Dear Holy Ones!

I know it’s a little awkward to be called holy, but that’s really what the New Testament calls all the baptized. It doesn’t mean we’re ready to be canonized, but it does mean we’ve truly been made holy by the waters of baptism and the Holy Spirit, and we are being indwelt by the Holy Spirit and nourished by the Holy Eucharist. In a very real sense, we are holy already and are called to grow in holiness as we continue the spiritual journey.

So much has happened since the last letter. Country Coordinator Tom Edwards, Peter Herbeck, and I were in Hong Kong for some conferences in areas where there is still religious freedom. We then proceeded to an Asian country where we experienced many wonderful things, but under difficult circumstances. We can’t speak about this in the newsletter, but we thank you for your prayers. Significant obstacles were suddenly and unexpectedly overturned, allowing God’s Word to go forth.

After only a few days back in the US, I left for Portugal, where I spoke to a capacity audience of 2,300 people in Fatima. Thankfully, Anne was able to join me, as the organizers invited her and paid her way, which is quite rare. I think Mary wanted us both there and inspired them to do so. It was good to share this special grace together. The conference celebrated fifty years of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and the one-hundredth anniversary of Mary’s messages at Fatima.

Like many of you, I have been familiar with the events and message of Fatima for many years. I was even there many years ago. I wasn’t expecting anything special to happen during this visit, but something did. Once again, a surprise of the Holy Spirit! Before I share that story, let me recount what happened at Fatima a century ago, for the sake of those who haven’t heard or have forgotten . . .

FATIMA In 1917, an angel appeared three different times to three small children—ages seven, nine, and ten—who lived in a small rural village. There was a brother and sister, Francisco and Jacinta, and their cousin, Lucia. The angel, which identified itself as the Angel of Portugal and the Angel of Peace, taught the children two prayers. The angel prayed with his forehead touching the ground and taught the children the profound reverence owed to God. They forever after often prayed like that themselves.

Mary then appeared to the children once a month for six consecutive months. She revealed to them three secrets, which they could only reveal at a later time. During her last appearance in October of 1917, she manifested the “miracle of the sun,” which was viewed by perhaps 70,000 people and reported on in Portugal’s secular newspapers. A very important part of what she communicated to them was the reality and horror of hell, where “many sinners go.” She very briefly gave them a vision of hell, where they saw the suffering of the lost souls and the horror of the demons. Mary told them . . .
that many souls go there, because there is no one to pray and offer sacrifices for them, and she asked the children to do so. She also asked them to pray the rosary every day for peace.

This vision and Mary’s words both deeply impacted their souls, and they fervently responded to her request. Little Jacinta would often ask her brother and cousin:

“Have you sacrificed for the conversion of sinners today?”

They would often give their lunches to poor children, go without drinking water for long periods of time, and do other sacrifices. Mary also asked the children to offer the suffering that would come their way, as well as their voluntary prayers and sacrifices, for reparation for the sins that are so offending God and Mary. She told them that the present war, World War I, would end soon, but unless there wasrepentance from sin, there would come a greater and worse war, and that war was a punishment for sin.

Mary said a sign would be given before the beginning of the next war, if there was not sufficient repentance. Indeed, that sign was given in 1938—one month before Hitler annexed Austria—and was seen throughout Europe as an aurora borealis. She also warned that if there wasn’t repentance, Russia would spread its errors throughout the world, whole nations would be annihilated, and the Church would suffer much.

Mary also told the children that she would take Jacinta and Francisco to heaven soon, but that Lucy would need to learn to read and write, as she needed to stay on earth longer, in order to witness to this message. Lucia died in 2005, at the age of 97, in a Carmelite monastery. Francisco died in 1919, not yet ten, and as I read Lucia’s memoirs, I felt deeply inspired and challenged to do more myself. As I visited each of their graves in the Basilica of Fatima, and as I read Lucia’s memoirs, I felt like I was being given new friends, new models, by the Lord, to help me in my own spiritual journey and our work for souls. More later.

And in quite the same spirit, Peter Herbeck shares in this issue a deep prophetic sense he received from the Lord a year ago that seems very relevant for our situation today . . .

Don’t neglect to read it. Pray, fast, and offer sacrifices for the conversion of sinners, for peace in the world, and for mercy.

As Jesus said as He began preaching: Repent! For the kingdom of God is at hand.

For the conversion of souls, Ralph

P.S. For several years, we have been looking for someone who could help Sr. Ann, Peter, and I get to know our supporters better, and we think we have found our man. Please welcome John Reznick (see page three) to the Renewal Ministries’ team! If he is in your area, and you would like to meet him, please do so!
The Renewal Ministries’ family recently welcomed John Recznik as the Director of Mission Advancement. Ralph Martin explained the purpose of this new position:

“As more doors open for us to serve the wider Church, it has become increasingly difficult for us to get to know some of our donors, as we had previously been able to do. We are grateful John will be able to represent us and the mission of Renewal Ministries to our existing and potential donors. If he is ever in your area, I hope you can make time to see him!”

John has twenty-seven years of experience in retail management. He managed the Franciscan University of Steubenville’s (FUS) bookstore for over nineteen years. His skills from FUS will help him “communicate to our supporters the mission of Renewal Ministries and its many different facets,” he said.

In February, John said he started to feel “a nudge from the Lord that maybe there was another type of work or management He wanted me to do.”

However, nothing else seemed to be the right fit. Then, while visiting his son over Memorial Day weekend, John heard the Lord speak to him in prayer:

“I have a non-profit for you. It’s a greenhouse, and you can make it grow.”

John shared the experience with his wife, Mary, and they wrote it down and spent the next month praying about it. Later, John’s son said he had a friend hoping to hire someone for donor relations. That friend was Pete Burak, the director of i.d.9:16.

Within five years, all of John’s siblings and his parents had moved to Steubenville from Amherst, Ohio. John explained:

“The baptism of the Holy Spirit moved through my entire family.”

Fortunately, John and Mary’s children are now all living in Michigan—the youngest two because of John’s own move. They have three children: a son Eddie, who has a wife and four children; a son Casey, who has a wife and two children; and a daughter, Joanie, who is working and getting involved in the i.d.9:16 community.

John said, “Fr. Mike Scanlan [former FUS president and Renewal Ministries’ close friend and former board member who passed away earlier this year] hugely influenced my life, and to come here with Ralph, Peter, Sr. Ann, and Pete, and to work with them in their mission of spreading the Gospel is inspiring. I look forward getting to know Renewal Ministries’ supporters, to meeting these people of faith, and to providing them with the opportunity to receive the blessings that the Lord has for them, as they choose to support Renewal Ministries’ mission.”

Peter Herbeck explained why John was the best fit for this position: “Beside that fact that John had impressed us in the interview, in choosing him, it felt like Fr. Scanlan was there with us. We worked so closely with Fr. Mike, and John has that same heart and spirit.”
of the week, during daily Mass, I began to have a very strong sense of the Lord’s presence. I felt simultaneously a deep abiding peace, a feeling of fullness, and a childlike joy filling my heart.

I went to communion and came back to my seat. When I sat down, the Lord began to speak to me, not in an audible voice, but in an unusually clear way, in my heart. I got out my journal and began to write, thinking I would write down a thought or two. I ended up writing for nearly ten minutes. As I wrote, it felt as though the Lord was right there, speaking to me, in a very direct and clear way, in a serious tone. It felt like the Captain of the Armies of Heaven was giving me instructions, personal direction for my life, correction, encouragement, and insight.

At one point, the Lord began to talk about the spiritual battle that is unfolding in the world. I want to share with you the simple, direct words I believe He was speaking to me, knowing that prophecy is imperfect and always needs to be tested. I wasn’t expecting to communicate this publicly, mainly because I wasn’t sure the Lord wanted me to. But given the crisis and chaos we’re experiencing—some of which is completely unprecedented—and with the encouragement of Ralph Martin, I pass it on for your discernment.

Here’s what I wrote down in my journal that day:

Peter, the spiritual battle is about to intensify, it will pick up pace. Chaos, apostasy, rage, and confusion will increase. My judgment is coming upon the world, it is my mercy. What is coming will flatten and expose the emptiness of all the idols that hold my people in bondage. Warn, console, inspire, correct. Proclaim my majesty and glory. Have no anxiety about anything; no one can change my purposes. The mighty of the world are about to be brought down.

There are a number of Bible passages that give some insight to what I believe is happening that have come back to me time and again since that day. The first is Jeremiah 2:19-21 (NRSV):

Your wickedness will punish you, and your apostasies will convict you. Know and see that it is evil and bitter for you to forsake the Lord your God; the fear of me is not in you, says the Lord God of hosts.
We’re witnessing a profound apostasy in our time—a rapid turning away from God. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI, “Humanity is pushing God from the human horizon.”

The sin of Romans 1, the constant temptation of the human race to “suppress the truth” about God, is at the root of our cultural chaos. The root sin is refusal to “honor him as God or give thanks to him” (Rm 1:21). It’s the sin of idolatry. I believe what Jeremiah prophesied to Israel and what St. Paul wrote to the Romans is the same pattern that we are seeing today. The turning away from God is as Jeremiah prophesied: “It is evil and bitter to forsake the Lord your God” (Jer 2:19). It is profoundly evil for the creature to reject, ignore, refuse to acknowledge, or to be indifferent to the Creator.

To turn away from God, to refuse to obey Him, is to put oneself under a curse. St. Francis of Assisi wrote a letter to the political leaders of his time, warning them of this very thing: “Do not forget the Lord on account of the cares and solicitudes of this world nor turn aside from His commandments, for all those who forget Him and decline from His commandments are cursed and they shall be forgotten by Him” (Letter to the Rulers of the People).

The curse is expressed in the empty futility of a darkened mind: “They became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened” (Rom 1:21).

The futility of mind is everywhere today: in the denial of human nature, the rejection of God’s design, and the denial of sin; in a world in which a boy is a girl, family is whatever you want it to be, and euthanasia is an act of love; and in the belief that human beings are nothing more than biochemical algorithms, and the bright ones among us can only find hope in a vision of the future in which man’s survival depends upon his becoming a cyborg, part man, part machine. In other words, post-human.

Modern man lacks wisdom, because he no longer fears God. Things are spinning out of control, and a dark chaos is in the air, because, as St. Paul put it so bluntly, “God handed them over to their undiscerning mind to do what is improper” (Rom 1:28, NABRE). In other words, the chaos is a sign of God’s judgment for the sin of idolatry. God does this so that we will experience the futility of our ways and turn back to Him.

So how should we respond to all this?

Pray, fast, do penance.

Proclaim the Gospel.

Have no anxiety about anything.
(Phil 4:6)

Be of good cheer.
(Jn 16:33)

Set your mind on things above, where Christ is.
(Col 3:2)

Do not be surprised by the fiery ordeal that may come upon you.
(1 Pt 4:12)

Be sober, be watchful, know that the same experience of suffering is required of your brotherhood throughout the world.
(1 Pt 5:8-9)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.
(Prv 3:5)

Set your hope fully upon the grace that is coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
(1 Pt 1:13)

Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances . . . do not quench the Spirit, do not despise prophesying, but test everything; hold fast to what is good.
(1 Thes 5:17-21)

Fear God and give him glory . . . worship him who made heaven and earth.
(Rv 14:7)

We present ourselves before God to speak to him and to hear him speak to us by his inspirations and the interior movements of his grace. And one of these two benefits can never fail us in prayer.

If we can speak to God, let us speak, let us praise him.
If we cannot speak because we are hoarse, let us stay nevertheless in his presence and do him reverence.
He will see us there.
He will be pleased with our patience, and he will look with favor on our loving silence.

Father Jean-Nicolas Grous SJ

Please Pray...

For those who experienced loss as a result of severe weather earlier this year.

That as we enter into the holiday season, the Lord would show us how to love family members with whom we may experience some distance. May the Holy Spirit help us to listen and guide our response.

For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.
However, the prayer group was not well received by the clergy of the time, and they were forbidden to meet on church property, although the cathedral is a large complex with very good meeting facilities. When the couple who began the prayer group moved away, the group dwindled down to one married couple, who continued to meet and pray by themselves. Thankfully, a few more people were eventually drawn in. With the arrival of Bishop Liberatus two years ago, a glimmer of hope began to shine. I met Bishop Liberatus last year as we were exiting Tanzania. The bishop personally gave what I discerned as a very strong and sincere invitation (almost a plea) to bring a team to Shinyanga. That became the springboard for our 2017 outreach, which also succeeded due to excellent organizational groundwork in Shinyanga.

PRIESTS’ RETREAT
At Bishop Liberatus’ request, thirty-six priests attended a Life in the Spirit Seminar in May. Upon our arrival in July, twenty-two priests returned for a follow-up retreat, with several teachings presented over three days. The priests were receptive, amiable, and open to prayer ministry!

Very dark forces have dominated in Shinyanga for many years, making it difficult to evangelize. Over 300 older women were murdered in recent years for being suspected witch doctors. Some Christians led this misguided campaign, which the bishop and clergy are now trying to correct. Bishop Liberatus told us a village in his diocese is the known epicenter of witchcraft in Tanzania. No bishop has dared to visit this village in fifty years. Bishop Liberatus received many warnings that he would be murdered if he traveled there. However, after prayer and fasting, he visited the village for three days. Amazingly, villagers rejoiced! The church there was awakened, and he was presented with a very large gift—several head of cattle. When the bishop held our fetal models for the pro-life workshops, he was shocked at their life-like appearance and feel. He had never seen such visual aids (abortion is rampant and no formal pro-life teaching exists there), and he was delighted. He blessed the models, and that blessing carried into the pro-life workshops, which were well attended by both men and women—all receiving the teaching with great zeal.

The story of the Charismatic Renewal’s launch in Shinyanga is one of struggle. A couple from Dar es Salaam moved to Shinyanga in 2003 and presented a Life in the Spirit Seminar. Out of that, a small prayer group began to flourish.

However, the prayer group was not well received by the clergy of the time, and they were forbidden to meet on church property, although the cathedral is a large complex with very good meeting facilities. When the couple who began the prayer group moved away, the group dwindled down to one married couple, who continued to meet and pray by themselves. Thankfully, a few more people were eventually drawn in. With the arrival of Bishop Liberatus two years ago, a glimmer of hope began to shine.

I met Bishop Liberatus last year as we were exiting Tanzania. The bishop personally gave what I discerned as a very strong and sincere invitation (almost a plea) to bring a team to Shinyanga. That became the springboard for our 2017 outreach, which also succeeded due to excellent organizational groundwork in Shinyanga.
**SISTER’S RETREAT**

Our team included two religious sisters whose great love is ministering to other sisters and sharing with them about the fullness of life in the Holy Spirit. Sr. Ana Chiara’s testimony tells the story:

“We conducted a three-day retreat for eighteen religious sisters. We taught about God’s love, sin, salvation, the Holy Spirit’s gifts, inner healing, deliverance, and forgiveness. The sisters received teaching on baptism of the Holy Spirit and were prayed over to receive this empowerment.

They testified to the love of God; some even experienced physical healing. Several sisters received the gift of tongues, and all were very happy they came. God is working in their hearts.

When I said they were created for holiness and deep union with Jesus Christ, I saw the eyes of one sister burning with holy desire. That was the highlight of my experience.”

---

**WATER MINISTRIES**

Team member John Mathe has traveled to Tanzania with us at least a dozen times. John, once in the well-drilling business, has a heart for people who lack clean water and has led several projects to help people obtain it. John has been investigating the difficult situation that exists in Shinyanga—an area where severe drought is followed by flooding. Before our departure, John was in contact with a Maryknoll priest who served many years in Tanzania and developed a method that uses windmills to extract clean water out of dry river beds. John and Bohdan traveled to an area and spent time with Fr. Dim, who has knowledge about the process.

John writes:

“I was able to journey on behalf of Water Ministries, Inc. to a remote area to make plans for a new water system. The rivers there dry up for half the year. There is a great need for wind-powered systems to bring fresh water to the thirty villages there. Clean fresh water can be found in many of the river beds.”

John found a woman digging down into the sand, as many in this area do each day. Often, they carry buckets of water several miles. John returned with a lot of solid information about installing the much-needed systems. The equipment that extracts the water from the sand and the windmills are expensive, but John has people and organizations ready to help.

Thank you for your support! May God continue to bless you and the people of Tanzania!

---

**Testimonies from our team**

“They have no pro-life groups and were ready to devour all the information we presented. We had lively discussions, and participants took pages and pages of detailed notes. They continually expressed their deep gratitude for the teachings. It was beautiful to see the Holy Spirit bring them such joy and truth through His Word. May He continue to bless them in this way!” — Jean Marie

“I spoke to one man a word of prophecy that God was calling him to serve men who are bound by the sin of impurity and women who are considering abortion. I had a strong sense that God was going to protect him at every step and send him people. He was surprised, but he accepted it. He took a bicycle and went home. On his way home, a motorcycle crashed into him—his wheels were broken, and it seemed he should have died. But he was not harmed. The man on the motorbike gave him money to get his bike fixed. He came back, praising God for His faithfulness. Later that evening, he spoke and prayed with a woman who was going to abort her child, and she decided to give birth to her child. Alleluia! God is faithful!” — Bohdan

“Without your team, many parts of Tanzania could not have been reached by the Word of God. God bless and keep you strong!” — Louisa (from Tanzania)

---

**PRO-LIFE WORKSHOP**

Men and women attended the pro-life workshop in nearly equal numbers (which isn’t typical). The participants had an intense hunger and knew the need for these teachings. The diocese has never had any pro-life movement or education. Secular forces sponsored by Western governments have come in like a flood and established pro-abortion clinics that are administrating many kinds of contraceptive devices (often with no education given to the recipients regarding side-effects).

Jean Marie Thompson led the pro-life workshop, with the assistance of Nancy Van Ryswyck and Bohdan Novak. They provided in-depth teaching, with three hour sessions each morning for five days.
On the Road

November 2017 ENGAGEMENTS

Ann Arbor, MI
i.d.9:16 Disciples’ Night
Nov. 2
Contact: katie@id916.com

Halifax, NS
Diocesan Conference*
Nov. 3-4
Ralph Martin

Center Valley, PA
Men’s Conference
Nov. 3-4
Peter Herbeck
Contact: tonycampanell@yahoo.com

Ann Arbor, MI
Women’s Retreat
Nov. 4
Dr. Mary Healy
Contact: pscholand@rc.net

Monroeville, PA
FIRE for the New Millennium Conference
Nov. 4
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
Details: www.stbrnadet.org or www.namcatholicchurch.org

Dominican Republic
Healing Conference
Nov. 8-12
Dr. Mary Healy
Contact: miguelhoracio@gmail.com

Bari, Italy
50th Anniversary Celebration of the CCR
Nov. 12
Ralph Martin
Contact: massimo.partipilo@gmail.com

Columbus, OH
Legatus*
Nov. 16
Ralph Martin

Staebenville, OH
Retreat for Deacons and Wives*
Nov. 17-18
Ralph Martin

Malta
National Priests’ Conference*
Nov. 28-30
Dr. Mary Healy

---

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

---

Did you know you can support Renewal Ministries with every purchase you make from Amazon?

Instead of going to amazon.com, go to smile.amazon.com
Sign in (or create an account).
Type "Renewal Ministries Inc" in the search bar, and select the Ann Arbor MI location.
(A few other organizations have the same title.)
Click the "select" button, then shop...

Thanks for your support!

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

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.

Connect → With Us...
Visit our website: www.renewalministries.net
for programs, blog, contact info, resources, & more!
Download the i.d.9:16 mobile App for easy access to all of the above Renewal Ministries’ content and so much more!

Editor Heather Schultz
Design Emily Bachelor
© 2017 by Renewal Ministries

www.renewalministries.net
P.O. Box 1426 Ann Arbor, MI 48106 phone 734-662-1730
In Canada P.O. Box 400 Station U Toronto, ON M8Z 5Y8 phone 416-251-4255