Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the Lord! It was a long winter and a long Lent, not just the penitential season, but the time we are living through in the Church. A time of deep purification that is not nearly at its end.

But, at the same time, God is ever at work bringing a fresh breath of His Spirit to those who are thirsty for Him!

This was particularly evident at our annual Gathering this year, where almost four hundred of us came together from all over the US and Canada (and in some cases, even beyond!) to thank God for what He is doing and be strengthened ourselves to continue the mission He has given each one of us individually and as supporters and friends of Renewal Ministries. It was wonderful to see more new attendees than ever before at the Gathering this year! Another first was that we live-streamed the entire conference—and during the weekend, 784 different people from thirty different countries watched the Gathering online!

As usual, many of those who were there said it was the “best ever!” Someone asked me how it could keep getting better every year, and the only answer I could give is that the Lord makes sure, by His continuing love and purifying actions, that all of us keep getting better each year! Better able to hear Him, obey Him, and love Him, and better able to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Him.

In fact, just before I sat down to write this, I got off the phone with a seminarian in Europe who will be ordained soon to the priesthood. He has been deeply touched by the Holy Spirit and needed to talk to someone about it!

There is indeed a new “breathing of the Spirit” touching many around the world, coming to our aid and the Church’s aid, with “power from on high.” It is ever needed as we face growing hostility to Christ and His Church and the craziness, blindness, moral depravity, and offense to God—insanity—that keeps gaining control over our culture.

At the end of the Gathering, a respected woman of God got up and said we should all widely distribute Peter Herbeck’s closing talk, as it was such a stirring wake-up call. The other talks at the Gathering were also warmly received, and they are available for free on our YouTube, Vimeo, and App channels, and through our store as DVDs (see our reply card for details). You will find information about how to access these stirring talks at the Gathering page on our website, www.renewalministries.net/gathering.

continued on page 2
I also would like to share with you the following comments that we received shortly after Peter’s talk was released:

- “Wow. What a talk. My wife and I were in tears. I actually feel your pain, as we see how the world is unfolding. The darkness that is snuffing out the light! So many lost. I literally ache for people and their ways. Yet He wins! Thanks so much for sharing that. I will continue to pray for your ministry.”

- “I just had to tell you what a huge, huge effect your talk had on me. I’ve listened to it six times. Such clarity and such hope, especially on what is happening in our time.”

In conclusion, I want to share with you some of what I said during my report on Renewal Ministries’ outreaches over the past year:

> I’m feeling the Holy Spirit compelling us forward, saying, “It’s really important that you are willing to do everything I am asking you to do, and I am asking you to do more.”
> If the trumpet gives an uncertain call, no one comes forth.
> “Trust Me”, says the Lord. “Bring the full tithe into the warehouse, and I will shower you with blessings.”

Let’s keep living—and sharing—the Gospel, dear brothers and sisters.

In Christ,

Ralph

P.S. Another highlight of the Gathering was that Sr. Ann Shields was there to share her progress with us. As most of you likely know, she experienced a mild stroke in November. She is greatly improving, but still in need of—and very grateful for—prayers. We were all moved to hear how the Lord spoke to her about offering her sufferings for the current crisis in the Church:

> When I first became coherent, I said to the Lord, “What are You doing?”
> It became very clear what He was asking was for me to offer my sufferings for the sake of the Church.
> I heard the Lord saying we are in a crisis, in a very difficult position, and it’s going to take not only me, but all of us making some decisions in prayer for the sake of the Church.
> I think the Lord wanted to draw me closer to Him so I could want His will.
a new power into the world. When He said, “It is finished,” the possibility opened for us to be filled with all the fullness of God! He wants to free us—so we can give ourselves with Jesus as Jesus gave Himself. God is preparing us for an eternity of interpersonal love. In order to receive all the Lord desires for us, we must make a clear choice. Sometimes we’ve drifted along in the Christian life and haven’t made a clear decision that we want to pursue the Lord to the death. But it’s serious business. Life is about getting ready to return to the Father’s house. It really matters whether people listen and take hold of Jesus—the source of salvation to all who obey Him. This isn’t cheap grace. We have to obey Him. We must love and treasure His will. We must set our face like flint to do the will of the Father.

Jesus’ Passion and death made it possible for the Holy Spirit to be released into the world. The Holy Spirit comes to us by Christ’s great deeds. The humiliating, degrading torture Jesus suffered on the cross allows us to walk in the Spirit. How does the Holy Spirit come to others through us? The more we participate in Christ’s sufferings, the more we are willing to let the cross conform us to the form of Jesus—who took the form of a slave who emptied Himself, who didn’t cling to His dignity in loving service and sacrifice for others—the more we will be able to be bearers of the Spirit and the more we will be able to walk in the Spirit.

Even the glory of the Resurrection, the Ascension, and Pentecost does not overshadow the crucifixion. When Jesus appears after His death, He still bears wounds in His hands and side. And Revelation describes the angels in heaven worshipping the Lamb who was slain.

This great deed done by God is forever celebrated and remembered, and is ever a source of life, power, and love. The cross has to be woven into the deepest recesses of our lives and work its transformation into love.

In fact, the horrific nature of Christ’s death should cause us to reflect: “Why did something this extreme need to happen—unless we were in supreme need?”

A significant fraction of the Gospels is devoted to recounting the Passion. It was so monumentally different. At Emmaus, they said, “We thought He was the one.” He is the one, but in a totally different and unexpected way. The Lord’s complete self-giving released

We can participate in Christ’s redemptive love, but we also can crucify Him by rejection. It’s a serious thing to offend the Lord. If you’re going to bear fruit, the Father is going to prune you more. You’re either going to bear fruit or be thrown into the fire. In our world, there’s a lot of trying to please people and keep the peace at any price. We need to pay close attention to what Jesus says. People who disobey Jesus’ serious warnings won’t enter the kingdom. It really matters if we’re willing to pray and fast for the good of others. Our participation in the sacrifice of Jesus is a privilege and necessity. We are fellow heirs of Christ if we suffer with Him. When Jesus said, “Do this in memory of me,” He was not just talking about the sacrament. He meant—do what He did that makes the Eucharist present to us. We remember Jesus’ sacrifice, and then we are offered the chalice. When we drink the chalice, we’re saying yes to enduring the suffering the Lord permits in our lives for the salvation and sanctification of souls.

We can’t walk in the Spirit unless we apply the cross to the disordered sins and desires in our lives. Mary said to the Fatima children: “Pray, pray very much and make sacrifices for sinners. For many souls go to hell because there is no one to sacrifice and pray for them.” Mary is revealing that we can do something every day for the salvation of souls. If we want to walk by the Spirit, we need to walk with Jesus. We must take the same path He took—we must be a close friend to Him and not run from the cross. And we must thank Him for the sanctification happening in our lives.

“WHY DID SOMETHING THIS EXTREME NEED TO HAPPEN—UNLESS WE WERE IN SUPREME NEED?”
There are facts of life for us spiritually. How did Jesus come to us? How did the first evangelization take place? The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Blessed Trinity, came to a woman—a teenager—living in Nazareth, and when she said her “yes,” she was overshadowed by His power, and Jesus Himself took on flesh in her womb. She carried Him for those nine months under her heart, and when the moment was right, Jesus came into this world. Mary and the Holy Spirit in that wonderful, mysterious union, are the reason why you and I have Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

This union of the Holy Spirit and our Lady has been a great gift to me. I was a cradle Catholic, but I didn’t have a deep, personal relationship with Jesus. However, I wanted to go to a Catholic university. I was attracted to learn more about the faith—but at first, I didn’t want to be too holy, because I thought it would cut down on my social life.

I did eventually get involved in a Scripture study group, and in February of 1967, we went on a retreat (which later became known as the Duquense Weekend). As the retreat opened, we met in an upper room chapel, sang the Veni Creator Spiritus (“Come, Holy Spirit”), and one professor talked about Mary as being a model for us of surrender to God, obedience, and docility to prayer.

On this weekend, David Mangan suggested we renew our Confirmation, and I was the only student who also wanted to do that. A short time later, David and I went for a walk and we agreed that even if no one else on retreat wanted this, we did. We went to one of the professors, linked arms, and said, “We are going to renew our Confirmation.” He looked us in the eyes and said, “Are you ready?” I was scared to death! I didn’t know if I was ready, but I had this desire—this thirst! If we have desire and thirst for more of the Holy Spirit, unfailingly, the Holy Spirit is going to come to us!

A few hours later, first David, and then I alone wandered into the upper room chapel. I began to shake. Why was I shaking? As I looked at that little tabernacle, I began to think,

“God is here—the Lord of Lords.
And He is holy, and I am not holy.”

As much as I was afraid, lest He asked me to do something I did not want to do, there was in me a greater need—and every one of us is born with this need—for God and to surrender. I was kneeling before the tabernacle, and I prayed in the quiet of my heart,

“Father, I give my life to You.
Whatever You ask of me, I accept it,
and if it means suffering, I accept that too.
Just teach me to follow Your Son
and to love like Jesus loves.”

The next moment, I found myself prostrate. I felt immersed in the merciful love of God. I said,

“Stay. Don’t ever leave me.”

I wanted to die and be with Him forever. If I, who am no one special, could experience the love, tenderness, and mercy of God, anyone across the face of the earth can experience it. I ran down, got the chaplain, and poured out my story. He told me the same thing had already happened to David Mangan. The Lord’s ear is attentive to prayer. David and I had said that even if no one else wants this, we do.

The eyes of the Lord are roaming, looking for those who would serve Him wholeheartedly. Today, the eyes of the Lord are roaming over us, and He’s looking for those who will serve Him wholeheartedly.
Why did God give us the grace of baptism of the Holy Spirit at this time? Because we need it—“for such a time as this” (Est 4:14). My favorite definition of baptism in the Holy Spirit is found in Romans 5:5: “The love of God has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.” It’s the love of God!

Why did I say, as twenty-year-old kneeling in that chapel, “and if it means suffering, I accept that too”? I think the Holy Spirit formed that prayer in me. It’s not easy to consider Christ’s Passion—but that is part of living the Gospel. In the early days of this outpouring of the Holy Spirit, at an event full of people worshipping God and joy, joy, joy, I felt Jesus come to me, put His arms around me, and say,

“Get on your knees. This joy is not for you. For others to have this joy, someone must pay the price.”

It wasn’t a heavy word. It wasn’t something that made me afraid or feel resistant, because as He came to me, He put His arm around me, and it cemented our intimacy. There is a fellowship in the sufferings of Jesus. It is for us to be like Him.

One Scripture that has marked my life was given to me the night I was baptized in the Holy Spirit. That night, I was so excited, I couldn’t sleep. My body was on fire. I opened my Bible at random to Mary’s Magnificat: “And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior” (Lk 1:46-55). That was one of the first ways the Lord was showing me that this outpouring of the love of God into my heart was something I had received in union with our Blessed Mother.

Also, on the day that I prayed in tongues for the first time, I sang the most beautiful language, and I knew it was the Magnificat. My identification with Our Lady in being overshadowed by the Holy Spirit was cemented. I want everyone in the whole world to know about this marriage of the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Virgin Mary—so in their lives there could also be a taking on of the flesh of the Son of God and a bringing forth of the Son of God.

God wills that every single beloved disciple has an intense, personal relationship with God and a relationship with Mary. St. John Paul II gave catechesis on the Blessed Virgin Mary. He questioned, “How does Mary fit into the spiritual life?” Once you are in love with Jesus and the Holy Spirit, you don’t want anyone to eclipse that relationship, so when the pope was younger, he didn’t know if he should back away from a relationship with Mary. But then he found the book True Devotion to Mary. He brought that book back and forth to the salt mines.

The message was powerful: Rather than being an obstacle to our faith, giving ourselves to Mary enhances our relationship with the Lord.

Pope John Paul II (then Karol Wojtyła) consecrated his whole life to Jesus through Mary. When he was made pope, he said,

“In light of the seriousness of the times in which we live, I can do nothing better than to repeat my motto: ‘I am all yours, Mary.’”

With Jesus’ dying breath—and remember there is immense difficulty in speaking when crucified—what was on His heart? To give us to His mother. Jesus knew that for us beloved disciples to walk the path of the cross, we would need a mother. Jesus’ words, “Behold your son,” made Mary the mother of John and of all the disciples. It established a concrete maternal relationship between them. In the Lord’s choice, we see His concern that this motherhood should not be interpreted vaguely. Mary, the mother of Jesus, knows your name. She knows your footprint.

The Mother of Jesus is awake before the throne of her Son, constantly interceding. Jesus didn’t say, “Look to Mary as a model.” He said, “Mother”—a mama, a living person with whom we can have an intense, personal relationship.

A powerful moment happened on Saturday evening at Renewal Ministries’ Gathering this year, when David Mangan and Patti Mansfield stood on stage and linked arms—like they did at the original Duquense Weekend—and pledged to “stand in the breach” on behalf of the people of our day. Soon after, all of the Gathering attendees also linked arms as a promise to “stand in the breach” as well.
One key for us to face the spiritual and cultural battle we are in is to remember and to declare the greatness of God. Psalm 19:1 reminds us that, “The heavens declare the glory of God.” All of God’s creation is a word, a communication to us of the power and majesty of God. Astronomers tell us that there are more than fifty billion galaxies, all of different sizes, the total containing trillions of stars. Our galaxy, the Milky Way, which is one-hundred-thousand light years in diameter, contains the Pistol Star, which releases ten-million times more power than our sun. All of this is meant to speak to us about the greatness of God:

God is beautiful, glorious, powerful, mysterious, infinite in majesty. “He determines the number of the stars and calls each by name” (Ps 147:4).

All of this was made by the Father for His Son. God created it all, and then He created us in His image and likeness, and we’re the crown of His creation. It’s real—Jesus Christ left the heavens not to save the Pistol Star or Manhattan. He came to save and rescue those who bear the Father’s image.

Once, while I was in New York City, I spent hours walking the streets before sunrise, in awe of the energy and power the city seemed to emit. That night, I dreamed I was walking the streets, but this time the city was still, with no movement, no noise, no other people. The quiet was broken by the cry of an infant, laying on a blanket in the middle of the empty street. I picked up the naked baby, and as I looked into its eyes, I sensed the Lord telling me that this one helpless child is worth more than all the grandeur of the city of New York:

“This child bears my Father’s image and is of infinite value. New York City will pass away, but this child is destined to live forever.”

The devil is trying to set up kingdoms we can get fascinated by and lost in. He wants us to feel like what is happening here is everything. When we get separated from God, we can’t see the light of who God is, and as a result we become blinded to our own identity and ultimate value.

Right now, the Church is in this battle, maybe the greatest assault ever on the body of Christ. So few even of the baptized know the greatness of God and the power of His Son. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says Jesus became one of us so we can be drawn into His authority, power, and glory (668). The devil wants us to chase after fool’s gold, not real gold. Christ is the Lord of this cosmos. To miss this fact is to walk in darkness.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that the present time is a time of the Spirit and of witness (672). When the Church is healthy, she is moved by the Holy Spirit to bear witness to the truth. Now is the time to bear witness to the truth about God, no matter what the cost.

The constant temptation of the human race is to see God as our rival, to see His plan as an obstacle to our own. We think, “If I am going to be happy, I have to be free, and if I’m going to be free, I have to be the origin of my own meaning, purpose, and destiny.” The biggest sin is for creatures not to recognize and honor God. When we suppress the truth about God, we deny the ground of all reality. With God as our adversary, we inevitably claim His prerogatives as our own. Men begin to claim the right to wield the powers of life and death.
True freedom is receiving one’s identity in humility and honor and allowing God to raise us up and make something beautiful of our lives. The devil seeks to distort and steal our identity. We end up believing, “I have to define myself and determine who I am. I am the master of this piece of property—my body.” By doing that, we’re saying “no,” and it mocks the covenant blood of God’s Son. Imagine, here we are, in this gigantic cosmos, inhabiting this infinitesimally tiny blue planet. We’re like red ants, taking our stand, shaking our fist at the sky, and declaring to almighty God, “I’m the boss. I’m going to do it my way.” The words of St. Paul say it best, “Claiming to be wise, they became fools” (Rom 1:22).

Fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. Fear of God is gone from the land, and we’re getting dumber every day. This is God’s judgment on the world. As big and beautiful as this cosmos is, it’s nothing compared to beauty, majesty, and power of Jesus. Do you see how the devil is selling death as life? David said, “Be warned, oh rulers of the earth, serve the Lord with fear” (Ps 2:10-11). David warned the leaders—the Church needs to lovingly warn and call to repentance a world that has turned itself against God.

Let me share something that recently happened to my wife, Debbie. She spoke at a parish to parents of confirmands about helping our children maintain their identity in Christ. At one point, Debbie said, “We really have to encourage and help our kids, because it’s tough right now.” She gave as an example the fact that at schools, students are being asked to use different pronouns. A woman later stood up and said, “You are the most judgmental person I’ve ever heard. You are so intolerant.” She was really angry. Then another woman got up, and she was really angry. Debbie was shell-shocked; she was in the battlefield. Not one person said a word—not even those who know her. The next day, the organizer apologized and said that Debbie gave a wonderful talk, but when the lady spoke up, she found herself frozen with fear. Then, the pastor demanded that the organizer write a letter apologizing to every person who attended the event—or else she would be fired.

That’s an illustration of where the Church is at this moment: shot through with the fear of men! None of our solutions work, because the Holy Spirit will not anoint fear of men.

I recommend reading and re-reading the book of First Peter this year. Peter is teaching brothers and sisters who are in trial and under persecution. In the midst of that trial, they are being perfected in faith and filled with love and unutterable joy.

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which comes upon you to prove you, as though something strange were happening to you” (1 Pt 4:12).

Stop asking, “Why is this happening?”—because we are living in spiritual warfare, because leaders are being purified.

“All those Catholics in that room who were traumatized by one lady didn’t understand this. Someone could have said, “Thank you for your comments, but I didn’t hear anything judgmental. I just heard someone communicating the message of Jesus and the teaching of the Church.” That’s all you have to say; you don’t have to get into a fight. This is the time of the Spirit and of witness. This is not a time to draw back in the fear of men. We’ll be tempted, like St. Peter on Holy Thursday night, to follow Jesus “at a distance” (Mk 14:54). Don’t miss the grace that Jesus wants to bestow on you now. Stand up, bear witness, and God’s glory will be on you like it was on Jesus. Remember, the most anointed, paradigmatic walk “in the Spirit” that ever happened was Jesus’ walk to Calvary. It’s radical obedience to the Father—it’s love. Jesus said, “Come with me.” And from the cross, He said, “Don’t be afraid.” Don’t miss this opportunity we have been given!

Consider the condition of the Catholics in that room with Debbie: One lady gets up and barks—a lady who’s confused—and everybody’s scared. That’s a tactic of the devil.

Get some courage. You don’t want to die a coward, because cowards go to hell (Rv 21:8).

My prayer is when we receive Him today, we will know we were called for this hour—and this hour is following Jesus to Calvary and the cross. He says, “I will be strong in you. I want your life to soar to my Father, and I want to be glorified in you.”
**On the Road**

**June 2019 ENGAGEMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diocese of Lafayette, IN Diocesan Priest Convocation*</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 3-6</td>
<td>Ralph Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochester, MN Millennial Church Conference</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>Pete Burak Contact: <a href="mailto:tgraff@dowr.org">tgraff@dowr.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartford, CT Diocesan Pre-Synodal Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>Pete Burak Details: <a href="http://www.archdioceseofhartford.org">www.archdioceseofhartford.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coatzaocalcos, Mexico Irrefrenable Misericordia</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 14-16</td>
<td>Dr. Mary Healy Details: <a href="mailto:miguelhoracio@gmail.com">miguelhoracio@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malvern, PA Retreat</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 21-23</td>
<td>Dr. Mary Healy Details: <a href="http://www.malvernretreat.com/events/dr-mary-healey-retreat">www.malvernretreat.com/events/dr-mary-healey-retreat</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depage County IL Legatus*</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>Pete Burak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td></td>
<td>May 21-June 2</td>
<td>Emmanuel Tamakloe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 5-17</td>
<td>Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 12-24</td>
<td>Emmanuel Tamakloe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 19-25</td>
<td>Don Turbitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 27-30</td>
<td>Dcn. Zoli Kunzabo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 12-24</td>
<td>Emmanuel Tamakloe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 19-25</td>
<td>Don Turbitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 27-30</td>
<td>Dcn. Zoli Kunzabo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

---

**MISSIONS**

- **Ghana**
  - May 21-June 2
  - Emmanuel Tamakloe
- **Uganda**
  - June 5-17
  - Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw
- **Belarus**
  - June 19-25
  - Don Turbitt
- **Hungary**
  - June 27-30
  - Dcn. Zoli Kunzabo

For more information about missions, contact Kathleen at 734-662-1730 ext. 132 or kkittle@renewalministries.net

---

**Please Pray...**

- For a deeper outpouring of the Holy Spirit to strengthen and empower God’s faithful to stand for Christ throughout whatever challenges may arise.
- For our Blessed Mother to cover her children with her protective mantle and guide us closer to her heart and, therefore, closer to the heart of God and the Holy Spirit.
- For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

---

"If the Church simply aims to avoid conflict, merely to ensure that no disturbances arise anywhere, then her real message can no longer make any impact. For her message is there precisely in order to conflict with our behavior, to tear man out of his life of lies, and to bring clarity and truth. Truth does not come cheap. It makes demands, and it also burns."

— Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

---

**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.

Visit our website—www.renewalministries.net for programs, blog, contact info, resources, & more!

Download the Renewal Ministries’ App for easy access to all of the above Renewal Ministries’ content and so much more!

© 2019 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