Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Time is flying, isn’t it? Summer sped by and fall is quickly moving on. But Jesus is Lord, and all that is of value will be saved in Him, and we will have eternity to celebrate His good works!

Sometimes when I am at Mass, I am distracted, and it is only with effort that I pull myself back to the precious reality that is unfolding. At other times, the Holy Spirit in His kindness helps me to “really tune in” and participate with awe in the Holy Sacrifice. This past Sunday was like this.

We sang a Jim Cowan song at Communion—“Who am I, that I should receive the Cup of Life outpoured, the Bread of Life, the Blood of Christ, the Body of my Lord?”—which seemed to perfectly capture the awesome reality of the gift of Jesus. When we receive the Body and drink the Blood, we truly are being given eternal life outpoured. What a gift!

This is the long-sought “fountain of youth” that European explorers searched for all over the world but never found. This is the gift that guarantees death is not the end. Instead, death is merely the transition to the new heavens and new earth, where the fullness of God’s love rules. We become part of this heavenly reality through the resurrection from the dead and life everlasting—a life of such magnificence, joy, and fulfillment that we “can only imagine” it, and that so imperfectly.

As Mercy Me sings in I Can Only Imagine, “Surrounded by Your glory, what will my heart feel? Will I dance for You, Jesus, or in awe of You be still? Will I stand in Your presence or to my knees will I fall? Will I sing Hallelujah, will I be able to sing at all? I can only imagine.”

Yet in the midst of the great grace of the Eucharist and the great sadness of seeing our country turn away from our Lord, our task is to do what we can each day to love God and our neighbor by carrying out our daily responsibilities. For us at Renewal Ministries, that means continuing to reach out with the Good News of Christ’s redemption and the witness to that found in Holy Scripture and the tradition of the Church.

Thank you for your generosity, which makes this possible. You can see some of the ways in which your faithfulness is bearing fruit on page five of this newsletter, where we have included a sampling of the many letters we receive from people each day.

Faithfully yours,

Ralph Martin
Ralph Martin gave the following talk at a recent i.d.9:16 Disciples’ Night. The text below has been abridged from its original form; you can hear the entire talk by visiting our YouTube channel. Simply go to our home page, RenewalMinistries.net, and click on the YouTube icon on the left side. You will find the talk under Playlist > Conferences > Putting Our Treasure In Its Place.

It’s really amazing how much Jesus and the apostles teach about money. I want to start this discussion on money—on our “treasure”—by reminding us what it means that Jesus is Lord.

I say to you, “Today if you hear his voice, harden not your heart” (Ps 95:7-8).

Jesus is Lord—do you understand how important that is? He’s the Lord, He’s God, and everything He says to us is important, so we want to hear what He says about money.

Some of the greatest competitors for the Lordship of Christ are money, sex, and power. These are strong desires in human beings—almost unconscious desires that lead us in a certain direction. They are competitors to the Lordship of Christ, unless they are in harmony with His Lordship.

That’s why one of the pillars of i.d.9:16 is ongoing conversion—more and more wanting Him to be Lord of our lives—and it doesn’t happen all at once. I’m still finding parts of my life that I’m opening to the Lord that I didn’t know were closed to Him.

In Matthew 6:24, Jesus says, “No person can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other or be attentive to one and despise the other. You cannot give your heart to both.”

In 1 Timothy 6:7-10, Paul gives basic advice about our attitude toward money: We brought nothing into this world, nor have we the power to take anything out of it. If we have food and clothing, we have all that we need. Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They’re letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires that drag man down to ruin and destruction.

Another both challenging and life-giving passage, Hebrews 13:5-6, instructs us to keep our lives free from the love of money, and to be content with what we have. But how do we be content with what we have? By trusting in the Lord, who said, “I will never abandon you, nor will I forsake you.”

Therefore, we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid; what can man do to me” (Heb 13:5-6)? For those who love God, everything works according to the good. Whether we live or die, we can’t lose if we are in Christ and He is our Lord.

How is this really possible?

In my work, I’ve met wealthy people who have millions and millions of dollars, but don’t think they have enough to begin giving to the Church. I also know people with lots of money who are so afraid of losing it that they can’t give.

I’ve also had the opposite experience. I was in little village in India one time. They were very excited about seeing an American for the first time. They gathered in a little huddle and started talking to each other, and they were really excited. They said, “Wait, we’ve got something for you!” Somebody ran off, and about twenty minutes later, they came back with a bottle of Coca Cola.

I can’t tell you how moved I was by that. I knew that I needed to take that Coca Cola, even though it was the collective wealth of the village. They pooled their resources to buy it for me, and they were so happy to do it.

Being content with what we have isn’t a function of how much we have—it’s a function of Who we know. It’s a function of the relationship we have with the Lord Himself.

Let me share a bit of my personal testimony with you.

When my wife and I got married, I only had a part-time job. I was digging sewer lines in Williamston, Michigan, and then we got hired at St. Mary’s Chapel, but not at a very high wage. My wife was a lab tech, but we were pregnant with our first baby and she was going to have to stop work, and we were wondering how this was going to work.

One day on her way home from the hospital, my wife stopped at the chapel and said, “I’m not leaving, Lord, until You let me know whether this is going to work out or not.”

I was back in our one-bedroom apartment praying the same prayer—“Lord, help, what is going to happen?”

I had this absolutely strong experience of God saying, “I’m your Father; you can rely on Me. You can trust Me.”

An excessive, disordered love of money becomes the root for all evil (1 Tm 6:10), because people start cheating, cutting corners, making deals, etc. Jesus teaches His disciples to hold on to wealth a little lightly—to hold on to everything in life a little lightly. We need to keep giving it to the Lord; we need to keep surrendering it to the Lord.

I was back in our one-bedroom apartment praying the same prayer—“Lord, help, what is going to happen?”

I had this absolutely strong experience of God saying, “I’m your Father; you can rely on Me. You can trust Me.”

My wife got the same sense, so she came home and told me what she experienced, and I told her what I experienced. We didn’t know how it was all going to work, but we knew the Lord had assured us of His care.

Later, I remember praying on the floor of our apartment, which had hardly any furniture. I felt like the Lord told me, “I am going to give you a Scripture passage that you need to make the key Scripture passage of your life.”

It was Luke 12:28:31: “Unbelievers are always worried about what they’re going to eat, what they’re going to wear, what the future’s going to bring, and I say to you, seek first the kingdom of God and his holiness and these other things will be added as well, because your heavenly father knows you need them.”

This is not the prosperity Gospel. This is not the promise of getting a Cadillac or a Mercedes. This is a promise that God the Father is going to give us what we need to carry out the mission for which He created us.

If you put the first things in the first place, the second things are going to work out really well. If you try to put a second thing in the first place, there’s going to be tremendous strain and frustration, and it’s not going to work.

Let me tell you how my wife and I started to deal with the question of tithing. In the Old Testament, you had to give the first ten percent of your income, of the produce of your fields, to the Lord. It is not a requirement in the New Testament.

But in the New Testament, an even greater price has been paid for us; a greater deed has been done for us—Jesus’ death on the cross—so generous giving is encouraged.

When my wife and I got married, we had very few worldly possessions. We shared one very used car with three other couples. We didn’t have a lot, but we started tithing—giving ten percent, with half for the parishes we attended, half for the causes we believed in, and then giving alms. We were just trying to pass on what the Lord was giving to us, and that has been our practice for over forty years.

Sometimes in the early days, when we’d be serving meals, we’d be concerned about not having enough food, and honestly, the food was multiplying!

How is this possible? It’s knowing the Father’s love. It’s gratitude for Jesus’ sacrifice and wanting to follow His teaching.

Continued on page 4
Jesus says, “Do not be afraid any longer little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide moneybags for that you wear not out—an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy, for where your treasure is, there also will your heart be” (Lk 12:31-34).

St. Francis DeSales has tremendous wisdom about how to make this concrete: How do you know you’re not fooling yourself about your relationship to money? How do you know you’re letting Jesus really be Lord of your finances? He talks about some of the ways we can deceive ourselves in this area and some practical steps we can take to keep turning this area over to the Lord.

The first thing he says is waiting until you have enough is a delusion. You’re never going to feel like you have enough. He says start where you are, being generous with what you have. The second thing he recommends is asking yourself what happens when you lose money.

Do you freak out? Do you feel like the end of the world has come? What happens to your heart? Are you so attached to money that it’s disturbing your whole life—or can you move beyond it, trusting that the Lord will provide?

He says if you find your heart very desolate and afflicted at the loss of money, love it too much. The strongest proof of love for a lost object is suffering over its loss. Instead, accept your losses meekly, patiently, and avail yourself of the opportunity to live more simply. The Apostle Paul said, “I know how to handle the want and I know how to handle abundance. I know how to abase and I know how to abound” (Phil 4:12).

We need to have a certain detachment and freedom about leaving our money in God’s hands. Talking about disciples, St. Catherine of Sienna said, “The Lord gives a lot of money to people He knows can handle it well. And if He’s not giving you a lot of money, maybe it’s for the good of your soul, maybe He knows you couldn’t handle it well.”

Scripture also has advice to people who are wealthy: “Tell those who are rich in this world’s goods not to be proud, and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth. Let them trust in the God who provides us richly with all things for our use. Charge them to do good, to be rich in good works, and generously sharing what they have, thus they will build a secure foundation for the future, for receiving that life which is life indeed” (1 Tim 6).

You can’t outdo the Lord in generosity. I can’t tell you how much the Lord has blessed us like He says He will bless those who follow Him. I’d recommend if you’re not already tithing to start doing it, even if you hardly have any money, and see what the Lord will do.

Want to hear Ralph’s complete talk, including Q & A? Check it out on the Renewal Ministries’ YouTube channel by going to youtube.com/RenewalMinistriesRM. Click on Playlists, open the Conferences category and select “Putting Our Treasure In Its Place.”
Peter has served in full-time ministry for over thirty years. Recently, Peter and his family spent three years as missionaries in Cameroon, where Peter was a theology teacher at the major seminary. He also worked for almost nine years as a parish life coordinator in the Diocese of San Bernardino, California, where he was responsible for overseeing all aspects of pastoral ministry and the administration of a large parish.

My wife Joy and I considered being full-time missionaries, but thought we’d have to wait until the kids were grown. Then we discovered an organization called Lay Mission Helpers, based in Los Angeles, which sends lay people and families to various countries as missionaries. After five months of formation, Joy and I and our three young children were sent to Cameroon in West Africa, where I had been asked to serve as the first lay person to teach theology at the major seminary. We literally left everything—our home, possessions, family, and friends—to be full-time missionaries for three years, from 2012-2015.

Though challenging at times, it was truly a wonderful experience for our family—to live a simple lifestyle, to experience African culture, to gain a broader understanding of the Body of Christ, and to be witnesses to our Catholic faith. Joy and I believe that our overseas missionary experience was one of the best things we have done for our children!

While in Cameroon, I was appointed country coordinator for Renewal Ministries. I made contacts with numerous bishops and the national leadership team for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) to let them know of our vision and our work. We now have a special relationship with Bishop Sosthène Bayemi, the National CCR Coordinator for the Episcopal Conference in Cameroon. He is a visionary and pastoral leader, the first clergy in the country to credit his vocation to the Charismatic Renewal. We are being invited by various bishops to lead the annual clergy retreat in their dioceses and to provide training to lay leaders in the Renewal. Our fifth mission in Cameroon was last month.

At the clergy retreat in the Diocese of Ohala, some of the priests, who had been negative toward the Renewal, commented that their perception of Charismatic had changed. They now felt much more personally open to the Holy Spirit, and discovered a new sense of fraternity amongst themselves as priests. Bishop Sosthène commented: “We were not a family before; now we are. It is a new beginning for us.”

In the Diocese of Mamfe, where we were first invited to lead the diocesan priests’ retreat, one elderly priest shared how he had been harboring resentment and unforgiveness in his heart for years against many of his fellow diocesan priests. He experienced God speaking clearly to him that not only did he need to forgive, but that he needed to ask for forgiveness. When he expressed, “I am now forgiven, and I forgive all of you!” the room erupted in shouts of jubilation. He and the chancellor and the vicar general locked arms and began to jump up and down amidst joyful celebration.

There were other testimonies from the priests, that they had found a “new power” and “new freedom” in their priestly life. Others expressed a powerful sense of unity in the Spirit of Christ. The vicar general proclaimed: “There has been a mighty break-through in this diocese!” The bishop commented: “Fifteen years ago, the Holy Father created the Diocese of Mamfe. But today, it was born!” The tears were rolling down my cheeks as I witnessed the divine power and mercy exhibited amongst the priests that day.

We were given the special privilege to lead the annual national gathering of lay leaders in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in June. There were about 150 leaders present for the entire three days, representing seventeen of twenty-two dioceses in Cameroon. We provided training in the Five Keys to Living in Freedom (Unbound), led prayer over the whole group each day, addressed questions and heard testimonies, and met with individual leaders. Each evening, we had Mass, praise and adoration. Oh, how those Cameroonians praise the Lord!

Three years ago, I had the opportunity to meet Sister Miriam Osee, a Cameroonian and friend of Renewal Ministries, who served for years on the executive board for International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS). She was so excited about the potential impact our ministry would have in Cameroon. From her prayer with me, the Lord put on my heart to pray the passage from Ephesians 3:20-21 for the country—“To Him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” God is answering that prayer in Cameroon in a big way!

I am so very grateful to those who invest in this effort, for your prayers and financial gifts, which make our missions possible. I am genuinely excited for future mission opportunities in Cameroon. I am continually amazed at how God always seems to bless our work and how the Holy Spirit works in such powerful ways. God’s anointing is truly on Renewal Ministries!”

We have also had the opportunity to meet with youth leaders and to present St. John Paul II’s teaching on how our God-given desire for relationships and sexual love are intended to lead us to spousal union with God (Theology of the Body). We have found that young people of every culture are hungry to learn the truths that undergird the Church’s teaching.

It is a tremendous privilege to facilitate personal and ministerial renewal for priests. In most cases, it is the first experience for these priests to have lay people give them formation and lead them in prayer. We have found that teaching the Unbound approach to healing and deliverance is especially helpful in the African context. Clergy and lay leaders alike have found it to be pastorally effective, personally empowering, and spiritually grounded in Catholic teaching.

I have served the Catholic Church in full-time ministry for over thirty years, in various positions of leadership and in various parts of the country. I am so grateful for my affiliation with Renewal Ministries, which has provided tremendous inspiration to my faith and an outlet for my passion for evangelization. My first mission with Renewal Ministries was to Tanzania in 2009. In subsequent years, I went to China and Papua New Guinea. Each time I’d come home fired up, with renewed zeal for my ministerial work.

FAR MORE THAN WE ASK OR IMAGINE
**On the Road**

**November 2016 ENGAGEMENTS**

**Ann Arbor, MI**
**i.d.9:16 Disciple’s Night**  
*Nov. 3*
Fr. Mathias Thelen  
Contact: julianna@id916.com

**Denver, CO**
**Legatus Meeting***  
*Nov. 3*
Peter Herbeck

**Winnipeg, MB**
**Catholic Charismatics Conference**  
*Nov. 4-6*
Dr. Mary Healy  
Contact: 204-895-7544

**Forest Hill, MD**
**St. Ignatius Parish**  
*Nov. 4-5*
Ralph Martin  
Contact: labdon70@gmail.com

**Pittsburgh, PA**
**New Evangelization for the New Millennium Conference**  
*Nov. 5*
Peter Herbeck  
Contact: santos724@windstream.net

**Tatralandia, Slovakia**
**European Network of Communities***  
*Nov. 10-14*
Dr. Mary Healy

**Steubenville, OH**
**Symposium on Pope Francis’ Vision for Renewal of the Church**  
*Nov. 10-12*
Ralph Martin  
Contact: Franciscan.edu

**Lansing, MI**
**Diocese of Lansing Catholic Charities Retreat***  
*Nov. 10-11*
Peter Herbeck and Sr. Ann Shields

**Sterling Heights, MI**
**Awaken Ministry at Ss. Cyril and Methodius**  
*Nov. 18*
Peter Herbeck  
Contact: dierkesw@aol.com

**Detroit, MI**
**Archdiocese of Detroit Synod on Evangelization***  
*Nov. 18-20*
Ralph Martin

**Grosse Pointe Farms, MI**
**Encounter**  
*Nov. 20*
Peter Herbeck  
Contact: 313-885-8855

**San Antonio, TX**
**Society of Biblical Literature’s Annual Meeting***  
*Nov. 26-28*
Dr. Mary Healy

**Boca Grande, FL**
**Priests’ Convocation***  
*Nov. 28-30*
Dr. Mary Healy

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*Not open to the public.*

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

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

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**Dr. Peter Kreeft**

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**We are at war.**

**We are in a spiritual war.**

**Our enemy is Satan and his minions.**

**Our weapons are the Cross of Christ and the grace and mercy that flows from His pierced side as Blood and Water.**

**In this war,**

Jesus encourages us, telling us to trust in His mercy and know that the victory is always on our side.

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