Dear Fellow Servants of the King,

In the January newsletter I began: “The persecution has begun.” The newsletter is posted on our website if you’d like to re-read it.

Who would have thought that a few weeks after the newsletter was mailed, the current administration in the U.S. would issue directives forcing Catholic institutions and Catholic employers to provide “healthcare” coverage that offers “free” contraceptives, drugs that cause abortions (the “morning after” pill), and sterilizations. While the specific “services” required are in themselves problematical, the deeper issue is that of religious liberty. The State is attempting to require Churches to violate their beliefs. This wasn’t an “accidental gaffe” as some are claiming, but only the latest and boldest in a long line of efforts to silence the Church, and other Christian bodies as well. The secular elites who are now in power, want to drive us back into a ghetto and prevent our voice from being heard in the public square, or our services provided to whomever is in need. The same effort, of course, is also underway in Canada, in various ways.

But as my wife says, the devil who is our real enemy (not the flesh and blood instruments he is able to deceive and use; see Eph 6:12), sometimes overreaches and I think that is the case here. I have never in my lifetime seen such a vigorous, energetic, united and properly outraged response on the part of the American Bishops to anything like what we are seeing now. Thank God for the leadership of men like Cardinal Dolan of New York, Bishop Lori of Connecticut and Archbishop Chaput of Philadelphia, as well as so many more across the country. Shortly after the healthcare directives were issued there was a “firestorm” of protest and eventually the state administration was forced to offer an “accommodation” that doesn’t really solve the problem. For a good, initial analyses of why the “accommodation” doesn’t work see Archbishop Chaput’s comments which we have posted on our website (renewalministries.net). Go to Bulletins on the home page and click on the appropriate link to his article. We will be posting additional information related to this issue as it becomes available.

While our true enemies are the evil spirits at work through human instruments, the weapons of our warfare are primarily spiritual.

“For though we live in the world we are not carrying on a worldly war, for the weapons of our warfare are not worldly but have divine power to destroy strongholds” (2 Cor. 10:3–4).

Our prayer and intercession, our witness to the truth in the lives we live and the words we speak, our financial support of the instruments of this spiritual warfare are what’s most important. Using the appropriate legal, legislative and electoral efforts—exercising our rights as citizens while we still have them, contacting our legislators, voting in elections, are also important.

We at Renewal Ministries intend to continue to speak out as the lies of the evil one infiltrate the Church and society through “plausible liars” (1 Tim. 4:1–2) and to confront them with the spiritual weapons of the Word and Spirit, as we have now for many, many years.

Thank you for standing with us and making this possible.

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin
From the Field

A Crisis of Discipleship for Young Adults

The Church as a whole is facing what some have called a “crisis of discipleship.” In his book, *Render to Caesar*, Archbishop Charles Chaput states: “Many of us (Catholics) witness a kind of practical atheism: paying lip service to God, but living as if he didn’t exist.” Nowhere is this disconnect between faith and action more apparent than among Catholic young adults, ages 18–29.

The results of an extensive 2010 Knights of Columbus Marist Poll directed to self-identified young adult Catholics is very sobering. Those polled on a series of moral questions were asked to indicate if the issue in question was “morally wrong”, “morally acceptable” or “not a moral issue.” When asked about the issue of sex between unmarried people, 80% of those polled said it was either “morally acceptable” or “not a moral issue.” On the question of same-sex marriage, 65% responded it was either “morally acceptable” or “not a moral issue” at all.

When Pope John Paul II was in Toronto for World Youth Day in 2002, I watched an interview with a group of young Catholic women from prominent Catholic colleges and universities in the northeastern part of the US. When asked what they thought of John Paul II, they said they liked his concern for the poor and his love for young people. But then to my surprise, they spoke in detail about why he was wrong on the issues of homosexuality, same-sex marriage, contraception, abortion and pre-marital sex. They attributed his “narrow-mindedness” to his advanced age and Polish nationality, so they didn’t hold it against him. They saw no disconnect between being a Catholic and their opinions about these important moral issues.

This past October, my wife Debbie and I took twenty young adults on a weekend retreat to seek the Lord about beginning an outreach to this age group. The need to propose or re-propose the ideal of Christian discipleship was obvious, but we were sincerely seeking to know if our desire to respond to the need was a “good idea” or a “God idea.” Throughout the weekend these words were on my heart: “Unless the Lord builds a house, those who build it labor in vain” (Psalm 127:1). We spent a substantial amount of time in prayer and discussion. As a result, a number of the young adults shared what they sensed were promptings and words from the Lord.

One young man said that the numbers 916 kept coming to mind as he was praying. When he asked the Lord what it meant he was led to 1 Corinthians 9:16: “For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity has been laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel.” He sensed the Lord inviting the young adults present to respond to the call to mission and evangelization and to form an outreach to their peers based that conviction. Another young woman said she had a dream and awoke with the letters “i.d.” vividly in her mind. She felt that “i.d.” represented both “identity” and “intentional disciples.” She sensed the Lord calling the young adults present to a life of intentional discipleship, and that to be a disciple is a permanent and fundamental part of their identity.

From those two basic inspirations we decided to begin the outreach and to call it “i.d.916.”

Pete Burak now works with us at Renewal Ministries helping to lead our young adult outreach.
The focus of the outreach is to call young people to serious, intentional discipleship and to provide an environment of faith and formation and an ongoing network of support to help them live out that call in the post-high school, college, post-college, new career, and early married stages of life. Inspired by John Paul II’s teaching on the “commissions of a disciple,” we’ve chosen Four Pillars—Conversion, Communion, Orthodoxy and Mission—that embody the elements of discipleship and represent an ideal of life we hope to inspire young people to embrace.

Lastly, we are inviting young adult Catholics, ages 19–30 who might be interested in knowing more about the mission of i.d.916 to join us this June at our annual Renewal Ministries Gathering. We will have a specific i.d.916 track on Saturday with an opportunity for teaching, worship, and fellowship with other young adults. To learn more about i.d.916 go to our website, www.renewalministries.net, and click on the “Young Adult” tab at the top right hand side of the page. Information about the Gathering can also be found on the Renewal Ministries’ homepage.

This past October we held our first young adult retreat to pray for the Lord’s guidance and inspiration for a new outreach and i.d.916 was born!

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Mission to Haiti

Many of the collapsed buildings were still in ruins, rubble filled alleyways and vacant lots, narrow streets were in disrepair, and electricity was intermittent. This was our fourth trip to Haiti, but the first time we had ventured in and around Port Au Prince; we saw firsthand the earthquake conditions that still prevail there. Even after huge amounts of money have been poured into this city, things seemed to be worse rather than better. Many of the collapsed buildings were still in ruins, rubble filled alleyways and vacant lots, narrow streets were in disrepair, and electricity was intermittent. Numerous tent cities were erected after the earthquake and violence, rape, sickness, and crime run rampant there. Garbage and debris filled the surrounding hills and waterways and the smoke of burning garbage was seen and smelled everywhere. In contrast, a few yards from all this hopelessness and despair we saw the beautiful blue sea, sparkling in the sun.

How could so much money have been dropped into Haiti with so little apparent results? We asked our hosts to explain it to us. Some pointed to the corruption in the government. Some said the NGOs used the funds to build comfortable quarters and to purchase expensive vehicles. After advertising costs to raise funds, a salary for the staff, and frequent trips to the US, very little was left for the people.

Others explained the reality with an example. If an organization donates 1000 bags of rice for an orphanage and school, the rice then sits on the dock until they find someone to transport it into the mountains. The transporter usually charges half of whatever they transport, so 500 bags of rice is now gone. The head of the orphanage doesn’t receive a salary so they take half of the remaining rice and sell it to support their family. The remaining rice is given to the teachers and maintenance people for their salaries and the orphanage/school is left with 100 bags of rice to feed hundreds of children for a year. Obviously these are only opinions and the figures are not exact, but the examples gave us a better understanding of the problem.

Being in on the ground floor of a new evangelization program here has its benefits and challenges. Fr. Madelon, the priest in charge of the new missions program has a real passion for bringing people to know Jesus. The Archbishop is strongly behind the program and asked two representatives from each parish to attend our workshop. Fr. Madelon has built up a strong core team of two doctors and two engineers who are well respected and know how to make things happen. But they all face tough challenges in their personal lives as well as starting a new ministry. As time went on they really began to understand that Renewal Ministries is a great resource with lots of information they didn’t even know existed!

As in many countries where we minister, it soon became apparent that nothing ever works the way it should. Transportation for the participants was unreliable and expensive, which caused delays. Cooking for a hundred or so people over wood fires, and washing dishes in water that has to be heated by wood fires was time consuming and difficult. Electricity outages were common. The translators were both Baptist and had never heard of some of the concepts of our Catholic faith. Teaching was slow and laborious, but our separated brothers got a good dose of truth! However, we persevered and I know God was doing great things.

Most of the facilities in the center area of Port Au Prince had been destroyed so we held the evangelization training about 1 ½ hours out of town at a new Don Bosco orphanage and school. Unfortunately the electricity was intermittent and with no electricity we had no
water! Fortunately the temperature was really nice the whole time we were there and at night it was comfortably cool.

We rose early for Mass, had breakfast, and taught until noon. We then had lunch and began again from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. We taught on the theory of evangelization from *Evangelization in the Modern World* and *Mission of the Redeemer*, and about empowerment in the Holy Spirit and techniques of presenting the Gospel message. Nancy taught about freedom in Jesus Christ. One day I gave a basic overview on Catholic apologetics and taught on Marian Doctrine. The Haitian core team then taught on the specific evangelization program the Archdiocese has formulated while we and our interpreters went out to minister programs at various parishes.

At Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish we began with a candlelight procession from the new church building, which is still under construction after nine years, to their temporary outdoor facility. The dimly lit facility was packed with people and it was difficult to see how many were there, but we were told that around 600 people came for the service. Nancy shared part of her testimony and about how to remove blocks to drawing closer to the Lord. I gave the basic Gospel message and invited all to make a deeper commitment to Jesus. We ended the evening with a commissioning and healing service and people really entered in!

Another late afternoon we went to Immaculate Conception Parish. Fr. Raphael was so excited to have us there. Once again we ministered outdoors as the old church had been destroyed and the new one was under construction. There appeared to be around 100 to 150 people in attendance. Father apologized for the low attendance and explained that it was market day and many were working. This parish had a lively music ministry and we had some great praise and worship. I once again began with the basic Gospel message and Nancy taught on the need for forgiveness and led the people in a prayer of deeper commitment to the Lord. We then talked about healing and invited Jesus to come and heal; the testimonies of freedom and healing were really great.

Overall the trip was powerful and a good beginning. Our friend Fr. Madelon and his team now have a much better idea of what the Lord is doing around the world in the area of evangelization and really seem excited to have us back next year to move deeper into the ministry of evangelization. Some of the questions from the participants showed a significant need for personal evangelization. Voodoo is very prevalent and is even accepted by some of the clergy and the participants of our workshop. Broken marriages/divorce is also a big problem. In short, this new commission on evangelization in Port Au Prince has a great heart and zeal, but is looking for more help in its implementation. Renewal Ministries can stand with them as we share our resources and knowledge to build the kingdom.

“I gave the basic Gospel message and invited all to make a deeper commitment to Jesus. We ended the evening with a commissioning and healing service and people really entered in!”
Pat and I were childhood sweethearts who married at age twenty-one. In three years we had three children and bought our home in Providence, R.I. A workaholic by nature, I had a desire to be wealthy. After we married, I worked two and three jobs and Pat worked as a nurse for six years. In the fifth year of our marriage we both felt we needed more in our lives. Pat started reading books on how to expand her mind and spirit. I took up karate and attempted to have a meeting with the Maharishi who gave the Beatles their “mantra”. We didn’t realize it, but most of what we were doing was occult at its base. When you follow the devil and his works he makes you feel good and powerful at first, then he enslaves you.

Within a year of seeking this “power” our lives started to bear the fruit of our folly. After working eighty hours a week for years, I lost large amounts of money in property and stock investments. Simultaneously, Pat was informed she had multiple sclerosis and in time could die from the disease. These were desperate days in our lives. The devil had driven us to our knees and our only hope was God.

I saw a TV show about how Mary had appeared in Garabandal, Spain and I sent for a book about the appearances. When the book arrived the package also contained a brown scapular. When Pat put the scapular over her head her faith returned and all she wanted to do was pray and praise God. Three weeks later she was examined by a team of doctors who concluded that her disease was in remission. The Lord healed her and today, 42 years later she is symptom free!

Because I was so desperate to have my problems fixed I decided to go to Mass every day for one year and then I thought God would “owe” me a great blessing. Well, within that year a priest and a nun from our parish encouraged us to go to a prayer meeting with Fr. John Randall. We did and everything changed.

In 1970 we received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and all heaven broke loose upon us. In 1971 we started our own prayer meeting; in 1975 we led a covenant community. In 1986 I retired from secular work and we have been living by faith ever since. In 1994 we went on our first mission to teach at a school for evangelization in Poland. We have been blessed to preach in over twenty countries and have seen God work every miracle that is listed in the Acts of the Apostles. We are still hungry for God and passionately seek Him.

It is so wonderful and inspiring to see people healed, delivered, and set free when we pray just simple prayers over them. Every week at our prayer meeting in Rhode Island we have people witness to both big and small miracles. We return from every mission trip with great stories of God’s power. After 42 years we still go to daily Mass and still have our weekly Tuesday prayer meeting. We feel so blessed to be able to preach the gospel “in season and out of season.” Our greatest blessings are our three children, thirteen grandchildren, and one great grandchild, who was born December 18, 2011—praise the Lord Jesus Christ! +

Don and Pat Turbitt are country coordinators for Renewal Ministries, working in Ireland, Latvia, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Ukraine and Vietnam. They live in Glocester, Rhode Island and are members of St. Anthony’s parish in North Providence, R.I.
Join Us for the 2012
Annual Renewal Ministries Gathering
“The Battle for the Family”
Friday, June 8th–Sunday, June 10th
Eagle Crest Marriott Hotel
(www.eaglecrestresort.com)
In Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti
just minutes from Detroit Metro Airport

Guest Speakers

Therese Cirner
Licensed Professional Counselor with extensive experience in family counseling.

David Mangan
Teacher and a long-time leader in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal with practical teaching on “keeping our kids Catholic.”

Vernon Robertson
Member of our Canadian Board of Directors will present elements of a powerful seminar on interceding for our children according to the promises of Scripture.

NEW! i.d.916 Special Saturday Sessions for Young Adults ages 18–30
For more information or to register online go to www.renewalministries.net Homepage and click on Renewal Ministries Gathering or contact Kathleen Kittle at kkittle@renewalministries.net or 734-662-1730 ext 132.

The School of Evangelization and The School of Catholic Bible Study are 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

The School of Catholic Bible Study
Thurs, June 28–Sun, July 1, 2012

Both Schools are at The University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

For more information:
www.renewalministries.net or Dcn Mike Thoennes at 952-465-8293
or kkittle@renewalministries.net

To register online go to:
www.coreministries.us

Hearty Congratulations
to Cardinal Thomas Collins,
Renewal Ministries’ Episcopal Advisor in Canada, recently named to the College of Cardinals by Pope Benedict XVI.
On the Road

April 2012
Stockbridge, MA, Divine Mercy Conference
Saturday, April 15
Ralph Martin
Contact: 413-298-1264

Detroit, MI, Crossing the Goal Conference
Saturday, April 21
Peter Herbeck and Crossing the Goal Team
Contact: danny@crossingthegoal.com

Irish Hills, MI, St. Joseph Shrine Parish Event
Sunday, April 22
Peter Herbeck
Contact: frtom@frontier.com or 517-488-1448

Omaha, NE
St. Margaret Mary Parish Mission
Sunday, April 22–Tuesday, April 24
Ralph Martin
Contact: 402-558-2255 or www.smmomaha.net

Helena, MT
30th Annual Diocesan Holy Spirit Conference
April 27–29
Sr. Ann Shields
Contact Mark Frei at: 406-442-5820 x15
or mfrei@diocesehelena.org

*Canton, MI
Talk for Catholic Scripture Study
May 17
Debbie Herbeck

Dallas, TX, Crossing the Goal Conference
Saturday, April 28
Peter Herbeck and Crossing the Goal Team
Contact: danny@crossingthegoal.com

May 2012
Winnipeg, Canada
Annual Catholic Charismatic Conference
May 4–6
Peter & Debbie Herbeck
Contact: crs@catholicrenewalservices.com
or 204-895-7544

Lincoln, NE, Women’s Retreat
May 11–13
Sr. Ann Shields
Contact: al-zach@adolinc.net
or 402-786-2705

Canton, MI
St. Thomas ‘a Becket Parish Event
Saturday, May 12
Peter Herbeck
Contact Charlie Sheffieck at 734-397-3723

*Canton, MI
Talk for Catholic Scripture Study
May 17
Debbie Herbeck

Please Pray...
+ for those who attend Mass occasionally or yearly; may this Lenten and Easter season be a time of deeper conversion and renewal.
+ for our bishops and priests that they may have courage and wisdom in confronting the attack on religious liberty.
+ for courage and wisdom to speak out against the lies of the evil one and the grace and strength to fight the spiritual battle for truth.
+ 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.

Renewal Ministries

In the United States
Episcopal Advisor
Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, St. Louis, MO
President
Ralph Martin

In Canada
Episcopal Advisors
Cardinal Thomas Collins, Toronto
Bishop M. Pearse Lacey, Ret. Auxiliary, Toronto
Chairman of the Board
Msgr. Gregory Smith, Vancouver

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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