Sr. Ann, Peter and myself, as well as all our country coordinators and support staff, continue to proclaim the beauty and truth of the faith. And we invite all who hear to respond wholeheartedly. I think, like Jesus, you and all of us continue to grow in age, wisdom and grace! We are very grateful to God for how He continues to strengthen and equip us for the ongoing mission.

Since my last letter, I had the special privilege of speaking on the New Evangelization at a seminar for bishops sponsored by the Catholic Leadership Institute. Participants included bishops from all over the US, Canada and even one bishop from Ireland. I spoke at a similar seminar last year. Again, I came away impressed by how much these bishops desire to grow in their love for God and their people and lead their people in the New Evangelization.

I also joyously accepted the invitation from a longtime Renewal Ministries supporter and mission team member to be a keynote speaker at the annual Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference in Little Rock, AR. The other keynote speaker was Bishop Sam Jacobs, who for many years was the Chairman of the Board of Renewal Ministries in the US. He recently retired as Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux, LA, but continues to be very active in ministry. As you can imagine Bishop Sam and I are very much on the “same page” and very much enjoyed ministering together again.

Just a week later, I was again with Bishop Sam. This time, we were in Washington, DC where Bishop Sam led a special gathering of various renewal movements. The gathering emulated on a national level what St. John Paul II did on an international level when he gathered representatives of more than 50 renewal movements in Rome in 1998. Here he gave a memorable speech about the charismatic and institutional aspects of the Church being “quasi coessential” to the Church’s constitution. He also implored all present to gratefully receive the charisms and use them in service to others.

At the gathering, I was one of the two keynote speakers and spoke on holiness. Because of travel complications and long weather delays, I only got two hours of sleep the night (morning!) before the event. But God gave me an abundance of energy to speak entirely without

A letter from Ralph Martin

Ralph and Bishop Sam Jacobs were the two main speakers at the Arkansas Catholic Charismatic Conference in Little Rock. Pictured above are Ralph and Bishop Sam with Rita Edwards, head of the conference organization team.
Dear Companions on the Journey, continued from page 1

of Jesus when he heard Peter give an impassioned teaching about religious liberty. He and his wife are now serving the Lord in a truly inspiring way.

Thank you for your love, support, prayers.

In Jesus our brother, Savior and Lord,

Ralph Martin

Charismatic Prayer Aids Parish Renewal

ST. PHILLIP parish in Greenville, RI is experiencing a renewal. The pastor, Fr. Frank Santilli attributes this to three things: perpetual Eucharistic adoration, the Charismatic prayer group and the Men of Saint Joseph. In a recent interview on Boston Catholic TV, he said the parish is receiving new life from all three.

Don Turbitt, a Renewal Ministries country coordinator and his wife Pat are members of St. Phillip. They are active in the prayer group which has grown from 40 to 160 people in just three years. He said, “For the first time in 44 years in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Pat and I are beginning to see it all come together in our own parish. What a blessing.”

Don is also involved in Men of Saint Joseph, International. In two years, the St. Phillip parish chapter has grown to 75 members. He serves as ambassador to the Men of Saint Joseph, Rhode Island, and vice-chairman of the New England Men of Saint Joseph.

For more information about the renewal at St. Phillip, please contact Don at DonTurbitt@gmail.com. For more information about Men of Saint Joseph, International visit: www.MOSJI.org.

Please Pray...

for the Holy Spirit to guide the Church in addressing the pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelization.

that zeal for proclaiming the Gospel may be rekindled in every believer.

for the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.
A grace-filled day with:

Gifted and dynamic speakers who will inspire you:

* Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, author of the best-selling books, 33 Days to Morning Glory and Consoling the Heart of Jesus

* Ralph Martin, Sr. Ann Shields & Peter Herbeck

Divine Mercy Celebration

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Eucharistic Healing Procession

Confession and Holy Mass

For more information or to register:
visit www.LJHRToledo.com
or call 419-244-6711x711
A number of years ago, I wrote a book entitled Pray and Never Lose Heart. It was prompted by the many people who were coming to me, sometimes almost hopeless, seeking ways to help their children and grandchildren who had left the Church. I want to share what you can do as parents and grandparents, godmothers and godfathers, aunts and uncles for those young people you love who seem to have gone astray.

As parents and grandparents, know that your marriage and the graces flowing from this sacrament are particularly powerful when it comes to praying for family members. Set aside time to pray together each day—morning or evening, asking God to give you wisdom as to how you should pray. It is natural to pray for human concerns: health, success in school, good employment, financial stability, etc. We should definitely bring these concerns to prayer, but they are not the most important.

Instead, pray that your children and grandchildren begin to know what it really means to be sons or daughters of God. Pray that their identity and security rest, first of all, on the love God has for them in creating them and giving them life. Pray for growth in wisdom that they might see the true values in life and not those that the world aggressively seeks to constantly put front and center in our lives. Pray for growth in faith and hope and love. Pray that they come to value service to the poor more than the accumulation of wealth and power. Pray they be given truly good friends and mentors. In short, pray that they become true disciples of Jesus Christ!

You can pray in many different ways. Have a good talk with God about the situation and ask Him to inspire and help you to pray for your loved ones according to His will. Pray a decade of the rosary or the Divine Mercy Chaplet together for such intentions. Pray a novena on occasion for some specific need. Pray that the graces of your baptism and confirmation, as well as the graces of your marriage be “activated” on behalf of your loved ones. Such graces are always available for us. But we have to exercise our will and say “Lord, for me and for my loved ones, please let the living water of Christ’s life flow through us; cleanse me of sin; give me a grateful heart for what Christ did for me on the Cross.” The grace of all the sacraments is available. But we need to exercise our free will to choose to receive God’s grace.

Ask God every day to make you a better example of real, living, active faith. Let your loved ones see what is important to you: love for God, love for others. I am not calling you to be perfect—you and I can’t accomplish that on our own. But we can show our children, grandchildren and godchildren what a real disciple looks like. They don’t need to see perfection. That would lead them to depend on themselves to be good. A true disciple knows that the source of all that is good is God; that the closer we walk with Him, the more He can share life with us and impart His life to our souls. Let them see you turning to God for help—a lot!

They need to see that when we make mistakes or sin, we are quick to repent and acknowledge that we did wrong in whatever way seems appropriate. I learned more the first time I heard my father acknowledge that he had been wrong in something he said to my mother, than I would have learned from a lecture on repentance.

Jesus has promised that “Wherever two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them,” (Mt 18:20). What does it mean to be gathered in His Name? If you use someone’s name, say for a job interview, you are letting the interviewer know that this person agrees with you and will lend his name to your request. To use God’s name means that God is standing behind your request.
So when you come together to pray, first seek to know God’s will for the situation so that, in truth you can pray in His Name! It does not mean that just by uttering the name of Jesus something magical happens and you get your wish. No, it is a very high calling to want God’s will above your own! Remember, God is all love and wants nothing but the very best for you and for all those for whom you pray. We are so limited and so shortsighted we cannot see the whole picture of anyone’s life—including our children, grandchildren and godchildren. But if we pray, in His Name, which again means asking God what is most important to Him and then praying accordingly; we can certainly ask for all the other needs we see. Put first in your heart what is first in God’s heart for you and your family—and then watch what happens! Be prepared to persevere through good and difficult circumstances. He has promised “Whatever you ask in My Name, I WILL DO.”

For eight years, I prayed for one situation which seemed hopeless. All during that time, I prayed that God would have His way in the life of someone dear to me and that prayer was answered. “Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; if you ask anything in my name, I will do it,” (Jn 14:13).

I have a good friend whose early life was extremely difficult. It included time in an orphanage, foster homes and an adoptive home both in and outside the US. It is an understatement to say that life was not easy. However, a few weeks ago, she said that all through those years, she had a sense that someone was praying for her but had no idea who that might be. Just recently, after 40 years, she learned from a very reliable source that it was her maternal grandmother who had prayed for her. God heard her prayer and God will hear yours. Never lose heart. +

“PRAY THAT YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN BEGIN TO KNOW WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO BE SONS OR DAUGHTERS OF GOD...”

This month marks the 20th anniversary of Sr. Ann’s popular radio program Food for the Journey. The program is heard five days each week on Ave Maria Radio and many EWTN affiliates. Food for the Journey can also be heard on Renewal Ministries’ website (www.renewalministries.net) where it has been downloaded five million times!
ONE WORD describes this mission trip: family. The entire team was composed of families. The Renewal Ministries’ family was represented by Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw and Gerardo and Araceli Hernandez. We partnered with the Haiti Mission, Inc. (HMI) family of Deacon Lloyd and Faie Duplantis.

In addition, we were greatly blessed to have two Canadian families on the team. Amy and Mike Cronin came with their six children: Alyssa, Tyler, Kyle, Liam, Annie, and Sammy. Chris and Barbara Runstedler came with five of their seven children: Scott, Jacob, Luke, Noah, and Natalie.

Following are highlights of the mission.

Fed the Hungry. Our team handed out food, as well as religious items and other much needed supplies to 340 families. Our youth shook everyone’s hand and distributed the supplies with love and joy.

Consecrated Homes. Each day, Fr. Jomanas accompanied us on visits to homes built by HMI. We consecrated each home and gave each homeowner a beautiful picture of the Sacred Heart.

Visited Schools. We gave out food, peanuts, and other items to the school kids who sang for us and played with us. One of our young men joined a group of girls playing jump rope. Everyone gathered to see him jumping rope from a pushup position.

Comforted Orphans. We visited an orphanage run by the Missionaries of Charity. They are truly God’s hands in action. We were privileged to hold and sing to the babies. In addition, we gave them a donation from the funds raised by our Canadian families.

Visited Prisoners. The team gave each inmate a picnic lunch, a bottle of cold soda, playing cards, peanuts, and a Slim Jim. Lloyd shared the Gospel with the prisoners.

Proclaimed the Gospel. We conducted four evangelistic outreaches in three different locations. On the first night, after observing the team’s eagerness to work and serve, Lloyd surprised us by announcing to the congregation that we would move among them and pray with them. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, the entire team prayed with the people that night and for the following three nights. Many people reported healings and everyone’s faith grew by leaps and bounds.
Our Family has Changed Forever

By the Runstedler Family

WE GAVE OUR CHILDREN the choice of going to Disney World or on a mission trip to Haiti. They chose the mission trip and our family has been changed forever!

Here is a brief reflection from each member.

Chris, dad
Every day we had encounters with the Holy Spirit during the evening missions, home dedications, and school visits. One afternoon while I played cards with the younger children, a white dove visited. It was as if the Holy Spirit dropped in to say, “Hello.” We had an amazing week, one that I will never forget. We received so much more than we could have ever given to these wonderful people. Can’t wait to return!

Barb, mom
The most profound experience for me was during our visit to the Missionaries of Charity orphanage. I have a great sensitivity to bad odors, especially urine. When we entered the babies’ room, Deacon Lloyd placed into my arms a little girl, who smelled of urine. In that instant, I encountered Christ. As I held her, trying to love her, I received God’s love for me.

Jacob, age 18
I really enjoyed praying over people because I had never done that before. The more I did it the more I wanted to do it. I wished we didn’t have to stop. Also visiting the prison and the orphanage were very interesting. By the end of the week I felt like I personally experienced a bunch of the Beatitudes and grew deeper in my relationship with God.

Scott, age 18
The highlight of my week was giving my running shoes to an old man who was wearing two different shoes. His smile really touched me. Something so little to me meant the world to him. I loved praying over people and seeing how happy they were with what little they had. It will be something I cherish for the rest of my life.

Luke, age 15
This was one of the best weeks of my life. The highlight was just how friendly everyone was. You could wave or say, “Hi” and they always did the same back. It just brought so much happiness to me. I also liked praying over people because I could see that the people enjoyed it and it was such a testimony of faith to me. I just loved the entire trip and hope to go on another mission trip.

Noah, age 12
This was the best trip and week of my life. The best part was when we gave away all that stuff like toothbrushes, razors, beans, rice, flour, sugar, oil, pasta, and vouchers. I learned that we are so wealthy, we don’t even know how much water and food we waste. I also learned that God has a purpose for each of us but we don’t know what it is because we are distracted by TV and video games.

Natalie, age 7
This was my first mission trip. It was way better than Disney World. The people’s smiles were so beautiful. Even though they didn’t have much they were still happy. I love praying with the people and teaching the kids how to play clapping games. I love our whole team. I love the praise and worship. I love handing out the rosaries and packing up the family packages. I will remember this trip forever.
“It is indeed more through suffering and persecution than through eloquent preaching, that God wills to establish his kingdom in souls.”

—St. Thérèse of Lisieux

October 2014 ENGAGEMENTS

Ann Arbor, MI
i.d.9:16 Disciples’ Night
October 2
Speaker: Lavinia Spirito
RSVP on i.d.9:16 Facebook page or pete@id916.com

Greensburg, PA
Catholic Men’s Fellowship Retreat
October 3-4
Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck
Contact: Santos Hernandez at 412-427-2302 or visit www.cmfgbg.org

Sacramento, CA
Divine Mercy Conference
October 4
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
Contact: www.DivineMercySacramento.org

Archdiocese of Omaha
Clergy Study Days*
October 6-7
Ralph Martin

Clearwater, FL
Spiritual Gifts Seminar
October 12-15
Peter Herbeck
Contact: divineprovidence.org

Diocese of Sioux City, IA
Clergy Convocation*
October 13-16
Ralph Martin

Sioux City, IA
New Evangelization Summit
October 17-18
Ralph Martin
Contact: www.scdioce.se.org

Brooklyn, MI
i.d.9:16 Summit
October 17-19
Pete Burak
Contact: pburak10@gmail.com

Diocese of Gary, IN
Clergy Convocation*
October 19-21
Ralph Martin
* Not open to the public

October 2014 MISSIONS

Kenya
Peter Thompson and Team
October 8-November 21

Czech Republic and Slovakia
Tom Edwards and Team
October 9-25

Vietnam
Don Turbitt and Team
October 15-27

Mexico
Jim Murphy and Team
October 16-22

For more information about missions contact:
Kathleen at 734-662-1730 ext. 132 or kkittle@renewalministries.net