HEADER RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Proclaiming Jesus through Catholic Renewal and Evangelization



A letter > from Ralph Martin



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Dear Faithful Friends of Renewal Ministries, Christ is risen and the Holy Spirit is poured out! How blessed are we!

I'd like to devote this month's letter to giving an overview of how much the Lord is doing through Renewal Ministries. Each year at our annual Gathering for friends and supporters, I give a report, and this year many people commented in the evaluation forms about how inspiring it was to hear all that was happening.

The Gathering itself, as usual, was very inspiring, and that means inspiring to all our staff as well who continue to be moved by the dedication, love, prayers and financial giving of the over 400 folks who attended. On pages four and five of this newsletter, you can read about the talks from this year's Gathering. But here, I'd like to share something of an overview of all that is happening because of your support.

Pete Burak led off the report and shared how i.d.9:16—our outreach to young adults—which currently has thirteen chapters in nine states, continues to grow. One especially exciting development for i.d.9:16 this year was the development of an app that gives users access to information about Disciples' Nights, testimonies, and their blog, as well as access to Renewal Ministries' website, blog, and radio and television programs. This free download is a valuable resource that is available at app stores.



• Then, Jim "Butch" Murphy shared a moving report on our Mexico missions, which largely take place in a dump in Mexico City.

He shared pictures of people he's met on the Mexico missions that he reflects on throughout the year.



"We can't fix it all, or make it all better," he said. "But I know for a fact there are people who are alive today who wouldn't be, if we hadn't been there. The edge these people live on—that's where we find Christ."

June 2017

"What to us looks like weakness or foolishness is accomplishing more than we can understand," Jim added. "They've taught me a respect for whatever I've been given. If it's a garbage dump, it will be a clean garbage dump."

"To me, that's what mission is: Standing in the midst of pain, poverty, and dirt, being present, and constantly lifting all things to the Father."

• Deacon Dan Foley reported on our mission to India earlier this year, during which I gave over thirty talks and we ministered to many priests and nuns.

"The need is so great, and this is a spiritual people," he explained. "This could not have happened without your prayers and support."

Continued from page 1

◆ I also am thankful to report that this year is the thirty-third season of *The Choices We Face*, which continues to be the longest continually running Catholic television program. We were able to show a short video for everyone there that highlights the current season of inspiring programs. Sr. Ann Shield's radio program *Food for the Journey* has been broadcasting for twenty-three years, and Peter Herbeck's *Fire on the Earth* has been broadcasting for twelve years.

Access all of our programs at www.RenewalMinistries.net.

• Over the years, we have seen miracles and lives changed on every one of our

500 MISSIONS in over THIRTY-FOUR COUNTRIES!

• We celebrated twenty-five years of the Lift Jesus Higher Rally in Toronto, Canada, this year. And once again, the meeting facility in the Metro Toronto Convention center was full, with over 3,100 adults and 1,300 young people. Our publications also are doing well.

At least twenty-six colleges, universities, or seminaries are using at least one of my books as a text for a class.

In fact, a professor at a Catholic university has developed a course from my book *Will Many be Saved*?; that title is the name of the class as well! I'm encouraged to see the ripples going forth and affecting every sector of the Church!

♦ Also, in just the past several months, I've been invited to give academic lectures at three different universities. This has enabled me to get our message out to many young theologians, who will help guide the Church in the years to come. As you read this, Dr. Mary Healy and myself will be delivering papers at a theological symposium being held in Rome in connection with the fiftieth anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Over 400 theologically interested folks from all over the world will be there—the capacity of the symposium facility.

Renewal Ministries also has been publishing booklets for thirty-three years now, and I am inspired by the many ways in which I see people using them as evangelization resources.

WE HAVE SOLD OR GIVEN AWAY ...



35,000 Forever Grateful for Mercy

22,000 Welcome the Spiritual Gifts

16,000 Faith More Precious than Gold

...

13,000 St. Francis Used Words • We have increased our social media efforts over the past year, and they also are bearing fruit...



with **97,000** unique visitors from **180** countries

If you haven't already, please

- Subscribe to our blog
- Subscribe to our YouTube channel
- Like us & follow us on Facebook



Go to www.RenewalMinistries.net to access these pages. (For Facebook and You-Tube, just click on the icon. For the blog, click on the "Resources" tab and select "Blog.")

• Finally, I continue to be blessed with many opportunities to teach and minister to priests and deacons around the world. In fact, just last month, I spent a week with all the priests in Hawaii, giving nine talks, and having a wonderful opportunity to encourage them in the faith and in their ministry.

There's more, but that's all we have space for now!

It's truly amazing what the Lord has done and is doing. THANK YOU for all you have done and continue to do to make all this—and more—possible.

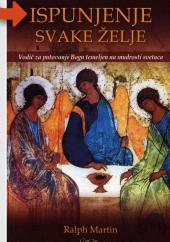
Your brother in the Holy Spirit,

Rolph Martin

Ralph

P.S. You're all welcome to attend next year's Gathering, which will be held again near Ann Arbor, Michigan, on April 6-8!

THE FULFILLMENT OF ALL DESIRE Now being published in Croatian!



Understanding & Mentoring the Next Generation

At the 2017 Renewal Ministries' Gathering, Pete Burak and Debbie Herbeck shared seven simple strategies for reaching out to the young adults in our lives:

1 » INVEST IN RELATIONSHIPS

Get involved in the lives of the young people you care about, said Debbie. Listen to them, make time for them, allow them in your home, have coffee dates with them. Invest in their lives, and never give up

We should strive to be like St. Mother Teresa in our interactions with young people, said Debbie. She explained, **"People say** when they were with her, they felt like they were the most important person in the world, and that there was no place she'd rather be."

2 » THE BASICS

"We need to PRAY, PRAY, PRAY," said Pete Burak, director of i.d.9:16, Renewal Ministries' outreach to young adults. "If we're not asking the Lord to transform our hearts, what are we sharing? Young people have a good faith meter—we can't give what we don't have."

He also recommends specific and intentional intercessory prayer—for example, not just praying for a nephew's faith, but

praying that the Lord will bring a friend with a strong faith into that nephew's life.

s faith, but

3 » CREDIBLE WITNESS

"Believe and live what you propose," said Debbie. Like St. Pope John Paul II, don't ask people to bear any burden you won't bear.

She added that joy is another essential part of witnessing: "Mother Teresa didn't let sisters join the order if they didn't know how to smile."

However, we are not required to be perfect. Debbie said,

"It's faithfulness, mercy, and the power of God in our lives that young people can relate to."

4 » ASK QUESTIONS

Interacting with the younger generation isn't always easy, said Pete, because "they're going to say things they don't fully believe, simply to push our buttons. They will try to prevent the conversation from going further, so they never have to reveal their true wounds or thoughts."

It is helpful to respond by asking more questions than you've ever asked before in your life, he said. Ask them to help you understand their position. Seek to understand them.

This builds relationship, and "even selfcentered people get tired of talking about themselves," he explained. The person will finally ask, "What do you think?" And then, Pete advises asking another question:

"Do you really want to know?"

If they say "yes," then you are free to share, and the person is more likely to listen, because "they know you valued them enough to listen, and they gave you permission," he said.

"Too often, when speaking about our faith, we feel like, **'If I don't say it now, I'm never going to get the chance,"** Pete reflected. "We need to trust the Holy Spirit will continue to work to orchestrate these opportunities. It's a sign of peace, joy, and confidence to hear what the other person is saying and just say, **'OK, that's where you are, so that's where I'll meet you.'"**

5 » HIGH STANDARDS

"We need to hold up a high standard of virtue if we're truly made for glory," said Debbie. "If you tell them they can't, they won't. St. Pope John Paul II lived that standard of heroic virtue. Our young people were drawn to that, because they are made for it."

She explained, "Use even their falling as a



reason to seek God's mercy, and to encounter His love again and again."

6 » LEAN IN

Pete quoted Pope Francis, who said, "An evangelical community gets into people's daily lives through words and deeds. It bridges the distance and is willing to abase itself, if necessary, for the good of souls. It is willing to reach out and touch the suffering flesh of Christ in others."

Pete said it can be difficult to develop deep relationships with young people, because we will encounter opposition, wounding, and suffering. We will meet addiction, despair, loneliness, and depression.

He asked, "When you see that, are you willing to reach out and touch it, and run the risk of letting it affect you, for the good of their soul?"

"We need to lean in and not say it's too painful," Pete explained. "We need to see their wounds and say, 'We love you.'"

7 » PLACES OF ENCOUNTER

Debbie stressed the importance of helping young people "create or find vibrant places of encounter."

"They need to grow in relationship with Him and grow as missionary disciples," she said. "We need to give them opportunities to give themselves away. There's nothing more freeing than feeling it's not all about you."

When reaching out to young people, Debbie encouraged us to never give up.

"It's never too late," she said. "You can't see the seeds being sown, or the battles being waged. We need to pray, and fast, and love these young people in our lives."

There's More...

Listen to the entire talk on YouTube! Go to YouTube.com/RenewalMinistriesRM and click on Videos then select "Understanding & Mentoring the Next Generation."

Jhe LIGHT SHINES INTHE DARKNESS and the darkness has not overcome it > John 1:5

THE RENEWAL MINISTRIES' ANNUAL GATHERING 🖸 2017

More than 400 people attended Renewal Ministries' recent Gathering—the largest number yet! The weekend featured a live-streamed talk by Ralph Martin, as well as talks by Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields, and Fr. Mathias Thelen, a workshop on healing with Dr. Mary Healy, and a workshop on Understanding and Mentoring the Next Generation with Debbie Herbeck and Pete Burak. Fr. Graham Keep celebrated Sunday Mass, and Fr. Mathias Thelen gave the homily.



THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS > Ralph Martin_____

Ralph Martin shared some of his own testimony as part of his talk: "I was in danger, but I didn't know I was in danger. I once saw a tow truck passing by, they called them wreckers, and I really felt that the wrecker was coming for me—that the devil was coming for me, and the way I was headed was not going to be good."

"At a Cursillo weekend, I realized that if Jesus really was God, I was faced with a difficult decision . . .

I knew the only sensible response, if He was Lord, was surrender."

"But I also knew that meant writing Him a blank check. And you know what Jesus writes?



"I invite all of us to think of all our yesses to the Lord, to make sure we haven't taken anything back. He's worthy of adoration. He's worthy of obedience. He's worthy of following Him."

Ralph explained, "People have a choice to make. Will they let go of their darkness and embrace the light, or will they hate the light and embrace the darkness? We want more and more to be transformed by the light of God."

Ralph said that the key to that transformation can be found in John 3:16. He said, "It's all about love."

"What price could ever be found to buy eternal life?" he continued. "Do we realize what we've been promised by the Lord is precious and very great? It's worth making sacrifices to persevere to the end and stay with Jesus. Jesus is very, very close to us, and He wants us to be very close to Him."

The answer to staying close to the Lord is prayer,

said Ralph: "I recently decided to increase my daily prayer life by fifty percent. Think of that as a very practical way of saying to Jesus, 'I want to be close to You."

"Our response should be worship, adoration, praise, and rejoicing," he explained. "There really is something to rejoice in! The Lord wants us to look forward to what is coming, because that's supposed to give us hope for today."

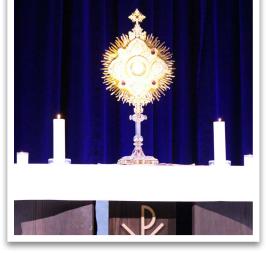
Ralph concluded, "There is sorrow in life, there is suffering. If we just hang in there, and keep on working, and keep on serving, a great reward is coming."

Watch Ralph's whole talk on YouTube! Go to YouTube.com/RenewalMinistriesRM, click on videos and select Ralph at 2017 Gathering.

TO HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIGHT • Peter Herbeck

Peter Herbeck discussed how an intense "battle for human souls" is taking place in the world around us.

"The reason God is disappearing from the horizon is that humanity is pushing Him away," he said. "The predominant way of looking at the human person today is with self-creative freedom—my identity becomes my own achievement."



This demand to re-define humanity has extended to the family—which is where the Blessed Mother told Sr. Lucia the final battle would occur. Peter quoted Cardinal Robert Sarah: "Today we're witnessing the next stage of building a utopia without God. It says children don't need mothers and fathers. It denies human nature and wants to cut off an entire generation from God."

We need to keep contending, standing, and witnessing to the truth. Expect opposition. 'If you have tribulation, be of good cheer.' He has overcome the world! Peter also discussed the dangerous trend toward the development of artificial intelligence and the increase of technology use in our world. He said, "We are already cyborgs—half human, half machine."

"The darkness is going to keep ratcheting up, but the light is going to get brighter as we keep saying 'yes' to Jesus. We were made to give glory to God," he explained. "We need to keep contending, standing, and witnessing to the truth. Expect opposition. The Lord wants you to be all you can be, and that only comes through trials and difficulties. In this world, you will have tribulation. Jesus said, 'If you have tribulation, be of good cheer.' He has overcome the world!"

Peter added, "Engage the Master's mission with everything (you've) got. He asks, 'Are you willing to let go of security? How radical are you willing to become in responding to Me?' Simplify your life. Fast. Pray. Give your time and money to the pursuit of souls for Christ. The Lord is purifying and empowering His Church, so we can be a light to the nations. We have to pray the Lord will cast fear out of our lives."



'WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME . . . WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE' ▶ Sr. Ann Shields, SGL

Sr. Ann Shields discussed the need for "our faith to grow" and "our roots to go deep."

"There's a way it's easier to live in faith when the world supports you," she said. "But that's not the case right now. Ask God every day: '**Increase my faith**."

Sr. Ann's recommendation for deepening faith include reading the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and Scripture, going to Reconciliation, and receiving the Eucharist.

Sr. Ann explained that following Jesus and His Word allows His light to shine in us. She shared almost a dozen Scripture verses that supported the theme of doing the Father's will, which can be viewed on the Gathering page at www.RenewalMinistries.net/gathering.

She shared a quote from Sr. Ruth Burrows on faith, which describes it as "a sustained decision to take God with utter seriousness as the God of my life (and) a decision to shift the center of our lives from ourselves to Him, to forgo self-interest and to make His interest, His will our sole concern."

Sr. Ann asked, "Is our life filled with adoration and worship of God? Or is it kept to something we think we can handle?"

She continued, "The Lord says, 'Open your heart to me, because I have so much to give you. But it has to be what He wants, how He wants—'not my will, but yours be done.'"

"His will—that's what brings life out of darkness,"

concluded Sr. Ann. "When we're able to say, 'Lord, I give You my children, my marriage, my godchildren, my friends be it done unto me according to Your word. It's a hard prayer to pray, but my call is to surrender, and then He will use me, and then the light will shine in the darkness."

*Also available at YouTube.com/RenewalMinsitriesRM under Videos is Fr. Mathias Thelen's talk "Fearless" and the talk that Bishop Scott McCaig was going to give, "Mary, Star of the New Evangelization." - ENJOY!





By Peter Thompson Country Coordinator for Kenya

Peter Thompson is Renewal Ministries' country coordinator to Kenya. Originally from England, he and his wife now live in Canada, where they raised their three children. Peter serves the Church in many areas of the world, through a dynamic teaching apostolate that includes parish missions and teaching the Catholic faith, especially in the areas of Catholic apologetics, Church history, the New Evangelization and the New Pentecost.



Spreading the GOSPEL in Kenya



For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. JEREMIAH 29:11-14

O NGONG DIOCESE

We began our mission with a one-day presentation for the annual priests' retreat on The New Evangelization and New Pentecost. Fifty priests attended and heard input from each team member, including short testimonies about the dramatic changes they experienced in their faith through Life in the Spirit Seminars, and the graces received through baptism in the Spirit. **Bishop John Oballa Owaa** thanked us for these concise and effective testimonies.

Fr. James Burasa gave an excellent teaching on the theology of baptism in the Spirit, quoting extensively from early Church writings and bearing witness to the profound grace he received through the baptism in the Spirit at a critical period in his priesthood.

We were unable to pray with priests individually; however, Bishop John expressed his desire for us to return and allow an additional day for individual prayer ministry.

Within days of our presentations, the diocese received requests for Life in the Spirit Seminars from six priests, and the requests continue to come in!

This was the first opportunity we have had to speak to a group of priests in Kenya, and it bodes well for the future! It is vital to address priests with the call to a New Pentecost and New Evangelization.

O NAKURU DIOCESE

Forty-five lay leaders attended sessions that covered major areas of our Catholic faith, an intensive session using Unbound and time for ministering to each individual.

Unbound is a Biblical model of deliverance that helps people discover freedom from sin using the Five Keys:

- » Repentance & Faith
- » Forgiveness
- » Renunciation
- » Authority of the Lord
- » The Father's Blessing

Our final day included a condensed version of the Life in the Spirit Seminar and individual prayer for baptism in the Spirit.

The weekend was very effective, as we covered many areas and were able to respond to a multitude of questions. Team members Celeste Martin and Nancy Hurst also had the joy of speaking to 600 young women from the girls' senior school. They shared on the Theology of the Body, using the unborn models. Nancy s expert NFP knowledge was well received by both the students and staff.

DLOITOKTOK

We think of Africa as having a surplus of priests; however, the parishes can be vast, stretching over many square miles, with outstations that are difficult to reach and extremely rough roads that are often impassable in the rainy seasons. St. Luke's, where we held a five-day event, is a large parish, with twenty-six outstations, schools, and the main parish compound that has a pastoral centre, convent, and other facilities.

I find the teaching sessions we undertake in Kenya to be of great advantage and influence in these regions, as people are hungry to understand their faith and grow both in knowledge and in their experience of God's healing love and mercy. Many people, including youth and young adults, had already gathered when we arrived for this event.

We always like to allow extended periods for questions and answers, by having participants write down their questions. This enables them to ask questions about matters concerning marriage, sexuality, abortion, sterilization, and contraception. There are many situations with polygamous marriages, and a whole host of other subjects. With so little access to good catechesis, many continue in ignorance of the basic teachings of the Catholic faith.



We were blessed to have Deacon John & Nancy Hust lead a time of Unbound healing.

Catechists responsible for formation in these remote areas invariably have no access to a Catholic catechism. Often, the Bibles they use are not Catholic, as Catholic Bibles are very expensive. Since they use Bibles that contain Protestant commentary, errors creep in. This extends not only to the average Catholic, but also to leaders, catechists, and sometimes to religious as well. This situation is in no way exclusive to Africa, as the lack of sound catechesis in North America, Europe, and elsewhere also has been catastrophic, as Pope Benedict XVI stated.

We had a permanent married deacon and his wife on our team-Deacon John and Nancy Hust-and they created a stir, as permanent deacons are unknown in central Africa. This required us to give a clear explanation of Church teaching on this subject.

Each day, we split into two teams to travel to schools in the area, sometimes over treacherous roads. The children were always well behaved and eager to hear from us. Many have a nearly two hour walk to school; they leave their homes in the dark in order to be there by 8 a.m. School continues until 5 p.m., when the children walk home. Then they do chores, homework, and get to bed, in order to start early again the next day.

Forty to fifty people would be at each session in the early morning, but the numbers then grew to several hundred, as many walked each day to attend. We concluded with Mass at 3 p.m., and they would disperse to walk home. A number, including the youth, stayed in the compound, so we were able to give some evening sessions as well.

Unbound was a time of great healing, led by Deacon John and Nancy. In the general session and at the senior schools, Celeste and Nancy spoke of our sexuality as a gift from God, used the models of the unborn, and bore witness to the truth that life begins at conception.

We also taught and prayed for baptism in the Spirit, as this was new to many. Over 500 attended our final Sunday Mass for youth. Following Mass, we shared with them from Jeremiah 29:11-14 and prayed with them for God's plan to unfold in their lives, focusing on the particular vocation and way in which God would develop their gifts and talents. This resulted in a profound moment of grace for many.

PRISON OUTREACH

friends supply these needs.

We have had the great joy of visiting a number of prisons over the last few years. On our last day, we visited a compound of the Langata women's prison that housed around 200-300 women awaiting trial.

We recognized some prisoners, as they can wait months, or even years, for trial. They must welcome the break in the monotony of prison life, as singing is a joyful expression of their lives, and they enter in with great enthusiasm. People in these situations need a message of hope and God s love and mercy. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we also were able to buy them soap and toilet tissue-both of which are only available to the inmates if family or

We also visted the Athi River mens' prison. When we arrived, the choir greeted us by singing a cappella in excellent harmony.

Many gathered in the hot sun to hear the message of God's mercy and His love and plan for each of us. We had two whole hours to minister to the men, and again, through the generosity of Renewal Ministries' supporters, we were able to distribute soap and toilet paper for over 800 men.



I believe this very intensive mission to Kenya has produced good fruit and sowed seeds that we may only learn of after we enter our true and lasting home, heaven. 7

On the Road.

June 2017 ENGAGEMENTS

Rome, Italy **CCR Golden Jubilee** May 31-June 4 Ralph Martin, Dr. Mary Healy www.ccrgoldenjubilee2017.org

Ann Arbor, MI i.d.9:16 Disciples' Night June 1 **Iris Proctor** Contact: pete@id916.com

Steubenville, OH **Abide and Arise Conference** *Iune 9-11* Sr. Ann Shields www.steubenvilleconferences.com/ adult/ppc

Montmartre, France **Anuncio Community Retreat** June 9-10 Dr. Mary Healy

Please Pray...

Brussels, Belgium Fiftieth Anniversary Catholic **Charismatic Renewal** June 10 **Ralph Martin**

Lyon, France **Evening of Healing and Christian** Unity June 11 Dr. Mary Healy

Lomé, Togo **Seminar on Charisms for Priests** Iune 13-16 Dr. Mary Healy

Atchison, KS **Men's Conference** June 24 Peter Herbeck, Pete Burak Contact: cemenofamily1@hotmail.com

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

For all those living with chronic illness, that the Lord would give them the grace to persevere in faith; that He would grant their doctors wisdom and compassion; and that He would bless those who support them with perseverance, hearts of mercy, and the support and rest they need.

That this year, which celebrates the Golden Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, would bear abundant fruit and increase openness to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

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

RENEWAL MINISTRIES

In the United States **Episcopal Advisor** Renewal Ministries is a Catholic ministry committed to renewal and evangelization in Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, St. Louis, MO the Church. It seeks to proclaim Jesus Christ through its TV and radio outreaches, as Chairman of the Board well as through books, conferences, retreats, and other international evangelistic events. Deacon Dan Foley Visit our website www.renewalministries.net for programs, blog, contact info, resources, & more! CONNECT ↔ WITH US... President Ralph Martin Download the i.d.9:16 mobile App for easy access to all of the above Renewal <u>Ministries</u>' You Tube In Canada **Episcopal Advisor** content and so much more! Cardinal Thomas Collins, Toronto, ON Chairman of the Board Editor Design Monsignor Gregory Smith, Vancouver, BC Heather Schultz **Emily Bachelor** © 2017 by Renewal Ministries

www.renewalministries.net

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

MISSIONS

Slovakia

June 6-19 Tom Edwards

Mexico

June 13-21

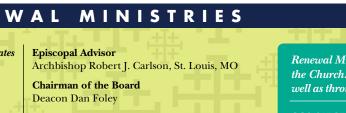
Jim Murphy

Cameroon June 22-July 1

Peter Newburn

66 There are only two choices for every Catholic: either to shake off the Eucharist with its enormous demands, or to surrender to it, to hold fast to it. Anyone who holds fast to the Lord will not be abandoned by him. Anyone who grapples with him humbly and sincerely will never be denied his light.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



8