Dear Partners in the Gospel,

A letter from Ralph Martin

The five months in Rome were very worthwhile and full of blessed encounters but it’s really good to be back in Michigan. As those of you who get our email updates (and anyone can if you just send us your email address on the enclosed reply card) I was able, with the help of the Lord and your prayers, to successfully defend my doctoral dissertation the evening before we had to leave! They awarded me the highest marks and I got the doctorate Summa cum Laude. I was just hoping to pass and this was more than I anticipated. I’ll be looking for a publisher for the dissertation in the coming months but those of you who would like to know the “essence” of the 334 page dissertation can refer to our May and June newsletters where I provided a summary. These can be accessed on our website, just click on “newsletter.”

It’s heartening to see how many people continue to be touched by all the various facets of the work of renewal and evangelization that you play such an important part in making possible.

“I always use your book, The Fulfillment of All Desire, when I teach my class at the seminary. That book has touched so many of the students in my classes. Thank you for writing this book.”

“I reference your talks all the time but today your program (Fire on the Earth) was overflowing with excellent, succinct and powerful messages and arguments. Thank you. You have helped me tremendously to move forward on my faith journey.”

“Warmest congratulations Ralph on completing your doctorate!!!! Now the academic community has even more reason to accept the scriptural and theological foundations of the renewal.”

“My spiritual director has given me your wonderful CD album on Teresa of Avila. Thank you for your thoughtful writings which have been so influential in my spiritual life.”

“My friend and I purchased 200 copies of the booklet A New Pentecost for our parish and our pastor is promoting it through our parish bulletin, giving away copies on Pentecost Sunday.”

“The two articles written by Ralph on the New Evangelization have really helped us here in India. I am sharing them with people involved in the life of the Church here including all the members of an Archdiocesan Commission.”

“You have helped us so much here in Vancouver, Canada.”

“Oftentimes I can only read one sentence

continued on pg 2
Dear Partners in the Gospel,

‘My friend and I purchased 200 copies of the booklet A New Pentecost for our parish and our pastor is promoting it through our parish bulletin, giving away copies on Pentecost Sunday.’

It was a special blessing to “accidentally” be driving up to the campus of Franciscan University of Steubenville to watch a granddaughter’s volleyball awards ceremony when the car bringing Fr. Michael Scanlan to his new retirement residence in Loretto, PA was passing by. I immediately stopped my car in the middle of the road and was able to grasp Fr. Mike’s hand and exchange a few words as he was driven off. It was a special encounter.

from *The Fulfillment of All Desire* and then I have to put it down to pray and reflect. I have read many of the spiritual classics but your book puts them together in a cohesive way and helps one to go so much deeper.”

“We are sending out 50 copies of the DVD *Why Everyone Needs to be Baptized in the Spirit* to the Archbishop, his vicar, selected pastors, deacons and lay leaders in the Archdiocese.”

“Your books finally arrived here in Cyprus and we are grateful.”

“I listen to Sr. Ann Shields’ program every morning on my IPhone app.”

“I just saw the video testimony on your webpage of the young person who gave their life to Christ. This has had a profound influence on me and I want to do a real confession now instead of the funny script I have been doing.”

“A group of us faculty and students at the University of Virginia are studying John of the Cross. The benefit I have received from reading your book, *Fulfillment of All Desire*, and the re-reading of John of the Cross which it prompted, has been immense.”

“The first time I heard your testimony (Debra Herbeck’s) it was on TV at about 3:30 AM. It was your interview with Ralph Martin, *Who Do you Say That I Am?* I thought that was one of the most powerful witness talks I have heard. I ordered a DVD copy for myself today because it is truly worth watching many times over and I am going to invite my friends in my men’s group to watch it also.”

“Our parish here has just ordered 1,500 copies of *A New Pentecost*.”

“I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate *Food for the Journey*. I am learning more about the Catholic faith every day. I am considering returning to the Church as a result of your program as well as others too but your passion is unmatched. Thank you!”

“My wife and I are still reeling from yesterday’s *Lift Jesus Higher* rally in Toronto. Everything about it touched us. It was especially good to meet Peter Herbeck because we follow him on EWTN’s *Crossing the Goal*, and to see how welcoming he was to two Canadian Catholics who simply wanted to say hello and thank you for all you do. We can hardly wait until next March! God bless all who are part of this amazing event.”

On another note I want to share with you that Fr. John Randall from Providence, Rhode Island, and a longtime friend of Renewal Ministries, has gone home to the Lord. You can read more about him in this newsletter. He was a truly wonderful priest who touched the lives of many.

Also, while reconnecting with children and grandchildren after having been gone for five months, we happened to be in Steubenville, Ohio visiting our daughter and her husband, who is a theology professor at Franciscan University there, and their five children. We heard that Fr. Michael Scanlan, another longtime friend of Renewal Ministries was about to leave the campus to move to the retirement center of his order in Loretto, PA, an hour or two away from Steubenville. I found out he was leaving at 10:00 AM but couldn’t get there at that time, so at 10:30 I was driving up to campus to see a granddaughter’s “awards ceremony” after continued on pg 3
Giving Through Your Will

Residents of the United States and Canada are well-known for their generosity. Each year their charitable giving sustains thousands of charitable organizations—like Renewal Ministries—that are doing a tremendous work around the world.

There are different ways you can make a bequest to Renewal Ministries. If you live in the United States, one of these formulas will easily work:

“I give and bequeath to Renewal Ministries Inc., 230 Collingwood, Suite 250, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, Tax ID 38-2385975, the sum of $_______ for its general uses and purposes.”

“I give, devise, and bequeath to Renewal Ministries, 230 Collingwood, Suite 250, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, Tax ID 38-2385975, the ____% of the rest, remainder and residue of my estate.”

If you reside in Canada, use the following name, address, and registration number in the above formulas: Catholic Renewal Ministries Inc., 331 Evans Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M8Z 1K2, Registration No. 12374-0243-RR0001.

If you have any questions, please call Gary Seromik at 734-662-1730 ext. 21, who is administrator for Renewal Ministries. He will be happy to answer any questions you might have and send you helpful information on bequests and other charitable giving vehicles such as charitable gift annuities.
The Grace of Evangelization for Today’s World


“Highlighting that at this moment in history, the Church is called to carry out a new evangelization means intensifying her missionary action so that it fully corresponds to the Lord’s Mandate. The Second Vatican Council recalled that, ‘The groups among whom the Church operates are utterly changed so that an entirely new situation arises.’ (Ad Gentes, No. 6) The farsighted Fathers of the Council saw the cultural changes that were on the horizon and which today are easily verifiable. It is precisely these changes which have created unexpected conditions for believers and require special attention in proclaiming the Gospel, for giving an account of our faith in situations which are different from the past. The current crisis brings with it traces of the exclusion of God from people’s lives, from a generalized indifference towards the Christian faith to an attempt to marginalize it from public life.

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We truly are living in a post-Christian society—we are witnessing the drama of fragmentation. We have attempted to remove God from the center of our private and public life—the center of gravity is no longer Christ and thus splintering and confusion occurs in all aspects of private and public life.

Several weeks ago a sister from my community was in a local drug store and took her purchase to the counter. A young college student was the cashier. She pointed to the crucifix hanging around the Sister’s neck and said, “Who is that guy hanging on that bar? My grandfather had one of those—who is He?” I don’t know what this college student is studying, but in a few years she could be your child’s teacher, the nurse in your local doctor’s office, the mother of children who will go to school with your children and grand-

The past; but our task remains identical to that at the dawn of history. The mission has not changed; just as the enthusiasm and courage that moved the Apostles and the first disciples must not change. The Holy Spirit which prompted them to open doors and made evangelizers of them is the same Spirit which today moves the Church to a renewed proclamation of hope for the people of our time. St. Augustine affirms that we must not think that the grace of evangelization was extended only to the Apostles and with them that fount of grace was exhausted, but this fount is revealed when it flows, not when it ceases to pour out. And it was in this way that the grace reached others too who were invited to proclaim the Gospel...indeed it has continued to be a call right up to these days for the entire body of his Only Begotten Son, that is, his Church spread throughout the earth.” (L’Osservatore Romano, June 1, 2011, p. 12)

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children. Where did the breakdown occur in that family? We don’t know, but even in her question we see an illustration of the concerns that Pope Benedict referred to in the speech quoted above. What would you say if you were present for that conversation?

Some years ago, a man who was a new Christian told me that four generations of his family had not believed in God. “I didn’t even know what a bible was.” He had been born in the 1950’s, and raised and educated in the US in the 60’s, 70’s and 80’s. He is far from unique! When and how did we lose our Christian foundation? Do we still have a Christian compass in this nation?

Recently, a man told me that he was a Catholic. I asked him what parish he belonged to and without naming a particular parish, he answered my question by saying, “It looks good on the resume.”

We need to realize that these anecdotal sketches really do represent the disintegration going on in the lives of many in regard to Christian/Catholic belief and practice. What are we to do? I repeat the words of Pope Benedict: “…our task remains identical to that at the dawn of history. The mission has not changed; just as the enthusiasm and courage that moved the Apostles and the first disciples must not change. The Holy Spirit which prompted them to open doors and made evangelizers of them is the same Spirit which today moves the Church to a renewed proclamation of hope for the people of our time…”

We who have received the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, we who have been blessed by an outpouring of greater faith and hope and love and gifts for evangelism through a deeper and more personal relationship with God through His Spirit need to step up and step out. Otherwise, souls may be lost for all eternity. This isn’t about a particular movement—the Charismatic Renewal—this is about a call to all those who are friends of God to ask the Holy Spirit for the wisdom and courage to step out of the comfort of our prayer meetings and fellowship groups and go to the highways and the byways with the Good News.

Recently, a social worker called me asking for booklets for one of her clients who was in hospice. The woman was dying of cancer but saw the spiritual needs in the care facility where she would now prepare for death. Not thinking of herself, this patient saw the lack of faith and the fear and wanted some material that she could distribute to others there. The social worker was so touched that she offered, whatever it would cost, to personally pay for all the booklets. (I told her we would send free booklets to them.) Another woman living in a nursing home asked us for booklets she could distribute as she visited others in the same home.

I was so inspired by the example of both these women. Even at the end of life, through aging and disease, neither would stop evangelizing. What about you? In your circumstances have you eliminated or limited yourself from spreading the Good News? The Lord is calling each of us to renew our zeal and dedication to being a light in an increasingly dark world and to bring the message of Jesus Christ, the only Savior of the world. “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach?” (Romans 10:13–14)

Please Pray…

+ for our Canadian events in Calgary, Edmonton, and Ottawa this month. May the proclamation of the gospel message bring deeper conversion and strengthen the Church.

+ for God’s grace to be present as we film another season of The Choices We Face television show this month. May the message of God’s personal love be communicated with clarity and power.

+ 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.
Mission to Slovenia

By Don Turbitt

The country of Slovenia has a population of two million people and 40% say they are Catholic and 10% of the Catholics presently attend weekly Mass. The leadership of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is fairly well organized and the numbers continue to grow under the leadership of Fr. Mio Kekic, S.J., who has been full time in the Renewal for three years.

The mission this past May began in Ljubljana, the capital city. A meeting was held in the seminary hall and six hundred attended; I preached and everyone there received prayer. The number of people in attendance increased this year because they had given a Life in the Spirit Seminar for 600 people just a month before in a civic center and not a church hall, which attracted more unchurched people. Because of this year’s success they intend to repeat the Life in the Spirit Seminar again next year.

On Saturday we drove to the mountains for an overnight retreat for fifty leaders. I gave several teachings on having hope as Christians in difficult economic times. Throughout the rest of the week we travelled to eight different cities, holding meetings, preaching and praying with more than 2,000 people. Here are some testimonies from our time there:

- Marija, a 68 year old woman, told me she was healed of thyroid cancer when I prayed with her last month.

- Email report from Janez in Slovenia:

  “Last week a lady from our prayer group told us a beautiful testimony; her legs were completely healed during your talk and prayer at the Faculty of Theology Hall on the first day.”

Our meeting with Bishop Andrej Glavan of Novo Mesto went very well. He was very interested in the idea of introducing men’s ministry in his diocese and in all of Slovenia.

Marjan Dvornik is the leader of the renewal in his diocese of Novo Mesto.

Fr. Peter (left) is a Franciscan from Ljubljana and Fr. Mio Kekic (right) is a Jesuit priest and the leader of the renewal in Slovenia.
Fr. John (Jake) Randall, longtime friend of Renewal Ministries and faithful servant of the Lord died on Wednesday, June 15 at the age of 82. According to his sister, Fr. John died quickly, “with his boots on, the way he would have wanted,” after leading a Pentecost Retreat Day and an all night Pentecost vigil. Always full of the Holy Spirit, Fr. John said it was the best Pentecost he ever had! Don and Pat Turbitt, country coordinators for Renewal Ministries, were close friends with Fr. John for many years, and Don shares his reflections below:

Forty-one years ago Fr. John prayed over Pat and me for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. We deeply experienced what it means to be “born again” in the Spirit and Fr. John quickly became our spiritual father. Over the years we always felt a close spiritual connection with him but the last twelve years we have become even closer…we always had common interests—to grow closer to the Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Fr. John spearheaded the Catholic Charismatic Renewal throughout all of New England in the late 1960’s into the 70’s and introduced us all to the Holy Spirit, the Lord the Giver of Life. For the last two years he was undergoing very difficult treatments for cancer, yet most days he was still working. He told us time and again, “If God will give me life I will be a crusader for the Holy Spirit until I die.” When Fr. John’s body was brought to St. Charles Church on Friday evening after the wake and before the Mass, the entire congregation rose and clapped and clapped. I believe that was just a reflection of what happened in heaven as he passed into eternity.

Father John,

There are thousands who already miss you. Pat and I are two of your deeply grateful disciples who want to say thank you for all your wonderful teachings, for introducing us to the Holy Spirit, for being our spiritual father and close friend. We love you and look forward to seeing you once again when the Lord calls us home. We will continue to treasure your friendship and intercession for us.

Our deepest love and gratitude,
Donald and Pat

Over the years Fr. John Randall has not only attended the Renewal Ministries Gatherings, but generously contributed his wonderful gift of praying with others and empowering them to live more fully in the Holy Spirit.

“If God will give me life I will be a crusader for the Holy Spirit until I die.”
**On the Road**

*How glorious our Faith is! Instead of restricting hearts, as the world fancies, it uplifts them and enlarges their capacity to love.*

_— St. Thérèse of Lisieux_

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### September 2011

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

- **Mission to Ukraine**
  - August 31 – September 19
  - Don & Pat Turbitt and Team

- **Mission to Rwanda**
  - September 1 – 15
  - Lloyd & Nancy Greenhaw and Team

- **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

- **Ann Arbor, MI, Renewal Ministries’ Annual Country Coordinator Meetings**
  - September 29 – October 1
  - Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields

*Events not open to the public*

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### October 2011

- **Mission to Russia**
  - October 5 – 24
  - Don & Pat Turbitt and Team
  - Contact Kathleen at kkittle@renewalministries.net or 734-662-1730 x32

- **Wildwood, NJ**
  - Diocese of Camden Conference
  - October 7 – 9
  - Ralph Martin
  - Contact: Patl341@yahoo.com

- **Mission to Czech Republic**
  - October 10 – 24
  - Tom Edwards and Team
  - Contact Kathleen at kkittle@renewalministries.net or 734-662-1730 x32

- **Kansas City, MO**
  - Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference
  - October 21 – 23
  - Peter Herbeck
  - Contact Carol Sikorski at: c.sikorski@att.net

- **Omaha, NB, Institute for Priestly Formation Council Meetings**
  - October 26
  - Ralph Martin

- **Raleigh, NC, Diocesan Conference**
  - October 28 – 29
  - Ralph Martin
  - Contact: CCSRaleigh@earthlink.net

- **Ann Arbor, MI**
  - Renewal Ministries’ U.S. Board Meeting
  - October 30 – 31
  - Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields

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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

Design
Anne Martin

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