Dear Friends in Christ,

As those of you know who have had a chance to read my latest book, *The Urgency of the New Evangelization*, I continue to be concerned that the message of Divine Mercy that came to the world through St. Faustina is only partially being understood. Some people have mistakenly gotten the impression from the helpful emphasis on mercy that sin is no big deal and that God in His mercy will never allow anyone to be lost. This is not at all what Scripture and the Church teach, nor is it what the Lord showed to St. Faustina.

In #635 of her Diary she writes what Mary communicated to her: “You have to speak to the world about His great mercy and prepare the world for the Second Coming of Him who will come, not as a merciful Savior, but as a just Judge. Oh how terrible is that day! Determined is the day of justice, the day of divine wrath. The angels tremble before it. Speak to souls about this great mercy while it is still the time for granting mercy. If you keep silent now you will be answerable for a great number of souls on that terrible day.”

In #965 of her Diary we read: “Jesus looked at me and said, ‘Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy. If they will not adore My mercy, they will perish for all eternity. Secretary of My mercy, write, tell souls about this great mercy of mine, because the awful day, the day of My justice, is near.’”

In #1160 of her Diary: “I am prolonging the time of mercy for the sake of sinners. But woe to them if they do not recognize this time of My visitation.”

In #1396 of her Diary: “Oh, if sinners knew of My mercy, they would not perish in such great numbers.”

Some people have mistakenly gotten the impression from the helpful emphasis on mercy that sin is no big deal and that God in His mercy will never allow anyone to be lost.”
How reminiscent of Jesus’ words, as with tears flowing he foresew the fate of his own people and of the city of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple, and lamented that his own people were missing the hour of their visitation (Lk 19:41-44).

During Faustina’s eight-day retreat in 1936 an angel led her through hell and she describes what she saw and relates that the Lord told her to write it down. I won’t describe her whole vision here but I do include it all in Chapter V of The Urgency of the New Evangelization.

“I am writing this at the command of God, so that no soul may find an excuse by saying there is no hell, or that nobody has ever been there, and so no one can say what it is like. I, Sister Faustina, by the order of God, have visited the abysses of hell so that I might tell souls about it and testify to its existence. I cannot speak about it now; but I have received a command from God to leave it in writing. The devils were full of hatred for me, but they had to obey me at the command of God. What I have written is but a pale shadow of the things I saw. But I noticed one thing: that most of the souls there are those who disbelieved that there is a hell” (#741).

St. Faustina saw her whole mission as a way of preparing God’s people for the return of the Lord. Now, given the deterioration of the culture we live in, is certainly an appropriate time to reflect on the shortness of life and the importance of not rejecting the amazing mercy that is extended to us in the Father’s gift of His Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is also an appropriate time to renew our dedication to pray for the salvation of others and to be ready to “give a reason for the hope that is within us.”

May we not neglect to lovingly but firmly warn those we love of the need to respond to the great mercy shown us in the life and death of Jesus.

Now is the time when mercy is being extended to the world, but this time will come to an end and the Lord will return in glory to judge the living and the dead. And whether we are alive or not at the Lord’s return we need to be ready

Please Pray...

- that priests, religious, and lay people may work together with generosity for evangelization.
- for all those who are laboring for the Gospel throughout the world, that they would be strengthened, encouraged and protected as they bring God’s truth to others.
- for the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.
to meet Him at any moment as no one knows the
day or the hour, not only of the Lord’s return,
but of the length of our own lives.

We continue to communicate this message as
widely as possible through all the avenues the
Lord has given us. Whenever I speak at Clergy
Study Days or at Deacon Retreats I communicate
this message. I must say that there seems to be
receptivity to the seriousness of the message of
salvation that I’ve never seen before. The Spirit
is at work!

Let’s continue to pray for each other and that
the Lord’s message of mercy and of warning
reaches greater and greater numbers! Thank you
for your support that makes this possible.

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

Ralph Martin

Giving Through Your Will

This year we are most grateful for the generosity of those who have made a lasting gift to Renewal Ministries through their will,
which enables us to continue the work of evangelization throughout the world.

Mary Bruder
Margaret Mary Hasselberg
Fr. Joseph Heaney
Suzanne Kirkham
Sr. Marjorie Kunz

They were faithful supporters of our ministry during their lifetime and after their death. They remind us that both in life and in
death, we belong to Christ.

There are different ways you can make a bequest to Renewal Ministries.
If you live in the U.S. one of these formulas will work:

“I give and bequeath to Renewal Ministries Inc., 230 Collingwood, Suite 250, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, Tax ID 38-2385975, the
sum of _______ for its general uses and purposes.”

“I give, devise, and bequeath to Renewal Ministries, 230 Collingwood, Suite 250, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, Tax ID 38-2385975,
the _____% of the rest, remainder and residue of my estate.”

If you reside in Canada, use the following name, address, and registration number in the above formulas:
Catholic Renewal Ministries Inc., 331 Evans Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M8Z 1K2, Registration No. 12374-0243-RR0001.

If you have any questions, please call Gary Seromik at 734-662-1730 ext. 121, who is administrator for Renewal Ministries.
From the Heart

Reaching Out With the Love of God

Recently, the Holy Father published his first Apostolic Exhortation: The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium). In the midst of all the personal difficulties we face, he urges us to respond to our vocation as disciples—to reach out to others—with the love of God.

The other day, an older woman whose husband recently died, called me to ask what she should be reading to help her to evangelize others. “There are so many in need of the truth of Jesus…” How right she is and how beautiful that in the midst of her own need and sorrow she could think about reaching out. We all need to ask God for help that we might do the same.

By way of inspiration and encouragement, I’d like to share some excerpts from the Holy Father’s exhortation.

“Today, as the Church seeks to experience a profound missionary renewal, there is a kind of preaching which falls to each of us as a daily responsibility…It has to do with bringing the Gospel to the people we meet, whether they be our neighbors or complete strangers…and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey.

“In this preaching, which is always respectful and gentle, the first step is personal dialogue, when the other person speaks and shares his or her joys, hopes and concerns for loved ones, or so many other heartfelt needs. Only afterwards is it possible to bring up God’s word, perhaps by reading a Bible verse or relating a story, but always keeping in mind the fundamental message: the personal love of God who became man, who gave himself up for us, who is living and who offers us his salvation and his friendship. This message has to be shared humbly as a testimony on the part of one who is always willing to learn, in the awareness that the message is so rich and so deep that it always exceeds our grasp. At times the message can be presented directly, at times by way of a
personal witness or gesture, or in a way which the Holy Spirit may suggest in that particular situation. If it seems prudent and if the circumstances are right, this fraternal and missionary encounter could end with a brief prayer related to the concerns which the person may have expressed. In this way they will have an experience of being listened to and understood; they will know that their particular situation has been placed before God, and that God’s word really speaks to their lives (Evangelii Gaudium #127-128).

Pope Francis is very concerned about the current culture in which people are increasingly fascinated with technology, which has the power to isolate us from face-to-face encounters, from the personal building of relationships through shared time and interests.

The Holy Father asks us to seek the Holy Spirit for wisdom and insight as we make a commitment to reach out. “The evils of our world—and those of the Church—must not be excuses for diminishing our commitment and our fervor. Let us look upon them as challenges which can help us to grow. With the eyes of faith we can see the light which the Holy Spirit always radiates in the midst of darkness, never forgetting that ‘where sin increases, grace abounds all the more’ (Rom 5:20). Our faith is challenged to discern how wine can come from water and how wheat can grow in the midst of weeds” (Evangelii Gaudium #84).

The Holy Father comments on the effects of an outright rejection of Christianity by individuals and by groups in many parts of the world, and, in other parts of the world, violent opposition to Christianity which “forces Christians to hide their faith in their own beloved homeland” (Evangelii Gaudium #86). Such decisions and conditions create a desert and can cause us to lose hope or at least to think that the task is too great.

But the Pope counters such discouragement by quoting Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI: “It is starting from the experience of the desert, from this void, that we can discover the joy of believing, its vital importance for us men and women. In the desert we rediscover the value of what is essential for living; thus in today’s world there are innumerable signs often expressed implicitly or negatively, of the thirst for God, for the ultimate meaning of life. And, in the desert, people of faith are needed who, by the example of their own lives, point out the way to the Promised Land and keep hope alive.” Pope Francis concludes this section: “In these situations we are called to be living sources of water from which others can drink. At times, this becomes a heavy cross, but it was from the cross, from his pierced side, that our Lord gave himself to us as a source of living water. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of hope!” (Evangelii Gaudium #86).

Come, Come, Holy Spirit!
Fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in us the fire of your love.

Save the Date!

22nd Annual
Lift Jesus Higher Rally
Saturday, March 1, 2014
9:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Metro Toronto Convention Center
North Building, 255 Front Street West

For Tickets, Consignments and Information call 416-251-4255 or 905-270-2510
email: pdkromer@rogers.com
or visit www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.org

Special Guests: Cardinal Thomas Collins, Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC
The Renewal Team: Ralph Martin & Sr. Ann Shields, SGL, Fr. Scott McCaig, CC
Notre Dame Secondary School

We felt like rock stars as 782 high school girls cheered our arrival at Notre Dame Secondary School in Mount Hagen. Although these girls attend a Catholic school, many come from a variety of faith traditions including Seventh Day Adventist and Pentecostal. The days were spent teaching primarily about Catholic apologetics and the Five Keys of the Unbound model for healing and deliverance. The evenings were spent watching videos, including For Greater Glory: the True Story of Cristiada.

Many of the girls told us that they are now ready to answer tough questions about the faith and believe more strongly in the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. In addition, for the first time they realize that God the Father delights in them.

On the final evening, the girls sang songs and performed praise dance routines they had composed just for us! As we left, they lined up along the driveway and cried as they threw flowers in our path.

Holy Trinity Teachers College

Our second stop was Holy Trinity Teachers College where approximately 600 students are studying to be primary school teachers. We spent one day here imparting God’s wisdom to all of these future teachers and the school’s administrators. We challenged them to view teaching as a ministry with the responsibility of helping students encounter Jesus Christ. We also instructed them on removing blocks to holiness. God used these teachings to help break down the tribalism and unforgiveness present on the campus. In fact, the principal begged us to come back again next year and spend two days with them.

Diocesan Youth Directors

For the next day and a half we had the opportunity to teach 40 youth directors from the Archdiocese of Mount Hagen. On the first day, we focused on the Lordship of Jesus, the Five Keys of Unbound, apologetics, and the Charismatic Renewal. After discovering that none of the youth directors had a bible, we gave the Archbishop the money to buy bibles for all of them. The next morning we instructed them about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and prayed over them for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Lord lavished the gifts of tongues, faith, prophecy, healing, preaching and teaching on this special group of leaders.

So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.
1 Corinthians 3:7

It is always a joy to proclaim the Gospel in Papua New Guinea. Since 2005, we have traveled to the remote areas of this beautiful island country planting the seeds of faith. This trip was particularly exciting because we witnessed so many people come to understand that God the Father delights in them.

Our outreach began in Mount Hagen, the capital of the Highlands Province. We spent three days at Notre Dame Secondary School, one day at Holy Trinity Teachers College and a day and a half with the Diocesan youth leaders. Next we traveled to the Wewak Diocese and spent five days at Divine Word University. Following is a summary of how the Lord used us to touch souls in each location.
Divine Word University

The last leg of the trip took us to the Diocese of Wewak. We arrived not knowing exactly how Bishop Tony Burgess’ health might affect the mission. We were greeted by this very special Bishop the first time we traveled to Wewak. Recently, we learned that he had undergone cancer surgery and his prognosis was poor. This time we were greeted by a young man who introduced himself as Seminarian George. As he helped us with our luggage we looked up and to our great delight saw Bishop Tony coming around the corner!

We spent five days at Divine Word University, a four-year college that trains teachers. Again, we focused on the Five Keys of Unbound and apologetics. On the fifth day we conducted a retreat for all of the teachers and staff members. Many of the staff members said they were amazed to learn that God delights in them!

We spent the evenings speaking at parishes in Wewak. For the first two evenings we spoke to about 50 people at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church. The next two evenings we spoke to about 60 people at the Wewak Cathedral.

We finished the week with an outdoor Mass at Divine Word University surrounded with singing birds and bright tropical flowers. It was beautiful. Even more beautiful is Papua New Guinea’s garden of faith that the Lord is asking us to continue watering!

By Nancy Greenhaw
On the Road

“...I will go anywhere and do anything in order to communicate the love of Jesus to those who do not know Him or have forgotten Him.”

— St. Frances Cabrini

February 2014
Mission to Liberia
January 24-February 9
Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw and Team
Contact: Kathleen Kittle at 734-662-1730 ext. 132 or kkittle@renewalministries.net

Brooklyn, NY
Most Precious Blood Parish Mission
January 31-February 2
Ralph Martin and Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
Contact: Fr. Maduri at 347-682-9931

Lincoln, NE
St. Michael’s Evening of Renewal
February 3
Ralph Martin
Contact: www.stmichaellincoln.org

Lincoln, NE
Diocesan Study Day for Priests*
February 4
Ralph Martin

Troy, MI
Awaken Ministry, St. Anastasia Catholic Church
February 9
Peter Herbeck
Contact: Maureen Dierkes at dierkesw@aol.com or awakenministry.org

Nashville, TN
Aquinas College Conference on the New Evangelization
February 14-15
Ralph Martin
Contact: 615-297-7545

Ann Arbor, MI
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Conference
February 15
Peter Herbeck
Contact: Barbara Grant-Yopko at 734-355-3503 or barbara.fermi@gmail.com

Manchester, MI
St. Mary’s Parish Mission
February 17-19
Peter and Debbie Herbeck
Contact: stmarymanchester@gmail.com or waltersdennis3816@sbcglobal.net

Saginaw, MI
Saginaw Center of Ministry
February 19
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
Contact: Dan Fitzpatrick at 989-928-4466

Corpus Christi, TX
Deacon Convocation*
February 21-22
Ralph Martin

Irondale, AL
Crossing the Goal Taping*
February 23-27
Peter Herbeck and Crossing the Goal Team

March 2014
Toronto, Ontario
Lift Jesus Higher Rally
March 1
Ralph Martin, Sr. Ann Shields, SGL, Fr. Michael Gaitley
Contact: 416-251-4255 or 905-270-2510, pdkromer@rogers.com or www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.org
* Events not open to the public

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