It wasn’t our imagination. The Southeast Michigan area had the highest Winter Misery Index (temperature plus snow) in the country! The Ann Arbor, MI area had the most snow (almost eight feet) since they began keeping records in the late 19th century and the snow stayed on the ground for months! Finally though, spring is here. Thanks be to God!

The weather in temperate regions of the world can be seen as an image of the Paschal Mystery and the work of the cross in our own lives. With winter comes death and dying. With spring comes resurrection from apparent lifelessness to supernatural life!

First, I want to tell you about two special events coming up, one next month, and the other in May 2015. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, Pope Francis is meeting with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Olympic Stadium in Rome on June 1 and 2. Along with Patti Mansfield, a regular guest on The Choices We Face and Sr. Briege McKenna, I have been asked to speak. Many of us feel that the Lord has something special in mind for this encounter associated with a new breath of the Spirit moving in the Church and the world. Please pray for this to come to pass! Thank you. A link to this special event can be found under “Bulletin” on the homepage of our website: www.renewalministries.net.

The second event is a pilgrimage to Spain from May 12-20, 2015. The pilgrimage is to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the birth of St. Teresa of Avila and is sponsored by Franciscan University of Steubenville. Fr. Sean Sheridan, the new president of the University, and I will be leading the pilgrims. I’ll be giving a series of talks on the life and teaching of Teresa and her collaboration with St. John of the Cross. A link with information on the pilgrimage can be found under “Bulletin” on the homepage of our website: www.renewalministries.net.

With your help our work is bearing great fruit

I can’t tell you how encouraged we are – and I hope you are too – by the continuing stream of feedback on the fruitfulness of all the various ways we are preaching and teaching the Gospel. With your help, Renewal Ministries is impacting many lives. For example, following is a note from Fernando Poyatos, a longtime friend, who at great personal sacrifice translated The Fulfillment of All Desire into Spanish:

“I hope you received my email in which I reported ‘mission accomplished,’ having sent the book to all 74 Spanish bishops, plus some abbots, and then, as I keep doing, to some key persons. I received quite a few enthusiastic letters. Oh, naturally I sent the book to Pope Francis. “

“A very famous Spanish bishop thanked me for ‘this jewel’ and said he was taking it to the Bishops Conference spiritual exercises as the book he was looking for and Providence had put in his hands. In my diocese, the seminary’s spiritual director, to whom I had sent the book, phoned me praising the book and asking me to go and do a presentation of it, since he would like to use it in Spiritual Theology next year. So...I wrote an 8-page presentation of it which now I am sending to all 70 or 80 seminaries in Spain. I am eager to see this edition sold out! As for myself, if I had to save two books from a fire, I would grab the Bible and The Fulfillment of all Desire! I keep feeding on it, and I thank you for it, Ralph.”
Dear Partners in Mission, continued from page 1

“I just wanted to give you a ‘shout out’ for your book [Fulfillment of All Desire]! I am a convert/revert and have never ever read anything like this…Thank you for putting this wonderful spiritual journey together…I will be making a confession like I never have before.”

“From China: ‘We are edified and strongly encouraged by Renewal Ministries. Your teachings, sharing, continual fraternal support and selfless love have been a great blessing for us.’

“As a newer Catholic, I never really dived into the faith, and tried to do the right things, but didn’t really feel better. I heard Food for the Journey for the first time on July 30, 2013, and Wow! Were my eyes opened! I was feeling badly about my life, very stressed, discouraged and feeling helpless. I began to hear truth in your words about how the enemy is mostly internal and how self-discouragement cycles. I’ve been listening to your show, going to Mass every week, enrolled in a Bible Study, and love how I am thinking and feeling. Thank you!”

“Peter, I found your program when I was nearly 50 years old, and have been regularly listening to you. I am a Protestant, and I find your program easy to understand and have learned much from you. All of my lonely, doubtful moments are spent listening and growing with you.”

“Your book, The Urgency of the New Evangelization, is incredible. I’m going to get one for every one of my high school religion students.”

“I have ordered 10 copies of The Urgency of the New Evangelization so far, have devoured it, and am rereading!”

“I enjoyed meeting you at the Archdiocese of Kansas City Priests’ Convocation in September. We ordered many copies of your book, The Urgency of the New Evangelization and distributed them to each attendee at our recent Convocation for Parish Ministries. Thank you!”

The Choices We Face continues to bear fruit after 50 years:

“I found out about the ministry ChristLife, through your program and it has been a great grace and movement of the Holy Spirit in our parish. God has used your program to encourage me and in turn open up doors for great fruit in our parish.”

“I must tell you that I have listened to Ralph’s CD Faith That Overcomes the World, [in You Have Need of Endurance] for the sixth time as there are always some new kernels of revealing insights. I ordered 20 and am ordering 20 more as it has the same effect on others as it has on me. The Holy Spirit was powerfully speaking through you in this talk!”

“I recently started viewing the DVD As By a New Pentecost and I want to share with you what the DVD has done for me. I feel a new resurgence of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in my life. I want to show this in my parish right after Easter until Pentecost.”

“We would like permission to translate four booklets into Albanian.”

“Please send us 1,500 copies of Peter Herbeck’s new booklet The New Evangelization: What’s Our Message? We have many groups we want to distribute them to.”

“I love your program on EWTN. I am a widow caring for family members with significant health problems, and I believe in your ministry and my prayers are with you. I am enclosing $10 and pledge that each month for a year.”

“I do so admire the evangelization efforts of Renewal Ministries…I am 90 years of age, and well on my way to my eternity and am mailing what I can as my last donation to be doubled. I only wish it could be more. Your work is in my prayers. I wish it was possible to join you.”

“I am sending you $10,000. I know of no other ministry that gets so much ‘bang for the buck.’”

“I am a religious and have taken a vow of poverty. I am limited [to] a very small budget to help meet my needs…However, I try my best to make a sacrifice, no matter how small! God bless you!”

Thank you for your part in all this.
Until next month, your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

Ralph with the deacons of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, TX.
Renewal Ministries
Annual Gathering

Pentecost: Fire for Holiness and Mission

June 6-8, 2014 Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
Pentecost Vigil Mass at Christ the King Catholic Church

Ralph Martin
Peter Herbeck
Dave Mangan
Sr. Ann Shields
Dr. Peter Williamson

Each year, Renewal Ministries hosts The Gathering to thank our many donors and friends. The weekend includes uplifting talks, workshops, Mass each day, and updates on the Lord’s work throughout the year.

This year, The Gathering occurs on Pentecost weekend. On Saturday evening, we will celebrate the Pentecost Vigil at Christ the King Catholic Church in Ann Arbor. This will be an evening of anointed worship.

Please prayerfully consider joining us this year and encourage the young adults you know to attend. Everyone who comes will be strengthened and encouraged.

We look forward to seeing you!

For more information or to register, please visit our website: www.renewalministries.net.

Please Pray...

✝ for a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church and in the lives of all Catholics.

✝ that the media may be instruments in the service of truth and peace.

✝ that Mary, Star of Evangelization, may guide the Church in proclaiming Christ to all nations.

✝ for the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

While in Evansville Indiana giving talks to adults, Ralph was also asked to speak to hundreds of high school students. It was great!
St. Francis the Preacher, Part 3

THIS IS THE THIRD OF A THREE-PART SERIES on St. Francis as a model for preaching the Gospel. In the first part, I debunked the myth that St. Francis of Assisi preached without using words. In the second part, I focused on the content of St. Francis’ message. I conclude the series with the important lessons we can learn from St. Francis when preaching the Gospel.

Just deliver the mail! Remember that we’ve been called to preach the words of Jesus and the apostles, not to edit them. Preach what they preached, just like they did. Use their words, the soft, gentle and consoling words, as well as the difficult, disturbing and hard words. Remember, “All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, correction, and for training in righteousness…” (2 Tm 4:16).

Reject the false dichotomies. Don’t accept the false notion that some of Jesus’ words are loving and others are not loving, or are less loving. Jesus never said a word that wasn’t an expression of divine love. Jesus, the apostles, and the saints—those who were most like Jesus—were compelled by love to preach all that they had received from Jesus. For example, in John 3:16-18, St. John presents the clear teaching of Jesus, both the love of God and the gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus, but also the eternal consequences of refusing to believe in him. Today, when this oft quoted passage is mentioned, the consequences of not believing are rarely emphasized. How many of us are willing to communicate to others these clear words of St. John?

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life… he who believes in him is not condemned; he who does not believe in him is condemned already” (Jn 3:16, 18).

The temptation is to limit the message to God’s love for the world, but to be silent about the equally important and loving truth that those who do not believe in him will be condemned.

Fear God, not men. We need to be honest with ourselves. How much of what we decide to preach is ultimately determined by a fear of upsetting others, or a desire to flatter and be well-liked? How many of us never say a word about Jesus, or bypass opportunities to speak to a friend or a neighbor, or to speak up at a party or during a lunch conversation at the office because we are afraid of how others will respond? The fear of men leads us to make foolish decisions, to withhold the Good News in order to protect ourselves from possible negative or embarrassing moments.

A healthy fear of the Lord motivates, it brings wisdom, perspective, and the freedom we need to speak the truth in love when the opportunities arise: “Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men” (2 Cor 5:11).

Words are necessary! Recent popes have echoed the words of St. Paul on many occasions: “Necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!” (1 Cor 9:16). Pope Francis continues that consistent 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 people we meet, whether they be our neighbors or complete strangers. (Evangelii Gaudium, 127)

Necessity has been laid upon each one of us. To be sure, we all have different gifts and responsibilities according to our vocations and the contexts in which we live. But make no mistake, “No believer in Christ… can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all peoples” (Redemptoris Missio, 3).

Rely on the Holy Spirit. St. Francis preached with “the learning and power of the Holy Spirit.” No one can preach with power and effect without the help of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would give us the words to speak when we needed them. We can count on that promise, and when we do the Lord does amazing things with our little offering. Pope Francis said what we need now is a “spirit-filled evangelization,” where “the fire of the Holy Spirit burns in our hearts” (Evangelii Gaudium, 27). Without that fire we
Can we gain salvation if we fail to preach the Gospel? If you are serious about your salvation, honestly answer the following questions:

- Are you embarrassed by some of the preaching of Jesus and the apostles?
- Do you preach all of what Jesus and the apostles preached?
- Do you avoid the more difficult and disturbing things they preached?
- Does the fear of upsetting others impact your decisions about what you are willing to preach?
- Have you allowed “false ideas” to undermine your confidence in the teaching of Jesus and the apostles?

May we all find in St. Francis a model and inspiration for how to preach the Word in difficult times and may we imitate his fidelity to Jesus in both word and deed. +

All three parts of this series are available in a booklet entitled, St. Francis Used Words! To order a copy, return the enclosed reply card or visit the Renewal Ministries Store at www.renewalministries.net.
“Hope Rising,” was the theme for the 22nd annual Lift Jesus Higher Rally which drew more than 3,200 people to the Metro Toronto Convention Center in Toronto, Ontario.

The day-long conference began with a blessing of the auditorium and concluded with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass celebrated by His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto. The rally also included inspiring talks and opportunities for praise and worship.

Ralph Martin kicked off the program with a sobering message, “We all know we are in a war. It is not a war about politics; rather it is about powers and principalities.” He explained that the war has been going on since the devil tempted Eve in the Garden. “However,” he said “it appears that the restraint on evil has been removed.”

He urged the participants to respond to this war by first attending to their own salvation, to have a living relationship with the Lord. Second, he urged them to be strong in the Lord and to commit to participate in the mission of evangelization.

Next, Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, inspired hope by sharing his conversion story and his mission to spread the message of Divine Mercy. Fr. Gaitley is the Director of the Association of Marian Helpers in Stockbridge, MA.

Then, Sr. Ann Shields, SGL spoke on the joy of the Gospel and the need for forgiveness. She also shared the testimony of “Sonia” a Muslim woman who experienced a conversion at the rally last year.

During the Eucharistic procession, she reached up and touched the humeral veil and wrapped it around her newborn baby girl. She was overwhelmed by the love of Jesus and a deep peace. She and her two children entered the Church at the Easter Vigil this year!

Finally, Sr. Sarah Burdick, SGL shared ways of spreading the “Good Infection.” She emphasized the importance of being docile to the Holy Spirit. “We may not see the result,” she said. “It might take 150 encounters for someone to accept the Lord. Play your part.”

CDs of the talks are available by calling 416-491-7413.

Mark your calendar for the next Lift Jesus Higher Rally on March 7, 2015!
“Run the Race” was the theme for the 2014 
*Lift Jesus Higher Rally* for youth. Approximately 
1,000 teens attended the fast-paced event which 
included lively praise and worship, an opportu-
nity for commitment to the Lord, prayer ministry, 
Eucharistic adoration and Mass. In addition, 
presentations were given by Fr. Michael Gaitley, 
MIC, Fr. Scott McCaig, CC, Sr. Sarah Burdick, 
SGL, and Pete Burak, Director of i.d.916 for 
Renewal Ministries.

A highlight of the youth rally was a musical skit 
entitled, “The Princess Kiss.” Based on the book 
*The Princess and the Kiss*, the skit used humor to 
teach the importance of purity.

Immediately after the event, the team received 
the following comments from a youth minister 
who brought a group to the rally: “Best year 
ever…really fresh…loved it…well done.”

For more highlights including videos, audio 
of the three main talks and more, please visit 

6) His Eminence, Thomas Car-
dinal Collins thanked Paul and 
Dorle Kromer for the many 
years they have tirelessly worked 
to organize the *Lift Jesus Higher 
Rally*. He called them a “treasure 
for the Church.” Pictured above 
are the Kromers with Cardinal 
Collins and Ralph and Anne 
Martin. 7) There wasn’t a dull 
moment with Haley Pline and 
Pete Burak as MVP emcees. 8) 
Sean Breeden and Sean Dono-
van served as coaches to reiter-
ate key points using humorous 
pep talks. 9) Sr. Sarah Burdick, 
SGL kicked off the rally by 
encouraging the youth to get 
in shape at a spiritual training 
camp. 10) Steve Minten gave 
a powerful testimony about 
being freed from an addiction 
to pornography. 11) During 
Eucharistic adoration, Fr. Scott 
McCaig, CC, invited the teens to 
commit their lives to Christ. 12) 
The youth rally team included 
(back row, left to right) Haley 
Pline, Christina Thomashefski, 
Cynthia Rutherford, Sean Dono-
van, (middle row) Pete Burak, 
Charlotte Brinkman, Debbie 
Thornton, Sarah Patton, Sean 
Breeden, Patrick DiDonato, 
(front row) Joey McCoy, Juli-
anna Marcarelli, and Natalia 
Collins.
May 2014
Greenville, SC
Divine Mercy Today
May 1
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
Contact: www.OLRGreenville.net
Ann Arbor, MI
i.d.916 Disciples’ Night
May 1
Speaker: Fr. John Riccardo
RSVP on i.d.916 Facebook page or email
intentionaldisciples916@gmail.com
Waverly, NE
Faith More Precious than Gold
May 2
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
Contact: www.goodcounsel.com
Mission to Serbia
May 6-11
Deacon Zoltán Kunszabó and Team
Contact: Kathleen at 734-662-1730 ext. 132 or
kkittle@renewalministries.net
Riverdale, NY
Shalom Festival
May 10
Peter Herbeck
Contact: gloria@shalomworld.org
Harrisburg, PA
Catholic Men’s Conference
May 10
Ralph Martin
Contact: jgontis@hbgdiocese.org

Mission to Turkey
May 14-26
John Kazanjian and Team
Contact: Kathleen at 734-662-1730 ext. 132 or
kkittle@renewalministries.net
Northville, MI
Our Lady of Victory Parish
May 15
Ralph Martin
Contact: www.olvnorthville.org
Bowling Green, OH
Blessed and Beloved Women’s Conference
May 17
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
Contact: mmartinex@toledodiocese.org
Huntley, IL
St Mary Parish Renewal
May 24
Ralph Martin
Contact: Joseph.Marmion@tellabs.com

June 2014
Rome, Italy
XXXVII Convocation of Renewal
with Pope Francis
June 1-2
Ralph Martin
Contact: events@iccrs.org
Ypsilanti, MI
Renewal Ministries Gathering
June 6-8
The Renewal Ministries Team
Contact: www.renewalministries.net or
734-662-1730 ext. 132

We ought to act as if we were at war— as indeed we are— and never relax until we have won the victory.
—St. Teresa of Avila

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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