Dear Friends,

Recently I had a chance to spend some time with a man who has been faithfully supporting the work of Renewal Ministries since 1981, through a monthly pledge, which has increased as his income has grown. I can’t tell you how touched I am by such faithful support. And there are others of you like him, even from 1981! But we are also very grateful for those of you who have begun to support us more recently. One of the bittersweet experiences I regularly have is reading letters from some of our more elderly faithful supporters who are no longer in the position to contribute financially. They may no longer be working, or have suffered financial or health setbacks; some are now living on just social security and even then, some are still giving from their poverty, as did the widow who touched Jesus’ heart in the gospel account. And whenever we receive word that one of our supporters has died we have a Mass offered for the repose of their soul. Our hearts are regularly touched by the “steadfast love” you are showing us, and all who are being touched through us, throughout the world.

Speaking of which, once again we were not able to fit all the good things happening into one newsletter. For accounts of our most recent missions in Uganda and Tanzania please go to our website (renewalministries.net) and click on our Missions page where you can read about them and see photos. In this newsletter you’ll read about the good things that are happening in Poland, Serbia and Zimbabwe. As I write this we’ve just finished producing 26 more episodes of *The Choices We Face*. Once again I am amazed at how many inspiring things the Lord is doing.

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*‘I’m a truck driver and was raised in an atheist household, never attended church, and lived a pretty sinful life until just recently. I’ve just become a new Catholic and I find your program very inspiring.’*

Ralph and Peter are on the set with Deacon Larry Oney, one of our guests on the new programs now in post production, for *The Choices We Face*. 

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*continued on pg 2*
Dear Friends,

in so many peoples’ lives. We are privileged to bring their stories to you each and every week of the year. The programs are now in “post production” where editing goes on. The new programs won’t be launched until the first week of March, 2011, but planning, preparing and producing them is a year round process. We’ll tell you more about the programs in the February issue of the newsletter.

Sr. Ann Shields and Peter Herbeck continue to participate in the growth of Catholic Radio. Their shows continue to be carried by new stations and the feedback from people who are being helped is most inspiring. Here are some recent emails to Sr. Ann:

“Your programs, Sr. Ann, have helped me get through an extremely difficult time in my life. My marriage was in serious difficulty and was the cause of much suffering. Things have begun to get better in our marriage but listening to you every day it seemed as if God was speaking through you to me. I heard everything that I needed to get through. Today, listening to your program as I was driving to work, I cried all the way there.”

“I’m blind and listening to your program helps me a lot. God is using you in a very powerful way.”

“I’m a truck driver and was raised in an atheist household, never attended church, and lived a pretty sinful life until just recently. I’ve just become a new Catholic and I find your program very inspiring. It makes me want to follow the straight and narrow path, even though it’s difficult. Thank you so much for giving us daily inspirational programs that help us be better, more Christ centered people!”

Whether it’s TV, the radio, or live preaching and teaching at parish missions, conferences, or overseas in missions, it’s the beauty and the power of the Word of God that is touching hearts and setting people free.

Here is another recent email:

“A priest recently asked me where the prophetic word is being spoken and who is preparing people for what is to come. Without hesitation I told him to turn to Renewal Ministries. They’re hearing the Lord clearly and preaching His word with boldness. I encouraged this priest and others as well to visit the Renewal Ministries website for excellent resources and inspiration. I save many of the articles because the anointing of God is on them. Thank God for raising up Ralph, Peter and Sr. Ann to proclaim that Jesus is Lord to the glory of the Father.”

Thank you, not only for your financial support, but for your prayers that have protected us from dangers, known and unknown, and have helped give us the strength to press forward. We pray for you as well.

This month you’ll find enclosed with this newsletter our annual “Resource Catalog” which includes an overview of the books, CDs and DVDs that we’re making available to help you and others grow in the faith. Take a look. I’m sure you’ll find something that will be the right “next thing” for you.

In Christ,

Ralph Martin

Please Pray…

+ in thanksgiving for Fr. Francis Martin’s continued recovery from a serious heart attack.
+ that people’s hearts will be open and their lives transformed as the gospel is proclaimed at upcoming parish missions, conferences, and retreats throughout the United States this month.
+ for the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

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

For almost a year, I have been thinking about a reflection that Pope Benedict gave on the Blessed Mother. I found it thought provoking and have returned to it several times. (See http://www.zenit.org/article-27788) His main point was this: “The press brings us a daily serving where evil is recounted, repeated, amplified, accustoming us to the most horrible things, making us more insensitive and in some way intoxicates us, because the negative (we hear and read about) is not fully disposed of and accumulates day after day. Hearts harden and thoughts darken…”

We are breathing toxic fumes just as dangerously or more than severe air pollution. It is, he says, “the pollution of the spirit which leads to sadness and depression; it is that which renders our faces less smiling, more gloomy, which leads us not to greet one another, to not look at one another in the face…Persons become bodies and these bodies lose the soul, become things, objects without a face, to be exchanged and consumed.”

One local pastor, Fr. William Ashbaugh, in this past Sunday’s bulletin made this insightful comment: “During various times in history, it was unpopular to be a Christian. Perhaps we are facing something similar today. One New York Times article commented on this in terms of what our society glorifies. Outlandish immoral behavior seems to be more and more the norm. Porn stars become celebrities with bestselling books. Greed and glamour is rewarded while those who humbly follow God are maligned. One man called Mother Teresa a fanatic, a fundamentalist and a fraud…”

This is the air we breathe, brothers and sisters, and its fumes cannot help but harm us.

But the Pope tells us there is a purifier for the air we breathe: “It is the Blessed Mother who in her humility and faith and beauty brings a purifying grace to our world. “Where sin abounds, grace abounds still more.”

“She is the Immaculate Mother who repeats also to the men of our time: ‘Do not be afraid, Jesus has conquered evil; he has conquered it at the root, freeing us from its dominion.’” Under her maternal care and in the power of Christ’s Spirit, we can effect change.

Benedict says that Mary teaches us to look at others and to treat others as Christ did, “To look at them with mercy, with love, with infinite tenderness, especially those who are most alone, most looked down upon, most exploited. ‘Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.’”

No matter the form that challenges take, the Holy Father encourages us: “There are many, many good people who have understood in every age that it is no use to condemn, to lament, to recriminate, but it is better to respond to evil with good. This changes things, it changes persons and, in consequence, improves society.”

It is time for each of us to look very seriously at what we allow into our hearts, minds, and spirits. We need to make some decisions about what we watch and listen to and WHO we listen to…we are often not aware of the toxicity of the air until we find ourselves coughing and choking and struggling for clean air. So it is with the spirit and it is often not as obvious that our spirits are poisoned—until our faith has grown weak and our hearts lose hope and the desire to love grows sour and bitter and cynical.

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to give us the grace “to listen to Mary’s voice” as she prays for us, that the tide of evil may be overcome by the lavish grace of the Living Water that is Christ. May this water wash away the pollution of our hearts and minds and make us, once again, clear channels of His love and mercy to a poisoned and poisonous world.

Pope Benedict concludes his reflections with this statement. “Let us hear her silent but pressing appeal. She says to each one of us: Where sin increased, grace can overflow, beginning precisely from your heart and your life! And the city will be more beautiful, more Christian, more human.”
It’s always a great joy to return to Csóka, a small city in northern Serbia with a population that is half Serbian Orthodox and half Hungarian (mostly Roman Catholic) population. After the very successful City Mission last year, we decided to reach more representative groups of the local society with our message. The local bishop, László Németh supports and regularly attends part of the rally. The serving team came together from different places: seven of us from the New Jerusalem Community in Budapest. Seven others, leaders of different communities including Fr. Károly Vajda, the parish priest of Veprod, came from different places in the area, as well as approximately twenty members of the local community. This year we invited the local Serbian Orthodox pastor Fr. Svetolik to take part in our events and he showed up four times! This kind of participation is very unusual here and gave us hope for much deeper cooperation in the future.

We arrived by car from Budapest and took part in the opening festive Mass and Adoration hour for the whole mission. Tamás Berki, a gypsy man from Budapest spoke about his transformation as a new believer in the last five years and I preached about the difference the Lord’s presence makes in every life, family, and town!

The next day we met with the young confirmation candidates of the parish. Our main topic was the danger of drugs, using this message as a basis for evangelization. After a short worship time we showed a documentary film about a young guy whose life of drugs and partying ended tragically with an overdose at the age of twenty. The film really touched everyone’s hearts. We continued with the testimony of Tamás Berki and his older brother, Géza, both of them former drug addicts, but both now free with the power of the Lord. I preached the gospel, revealing to them the importance of their decisions—either life in Christ or death. The twenty five teenagers were very attentive and active during worship.

Our evening began at the local theatre with the poems and songs of local Christian writers, performed by the sixty students of the local elementary school. One of the authors, a wonderful elderly lady named Márta Lukáts gave her testimony of a long life in God’s love. All 200 members of the audience—most of them proud parents—had a good time and also received the Good News.

Afterwards we attended a meeting for the parents of the confirmation candidates. We showed the same film and heard the testimony of Tomislav, a former heroin addict, who spent three years in a Catholic House of Recovery and became free through prayer, work and community. The parents were shocked and had many questions. At the end I had just a short time to speak. I went down to my knees and begged them, “If you want to save your children, believe and pray with them because without faith you can’t keep them from the power of the world. If you don’t go in God’s direction, your children won’t go alone.” After the service many parents thanked us with tears in their eyes.

The next morning the local secondary school invited us to present our program of drug prevention in front of the whole school, all 200 students and teachers! All the students were extremely open to our message—the film, the testimonies and the preaching. The presence of two priests, one Catholic and the other Orthodox, gave a special significance to the day. In my preachings I presented the person of Jesus Christ as a real chance and choice for life for each of them. I asked them to develop a genuine relationship with Jesus and to continue with a community life in either the Catholic or the Orthodox Church. The

The organization, teamwork and dedication of the laity, the local charismatic movement, and the clergy all contributed to the success of the City Mission.
By Deacon Zoltán Kunszabó

experiences of our team members testified that our words found their way into many young people’s hearts.

Afterward, we invited everyone to the theatre for a worship concert and about 200 people showed up. Laci led everyone into the deep presence of the Lord, a young married couple from Budapest spoke about their conversion to Christ and their journey to marriage, and Fr. Vajda preached the gospel in a very creative way. The people didn’t want to go home!

The main day of the city mission began in the sports field with 150 students from the public elementary school. The teachers led various games, Fr. Vajda preached to the children about Jesus the Champion, and we gave out many awards—mostly chocolates. The atmosphere was very joyful and we were asked to organize this kind event again.

After lunch the cultural house was packed with more than 400 people for the FIRE evangelization meeting. Bishop Német opened the event followed by worship, a wonderful testimony, and a skit by the young group from the Ada community. Afterwards, I spoke about God’s love, showing them a big wooden cross as a symbol of this Love. We invited the non-believers to come up to the cross and more than forty came forward to dedicate their lives to Jesus. Afterwards, the bishop celebrated holy Mass, followed by a time of prayer ministry.

Sunday morning we all attended Mass in the parish church. One of our team members gave his testimony and I preached. After lunch we began a healing ministry in the presence of the Holy Sacrament and more than 80 people came and asked for prayer.

The mission was a success because there was unity with the bishop, the parish priest, and the laity of the area, all working together with the local Charismatic movement. There was also a breakthrough in reaching many groups of the local society: parents, children, teachers and students, leaders of the township, the Serbian Orthodox Church and community. All of this is very worthwhile, and as one local woman encouraged us, “Don’t stop, because we feel the changes in our city since you came last year!”

Presentations at the local secondary school focused on drug prevention, the proclamation of the gospel message, and an invitation for students to develop a genuine relationship with Jesus.

“I went down to my knees and begged them, ‘If you want to save your children, believe and pray with them because without faith you can’t keep them from the power of the world. If you don’t go in God’s direction, your children won’t go alone.’”

After hearing a talk about God’s love, nonbelievers were invited to come up to the cross for prayer and more than forty came forward to dedicate their lives to Jesus.
I arrived on Thursday and went right to work, driving to the city of Glewice to meet with Stefan Mitas, the leader of the men’s group. There were eighty plus men present and I gave two teachings and prayed over each man.

The men’s weekend retreat began the next day at a full retreat house of seventy men. On Sunday all of us traveled miles to Calvary, a Franciscan shrine where we were joined by an additional 110 men for talks, prayer ministry and Mass.

On Monday we attended a meeting with Bishop Andrzej Siemieniewski. We had lunch together and we spoke for two hours and the bishop shared that his greatest need was to bring men back to the Church. That evening we attended Mass with six priests and three hundred men as well as about 100 women who stayed after Mass for my talks. The priest asked me to pray over and bless each man.

Tuesday we drove to Czestochowa for Mass. Fifty men attended and I gave two talks and prayed over everyone. The following day I was off to Torun where a community is located. Eighty men came for the meeting and the next day we had a mixed group of 150 people. On Friday I drove ten hours back to Lanckaron for a weekend retreat for twenty five leaders.

On Monday I returned to Warsaw for a meeting with a newly formed group of sixty men. The next day I flew to Krakow to meet with Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, the former secretary to Pope John Paul. We had a very stimulating conversation concerning the men’s ministry. The Cardinal promised us his blessing and prayers for our ministry to men.

The charitable gift annuity is a unique gift arrangement that can help both you and Renewal Ministries. This type of annuity provides our donors with fixed payments throughout the years, thereby helping them to find a measure of certainty in these uncertain economic times, while supporting Renewal Ministries at the same time.

Here is a hypothetical example based on an actual experience. With the proceeds from the sale of their principal residence and some additional property, two of our longtime donors, John, age 71, and his wife, Jane, age 70, funded a $50,000 charitable gift annuity for the benefit of Renewal Ministries that guaranteed a rate of 5.2%, or $2,600 annually for both of their lives. John and Jane were pleased to learn that $1,713.40 of their annual annuity income would not be subject to federal income tax until 2029, at which time a lower tax-free portion of each annuity benefit would take effect. They were also happy to know that they would enjoy the immediate benefit of a $15,565.50 charitable tax deduction for this donation and were surprised to learn that any unused portion of this deduction could be carried forward for an additional five years or a total of six years. Moreover, Renewal Ministries was able to use a significant portion of their gift to complete several evangelistic projects that they personally had supported over the years. As John and Jane observed, “This program is a ‘Give and Gain’ situation for everyone!”
Seventy three catechists gathered from the diocese of Mutare in Zimbabwe for five days of teaching on Catholic apologetics. They came away transformed and ready to share this new knowledge with their parishes.
### November 2010

- **New Ulm, MN, Faculty, Parents and High School Retreat**  
  November 5–9  
  Peter & Debbie Herbeck and Team

- **Mission to Rwanda**  
  November 6–27  
  Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw and Team  
  Contact: Jessica at 734-662-1730 ext 32 or jsherwood@renewalministries.net

- **Parma, OH**  
  Eastern Catholic Men’s Conference  
  November 13  
  Peter Herbeck  
  Contact: 216-741-8773 ext 226

- **Enders Island, CT, Fraternity of Priests’ Retreat**  
  November 14–18  
  Ralph Martin

- **Detroit, MI**  
  South Oakland Vicariate Evening of Renewal  
  November 19  
  Ralph Martin  
  Contact: Maten.Judith@aod.org

- **Not a Public Event**

### December 2010

- **Ypsilanti, MI**  
  St. John the Baptist Advent Mission  
  Wednesday, December 1  
  Ralph Martin  
  Contact number: 734-483-3360

- **Toronto, Ontario, Renewal Ministries’ of Canada Board Meeting**  
  December 5–6  
  Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields, Gary Seromik

- **Ypsilanti, MI**  
  St. John the Baptist Advent Mission  
  Wednesday, December 8  
  Sr Ann Shields, SGL  
  Contact number: 734-483-3360

- **Ypsilanti, MI**  
  St. John the Baptist Advent Mission  
  Wednesday, December 15  
  Peter Herbeck  
  Contact number: 734-483-3360

- **Ypsilanti, MI**  
  St. John the Baptist Advent Mission  
  Wednesday, December 22  
  Sr Ann Shields, SGL  
  Contact number: 734-483-3360

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*We must always remind ourselves that we are pilgrims until we arrive at our heavenly homeland, and we must not let our affections delay us in the roadside inns and lands through which we pass, otherwise we will forget our destination and lose interest in our final goal.*

**St. Ignatius of Loyola**

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*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.*

**Psalm 107:1**

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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, tapes, conferences, retreats and other international evangelistic events.

Editor  
Debra Herbeck  
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