



RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Celebrating
35
YEARS
of God's
Faithfulness

Proclaiming Jesus through Catholic Renewal and Evangelization

Dear Fellow Soldiers in Christ,

August
2015



A letter
from Ralph Martin

*Even though the
"winds and waves"
that surround us and
that beat on the Barque
of Peter are great, if we
just keep our eyes on
Jesus we will find our
way and bring others
with us.*

A growing number of people are becoming aware that we really are in a battle, a very significant confrontation with evil that is flooding in on all sides. I became more acutely aware of this in the past few months.

One particularly striking example is a comment made by a Catholic priest-theologian who was asked to respond to an academic paper I gave based on my book *Will Many Be Saved? What Vatican II Actually Teaches and Its Implications for the New Evangelization*. He proposed that we have a moratorium on evangelization since we no longer understand what it is, and simply concentrate on inter-religious dialogue! One of the theology graduate students who heard this remark subsequently sent me an email, stating, "I know nothing should shock me in this area, but I was dumbfounded to hear the priest call for an end to attempts at conversion."

It seems that the theological confusion that so was so prevalent in the 1970s and '80s has resurfaced with renewed energy.

Another example is the record attendance at our annual Renewal Ministries Gathering. For the first time, we had to turn people away and establish a waiting list as we were over capacity. More than 300 people came from all over the country, many for the first time. They came because they were sensing the growing hostility to Christ and the Church in our culture and wanted to draw support and perspective from the Renewal Ministries team and one another.

Yet another example is a retreat Sr. Ann Shields, SGL and I conducted in Philadelphia for about 140 people, some of whom came from as far away as New Mexico, Texas, Mississippi, and Nebraska, as well as all over New England and the Middle Atlantic states. They came with a similar hunger as those who came to the Gathering – sobered by the rising anti-Christian forces and seeking encouragement to face them.

During the retreat, I spoke on some of the themes of my new booklet, *The Final Confrontation*. Sr. Ann and I also spoke on ways to strengthen our own relationship with the Lord in these times, and how important it was that we reach out to others with the Word of Truth and the love of Christ. One man stood up and said that in his parish there is such a presumption that everyone will be saved that there is a great indifference to both holiness



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Prophecy *given at* St. Peter's Basilica

*During the closing Eucharist on
Pentecost Monday—May 19, 1975*

Because I love you, I want to show you what I am doing in the world today. I want to prepare you for what is to come. Days of darkness are coming on the world, days of tribulation...Buildings that are now standing will not be standing. Supports that are there for my people now will not be there. I want you to be prepared, my people, to know only me and to cleave to me and to have me in a way deeper than ever before. I will lead you into the desert...I will strip you of everything that you are depending on now, so you depend just on me.

A time of darkness is coming on the world, but a time of glory is coming for my church, a time of glory is coming for my people. I will pour out on you all the gifts of my spirit. I will prepare you for spiritual combat; I will prepare you for a time of evangelism that the world has never seen.... And when you have nothing but me, you will have everything: land, fields, homes, and brothers and sisters and love and joy and peace more than ever before. Be ready, my people, I want to prepare you..."

(Given by Ralph Martin.)

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and evangelization. At the very end of the retreat someone stood up and said he had been attending retreats and conferences for decades and this was the most extraordinary teaching he had ever heard.

Everyone on the Renewal Ministries team is humbled as we realize that God has prepared us to help strengthen and encourage many in these challenging times.

I am astounded at the sales of the new booklet, *The Final Confrontation*. In May, more than 3,000 copies were sold. In June, 6,654 copies were sold. That is in addition to all the free copies sent to those who call or access our website in response to our TV program, *The Choices We Face*. I don't think we've ever seen demand like this!

It is not unusual to receive orders for 500 copies of this booklet. In case you didn't know, we offer a discount for bulk orders so people can give out copies in their parishes, as well as to friends and relatives! (Booklets are \$2 each for 1-99, \$1 for 10-99, \$.60 for 100-499 and \$.35 for 500 or more.)

But it is not just this latest booklet that people are asking for. Recently, someone ordered 250 copies of Peter Herbeck's booklet *The New Evangelization: What's Our Message?* Someone else just ordered 100 copies of *Finding New Life in the Spirit*, the little prayer booklet that goes with our video series *As By A New Pentecost*, that helps people surrender their life to the Lord and desire more of the Holy Spirit. (It was encouraging at the Philadelphia retreat that a number of people mentioned how they were using this series in their homes and parishes to help both total newcomers and old timers experience renewal in their lives.)

Here's one final example. Someone on the retreat distributed copies of a prophecy the Lord spoke through me at St. Peter's Basilica in 1975 at the concluding Liturgy of the first truly international conference for the Catholic charismatic renewal (see left.) Soon after the retreat, I received a telephone message suggesting we print this prophecy in the newsletter. More and more people are remembering this prophecy and commenting on its present relevance so we are printing it here.

Even though these are challenging times they are also times of great opportunity and everything that is happening is happening under the Providence of God. As evil manifests itself, God will accomplish His purposes: the purification of the Church, the announcement of the Gospel and

“ ... it is even more useful to attend to our own relationships with Jesus, to make sure we are building the house of our lives on the rock of His Word, and to look for opportunities to share with others His mercy, love and offer of forgiveness for those who believe and repent. ”

ultimately the judgment of unrepentant wickedness. It really is true: Jesus has triumphed and His triumph will become manifest in due time.

Even though the “winds and waves” that surround us and that beat on the Barque of Peter are great, if we just keep our eyes on Jesus we will find our way and bring others with us.

It is useful to note the great confrontation in which we are living, but it is even more useful to attend to our own relationships with Jesus, to make sure we are building the house of our lives on the rock of His Word, and to look for opportunities to share with others His mercy, love and offer of forgiveness for those who believe and repent.

We’re still celebrating our 35th anniversary as Renewal Ministries – and will continue do so all year! Thank

you for your important part in making these 35 years of preaching the gospel, encouraging the saints, and glorifying God possible!

If you haven’t yet considered the possibility of making a special 35th anniversary contribution please do so. The doors continue to open wide, but it’s God’s provision through you that enables us to walk through them. In just the past few weeks, we have conducted mission trips to China, Mexico, Hungary and Uganda!

Speaking of anniversaries, as I write this it’s Anne’s and my wedding anniversary. Praise God from whom all blessings flow, and who even in the difficulties of life, sustains us with His grace.

Your comrade in arms,

Ralph Martin

TUNE IN TO THIS GREAT PROGRAMMING!

This month on **The CHOICES We face**



Week of August 2 **Special guest Joseph Summers**
To the Ends of the Earth

Week of August 9 **Special guest Fr. Eduardo Montemayor**
Journey of a Priest



Week of August 16 **Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck**
The Holy Spirit Impels Us to Evangelize

Week of August 23 **Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck**
Pentecost is for Everybody

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.



At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” This phrase, “Yet once more”, indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. 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

2015 Gathering

The annual Renewal Ministries Gathering

drew more than 300 people from Liberia, Canada and 28 states.

Among the attendees were nine priests, three deacons and many religious sisters. Everyone came with grateful hearts, knowing that they had received an “unshakable kingdom.”

Led by a sense that soon we will experience a time of great shaking, Ralph Martin, Sr. Ann Shields, SGL and Peter Herbeck provided words of encouragement and practical ways to prepare for this shaking. The Gathering also included the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, workshops on evangelization, times of praise and worship and prayer for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

A special highlight was the celebration of Renewal Ministries’ 35th anniversary hosted by Dcn. Dan Foley, Chairman of the US Board of Directors. It was a time to acknowledge Ralph Martin and the Renewal Ministries staff, as well as thank all those who have generously supported the mission.

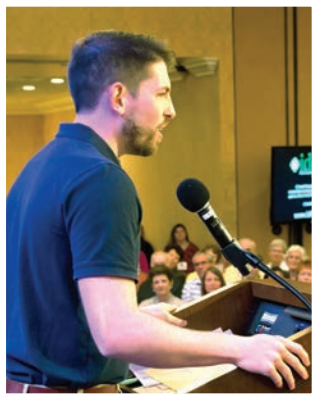
Above all it was a time to thank God for 35 years of faithfulness in leading and empowering Renewal Ministries.

Following are highlights of the presentations given by Ralph Martin, Sr. Ann Shields, SGL and Peter Herbeck.

Ralph Martin

After reviewing the many challenges confronting the world, the Church and our personal lives, Ralph Martin answered the question, “How can we not be shaken?” He said it is most important to “focus on our relationship with Jesus, to make sure we are building the house of our lives on the rock of His Word, and to look for opportunities to share with others His mercy, love and offer of forgiveness for those who believe and repent.

“We have to be guided by the Spirit. We have to do it in love. But we have to be a witness to the Truth, not just the moral truth, but the truth about salvation, the truth about heaven, the truth about the gift of God.”



Pete Burak reported that there are 10 fledging chapters of i.d.9:16.

Presentations given at the Gathering are available in both DVD and CD formats. For more information, see the enclosed order form or visit RenewalMinistries.net/Store.





Sr. Ann Shields, SGL

Sr. Ann assured the attendees that God’s Kingdom is unshakeable. “In Him, we are secure,” she said. “But, we need to be rooted sufficiently in Him to stand firm and to help others to do the same. The best thing we can do is be clear about what is shakable in us and do something about it in Christ. We need to understand where we are spiritually — and what is needed in each of our lives — in order to respond wholeheartedly to what God will ask of us.”

She explained that we have to look at our vulnerabilities and sins. “Knowing them guards us against the enemy because he always goes after what is shakable,” she said. “He weakens us and he frightens us. And he angers us. And all of our energy goes to dealing with those things instead of what God wants us to deal with.”

Peter Herbeck

“Everything is shaking because humans can’t see the light,” said Peter Herbeck. “The Devil has blinded the minds of unbelievers. We are in a fierce battle for souls.” He urged everyone to be passionate about the conversion of souls. Just like the first disciples we should not cease preaching and teaching the Word during this time of tribulation.

“In this time, God is pouring out the Holy Spirit in a New Pentecost,” he said. “This outpouring of the Holy Spirit is the antidote to the spirit of evil.”

Annual Report

On Sunday morning Ralph Martin reported on Renewal Ministries’ work. “Things are going rather well,” he said. “We’re firing on all cylinders.” He listed the many initiatives that are underway: *The Choices We Face* television program, *Crossing the Goal*, the two daily radio programs: *Food for the Journey*, and *Fire on the Earth*, and the 46 international missions.

He also reported that Renewal Ministries is being stretched in new ways. Initiatives that need more funding include: i.d. 9:16, Sr. Ann’s visits to Cardinals and Bishops, production of more videos, and increasing invitations to preach and teach at clergy convocations and seminaries all over the world. ✚

Prophecy

The path before you is hard, but it is straight. It is perilously narrow, but it leads to glory.

Will you back down, my people? Will you back down when the world shirks and disregards you? Persecutes you? Counts you as nothing?

I set before you this day two paths: a blessing and a curse. Life or death. Choose you then life, my people.

I come alongside you. I equip you. Fear not. Be not timid. Be not afraid. All is supplied, all is ready. My kingdom is here.

(Given by Lavinia Spirito)

Save the Date

2016 Gathering
April 15-17
 Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti
 Marriott at Eagle Crest



Spreading the Gospel in Vietnam

By Fr. Ezra Sullivan, OP



The Church in Vietnam is really thriving. What a joy to see after the empty churches of Europe or rather, the churches with many tourists but few worshippers.

The opportunity was a great blessing to my priesthood in many ways, and my superiors are also grateful. We Dominicans have a great tradition of mission work! For me it was particularly meaningful, because many of my brothers were martyred there in previous centuries, and because it came at the beginning of my time in Europe it will help to shape my perspective on the Universal Church.

For many, the word “Vietnam” might conjure up thoughts of a war in the 1970s, but for me the name is forever tied to Evangelization. Don Turbitt, Deacon Xavier Chau Doan and I comprised a three-man team that traveled to the diocese of Thanh Hoa to share the Gospel. For me, it was a particular

Editor’s note:

Fr. Ezra Sullivan, OP, a young Dominican priest studying for his doctorate in Rome was part of a team that traveled to Vietnam recently under the leadership of our Country Coordinator, Don Turbitt and important team member, Deacon Chau Doan. Ralph Martin first met Fr. Ezra when he was completing his STL degree at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, DC. They reconnected again when Ralph gave a parish mission at St. Gertrude’s in Cincinnati, Ohio, where the Dominican novitiate is located. Fr. Ezra’s report is below.

Fr. Ezra Sullivan, OP taught first year seminarians about angels, devils, heaven and hell.



Above, Dcn. Chau served as teacher and translator for this mission. At right, Fr. Ezra Sullivan, OP, Don Turbitt and Dcn. Chau were presented with exotic floral arrangements by the sisters of The Lovers of the Cross.



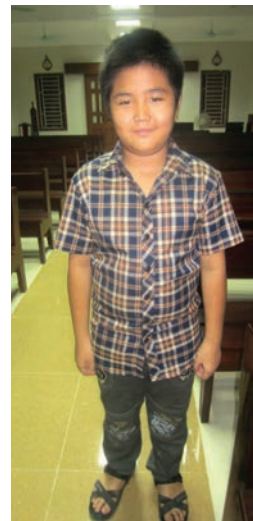
blessing to be with these experienced evangelizers. It was my first time in Vietnam and only my second time in Asia!

In Thanh Hoa we stayed in the minor seminary, which is also the residence of Bishop Joseph Linh; it is right across the street from the Cathedral. Only a block away is a large school and convent of sisters who belong to the congregation, The Lovers of the Cross. Beginning with the morning after we arrived, it was very apparent that the Gospel has put down strong roots in Vietnamese soil. Our job was not so much to plant new seeds, but rather to water the vine that is growing rapidly.

Part of our work was getting to know the seminarians and teaching them. Thanh Hoa has expanded its infrastructure since Renewal Ministries was there two years ago. The Cathedral now has a large outdoor piazza suitable for processions and outdoor masses to accommodate more than 2,500 people. More importantly, however, is the spirit in the seminary which is flourishing. Don taught about prayer and what it means to be a leader in the Church; Deacon Chau taught about Mary; I taught about the Church's commitment to truth. Once the 50 or so seminarians got used to us, they asked some very good questions about all sort of things. They even invited me to play soccer with them!

We also taught the sisters at their facility. They run a pre-school and early grade school, which has now become so well-respected that even governmental officials send their children there. It is a good way to indirectly evangelize. The children learn basic catechism and prayers. Teaching the 70 or so sisters was delightful. They were very attentive, full of questions, and ready to discuss our teachings. As with the seminarians, we encountered souls athirst for the "grace and knowledge of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pt 3:18).

In the evenings we held a preaching-praying service. Selecting topics relevant to a general congregation, we took turns on different nights preaching about the "New Evangelization," the



Above, Bishop Joseph Linh processed from the Thanh Hoa cathedral. Pictured left, our team prayed over this boy and his hands were miraculously healed from constant perspiration.

woman at the well, trust in God, and so on. After we preached, we prayed with the people. This is when a missionary sees the work of Holy Trinity in a more intimate way, because to petition God is to become vulnerable with Christ who was wounded to save us. We begged God for greater faith, greater love, greater hope in Him; we asked for healings; we pleaded for strength. And He heard us. ✝



August 2015 ENGAGEMENTS

Ann Arbor, MI

i.d.9:16 Disciples' Night

August 6

Join us via livestream: id916.com/live

Contact: pete@id916.com

Dublin, Ireland

Intercession for Priests Retreat*

August 3-7

Ralph Martin

Waterford, Ireland

Catholic Charismatic Conference

August 7-9

Ralph Martin

Contact: sbgrant@live.com

Knock, Ireland

Our Lady of Knock Shrine

Day of Prayer for Priests

August 10

Ralph Martin

Plymouth, MI

Courage Conference

August 10-12

Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck

Contact: Michelle@SearchlightVS.com

Birmingham, AL

Crossing the Goal Taping*

August 10-14

Peter Herbeck

Ogdensburg, NY

Companions of the Cross Annual Retreat*

September 1-4

Ralph Martin

Ann Arbor, MI

The Choices We Face Taping*

September 8-22

Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck

Detroit, MI

Archdiocese of Detroit Priests

Retreat*

September 14-16

Sr. Ann Shields, SGL,

Peter Herbeck, Debbie Herbeck

Ann Arbor, MI

i.d. 9:16 Fall Summit

September 18

Pete Burak

Contact: pete@id916.com

Ann Arbor, MI

Country Coordinator Meeting*

September 30 - October 3

Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck,

Sr. Ann Shields, SGL

** Not open to the public*


For a complete listing visit


RenewalMinistries.net/Events


Romania	August 11-15
Kenya	August 4-17
Ukraine/Belarus	August 12-24
Gambia	August 7-30
Mozambique	September 3-10
St. Lucia	Sept 20-27

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

Please Pray...

 **FOR** the success of our missions this month in Romania, Kenya, Ukraine, Belarus and Gambia.

 **THAT** Christians in every nation in the world may joyfully proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

“The soul seeks the Word, but has been first sought by the Word... Let her seek him as she can, provided she remembers that she was first sought, as she was first loved; and it is because of this that she herself both seeks and loves.” St. Bernard of Clairvaux

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

Msgr. 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

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Design

Jeanne Stevenson

Cards for His Glory

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