Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, Ralph and Anne Martin’s time in Rome is drawing to a close. Ralph is in the final, hectic stages of work on his dissertation. As you may know from Ralph’s periodic updates on our website, he’s been operating on a very tight timetable. We’ve all been praying that the wheels of academia in Rome would turn much faster than they normally do in order for Ralph to defend his dissertation and catch his return flight back home to Ann Arbor on June 16th. It seems that the hand of the Lord is at work on their behalf, as the process seems to be moving faster than one would normally expect.

Just a few days ago a second reader was assigned to work through the dissertation in painstaking detail. Once the two readers have done their work, the next step is to schedule a public defense of the dissertation, which needs to happen sometime in the next ten days. Hopefully, by the time you sit down to read this newsletter, Ralph and Anne will be home, and Dr. Martin will be enjoying a few weeks of well-deserved vacation before the beginning of the fall semester at Sacred Heart Seminary. (Note: Literally, as I’m writing, I just received an email from Ralph. He said the Dean set the date for the defense: June 15th at 5:00 p.m.! Talk about cutting it close. God is good!)

Speaking of Sacred Heart Seminary, the Archdiocese of Detroit announced last week that the Companions of the Cross, our good friends from Ottawa, Ontario, have agreed to send three of their priests to Detroit to pastor one of the parishes in Detroit and to establish a renewal center there. In addition, a number of their seminarians will live in community at the parish and attend Sacred Heart for their academic formation.

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The celebration of the Mass on Sunday was the culmination of a weekend filled with hope, joy, praise, and thanksgiving. (l to r: Deacon Richard Mishler, Deacon Dan Foley, Fr. Scott McCaig, Deacon Zoltan Kunszabo)
Dear Friends,

We’re delighted about the move for all kinds of reasons. First, we share a deep commitment to the promotion of the New Pentecost, New Evangelization, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, discipleship and much more. The Companions are good friends of Renewal Ministries and have been a great support to our work over the years. They’ve provided priests and seminarians for some of our international mission teams and speakers and confessors for the *Lift Jesus Higher Rally* in Toronto. Fr. Scott McCaig, the current Moderator and Superior General of the order, is a member of our Canadian Board of Directors. In speaking with Fr. Scott, we have a shared conviction that the Lord intends for us to continue our collaboration in mission together here in our own backyard. Please keep the Companions and their new assignment in Detroit in your prayers.

Fr. Scott was also a part of our two major annual spring events, the *Lift Jesus Higher Rally* and the Renewal Ministries Gathering. This was our 19th annual *Lift Jesus Higher Rally*. Once again, Paul and Dorle Kromer and the organizing team did a wonderful job preparing for the rally and their labors bore significant fruit. We had more than 4,000 adults and close to 1,200 youth at the rally. And to my continued surprise, it was the first rally for about 30% of the attendees, and some heard the basic Gospel message and the truth about new life in the Spirit for the first time.

Along with Fr. Scott, our speakers were Deacon Alex Jones, Sr. Ann Shields and Thomas Collins, the Archbishop of Toronto. They were all inspiring and helped us respond to what I can only describe as a special grace of the Holy Spirit. Throughout the day, especially during our worship times and Eucharistic Adoration, there was a tangible, deep experience of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Archbishop Thomas Collins of Toronto who addressed the youth and celebrated Mass for the adults at the end of the day has been a tremendous supporter of the *Lift Jesus Higher Rally* and Renewal Ministries, serving as our Episcopal advisor in Canada.

Sr. Ann Shields
Spirit. There was a sweetness about the Lord’s presence that led a number of our regulars—including Sr. Ann Shields—to say it was one of the most anointed rallies to date.

The youth rally continues to be a great source of grace as well. I spent part of my day with the youth and watched our team, led by Debbie Herbeck, Peter Burak, Craig Pohl, Fr. Mark Goring of the Companions of the Cross and their team of young adults from Michigan help bring young people to deeper faith through talks, testimonies, music, skits, prayer ministry and Adoration.

We’re already looking forward to next year when we will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the *Lift Jesus Higher Rally*. We want to dedicate the day to rejoicing in the Lord, giving Him thanks and recalling the mighty deeds He has done for us! The date for the 2012 *Lift Jesus Higher Rally* is March 3rd. Our special guest will be popular author and speaker Fr. Jonathan Morris. Fr. Jonathan serves as parochial vicar at the historic St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City, and is widely known for his work as a news analyst for Fox News. For more information about next year’s *Lift Jesus Higher Rally*, go to www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.org.

Our Renewal Ministries Gathering in May provided another surprise and a time of great grace. We had invited as our special guests, Fr. John Riccardo, popular speaker on Ave Maria Radio and pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel parish in Plymouth, MI, and Archbishop Alapati from Samoa. I was convinced we had a “can’t miss” weekend planned, especially given the fact that the Archbishop would be with us throughout the weekend. God had other plans. Just two days before the Gathering, while en route by train from Los Angeles to Ann Arbor, the Archbishop received a call from the Vatican asking him to return immediately to Samoa for some important business.

It was disappointing news, but we knew the Lord had something else in mind. Right around that time, Fr. Scott McCaig called to say he would be in Detroit that Friday to meet with Archbishop Vigneron and wondered if there was room for him to attend our Gathering! Fr. Scott presided at our liturgies, heard many confessions during the weekend and preached powerfully at our festival of praise and Eucharistic Adoration on Saturday night.

Again, much like the *Lift Jesus Higher Rally*, the anointing of the Spirit was tangible and deep, at times bringing conviction to our hearts, as well as joy and fresh hope to many of us. Through the talks, the country coordinators’ mission reports, the worship, the liturgies and fellowship, the Lord reminded us of a very important truth He had conveyed to us in the past: Renewal Ministries is a miracle! Despite our weaknesses and limitations, He has blessed us immensely and allowed us to be fruitful for the kingdom.

The *Lift Jesus Higher Rally*, the Gathering, the mighty works of the Lord in the mission field, our fruitful collaboration with the Companions of the Cross, and even Ralph’s completion of his dissertation at the last minute—it is all grace. Thanks be to God!

“The date for the 2012 *Lift Jesus Higher Rally* is March 3rd. Our special guest will be popular author and speaker Fr. Jonathan Morris.”

The youth rally featured testimonies from various Canadian youth. Adrianna and Julia Inneo shared about their experiences on a recent mission trip to Mexico City with Renewal Ministries. Throughout the day many youth expressed interest in participating in a mission trip.
Please Pray…

- for our upcoming missions to Ghana, Vietnam, Slovakia, Ukraine and Rwanda. May the proclamation of the gospel message bring deeper conversion and faith.

- that the Lord will continue to use the Companions of the Cross as His instruments for evangelization and renewal.

- 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.
For the past six years Renewal Ministries has collaborated with Fr. Gabriel Richard High School in Ann Arbor, Michigan, giving Spanish speaking students the opportunity to serve the impoverished in Mexico City. This past April however, 12 students, along with Renewal Ministries’ country coordinator Jim “Butch” Murphy and adult chaperones Rolando and Janey Herrera and Karina Garza traveled instead to San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala to participate in the San Lucas Mission. For many of the students it was their first time outside the U.S. and they were eager to promote the kingdom of God in a cross-cultural setting.

The San Lucas Mission was originally founded by the Franciscans with the building of the Mission Church around 1584. In 1958, as the Catholic Church called for greater involvement of clergy and lay people in world missions, the Diocese of New Ulm, Minnesota responded by launching a diocesan partnership with the Diocese of Sololá, Guatemala. Fr. Greg Schaffer, a diocesan priest from New Ulm, began serving as pastor of the San Lucas Mission in 1962 and is still there today, forty years later!

Our student group from Michigan began each day with Mass and a simple breakfast and then was available to serve the practical needs of the mission’s many programs. After the first day, it was apparent that the most pressing needs were related to the massive mudslides that had occurred earlier in the year, wiping out roads and people’s homes. Our group helped prepare temporary housing for the Guatemalans there and also rebuilt some roads that had been washed out by mudslides. The work was physically challenging, yet our team worked hard and had great attitudes.

During the time of prayer and reflection at the end of each day, one student commented that this wasn’t exactly how she envisioned her spring break, but it felt good knowing that their labors had produced something valuable for the local people. Another student commented, “I went to Guatemala thinking that I would not like the work at all and I was afraid of how I was going to be treated by the native people. In fact I was wrong about both things. I began to love doing the work and I have never met more genuine people than the native Guatemalans. I thought to myself, it doesn’t really matter that they are so poor because they are actually happier than we are. The Guatemalans really loved us and we loved them. Our trip to Guatemala taught me many things. But most importantly it taught me that it doesn’t matter who you are, what background you come from or how much money you have, you can always touch someone’s life.”

“Our daily work of rebuilding a road consisted of moving large rocks, boulders and piles of dirt and sand.
Mission to Haiti

While working in so many countries around the world we have seen much poverty and hopelessness. In Haiti a long line of corrupt governments, hurricanes, the first earthquake and major cholera epidemic in decades are hammer-like blows that weigh heavily on the spirit of the people there. That is why partnering with Haiti Missions, Inc. has been so important. They are providing real help for real people, and they truly seem to accomplish more with less.

We arrived in Port-Au-Prince on Monday and were picked up and transported to a guest house called Matthew 25. It is run by Sr. Mary and is a great oasis in the confusion and noise of this large city. A program had been arranged for the many victims of the earthquake who had been living in tents on the property and nearby. There are around 250 students at the Matthew 25 School; each invited two adults to a “party” where food and drinks were distributed and we were allowed to present the Gospel and lead people in prayer. The kids put on skits and dances for all of us and the food HMI provided was very welcomed. I spoke on the meaning of Easter and we felt blessed to extend hope to these beautiful people who have suffered so much.

The next morning we flew to Jeremie and were met by Fr. Joe who brought us to his wonderful facility at Numero Deux. Our team of 14 went to work right away sorting flour, rice, beans, oil, soap, and the many other commodities that would be distributed in the following days to the three nearby schools that HMI sponsors. In the afternoons we distributed “aid packages” to more than 250 individual families. With the help of generous donors from the U.S., Deacon Lloyd Duplantis bought a number of sheep, goats, and donkeys and gave them away, mostly to elderly Haitians. Instead of carrying water and firewood on their heads they now have help and their lives are improved significantly.

In addition to working with HMI on the daily humanitarian projects, Nancy and I were blessed to add a valuable spiritual component. The rector of the St. Louis Cathedral in Jeremie invited us to hold a two night conference there. The first evening around 400 people attended. After a time of praise and worship I spoke on the question, “What is truth?” and proclaimed that Truth has a name, a home, and a purpose. The evening ended with a time of recommitment to Jesus and prayer ministry.

News must have spread because the next night the Cathedral was nearly full. Nancy talked about removing various blocks to receiving God’s blessings. She focused on the necessity of forgiveness and led the hundreds of people in a prayer to forgive others and to renounce hatred, fear, poverty, sickness, and many other things that have kept them in bondage.

At the final evening of a two day conference at St. Louis Cathedral in Jeremie, Fr. Tony led a time of Eucharistic Adoration and worship. There were many wonderful testimonies of the power of God.
and worship Nancy and I took turns presenting the Gospel. The people were hungry and God never disappoints! After leading them to recommit to Jesus we prayed an empowerment prayer over the people and then encouraged them to ask Jesus what they wanted from Him that night. Our team walked around the church laying hands on people and joining them in requests to God. There were a number of people who gave testimonies of healing and freedom from fear and hopelessness.

One of the most rewarding outreaches for me personally was a visit to the local prison. The men and women there live in very challenging conditions; each small cell houses 20-30 prisoners. HMI had drilled a well for the prison, which opened the door for us to minister there. HMI also brought sandwiches, sodas, playing cards, candy, peanuts, and many other things and the prisoners were allowed out one cell at a time to receive them. It was like Christmas for most of them.

Prior to the distribution of the goodies I had the honor of giving my testimony and then presenting the Gospel to the prisoners. Fr. Joe translated as I spoke and all the prisoners crowded at the doors and windows to hear. I was amazed at how intently these hardened men and women listened and seemed to believe the truth they were hearing. Jesus can make a way where there seems to be no way! When they came out for the distribution we had the opportunity of shaking many hands and it appeared that God had used the love of the good folks at HMI and the preaching to bring hope and to ease the suffering of the prisoners. Many of them gave Fr. Joe letters for loved ones and Fr. Joe, who is both a civil and canon lawyer, will try to get the dockets sped up so these prisoners, many who have waited for years, can get a trial.

We had a busy and productive trip. Although many had heard the Gospel before, it is always fresh and able to bring souls to a deeper relationship with our Savior. On Mercy Sunday Nancy and I went to a parish in Port-Au-Prince where Fr. Joe’s brother is the priest and he asked us to put on a program there next year as well. Slowly God is opening doors for ministry; our new outreaches this year to Matthew 25 and St. Louis Cathedral reached hundreds of people and I am confident that God accomplished what He desired through us.

“ I had the honor of giving my testimony and then presenting the Gospel to the prisoners. Fr. Joe translated as I spoke and all the prisoners crowded at the doors and windows to hear. I was amazed at how intently these hardened men and women listened and seemed to believe the truth they were hearing.”
August 2011

Mission to Ghana
July 29–August 9
Brent Heiser and Team

Mission to Vietnam
July 31–Aug 22
Don & Pat Turbitt and Team

Mission to Kenya
August 7–19
Peter Thompson and Team

Mission to Slovakia
August 12–27
Tom Edwards and Team

Bellevue, IL, Catholic Charismatic Retreat
August 26–28
St. Ann Shields, SGL
Contact David Overmann at 618-424-7792

*Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Companions of the Cross Annual Retreat
August 30–September 2
Peter Herbeck

September 2011

Mission to Ukraine
August 31–September 19
Don & Pat Turbitt and Team
Contact Kathleen at kkittle@renewalministries.net
or 734-662-1730 x132

Mission to Rwanda
September 1–15
Lloyd & Nancy Greenhaw and Team
Contact Kathleen at kkittle@renewalministries.net
or 734-662-1730 x132

*Ann Arbor, MI, The Choices We Face Taping
September 6–8, 12–15, 19, 20
Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck

Calgary & Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Parish events
September 9–10
Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck
Contact Peter Thompson at peter4God@shaw.ca

*Harrison Township, MI
Day of Recollection for St. Joseph Protector Community
Sunday, September 25
Ralph Martin
Contact: mmharris4@wowway.com

*Birmingham, AL, Crossing the Goal Taping
September 26–30
Peter Herbeck

*Events not open to the public

Don’t get upset with your imperfections… Simply surrender to the power of God’s Love, which is always greater than our weakness.

St. Francis De Sales