



June 16, 2011

Dear APM Members and Colleagues in Ministry,

Welcome to a new year in ministry and to the 35th year of the Association!

We are an organization of support and networking for all involved in pastoral care in parishes and other communities and agencies. We are open to all who would be interested in joining together for enrichment and renewal.

Our theme this year is: *LIVING THE RESURRECTION*.

When we receive the Sacrament of Baptism, we are reminded by the presider that we enter into the waters of Baptism to 'die' with Christ and through these blessed waters we 'rise' with Christ. What does it mean to live the Resurrection? Jesus was raised from the dead and formed His Apostles as a people who live the resurrection. And so today more than 2000 years later we are invited to live the Resurrection. William Sloane Coffin put it this way, "Christ is risen...for us-to put love in our hearts, decent thoughts in our heads, and a little more iron up our spines. Christ is risen to convert us ... from something less than life to the possibility of... being fully alive." We are called by God to live the Resurrection, to become a community of people fully alive in love!

As each of us deals with our own lives and in our ministry the lives of others, we can become bogged down with family, daily routines, relationships, financial crisis, death, and the bereavement of others. As pastoral ministers we have the opportunity to bring support, love, hope, joy and many other gifts to the people we serve *and to each other*.

Coming together to experience the wisdom of speakers, to pray, to reflect and discuss will hopefully assist all of us in our ministry and in our faith lives to Live the Resurrection to its fullest.

As we strive to Live the Resurrection:

"May the Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Abba, who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through grace, encourage our hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word"

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

As in the past, each program this year will address our theme. This year we have chosen as that theme, "Living the Resurrection". Some of our dates are yet to be finalized, but look for an afternoon program in September, November and March. Our Winter Retreat will be on January 27 and our Annual APM Spring Banquet will be held on the evening of May 22.

As in the past, we will continue to welcome and seek new membership by offering a variety of membership options. Please see the enclosed registration form for details about each of them.

Please copy the enclosed membership registration form as many times as necessary if you would like to share this opportunity with others or to enroll your parish membership members if that is the option chosen.

We are looking forward to a full and exciting year, we hope you will join us, as we walk with each other while living the Resurrection.

Blessings,

Deacon Al Schroeder, APM Chair 2011-2012