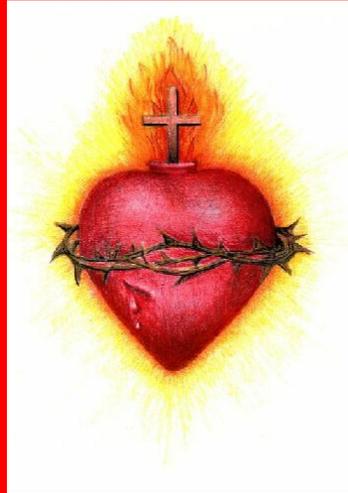


# ACTS Community of Lubbock Newsletter



**Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.**

**John 3:30**

**"He must increase, I must decrease."**

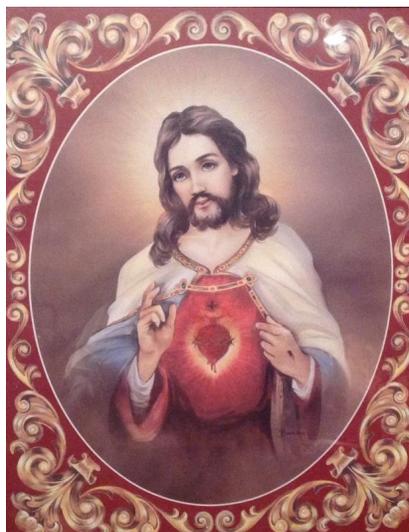
## **A special Letter from Raquel Padilla The Women's ACTS #27 Director**



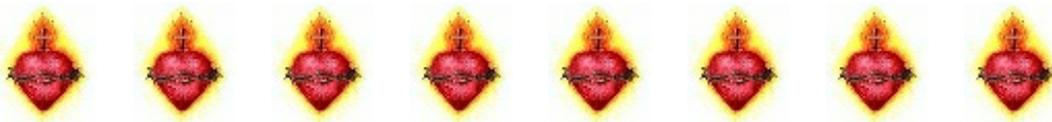
The journey with the Lord requires much of us. Though, to do so begins with each person. "He must increase; I must decrease." John 3:30 The scripture begins with Him, Our Savior and His Love for us His children. The Sacred Heart of Our Lord beats for the love of each child. Each child must unite the heart to His, if she is willingly to serve Him completely. This was the journey for team as we began preparations for the retreat; to deny ourselves for love of Him, love of each other and

love for our new sisters in Christ. At times, it is difficult to put oneself aside, but once it happens, it's life changing. A family, Jesus created, that took shape in the form of His Heart had to begin with each of us. We, team, were merely instruments to serve our sisters. We prayed and hoped that His Love would flow from each of us, and together, to touch the heart of each woman on retreat. By His Love we are healed, changed and transformed more into Him and less of ourselves. Jesus changed our hearts, and we thank You for the time spent with You and our sisters in Christ. "He must increase; I must decrease." John 3:30.

## Women's Lubbock ACTS #27



Queen of Peace Pray For Us  
Saint Benedict Pray for Us



## Women's ACTS #27 Retreat Experiences



Left to Right:

Elizabeth Olivas (Co director)

Raquel Padilla (Director)

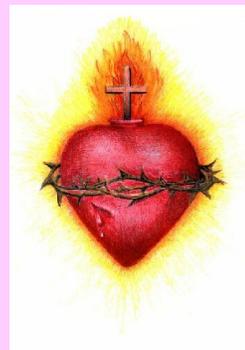
Alice Ortegon (Co director)

Renee Underwood (Spiritual Companion)



### Jesus' Heart Beats

What can I say but only that on Friday night, June 13th during our retreat after everyone had gone to bed, Raquel and I felt like Jesus was calling us to the Chapel. So, we went and prayed, and during that I felt the need to place my left hand on the Tabernacle. To my surprise, the moment that I did that, I felt our Jesus' Heart Beating. I cried and thanked Him for everything. Then I felt immediately His Love pouring out.



With Jesus' Love,

Alice Ortegon



Dear Core Members, SIC, and Lubbock ACTS Community,

It is my pleasure and honor to write my thoughts and experiences during and after my "participation" in ACTS #27. I emphasize participation because I didn't plan nor foresee this. I heard the invitation to ACTS many times from my daughter, my Catholic Church in El Paso, and my brother and his wife. Words such as rich, full, transforming retreat were not uncommon. For me my "Yes" came much later than sooner; it took more than 10 years. That being said, 2014 was my year. ACTS transformed my heart and deepened my faith. It opened a conversation between my fellow SIC in the presence of God. For me this was not your ordinary retreat, as I thought. I had planned to sit and listen and loose myself among the crowd and become invisible. Unbeknown to me, in the realm of Gods infinite wisdom, I was there for much more than that. I was there to give of myself, to share beyond measure, beyond fear, beyond judgement. I didn't know that, but our Heavenly Father knew it. I came with an open heart, listening heart, heart of gratitude, and a heart of prayer. What I didn't prepare for, was a heart of sharing. As the first day trickled on and minutes became hours, I found myself speaking, not of my own volition, but of an inner urging to share. It didn't come easy. I didn't want to do it. Yet, I was surrounded by love. I saw how little, how insignificant my troubles were. I witnessed these beautiful God-fearing women, full of energy, strength, and courage and I was moved beyond words. I had been praying for the virtue of humility, reciting this prayer through the years, "Jesus meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto your heart", and the weekend of the retreat, God surrounded me with humility, the selfless testimony of many women. I got to see first hand, one on one, the mercy of God in the lives of these women, very transforming and very humbled by the experience. This is the God we serve, faithful to the desires of our hearts! It's been 4 months since the retreat. I have been coming down the mountain slowly, reflecting a lot, and knowing I have work to do. I pray that God will continue the work He began in me on the weekend of my retreat. I have a long way to go, but one thing is for certain, God is alive in each and every one of the women I met, and He longs for our trust and our surrender. I am so grateful for the friendships forged and the community of women who pray for one another and help us through our journey in life. We will not be shaken, Jesus Firm Foundation!



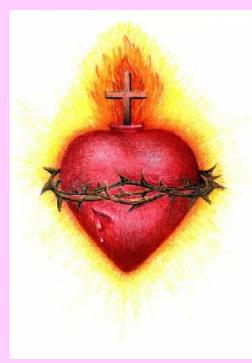
Sincerely,  
Lupe Padilla

Dona Nobis Pacem Grant Us Peace



The amazing thing about ACTS #27 is really about the amazing people you meet. ACTS Retreats are all the same and oh so different. Bottom line, it's God bringing a group of strangers together and making them sisters, and then a member of the ACTS

Family. How we choose to grow within the ACTS Community is really up to each individual, but one thing I know for certain is that everyone has open arms to share the love that God has provided us. I have had the privilege of being on music team for several retreats, and I will tell you that the sound of voices being raised in worship, and the voices sharing a love through song just can't be beat. There is nothing more beautiful than being a member of such a wonderful organization. It is the first group of individuals I have witnessed coming together as sisters and as a family. I thank God each and every day for such a beautiful experience. ACTS has literally saved my life.



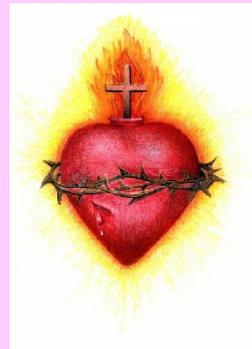
With much love,

Carla Ann Thompson



## **ACTS #27**

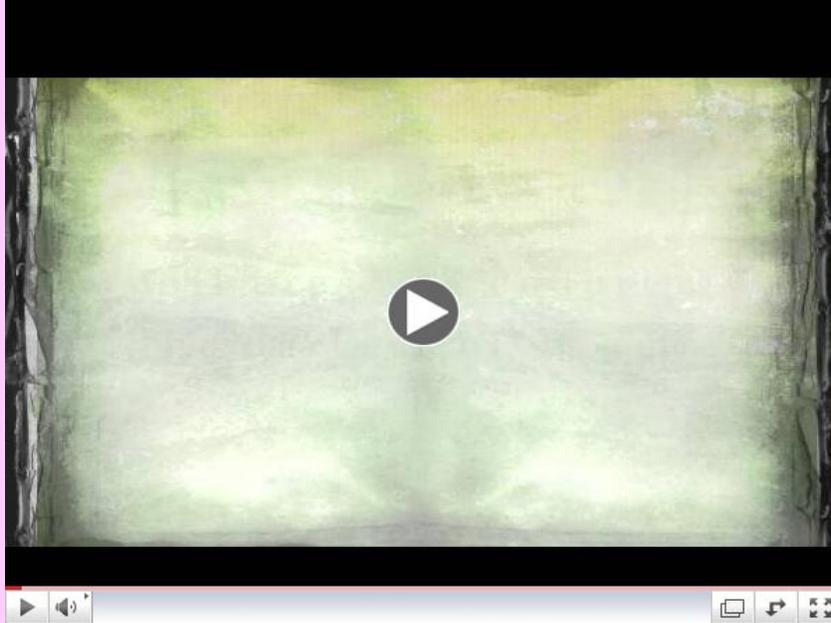
When I received the phone call to serve on team, I knew that God wanted me to say yes no matter how busy my schedule was. What I wasn't prepared for, was for the theme of the retreat to speak directly to me. "He must increase, I must decrease" John 3:30.



Also in the beginning of our team formation, Raquel had us randomly draw names of Saints. St. Edith Stein was written on my paper, and I clearly remember thinking, "Who is this?" But, I was glad I picked a woman saint. Upon researching this Saint, I read, "Today, as the meaning of feminism is lost in a world of relativism, Edith Stein provides a model for a true feminist - a woman who authentically integrates faith, family and work." She is someone I truly wish to be like.

Margie Olivarez





Jesus, Firm Foundation  
Lubbock Women's ACTS #27 Retreat  
Theme Song



A Special Note From Roy Gonzales to Community

**UPCOMING WOMEN'S RETREAT**

**NEED ACTS DONATIONS PLEASE**

**Contact Raquel Padilla**

**Acts Core -Registration Coordinator**

**To Donate Call Ph-806-928-1515 Or follow**

**instructions under other help needed/Scholarships to mail or donate online.**



**PLEASE BRING SNACKS THURSDAY**

**Women's ACTS Retreat #28**

**- November 6-9, 2014**

**Events and How You Can Help**

**Send-Off -- Thursday, 11/6, 6:00 p.m. - Mercy Retreat Center, 605 S. 19<sup>th</sup> St. Slaton**

Please bring snacks for the retreat such as fresh fruit, trail mix, breakfast bars, nuts, chips, gum, candy/chocolate, individual packets of hot cocoa & drink mixes, Coke, Sprite, Diet Coke, Dr Pepper, Diet Dr Pepper, and water. When in doubt, please bring drinks. If you can help with luggage, please arrive at 6 p.m.

**Candlelight -- Saturday, 11/8, 7 p.m.** - St. Joseph Church, Slaton, Texas North of Mercy Retreat Center (across the street).

If you can help set up risers, please arrive by 6:30 p.m. Contact Adam Salinas - email [ajsalinas44@yahoo.com](mailto:ajsalinas44@yahoo.com) for further information.

**Closing Mass -- Sunday 11/9.** - St Joseph's Church, Slaton at 11:30 am.

**Potluck Lunch --** Following the Mass in St. Joseph's Hall (across the street).

The hall will be opened at 10:00 a.m. to bring in your food. Please bring enough for your family plus 10-12 more.

If you can help set up, serve, or clean up, please contact Carmen Flores - email [carmenflores481@yahoo.com](mailto:carmenflores481@yahoo.com) or phone 806-928-4372...or just show up!

### **Other Help Needed**

**Scholarships** are greatly needed. There are several ladies in need of scholarships. If you can make a donation for a scholarship, you can mail your donation to ACTS Weekend Retreat, PO Box 16827, Lubbock TX 79490. Indicate "scholarship" in the memo area of your check. Or you can now go to the ACTS website to make an on-line donation. You can also bring donations to the registration table at sendoff. ***Any amount would be greatly appreciated.***

**Sign up for the prayer board** by signing up on our new virtual prayer board on our website, [www.actscommunityoflubbock.org](http://www.actscommunityoflubbock.org) . Or you may email Anthony Rodriguez at [arod1933@att.net](mailto:arod1933@att.net) and indicate an hour, on the hour, between Thursday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. Please indicate a.m. or p.m

### **RETREATANTS:**

**Michelle Amaro, Our Lady of Grace**

**Desiree Carroll, non-Catholic**

**Jana Carter, non-denominational**

**Rosalinda Cervantez, Our Lady of Grace**

**Barbara Coleman, Trinity Church of God in Christ**

**Mirayah Flores, Sacred Heart--Plainview**

**Priscilla Flores, St John Neumann**

**Natalie Garcia, St Phillips--Idalou**

**Sandra Gomez, St Michael**

**Amanda Gray, non-Catholic**

**Victoria Guzman, Experience Life**

**Connie Hernandez, Our Lady of Guadalupe--Lbk**

**Oralia Herrera, St John Neumann**

**Pam Kelly, St Elizabeth**

**Debra Lea, Aldersgate Methodist**

**Elisa Lopez, non-Catholic**

**Crystal Macias, Holy Spirit**

**Lorianne Morales, St John Neumann/Harvest Church**

**Mary Ann Morales, Christ the King**

**Janie Ornelas, Our Lady of Guadalupe--Snyder**

**Laura Palacios, St Michael**

**Rose Ann Perez, St Anthony**

**Vicki Perez, Our Lady of Grace**

**Michelle Perez-Vigil, Experience Life**

**Angela Pridmore, non-Catholic**

**Andrea Ramos, St Joseph**

**Elizabeth Rodriguez, St Margaret Mary**

**Liz Rodriguez, San Isidro -- Sundown**

**Mitzi Rodriguez, Experience Life**

**Sonia Rodriguez, St Joseph**

**Elia Ruiz, St Michael**

**Elsa Salas, San Ramon**

**Donna Taylor, Sunset Church of Christ**

**Starla Torbert, non-denominational**

**Teresa Trammel, Indiana Ave Baptist**

**Jenni Yarbrough, Experience Life**

**Ana Zavala, Our Lady of Grace**

***TEAM:***

**Nereida Almos, Holy Spirit**

**Juanita Casarez, St John Neumann**

**Carla Castle, St Elizabeth**

**Anne Clanton, St John Neumann**

**Erica Cochran, St John Neumann**

**Helen Esquivel, Our Lady of Grace**

**Beth Franklin, Holy Spirit**

**Myriam Gonzalez, St John Neumann**

**Pearla Jaquez, Our Lady of Grace**

**Susan Kitten, St Elizabeth**

**Kellye Kuehler, St Ann**

**Cynthia Lampkin, Director, Holy Spirit**

**Margie Lopez, Our Lady of Grace**

**Jenny Maeker, Spiritual Companion, St Elizabeth**

**Kari Maeker, St Elizabeth**

**Monica Maeker, St John Neumann**

**Heather Marrs, St Elizabeth**

**Claudia McQueen, Co-Director, St Elizabeth**

**Rebecca Molinar-Pena, Our Lady of Grace**

**Monica Moreno, St Michael**

**Tawynnee Murillo, Holy Spirit**

**Gloria Murillo, Holy Cross**

**Ciminie Palacios, Holy Spirit**

**Michelle Peek, Holy Spirit**

**Dee Perez, St Michael**

**Gracie Quintana, Our Lady of Grace**

**Karen Quintana, Co-Director, Our Lady of Grace**

**Adrienne Romo, Our Lady of Grace**

**Msgr Tim Schwertner, Spiritual Director**

**Donna Shobert-Crane, The Heights Fellowship**

**Isabel Torres, Holy Spirit**

**Amanda Vivial, St John Neumann**

**Karla Vivial-Thomas, St John Neumann**

**Dede Walsh, St John Neumann**

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Lubbock Acts Newsletter  
Rudy Castillo Bermea  
Contact 806-778-1288