWs as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences( BBSE, PCE 742) ,and for RN by California Board of Registered Nursing( CEP 12192). For those attending Life in the Spirit Seminar or Listening in Healthcare workshop an additional 3 hours of Credit are possible according to professional discipline. EDUQUEST the California provider will charge a \$5 per CE at the conference and all those receiving credits must attend the entire conference and fill out a post test and evaluation.

CEU's are also approved by the FL Chapter of NASW for Clinical Social Workers (\$5/CEU). We are happy to report that we will again be offering CEU's for Psychologists and Mental Health Counselors (\$5/CEU). CME approval for Medical Doctors is still pending. Be sure to monitor our progress on the website, [www.ACTHeals.org/IC.html](http://www.ACTHeals.org/IC.html), on expanding credits to members of other specialties and hours accepted.

**Psychologists** - Regent University is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Regent University maintains responsibility for this program and its content. Sessions for which APA-approved hours will be awarded are identified on the program for this conference.

**Counselors** - Regent University is an NBCC-Approved Continuing Education Provider (ACEP) and may offer NBCC approved clock hours for events that meet NBCC requirements. Sessions for which NBCC approved clock hours will be awarded are identified in the program bulletin. The ACEP is solely responsible for all aspects of the program.

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## Accommodations & Travel Information

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### San Diego Marriott La Jolla

4240 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037  
(858) 587-1414

The Marriott La Jolla is located just minutes from downtown, the airport, and the beaches of La Jolla. An extensive renovation boasts stunning guest rooms and a new restaurant and bar, Amuse, with an outdoor patio. For those driving to San Diego, the hotel is just a few blocks off of the freeway (I-5 or 805). San Diego is a favorite vacation for many, so those coming from out of town should consider extending their stay and enjoy some of the many treats of the region!

A special conference rate of \$139.00 is being offered to ACT conference attendees. Please reference that you are with ACT when contacting the hotel to be given that rate.

Room rates include complimentary breakfast. Lunch and Dinner may be purchased under the Meal Plan (which includes 3 lunches and 3 dinners) for only \$150! – see registration form. Enjoy the many benefits of the Meal Plan as meals together enhance hospitality and collegiate interaction, and the location provides easy movement from meals to meetings.

Guest rooms include complimentary internet and overnight parking is \$10.00 per vehicle. The hotel does not offer a shuttle service from the airport. Alternate transportation includes the Super Shuttle (800-974-8885) with a fee of \$25 USD (one way) or a taxi with an estimated fare of \$43 USD (one way).

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## Conference Workshops

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*For a full description of each workshop, abstract, and presenter biographic material, please visit [www.ACTHeals.org/IC.html](http://www.ACTHeals.org/IC.html).*

### Friday, September 19

#### AM Sessions:

##### Listening in Healthcare Practice (Part 1 of 3)

*Douglas Schoeninger, PhD and Denise Dolff, MA*

##### Life in the Spirit Seminar (Part 1 of 3)

*Sr. Betty Igo, Med, MSPC, SFP and Marilyn Dolcetti, LCSW*

#### Afternoon Sessions:

##### Listening in Healthcare Practice (Part 2 of 3)

*Douglas Schoeninger, PhD and Denise Dolff, MA*

##### Living the Divine Will

*Fr. Robert Sears, SJ, PhD*

##### Spiritually—Integrated Healthcare that Respects ACT's Culture and the Client's Culture

*Stephen C. Wise, LCPC and Irene C. Wise, PsyD Candidate*

##### Walking with Multicultural Jesus

*Sr. Maria Theresa Hronec, SSCM*

### Saturday, September 20

#### AM Sessions:

##### Life in the Spirit Seminar (Part 2 of 3)

*Sr. Betty Igo, Med, MSPC, SFP and Marilyn Dolcetti, LCSW*

##### Listening in Healthcare Practice (Part 3 of 3)

*Douglas Schoeninger, PhD and Denise Dolff, MA*

#### Afternoon Session I:

##### Life in the Spirit Seminar (Part 3 of 3)

*Sr. Betty Igo, Med, MSPC, SFP and Marilyn Dolcetti, LCSW*

##### Into My Arms Documentary

*Julie Woodley, LMHC and George Delgado, MD*

##### Inner Healing Prayer

*Pastor Joe Johnson, DMin*

##### Native American Healing Traditions

*John David & Gaylene Gomez and Doug Schoeninger, PhD*

#### Afternoon Session II:

##### Erasing Barriers Between You and Your Hispanic Patients

*Nancy Morgan, LMFT, MPC and Guadalupe Cardona*

##### Centrality of the Gospel Message

*Fr. Christopher Crotty*

##### Western Mystics, Indigenous People, and the Heart of Prayer

*Djohariah Toor, LMFT and Austin Joyce, DMin*

##### HEART Model Research shows Decrease in Dissociative Symptoms, Behavioral Dysfunction and a Positive Increase in Spiritual Well-Being and Resiliency in Four recent Studies

*Ben Keyes, PhD, EdD*

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## Conference Website

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[www.ACTHeals.org/IC.html](http://www.ACTHeals.org/IC.html)

Please visit us at our website for more detailed and updated information such as preliminary conference schedule, extended speaker biographical material, abstracts of the plenary and workshop presentations. Be sure to check back often as new and updated material becomes available!

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## Invited Speakers

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### Pre-Conference

**Ben Keyes, PhD, EdD**

#### **“Trauma in Multicultural Settings: Stories from a Well-Traveled Road”**

Aside from his University duties as a Professor at Regent University, Dr. Keyes is a board member of Restoration Ministries, working with Human Trafficking and Prostitution; and Earth Charter U.S., working with Human Rights, Democracy and Peace, and the Environment. His specialties include Dissociative Disorders, Domestic Violence, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Trauma, Addictions- Substance and Sexual, Adolescents, and Christian Counseling with an emphasis on Inner Healing. Dr. Keyes will focus on his work with individuals and groups exploited and/or traumatized both in the US and Third World countries. [http://www.regent.edu/acad/schcou/facultystaff/fac\\_bio/keyes.htm](http://www.regent.edu/acad/schcou/facultystaff/fac_bio/keyes.htm)

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**Father Christopher Crotty**

#### **“Ministering in a Multicultural Context where Christianity has been Marginalized”**

Father Chris grew up in San Francisco and served in the United States Navy as a Hospital Corpsman during the Persian Gulf War, and joined the Fathers of Mercy in 1995. After serving as an Assistant Pastor in Louisville, Kentucky, for two years, he was assigned to the Mission Band of the Fathers of Mercy. Fr. Crotty specializes in giving parish missions and retreats that focus on Inner/Spiritual Healing. He has a great affinity for troubled youth, “surfer dudes”, and gang members and has been involved in prison ministry and spiritual warfare. He also has an interest in the Early Fathers of the Church. Fr. Crotty will focus on his interventions with youth and young adults from varied populations. <http://www.comeholyspiritconferences.org/resources/our-speakers-present-a-past/6-rev-christopher-j-crotty-cpm.html>

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### Conference

**John David and Gaylene Gomez**

#### **“Seeing Jesus in Native American Culture, Spirituality and Healing Traditions”**

Senior Pastors of the Jerusalem Center Church in Medford, Oregon, John (Apache) and Gaylene (Navajo), are Evangelists and Apostles to the Nations, continuing to connect believers from all Nations with open

doors to the heavenlies through the work of the Holy Spirit and to the Global Body of Christ especially remembering the Host People of the Land, sharing God’s Good News to All Tribes, All Nations, and All People. Pastors John David and Gaylene will focus on Native American healing traditions, practices, and ways of praying, most especially how they see Jesus revealing his presence and nature in Native culture and spirituality. They will provide a window into understanding Native American ways and values. <http://www.jerusalemcenter.us/#!about>

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**George Delgado, MD**

#### **Weaving Faith, Ethics and Professional Autonomy into Patient/Client interaction”**

Dr. Delgado is a physician devoted to providing Christian holistic family medical care to the San Diego community. He is the medical director of Culture of Life Family Health Services ([www.colfs.org](http://www.colfs.org)) and a regional medical director with the Elizabeth Hospice. He practices family medicine, is board certified in family medicine and hospice and palliative medicine, and is also a Voluntary Associate Clinical Professor at UCSD School of Medicine. Dr. Delgado will focus on his work treating multicultural patients in the context of his faith and the ethical principle of professional autonomy and integrity. <http://www.scripps.org/physicians/3917-george-delgado-md>

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**Jung Min Choi, PhD**

#### **“From Humanitarianism to Accompaniment: Confirming the Other as the Basis to Peace and Justice”**

Jung Min Choi (Ph.D.) is Associate Professor of Sociology at San Diego State University (SDSU). He has delivered numerous lectures nationally and internationally (Germany, Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala, and Cyprus) on humanism, globalization, democracy, and equality. He has been the recipient of multiple university-wide teaching awards at SDSU, including the prestigious Quest for the Best Faculty award. He has published extensively on the topic of social inequality, including writings on race and racism, violence of culture, the role of schools in reproducing inequality, unethical nature of neoliberalism and globalization, and multicultural identity. At this time, he is writing a book on a new vision for schooling in the 21st century. His current research project involves a pilot study in Saint Mark, Grenada with respect to community-based approach to preventative health care. More information at: <http://cal.sdsu.edu/faculty/>

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## Conference Prayer

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Dear Father God, we are truly blessed to come to you with open hearts. We thank you for the gift of your love, the gift of life and health but most of all we thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit working through ACT!

Lord we are expectant as we come to you seeking harmony and your guidance to be your instruments in addressing your concerns in Healthcare. Your scripture states that, “if two of you shall agree on earth touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:19,20)

We pray that your presence at this conference will enable healing, renewal, enlightenment and transformation. We pray that the vision of seeing Jesus in the other will be achieved and that your will be accomplished! This is our prayer in Jesus’ name.

Amen! Amen! And Amen!







## 2014 ACT International Conference Registration-Deadline September 8, 2014

### 2 Ways to Register for Conference:

1. Register online, follow the two-step process and pay using PayPal!

Go to [www.actheals.org/register.html](http://www.actheals.org/register.html) for easy instructions.

OR

2. Fill out this form, enclose your check (made payable to "ACT") and send both to:

ACT National Office, 6728 Old McLean Village Dr., McLean, VA 22101

*Early Registration Discount! Must be completed online or hard copy received at ACT Office no later than August 20th.*

**Please type or print clearly**

☐ Yes, This is my first ACT International Conference

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Badge: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Specialty Group Preference: (circle only one):  
Allied Health    Associates    Clergy & Religious    Nurses    Pastoral Care  
Psychotherapists    Physicians/Dentists/Chiropractors/Healthcare Practitioners

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

#### CEU's

☐ Yes! I am interested in Continuing Education Units

#### Pre-Conference and International Conference Package:

	By August 20	After August 20
ACT Member	\$335	\$380
ACT Student Member	\$180	\$225
Non-Member	\$400	\$445

#### Meal Plan (6 meals: 3 dinners: Thurs/Fri/Sat & 3 lunches: Fri/Sat/Sun)

All attendees \$150    \*\*Great Deal!\*\*

#### Pre-Conference Workshops ONLY (Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm)

	By August 20	After August 20
ACT Member	\$120	\$140
ACT Student Member	\$60	\$80
Non-Member	\$140	\$160

#### International Conference ONLY (Thursday afternoon- Sunday Afternoon)

	By August 20	After August 20
ACT Member	\$240	\$265
ACT Student Member	\$145	\$170
Non-Member	\$285	\$310

#### Conference Scholarship Fund

☐ Yes! I would like to make a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed:** (US Dollars via Checks Only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 8, 2014.

*After September 8, 2014 you  
will need to register on-site.  
Member rates are offered  
to current 2014 dues paid  
members of ACT.*

#### Refunds and Cancellations

*All cancellations must be made in writing.  
Written cancellations before September 5,  
2014 are subject to a \$50 processing fee.  
Refunds are not possible after September  
5, 2014 except for emergencies. All refunds  
will be processed after the meeting. ACT  
reserves the right to cancel any event due  
to lack of enrollment or other factors.*

#### Office Use Only:

Chk# \_\_\_\_\_

Date Rc'vd \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# Association of Christian Therapists

*An Interdisciplinary Fellowship of Christian Healthcare Professionals and Associates*

- Feel like something is missing from your professional life?
- Feel like you are alone in trying to live your Christian beliefs in today's healthcare marketplace?
- Are you weary and in need of Jesus' healing touch?
- ACT would like to hear the words in your heart
- Come to our International Conference in La Jolla, CA, September 18-21, 2014

## ***Who is ACT?***

- The Association of Christian Therapists (ACT) is unique in integrating healthcare practice, spiritual growth, healing ministry and theology as it relates to healthcare professions.
- ACT recognizes that men and women in all the healthcare disciplines and healing ministries are in need of Jesus' healing touch to live this integration and bring it back to their professions, practices and ministries.
- ACT provides support, empowerment and witness necessary to live this integration.
- ACT has been providing annual conferences for the better part of four decades offering attendees instruction, healing, fellowship, and spirituality. Attendees learn to be healers with the heart of Jesus.
- The goal of the conference is to renew (or refresh) and equip attendees to be the healing presence of Jesus Christ in their workplace.
- ACT invites like-minded men and women throughout the world to join us, to know and make known the healing love of Jesus Christ, and the healing power of the Holy Spirit to those in need.

*Ephesians 3:20-21. "Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen"*