



RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Catholic Renewal and Evangelization

MARCH 2020



A letter ▶
from Ralph Martin

Dear Faithful Friends,

Your response to our end-of-the-year appeal to help us move forward without cutting back was wonderful. The Lord blessed us through you in an amazing way, and we are able to expand our mission and pay for the larger office space we needed to accommodate our growing number of younger missionaries and volunteers.

I've been to Australia four or five times over the years to help with the development of Charismatic communities, with Fr. Mike Scanlan and Sr. Ann Shields for FIRE rallies, for seminars on *A Crisis of Truth* in the early '80s, etc. Each trip has been wonderful, but they are very long, and I really didn't think I would return again. But then it happened. I received an invitation that I normally wouldn't have accepted—but of course, first I needed to ask the Lord for his guidance.

It was an invitation to speak at an annual ten-day mission school of formation for young people. The school is organized by a new religious order of young nuns, Sisters of the Immaculata, along with a beginning branch for men who are on fire for the Lord. They invited both me and my wife, Anne, and offered to pay for her to come—which hardly ever happens. Even so, it was a struggle to know what to do. Eventually Anne and I both felt that the Lord was asking us to go, so we did.

The trip was unusually hard, since I had just had surgery to remove another kidney stone (I had one in France last year!) and some bladder stones, and I experienced some significant after-effects the entire time I was gone. My health finally returned to normal when we returned home, and I got a stent removed that my body was strongly reacting to. Along the way, when we wondered if we should turn back, we kept getting the passage: **“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news”** (Rom 10:15), and continued on.

○ Sure enough, three-hundred young people showed up, ranging in age from high school through college and into their twenties and thirties. The sisters took away their cell phones for the whole ten days, which was a really important thing to do. They had learned from past experience that the young people would not be able to pay attention and hear the Lord if they kept their phones.

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Ralph and Anne Martin are shown below with all the mission school participants.





narians, but suffice it to say that the Church in Australia needs “power from on high” and for sound bishops to show courage. The Catholic Church of Australia is preparing its first Plenary Council in almost a century to “renew” the Church, but a leading bishop has said this will be a “People’s” Council and “everything is on the table.” The sound bishops I talked to said very directly: “Everything can’t be on the table. We’re Catholics, and God has revealed immutable truths.”

Anne and I are very glad we went, despite the difficulties. It was a privilege to, in a small way, help strengthen the lives of many young people and the Church in Australia.

The day after we left for Australia, we received the sad and shocking news that Therese Jones, our much-loved receptionist and administrative assistant, who has worked for me on and off for many years and even lived with our family for several years, had died suddenly from heart difficulties. She was an admirable person and Christian who was trying to carry out her role as wife, daughter, mother, grandmother, and sister in generous and sacrificial ways.

We were very disappointed that we couldn’t return for the funeral but know she was buoyed up by much prayer and love, and we continue to pray for Therese and her family. Please say a prayer for her if you can!

Pictured left to right: Anne and Ralph Martin, Archbishop Julian Porteous, and Mother Mary Therese



Ralph and Anne enjoyed lunch with the Sisters of the Immaculata and their first brother.

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It’s amazing to me that three-hundred young people came to the school knowing that this would be a requirement! Also present were a good number of seminarians, young priests, and a few bishops. In fact, I was surprised and pleased to learn that my book *The Fulfillment of All Desire* is being used as a textbook in both the Sydney and Brisbane Archdiocesan seminaries. Praise the Lord.

I was asked to give ten talks, and I did—although very much like St. Paul, I asked the Lord to remove the actual physical “thorn” in my side. He didn’t remove it, but He did give me the same message: “My power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor 12:9). And so it was. I think these are among the best talks I’ve ever given. They were videotaped by Shalom Media from India, and live-streamed by Catholic radio, and hopefully they will make for some good *The Choices We Face* programs in the future.

Another highlight of the journey was reconnecting with Archbishop Julian Porteous, the Archbishop of Hobart, Tasmania. His diocese is practically at the ends of the earth—off the Southern coast of Australia, heading to the Antarctic. In one of his talks, Archbishop Julian reminded me and everyone else that he first met me in the early 1980s, when as a young priest he attended a *Crisis of Truth* seminar I was doing in Brisbane. He even quoted things he remembered that I said

then! He’s a wonderful, Spirit-filled archbishop, and we both led the young people in asking God for a release of the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. He prayed over young people until late into the night.

The Catholic Church of Australia is going through tough times. The clergy sex abuse crisis has hit hard there, and both church attendance and vocations are rapidly declining. Archbishop Julian has ordained six men since he’s been archbishop, but there weren’t any during the preceding twenty-five years. The Diocese of Toowoomba, where the mission school was held, has two priests under the age of seventy. One is fifty—a late vocation—and the only young man ordained in more than twenty years is twenty-five. The last bishop of Toowoomba was removed by Pope Benedict XVI for opposing Church teaching. There are many other sad stories I could tell after my talks with bishops, priests, and semi-

I also need to let you know about changes that Renewal Ministries recently made to its relationship with John and Michelle Kazanjian and their ministry Live Free.

When it became apparent that the Lord was asking us to “widen the tent pegs” of Renewal Ministries and welcome closely related ministries into our “tent,” it was natural to include Live Free. We have known John and Michelle for many years and have benefited from their friendship and from the excellent training that they have developed utilizing the Unbound model of deliverance prayer. Michelle and John are deeply indebted to Neal Lozano who developed the Unbound model and materials, and who runs a ministry called Heart of the Father.

Nonetheless, we didn’t anticipate how including Live Free under our umbrella would be perceived by many. We began to get inquiries about whether we were changing the Unbound model, if we were setting up a competing ministry to Heart of the Father’s, if everyone connected with Renewal Ministries needed to use the Kazanjian’s approach, etc. What seemed at first as a natural response to a long-standing local friendship and ministry partnership became a source of difficulty and confusion for some of our partners and supporters.

Consequently, after considering the best way to respond to these unforeseen complications, we have decided it best to restore our long-standing informal relationship with Live Free and not to include them officially under the umbrella of Renewal Ministries.

While we continue to be impressed with what the Kazanjians and their dedicated teams are achieving in their ministry, we don’t want to appear to elevate their work in a way that negatively impacts other ministries that we respect and with whom we have long-standing friendships.

The Kazanjians and their team will continue to serve the Lord in the area of freedom and deliverance and continue to work together with us on missionary initiatives as they have for many years. We greatly value their friendship and partnership in the Gospel and look forward to working closely with them for years to come.

And let’s end with some encouraging news. Fr. Ivan Pertine, the superior of Society of St. John, a new religious order out of Argentina—one of the priests who is also a student in our STL degree program at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, where I and others connected with Renewal Ministries teach, including Dr. Mary Healy, Dr. Peter Williamson, Paco Gavrillides, etc.—sent this encouraging news regarding their work in Washington, DC, which he has given me permission to share with you:

As this year comes to a close, we give thanks to the Lord for giving growth to the ministries he has entrusted to us.

The Casa de la Palabra, our weekly meeting of praise and formation with the Hispanic community, continues to grow as people invite their friends to encounter the Lord. One-hundred-and-sixty men and women, many of whom had been far from Christ, came to the retreats in August. This February, we are preparing to launch the Escuela de Lideres (School of Leaders) to deepen their spiritual formation and prepare them to take up more and more of the leadership of the program.

When we began at American University a little more than a year ago, there were just a handful of students involved. This year, seventy-five students participated in the Alpha Program, six students are preparing to enter the Church at Easter, and there is a core of student leaders who are on fire for Christ. Last week, one of the students was chosen to give the commencement speech for the

“

Rest your head on My bosom and on My heart, and draw from it strength and power for these sufferings, because you will find neither relief, nor help, nor comfort anywhere else. Know that you will have much, much to suffer—but don’t let this frighten you; I am with you.”

//St. Faustina,
Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul

whole university. In front of parents and professors, she boldly shared her testimony of how in the AU Community she got to know Jesus, “to whom I owe all praise and thanksgiving.” In the midst of a fiercely secular school, God is praised and glorified, and his kingdom advances!

This also marks one year since the beginning of the Young Adults’ Mass at St. Anne’s. The first night, eighty people showed up for Mass. A year later, word is getting out, friends are inviting friends, and over two-hundred people come on Sunday evenings.

**Praise be to God!
His kingdom advances!**

Indeed, let us praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Thanks again for your support that makes so much possible.

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

Ralph

A
REFLECTION
FOR
LENT

BECOMING *Strong-and-Growing-Stronger* DISCIPLES

By Sr. Ann Shields, SGL

This article originally appeared as letters to Friends of Food for the Journey supporters.

Our love for God can gradually become greater, our trust in Him deeper, even in the midst of both trials and suffering, honor and prestige. No matter the valleys and the mountains of life, we can grow in love, both receiving it and giving it to others, because what really should matter to us is gratitude for His creation and personal love of us.

Whatever fosters His love in my life and enables me to be a vessel of transmitting that to others is what I want most. Of course, our own personal desires will not die this side of the grave—but if we seek always to do His will in good times and in bad, and to see Him glorified above ourselves, then we will become truly joyful and at peace no matter what is going on around us. This takes time—but is absolutely worth it!

I would like to suggest that we strive to grow in faith during this Lenten season. We need to become *strong-and-growing-stronger* disciples of Jesus. Many of you could rightly say, “My faith is strong.” That may be true, but it can always grow stronger, and given the times in which we live, we need men and women whose faith shines brightly even in the growing darkness around us.

The Church is literally hemorrhaging. Yes, we are trying in many parishes to evangelize; we are spending ourselves to offer programs to strengthen us spiritually and to bring people back to the faith of their childhood. This is very good and necessary. But if we don’t personally grow in our faith, daily feeding it with a healthy diet, we too could drift away, as well as more of our family members and friends.

UNDERSTANDING THE GIFT OF FAITH

Do you believe that God knows every struggle you have and wants to lead you to deeper union with Him? As we work to overcome one habit of sin—yes, it can be good to start with just one—God’s light literally can shine into the darkness of sin and its effects. The more we persevere in trying to follow the Lord in the area where we are most vulnerable, the more God will shower mercy on us and enable us, by His grace, to “walk” in union with Him.

Understanding the gift of faith is so important when addressing sin in our lives! Read this description of faith from Sr. Ruth Burrows; it has fed me for several years and has helped me to grow immensely in genuine faith:

“*Faith is not a thing of the mind; it is not an intellectual certainty or a felt conviction of the heart. It is a sustained decision to take God with utter seriousness as the God of my life. It is to live out each hour in a practical, concrete affirmation that God is Father and that he is “in heaven.” It is a decision to shift the centre of our lives from ourselves to Him, to forego self-interest and make his interests, his will our sole concern. Each of us has the choice either to live by faith or to live “by flesh.” To live by “flesh” is to live within the limits of our own potential, within the limits of our own perception and understanding, according to how things seem and feel, according to our natural experience. It is instinctive to live thus, taking for granted that our conscious experience is to be trusted, that it is the way things really are, the way we are, the way God is—that this is our life. We want to remain on this level because it is within our*

*grasp; it is “ours” and affords a sort of security and assurance. This is natural to us . . . that we are unaware of how much of our life is lived from self, relying on self and not on faith in the Son of Man. We cannot rid ourselves of this deeply rooted pride and self-possession by our own strength. Only the Holy Spirit of the Crucified and Risen One can effect it, and that He indeed is always trying to do. But we must recognize his work, and respond “Amen.” [Sr. Ruth Burrows, OCD, *Essence of Prayer* (Mahweh, NJ: Hidden Spring, 2006), 21.]*

RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

Let me repeat a short, true story that reveals the kind of faith I want you to have—faith that becomes part of our oxygen and blood supply.

There was a woman whose family developed a successful frozen pizza business before such places were popular. The beginning was not easy. No matter what she and her husband tried to do to make the business a success—it failed. One desperate day she was out driving and praying that God would help them, when she heard a minister on the radio telling people to bring everything to God and ask what He wants to do. He said not to try to figure it out and then ask God to bless it; rather, bring it to Him first and ask Him to lead and guide it.

The woman actually pulled off to the side of the road, got out of the car, knelt down in a grassy space, and gave the business to God, saying, “You do with it, Lord, what You think right.” A little while later, she drove home to find a letter saying that the government was giving them a new business loan. The previous week, they’d gotten a letter

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR *Therese Jones*

saying that their request was turned down! From that point on, this woman and her husband dedicated everything to the Lord regarding their family and the business. Their faith had grown; they knew God was with them and was blessing their willingness to turn to Him in every decision they made.

Many years later, as the woman was dying, she described a great light in the corner of the hospital room and asked her children whether they saw the light. That interchange went on for several days. By this time, doctors and nurses were actually kneeling in her room because they said they experienced profound peace in taking care of her. Her faith was living, it was real, and it was applied even at the moment of death.

Notice how the woman listened to the program and then did something. She got out of the car, knelt down, and dedicated everything she and her husband hoped to accomplish to God for his honor and glory. God heard, and took her seriously, and their business bore fruit, not just for their family, but for the local community and for the Church as well. **Each of us needs to make and remake decisions to bring Him into every aspect of our lives—every aspect!**

As we seek to bring the Good News to those who have never heard it or who have left the Church for whatever reason, let's seek to make sure that our own faith is being fed and strengthened daily, so that we may be instruments of His will. The fruit will be abundant beyond our hopes. May God's Spirit inspire and lead us all to yield to His will daily.

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.



The Renewal Ministries' staff lost an integral member of its team on Dec. 26, 2019, when Therese Jones, our administrative assistant and receptionist, passed away unexpectedly. She was married to Dave Jones and had six children and three grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son Tony.

Therese originally joined the Renewal Ministries' family in the early 1980s, when she lived in a household with Ralph and Anne Martin and worked as Ralph's secretary. After raising her family, Therese returned to Renewal Ministries in 2012. Her long history with us uniquely qualified her to turn the position into a ministry of its own—which she quickly did—by taking time to listen to and pray for people who called into our offices, and by helping us as a staff to remember those people in our prayers. She also helped our staff grow in faith by organizing a study of Ralph's book *The Fulfillment of All Desire*, and she could be counted on to offer important insight at staff meetings and Bible studies.

Gary Seromik, Renewal Ministries' chief operating officer, who had known Therese for about forty years, reflected,

“ I felt like she really was an apostle of the Lord, and the work she was doing was apostolic. She had a heart for everybody. One of the things that really impressed me was how seriously she took her job in making everyone feel welcome and loved. She made Renewal Ministries feel more like a family place. Her presence was always reassuring and always very helpful, and she was always willing to do whatever was needed. She'll be dearly missed.”



Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

THE CHOICES WE FACE 2020

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

CHECK OUT THE 2020 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS . . .



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Ralph Martin & Peter Herbeck · *A Crisis of Truth*

In honor of Renewal Ministries' fortieth anniversary, we are kicking off this season with reflections on the past forty years, as well as a four-part series on *A Crisis of Truth*—both a book and a series of talks by Ralph Martin from the early 1980s that pinpointed with startling accuracy much of the crisis the Church is facing today and various factors contributing to those struggles. These episodes will share original footage of Ralph's talks, with discussions of how the authority of Scripture has been under attack for decades, the undermining of morality that has accelerated each year, the unique claims of Jesus, and the Second Coming of Christ and our own judgment at the moment of death.

Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle · *A Hard Life Redeemed*

Author Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle reflects on how she survived a very rough start to her life, and the influence of St. Faustina on her life.

Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle · *Two Sides of Mercy*

Author Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle speaks about both the apparitions of the Virgin Mary at Fatima and St. Faustina.

Roy Schoeman · *An Astounding Conversion*

Former Harvard professor Roy Schoeman, a Jew, tells about his miraculous conversion to Christ and the Catholic Church.

Msgr. Charles Pope · *A Voice of Clarity*

Msgr. Charles Pope—pastor, popular blogger, and radio personality—discusses the need for boldness and clarity from priests.

Fr. Mark Goring · *Seeing Clearly*

Fr. Mark Goring of the Companions of the Cross talks about how he went from being an atheist to a priest!

Ulf Ekman · *Surprised by God*

Ulf Ekman describes how he became a successful mega-church pastor.

Ulf and Birgitta Ekman · *An Honest Search*

Ulf and Birgitta Ekman tell the rest of the story of how they found their way into the Catholic Church.

Andre Villeneuve · *Speaking Up*

Dr. Andre Villeneuve describes how he found his way back to the Church and the need for courage in confronting the sexual revolution.



Patti Mansfield · *Spiritual Warfare Revisited*

Patti Mansfield shares the weapons available to us to overcome temptation.

Patti Mansfield · *My Secret*

Patti Mansfield speaks on the union of Mary and the Holy Spirit.



Rachel Herbeck · *Authentic Witness*

Rachel Herbeck talks about how Jesus became the dynamic, all-encompassing center of her life.

Ryan and Mary-Rose Verret · *Good News for Marriage*

Ryan and Mary-Rose Verret, founders of Witness to Love, bring us up-to-date on a new and very effective program for growing solid, happy marriages.



Fr. Jonathan Meyer · *Stand!*

Fr. Jonathan Myer offers his insight into the persecution of the boys from Covington High School that made national news.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS . . .

This season, Ralph and Peter also examine the need for deep purification in order to see God face-to-face, the glory of creation and its reflection of the Creator’s greatness, the importance of being fully empowered by the Holy Spirit to meet the challenges of the day, the need for courageous witness by Catholic men, and more.



Join us for **RENEWAL MINISTRIES' ANNUAL GATHERING**

JESUS Light OF THE WORLD

April 24-26, 2020
YPSILANTI • MICHIGAN

The theme of this year’s Gathering, “Jesus, Light of the World,” focuses on the hope and encouragement so needed today! Circumstances don’t have to control us—no matter how difficult or scary things might seem. We can find confidence, hope, and joy in Jesus’ words:

*“I am the light of the world;
he who follows me will not
walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.”*

(Jn 8:12)



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

On the Road

MARCH 2020 ENGAGEMENTS

Sterling Heights, MI **Parish Mission**

March 1-2
Peter and Debbie Herbeck
Details: www.sjffparish.org
Contact: Laurie Hall at
586-977-8080, ext. 104

Columbus, OH **Parish Mission**

March 3
Pete Burak
Details: www.stfrancisparish.net

Toronto, Ontario **Lift Jesus Higher Rally & Youth Rally**

March 7
Ralph Martin, Pete Burak, Debbie
Herbeck and Team
Details: www.ljhr.ca

Metairie, LA **Archdiocese of New Orleans Men's** **Conference**

March 7
Peter Herbeck
Details: www.neworleanscatholic.com

Redwood Falls, MN **Bishop Lucker Lecture**

March 9
Ralph Martin
Details: www.dnu.org/bishop-lucker-lecture

Harrodsburg, Kentucky **St Andrew's Lenten Parish Mission**

March 10
Lavinia Spirito
Details: harrodsburgcatholic.com

Omaha, NE **Legatus***

March 11
Debbie Herbeck

San Antonio, TX **Signs and Wonders for Ordinary Disciples**

March 13-14
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: www.cccrsa.net/charismaticcenter

Grosse Pointe, MI **Encounter at St. Paul on the Lake**

March 15
Pete Burak
Details: stpaulonthelake.org/encounter

East Lansing, MI **Theology on Tap**

March 19
Ralph Martin
Details: www.dioceseoflansing.org/general/young-adult-ministry

Brighton, MI **Transformation Night with Encounter** **Ministries**

March 20
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: encounterministries.us/transformation-nights

Plymouth, MI **Spiritus Sanctus Academy Girls' Retreat***

March 20
Debbie Herbeck &
Be Love Revolution Team

Washington, PA **Lenten Renewal Talks at St. Hilary and** **Immaculate Conception Parishes**

March 20-21
Ralph Martin
Contact: szigerelli@gmail.com

Ann Arbor, MI **FGRHS Senior Retreat***

March 23-25
Debbie Herbeck &
Be Love Revolution Team

MISSIONS

South Africa, Lesoto, **& Botswana**

March 9-30
Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw

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

Alpharetta, GA **Consultation on the New Evangelization***

March 24-26
Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, & Pete Burak

DeWitt, MI **Diaconal Candidate Retreat***

March 27-29
Ralph Martin

Saginaw, MI **Catholic Men's Conference**

March 28
Peter Herbeck and Pete Burak
Details: thecatholicmen.wordpress.com

Livonia, MI **DonneGals Ladies' Auxiliary of Knights** **of Columbus**

March 29
Debbie Herbeck
Details: alewalk@sbcglobal.com

Coral Gables, FL **St. Augustine Parish Evening of Reflection**

March 30
Ralph Martin
Details: saintaugustinechurch.org

Miami, FL **Legatus***

March 31
Ralph Martin

* Not open to the public.

For a complete listing, visit:
RenewalMinistries.net/Events

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.

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