



# Association of Christian Therapists

*An Interdisciplinary Fellowship of Christian Healthcare Professionals and Associates*

## Spring and Summer News...

May 23, 2011

Dear ACT Family of Region 17:

This is the letter I said I would send after the May 13-16 Leadership Meeting in Chicago. The theme of the Region 17 April Retreat with Father Bob Sears was "The Triumph of the Cross." It was very deep and rewarding.



It was a time for reflection where many questions were asked and resources for future research were provided. It also was a time where we renewed old friendships, and formed new friendships. We celebrated our Barbara Ryan's birthday of 75 years, who was very happy to join us. Little did we realize, we would be celebrating her entrance into heaven just weeks later.



We appreciated the new songs Father Bob introduced to us, which carried special meaning. At the Friday and Saturday evening socials, we enjoyed sharing ideas and family situations. Of course the Healing Mass and the blessing of each person in attendance is always the highlight of the weekend.

We had our retreat a bit early this year to accommodate Father Bob's schedule, but for me, it made Lent extra special.

Please remember, you will be receiving a call from Beverly Wicks or Rosemary Hayward concerning the need for new officers. This means four slots need to be filled; Regional Coordinator, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. We have volunteers committed to assist in the following manner for Region 17; Beverly Wicks as Sacristan, Connie Spitznagel as Custodian of Supplies, and Ann Marie Porta as Historian. This will lessen the responsibilities of our Region to only two or three people supplying the energy, as much work is needed throughout the year, in addition to the Retreat weekend.

A request for a quorum was made at the business meeting but ALL Offices have to be filled first. The Policy and Procedures state a member for the Regional Coordinator position must be active for three years in the Region. I was reminded of this.

Now to the Leadership Meeting held in Chicago. The Cabrini Retreat Center is beautiful. We were on the third floor this time, and as one entered the floor, a beautiful picture of the Sacred Heart pointing to His Heart made several of us stop and pray. The food was excellent and the hospitality was also exceptional. ACT work began after dinner.

The Leadership Meeting began with prayer and remembering Barbara Ryan and Marilee Walker. Ann Marie spoke of Barbara's life in ACT, and Bob Rhode spoke of Marilee Walker's life in ACT. Our President Cheryl Marsh and Past President Doug Schoeninger, held two vases. One was filled with roses and the other was empty. As each person came up and shared what Barbara and Marilee meant to them, they would take a rose from the vase and place it in the empty vase. There was a lot of tears, laughter and peace. The flowers were with us at each Mass and prayer service, as well as the work shops.

A workshop was given in the Regional Coordinator section of the weekend that focused on increasing the use of computer technology for attending meetings (i.e., Skype etc.). There was great concern over the financial expenses of ACT. There was also discussion on the possible use of names for Regions instead of quoting numbers. Other discussions included; values, mission of Act, time concerns of ACT as a volunteer organization, CEU's for all specialties, and concern over the financial area of ACT.

The scheduled events were as follows:

**Saturday** - Mass at 7:00

Morning Breakfast

9:00 Prayer and Workshops

12:00 Lunch

1:15 Workshops

5:00 Dinner

7:00 Prayer Service (by Anne and George), and Individual Prayers for all (by Anne and George, and Fran and Charles).

After prayers the Chicago ACT members hosted a party time with refreshments.

**Sunday** - Mass at 7:00

Morning Breakfast

9:00 Prayer Service (by Doug, Ben Keyes, Jack Frost and Father Bob)

10:00 Workshops review, summary and suggestions by Jack Frost

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Prayer Service with Beth Ford and Father Bob sharing, and a blessing.

We will share more weekend experiences at the Business session of the Region 17 Meeting, June 25th in Vero Beach. Please call or email me if you have any questions: portarj@juno.com, 352-759-9009. Your input is very important. We look forward to seeing you at future Region 17 meetings.

Sincerely,  
Ann Marie Porta  
Regional Coordinator