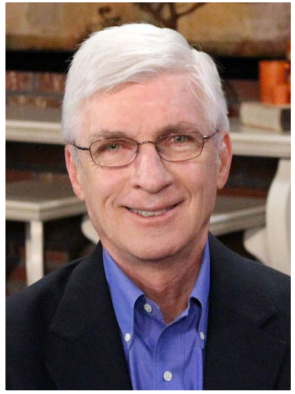




RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Catholic Renewal and Evangelization FEBRUARY 2020



A letter ▶
from Ralph Martin

Dear Faithful Friends,

One of the things that I am very inspired by is how many of our supporters are “reaching out” in various ways, through prayer and action, to help others come to Christ.

Indeed, the way that leads to destruction is wide and many are traveling on it; and the way that leads to life is narrow and relatively few are finding it (Mt 7:13-14). But it doesn't have to be this way! People who are currently on the broad way don't have to stay on it! And that's where we come in.

Our concern for family members' salvation is really important. It's not just important for them to get good jobs, get healed of their illnesses, be able to sell or buy their houses, or have a comfortable retirement, as good as these things are. The most important thing of all is for people to die in friendship with Christ, having repented of their sins, reconciled to God.

If someone dies in friendship with Christ, their life is an amazing success—no matter what else did or didn't happen. If someone dies in their sins, proud and unrepentant, their life is a tragic failure—no matter how many accomplishments they may have attained.

That's why Jesus tell us:

“If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell”

(Mt 5:29-30).

Jesus is saying that we need to do whatever it takes to enter the kingdom. You don't just drift into the kingdom, going along with how

many people are living today. You need to make choices; you need to say no to sin and yes to God; you need to pick up your cross every day and faithfully follow Him.

If we truly love people—whether they be family, neighbors, or co-workers, we're going to be praying for their salvation, and looking for opportunities to “throw out some seed” and see if the ground of their souls is ready to receive it or not at this time. And if not, we're going to be looking for another opportunity in the future.

Simply sharing our faith doesn't require that we be advanced theologians. One of the easiest ways is to invite someone to an event where they will hear the Gospel: a men's or women's conference, an Alpha or Christlife course, a Lenten or Advent mission, etc. It was someone inviting me to a weekend retreat many years ago that saved my life and my soul!

Invite someone!

Or pass on a book or booklet to read. I am inspired by how many of our supporters are making use of our many different booklets to share with people as a way of waking them up to the Gospel. Among our most popular booklets that people often order multiple copies of are: *Mary's Mission*, *Our Response*, *The Final Confrontation*, *Light in the Darkness*, *Game Changer*, *Welcome the Spiritual Gifts*, and *Hope in the Midst of Suffering*.

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Please Pray...

- ✚ **For** our nations' leaders to be guided by wisdom and humility that come from our Lord.
- ✚ **That** the Lord would strengthen families and give them the grace to be a sign of contradiction in today's world.
- ✚ **For** the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.



“

Enemy-occupied territory. That's what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say in disguise, and is calling us all to take part in a great campaign of sabotage.”

//C.S. Lewis,
(from *Mere Christianity*)

“Unfortunately, sometimes the person we are concerned about isn't open . . . In these cases, we thankfully have other powerful spiritual weapons at our disposal: prayer and fasting.”

Continued from page 1

Many people purchase these booklets in bulk to share at their parish or prayer groups—like Marianne Schoenecker's father who, his daughter explained, “hands them out to everyone he knows, at breakfast after Mass, at coffee and donuts, at his Bible study, to anyone he thinks will enjoy it!” Paul Shock takes things a step further and distributes the booklets not only at his own parish, but to various parishes in his area. He also recently donated Bibles for his parish's third and eighth grade students.

“People are very grateful,” explained his son, also named Paul Shock. “He tells people a bit about what the booklet is about, and the response is good. We are very proud of him.”

Denise Beyer, from Louisiana, purchased one-hundred copies each of *Mary's Mission, Our Response* and *Game Changer* to share as a gift at a Charismatic prayer meeting. She said they were very well-received, and she hopes to purchase more to donate at another meeting that will be in that area soon.

“Mary's message (in *Mary's Mission, Our Response*) is very pertinent for our times,” she explained. Denise added that she would sum up why she shares Renewal Ministries' products with one word:

“Evangelize.”

Anne Dzjuba also shares a passion for evangelization, and over the past decade, she has done much to help her church make Renewal Ministries' products available to all of its parishioners. “We get a good response—they disappear pretty well,” she said. “We provide them to people free-of-charge, because we want to get the message out. They are a great size. People think, ‘I can read this!’ Plus, it fits in their pocket or purse. And the topics have been right on. Renewal Ministries has been a great resource for all of our parish.”

Anne said her parish also directs people to Renewal Ministries' resources by including our website information on a laminated bookmark and also by including a link to our website on their parish website. She also has ordered *The Fulfillment of All Desire* and our CDs like *St. John of the Cross* so that they are “ready to be used as needed for a variety of things and loaned out to people.”

“Evangelization is extremely important to me, as well as faith formation that extends to the family,” she said. “We try to work together to evangelize at every level . . . Your resources have been a part of what we are doing to get the message out.”

Unfortunately, sometimes the person we are concerned about isn't open to an invitation or booklet gift like this. In these cases, we thankfully have other powerful spiritual weapons at our disposal: prayer and fasting. Every day we can accept the suffering that comes our way, as Mary requested at Fatima, and offer it for reparation for sins and the conversion of sinners. Every day we can offer voluntary sacrifices and prayers for the salvation of people we are concerned for.

How meaningful! How wonderful that the Lord is letting us join with Him by bringing Him our inadequate “loaves and fishes” and trusting that He will multiply them for the salvation of souls!

Until next month, inspired by your concern for salvation,

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

Ralph



28TH ANNUAL LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY

SATURDAY • MARCH 7, 2020 ▶ 9:00AM - 5:30PM

JESUS, LIGHT *of* THE WORLD

KEYNOTE

Fr. James Mallon



SPEAKER

Ralph Martin



EMCEE

Msgr. Gregory Smith



MASS WITH

Cardinal Thomas Collins



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SURRENDERING TO THE SPIRIT

By Fr. Paul Sciberras

Ralph Martin was introduced to Fr. Paul Sciberras while speaking at a priests' retreat in Malta. In this testimony, Fr. Paul, head of the Department of Sacred Scripture, Hebrew and Greek, at the University of Malta, shares how being baptized in the Holy Spirit at a Life in the Spirit Seminar brought his faith to life in a new way and transformed his understanding of the meaning of his priesthood and the Word of God.

I have been a priest for thirty years. After my ordination, my superiors asked me to specialize in Scripture Sciences in Rome. I was formed to mentally dissect and filter every word in the Bible with the extra-fine toothcombs of biblical scientific-critical methods.

However, all of this analyzing, re-analyzing, and re-checking was not satisfying me. Something was missing!

Thankfully, I myself was soaked in the Spirit four years ago, through a Life in the Spirit Seminar, and now I can walk and move in the Spirit as a man and a priest. The breeze that sways the wheat field of my life is the Spirit's breath in my heart, my actions, and indeed, my whole life.

Baptism in the Spirit is about being soaked (the basic meaning of the Greek verb from which "baptism" derives) like a sponge, not in water but in the Spirit. What comes out and overflows when one is "squeezed" is then the Spirit of holiness of the Father and of Jesus, the Son. Since the Spirit can in no way be separated from its constituents—a father cannot be a father if he doesn't have a son, and a son is a son because he has been generated—the Spirit is the Spirit of wholeness, integrity, and holiness.

How has this affected the way I experience my faith? Bathing biblical ministry in the Spirit of the Church and for the Church has always meant the world to me. But now it comes more from the heart and makes much more sense. I feel

it's becoming more a question of wisdom and knowledge, than of information and scholarship. The Bible turns out to be always fresh, like living waters, even when I am teaching the simple basics of Hebrew and Greek!

Additionally, biblical scholarship is no longer mere academic prowess. Thanks to the soaking in the power of the Holy Spirit, the Word of God becomes a *rhema*, truly a Word addressed personally to me. Whilst paying attention to the technicalities of the Hebrew and Greek languages and the historical context of the Scriptures, I now know too well that my academia is not just about producing academics, but about being a source of nourishment for thirsty and seeking believers.

Personally, I feel that the one word that says it all about baptism in the Spirit, and indeed about the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, is *surrender*. SURRENDER! At the beginning of the Life in the Spirit Seminars, I asked myself how could anyone even think surrender was possible for me! And yet so it was, as Josef Ratzinger, then prefect of the Congregation of Faith, defined it, "This profound contact with God, becoming a friend of God: it is letting the Other work, the Only One who can really make the world both good and happy."

After baptism in the Spirit, I began surrendering more and more to the Spirit. Mass has become a heavenly experience. The peace! The joy! After Consecration, I now kneel in adoration:

“My Lord and my God; I surrender to You, Lord Jesus!”

I make mine the prayer of surrender:

“I open all the secret places of my heart to You and say: ‘Come on in.’ Jesus, You are Lord of my whole life. I believe in You and receive You as my Lord and my Saviour. I hold nothing back. Holy Spirit, bring me to a deeper conversion to the person of Jesus Christ. . . . I surrender my understanding of how things ought to be, my choices and my will.”

**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT
IS NOT ABOUT
DOING NEW
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THINGS IN A
NEW WAY:
THE SPIRIT’S WAY.**

Life in the Spirit is not about doing new things but about doing the old things in a new way: the Spirit’s way.

Yet another discovery is taking place in my heart: not only how the Holy Spirit inspires and breathes his power into the Bible, but how the Bible breathes God back to us—by making it more complete and by making the Bible much more personal!

And finally—because I consider it the filter of all that I am going through—with surrender comes joy; the deep-seated joy where I feel so much at peace!

Surrendering! Yes, it’s possible! It suits me perfectly! It’s the only way!



For the same reasons you support Renewal Ministries now, would you consider remembering us in your will?

✦ LEAVE A LEGACY OF FAITH ✦

One significant way you can help ensure Renewal Ministries’ continued work of Catholic Renewal and Evangelization is to join the St. Catherine of Siena Society by designating us as a beneficiary in your will or trust.

For more information, please contact Heather Schultz at 734-662-1730, ext. 130 or hschultz@renewalministries.net

RenewalMinistries.net/plannedgiving



Join us for
**RENEWAL MINISTRIES’
ANNUAL GATHERING**

JESUS Light OF THE WORLD

**April 24-26, 2020
YPSILANTI • MICHIGAN**

The theme of this year’s Gathering, “Jesus, Light of the World,” focuses on the hope and encouragement so needed today! Circumstances don’t have to control us—no matter how difficult or scary things might seem. We can find confidence, hope, and joy in Jesus’ words:

*“I am the light of the world;
he who follows me will not
walk in darkness, but will have
the light of life.”*

(Jn 8:12)

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



By Nancy Greenhaw
COUNTRY COORDINATOR
for HAITI

Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw minister in the United States, Haiti, Papua New Guinea, Ethiopia, and several other countries in Africa. They conduct missions, conferences, and retreats for adults and youth. They also are involved in prison ministry and work with the homeless.

Nancy and Lloyd live in Texas and have two daughters, fourteen grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

Spreading the GOSPEL in Haiti

When serving in Haiti, our mission team works with Haiti Mission, Inc. (HMI), which provides many material needs to those living in Haiti.

ST. JOSEPH & PRISON MINISTRY

Lloyd's first talk was on the feast of St. Joseph. Lloyd gave an amazing talk about the Great Patriarch, Beloved Spouse, Terror of Demons, and model for his manhood. An interesting point I had never considered before was how St. Joseph shows us to forgive. Lloyd said St. Joseph found out Mary was pregnant before the angel appeared to him in a dream—and he decided to divorce her quietly rather than expose her to the Law. Lloyd said most men would have felt rejected, betrayed, and revengeful for such humiliation, but St. Joseph was a godly man who did not want to hurt Mary. He was more concerned for her than himself. He exemplified forgiving others rather than seeking revenge. Fr. Joe later said it was the best talk on St. Joseph that he had ever heard!

THANK YOU, JESUS!

The next morning, we ministered at the prison in Jeremy. The prisoners are not allowed to come out of their overcrowded cells, and it is hot. There are about thirty or forty men in each small cell. Lloyd gave his testimony and told the story of the two thieves on either side of Jesus at his crucifixion. One ridiculed Jesus and the other asked Jesus to remember him when He came into his kingdom. Jesus replied, "This very day you will be with me in paradise!" No hell, no purgatory—the first saint, canonized by Jesus Himself!

Lloyd then said there were men in the cell just like the two thieves: some ridiculed Jesus and others wanted help. He asked them if they would like to give their lives to Jesus, and almost all came to the small window. Lloyd reached

through, they stacked hands, and he had them repeat the prayer to invite Jesus into their hearts and change their lives. It was extremely powerful!

I, with my team of women, spoke to the women prisoners. They have a cell and a small covered courtyard. As I spoke, they saw we were not there to waste their time, but to speak to them about the love of God and who they are in Christ. I quoted Jeremiah 29:11,

"For I know well the plans I have for you, plans for your welfare not for woe, plans to give you a future full of hope."

I told them that they exist because God loves them and that their worth is not defined by the person who hurt them the most.

I quoted the priest who wrote the book about St. Therese, who said that at the foot of the cross, we are equal. I talked about how the Canaanite woman is denied by Jesus three times and is even called a dog, but in the end, He cures her daughter and says to her, "O woman great is your faith, be it done to you as you will." We prayed briefly over them, and then the guards came and got us, because it was time to eat.

HMI has a prison party, where they hand out a cold drink; a hot meal of chicken, rice, and vegetables; a Slim Jim; a candy mint; a small package of peanuts; a pack of cards for almost everyone; and a vitamin. Lloyd blessed them each at the end of the line. HMI always makes more meals than the prison population needs so the guards can eat too. Nobody gets meals on a regular basis. The prison chaplain was so happy, he hugged Lloyd on the way in and on the way out.



There was a powerful reaction in the crowd when the priest processed with the monstrance after a prayers for healing, provision, and freedom.



Pictured is a line for the distribution of food and necessities— items like clothing and vitamins that we take for granted.

ON FAITH AND HOPE

The next day, I spoke to about two-hundred people on faith, where it comes from and how to get more of it. When I was done, the pastor excitedly came to the microphone and basically repeated my talk! You could tell it made a big impression on him and that his homilies would contain many of the points I had made. It was good to see we had made a difference in him and, I truly believe, in his parishioners.

Lloyd then led a healing service, and many testified they were healed and filled with hope.

Later, Father Joe took us to a church filled with over five-hundred people. The Blessed Sacrament was on the altar, and I spoke about increasing faith and gave a bit of our testimony of living on faith. Lloyd and I both spoke through an interpreter. Lloyd led the people in prayer asking for healing, provision, freedom, and a future filled with hope. Then father took the Blessed Sacrament throughout the congregation.

In the afternoon, we put together bags of rice, beans, flour, and sugar. The next morning, the distribution began. People also received vitamins, de-wormer pills, razors, matches, hats, clothes, small sewing kits, and other donations.

It's the little items we take for granted that are so sorely needed and appreciated. HMI does this as well as building houses and drilling wells.

That evening, I spoke on forgiveness. It really hit home. A young priest who has been ordained less than a year said he learned much about forgiveness, and he thanked us profusely.

The next day, there were twenty-seven First Communicants between seven and sixteen years old. At 3 p.m., we prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet together and then traveled by mules to three houses that are being built. One was for a couple who lived under a blue tarp held up by polls. It would be like us camping in nothing but a two-sided tent, cooking over open fires.

As Deacon Lloyd, the founder of HMI, always says, he is here to bring people from misery to poverty, and it is true. They were so grateful and so happy. One was a lady who was blind from diabetes. She was so happy. She wanted to touch, to be able to see the face of Deacon Lloyd, the man who was changing her life. Her house was made of tin with no floor, so you can imagine what it's like when it rains, which it does a lot.

A GIFT REQUIRES A RESPONSE

On our final evening, Lloyd really challenged the people. He quoted the Scripture that said to look around and be amazed—if God had told you what He was going to do, you would not have believed Him. Lloyd pointed to the beautiful new church going up and asked who would have ever believed that this poor, small parish would have the nicest church in Haiti. He pointed out the 150 houses HMI has built and asked who would have believed they would ever have such a beautiful home.

Lloyd told them that God's special grace and blessing requires a response. He said their lives could not be the same; they belonged to God. He asked, "What will the pilgrims who come here find?"

GOD'S SPECIAL GRACE & BLESSING REQUIRES A RESPONSE.

Would it be a church filled with believers who will lead them to Christ, or not? Lloyd assured them that God trusted them and that was why He had blessed them so. He got their attention in a very positive way! It was a powerful and fitting conclusion to our time there.

I am thankful for the opportunity to make a difference in many lives, as God used the whole team to write his love on the hearts of his people.



On the Road

FEBRUARY 2020 ENGAGEMENTS

Kansas City, KS
Day of Renewal for the Archdiocese of Kansas City's Pastoral Center
Feb. 1
Ralph Martin
Contact: trosentreter@gmail.com

Royal Oak, MI
Ascend Series at Shrine of the Little Flower
Feb. 5
Debbie Herbeck
Contact: bspizarny@shrinechurch.com

Lansing, MI
Diocese of Lansing Deacon Formation Retreat*
Feb. 7-9
Ralph Martin

São Paulo, Brazil
Canção Nova
Feb. 7-9
Dr. Mary Healy
www.cancaonova.com

Greenville, NC
Women's Retreat
Feb. 8-9
Debbie Herbeck
Contact: blick.caroline@gmail.com

Steubenville, OH
Franciscan University Men's Retreat
Feb. 8
Pete Burak

Kansas City, MO
Legatus*
Feb. 12
Ralph Martin

Lansing, MI
Legatus*
Feb. 12
Pete Burak

Brittany, France
Grande Conférence
Debout Resplendis
Feb. 14-15
Dr. Mary Healy
www.deboutresplendis.com

Clearwater, FL
Day of Renewal
Feb. 15
Ralph Martin

San Antonio, TX
Legatus*
Feb. 18
Debbie Herbeck

Phoenix, AZ
Blessed is She Retreat
Feb. 21-22
Debbie Herbeck
https://blessedishe.net/retreat

Tampa Bay, FL
Men's Conference
Feb. 22
Peter Herbeck
Details: www.suncoastcatholicministries.com

Minneapolis, MN
Catholic Women's Conference
WINE (Women in the New Evangelization)
Feb. 22
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: www.wineconference.org

Plymouth, MI
Miles Christi Conference for Study and Prayer
Feb. 23
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: www.mileschristi.org

MISSIONS

Zambia & Namibia
Feb. 3-17
Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw

Latvia
Feb. 19-24
Don Turbitt

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

Augusta, Georgia
Alleluia Community's North American Community Conference*
Feb. 27-29
Dr. Mary Healy

Wixom, MI
Presentation on Prayer to St. Catherine of Siena Academy*
Feb. 28
Ralph Martin

Erie, PA
Catholic Men's Conference
Feb. 29
Ralph Martin
Contact: dave@americanimages.org

New Orleans, LA
Men's Conference
Feb. 29
Peter Herbeck
Contact: danny@crossingthegoal.com

Wixom, MI
Fearless Middle School Girls Event at St. Catherine Academy
Feb. 29
Debbie Herbeck & BLR Team
Contact: info@belovereolution.com

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

RENEWAL MINISTRIES

In the United States

Episcopal Advisor
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Chairman of the Board
Deacon Dan Foley

President
Ralph Martin

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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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