Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the risen, Spirit baptizing Lord!

For several years now we have been posting each month’s newsletter on our website with the photos in color. Many people have told us that the photos in color convey a much more vivid feel for the work we are doing than when they are simply in black and white. Recently the price of printing photos in color has come way down and we are beginning this month, with the help of our Canadian printer, to add color to the newsletter. This will cost only .02 to .03 cents per newsletter! An expense we think is worth it in order to give you a better feel about who the people we are working with and serving truly are, and what their environments and local cultures convey. We hope you like it.

As I write this I’ve just returned from Toronto where we held our 15th annual Lift Jesus Higher! Rally. It was an inspiring day with more than 5000 adults and over 1800 youth in attendance, worshipping together and listening to Fr. Stan Fortuna, Fr. Benedict Groeschel, Sr. Ann Shields and Dana Scallon the Irish singer and courageous witness to Christ. Fr. Graham Keep and Fr. Tim Hepburn did a wonderful job leading the youth sessions. The highlight for me though was meeting with the new Archbishop of Toronto, Thomas Collins, the evening before the rally and then welcoming him to the rally as the main celebrant and homilist for the closing Mass. This is the first time that the Archbishop of Toronto has attended the rally and the thousands gathered were greatly blessed to welcome him, and even more blessed, when he told us that he planned to be with us at the rally every year!

He has also agreed to serve as Episcopal Advisor to Renewal Ministries of Canada, along with our esteemed Bishop Pearce Lacey, and has offered to make himself available for counsel and advice. He has also expressed his willingness to join us on The Choices We Face when we schedule next year’s production. God is good and we all feel very encouraged. Let’s pray for Archbishop Collins that the Lord protect and guide him in his challenging new responsibilities.

It’s also very inspiring to see how much our Canadian brothers and sisters are doing to support the world wide missions of Renewal Ministries. While the loss of our television slot on the Vision network when they tripled the cost was a great disappointment, it has enabled even more funds to be devoted to mission beyond North America. And we are pleased to

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Dear Friends

see that EWTN and the Salt + Light Network in Canada are steadily expanding their availability.

The Canadian funds are supporting significant mission work in Kazakhstan. There we are supporting a team of Slovakian priests, nuns and lay people who are carrying out a work of renewal and evangelization. One of the first people we were able to help serve in Kazakhstan was a Dutch woman who had emigrated to Canada. After she retired from her job she began her “second career” as a missionary to Kazakhstan. She has served there now for a number of years teaching English to many students and being a clear witness for Christ. Recently, because of an administrative complication, she received a deportation notice, but 97 of her students wrote letters pleading with the government to let her stay and they did! She continues to serve.

We have some new resources to offer you as well. During the first few months of this year, Sr. Ann Shields began to talk on her radio show Food for the Journey, about suffering in our lives. The subject matter was relevant to many and the calls and letters in response mushroomed. Each week we pray as a staff for the prayer intentions we receive and many are heartbreaking. They reveal the great suffering that so many are bearing in their lives, whether it be medical, financial, relational, or grief over what is happening to family members. Sr. Ann has prepared a special hour long CD, entitled From Death to Life: The Fruit of Suffering in Our Lives. It communicates the heart of her teaching on suffering. It is available at www.renewalministries.net or can be ordered through the enclosed reply card.

Also, Peter and Debbie Herbeck have just come out with a new book entitled When the Spirit Speaks; Touched by God’s Word. It is a collection of short testimonies from ordinary people, young and old, throughout the world, who have experienced the Holy Spirit at work in their lives. Michael Timmis, a great friend of Renewal Ministries and currently Chairman of Prison Fellowship International has this to say about the book:

“When the Spirit Speaks is extremely important for all of us who want to deepen our relationship with Jesus. The many and varied stories demonstrate the workings of the Holy Spirit in everyday people’s lives.”

Again, you can order this new book through the enclosed reply card or though our website.

And The Fulfillment of All Desire: A Guidebook for the Journey to God Based on the Wisdom of the Saints continues to impact people’s lives and receive very encouraging reviews. When Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher to the Papal Household, sent us an endorsement it “made my day.”

Also, Peter and Debbie Herbeck have just come out with a new book entitled When the Spirit Speaks; Touched by God’s Word.

Fr. Graham Keep (center), Fr. Tim Hepburn and Fr. Stan Fortuna (both on left) are all younger priests particularly gifted at working with the youth.
“The Fulfillment of All Desire is a wonderful guide to holiness utilizing the best possible ‘specialists’, the seven doctors of the Latin Church most qualified as teachers in the spiritual life. In a very original and helpful way Ralph Martin gives us a roadmap to guide us on our journey to eternity.”

- Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher to the Papal Household

The reviews and endorsements of many others have also been quite inspiring, including from one of our local pastors.

“As I read The Fulfillment of All Desire I was inspired to a deeper understanding and experience of the spiritual life on virtually every page. Ralph Martin has mined the riches of the Catholic spiritual tradition and produced a book which is truly a roadmap. It can help both beginners and the more advanced go deeper into the mystery of God’s love. I’m strongly recommending it to my parish.”

- Fr. Jeffrey Njus, Pastor, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Ann Arbor, MI

“Ralph Martin’s new book, The Fulfillment of All Desire, is a near perfect expression of the depth and dynamism of Catholic life. I cannot remember a book I devoured with more energy. In seamless prose Martin draws together the primary sources of the saints’ own writings with the real life drama of our own need for conversion. What a great contribution to spiritual formation. This is a rare book; in reading it one’s longing for Christ is re-ignited and fanned into a new flame of commitment.”

- Deacon James Keating, Ph.D., Director of Theological Formation, Institute for Priestly Formation, Creighton University

“Ralph Martin has accomplished what few have attempted…to bring to vivid life the writings of the Catholic spiritual tradition of the Doctors of the Church. Our late Great Holy Father John Paul II instructed us to turn to the Doctors of the Church as guideposts on the path to universal holiness and to grow in the spiritual life that leads to Him; this work helps do just that. Ralph Martin obviously knows Catherine, Teresa, Therese, John, Francis, Bernard and Augustine as spiritual mentors and companions, and through this book he brings us to them. He provides an intoxicating narrative that brings clarity to their work and he finds the thread that unites them all. At a time when many works on spirituality have been reduced to an inward movement into the “self”, The Fulfillment of All Desire helps us to move us beyond ourselves to the grace that satisfies the hungry heart. This is a spiritual classic!”

- Kris McGregor, KVSS Radio, Omaha, Nebraska

“This is the finest spiritual book I have read in many years. I am recommending it to all I know who are interested in deepening their communion with God, especially our seminarians here. I am praying that many will benefit from this truly wonderful book.”

- Fr. Jerome Young, O.S.B., Mount Angel Abbey, Saint Benedict, Oregon

These three resources were born in the Spirit and came to see the light of day through blood, sweat and tears. Publishers say that the most effective way of making resources like this known is by “word of mouth.” So, if you benefit from any of these tell a friend. It’s a way of evangelizing.

Thank you for being partners in this truly amazing work that the Lord is giving us a part in; the work of renewal and evangelization which was the whole thrust of Vatican II is coming to birth before our eyes.

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin
From the Field

By Peter Herbeck, Missions Director

A Grace of Revelation

On a hot August afternoon twenty-nine years ago, I stood among nearly thirty thousand people in the football stadium at the University of Notre Dame, having just received Holy Communion, when a total stranger came up to me with a simple message from the Lord. “Peter,” he said, “the Lord Jesus wants me to tell you that the faith and love you seek shall be granted to you because Jesus loves you and has died for you.”

As he was speaking those words, the power of the Holy Spirit came upon me, and I began to see and feel and understand the power of Jesus’ love for me in a way I had never known before. I remember those words and that moment as if it happened yesterday. It was a life changing moment, a moment of grace and revelation. It was a New Pentecost!

In his Apostolic Exhortation, Novo Millennio Ineunte, a powerful, prophetic word to the whole Church for the Third Millennium, Pope John Paul II reminded all of us that a true, living knowledge of Jesus comes to the human heart only through a “grace of revelation” (NMI #20). We cannot see and understand who Jesus really is without the direct action of the Holy Spirit in our lives: “No one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor 12:3).

The “grace of revelation” is not simply a transfer of information about Jesus, but it is direct, experiential, and personal knowledge of him. Jesus promised that, “anyone who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him” (John 14:21). This is the Lord’s deepest desire for each one of us. He wants us to know him, his majesty, his beauty, his mercy and his love. Seeing Jesus through the eyes of faith, in a personal way, as my Lord, as my Savior, as my friend, as my brother is the foundation of the whole of the Christian life.

This is what is at the heart of the grace of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, the New Pentecost that has touched the lives of hundreds of millions of people throughout the past one hundred years. It is in knowing Jesus through the power of the Spirit that the human heart can begin to experience real joy, authentic freedom, and hope: “hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Romans 5:5).

As we celebrate Pentecost it’s important to remember that the grace of Pentecost begins with true knowledge of Jesus. This is the optic through which we come to see the truth of who we are: “For all who are led by the Spirit are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of sonship. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ It is the Spirit himself bearing witness to our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, fellow heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ” (Romans 8:14–17).

This is the heart of what the Spirit wants to say to all of us. Jesus has sent the Spirit as a witness, to confirm in the depths of our heart the reality of what Jesus has done for us in his death and resurrection. It is no less than this: “he gave us power to become children of God” (John 1:12). This personal knowledge, breathed into us by the Holy Spirit breaks all the slavery within the human heart: fear, isolation, anger, bitterness, alienation, depression and lust. It literally heals the human heart and makes us capable of receiving and giving God’s love.

In this season of Pentecost, let’s ask the Lord to increase our knowledge of him; to take it deeper into our hearts, so that the truth of what Jesus has actually done for us and in us can fill our interior life. Let us join St. Paul in his prayer for this very grace, “to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have the power to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses all knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:16–19).

Jesus loves to give his “Holy Spirit to those who ask.” In this season of Pentecost, let us seek a “grace of revelation” for ourselves and for the whole Church. +
“Let us love one another, because love is of God” (1 John 4:7). This scripture passage, written on the backs of our bright blue mission t-shirts was a constant reminder of the theme and nature of our mission trip. Our aim was to bring the love of God to the impoverished people of Mexico City through tangible acts of love and service, through material goods and medical care. At the end of the week however, we all agreed that we had received much more than we had given, through the people we met, and the ways we learned to love each other.

On Easter Sunday, our team of eighteen teenagers from Fr. Gabriel Richard High School in Ann Arbor, Michigan and eight adults celebrated the Resurrection by bringing candy, toys and rosaries to the people who live and work in the dump. We sang, played soccer, painted fingernails, braided hair and passed out flyers announcing a medical clinic to be held on Tuesday and Thursday of Easter week.

The following day we visited La Providencia Divina, an orphanage appropriately named for its dependence on God’s providence.

Mother Inez, an 80 year old nun, lovingly cares for 231 children, most of them brain injured and handicapped. A few days before our arrival, Mother Inez had a dream in which God told her that He would send His angels to visit her on Monday. She did not know we were coming, but God’s promise proved true when we arrived on Monday morning with coloring books and crayons for the children. We sang songs and played with the children, and some of us held and rocked babies. Smaller groups of us were led to the “Upper Room,” a place for the more severely handicapped older orphans, many of whom were confined to crib-like beds to protect them from throwing themselves on the floor. As we walked around the room, praying in the Spirit and gently touching each child, God’s peace and presence settled on each one of His children. We left Mother Inez with a gift she needed and wanted most—money to continue the renovation of this special “Upper Room.”

Our modest medical clinic in the garbage dump was led by Dr. Lisa Benz, a pediatrician and mother of seven children. Dr. Lisa saw sick

In the course of one short day with Mother Inez, an 80 year old nun caring for 231 handicapped and orphaned children, we learned so much about unconditional love, hard work and perseverance, and the special presence of God in the broken and afflicted.
children, adults and the elderly. She examined diaper rashes and swollen knees, diagnosed respiratory ailments and infections in a makeshift clinic with no clean water and frequent dust squalls. She was also able to examine pregnant mothers in the back of a truck provided by a man from the parish community. We distributed clothing, medicine, household items and toiletries to the people living in the dump. Even the simple act of washing the children’s feet and fitting them with new shoes brought tremendous joy.

On Wednesday we spent the day trying to better understand the history and culture of the people we were serving. In the morning we climbed the Pyramid of the Sun, the site of mass human sacrifices by the Aztec Indians. Later that day we climbed Tepeyac hill, following in the footsteps of the peasant, Juan Diego to whom Mary had appeared in 1531. Inside the Basilica at Guadalupe we saw her image perfectly preserved on his cactus fiber cloak, a miracle that put an end to the bloody Indian massacres and converted nine million natives in the next nine years!

Each day in Mexico was filled with God’s presence and small signs of his love and provision. One dad, who accompanied his daughter on the trip, had been pondering the need for a Life in the Spirit Seminar for his family. One day, when the students were sorting through items we had brought from home to distribute at the dump, we came across ONE Life in the Spirit Seminar booklet in English. “May I keep this?” the father asked. He saw this little booklet as a confirmation of what God had in store for his family. Near the end of our trip, we met a devout Catholic Mexican woman who spoke perfect English and had many connections throughout the city. She was moved by our desire to serve her people and pledged to help us on future missions.

The lack of water was a major problem and Lisa prayed that God would provide the people with water. Imagine our delight, when we arrived at the dump on Thursday, to find a water truck bringing non-potable water! As we were leaving at the end of the day, we could

As we walked around the room, praying in the Spirit and gently touching each child, God’s peace and presence settled on each one of His children.

“I learned how to see people with the eyes of God. This is what a vacation should be—not for yourself but for others. This was the best week of my life!”

Laurie Manhardt just finished her Come and See Bible Study series on Moses and the Torah. To her great delight, the first child she met in the dump was 12 year old Moises!
hardly believe it when we saw another truck bringing in drinking water for the people living in the dump.

Perhaps the most touching scene of the trip occurred as we were leaving the dump for the last time. A young battered wife and mother walked with the group back to the bus to say goodbye. Before boarding the bus, the teenagers removed their shoes and gave them to the mother and her children.+

If you are interested in supporting the Mexico Mission, by participating as medical personnel or through financial contributions for the specific needs of the orphanage or the people in the dump please contact Debbie Herbeck at dherbeck@renewalministries.net or 734-662-1730, ext 27.

“My family just adopted three boys from a garbage dump in another country. This trip really hit home for me and helped me understand their lives and accept them.”

“The most significant part of the trip was having so many opportunities to serve others and learn more about living a life of love, even when I’m not on a mission trip.”

“This week was an amazing gift of serving others. I saw God’s love in the parents in the dump and their dedication to their children. It was a reminder to me that God is always watching out for us.”

“There was one boy who clearly was embarrassed by how dirty his feet were, but I just took them and cleaned all the dirt off and gave him new shoes and he was so happy.”

Please Pray…

+ for our mission trips to Turkey and Uganda this month. May the Lord pour out His Spirit for deeper conversion and equip the clergy and laity for the work of evangelization.

+ for all the impoverished throughout the world who are suffering. May God comfort and strengthen them and may they find their joy in Him.

+ for our brothers and sisters in Canada who labor tirelessly for the proclamation of the Gospel.

+ for the intentions of all our supporters and their family members.

Thank you for your continued support through prayer as we labor together for the Gospel and the renewal of the Church.
On the Road

Christ has no body now but mine.
He prays in me,
looks through my eyes,
speaks through my words,
works through my hands,
walks with my feet
and loves
with my heart.

St. Teresa of Avila

June 2007

Mission to Turkey
May 28–June 11
Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw and Team
Contact Jessica Sherwood at 662-1730 x32 or jsherwood@renewalministries.net

Tijuana, Mexico
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference
June 1–3
Ralph Martin
Contact: Pablo Murillo at pablitojh@hotmail.com

Plymouth, MI
National Catholic Leaders Conference
June 8-10
Peter Herbeck
Contact: MBllumberg@aol.com

Steubenville, OH
Franciscan University Charismatic Conference
June 8–10
Ralph Martin
Contact: www.franciscanconferences.com or 1-800-437-8368

Corpus Christ, TX
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference
June 16
Ralph Martin
Contact number: 361-563-9298

Houston, TX
Catholic Charismatic Center
June 17–19
Ralph Martin
Contact number: 713-236-9977

Uganda Mission & Priests Retreat
June 18–30
Peter Herbeck, Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw and Team

Ann Arbor, MI
Bible Study for Ave Maria Founders Club
Tuesday, June 19
Peter and Debra Herbeck
Contact Marita at 734-667-5601 or marita.ladosenszky@avemaria.edu

Mission to Lithuania
June 28–July 5
Bohus Zivcak and Team

July 2007

Plymouth, MI, School of Spirituality
July 8–10
Sr. Ann Shields, Sr. Sarah Burdick
Contact Jessica Sherwood at 662-1730 x32 or jsherwood@renewalministries.net

Mission to Tanzania
July 8–25
Tom Edwards and Team

Plymouth, MI, School of Catholic Bible Study
July 19–22
Debbie Herbeck, Laurie Manhardt, Fr. Ponessa, Fr. Liesen
Contact Jessica Sherwood at 662-1730 x32 or jsherwood@renewalministries.net

St. Teresa of Avila