

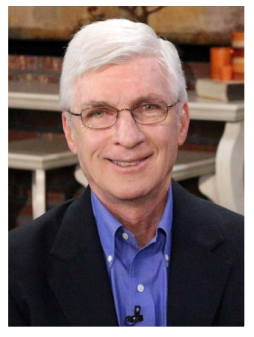


RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Celebrating
35
YEARS
of God's
Faithfulness

Proclaiming Jesus through Catholic Renewal and Evangelization

...
March
2016



A letter ▶
from Ralph Martin

Greetings in this Year of Mercy,

Pope Francis has encouraged us to consider how we can make the spiritual and corporal works of mercy more a part of our lives this year:

"Let us rediscover these *corporal works of mercy*: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. And let us not forget the *spiritual works of mercy*: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead." (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 15)

Recently, my wife Anne and I joined our local St. Vincent De Paul Society as a way of bringing the corporal works of mercy more into our lives in a regular way. And of course, Renewal Ministries is majorly involved in the spiritual works of mercy. **Many of our supporters have found the little booklets we produce a useful means of counseling the doubtful, instructing the ignorant, admonishing sinners, comforting the afflicted, and encouraging forgiveness.** This has been particularly true with the current booklet *The Final Confrontation*, but all of our booklets are being used for this purpose as well.

By the time you get this newsletter we'll have sold over 40,000 copies of *The Final Confrontation* and given away about 8,000 copies. Where are they all going? Well, I have on my desk an order from Gold Canyon, Arizona, for 500 copies of *The Final Confrontation*; an order from Allentown, Pennsylvania, for 400 copies; and an order from Henderson, Nevada, for 350 copies.

There also were orders from eighteen people across the country who wanted at least one hundred copies of *The Final Confrontation*, and many more who wanted at least fifty copies!

Such numbers mean our supporters aren't keeping to themselves this message of walking with our Lord on the narrow path!

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Don't miss out on an opportunity to take tools for the New Evangelization with you wherever you go!



- 🔊 Fire on the Earth
- 🔊 Food for the Journey
- 🔊 The Choices We Face

Did you know that you can access our television and radio programs on our website and listen to them whenever you want?

If you are interested in listening to our programs as podcasts, but are uncertain about how podcasts work, our **new website** has an instruction page that's just for you!

For step-by-step instructions on how to download, stream, or subscribe to our television and radio programs, visit:

www.RenewalMinistries.net/podcasting



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We recently called some of the people who made these orders, and learned that the booklets have been shared at men's and women's conferences, with parishes, with Alpha groups, in adoration chapels, at houses of prayer, and with friends and family members.

▶ A woman from Clearwater, Florida, shared 300 copies of *The Final Confrontation* with people in her house of prayer, because “there is so much information [in the booklet that] we need for this time—Ralph is correct.”

▶ Another woman, from Robinsonville, Mississippi, has ordered nearly 1,000 copies of *The Final Confrontation*. She shared them with every priest in her diocese, her bishop, two Bible studies she attends, and with all of her children at Christmas. She also ordered enough for everyone who attended the women's conference in Lafayette, Louisiana, in January.

“It's so powerful,” she explained. “Ralph has such an innate knowledge of what the Lord is doing.”

▶ A woman from New Richmond, Ohio, ordered 200 copies of *The Final Confrontation*; she and her husband have been distributing it slowly. She always keeps a stock in her car and has left a few at area parishes, along with distributing some to her own fellow parishioners, friends, and family members.

“I felt it was one of those things I needed to do to try and get the word out,” she explained. “This is truth the Church has been saying for some time.”

“I just feel we need to wake up. I'm not pounding it into people, so [the distribution] is going slowly. I'm looking at how we can be instrumental in our parish at helping people grow deeper in their faith,” she said.

When this woman or her husband hand out copies of the booklet to fellow parishioners or other people they know, they “don't just give one”—they also give extra copies for that person to share.

She said we are all called “to be listening in our time with the Lord” to hear the ways the Lord is calling us to reach out to others.

She added, “All these materials from Renewal Ministries help firm us up, and encourage us. . . . Renewal Ministries is such an uplifting piece of my faith. We really trust things that come from Renewal Ministries—it's solid.” (*We at Renewal Ministries are so grateful for her encouragement, and for the prayers and support of all of the people who make our work possible.*)

▶ A man from Allentown, Pennsylvania, has distributed “several hundred” copies of *The Final Confrontation*. Most recently, he purchased a large quantity for a diocesan men's

conference. He also distributes the booklet at his parish's adoration chapel and at his men's group. He said an increase in his parish's adoration and daily Mass attendance encourages him that people are hearing the message.

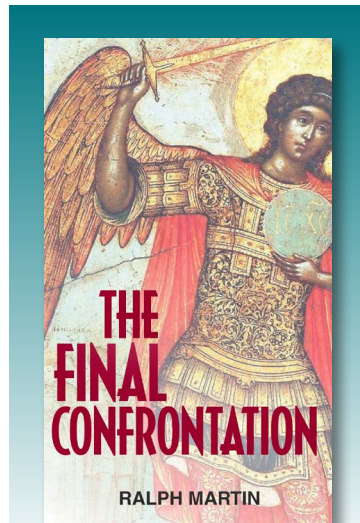
▶ A woman from Camillus, New York, ordered fifty copies of *The Final Confrontation*. She plans to hand them out to family members and others.

“I want them to know the Scripture quotes,” she explained. “Information is powerful. Most of the people I know at church will be interested in this.”

She is seventy-nine, and said her intention in sharing the booklet is to say, **“This is what's happening [in our culture and world]—have you thought about it?** In my age group, we all realize what is happening in the culture and with the faith—but so many are not aware.”

She appreciates that the booklet also contains the “solace of the Bible to help us—to assure us God is there and that's what it's all about.”

She hopes people with whom she shares the booklet will order some more to share within their own circle of friends and family. She said, “Every little bit helps. You never know where it is going to go.”



▶ A man from Cody, Wyoming, said that when a priest shared twenty copies of *The Final Confrontation* with the Knights of Columbus at his parish, he read his and shared it with his pastor, who was “overjoyed.”

“He asked that we get more for the booklet rack at the back of the church. I've been putting them out ten at a time,” he said. So far, he has ordered fifty book-

lets and is getting ready to place a second order. “People have been so appreciative—non-Catholics as well, he explained. “This is a message everyone needs to be reminded of. It ties everything into Scripture and is concise. **You can gulp it down in a couple hours, or you can sip on it. When people ask me for one, I give them two and ask them to share it.**”

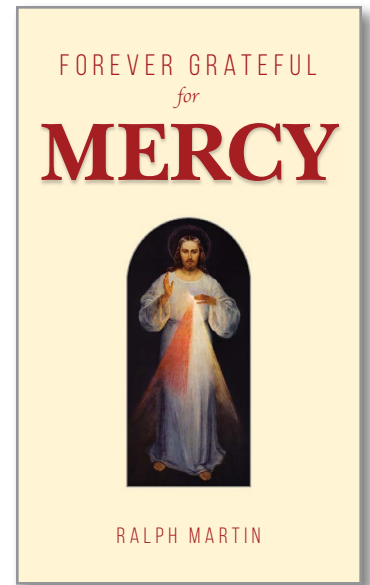
Not all of us may be called to give out booklets, although it is one easy way to spread the word, but all of us in this year of mercy are called to reach out in some way to love and serve others, to bear sufferings patiently, and to pray for the living and the dead!

With Much Gratitude for Your Faithfulness,

Ralph Martin

Ralph Martin

P.S. HOT OFF THE PRESSES! My new booklet, *Forever Grateful for Mercy*, attempts to “tell the truth about mercy.” Understanding clearly what mercy is and is not is really the key to receiving the graces of the Jubilee of Mercy and sharing them with others. [See enclosed reply card for ordering details.]



Renewal Ministries THE GATHERING 2016 • **APRIL 15-17**

RICH in *Mercy*

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. | Ephesians 2:4-7



SPECIAL GUEST: Johnnette Benkovic

Author, speaker and founder of *Living His Life Abundantly & Women of Grace*

📍 Eagle Crest Conference Center Marriott Hotel • Ypsilanti, MI

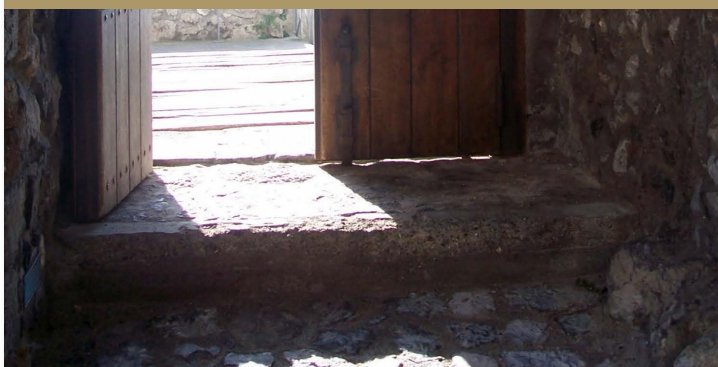
For more information or to register

Call Kathleen at 734.662.1730 ext.132 or visit RenewalMinistries.net/gathering



Open Wide the Doors to the Holy Spirit!

by Jack Lynch



The popes have offered encouragement to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal since its beginning in 1967. In his 1975 address to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Pope Paul VI famously called the Renewal “a chance” for the Church.

In a May 29, 2004 Vespers homily, St. John Paul II said, “Thanks to the Charismatic Movement, a multitude of Christians, men and women, young people and adults, have rediscovered Pentecost as a living reality in their daily lives. I hope that the spirituality of Pentecost will spread in the Church, as a renewed incentive to prayer, holiness, communion and proclamation.”

Pope Benedict added his support in a 2008 address to participants in a meeting organized by the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships: “We can, therefore, rightly say that one of the positive elements and aspects of the Community of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is precisely their emphasis on the charisms or gifts of the Holy Spirit and their merit lies in having recalled their topicality in the Church.”

Recently, Pope Francis elevated papal encouragement of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal to a new level. Before a crowd of over 50,000 gathered in Olympic Stadium in Rome for the thirty-seventh Convocation of Renewal in 2014, Francis exhorted the attendees by saying, “I expect you to share with everyone in the Church the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit.” He said the Renewal was “willed

by the Holy Spirit to be ‘a current of grace in the Church and for the Church.’”

Pope Francis encouraged involvement in the Renewal again in 2015, before a group of over 1,000 priests and bishops gathered in Rome for the Third Annual Worldwide Priests Retreat.

He said, “I ask each and all of you that as part of the current of grace of Charismatic Renewal you organize seminars of Life in the Spirit in your parishes and seminaries, schools, [and] in neighborhoods, to share baptism in the Spirit . . . it is catechesis so that it produces, by the work of the Holy Spirit, the personal encounter with Jesus who changes our life.”

These comments and similar ones from the popes are extremely significant. I’m convinced that many people, like myself, have wondered why the Church hasn’t previously gone beyond just encouraging or blessing the Renewal to actively promoting it. Whatever the reason, Pope Francis’ comments clearly indicate that is no longer the case.

Pope Francis identified the Renewal as a “current of grace,” rather than merely a movement, within the Church. When he spoke in 2015 to the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships on the twenty-fifth anniversary of its pontifical approval, Pope Francis issued an invitation to those touched by the Renewal to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary with him in Rome in 2017.

He said, “Let it not be a celebration of a ‘movement,’ which you are not! Let it be the renewal of Pentecost for the Church and the world, together with all the Christians who have lived the experience of ‘being born anew’ Jesus spoke about with Nicodemus. (Jn 3:3-6) The Church and the world need, today more than ever, the Holy Spirit! They need more than ever the announcement of the *Kerygma* proclaimed by Peter on the morning of Pentecost!”

This is a great inspiration for all of us who have promoted the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit for so many years. Let’s receive Francis’ comments as our marching orders. Let’s renew our zeal for the spread of this deeper openness to and intimacy with the third Person of the Trinity. Let’s allow the Holy Father’s exhortations to fill our sails afresh and inspire us to begin again the work of spreading the Gospel and praying that this grace be released in people’s lives.

Let’s no longer let our trumpets give an uncertain call; let’s boldly invite others to taste and see what so many millions of Catholics and others around the world have experienced—that our faith is meant to have an upward draft, a movement, a dynamism that compels us to live it wholeheartedly and joyfully. Let’s share this message as best we can. And let’s receive Francis’ comments as further incentive to renew a commitment to prayer, without which we will have squandered, at least in part, our own inheritance we received when we were baptized in the Spirit. As he added in that 2015 speech to the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships,

“strengthen yourself daily with the prayer of praise, a gift from the Holy Spirit which you have rediscovered for the Church, and which takes us to an increasing intimacy with the Trinitarian God.”

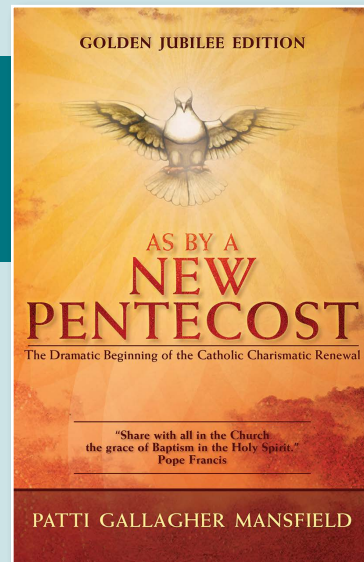
In light of the pope’s exhortations, perhaps now is a time to consider offering a Life in the Spirit Seminar in your parish or neighborhood, or even in your own home. Renewal Ministries offers the *As By a New Pentecost* DVD set with seven talks that will do most of the work for you! Or, perhaps you could join with others who are offering a seminar and help out as a discussion group leader or in some other practical way.

As Pope Francis suggested, the Life in the Spirit Seminar is a perfect tool for the New Evangelization. It not only offers a chance to be baptized in the Spirit, but also the opportunity to hear a clear proclamation of the *Kerygma* (the heart of the Gospel) and instruction on prayer, Scripture, service and fellowship, and ongoing transformation in Christ.

Another resource for learning about how this “current of grace” first came to the Church is Patti Mansfield’s new book, *As By A New Pentecost: Golden Jubilee Edition*.

Pope St. John Paul II invited us all to “Open wide the doors to Christ!” Paraphrasing Francis’ remarks above, perhaps now we should also proclaim, “Open wide the doors to the Holy Spirit!” †

Jack Lynch is the TV producer for Renewal Ministries and is experienced in giving seminars such as *As By a New Pentecost*. He would be happy to consult with anyone who has questions about doing this. Contact Jack at 734-663-1730 x125 or jlynch@renewalministries.net



Want to learn more about how the Catholic Charismatic Renewal began?

“This is a very important and inspiring book.”

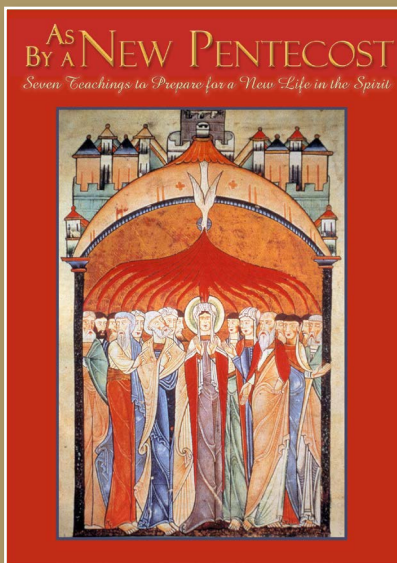
Ralph Martin

As By A New Pentecost: Golden Jubilee Edition

By Patti Gallagher Mansfield

The newly released *Golden Jubilee Edition* of Patti Mansfield’s book *As By A New Pentecost* describes the dramatic outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Duquesne Weekend in 1967 and follows the spread of this “current of grace” over its fifty-year history. Readers of the original edition will find many new testimonies from pioneers in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and **over a hundred pages of new material.**

▶ SEE THE ENCLOSED REPLY CARD TO ORDER



AS BY A NEW PENTECOST · DVD SERIES

This is a simple, effective way to lead others into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and introduce them to the working of the Holy Spirit. The explicitly Catholic video series is presented by leaders in the New Evangelization: Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields, SGL, Patti Mansfield, and David Mangan. The seven sessions can be presented weekly or during a weekend retreat in parish, home, or catechetical settings.

▶ SEE THE ENCLOSED REPLY CARD TO ORDER

TESTIMONIALS

“It was the easiest Life in the Spirit Seminar I ever facilitated—and the most successful!” | *Baldwin, GA*

“People have been set on fire to have a deeper relationship with God . . . We couldn’t have done the seminar without you.” | *Aurora, MN*

“The anointing of the Holy Spirit and the clarity of the Word of God presented in this DVD set gives initial catechesis as well as ongoing evangelization in the parish a powerful boost!” | *Auburn, CA*

“Surpassed my expectations. In the words of our parish deacon, ‘It was wonderfully excellent.’ It brings the Life in the Spirit Seminars to a new level. It was well-presented with world-class speakers, and gives all groups the tool needed to present the seminars with meaning. . . . The set of DVDs allowed us to have presenters who were experienced and their talks were strong and right on the subject. A tremendous difference from what we used to do.” | *New Port Richey, FL*

“I hope that you will share with all in the Church the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit.”

**POPE FRANCIS
XXXVII Convocation of Renewal
ROME | 2014**

THE CHOICES WE FACE 2016

This month, EWTN will begin airing the thirty-second season of *The Choices We Face*. This widely acclaimed program is the longest-running Catholic television show in history! Each week, hosts Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck explore important topics concerning the faith. They interview guests from various callings, including priests, evangelists, catechists, parents, and theologians.

Highlighted below are the 2016 guests and topics.



Patti Mansfield

Let the Fire Fall: Worldwide Priests Retreat, Rome

Patti shares about her appearance at the Third Annual Worldwide Retreat for Priests in Rome in June 2015 and Pope Francis' memorable exhortation.

&

Who Is Sitting Next to You?

Patti and Peter wonder if we are prepared for unexpected opportunities to share our faith.

Msgr. Charles Pope · Clarifying Confusion

Msgr. Pope brings his incisive mind to the confusion afflicting much of the Church today.



Fr. John Riccardo

"The hour of the laity has struck"

Fr. Riccardo tells the story of how his parish has been transformed by the active involvement of the laity.

&

Marriage in the Crosshairs

Fr. Riccardo explains what Christ and the Church teach about sexuality and marriage—and why.



Lila Rose · A Natural Outcome

Pro-life activist Lila Rose shares with Peter the story of her journey to the Catholic Church.



Dcn. Ralph Poyo · Creative Evangelism

Dcn. Poyo talks about his ministry to help parishes embrace mission and discipleship.



Bishop Mike Byrnes · Hope for a Dying City

Bishop Byrnes discusses how renewal is coming to Detroit, Michigan, in the midst of great hardship.



Bishop Christian Riesbeck · The Joy of the Gospel

Recently ordained Bishop Riesbeck discusses the richness of life in The Companions of the Cross and his journey to being a bishop.





Johnnette Benkovic

Women of Grace

Women's ministry leader and TV show host Johnnette Benkovic speaks about her own conversion experience and her organization "Women of Grace."

Entrusted With Sorrows

Johnnette shares about deep sorrows in her own life and how she has grown closer to God through them.



Dr. Mark Giszczak · *Dark Passages*

Dr. Giszczak discusses his book *Light on the Dark Passages of Scripture*, in which he talks about how to understand some of the more difficult parts of Scripture.



Daniel Burke · *Going Deep With God*

Dan Burke, founder of The Avila Institute, explains the path to intimacy with God.



Bishop Francis Kalabat · *Helping a Suffering People*

Bishop Kalabat relates the story of his own conversion and how he and his fellow Chaldean Catholics are helping the people of Iraq.



Dr. Lawrence Feingold · *A Jewish Atheist Finds Christ and the Church*

Dr. Feingold speaks of his own remarkable spiritual journey and how God used beauty to lead him to faith.



Rebecca Oas · *On the Front Lines at the UN*

Ms. Oas shares about her work with C-FAM, an organization dedicated to speaking up for life and family at the UN.



Fr. James Mallon · *The Price of Faithfulness*

Fr. Mallon tells the story of how his parish has been revitalized and the price paid to get there.



Rob Muise · *Stand or Fall*

Muise, a former Marine and now a lawyer, discusses issues of religious liberty and freedom of speech.



Fr. Mathias Thelen · *A God of Surprises*

Fr. Thelen reflects on his surprising vocation, from the midst of a very worldly life.



TV | View on EWTN beginning the week of March 6, 2016 on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. and Fridays at 6:30 a.m. ET. To see broadcast days and times on other stations, visit: RenewalMinistries.net/TV and click on "view television distributor schedule."

ONLINE | View episodes online any time at RenewalMinistries.net/TV and click on "Watch episodes."

CD or DVD | Purchase individual episodes in either CD or DVD format. See the enclosed reply card for more details.

On the Road

March-April 2016 ENGAGEMENTS

Royal Oak, MI
National Shrine of the Little Flower
March 2
Ralph Martin
daniellesimonson@gmail.com

Ann Arbor, MI
i.d.9:16 Disciples' Night
March 3
Ralph Martin
julianna@id916.com

Toronto, ON
Lift Jesus Higher Rally
March 5
Ralph Martin; Sr. Ann Shields, SGL;
Peter Herbeck; Debbie Herbeck
lift-jesus-higher-rally.org

Grand Rapids, MI
Catholic Men's Conference
March 12
Peter Herbeck | Contact:
Dave Flickinger at 616-914-5275
or Kepha@buildingalegacy.org

Memphis, TN
Men's Morning of Spirituality
March 19
Peter Herbeck
www.mensmorning.com

Winona, MN
Men's Conference
April 2
Peter Herbeck
www.dowmen.org

Independence, OH
Cleveland Men's Conference
April 9
Ralph Martin
Josephkolar159@yahoo.com

Ann Arbor, MI
Renewal Ministries Gathering
April 15-17
Ralph Martin; Peter Herbeck;
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
kkittle@renewalministries.net

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

“ We won't find any sinner converted without turning to prayer. We won't find any sinner persevering without depending on prayer. Nor will we ever find a Christian who ends up damned whose downfall did not begin with a lack of prayer. ” • St. John Vianney

MISSIONS

Haiti
February 23-March 2
Lloyd & Nancy Greenhaw

Ethiopia
March 7-19
Lloyd & Nancy Greenhaw

Fr. Gabriel Richard
High School
Mexico City Mission
March 29-April 4
Debbie Herbeck & Jim Murphy

Ghana
April 4-9
Emmanual Tamakloe

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

Please Pray...

- ✚ That we may persevere in faithfulness to prayer during these final weeks of Lent and at all times.
- ✚ For everyone being received into the fullness of the Catholic Church this Easter.
- ✚ For healing for all of those suffering physically, mentally, or spiritually. May they reach out to the Lord in faith, and may He hear and answer their pleas.
- ✚ 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
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.

Editor
Heather Schultz

Design
Emily Bachelor

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