



# RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Proclaiming Jesus through Catholic Renewal and Evangelization

June 2016



**A letter** ▶  
*from Ralph Martin*

*Dear Fellow Christians,*

**What a great blessing to be called a Christian—someone who believes in and follows Christ. And what a great blessing to be Catholic Christians in continuity with the faith of the apostles.**

Recently, I've been really struck by how—despite our daily concerns, sufferings, and joys—we are actually living in the presence of multiple amazing gifts. That there is something rather than nothing is an amazing gift! That existing exists! That the universe is! That creation is!

*Of course, that leads us to marvel at the One Who simply IS! God is! “I Am Who Am” is!*

That leads us to marvel at how—within this vast universe, within this vast gift—there is the absolutely amazing gift of US! WE have been created! WE have been given life! And not only that, we've been given a LIFE that reflects, in some way, the image of God Himself. We have been created with the amazing gift of knowing, and loving, and even—who can really comprehend this?—the capacity of “participating in the divine nature”!!! (2 Pt 1:4)

**Whoa!!! And then, JESUS!!!**

**A Gift within a gift within a gift.**

A picture that comes to mind of what I am “seeing” here is that of our “nesting dolls” that my grandson loves to play with. One doll is nested in another, then in another, and then in another, until you get down to a very tiny doll at the interior of all the other slightly bigger dolls. We are living in the midst of multiple gifts—despite whatever difficult circumstances or hum-drum daily routine engulfs us at the moment.



All of us are called to get up every day with gratitude in our hearts for these multiple amazing gifts, knowing the great hope that has been born in our hearts, through our relationship with Jesus, looking forward to the time when God will wipe away every tear and there will be no more suffering or death! (cf. Rv 21:4) In the meantime, we are called to do the best we can to love God and neighbor, the neighbor in our own home and family as well as the neighbor that we encounter whenever we encounter another human being.

**What family doesn't have suffering and sorrow in it? But what a difference it makes to bear that suffering and sorrow with such hope in our hearts and with such a clear vision of what awaits us if we are faithful until the end!**



## *Inside this Issue*

2016 Gathering Report  
*Page 4*

Never Lose Heart  
by Sr. Ann Shields, SGL  
*Page 6*

On the Road  
*Page 8*

*continued on page 2*

# The key to strengthening parishes is to strengthen the clergy.

continued from page 1

**On another note, one of our faithful supporters suggested it would be helpful to share how our work contributes to parish renewal. Here are a few thoughts:**

▶ We serve parishes with almost everything we do in North America. We encourage the parishioners we reach directly through TV and radio to evangelize and to be leaven in their parishes. Many, many of them respond by ordering quantities of our booklets to hand out to friends, family, and fellow parishioners as a means of evangelization. See the report on page three of this newsletter about how one church took some amazing initiative by reaching out to its parishioners with a “mercy packet” that included one of our booklets.

▶ Many also have told us they are making use of our *As By a New Pentecost* video series to lead people in their parishes into a fuller life in Christ and the Spirit. Others are using the study guide or video series of *The Fulfillment of All Desire* to awaken fellow parishioners to a deeper spiritual life.

▶ Additionally, we do a fair number of parish missions each year, where we spend several days in a parish to support its renewal. Sr. Ann just returned from a multi-night parish mission. We also do special seminars for parish staffs. Peter Herbeck just returned from doing one for a parish staff in the Archdiocese of Detroit; a while back, he did one for a parish in Massachusetts.

▶ One of our most significant opportunities to support parish life comes from working directly with the pastors of parishes. I have been able to give retreats, study days, and week-long teachings to all of the priests in more than thirty-four different dioceses and archdioceses in the US and Canada during the last few years. Recently, I taught all the priests in all three dioceses of Alaska for several days; then I went to the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, to give four talks on parish renewal and evangelization to all 175 priests of that diocese. I also have had the opportunity to do the same thing for many of the annual deacons’ retreats that most dioceses have. The key to strengthening parishes is to strengthen the clergy.

▶ Sr. Ann and Peter have occasional opportunities to strengthen the clergy as well. Sr. Ann did a retreat for priests in New Mexico last summer, and both of them did the annual clergy convocation for all of the priests in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

▶ Another way we have begun to help parishes is by establishing chapters of i.d.9:16—our ministry to young adults—in a growing number of parishes.

These are just some of the things that come to mind, but almost everything we’re doing directly or indirectly contributes to parish renewal and evangelization.

▶ And it just keeps going. Even though the new episodes of our weekly TV program *The Choices We Face* were launched just a few months ago, we are already in the midst of planning for our next production season, which takes place each September. We continue to get feedback about how all of these initiatives are helping people. Just today:

“*The Choices We Face* this afternoon was SO encouraging. When you and Peter said you would be trusting God, you grabbed my attention immediately. For several years that has been my goal: to trust God. I believe your message about trust is the message Christians need desperately. . . . You two, along with your guests, are very, very encouraging.”

And we just finished another wonderful annual Gathering. Almost everyone thought it was “the best one yet, incredibly renewing and strengthening, etc.” If you are able to make it next year—and we have the dates ready to announce, April 7-9, 2017—I know you will be glad you did. You can view photos of this year’s Gathering and read testimonies by visiting [RenewalMinistries.net/Gathering](http://RenewalMinistries.net/Gathering). You can also “read all about it” on pages five and six of this newsletter.

***Thank you for being companions on the journey and partners in the mission!***

Your brother in Christ,

*Ralph Martin*

Ralph Martin

# feed my sheep

· IDEAS FROM OUR SUPPORTERS ON SHARING THE FAITH ·

*St. Peter's Church in North Ridgeville, Ohio, has reached out to its parishioners in a special way this year, in honor of the Jubilee of Mercy.*

Fr. Bob Franco asked Pastoral Associate Cheryle Koberna to help put together a project for the Year of Mercy. She developed the idea of mercy packets, which were distributed to all members of the parish. The packets included:

- ▶ A letter from Fr. Franco telling them about the Jubilee of Mercy and inviting them to participate in the parish more deeply.
- ▶ An 8x10 Divine Mercy image.
- ▶ A prayer card with directions on how to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.
- ▶ A prayer card on how to consecrate one's family to the Divine Mercy.
- ▶ Ralph Martin's booklet *The Final Confrontation*.

In fact, that is how we at Renewal Ministries learned about the efforts taking place at St. Peter's—we made a phone call to Cheryle after noticing her order for **2000 copies of *The Final Confrontation*** and wondering what she was doing with all of them!

Cheryle explained that Fr. Franco suggested they include the booklet in the packets. She explained, "If they don't read that booklet and want to do [more for Christ], God's got His work cut out for Him! It's such a good booklet!"

"We hope this gives [parishioners] a reason to venerate the Divine Mercy image and to care about the Year of Mercy," added Cheryle.

Cheryle explained that it was very important to them that the packets were delivered directly to parishioners. Therefore, they first had people pick them up after Masses. They delivered 800 of the 2000 packets this way.

Then, a team of about thirty volunteers received training and delivered packets to the remaining 1200 parishioners. They tried to visit each home at least three times before simply leaving the packet at the door. They reached their goal of delivering all of the packets in time for Divine Mercy Sunday.

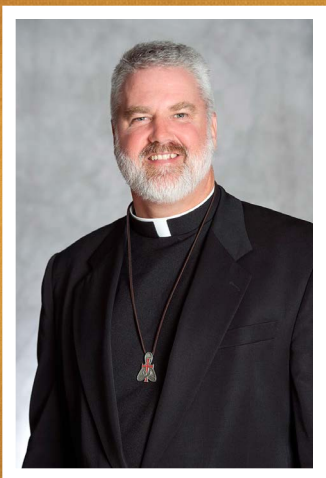
As part of the training, the people delivering the packets were asked to pray for the people receiving them. Cheryle belongs to a daily prayer group at St. Peter's that also has been praying for the people receiving the mercy packets.

"It's such a blessing to be able to go out and meet those people," said Cheryle. "It's evangelizing—now they know we care about them. We want them to come back [to church]."

St. Peter's also is helping its parishioners focus on the Year of Mercy by focusing in on a corporal and spiritual work of mercy each month in a special area in the bulletin. They hope to do a parish-wide project that helps provide clean water to a third-world country, and they are doing Fr. Michael Gaitley's "Wisdom and Works of Mercy" study group.

St. Peter's Church may reach out to all of its parishioners in another way before the end of the Jubilee of Mercy, said Cheryle.

"We want to stay in contact with them. We don't want this to end," she said. "If it touches one heart it will all have been worth it."



*We rejoice that Fr. Scott McCaig, one of our Canadian board members, who has also participated in many of our mission trips, has been named*

**BISHOP OF THE CANADIAN MILITARY ORDINARIATE**

*Congratulations, Bishop-Elect Scott!*



Fr. Graham Keep in prayer before Adoration.

# RICH in *Mercy*

## Renewal Ministries GATHERING 2016

The 2016 Gathering was a celebration of God's great mercy. The weekend featured talks by Ralph Martin; Peter Herbeck; special guest Johnnette Benkovic; and Sr. Ann Shields, SGL, on the theme "Rich in Mercy." There also were workshops by Johnnette Benkovic, Debbie Herbeck, and Paco Gavrilides. Fr. Graham Keep celebrated Sunday Mass, and Dcn. Dan Foley gave the homily.

### RALPH MARTIN

In Ralph Martin's talk, *Forever Grateful for Mercy*, he said that "as much as we're hearing about mercy, there's a lot of confusion about it."

**He said, "By nature, we deserve God's wrath," but explained that God offers His mercy to us as a tremendous gift. (Eph 2:1-9)**

Although we "hardly hear a mention of sin these days," Ralph said it is important to recognize immoral behaviors like the ones mentioned in 1 Corinthians 6, because "the immoral will not enter the kingdom of God."

"The One Who loves us gives us this list," Ralph explained. "This list is mercy."

"We are called not only to abstain from sin, but to live a life of mercy and love," Ralph continued. "And with all the talk about how merciful Jesus is, we must remember that He is always calling a person to conversion."



Pete Burak reports on the growth of i.d.9:16, Renewal Ministries' outreach to young adults.

### JOHNNETTE BENKOVIC

In her talk *Finding God in the Midst of Life's Travails*, Johnnette Benkovic recounted her suffering after the death of her son, Simon. While experiencing the immense emotional and physical pain that followed her loss, Johnnette asked God for "the same grace that held our Lady underneath the cross for three long hours."

She did not feel any consolations, but said, "I knew we can't measure things of God by means of the senses. I knew on some deep plane, I was being asked to exhibit a faith the likes of which I'd never exhibited before."

As time passed, Johnnette "began to see this cross was a gateway. It had been permitted to be given to me. It was rich with grace, and my call was to mine that grace, to dig deeply into that cross and mine the treasures it contained."

*Johnnette said it is important to trust in God's promises and to say "yes" in "total surrender to the things of God" in moments of both grief and joy, in order to receive all the graces He desires to give us.*



## PETER HERBECK

In Peter Herbeck's fiery presentation entitled *God's Mercy has Willed Us to be Free*, he acknowledged that the world is moving away from an age of Christendom. He said humanity now prizes comfort, entertainment, security, and safety—and defines happiness as a need to be free, and to “create myself and define who and what I am.”

He acknowledged that “we don't like the world's shaking,” but said God can't use us if we allow ourselves to be “gripped by fear.”

Peter explained that Jesus Himself told us to expect tribulation; however, Jesus also instructed us to “be of good cheer,” for He has “overcome the world.” (Jn 16:33) Peter reminded us that “God is utterly trustworthy,” and that “the only safe place for any of us is in the will of the Father.”

**Peter's recurrent theme was that we “need fear of God, and not fear of men.”**



This year's Gathering was one of the “best ones yet!”  
If you would like to hear more about what people loved about it,  
go online to [RenewalMinistries.net/gathering](http://RenewalMinistries.net/gathering)

## SR. ANN SHIELDS, SGL

In *The Joy No One Can Take From Us*, Sr. Ann Shields discussed our need to repent and accept God's mercy, as well as our need to be prayerful and give God thanks.

“I think this Year of Mercy is very important in order for us to be able to receive all the graces we need from God for the time that lies ahead,” she explained. “It matters that we repent for our sins. We have to forgive. We have to accept His forgiveness.”

In order to do this, we must trust in God's love for us, Sr. Ann explained.

**She said, “You are a son or daughter of God. The Holy Spirit dwells in you. Let Him be seen. Let Him be known.”**

Sr. Ann also shared a number of Bible verses she recommended be memorized in order to help bring hope in hard times. These are listed on the Gathering page at [RenewalMinistries.net/gathering](http://RenewalMinistries.net/gathering).



## ANNUAL REPORT

**Renewal Ministries marks many milestones in 2016.**

- ▶ *The Choices We Face* has been broadcasted on EWTN for thirty-one years.
- ▶ Sr. Ann Shield's radio program, *Food for the Journey*, has aired twenty-two years, and has had eight-million downloads. Peter Herbeck's radio program, *Fire on the Earth*, is celebrating eleven years of production.
- ▶ Twenty-four college seminaries and novitiates are now using Renewal Ministries' books in their classes. Also, people are distributing Renewal Ministries' booklets as tools of evangelization, as evidenced by the fact that Ralph Martin's booklet *The Final Confrontation* has sold more than 60,000 copies.
- ▶ *As By A New Pentecost's* DVD series has sold 2,734 copies, “giving people a chance to discover the Catholic Charismatic Renewal belongs to the whole Church,” Ralph explained.
- ▶ Furthermore, Renewal Ministries continues to serve through parish missions; retreats for priests and deacons; and missionary work in about thirty-two countries, with outreach expanding to India this year.
- ▶ Pete Burak gave a report on i.d.9:16, Renewal Ministries' outreach to young adults in their twenties and thirties. There currently are ten different i.d.9:16 chapters across the country, and “2016 is all about growth for us,” said Pete. “Our roots are growing deeper and our branches are going out. We're finding parishes that have a heart for discipleship.” i.d.9:16 developed a video series entitled *Foundations of Discipleship* last year and is currently developing a second series. About thirty parishes recently requested more information about i.d.9:16.



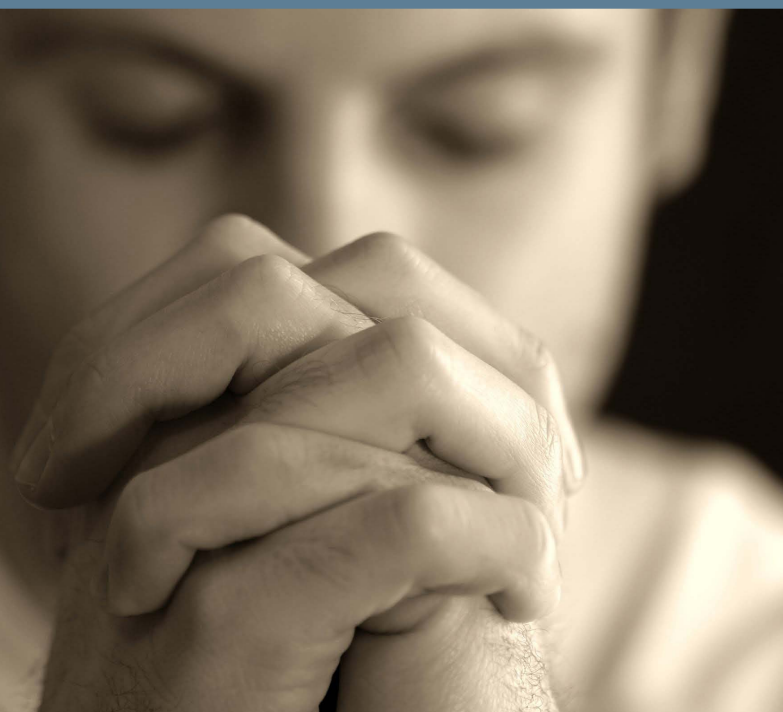
Three-hundred and seventy people attended this year's Gathering—making this the largest one yet—to draw closer to the Lord through fellowship, prayer, Spirit-filled talks, and empowerment.

Special guest Johnnette Benkovic (pictured) spoke on *Finding God's Mercy in the Midst of Life's Travails*. She also gave a workshop on forgiveness.

Save the Date for next year's Gathering  
**APRIL 7-9, 2017.**

# Never Lose Heart

By Sr. Ann Shields, SGL



*The heart of this message is one you may have heard before, but God has placed it on my heart to ask you to read this with fresh eyes and to make a personal decision to commit yourself daily to putting on the armor of God and persevering in prayer.*

“I think it is fair to say that there is true heroism, greatness, and nobility in this life of regular prayer. Man is great only when he is on his knees before God.” (Cardinal Robert Sarah and Nicolas Diat, *God or Nothing*, San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2016)

O Jesus: May our prayers be heard before Your throne for those who do not know who they are; for those deep in sin who cannot hear Your voice; for those lost in loneliness, pain, and mental and physical suffering; for those close to despair because of children who have turned away from You . . . speak, Lord, for Your servants are listening. Show us how to pray against fear—teach us to trust in the Lord. Show us how to pray against anger, hatred, jealousy, and strife—teach us to pray for unselfishness, generosity of spirit, and kindness. Show us how to pray against lust and addictions of all kinds.

**Our ultimate happiness lies in union with God—the source of all love. We were made for eternal union with God. NOTHING else will completely satisfy us; nothing else can. Teach us how to pray!**

Teach us how to pray for restoration among those we love; for the restoration of our identities as sons and daughters of God; for the restoration of faith, hope, and love; for courage and wisdom; and for love and confidence in the Lord.

Who are we? Why do we exist? What is God’s heart? His plan? His hope for us? Teach us how to pray!

To learn how to pray, we need to understand the “weapons” that God has given us. (Read more about these weapons in Ephesians 6:10-20.)

St. Paul tells us in the sixth chapter of his letter to the Ephesians: “Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Eph 6: 11-12)

One comment is necessary here: Paul tells us clearly that our battle is fought through our human flesh—but the origin of the strife is not necessarily human. The enemy prowls around seeking whom he may devour. So it is always wise to discern what is at the root of the conflict or strife we are facing—whether it be in our own homes and hearts; in our parish; or in relationships among parishioners, staff, or clergy.

We need to ask ourselves: Is there a way that the enemy has gotten a toe or a foothold in my family, my work place, or my parish? Instead of gossiping about it among relatives or other parishioners, we need to pray! We need to ask: God, help us see the root of the problem; help us discern what evil spirit(s) are doing damage to our relationships, our projects, our purpose and goals as a family, and/or our parish staff or team.

**When we really seek God’s solution, God will teach us how to pray, but we have to give Him time with us in personal prayer so that when we come together as a group to pray for certain situations, we can have confidence that we are praying with people who want God’s answer and not just a quick fix!**

His solutions don't just solve a problem; His plan always includes the sowing of seeds in the heart of each person who prays—seeds of wisdom, insight, courage, hope, and love. *We* always want a quick answer, especially when it causes us personal tension, sorrow, or pain—but if we do it God's way, it will bear fruit a hundredfold. Honestly!

Again in Ephesians 6:10-20, Paul tells how to put on God's armor for the fight:

- ① Stand your ground; note how many times the word *stand* is used. Don't vacillate, don't back away, don't give up. Stand and pray!
- ② Stand in the truth of who God is and who you are: God is your Father and your Savior. You are not alone. Lean on Him. Trust Him.
- ③ You are His son or daughter; He cares about you moment by moment. Don't give in to doubt; He will never abandon you in the fight.
- ④ Wear the breastplate of righteousness. Acknowledge your sin; confess it quickly, especially when you are in spiritual battle. The enemy will try to lie to you that you are worthless and that you can't conquer him, etc. If you stand firm in God's forgiveness of your sin and if you try daily to live according to His Word, you have no reason to be afraid.
- ⑤ Always seek to bring peace or to at least help people with the next step when the battle is fierce. Keep asking God: "Help me to do Your will in every prayer and every conversation." God will be with you!
- ⑥ Carry the shield of faith right in front of you, solidly in place. God is infinitely greater than the wiles of the enemy. Tell the Lord you will trust in Him; that He has conquered the enemy on the Cross and will work in and through you! Look for passages in Scripture, memorize them so that when the spiritual battle is fierce and affects your confidence in God and in others, you can declare the truth of the living Word and the enemy will flee!
- ⑦ Put on the helmet of salvation. You live and move and have your being in God's love and power, which has *saved* you for all eternity. Get that solidly in your mind and in your heart.
- ⑧ Pray at all times—good and bad, day in and day out. And persevere. You will not be disappointed!

In every activity of your personal life and in your parish—in all your plans, whether they be for the New Evangelization in your parish/diocese or goals for your family and your future: commit it all to *daily* prayer; let God lead, and the fruit will be abundant. ✚

Want to hear  
**MORE**  
from  
Sr. Ann?

A wonderful resource is available through Renewal Ministries' website—two half-hour videos of Sr. Ann teaching on intercession. What perfect companions for the

*Jubilee Year of Mercy*

since the seventh Spiritual Work of Mercy is to pray for the living and the dead!



To access the videos, simply click on the YouTube button

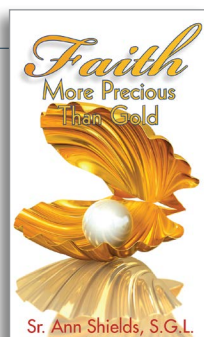


on the lower left side of the banner across the top of our home page at [www.RenewalMinistries.net](http://www.RenewalMinistries.net).

This will take you to our YouTube channel. Before you leave our website, feel free to browse! You can even find Sr. Ann's *Intercession* book in our online store or in this month's Reply Card.

Once you are at Renewal Ministries' YouTube channel, scroll to the bottom. That is where you will find Sr. Ann's two videos on intercession. We hope they are a blessing to you and to those for whom you are praying! God bless you!

Sr. Ann Shields' booklet *Faith More Precious than Gold* is now being translated into Urdu, the national language of Pakistan!



# On the Road

## June 2016 ENGAGEMENTS

**Ann Arbor, MI**  
**i.d.9:16 Disciples' Night**  
June 2  
Fr. Joe Freedy  
julianna@id916.com

**Detroit, MI**  
**ALPHA Board Retreat\***  
June 5-7  
Peter Herbeck

**Steubenville, OH**  
**Power and Purpose Conference**  
June 10-12  
Ralph Martin and Debbie Herbeck  
Contact: Kristina Scheerbaum at  
(740) 284-5886 or [www.franciscan.edu](http://www.franciscan.edu)

**Halifax, Nova Scotia**  
**Divine Renovation Conference**  
June 12-15  
Peter Herbeck  
[www.divinerenovation.net](http://www.divinerenovation.net)

**Ann Arbor, MI**  
**i.d.9:16 Barn Party**  
June 28  
julianna@id916.com

.....  
\* Not open to the public  
For a complete listing, visit:  
[RenewalMinistries.net/Events](http://RenewalMinistries.net/Events)

“ We are not spared dark nights. They are clearly necessary so we can learn through suffering. This is how we acquire freedom and maturity and above all else a capacity for sympathy with others. A part of every human love is that it is only truly great and enriching if I am ready to deny myself for this other person, to come out of myself, to give of myself. And this is certainly true of our relationship with God out of which all other relationships must grow. ”

• Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

## MISSIONS

**Slovakia**  
May 31-June 15  
Tom Edwards

**Ghana**  
June 6-12  
Emmanuel Tamakloe

**Papua New Guinea**  
June 12-July 2  
Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw

**Cameroon**  
June 20-July 2  
Peter Newburn

**Ghana**  
June 27-July 3  
Emmanuel Tamakloe

For more information about missions, contact Kathleen at 734-662-1730 ext. 132 or [kkittle@renewalministries.net](mailto:kkittle@renewalministries.net)



## Please Pray...

- ✚ That during the upcoming summer months, the Lord will bless all efforts to use some of our extra leisure time to strengthen family relationships and to grow closer to Him through Scripture reading and prayer.
- ✚ That God will give us the wisdom, strength, and love to know how we can best serve those in need in our own homes and communities.
- ✚ For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their families, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

## 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.*

### CONNECT ↔ WITH US...



**Facebook**—Like us!  
Go to: [facebook.com/CatholicRenewalMinistries](http://facebook.com/CatholicRenewalMinistries)



**Visit our website**—For email, blog, podcasts, resources, & more!  
[www.renewalministries.net](http://www.renewalministries.net)

**Editor**  
Heather Schultz

**Design**  
Emily Bachelor

© 2016 by Renewal Ministries