A letter from Ralph Martin

Dear Faithful Friends,

Sometimes it seems as if there’s a fog settling over the Church that is softening or even silencing the Gospel. Recently, a friend asked me what I thought about the latest document issued on Catholic/Jewish dialogue, The Gifts and the Calling of God are Irrevocable (Rom 11:29), and I thought you might find these comments of interest also.

I think this document, like many others connected with Jewish/Catholic dialogue, shies away from directly stating the obvious truth. There’s an incredible amount of hedging, fudging, and contorting that needs to come to an end for the sake of both truth and charity. If we really love our Jewish dialogue partners, we need to speak the truth to them in love; in non-dialogue contexts, we need to boldly proclaim to Jew and Gentile alike that Jesus is the Lord.

Don’t we believe that Jesus is God’s gift to Jews and Gentiles, the fulfillment of the calling of Israel; the fulfillment of the covenant, the Torah, and the temple; and why the Jewish people exist? Don’t we believe that Jesus has commanded us, following His own example and explicit directives, to proclaim Him boldly and with confidence to Jews and Gentiles as the fullness of Revelation and the fullness of salvation?

As Hebrew Catholics I know state with puzzlement: Why would we hide from Jews the fulfillment of their destiny, why would we keep them from knowing their Messiah, why would we keep them from the joy of participating in the fullness of the means of salvation? Why would we endanger their salvation by hiding from them what we must do to be saved? Why would we endanger our salvation by “blushing for the Gospel,” out of human respect? Do we fear men more than God?

This of course links directly with paragraph sixteen of Lumen Gentium (LG) in particular. The Gifts and the Calling of God states that salvation is possible for Jews in some inscrutable way—but the way is not so inscrutable. When someone—Jew or Gentile—is inculpably ignorant of the Gospel, is sincerely seeking God, and is trying to live in accordance with the instinct for right and wrong given in their conscience—assisted by grace—it is possible to be saved (LG 16). Possible.

But often, Jews and Gentiles aren’t inculpably ignorant of the Gospel and aren’t seeking God, but rather are living for this world. They aren’t living according to their consciences, but are deadening them through wicked deeds of greed, lust, deception, exploitation, hatred, unforgiveness, selfishness, etc. They aren’t responding to the mysterious working of the Spirit giving them grace to say “yes” to God that can be salvific even without knowing the name of Jesus.

continued on page 2
When will we again hear the voice of the apostles in documents like these? When will we again hear the challenging voice of Jesus, such documents? I’m not proposing stating things in such a stark way as ecumenical dialogue but, in my opinion, it needs to be humbly and sensitively—but also much more directly—said than it is in this and virtually all other documents like it. And we definitely, in all our contact with Jews, need to be sensitive to the sometimes anti-Semitic aspects of history during which Christians did indeed persecute Jews, and of course the trauma of the Holocaust. But our sensitivity and empathy for such suffering cannot lead us to not look for opportunities to lovingly share the truth about the great gift that God has given to all people, including, and most especially, to Jews. Also, we should directly counter the “threat of losing our identity” fear by speaking of Jesus as the fulfillment of Jewish identity. Let’s celebrate Jewish history, tradition, and culture. Let’s preserve Jewish identity, in a Hebrew Catholic Rite! Regarding “institutionally定位” Jews in evangelization—we’ve been asked by Jesus to “target” everyone. In the general plans to evangelize, many specialized ministries have developed to make the proclamation of the Gospel more culturally relevant and effective, whether it be the “White Missions” in Africa, the Jesuit missions in China, etc. Why wouldn’t we want, as an act of wisdom and mercy, to find ways to effectively communicate the Gospel to Jews—as the Jews Jesus, Paul, and Matthew so obviously did? Let’s keep on “fighting the good fight” in all our local situations, trying to faithfully love God and our neighbor in our homes, neighborhoods, and families.

Thanks be to God for all the wonderful ways we’ve been touched, and in touching, people all over the world, all the time! Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

When the group went home from the 2015 Gathering, it seemed they wouldn’t be able to bring the Life in the Spirit Seminar to their parish. They continued by praying. Jeanie explained, “We were called to do it. We didn’t give up. We couldn’t forget how we felt when we left here—we knew we had to do it.” For nearly a year, the group—along with “prayer warriors” who joined them—prayed to Mary, Undoer of Knots, that the Lord would open doors to bring a Life in the Spirit Seminar to their parish.

And then, unexpectedly, Debra Howley, the director of the St. Francis Prayer Center in nearby Flint, Michigan, visited St. John’s pastor to tell him about the prayer center. While she was there, the priest mentioned that some people in the parish wanted to do a Life in the Spirit Seminar—and she offered to help lead one. “The Lord had a plan,” she explained. Nevertheless, things still didn’t fall into place smoothly, and shortly before the seminar was scheduled to begin, “the only ones signed up were us and the prayer warriors,” said Jeanie. So they kept praying—“praying was our power,” she said.

When the Holy Spirit Comes

Four women from St. John’s Church in Fenton, Michigan, discovered that the call of the New Evangelization truly is for all Catholics.

Those prayers bore fruit—during the last week before the seminar, nearly 200 people registered. And almost 250 people attended the entire six-week seminar.

“We thank God, because He brought a beautiful seminar to our parish, and it went off like fireworks,” said Jeanie.

And the fruit doesn’t end there. According to Debra, ninety people who attended the seminar also attended follow-up courses.

Debra explained that the Fenton story tells us all to be faithful to what we’ve been called for—but the momentum and the fruit have got to be God’s.

“Grace cooperates with us doing our part,” she added. “Those women were faithful and persistent—like the faithful widow in Scripture.”

As Peter explained, “God was moving them. Pope Francis said the Church be for the move—when the Holy Spirit comes, God wants us to get moving, and get into what He wants us to do, even if we don’t have all figured out. They did it, and they were faithful, and they passed the current of grace on to others.”

As By A New Pentecost Inspires New Round of Life in the Spirit Seminars

Encouraged by Pope Francis’ exhortation to “organize seminars of life in the Spirit in your parishes and seminaries, schools, and communities of prayer, neighborhoods, to share baptism in the Spirit,” people around the country are doing just that—and Renewal Ministries’ As By A New Pentecost DVD series can help!

In the series, Charismatic Renewal leaders Ralph Martin, David Manigan, Patti Manifold, Sr. Ann Shields, and Peter Herbeck present all seven talks of a standard Life in the Spirit Seminar.

Renewal Ministries recently surveyed people who have used the DVD set. Norma, from Texas, gave a typical response: “Thank you! Thank you! The videos were absolutely uplifting and amazing. The Holy Spirit is moving mightily in our prayer group now.

Some groups use the DVD set for all of their presentations, some supplement them with live testimonies, and others use primarily live testimonies and expand with the DVDs. Groups have hosted seminars at homes, parish centers, or classrooms. Hosting a seminar in a parish often boosts attendance. Personal testimonies after Mass help increase the number of participants, even those who may not be interested as well.

People baptized in the Spirit years ago say they benefit from retaking a seminar, especially with the DVD’s updated teaching.

Most people follow a seven-week format; others meet once a week for four weeks, with two talks each night, and some present all of the talks on a day or weekend.

Small prayer groups seem especially grateful for the DVD set. Ted, from British Columbia, said the DVDs made for “much less work to do for our core group.” He added, “Great talk! Those who attended loved it.” Another leader wrote, “They took the uncertainty out of the seminar.”

Others appreciate that the DVDs “uphold Catholic teaching and tradition,” as one deacon explained. He added, “This DVD set is thorough and can be used by itself to deliver an accurate and vibrant teaching of the outgoing and gifts of the Holy Spirit...We felt confident using these materials.”

Jeanie Fraikes, left, was one of a group of women inspired to bring a Life in the Spirit Seminar to their parish after attending the 2015 Renewal Ministries’ Gathering.

P.S.

We’re happy to announce that Dr. Mary Healy, a long-time friend and colleague at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, has officially joined Renewal Ministries as a Special Consultant. We have long shared a commitment to the return of prayer and a concern for the state of the Church and the world. This simply formalizes a relationship that has been close for a long time. You can read more about Mary on pages four and five of this newsletter.

Also, we should directly counter the “threat of losing our identity” fear by speaking of Jesus as the fulfillment of Jewish identity. Let’s celebrate Jewish history, tradition, and culture. Let’s preserve Jewish identity, in a Hebrew Catholic Rite! Regarding “institutionally-targeting” Jews in evangelization—we’ve been asked by Jesus to “target” everyone. In the general plans to evangelize, many specialized ministries have developed to make the proclamation of the Gospel more culturally relevant and effective, whether it be the “White Missions” in Africa, the Jesuit missions in China, etc. Why wouldn’t we want, as an act of wisdom and mercy, to find ways to effectively communicate the Gospel to Jews—as the Jews Jesus, Paul, and Matthew so obviously did? Let’s keep on “fighting the good fight” in all our local situations, trying to faithfully love God and our neighbor in our homes, neighborhoods, and families.

Thanks be to God for all the wonderful ways we’ve been touched, and in touching, people all over the world, all the time! Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

1. Sr. Emmanuel of Medjugorje’s new book, Peace Will Have the Last Word, is "like a light in the darkness and water in a dry land."

2. A selection of Renewal Ministries’ books are now being printed and distributed in Ireland!

No one lives in a theoretical vacuum. There are individual Jews and Gentiles who are searching for a meaning to their life, they all deserve to know the very best information available about the power from on high, in order to be “saved from this wicked generation,” as Peter so boldly said—truly all other documents like it.
Please share some of your testimony with us.

We were “Sunday Catholics” until my parents’ conversion when I was twelve. But from early on, I had a hunger for the Lord. At age six, I had a dream about Jesus—I think that was when I began to fall in love with Him. In high school, I went on retreats, attended Bible studies, and was in the parish choir, but I never really learned how to have a prayer life, a daily interaction with the Lord. In college, I found little to foster my faith, and I felt far from God. That is why I attended the Franciscan University of Steubenville for graduate school. I knew I could find the Lord there.

I took a course with Fr. Francis Martin and began to see what incredible treasures of wisdom and inspiration are found in Scripture when it is unpacked and interpreted rightly. I decided to pursue the scholarly study of the Bible. But before I did that, the Lord unexpectedly led me to Mother of God Community, a charismatic group in Maryland. I was there for many years. The community was a tremendous gift, a means of deeper conversion and growth in my life.

What drew you to the Charismatic Renewal?

In the Renewal, I saw New Testament Christianity lived out in a most visible and radical way. I saw a strong awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit and His activity in our daily life. I saw a recognition that by His power, it is truly possible to put sin to death and live for God.

When have you seen the Holy Spirit at work?

In Mother of God Community, there were the typical challenges of living in very close fellowship with others. But we experienced the power of the Holy Spirit as we worked out our differences through prayer, spiritual warfare, relying on the cross of Jesus and His blood, and learning to forgive and love each other.

When did you move to Ann Arbor?

Three years ago, I took a sabbatical, which allows time for more focused research. I really felt the Lord prompting me to study healing and its role in evangelization.

How did your relationship with Renewal Ministries begin?

My mission is to know and love the Lord and to make Him known and loved, especially by helping spread the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit throughout the Church.

How did you get involved with Renewal Ministries?

I was there for many years. The community was a tremendous gift, a means of deeper conversion and growth in my life.

Please tell us about one of your biggest projects, writing the Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture, with Dr. Peter Williamson.

It was Peter’s idea. We both completed our doctorates in Rome in 2000, and we both recognized that there is a lack of good Catholic resources in the middle range, between academic and popular writings. The Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture breaks open the Word and shows that God is still speaking to us through His Word today.

Describe the mission of your work and life.

My mission is to know and love the Lord and to make Him known and loved, especially by helping spread the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit throughout the Church.

What is your mission to know and love the Lord and to make Him known and loved?

By Him, we are to know and love the Lord and to make Him known and loved, especially by helping spread the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit throughout the Church.

Please tell us about being a member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission.

The PBC is an international group of twenty biblical scholars appointed by the pope, whose job it is to advise the Holy See on matters related to biblical interpretation. In the present five-year term, our task is to study the topic of biblical anthropology: What does the Bible teach about the human person? We will produce a document, and then the pope will decide whether it gets published.

Please tell us about the Cross of Jesus and His blood, and learning to forgive our differences through prayer.

The gifts of prophecy and tongues have always been important to my spiritual growth and community life. Later, the Lord began to teach me more about the role of signs and wonders.

You are a member of the ICCRS (International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services) Doctrinal Commission. Please tell us about that.

The Doctrinal Commission was formed ten years ago to provide theological guidance to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. We’ve published two documents so far, Guidelines on Prayers for Healing and Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and we’ve just finished a new one on deliverance ministry, which we hope to publish this year. These documents are geared toward leaders and participants in the Renewal as well as priests or bishops with responsibility over Renewal groups.

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Sacred Heart has been a wonderful place to teach. I have been able to interact with leaders and participants in the Renewal as well as priests or bishops with responsibility over Renewal groups.

Please tell us about your comfort zone. Anyone who does that and perseveres is going to see amazing things.

Do you have any new work coming out soon?

There is the ICCRS document on deliverance ministry, and I am co-authoring a book with Randy Clark on spiritual gifts from an ecumenical perspective. Also, my commentary on Hebrews just came out!

We have published Healing: Bringing the Gift of God’s Mercy to the World and Renewal Ministries produced a CD of your discussions with Peter Hebeck on this topic, entitled Does Jesus Still Heal? Please tell us about your interest in this area.

Three years ago, I took a sabbatical, which allows time for more focused research. I really felt the Lord prompting me to study healing and its role in evangelization.

During that time, I went on a mission trip to Brazil as part of a team with Randy Clark, a Protestant evangelist, with an international healing ministry. For those two weeks, I saw miracles daily. I saw the Lord open blind eyes and deaf ears; I saw tumors and pain disappear; some of our team members saw people get out of wheelchairs. After that, I couldn’t be the same. I cannot but speak of what I have seen and heard! Healing and miracles are meant to be a part of the New Evangelization.

How can people experience this in their own lives?

We need to fill our minds with truth—too read the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles and meditate on what Scripture reveals about Jesus as our Healer. Also, it helps to hang out with people who are exercising great faith and seeing miracles. Step out in faith. Pray for healing with great fervor and expectancy, especially when evangelizing. Obey the leading of the Holy Spirit, even if He takes you outside of your comfort zone. Anyone who does that and perseveres is going to see amazing things.

You speak all over the world. Please tell us about that.

It’s a real privilege to get a glimpse of what the Lord is doing around the world. The Lord is awakening Christians everywhere to our identity as sons and daughters of God and to the authority we have in Christ. So many people today are in need of healing, and many miracles of healing and deliverance are occurring.

The Lord also is awakening the Church to the urgent priority of Christian unity. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, we have to seek to overcome divisions in the Body of Christ, which are a scandal to the world.

I see many reasons to hope. People are beginning to heed Pope Francis’ call to go out to the peripheries with the Gospel and not to remain enclosed in church buildings. The laity is taking a leadership role in carrying out the mission of the Church. People are evangelizing with bold faith for signs and wonders.

Please pray...

For all those who have fallen away from the Church, that they would open their hearts to the beauty and truth of the Catholic faith.

For all those caring for elderly parents, special needs children, or others, that the Lord would strengthen them and bless them with joy in doing His work.

For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their families, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.
We worked in three different dioceses on this trip. The bishops are true missionary bishops—tough and rugged, with a real heart for the people. They recognize Renewal Ministries as a valuable asset to their work. They live with many challenges and hardships, plus bouts of malaria and other tropical sicknesses, and do it with humor and grace. It is an honor to serve with them.

Papua New Guinea is not for the faint hearted! While we were there, students at the public universities walked out in protest of government corruption. There were riots and, we were told, six killings. Tribal violence was erupting in many places, and two of our outreachs were cancelled due to concerns of more violence.

Getting to remote parishes was challenging. On one trip across open water in an eighteen-foot boat, the waves were very high, and we were slammed against the bottom of the boat by swells and drenched with sea water coming over the sides. Coming back was worse! On another trip to a remote parish, we alternately slid sideways down mountainsides with sheer dropoffs on one side and then forged through rising rivers before the roads became impassible.

ASS FOR THEE, SWEET JESSUS!

At least 300 came to hear the Good News at St. Patrick’s in Wewak. According to Nancy, “They were a beautiful and eager group of people.”

The next day, we went to the Holy Trinity Teachers College. We proclaimed the Lordship of Christ, and I talked about the extraordinary grace of the Jubilee of Mercy. Lloyd talked on the call of the Lord on their lives and about teaching being a ministry. We asked them to invite Jesus into their lives in a new and deeper way and prayed for empowerment in the Spirit. Several students asked for individual prayer.

Lloyd speaks on the Jubilee of Mercy and the leadership of Jesus to about 900 youth of different faiths at Fatima High School. According to Nancy, “Nobody wanted to leave!”

That evening, we went to a school for girls. We normally spend two days there, but a huge problem has overshadowed all their activities. The land owners want more money than the original contract; for six weeks, they closed the gates so no one could pass. When we arrived, the landowners wanted more money than the original contract; for six weeks, they closed the gates so no one could pass. As a result, the school lost about 300 girls, and those who remained have to make up all the time that they missed. That meant they could only spend one evening with us.

We sang, danced, and talked with them about how trips are good. Lloyd told them they were blessed and trusted by God, and that if they relied on Him, He would bless them for being faithful during their trials. The sisters said, “That was exactly what they needed. There is a new air of joy and hope.”

At Madang Seminary, we spoke to one-hundred seminarians. Lloyd talked on apologetics and I spoke on the Five Keys, which is a simple, effective prayer method to empower people to take hold of the freedom they have been given in Christ. These young men are hungry for information that will help them as priests and were eager for what we had brought them. They asked many questions, and I feel we made a difference in their formation.

One morning—after delays from heavy rains and flooding—we spoke at the cathedral. Lloyd gave several apologetics talks, Celeste spoke on Theology of the Body, and I gave my testimony. Many people showed up, and we were glad we came.

Soon after that, we went to the island of Karkar. We were greeted by song, and the church was filled to capacity, with about 800 people. Three of Mother Theresa’s nuns sat in the front row, smiling. I gave our testimony, and Lloyd spoke during Mass. We did another session in the evening, plus a healing service.

We headed home the next morning amidst a dark sky and huge ocean swells. Apparently, many people have run out of gas here, or had motor problems, and were either never seen again or were found on other islands months later. The worst part was climbing out of the boat with shaky hands, up a ten-foot volcanic rock, with slippery wet sandals.

This was one of the strongest trips of the year, in terms of bringing the Gospel to remote areas where it was sorely needed. The archbishop and Father Joseph heard many powerful stories of healing and hope from our visit. The bishops asked us to continue bringing the hope of the Gospel to PNG.
## October 2016 ENGAGEMENTS

### Alberta, Canada
- **Deacons’ Retreat**
  - Oct. 1-2
  - Ralph Martin

### Alberta, Canada
- **Priests’ Study Days**
  - Oct. 3-6
  - Ralph Martin

### Winona, IA
- **Priests’ Day of Reflection**
  - Oct. 3-4
  - Dr. Mary Healy

### Atlanta, GA
- **Legatus Meeting**
  - Oct. 5
  - Peter Herbeck

### Charlotte, NC
- **Legatus Meeting**
  - Oct. 6
  - Peter Herbeck

### Ann Arbor, MI
- **i.d:9:16 Disciples’ Night**
  - Oct. 6
  - Sr. John Dominic
  - Contact: julianna@id916.com

### Temperance, MI
- **Mercy Conference**
  - Oct. 8
  - Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, and Sr. Ann Shields
  - Contact: 734-847-2805

### Ann Arbor, MI
- **Renewal Ministries’ US Board Meeting**
  - Oct. 9-10
  - Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, and Sr. Ann Shields

### St. Louis, MO
- **Symposium for Laity and Religious**
  - Oct. 22
  - Sr. Ann Shields
  - Contact: 314-792-7250 or consecratedlife@archstl.org

### Lake Zurich, IL
- **Jubilee Year of Mercy Speaker Series**
  - Oct. 25
  - Ralph Martin
  - Contact: 847-438-6622

### Trinidad
- **Women’s Retreat**
  - Oct. 28-30
  - Dr. Mary Healy
  - Contact: Chelsea Jardim 868-492-8432 or divinepottermissionaries.tt@gmail.com

### Mundelein, IL
- **Lighthouse Catholic Media Associates Meeting**
  - Oct. 28
  - Ralph Martin

### Kenya
- **Sept. 28-Oct. 10**
  - Peter Thompson

### Serbia
- **Oct. 6-9**
  - Dcn. Zoltan Kunszabo

### Cameroon
- **Oct. 23-29**
  - Peter Newburn

### San Antonio, TX
- **St. Mary’s University**
  - Oct. 11
  - Dr. Mary Healy
  - Contact: Dr. Bob O’Connor 210-436-3799

### Naples, FL
- **Legatus Meeting**
  - Oct. 13
  - Dr. Mary Healy

### Cleveland, OH
- **Families in Christ Jesus**
  - Oct. 13
  - Peter Herbeck
  - Contact: Ross Federico at federicocc.org

### Washington, DC
- **Catholic Medical Association**
  - Oct. 15
  - Ralph Martin

### Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- **Conference on Mercy**
  - Oct. 15-16
  - Sr. Ann Shields
  - Contact: tell.us@ccredmonton.info

### Detroit, MI
- **Wayne State Upper Room**
  - Oct. 19
  - Peter Herbeck
  - Contact: 313-577-3462 or newman@wayne.edu

### Wyoming, PA
- **The Urgency of the New Evangelization**
  - Oct. 21-22
  - Ralph Martin
  - Contact: dmclerico@yahoo.com

*Not open to the public

For a complete listing, visit: RenewalMinistries.net/Events

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### RENEWAL MINISTRIES

**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, ON
- **Chairman of the Board**
  - Monsignor Gregory Smith, Vancouver, BC

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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, conferences, retreats, and other international evangelistic events.

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