Dear Fellow-Heirs of the Kingdom!

Greetings in the Lord! What a privilege it is to be able to say “in the Lord” and what a privi-
lege to be co-heirs, with Jesus, to the Kingdom. It is the Father’s good pleasure to give it to us if
we just trust Him until the end. And He will help us do it!

In this issue you’ll read about and see some photos from our annual Gathering of friends
and supporters—and you’re all invited of course! Next year’s Gathering will be held again
at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the weekend of April
26–28, 2013. For those who are able to come and for those of us who are here “all the time”
it is a time of spiritual encounter and refreshment. It’s quite inspiring to meet so many com-
mitted men and women from all over North America and some from other countries as well.
There are opportunities over the course of the weekend for our country coordinators to share
“live and in-person” what they are seeing God do in the various countries in which they carry
out the mission of Renewal Ministries. A number of the reports include videos, which give
quite a vivid picture of what is happening. Throughout the course of the weekend there are
opportunities to pray silently and alone, to praise joyfully together, and to participate in the
Eucharist together. There are also helpful talks which give both vision and practical guidance
for living in the midst of our current challenges, both personal as well as in the Church and
civil society. We are making our three main Gathering talks available this month in a CD album
titled More Than Conquerors, which will give you a good feel for what the “message” was this
year. You’ll be able to order them by referring to the enclosed reply card.

On another note, there are some situations which we can’t talk about too often or too
specifically because of the sensitive nature of the mission work involved. From time to time
though, we can say some things, although it is best not to “name names.” For many years now
we have been supporting the work of a Catholic deacon in Turkey who very faithfully travels
long distances by bus to share the Gospel with interested families, most often, with no Chris-
tian background. He has helped many come to faith in Christ. Every few months he sends us
a detailed report of his work including the number of our booklets translated into Turkish,
which he has been able to personally give to people. More recently, there are two books which
your support has helped us to translate and print, which he is distributing wisely and strate-
gically. His report also includes a very precise accounting of every cent he has spent in the mis-
sion, including the exact bus fares, etc. When one of our Board Members exclaimed, “I don’t know
of any ministry that gets as much ‘bang for the buck’ as Renewal Ministries,” he had in mind sit-
uations such as I have just described, and what we are able to accomplish with the financial resources
the Lord provides, through you.

Thank you for all you do to make the work of Renewal Ministries possible. In these “dog days of summer” your help is especially appreciated.

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin
“Thank you for a wonderful weekend. It seems the Lord sends this conference and its message exactly when I need it! The religious persecution we are feeling in the public square is hitting the workplace… As a public school teacher I am being persecuted to the point of leading to my dismissal if I don’t become silent about who I am or about Christianity. The Gathering helped me see the spiritual reality away from the confusion of the world and the doubt it casts…”

“I just wanted to thank you for a great experience this past weekend. I guess the easiest way to put it is to say my eyes were opened—thank you. I look forward to seeing you all again soon.”

“I am refreshed and equipped for battle!”

Ralph’s talk on Friday night entitled, Spiritual Combat and the Doctrine of Demons, examined the presence and work of evil in the political and cultural situations of our time and how God’s wisdom can help us to both recognize and resist these deceptions.

One of the great blessings of the Gathering is the fellowship time with other brothers and sisters from around the world. In a society that is increasingly hostile to Christianity, it is encouraging to be with “family” (l to r: Tom and Laraine Harkins, Terry Fernando).

Panni Kunszabo, wife of Deacon Zoli who is a country coordinator for Renewal Ministries, spoke about her work in ministering to the homeless in Budapest, Hungary.

David Mangan, a long-time leader and teacher in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal shared his insights and wisdom in a workshop entitled, Keeping Your Kids Catholic.
“I am so incredibly thankful for being able to be a part of the Gathering this past weekend. Jesus was most definitely watching out for me as I was there and was able begin the process of truly healing my heart and helping me seek His love more than ever.”

Sr. Ann Shields introduces Peter Herbeck before his talk at the Gathering on Saturday.

Fr. Simon Lobo (left) and Fr. Sean Wenger, both priests with the Companions of the Cross in Ottawa, are currently living and serving in the Detroit, Michigan area. They joined us during the Gathering for Mass and Eucharistic Adoration.

Vernon Robertson from Vancouver, BC, a member of Renewal Ministries' Canadian Board of Directors is a gifted teacher and evangelist. He presented a practical workshop on how to pray for family members and loved ones. The full content of his Seminar of Hope can be purchased at www.renewalministries.net.
“When we prayed over the young adults I saw a man clothed in white passing between them with his right hand up. After receiving prayer at the Gathering, I haven’t had my back pain as before.”

“Thank you so much for inviting me to the id916 meeting! Saturday was absolutely amazing. The intensity and sense of purpose was everything I was lacking in the other Catholic/Christian groups I’ve been visiting. It was so encouraging to see young adult Catholics who were passionate about their faith and wanted to do more than watch a movie together once in a while.”

The presence and zeal of so many dedicated young Catholics brought inspiration and hope to the “older folks” at the Gathering!

Patrick Brennan gave a passionate and inspiring account of his life-changing encounter with the Holy Spirit and his new found desire to serve God’s kingdom and purposes. His testimony can be heard at the beginning of Peter’s Gathering talk.

A new feature at the Gathering this year was a special session for young adults, geared toward helping them grow in their identity as disciples through an outreach called i.d.916. More than sixty gathered for an afternoon of fellowship, talks, testimony and prayer. For more information about i.d.916 click on the Young Adult tab at www.renewalministries.net.

The Gathering
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Please Pray...

+ for the work of evangelization in Turkey and for all those who labor tirelessly for the Gospel.
+ for the upcoming missions to Mexico, Latvia, and Uganda this month.
+ 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.
After a very long trip, we arrived in Zimbabwe and were picked up from the airport by Fr. Maximillian Colombo, an amazing priest who had his cross handed to him at birth. He is an albino and in the Zimbabwe culture albinos and twins are considered a curse, and many are simply carried to the bush to die. Witchdoctors and other agents of darkness often kidnap and kill them in order to use their body parts to curse others. This childhood cross made him a fighter and has given him an unusual perspective as well as a great tenderness for families. After receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit he has a desire for greater holiness for himself and others. For three consecutive years he has driven from Harare to Mutare to be with us and he is convinced of the effectiveness of the Unbound model of healing prayer and deliverance. He shared with us that after receiving prayer, his life changed. He now has inner peace and a newfound patience with others. The Bishop noticed the change and has put Fr. Max in charge of many things in the diocese.

Fr. Max took us to his parish in Bindura to eat and rest until we left for Christ the King, a small parish in nearby Chipadze. We spent a day and a half teaching 50–60 lay leaders from the Charismatic Renewal. The next evening we were taken to a conference at a school in Chiwaridzo, a place that accommodated the 1,000 participants. Mass was supposed to start at 5:30 pm but due to logistical problems it didn’t begin until nearly 8:00. African Masses, typically at least two hours long, are impossible to describe, you really need to be there! The sounds, the colors, the faith of the people are so beautiful. We were enjoying all the singing and dancing as the priests processed to the altar, and then a woman dressed in black came up and slugged Fr. Max in the face! A short ruckus ensued and he ordered her to sit on the floor. The ushers came up to take her out, but Father said to let her stay. Throughout the consecration she stayed on the floor, with her back to us. It was quite a display of the opposing forces of good and evil. Father kept his eye on her the entire time, never turning his back to her. At the end of Mass she came out of nowhere and slugged an altar boy! More about her later...

The next day I began to teach on Freedom in Christ in the morning sessions and I taught until 5 pm. During all the breaks lines formed for people who needed prayer. Some had family problems and some had sickness such as AIDS. I prayed with a mother who got AIDS from her husband and her daughter was born with it. Later in the afternoon I walked outside to find

“We led her through a prayer of forgiving, renunciation and accepting Jesus as her Lord and Savior. She began to change right before our eyes. The next morning we saw her, dressed up and sitting at Mass like all the others.”

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Lloyd praying with the “slugger.” She was pretty violent, was being restrained and would not look at Lloyd. Anger is generally a sign of unforgiveness and Lloyd apologized to her for any harm a man had ever done to her. After Lloyd repeatedly told her she was safe and that we loved her she began to respond. We led her through a prayer of forgiving, renunciation and accepting Jesus as her Lord and Savior. She began to change right before our eyes. The next morning we saw her, dressed up and sitting at Mass like all the others. We were amazed at the transformation. Father said that she was taken to the witchdoctor many times and was steeped in it throughout childhood. Jesus had set her free.

Lloyd prayed with a couple involved in litigation in the courts for many years. They had won a large settlement, but the company continually appealed and they were out of money. The wife had been trying to get a job for months, but to no avail. They were complaining about all this. Lloyd said, “You need to stop complaining and start thanking God for what you have. To heck with money, rejoice in your wife!” They both laughed and said they would do it. They left and you could see their joy and peace. On Monday the husband traveled 30 minutes to the Pastoral center to tell us how that morning his wife received five job offers!

Saturday evening the Mass started late again and Fr. Max invited a very important politician, the governor of the province, to give a reflection on his new found faith in Jesus. He was so excited; Jesus was now important to him. By the time we finished it was nearly 10 pm and no one had eaten yet. So Father suggested that we go back to our houses and eat and come back so Lloyd could begin teaching around midnight. All 1000 people would still have to be fed at the conference! We made the executive decision that the evening could go on without us. The Africans seem to have no problem staying up all night, but we wanted our teaching to be clear and concise.

I began the Sunday morning teaching on Blessings of the Father, and either most participants were sleeping or sprawled on the chairs or almost asleep because they stayed up very late! It was Mercy Sunday and a procession with Divine Mercy pictures of Jesus big and small, dominated the procession.

The next day we started teaching at the Catholic Centre of Manhenga. From Tuesday to Thursday I taught on Freedom in Christ and Lloyd taught apologetics. Every day at our host’s house we prayed for Faith who is blind. Faith has a tumor pressing on her eyes in front of her brain and they are afraid to operate and make her worse. One of the days she smiled and said the “mist” was lighter and her face was filled with hope.

On our last day we attended the Zimbabwe Independence Day Celebration put on by the locals. Father thought it would help relations between Church and state and would be a chance to evangelize. Some of the teens and...
I put together a skit on Freedom in Christ to perform at the celebration. We walked to a soccer field with waist high grass and performed the skit. Afterwards, they ask us to sing and we all got up and lifted Jesus higher in the overgrown field.

That evening we had a healing session and prayed for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Father left Jesus on the altar, wrapping the Chalice like a shroud. Many great things happened! The last session began with three testimonies of healing from the night before. One “young” lady in her 70s said, “I’m going to show you something I have never been able to do.” On the day she arrived she walked in great pain and discomfort. This morning she began marching, her knees raised to waist level with the cheers and applause from everyone. She then ran around the Centre to the delight of all. A seventeen year old boy who had a severe hearing problem came forward and testified that God had done a miracle and he could now hear clearly. Another older woman who had walked with a crutch came forward and no longer used it! She too ran around and gave glory to God.

After we finished teaching we drove six hours to Mutare. We arrived after dark and the youth from rural areas, ranging from pre-teens to late 20’s were waiting for us. During our session with them they were open and the Lord quickly broke through.

Our next event was a couples’ retreat in a school house. The little 15x35’ room seemed perfect for the amount of people, but with each passing hour more trickled in. In Africa the couples do not sit together. The women, some with babies, took up most of the benches and the men sat in the back. A school teacher with very good English interpreted for us and the participants sat on backless benches originally made for children for four hours with total attention. American Pentecostalism is big business here; the prosperity Gospel promises a way out of poverty and is readily accepted. Catholics are leaving the Church and these Catholics wanted to know how to defend their faith and how to answer family members with answers from the Bible. Of the many Africans I pray for, most come from broken homes. Most fathers are never available to their kids and parents don’t outwardly express love to the children or each other in public or even in their home. In the afternoon both Lloyd and I talked about marriage and having Christ as the center. At the beginning of the next session, one husband came up and whispered to me, “We would like to sit with our wives but we are too shy, so would you tell everyone that they have to sit together?” We did just that and they loved it.

Sunday began with Mass with Fr. Maringe, the Bishop’s personal secretary, the Vicar General of the Diocese, the Liaison of the Charismatic Renewal, and the Spiritual Director of the Franciscan Sisters, whom we had met when he came to the Ugandan Priests’ retreat. On Monday afternoon we departed for Emmaus Centre at Rusape for a conference for youth and charismatic renewal leaders. Emmaus Centre, a small Catholic charismatic community was inspired by the original Emmaus Centre in Uganda. These young people are tremendously committed to evangelization and they have an incredible gift of praise and worship that is used all over Zimbabwe. We led a small evening session; there were about 100 people in the small courtyard and it was very cold.

In the morning I spoke to the youth, and Lloyd was with the charismatic leaders at a nearby school. In the afternoon we switched. After Mass and dinner we began the evening session with singing. There was only one musician on a keyboard but after the worship leaders started singing he played along and then drums joined in. The dancing rose to a fevered pitch and people began to sing in tongues and it was beautiful. Lloyd saw that God was doing something special and these young people were being touched, so he cancelled his talk. Fr. Max brought “the slugger” to the youth conference and she sat through all of the talks and wholeheartedly joined in the worship. The next day we continued teaching to both the youth and the adult leaders. Even a major storm couldn’t dampen the people’s spirits, although the driving rain made it hard for people to hear.

Fr. Maringe asked me to meet with his diocesan staff, a religious sister and two lay women from the Social Communication Department to teach them how to edit movies on Windows Moviemaker. Working for several hours we made some trial movies, and I am confident they can continue and grow. We can only thank God for what He did in Zimbabwe to bring healing and for using us to write His love on the hearts of His people! This was a very fruitful trip.
On the Road

August 2012

Mission to Hungary
June 20–September 20
Deacon Steve Tomashesfski

Mission to Mexico
July 29–August 4
Jim Murphy and Team
Contact: Kathleen at kkittle@renewalministries.net or 734-662-1730, x132

Scranton, PA
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference
August 3–5
Ralph Martin
Contact Bob Valiante at: 570-344-2214 or cc@comcast.net

*Birmingham, AL, Crossing the Goal Taping
August 6–8
Peter Herbeck and Crossing the Goal Team

St. Paul, MN
Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Conference
August 10–12
Peter Herbeck
Contact Deacon Michael Thoennes at dr.mike@tds.net

Mission to Latvia
August 15–27
Don & Pat Turbitt and Team
Contact: Kathleen at kkittle@renewalministries.net or 734-662-1730, x132

Mission to Uganda
August 18–27
Lloyd & Nancy Greenhaw and Team
Contact: Kathleen at kkittle@renewalministries.net or 734-662-1730, x132

September 2012

Lincoln, Nebraska
Diocese Evangelization Conference
September 7–8
Ralph Martin, Sr. Ann Shields
Contact: 402-488-2040

Ann Arbor, MI
*The Choices We Face Television Taping
September 10–14, 17–18, 24–28
Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck

St. Paul, MN, Understanding the Council after Fifty Years Conference
September 20–21
Ralph Martin
Contact: www.stthomas.edu/theology/vatican2

*Ann Arbor, MI
RM Country Coordinator Meetings
September 20–23
Peter Herbeck & Country Coordinators

Detroit, MI, Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Vatican II and the New Evangelization Conference
September 21–22
Ralph Martin
Contact: www.shms.edu

*Events not open to the public

°My daughter, know that you give Me greater glory by a single act of obedience than by long prayers and mortifications.’
St. Faustina, Divine Mercy in my Soul (894)

Save the Date!
Renewal Ministries Gathering 2013
April 26–28, 2013
Marriott Eagle Crest Hotel
Ann Arbor, Michigan

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.

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