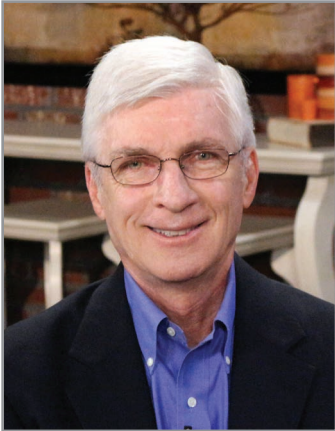


Renewal Ministries

January 2015

Proclaiming Jesus through Catholic Renewal and Evangelization

Dear Co-Workers in the Truth,



A letter from Ralph Martin

You need to know what a difference your support of Renewal Ministries is making in the lives of people. Recently, Dr. Mary Healy, Pete Burak and I conducted a mini FIRE Rally for about 700 people in the Pittsburgh area. FIRE is an acronym for Faith, Intercession, Repentance and Evangelization. The FIRE Rally is a concept developed many years ago by Fr. Michael Scanlan, Sr. Ann Shields, SGL, Fr. John Bertolucci and me.

From 1983 to 2004, we held 134 rallies in 29 states, five Canadian provinces and 14 foreign countries. In addition, we beamed the first-ever evangelistic rally via satellite to more than 30 locations. In total, the FIRE rallies reached an estimated 433,090 people.



Dr. Mary Healy (above) and Ralph Martin led a repentance/commitment session at a mini FIRE Rally for about 700 people near Pittsburgh, PA.

A very committed brother in the Lord, Santos Hernandez, thought it was time to utilize the FIRE concept again, but in a shortened format over a long afternoon rather than an all-day event. It went really well. We all felt inspired in our presentations. After my talk on Repentance, Mary and I led a repentance/commitment session and many responded. Pete Burak, our youngest team member, stepped up to the plate and hit a home run. God is good.

I just received an email from Santos telling of some of the fruit of the rally: "Even though the Rally was only half a day, the Holy Spirit worked powerfully. One mother told me that she was able to get her three very busy young adult children to come to the Rally and all three responded to the repentance/commitment session by going to confession for the first time after many years away. They participated in the Mass and want more! Praise Jesus!"

Inside this Issue

Giving and Receiving
Forgiveness

Page 4

Mission to Liberia

Page 6

On the Road

Page 8

continued on pg 2

Dear Co-Workers in the Truth, _____ continued from page 1

Praise Jesus, indeed. A week later we had another big rally, the Lift Jesus Higher Rally, in Toledo, OH. This event is modeled after the rally we host each year in Toronto, ON. More than 1,200 adults and young people came and were very inspired, strengthened and given courage to continue in these difficult times. Here are just two testimonies we received:

- I have never been in a place, where you could see so much Joy on so many faces, all at the same time.
- My brother-in-law (50+ years old) went to confession for the first time since the 8th Grade!

These “big events” are inspiring and truly build people up and draw others back to Christ and the Church. However an even greater indication that our work is bearing wonderful fruit is the daily feedback we receive. The Lord has given us the grace of “firing on all cylinders.”

My folder of grateful responses to the many facets of our work is getting so full that I simply have to pass some on to you.

Fulfillment of All Desire

- As I read it, I get the sense that this book will become a longtime companion. Thank you so much for it. It’s filled with goodness.
- As a layman who started a magical journey 10 years ago and most of that time not fully understanding what it was all about. I praise God, our Father, who at the end of my journey provided me a copy of your book. You so clearly showed me the vital importance of the journey and answered so many questions of the reason of it all.

Food for the Journey

- Thank you for your daily messages. They are an inspiration to me. You cannot know what your little snippets do for my soul each day. I thank you for always pointing me in the direction of Jesus.
- I just wanted to let you know how much I look forward to listening to your broadcast...The topics that you cover, or the points that you raise within a topic, so often directly pertain to my own spiritual battles. You are a real treasure, Sister.
- Thank you so much for your ministry! I too believe that Catholic Christians have a real lack in breaking open the living Word of God in the pages of Holy Scripture. I look forward to your program every day, and have gotten others to listen daily.

Fire on the Earth

- In the last few weeks, I began listening to Fire on the Earth, and I want you to know that absolutely everything you share goes right to the center of my heart...today, I listened to “Joy in Trials.” What you spoke about had me captivated, so much so that I felt compelled to reach out and thank you.

The Choices We Face

- Thank you for your support and prayers. I have received my PhD. The title of my dissertation is, “The Effects of the Kerygmatic Message of *The Choices We Face* on its Audience.”



“Run the Race” was the theme for the 2014 Lift Jesus Higher Rally for youth. Approximately 1,000 teens attended the fast-paced event which included lively praise and worship, an opportunity for commitment to the Lord, prayer ministry, Eucharistic adoration and Mass.



Fr. Dave Nuss (above), along with Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, Sr. Ann Shields, SGL and Peter Herbeck were the speakers at The Lift Jesus Higher Rally in Toledo, OH.

- Thank you for proclaiming the Gospel in so many countries of the world. I love to listen to you on net TV in the mornings before I go to work and Mass. It is so inspirational, the prayers and speaking with persons who have experienced Jesus.

More of the Holy Spirit

- [Sr. Ann’s] book on the Holy Spirit, felt like an “arm chair travelogue” of the early days of the renewal to me as I browsed through it. The reflections and inferences she has drawn are certainly one of the best I have read on the subject.

i.d. 9:16

• I want to say thank you for the livestreams from the i.d. 9:16 talks and for putting them on YouTube. The talk with Sr. Ann Shields was amazing!!! If I spend the next 10 years of my life studying at the best seminaries, I don't think I can learn as much as I did in that 30 minutes.

Crossing the Goal

• Peter, you get viewers inspired to follow Jesus by genuine, real motivation – our lives depend on him. Bless you and thanks!

And when have you ever heard a quote from the Third Letter of John? Only half a page long in my Bible, and yet it fits so well with what I want to say to you.

Beloved, you are faithful in all you do for the brothers and sisters, especially for strangers; they have testified to your love before the Church. Please help them in a way worthy of God to continue their journey. For they have set out for the sake of the Name and are accepting nothing from the pagans. Therefore, we ought to support such persons, so that we may be co-workers in the truth. (3 Jn 1:5-8)

You are helping us and so many throughout the world who are laboring for the Name. Thank you for being “co-workers in the truth.”

Gratefully yours,

Ralph Martin

Ralph Martin



The Slovak Redemptorists have just published the booklet, *My Five Most Important Decisions* by Ralph Martin.

Please Pray...

- ✠ *that the Church will give a unified and coherent witness to what faith in Christ really means.*
- ✠ *for all those whose labor for the Gospel throughout the world, that they be strengthened, encouraged and protected as they bring God's truth to others.*
- ✠ *for the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.*

MAKE *Giving* AND
Receiving
Forgiveness
PART OF YOUR LIFE

Perhaps you examined this area of your life during Advent. If not, the beginning of the new year is a great time to take stock of your life in the area of forgiveness. Giving and receiving forgiveness should be a part of our daily lives — something on the order of the frequency with which we breathe!! I actually mean that.

Let's look at a couple of Scripture passages — passages which are familiar and yet passages that we don't often put together.

The first is Matthew 5:23-24:

“So, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first, be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift.”

The second is also from Matthew:

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen to you, take one or two others along with you that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church...” (Mt 18:15-17).

The Gospel is clear; very clear. If you have sinned, you go immediately and seek to be reconciled.

Now note the second passage. If someone sins against you — who goes? You. Whether you sin against another or have been sinned against, you go. There is no leeway here; no time to say, “Well, maybe I will forgive if he comes to me on his knees, etc.” Both the sinner and the one sinned against

have the obligation to take the initiative. God's “hope” is that you will meet on the way, each valuing the relationship enough to take the initiative. Each person, by his initiative, indicates that he values the relationship enough to “straighten it out.” NO ONE is free to sit back and say, “Well, I didn't cause this rift — not my fault. Let that person come to me and then I'll decide if I will forgive.” No, that is not the heart of God; that is calculation, self-protection. It is not the way of a Christian.

Now, there are times when a situation is so serious that to reconcile, you need help. Both parties should seek that help, if possible together, of another wise and valued person whom both can trust to listen to the circumstances and give the guidance to make reconciliation possible. I have seen many relationships grow stronger, much stronger because both people valued the relationship so much that they would humble themselves to seek objective insight and perhaps real wisdom.

There are times when the offense is so serious that for justice to be served, legal action must be taken. In such situations our motive is most essential. Are we pursuing legal intervention because we want to throw the book at the one who has injured us? If so, that is not acceptable. Pope Saint John Paul II put it this way: “Forgiveness is not the opposite of justice; it is the opposite of resentment and revenge.” In considering action when we have been unjustly treated, our motive is paramount. Remember, God sees all!

I remember a perfect example of this point. Two young men — high school age and best friends — were driving in a car. The driver was



going too fast, an accident occurred and the passenger died. The next morning, the father of the dead boy was seen by journalists outside the jail. Eager for a story, they asked him, “What legal action are you going to take?” With tears running down his face, the father said, “I am going to forgive him; I don’t want two deaths on my hands.” The implication is that the boy is already suffering terribly just knowing his carelessness caused the death of his best friend. He doesn’t need more suffering. Hearing this story you might say, “But that boy needs a lesson.” Yes — jail time will accomplish that. He doesn’t need hatred and unforgiveness on top of it.

Often, when we are hurt, our first thought is how we have been offended. We seek out other people who will sympathize with us, thereby setting the stage for division. That is called gossip and it has no place among Christians. If you have a habit of it, begin to root it out. Make a decision for this new year! Gossip only creates strife and division; it can lead to slander and worse.

Yes, there are times when we need to talk to someone to get perspective and wisdom. But gaining perspective is the goal. Period. The goal is not to get people on our side, to elicit sympathy and generate ill feelings against the other person. Our goal should always be — apart from serious abuse — to do all we can to uphold the other person’s reputation while we seek resolution.

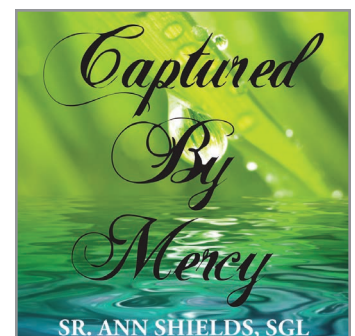
This is what Scripture asks of us. If we seek the Lord and ask Him to help us end the conflict, HE will give us help! He will either change the other person — if that is what needs to happen — give us wisdom to resolve the situation, or give us the sweet grace of humility to be silent in terms of accusation and to pray for reconciliation. God will answer!

In many countries, many states here in the U.S., and many parishes, I have seen how the lack of forgiveness, the harboring of resentment, and the seeking of revenge have torn the fabric of our witness as sons and daughters of God, of our discipleship in Christ.

What do we need to change so that we might be more effective witnesses to the power of the Gospel? What do we need to give up? Attitudes? Ways of acting when we are hurt? Gossip? Slander? Hardened hearts as in a refusal to forgive?

Take some time to think about all the things you have done that God has forgiven. God always forgives when we sincerely ask. He has asked us to love one another as He has loved us. God always gives the strength and power to do what He commands. His commandments, when followed, always lead to greater life and deeper peace. Why not do it His way and leave the world’s approach behind? You will never be sorry you did; in fact, you will be eternally grateful. +

*In **Captured by Mercy**, Sr. Ann discusses the key to offering forgiveness to those around us. She uses inspiring stories to illustrate how we can tap into the power of divine mercy, even in the most difficult circumstances. For more information, see enclosed order form.*



Mission to Liberia

Our "Little Way"
By Lloyd Greenhaw

A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO, we were on a mission trip flying between African countries. Nancy was reading to me from a biography of St. Teresa of Avila. I was struck by a story about one of her contemporaries, a priest dedicated to extreme acts of penance and self-mortification. As I listened, I thought, "If that is what it takes to get to heaven, I probably won't make it." It wasn't a feeling of despair, rather a feeling of inadequacy.

Later, Nancy began reading about St. Therese of Lisieux. I related to her "Little Way" and wanted my own "Little Way." As I contemplated these things, I heard the Lord speaking to my heart saying, "Lloyd, I have provided both of you with your 'Little way.' The many hours waiting in airports, the million miles you fly to share My love with My people, going into difficult circumstances and eating food that is not familiar to you. These things are your 'Little Way.'" Since then we have embraced all the difficulties we encounter as special gifts from God, and the path the Lord has chosen for our salvation.

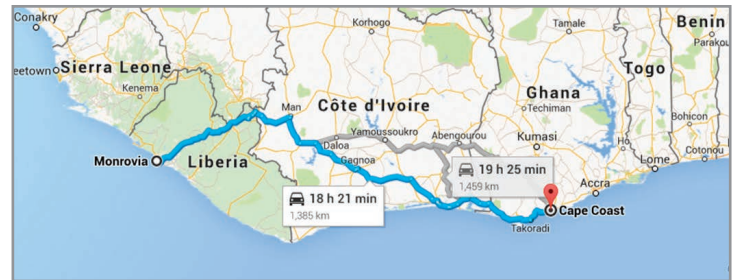
This trip to Liberia reminded me that difficulties are a part of our road to holiness. They started on the second leg of our trip in Houston. After a long delay, our flight was canceled. We missed all of our connections. Our luggage was misplaced.

As the trip progressed we experienced even more of our special gift from God. The infamous long trek from Monrovia to Cape Coast took 19 hours! Both cities are on the coast, but the only way to get from one to the other is to drive toward the interior, make a wide U-turn and drive back to the coast.

Driving on Liberian roads is like being in a paint can shaker. I'm not exaggerating! The roads are full of dips, depressions and potholes as deep as three feet. It took several hours to fix a flat tire and when we got back on the road it was dark. The road is under construction, but there are no detour signs, arrows or lights. Many times, we lost our way and had to turn around. Finally, we arrived at the Gbarnga pastoral center around 11 p.m. We were told the electricity would turn off at 12. Apparently no one told the generator operator, who turned it off as soon as we arrived. No problem we had flashlights.

Our return trip to Monrovia was equally harrowing. Knowing we had a 16- to 19-hour trip, we started at 3 a.m. We dubbed our young driver Mario Andretti. Determined to beat his previous record of 15 hours, he drove at breakneck speed, frequently slamming on the brakes and sliding into potholes. Each time we passed slower vehicles the dust caused total blindness. We couldn't see the hood of our vehicle, let alone the road for several seconds. Towards the end we felt like ground beef. All for Thee Sweet Jesus!

It seemed like we spent almost as much time traveling as we did teaching and ministering. But I truly feel the Lord is pleased. We ministered to the Church in need. Many people, who are terribly isolated and facing discouragement, were given hope. Not many ministries would be willing to tackle that road. We rejoiced that God had again given us our "Little Way!" +



The 19-hour journey from Monrovia to Cape Coast.



At Immaculate Conception Church in Monrovia, Lloyd spoke on the Eucharist.



Praising the Lord at Immaculate Conception parish in Monrovia.



Lloyd and Nancy led a healing service in Cape Coast.

Mission Highlights

By Nancy Greenhaw

THE FIRST PHASE of our trip was near Monrovia. Fr. Bobby Washington had scheduled a mission at Liberia Mission, Inc. Because travel delayed our arrival, our team from Ghana; Emmanuel Tamakloe and Samuel Aduse-Poku gave the introductory talks on the Lordship of Christ and holiness. Once we arrived, Lloyd taught basic apologetics, concentrating on the Eucharist.

Next we headed to a very poor outstation called St. Frances Xavier. Here, Lloyd taught on the Eucharist, Christ building His Church on Peter, and why Catholics honor the Blessed Mother.

We then returned to Fr. Bobby's home parish, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Again Lloyd spoke on the Eucharist and other Church teachings. The church was packed for the evening of teaching and healing, which included a prayer of recommitment to the Lord, a teaching on removing blocks to holiness and the necessity of forgiveness. When Fr. Bobby exposed the Blessed Sacrament, the people's faces radiated a deep faith in Jesus and the hope of healing and a better life. It was a powerful night!

The next day we had the opportunity to speak on Catholic radio. Fr. Bobby now has an hour long program inspired by Peter Herbeck. He calls it *Fire on the Earth* and he invited us to speak about the New Evangelization and the role of the Charismatic renewal in this great work.

Cape Coast

After a grueling 19-hour trek, we arrived in Cape Coast to conduct a retreat for 125 women leaders from various parishes. The schedule for each day was Mass, breakfast, and talks beginning at 9 a.m. Each evening we conducted a revival service in the Cathedral.

Lloyd taught on the Lordship of Christ and the truth of our Catholic faith. I taught on the Five Keys to Freedom from *Unbound*. The Ghanaian team led sessions on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the Charismatic Renewal.

Each night we had a full house for the revival. The first night Samuel preached the Gospel message and led them in a prayer of commitment to the Lord. The second night, I spoke on how spiritual choices made by our ancestors can prevent us from receiving all God wants to give us. We then renounced all of these things in the name of Jesus. On the third night, Lloyd taught on healing as a sign of Christ's loving presence and an invitation to a deeper relationship with Him. Many testified about healings and deliverance!

One testimony was from a woman who completed our training last year. Her 12-year-old granddaughter had an enlarged spleen and was scheduled to be airlifted to the hospital in Monrovia for emergency surgery. This woman immediately went home and prayed for healing for her granddaughter. When they x-rayed the girl the next morning everything was normal. Thank you, Jesus. +

Editor's note: Our missionary work in Liberia has been temporarily suspended due to the Ebola outbreak.



Typical huts along the road to Cape Coast



Lloyd and Bishop Andrew Karnley with Emmanuel Tamakloe and Samuel Aduse-Poku, mission-team members from Ghana



Team member Samuel Aduse-Poku powerfully preached the Gospel message.



Dancing before the Lord!

On the Road

“To lose one’s way is nothing more than the giving up on prayer. Whoever does not pray does not need the devil to lead him off the path. He will throw himself into hell.”

— St. Teresa of Avila

January 2015 ENGAGEMENTS

Ann Arbor, MI
i.d.9:16 Disciples’ Night
January 8
Speaker: Tony Cimmarrusti
Contact: i.d.9:16 Facebook page or
pete@id916.com

Clearwater, FL
School of Spiritual Direction*
January 12-16
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
Contact: DivineProvidence.org

Weslaco, TX
Parish Event at San Martin de Porres
January 30-31
Peter Herbeck, Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw
Contact: Joselzamora@Eaton.com or
956-802-6306

February 2015 ENGAGEMENTS

Ann Arbor, MI
i.d.9:16 Disciples’ Night
February 5
RSVP on i.d.9:16 Facebook page or
pete@id916.com

Wichita, KS
Diocesan Study Days*
February 6-7
Ralph Martin

Birmingham, AL
Crossing the Goal Taping*
February 9-14
Peter Herbeck

February continued

Montreal, QC
Concordia University
February 13
Ralph Martin

Ann Arbor, MI
Legatus*
February 19
Ralph Martin

Huntington, WV
Lent Event, St Joseph Church
February 20-21
Ralph Martin
Contact: stjoes huntington.org or 304-525-5202

* Not open to the public

MISSIONS

Mexico – Young Adult Mission
January 3-9
Butch Murphy, Debbie Herbeck and Team

Turkey
January 11-17
John Kazanjian and Team

Ukraine
January 23-25 & February 20-22
Dcn. Zoli Kunszabó

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

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

Rose Wingfield

Design

Cynthia Rutherford

© 2015 by Renewal Ministries

www.renewalministries.net

P.O. Box 1426 Ann Arbor, MI 48106 phone 734-662-1730 In Canada P.O. Box 400 Station U Toronto, ON M8Z 5Y8 phone 416-251-4255