



The Dove

Newsletter of the Association of Christian Therapists

July-August 2010

The busy time of May and June with the school year endings, graduations, Mother's and Father's Day, Memorial and Independence Days is past and we settle into Ordinary Time. Is time ever "ordinary?" It seems we are constantly challenged and blessed, each day being an opportunity to love "with and in the Heart of Jesus."

The long days and evening of summer afford time to enjoy ordinary pleasures with simple meals, sometimes outside,

sitting in a park or garden, reading and praying. Life seems to slow down some, although for us in the healing professions and ministries, the need of those we serve is ever-present.

Jesus took time to "go away" from the crowds, often to the beach or mountain to be with His Father. He went to gain strength and discernment in Communion of the Holy Trinity. We are called, by the Holy Spirit to do the same.

The Gallagher's often include listings of opportunities for prayer and teaching with the prayer intentions and praise reports they faithfully send us via email. Be sure to "check these out" so as to be nourished and guided and to experience God's amazing love.

Last Sunday, July 11, the Board of LA Region ACT met to evaluate the past year's activities and to plan for next year. The meeting was held at Georgie Rodiger's home. If you would like information or give input to the board, please contact Georgia Connor at mndmoves@aol.com.

ACT Gatherings

Almost every month this past year, members have been invited to Georgie Rodiger's home in Altadena for an afternoon of fellowship, teaching and prayer. Each gathering focused on a theme from Scripture and the liturgical year and we've been blessed and renewed each time we've come. A special and heartfelt thank you to Dr. Georgiana Rodiger PhD, (Georgie) for hosting these very special occasions.

The focus for July's Gathering was "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy." These words are taken from the title of a hymn composed by Frederick W. Faber. An interesting biographical note and the words to hymn are included in this issue of The Dove. Members reflected on the questions: What is mercy? What is your experience of God's mercy toward you? When have you shown His mercy, especially when the other did not deserve it?

Conclusions and thoughts centered on the description of mercy being grace, freely given without merit, forgiveness, not deserved, unmerited kindness.

Mercy is non-judgmental, not self-righteous and gives up expectations and resentment.

We were reminded of Fritz Perls work on expectations and resentment. He said that expectations are part of our thinking process. We are constantly having expectations and judging them: I expect my hair to be a certain way, my spouse or friend to respond.... etc. When our expectations are not met, we have resentment and Perls concluded that resentment was a cause for much mental illness. Mercy and the qualities it engenders free us from resentment, anger and depression.

Can we liberate ourselves from this mind-habit and cultural milieu? The Christian answers, "No, not on my own, but with God's grace, mercy is mine to receive and to give.

It was a powerful afternoon of prayer, meditation and laying on of hands prayer time. May we all be blessed, especially this summer as we have time with family, friends, clients, patients, and those we meet every day in ordinary places and time.

ACT RETREAT

July 23-25 – at Prince of Peace Abbey-Oceanside. Fr. Michael Barry retreat master. Check to see if space is still available. Please pray for this special time. We are strengthened by each other's prayer.

May God's mercy be yours in special ways this summer.

Remember: If you have comments or something you'd like to have printed in The Dove, please send to nanmohr42@gmail.com. Next issue is planned for late August, early September.