Dear Faithful Friends,

I can’t wait to hear the heavenly choir—and hopefully to sing in it!

Just this past week, because of a heavy snowfall, my wife Anne and I went to a nearby church for the “choir Mass,” which we normally don’t do. We both usually prefer a mix of contemporary and traditional, with very active congregational participation, but this choir was special. The meditative pieces they sang at various times in the Mass were so beautiful, and the voices interwove so amazingly, that I thought I had gotten a glimpse of what the heavenly choir must be like, with all the angels and saints joining in with voices and music “way beyond” the greatest beauty on earth! Whoa!

I am a poor earthly singer—sometimes my wife and children even gently suggest that I sing more softly—but I am really looking forward to participating in the heavenly choir! I think they even let everybody sing, which is one of my real hopes.

That leads me to a verse of Scripture that I’ve known for a long time and puzzled over some. It’s that startling first chapter of Ephesians, which reveals the “big picture” of what God is up to.

“In him, according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will, we who first hoped in Christ have been destined and appointed to live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.” (Eph 1:11-14)
Thank you!

To the left are just a sampling of many messages we receive that leave us saying “Wow!” and giving thanks to God that, with your help, we are able to serve Him in this way.

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

The Light Shines in the Darkness

and the darkness has not overcome it - John 1:5

Join us for a weekend packed with powerful talks, workshops, prayer, and empowerment all centered on a theme of confidence and hope. People in today’s world are concerned about instability, give in to discouragement, and are afraid of the dark—but Jesus Christ is the light of the world! Be not afraid! Our Lord has overcome the darkness. Our Lady—and 2017—is the one-hundredth anniversary of Fatima—is on mission. The Holy Spirit is on mission, Jesus Christ is on mission. He’s given us a light so we can be just that—an mission. As Catholics, we need to firmly grasp that truth, and the gratitude and praise that is a little foretaste of the overwhelming joy that will be ours, if we just persevere to the end.

For the prayer intentions of all of our supporters and their families, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

For all Catholic men, that they may have the formation, courage, and faith to “step into the breach,” for the sake of their families, friends, and the Church as a whole.

The Gathering

April 7-9 • Ypsilanti, Michigan

You won’t want to miss this!

Talks by Bishop Scott McCaig, Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields, & Dr. Mary Healy

Inspring Personal Testimony • Powerful Christian Music

Divine Mercy Celebration • Eucharistic Procession

Powerful Christian Music • Divine Mercy Celebration

Prayer Ministry for Healing and Empowerment

25th Annual Lift Jesus Higher Rally

Saturday • March 4, 2017 • 9:00Am - 5:30Pm

Keynote Speaker Bishop Scott McCaig

Additional talks from Sr. Ann Shields & Peter Herbeck

Mass with Cardinal Thomas Collins

As we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima, come experience why thousands return each year...

- Compelling Speakers
- Inspiring Personal Testimony
- Powerful Christian Music
- Eucharistic Procession
- Divine Mercy Celebration
- Prayer Ministry for Healing and Empowerment
- Mass with Cardinal Thomas Collins

Adult Rally $25 | Youth Rally $15

For tickets, consignments, and information, visit: www.liftjesus-higher-rally.ca | Email: info@liftjesus-higher-rally.ca | Call 416.251.4255 or 905.833.0360

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For more details please visit RenewalMinistries.net/gathering or contact Kathleen at bhittle@renewalministries.net

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You won’t want to miss this!

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Prayer for healing & empowerment led by Fr. Matthias Thielen

Please Pray...

For all Catholic men, that they may have the formation, courage, and faith to “step into the breach,” for the sake of their families, friends, and the Church as a whole.

That the Lord would bless the efforts of all priests and Church leaders striving to lead people to a deeper faith.

For the prayer intentions of all of our supporters and their families, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.
Peter Herbeck recently interviewed Bishop Earl Boyea, from the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan, on Fire on the Earth. The two discussed the diocese’s Called by Name Assembly, which was the second of three assemblies the diocese is hosting over six years, in order to reach out to people in the parishes, people who have left the Church, and people outside of the Church.

Peter Herbeck (PH) | There’s a lot happening in the Lansing Diocese in the whole area of the New Evangelization. I want to talk about your vision for the diocese and the New Evangelization.

Bishop Boyea (BB) | When I arrived in the diocese in 2008, I was asked about my vision for the diocese. I think I started with a blank look at everybody and said, “Well, I want to get everybody to heaven!” Of course, then it’s, “OK, how do we do this?”

The diocese and staff encouraged me to do something, and so I formed a committee, which encouraged me to write a pastoral letter. About a week later, Pope Benedict urged every bishop to write a pastoral letter, and I said, “Oh, my goodness, God is sending me a message.”

I basically put together a lot of thoughts about how we can get people to heaven. The pastoral letter came out in 2012. Go and Announce the Gospel of the Lord, which really called for a Year of Prayer—prayer to the Holy Spirit to guide us into what we should do. It was a powerful year—it really was all! Of our parishes prayed this prayer to the Holy Spirit, asked for the Holy Spirit to come upon us and lead us to where God wanted us to lead and then as a result of all of that, we came up with the inspiration to have three assemblies, one every two years:

2014 | How Do We Build Up the Household of Faith?

2016 | How Do We Try to Bring Back Some of the Lost Sheep?

2018 | How Do We Change the Culture? How Do We Affect the Culture, Which Is So Toxic?

PH | I was able to be there for the first assembly, and it was dynamic. It was very well attended, and it had a dynamism, an energy, and a presence of the Lord. What was your experience?

BB | From the first moment, I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. I thought, “This is incredible!”

PH | I thought, “This is incredible!”

BB | There were about 850 people there representing all but one of our parishes, and they were all enthused. There was a snowstorm after the first day, and they all came back the next day! God wanted them there, and they knew God wanted them there.

PH | I thought, “The Lord is here—The Lord’s helping us!” There’s something really happening in this room! It was like two plus two equaled ten, because the help of the Lord was there. He heard that prayer during the first year of just crying out to the Lord to help us. There was a clarity of message, and your team did a great job of pulling it all together.

What were highlights from that year for you?

BB | The big thing was the incredible amount of activities that emerged afterward in all of our parishes. I never mandated anything. I wanted them to maybe start prayer groups, start small faith-sharing groups, have Encounter sessions so people could meet Christ, those kinds of things, but there was never anything concrete. I said, “Let a thousand flowers bloom.” And believe me, a thousand flowers have bloomed! I’m constantly astounded! The great thing is, everyone’s doing something.

PH | I’ve witnessed the grace and the authority that the Lord gives a bishop. The Holy Spirit was doing all of it, I recognize that, but when a bishop says, “My heart is in it,” I’m going to lead in that way. I’m going to help people open up. I’m going to let a thousand flowers bloom, and I’m going to beg the Lord to let a thousand flowers bloom—something happens, and it’s really wonderful to see. As a member of the Lansing Diocese, I want to thank you for that, because it has been a blessing for my life as well.

What were your main takeaways from that assembly?

BB | The presence of God. It was just so overwhelming. It just caused me to be so grateful, and I thanked God for that, because it was an answer to the prayer that I didn’t know how was going to be answered. Craig Pohl was in charge of it, and I wondered, “How on earth is he going to pull this thing off?” But the Holy Spirit really plowed through, and got him going, and it was powerful!

PH | I needed to be led. We all need the Holy Spirit’s help. And with the Holy Spirit present and leading us, all things are possible. The picture can be discouraging sometimes, to see where the Church is at in the West, but when the Holy Spirit comes, it just changes everything. Hope arises and creativity flows from that.

Let’s talk more about phase two, the lost sheep.

BB | We do October counts to learn how many people are attending Mass every year. Over the past number of years, we’ve lost a lot of folks. I was discouraged when I saw that since the assembly, we’ve really got me down. But then Craig said—“Bishop, the core is stronger than it’s ever been!”

This second assembly is meant to help all of us reach out to friends and family members who have left the Church for whatever reason. Because I care for their souls; I want them to get to heaven. Not only that—we need them! It’s not just they need us—we need them! They’re called by name; we’re called by name. We’re all sons and daughters of the heavenly Father. The Father wants us together.

PH | What are you hoping to accomplish in the second assembly?

BB | I used the phrase in the pastoral letter, “Jesus went out after the one lost sheep.” Which I think is kind of foolish—you should take care of those ninety-nine. But the danger is—it’s one leaves, then one leaves, and then one leaves? Pretty soon, you won’t have anybody left. So, you’ve got to always go after that one sheep. We all have to be as Jesus was in that story.

PH | We do have some bishops who listen to the program on the occasion, and a lot of priests. Being sort of in the trenches as a bishop leading the charge, is there anything you’d like to say by way of encouragement?

BB | I couldn’t have done this without very Spirit-filled people urging me, and there’s no way it would have been accomplished without those very Spirit-filled and prayerful people following through and doing it. Just invite the Holy Spirit in to do these things and then step out of the way.

PH | That’s a Godly way of leading. Call the Holy Spirit and then step out of the way. You’ve cast a vision, there was an assembly, you’re working hard to till the soil, and it created a pathway for people to move together. And the reasons so many things are emerging are that Holy Spirit is leading us and that the leadership from you and your team is really helpful. You guys have reinvigorated and communicated a sense of urgency to what you’re doing.

PH | Just invite the Holy Spirit in to do these things, and then step out of the way.

Please say a little bit more about the third assembly, which will take place in two years.

BB | Our culture’s pretty toxic and it’s not very conducive to living a good Christian life. How can we affect the culture? We do have some bishops who listen to the program on the occasion, and a lot of priests.

PH | Yes, some of you will experience hardship, injuries, and apparent failure, for I desire that you listen carefully and allow my Spirit to lead you to places that you would rather not go.

PH | To access more content by Peter Herbeck, including Fire on the Earth archives, visit www.thermalministries.net/foe The interview with Bishop Boyea originally aired Oct. 17, 2016.
Spreading the GOSPEL in Ethiopia

During this trip, among other outreachs, Bishop Lesanu-Christos Mattheos had us take the Gospel to remote areas of the diocese. We proclaimed the Gospel to unbaptized people, and just starting their journey to Christ. We felt like true missionaries! We’ve chosen that story, from the Gumuz tribe, to share below:

We made a several-hour trip to a remote town called Banush, in the heart of Gumuz territory. The Gumuz people are a very primitive and fierce tribe. They have a reputation of violence and murder. We were told the other denominations have not attempted to evangelize them out of fear. About twelve years ago, a group of Comboni nuns went to the Gumuz in another area of Ethiopia and began a medical outreach to them. The love and care these wonderful nuns gave the people led them to Jesus and His Church, and now that region has a good number of Gumuz who are Catholics, but none of the Gumuz near Banush had yet been baptized.

There is not a parish as of yet in Banush. The bishop told us that two young Gumuz men who had gone to school in Bahir Dar had encountered Jesus and been baptized. They then went to the bishop and asked him to send a priest to their village in the mountains. He told them to go first and said that when they had at least forty people interested in the Catholic faith, he would send them a priest. These young men (pictured below) were filled with zeal for the Gospel, and did just that. The bishop, true to his word, sent his only diocesan priest to them. (Fr. Teklemanar Amanual is also pictured below.) After only a few months of preaching the Gospel there, 280 men, women, and children received the Sacrament of Baptism, just a short time after our visit!

As it was getting late, we decided to leave so we could get back before dark. We were dreading the walk back, but somehow it seemed easier. I am sure it was God saying, “Good job.” That night, we had the pleasure of ministering to thirty young Gumuz men who were attending school in Banush. The Catholic Church generously provides them with room and board at no charge. At the request of Fr. Amanual, I gave the basic salvation message, and Nancy taught on the necessity of forgiveness, and we did the skit where she carries me on her back and God asks her to forgive me. When she does forgive, she starts dancing and asks them: Did I do that for him or for me? They all say, “For you!” The message got across! During quiet times, you could hear the coughing and wheezing of the children. They have no access to healthcare. After the drive, Fr. Amanual left his vehicle at a small village, and we began hiking. We had no idea how far we had to go and expected to arrive there quickly. Boy, were we ever wrong! We walked for several miles up small mountains, down deep valleys, and across several streams—two of which we had to pass over by jumping rock to rock!

During our time in Gumuz, their “church” consisted of a blue tarp stretched between poles. There was no roof and no furniture, just a floor of dirt. After the drive, Fr. Amanual left his vehicle at a small village, and we began hiking. We had no idea how far we had to go and expected to arrive there quickly. Boy, were we ever wrong! We walked for several miles up small mountains, down deep valleys, and across several streams—two of which we had to pass over by jumping rock to rock!

When the priest finally said we were close, he pointed at a neighboring mountain with a blue tarp stretched between poles, which was barely visible, and told us that was our destination. We all groaned inwardly. I kept reminding myself that St. Paul had it much worse. When we finally arrived, we were greeted by the whole village. It was quite a sight and made us so glad that we had come. The Gumuz are some of the last of the hunters and gatherers, and by their clothing we could see they were poor. Some of the children had the red hair of malnutrition.

I shared with them the basic salvation message and told them they had been chosen by God and that He has a plan for their lives—to bless and prosper them and give them a future filled with hope. I then led them into a prayer of commitment to Jesus. Father asked me to speak on baptism, and I told them that while they were already followers of Christ, baptism was their full incorporation into the family of God. I told them it is more than a symbol; it is a true transformation, as they become a brand-new creation. I told them they would then receive the Holy Spirit, and He would empower them with gifts of healing, preaching, and teaching so they could then go and evangelize others in their tribe.

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Good things are happening in Ethiopia!+
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<th>Location</th>
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<td>Ann Arbor, MI</td>
<td>i.d:9:16 Disciples’ Night</td>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td>Dr. Mary Healy Contact: <a href="mailto:pete@id916.com">pete@id916.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Royal Oak, MI</td>
<td>Shrine of the Little Flower Evening for Parents of Teenage Boys</td>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td>Peter and Debbie Herbeck Contact: <a href="mailto:hlkempfamily@sbcglobal.net">hlkempfamily@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Edmonton, Alberta, Canada</td>
<td>Men's Conference</td>
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<td>Awaken</td>
<td>Feb. 10</td>
<td>Pete Burak Contact: (248) 588-1222</td>
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<td>Peter and Debbie Herbeck worldmarriageday.org/register</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westphalia, MI</td>
<td>St. Mary’s Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ypsilanti, MI</td>
<td>Detroit Catholic Charismatic Renewal 50th Anniversary Conference</td>
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<td>Plymouth, MI</td>
<td>Spiritus Sanctus Academy</td>
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<td>Sr. Ann Shields Contact: (734) 414-8430</td>
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<td>Edmonton, Alberta, Canada</td>
<td>CCR Jubilee Conference</td>
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<td>Dr. Mary Healy Contact: <a href="mailto:coryken@telus.net">coryken@telus.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Omaha, NE</td>
<td>Magnificat Breakfast for Women</td>
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<td>Debbie Herbeck Contact: <a href="mailto:kdwyer1111@gmail.com">kdwyer1111@gmail.com</a></td>
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*Not open to the public.*

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

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“The world is under attack by Satan, as our Lord said it would be (1 Pt 5:8). This battle is occurring within the Church herself and the devastation is all too evident. One of the key reasons is many Catholic men have not been willing to "step into the breach." A large number have left the faith and many who remain practice the faith timidly and are only minimally committed to passing on the faith to their children. As our fathers and sons and brothers and friends fall away, they fall deeper and deeper into sin, breaking their bonds with God and leaving them vulnerable to the fires of Hell.”

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted Phoenix, Arizona

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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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