



# Renewal Ministries

Proclaiming Jesus through Catholic Renewal and Evangelization



## Faithful Friends,

### A letter from Ralph Martin

For many it's been a long, cold, hard winter. This has intensified our eagerness to see the first flowers and buds which mirror the hope and joy of the Resurrection and the hope of the life to come. Despite the season, our daily responsibilities continue day in and day out, whether it's hard or easy, convenient or inconvenient, immediately rewarding or not. Like honoring marriage vows, we keep going in sickness or health, for richer or poorer until death brings us to our beloved Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and His great and holy Father and the life-giving Spirit, in whom we already live and move and have our being!

One of the great secrets of making progress in the spiritual life is to “just keep showing up.” Just keep putting one foot in front of the other, just keep showing up for prayer times whether we are sleepy or distracted or whatever; just loving and serving those in our lives no matter how we feel on a given day. And just keep looking for opportunities to be a witness to Him whenever we can.

In that regard many years ago we began to publish a new booklet each year as a “give away” for those who watch *The Choices We Face*, and listen to our radio programs. We hoped that the booklets would encourage those who responded, as well as be passed on to others as an “evangelization tool” to help awaken or strengthen faith.

During the last few years the use of these booklets as an outreach to others has really accelerated. Routinely, we receive orders for booklets in quantities of 10, 20, 50, 100, or even 200! Often times, we receive orders for multiple copies of several booklets. For example, someone from Hanson, MA ordered: 20 copies of *St. Francis Used Words*, 40 copies of



*My Five Most Important Decisions*, 20 copies of *Good News of the Eucharist*, 40 copies of *Captured by Mercy*, 20 copies of *What are We Facing*, and 20 copies each of 11 more booklets (because of the bulk order, only .60 cents each). Somebody's evangelizing there!

Someone from Glens Falls, NY ordered 30 copies of *Finding New Life in the Spirit*. Somebody there must be using our new video *As By a New Pentecost* to help people encounter the Lord and be baptized in the Spirit!

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People are also buying books in large quantities, probably as gifts for friends or parishioners. Recently, we have received orders for: 100 copies of *The Fulfillment of All Desire* from Shirley, NY, 100 copies of *The Fulfillment of All Desire* along with 102 copies of the Study Guide from Los Angeles, CA, 50 copies of *When the Spirit Comes in Power* from Howard Lake, MN, and 22 copies of *More of the Holy Spirit* from Baltimore, MD.

While giving a series of talks to priests, catechists and the general public in Wichita, KS, I stayed at a rural parish. As you can see from the photo (p. 1), the booklet rack was well stocked with Renewal Ministries' booklets.

### Proclaiming the Word In Season and Out

Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields, SGL and I continue to conduct parish missions and speak at various events throughout the year. Recently Peter, along with Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw conducted a parish mission for a dynamic group of about 300 at St. Martin de Porres Parish in Weslaco, TX.

They were invited by Fr. Mario Castro, the pastor, who has done a great job implementing a vision for the New Evangelization in the parish. The 300 people who attended are members of a leadership core he has been training to build small Christian community and to evangelize door-to-door in Weslaco. It was about an even mix of men and women. Encouraging signs!

Sr. Ann spent a week at the School of Spiritual Direction in Clearwater, FL. Participants are committed to an intense and thorough two-year program. She was asked to speak each evening for five evenings and was very impressed by the participants who were men and women from all walks of life. Their love for the Lord and their desire to grow in holiness in order to serve the Lord in this ministry was encouraging to her.

Another highlight for Sr. Ann was being asked to speak at a benefit dinner for the Bethesda Healing Ministry in Columbus, OH. This is a very powerful ministry to women who have had abortions and their husbands. The Josephinum Seminary in Columbus has partnered with this ministry so that their seminarians and priests may learn and assist in the healing of many lives. Sr. Ann was inspired by this ministry. Another sign of hope.

Thank you for your faithful support. Whether you are new this year or have been with Renewal Ministries since 1980, you make many things possible for the good of God's people and the good of the Church. Hang in there. Keep on showing up!

Your brother in Christ,

*Ralph Martin*

Ralph Martin

P.S. Last month on the new season of *The Choices We Face*, we began offering my new booklet, *The Final Confrontation*. Now we are making it available to everyone. Please see the enclosed order form.



During the winter semester, Ralph is teaching a graduate course on Holiness and Evangelization at Sacred Heart major Seminary. Pictured above are the students: three priests, three seminarians, and one lay woman.



Congratulations to Deacon Dan Foley who serves as Chairman of the Board for Renewal Ministries in the US. He has been serving on the National Advisory Council to the US Bishops and was just elected to the Executive Committee. (The National Advisory Council is a group of lay people and priests from across the US who recommends issues for the Conference's attention.) Congratulations Deacon Dan and thanks for your service to Renewal Ministries and the wider Church.

# This month on *The* **CHOICES** *We face*



April 7 & 10 **Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck**

*The Hope that Does Not Disappoint*

April 14 & 17 **Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck**

*Our Response to the War*



April 21 & 24 **Special guest Robin Beck**

*Free to Really Be Me!*

April 28 & May 1 **Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck**

*Mercy, Truth and Deception*

*The Choices We Face* is distributed by national and local cable networks, independent broadcast stations and international satellites. To find out when the program airs in your area, please visit [RenewalMinistries.net/TV](http://RenewalMinistries.net/TV).



*He has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven."... Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 12:26-29*

## **The Gathering** **May 29-31, 2015**

God's kingdom is unshakable.

Is God preparing to shake the Church and the world?

Are you prepared to stand firm during a time of shaking and to help others do the same?

Come to the Renewal Ministries' annual Gathering.

You will:

- Learn Biblical principles for standing firm during difficult times!
- Hear inspiring messages from Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck and Sr. Ann Shields!
- Receive prayer for empowerment by the Holy Spirit!

Eagle Crest Conference Center  
Marriot Hotel, Ypsilanti, MI

For more information or to register

Call Kathleen at 734-662-1730 ext. 132  
or visit [RenewalMinistries.net](http://RenewalMinistries.net)



# From the Heart

## How Strong is Your Faith?

Before you even begin to read this article, pick up your Bible and read Luke 24:13-35. Read it slowly. **Now read it yet again.**



Emmaus by Janet Brooks-Gerloff, 1992.

shocking circumstances. These two disciples are in the “we’ve got to get out of town” mindset. They are puzzled, confused, perhaps seeking a familiar environment to process the shattering events of the last few days. They are talking to themselves about all that has happened when Jesus, whom they see as a stranger, walks beside them and begins to ask questions.

They would never have thought that Jesus could be walking with them — that was impossible because He was dead. So, they only “see” Jesus as a stranger and relay the events of the past days. Jesus then begins to quote Moses and the prophets concerning the Messiah. Still, there was no recognition. But the seed of the Word was being planted as Jesus spoke and would very soon bear abundant fruit.

As evening approaches, they invite the stranger to stay with them and Jesus blesses the bread and gives it to them. The seeds of truth from the Word Jesus shared with them are now nourished by the Eucharist, and then their eyes **ARE OPENED** and they recognize Him. Can you imagine the shock, the joy, the bewilderment, the laughter, the new hope springing forth, the life pouring into them? Then Jesus vanishes from their sight.

God calls them — and us — deeper, “Don’t just put trust in what you can see and hear and taste and touch and smell. Put your trust in Me. I am the Truth!”

Brothers and Sisters, I invite you — with a certain sense of urgency — to ponder what this passage reveals to you about your own faith. It can help us to clearly see the real strength of our personal faith. Then we need to ask the important question: How do we grow in faith? Again, the passage from Luke gives us the answers.

**We need our faith to grow very strong now and in the days ahead.**

Our faith in the living Lord Jesus, in His death and resurrection, must be nourished each day by feasting on His Word and — if possible — on His Body and Blood in the Eucharist. We cannot think of faith as something academically learned as a child; or that faith is something I simply “pull out” when I need it. Faith in the Living God and in His passion and death for

If you had been walking on that road to Emmaus...a follower of Jesus who had either witnessed or heard that Jesus had been crucified, this Jesus whom you had grown to trust...what would have been the state of your mind? Would you have been filled with confusion? Would you have clung in faith to the words Jesus spoke when He walked among you? Would you be angry? Bitter? Overwhelmed? Shocked and stunned? Afraid for your own life?

What would you have done? Would you have looked for other followers and sought refuge with them? Would you have run away and hidden to mourn? Would you have been stunned by Jesus’ death and yet held on to your very young faith in His promises?

I spend a lot of time reflecting on this passage each Lent and Easter. You can, to a degree, see the level of your faith by testing yourself with these questions. Be honest about your evaluation or ask others how they think you might react.

It is only when our faith is tested that we see how we might respond when suddenly faced with

*It is only when  
our faith is tested  
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faced with  
shocking  
circumstances.*



us, must grow into a strong tree with very deep roots, deep enough to withstand the storms which almost inevitably lie ahead; faith that translates into my daily activities and relationships, plans and decisions.

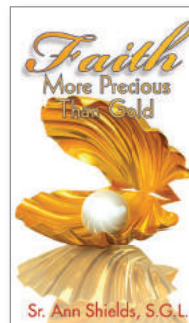
Outside our immediate circle of relationships, many will need to find shelter in the branches of our faith. Let us use our prayer time during this Easter season to thank Him for dying for us so we do not suffer eternal death. This life is but the beginning...Let us thank Him for the grace to share in His life, not just now but forever. Let us thank Him for the faith which enables us to reach out to many whose faith is weak or non-existent.

The writer to the Hebrews tells us: "Faith is confident assurance concerning what we hope for and conviction about the things we do not see" (Heb 11:1).

Let us ask God for the grace not to turn away in the day of trial. He has conquered death! He has triumphed over evil! He is Eternal Life! Let us put all our faith and hope in Him. May this Easter celebration strengthen our faith, our hope and our love. ✚

### Do you want to grow in faith?

Then order a copy of Sr. Ann's booklet, *Faith More Precious than Gold*. The booklet provides tips for overcoming obstacles to faith and includes Scripture passages to read, pray and apply to your life. See enclosed order form for more information.



# Join Ralph Martin and Sr. Ann Shields for an extraordinary retreat

## WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU TODAY?



June 12-14, 2015  
Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA  
Get more information at our home page, [RenewalMinistries.net](http://RenewalMinistries.net)



# Mission to Kenya

On this mission trip, we conducted a mission in Lunga Lunga, taught a series of seminars for catechists in Narok, visited prisoners in Nairobi and preached a parish mission in Embulbul.

## Lunga Lunga

Our Lady of Visitation Catholic Mission is located in Lunga Lunga, a remote area near the border of Tanzania close to the Indian Ocean. We were honored to be part of the first mission ever held in this region of the Diocese.

Approximately 200 people came from neighboring areas to hear teachings on the New Pentecost, New Evangelization, the call to holiness, faithfulness to the Magisterium, and Theology of the Body. These were well received and generated many questions.

Each afternoon we hosted a rally in an open area outside of town. Here we proclaimed the kerygma (the core of the Gospel) to a crowd comprised of



*The people of Lunga Lunga responded to the proclamation of the Gospel with open hearts.*

Christians, Moslems and Pagans. This was the first crusade conducted by the Catholic Church. Each day, the crowds increased.

One significant moment occurred as I proclaimed Jesus as the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15, he "will strike at your head." At that moment, a deadly Green Mamba snake slithered across the ground in front of me. The men quickly dispatched the snake by crushing its head.

*Narok is located in the vast Rift Valley that cuts across Kenya. It is home to the Masai tribe who fiercely hold to their tribal traditions and dress.*







*The beautiful people of Kenya made a "joyful noise to the Lord" (Ps 100:1).*



## Narok

Approximately 250 catechists and lay leaders participated in the four-day series of seminars in Narok which is located in the Central Rift Valley in the heart of Masai country.

We had been asked to address the many questions asked by Protestant fundamentalists. We explained major areas of Doctrine and equipped them to respectfully answer these questions. In addition, we helped them understand renewal in the Spirit and the New Pentecost.

## Nairobi

The Pauline Catholic Prison ministry team once again opened doors for us to visit a large prison outside of Nairobi. Normally, we would not have been allowed access, but we were able to visit for more than two hours.

We took soap, toilet paper and some medicines to more than 800 prisoners. Using the Rosary, we taught the major tenets of the Gospel. The Lord reached into the hearts of many and approximately 20 young men came forward to begin the preparation for Baptism. George Ndegwa, our local coordinator has worked tirelessly in this prison ministry and it is bearing good fruit to the glory of God.

## Embulbul

We spent our last day at Mary the Mother of God Parish in Embulbul. Approximately 70 parishioners attended two sessions on "Deepening our Catholic Faith." ✠



*The first ever Catholic rallies in Lunga Lunga drew increasingly more people each afternoon.*



*Celeste Martin used fetal models to teach about the dignity of human life. The men were especially receptive to this teaching.*



*The team preached on many subjects including the differing roles of men and women.*

# On the Road

“ Jesus  
I trust in you.”

— St. Faustina

## April 2015 ENGAGEMENTS

### Ann Arbor, MI

#### i.d.9:16 Disciples' Night

April 9

Join us via livestream: [id916.com/live](http://id916.com/live)

Contact: [pete@id916.com](mailto:pete@id916.com)

### Detroit, MI

#### The Upper Room, Wayne State University

April 9

Peter Herbeck

April 16

Ralph Martin

April 23

Sr. Ann Shields, SGL

Contact: [jim.companions@gmail.com](mailto:jim.companions@gmail.com)

### Newton, MA

#### Co-Workers in the Vineyard Conference

April 10

Ralph Martin

Contact: [Ellen.oesterle@sjs.edu](mailto:Ellen.oesterle@sjs.edu)

### Williamston, MI

#### St. Mary's Parish

April 12

Ralph Martin

Contact: [Adam4jnj@gmail.com](mailto:Adam4jnj@gmail.com)

### Akron, OH

#### St. Francis de Sales Parish

April 16

Sr. Ann Shields, SGL

Contact: [www.stfparish.com](http://www.stfparish.com)

\* Not open to the public

### Burton, MI

#### All Michigan Catholic Charismatic Spring Conference

April 18

Sr. Ann Shields, SGL, Pete Burak

Contact: [www.allmichigancatholiccharismatic-conference.org](http://www.allmichigancatholiccharismatic-conference.org)

### Erie, MI

#### St. Joseph's Parish

April 23

Ralph Martin

Contact: 734-848-6125

### Tawas, MI

#### Holy Family Parish Women's Retreat

April 24-25

Sr. Ann Shields, SGL

Contact: 989-362-3162

### Wixom, MI,

#### St. Catherine of Siena Senior Retreat\*

April 23-24

Debbie Herbeck

### Ottawa, ON

#### New Evangelization Summit

April 24-25

Ralph Martin

Contact: [www.newevangelization.ca](http://www.newevangelization.ca)

## MISSIONS

**Romania** April 17-19

**Mexico** April 7-13

**Ethiopia** April 18-May 2

**Ghana** April 28-May 16

For more information about missions contact:  
Kathleen at 734-662-1730 ext. 132  
or [kkittle@renewalministries.net](mailto:kkittle@renewalministries.net)

## Renewal Ministries

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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.*

### Editor

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### Design

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