

The American Catholic Council – Detroit June 10-12, 2011

## **Energized to “Keep on Keepin’ On!”**

By  
Bill McCully

We first heard of the ACC when we were down in Naples, FL (90 miles south of Venice) helping CTA and Ellen McNally plan the Annual Catholic Assembly (you can see a picture of the banner ad we had displayed at a local Protestant Church in "Soundings") John Hushon was there and really excited about the plans for ACC. This was late in 2009. John convinced that we had to go.

We're used to being a small minority in our parish as well as our Diocese so to be with 1,800 + enthusiastic Catholics who see the Church the way we do and some are even to the left of us, is really exciting and energizing. I think that sense of being part of a movement, of having an impact on the future, even if we may not be around to see it, was what we'd like to pass along

The biggest impression was the speakers.

- Hearing Hans Kung telling us we need a Revolution to end an absolute monarchy, but without the guillotine I found exciting and very impressive.
- Anthony Padovano on reclaiming our vision from Vatican II as the People of God very calmly making his case against the arrogance and authoritarianism of the hierarchy was another impressive experience.
- James Carroll was also impressive and very dynamic.
- The icing on the cake, the real rouser was Sr. Joan Chittister. I remember thinking: "If I were a Roman Catholic Bishop this woman would terrify me"

**Nothing is going to stop her and if not her, then not us!**

Break-out sessions were informative and very helpful, but what had the impact were the speakers.

No, I don't think it changed us, we've all been in VOTF since 2002 and we're looking for ways to get the job done, but as St. Paul said: "By the grace of God, I am what I am"; we're not about to change. But the experience energized us to *“Keep on “keepin’ on!”*

What really scares the hierarchy is our third goal, Structural Change. They correctly see that as a threat to their power. Like the little kids in the sandbox, they don't want to share.

**God bless all our dear friends on Long Island!**

Bill and Eileen McCully  
(Originally from Long Island)