



RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Catholic Renewal and Evangelization

February 2019



A letter ▶
from Ralph Martin

Dear Fellow Disciples,

Events in the Church and the world continue to unfold, but our job is to “press on,” sharing the message of salvation with all that will hear and strengthening those who are laboring in the vineyard of the Lord.

I'd like to share with you about one of our most special missions, that which we do in Lithuania. Why is it special? Because it is the first place we went to as the Lord began a new phase of our work in Renewal Ministries. We had been doing individual mission trips for many years, but this was the first time that we began to develop teams to multiply what we were able to do individually.

My dates may be a little off, but I think this is how it all unfolded. In 1992, three young Lithuanian students arrived in the US and had one dollar among them. They used it to call a Lithuanian American priest in Connecticut, who told them not to proceed to the Protestant conference they were invited for, but to stay in the airport until he could pick them up. He then drove them to the Franciscan University of Steubenville (FUS), so they could see authentic Catholic renewal. When they returned to Lithuania, they shared their experiences

with Archbishop Sigitas Tamkevicius, who had recently been released from Siberian labor camps as the hold of the Soviet Union was broken. He then traveled to FUS and met with Fr. Michael Scanlan, who in turn contacted me about going with him to Lithuania to help strengthen the Lithuanian Church, which was newly emerging from long oppression and persecution. We traveled there in 1992 and did some initial conferences. The next year, we returned with the FIRE team and did some big FIRE rallies that were pivotal in giving birth and strengthening significant renewal communities and ministries that we have been supporting with periodic visits and financial aid ever since.

At the time of the Lithuanian students' visit in 1992, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields, and I had begun regularly praying together to seek God's direction for us, and one day Sr. Ann got a word from the Lord that we would be going to Lithuania. She didn't even know where that was. Shortly after, that the events I described above unfolded!

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The Original Divine Mercy Image in Vilnius, Lithuania.

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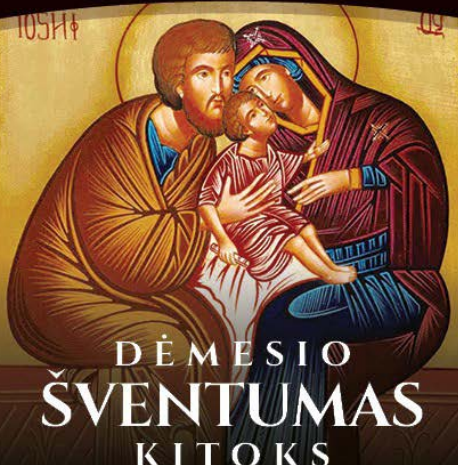


Fr. Michael
Scanlan
is pictured here
at one of
our first
FIRE Rallies
in Lithuania.

VYTAUTO DIDŽIOJO UNIVERSITETO DIDŽIOJI SALE
DAUKANTO G. 28, KAUNAS

2018 M. SPALIO 21 D. SEKMADIEMIS

ATSINAUJINIMO DIENA



DĖMESIO ŠVENTUMAS KITOKS

„NEBIJOK ŠVENTUMO – BŪTI TOKIU, APIE KURĮ MUS KURDAMAS SVAJOJO TĖVAS!“
POPIEZIUS PRANČISKUS

10.00 ŠLOVINIMAS IR MALDA
GYVIEJI AKMENYS

10.45 PAŠAUKIMAS Į ŠVENTUMĄ – AR TIKRAI MAŪ?
RALPH MARTIN (RENEWAL MINISTRIES, JAV)

11.45 ŠLOVINIMAS, LIUDIJIMŲ SUOLELIS

12.30 AR NORI BŪTI MAKSIMALIAI LAIMINGAS, SVEIKAS, SAVE ATRADĘS, SAVE REALIZAVĘS – T.Y. ŠVENTAS?
ARTŪRAS LUKAŠEVIČIUS (VDU KTF)

13.15 PIETŲ PERTRAUKA

15.00 ŠVENTOSIOS DVASIOS JĖGA – KIEKVIENAM!
RALPH MARTIN (RENEWAL MINISTRIES, JAV)

16.30 EUCHARISTIJOS ŠVENTIMAS
ARKIVYSKUPAS METROPOLITAS LIONGINAS VIRBALAS
ARKIVYSKUPAS EMERITAS SIGITAS TAMKEVIČIUS

- ADORACIJA IR UŽTARIMO MALDA
- UŽSIEMIMŲ GRUPE VAIKAMS

KVIEČIA KATALIKŲ BENDRUOMENĖ
GYVIEJI AKMENYS

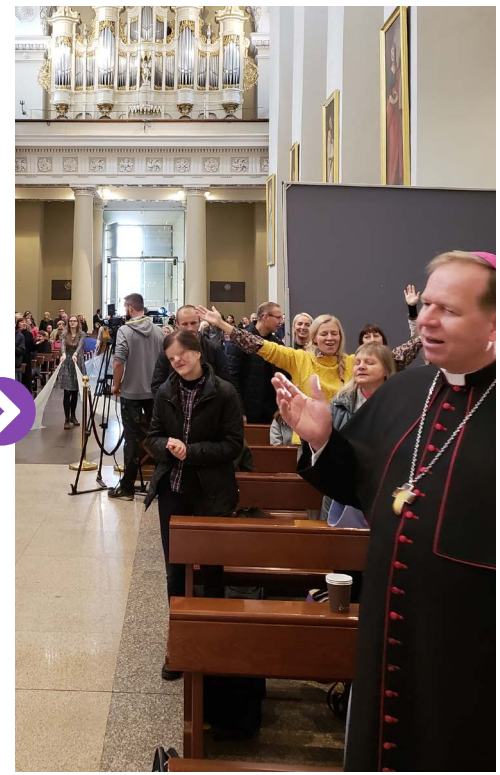
+370 656 88443. INFO@GYVIEJIAKMENYS.LT. WWW.GYVIEJIAKMENYS.LT

KITOS ATSINAUJINIMO DIENOS PLANUOJAMOS
2019 M. SAUSIO 27 D. IR BALANDŽIO 7 D.

Continued from page 1

I was back in Lithuania in 1998, but other team members then took over the support of our work there, including Dr. Peter Williamson, who served in this way for many years, and now, Bohus Zivak, from Slovakia, who currently does significant work there on behalf of Renewal Ministries.

So it was a real joy to return to Lithuania last fall for a full week, at the invitation of **Archbishop Gintaras Grusas**. I first met the archbishop when he was a deacon preparing for St. John Paul II's visit to Lithuania in 1993; interestingly, he had just finished organizing Pope Francis' visit only a month before my most recent arrival. His main concern for my time in Lithuania was that his priests and seminarians, and as many priests and seminarians from other dioceses as possible, heard my teachings on holiness, evangelization, and the new Pentecost.



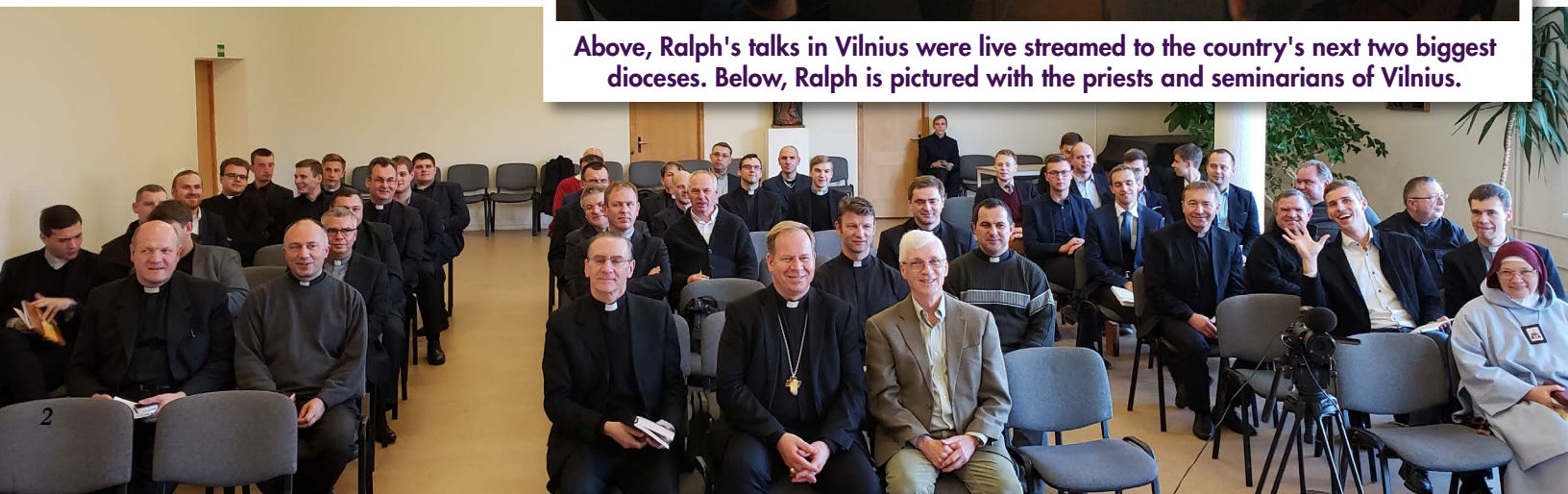
Over three days, I gave eleven talks to the priests and seminarians at the major seminary in Vilnius, the capital. Some of the talks were transmitted live to the next two biggest dioceses in Lithuania, Kaunas and Telsiai, where priests were gathered for their monthly study days. A total of about 220 priests and seminarians heard all or some of

the teachings. This was about a third of the 700 or so priests in the entire country! The archbishop and his auxiliary bishop of Vilnius—along with myself and the only other layman there, the one recording the videos—each prayed over a line of seminarians and priests who wanted more of the Holy Spirit active in their lives.



Above, Ralph's talks in Vilnius were live streamed to the country's next two biggest dioceses. Below, Ralph is pictured with the priests and seminarians of Vilnius.

 Banner from the Living Stones Day of Renewal Conference.





Ralph spoke at a Day of Renewal event in Kaunas, Lithuania, attended by more than one thousand people.

On my last weekend in Lithuania, I did an all-day rally at the cathedral in Vilnius, which was full, and then drove to Kaunas for an all-day rally there as well, in the university's largest conference hall. They were wonderful days full of blessings and the presence of God.

At the end of the last rally, I spent time with the Living Stones Community, which we have been supporting through your generosity all these years and which continues to do effective evangelization throughout the country. They gathered together the 1000 people who overflowed the university conference hall. I also had contact with other groups we are helping in university evangelization, apologetics, and other evangelization efforts.

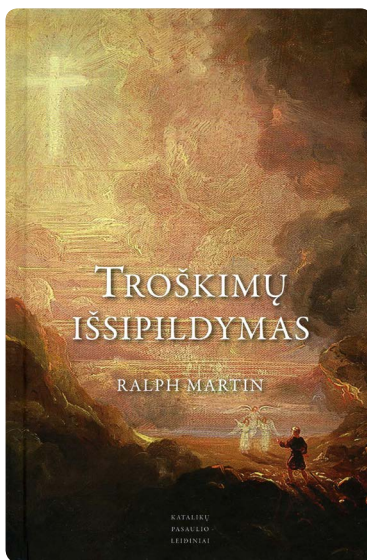
We work in more than forty different countries now, but we will always have a "soft spot" in our hearts for where these missions all began and continue to this day.

Thank you for your role in making possible this work of strengthening God's people and drawing as many as possible to Him, as well as so many other things.

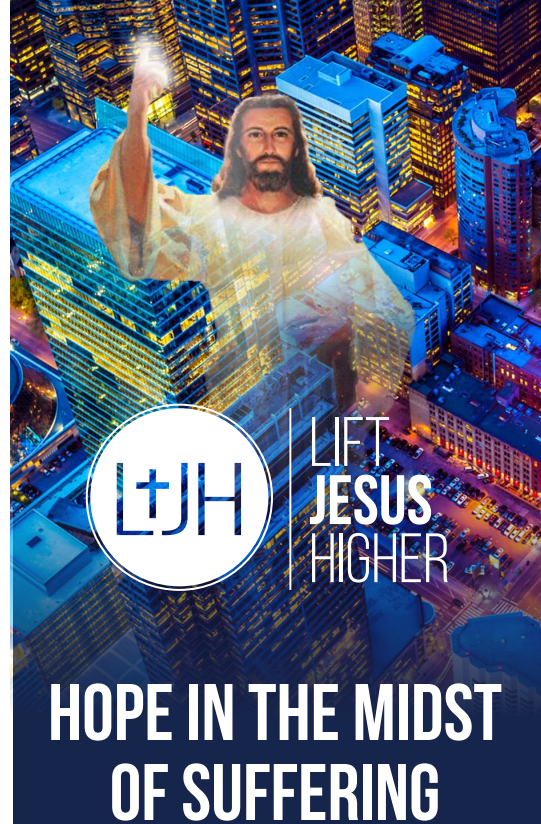
Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

Ralph



While in Vilnius, the archbishop scheduled me to do major media interviews for TV, radio, and print media to publicize the publication of the Lithuanian translation of *The Fulfillment of All Desire*.



LIFT JESUS HIGHER

HOPE IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING

MARCH 2
Toronto, Ontario

"We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."
Romans 5:3-4

▶ TALKS BY Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, and Sr. Ann Shields

▶ SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:
Fr. Mark Goring

Fr. Mark, a member of the Companions of the Cross, is the director of the Catholic Charismatic Center in Houston, Texas, and a contributor to the television program *Food for Life*.

- The day will also include:
- ▶ Powerful Christian Music
 - ▶ Inspiring Personal Testimony
 - ▶ Divine Mercy Celebration
 - ▶ Eucharistic Procession
 - ▶ Prayer Ministry for Healing & Empowerment

More details:
www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.ca or
contact@lift-jesus-higher-rally.ca

"Keeping Our Heads in All Situations"

A Letter from Peter Herbeck



Dear Friends,

I'm so grateful to be able to write a letter for this month's newsletter. I've been thinking and praying for all of you—all of us—who are living through these unprecedented times for the Church. These are chaotic and destabilizing times, filled with sorrow, anger, confusion, and fear for many people. It is without a doubt a time of great testing for all of us.

One of the constant questions I get from people is, "How do I respond to this? What should I do?" A great deal of helpful practical advice has been given on how to help the leaders of the Church, bishops and priests, to cooperate with this time of purification. But more needs to be said about how we can, as St. Paul puts it, "keep our heads in all situations" (2 Tm 4:5), especially in times of hardship and great testing. The teaching of Jesus and the apostles is a great help in times like these.

Keeping the big picture in mind is key to helping us live above our circumstances and to seeing in trials great opportunity to grow in maturity as disciples. St. Peter exhorts us to "not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which comes upon you to prove you, as though something strange were happening to you" (2 Pt 4:12). All of us are being proved, tested by the crisis in the Church. This "fiery ordeal" is a self-inflicted wound, the result of serious failures and scandalous behavior of leadership.

The scandalous behavior is a shock to the system, but it shouldn't ultimately be a surprise or too strange for us to understand. Jesus told us that we would have great tribulations in this world and that we would see and experience scandal, the kind witnessed even among the twelve apostles. Among Jesus' closest friends, those He knew best, the ones He trusted the most: at the moment Jesus needed them most, one betrayed Him and another denied even knowing Him. Sin, failure, and betrayal among leaders is scandalous, but it shouldn't ultimately take us by surprise.

As disciples, we know, or should know, human weakness. We also know that we're living in an "evil age," in a fallen world that is "in the power of the evil one" (1 Jn 5:19). The world is a battle field; the Church is at war, every single day, against powerful principalities and powers deployed against us. What we are seeing writ large is the same struggle we all face, the daily temptations and seductions of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Jesus is showing mercy in this severe discipline and judgment that has come upon the Church. He is at work, shining light into the darkness, removing the chains and breaking the strongholds that are binding the Church. He's revealing the consequences of sin, the depth to which even clergymen, religious leaders, can fall. We're seeing the face of sin, and this, friends, is a great and severe mercy.

This is a moment for all of us to take stock, to examine our lives in the light of Jesus. He is disciplining His Church, and in that He is testing each one of us.

Where are we in relationship to His call in our lives?

Are we giving Him everything?

Are we putting Him first?

Are we fulfilling the assignment He has given to each one of us?

Are we passionately, completely dedicated to bringing the kingdom and the will of the Father into every area He has given us responsibility for?

Are we living in the wisdom of the eternal perspective, knowing with confidence and certainty that we, each one us, will soon be standing before the judgment seat of Christ, giving an account for what we have done with what He has given to us?

St. Paul gives us a beautiful perspective to live by, especially in these days:

"So we are always of good courage . . . whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body."

(2 Cor 5:6, 9-10)

Despite the many trials, persecutions, punishments, disappointments, and failures in the Church, St. Paul has his eye on the climax of his life, the ultimate moment that he knows with certainty lies before him: his appearing before the judgment seat of Christ. This certainty fills Paul with what he himself describes as “the fear of the Lord,” which gives him clarity and wisdom on how to live in the moment, no matter what circumstances he is facing. **The only thing that matters is to live in a way that pleases the Lord. It simplifies his life in the midst of constant complexity. It gives him wisdom: the ability to know how to live well, to live an authentically fulfilling life, to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, and to do the will of the Father. Nothing else matters. Period.**

This is where Jesus is leading the Church. He wants to awaken the fear of the Lord in all of us so that we can have wisdom. He has brought us to a point of decision:



Are we going to live in the fear of men, which necessarily leads to foolishness and slavery, or are we going to fear God and live in the freedom of the sons and daughters of God?

Let’s not let this trial pass without harvesting everything Jesus has for us personally and corporately. I believe in my bones that the Renewal Ministries’ family was made for this moment! He is here, ready to strengthen us, to empower us to give a wholehearted and radical “yes” to Him and to do all we can to lead those He brings to us out of bondage, foolishness, and fear, into the wisdom of God.

Lord, we love You! Help us to make the most of the time and to use the resources You have given us to serve Your purpose in this hour!

Friends, we will all be dead soon. Life is short, it’s a passing shadow, let’s help each other make the most of the time for the glory of the Lord and for the salvation of souls.

In Christ,

Peter

“But now that the Saviour has raised his body, death is no longer terrible, but all those who believe in Christ tread it underfoot as nothing, and prefer to die than to deny their faith in Christ, knowing full well that when they die they do not perish, but live indeed, and become incorruptible through the resurrection.”



St. Athanasius

TO WALK BY THE SPIRIT



ANNUAL GATHERING

APRIL 5-7, 2019

Ypsilanti • Michigan

Join Us for a Weekend of Listening to the Lord!

“The Lord wants to empower us to live in holiness and mission. It’s challenging in society today. We have to remember that the core of our life is the capacity Jesus gives us through the Holy Spirit to live differently. Things may be difficult around us, but the power of God is in us.”

— Peter Herbeck

TALKS BY

Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, and Sr. Ann Shields

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Patti Mansfield

Patti was present at the original Duquesne Weekend that marked the beginning of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the US!

ALSO FEATURING:

- » Prayer & Empowerment
- » Personal Testimonies
- » Mass
- » Fellowship

For details, visit RenewalMinistries.net/gathering or email Kathleen at kkittle@renewalministries.net.

EMMAUS CENTER MINISTERS TO SUDANESE REFUGEES



For more than twenty years, Renewal Ministries has supported the Emmaus Center, a Catholic community within Uganda that, while small, has borne much fruit for the Lord and continues to do so. For this month's report, we want to share with you news from Emmaus' recent outreach to Sudanese refugees. Although this was not a Renewal Ministries' mission, our support of the Emmaus Center through the years has been such that we indeed rejoice with them in work well done and want to share with our readers some of the far-reaching effects of their support. As Nancy Greenhaw, one of Renewal Ministries' country coordinators, reported in our August 2017 newsletter, the Emmaus Center is a "major force for good that has influenced not only Uganda, but countries all around Africa."

By Gabriel Oriokot | *Emmaus Center Outreach Program Coordinator*

This report outlines our first major outreach to the Sudanese refugees settled at the Bidi Bidi camp in Uganda. When we were there, more than 250,000 people were settled in the camp. **We know the task is enormous, and we may not be in a position to reach out to this vast number, but we also know that the love of God compels us to contribute the little we can to help build their lost hope and faith in God.**

While preparing for this outreach, which received financial support from Aid to the Church, in Germany, we made two key decisions that contributed to its success. First, due to the lack of a logistical meeting place in the camp, we held the program at an already established center and transported the sixty-one participants there. Second, rather than simply going to the camps and meeting with as many people as possible, we trained leaders. We decided to start training leaders so they could then mobilize their people. This plan worked very well. We were able to serve the entire catechist community and some key leaders from Bidi Bidi.

Before beginning our outreach, we received a special blessing from our bishop. He prayed for blessings for our team and expressed gratitude to us for reaching out beyond our diocese to meet the needs of our neighbors who are hurting as a result of the war. He said,

"Take with you the healing touch of Jesus and serve with compassion all those afflicted emotionally, physically, and psychologically."

DEEP WOUNDS

We quickly discovered that the participants were hurting, demoralized, and in need of teachings on inner healing and reconciliation. The Holy Spirit inspired us, and we started by helping them understand why God created us and the purpose of our lives. We also taught on our value in Christ—our true identity. However, this was met with strong resistance from the participants, who were led to ask many questions:

- Where is God in our situation in South Sudan?
- Is He punishing us?
- Why has He allowed us to suffer since 1955?
- Why are other countries in peace while we are in permanent agony, like being in hell on earth?
- Where is God when we have had two generations go through war?

Many similar issues also came up. This prompted us to have an open, fruitful discussion. The participants shared their painful stories. Afterward, we were able to bring them to the Lord. We used the opportunity of being before the Blessed Sacrament, where Jesus Himself could minister to His people.



One of the participants fell sick, and it was discovered that he was suffering from typhoid and malaria. In fact, many participants kept falling sick. And another participant wanted to leave, because he had only one shirt and one pair of trousers. Instead, we bought him some clothes so that he could continue.

We were shocked to learn that, although they were catechists, almost no one had a Bible, and if they had one, it was badly torn. We wanted to buy Bibles for all of them, but we had not prepared for that kind of expenditure. However, it may be worth providing these catechists with Bibles during our next visit, funds permitting.

In addition to a lack of Bibles, we discovered that many of the Catholics in the refugee camp are timid in living and sharing the faith. These concerns were expressed to us by Bishop Sabino Ocan Odoki of Arua, who we met with, as well as the participants themselves. Consequently, other denominations, especially the Pentecostals, have greatly influenced Catholic Christians to leave the Church and join them.

During our meeting with the bishop and Msgr. Elizeo Ovure, vicar for refugees and migrants in the Arua Diocese, we discussed a number of the challenges facing the refugees and possible strategies to help them. The Arua Diocese accommodates up to one million refugees. **Due to the huge number of people, the vast distances, and the few priests available, some camps go up to three months without a priest.**

The bishop said, “For this reason, the much-needed spiritual contribution of Emmaus Center Katikamu to support the refugee camps is timely.”

The bishop pledged his support of us for as long as it is needed and delegated Msgr. Ovure to assist us in future outreaches in the camps. He also gave us his apostolic blessing.

FORGIVENESS

Our teachings focused on sin and its consequences: spiritually, socially, psychologically, and economically. We also looked at the value and impact of sacraments in our Christian life. And perhaps most importantly, we taught on the importance of receiving and giving forgiveness to our enemies, as lack of forgiveness destroys us both emotionally and physically. We emphasized reconciliation and the Eucharist.

Only a day before our program on forgiveness and reconciliation, some rebels crossed from South Sudan and raided the refugees’ cows. The participants’ pain was still fresh, and they wondered whether we were serious when we taught them to forgive their enemies! In the camps, it is common to find that tribes cannot share freely with each other. Fights are common when warring tribes meet. The wounds are so deep that when we started to talk about the need to forgive and bless our enemies, some people cried, some felt like walking out of the hall, and others kept deep silence.

...lack of forgiveness destroys us both emotionally & physically.

We strongly felt that the best way to handle this situation was to take participants to the chapel where the Blessed Sacrament was exposed. Indeed, Jesus took charge during the session of prayer, as participants were led to release forgiveness to those who had caused atrocities and hurts to them individually, to their families, or to their loved ones. During the service, representatives of different tribes released forgiveness to one another. This was a very moving day of our program. After the exercise, the Holy Spirit released great joy among the participants, which was eminent on their faces. They were able to hug one another and dance together.

We also dealt with the healing of painful emotions and feelings because of past inner wounds. They affect us psychologically and physically, and they influence and shape our behavior and character. One evening, we had another ministry to heal inner wounds before the Blessed Sacrament. Participants poured out their painful memories to the Lord in tears. Facilitators were available to pray with participants individually, and this took us a long time, as we didn’t want to hurry them in processing their painful feelings.

LEADERSHIP AND INTERCESSION

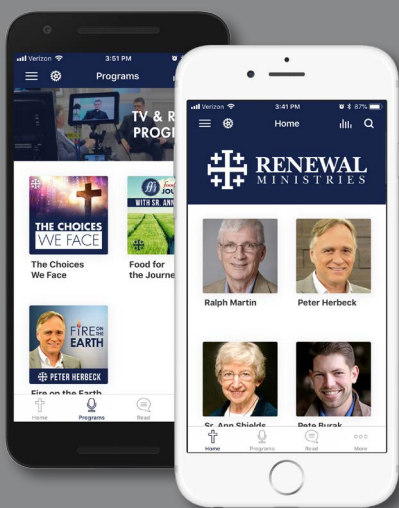
Toward the end of the conference, we taught participants basic skills on leadership and how to pray for the situations in their country. We discussed the power of the Holy Spirit and how to pray in the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Prior to the conference, the Emmaus Community prayed for a month for southern Sudan and those trapped in the camps.

It was edifying for us to see the answers to our prayers for peace. The participants were so happy and asked us to go back to the camp to reach out to many of their brothers and sisters.

“It was edifying for us to see the answers to our prayers for peace.”

The participants are eager to see us build on the foundations that were laid. They pleaded with us to not leave them orphans but to go to them regularly to re-ignite the fire of God’s love.

NOW AVAILABLE Renewal Ministries' App



The Renewal Ministries’ app is now available for free in the various app stores (Google Play Store, Apple App Store, etc.)! Our intention is to make it even easier for you to get the content you desire from our programs, books, conferences, blogs, articles, booklets, and newsletters. The app will contain early release of talks from conferences and hidden gems from the past, like Peter Herbeck’s “True Discipleship Series” and Sr. Ann Shields’ talks on intercessory prayer. Check it out and let us know what you think!

- Find your favorite shows more quickly and easily!
- Receive special announcements and offers!
- Get early access to presentations from conferences and the Renewal Ministries' Gathering!
- Read the newsletter before it arrives in your mailbox!

On the Road

February 2019 ENGAGEMENTS

St. Louis, MO

Catholic Men for Christ Conference

Feb. 2

Ralph Martin

Details: www.catholicmenforchrist.org

Venice, FL

Diocese of Venice Men's Conference

Feb. 2

Dr. Mary Healy

Details: <https://dioceseofvenice.regfox.com/2019-mens-conference>

Poland

Strong in the Spirit International Conference

Feb. 8-10

Dr. Mary Healy

Details: www.iccrs.org/en/upcoming-formation-programmes

Akron, OH

St. Matthew's Parish Men's Event

Feb. 9

Peter Herbeck & Pete Burak

Details: www.stmatthewparish.net

Wixom, MI

St Catherine Academy Retreat

Feb. 9-10

Debbie Herbeck & the Be Love

Revolution Team

Contact: <https://www.saintcatherineacademy.org/fearless>

Chicago, IL

Legatus*

Feb. 13

Ralph Martin

El Paso, TX

Diocesan Priests' Assembly*

Feb. 14

Dr. Mary Healy

Tempe, AZ

City of the Lord

Feb. 16-17

Dr. Mary Healy

Details: www.cityofthelord.org

Grosse Pointe Farms, MI

St. Paul on the Lake Encounter Series

Feb. 17

Dr. Mary Healy

Details: www.stpaulonthelake.org

Royal Oak, MI

Archdiocese of Detroit Kerygma Series

Feb. 20

Debbie Herbeck

Contact: Cummins.Susan@aod.org

Traverse City, MI

Martinus*

Feb. 21

Dr. Mary Healy

San Antonio, TX

Catholic Men's Conference

Feb. 22

Ralph Martin

Details: www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org

Kirkland, WA

Holy Family Parish Conference

Feb. 22-23

Dr. Mary Healy

Contact: jim@bearcreekresidential.com

MISSIONS

Ethiopia

Feb. 19-March 6

Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw

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

Please Pray...

✚ For healing for all of those who have been hurt by the sins of priests and leaders within the Church. And for wisdom, grace, courage, and true repentance as we seek corporately for a way to move forward in the Lord's will.

✚ For those who suffer with mental illness of any sort. May the Lord pour His mercy over them like a balm. May He comfort and bring healing to them and those who love and care for them.

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

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

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.

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Download the Renewal Ministries' App for easy access to all of the above Renewal Ministries' content and so much more!

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