

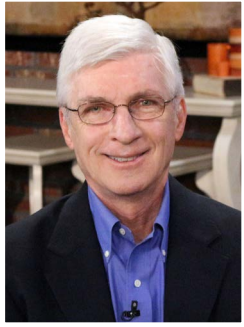


RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Celebrating
35
YEARS
of God's
Faithfulness

February
2016

Proclaiming Jesus through Catholic Renewal and Evangelization



A letter from Ralph Martin

Dear Friends of Renewal Ministries,

Last month I said I would share with you some of the many letters and emails we have gotten that witness to the impact our many outreaches are having. Whether it be books or booklets; overseas missions or missions here in North America; or live events, videos, CDs, television, or radio, **the Word of God is reaching out and touching lives everywhere:**

- ▶ “Sister Ann, your thoughts and reading of the Word keep me grounded and are truly inspired by the Holy Spirit. So many times, I feel you are speaking directly to me through the Spirit. What a gift you have been given.”
- ▶ “I praise God for all the lives that are touched and changed by you and the Renewal Ministries team. Thank you for the wonderful mission work you do for all of us who are not able to minister outside of our small sphere.”
—Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- ▶ “Your program *The Choices We Face* greatly ministered to me. Every word you spoke was inspired. You are bearing ‘much fruit.’ Thank you for building up the Body.”
—Santa Barbara, CA
- ▶ “When Peter talked about hope on his show, I felt it was just for me. I so needed this message. I felt a surge of hope just watching it. Thanks so much for your show and especially this message.”
- ▶ “I cannot begin to express the positive impact that Sister Ann has had in my life. I listen to you every morning on my way to work. Your program has inspired me, motivated me, and I believe changed me for the better. Thank you for your efforts. I am sure I speak for your many devoted listeners when I say that your words are both healing and inspirational.”

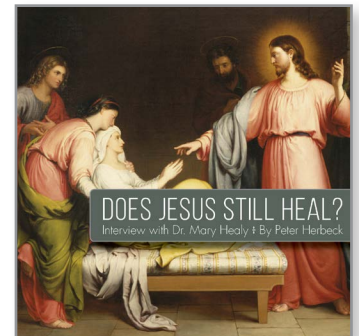


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NEW!

Peter Herbeck CD
Does Jesus Still Heal?
now available
[See Reply Card for details]

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▶ “Your program has really strengthened my faith and relationship with Jesus. I found *The Final Confrontation* to be needed for our times. It gives me a lot to think about, and motivates me to be a better Christian.”

▶ “Your book *The Fulfillment of All Desire* and your conferences on St. Catherine of Siena and St. John of the Cross are wonderful! Thank you for doing this. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, my heart is set aflame as I hear you share the beauty of holiness and how God prepares us for intimate union with Him.”

—Archdiocese of Mobile, Alabama

▶ “I want to let you know what a blessing your radio show is in my life. God has used your program to strengthen me and draw me closer to Him. You have been an instrument of God to help me to change my life and my relationship with God. I look forward to listening to your message each day; I am always strengthened, challenged, and inspired to draw nearer to God.”

▶ “Please allow me to tell you that for thirty years, you have been discipling me. How grateful I am to the Lord for making me aware of your faithful service to the Lord Jesus! Ever since I first read your *Crisis of Truth* in 1985, I have read, listened to, and watched many of your contributions to the evangelistic mission given us by our Savior.”

▶ “I subscribe to your newsletter and receive so much joy from it. I am able to listen to Sr. Ann and Peter, and watch several of the programs on EWTN—on my phone! Thank you for your prayers and your ministry, which daily helps me to renew my joy in the Lord, no matter how frustrated I am feeling.”

—California

▶ “I want to thank the Lord and each one of you at Renewal Ministries—Ralph, Peter, Sr. Ann, and the staff. I have benefited from a clear sharing of the Lord and His ways that you all convey through books, TV, radio, and talks. I have benefitted from the wisdom and practical advice given, and have been encouraged to draw closer to the Lord.”

—Lansing, Michigan

▶ “It has been a joy to watch Sr. Ann, Ralph, and Peter seek and follow the Lord’s call over the years, and now to see what Jesus has done. Praise God! It has given me great satisfaction to do my small part to invest in a mission that is bearing such beautiful fruit in the Church and giving glory to God.”

▶ “We are thanking and praising God for your fruitful ministry working for our mighty God.”

—Clinton, New Jersey

▶ “I have been enriched and challenged by your newsletter to keep the Spirit alive in my own heart—the Holy Spirit is truly helping the presence of Jesus to become more alive, more real, in my priesthood in ways I had never before imagined.”

—South Dakota

**Thanks be to God! And to you!
That make all of this possible.**

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

Ralph Martin



Available at
amazon

Kindle Edition of Ralph Martin's booklet
The Final Confrontation
now available on Amazon

24TH ANNUAL Catholic Renewal Ministries



LIFT
JESUS
HIGHER



2016 Rally ▶ **UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM**

with
Keynote Speaker Deacon Larry Oney
& The Renewal Ministries Team - Ralph Martin · Sr. Ann Shields · Peter Herbeck

COME AND EXPERIENCE WHY THOUSANDS RETURN EACH YEAR!

- Compelling Speakers
- Beautiful Christian Music
- Inspiring Personal Testimony
- Divine Mercy Celebration
- Eucharist Procession
- Prayer Ministry for Healing and Empowerment
- Closing Mass with Cardinal Collins

Simultaneous YOUTH RALLY · Ages 13-18
in the John Basset Theatre, right next door!

Youth Rally \$15

SATURDAY • MARCH 5, 2016 • 9:00AM - 5:30PM

Metro Toronto Convention Centre | North Building 255 Front Street W

Adult Rally \$20

For Tickets, Consignments, and Information: visit www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.org
email: info@lift-jesus-higher-rally.org | call 416.251.4255 or 905. 833.0360

FROM THE



Heart

by Sr. Ann Shields, SGL

The Year of Mercy is underway, and I am excited to tell you about a new booklet I have written to help us take advantage of the extraordinary graces available to us during this Jubilee. In *The Mercy of God and the Joy Repentance Brings*, I discuss how sincere repentance opens wide the doors of our hearts to allow God's mercy to flood into our lives—and how the fruit of that mercy is joy.

Several years ago, I wrote a booklet entitled *Captured by Mercy*. The closer I have come to God, the more I have realized that it is only in living in union with Him (as far as is humanly possible) that we gradually can come to understand how wide and deep and rich is the mercy of God.

“But this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.” (Lam 3:21-24)

We cannot really *live* apart from God's mercy. Perhaps we could *exist* on this earth, but to really *live*, we *need* His mercy every day, and at every moment. Why? Because we are sinful creatures. Unless God has mercy—unless He forgives and reconciles us to Himself no matter how great our sin—we don't stand a chance at eternal life. We can't earn it; we certainly can't presume it. But if we are willing to repent when we fail—that is, if we are willing to acknowledge what we have done and ask forgiveness from God—then His answer is immediate. He grants us mercy; He forgives, restores, and heals us so we can start again.

As I realized these things in my life, and as I came to a greater understanding

of the power of God's forgiveness, particularly in Confession, I began to find myself “captured” by the beauty and power of God's mercy. I was able to “see” how I could be an extension of God's mercy in and through my own life. Stories of others who yielded to God's grace and who became channels of that mercy strengthened me to forgive more readily. My booklet *Captured by Mercy* is now in its second printing and is available to you through our website, www.renewalministries.net.

Several years have gone by since I wrote *Captured by Mercy*, and during those years I have become aware of a growing trend in Catholic and other Christian circles—many people do not think they need to ask for forgiveness. For example, I have heard people say, “Oh yeah, maybe I was wrong. But it doesn't matter. God is merciful.” That kind of an attitude causes us to ignore the sin we have committed and to actually become *more* vulnerable not only to that sin, but to others as well.

Another struggle we face in accepting God's mercy is that, even when we know we have done wrong and need to repent, it can take us a while to ask for mercy, because we spend too much time trying to make excuses for our errors and sins. Making excuses only prolongs the agony of it all! We need to simply say: “I did it. I am guilty. Please forgive me.” We must ask God for the humility to do this.

God knows all the extenuating circumstances surrounding our sin, and we can talk with Him about them. But first we must acknowledge our guilt—our part in the sinful thought or act. Then we must make a decision to change. Going to confession is important. Because of God's



To order a copy of *The Mercy of God and the Joy Repentance Brings*, or *Captured by Mercy*, visit our website:

www.RenewalMinistries.net

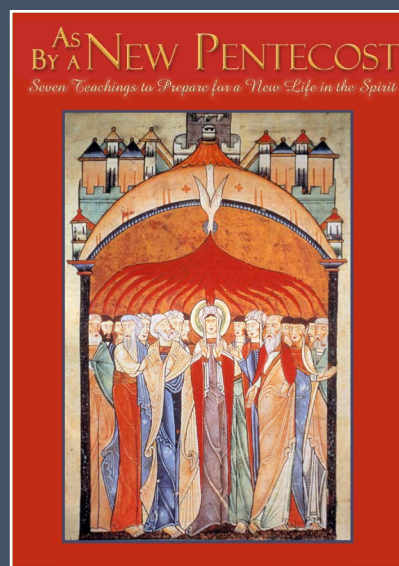
love and mercy, the Sacrament of Reconciliation imparts not only forgiveness, but also the grace (the power) to change when we are sincerely repentant. The confessional is where the Father waits to take the burden of our sin, and to replace it with the forgiveness won for us by Jesus on the cross. His love reaches out to draw us closer to Himself as His sons and daughters.

In *The Mercy of God and the Joy Repentance Brings*, I draw particular attention to the gift of joy God gives us when we sincerely repent. As you read in the following verse, it is repentance (and the corresponding gift of God's grace) that allows us to abide in Him, to bear fruit, and to have joy that is full:

Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit for apart from me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will and it shall be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. *As the Father has loved me so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be full.* (Jn 15:4-11; emphasis mine)

The joy that comes from repentance is not merely a happiness of this world. It is God sharing *Himself* with you and me. Let us make room for Him both through repentance and with the gift of His merciful forgiveness, received and then given to others. Let us allow Him to grant us the joy no one shall take away! ✕

Looking for a simple, effective tool for the New Evangelization?



AS BY A NEW PENTECOST equips you with a simple, effective way to lead people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This dynamic video series also helps you introduce others to the working of the Holy Spirit.

Content you can trust:

This explicitly Catholic video series is presented by leaders in the New Evangelization: Dr. Ralph Martin, Sr. Ann Shields, SGL, Peter Herbeck, Patti Mansfield, & David Mangan

Easy to use:

Simply play a video, lead a short discussion, and enjoy a time of fellowship. The seven sessions can be presented weekly or during a weekend retreat. As By a New Pentecost can be used in parish, home, or catechetical settings.

To order › see the enclosed Reply Card, call us at 734-662-1730, or visit our website: www.RenewalMinistries.net

Don't wait, register now!

RENEWAL MINISTRIES
THE GATHERING 2016

RICH in *Mercy*

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](http://www.RenewalMinistries.net)**

Spreading the Gospel in Slovakia

by Tom Edwards

COUNTRY COORDINATOR
for SLOVAKIA



GOD PROVIDES

We were scheduled to minister to a large group of teens in Presov on our first evening, but many of us could not attend, due to a thirteen-hour flight delay. Thankfully, God provided. Ron and Marilyn Bergeron, who organize large youth conferences in Canada, arrived in time and did an excellent job.



Over the weekend, we did two programs for the Maranatha community, which has grown tremendously through its unceasing evangelization efforts since Renewal Ministries first visited Slovakia in the mid-'90s. **Many of the promising young people we met then now have families and hold leadership roles in the community.** We also held an open meeting for about one hundred people, and a retreat for forty Catholic school teachers. Mass followed the program, and most of the teachers came for healing prayer. God moved deeply in the prayer time, and there were many tears.

THE TEAM

- › Tom Edwards, St. Augustine, FL
- › Mary Shaw, Gainesville, FL
- › Jean Thompson, Phoenix, AZ
- › Ron and Marilyn Bergeron from Cornwall, Ontario, Canada
- › Bohdon Novak, Presov, Slovakia
Bohdon served in many ways, including driving and translating.



Our team then traveled to the Catholic University of Ruzomberok. About 200 students and others from the town attended our presentations, which included testimonies by Dr. Mary Shaw, Jean Thompson (shown to the left), and a teaching by Tom Edwards on *Finding Our Father*. During prayer ministry, our team joined hearts with many on a one-to-one basis.

Jean Thompson shared her testimony with 200 people at the Catholic University of Ruzomberok, where some very faithful leaders, all graduates of the university, direct a vibrant campus ministry.

Fr. Branislav Korzuch (pictured below) invited our team to Trstena, near Poland and the High Tatra Mountains, to conduct a two-day retreat for forty young adults. Their countries of origin were Germany, Romania, Portugal, and Slovakia. Our teachings and testimonies focused on salvation and growth in the Spirit, with topics of *Finding Our Father*, *The Great Invitation*, and *One Giant Step*.

Our next stop was in Trstena, where Fr. Branislav Korzuch invited us to conduct a two-day retreat on salvation and growth in the Spirit for forty young adults. Some participants were members of a small community formed by Fr. Branislav—they help operate a sizable retreat center that hosts groups from all over Slovakia. Fr. Branislav has a number of volunteers who serve at the center who are not believers, but come from other countries and commit to a year's service through a Peace Corps-type organization. They participated in our retreat, so it was important to include a basic Gospel message in all of our sharing. There was notable spiritual resistance at work, but there also were very apparent breakthroughs.



A HUNGER FOR HEALING

Dr. Shaw's ministry has been in great demand in Slovakia and the Czech Republic, especially by priests and seminarians. She traveled to the country a few days before our team, to respond to invitations to teach about inner healing and deliverance. She also spent a week in private prayer appointments in Presov, while the rest of the team traveled elsewhere. The following six paragraphs are condensed from her report:

The second week of our mission began with a three-day seminar on inner healing and deliverance prayer that I led with translator Václaváp. Sixty-six leaders attended, including three priests and several sisters, and more would have attended if space had allowed.

On Friday night, we taught about baptism in the Holy Spirit and prayed for all participants. The Spirit moved powerfully through the hours of praise and worship. We also had an evening of ministry for healing mother/father wounds. In the presence of the exposed Blessed Sacrament, many wept as they took their hurts to Jesus on the Cross and then went to prayer teams for ministry. There was a powerful anointing of the Spirit, and many were healed.

After the seminar, I spent four days in healing appointments with leaders in Trnava. Leaders received healing prayer, and learned how to pray for others in a similar way.

In one small village, I had a powerful evening with thirteen Charismatic priests, a psychologist (who integrates spirituality with psychology), and about five parishioners. This group meets weekly for prayer. The priests were hungry to learn more about inner healing and deliverance ministry, and particularly about curses (since they see many of those). They were very open and attentive, and asked many good questions. It was an absolute joy to serve them!

I also taught a two-hour class on inner healing and forgiveness for forty seminarians. We discussed why inner healing is necessary. They would like to learn more.

My translator made a CD of my talks and healing prayers from previous visits. Several priests and one exorcist regularly use these prayers in ministry. The exorcist found the prayers make the actual exorcism simpler. I plan to do another seminar for forty priests near Prague, in April of 2016. It is awesome to see how God is bearing fruit in this area!



Dr. Mary Shaw (on the right) taught on *Entering Into His Rest* in Presov. Her teachings on inner healing and deliverance prayer are in great demand in Slovakia and the Czech Republic, especially among priests and seminarians.

THE THREE VERONICAS

Jean Thompson, who was on our team for the second time, shared testimonies and teachings based on her pro-life and prison ministries. She said:

“ This mission was an eye opener for me. I saw anointed praise and worship, solid teaching, and prayer as a reflection of the Trinity—three-in-one working together for the purpose of drawing a soul into the heart of God. In Fr. Branislav's community, there were three Veronicas. The youngest Veronica was a rebellious nonbeliever. God reached her in the music she enjoyed and opened her to begin to receive. The second Veronica was a strong believer; what took root in her spirit and mind were the deeper truths she was soaking up in Tom's teachings, and her recognition of the varied ways our Lord manifested these truths in the testimonies of the team. The third Veronica was a deeply sad and injured believer who quietly cried through the music and teachings as the Lord touched her open wounds. She experienced the personal, healing love her Heavenly Father has for her, in prayer after the teachings. Over and over, I saw our Lord move deeply in the hearts of all who came, through worship, teaching, and prayer. What a gift this mission was to all of us. ”

Our mission concluded with a stay in a convent of cloistered Carmelite nuns in Kosice. They performed a concert; Heaven must sound like their music. Then we met with them through the grate. They asked us to lift up some special concerns in prayer. We showed them Renewal Ministries' mission videos from Africa and China. They were amazed at what the Spirit is doing through Renewal Ministries. They committed to keeping our mission efforts in their numerous intercessory prayers—prayers I'm sure will bear much fruit.

GOING FORWARD

Two significant things seem to be unfolding for ministry in Slovakia. One, a large sports arena has been secured for a possible FIRE Rally. Renewal Ministries participated in these rallies for twelve years, but the arena has not been available since 2008. It will be available in June 2016, however, and we have been asked to provide support. Also, there is an increasing desire on the part of seminaries and groups of priest to learn more about the topics we have to offer. ✕

On the Road

February 2016 ENGAGEMENTS

Ann Arbor, MI
i.d.9:16 Disciples' Night
February 4
Peter and Debbie Herbeck
www.id916.com

Des Moines, IA
Deacons' Study Day*
February 6
Ralph Martin

Fenton, MI
St. John's Parish Mission
[open to the public]
February 7-9
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
Contact: 810-629-2251

Des Moines, IA
Women's Conference
February 13
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
Contact: iowacatholicradio.com

Ann Arbor, MI
Christ the King Parish Retreat on Mercy
February 16-19
Father Ed Freide, Barbara Morgan, and Sr. Ann Shields, SGL

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

“The Church exists so that God, the living God, may be made known—so that man may learn to live with God, live in his sight and in fellowship with him. The Church exists to prevent the advance of hell upon earth and to make the earth fit to live in through the light of God. On the basis of God's presence, and only through him, is the earth humanized.”

• Pope Emeritus Benedict

Royal Oak, MI
Lenten Talk Series
February 17
Peter and Debbie Herbeck
Contact: Danielle Simonson or Vikki Jenkins, at 313-318-4093 or 248-840-8199

Mount Morris, MI
St. Mary's Parish Retreat
February 21-23
Sr. Ann Shields
Contact: 810-686-3920

Anchorage, AK
All-Alaska Clergy Convocation*
February 22-26
Ralph Martin

San Carlos, CA
St. Charles' Women's Retreat
February 26-28
Debbie Herbeck
Contact: Mariella Hermosillo at mariellabsn@yahoo.com

Omaha, NE
Magnificat Breakfast
February 27
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
Contact: kdwyer1111@gmail.com

MISSIONS

Zambia & Namibia
January 26-February 16
Lloyd & Nancy Greenhaw

Vietnam
February 11-22
Don Turbitt

St. Lucia
February 21-28
John Kazanjian

Haiti
February 23-March 2
Lloyd & Nancy Greenhaw

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

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



Please Pray...

✚ That during the upcoming Lenten season, we will grow closer to the living God, in order to better make Him known in this world.

✚ That an increased number of people will participate in the Sacrament of Confession during this Year of Mercy, and that such participation will lead to an increase of joy in the Lord.

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

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.

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Heather Schultz

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Emily Bachelor

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