



**Deacon Zoli Kunszabó**  
COUNTRY COORDINATOR  
for HUNGARY

Deacon Zoltán (Zoli) Kunszabó and his wife, Panni, live in Budapest, Hungary. They have five children and one grandson. Deacon Zoli is the founder-leader of the New Jerusalem Catholic Community, a permanent deacon of the Archdiocese of Esztergom-Budapest, and the current president of the National Service Committee for Hungary's Catholic Charismatic Renewal. He has worked in full-time missions since 1994. He began collaborating with Renewal Ministries in 1996 and is the Country Coordinator for Hungary, Serbia, and Croatia. He also aids in outreach to Romania and the Ukraine.

# Spreading the GOSPEL in Hungary

*I recently was blessed to serve with a “dream team” of Peter Herbeck; Sr. Ann Shields, SGL; Kathleen Kittle; and Fr. Graham Keep.*

Our mission got off to a strong start at Hungary's Twenty-Sixth Annual Catholic Charismatic Conference and Golden Jubilee celebration. Twenty-five hundred people were in attendance.

Peter opened the first worship time by sharing that the goal of Jesus' redemption is to unify the created man with God Himself through the Holy Spirit. He said the Charismatic Renewal is a sign and an agent to fulfill God's plan. We then had an abundant time of prayer ministry.

Sister Ann built upon Peter's theme by speaking about deeper conversion and how the Holy Spirit wants to lead the Renewal further on the path of obedience. Fr. Graham then led a time of Adoration. Many words of knowledge came from the stage. Peter said the Lord wanted to heal somebody's blind left eye. His translator explained what happened next:

*(The woman) told us she had been blind for two years, and that the doctor declared her case to be without any hope of recovery, because of damage to her visual nerve. Peter prayed for her and kept asking what she was experiencing. She felt a strong pain, then tears came from her eye, and then she began to see faintly. Her left eyeball gradually turned into a normal position. Finally, she could see quite clearly! It was an unbelievable experience!*

Later, we had a very important moment for Hungary's Catholic Charismatic Renewal—the fruit of many years of work. The country's Catholic Charismatic communities formed a covenant, and as president of the National Serving Committee, I proclaimed it. The leaders of seventy-five communities then came to the stage with candles and prayed the prayer of unity and devotion according to their status.



The team: Kathleen, Panni, Sr. Ann, Fr. Graham, Josh Herbeck, Deacon Zoli, & Peter.

This unity brought an incredible peace and joy. The spiritual atmosphere of the whole day was extraordinary, with the Spirit-led, very high quality performances of the American team, elevated times of worship and ministry, and Holy Mass.

Many leaders said the Holy Spirit used this event to lead the Renewal to a higher place. I am grateful to the team, without whose help it could not have happened. Renewal Ministries' very bold and high-level service just a few years after the fall of communism here twenty years ago opened a new era of evangelization in the Hungarian Catholic Church. Our feedback suggests something similar is happening today:

**“God made something different; He turned on some ‘power-switches.’ I believe it is a part of a new era of the Holy Spirit.”**

—Borbála Nyuli, co-leader of a community in Budapest, Hungary

**“The Saturday event was historical. The Spirit went through me as in early times, totally seizing and empowering me. The power of unity broke through all the walls between us, as I haven't experienced in our days. During our covenant prayers, I felt that we went back to biblical times: God wanted to show Himself, to manifest His power. All the words of the teachers influenced us with the power of the Holy Spirit.”**

—Kata Berta, Effata Community media director



KATHLEEN KITTLE  
Missions Administrator

Deacon Zoli did an amazing job planning and orchestrating the mission; the Holy Spirit clearly guided him. It is electrifying to get out of the office and into the mission field to participate in the work of the Lord and to witness first-hand how God uses our country coordinators' unique gifting and anointing.

A particular highlight was spending time with Deacon Zoli's wife, Panni, at the Only One homeless day shelter. Each visitor to the shelter is treated as a beloved, unique child of God. Through the staff and volunteers, each visitor experiences the love of their merciful Father in heaven. (*\*Read more about Only One on our blog! Visit [renewalministries.net/wordpress/only-one](http://renewalministries.net/wordpress/only-one).*)

As the mission concluded, we all had a strong sense that God is building up the Body of Christ in Hungary and is blessing His people there with renewed energy and greater boldness for proclaiming the Gospel to the European nations and evangelizing both the culture and individuals.

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PETER HERBECK

Vice President & Director of Missions

During this mission, I saw the amazing fruit that has come from our Hungarian brothers' and sisters' single-hearted devotion and docility to the Holy Spirit. We're grateful for the privilege of having collaborated these past twenty years with these inspiring leaders. Their zeal for the Lord and passion to spread the fire of God's love—a fire that has now spread powerfully to the next generation—has made them a sign of new life and hope for the Church in Hungary and beyond. May the Lord continue to pour out His grace and power upon them!

## LEADERSHIP TRAINING

One-hundred-and-twenty community leaders and ministers gathered on the day after the Golden Jubilee celebration. Our desire was to learn how to know God's will in our prayers, communicate it with our groups, and live a prophetic lifestyle in which family life is shining and attractive.

Sister Ann taught about the prayer life of the leader. She awoke our desire to put the most important things first in our lives! Then Peter taught on the up-in-out model, using a triangle to depict the three primary directions of Jesus' own life and ministry: up toward the Father in prayer, in toward the community He was building among the apostles and other disciples, and out toward the "lost sheep of the House of Israel" (Mt 10:6).



Sr. Ann entreated the leaders to put the most important things first in their lives.



Peter taught on the up-in-out model and led an anointed time of ministry.



We then experienced a detonation during worship time! I haven't seen such a powerful prayer time since Hungary's revival twenty years ago. Following worship, Kathleen shared her conversion testimony and Fr. Graham taught on missionary discipleship. Finally, Peter led an anointed time of ministry. The Holy Spirit touched many people in a significant way, especially the young leaders.

## PRIESTS' RETREAT

After the leaders' retreat, our team continued its intense-but-fruitful time of service with a priests' retreat. We served forty-two priest participants—a high number for a non-obligatory priest retreat in Hungary.

**Fr. Graham opened the day by asking the priests to confess their sins to each other to make room for the Holy Spirit. It surprised everybody, since priests' retreats usually start in a very formal way, but the air changed, and the Spirit of meekness and brotherhood arrived. At the end of the day, almost everybody came forward to receive prayer.**

Many priests said the retreat enabled them to experience the Father's love again. Others emphasized the importance of good spiritual and pastoral practices like Unbound, Alpha, and Divine Renovation—all of which Peter had discussed earlier in the day. Some asked us to continue a series of priestly gatherings, because only the Charismatic approach gives this deeply spiritual, but also very practical, approach.

## CONCLUSION

Cardinal Péter Erdo, archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest, was very happy with Renewal Ministries' service. He shared with us his prophetic vision for the evangelization and renewal of Hungary and said we have very deep roots of hope here. He also asked our help with the International Eucharistic Congress in 2020 in Budapest!

During our time with the Renewal Ministries' team, Hungary's Renewal experienced a breakthrough and entered into a new period in many ways. Now we must stop and listen and allow the Spirit to lead us on the next step of this new path.



Twenty-five-hundred people participated in Hungary's Catholic Charismatic Golden Jubilee celebration.