

Travel Information

Driving from Toronto/Hamilton: QEW to Niagara Falls to # 420 (The Falls) to Stanley Ave. Turn right through 5 sets of traffic lights to Mt. Carmel - sign on left. Parking is available.

By Bus from Toronto bus terminal to Niagara Falls bus terminal. Take a taxi to Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre. From Pearson Inter'l Airport: via Niagara Air Bus from the ground Transportation Desk. Contact (905) 677-8083.

From Buffalo Inter'l Airport: Niagara Air Bus from baggage claim area on the lower level. Contact (716) 835-8111.

Cheaper rates may be available for 2 or more persons. Book travel at least 2 days in advance to get these rates.

ACT Business Meeting Members Only
Saturday May 2, 2026 at 3:00-4:00 pm
Most important that all members attend.

Who should attend

We invite and welcome everyone involved/interested in the promotion of Christian Holistic Healthcare, Allied Health Services, Healing Ministries, Educators, Physicians, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Nurses, Health Care providers from all fields, Social workers, Counsellors, Clergy, Religious and Laity, All Students as well as friends and family members are most welcome.

Conference Goals /Objectives

1. To become healers with the Heart of Jesus.
2. To provide hope and encouragement when faced with difficult ethical decisions.
3. To be equipped to communicate life affirming medical care.
4. To find support and further education with like-minded people.
5. To be a witness of God's Love, Healing and Mercy to patients/clients.

Conference Prayer

Gracious God, Thank You for the gift of ACTheals and for those You have called to the membership, past present and future. We lift each one of them to You now and ask that You intervene in their lives by the power of the Holy Spirit. Anoint today each member to the ministry to which You call them. Bless them, their families and their work. Unite all members with You and with each other, that as each open to You, Your will may be done, and Your people may be healed for the glory of Your name. We ask by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you touch the hearts and minds of all young healthcare professionals. Give them a hunger and thirst for You that they may desire to be healers with Your own Son's heart and continue the healing work that You began through ACTheals, in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Jabez was honoured more than his brothers; and his mother named him Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain." Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from hurt and harm!" And God granted what he asked.
1 Chronicles 4:9-10

ACTheals Canada

41st Annual Canadian Conference
www.ACTheals.org

Journeying with Pain

Less of Me – More of Him
1 Chronicles 4:9-10

**Thursday April 30th to
Sunday May 3rd, 2026**

Daily Commuter Rate Available



Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, Niagara Falls
7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls
Ontario L2G 7B7

905 - 356 - 4113 (9.00 am to 4.30pm)

www.carmelniagara.com

After 4.30pm - Emergency phone calls only
Toni Bianchi 416 - 670 - 9546 Mobile

Conference Registration

Registration Form: PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Address: _____

Apt _____ City _____

Prov/State: _____ Postal/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Profession/Title: _____

Name of roommate (if known) _____

Meal preference: Vegetarian: _____

Non-Vegetarian: _____

Allergies: Please provide details for meal prep:

Registration information

	Members	Non-Members
Shared (per person 1 room)	\$535	\$545
Private Room (1 person)	\$565	\$575
Married Couples:	\$795	\$805
Students (2 per room)	\$260	\$285
Rate Fri.-Sun.	\$470	\$480
Commuter rate per 1 day	\$140	\$160

For US prices call Toni Bianchi

Includes conference sessions, meals & use of common areas at retreat center.

Full Conference Registration includes: 3 nights accommodation, private bath and shower, all meals, nutrition breaks, & Saturday night's social get-together. Cheque enclosed \$ _____

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE April 19, 2026 (pending spaces available)

Pls complete form and mail with cheque payable to ACTheals Canada or E-Transfer to tonibianchi24@gmail.com

Toni Bianchi
73 Ballyshire drive
Brampton, ON
L6P 2V5

For further information:

Toni Bianchi 416-670-9546

Dr. Lise Poirier-Groulx dr.lisepg@gmail.com

2026 Conference Speakers

Dr. Donna Ward

Dr. Donna Ward is a family physician who initiated the first palliative care program in Kitchener-Waterloo. She is the retired director of Palliative Care at the Grand River Regional Cancer Centre. She is a Teaching Associate at McMaster University. She has won many awards, one of which from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, for patient dedication and clinical excellence. Her holistic approach highlights the supportive environment of nurses, chaplains, social workers, etc. who are committed to walking with the patient and family during an illness journey. She lives in Ripley with her husband Mell. They have 4 sons who live in Toronto, and 10 grandchildren.

Dr. Mary Chakkalackal

Dr. Mary Chakkalackal has been a Family Physician for over 45 years. She incorporates healing prayer to serve her patients' varied needs. She specializes in serving a multi-cultural, multi faith population in the Greater Toronto Area. In 2004 she founded the Christian Medical Centre for Body, Soul and Spirit Dr. Mary is an active member of the College of Family Physicians of Canada, and ACTheals. She has been a speaker at conferences in Canada and the U.S.A. Founding member of ACTheals Mobile Team Canada.

Fr. John Meehan

Fr. John Meehan, SJ, PhD is a Canadian Jesuit, historian and academic who serves as Interim Director of Mission and Ministry at the University of St. Michael's College and Director of the Bill Graham Centre at the University of Toronto. A former university president and graduate of McGill, Oxford, Johns Hopkins, and U of T, his work focuses on Canadian foreign relations, Jesuit history, and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. He is actively engaged in reconciliation initiatives and pastoral work shaped by his Jesuit formation.

Dr. Lise Poirier – Groulx

Dr. Poirier-Groulx has been a family physician for 41 years: the first 15 years doing family medicine including obstetrics. Since the birth of son Christian who has Down syndrome and complex congenital heart disease, she focused her practice in medical psychotherapy. She is a Fellow of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and a Certificant of the Medical Psychotherapy Association Canada. For almost 25 years and more, she has been a part-time lecturer at the University of Ottawa of which she is an alumna. She lives in Ottawa with her husband of 41 years and their son.

Peter Chow

Peter Chow is a Registered Massage Therapist who has been practicing in Ontario since 1997. With decades of experience, he is dedicated to supporting physical well-being through therapeutic care. His life purpose is centered around the healing aspects and development of the Holistic massage model that he includes in his daily practice.

Denise J Dolff

Denise J Dolff is a child of God. Ukrainian (Byzantine) Catholic from birth. She's been married 55 years and counting, a mother of two and a grandmother of five. She retired from 35 years as a Christian psychotherapist, combining Christ-centered spiritual and inner healing interventions with clinical expertise: trauma recovery, deliverance ministry, and generational healing. As a member of ACTheals since 1985 she served in many positions of leadership both regionally and internationally. She is a qualified teacher of Listening with the Heart of Jesus.

Moderator: Dr. Wendy Hofman PhD
Mass Celebrant: Father Terrence (Terry) McKenna

Conference Agenda

Thursday April 30th, 2026

3.00 pm Registration
5.00 pm Travelers Mass in Chapel upstairs
6.00 pm Informal Sandwich Dinner in the Lounge
6.45 pm Praise and Worship, Conference Prayer
6:55 pm Welcome and introduction – Dr. Wendy
7:00 pm **1st Talk:** Existential Pain – Dr. Donna
7:35 pm Testimony – Dr. Mary Chakkalackal Q&A
8.15 pm Social get together. Mix and mingle in the Lounge

Friday May 1st, 2026

7.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Quiet meditation
8.00am Breakfast
9.00am Praise and worship, Conference Prayer
9.30am **2nd Talk:** Learning from the Margins - Fr. John
9:50am Voices from Disabled Country – Dr. Lise 10:30 Q&A
11:00am Nutrition Break
11.15am Dignity Therapy – Dr. Donna Q&A
12.00 pm Lunch
1.15pm Praise and Worship
1.30pm **3rd Talk:** Dignity Therapy/Roleplay – Dr. Donna
2.15pm Q & A **2.30pm Nutrition Break**
3.00pm **4th Talk:** Dignity Therapy/Practicum in groups – Dr. Donna 3.45pm Q&A
4.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation and free time
5.30pm Dinner
6.45 pm Prayer teams & laying on of hands. Mass for Healing, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
9.30 pm Free time, Hot Chocolate and cookies in the lounge

Saturday May 2nd, 2026

7.30am Mass in the Chapel
8.00am Breakfast
9.00am Praise and Worship, Conference Prayer
9.30 am **5th Talk:** A Christian Doctor's approach to Health Care Practice of Body, Soul and Spirit – Dr. Mary
10.00am Q&A **10:15 Nutrition Break**
10.30 am **6th Talk:** Journeying: Tools to Manage a Serious Diagnosis – Dr. Donna 11:15 Q&A
11.30am **7th Talk** Body Resistance and Pain Q&A – Peter Chow
12.00 Lunch
1.15pm Praise and Worship
1:30pm-2:15pm Panel Discussion – All Presenters
2.15 - 4.00pm Break
3.00pm - 4.00pm ACT Business meeting (members only)
4.00pm Induction of New Members
4.30pm Break – Take a break down memory lane
5.30pm Dinner
8.00pm Social and community time in the Lounge, Connect with friends and make new ones

Sunday May 3rd, 2026

7.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
8.00 am Breakfast 9:00am Praise & Worship
9:15am **8th Talk** - He came to give us Life – Denise
9.40am Testimonies and wrap up
10.30am Eucharistic Celebration
12.00pm Lunch and Departure

“Go in the Freedom & Victory of Christ to Love & Serve the Lord”