# + HENEWAL MINISTRIES

Catholic Renewal and Evangelization

March 2019



A letter • from Ralph Martin



#### Very Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As the spiritual battle increases in intensity both in the Church and in the world, those who are diligently persevering in trying to follow Jesus and to be faithful to Him become ever the dearer to one another. To have companions on the journey (and there are so many of us who are making the journey together as friends of Renewal Ministries and of each other) is a great blessing.

People continue to ask me what my current thinking is, particularly on the crisis that continues to unfold in the Church. I think what I said in my letter, Dear Troubled Catholics, that we published in the September 2018 issue (available on our website at www.RenewalMinistries.net), continues to represent how I see the situation and what my advice would be. Unfortunately, in the months since we published the letter, there have been near-constant revelations of abuse, cover up, and outright lying among some of the Church's worldwide leadership. And news about some of the people who still hold high positions in Rome, including some who have just recently been appointed, is deeply troubling, particularly as it pertains to homosexuality and the cover up of immorality among the clergy.

I would also say that the first instinct of many in leadership continues to be to try to protect the reputation of the institution, often at the expense of telling the real truth, in order to placate the world and its values.

At the same time, many mature Catholic laypeople are respectfully but forcefully confronting some of this lack of courage and truthfulness, and they often are finding receptivity among the leadership they address. Bishops can't outsource their primary roles as preachers of the Gospel to their communication and public relation departments, whose understandable tendency is to "put out the fires" and "make the Church look good" even in moments when the corrupt culture of the world needs to be directly confronted rather than placated. Remember what Cardinal Di-Nardo said when he announced the serious reform steps the bishops were planning to take: "Hold us to this." Unfortunately, the bishops were later forbidden by Rome to take those steps toward reform. Let's hope that they will soon be able to do so. Let's continue to respectfully hold the bishops to the honesty and sincere reform that is absolutely essential for a healthy Church.

continued on page 2

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

John Germaine: A Servant Retires Page 4

Let Your Faith Rise Page 5

The Choices We Face 2019 Highlights Page 6

On the Road Page 8



While the issue of the abuse of minors certainly is of great importance, it appears that significant leadership in Rome and other places would like to keep our focus exclusively there and not allow attention to also be directed to sexual immorality, not only with "vulnerable adults," but with anyone, consensual or not. Serious violations of chastity corrupt the clerical perpetrators and also those who are sinned with. I think the advice I gave in my September letter still stands. Let me repeat it, with a few additions, for your consideration:

- "And so, what can we do as we continue to pray for the pope and our leaders that God may give them the wisdom and courage to deal with the root of the rot and bring about a real renewal of holiness and evangelization in the Church?
- "We need to go about our daily lives, trying to live each day in a way pleasing to God, loving Him and loving our neighbor, including the neighbor in our own families. We need to look to ourselves, lest we fall.
  - "We need to remember that even though we have this treasure in earthen vessels (or as some translations put it, 'cracked pots'), the treasure is no less the treasure. Don't throw out the baby with the bathwater! Baby Jesus is the treasure, and He is still as present as ever and still as ready to receive all who come to Him. And the Mass! Every day, He is willing to come to us in such a special way. Let's attend daily Mass even more frequently, to offer the sacrifice of Jesus' death and resurrection to God the Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit, for the salvation of souls and the purification of the Church. Where would we be without Him? We simply wouldn't be at all!

- "We need to remember that the Catholic Church is indeed founded by Christ and, despite all problems, has within it the fullness of the means of salvation. Where else can we go? Nowhere; this is indeed our Mother and Home, and she needs our love, our prayers, and our persevering in the way of holiness more than ever.
- "We need to remember that there are many truly holy and dedicated bishops and priests, and we must pray for them and support them. They need and deserve our support.
- "We need to remember that this isn't the first time such grave problems have beset the Church. In the fourteenth century, St. Catherine of Siena bemoaned the 'stench of sin' coming from the papal court and prophesied that even the demons were disgusted by the homosexual activity he had tempted priests into and the cover up by their superiors! (See chapters 124-125 of Catherine of Siena's *The Dialogue*.)
- "That isn't to say that we don't need to take seriously and do all we can in response to the grave scandal we are facing in our time. We need not to be silent when the truth is not preached in our parish churches. We need to encourage those who preach it when it is preached. We need not to be silent or passive when we see shady things happening. We should not hesitate to ask for an appointment with our bishop or to write to him and respectfully yet directly share with him our concerns.
- \*And yet we need to remember that all this is happening under the providence of God, and He has a plan to bring good out of it. It was even prophesied strongly in Mary's apparitions in Akita, Japan. Jesus is still Lord and will use the current grave problems to bring about good.

• "And finally, I'm beginning to see why the Lord has impressed on me so strongly in the past year the urgent need to heed the appeals of Our Lady of Fatima. Indeed, as Mary said,

'Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and to pray for them.'

• "Let's continue to pray and offer sacrifices for the conversion of sinners and as reparation for sin, and let's pray the rosary daily as Mary requested, for peace in the world and true renewal in the Church.

And let's continue to be encouraged and inspired by all the wonderful things that we see the Lord doing all throughout the world, some of which you can read about in this issue of the newsletter!

Your brother in Christ,

Rolph Martin

Ralph

- **P.S.** Please visit our website at www. RenewalMinistries.net/PlannedGiving to take a look at our new St. Catherine of Siena Society initiative and see if you are led to be part of it.
- **P.P.S.** Consider downloading our new app, through which you can easily listen to radio programs by Peter Herbeck and Sr. Ann Shields (who continues to recover); our TV program, *The Choices We Face*, and many other resources. (To get our app, go to the Apple or Android store on your phone and search for Renewal Ministries.)



If someone or something is making you think that you have reached the end of the line, don't believe it! If you know the eternal love who created you, you also know there is an immortal soul within you. There are various seasons in life. If by chance you feel winter approaching, I want you to know it is not the last season, because the last one will be spring:

The springtime of the Resurrection. Know that your whole life extends infinitely beyond its earthly limits. Remember, heaven awaits you!" St. John Paul II

### Priceless Gratitude

"Thank you for your ongoing labors for the kingdom of God. I count my soul among those you bless because of your love for our Lord, love expressed in deeds. Ralph's letter and that of Mr. Herbeck added to the light of hope—the light of Christ—amidst the darkness in our nation and the Catholic Church."

"God bless you for your obedience in proclaiming His Words. Ralph's letter proclaimed the truth about the crisis in our Church. It comforted many hearts of the faithful who were grieving over the scandal and the fallout that could follow. I am especially joyful at the number of priests who read your letter to their congregations. I can only imagine the comfort those priests received for having the courage to speak out. I am so blessed to realize how much glory is given to God through your many ministries."

"Thank you, and God bless the work and workers of Renewal Ministries for shining the light of Christ so courageously in the darkness that is assaulting the Church."

"Thank you for the blessing of your Christ-like witness to the body of Jesus. It's always a great blessing to read your monthly newsletter."

"The Fulfillment of All Desire is the BEST book on spirituality I have ever read and a Godsend. I am a former DRE, and I used to give copies to my CCD teachers for their formation and to help them evangelize when they teach. Thank you for responding to the Holy Spirit in so many ways!"

"I already have the DVD A World in Danger: Fatima's Urgent Message, and it is circulating at our morning Masses. All of my friends have listened to it at least twice and love it!"

"I want to compliment your DVD series As By A New Pentecost. We are concluding the seminar. Each participant has received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gift of tongues. Excellent talks were given each week. It took the pressure off of us, knowing we didn't have to prepare lengthy talks."

"We recently left fifteen copies of *Game Changer* at a church in France, and when we came back, they were all gone! It is an excellent book on the work of the Holy Spirit. I've given it to people of every denomination, and some have said it is one of the best books on the Holy Spirit."

"Thank you both for your courage and your prophetic voices in addressing the sex-abuse scandals with such openness, sincerity, and wisdom. I have re-read the September and October issues of Renewal Ministries' newsletter so many times that they have become dog-eared! They have been copied and distributed to my prayer group, our pastor, and our deacon—your brave words and wise counsel have helped me to feel less alone in my dismay over the tragic crisis in the Church. Thank you for speaking the truth with such clarity and boldness, and thank you for encouraging us to pray as never before and to never give up!"





# ANNUAL GATHERING APRIL 5-7, 2019 § Ypsilanti · Michigan

#### Join Us for a Weekend of Listening to the Lord!

"The Lord wants to empower us to live in holiness and mission. It's challenging in society today. We have to remember that the core of our life is the capacity Jesus gives us through the Holy Spirit to live differently. Things may be difficult around us, but the power of God is in us."

-Peter Herbeck

TALKS BY
Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, & Sr. Ann Shields

#### SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER Patti Mansfield

Patti was present at the original Duquesne Weekend that marked the beginning of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the US!

WORKSHOPS BY
Dr. Mary Healy, Lavinia Spirito, & Dr. Peter
Williamson

#### **ALSO FEATURING:**

- » Prayer & Empowerment
- » Personal Testimonies
- ≫ Mass
- » Fellowship

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

# JOHN GERMAINE A Servant Retires





From Ralph Martin: At our last meeting of the Canadian Catholic Renewal Ministries' Board of Directors, John Germaine tendered his resignation and read a very moving letter, which we are printing here in condensed form. We are very grateful to John for his generous and heroic service to Catholic Renewal Ministries of Canada and wish him well in his retirement years. He is most certainly one of those "very dear" brothers and sisters I spoke about in my letter.

▶ By John Germaine, Retired Canadian Catholic Renewal Ministries' Board Member

I have been with Renewal Ministries for over thirty years, and I would like to share with you my relationship with this ministry and how much I've enjoyed being a part of it. But first, let me go back a few years to share how the Lord led me in this way.

The year was 1972, and I was in Petrolia, Ontario, where I was stationed with the Ontario Provincial Police. My marriage was falling apart, and caught in the middle of this mess were my three young sons. It was painful for me to think that I might have to make the difficult decision to live apart from them one day. However, the Lord saw my distress and in His mercy reached out into my darkness.

One day, I caught myself running a red light in a police car. I knew right then that I had to speak to someone, so I went to see Fr. Martin Johnston, who was located in the same town that I was in. During our conversation, he spoke to me about the Charismatic Renewal and later, he asked if I wanted to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I said yes.

Fr. Johnston and some lay men laid hands on me and prayed for me. I had an experience that was second to none. I received the gift of tongues. I was thirty-eight years old when this occurred, and I felt like I was a soldier of Christ. When I was confirmed at twelve years of age, I remember my mom saying to me,

"You're going to be a soldier of Christ."

I never really felt like I was back then, but my baptism in the Holy Spirit in 1972 made me feel like one. I belonged to Him

#### MEETING RALPH MARTIN

The Ontario Provincial Police promoted me to detective sergeant that same year, and I was transferred to a suburb near Cornwall, Ontario. During my time there, I started a prayer group with some nuns. Good things happened, and the Spirit of God worked in different ways in my life.

At that time, Charismatic conferences were being held at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana. I attended a number of these conferences in the '70s after I moved to Toronto, and one of the keynote speakers just happened to be Ralph Martin. I was so impressed with Ralph, and I felt the Lord speaking through him. I said to myself, "I would like to be involved in his ministry."

In the '80s, I started contributing to Servant Ministries, which later became Renewal Ministries in Ann Arbor, Michigan. It concerned me that I couldn't get a tax exemption for my contributions to an American corporation, so each time I met with Ralph, I asked him to get Servant Ministries incorporated in Canada. Finally, in 1988, Servant Ministries became incorporated in Canada, and I was invited to be a member of the board of directors. The Canadian corporation later became known as Catholic Renewal Ministries.

Things were quite difficult in the early years of our Canadian ministry, and we were constantly getting help from our American office. But we grew in time, and were able to establish the Lift Jesus Higher Rally, make *The Choices We Face* available to watch across Canada, and support so many fruitful missions across the world, along with many other things. The Lord was faithful, and He continues to bless our efforts today.

#### THANK YOU

Ralph, it has been a privilege working with you all these years. Thank you for being such a beacon of light amidst the darkness that our Church is experiencing. I would like to thank you most especially for being so faithful to the Lord and for speaking so boldly about His Truth, scandal or not. To speak about Jesus and His Church the way you have means you have the guts to do so, and I believe that it is His power that gives you such boldness.

Ralph, I wholeheartedly agree with you: we as Catholics should not run from the Church. It is Jesus Christ's Church. But we should stay and pray for healing and repentance.

I am thankful to Ralph Martin and Renewal Ministries that I was given a small part in this Spirit-filled organization over the years. I ask that you remember my family and me in prayer. Let us often meet in prayer. Thank you and God bless.

## LET YOUR FAITH RISE

— By Al Mansfield —

Just over a year ago, I was praying. I was very concerned about some things in the Church, in our country, and in the world. I admit that I was feeling somewhat discouraged and lacking in faith and hope. Then I was surprised to sense the Lord speaking a word to my heart. The following is what I heard:

Am I not the Lord God of all flesh? Are not the times and seasons in my hands? Do not the skies and the waters and the earth obey my command? Is anything too difficult for Me, says the Lord.

You mourn and weep over my Body, the Church, but do not mourn and weep as those who have no faith. You grieve over my Body, the Church, but do not grieve as those who have no hope.

I say to you, look to who I am, says the Lord. Keep faith with Me and in Me. Let your faith rise when all else would pull you down. Let your faith neither falter nor fail. For your faith is in a living God. Your faith is in an all-knowing and all-wise God. Your faith is in an all-powerful God. Your faith is in an all-loving God. I am never shocked; I am never surprised; I am never caught off-guard; I am never unprepared, says the Lord.

In Me are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Take hold of Me by faith. Let your faith rise. Let your faith rise. Let your faith rise. I am the victor, says the Lord. Keep faith with my victory, says the Lord. Rejoice in my victory, and your faith will be your victory as well.

For my Holy Spirit is strong. My Holy Spirit is fierce. My Holy Spirit is tenacious. My Holy Spirit is zealous for my glory. My Holy Spirit is not mocked. Do not grieve my Holy Spirit. Do not grieve or anger the Lord God who gives you His Holy Spirit. Yield to my Holy Spirit, says the Lord, and let your faith rise up!

In this word, I felt like the Lord was chiding me and challenging me to exercise greater faith. In fact, it seems that the Lord is rather consistently chiding and challenging me, and I believe all of us, to exercise greater faith.

To exercise faith in the midst of the kinds of issues we face in the Church and in the world doesn't mean that we don't face reality or remain in ignorance or denial. But it does mean that we "walk by faith and not by sight" (2 Cor 5:7). It means letting God's Word, rather than our own thoughts and feelings, rule our lives.

To exercise faith means actually living our lives day-by-day, based on the truths that we profess to believe:

that God exists:

that God is a loving Father;

that Jesus came and shed His blood on the cross and rose again for our salvation;

that God's own love is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit;

that God promises to make all things work together unto good for those who love Him;

that we are destined to share in Christ's ultimate victory over sin and death.

I wish I could tell you that all it took was receiving this word for me to never again yield to discouragement or negative thinking. Alas, that would not be quite accurate. In fact, it was embarrassing for me to listen to others quote this word back to me, saying how much it helped them, while I myself was still struggling. But I share it here now with the hope that it will challenge me anew, and perhaps benefit others as well.

#### A BLESSING BEYOND EXPECTATIONS .....



Renewal Ministries' Country Coordinator Don Turbitt recently helped organize a conference in Rome for the Men of St. Joseph International (MOSJI), an organization that he founded and is guiding. While at the conference, Don met with Pope Francis. In this photo, Don is handing the pope a write-up about the MOSJI. The man at Don's right is Archbishop Zbignevs Stankevics, the archbishop of all Latvia, who is introducing Don to the pope. The man on the right of Archbishop Zbignevs is Andrzej Lewek, the key man who organized the entire Rome conference. To Don's left is Gary Stephens, the leader of Prince of Peace Community in Liverpool, England. All the other men are the 137 men's conference attendees. Don said meeting the pope "was definitely all a blessing beyond any of our expectations and produced real fruit in the men's lives as they returned home."

#### THE CHOICES WE FACE 2019

This month, EWTN will begin airing the thirty-fifth 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.







#### Allison Low · There Are Only Two Ends

In part one of a recent catechetical presentation Dr. Low speaks of the only two final destinations for every human being.

#### Allison Low · Heaven—So Much More

In part two, Allison shares the fullness of what our salvation will be like when our bodies are reunited with our souls



Sr. Ann tells the story of Blessed Jerzy Popieluszko, the power of forgiveness, and our need for courage and faithfulness.





#### Patti Mansfield · Loving Jesus Like He's Never Been Loved

Patti shares thoughts from the saints on love and prayer.

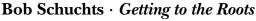


Fr. Burke Masters shares his dream of becoming a major league baseball player, what led him to the priesthood instead, and an unusual turn of events that occured afterwards.





In the first part of two episodes, family counselor Dr. Bob Schuchts tells of how he discovered hidden wounds after years of worldly success—and what healed him.



In the second part of two episodes, Dr. Schuchts explores our need to look deeper to find the causes of sin patterns in our lives.



The president of Human Life International talks about challenges to life and family around the world.





#### Fr. Ubald Rugirangoga · Shocking Forgiveness

A survivor of the Rwandan genocide shares the incredible story of how he dealt with the murder of his whole family.





#### Fr. John Riccardo · All In

Fr. John Riccardo speaks at an i.d.9:16 Disciples' Night meeting about Jesus' startling call for wholehearted discipleship.

#### Sr. Miriam James Heidland · Authentic Love

Sr. Miriam James Heidland talks about how to forgive the unforgivable and what real love looks like.



#### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS . . .

This season, Ralph and Peter also will examine the current crisis in the Church, the need for boldness and clarity in the midst of today's confusion within and without the Church, how to find the work God has given us to do and get it done, actor Jim Caviezel's comments at a recent conference for young adults, the significance of Fatima for us today, how to be aware of the signs of our times, how true holiness differs from the caricature, a presentation by Christy Dupuis on how to share the Gospel in everyday circumstances, and more!

#### PICK YOUR FAVORITE WAY TO TUNE IN . . .



**TV** | View on EWTN beginning the week of March 4, 2019, 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



**NEW! APP** | Have episodes available at your finger tips 24/7! Download the Renewal Ministries App to your mobile device and listen any time. (This will also give you access to our radio programs: Sr. Ann Shields' Food for the Journey and Peter Herbeck's Fire on the Earth.)



**PODCAST** | Have episodes delivered to you! Download *The Choices We Face* to your podcast app and listen any time. New to podcasting? Go to RenewalMinistries.net/tcwf for instructions on how to load podcasts to your phone.



**ONLINE** | View episodes online any time. Go to RenewalMinistries.net/tcwf and click on "View show archives"—Take your pick!

You



OR check out episodes on YouTube: youtube.com/renewalministriesrm

**CD/DVD** | Purchase individual episodes in either CD or DVD format. To order, see the enclosed reply card or order online at RenewalMinistries.net/store and click on the "TCWF Episodes" tab.



#### Renewal Ministries

Available in App Stores









#### March 2019 ENGAGEMENTS

Toronto, Ontario Lift Jesus Higher Rally

March 2

Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, and

Pete Burak

Details: lift-jesus-higher-rally.ca

Tampa, FL Magnificat Retreat

March 2-3

Dr. Mary Healy

Details: tampamagnificat.org/Retreats

Greenville, SC Legatus Meeting\*

March 5

Ralph Martin

Atlanta, GA Legatus Meeting\*

March 5

Dr. Mary Healy

Omaha, Nebraska Annual JPII Lecture at University of Nebraska at Omaha

March 9

Ralph Martin

Contact: katie.winkler@jpiiomaha.org

Fall River, MA Women's & Men's Diocesan Conference

March 9

Dr. Mary Healy

Details: www.fallriverfaithformation. org/adult-evangelization/womens-

-mens-conference.html

Redwood Falls, MN Bishop Lucker Lecture

March 11

Peter Herbeck

Details: www.dnu.org/bishop-lucker-

lecture

Tulsa, OK Legatus Meeting\*

March 14

Ralph Martin

Livonia, MI St Michael's Women's Lenten Retreat

March 16

Debbie Herbeck

Details: pbreen@livoniastmichael.org

Novi, MI Lenten Retreat at Holy Family

March 17-19

Dr. Mary Healy

Details: www.holyfamilynovi.org

Fremont, NE Parish Mission

March 22-23

Dr. Mary Healy

Contact: asknrcv@gmail.com

Cape Coral, FL Parish Morning of Renewal

March 23

Peter Herbeck

Contact: aurora1111@worldnet.att.net

New Orleans, LA Southern Regional CCR Conference

March 29-31

Dr. Mary Healy Details: ccrno.org

#### MISSIONS

Ghana

March 25-30 Emmanuel Tamakloe

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

Denton, TX St Mark parish mission

*March 29-31*Lavinia Spirito

Venice, FL Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference

March 30

Peter Herbeck

Contact: Renee@Marzon.com

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

### Please Pray...

That the Lord will help us extend forgiveness wherever it is needed in our lives, especially during this season of Lent.

For a true spirit of contrition and the gift of hope this Lent—as we reflect on both our frailness and the Lord's immense mercy and love.

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.

CONNECT ← WITH US...







Visit our website— www.renewalministries.net for programs, blog, contact info, resources, & more!

Download the Renewal Ministries' App for easy access to all of the above Renewal Ministries content and so much more!

Editor Heather Schultz

Design Emily Bachelor

© 2019 by Renewal Ministries