Let me tell you about what late spring and early summer in Michigan was like. We had a long, cold spring. It seemed like it would never warm up and then all of a sudden – it did! And then we had what I think was the most dense profusion of blossoms and flowers and delightful aromas I have ever experienced. First the magnolias, then the Bradford pears, the flowering crab apple and the verbena, the lilies of the valley, the periwinkle, the daffodils, tulips, lilacs and flowering fruit trees, and then the irises, peonies and roses…

All this beauty, even in the midst of the suffering and corruption of this world and all the dangers which we are surrounded by, and despite all the yet to be answered prayers, did make me think of the inexpressible beauty of God. As John of the Cross put it:

Pouring out a thousand graces,
he passed these groves in haste;
And having looked at them,
With his image alone,
Clothed them in beauty.
(The Spiritual Canticle, Stanza 5)

If we persevere, and God is giving us the grace to do so, we will soon be ushered into the presence of such amazing Beauty! Keep on keeping on!

Recently a Slovakian priest did a survey for his academic degree requirements on the benefits that viewers of *The Choices We Face* reported in their lives as a result of watching the program. One recurring comment was that many who had never thought of evangelization—sharing their faith with others—had begun to do so. I would like to describe two ways that I see on an almost daily basis that our supporters are sharing their faith with others, and one way that I expect will be very helpful going into the future.

As you know, each year we produce several new booklets that communicate aspects of the faith. We offer these through our TV and radio programs. In the last few years there has been a huge jump in the orders we receive for multiple copies of the booklets. It seems that many people are using the booklets as a way of evangelizing—sharing their faith with friends, family and fellow-parishioners. Sr. Ann’s recent booklet *Faith More Precious than Gold*, that she produced for the Year of Faith has been flying off the shelves. Other booklets that are being ordered in multiple copies are my booklets: *A New Pentecost* and *The New Evangelization: Why Bother?* and Peter’s booklet: *Welcome the Spiritual Gifts*. For a complete listing of all our booklets go to www.renewalministries.net under “Store” and “Free Resources.” Ask the Lord if any of these can help awaken or deepen faith in someone you know. Reach out! Don’t keep the goodness of God to yourself!

Another way that many of our supporters are reaching out is by inviting friends, neighbors, relatives, and fellow-parishioners to get together on a weekly basis to watch a half hour video where I summarize the main teachings of *The Fulfillment of All Desire*, and then have a discussion.
The 13 week series based on the book and produced by EWTN is available now as a DVD. Almost every place I go to speak these days people tell me that they are in a group that is watching these videos or actually reading the book, with or without the Study Guide, and discussing it together. They often remark how much it is helping them grow.

Just yesterday I got this most amazing report of a CBS television story that was aired in Fort Worth, TX where a seminarian cited reading The Fulfillment of All Desire as the “tipping point” for his entry into the seminary.

FORT WORTH (CBS 11) - No sex, no money, and complete obedience. Not what you think the average 20-year-old guy would go for. But according to the Catholic Church, the number of men joining the priesthood is up. In the Diocese of Fort Worth alone, the number of seminarians has nearly doubled in the last 10 years. And who is joining might surprise you. Brett Metzler bench presses 250 pounds, squats 305, and can shoot hoops with the best of them. But the former high school Athlete of the Year is not your typical college student. 20-year-old Brett believes becoming a priest is a better fit. The Denton County native is preparing for the priesthood at Saint Joseph’s Seminary College in Covington, Louisiana–1200 acres of woods, water, and worship north of New Orleans. He says his calling came during his freshman year at Texas A & M.

“Everything that everybody was telling me to do that was supposed to fulfill me, it just wasn’t working,” explained Metzler. “I was living in a house with four of my best friends from high school. I mean it was a blast. We’d throw the frisbee and play football every day. I just felt a feeling kind of like unfulfillment every night when I was going to sleep.”

He says it was the book, Fulfillment of All Desire, about the saints and their paths toward holiness that confirmed he must give his life to God.

“I was just reading it and crying, reading it and crying. Guys, at least me, I didn’t cry a lot. Stuff that she and other saints would say in talking about their love for God, you can’t read poems that beautiful. It really stirred my heart.”

Today Brett and 100 other Roman Catholic seminarians begin and end their day with prayer.

Thanks be to God! We’ll put the actual video on the home page of our website so you can see it for yourself. It will be there for the last week of June and first three weeks of July. Besides this being an inspiring story it also shows how the book and the DVD series can be an instrument that God uses to draw people to Himself. Reach out! Don’t keep the good things of the Lord to yourself!

And finally, I’m expecting a lot of spiritual fruit from the new DVD series As By A New Pentecost that we introduced last month. Five of us have collaborated to produce an updated version of the Life in the Spirit Seminars that aren’t tied to the charismatic renewal movement but attempt to bring this grace of renewal to the wider Church. Patti Gallagher Mansfield and David Mangan, two of the speakers, were at that famous “Duquesne Weekend” in 1967 which marked the beginning of an outpouring of the Spirit that has touched more than a hundred million Catholics around the world – that leaves only about a billion more that need to be reached! Along with Patti and Dave, Sr. Ann Shields, Peter Herbeck and I also contribute. Again, invite people to watch a video with you each week for seven weeks and see what the Lord does!

All of these evangelization tools that I’ve mentioned can be found on the enclosed reply card and on our website.

And for you who are our long-time supporters and seasoned disciples I would recommend the talks from our annual Gathering. So many people—a record crowd of over 300—said it was the best Gathering ever, with the most helpful and inspiring talks! The main talks, available in both CD and DVD formats, can be ordered on our website or on the enclosed reply card.

Pray and then act!

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin
There are many reasons why we hesitate to tell others about Jesus. Two of the most common reasons are fear of rejection and being unsure of what to say.

One way to help overcome fear and increase our confidence is to learn the message by studying what the apostles said when they told others about Jesus. The Acts of the Apostles is a great place to start.

Peter’s proclamation on the day of Pentecost provides a paradigm of the core message of the Gospel. Jesus had commanded the apostles to wait in the upper room for the promised Holy Spirit. The witness of the apostles was to be shaped, directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit. So on that day, the Holy Spirit thrust the apostles out into the marketplace and inspired Peter to stand up and declare:

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.” (Acts 2:22-24)

The message here is simple: Jesus, the man from Nazareth, whom you killed, God raised from the dead. He is alive!

Peter continued, “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you see and hear.” (Acts 2:32-33)

Here Peter takes it one step further. What he is saying is that our God, the God of Israel, has raised Jesus from the dead and exalted him to his right hand. From his exalted position he has poured out the Holy Spirit which the prophets have foretold.

This is the culmination of Peter’s proclamation:

“Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” (Acts 2:36)

Can you picture Peter proclaiming these words with passion, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit to the multitudes of Jews that had gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost? This is the first proclamation, the words the Holy Spirit inspired Peter to declare.

What does God the Father and the Holy Spirit most want the world to know about Jesus? That God has raised him from the dead, that he has been exalted to God’s right hand, that God has made him Lord and Christ, and from that exalted position of divine authority and power, he is pouring out the Holy Spirit for the salvation of the world.

“"There are many reasons why we hesitate to tell others about Jesus. Two of the most common reasons are fear of rejection and being unsure of what to say."
Peter’s witness began with simply declaring the facts of salvation, telling people who Jesus is and what God the Father has done in him. This is the message about Jesus that the Holy Spirit inspired Peter to proclaim, therefore it has the power to move people’s hearts and to open their eyes.

The Scripture tells us that those who heard Peter’s message were “cut to the heart.” They were moved, convicted, inspired, and ready to respond to the word. It wasn’t just Peter’s passion or eloquence; it was the power of the message and the Spirit’s anointed word. This word is, “living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12) The apostles knew they couldn’t change one heart on their own power. They knew the power was in the word itself and that their job was simply to tell the truth about Jesus, confident that the Holy Spirit would empower their words.

Those who were cut to the heart asked Peter and the apostles: “Brethren what shall we do?” Peter responds:

“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)

God’s action calls for a response. Jesus “appeared to take away sins.” (1 John 3:5) He died to deal with the sin problem and the death problem:

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God…” (Romans 3:23)

“But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled shall we be saved by his life.” (Romans 5:8-10)

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

It’s important for us to see that Jesus came to take away sin. Sin is the problem; it produces death because it separates us from God. Sin is an unpopular subject today. Nearly everyone seems hesitant to talk about it for fear of alienating, discouraging or upsetting people. Many people, even in the Church, dismiss talk of sin as being too negative or judgmental, and a misread of the human condition. After all, we’re pretty good folks, not really bad guys like Hitler and Stalin. It certainly doesn’t apply to your average Joe. This is an enormous mistake.

The apostles spoke about it constantly. It was an essential part of their basic witness.

“The God of our fathers raised Jesus whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance and the forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.” (Acts 5:30-32)

“And he commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that he is the one ordained by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” (Acts 10:42-43)

Notice what Peter says in this last quote, “he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify…” The apostles speak about sin, call people to repentance and baptism, and with great urgency plead with them to “flee the wrath to come,” because Jesus commanded them to do it. They understood that the eternal destiny of people was at stake because this is Jesus’ perspective on reality, the only one that matters.

Paul said, “The love of Christ controls us, because we are convinced that one has died for all, therefore all have died.” (2 Corinthians 5:14) Jesus Christ died for our sins; he died so that we could live. The old memorial acclamation from the Mass sums it up perfectly: “Dying he destroyed our death, rising he restored our life, Lord Jesus come in glory!” Why am I a follower of Jesus? Because he destroyed my death, he restored my life, and he is coming in glory to take me home.

Brothers and sisters, there is no love without the truth. The message of the apostles is not insensitive, culture bound, imperialistic, negative, judgmental, mean or hateful; it is the truth that sets us free. May we all, in this Year of Faith, with great courage, mercy and compassion, follow in the footsteps of the apostles and bear witness to Jesus with great boldness.†
Vince Kolycius

Editor’s Note: Vince was a long-time collaborator with Renewal Ministries in Lithuania and an inspiring soul who touched many lives. Below is a eulogy from his son Paulius.

Vince was born in 1922 in a small village in Lithuania, the youngest of five children. His mother died when he was very young and his father sent him off to a boarding school; he worked hard and became a young school teacher. This all changed dramatically with World War II.

He escaped Lithuania on a bicycle that carried him throughout the war in Germany as he made his way to a new life. He was lonely, often hungry and cold; it was truly the low point of his life. There he met my mother Lucy in a camp for refugees from the war. She came to Canada one year before him and saved just enough money to bring him there, and they married in 1949.

He worked at the T. Eaton Co. for more than thirty years and was known for his conscientiousness, thoroughness and positive attitude. In 1970 my parents had a spiritual awakening—the baptism in the Spirit. This experience would shape the rest of their lives. My father considers this the time when his life truly began.

Vince was active in the Lithuanian church and community. In 1989 he went back to his homeland and met his sisters after 40 years. Soon after, Vince started traveling to Lithuania each May as a translator for Renewal Ministries. He would go there for the month, preaching to various groups, mainly comprised of young people, witnessing to them about the Holy Spirit. He began to raise money to support groups such as the “Living Stones.” This enabled them to hold events and workshops where young people could find meaning and faith. He visited a rehabilitation center for alcoholics and drug addicts. He was instrumental in having the The Word Among Us translated into Lithuanian, and to selling and promoting it whenever possible. After more than twenty years of such ministry, he became a legend among the faithful there. In a 28-day trip, he would give more than 30 talks, and was constantly involved in sharing, witnessing, and praying from morning until night.

In 2000 our mother got sick with cancer and in those three years they became closer than ever. He was her strength and sacrificed his life completely to help her. After Lucy died my father quietly mourned and then a remarkable transformation took place. He pursued his ministry with a renewed vigor that only made him stronger. He resumed his trips to Lithuania and each day he went to his computer, meditated on the Scriptures, and wrote commentary for various internet sites around the world.

I went with him to Lithuania last year to see why he’d always come home looking ten years younger. He gave 100% of himself, and in return they showered him with their love and prayers. My father had the gift of healing. After his talks to prayer groups and various organizations, people asked him to pray for them and long lines would assemble. What was making him younger was a sense of purpose. He shared a blazing passion about his faith and in return was fed love and prayers, not to mention black bread, farmer’s cheese, honey, chocolates, and cakes.

Vince was diagnosed suddenly with prostate cancer with metastasis to the bones. His faith never faltered, it only seemed to grow stronger. On the Saturday before he passed away, Fr. John called and asked if he could come to give my father last rites. It was a cold and dreary day and we thought that maybe we should delay it. When he came there was a sudden change in the weather. In the room above the bed there was a picture of Christ that had been in my parents’ bedroom. Suddenly, the clouds parted and the sun came blazing through the bedroom windows, illuminating the Christ picture and bathing Vince completely in sunlight. As we stood around him we felt a remarkable sacred peace fill the room. Fr. John gave him his last rites and even though Vince was not able to speak or see, he nodded his head in approval and gratitude.

When our father passed away my sisters and I contemplated the life of our father. None of us could think of a time when he had said a negative word about anyone. He accepted everyone, without ever passing judgment. He truly cared for all, regardless of their backgrounds or beliefs. All who met him know what a truly special human being he was.

Please Pray... for our evangelization opportunities this summer in Tanzania, Ghana, the Netherlands, Uganda and Brazil, as well as events in the U.S. and Canada.

that the new DVD series As By A New Pentecost will help many experience the grace of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

for the continued work of evangelization in the Church throughout the world. May all the methods, tools, resources and opportunities to proclaim the truth be used to help many come to deeper conversion in Christ.

for the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.
“The moral foundations of society and the Church are crumbling…I want to focus on our confidence in the goodness of God and the truthfulness of what He speaks to us.”

“After serving faithfully for many years as a country coordinator for Ghana, Brent is moving on to serve the Lord in other ways. We are grateful for his dedication and godly example.”

“We honored our dedicated country coordinators who were able to attend: Dcn. Steve Thomashefski, Pam & Tom Edwards, Pat & Don Turbitt, Brent Heiser, Peter Thompson, Lloyd & Nancy Greenhaw.

“My sons and my daughters, you will be mocked. You will be spat upon. You will experience my passion. For was not I mocked and spat upon? They clothed me in a royal robe with a crown of thorns genuflecting to me not knowing whom they were kneeling to.

So my children do not be surprised. Do not be discouraged when you are rejected; when the Word of Life is rejected. For I say to you, I robe you with my Royal Robe. My crown I share with you. And my word spoken through you will bring victory. Therefore, even as I endured the cross, the shame, the rejection, so you will win the crown of glory as you endure to the end. I am your victor King.”

(Prophecy by Peter Thompson)
I have attended most of the Gatherings and this was the best one ever!

My people, it is time to count the cost. It is time to stay the course. Let nothing shake you; let nothing dismay you. I am here for you to do what I have commanded you—let nothing shake you or cause you fear. You will be challenged and confronted. STAND FIRM! Do not be bewildered or confused, I am here. Let nothing dismay you; let nothing confuse you. You are in my hands. Rest in me. Trust in me.” (Prophecy by Lavinia Spirito)

We were honored to have with us for the weekend: Bishop Andrew Karnley from Cape Palmas, Liberia, Fr. Bobby Washington from Liberia, Fr. Jean-Robert Rubiyat from Rwanda, Fr. Tim Hepburn, Fr. Brendan Williams, and Deacons Richard Mishler and Steve Thomashefski.

...new hope for the Church and the world.

Young adults were equipped to reach their peers by learning how share the Gospel message and their own testimonies.

Pete Burak begins working full-time with Renewal Ministries this month, spearheading id916, our outreach to young adults.

“I've been thoroughly challenged here. I haven’t really had the faith and hope of someone who could be fruitful...even I can be very much one of his disciples.”

Erin Patton shared about growing as a disciple and the role of id916 in helping her connect with other Catholic young adults.

“I feel more equipped and empowered in my charisms and better able to serve God in the future.”
No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all peoples. –Blessed Pope John Paul II

July 2013
Mission to Tanzania
July 3-20
Tom Edwards and Team
Contact: Kathleen at 734-662-1730 ext 132 or kkittle@renewalministries.net
*Philadelphia, PA, Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters Retreat
July 5-6
Sr. Ann Shields
Plymouth, MI, Disciples in the Marketplace
Saturday, July 13
Peter & Debbie Herbeck and Team
Contact or register at: www.RenewalMinistries.net or IntentionalDisciples916@gmail.com
Cleveland, OH, Catholic Charismatic Conference
July 19-20
Ralph Martin
Contact: Marykoehler216@gmail.com
Mission to Ghana
July 22-August 2
Brent Heiser and Team
Contact: Kathleen at 734-662-1730 ext 132 or kkittle@renewalministries.net
Steubenville, OH, Defending the Faith Conference
July 26-27
Ralph Martin
Contact: www.franciscan.edu or 800-437-8368

The Netherlands, Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference
July 27-August 1
Peter Herbeck
Contact: p.vanhoof@solcon.nl
*Nashville, TN, Study Days on the New Evangelization for Dominican Sisters
July 28-31
Ralph Martin

August 2013
*Detroit, MI, Archdiocesan Deacons Retreat
August 2
Sr. Ann Shields
*San Angelo, TX, Diocesan Deacons and Wives Retreat
August 9-10
Ralph Martin
*Birmingham, AL, Crossing the Goal Taping
August 11-14
Peter Herbeck & Crossing the Goal Team
Grass Lake, MI, Pine Hills Girls’ Camp
August 11-17
Debbie Herbeck & Team
Mission to Uganda
August 15-27
Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw & Team
Contact: Kathleen at 734-662-1730 ext 132 or kkittle@renewalministries.net

*Events not open to the public

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On the Road

SAVE THE DATE!
The First Annual U.S. Lift Jesus Higher Rally
October 12, 2013
visit www.liftjushigher.com for details

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