Dear Faithful Friends!

We’ve had some wonderful opportunities during this past year to minister to our brothers and sisters in Canada, and we’ve also had some wonderful opportunities for our ministry to go forth from Canada to all parts of the world:

Starting with the Lift Jesus Higher Rally in Toronto this past March, where almost 4000 people gathered to be renewed in their faith and encouraged to spread the Lord’s Fire on the Earth (the event’s theme) with talks from Patti Mansfield, Cardinal Thomas Collins, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields, and myself. You can read more about it in our May 2018 newsletter, at: www.renewalministries.net/newsletter.

After that, Peter Herbeck had a wonderful opportunity to give about fourteen talks during a week-long convocation to all the priests in the Archdiocese of Halifax. This was the first time a layman had led this event.

The Archdiocese of Halifax is currently experiencing big changes, as the number of its parishes is being reduced from forty-eight to eighteen—a decline also seen in many other parts of Canada and the US.

Peter explained that this sobering situation is difficult for many priests. He said his purpose was to help strengthen and encourage the priests in their identity as Christians, disciples, and priests. He also said he helped them “read and understand the signs of the times—what are we experiencing and why. As Pope John Paul II said, Christendom—society-wide support of Christianity—is gone. Now we are experiencing what happens when that goes away.”

Peter continued:

“Our strength is in the Lord, the power of the Gospel, and the Holy Spirit—not buildings, political influence, or social status. It’s in the faith. We are at a time when we’re losing those things we leaned on. The Lord wants us to find once again what is at the core of our faith. He wants us to radically rely on the Lord and His power in the Holy Spirit.”

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While in Canada, Peter also spent time with Fr. James Mallon, a member of our Canadian board. In the midst of the Archdiocese of Halifax’s struggles, his parish is growing. In fact, Fr. James is helping grow parishes throughout the world. Fr. James also is now working half-time for the Archdiocese of Halifax, to help bring renewal to its parishes.

“It was a strategic time to be there,” Peter concluded.
“It was a great opportunity for Renewal Ministries to build up, empower, and challenge the Church, and to help people connect with sources of grace and renewal in the Church.”

Sr. Ann also had a chance to speak in Ottawa twice in recent months, beginning with the annual New Evangelization Summit. She said this event was very unique and special, because she was able to see both veteran and new speakers—ranging from George Weigel and Archbishop Terrence Prendergast, to Christy DuPuis, who will be a guest on The Choices We Face in 2019—speaking about the Church and the Gospel.

Sr. Ann said,

“It was wonderful to see the various ways the Lord is gifting people and helping them become disciples.”

Between 300-400 people attended the event, which also was livestreamed across Canada, the US, and a few different countries.

Sr. Ann explained that her second trip to Ottawa was very different, but just as much of a gift. She spoke to members of Kateri Native Ministry, a group of First Nation People from many tribes that strive to retain beautiful, important customs from their heritage while also seeking to better know and love the Lord.

Sr. Ann spoke about forgiveness—“about the Lord’s Prayer and what the Lord asks.” She said she was very touched to see the participants’ love of the Lord and very privileged to minister to them.

Finally, I recently had a chance to be in the Archdiocese of Vancouver to do a number of things. I gave a parish mission to about 400 people at Christ the Redeemer Parish, the pastor of which is Msgr. Greg Smith, who is the chairman of the board for Catholic Renewal Ministries in Canada. Spending five days with Msgr. Greg was wonderful! After the parish mission, we did a weekend retreat for all the archdiocese's deacons, deacons in training, and their wives. There were about seventy-five people in attendance.

While in Vancouver, I also spoke at a Catholic mens’ breakfast, where about one-hundred men come together every Friday morning. I was inspired to see so many men gather regularly to encourage each other to grow in faith!

One interesting complication of my time in Vancouver is that I badly injured my left hand shortly before I left, and I had to wear a very substantial bandage and splint while I was there. But, trusting in the Lord and with the help of my wife, Anne, who cut off the sleeves of several of my shirts, I was able to make the trip, even though it was the day after I had surgery.

While in Vancouver, I also had the chance to visit with our Board Member Vernon Robertson and talk with some of our major donors in the area. All of us here at Renewal Ministries have a special affection for our brothers and sisters in Canada and are grateful for the opportunities we have had to minister to them so far this year.

Aside from our opportunities to serve in Canada, we continue to be amazed at how much ministry is going forth from Canada! This past year, our brothers and sisters in Canada have made possible, through their generous giving, missions to Asia and over fourteen countries around the world, including Cameroon, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Lithuania, Mozambique, Malawi, Uganda, Ethiopia, Haiti, Zambia, Namibia, Botswana, and Slovakia.

Thankful for your support on this journey,

Ralph

Ralph spoke at a weekend retreat for the deacons and their wives in the Archdiocese of Vancouver.
We at Renewal Ministries love sharing these stories, because we’ve noticed it encourages others to also evangelize in their own, unique ways!

» A woman from Florida ordered seventy copies of Welcome the Spiritual Gifts. She distributed them to participants of a Life in the Spirit Seminar before they were prayed with for baptism in the Holy Spirit. “It helped them understand the gifts,” she said. “It was very well received.”

» A woman from Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania, ordered one hundred copies of Why Be A Christian? for attendees of a Magnificat Women’s Ministry breakfast. “We hold these breakfasts four times a year, and Sr. Ann Shields, Dr. Mary Healy, and Debbie Herbeck have all spoken at them,” she said. “These booklets were for our resource table. When we offered The Final Confrontation, all 300 went—they were all gone. These women love these booklets when I put them out there.”

She added that The Final Confrontation “needs to be in the hands of every Christian.”

She said the booklets are a good fit for their ministry, because “we’re an evangelization ministry and I feel like that’s what these booklets are doing—helping evangelize. We love Renewal Ministries.”

» A man from St. Charles, Missouri, ordered one hundred copies of Welcome the Spiritual Gifts and twenty copies of Thinking Straight for members of his weekly men’s ministry.

“We started with Crossing the Goal for furthering our spiritual growth,” he said. “We emphasize prayer, and we are moving toward a greater understanding and teaching of how the Holy Spirit is leading and calling us.”

“We are now doing an ongoing study of the Catechism,” he added. “We’re having terrific discussions and moving toward a richer prayer life. These booklets are perfect as a teaching tool and vehicle for further discussion. I also think What is the Spirit Saying?* is one of the best booklets I’ve ever read. It is inspiring. I’m delighted I was able to get these booklets. The Holy Spirit is moving and was in my order—because I discovered these booklets when they all of sudden showed up in a folder I regularly carry with me. They’ll get into the hands of the men who are ready for the message.”

He believes booklets like these are important, because “we need to strengthen and bring out the courage men have—for disciplining our minds, emotions, and bodily urges. This is a step in that direction.”

*What is the Spirit Saying? is currently only available as a free download at www.renewalministries.net/freedownloads

» A man from St. Francis of Assisi in St. Louis, Missouri, ordered 200 copies of Light in the Darkness and fifty copies of Finding New Life in the Spirit. He bought Light in the Darkness for his priest, who passed them out as a penance for Confessions during Lent. “My priest is Spirit-filled and is slowly but gently bringing people along,” he said.

The man purchases booklets for his parish “a few times a year, as part of my giving.” He also just encouraged his parish to purchase copies of A New Pentecost and Welcome the Spiritual Gifts. These booklets, along with the copies of Finding New Life in the Spirit that he purchased himself, will be distributed at a Life in the Spirit Seminar his church is helping to host.

He said all of these efforts are “planting seeds” from which he has seen “good fruit”—“little sparks in dry stubble.” He added, “I’ll be buying more.”

» A parish priest from South Dakota ordered a large number of eight different booklets, including Sr. Ann Shields’ Hope in the Midst of Suffering and The Mercy of God and the Joy of Repentance Brings. He said giving away a lot of printed materials is renewing his parish. He explained it as a cycle: People are hungry, the booklets feed them, they grow, and then they are hungry for more.

He chooses the booklets according to a “sense of need that the people have” and places them at a table in his church’s entryway. He also rotates the titles. He draws “people’s attention to the booklets from (his) homilies or the closing announcements” and also gives them to people in spiritual direction, marriage prep, and baptismal classes.

He said there are people in his parish who are “consuming the materials and passing the word.”

“Nobody leaves my office without one,” he added. “It’s one way of evangelizing and feeding people.”
“If you would like to visit a place where the symptoms of the sickness of our time are found near their furthest limits, come to Ireland. Here you will see a civilization in freefall, seeking with every breath to deny the existence of a higher authority, a people that has now sentenced itself not to look upon the cross of Christ, lest it be haunted by his rage and sorrow.”

These words, from Irish commentator John Waters, are in response to the people of Ireland’s choice to deny the unborn the right to life. Ireland is the first nation in history to enshrine the law through a majority vote of its people; it wasn’t imposed upon them by cultural elites or the courts.

The vote, as Waters indicates, is a manifestation of a deeper reality. This is Ireland’s desire “to deny the existence of a higher authority.” It is the “sickness of our time.” In the words of Pope Benedict XVI, “God is disappearing from the human horizon.”

For now, Ireland has made its decision to say no to Christ.

Like many, I was shocked and sickened as I watched the crowds dance with glee, asserting their new-found freedom. What they were celebrating, whether they grasped it fully or not, was the euphoria of fallen human nature and its constant desire to “suppress the truth” about God. St. Paul tells us that it is through the “ungodliness and wickedness of men” that human beings refuse to honor God as God and to give Him thanks (Rom 1:18, 20).

A friend recently reminded me of how, during St. John Paul II’s historic visit to Ireland in 1979, he framed in stark prophetic terms the spiritual battle that country was facing. St. John Paul II made it clear that Ireland was at a point of decision about whether or not to follow Christ. He knew he was sent by Christ to warn Ireland and to help them see and understand that they were facing a great temptation, and that, if they fell to this temptation, it would have grave consequences for the whole Church.

Lay people today are called to a strong Christian commitment: to permeate society with the leaven of the Gospel, for Ireland is at a point of decision in her history . . . Ireland must choose. You the present generation of Irish people must decide; your choice must be clear and your decision firm. Let the voice of your forefathers, who suffered so much to maintain their faith in Christ and thus preserve Ireland’s soul, resound today in your ears through the voice of the pope when he repeats the words of Christ:

“What will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his life?” (Mt 16:26)

What would it profit Ireland to go the easy way of the world and suffer the loss of her own soul?

Your country seems in a sense to be living again the temptations of Christ: Ireland is being asked to prefer the ‘kingdoms of this world and their splendor’ to the Kingdom of God (Mt 4:8). Satan, the Tempter, the Adversary of Christ, will use all his might and all his deceptions to win Ireland for the way of the world. What a victory he would gain, what a blow he would inflict on the Body of Christ in the world, if he could seduce Irish men and women away from Christ. Now is the time of testing for Ireland. This generation is once more a generation of decision.

Dear sons and daughters of Ireland, pray, pray not to be led into temptation . . . pray that Ireland may not fail in the test. Pray as Jesus taught us to pray: ‘Lead us not into temptation’ . . . May Ireland never weaken in her witness, before Europe and before the whole world, to the dignity and sacredness of all human life, from conception until death.”
Ireland has failed the test. We pray that she may repent and turn back, but for now she has fallen to the temptation of the Adversary of Christ. The majority have decided to turn a deaf ear to the warning Christ brought to them through the prophet St. John Paul II.

Of course, we know that Ireland is not alone in its acquiescence to the spirit of the age. The whole world is being drawn into this same temptation, to prefer the “kingdoms of this world and their splendor” to Christ.

The important thing for us in the Church is to heed the warnings of the prophets the Lord has sent to us. If we don’t, we too will join the throngs of the baptized who have been seduced into embracing a false freedom that calls darkness light.

What are we to do in the face of the unrelenting forces of evil that seem to have gained the upper hand in so many of the countries that once marched under the banner of Christ? Again, St. John Paul II:

“Prayer, without a doubt, is the most powerful weapon the Lord gives us to conquer evil. But we must put ourselves into the prayer. It is not enough just to say the words; it must come from the heart. And prayer needs to be continuous. We must pray no matter what kind of situation we find ourselves in. The warfare in which we are engaged is ongoing, so our prayer must be ongoing as well.”

St. Alphonsus Liguori

NOTES


would not do it; however, after a while, he was more coherent and logical in answering questions.

Nevertheless, he would not forgive his daughters for taking him to the witch doctor. He also wouldn’t say Jesus’ name. So we ended the session; he was in better condition than when we had started, but he was not set free. That was Thursday. On Friday evening, we had Mass, and our friend who is the bishop emeritus of the Kibungo Diocese came to be with us and the participants. We were sitting in the back of the small chapel when the religious sister and her nieces brought in the man who we had prayed for the day before. His daughters sat on each side of him. At one point in the Mass, he tried to leave, but they would not let him. That morning, he had asked his sister, "Why did you let those white people take those things from me?"

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Our mission in Rwanda began with a week of teaching Charismatic leaders, including three priests, from all of Rwanda’s nine dioceses. The participants were very involved and asked many questions that revealed their understanding and insight. Lloyd explained that the Five Keys—a method of finding freedom in Christ by renouncing sin and claiming the Lord’s authority over one’s life—are a lifestyle that has the goal of not just being set free, but of moving closer to Jesus. As our trust grew throughout the week, participants began asking for individual prayer.

One religious sister experienced freedom during our prayer session, and she asked if we would also pray with her brother. He was an older gentleman who could only walk with help from his daughters, was confused, and fell a lot. He had been that way for six months—ever since his daughters had taken him to a witch doctor. He was clearly agitated that we were there, and he did not want to have anything to do with us. The more we prayed, the more agitated he became—but the Lord was doing things. Every once in a while, he would jerk around and look at me as I stood behind him and prayed. It was obvious he felt things leaving him, and each time, he was startled. I think this ongoing freedom came because he had given his daughters permission to bring him for prayer, and they had given us permission to pray for him. Lloyd asked him to say the name of Jesus, but he would not do it; however, after a while, he was more coherent and logical in answering questions.

Nevertheless, he would not forgive his daughters for taking him to the witch doctor. He also wouldn’t say Jesus’ name. So we ended the session; he was in better condition than when we had started, but he was not set free. That was Thursday. On Friday evening, we had Mass, and our friend who is the bishop emeritus of the Kibungo Diocese came to be with us and the participants.

We were sitting in the back of the small chapel when the religious sister and her nieces brought in the man who we had prayed for the day before. His daughters sat on each side of him. At one point in the Mass, he tried to leave, but they would not let him. That morning, he had asked his sister,

“Why did you let those white people take those things from me?”
He knew something was gone, but he did not know what. He refused Communion. (Later, we found out he’s been married three times, so perhaps he knew he wasn’t allowed to receive the Eucharist.)

After Mass, we adored Jesus on the altar. Then the bishop invited everyone up to the altar in a half circle. The man’s daughters brought him up to be included. Everyone was kneeling except him, when the bishop brought Jesus around in a monstrance. The bishop had no idea that we had prayed with this man. He stopped with the Blessed Sacrament right in front of him and lowered the Blessed Sacrament to his face. The man looked up, and very gently, very gracefully, got onto his knees to adore the Lord! We were amazed.

After Jesus was put into the tabernacle, the man’s sister sobbed on my shoulder and his daughters were elated. God is good! I went up to him to shake his hand, and he did it with no problem, which was totally different from the day before. We were all blessed and had our faith built up to see the power of our Eucharistic Lord!

We then traveled to the Diocese of Ruhengeri for the grand opening of a new Charismatic Healing Center that was inspired by the teaching we shared there several years ago with Neal Lozano. It was also the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Rwanda. When we arrived at the medium-sized church, it had rained and was very muddy, but that didn’t stop the crowd! People were jammed in every square inch and spilling out of every door. Even the tiny priest’s changing room was filled with people! I estimate there were 5,000 people in attendance. They had many beautiful and lively dance groups accompanied by choirs, and at least three bishops were in attendance.

Charismatic Renewal Leader Sylvester Dukuzumuremyi spoke about how the community started in 2009 in order to help people come out of bondage into freedom, using the Five Keys’ model. He said the place is for all who need Jesus. It was completely built and paid for by the Charismatics. They actually made each of the bricks by hand!

Lloyd said he had never seen anything like what they achieved by their unity of purpose and that the bishops’ presence showed they were working in the heart of the Church. He challenged them to fulfill their destiny in making disciples for the Lord and to not let petty differences and jealousy break the beautiful bond and unity they now have. I told them that there is nothing like this place in the United States; there is nothing like it in the entire world!

We were not able to go to Kibeho due to our guide’s illness and strict government regulations that would have significantly lengthened our trip. I felt badly that we chose not to go, until I read a book by Catalina Rivas of Bolivia, who is said to receive messages from Jesus, Mary, and the angels. She has the approval of Bishop René Fernández Apaza. The following text is from a reproduction of a booklet The Holy Mass, in which Our Lord and Our Lady explain what is happening during the Mass. Mary says,

“It surprises you to see Me standing a little behind Monsignor [the Archbishop], does it not? This is how it should be . . . With all the love that My Son gives Me, He has not given Me the dignity that He has given the priests of being able to perform the daily Miracle with My hands as they do with their priestly hands. Because of this, I feel a deep respect for priests and for the miracle that God carries out through them, which compels Me to kneel here behind them.

“My God, how much dignity, how much grace the Lord pours over the priestly souls, and neither we, nor perhaps some of them, are conscious of this.”

This reminds me again that Mary is with us at Mass, as well as at any apparition sites! The Lord in His mercy knows that few have the money and time to travel around the world, so He gives them something better at every Mass! This gives me peace and challenges me to seek a deeper faith in the Eucharist.

Once again, I know that Renewal Ministries has made a difference in the lives of many. Hearing the many testimonies of freedom and seeing the huge new complex dedicated to evangelization through the Five Keys was confirmation that what we have been doing is not in vain. Thanks for the opportunity to serve!
August 2018 ENGAGEMENTS

Lisieux, France
Community of the Beatitudes' Conference*
Aug. 1-2
Dr. Mary Healy

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

Lafayette, LA
Renew Conference
Aug. 3-4
Ralph Martin
Details: www.renewdol.org

Palavas, France
Anuncio*
Aug. 3-5
Dr. Mary Healy

Stockbridge, MA
Seminarians’ Retreat*
Aug. 6-10
Ralph Martin

Hautecombe, France
Chemin Neuf
Aug. 6-8
Dr. Mary Healy

Sunbury, OH
Alpha Regional Conference
Aug. 11
Peter Herbeck
Details: www.saintjohnsunbury.org

Jackson, MI
Pine Hills Girls’ Camp
Aug 12-18
Debbie Herbeck and Team

Jupiter, FL
Legatus Meeting*
Aug. 16
Ralph Martin

Sao Paulo, Brazil
Association of the Lord Jesus Conference
Aug. 17-19
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: rs21.com.br/site/asj/

Chicago, IL
Legatus Meeting*
Aug. 23
Dr. Mary Healy

Lexington, KY
Catholic Way Bible Study Conference
Aug. 24-25
Ralph Martin and Dr. Mary Healy
Details: CWBS.org

Castle Rock, CO
Deliverance Training for Priests*
Aug. 28
Dr. Mary Healy

Los Angeles, CA
SCRC Conference
Aug. 31-Sept. 1
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: scrc.org

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

Please Pray...

For the grace to respond to Mary’s call that we make sacrifices for the reparation of sins and the salvation of souls.

That the Lord would strengthen those with very little support in following Him, and that He would lead them into a community where they can grow in knowledge of His love and plan for them.

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

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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