

RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Proclaiming Jesus through Catholic Renewal and Evangelization **September 2018**



A letter ▶
from Ralph Martin



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Last month, the culture of corruption and immorality in the Church became acutely apparent, and Ralph wrote a letter (shared below) that he sent out via social media and email at that time. His letter received more response than anything we've ever published in this way. We realize that we were not able to reach all of our supporters, and we want to make this important letter available to everyone. If you'd like to make sure you get the latest news from Renewal Ministries, please like our Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/CatholicRenewalMinistries, sign up for our blog at www.RenewalMinistries.net/wordpress, and/or sign up to receive emails that only go out for our most important and timely news by sending your email to reception@renewalministries.net.

Dear Troubled Catholics,

I have never seen so many “ordinary Catholics”—who usually never follow or hear about Church news—so deeply troubled about the recent revelations about the retired Archbishop of Washington, DC.

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick was asked by the pope to resign from his membership in the College of Cardinals and ordered to live in seclusion until a canonical trial can be held to verify the validity of charges of sexual abuse and harassment made against him.

After the first brave person came forward (whose accusations were found credible by the Archdiocese of New York Review Board), more and more followed. The climate of fear among many of our clergy—the fear of being punished or marginalized if they report sexual immorality among their fellow clergy or leaders—is starting to break. Cardinal McCarrick is now known as Archbishop McCarrick.

What has been so disturbing to so many people is the fact that there had been numerous warnings to various church officials that he was a homosexual predator, harassing many seminarians, priests, and young boys, for many years, but nothing had ever been done about it, and he was continually promoted. Even after a delegation of priests and lay people went to Rome to warn the Vatican about the situation, he was promoted. Even after a leading Dominican priest wrote a letter to Cardinal O'Malley, nothing was done. Even after lawsuits accusing him of homosexual sexual harassment in two of his previous dioceses had been settled with financial awards, he was still promoted. And not only that, he became a key advisor to Pope Francis and offered advice on whom to appoint as bishops in the United States!

One young Catholic mother with two boys who was open to the priesthood for them said to me that she now has grave concerns about ever having one of her sons enter the seminary, given the corruption that has been revealed.

Another said she could no longer see anyone joining the Catholic Church, due to such bad leadership. She lamented about the difficulty this presents for evangelization.

Another said that seven people from her very small, rural parish had left the parish, because sexual sin is never spoken of and there is almost an exclusive emphasis on political issues. She now fears that even more will leave.

Another said that the only way this is ever going to change is if we simply stop giving to the bishops' national collections and to our own dioceses and parishes' collections, unless they are led by bishops who are willing to call a spade a spade and govern accordingly. To this day, there are quite a number of “gay friendly” parishes in even “good dioceses,” where those afflicted with homosexual temptation are not encouraged to live chaste lives or offered effective correction, but instead are confirmed in their sexual activity. It seems many bishops are afraid to tackle the local “homosexual lobbies” and choose to turn a blind eye.

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ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

This past weekend at Mass, the priest giving the sermon was more upset than I've ever seen him about the unfolding scandal. The Gospel was about how the weeds and the wheat grow up together and will only finally be separated at the judgment. It was unclear what the priest was actually saying, but we are certainly not called to "enable the weeds." And shepherds in particular have the obligation to admonish the sinner and remove from ministry those who refuse to preach the truth and who encourage others in wrong doing. Yes, we will always have sin, but as Jesus said,

"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believes in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened round his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea" (Mt 18:6).

There has been a veritable deluge of articles that have appeared from highly respected lay Catholics and priests saying that "enough is enough," and we need to stop the cover-ups and get to the bottom of who is implicated in promoting men like this and covering up for them. We do.

In 2002, when the American bishops approved their "charter" that attempted to respond to the many cases of priest pedophilia that had come to light by that time, they conspicuously exempted themselves from their "zero tolerance" policy. Many priests have told me that they felt "thrown under the bus" by the bishops, who conveniently didn't adopt policies to deal with their own tolerance of immoral behavior, cover-ups that allowed the pedophilia to go on for many years, and in some cases, their own immoral behavior.

Another disturbing thing about the 2002 Charter is that—despite pleas to not ignore the fact that this is primarily a homosexual scandal, since most of the victims were adolescent boys rather than true children—the bishops decided not to tackle "the elephant in the room." Could it be because they knew some of their brother bishops/cardinals were implicated, and they didn't want to face

the mess of cleaning it up? Now this refusal to acknowledge the "homosexual lobby," as Pope Benedict termed it, is coming home to roost.

But there's not just a huge homosexual problem in the Church; unfortunately, heterosexual sin and financial malfeasance are common in many places as well. In some countries, a significant percentage of priests are living with concubines or fathering children by vulnerable women and giving scandal to the faithful, who often know about it. This is the case in Uganda, from which I have recently returned, and in many other countries as well. In these situations, the "protection" of the priests and the frequent disregard for their victims—the women and their children—cries out for justice.

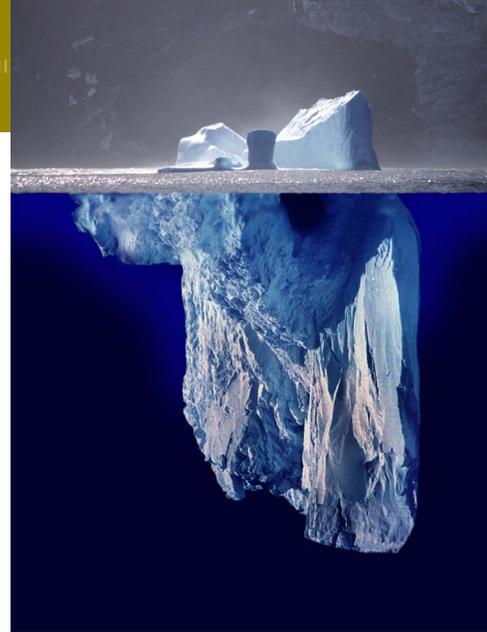
And so, once again because of the pressure of lawsuits and the press, the bishops are talking about "developing new policies" that would apply to bishops. As a colleague at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit, Michigan, has said:

"Isn't it clear enough from the Gospel that covering up immoral behavior is itself wicked? Why do we need new policies when the teaching of Jesus and the apostles is so clear?"

Can the words of the Old Testament prophets and Jesus Himself against false shepherds be any clearer or more devastating? (See Jeremiah 23:1-6, Matthew 23, etc.)

THE FINAL STRAW

The Archbishop McCarrick case may prove to be the "straw that broke the camel's back." It may make the bureaucratic, carefully worded, evasive statements that have come from our leaders finally address sin and repentance, instead of the mere policies and processes they typically focus on. Could it be—finally—that the revelation of the long-term sexual harassment of seminarians and priests that never stopped Archbishop McCarrick's rise in the hierarchy will be so totally repugnant that real repentance may actually start to happen? I have never prayed more for the pope and our leaders than I have in the last several years, and we all must continue to do so. More about that later.



Unfortunately, the Archbishop McCarrick case is certainly only the "tip of the iceberg." The cumulative effect of revelation after revelation of immorality in high places is devastating.

» First, a number of years ago, a cardinal from Austria was forced to resign over homosexual activity.

» Then, more recently, a cardinal from Scotland resigned over sexual harassment of seminarians and priests.

» Then the archbishop of Guam underwent a canonical trial in Rome over the sexual abuse of minors.

» Now, cardinals in Chile (one of whom is on the pope's Council of Cardinals that oversees reform) are under heavy suspicion for covering up homosexual abuse in their country.

» In fact, the whole bishops' conference of Chile, acknowledging complicity in not taking seriously reports of a bishop's cover up of sexual abuse, recently gave their resignations to the pope, and he has so far accepted several of them. The pope himself at first stubbornly backed the appointment of this bishop and dismissed the victims' pleas as "calumny" and "gossip."

» And before we could absorb this news, there was news of an archbishop in Australia getting a prison sentence for covering up abuse on the part of a priest.

» And just today, as I am writing this, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has ordered the release of a grand jury report implicating more than 300 "predator priests" in six of the eight Pennsylvania dioceses involved in the sexual abuse of minors over many years.

“ I have never prayed more for the pope and our leaders than I have in the last several years, and we all must continue to do so. ”

Unfortunately, the rot is wide and deep and years of covering up abuse (and the concomitant reluctance to really preach the Gospel and call people to faith and repentance) and its ultimate exposure have injured the faith of millions. How shocking and tragic was it to see tens of thousands of Irish people in the streets of Dublin wildly celebrating that they could now legally kill babies!!!! Just when the Irish bishops needed to speak most strongly on fundamental moral issues, their credibility was destroyed when it was finally exposed that they had covered up abuse for decades.

Satan is indeed like that wild boar Scripture talks about that rampages through the vineyard of the Lord because the hedges of protection have been destroyed (Ps 80:12-13). The corruption, ineptitude, and cowardice runs wide and deep, and its effects on the eternal salvation of millions, and the destiny of nations, is devastating.

Most recently, Cardinal Maradiaga of Honduras has seen his auxiliary bishop resign over homosexual and financial impropriety, and forty seminarians in his diocese publish a letter asking him to please root out the homosexual network in his seminary. This cardinal is Pope Francis' chief advisor, the head of his "Council of Nine" that works closely with the pope in bringing about reform in Rome, and is mentioned as a possible successor to Pope Francis.

But continual reports of ongoing financial and sexual scandals suggest reform doesn't seem to be happening. Recently, a male prostitute in Italy published the names and photos of sixty priests who frequent his services—with scarcely any comment from the shepherds. And the homosexual orgy in the apartment of a Vatican cardinal, used by his secretary, was met with a "no comment" by the Vatican press office. And then we hear also of a monsignor in the papal nuncio's office in Washington, DC, who suddenly leaves the country and is put on trial in the Vatican for trafficking in child pornography and is given a five-year prison sentence.

CONFUSION & DISUNITY

I didn't plan to discuss this whole situation, but it came up this summer when the thirty priests in my class at the seminary wanted to discuss Pope Francis' leadership and the McCarrick scandal. We all agreed that Pope Francis has said and done some wonderful things (I teach his Apostolic Exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel* in one of my classes), but he also has said and done some things that are confusing and seem to have led to a growth of confusion and disunity in the Church.

How can German and Polish bishops approach the question of whether divorced and remarried couples can receive Communion without getting an annulment in opposite ways, and the Church still retain an ability to speak to the contemporary culture with one voice? It can't.

And how long can Church officials speak about the "positive values" of "irregular relationships" until the average Catholic comes to believe that we no longer believe the words of Jesus that fornicators, adulterers, and those who actively practice homosexuality will not enter the kingdom of God unless they repent?

Have we ever heard from leading churchmen, even in Rome, in recent years, that adultery, fornication and homosexual relations are not only "irregular," but gravely sinful?

Has the creeping "universalism" (the belief that virtually everyone will be saved) so undermined the holy fear of God and belief in His clear word, which has been transmitted faithfully all these centuries and is found intact in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, that people have become "understanding" about persisting in grave sin with no fear of God or of hell?

How many still believe that there is really a hell and that, unless we repent from such serious sins before we die, we will go there?

Has false compassion and presumption on God's mercy replaced true love, which is based on truth, and the only appropriate response to God's mercy—faith and repentance?

And what are we to make of the fact that so many of those advising the pope have questionable fidelity to the truth? How can we have confidence in Cardinal Maradiaga as the head of his Council of Cardinals when he is accused of financial impropriety (which he denies); he chose an active homosexual as his auxiliary bishop; and he allowed a homosexual network to grow up in his seminary, dismissing attempts to appeal to him to clean up the mess as unsubstantiated gossip?

How can we have confidence in the pope's main theological advisor, a theologian from Argentina who is most known for his book *The Art of the Kiss*, or the pope's main Italian theological advisor, who is known for his subtle dissent from the Church's teaching in the area of sexuality and who tried to insert texts in the synods on the family that pushed the document in a permissive direction?

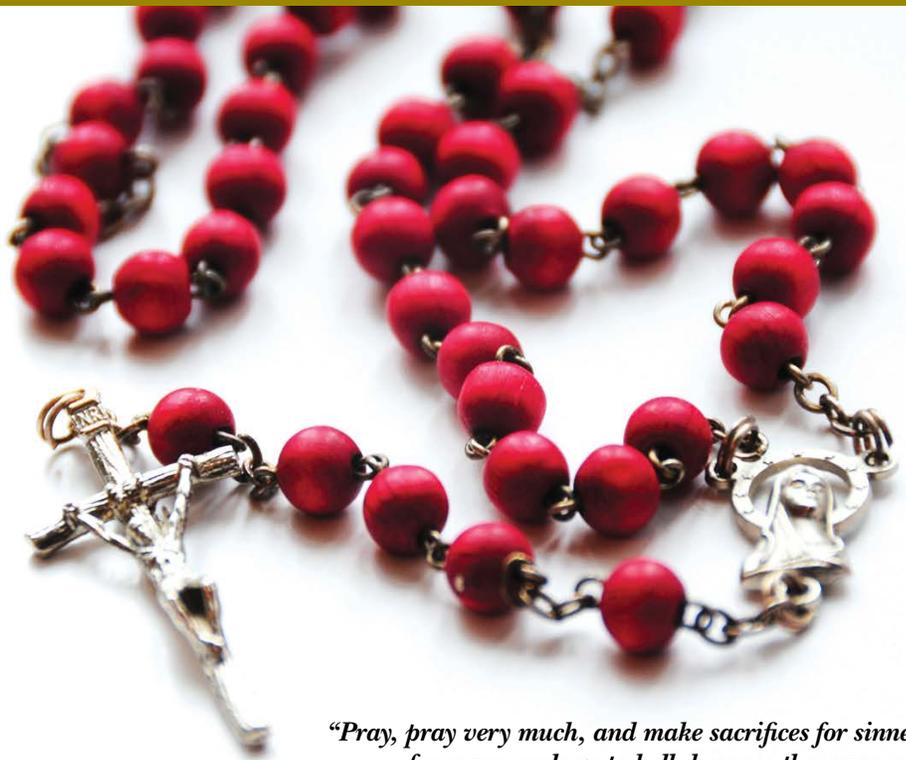
And how can we have confidence in the recently appointed head of the John Paul II Institute on Marriage and the Family—an archbishop who commissioned a mural in his former cathedral in an Italian diocese from a homosexual artist who included homoerotic themes in the mural, including a portrait of the archbishop in an ambiguous pose?

WHAT CAN WE DO?

One godly woman just asked me last night if it was OK for her to be upset with what was happening. I sadly said yes, of course it is. How can we passively endure such corruption that runs so wide and deep? It is right to make our views known. It is right and necessary. But even more so, it is necessary to pray and offer sacrifices for the Church and her leaders at this time. It is necessary to pray that genuine reform, rooted in real repentance and an embrace of all the truths of the faith, would come out of this awful situation and that the Church, more deeply purified and humbled, may shine forth with the radiance of the face of Christ. But it is going to be a long way from here to there. Grave damage has been done to the credibility of the Church, and more will leave. Grave damage has been done to many of the flock, and reparation must be made; public repentance is called for. As Pope Benedict XVI wrote when he was a young priest, the Church will have to become smaller and more purified before it can again be a light to the world. The Church is going through a radical purification under the chastising hand of God, but already we can see a remnant of fervent renewal appearing all over the world, which is a sign indeed of hope and the renewal to come.

And so, what can we do as we continue to pray for the pope and our leaders that God may give them the wisdom and courage to deal with the root of the rot and bring about a real renewal of holiness and evangelization in the Church?

- » We need to go about our daily lives, trying to live each day in a way pleasing to God, loving Him and loving our neighbor, including the neighbor in our own families. We need to look to ourselves, lest we fall.
- » We need to remember that the Catholic Church is indeed founded by Christ and, despite all problems, has within it the fullness of the means of salvation. Where else can we go? Nowhere; this is indeed our Mother and Home, and she needs our love, our prayers, and our persevering in the way of holiness more than ever.



“Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and to pray for them.”

- » We need to remember that even though we have this treasure in earthen vessels (or as some translations put it, “cracked pots”), the treasure is no less the treasure. Don’t throw out the baby with the bathwater! Baby Jesus is the treasure, and He is still as present as ever and still as ready to receive all who come to Him. And the Mass! Every day, He is willing to come to us in such a special way. Let’s attend daily Mass even more frequently, to offer the sacrifice of Jesus’ death and resurrection to God the Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit, for the salvation of souls and the purification of the Church.
- » We need to remember that there are many truly holy and dedicated bishops and priests, and we must pray for them and support them. They need and deserve our support.
- » We need to remember that this isn’t the first time such grave problems have beset the Church. In the fourteenth century, St. Catherine of Siena bemoaned the “stench of sin” coming from the papal court and prophesied that even the demons were disgusted by the homosexual activity he had tempted priests into and the cover up by their superiors! (See chapters 124-125 of Catherine of Siena’s *The Dialogue*.)

That isn’t to say that we don’t need to take seriously and do all we can in response to the grave scandal we are facing in our time. And yet we need to remember that all this is happening under the providence of God, and He has a plan to bring good out of it. It was even prophesied strongly in Mary’s apparitions in Akita, Japan. Jesus is still Lord and will use the current grave problems to bring about good.

And finally, I’m beginning to see why the Lord has impressed on me so strongly in the past year the urgent need to heed the appeals of Our Lady of Fatima. Indeed, as Mary said, “Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and to pray for them.” **Let’s continue to pray and offer sacrifices for the conversion of sinners and as reparation for sin, and let’s pray the rosary daily as Mary requested, for peace in the world and true renewal in the Church.**

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

Ralph

P.S. Please feel free to share this letter with family, friends, and fellow parishioners if you think it would be helpful.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE...

Ralph's article on this crisis in the Church received more attention and feedback in a short time than anything else we have done. Overwhelmingly, the response has been positive. Within forty-eight hours, the blog post had received 18,230 unique views; it had been reprinted by the National Catholic Register, LifeSite News, Women of Grace, and many others; and Ralph spoke in radio and newspaper interviews on the topic.

We received letters from across the globe, thanking Ralph for his message and for speaking the truth, sharing hope, and calling us to prayer and sacrifice. Here is one comment that reflects the tone of many others:

“Thank you sir for taking such a strong stand on this issue and voicing what needed to be said. I am writing this with tears flowing down my face because my heart is breaking over this. I was blessed to be a cradle Catholic and I may not be the best, but I am trying, and this tragedy will not shake my faith. Please continue to blow the horn loudly for justice and TRUTH. May God bless you always.”

From the i.d.9:16 Facebook page, we also received this comment:

“With a prayerful heart and charity for all and our weaknesses, I deeply appreciate the Spirit and every word of this letter! Our Lady of Fatima, please pray for our Church and each of us!!”

We also received responses that broke our hearts. Responses from people who have seen lives broken by this tragedy. And responses from people who have experienced this corruption in their own parishes and among people and places they know. Perhaps one of our most beautiful responses came from someone who experienced the abuse himself, but yet still acknowledges the truth and beauty in Christ's Church:

“Thank you for your strong, well thought out comments. I shared it immediately with family and friends. I am Catholic and proud. I am also a past victim of abuse by a priest. But I know who I worship and believe this to be the Church established by Jesus. I will not be swayed by this recent revelation, in fact I just joined the evangelization committee at my parish. I thank you for your bold statement and for your wonderful shows.”

We are grateful for all of these letters and for the opportunity to share Ralph's voice on this topic. As one supporter wrote,

“There is a great encouragement, paradoxically, in hearing articulated a full acknowledgement of the extent of the problem. There is no situation too dire for the power of God. But in human terms, hope is undermined when leaders downplay the extent of a crisis. You feel like a new, more hopeful stage in the battle is being reached when the full scope of the enemy's attack is finally revealed, however terrible it may be.”

Yes, above all, there is hope! As one supporter wrote,

“Thanks Ralph. Good and necessary letter (to keep the troops from abandoning ship). We are now living Our Lady's warning . . . thank God there is triumph at the end of the storm.”

Perhaps one of the most frequently repeated messages we received was from people asking if they could share Ralph's letter. And our answer is YES! Please, mail copies, email copies, share on Facebook, reprint in blogs, and simply get the word out as you are able!

And, as Ralph said so beautifully in his letter, please pray. In closing, we would like to share a prayer written by supporter Susan Domen, one that she included in the many emails she forwarded to friends and family members with Ralph's letter:

Heavenly Father, we praise you! You are goodness and love, you are holy and perfect!

We come to you, Father, with heavy hearts, looking to You in Your infinite mercy, to console us in our grief, send clarity where there is confusion, repentance where there is sin, obedience where there is obstinance, truth where there is silence, and love where there is indifference.

Help us to fast and pray in reparation for our sins and for those who have led astray and compromised the faith of so many. Have mercy on us, look upon us as harassed and lost, as like sheep without a shepherd.

Father, we beg You, send Your Holy Spirit to breathe upon us, to renew; to make holy, beautiful and most pure, the Church, the bride of your beloved Son, Jesus. Holy Spirit, fall upon the most hardened hearts, as well as those of the faithful and devout. Fill them with the fire of Your love. Grant them holy boldness to speak truth in the face of corruption and intimidation. Let them not be silent, let them stand together in unity, in confidence that truth and goodness will prevail and the gates of Hell will not stand against the pressing in of the Holy Ones, the body of the Church, Christ's Bride, to be made pure, holy, and undefiled.

Father, we come to You in our littleness, looking for comfort, looking for justice, looking for answers. We know You are most merciful, thank You for hearing our prayer. You are able to bring goodness through even the darkest of days, all in accordance with your divine will.

We pray this in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, one with You, through the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HOW DOES GOD WANT US TO PRAY?

BY SR. ANN SHIELDS, SGL *This article is from a talk Sr. Ann Shields recently gave at a Word of God Community prayer meeting.*



Our intercession is pivotal to the graces, power, and love that God wants to give His people. Intercession is not easy. Intercession takes a great commitment and perseverance. As an example, English Protestant Pastor Andrew Murray once wrote about a grapevine that, during a time of war, starvation, and misery, when all the other vines had subsided, kept producing clusters of grapes. Shocked, they tapped the root system of that vine and discovered that the grapevine's root system had travelled over a mile, into the Thames River. That vine had everything it needed! Andrew Murray used that grapevine to illustrate what needs to happen to us in prayer. We need to find the Source, who is God. Rather than just saying, **"God, this is a catastrophe, a difficult situation, please do something,"** we need to say, **"Lord, how do You want me to pray?"**

Perhaps it seems obvious how we should pray: a person is sick, and we want to pray for them to get better. That's fine, but if we want to intercede for our own family, friends, and acquaintances—and if we want that intercession to really bear fruit—we should take the first few days to say,

**"Lord, here's the situation.
How do You want me to pray?"**

He knows the details of the situation—the mind and the heart of the person or people we are praying for—in a way that we don't. John 15 says,

*I am the true vine and my father
is the vine grower.
He removes every vine in me that
bears no fruit.*



He prunes, and sometimes that's what happens to us. We pray, and sometimes it seems like things are getting worse.

The temptation is to say, "I'm backing out of this. You need somebody who is a really good intercessor, and I'm not it." But in reality, what ought to happen is that we say, "Lord, teach me. Is there a different way You want me to pray or approach this situation? Show me what it is."

In my extended family, there was a sixteen-year-old boy who was out on the streets, struggling with drugs, alcohol, everything. No matter what the family tried to do, nothing bore fruit. They asked a group of us to pray, and someone said,

"How should we pray?"

Everyone replied,

"It's obvious how we should pray."

But the person said,

"No, it's not obvious; God knows the heart and the soul of this young man. How does He want us to pray?"

We concluded that we should pray that the young man would give his life to the Lord and repent of his sin. We prayed that way for about a year, and nothing looked different. Then one night, I got a phone call: he had given his life to Jesus and repented of his sins. His life changed!

We were going to pray for good doctors, for good counselors, for all of the different experiments on dealing with drugs. But God took care of it. Sometimes it doesn't come out that simple, but in this case it did. **I think God, in His mercy, wanted to show us that if we take on His priorities, His will, and His way, it can bear tremendous fruit.**

How much confidence do we really have in God and His will? When push comes to shove, we tend to say, “Oh God, oh God, please!” What a difference it makes to instead say, “Oh God, I put all my trust in You. I wait upon Your Word. I wait upon Your will.” His will is the most loving thing that could ever happen. Do we know that in our own lives?

Sometimes we want God’s will, but it nevertheless makes us shudder a bit. We think it is going to cost so much, and sometimes it does. However, the fruit of it is the peace, wisdom, joy, and confidence that only God can give. Let me encourage you: Trust Him more. There is a deeper trust that God wants for our own roots to get into the River of Life—for our own roots to drink more deeply of His Spirit. Rather than saying, “Oh God, please don’t let this happen”—which I pray sometimes too—we can say, “Lord, Your will. Your will is love.” That’s who God is—God is love. We should be praying:

**“Lord, let Your will flourish in my life.
Let Your will flourish in the life of my family.”**

I think God would be so delighted to hear a group of people praying that way. I think He would be very generous with them.

John 15 says, “I am the true vine and my father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit.” Keep that in mind when something seems suddenly eliminated from your life. Or something is asked of you, such as: Would you let go of that to do this? It may be the Lord speaking.

The body of Christ needs genuine intercession—people flat on their faces saying, “Show us the way; teach us to pray.” Everything out there is getting darker. And where is the light going to shine, if not in the followers of Christ? God wants His light to shine through us—through kindness, a helping hand, shared wisdom, and the like. The more I decrease and He increases, the more I see His will over my will. Instead of presenting our plans to God, we need to yield and to say, “Lord, I’m your child, teach me how to pray, even when—especially when—I think I know what to pray for.” It’s amazing what God can do when we ask Him what He thinks we need, and when we listen. We need warriors of prayer, and that means giving up our own will and praying as He wants us to.

In fact, the most important thing is our own submission to the will of God. Otherwise, we start planning how we are going to accomplish things. I’m not saying plans don’t have a place. But don’t go there first. Simply say, “Lord, here I am. Send me. Use me today.”

A few years ago, Pope Francis declared a Year of Mercy. Because I travel a lot, I said to the Lord, “I’ll give up reading and sleeping on the plane. I’ll put aside anything You want if You want me to speak to anybody. If You want people to know the Father’s mercy, I’ll do it.” That was a sacrifice! I love being on a plane when I can just read or pray. But I felt prompted to say that to the Lord. And during that Year of Mercy, not once did I have a moment to read or pray,

and not once did I initiate the conversation. They came right up to me: “Pardon me, are you a sister? Can we talk to you?” They’d bring the whole family. I’d never had that happen—never.

My reason for using that example is the mercy of God is right here. God wants to pour out mercy on His people. And He wants to use us, so if we as intercessors are in a position of wanting God’s will and wanting to be channels of His mercy, God will use us. This city cries out for help. Nobody hears it, because the facade is all there. We look like we’re prosperous (to some degree), we look like we’re successful, we look like all kinds of things. But under the surface—look at the situations in people’s lives—who’s going to pray? You.

We need an army of intercessors, not just for our families, but for all of the people we encounter. It’s a tremendous work, the work of intercession, and we can do it no matter what our circumstances are. If you are suffering, you can offer your suffering. Wherever we are, we can make our lives bear fruit, for ourselves and those around us.

If my experience on the plane is any indicator, people need help, and they don’t know where to go. If God would use me, why wouldn’t He use you? If we are Christians with open hearts, God will send people to us. Say to the Lord every day,

“Use me. However you want, use me.”

Pray for anyone you may encounter each day. Ask the Lord to give you what you need. **AND HE WILL.**

PUT IT IN PRACTICE

Peter Williamson, who teaches at Sacred Heart Major Seminary with Ralph and Dr. Mary Healy, wrote the following prayer in response to Sr. Ann’s talk on intercession. We hope it is a blessing to you!

*Lord, help us to sink our roots deep into you.
Help us to pray at all times in the Holy Spirit.
Help us to slow down and listen to you. And help us to pray with great faith, according to your will and purpose.*

In particular, Lord, we pray for miracles. We pray that you reveal your power to the sick among us, to those among our family and friends who have wandered from you and need conversion. Do whatever it takes to turn them back to you and the path of life!

Reveal yourself also to our neighbors and co-workers and those in the city and country where we live, and for the whole world. Your love extends to all; save those most in need of your mercy! Let us Christians be radiant with your light and love. Work signs and wonders that will show those around us who you really are!

Thank you, Lord, for hearing our prayer!

On the Road

September 2018 ENGAGEMENTS

Los Angeles, CA SCRC Conference

Aug. 31-Sept. 1
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: scrc.org

Ann Arbor, MI i.d.9:16 Disciples' Night

Sept. 6
Fr. Burke Masters
Contact: Katie@id916.com

Omaha, NE Theological Symposium*

Sept. 7-9
Ralph Martin

Brooklyn, MI i.d.9:16 Summit

Sept. 7-9
Details: facebook.com/
events/391307081276516/

Waterford, Ireland CCR Conference

Sept. 8-9
Dr. Mary Healy
Contact: Sile Grant, sbgrant@live.com

Lowell, MA Hope Conference

Sept. 15
Ralph Martin & Dr. Mary Healy
Details: www.hopeconferences.com

Plymouth, MI Global Catholic ALPHA Conference*

Sept. 16-18
Peter Herbeck

Vancouver, BC CCR Conference

Sept. 20-23
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: vccrs.ca

Wellandport, ON Women's Retreat

Sept. 22
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
Contact: info@gethsemaneministries.com

Brooklyn, MI Country Coordinator's Meeting*

Sept. 26-29
Ralph Martin; Sr. Ann Shields, SGL;
Peter Herbeck; & Dr. Mary Healy

OCTOBER

Ann Arbor, MI Renewal Ministries' Board of Directors Meeting*

Oct. 14-15
Ralph Martin; Sr. Ann Shields, SGL;
& Peter Herbeck

Vilnius, Lithuania National Priests' Retreat*

Oct. 16-19
Ralph Martin

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

MISSIONS

Kenya

Aug. 20-Sept. 4
Peter Thompson

Papua New Guinea

Aug. 23-Sept. 17
Lloyd & Nancy Greenhaw

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

Please Pray...

✚ **For the current crisis facing our Church: That those hurt by people who should have protected them will be healed. That those who have gravely sinned will repent. That Christ will bring all that has been hidden into the light. That those who the Holy Spirit wants to encourage to speak will find courage. That those confused by seeing their leaders fall to such depths may be given the grace to cling to Jesus and His Church, and to say with Peter, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (Jn 6:68).**

✚ **For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.**

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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, conferences, retreats, and other international evangelistic events.

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