



***BRINGING THE HEALING LIGHT OF CHRIST TO A WORLD IN DARKNESS AND DESPAIR through Prayer for healing missions, retreats and healing services— worldwide.***

Deacon O'Connell and Beverly had had their faith tested as well. Although Deacon Ken went into remission with the cancer, he eventually died of complications other than the cancer in July 1995.

For Beverly, her husband's ministry is what helped her and her family through the difficult time. She said she's seen others helped as well.

"It has enhanced my faith that God is working in people's lives," she said. "I've seen what God has done. It's just amazing. We've seen that over and over that peace that comes."

Spreading that peace has become the ministry of both O'Connell's who spent two weeks in the islands of Hawaii [Oahu and Maui] offering healing missions to parishes, and presenting a weekend Confirmation Youth Retreat in Honolulu Diocese.

We have offers to travel to Germany and Australia this summer and fall. Please pray for this ministry of prayer for healing. [prayer@atwe.org](mailto:prayer@atwe.org).

## **A RECENT ARTICLE IN THE FEATURE SECTION OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSE BULLETIN, Cleveland OH,**

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# **AT THE WATER'S EDGE**

**Friend's death inspires deacon to spread Jesus' comfort to the hurting.**

**When Rev. Mr. Frank O'Connell went to comfort a fellow deacon 12 years ago** who had received the frightening news that he was dying of cancer, he never imagined it would turn into a ministry.

The friend was his wife Beverly's brother, Rev. Mr. Ken Schneider. At the time, Deacon O'Connell was a St. Victor Church, Richfield, and he and Beverly naturally wanted to help her brother in any way they could.

"it was just a real shock to our whole system," he recalled.

One night, the O'Connell's went over to the Schneider's home to pray. Eventually, the two deacons went off to pray by themselves and a miracle happened.

During the two and half hours of silence and prayer, Deacon O'Connell was inspired to contemplate with Ken about the gospel story of Jesus walking on the water coming to his frightened apostles who were traveling by boat during the 'third watch of the night'. Deacon Ken was as frightened about his cancer as the apostles were at the coming of Jesus on the waters.

Deacon Frank began to use a kind of guided imagery, particularly when Peter jumps out of the boat and begins walking on water too. He encouraged Ken to ask Jesus to help him. "I said, 'Picture yourself doing that Ken. Ask him [Jesus] to take you to the boat and to take you ashore.'"

Eventually Ken said he could hear Jesus' voice. The meditation brought great comfort to both deacons, particularly Deacon Ken who told others. Soon, Deacon Frank was being asked to do private and group healing services at churches and retreat centers throughout the diocese and beyond. Calling his ministry AT THE WATER'S EDGE in honor of the gospel story, (The website is dedicated to Ken's memory). Deacon Frank said he hopes to bring "*the healing light of Christ to world in darkness and despair with wonderful stories of Jesus' healing touch.*"

"I always tell people to take some time during the day for quiet and ask Jesus to take you somewhere," he said. "It's terrifying enough to get out of the boat. But I say, as soon as you do things will change."

Whether he is doing a retreat, mission or meeting with someone privately or in a small group, Deacon O'Connell always starts with the story of Deacon Ken Schneider. He then invites the participants to share their stories.

The healing that comes to those who have participated in Deacon Frank's retreats and missions can be physical, emotional or spiritual. For example, one woman several years ago received some relief for severely painful and crippling arthritis. Another woman wanted emotional healing from her child's estrangement from her and the church. Other times the healing comes in the acceptance of a peaceful death or serenity with a situation over which a person has no control.

**"In all of this, I tell the people to keep telling Jesus how much you love him."**

**"People get frustrated," he said. "They say nothing's happening. I tell them to let it unfold. Give it time. It's not a one time thing. It's a way of praying for life."**

He added that it takes sitting in stillness and being quiet to hear God's voice. "It's a gentler voice," he said. "It's always, 'Trust me. I'll take care of everything.'"

--You can hear the whole story of Ken on the CD – Select "Buy CD" on our website