Dear Sisters and Brothers,

A letter from Ralph Martin

Didn’t 2014 go quickly? It’s December already! It’s the time when, through the rhythm of the liturgical year, we begin to reflect on the Lord’s first coming, for which we are profoundly grateful, and his second coming for which we fervently wait. What an amazing thing! Who could have imagined it? The Word became flesh. God’s Beloved Son joined himself forever to human nature, so that we could go with him, where human nature on its own could never go.

It’s so easy to become familiar with the words – Incarnation, Christmas, and Second Coming – and become a bit blind to the awesome realities that they convey. Lord open our eyes and ears and hearts to see, hear and understand the magnitude of the Gift. We, flesh and blood creatures are taken up into the life of God, into glorious immortality forever and ever. Amen! All because of God’s great love for us in sending us His Son, and the Son’s willingness to offer a sacrifice – his own life! – for our sins, we are not only reconciled to God but taken up into the life of God Himself!!

When we are weighed down by pain, sorrow, disappointment and sufferings of all kinds, it is easy to forget that life is short and the suffering of the present is nothing compared to the weight of Glory that will be ours when Christ Jesus appears! Come Lord Jesus, come!

In the meantime, we “work while the light lasts” (Jn 9:4). Renewal Ministries has never been busier. I must admit that when I have the opportunity to give multiple talks to groups of priests it’s hard to say no – even though it can cause quite a schedule crunch. In the past few months, I have addressed groups of clergy from the Archdiocese of Omaha, NE; the dioceses of Sioux City, IA; Gary, IN and Corpus Christi, TX, as well as Warsaw and Lublin Poland. My gracious wife Anne gave me permission to be gone for Thanksgiving in order to serve the Church in Poland. We try to discern what we should and should not do.

At Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, I had the opportunity of teaching a detailed, 15-week course on the New Evangelization. Among the students were the transitional deacons who will be ordained priests next year.

In addition to giving talks to priests and future priests, I have spoken at many other venues. The Fellowship of Catholic Scholars devoted an entire afternoon at their annual convention to a discussion of my book Will Many Be Saved? What Vatican II Actually Teaches and Its Implications for the New Evangelization. I presented a scholarly paper that supported the argument of the book.

Johnnette Benkovic and I taped five programs on the spiritual journey which will be shown next year on EWTN. In September, we finished taping an entire season of new programs for The Choices We Face. Probably the best ever!! They will begin airing in March 2015.

Recently, our country coordinators gathered for their annual meeting. It is such a support for all those working with us in countries all over the world. We are inspired by them and they are built up by being with us and spending time together.

Peter Herbeck presented a whole week of teaching on the spiritual gifts in Florida. In addition to many other speaking engagements, he hosts the daily radio program, Fire on the Earth. Sr. Ann Shields has also spoken at numerous events. Most recently, she built up the Church in California at a divine mercy conference. She feeds so many people with her daily radio program, Food for the Journey.

Pete Burak and the i.d.9:16 team continue to serve the young adult population in a number of different parishes with
Dear Sisters and Brothers, 

face-to-face and online teachings. The program continues to expand.

We are all very grateful to God for such wonderful opportunities to build up the people of God! As we come to the end of 2014, we look back in wonder at how much has happened, and we look forward to 2015 which we know the Holy Spirit has filled with surprises!

Even though the times we live in are difficult in so many ways, we are immensely consoled to remember that JESUS IS LORD!!! HE IS TRULY LORD!!! He is reigning and ruling even in the midst of what appears to be the unleashing of evil. He is ready to turn all to the purification of His Church, the salvation of His people, and the just judgment of those who refuse to repent.

In this season of gratitude we are filled with thanksgiving for all of you who support us with your prayers, sufferings and finances. Thank you.

In Christ,

Ralph Martin

P.S. If you haven’t given what you would like to Renewal Ministries this year, now is a good time! If your capacity to give has increased during the past year and you are able to do more, we will put it to good use! End of the year giving is a very important part of how the Lord provides for us. Thank you.

Please Pray...

in thanksgiving for all those who have helped Renewal Ministries complete a fruitful year of empowering, equipping and strengthening the Church.

that during Advent and Christmas, many who are away from the Church will turn their hearts to the Lord and find their way home.

that those who are suffering for the sake of the Gospel will know Christ’s peace and protection.

for the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.
ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2014, Dorle Kromer lost her long battle with cancer. She was a true friend and we will miss her tremendously. Her unwavering faith, true servant’s heart and signature gift of joy profoundly inspired us all. We thank our awesome God for her and for all that she did to proclaim the Kingdom!

Since 1998, Dorle and Paul were the driving force behind the *Lift Jesus Higher Rally* in Toronto. At great personal cost they did — and Paul continues to do — everything possible to lift Jesus higher. The rally is the largest annual Catholic evangelistic event of its kind in Canada.

Dorle and Paul were married 51 years. They have one daughter, Michaela who is married to Charles Dickison. She and Charles have four children Mikaela, Claire, Stephanie and Liam.

Dorle’s daily prayer was Daniel 3:52-90. The last verse of this proclamation of praise and thanksgiving speaks deeply to all our hearts (see below). We invite you to follow her example.

“Bless the Lord, you servants of the Lord; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
Bless the Lord, spirits and souls of the righteous; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
Bless the Lord, you who are holy and humble in heart; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
Bless the Lord, Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
For he has rescued us from Hades and saved us from the power of death, and delivered us from the midst of the burning fiery furnace; from the midst of the fire he has delivered us.
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.
All who worship the Lord, bless the God of gods, sing praise to him and give thanks to him, for his mercy endures forever.”
Daniel 3:85-90

Tribute to a Great Friend

SAVE THE DATE

COME TO TORONTO ON 3.7.2015

LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY

FOR DETAILS AND TO REGISTER VISIT
lift-jesus-higher-rally.org
Each year, Renewal Ministries works to foster renewal and evangelization in the Catholic Church by helping people know the personal love of God in Jesus and grow in holiness.

We proclaim Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit through our weekly television program, The Choices We Face, our daily radio programs, Food for the Journey and Fire on the Earth; parish missions, seminars and conferences, as well as books and electronic media. In addition, we conduct missions in 27 countries.

Here are a few photo highlights from 2014.

Ralph traveled frequently to speak at venues around the world, including Ireland and Poland. One of the highlights was speaking at the XXXVII Convocation of Renewal in Rome where he had the opportunity to meet Pope Francis.

This year we marked the 30th anniversary of producing and distributing The Choices We Face. It is the longest running program with the same host in Catholic television. Guests included Dr. Peter Kreeft, Fr. John Riccardo and Patti Mansfield.

In addition to hosting Fire on the Earth, a daily radio program, Peter Herbeck co-hosts EWTN’s Crossing the Goal, and speaks at numerous conferences and parish missions.

For 20 years Sr. Ann Shields, SGL has been encouraging listeners through her daily radio program Food for the Journey! The program is heard Monday through Friday on Ave Maria radio and many EWTN affiliates across the country. In addition, the program can be heard anytime at RenewalMinistries.net.

The Renewal Ministries Gathering fell on Pentecost weekend this year. It was a time to praise and worship the Lord, as well as encourage one another. This year we had the opportunity to worship together in the Spirit at the Christ the King Pentecost Vigil!
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL spoke at numerous missions, conferences and seminars including the Spiritual Motherhood of Priests conference in Kanata, ON.

One of Debbie Herbeck’s many speaking engagements was a Corpus Christi Conference hosted by the Real Presence Apostolate at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth, MI.

Renewal Ministries’ list of resources continues to grow. The latest addition is the As By a New Pentecost video series. It is a simple, effective way to lead people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and introduce them to the working of the Holy Spirit.

The 2014 Pine Hills Girls Camp was our biggest ever. Nearly 300 young women gathered for a week of prayer, friendship, fun and personal encounter with Jesus.

Renewal Ministries’ U.S. Board of Directors, gathered for their annual meeting in October. Seated from left to right are Sharon Doran, Ellen Holian-Mykrantz, Nancy Timmis and Laurie Manhardt. Standing are Ralph Martin, Dcn. Larry Oney, Tim Patton, Robert Van Norden, Tom O’Brien, Dcn. Dan Foley and Fr. David Pivonka.
The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. Isaiah 61:1-3

International Missions

During 2014, Renewal Ministries conducted 40 missions in 27 countries. These missionary activities impacted thousands of lives through rallies, conferences, camps and retreats.

Jim “Butch” Murphy with some young friends from the Mexico mission.

The Renewal Ministries country coordinators gathered in Michigan for their annual meeting. Pictured from left to right are (back row) Peter Newburn, Don Turbitt, Peter Herbeck, VP and Director of Missions, Dcn. Zoli Kunszabó, Butch Murphy, John Kazanjian, Nancy Greenhaw, (middle row) Lloyd Greenhaw, Peter Thompson, Dcn. Steve Thomashefski, Dr. Peter Williamson, Tom Edwards, Tibi Majoros, Gerardo Hernandez, (front row) Bohus Zivcak, Emmanuel Tamakloe, Lucia Thomashefski.

Youth Camp in Romania

Lloyd Greenhaw preached to youth at Fatima High School in Papua New Guinea.
A talk by Jeanne Thompson spurred the creation of a crisis pregnancy outreach in Cameroon.

Retreat team with Archbishop Souraphiel in Ethiopia.

Dcn. Larry Oney blessing children after Mass in Uganda.

Don Turbit with team in Latvia.

Conference in Slovakia.

A women's retreat in Cape Coast, Liberia.
On the Road

“Let us follow the star of inspiration and divine attraction, which calls us to the crib, and let us go thither to adore and love the child Jesus and offer ourselves to him.”

—St. Jane Frances de Chantal

December 2014 ENGAGEMENTS

Toronto, CAN
Catholic Renewal Ministries Board Meeting
December 1
Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields, SGL

Ann Arbor, MI
i.d.9:16 Disciples’ Night
December 4
Heidi Bratton
RSVP on i.d.9:16 Facebook page or pete@id916.com

Vero Beach, FL
Parish Mission at St. Helen
December 6-9
Peter and Debbie Herbeck
Contact: 772-567-5129

Plymouth, MI
Advent Mission at Our Lady of Good Counsel
December 10-12
Peter and Debbie Herbeck
www.olgcparish.net

Weslaco, TX
Parish Event at San Martin de Porres
January 30-31
Peter Herbeck, Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw
Contact: Joselzamora@Eaton.com or 956-802-6306

* Not open to the public

MISSIONS

Mexico – Young Adult Mission
Butch Murphy, Debbie Herbeck and Team
January 3-9

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

January 2015 ENGAGEMENTS

Ann Arbor, MI
i.d.9:16 Disciples’ Night
January 8
RSVP on i.d.9:16 Facebook page or pete@id916.com

R e n e w a l  M i n i s t r i e s

In the United States
Episcopal Advisor
Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, St. Louis, MO
Chairman of the Board
Deacon Dan Foley
President
Ralph Martin

In Canada
Episcopal Advisor
Cardinal Thomas Collins, Toronto
Chairman of the Board
Msgr. Gregory Smith, Vancouver

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, conferences, retreats and other international evangelistic events.

Editor
Rose Wingfield
Design
Cynthia Rutherford
© 2014 by Renewal Ministries