

# Monthly Newsletter

May, 2025



**ACTheals**

Working in the Healthcare Community since 1975



**From Burnout to Breakthrough:  
Restore Your Joy in Healthcare or  
Ministry at the ACTheals  
International Conference**

*Join us for our 50th Anniversary Celebration*

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Ditsie Scobie



Rev. John Rice



Dr. Wendy Hofman



Duke Walker  
(Master of Ceremonies)



Fr. Foster Olator  
(Mass Celebrant)



Fr. Paul Feider

Plenary Talks given by Judith MacNutt of Christian Healing Ministries  
and Fr. Nigel Mumford of By His Wounds Ministry

**Conference Talk Titles:**

Replenishing Joy: Ditsie Scobie

The Joy of Praying with Jesus' Power, Authority and Blessings to Cure Serious  
Illnesses: Rev. John Rice

The Joy in Healing Miracles: Rev. Paul Feider

Renewed Strength and Joy: Understanding and Overcoming and Understanding  
Compassion Fatigue through Faith-based Coping Strategies, Dr. Wendy Hofman,  
PhD.

*IC Brochure to be posted to our website soon.*

[Register for the Conference](#)

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## ACTheals Vision:

*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.*

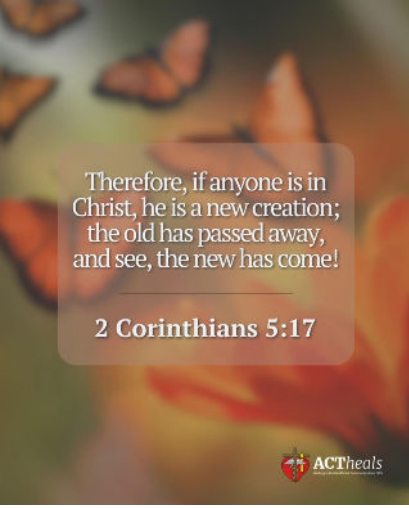


[Visit our Website](#)

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## Easter Message of Hope

Happy Easter and Happy Spring!



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5:17



We have journeyed 40 long days through Lent, embracing self-sacrifice and self-examination. It has been a desert walk, akin to having Jesus look at us as we visualize ourselves in the mirror each morning. From Maundy Thursday, we walked to Golgotha, only to see our great hope spat upon, beaten, and die on a cross, then buried. Our whole life was in limbo, and we felt lost in a sea of confusion while Jesus lay in the tomb.

BUT then came Easter morning! "Jesus is alive," the women said. Oh my, where could He be? It was so scary. Joy and hope returned that day when Jesus appeared to His followers.

Breezes are warmer, and the temperatures are rising. The grass is turning green, and early spring flowers are blooming with the promise of more to come. Trees are budding, and leaves are unfolding. Animals are giving birth to their young. The whole world is filled with hope and joy. We dressed up on Easter morning, and we are smiling again. Jesus has Risen! The Lord is among us. We are joyful and full of hope once more. We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.

The Lord says, "See, I make all things new," (Rev 21:5). My prayer for each of you this season is that the wind of the Spirit that visited the apostles that Easter evening continues to bless you with hope and new life in Jesus our Lord through the days and seasons ahead.

**Kris Sendelbach RN,**  
*President of ACTheals*



### Member Spotlight

**Beth Ford, RN,** has been a dedicated member of ACTheals since 2005. With a deep belief in empowering nurses to heal with heart and faith, Beth serves as the co-chairperson of the Nurses Specialty Group, where she supports and inspires fellow nurses. Additionally, Beth is the Liturgist for ACTheals, bringing her spiritual guidance and compassion to the community. Her commitment to holistic healing and her leadership within ACTheals have made her a cherished member of the organization.

*"I love being a part of ACTheals. It is so important to belong to a Christian community where the Holy Spirit is present."*



## Canadian Region Celebrates Hope in the Midst of Grief at Their 40th Annual Conference

ACTheals Canada recently hosted their enriching 40th annual conference from April 24th to April 27th. This event brought together a diverse group of speakers and attendees for a time of healing, restoration, and spiritual growth. One of the featured speakers was Blaise Alleyne, a pro-life activist, technologist, writer, and public speaker. His talk, titled "Apologetics Suicide and Assisted Suicide," provided valuable insights into these critical issues. Dr. Mary Chakkalackal, a Family Physician with over 45 years of experience, also spoke at the conference. She incorporates Healing Prayer into her medical practice to serve the varied needs of her patients, particularly in the multi-cultural, multi-faith population of the Greater Toronto Area. Her talk addressed the topic of Death and Dying from a hopeful and faith-based perspective.

Alex Schadenberg, the Executive Director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition since July 1999 and the International Chairperson since 2007, led a talk on Euthanasia which was impactful and informative. Denise Dolff, a retired Christian psychotherapist with 35 years of experience, shared her knowledge and warmth at the conference. Denise has been a member of ACTheals since 1985 and has served in many leadership positions both regionally and internationally. The conference also included various activities such as prayer teams, laying on of hands, Healing Mass, a candlelight silent meditation in front of the Blessed Sacrament in the Catholic tradition, and free time with hot chocolate, teatime, and cookies. Attendees had the opportunity to make new friends and enjoy a time of refreshment and renewal.

Dr. Chakkalackal further shared her wisdom in our conversation with her following the conference: *"When He (Jesus Christ) is our hope, our grief becomes joy because He is also the Joy Giver, and the Comforter."*

We are thankful to Toni Bianchi, the regional coordinator for ACTheals in Canada for her leadership, all of the speakers who participated and guests who attended. We also extend our gratitude to Francine Mclsaac and Cindy Caravaggio for their music ministry, and Father Terrence (Terry) McKenna for presiding over the healing mass during the conference. Contact us if anyone wants to become involved in the ACTheals Canadian region as there is much more fellowship to come!

## Mid-Atlantic Region Completes Spiritual Enrichment Retreat

The ACTheals Mid-Atlantic region recently completed a six-week online Spiritual Enrichment retreat, led by their dedicated regional coordinators, Anne Behneman and George Guschwan. This enriching retreat began on March 12th and concluded on April 16th, providing participants with a profound opportunity to deepen their faith and strengthen their spiritual journey.

The retreat was based on Fr. Paul Feider's insightful book, "Living a Transformed Life," which served as the foundation for the sessions. Throughout the retreat, attendees explored themes of transformation and healing, focusing on deepening their relationship with Jesus and healing their image of God. The sessions were designed to cater to those desiring a closer walk with Jesus and anyone interested in spiritual healing.

Participants engaged in meaningful discussions, reflective exercises, and prayerful activities, all aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of their faith and spiritual growth. The retreat provided a supportive and nurturing environment, allowing individuals to connect with others who share similar spiritual aspirations.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Anne and George for their leadership and dedication in guiding this retreat. Their efforts have undoubtedly made a positive impact on the lives of the participants, helping them to live a transformed life rooted in faith and hope. ACTheals is committed to offering opportunities for spiritual enrichment and growth. To inquire about the next Spiritual Enrichment Retreat, please email [info@actheals.org](mailto:info@actheals.org).

## May Is Mental Health Awareness Month

*Heavenly Father, as we gather in reflection during this Mental Health Awareness Month, we seek Your divine guidance and healing for all who struggle with mental health challenges. We pray for those burdened by anxiety, depression, and despair, that they may find solace in Your unwavering love and support. Inspire us to foster understanding and compassion within our communities, breaking the stigma surrounding mental health. May we be instruments of Your peace, offering hope and encouragement to those in need. Grant us the wisdom to recognize the signs of distress in ourselves and others, and the courage to seek help when necessary. Let us remember that we are never alone, for Your presence is always with us, providing strength and comfort in our darkest moments.*

*Amen.*

”  
Help one another this is what  
Jesus teaches us. This is what  
I do. And I do it with my heart.

POPE FRANCIS



*In Memory of Pope Francis*  
1936-2025

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## Are You New to ACTheals or Seeking Prayer?

We warmly invite you to join our online prayer group, a nurturing space where ACTheals members from all Christian denominations can come together in fellowship and support. At ACTheals, we believe that the power of shared experiences and collective prayer can significantly enrich our personal and healthcare ministries. Our next gathering will take place on **Thursday, May 22 from 8-9 PM EST on Zoom**. The group will be led by Beth Ford, RN. We'll share stories of how God is working in our lives and uplift one another through prayer. Please click below to send a request for the monthly Zoom link.

Get the  
Link

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## Upcoming Events

May  
**31**

**Born of the Spirit: Celebrating Pentecost (Los Angeles Region)**  
*10:00 am-2:00 pm PST*

American Martyrs Church, Manhattan Beach  
Fr. Alexei Smith and Fr. Bill Delaney

**Contact:** Bernadette St. James (ACTheals Regional)

June  
**11**

**ACTheals California Retreat (Hosted by the San Diego Region)**

*June 11-13, 2025*

Benedictine Abbey, Oceanside, CA.  
Fr. Pat Crowley

Contact: Barbara Graham  
Email: [bnb77graham@gmail.com](mailto:bnb77graham@gmail.com)

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October  
**23**

**ACTheals International Conference**

*October 23-26, 2025*

Marywood Conference Center. St. Johns, Florida

**Contact** [info@actheals.org](mailto:info@actheals.org) for more information or register at [actheals.org](http://actheals.org)

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## National Nurse's Week

*May 6-12*

As we celebrate National Nurses Week, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you. Your dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to providing exceptional care make a profound difference in the lives of countless individuals and families.

### **Nurses' Prayer**

*Let me dedicate my life today in your service,  
In the care of those who come my way.*

*Let me touch each one with Your healing hand,  
and the gentle art for which I stand.*

*And then when my day is done,  
Let me rest in peace, in your Holy Hug,  
If I've helped just one of your people feel your touch today.*

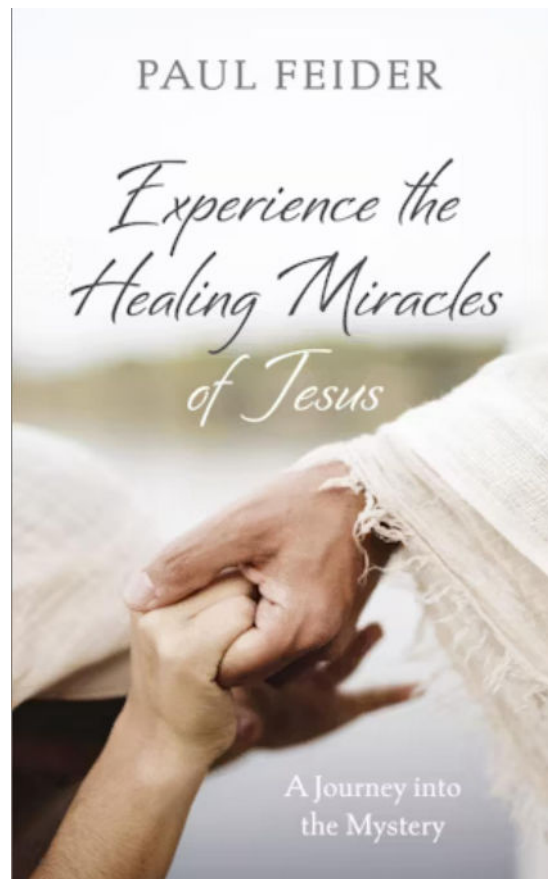
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### Recommended Reading

This month, we'd like to spotlight Father Paul Feider's ninth book, "Experience the Healing Miracles of Jesus," a profound exploration that delves into 29 remarkable accounts of healing from the gospels. Father Paul passionately believes that this book serves as an invaluable resource for anyone eager to dive deeper into the transformative power of Jesus' miracles. Ideal for those seeking to enrich their understanding of faith, this book comes equipped with discussion questions perfect for group

study. Don't miss the chance to invite healing and inspiration into your ministry and community—grab your copy today and let the journey of healing begin!

Purchase Fr. Paul's New  
Book



*"As pilgrims, we journey with Jesus desiring to be made whole. Paul Feider's book, *Experience the Healing Miracles of Jesus*, helps us connect deeply with Jesus through his healing ministry. This biblical, reflective, and practical devotional encourages and challenges readers to engage with contemporary healing ministry. For those unsure, I highly recommend reading this book. For those already familiar, it's a must read."*

**Bishop Todd McGregor,**  
Founder, Diocese of Toliara, Madagascar

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## *ACTheals: Where God and Healthcare Meet*



This is the official newsletter for ACTheals (Formerly known as the Association of Christian Therapists). Member **comments**, **suggestions** and **submissions** are appreciated. Submissions are preferred with a digital photo, or else, a prior one from our files will be used. Member names can be withheld by request. Contact Angeli at [apemberton@actheals.org](mailto:apemberton@actheals.org).



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