Dear Friends in Christ,

We’re in the midst of Lent when we examine where we stand in our relationship with the Lord and seek His wisdom and grace for continued growth. Sometimes it also helps to take a look at the “big picture” as we reflect more deeply. In this regard I have been struck by some often overlooked aspects of the revelations of Divine Mercy given to St. Faustina. Some people have mistakenly gotten the impression from the helpful emphasis on mercy, that sin is no big deal and that God in His mercy will never allow anyone to be lost. This is not at all what the Scripture and Church teach, nor is it what the Lord showed to St. Faustina.

During her eight day retreat in 1936 an angel led her through hell and she describes what she saw and relates what the Lord told her to write down.

“I am writing this at the command of God, so that no soul may find an excuse by saying there is no hell, or that nobody has ever been there, and so no one can say what it is like.

I, sister Faustina, by the order of God, have visited the abysses of hell so that I might tell souls about it and testify to its existence. I cannot speak about it now; but I have received a command from God to leave it in writing. The devils were full of hatred for me, but they had to obey me at the command of God. What I have written is but a pale shadow of the things I saw. But I noticed one thing: that most of the souls there are those who disbelieved that there is a hell.” (Diary #635, #848)

St. Faustina saw her whole mission as a way of preparing God’s people for the return of the Lord. Lent is certainly an appropriate time to reflect on the shortness of life and the importance of not rejecting the amazing mercy that is extended to us in the Father’s gift of His Son to us in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is also an appropriate time to renew our dedication to pray for the salvation of others and to be ready to “give a reason for the hope that is within us.”

Now is the time when God’s mercy is being extended to the world, but this time will come to an end and the Lord will return

continued on pg 2
in glory to judge the living and the dead. And whether we are alive or not at the Lord’s return, we need to be ready to meet him at any moment as no one knows the day or the hour, not only of the Lord’s return, but of the length of our own lives.

One way in which we try to carry this message to the world is through our weekly television series *The Choices We Face*. Through your generosity and the Lord’s mercy, we are launching our new season of shows this month. Our 27th year! Who would have thought!

We also have just launched a new young adult section of our website. It’s called i.d.916. The i.d. refers to “intentional discipleship” and the 916 is a reference to I Cor. 9:16—“Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!” Check it out and refer any young adults in your life to it as well.

Let’s continue to pray for each other and that the Lord’s message of mercy and of warning reaches greater and greater numbers!

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

P.S. For those of you who didn’t get our email (our occasional between newsletters “news flashes”), I have been appointed by Benedict XVI as a Consultor to the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization for a five year term. The official letters of appointment are posted on our website: www.renewalministries.net. On our home page under Bulletins you’ll see the links to them and to some press releases about the appointment. If you want to make sure you receive our occasional email messages (not too often—maybe about once a month!) just fill in your email address on our reply card and we’ll make sure you don’t miss future messages.
Recently, I read an article in USA TODAY which summarized two surveys on religion done by Baylor University and LifeWay Research. Their conclusions, in part, included these statistics: 46% of Americans say they never wonder about whether they will go to heaven; 44% don’t spend any time seeking eternal wisdom. Although not an in-depth study, it does show us which way the wind is blowing. Recent church statistics reveal the precipitous drop in marriages, baptisms, First Communions and, of course, church attendance of 30–50% and in some areas even 70%.

The term New Evangelization is not just a slogan or a new program in the Catholic Church. It is a cry from the heart—first from Pope Paul VI in Evangelii Nuntiandi and then developed by Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI. Many of us remember John Paul’s words: “I sense the moment has come to commit all of the Church’s energies to a new evangelization and to the mission ad gentes (to all people). No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all peoples.” (Redemptoris Missio, 3)

Those who represent these declining statistics have almost no idea of who they really are and where they are going. There is no sense of their eternal destiny and this lack of vision makes them vulnerable to sin, depression and despair. For a time they “eat, drink and are merry but tomorrow…they will die.”

This Lent, I believe the Lord is inviting us to prepare ourselves by His grace, to fight the battle and bring souls back to Him. It has always been our call but the steep decline in faith requires that we, who have been given so much in faith, hope and love must, by all the means the Spirit inspires, bring the Gospel anew to a world that is quite literally dying. We need to gird our loins by prayer and fasting to prepare us for the battle ahead. Many have been lost! The tide must be stemmed, the breaches repaired, the thorns and thickets removed from the path, to make a straight way for the Lord.

God has taught us much about evangelizing and we have done much, but this is a new time. Many who formerly followed the Lord, or are members of faith-filled families of generations past, have now drifted away or turned their backs on Him.

Only a very humble submission on our part will make it possible. We need new power, wisdom, and courage for this battle. We have brought the Gospel to many mission lands and seen the joy and new life, but now we are called to walk in the silent and cold wastelands of North America and Western Europe where people have grown fat and complacent on the world’s goods and power. We are now called to pierce the darkness and reach out to those who don’t “need” God anymore.

In Iowa before Christmas, an accident took place one morning. A father with his three children in the car lost control on an icy curve. The car slammed into the guard rails and flipped over into the river. Within a few minutes, ten men stopped their cars, jumped into the icy water, and together turned the car over. The father and two children were unconscious. A retired police officer ran for his gun in the car and shot out the window. Another man reached in and pulled out a child. Another knew CPR and went to work right away. The man who took out the first child was badly cut on both arms by the broken glass. The father and children were taken by ambulance to the hospital and treated for hypothermia and released a few days later.

When I read about the accident, I thought of the strength, generosity, and selflessness that inspired those men. Because of their heroism, a whole family was saved. It is a good analogy for what we are being called to do. Many of those to whom the Lord calls us carry the wounds of arrogance and hardness of heart. Many, because of the lack of good catechesis, are simply “clueless” and don’t want to be “bothered” by Christians. Some are close to spiritual death. It is to all of these people that the Lord calls us and if we don’t respond, a Christian civilization could die—to say nothing of each immortal soul. We are called to help rescue them from darkness that they may know the God who truly loves them—the God they seek without knowing. May they find Him through you and may this Lent be a time of spiritual training for the battle for lost souls.
After the long flight we were graciously welcomed to Rwanda by our old friends, Bishop Kizito and Dr. François. Our team included: Savi Culbertson, a great woman of faith from South Carolina who has been working in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal since 1970, Maureen Stankievech, a courageous widow from Canada who is now traveling on missions for Jesus, Kevin Ferrosa, a lay Catholic from London who is Resource Coordinator for Youth and Young Adults for Evangelization in the Westminster Archdiocese, and Noelle Gornik, a young missionary from the U.S. who currently lives in Kampala, Uganda. Kigali is the “City of Eternal Spring,” a beautiful and densely populated city.

The first afternoon, before the arrival of the participants and the opening Mass, the bishop took us to an orphanage in Nazareth City that was founded by John Paul II when he visited in 1990. On this hill, where thousands gathered to be with him, the Pope offered Church money to build a city in order to receive the vast number of orphans.

The grounds are very well kept and there are homes on the surrounding hills, each accommodating about 12 kids and a house mother. The school allows local kids of the surrounding area to attend school so that they too can have the opportunity for education. It is also a form of evangelization since Catholicism is communicated through the teaching. At dusk we walked to the church and sat with the kids to partake in their beautiful Adoration of Jesus.

The next day we traveled to Ruhango Peace Center and the first place the bishop led us was the chapel where people of all ages come day and night for Perpetual Adoration. The priest who looks after the Center gave us a tour of the place and showed us the hole in the door of the church that was cut open during the Genocide. The assassins came to kill those who had fled to the church for safety, as they had all over the country. The believers inside asked for the Lord’s protection and greeted the killers at the door and thanked them for coming to pray with them. The killers looked around and then said, “We will return,” but never did. This Center conducts a monthly outdoor Healing Mass that regularly has 10,000 attendants.

The next morning we started the first class at the seminary at Kabgayi, teaching for three hours then stopping for lunch, resuming from 3-6 pm, and then breaking for Mass. There were about 35 eager leaders of all ages, mostly from the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Some of the participants were brand new and a few had started with Neal Lozano’s first teaching on the five keys to spiritual freedom in 2004. The bishop wanted everyone taught the same things in the same way and this refresher course was an aid to getting everyone on the same track. After several days of teaching about the path to freedom, Lloyd then taught apologetics and some of the team members shared their testimonies. Maureen testified to God’s healing power after the sudden death of her husband of 25 years in an automobile accident, which also killed her aunt and another family member. Seriously injured herself, she was unable to go to her husband’s funeral and didn’t even regain consciousness until a week later in the hospital where she remained for three months.

I had the privilege of praying with four religious sisters; we prayed for almost four hours! These nuns had some very horrific stories and like many, they were deeply and personally impacted by the genocide of family and friends. I believe the teachings on the power of forgiveness to get and stay free, and the time of prayer really helped these sisters.

The workshop for priests and religious sisters at the Seminary at Kabgayi focused on spiritual healing and freedom through prayer and forgiveness. Participants were eager to receive the teaching and many experienced greater freedom and healing as we prayed together at the end of the week.
In an instant her life was forever changed. All the participants in the workshop seemed to really relate to her loss and suffering.

On the last day we broke up into teams and took the entire day, with the help of interpreters, to pray individually over the Rwandans, all of them leaders in the Renewal. It was amazing to see these faithful people, graced with so many gifts, still carrying so much baggage. But that is really the way with all of us; without His grace and mercy where would any of us be? Everyone received some amount of freedom, and many were significantly transformed.

We began our next workshop for priests and religious sisters on Monday morning with Mass at the seminary. Some of the sisters were the heads of their orders, one of the priests was a professor at the seminary and one of the priests was our old friend Fr. Ubald, known as the “healing priest.” Our schedule and the content of the teaching followed the same pattern as the previous week.

On Friday afternoon I had the privilege of praying with four religious sisters; we prayed for almost four hours! These nuns had some very horrific stories and like many, they were deeply and personally impacted by the genocide of family and friends. I believe the teachings on the power of forgiveness to get and stay free, and the time of prayer really helped these sisters. They were so happy; you could just see it on their sweet faces.

The next day we went to Ruhango Peace Center for the monthly outdoor healing Mass. There have been many reported healings from people that have come to this healing Mass. After the Mass officially ended, our team was introduced and each of us spoke to the crowd. Then a young woman, who I had prayed for on one of our first visits, gave a beautiful testimony. When she was a child her mother had cooked meat for the entire family, which was a rarity. The girl ate of the meat for dinner that night and her mother punished and beat her severely. After that, whenever she tried to eat meat she got violently ill. After college she joined the charismatic renewal and attended one of the first programs at which we taught on freedom and forgiveness. She was able to forgive her mother for beating her, and herself for eating the meat. God set her totally free and she can now eat meat.

Lloyd gave a talk on the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives. He then led everyone through a prayer to forgive others, renounce Satan, renounce fear, shame, guilt, unforgiveness, and most importantly to make Jesus their Lord and Savior. The Blessed Sacrament was put in a monstrance and adore and Bishop Kizito then took Jesus to the crowd. The next day a Polish sister who runs a home for blind children reported that two of her blind children who were at Ruhango were healed! After the Mass we had dinner with the priests and the sisters and they were very excited about the day and what they had learned at the workshop. Both Dr. Francois and Bishop Kizito were pleased that there were a number of Superiors, Provincials, and former Provincials at the workshop.

Once again we were so blessed to be a part of what Jesus is doing in Rwanda, but there is still so much to be done. The wounds of the clergy and religious are deep, leaving them unable to minister effectively. When one of these leaders is touched and set free they are able to help hundreds or even thousands with their ministry. At a private meeting with Bishop Servilien Nzakamwita, the Chairman of the Committee on the Laity for the Bishops’ Conference, we were earnestly asked to return next year in November.

Almost 4,000 gathered for the monthly outdoor healing Mass at Ruhango Peace Center where there have been many reported healings. After Mass, Bishop Kizito carried Jesus throughout the crowd and people worshipped and asked the Lord for his healing touch.

The Blessed Sacrament was put in a monstrance and adored and Bishop Kizito then took Jesus to the crowd.

The next day a Polish sister who runs a home for blind children reported that two of her blind children who were at Ruhango were healed!
The Choices We Face in 2012

Patti Mansfield:
Do You Want to Go to Heaven?
You and all Your Household Shall Be Saved

In these two shows, Catholic author and speaker Patti Mansfield teaches about true conversion, accepting Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior, and how to effectively intercede in prayer for loved ones.

Rick Lentz & Bob Tomlinson: Brother-to Brother Ministries

This moving and powerful show recounts the tragic death of Rick’s son, the power of forgiveness, and the founding of a men’s ministry focused on faith formation and discipleship.

Therese Cirner:
A Faith Perspective on Counseling Issues

In this show Catholic author and speaker Therese Cirner describes her work as a clinical counselor and the issues facing clients today.

Fr. John Riccardo:
Uniting Our Suffering to the Cross

A frequent guest and popular speaker, Fr. John encourages viewers to share in the Lord’s Passion and Resurrection by uniting their suffering to the cross.

Andreas Widmer:
The Pope & the CEO

In this show, Andreas Widmer discusses his life as a Pontifical Swiss Guard protecting Pope John Paul II, and the founder of SEVEN Fund, a philanthropic organization promoting enterprise solutions to poverty.

Sharon Doran:
Get into God’s Word!

Sharon speaks candidly about her battle with cancer, how suffering helped her discover more deeply the life-giving power of the Scriptures, and how the Seeking Truth Catholic Bible Study was launched in Omaha, Nebraska.

Vernon Robertson:
Discovering What the Lord Has Planned and Hope for Families

In these two shows, Vernon Robertson, who has been actively involved in Catholic evangelization in Canada for the past 18 years, shares his personal faith journey, discovering God’s unfolding plan for his life, and his Seminar of Hope, in which he teaches others how to pray their “prodigals” back home.

Gaby Pinedo:
Let the Lord Speak to You

In this show, Gaby passionately shares about her walk with Christ, her role as a wife and mother, and her heart for evangelizing and discipling women.
Join Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck for another inspiring season!

Larry Meigs:
*Visiting Angels*
President and CEO of *Visiting Angels, Living Assistance Services*, Larry shares about his personal faith journey and his ministry to the elderly through a national network of senior home care agencies.

Fr. Scott McCaig:
*Story of a Priest*
Fr. Scott describes being drawn to Catholicism, his vocation as a priest and a member of the Companions of the Cross in Ottawa, and he shares highlights from the annual Lift Jesus Higher Rally in Toronto.

Shann Patton & Suzanne Abdalla:
*ArborVitae Women’s Center*
This show focuses on ArborVitae Women’s Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan and its role in providing counseling and medical care for college age women facing unexpected pregnancies.

Other inspiring guests include:
Fr. George Kosicki, Dr. Peter Williamson, Nick Synko, Sarah Grieshaber, Beth Spizarny, and Dr. Eduardo Echeverria and more great shows with Ralph and Peter.

To view these inspiring shows of *The Choices We Face 2012*, tune into EWTN beginning the week of March 6th, 2012 on:
- Tuesdays at 6:00 PM & Fridays at 6:30 AM EST

To see broadcast days and times on other stations in the U.S. and Canada, and EWTN International go to:
- [www.renewalministries.net](http://www.renewalministries.net) and click on TV Shows and TV Schedule.
*The Choices We Face* can also be viewed online any time at [www.renewalministries.net](http://www.renewalministries.net)
March 2012

**Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

**20th Annual Lift Jesus Higher Rally**
*Saturday, March 3, 9 AM–5:30 PM*
Ralph Martin, Sr. Ann Shields, Peter Herbeck, Debbie Herbeck
Contact: 416-251-4255 or Sadie at 905-270-2510 or [www.liftjesus-higher-rally.org](http://www.liftjesus-higher-rally.org)

**Hattiesburg, MS, Parish Mission**
*March 4–5*
Ralph Martin
Contact: dburckel@aol.com

**North Ridgeville, OH, St. Peter’s Parish**
*Tuesday, March 6*
Sr. Ann Shields
Contact Robert Franco: franco@stpeternr.org

**Springfield, VA**

**Diocesan Day of Renewal for Women**
*Saturday, March 10*
Ralph Martin
Contact: t.bermpohl@arlingtondiocese.org

*Events not open to the public*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lithicum, MD, Parish Mission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Sunday, March 11–Monday, March 12</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sr. Ann Shields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Beth Vissari at: <a href="mailto:bvissari@gmail.com">bvissari@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fenton, MI, St. John the Evangelist Evenings of Renewal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Monday, March 12–Tuesday, March 13</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact: <a href="mailto:SSlone@aol.com">SSlone@aol.com</a> or 810-919-8066</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St. Louis, MO, Renewal Conference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>March 16–18</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact: <a href="mailto:janeguenther@archstl.org">janeguenther@archstl.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jackson, MI, Queen of the Miraculous Medal Parish Lenten Mission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Sunday, March 18–Tuesday, March 20</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields, Ralph Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Joan Grant at: 517-783-2748</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>Omaha, NE, Institute for Priestly Formation Council Meeting</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Thursday, March 8</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Martin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arkansas, AR, Institute for Priestly Formation Council Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Thursday, March 8</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Martin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>St. Louis, MO, Legatus Chapter</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Monday, March 19</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Martin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ann Arbor, MI, Christ the King Catholic Church “Moms’ Night Out–Raising Daughters”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Thursday, March 22, 7:00 PM</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Herbeck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact: <a href="mailto:dherbeck@renewalministries.net">dherbeck@renewalministries.net</a> or 734-662-1730 x123</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

They’re Back!
Mark your calendar now for two dynamic events that will strengthen your faith and equip you to serve.
Renewal Ministries and CORE Ministries present:

- **The School of Evangelization**—Wed, June 20–Sun, June 24, 2012
  at The University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

- **The School of Catholic Bible Study**—Thurs, June 28–Sun, July 1, 2012
  at The University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

For more information:
- [www.renewalministries.net](http://www.renewalministries.net) or Dcn Mike Thoennes at 952-465-8293.
- kkittle@renewalministries.net

To register online go to: coreministries.us

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

© 2012 by Renewal Ministries