

EVENT REPORT - TEXAS

July 10-18, 2015

Healing the Whole Person - Corpus Christi Prayer Ministry Training - Dripping Springs Unveiled: Becoming One - Georgetown

We have had an active summer! A week after saying goodbye to our seminarians, who were with us for the entire month of June, we headed to the great state of Texas for three consecutive conferences in July. We began our 11 day tour in Corpus Christi, offering a three-day Healing the Whole Person conference to about 50 sisters from the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (SOLT) community. If you have been to any of our retreats in Tallahassee, you surely know those beautiful and holy women who have been coming for years as participants and as vital members of our team.

After having them come to Tallahassee many times, it was a great joy to be with them in their home community, and to meet the sisters we didn't know. Margaret, Kim and Bob renewed old friendships and made many new ones. Our host, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, welcomed the sisters with beauty and generosity, decorating the hall with hanging art, personal cards, and assorted gifts for each sister at their tables.



Sr. Miriam joined Bob in presenting the conference, along with Sr. Kateri, Sr. Mary Peter, and Sr. Caritas who gave heartwarming testimonies. Their vulnerability, honesty and courage in the presence of their own community, encouraged many of their sisters to receive prayer ministry and to share more vulnerably themselves. The Holy Spirit is doing amazing things through the beautiful open hearts of the SOLT community. We are grateful to Sr. Miriam, Sr. Megan Thibodeau (General Sister Servant) and Sr. Helen de la Pena (Regional Sister Servant) and all the council members and sisters for their Marian "yes" and warm welcome.

Following our time in Corpus Christi, Bob, Kim and Margaret met up with Bart and Ken in Dripping Springs, Texas (in southwest Austin) for our prayer ministry training. Fr. Charlie Garza, who has served with us in Tallahassee and Austin, generously hosted us at his parish St. Martin de Pores. What a gift it is to have priests, like Fr. Charlie, who wholeheartedly support our mission. He not only cared for all our temporal needs, but provided a great spiritual atmosphere and priestly covering for the entire training, in cooperation with several of our mutual priest friends who attended the training and assisted with the liturgy.

After a much needed day of rest, we had an exciting and fruitful three days, with many people receiving physical, emotional and spiritual healing, as a side benefit of the training. In the mornings we presented our new training material (called "I AM"- grounded in God's name), to the entire group of about sixty people. These mornings consisted of teaching, demonstrations and practicing prayer in triads. We were confirmed by the Holy Spirit each day at Mass, as the OT readings were all about God's self-revelation as "I AM" to Moses, while the Psalms and New Testament readings spoke about God answering our prayers, healing and revelation. We looked at each other and smiled in amazement at The Father's tender providences.



In the afternoons we divided the group into two tracks, with Bart and Ken leading the conference style prayer, and Margaret and Kim leading the Level II in-depth prayer ministry (for those who have already attended Level I in-depth training). After doing the bulk of teaching in the morning, Bob went back and forth between the two groups in the afternoons. We witnessed some amazing fruit of God's presence and activity. For example, on the second day, as Bart and Ken were giving a demonstration on physical healing, Jesus surprised everyone by healing several people spontaneously, before anyone had a chance to pray. Needless to say, the whole group was joyful at all that was occurring. The in-depth group with Margaret and Kim experienced substantial inner healing as they practiced conception-to- birth prayer, blessing the life and identity of each person, and prayers to remove internal barriers to facilitate healing. All in all, we enjoyed a great three days, before heading to Georgetown Texas, in the north Austin area.

At St. Helen's Catholic Church we were hosted by Fr. Brian McMaster and the local team for our *Unveiled* marriage conference. The local team worked tirelessly to prepare a good physical and spiritual environment for the 100 plus couples who attended. We were delighted to have a couple of Sisters from the SOLT community and others from the Prayer Ministry Training join us for the marriage conference to help with prayer ministry. An added joy was to see many of our newly ordained priest friends there for the conference and offering to hear confessions.

The first night, we felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to begin with a demonstration of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) with Adam and Eve, as a picture of what God intended for marriage before the fall of mankind. One of the priests, who stood in the role of Jesus, began weeping as Adam and Eve separated from the Trinity. His tears brought home to all of us God's profound heartbreak over our lack of communion with Him and in our marriages. This especially seemed to touch the hearts of many of the couples, and became a theme for the prayer ministry the next day. Many of the participants reported profound encounters with God throughout the weekend; sharing how this strengthened their spiritual bond as a couple and changed the way they prayed together. One man, who came by himself after his wife served him divorce papers earlier in the week, shared about a life-changing personal transformation after experiencing the Father's love during the conference.



Here are a few comments from the couples:

"We thoroughly enjoyed all aspects and are enjoying an even stronger marriage of 34 years as a result."

"This was an excellent retreat! I came here skeptical and reluctant, but the sincerity and clarity of the message touched me..."

"It was a transformative two days and I believe the catalyst that will help our marriage grow spiritually..."

"...Every engaged couple should attend..."

All in all, it was a beautiful ending to a very blessed 11 days. We are grateful to St. Helen's parish, Fr. Brian and the team that served selflessly all weekend. We also deeply appreciate our generous benefactors who help us do this work. Most importantly our praise and thanksgiving go to the Most Holy Trinity, who continues to bring about Transformation in the Heart of the Church.