I’d like to recall for us the well-known saying: “It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.” Indeed! No matter how much darkness we see around us Christ remains the one true light of the world and he is living in us! So, let’s continue to let our Light shine in suffering love, in prayer, in deeds of kindness and in words of truth lovingly spoken.

Last month I shared how many of us are looking for opportunities to invite friends, neighbors, relatives, and fellow parishioners to watch the DVD series of *The Fulfillment of All Desire* or our new DVD series *As By a New Pentecost*. This month we’re making available as a free download a poster that you can use to publicize the *As By a New Pentecost* series. If you go to www.renewalministries.net and click on the Free Resources page you can download a “poster size” version of the flyer that could be put up, with the parish’s permission, on a bulletin board, or a “letter size” version that can be printed and given to friends that you might want to invite to do the series with you.

Another resource that could be helpful in strengthening your motivation to reach out is either the DVD or CD version of a talk I gave called: *Why Everyone Needs to be a Witness to Christ*. And our latest resource that provides the best perspective we have on the times we live in and the choices we face is *You Have Need of Endurance*, which contains the talks that Sr. Ann Shields, Peter Herbeck and I gave at our recent annual Gathering. These resources and others are available at www.renewalministries.net in the Store and in this enclosed Reply Card.

Summer is a busy time for missions and we have had teams all over the world helping people discover the love of God, the forgivingness of sins, the healing of the wounds that come from sin, and the great hope of Jesus Christ, the same: yesterday, today and forever. We have had teams in Mexico City, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, Viet-

*Don and Pat Turbitt, country coordinators for Renewal Ministries, received the Lumen Gentium award from Bishop Thomas Tobin of Providence, RI for their work in the New Evangelization.*
Until next month let’s just keep getting up every day and as best we can, do what he’s given each of us to do in loving, serving, suffering and praying until he comes again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

BOTh AT HoMe in Providence, Rhode Island and away on the mission field, Don and Pat have demonstrated a personal commitment to the New Evangelization that has borne much fruit for the kingdom of God. In addition to nineteen years of mission work in Europe, the Turbitts have led a weekly Tuesday night prayer group, and are actively involved in ministry for women and men. In the past year, at the request of Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwis of Poland, Don established Men of St. Joseph International, a ministry to help men develop a personal relationship with God, receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit and grow in strength as men in every area of their lives. Now active in several parishes in Providence, Don is introducing (MOSJI) in Poland, Slovenia, Ireland, Scotland, England, and Ukraine.

Don was recently in Slovenia where people in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal have great faith for miracles. He shared some of these “miracle stories” in his recent newsletter.

In Ljubljana, the capital city, I was invited to a baptism of an 18 month old special needs child. The mother was very excited to see me and told me I had given her a word of knowledge two years ago that she was pregnant with a very special child. The child was born after 24 weeks and not expected to live, yet Jacob survived. She said that word prepared her for the difficult days.

My time in Slovenia was non-stop ministry; I prayed with large crowds of people who gathered for evangelistic events. One couple came to me with a baby in their arms telling me that last year I prayed with them to conceive a child after ten years. I also prayed with the couple of a 4 year old child with autism who couldn’t walk or talk. I received a call the next day that the child was now talking! I traveled to eleven cities in eleven days and prayed with over 2,200 people. So many people shared so many stories that I wasn’t able to write them all down—all glory to Him!
True Love

“We press play, don’t press pause, Progress, march on! With a veil over our eyes, we turn our back on the cause. ‘Till the day that my uncles can be united by law...a certificate on paper isn’t going to solve it all, but it’s a damn good place to start... whatever God you believe in we come from the same one, strip away the fear, underneath, it’s all the same love. About time that we raised up! Love is patient, love is kind. Love is patient, love is kind...”

These are some of the lyrics of an enormously popular song by hip-hop artist Macklemore called Same Love. The song, which has gone viral with nearly fifty million views of the music video version, is about homosexuality and same-sex marriage. Over the past few weeks a number of young people have brought up the song in conversation. Just yesterday my twenty-two year old nephew, asked me if I had ever heard the song.

He raised the question in the context of a discussion we were having about same-sex marriage. He pointed out that it is not only a very catchy song and fun to listen to, but that it is confusing because the story it tells is that true love, God’s love, embraces same-sex marriage.

In fact, Macklemore ends the song by repeating words from 1 Corinthians 13, “Love is patient, love is kind,” which is arguably the most famous passage on love in the entire Bible. In essence, what he is saying is, to love like Jesus loves, the love that is patient and kind, the love that is the opposite of “hate,” is a love that celebrates homosexual acts and fights for the legalization of same-sex marriage. That’s the argument.

It’s essentially the same argument, without explicit appeal to the New Testament, that Justice Anthony Kennedy presented in the decision of the majority of justices on the Supreme Court who struck down DOMA, the Defense of Marriage Act, which recognized marriage as being defined by one man and one woman. Justice Anton Scalia summarized the majority opinion this way: “In the majority’s telling, this story is black-and-white: Hate your neighbor or come along with us. The truth is more complicated.”

Indeed, the truth about love is more complicated. From a Catholic point of view, there is no love without the truth. Love and truth always go together. In his homily during the canonization of Edith Stein, Pope John Paul II said that St. Teresa Benedicta, the “martyr of love,” taught us all that “love and truth have an intrinsic relationship,” and that “love and truth need each other.”

The truth love seeks is the good of the other. That is, to love someone means that I will their good. I want what is best for them. What is best for every person is what will lead to genuine human flourishing and this only happens when we “live the truth.” That is, when we live the way we were made to live, when we recognize how God made us, and live in accord with his plan for our lives.

Pope John Paul continued: “St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross says to us all: Do not accept anything as the truth if it lacks love. And do not accept anything as love which lacks truth! One without the other becomes a destructive lie.”

This is why St. Paul, in the very passage Macklemore quotes, says that love “does not rejoice at
From the Field

from page 3

Note, it does not say persons with homosexual attractions are in themselves intrinsically disordered. They are, in the eyes of the Church, children of God, who bear the image of God, persons with inherent dignity who are called and destined to live with God forever.

To fail to teach it, or to promote what is contrary to it, is to ‘rejoice in what is wrong,’ and to promote a ‘destructive lie.’

Wrong, but rejoices in the right” (1 Corinthians 13:6). What Macklemore and so many others are demanding is that in the case of active homosexuality and same-sex marriage, in order to love, we must “rejoice in what is wrong.”

What the Church Teaches

The teaching of the Catholic Church is presented clearly and with genuine compassion in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2357-2359):

“Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity, tradition has always declared that homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered. They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved.”

Here the Church is teaching the truth in love. She is fulfilling the command of the Lord to “love your neighbor as yourself.” She knows that she must communicate the objective truth about human sexuality and marriage as an expression of her love for persons with homosexual attractions. Homosexual acts are described as “intrinsically disordered.” Note, it does not say persons with homosexual attractions are in themselves intrinsically disordered. They are, in the eyes of the Church, children of God, who bear the image of God, persons with inherent dignity who are called and destined to live with God forever.

It is the homosexual act that is intrinsically disordered because it violates the objective goods or the essential truth of the sexual act. The sexual act is, by nature, in its essence, the one flesh union of two persons, which is open to life. As Dr. Janet Smith puts it, “sex is for babies and bonding.” It is ordered to reproduction and union which are both made possible by “sexual complementarity.” Homosexual acts fail to recognize the essential, objective, unchanging truth about the purpose of the sexual act.

The Church recognizes that marriage is an institution that the Church did not create. Every society known to man has recognized marriage as an institution that unites children with their parents. It is the fundamental building block of human civilization. The Church has no power to change its teaching on homosexual activity or marriage. She didn’t create or design the fundamental purpose for either one; she simply recognizes the intrinsic meaning of both.

What motivates the Church’s teaching is love. There is no hate, bigotry or animus toward homosexual persons. Certainly, there are some in the Church who are bigots, but that isn’t the source of the Church’s teaching. It’s the same love the Church expresses when she speaks against pre-marital sex, masturbation, prostitution, adultery, fornication, and pornography. Each one of these acts, in some way, suppresses the truth about the meaning, purpose and design of human sexuality.

So it is with tough love that the Church passes on to us the teaching of the Scriptures, as well as the truth revealed in the natural law. To fail to teach it, or to promote what is contrary to it, is to “rejoice in what is wrong,” and to promote a “destructive lie.”

My Truth

Finally, what makes the Church’s teaching such a challenge in these days is the cultural dominance of what Pope Benedict XVI described as the “dictatorship of relativism.” It is essentially the rejection of any standard of truth outside my own personal experience or subjective understanding. The only truth that is decisive, especially in the sexual realm, is “my truth.” The ultimate standard or measure of truth is my own personal choice, what I determine to be true for myself.

This is a game the Church cannot play. It’s a lie. It’s not only the suppression of the truth about the meaning of human sexuality; it is a form of idolatry. To live in the truth is to be rightly related to reality. It means to live in the real world, not the world I create for myself. The reason we have become so confused about things that are so obvious is that we have decided to shape reality according to our own design. We don’t want God’s design for reality; we want reality on our terms. We want to be gods.

This is the root of our confusion and current struggle. The only way out is repentance. We must turn again, wholeheartedly toward God. We must welcome reality on his terms, to humbly and gratefully receive his design for human life, and to live in his truth with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. It’s the only way to love. It is true love.
Disciples in the Marketplace Conference

Can I be successful and still be a disciple? How do I integrate my faith and my job? How do I overcome the challenges facing a disciple of Jesus Christ in the secular workplace? These and many more questions were examined at the first Disciples in the Marketplace Conference co-sponsored by i.d.916 and the Ann Arbor chapter of Legatus. The event was held at the beautiful Inn at St. John’s in Plymouth, MI. The conference was attended by approximately 90 young adults from Iowa, Canada and all over Southeastern Michigan—ranging from lawyers, medical professionals, IT specialists, teachers, and those in career transitions. In large part, the success of the event was due to the older professionals who came to mentor the young adults.

We were blessed to have 20 successful, seasoned professionals from a wide array of fields impart to us their wisdom about how to be faithful followers of Jesus in whatever marketplace we find ourselves. The day began with Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael Byrnes, auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Detroit, who preached on the importance of making a decision to follow Christ as His disciple. After a short breakfast, Bishop Byrnes spoke again on the role of the laity in what the Church has called “renewing the temporal order.” He challenged the attendees to see their careers as a ministry and as an avenue for engaging in the New Evangelization.

All of the participants were organized into discussion tables led by a Legatus member or another older successful professional. After each presentation, the discussion groups had an opportunity to apply the presented material and share their own personal experiences. Many of the attendees pointed to these times as the most impactful portions of the day.

We were very blessed to welcome Deacon Larry Oney from New Orleans who is the Chairman of the Board of Hammerman & Gainer, Inc. and a member of the Renewal Ministries Board of Directors. He shared his personal journey as the son of a sharecropper to a successful businessman and how his faith in Christ both informed his personal life and business decisions. His testimony and career tips ended with a passionate plea to stand up, be bold, and be ready to suffer for Christ. Needless to say, we all left that session feeling very inspired!

Kelly Frutig also shared her personal journey with her very successful wedding venue business and Renewal Ministries’ board member Tim Patton gave a presentation about Legatus and his own perspective on being faithful in his business endeavors. The formal part of the day ended with a panel discussion by five different professionals who answered questions pertaining to the role of faith and discipleship in their career paths.

We closed our event with a time of fellowship and networking where the participants were able to deepen the relationships they formed during the day. We are very excited by the tremendous support and positive feedback we received:

* “My experience at this event will dramatically change my work life and my discipleship.”
* “Inspiring and challenging – like God is asking more of me.”
* “Left wanting more of this!”
* “Well worth a beautiful Saturday.”

Overall, Disciples in Marketplace is something we hope to do again as we try to spread the vision of being an intentional disciple in all aspects of our lives. God is alive and we are excited to see so many young adults responding to His call!

In large part, the success of the event was due to the older professionals who came to mentor the young adults.

Bishop Michael Byrnes

Renewal Ministries Board Member, Deacon Larry Oney shared his inspiring testimony of a life filled with hatred that was captured by the love of Christ.
RENEWAL MINISTRIES and Come and See ~ Catholic Bible Study collaborated in presenting the School of Catholic Bible Study at Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center in North Palm Beach, Florida from June 27 - June 30, 2013.

Bishop Jan Liesen, SSD, the bishop of Breda in the Netherlands and a member of the Papal Theological Commission presented daily reflections from his favorite course at the Pontifical Biblical Institute on “The Voice of the Bridegroom.” Bishop Liesen highlighted the marital imagery in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, with God the Bridegroom luring His Chosen One—Israel. Bishop Liesen also pointed out the wedding imagery found in God calling out to His spouse, the human soul, and the marital imagery presented by Saint Paul of Jesus with His bride, the Church.

EWTN sent a team of cameramen to film the bishop’s lectures for later use. Presently, Bishop Liesen is compiling his talks and some additional reflections into a book, *The Voice of the Bridegroom*, which will be available along with his video-taped lectures for future bible study.

Small group discussions and workshops focused on the New Evangelization in this Year of Faith. Debbie Herbeck gave specific tools, excellent handouts, and hints on how to share a personal testimony in a very short period of time. In the safe and affirming setting of the small group, each person had an opportunity to share their three-minute witness of how God had worked in power in their personal lives.

During the Saturday night prayer meeting, for the taping of *The Choices We Face* television series in September.

Pray...

✞ that Catholics and Church leaders throughout the world will have the courage and strength to live and speak the truth of God’s ways in love.

✞ for the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.
Rob Gilbert, a Jewish Catholic shared some of the amazing ways in which God chose to reveal Himself to Rob, drawing him into the fullness of truth found in the Catholic Church. Rob’s testimony was moving and inspiring, challenging us to reach out to our Jewish friends. Also at the prayer meeting, Dr. Bill McGarry, an oncologist, shared how prayer, the Eucharist and the rosary helped him to deal with his second diagnosis of cancer in his own life. Bill and his wife, Laura, a bible study leader, participated in the weekend and inspired those present. Bill faced his esophageal cancer knowing exactly what he would suffer in treatment. He likened this to the first Sorrowful Mystery of the Rosary in which Jesus in His Agony in the Garden knew exactly what He would suffer. The youngest of Bill and Laura’s three school-aged children, 8 year-old Catherine, joined us for dinner one night to say “hello” to her “favorite bishop”!

The weekend provided rich opportunities for prayer, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Mass, workshops, small group discussions, and fellowship in the restful surroundings of water and palm trees. Bishop Liesen provided brilliant lectures and beautiful homilies for the weekend, which enriched and inspired those present.+

Laurie Manhardt is the founder and author of the Come and See ~ Catholic Bible Study series and a member of the Renewal Ministries’ Board of Directors.
“The truth is not always the same as the majority decision.”

–Blessed Pope John Paul II

**September 2013**

**Ann Arbor, MI, The Choices We Face Taping**
September 4-6, 9-13, 16-20
Ralph Martin & Peter Herbeck

**Mission to Rwanda**
September 6-16
Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw & Team
Contact: Kathleen at 734-662-1730 ext 132 or kkittle@renewalministries.net

**Mission to Serbia**
September 10-12
Deacon Zoltán Kunszabó & Team

**Brooklyn, MI, i.d.916 Young Adult Summit**
September 13-14
Peter & Debbie Herbeck, Pete Burak
Contact: intentionaldisciples916@gmail.com

**Great Falls, MT, Evening of Renewal**
September 15
Ralph Martin
More information: www.dioceseofgfb.org

**Great Falls, MT, Annual Clergy Assembly**
September 16-17
Ralph Martin

**Plymouth, MI, Our Lady of Good Counsel Confirmation Retreats**
September 21, 28
Debbie Herbeck, Pete Burak and i.d.916 Team

**Trenton, NJ, East Coast Catholic Family Conference**
September 21
Ralph Martin
Contact: jim@domesticchurchmedia.org

**Trenton, NJ, Diocesan New Evangelization Workshop**
September 22
Ralph Martin
Contact: jwrigh@dioceseoftrenton.org or 609-403-7153

**Kansas City, KS, Clergy Convocation**
September 23-26
Ralph Martin

**Conception, MO, Conception Abbey College Seminary**
September 26
Ralph Martin

**Ellicott City, MD, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Mission**
September 27-28
Ralph Martin
Contact: Praisegod8@gmail.com or www.olphparish.org or 410-747-4334

**New Ulm, MN, Teachers & Faith Formation Days**
September 27-28
Peter Herbeck
Contact Karla at: kcross@dnu.org

**October 2013**

**Ann Arbor, MI, Country Coordinator Meetings**
October 3-5

**Mundelein, IL, Seminary Rectors’ Conference**
October 4
Ralph Martin

*Events not open to the public

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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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