

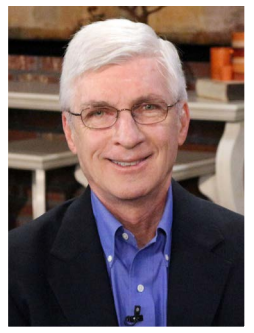


RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Celebrating
35
YEARS
of God's
Faithfulness

...
April
2016

Proclaiming Jesus through Catholic Renewal and Evangelization



A letter ▶
from Ralph Martin

Dear Partners,

Let's talk turkey—even though it's not Thanksgiving time. Occasionally, someone who is considering naming Renewal Ministries in their will asks me if I have plans to retire, and if there are any succession plans if I do.

First of all, I don't have any plans to retire. Secondly, yes, there is a succession plan if anything were to happen to me.

I've had very good health over the years. Today I feel "at the top of my game," to use a secular expression. I feel the Lord's help in all that I'm doing, and I think because of that I'm doing it better than ever. My Dad lived to just short of his ninety-second birthday, playing golf and challenging grandchildren to foot races almost until the end. My mom lived to be eighty-seven. So, I think I have good genes; however, as for everyone, it's all in the hands of the Lord. I, or any of us, could be called home—thanks be to God—at any time.

REGARDING THE SUCCESSION PLAN...

Peter Herbeck has been my true brother in the Lord for more than twenty-five years now. He's fifteen years younger than me and is very well qualified to lead Renewal Ministries if I could no longer do so. He and I share a great unity of vision and approach to ministry that the Lord has blessed ever since we started to follow Him together years ago.

Pete Burak, the leader of our young adult ministry, could very well develop to the point where he would be able to follow in my and Peter's footsteps and lead Renewal Ministries. He is twenty years younger than Peter.

Plus, we have two excellent boards, one for the US and one for Canada, with very capable people and truly excellent Episcopal advisors, Archbishop Robert Carlson, of St. Louis, and Cardinal Thomas Collins, of Toronto. In the extreme eventuality that Renewal Ministries didn't have the leadership to continue, the board would transfer any assets to similar ministries that would clearly fulfill important aspects of Renewal Ministries' mission.



PETER HERBECK
VP Renewal Ministries
& Director of Missions



PETE BURAK
Director of i.d.9:16
[young adult outreach]



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YES YOU CAN HELP!

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

Here at Renewal Ministries, we are especially grateful to several of our deceased supporters who faithfully supported our ministry during their lifetimes and made a lasting gift to us in their wills. In a sense, their giving continued even after death. They remind us that in both life and death we belong to Christ, and they provide an important example of charitable giving.

There are different ways you can make a bequest to Renewal Ministries. Here is an easy formula if you live in the United States:

**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.**

If you reside in Canada, the following formula works well:

**I give and bequeath to Catholic Renewal Ministries Inc.,
331 Evans Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M8Z 1K2,
Registration No. 12374-0243-RR0001, the sum of
\$ _____ for its general uses and purposes.**

If you have any questions, please call Gary Seromik at 734-662-1730, ext. 121. Gary is the administrator for Renewal Ministries. He will be happy to answer any of your questions.

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All of this is to say that remembering us in your wills would be an immense help to us, and I would be deeply grateful if you would consider doing so. There are several easy ways of doing this. You can refer to the text box on this page for more information. If you have any questions, please call my long-time, trusted associate Gary Seromik.

We're firing on all cylinders, with no indication that the needs are getting any less—and every indication that God's grace is increasing. Thanks for all you do to help us reach so many people with the very good news of our salvation in Jesus Christ and life in the Catholic Church.

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

Ralph Martin

P.S. We regularly receive letters and emails asking for prayers for difficult situations, and we do pray. Recently, the need for prayers has hit closer to home, as some of our board members and relatives of staff members have undergone difficulties. John Germain, a member of our Canadian board, and Ellen Holian Mykrantz, a member of our US board, are both dealing with difficult health situations.

Very sadly, one of our staff member's daughters, who was expecting her first baby, recently discovered that the baby had died a few days before the due date. And our long-time Office Administrator Gary Seromik's mother died, not unexpectedly, and indeed the death of a wonderful Christian woman.

The Herbecks had a grandson born a month premature, who is doing well. And we had a granddaughter born a month premature as well. She struggled for a while, but is now doing well. Also, my wife Anne has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Thankfully, it was caught early and should be curable; however, she still needs surgery, time to heal, and then possible further treatment depending on the test results after surgery.

Please keep all of these faithful brothers and sisters in your prayers, as we do you.

feed my sheep

· IDEAS FROM OUR SUPPORTERS ON SHARING THE FAITH ·

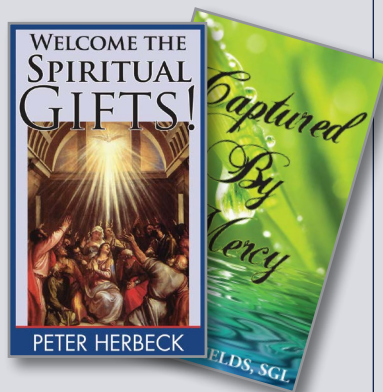
All of us at Renewal Ministries were inspired recently, when we heard how Mario Fuentes, from Bradenton, Florida, is using our booklets to evangelize within his own parish . . .

Mario ordered one hundred copies of *Welcome the Spiritual Gifts* to distribute at a quarterly evening hosted by his parish, Our Lady of Angels in Lakewood Ranch, Florida, called Growing in Faith.

Each evening features a theme, along with a couple short videos, music, Scripture, and a testimony shared by a member of the parish. At a recent event, Mario shared his testimony as part of an evening themed "Gifts and Presence." He said he discussed "the gifts of the Holy Spirit in my life and the gifts I received by coming back to the faith."

He distributed *Welcome the Spiritual Gifts* at the end of his talk, because he felt the subject of the booklet corresponded well with his talk.

Mario explained, "When you bring Catholics together, you have to put something in their hands. The Protestants do that with pen and paper. We as Catholics are more of an audience—we don't participate in that way. I thought the [booklet] was ideal because it covered a good part of what we wanted to convey."



The response to the booklets was so positive, Mario ordered one hundred copies of Sr. Ann Shield's booklet, *Captured by Mercy*, to distribute at the March Growing in Faith event, which focused on mercy. Mario hopes they can incorporate other booklets into future events as well.

It is exciting to see what the parishioners at Our Lady of Angels are accomplishing through this speaker series. According to Mario, between sixty to seventy-five people attend the events. After listening to the speaker, the attendees break into small groups to reflect upon the talk and to share how it touched them.

"I was able to hear how they were touched by my testimony—it was beautiful," he said. "You think you're giving a gift, but in return you receive a gift when they tell you how you've touched them."

Mario said he also enjoys listening each day to Sr. Ann's radio program, *Food for the Journey*.



“I know I am going to have a great day when I start my day listening to her. She helps you grow stronger in faith through Scripture and her reflections.”

Mario said he is thankful he can help "get the Renewal Ministries' message out to other Catholics." He said he likes to say, "Want to change your life? Listen to Sr. Ann every day—that will change your life!"

We are grateful to Mario, and to the parishioners of Our Lady of Angels, not only for distributing our booklets, but for their creativity and for sharing their gifts of time and talent in organizing the Growing in Faith series to help encourage and inspire fellow Catholics to do just that—**GROW IN FAITH!**

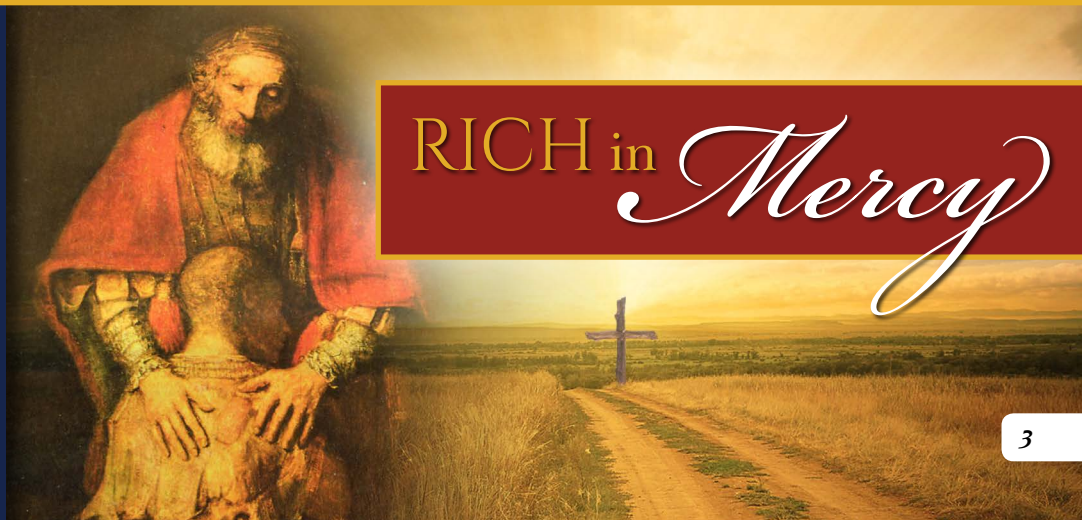
DON'T FORGET...



**THE GATHERING
APRIL 15-17, 2016**

**Eagle Crest Conference Center
Marriott Hotel • Ypsilanti, MI**

For more information or to register
Call Kathleen at 734.662.1730 ext. 132
or visit RenewalMinistries.net/gathering



RICH in *Mercy*



HOW DOES A DISCIPLE LOVE? By Peter Herbeck

Have you ever had the experience of reading a familiar, often-read Bible passage, when suddenly it comes alive as though you were reading it for the first time? That happened to me this past year while reading a short section from Jesus' final discourse in the fourteenth chapter of John's Gospel. The passage is part of Jesus' teaching during the Last Supper.

I've read the Last Supper discourse many times over the years, but this past year I saw something new. I didn't just see or notice something I may have missed before—I actually experienced something new. The Holy Spirit opened my heart and mind to be able to see the words Jesus was speaking in a deeper, more personal way.

The passage I was meditating on was John 14:30-31:

“I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; but I do as the Father commanded me, so that the whole world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.”

Again, Jesus is speaking these words to the apostles during the Passover, his final meal with them. His heart is heavy. He knows this is the last time they will be together; he knows their fellowship is about to enter the hour of darkness. He wants to prepare them for what is about to unfold.

The first thing he tells them is: **“I will no longer talk much with you.”** Imagine how strange and confusing these words must have been for the apostles, especially in that moment. They are in the midst of a festive, joyful celebration. It is a moment of particular intimacy, as brothers and friends gather around their Master. Jesus tells them the life they have shared day and night for the past three years is about to come to an end. Imagine the shock, the look on their faces, and the confusion as they think, “Jesus, what are You saying?”

He explains, **“The ruler of this world is coming.”** Jesus will no longer speak with them, because Satan is coming after Him. The hour for which Jesus has come into the world is here. The Apostle John will later tell us what he and his brothers didn't fully understand at that moment: “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.” (1 Jn 3:8) Jesus knew

they couldn't fully understand what He meant. They had no way of knowing what they were about to confront and what it would do to them. The fellowship, unity, love, and devotion they shared with Jesus was about to turn into a nightmare of fear, betrayal, denial, and death.

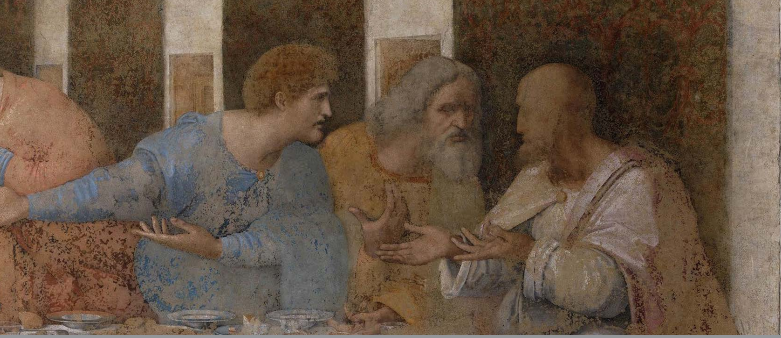
Jesus is giving them something to hold on to that will carry them through the chaos. Despite the fact that the devil is coming after Jesus, He reassures them: **“He has no power over me.”** In other words, Jesus is saying, “Don't worry, don't lose heart, what you are about to see and experience is meant to be. The devil is not in charge—I am!” Jesus knew how much His brothers were going to be tested. They were about to come face-to-face with the crushing self-revelation of their own weakness and bondage to the power of sin and death still at work within them.

Then Jesus explains to them what he is about to do and why. First, **“I do as the Father commanded me.”** Jesus will freely give Himself up to death; He will be led like a lamb to the slaughter. He won't resist, He won't call down the armies of heaven to defend Him against His enemies. He will suffer humiliation, torture, betrayal, and death, because the Father has commanded Him to do it: “For God so loved the world, he gave his only Son . . .” (Jn 3:16)

The next few words that Jesus speaks to the apostles are the words that were new to me. They came like a revelation and set my heart on fire. Jesus is opening His heart to His brothers, revealing His deepest desire, the motive for His behavior, and why He does everything the Father commands, even to the point of death: **“I want the whole world to know that I love the Father.”** Jesus wants His brothers, and all those who are destined to become His friends and disciples, to know that there is nothing more important to Him than to love the Father.

That is the only place in the Gospels where Jesus verbalizes His love for the Father.

It's an extraordinary moment of self-revelation. What a privilege it is for all who hear these words. St. John, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, brings each one of us into that inner circle with Jesus and His most beloved and trusted friends. He is speaking to you and to me. He tells us, “You are my friends.” (Jn 15:14) He wants us to know Him personally, and to understand His deepest desires, so we can be clear about what motivates Him and what He cares about most.



THE MISSION OF MY LIFE

A Prayer by John Henry Cardinal Newman

Jesus reveals His heart so we can become like Him. He wants His fundamental passion to be our passion. He wants every disciple to want what He wants. Throughout the Last Supper discourse, Jesus tells His brothers, “If you love me you will keep my commandments.” (Jn 14:15; also 14:21, 23) Keeping the commandments is the way to love Jesus and the Father.

What Does Jesus Command Us to Do?

“And he said to them, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind . . . and a second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Mt 22:37-39)

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age.” (Mt 28:18-20)

These are the commandments that are meant to shape the life of every disciple: the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. Love God, love your neighbor, and make disciples!

Like the apostles, we need Jesus’ help to love what He loves. Immediately after telling the apostles that their love for Him should be expressed through obedience to His commands, He said:

“And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” (Jn 14:16-17)

The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, has been given to us to enable us to do what we cannot do on our own strength. To give us a new capacity to love God and our neighbor, Jesus had to first pour “God’s love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.” (Rm 5:5) To fulfill the Great Commission, He first had to clothe us with the power from on high. (Lk 24:49, Acts 1:8)

Jesus has given us everything we need to love like He loved: “I do all that the Father commanded me, so that the whole world will know that I love the Father.” †

God has created me to do Him some definite service;
He has committed some work to me
which He has not committed to another.

I have my mission—I never may know it in this life,
but I shall be told it in the next.

Somehow I am necessary for His purposes . . .

I have a part in this great work;

I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection
between persons.

He has not created me for naught. I shall do good,
I shall do His work;

I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth
in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but
keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling.
Therefore I will trust Him.

Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away.

If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him;

In perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him;

If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him.

My sickness, or perplexity, or sorrow may be necessary
causes of some great end, which is quite beyond us.

He does nothing in vain; He may prolong my life,

He may shorten it;

He knows what He is about.

He may take away my friends,

He may throw me among strangers,

He may make me feel desolate,

make my spirits sink, hide the future from me—

still He knows what He is about

*Thank you to Dick VonStamwitz from Greensboro, NC,
for sending us a version of this prayer.*

MEXICO MISSION TEAM

Debbie Herbeck was joined on this mission by an exuberant team of volunteers, many of whom are part of the i.d.9:16 family:

Joey McCoy · Leader
Tim Green · Leader
Fr. Mathias Thelen
Dr. Tom Graves, MD
Lavinia Spirito
Kirsten Aliber, RN
Alyssa Bengal
Mary Bischoff
Charlotte Brinkman, RN
Amalie & Tim Collard
Raquel De La Cruz
Tom Dougan
Jill Grabowski, RN
Rachel Herbeck
Cathy Ligeski, RN
Emily Messiter
Hallie Raney, RN
Alicia Stier

Below (l-r), Hallie Raney; Joey McCoy; and Fr. Matthias Thelen, who led the prayer team, pray over a man for God's healing and blessing. Many people experienced partial or complete relief of their symptoms as a result of the team's prayers.



Spreading the GOSPEL in Mexico

WORKS OF MERCY | By Tim Green

The recent Mexico mission gave our team of primarily young adults many opportunities to serve and to see God at work in people's lives.

Along with the medical clinic and prayers for healing, we celebrated Mass, played with the local children, distributed food packages as well as toiletries, and visited an old men's home and orphans at the Casa Hogar la Divina Providencia. Fr. Matthias Thelen also heard confessions.

Jesus, an elderly man who had been seen by Dr. Tom Graves and whose vision was impaired by cataracts, was able to see much better after prayer. He joyfully remarked that he could see the clouds again, along with other objects and buildings at a great distance.

We brought toilet paper, bananas, and orange punch for the men at the old men's home (Asilo). The team presented the "Everything Skit," which was very well received. One man, in tears, said he had never before understood how much Jesus loved him. The team interacted very well with the men, talking, praying, singing, and dancing with them. We prayed with several men for healing.

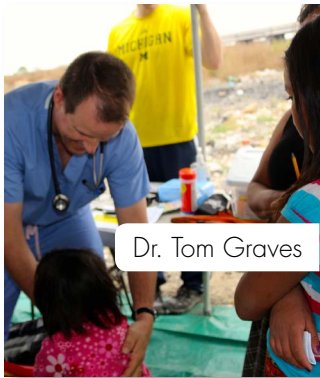
At the orphanage, Mother Ines was very grateful for our financial support, and said she likely would use it for one of the children with hydrocephaly, who needs surgery. The team played with the children on the main floor, and also spent a substantial amount of time with the them in the upper room. **We all heeded Mother Ines' exhortation "to go up there and be filled with the love of Jesus, and then go take it out to the whole world!"** ✝



While the medical clinic was operating, the team played soccer, jumped rope, colored, did face painting, and enjoyed piñatas with the children.

MEDICAL MIRACLES | By Dr. Tom Graves

I recently traveled as a medical doctor to Mexico City with a Renewal Ministries' team of young adults on fire with love for Jesus and a desire to serve. Each morning, we had Mass and prayed that God would use us in His astonishing way to help people and to show His love.



Dr. Tom Graves

We treated some straightforward medical problems. We had a fairly well-stocked pharmacy, bandages, and some equipment. Many people had parasites (worms are common in areas with no clean water). Others had hypertension, diabetes, and injuries—like an insulin syringe pierced through a hand or foot from walking over garbage or looking through it for items of value. These wounds frequently were infected; antibiotics in these situations can save a life.

However, we did not have the ability to treat problems like severe arthritis, large abdominal tumors, or large abdominal hernias. After examining such patients in the clinic (a simple portable tent), I directed them to our prayer team for prayers of healing.

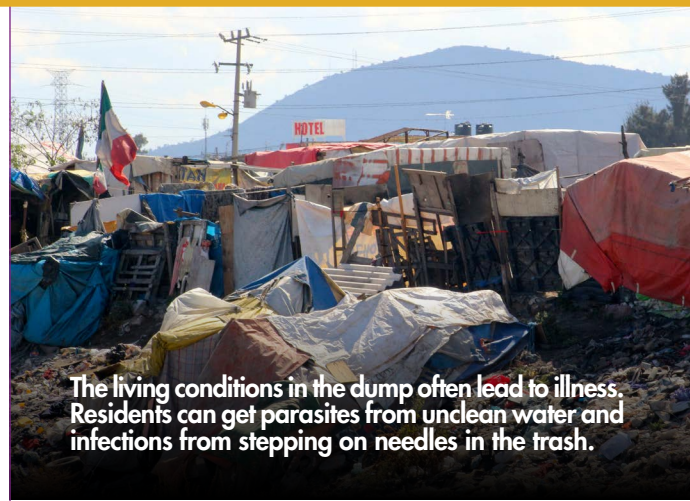
I believe in Jesus. I trust Him. And I know He especially loves the poor. But I did not expect the outpouring of God's grace that we witnessed in the dump. I have seen people healed through prayer before, but I have never been exposed to a situation in which healing was the rule, rather than the exception.

An eighty-three-year-old woman with severe arthritis, who was bent at the waist from osteoporosis, broke my heart. Her hips and knees would have been replaced long ago in the US. Our medical supplies were limited, but I gave her extra ibuprofen, knowing how awful her pain was. We then sent her to the prayer team. An hour later, she returned, standing upright, with a huge smile—and without her cane! My interpreter translated her cries: “All my pain is gone!”

One man had fractured his neck after falling off a tall pile of trash three years earlier. His neck was bent forward at an unusual angle and painful to touch. We referred him to the prayer team, and afterward he said his pain was gone. I saw him at Mass the next morning and asked him how his neck felt. He smiled, showed me that it was no longer crooked, and said, “Nada.” No pain at all.

After re-examining two patients who had received prayers for a tumor and a hernia, I found no trace of my prior diagnosis. Another man received prayer for severe mouth lesions and experienced healing too. God moved powerfully in the dump through our prayer team, led by Fr. Matthias Thelen. It was hard to believe these miracles—and yet we could not deny what our own eyes had seen.

The experience at the dump changed my life. It was a thrill to be surrounded by many young people who love Jesus and who joyously share His love with others. i.d.9:16 is unique and important, especially now. While I often hear people lament the future of our children's faith, this growing young adult ministry is helping young people know and love Jesus, and share that love passionately. ✚



The living conditions in the dump often lead to illness. Residents can get parasites from unclean water and infections from stepping on needles in the trash.

SEEING CLEARLY | By Joey McCoy

On the recent Mexico mission trip, Jesus led me to freedom by helping me surrender and let Him be uncontrollable, unpredictable, and beyond what makes sense. The Spirit also blessed me with an inspiring vision of His happiness: God, who sees all the suffering that has ever existed and, moreover, experiences it with us, still is perfectly happy. That is shocking—and really encouraging. The Lord blessed me with a participation in this happiness. How grateful I am to the Divine Physician, Who knows our ailments and remedies so well.

I also got a taste of the Church as she is in heaven. I saw how, while radiant in our distinct personalities, which give glory and praise to God in many ways, we nevertheless are sealed together in a radical oneness. We are one and many at the same time. This is the Trinity, in Whose image we are fashioned.

On the way home, I was deluged with love, gratitude, and affection for those with whom I had spent the week.

The Spirit had made us one as Jesus and the Father are one. (Jn 17:21) Do we know how beautiful the Body of Christ—the Church—will look in Heaven? To see each other as we have always been meant to be seen and to love each other as we have always longed to love—what a place it will be! ✚

Joey McCoy is a medical student at the University of Michigan and will be married soon. He has participated in Renewal Ministries' mission trips to Mexico City regularly over the past nine years. He helps lead i.d.9:16 missions and blogs at www.id916.com.

On the Road

April 2016 ENGAGEMENTS

Winona, MN
Men's Conference
April 2
Peter Herbeck
www.dowmen.org

Ann Arbor, MI
i.d.9:16 Disciples' Night
April 7
Connor Flanagan
julianna@id916.com

Cleveland, OH
Men's Conference
April 9
Ralph Martin
jcleland@neo.rr.com

Cincinnati, OH
Legatus*
April 12
Pete Burak

Ann Arbor, MI
Renewal Ministries Gathering
"Rich in Mercy"
April 15-17
Peter Herbeck; Ralph Martin;
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
kkittle@renewalministries.net

Madison, WI
Legatus*
April 19
Ralph Martin

Albuquerque, NM
Our Lady of the Annunciation Retreat
April 22-23
Sr. Ann Shields
Contact: Leslie Monette 505-296-0411 or
lmonette@annunciationparishabq.org

Indianapolis, IN
Legatus*
April 21
Ralph Martin

Orlando, FL
Crossing the Goal Men's Conference
April 22-24
Peter Herbeck and Danny Abramowicz
Contact: Dennis Johnson
www.orlandodiocese.org/riseup

Arlington, VA
Clergy Convocation*
April 25-29
Ralph Martin

Waverly, NE
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Retreat House
April 29-May 1
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
www.goodcounselretreat.com
or 402-786-2705

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

“ *My dear friends, listen to me! If you do not give time to prayer nor accept the counsel of a spiritual guide, the confusion of the world can even succeed in drowning out God's voice. As some have quickly observed, by satisfying our own immediate needs we lose the capacity to love in the name of Christ and become incapable of giving our lives for others as he has taught us. What will we do then!?* ”
• **St. Pope John Paul II**

MISSIONS

Fr. Gabriel Richard
High School
Mexico City Mission
March 29-April 4
Debbie Herbeck & Jim Murphy

Turkmenistan
April 1-30
Bohus Zivak

Ghana
April 4-9 & April 25-May 1
Emmanuel Tamakloe

Serbia
April 28-May 1
Dcn. Zoltan Kunszabo

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



Please Pray...

✚ That many will respond to the call to repent and humbly turn toward the Lord this Divine Mercy Sunday and throughout the year, in order to receive all of the graces He desires for us in this Jubilee of Mercy.

✚ That our eyes, ears, and hearts would remain open to the needs of those around us, and that we may respond to those we meet with love and authentic Catholic charity, which proclaims the love of God and the sacraments while serving others.

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

RENEWAL MINISTRIES

In the United States

Episcopal Advisor
Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, St. Louis, MO
Chairman of the Board
Deacon Dan Foley
President
Ralph Martin

In Canada

Episcopal Advisor
Cardinal Thomas Collins, Toronto, ON
Chairman of the Board
Monsignor Gregory Smith, Vancouver, BC

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
Heather Schultz

Design
Emily Bachelor

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