

# Monthly Newsletter

January, 2026



*Happy new year from all of us at ACTheals. As we step into a new year, may your heart be open to the Spirit's leading, your hands ready to serve and your soul renewed by God's healing love.*

Made in God's Image:  
**GROWING IN THE  
LIKENESS OF CHRIST**  
**Video 1**  
November 1, 2025 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
Fr. Jim Clarke  
American Martyrs Church  
700 15th Street, Manhattan Beach, 90266

*Los Angeles Region Retreat Videos are now available for viewing on our Youtube channel! Click on the icon above to watch.*



### *President's Corner*

We recently heard one of my favorite Christmas scriptures, from Isaiah 9:5: “For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulders dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful.” We have just celebrated His holy birth. No matter our age, we all make a visit to the manger to adore the newborn babe. We want Him to bless us.

I’ve watched people and how they flock to see newborn babies right after birth. We are a people who love babies—visiting them, bringing congratulatory gifts for the parents. The shepherds brought their smelly sheep, and the angels sang. The kings brought gifts of great value from their countries. So, what are we bringing Jesus this year?

I think back to the crèche in my home church in Minnesota—a 100+ year-old crèche that is the only surviving artifact from the 1946 tornado that wiped away the church and everything in it, except this. It’s beautiful beyond words. I remember the year our native son priest, Fr. Eugene, stood beside it, telling the story of how it came to us and how it was the only thing that survived the tornado. It was just ordinary teaching, but loud enough for all present to hear. Only he was old enough to remember the story. It’s visits to that manger that I remember about Christmas. And I remember how my mother introduced the idea of Jesus’ birthday to us—with Jesus’ own birthday cake, much like the ones we received each year. We got the idea real fast. Those days are precious memories now.

But how quickly we forget the newness of life. We put the Christmas decorations away and get on with the ordinariness of life. Mary and Joseph were challenged in raising Jesus. As Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, we are called to grow in God’s ways. How are we going to grow this year? Ideas include spending time in daily prayer or devotions, reading the scriptures, and then listening to His instructions for our lives; participating in the sacraments more often; setting aside time in Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament; or serving others through corporal works of mercy, by the kindness and compassion we show. Now, as this month returns to the mundane and decorations are put away, our challenge is to continue to spend time worshipping the Lord, listening to Him, and growing in wisdom and stature, no matter our age.

As I close, I bless you to know the deep love Jesus has for each of you as His beloved children of the Most High King. I bless you with joy this new year. I bless you with

time to grow in Jesus. I'm reminded of the song we sang last night at church, called "Abba Father." Some of the words are: "Abba (Daddy) Father. You are the potter, and we are the clay. Melt us. Mold us. Fashion us into the image of Jesus your Son." New Year Blessings!

**Kris Sendelbach, RN,**  
Your Servant Leader

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## ACTheals Regional News



### Reflecting on Advent Traditions: A Southeast Region Gathering with Fr. Gary Fukes

By: *Tamila Hennessy*

During our Southeast Region Advent Reflection, Fr. Fukes gently led us to revisit our childhood Advent traditions, reflecting on the practices we still cherish today and how these sacred rhythms have shaped our faith. His approach created a welcoming space for deep listening and generous sharing, inviting everyone into a meaningful conversation.

Though only nine people RSVP'd, we were blessed with 20 participants, including three guests and members from various parts of the country and Canada. We also welcomed members from Pastoral Care. The stories, memories, and shared faith made the evening resonate beautifully with the Advent season.

### A Year of Revival

The Lord has anointed this year as a year of "revival" for the Southeast Region. We are hosting monthly Zoom events with guest speakers, open to all regions and recorded for those who can't attend live. We are partnering with the Christian Healing Center in Naples and have invited attendees of Fr. Paul's Spiritual Enrichment Retreat to join our next event on January 5, 2026. Doug Schoeninger will speak on Generational Healing, and there is palpable excitement in the air!

Our vision is to continue hosting events and inviting guests to experience what ACTheals is all about. We look forward to welcoming more participants and sharing in the joy of faith and community.

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## Upcoming Events

### Newcomer's Prayer Group

The **newcomer's monthly online group** is open to new ACTheals members, interested persons in ACTheals and members who may be interested in mentoring or just need some extra prayer time. We support each other through prayer and Christian fellowship as we engage in our various healthcare practices and/or prayer ministries. The group is led by **Beth Ford, RN** who is the leader of the Nurses Specialty Group in ACTheals. The next group online will be held on **Wednesday, January 21, 2026 from 7:00pm-8:00pm EST.**

**Request the Zoom link** below by contacting Angeli Pemberton; please state whether you are a current ACTheals member (including your region) or whether you are a guest (interested person who wants to learn more about ACTheals). See you there!

Request the Link

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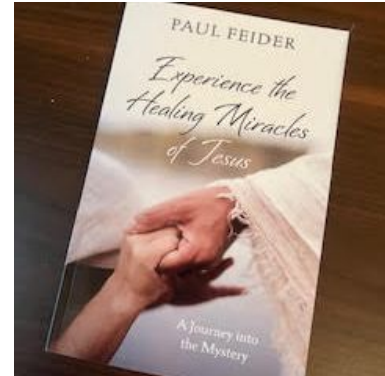
## Support and Prayer Groups

ACTheals **support and prayer groups** are hosted monthly by regional coordinators, offering both virtual and in-person gatherings. These sessions provide ACTheals members with valuable opportunities for healing and fellowship, supporting them as they continue their healthcare and prayer ministries. Through these groups, members can connect, share experiences, and receive the encouragement they need to thrive in their spiritual and professional journeys. If you would like to participate in a support group, email your regional coordinator by using this link: [Regions | ACTheals](#).

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## Six-Week Teaching Series on the Healing Miracles of Jesus

Fr. Paul Feider will be hosting another six-week series of teaching based on his new book, *Experience the Healing Miracles of Jesus*. It will be online on Zoom beginning on **January 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th, and February 5th and 12th, 2026** from 7:00-9:00pm EST.



The benefits of embarking on this course are best described in a quote from Fr. Paul's book:

*"If you are in the healthcare field, this journey will open the way for you to augment your practice with divine energy to bring healing beyond the limits of your human skills. If you are a therapist, discovering divine healing power will allow you to go deeper into the core issues of the people you serve and release the pain of their inner wounds that you alone could not reach. If you are a prayer minister or pastor of a church, this search will offer new insights on how you can take people to a much greater wholeness by the power of Jesus' healing love."*

**Request the Zoom link** below by contacting Diane Riddle; please state whether you are a current ACTheals member (including your region) or whether you are a guest (interested person who wants to learn more about ACTheals).

Request the Link

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## Epiphany LA Region Retreat

Join ACTheals for a New Year celebration of healing and reflection on Saturday, **January 10, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM** at St. Andrew Russian Greek Catholic Church in El Segundo. In a world facing rising anxiety and depression, come experience the light of Christ through teaching, reflection, and healing prayer. Led by Fr. Alexei Smith, this event offers hope and healing in our search for meaning. Enjoy a continental breakfast and light refreshments; please bring your own lunch. A \$35 offering is requested. **RSVP by January 9 to Bernadette St. James, PsyD**, at 310.991.2256. Visit [www.ACTheals.org](http://www.ACTheals.org) for more information.

See Event Flyer

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## 2026 Canada Region Conference

**Save the date** for the **Canada Region Annual Conference**, happening **April 24-27, 2026**, at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Join us for inspiring sessions with speakers like Dr. Donna Ward, M.D., Fr. John Meehan, Ph.D., and Fr. Terry McKenna. Registration fee details are forthcoming. Stay tuned for more information on the ACTheals website.

[See Event Flyer](#)

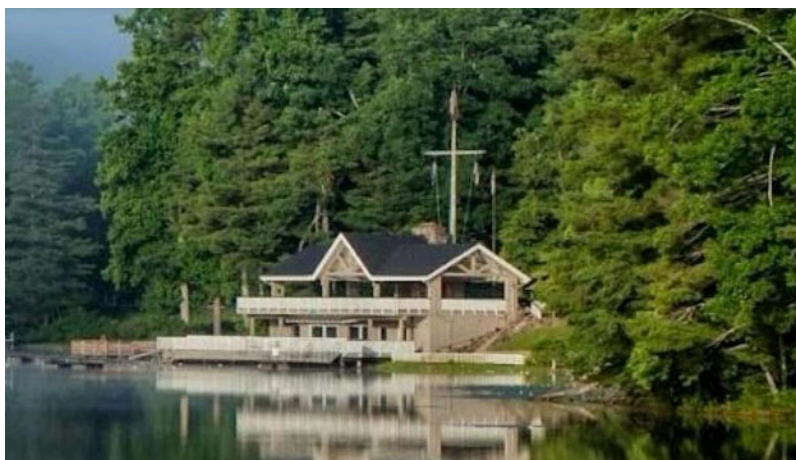
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## ACTheals International Conference 2026: Change Our Hearts

*“I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and call you to live by my statutes.” Ezekiel 36:26-27*

Kanuga Conference Center, 130 Kanuga Chapel Drive Hendersonville, NC 28739 **October 22-25, 2026.**

Speakers, Chaplains, and Workshop Presenters to be announced on website [actheals.org](http://actheals.org).



[See 2025 Conference Videos](#)

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## *ACTheals: Where God and Healthcare Meet*

As we close out our 50th anniversary year, celebrating **Jesus, our Joy Giver**, we are in a **Year of Revival**. Your Strategic Planning Team wishes to announce our new vision and mission statements. You will now see them on all website pages, on our stationery, and in all other important areas. We wish to thank Dr. Len Sperry for his expert help on this team. The statements are:

**Vision Statement: To remain an influential Spirit-filled organization advancing Christ's healing worldwide.**

**Mission Statement: To heal and empower healing professionals to bring Christ's healing to others.**

Thank you.

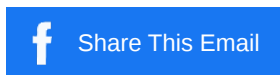
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Fr. Paul Feider, Chaplain  
Lydia Swalchick, MBA  
Deacon Patrick Blaney, DDS

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*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).*

ACTheals is a Christ-centered association of healthcare professionals, clergy, religious and associates who seek to integrate healing prayer to give full expression of God's love in their professions, ministries and personal lives.



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