Dear Renewal Ministries Friends,

It’s October, a month in which the Church particularly honors the Rosary as a special way of intercessory and meditative prayer, and Mary’s intercessory and motherly role. One of the gifts of our Catholic faith is being able to benefit from the Church’s long meditation on the mystery of Mary in the Scripture and in the continuing life of the disciples of Jesus. When Jesus gave Mary to John at the foot of the cross the Church has always understood this to mean that he was also giving her to all of his future disciples as a spiritual mother.

One of the remarkable things that we have begun to see in relatively recent centuries is Mary being given a prophetic/evangelistic mission to call human beings back to God.

In the 16th century there was the remarkable intervention of Mary in the “new world” in Mexico City which became the catalyst for millions of conversions to Christ among the indigenous peoples. Then in the 19th century the remarkable intervention of Mary at Lourdes, France, in a country which perhaps up until that time, had most radically turned its back on God and denied the reality of the supernatural, a new “healing spring” came forth that was the cause of physical and spiritual healings for thousands.

And then in 1917 Mary appeared at Fatima in Portugal and warned of an even greater war than WWI and that Russia would spread its error over the entire world unless there was conversion and repentance, but that eventually the loving intervention of Mary would be successful. And there have been a veritable acceleration of reported interventions of Mary throughout the world, including remarkable prophetic interventions in Naju, S. Korea, and Kibeho, Rwanda that have received approval of the local bishops. Perhaps the intervention with the greatest impact in our time is that of Medjugorje. Tens of millions of people have come to this small, remote village and experienced profound conversion or genuine spiritual renewal. The testimonies are bountiful and very impressive.

What has clouded the waters though is the ongoing opposition of the local bishop and there are some historical roots of which most people aren’t aware. When the Turks invaded

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Dear Friends of Renewal Ministries,

In the meantime, whatever the ultimate judgment might be, there is no question in my mind that bountiful graces are being poured out. Mary, in her work through Medjugorje and many other places and ways as well, is clearly the greatest living Catholic evangelist!

Tens of millions of people have come to the small, remote village of Medjugorje and experienced profound conversion or genuine spiritual renewal. A beautiful statue of Mary provides inspiration for prayer on Apparition Hill at Medjugorje.

this region centuries ago the diocesan clergy abandoned their people while the Franciscans stayed. The local bishop has always found it difficult to accept that Mary could be appearing in a Franciscan parish and has tended to interpret it as a Franciscan “plot.” As long as the apparitions are continuing there can be no final discernment and since some prophetic warnings are involved there can be no final judgment until these prophetic warnings come to pass or not. While “official” pilgrimages sponsored by a diocese, for example, are forbidden, “private” pilgrimages are permitted, and hundreds of bishops and Cardinals have come as private pilgrims and have experienced great grace there and openly witness to it. Recently in April 2010 because of the local tensions and history, the Vatican appointed a Commission to review the whole matter. In the meantime, whatever the ultimate judgment might be, there is no question in my mind that bountiful graces are being poured out. Mary, in her work through Medjugorje and many other places and ways as well, is clearly the greatest living Catholic evangelist!

While Anne and I were living in Rome the first half of this year, we spent five days in Medjugorje over Holy Week and Easter Sunday. We were guests of Sr. Emmanuel (some of you may remember her inspiring TV programs that she did for The Choices We Face some years ago) at her house there, which looks right out unto “Cross Mountain” and “Apparition Mountain.” (I won’t attempt the Croatian spellings!) She’s a very holy woman, completely given to doing God’s will and serving the mission of Mary. Every mealtime conversation was like a little retreat as she told story after story of marvelous workings of grace in people’s lives and God’s providential care, oftentimes through St. Joseph or Mary, for her.

For example she told of how several years ago the price of fuel oil was so high that the 2000 liters she needed to heat her house for the winter were out of reach financially. She decided to buy 500 liters. During Morning Prayer with her household, she told St. Joseph that she saw two ways that he could help her—by bringing down the cost of fuel oil, or by multiplying the oil in the tank. St. Joseph chose the latter; the 500 liters not only lasted that winter but the following winter as well.

Another time she told us of how the Lord had wonderfully provided the means to purchase a house with a perfect view of the main two mountains connected with the events there but she needed a carpenter who could make
some good wood furniture for her. She asked St. Joseph to send a good carpenter. Six months went by and still no carpenter. She was wondering why there was such a delay as usually St. Joseph answered her prayers more quickly. Then one day a carpenter appeared at her door and told the amazing story of how he got there. This is Sr. Emmanuel’s account of his story.

He lived in France and had gone through much suffering in his life. His wife had left him and he became emotionally and physically debilitated, needing the help of a wheelchair to go out. One day a friend wheeled him to a field near a Marian shrine where he could sit and get some sun. He was left alone for a while. Then he felt a presence at his left side but wouldn’t turn his head thinking, “Who is this hippie staring at me like this?” (He didn’t like hippies, with their long tunics and long hair!) The man was standing silently and Jean got upset, especially when the man came closer and stood looking at him. Jean tried to ignore him, wishing he would go away. But then Jean looked this man and noticed how beautiful he was. His hair and beard were perfectly in order and his eyes very clear. Looking at him more attentively, he thought, “This guy looks like Jesus!” After a while, seized by the peace and the beauty of the man, a battle took place in his mind. “What if he really is Jesus? Am I crazy?”

The man finally asked him, “Jean, do you recognize me?”

“A qui ai-je l’honneur, Monsieur?” Jean answered.

“Come on, Jean, you have known me for a long time!”

Then Jean was more convinced it was Jesus, and timidly asked, “Are you Jesus?”

The man smiled and said, “I need you for some work, Jean!”

“No way,” Jean said, “I am finished! I am sick, I am done with life!”

Jesus said, “I’ll heal you, Jean! I need you to rebuild your house!”

Jean was completely healed, and in six months he started rebuilding his house which was in utter ruins. He had to carry beams too heavy for even a very strong man but Jesus was at the other end of the beams helping him! When he finally finished, he was upset to not have anything more to do, for he is a very hard working man and needs to be active. So he said to Jesus, “Now, Jesus, I am bored to death!”

That same evening, a pilgrim coming from Medjugorje shared with him our need of a carpen-

ter and he understood that this was Jesus’ answer to his complaint!

I also learned a good lesson from St. Joseph. When he delays his answer, it’s always for a good reason! Jean, whom he picked to help us with our house, wasn’t done yet with his own work with Jesus, so we all had to wait, rather than getting another carpenter!

Sr. Emmanuel has written a book called The Hidden Child of Medjugorje which recounts story after story of remarkable answers to prayer. This book is available on our Reply Card this month, along with a very inspiring show we produced a number of years ago, based on two episodes of The Choices We Face. Entitled Sr. Emmanuel of Medjugorje—Mary’s Messenger, it is now available in DVD format. It contains Sr. Emmanuel’s remarkable testimony of her conversion and call and the essential message of Mary at Medjugorje. This month we are also offering a new book by Fr. George Montague entitled, Mary’s Life in the Spirit, a collection of his meditations on Mary and the role of the Holy Spirit in her life.

While we were there Sr. Emmanuel arranged for us to be present for the daily apparition of Marija Pavlovic-Lunetti and I was touched and impressed, as I was when I saw the video that Bobby Cavnar did almost 30 years ago of the children when they were first experiencing Mary’s visits. I don’t think there’s any way that she (or they) could have faked the rapt focus—no blinking—for the several minutes that I observed. She also seemed very normal, human, and kind—not weird in any way. The village was swarming with people. The lines for confession were extremely long and there were people of all ages there: many young people, couples, families, and more Italian men than I had seen at many Masses while we were in Italy. Whatever the final evaluation may be—and it may be years before such a judgment is possible—there is no doubt in my mind that the Lord is pouring out great graces through Mary at her “special places” around the world, including Medjugorje.

May we all persevere in the paths the Lord has put us on! Thank you for being on the path with us in the mission of Renewal Ministries and your faithful prayers and support that makes the mission possible.

Your brother in Christ.

Ralph Martin

“During Morning Prayer with her household, she told St. Joseph that she saw two ways that he could help her—by bringing down the cost of fuel oil, or by multiplying the oil in the tank. St. Joseph chose the latter; the 500 liters not only lasted that winter but the following winter as well.”
After some challenges in travel involving miscommunication, negotiations, waiting, and praying, our small team (myself, Lloyd and Peter Newburn) arrived safely in Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea shortly before Pentecost Sunday.

On our first morning we gathered at St. Paul’s Church with people from all over the diocese who were involved in the charismatic renewal. Father Simon, the parish priest, joined us for some of the time during the day and a zealous young man named Christopher, who is the head of the St. Peter’s Catholic Students and Youth Association for the diocese was our interpreter. Peter Newburn spoke about God’s love and then Lloyd and I gave presentations on evangelization and how to receive and walk in the freedom of Christ. At the end we prayed for a new baptism in the Holy Spirit and then for various gifts. It went well and was a great personal Pentecost for many!

On Sunday the bishop said Pentecost Mass at 8:30 AM in the parish. It was raining hard and people straggled in until there were around 500 there. In the afternoon we were taken to the Notre Dame Secondary School in Kumdi where the Sisters of Notre Dame run one of the highest ranking schools in the country. We were asked to lead a retreat for 160 senior girls, 17 and 18 years old. On this first night we only had two hours with the girls, so we spent time getting to know one another. Peter Newburn played the guitar and we all sang with the girls and taught them many hand motions for the songs. They knew all the songs and entered readily into the music.

The next morning and throughout the day I taught them about how to receive God’s freedom. That night we showed “The Passion of the Christ” and during the scourging scene almost every one of the girls began to cry and wail. One of the girls was so overcome with emotion that she had to be carried outside. At the end of the movie there was nothing but total silence. The message really hit home!

The next day we taught them about God’s love and led a Life in the Spirit Seminar. After we finished praying with them and it was time to leave, they had a surprise for us. They had taken up a collection of money for us! Although it was not much in actual dollars it represented a huge sacrifice for them. They told us that this money was to be used for us to be able to go to other places and give the same retreat to other young people. We were very touched and the Sisters and the Bishop were astounded. The nuns asked us to come back next year to give them a retreat and also one to all the teachers. They all wanted some of what the Lord had done for the senior girls! The girls came out to say goodbye and they were all crying. God had done something special and we were blessed to be standing close when it happened!

The following morning Archbishop Douglas Young asked us to go back to Fatima Parish where last year we had ministered to 900

They told us that this money was to be used for us to be able to go to other places and give the same retreat to other young people.
kids. Last year there had been a riot one week before we had been there and property was destroyed and one young woman was raped. The trouble had started over a stolen cell phone and the tribal tension already present had exploded. We had given them a retreat and God worked powerfully in their hearts. This year, the Archbishop was going to confirm 63 kids and wanted Lloyd to give a talk to the entire school before the Confirmation. He told us, “I have good news and bad news. The bad news is that there was another riot this year, but the good news is that not one of the students who participated in your retreat last year was a part of it, praise God.” Lloyd gave a wonderful talk, telling them they were called by God to change their country and culture, and to help conform it to the Truth of the Gospel. He challenged them to open their hearts to what God wanted to do in their lives and to eagerly seek after the gifts God was going to pour out that day. The future was in their hands. The kids were really listening and the Archbishop was beaming!

The following morning we flew from mountainous Mt. Hagen to the coastal town of Port Moresby and on to Wewak where we were met by our good friend, Bishop Tony Burgess. We had about 20 minutes to change and eat before walking across the street to the Sound Shell, a structure with a stage and stone benches located next to the Cathedral. By the time we arrived there were at least 1200 people waiting for the event to begin.

We introduced ourselves and then Lloyd spoke. He challenged them to Christian maturity, called the people forward to recommit their lives to Jesus, and then invited the Holy Spirit to come and heal. It was a powerful evening! Afterwards, all the children, probably at least a fourth of the crowd, came up for a blessing. It was very beautiful to hear Lloyd pray over these children who are the future of the Church in Papua New Guinea.

Before Archbishop Douglas Young confirmed 63 young people at Fatima Parish, Lloyd spoke to the youth and challenged them to open their hearts to the Lord and eagerly seek His gifts for them in Confirmation.

Nancy, Lloyd and Peter Newburn (with green guitar) led a three day workshop in the pastoral center for all the charismatic leaders of the area, and on the final day they prayed over each person to receive a “stirring up” of the Spirit in their lives and for many gifts to equip them to return to their parishes to spread the Good News.
He challenged them to open their hearts to what God wanted to do in their lives and to eagerly seek after the gifts God was going to pour out that day. The future was in their hands.

The next day Bishop Tony took us to Boiken to a parish called St. Paul’s. We held a program there last year and people from the churches on the nearby islands and outstations came with much excitement to see what God was going to do this year. The rally began around 7 pm with several hundred people in attendance. After a great time of praise and worship, highlighted by hundreds of kids dancing in front of the stage, Lloyd spoke again of the need for Christian maturity and reliance on the Holy Spirit. Peter Newburn then spoke of God’s love and shared his personal testimony. Lloyd invited people forward—those who had never made an adult decision to make Jesus the Lord of their lives, then those who had fallen away from their original decision to follow Jesus, and finally everyone who wanted to recommit their lives to the absolute Lordship of Jesus. By the end, most of the crowd came forward. He led them in a commitment prayer and then prayed for God to come and touch and heal. It was very powerful and many reported signs and wonders.

The following morning I spoke for a few hours before and then after lunch about our identity as children of the Living God and the responsibility and privilege that come from such a high calling. It had rained all day so our day program moved inside to the church and many stood because of the large crowd. That evening the church was way too small to hold everyone so we moved back outside. People stood in the mud and intermittent showers to hear the Word of God proclaimed. Lloyd spoke on the power of the Holy Spirit and the need to surrender our lives to Him and afterwards called people forward to receive a release of the grace received at Baptism and Confirmation. We then prayed for many gifts of the Holy Spirit, including tongues, faith, healing, administration, prophecy, and evangelization.

The next morning was Holy Trinity Sunday. The church was packed, with people also standing inside and all around the outside. It was a beautiful Mass with some traditional dancers that brought up the Word and the offertory. After Bishop Tony ended the Mass, Lloyd talked about the healing power of the Eucharist and described the healing service that was to follow. As Bishop Tony carried Jesus around the church we prayed for people’s needs. It was a blessed time and the people were thrilled!

Bishop Tony asked us to lead a three-day workshop in the pastoral center for all the charismatic leaders of the area and give them solid formation in Catholic doctrine. We taught on the keys to spiritual freedom, Catholic apologetics and had time for Q & A. The final afternoon we taught on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and prayed over each one to receive a “stirring up” of the Spirit in their lives and then for many gifts to sanctify and equip them to return to their parishes to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. God truly blessed our time together!

Once again we feel that we were fulfilling a divine appointment with all our stops in PNG. The bishops there have a difficult task with very few resources, and the good, orthodox teaching and financial assistance which Renewal Ministries provides them has a profound effect on many people. Next year Archbishop Young has asked us to hold a retreat for his priests and to work again with the youth of the area.
Please Pray…

for all our Catholic leaders—religious and secular, that the Lord will give them the wisdom to perceive truth, the ability to articulate it, and the courage to stand up and fight for it, especially in the face of opposition.

for the continued work of evangelization and renewal throughout the world. May God open doors for new opportunities to spread the Gospel and raise up more laborers for the harvest.

for the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

Thank you for your continued support through prayer as we labor together for the Gospel and the renewal of the Church.

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Ralph’s oldest (and only) son John, who is currently living with his wife in Charlotte, NC, wasn’t able to be present at a reception that Deacon Dan Foley, one of the Renewal Ministries’ board members who lives in the Ann Arbor area, gave to celebrate Ralph and Anne’s return from Rome and the successful completion of his doctorate. He sent the message to Deacon Dan and it was read at the reception. It touched many of us here at Renewal Ministries and we thought you would be inspired by it too. John gave us his permission to share it.

Dear Dad,

I am sad that I cannot be with you and Mom and your dear friends in the celebration of a very impressive and dignified accomplishment. The distance travelled and the short notice preclude me from being there in person. But I wish to join the others in applauding your graduation and attainment of a Doctor degree.

In addition to being a great father and someone that I will always look up to as a man of strength and character, your ability to respond to God’s call in your life is astounding. The unselfish way that you acted upon the Holy Spirit in the early days of the Cursillo movement—abandoning your intellectual pursuits for a higher calling—may have seemed to have been a burden or at the time an insignificant choice. Not only has your career proven that this was the best thing to do, in addition, everything is coming full circle and you are obtaining the intellectual and academic degrees you had originally wanted. God just wanted you to do it his way. He couldn’t let a mind so clear and intelligent escape his grasp. Now he is rewarding your faithfulness to him through the years with this degree.

A job well done, Dad. I love you.

Your son,

John

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One of the ways that our mission to the “nations” is being carried out is through translations of various books that carry our message. Here is a photo of the cover of *The Fulfillment of All Desire* that has been translated into Malayalam, the official language of the State of Kerala in Southern India which is the Catholic heartland.

Here is the cover of *Hungry for God*, recently translated into Korean.

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**They’re Back and You Won’t Want to Miss Them!**

*Renewal Ministries’ School of Evangelization*
- June 21–24, 2012
- The University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

*Renewal Ministries’ School of Catholic Bible Study*
- June 28–July 1, 2012
- The University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

More information and registration details in upcoming newsletters and on the website at [www.renewalministries.net](http://www.renewalministries.net)
“From Mary we learn to surrender to God’s will in all things.
From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone.
From Mary we learn to love Christ her Son and the Son of God!”

Blessed Pope John Paul II

Renewal Ministries is a Catholic ministry committed to renewal and evangelization in the Church. It seeks to proclaim Jesus Christ through its TV and radio outreaches, as well as through books, tapes, conferences, retreats and other international evangelistic events.

Editor
Debra Herbeck
Design
Anne Martin

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October 2011

Mission to Russia
October 5–24
Don & Pat Turbitt and Team

Ann Arbor, MI, Catholic Men’s Night
Christ the King Parish
October 6
Ralph Martin
Contact: www.ctkcc.net

Wildwood, NJ
Diocese of Camden Conference
October 7–9
Ralph Martin
Contact: Patl341@yahoo.com

Mission to Czech Republic
October 10–24
Tom Edwards and Team

Kansas City, MO
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference
October 21–23
Peter Herbeck
Contact Carol Sikorski at: c.sikorski@att.net

*Omaha, NB, Institute for Priestly Formation Council Meetings
October 26
Ralph Martin

Raleigh, NC, Diocesan Conference
October 28–29
Ralph Martin
Contact: CCSRaleigh@earthlink.net

*Ann Arbor, MI
Renewal Ministries’ U.S. Board Meeting
October 30–31
Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields

November 2011

Baltimore, MD, National Catholic Charismatic Leaders and Ministries Conference
November 4–6
Ralph Martin
Contact: (800) 348-2227 or www.nsc-chariscenter.org

Lake Charles, LA
Catholic Charismatic Conference
November 4–5
Peter Herbeck
Contact Mike Nelson: mmelson@chennault.org or Juanita Poland: jpoland@cppj.net

Mission to Mexico City
November 6–12
Jim Murphy and Team
Contact Kathleen Kittle: 734-662-1730 ext 132 or kkittle@renewalministries.net

*Fort Worth, TX, Legatus Chapter Meeting
Thursday, November 10
Ralph Martin

Round Rock, TX, St. William Parish Renewal
November 11–12
Ralph Martin
Contact number: 512-255-4473

Grosse Pointe Shores, MI
St. Paul’s Parish Event
Friday, November 11
Peter Herbeck
Contact Tom Graves at hardsecondserve@yahoo.com

Linthicum, MD
St. Philip Neri Parish Mission
November 20–21
Ralph Martin
Contact: Hellerman4@juno.com

*Events not open to the public