By the time you get this we will have a new Pope! And a new phase of the Church’s life will have begun. Let’s pray for him, that the Lord give him wisdom and courage and inspire him mightily!

While Popes and Bishops, and ourselves come and go, the fundamental mission of Christ and the Church remains the same. We here at Renewal Ministries recommit ourselves to bringing the salvific truths of the Gospel and the saving presence of Christ to all the world – from the unpaved roads of Liberia to the contemporary “pubs” of modern America where young people gather and where the Gospel is also being preached, to the seminar rooms where leadership gathers.

Many doors continue to open for all of us here. Since we’ve last communicated Anne and I were privileged to be part of a very special event. Forty one American Bishops (including seven Archbishops) gathered in Orlando, FL for a special seminar on the New Evangelization. I was invited to give a talk each morning to the Bishops and gave talks on the New Evangelization, the New Pentecost, and the necessity of holiness. For those of you who have been friends of Renewal Ministries for any length of time, you are deeply familiar with these themes. The talks were well received and the time spent with the Bishops during meals and informal conversations was very worthwhile. There was a great humility and honesty among the Bishops and a deep awareness that the challenges facing the Church today can only be met by a deeper turning to God and imploring him for his wisdom. I was very encouraged. It was a privilege to be with them.

The sponsoring body for this important seminar was the Catholic Leadership Institute (www.catholicleaders.org) based in the Philadelphia area, which is providing really important resources for the Church in the US and Canada. They are providing training in the very best leadership practices to clergy, Bishops and diocesan staffs throughout North America. Their program, Good Leaders, Good Shepherds, directed towards diocesan priests, is perhaps best known but they are now providing consulting services to dioceses as well as training opportunities for Bishops. For example, at the seminar a delegation from Boston described a very important and impressive effort they are engaged in to help the Archdiocese of Boston reorient itself around the New Evangelization.

It was a privilege to participate in the Liturgy with so many Bishops.

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Another encouraging development is to see dynamic outreaches to young adults blossom right in our “backyard.” A vibrant Theology on Tap Southeastern Michigan has celebrated its first year of monthly meetings and I was blessed to give the talk at it recently. They meet at Connor O’Neil’s, a local Irish pub in Ann Arbor and about 130 young people showed up the night I spoke to them. Also, Renewal Ministries is directly sponsoring i.d.916, another outreach to young adults. The “i.d.” refers to intentional disciples; helping young adults discover their deepest identity as disciples who with St. Paul proclaim, “Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel.” (1 Cor. 9:16) You’ll be getting regular reports about this important ministry in future newsletters.

I can’t tell you how inspired I am by our country coordinators who at great sacrifice travel to remote parts of the world to preach the saving Gospel of Christ – with great effect. Don’t miss the account of our recent mission to Liberia in this issue.

Thanks for your ongoing support and prayers.

Ralph Martin

Your brother in Christ,
Ralph Martin
Stay With Us Lord!

IN THIS GLORIOUS SEASON of Easter, one of the passages from Scripture that most inspires me regarding the power of the resurrection is the account of the disciples on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24. You know the story: two disciples are leaving the city, totally demoralized by the crucifixion and death of Jesus. They are confused, bewildered, perhaps even frightened that a similar fate might be in store for them as the followers of Jesus. Jesus himself walks beside them, listens to their conversation and then asks them what they are talking about: "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" Scripture tells us that "their eyes were kept from recognizing him." Isn’t that true for us? When we are burdened with many sorrows or shocked by a tragedy, it is difficult to "see" Jesus. Our pain can "blind" us. So often we say, "Where is God in the middle of this awful event?" Yet, as with these disciples, God is right there with us, listening to us, desiring to teach us, shepherd us and guide us through the pain.

The disciples are encouraged by the Lord to tell Him what grief has befallen them: “That the one they had hoped to redeem Israel was now dead—and for three days! They wanted to emphasize that He truly was dead! And Jesus’ response? “O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken…and beginning with Moses and all the prophets he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself…” Couldn’t Jesus say the same thing to us today? How slow of heart we are to believe!

They continue walking and talking (a marvelous example of evangelism) and when they reach the village, Jesus appears to be leaving them now that they are at their destination. "But they constrained him. 'Stay with us for it is toward evening and the day is far spent.'” The disciples are inspired, moved by Jesus’ teaching. His words are a comfort in the midst of their shock and bewilderment and they do not want him to leave. When we are in the midst of tragedies and sorrowful burdens that feel too heavy to carry, do we turn to the words of Jesus? Do we read and ponder and wait upon the Lord’s merciful help? Jesus wants to

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feed us through His Word; He wants to point out his truth and how it applies to our circumstances; he wants to comfort and console, but we need like those first disciples, to listen to Him. Jesus will never force us. These disciples listened in the midst of their grief and God spoke not only to their minds but to their hearts—as only God can. “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened the Scriptures?” They experienced the power, the healing, the strengthening, and the truth that God’s word can bring to us if we are willing to listen!

The disciples “persuade” Jesus to stay with them. Jesus always wants to be with us but He most often waits for an invitation. “When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him…” It is in the Eucharist that the scales fell from the disciples’ eyes; it is in the Eucharist that their faith and hope were nourished; it is in the Eucharist that courage was given them. Jesus vanishes from their sight but the gifts do not. That very same hour they returned to Jerusalem, back to the scene of horror and fear and shock. They returned not to commiserate with the other disciples but to announce the Good News. “Then they told what had happened to them on the road and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the Bread.”

Word and Eucharist—such blessed gifts from an all wise and loving God! We need this daily food! All of us, day after day are confronted by the tragedies of life, difficulties and challenges that can even shake the foundations of our families as well as our personal lives.

From a national and global perspective, we do not know what the future holds for us, but it does seem that we are going to face some significant battles both to protect our freedom but also to evangelize those who have lost their way and those who have never heard that there is a way. In this Year of Faith, let us make a firm commitment to daily, as it is possible, to feed from the table of His Word and the table of His Body. There, from the very wellsprings of salvation, God will come to us, like a shepherd feeds his flock. He is risen! In that fact, that triumph over death, lies our hope—a hope that will not disappoint.

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OUR SMALL TEAM, including Emmanuel Tamakloe and Samuel Aduse-Poke from Ghana made its way from Monrovia, Liberia to the Diocese of Cape Palmas. Although Monrovia and Cape Palmas are both on the coast, no roads exist between the two, so a two day trip deep into the interior of the country was required to reach our destination. The first day we drove 11 hours and spent the night at a parish in Zwedro; Sunday evening we gratefully reached Harper and the small compound of the Catholic Pastoral Center.

Although we were told things had improved in Liberia, it was obvious they still have some big problems. The former president of Liberia, who was convicted of war crimes, is suing Liberia for his retirement benefits and some think he will be successful. His wife was elected a senator from their district. Many of the former war lords are now members of parliament and corruption seems to be the norm. Other than in the center of Monrovia, there is no electricity. The basic infrastructure of the country is still in shambles, with empty bombed out buildings sitting as reminders of the violent past. Of the few roads in Liberia, 90% are unpaved.

For the next five days we taught the youth leaders from each parish in the diocese. Last year we worked with priests and catechists and this year the bishop wanted us to empower his youth leaders. Each day began with 7am Mass followed by breakfast and then three sessions. In the afternoon there were two more sessions. Each day we taught on the Year of Faith, the New Evangelization, getting and staying free, apologetics, and developing a personal relationship with Christ. Each evening there was a revival in St. Theresa’s Church, set on the hill overlooking the Atlantic. Monday evening we began with praise and worship and then Lloyd spoke on the Lordship of Christ, led the people in a re-commitment to Jesus, and then invited Jesus to come and heal. A large number of people gave testimonies of healing.

More people came to Tuesday’s revival meeting and before the women started the music there was a solemn rosary and litany. Then the explosion of praise and worship began and it attracted those who chose to linger in the cool evening breeze. I spoke on removing blocks in order to get closer to Jesus and spiritual warfare.

Wednesday we went to a refugee camp for 20,000 who fled the horrible conflict in the Ivory Coast. We ministered to about 100 leaders of the Catholic community there. Lloyd reminded them that Jesus was also a refugee and had to flee for his life to Egypt, where they knew no one and didn’t speak the language. I then preached on the necessity of forgiveness. Afterwards we opened up the meeting to questions and most centered on trying to find ways to avoid forgiveness.

That evening there was Eucharist Adoration, Mass, and a continuation of the revival. Emmanuel and Samuel spoke on the Year of Faith and led the people in asking for the faith to move mountains. Lloyd then led a healing prayer and many more people testified of healing and deliverance. The
The church was totally filled on this last night and as the priest slowly went through the church with Jesus you could see God doing great things!

One lady shared that last year when we were in Monrovia she had been healed of cancer at the Eucharist healing service. It was a powerful testimony of God’s love and the power of the Eucharist!

following evening Emmanuel and Samuel led the evening presentation on empowerment in the Holy Spirit and prayed for the release of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and zeal to enter into the New Evangelization. It was a powerful session!

On our final evening we had praise and worship and Lloyd taught on healing. He explained that Jesus would soon pass by them in the Monstrance and that they should look at Him and tell Him their needs. The church was totally filled on this last night and as the priest slowly went through the church with Jesus you could see God doing great things! Monsignor Gaye, the rector of the Cathedral, thanked Renewal Ministries and us for coming and expressed his belief that faith and hope had been given to the people.

Early the next morning we left for the 10 hour trip to Gbanga. Our vehicle didn’t have the trunk closed properly and everything including our hair was caked with red dust! We attended Sunday morning Mass at the Cathedral and invited everyone to the revival that evening. The following morning our training sessions began. At Bishop Anthony Borwah’s request I gave a talk on the 5 keys to freedom to a number of priests, seminarians, and other leaders in the church. The bishop closed the school so the children could attend as well. I was surprised that all the school kids really paid attention. The bishop asked Lloyd to go to the radio station with Samuel where they talked about our Catholic faith and the New Evangelization. Several people who listened to the broadcast said it was heard by many non-Catholics and should help dispel attacks on the Church.

Last year we prayed for Bishop Anthony and the Cathedral church. Since he had been bishop, on every Saturday night only, birds would cover the altar and communion stations with their droppings. They also turned the wooden icon of St. Joseph white with their droppings, but never touched the icon of Mary. After we prayed the following Sunday the altar and communion stations were untouched by the birds and since then there have been no more birds! Thank you Jesus!

In the evening Emmanuel shared a number of points on discipleship and Samuel led the ministry. At the end Fr. Lee Walker, the Diocesan Administrator and chaplain for the Charismatic Renewal brought out the Blessed Sacrament and processed through the Church in a healing session. It was once again very powerful. Fr. Lee later shared with us that since we were there last year and taught on evangelization, he regularly takes teams to remote parishes throughout the diocese, and that much fruit had been borne not only in the parishes, but with his team as well as they really feel a part of the Church’s mission. Bishop Anthony asked us to come next year and do revivals in Nimba county where the Church has a very low profile. He wants to run radio spots and put out flyers and he is confident we can give the Church there a real boost.

The next morning we left for Monrovia and the following day we met with leaders from the Charismatic Renewal in the area. Fr. Bobby Washington is the Chaplain for the Renewal and wanted us to help the leaders with structuring their prayer meetings and promoting unity. We returned around 5:00 pm for a revival meeting. The revival was open to everyone and the church was full. After a wonderful time of praise and worship Lloyd gave a talk on walking with the Lord.
and challenged them to get fully involved with the mission of the Church to evangelize. Then Fr. Clement exposed the Blessed Sacrament and brought Jesus around the church. The people responded with great enthusiasm! One lady shared that last year when we were in Monrovia she had been healed of cancer at the Eucharist healing service. It was a powerful testimony of God’s love and the power of the Eucharist!

On our last night at the revival Emmanuel gave a great talk on forgiveness and then led a powerful prayer time as we interceded for families and all the children. By the intensity of the prayer in the church you could tell that Emmanuel’s teaching had struck close to home! Many people came up to thank us and shared how the teaching and ministry had helped them in their lives.

We came away convinced that we are making a real difference in Liberia. The Church there has so many problems and so few resources that it is easy to get discouraged, but God has some good shepherds in place. Our visits provide the focus and the funds to bring people together and give them a sense of purpose and mission.

At the end of an evening session in Gbanga, Fr. Lee Walker led a powerful time of Eucharistic Adoration.

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**It’s Not Too Late!**

**Join Us as We Draw Near to the Lord in this Year of Faith**

**The 2013 Renewal Ministries Gathering**

Friday, April 26 – Sunday, April 28
Marriot at Eagle Crest, Ypsilanti, Michigan

For more information or to register go to: www.renewalministries.net
or call Kathleen at 734-662-1730 x132

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He who died in place of us is the one object of my quest. He who rose for our sakes is my one desire.
— Saint Ignatius of Antioch

April 2013
Mission to Mexico
April 1-7
Jim Murphy, Debbie Herbeck, Pete Burak and Fr. Gabriel Richard High School Team
Mission to Zimbabwe
April 2-16
Lloyd & Nancy Greenhaw and Team
Contact Kathleen at: 734-662-1730 ext 132 or kkittle@renewalministries.net
Ann Arbor, MI, i.d.916 Young Adult Monthly Meeting
Thursday, April 4, 6:15-9:00 pm
Speaker: Craig Pohl
RSVP on i.d.916 Facebook Page or intentionaldisciples916@gmail.com or pburak10@gmail.com
Mundelein, IL, Institute on Religious Life Conference
April 5-6
Ralph Martin
Metairie, LA, Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference
April 5-7
Peter Herbeck
Contact: www.ccrno.org
*Albuquerque, New Mexico, National Association of Diaconate Directors Conference
April 10-12
Ralph Martin
Indialantic, FL, Men’s Discipleship Conference
April 13
Peter Herbeck
Contact: Ed Wickey at: ed@eclipseadvantage.com or 407-529-6837
*Rochester Hills, MI, St. Mary’s of the Hills Women’s Bible Study
Tuesday, April 16, 9:45 am
Debbie Herbeck
Moodus, CT, Renewal Talks
April 18-19
Ralph Martin
Contact: maryarose7@sbcglobal.net or www.myfathershouse.com
Kalamazoo, MI, Michigan Charismatic Conference
Saturday, April 20
Debbie Herbeck
Contact: 517-372-6222 or amccc@acd.net
Ann Arbor, MI, Renewal Ministries Gathering
April 26-28
Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields
Contact Kathleen at: 734-662-1730 ext 132 or kkittle@renewalministries.net or go to www.renewalministries.net to register online.

May 2013
Livonia, MI, St. Michael’s Ladies’ Night Out
Wednesday, May 1, 6:30 pm
Debbie Herbeck
Contact: swilliams@livoniastmichael.org or 734-261-1455 ext. 207
Ann Arbor, MI, i.d.916 Young Adult Monthly Meeting
Thursday, May 2, 6:15-9:00 pm
Speaker: Fr. John Riccardo
RSVP on i.d.916 Facebook Page or intentionaldisciples916@gmail.com or pburak10@gmail.com
Joliet, IL, St. Jude’s Family Formation
Monday, May 6, 6:30 pm
Debbie Herbeck
Contact: sjude_familyformation@comcast.net
*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.

Editor
Debra Herbeck
Design
Cynthia Rutherford
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