Dear Friends,

This month, I’m filling in for Ralph, who is on mission in India for most of January (when this newsletter goes to press). He’s traveling with a talented team that includes his wife Anne, Deacon Dan and Dolly Foley, Fr. Chas Canoy, John and Michelle Kazanjian, and Erin Campbell. Please keep the fruit of their efforts in your prayers.

In early fall each year, we host a meeting of our Renewal Ministries country coordinators. They’re the group of talented and highly dedicated brothers and sisters you read about regularly in this newsletter. They lead the nearly forty international, short-term missions we are able to do each year, thanks to your generous support and prayers.

When we gather for our annual meeting, we often take time to answer a set of key questions about who we are and what Renewal Ministries’ missions are called to do. As part of that process, we take time to look back at our beginnings and to remember what the Lord did to bring us all together. We do this so that we can remember the Lord’s faithfulness and give Him thanks. But we also do it to keep our mission—what we do and why we do it—clear in our minds.

This past September, we took some time to answer the question, “What is it that we value?” That is, what are the distinct values that shape our mission? The conversation we had was clarifying and inspiring. When we finished our discussion, someone suggested that I share some of these values with you, our extended Renewal Ministries family, so you can better understand not only what we do, but why we do what we do the way we do it. The following pages lay out some of the key values we discussed.
"The Apostolate of the Laity" means that we believe what the Second Vatican Council and recent popes have consistently communicated to us:

Every baptized person is personally called by Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be directly engaged in the mission of the Church.

With the council, the hour of the laity truly struck, and many lay faithful, men and women, more clearly understood their Christian vocation, which by its very nature is a vocation to the apostolate. (John Paul II, Apostolicam actuositatem, 2)

Since the entire People of God is a people which has been “sent” the synod reaffirmed that “the mission of proclaiming the word of God is the task of all of the disciples of Jesus Christ based on their baptism.” (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Verbum Domini)

In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples . . . Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization. (Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 120)

In a fundamental way, our work is informed by these words. We seek to help identify, equip, and deploy lay leaders who share this conviction and are eager to work in complementarity with clergy and religious to respond to the call of the New Evangelization.

The Apostolate of the Laity

We're convinced that Jesus established in whatever country we are serving, the Church has been led by the Holy Spirit to “the providential rediscovery of her charismatic dimension,” which is “co-essential as it were to the Church’s constitution” and which contributes “to the life, renewal, and sanctification of God’s People” (John Paul II, Meeting with Ecclesial Movements and New Communities, May 30, 1998).

We believe that we are “living in a privileged moment in the Holy Spirit” (Paul VI, Evangelii Nuntiandi, 75), when the Church has been led by the Holy Spirit to “the providential rediscovery of her charismatic dimension,” which is “co-essential as it were to the Church’s constitution” and which contributes “to the life, renewal, and sanctification of God’s People” (John Paul II, Meeting with Ecclesial Movements and New Communities, May 30, 1998).

We believe the Lord has called us to preach and to teach His word as the starting point of all our missionary work. We hold it as a value, because we want to constantly remind one another to trust in the words of Jesus and the apostles, and to resist the temptation to “preach ourselves” or “to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word” (2 Cor 4:5,2).

Our earnest prayer is that the message we preach would not be “in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit in power” (2 Cor 4:4).

We're convinced that the Gospel “is the power of God for salvation” (Rom 1:16), that God's Word “is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword” (Heb 4:12), that “faith comes through hearing, and what is heard is the word of God” (Rom 10:17).

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Our earnest prayer is that the message we preach would not be “in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit in power” (2 Cor 4:4).

This grace of renewal is fundamental to who we are at Renewal Ministries.

Without this “current of grace” there would be no Renewal Ministries.

We strive to follow the exhortations of the recent popes, who have discerned the work of the Holy Spirit in our time, and who’ve challenged us to help others open themselves to this grace:

This grace of renewal is fundamental to who we are at Renewal Ministries.
Be open to Christ, welcome the Spirit, so that a new Pentecost can take place in every community! A new humanity, a joyful one, will arise from your midst; you will again experience the saving power of the Lord and “what was spoken to you by the Lord” will be fulfilled. (John Paul II, “Address to the Bishops of Latin America,” L’Osservatore Romana, October 21, 1992, p. 10, sec. 30)

THE CALLING AND GIFTING OF OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Since our very first mission to Lithuania in the early 1990s, it has been our great privilege to work closely with inspiring clergy, religious, and lay leaders from around the world. We have seen and experienced firsthand the call and gifting the Lord has placed on their lives. We value the gift they have been to us, and the irreplaceable role they play in leading the work of renewal and evangelization in their respective countries.

We respect the leadership, discernment, and responsibility they carry as the primary evangelists of their own countries. To that end, we see our collaboration with them as a work of solidarity in the Lord—a “communion in mission.”

Our goal is not to get them to be at the service of our vision, but to accompany them as they respond to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the vision He has placed on their hearts.

These are just some of the values we work hard to keep front and center in our work. Please pray for our brothers and sisters around the world and for our continued collaboration in the years ahead. And if you ever feel the prompting of the Holy Spirit to join us in mission, please don’t hesitate to call us, at 734-662-1730, ext. 132.

Your brother in Christ,

Peter Herbeck

FRATERNAL GREETINGS TO YOU FROM UGANDA!

Renewal Ministries’ Country Coordinators Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw recently received the following letter from Joseph Auno, a pastoral leader at the Emmaus Centre in Uganda. We have been collaborating with the Emmaus Centre since our first mission to Uganda in 1995. It is a thriving Catholic center with ongoing evangelization and discipleship programs.

Thanks a million for your anointed and powerful message in your newsletter! All in it is so true, I wish we could all believe and act upon it!

In 2016, the Emmaus Centre Institute of Discipleship and Evangelization reached or ministered to over 5,000 people—the largest number in our twenty-five years of existence! This was possible because of the generosity of people like you, Renewal Ministries, and others. Your visit to Uganda in May as a couple made a significant transformation in the lives of hundreds of seminarians and lay people.

I wish I could tell all those who support you that, truly, their dollars go to the right cause and are used very well, strategically. Those who support your ministry and Renewal Ministries will one day be told:

“Come ye faithful ones, who are blessed by my Father, and inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundations of the world, because you invested your resources in the Kingdom and brought so many young and old people to a personal knowledge of Me. When Africa, Haiti, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, and other places needed missionaries to take on the Gospel of good tidings, you made it possible for Lloyd and Nancy to travel. When we needed food, clothes, medicines, and prison ministry, you made it possible through their efforts and efforts of other missionaries. ‘For whatever you did to one of these little ones, you did it to me.’”

[Mt 25:34-40]

2016 also was a year of two Jubilees: the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy and the Silver Jubilee of our existence. God was at work from all fronts, blessing His people, but—of course—we also must admit that 2016 was equally a difficult year for us in many ways. We lost four dear community members, but God stood with us. Financially, it was a very challenging year as a community, but God used people like you to remind us that God still loves us deeply, as you shared your resources with us.

We had a powerful end-of-the-year retreat. We praised God like never before! The anointing was so tangible—people were healed and reconciled with God. There were strong prophetic messages that 2017 is going to be a special year of grace for God’s people to stand up to be counted. God is going to release His anointing and blessing on those who, like Joshua and Caleb, will stand with optimism to take on the new land. Those who stand on God’s promises will triumph.

We prayed for all those benefactors who helped us in 2016 to preach the Word of God, and you too were included in this, plus all your friends and supporters. We prayed for Renewal Ministries and all our friends who believe in what God has challenged us to do. You all made 2106 a memorable year, a sweet year, and a year of growth through challenges.

You inspire us to keep moving. Please come back to Africa in 2017! Uganda is looking forward to receiving glad tidings from you!

- Joseph Auno

- Joseph Auno
MALAYSIA IS WAKING UP!

The following account first appeared in Sr. Emmanuel Maillard’s December 2016 newsletter from Medjugorje. Ralph Martin said of it, “What an amazing account of God’s action, written by our good friend! Read it and be inspired, be very inspired!”

In November, I went to Malaysia for a wonderful mission in the Kota Kinabalu region. In the town of Ranau, there is a parish, and its priest, Father Nick, is crazy about Baby Jesus. This sparked a movement among the families, who wanted to receive the statue of the Baby Jesus for twenty-four hours and honor Him. As a result of the many miracles and conversions happening in people’s homes, Father Nick had to reduce the amount of time each family could keep the statue to one hour, so as to satisfy all the requests. It was so successful! And because the requests kept flowing in, he decided to build a little sanctuary to shelter Baby Jesus. That way, everyone could come and worship the Baby.

And that’s not all. A week before the closing of the Holy Door in his church, a woman arrived in a wheelchair to pass through the Door and obtain the grace of the Jubilee. For a long time, she was paralyzed and hemiplegic, not to mention all the other illnesses that caused her much suffering. As she left the church through this blessed Door, she began to walk! She still does! The news of the miracle spread like wildfire. The very next day, thousands of pilgrims showed up to pass through the Holy Door. Providence permitted me to arrive at that precise moment!

When I addressed this crowd to share the messages of Mary, there were about 20,000 people from all over the country.

After I spoke, they bombarded me with questions about the messages, so we spent several hours together. Interestingly, about eighty percent of these people were young. I told them that in Europe, such a meeting would probably consist of eighty percent of elderly people. They laughed, but it’s not funny! At Easter, Father Nick baptized 234 adults, and that is not counting the children. In Europe, we might have as many as three or four . . . Lord, have mercy!

As if that’s not enough . . . Father Nick, anxious to give his flock a good Catholic formation, decided to have them renew their baptismal promises. He knew that, for these simple people, a hands-on experience is more important than words, so he built a one-foot deep pool, with three steps down; he filled it with water and made them walk across it while repeating their Baptismal Promises. The Lord confirmed that the idea came from Him, because miracles occurred immediately. One man had a hand that was completely paralyzed, but as he stepped out of the water, he was waving his hand around with amazement. “He has healed me!” he cried. Another was almost completely blind. As he was coming out of the water, he started shouting: “I can see clearly, I can see!” I willingly went to renew my own promises, knowing that, according to exorcists like Don Amorth, this prayer is an excellent way of casting out demons. And we have too many of those in our world! May this idea be looked at!

I thank each of you for your support through prayer, worship, fasting, and sacrifices offered for these missions. When you get to heaven, you’ll see what you have obtained and you will not be disappointed! ☥ Sr. Emmanuel Maillard

“Each and every day of our lives, God presents to us the people and opportunities upon which He expects us to act. He expects no more of us, but He will accept no less of us; and we fail in our promise and commitment if we do not see in the situations of every moment of every day His divine will.” ☥ Father Walter J. Ciszek SJ

Please Pray...

 dez That we can both hear and respond to the promptings of the Lord regarding His will for us each day.

dez That this Lent, the Lord would help His people walk more closely with Him by uniting their sufferings with His on the Cross, confident that they are not alone and hope prevails.

dez For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.
What can you expect at the Renewal Ministries’ Gathering?

» **COMMUNITY**: Spend quality time with fellow Catholics on fire for the faith who are hungry for the Lord.

» **GROWTH**: Powerful talks from Ralph Martin, Sr. Ann Shields, Peter Herbeck, and Bishop Scott McCaig, as well as workshops by Dr. Mary Healy and Debbie Herbeck.

» **PRAYER**: Adoration, Mass, and more!

» **PRAISE & WORSHIP**: Talented musicians lead us in song to help us lift our hearts to the Lord.

» **EMPOWERMENT**: Led by Fr. Mathias Thelen, this is a time to help you grow into the fullness of God’s plan for your life!

Visit our website for more, including testimony’s from last year’s Gathering: www.renewalministries.net/Gathering

If you have questions, please contact Kathleen Kittle at kkittle@renewalministries.net.
This month, EWTN will begin airing the thirty-third season of The Choices We Face. This widely acclaimed program is the longest-running Catholic television show in history! Each week, hosts Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck explore important topics concerning the faith. They interview guests from various callings, including priests, evangelists, catechists, parents, and theologians.

HIGHLIGHTED BELOW ARE THE 2017 GUESTS AND TOPICS.

Fr. John Riccardo · God is Not Weak
Fr. Riccardo talks about the power of the Gospel to impact our culture.

Patti Mansfield · Current of Grace: In and For the Church
In preparation for the fiftieth anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in 2017, Ralph and Patti, who was there at the beginning, review its history and impact.

Tim Francis
Science Tests Faith
The founder of You Shall Believe recounts the story of his conversion from a hedonistic life and how science is supporting faith regarding some miraculous events.

Johnette Benkovic · Be It Done Unto Me
The founder of Women of Grace preaches at the 2016 Renewal Ministries Gathering on saying “Yes” to God.

Scott Leary · Not So Fast!
Scott, a federal prosecutor, relates how he was led to stay in the Church and embrace natural family planning.

Jim Cavnar · Body and Soul—Integral Human Development In Practice
The president of Cross Catholic Outreach discusses how their ministry to the poorest in Third World countries includes spiritual as well as material assistance.

Dr. Karen Poehailos · Not Too Late
A discussion of a surprising way to reverse certain chemically-induced abortions.

Pete Burak · Grow and Go!
The director of young adult outreach i.d.9:16 talks about his own spiritual journey and how to reach young adults today.
Fr. Mike Schmitz · Surprised By Truth
Fr. Mike shares the story of his surprising call and unusual road to becoming a priest.

Dave Nodar · Deep Conversion
The founder of ChristLife shares his story of encountering God’s love and how ChristLife is helping to renew parishes.

Susan Conroy · Diamond in the Rough
The author, speaker, and TV host discusses her time with St. Mother Theresa and the impact this saint had on her life.

Jack Lynch · Something’s Missing
Renewal Ministries’ radio and TV producer tells how he came to deeper conversion and the important role of prayer in sustaining it.

Sharon Doran and Marcie Stokman · Faith on the Move
Sharon and Marcie tell how God has used them to start outreaches that are helping people find or deepen their faith and character.

Martha Fernandez-Sardina · Remember You Are Loved
Martha speaks about her unique evangelistic ministry, Remember You Are Loved.

Matt Eversgerd · Never Too Late
Matt talks about his struggles with out-of-wedlock pregnancy, drugs, and alcohol, and how God worked through all of them to lead him to whole-hearted discipleship.

Billy Kangas · Coffee and Christ
The cofounder of Cultivate Coffee and Taphouse in Ypsilanti, MI, talks about how he has integrated his love for coffee, Christ, and the Catholic Church.

David Brecount · A Richer Life
The founder of US Digital Partners tells us how he brings his faith to bear in the marketplace.

Randy Raus · Reaching Out To Teens
The CEO and president of Life Teen shares his own story of deeper conversion and how Life Teen is helping teens advance in their faith.

TV | View on EWTN beginning the week of March 5, 2017 on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. and Fridays at 6:30 a.m. ET. To see broadcast days and times on other stations, visit: RenewalMinistries.net/tv

ONLINE | View episodes online any time. Go to RenewalMinistries.net/tcwf and click on "View show archives"—Take your pick!

CD/DVD | Purchase individual episodes in either CD or DVD format. To order, see the enclosed reply card, or order online at RenewalMinistries.net/store and click on "TCWF Episodes" tab.
On the Road

March 2017 ENGAGEMENTS

Ann Arbor, MI
i.d.9:16 Disciples’ Night  
March 2
www.id916.com

Toronto, ON, Canada
Lift Jesus Higher Rally  
March 4
Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields, Debbie Herbeck, Pete Burak
lift-jesus-higher-rally.ca

Diocese of Arlington, VA
Catholic Men’s Conference  
March 4
Ralph Martin  
Details: arlingtondiocese.org/familylife

Calgary, AB, Canada
Red Deer Teachers’ Conference*  
March 8-10
Peter Herbeck

Detroit, MI
Theology on Tap  
March 8
Ralph Martin  
Contact: yacm@aod.org

London, ON, Canada
Holy Angels Parish Lenten Mission  
March 12-15
Peter & Debbie Herbeck  
Contact: 519-631-3052

Lansing, MI
Theology on Tap  
March 15
Pete Burak  
Contact: kanclerzj@gmail.com

Gretna, NE
Day of Reflection: Joy of Repentance  
March 18
Sr. Ann Shields  
Contact: Kathleen.Krantz@yahoo.com

San Antonio, TX
Catholic Charismatic Conference  
March 18
Ralph Martin  
Details: cccrsa.net/charismaticcenter

Williamston, MI
St. Mary Parish Lenten Mission  
March 19-21
Ralph Martin, Sr. Ann Shields, Peter Herbeck  
Contact: 517-484-5331

New Orleans, LA
Legatus*  
March 22-24
Ralph Martin

Washington, D.C.
Catholic University of America Lecture  
March 23
Ralph Martin

Derwood, MD
St. Francis of Assisi Parish Lenten Mission  
March 24-25
Ralph Martin  
Contact: jdillon@sfadw.org

Warm Beach, WA
Women’s Retreat  
March 24-26
Dr. Mary Healy  
Contact: shermanjulianne@gmail.com

Royal Oak, MI
National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica  
March 29
Pete Burak  
Contact: 248-541-4122

Manchester, NH
Holy Family School Annual Dinner  
March 30
Ralph Martin  
Details: holyfamilyacademy.org

Ames, IA
How to Interpret the Bible  
March 30
Dr. Mary Healy  
Contact: frjon@staparish.net

Ames, IA
St. Thomas Aquinas Healing Service  
March 31
Dr. Mary Healy  
Contact: rhorton@iastate.edu

Lincoln, NE
Diocesan Retreat Center  
March 31-April 2
Sr. Ann Shields  
Contact: 402-786-2705

* Not open to the public.
For a complete listing, visit: RenewalMinistries.net/Events