**Dear Sisters and Brothers,**

We don’t speak about our finances very much and are continually amazed at how the Lord has provided what we have needed for more than 33 years now to carry out the work He has entrusted to us. However, as we assess the projects for the coming year we foresee a shortfall that will limit our ability to do what we were planning unless our income increases. The shortfall isn’t great but it is significant enough to cause us to preliminarily designate some missions for possible cancellation unless the income increases. This isn’t an “emergency appeal,” but I do want to let you, our faithful friends, know of this need, in case any of you are in a position to help. I know many of you are giving according to what seems good to you and the Holy Spirit, sometimes, very sacrificially. But perhaps some of you may be able to do more if you are informed of this need. Consider yourself duly informed!

There isn’t a day that goes by without hearing from people about how the work of Renewal Ministries is drawing them back towards the faith or into a deeper commitment.

In these challenging times we pledge to continue to give ourselves as fully as we know how so that His Word may go out, His Church may be strengthened, and lost souls brought to the Lord.

Gratefully,

Ralph Martin
Faith That Overcomes the World

IN SETTING ASIDE this Year of Faith, Pope Benedict’s hope is that all the baptized will rediscover the meaning and power of biblical faith. St. John says, “Our faith is the victory that overcomes the world.” (1 Jn 5:4) One helpful way to better understand faith’s power is to understand what the bible means by “the world” and the unique power faith has to “overcome” it.

The scriptures use the Greek word “cosmos” which has two basic meanings. The first refers to the universe and all that God has created. “And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.” (Genesis 1:31) Cosmos also refers to the dimension of God’s creation that has come under the domination of the devil, who Jesus described as, “the prince of this world.” (Jn 12:31)

God’s creation, all that he has made, is good. But, there is a dimension of all of creation that has come under what St. Paul describes as the ‘dominion of darkness.’

The world is that constellation of forces—political, social, economic, educational, relational, volitional and spiritual—under the dominion of the devil that are set against the will of God. The kingdom of God is that place where God’s will is welcomed, honored and obeyed.

Every civilization in human history has been subject to the battle between these two competing forces, and ours is no different. C.S. Lewis described it this way: “That is the key to history. Terrific energy is expended—civilizations are built up—excellent institutions devised; but each time something goes wrong. Some fatal flaw always brings the selfish and cruel people to the top and it all slides back into misery and ruin. In fact, the machine conks. It seems to start up all right and runs a few yards, and then it breaks down. They are trying to run it on the wrong juice. That is what Satan has done to us human beings.” (Mere Christianity, p. 50)

Jesus and the World

Jesus’ entire mission was played out against the backdrop of this fallen dimension of the world. He knew what he was up against. He told the truth about the world: “The world…hates me because I testify of it that its works are evil.” (Jn 7:7) The evil he exposed is the secret rancor toward God, the resistance to God’s will that drives “the world rulers of this present darkness.” (Eph 6:12) Jesus exposed that same resistance, the presence of the world, in the hearts of men: “And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” (Jn 3:19)

This is the divine diagnosis of the true condition of the human heart. Man has connived with the powers of Satan and the world against God.
Deep in his heart, at his core, man resists God. Jesus stated it bluntly: “men loved darkness rather than light.” (Jn 3:19) This is the truth about us: “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Rom 3:23)

Jesus has passed judgment on this resistance to God; he has come to “judge the world” (Rom 3:6). “Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out…” (Jn 12:31)

Jesus has literally come to destroy every force that is set against the Father’s will, against his kingdom:

“There comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet…all things must be subjected to him.” (1 Cor 15:24-27)

It’s important for us to understand that Jesus has not come to “fix” the world. The world’s destiny is set. The hour of its judgment has come: “Heaven and earth will pass away…” (Mt 24:34), “the world will pass away, and the desires of it…” (Jn 1:2:17)

He Has Come to Save
Jesus hasn’t come to fix the world, he has “come to seek and save the lost” (Lk 19:10), to rescue from the world a people for his own. “This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” (1 Tm 2:15)

His message was simple and direct: “Repent, the kingdom of God is at hand.” (Mk 1:15) He pursued the lost; he called them out of the world to change the direction of their lives and to make a conscious break from the world’s rebellion against the Father. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Father has “…delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Col 1:13-14)

The Victory of Our Faith
St. Paul describes this transfer of kingdoms in this way:

“But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ…for by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God.” (Eph 2:4-5,8)

Faith unites us to Jesus’ victory over the world. Jesus exists now in glory. He has passed from death to life. The new creation promised by the Father is a reality, it has begun in Jesus. The world as we know it will pass away, but the life of God’s kingdom, given to us in Jesus will never pass away!

Our Relationship to the World
We are living in challenging times. The faith of many is being shaken. The recent election, the political divide in our country, looming debt, wars and rumors of wars, violence in our cities, attacks against religious freedom, and the re-definition of marriage have produced discouragement, even despair in many.

At times like these faith can give us eyes to see beyond the immediate struggles. We are all called to be “in the world,” that is, to engage fully in seeking to bring about a just and fraternal society, to promote the common good, to live out our particular vocations and to do all we can to be salt and light. But as we engage the world, we need to remember what Jesus said, “I have chosen you out of the world…” (Jn 15:19)

We are citizens of heaven; the kingdom we have entered into by faith is not of this world. This is not our home. And despite the struggles, hardships, and setbacks we may experience in this world, we do not lose hope. By faith, we know “the final age of the world is with us, and (in Jesus) the renewal of the world is irrevocably under way.” (CCC 670)

With the knowledge of our share in Jesus’ ultimate triumph, we press on with great confidence in his personal commission to each one of us to “seek and save the lost.”

“You Have Need of Endurance”
2013 Renewal Ministries Gathering
Friday, April 26-Sunday, April 28
Marriot at Eagle Crest, Ypsilanti, Michigan

Join the Renewal Ministries Team and Special Guest Speakers:
Dr. Mary Healy and Fr. Brendan Williams

For more information or to register go to: www.renewalministries.net or call Kathleen at 734-662-1730 x132
While I was walking out, I saw a young woman weeping. I asked her if I could help. She said that she did not even know about this meeting, but came and that “my whole life has changed because of this night.”

Our team for this outreach to Slovakia and the Czech Republic included six members from the U.S. as well as six others from Slovakia and the Czech Republic who joined us for portions of our mission. We were particularly challenged by the absence of Tom Edwards, our country coordinator, due to his wife’s illness. I led the team at Tom’s request. In the Czech Republic we were short of translators due to illness. As we offered our loaves and fishes, the Holy Spirit multiplied them into countless blessings.

Our first event began at a suburban parish in Presov with the 5:00 Mass and our program. This was the official kick-off program for the city-wide mission and our first time working in this parish. The Dean of the area did not believe many would attend since there seemed to be a lack of interest in the parish and not much happening there. He seemed very pleased with our program which consisted of a presentation on the New Evangelization and personal prayer ministry by our team. There were more than 300 in attendance.

The next morning we departed for Velky Slavkov in the High Tetra mountains where the MAJAK community from Kosice was holding a retreat for approximately 80 young adults. The group was young and vibrant and at various stages in their walk in the Spirit. The morning session included talks on the New Evangelization, the Year of Faith, and the Call to Holiness, team testimonies, and a beautiful charismatic Mass. There were three simultaneous workshops that afternoon: Growing as a Woman of God; Growing as a Man of God; and Called by Name. The evening session consisted of anointed praise and worship, intercession, healing, and empowerment prayer. The team prayed for hours with people.

We departed at noon for Orava where we were hosted by Fr. Branislav Kozuch and housed at the youth center. That evening we presented at a local parish event to many who had just received Confirmation. Personal prayer followed, many having requests for growth in holiness and the courage to evangelize.

We kept very busy in Orava with a variety of programs, some of them quite challenging. These included two programs with social work students at a Catholic university. Not all of these students were believers. The first program for about 55 students included a presentation on the importance of Jesus in our lives, the choices we make and the role and assistance of the Holy Spirit in healthcare. On the second day we met at the Kool Klub coffee house with about 30 social work students. Various team members shared testimonies followed by small group time. Some groups were fruitful in that students asked questions about Jesus and Christianity.

One evening we had an open meeting in a nearby parish and about 150 people came. John Mathe shared his testimony of conversion and I spoke briefly on Faith and Holiness. Praise and worship followed with a strong anointing of the Holy Spirit. Prayer ministry was deep and powerful. While I was walking out, I saw a young woman weeping. I asked her if I could help. She said that she did not even know about this meeting, but came and that “my whole life has changed because of this night.”

Additional activities in Orava included a meeting with seven priests and one religious sister who are working in the area of evangelization, a meeting with parents of children with addictions, the kickoff meeting for a mandatory retreat for teens from the Catholic school, and a workshop for middle-aged mothers.

We headed to Bratislava for a youth Mass celebrated by Fr. Jan Buc, an old friend of Renewal Ministries. We shared the Gospel message and spent considerable time in prayer ministry for the many youth there. The pastor of the church was present and he was first in line for personal prayer. On Thursday we presented a day of healing for the leaders of the NAIM Community.
There were many tears as the Lord ministered to this community. One leader said his life was changed through the ministry of the team.

We had the opportunity to present to two groups (about 65 students in each) of Catholic high school students. The principal of the school was a convert. His love for the Church and his students was very evident. We had the opportunity to talk about sexuality, temptation, pornography, and purity and the students were attentive. We led them in a prayer to choose Christ. The principal’s daughter attended one of the sessions and told her father it was “incredible.”

One of the most interesting meetings was at a Senior Club in Fulnek with a group of socially and politically active elders. Some are believers, but many are communists. When we explained that we were there on mission, the atmosphere became tense. Gloria Gray shared a testimony and the leaders became restless. One started to thank us for coming and invited us to come and eat. My translator said they were trying to shut the meeting down. Then a woman asked a question about conditions of the elderly in the U.S. The Holy Spirit quickly provided the opportunity to talk about basic conditions common to elderly, which quickly turned to a presentation of the gospel message and prayer to offer lives to Jesus. Seeds were planted that day! The mayor graciously thanked us saying that she “read somewhere that God is love so we should love each other.”

We then headed to Brno where we held two programs for students at the finest Catholic high school there. I spoke about choices we make and eternal consequences. Mary George spoke about choosing to live for Jesus. All the team members participated and we were well received.

That evening in a 15th century Franciscan monastery, we held a three hour program with praise and worship, a testimony and a teaching on evangelization. The large church was almost full. Nearly all asked for prayer ministry. In the presence of the exposed Blessed Sacrament we prayed for hours for grace for deeper relationship with Christ, courage to evangelize, healing of depression, living God’s will, purity, healing of family issues/marriages and much more. The priest who invited us was amazed at the healing presence of God during the program. He asked if we would return and do a parish mission.

Many seeds of faith were planted on this mission. Many were presented with the basic gospel message and encouraged to evangelize. Many were touched through prayer ministry. Priests were blessed by the team and grateful for our service.

Cecelia Ritchey, a first time missionary wrote: “I really had no expectations in joining the team; I only hoped that I would be a help to others during the mission. Some of my spiritual gifts were stretched farther than I could have imagined and I saw God repeatedly give me what I needed and make up for the rest. No vacation was ever better. I offered myself and learned many things in return.”

One man, separated from his wife for years, was convicted by the Lord to forgive and reconcile with her. He came up for prayer the next night holding hands with his wife.

In the presence of the exposed Blessed Sacrament we prayed for hours for grace for deeper relationship with Christ, courage to evangelize, healing of depression, living God’s will, purity, healing of family issues/marriages and much more.
The Choices We Face in 2013

Lila Rose
Live Action
A recent UCLA graduate, Lila has dedicated herself to building a culture of life and ending abortion. As the founder and president of Live Action, Lila shares about its work and mission which seeks to uncover the evils of the abortion industry.

Fr. Jonathan Morris
God Wants You Happy
Fr. Jonathan, parochial vicar at the Basilica of St. Patrick’s Old Cathedral in New York City, and news contributor for the Fox News Channel shares about his book *God Wants You Happy*, and his own journey as a priest.

Patti Mansfield
The Father Himself Loves You
Author and speaker Patti Mansfield speaks about trusting in the providence of God the Father.

You Be the One!
Patti and Ralph consider what it takes to fulfill the mission that God has entrusted to each one of us.

Richard Lane
Taking the Gospel to the Streets
Richard describes his Catholic conversion and his ministry as a dynamic preacher and evangelist.

Melinda Selmys
Sexual Authenticity
In this show Catholic convert and author Melinda Selmys describes her journey from a staunch atheist involved in the gay lifestyle, to a devout Catholic wife and mother.

Fr. John Riccardo
The Heart of Discipleship
A regular guest and popular speaker, Fr. John discusses the need for Catholic discipleship and what it takes to be a true disciple of Christ.

Discovering the Commandments
Fr. John focuses on true conversion and what it means to live the greatest commandment.

Please Pray...

- that the Lord will provide the financial resources necessary for Renewal Ministries to continue the work of evangelization throughout the world.
- that the Lord will work powerfully to bring deeper conversion through all the parish missions, retreats, and conferences during Lent.
- for the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.
Other inspiring guests include: Karen Dwyer, Erin von Uffel & Lorraine Fusaro, Pete Burak, Fr. Simon Lobo, Heidemarie Martin, Patrick Brennan, Genie Summers, Dave Nodar and more great shows with Ralph and Peter together!

To view *The Choices We Face* 2013, tune into EWTN beginning the week of March 5, 2013 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 and click on TV Shows and TV Schedule.
*The Choices We Face* can also be viewed online at any time at www.renewalministries.net.
March 2013

**Toronto, Canada, Lift Jesus Higher Rally**
Saturday, March 2, 9 am-5:30 pm
Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields, Debbie Herbeck, Pete Burak
Contact: www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.org

**Ann Arbor, MI, i.d.916 Young Adult Monthly Meeting**
Thursday, March 7, 6:15-9:00 pm
Debbie Herbeck
RSVP on i.d.916 Facebook Page or at: intentionaldisciples916@gmail.com or pburak10@gmail.com

**St. Augustine, FL**
**Diocesan Eucharistic Congress**
March 8-9
Ralph Martin
Contact: cretzer@dosafl.com

**Halifax, Nova Scotia**
**St. Benedict Parish Mission**
March 8-13
Peter Herbeck
Contact: Kate Robinson at 902-443-0725 or kater@saintbenedict.ca

**Camden, NJ, Diocesan Teaching Day on the New Evangelization**
Tuesday, March 12
Ralph Martin
Contact: Andres.arango@camdendiocese.org

**Blue Bell, PA**
**Regina Coeli Academies Breakfast**
Wednesday, March 13
Ralph Martin
Contact: BarbPaulH@aol.com

**Omaha, NE, Institute for Priestly Formation Council Meeting**
Thursday, March 14
Ralph Martin

**Ann Arbor, MI**
**Heart to Heart Women’s Apostolate**
Thursday, March 14
Debbie Herbeck
Contact: 734-930-7497 or www.hearttoheartcwa.com

**Baltimore, MD, Catholic Men’s Conference**
Saturday, March 16
Ralph Martin
Contact: www.catholicmensfellowship.com

**Linthicum, MD, St. Philip Neri Parish Mission**
March 17-18
Ralph Martin
Contact: Hellerman4@juno.com or saintphilipnerichurch.com

**Lansing, MI**
**Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Mission**
March 17-18
Sr. Ann Shields
March 19
Ralph Martin
March 20
Peter Herbeck
Contact: hinmanl@ihmlansing.org or immaculateheartofmarylansing.catholicweb.com

**Detroit, MI, Legatus Chapter Meeting**
March 21
Ralph Martin

*Events not open to the public

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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