

# UPDATES

# ACTION

## CENTER UPDATE

Martha Didia "Tita" Godinez Miranda, a leading activist for women's rights and social justice in Guatemala, recently spent an evening at the CAC reflecting on building peace with justice in post war Guatemala. She shared her view of the ten-month-old peace accord, which has succeeded in stopping the intense fighting but cannot be fully implemented until a number of obstacles are overcome. These obstacles include the government's reluctance to really enforce the accord, the fact that there are 22 different languages spoken in Guatemala, and 78 percent of the population is illiterate making the process of educating people about the accord extremely difficult.

Furthermore, women are actively discouraged from taking part in professional or leadership roles, although there are a few women involved in high level politics. Tita spoke of the struggle toward peace with justice as a long-term vision; it will take time after so many years of war, but she is hopeful.

CAC Co-Director Shari Sommers recently facilitated a retreat for the pastoral and administrative staff of Most Holy Trinity Church in Phoenix, Arizona. Shari led sessions on contemplative prayer, integration and the call to laity to participate in the future direction of the parish.

Shari also represented the Center at a colloquium on Social Justice, Spiritual Leadership and Church Reform sponsored by **Catholic Organizations for Renewal**, a consortium of 33 national and regional reform organizations. Leaders from Call To Action, Catholics Speak Out, Women's Ordination Conference, Dignity USA, Future Church, CORPUS and the Sophia Center among others gathered in Washington, DC, to look at ways these groups might join together around an initiative which would embrace social justice, spirituality, and church reform.

The CAC staff gathered for a **team-building day** on October 8. We began by sharing our stories so that new staff and "old timers" could



**The CAC's Board of Directors**  
*Ken Hunt, Nima Ward, Susan Sager, Russ Raskob, Mary Joachim Boland, Helen Kopczynski. Not pictured: ...*

