



# RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Proclaiming Jesus through Catholic Renewal and Evangelization

May 2017



## A letter ▶ from Ralph Martin

## Dear Faithful Friends,

It's been a while since we shared some of the wonderful impact Renewal Ministries' outreaches are having, as well as report on ways our supporters use our resources to reach others. For all who support this amazing work: Thank you! For all who reach out to others by prayer and witness: Thank you! For all who offer their suffering for the spread of the Gospel: Thank you!

### *Praise God with us as we review some of the impact our work is having...*

» I am in Rome, studying for my Licentiate in Spiritual Theology. *The Fulfillment of All Desire* gave me a new dimension to the desire and hunger in me for God.

» I am so happy when I receive my newsletter! It keeps me in my hour of prayers.

» Thank you for your life and witness. I have been a huge fan of *The Fulfillment of All Desire*. *The Choices We Face* and *Fire on the Earth* are so refreshing and clear . . . so orthodox and convicting. In *Will Many be Saved?*, you stuck your neck out. You provide a place where I can point the lost and vague Catholics. THANK YOU." —Illinois

» Dear Sister Ann, Your teaching has been life changing. I long to have a close personal relationship with God, and your reflections have helped. Thank you for sharing your love of the Lord. I am inspired.

» As an Eastern Catholic, it's an immense blessing to see your work with Eastern Catholics in Europe. . . . It's important our ancient Churches, rites, and spiritualities are not forgotten. —Los Gatos, CA

» I couldn't put down the February 2017 newsletter. The faith of the lay ministers, priest, and bishop in Ethiopia made me ashamed of how casual we Catholics are in my area. We are materially very blessed and don't even realize it. —Riner, VA

» I just watched your wonderful programs with Johnette! Thank you for your ministry and willingness to follow our Lord! May He continue to bless you and your family!

» It is an honor to help a bit with your life-changing work. Sincere thanks for your service. —Ottawa, ON, Canada

» Thank you, Ralph, and welcome back to the US! It was good to read that your trip to India was so fruitful. Our lay formation class is enjoying and learning much from your text and DVD, *The Fulfillment of All Desire*.

» Peter, I listen to your show daily. Thank you for all you do; you are impacting my life. I pray the Holy Spirit continues to provide you strength to deliver our Lord's message for God's glory.

» *Fire on the Earth* is a refreshing show! It's nice to find a program that focuses on faithful Catholics who have struggles and attempt to cooperate more fully with God's grace. You have a way of relaying the faith and how to put it into practice that is very accessible and inspiring. Thank you!

» Very grateful for *Forever Grateful for Mercy*. I have passed out many to family and friends—even strangers. —Burley, WA

» I cannot express how impactful Pete's talk was for the men. They raved about his talk and witness to life as a man of God. They were pumped up, rejuvenated, and ready for the life ahead of them with Christ and their brothers by their side." —Ann Arbor, MI

» I appreciate your singular voice of TRUTH as a Catholic evangelist. —Topeka, KS

» *Hungry for God*, is still, as it was in 1974, an important part of my spiritual life.

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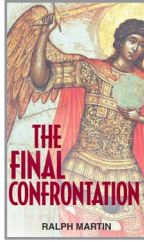
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## And look at all the ways brothers and sisters in the Lord are reaching out to others...

» Yvette, from Matiarie, Louisiana, ordered 1,000 copies of *The Final Confrontation* to distribute at two different churches she attends. One of them is the Center of Jesus Christ the Lord, the only Catholic Charismatic Church in New Orleans. *“I wanted to put a little oomph into these people,” she said. “I had a lot of people ask for more.”*



Yvette also distributed the booklets where she goes to daily Mass. The priest then asked if she could get enough for everyone in the parish, and she was glad to comply.



» Joseph Kolar, the president of Catholic Men’s Fellowship in Northeastern Ohio, ordered 500 copies of *The Final Confrontation* to distribute to the men who attended a conference at which Ralph Martin was speaking. He said he also appreciated all of Ralph’s updates from India: “We sent them to all our members to encourage them. It’s encouraging to us all—too see how we can serve one another.”



» Patricia in Utica, Nebraska, belongs to the Legion of Mary. She ordered one hundred copies of *Forever Grateful for Mercy* to give out to auxiliary members and people they visit in the nursing home. She said, “People responded that they really enjoyed reading them.”

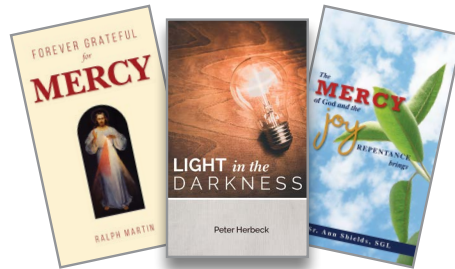


» One woman spreads the faith simply by always passing her newsletters on to a friend.

» Glenn Smith ordered forty copies of *The Mercy of God and the Joy Repentance Brings*. He does a one-man performance of St. Paul for Catholic churches and schools, and he distributes the booklets to the people who attend his show.

“This booklet spoke to me personally,” he said. “I hope it will do the same for others.”

Glenn added, “One of the main reasons this booklet compliments what I do as St. Paul is that he preaches repentance, but he does it with a spirit of joy. This booklet reinforces the message of the joy that accompanies repentance.”



Glenn also always keeps “Renewal Ministries’ booklets at home, even if it’s just a few extra (to share with others).” Recently, he said, “When I gave one to a friend, he in turn ordered more.”

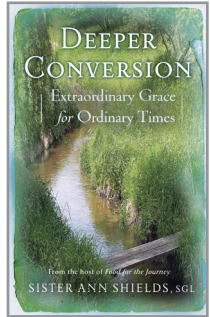


» One man orders our books and then places a sticker on each one that says,

“Please read and pass on to a friend. Ask him/her to do the same. Thank you.”

He explained, “Then I put them in different churches and pray that those reading them will get the message, calling us to turn to the Lord.”

» Steve, from San Juan Capistrano, California, purchased nearly fifty copies of Sr. Ann’s book *Deeper Conversion*. Listening to Sr. Ann’s reflections each day on *Food for the Journey* greatly increased his understanding when he attended daily Mass. He has given the books to family members and friends, hoping that Sr. Ann’s reflections might enable them to “have a better understanding and get more out of Mass too.”



*“I’m not very good with words, but I enjoy talking to people about the faith,” Steve explained. “I thought this is a nice, subtle way of sharing the faith. It’s something I’d like to make part of my life—to share the Gospel, and if they would like, then we can go further into our discussion about our faith.”*

Steve also included a letter with each book, asking the recipient that if they don’t want to read the book, to please set it aside somewhere they can see it, or to give it to someone they think might enjoy it. He added, “I also sent multiple copies to different people, suggesting they share copies as well—so it hopefully finds a home where God has opened that person’s heart to it.”

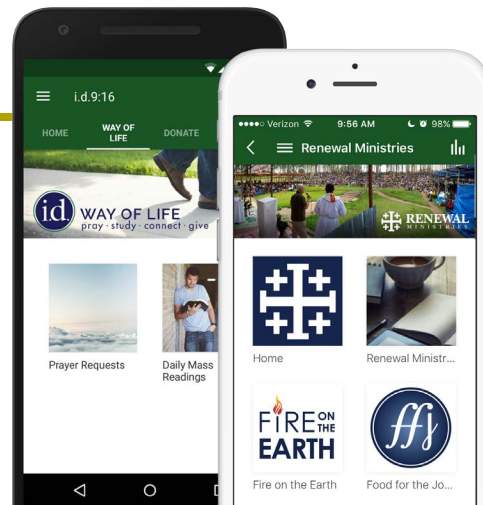
*Once again, thank you, thank you, thank you, for making this and more possible.*

In Christ,

*Ralph Martin*

Ralph

  
The i.d.9:16 App  
Available in App Stores



Download the new i.d.9:16 App for FREE and have easy access to Renewal Ministries!

- ▶ Website
- ▶ Blog
- ▶ Food For the Journey
- ▶ Fire on the Earth





# CALLED TO TRANSFORM A NATION

THE PEOPLE OF BRAZIL RALLY TO SPREAD THE CHARISMATIC RENEWAL *By Dr. Mary Healy*

*I recently was in Brazil for the national leaders' formation conference of the Charismatic Renewal. The Renewal is alive and well in Brazil—the 10,000 seats sold out months ahead of time! There was a special grace on the conference this year, as we were celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.*

Archbishop Alberto Taveira, the episcopal advisor for the Renewal, celebrated Mass and was present for most of the conference. About 130 priests participated, including two who are nationally known and loved, Fr. Jonas Abib and Fr. Ed Dougherty, both of whom have founded Charismatic TV networks that reach tens of millions of viewers. Fr. Jonas told the story of how Fr. Ed, as a young American Jesuit missionary, was prayed over for baptism in the Spirit and brought the Renewal to Brazil in 1969. Another American priest, Fr. Bob Di Grandis, played a key role in teaching the Brazilians how to exercise the charisms.

**The Charismatic Renewal in Brazil is now the most organized, intentional, and forward-looking that I have seen anywhere in the world.**

I led two main sessions and four workshops. In many ways, I experienced the Lord making much of my little. During the time of Adoration, I led people in renouncing various obstacles to the Holy Spirit's work in us, including unbelief, fear, and a sense of unworthiness. Although I usually spend the most time on unforgiveness, somehow I forgot to cover it, except for the briefest mention. Later that day, a young man came up to me and said, "Thank you! What you said about forgiveness changed my life. I was so angry at my father, because for most of my life he was absent and lived far away. But through you, God told me I had to forgive him, and it has opened me in a new way to the Holy Spirit." Amazing!



**Fr. Jonas Abib & Fr. Ed Dougherty**

During my talk for the healing and deliverance workshop, I used as an example from my book on healing: "What would you think of a doctor who, upon diagnosing a patient with cancer, says to him, 'Sorry, I'm not going to treat you because it's better that you simply accept this cross in your life. Offer it up.' Of course, such a doctor would be fired on the spot." This time, for some reason, instead of "cancer" I said "lung cancer." Afterward, a woman in the front row told me, with tears in her eyes, that she had lung cancer, and right before the talk had asked others to pray over her for both physical and spiritual healing. During the talk, she felt a burning sensation in the area where the tumor was, and she felt that she had been healed. (She is now awaiting confirmation of that from a doctor.)

After the talk, the leader asked me to lead healing prayer. We only had fifteen minutes, so I led the quickest time of healing prayer I've ever done. But a long line of people came up to testify to healing. One woman said she had been hearing impaired for thirty years, so she generally could hear only fifty percent of the talks, but she was so longing to go home and share what she heard

with her prayer group that she was begging, "Lord, please do something about this." Now her hearing was completely clear! A young man said he'd had severe back pain for years, which was now completely gone. He bent down to show everyone how he could now touch his toes, pain free. Two women who had been unable to kneel knelt down in front of everyone, praising God.

For my second main session, "Return to the Upper Room," instead of giving a talk, I led everyone in a time of repentance and in prayer for a new release of the Holy Spirit and His gifts. We then had a time of actual practice in using the gifts, including tongues and interpretation, prophecy, words of knowledge, and healing. It was wonderful to see many people who had never used these gifts, and who in some cases were nervous, coming up on stage to speak powerfully anointed words. There were some very specific words of knowledge about healing, and afterward hundreds of people waved their hands to testify to being healed.

At the end, God gave me a prophetic word for the Renewal in Brazil, that

**He is calling them to transform the nation—not by their power, but by His.**

Then as I was rushing out to head to the airport, a young man stopped me to say he had seen fire over the whole crowd as I was speaking.

**GLORY TO GOD for all He is doing in Brazil!**



# Faith.

## IT'S A DECISION

► By Sr. Ann Shields, SGL



Scripture tells us much about faith and growing in faith. I urge you to open a concordance and look up the word “faith.” See how often the word is used, the gift that it is, and the means by which we can genuinely grow in our faith. Let faith become, in a certain sense, part of our oxygen and blood supply.

One Scriptural definition is this:

“Faith is confident assurance concerning what we hope for & conviction about the things we do not see.”  
(Heb 11:1)

Let me repeat a short, true story that reveals this kind of faith:

A number of years ago, there was a woman in Minnesota. She and her husband developed a very successful frozen pizza business before such places were popular. *But 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 speaking about faith. He told people to bring everything to God—family, business, relationships, finances, etc.

Bring everything to God and ask God what *He* wants to do. Seek *His* will for the situation you are bringing to Him. Don't 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 you.

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 right then and there:

*“You do with it, Lord, what you think is right.”*

A little while later, she drove home and found a letter saying that the government was giving them a loan available to new businesses. That was marvelous, but what was more marvelous was that they had gotten a letter the previous week saying their request had been turned down! This woman and her husband, from that point on, dedicated everything in their family and in their business to the Lord. Their faith had grown; they knew God was with them and was blessing their willingness to turn to Him in every decision they made. The business was very successful.

Fast forward to many years later: This woman was dying in a hospital, her heart was failing, and her family was around her. She saw what she described as a great light in the corner of the hospital room and asked her children if they also 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 that the peace they experienced in taking care of her was profound.

As the end neared, she called out to her daughters again,

*“Don’t you see the light?”*

“No,” they replied. Then she looked at all of them and said,

*“Well, next one up bring my sunglasses!”*

And she died. Her faith was living, it was real, and it was applied even at the moment of death. God wants the faith of each of us to be living and active.

## Why do I address the issue of faith now?

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

**In the story I just told, 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 Him, for His honor and glory*. And God heard. He took her seriously, and their business bore fruit—not just for their family, but for the local community and the Church as well. Each of us needs to make and remake decisions to bring Him into every aspect of our lives—every aspect!

About a year ago, I was reading a book on prayer by Sister Ruth Burrows. The book contains several paragraphs that gave me food to meditate on for many weeks. The following is one of those paragraphs for your own reflection on growing in faith—a living faith!

EACH OF US

HAS THE CHOICE

EITHER TO LIVE BY

FAITH

OR TO LIVE BY

FLESH

“ 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 center of our lives from ourselves to Him, to forgo self interest and to 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 perception, our own understanding, according to how things seem and feel, according to our natural experience. It is instinctive for us to live thus, taking for granted that our conscious experience is to be trusted, that it is the way things 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 so natural to us . . . that we are unaware of how much our life is lived from 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 this He is always trying to do. But we must recognize His work, and respond 'Amen.' ”

[Sister Ruth Burrows, *Essence of Prayer* (Mahwah, NJ: Hidden Spring, 2006), 2.]

As we, in our various parishes, 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, servants, disciples of His will. **Doing His will yields fruit that will be abundant beyond our hopes.**

May God’s Spirit inspire  
and lead us all  
to yield to His will daily.

*Please Pray...*

✚ **FOR** an increase in the gifts of the Holy Spirit among God’s people during this Golden Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

✚ **FOR** an increase of faith and confidence in our Lord, that we may be His light in the darkness.

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





LIFT  
JESUS  
HIGHER

2017 RALLY

# The LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

More than 3100 people gathered in March for the 2017 Lift Jesus Higher Rally in Toronto, Ontario.

#### SPEAKERS INCLUDED:

- ▶ Bishop Scott McCaig
- ▶ Peter Herbeck
- ▶ Sr. Ann Shields
- ▶ Cardinal Thomas Collins (Mass celebrant and homilist)

#### POWERFUL TESTIMONIES FROM:

- ▶ David Patterson
- ▶ Gemma MacDonald

*Save the Date*  
for next year's LJH Rally  
**SATURDAY · MARCH 3, 2018**



#### AWAKENING OUR CHILDREN

David Patterson shared a hopeful story of the Lord's healing strength and the power of prayer.

David began drinking and abusing drugs in high school, and his behavior continued into college. Fortunately, his mother never stopped praying for his conversion.

When she asked him to attend a Catholic retreat, he reluctantly agreed—simply to get her to leave him alone. But during the weekend, one speaker encouraged David to say “yes” to God—and it changed his life forever.

David then went to confession. He said,

*“As I kept unloading,  
I got a little lighter and a little lighter,  
and as He gave me absolution,  
I felt free.”*

David continued struggling with temptation, particularly to drink and to swear. He persevered by going to confession regularly; after six months, he said, “God set me free.”

He later attended a Lift Jesus Higher Rally—and, during the Eucharistic procession, the Lord put an image on his heart that led David to become a youth minister, and later, a husband and father.

“The reality is, I was a mess, but He took the mess and He turned it into a message.”

#### CONVERSION OF THE FAMILY

An Alpha course changed the lives of everyone in high school senior Gemma MacDonald's family.

After hearing about the program, the family first encouraged Gemma's recently widowed, alcoholic grandfather to attend. **It transformed his life: “After praying for the Holy Spirit to come, the next day, I didn't have the urge to go in the liquor store,” he said.**

He now spends most of his time helping with Alpha. He explained, “I think of the ten lepers who were cured; now I try to help others find Jesus like I found Him.”

His conversion encouraged the rest of his family to attend Alpha together. They also went reluctantly, but experienced a tremendous conversion.

“It renewed all of our relationships and brought us deeper into our faith,” said Gemma.

Since then, the family has started both youth and adult Alpha programs at other parishes. At sixteen, Gemma even became the volunteer coordinator for adult ministry at a parish.

*“The gifts of the Holy Spirit  
are working through us,”  
concluded Gemma's father, David.  
“they can work through everybody.  
You just have to be present.”*





# LIFT JESUS HIGHER YOUTH RALLY



# THE WAY

JOHN 14:6

Lift Jesus Higher's youth rally sold out, and had more than **1300 YOUNG PEOPLE** dancing in praise to music from Chris Bray and Connor Flanagan (who also spoke), celebrating Mass with Bishop Scott McCaig, and learning from speakers Rachel Herbeck and David Patterson. There also were skits and Eucharistic procession and adoration.



## MARY, PROPHET AND STAR OF THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

Bishop Scott McCaig discussed how, *“just as dawn reveals exactly where the sun will rise, Mary points us perfectly to Jesus.”*

He clarified that devotions to Mary and the Holy Spirit are not separate: “St. Louis deMontfort said, ‘When the Holy Spirit recognizes Mary in a soul, He flies to that soul.’”

“Being fully Catholic means being Marian and being filled with the Holy Spirit—just like she is,” he said. “How completely she abandons herself to God, without reserve! At Christ’s death, she is magnanimous, giving up her only treasure, for love of us.”

**“To believers: Sacrifice yourself for sinners. Pray for healing, but if that cup of suffering does not pass you by, use it, don’t waste it,”** he added. **“We’re the mystical body—it’s through us that the message of beauty, joy, and salvation can be communicated to the world.”**



Sr. Ann Shields with Gemma MacDonald ↑

## THE LIGHT OF FAITH

“If any of you are feeling discouraged by something in your family, keep praying,” said Sr. Ann Shields.

**“The light shines in the darkness, and your prayers and mine, by the grace of God, will be allowed to have an effect.”**

She encouraged people to pray with confidence, and to trust that even when they don’t know what the Lord is doing, they can say to Him, “I know who You are.”

“I want you to have hope and a growing faith,” she said. “We need to be a channel of God’s light by daily prayer—crying out to God. We need to pray for ourselves and our families. Keep praying, even when you see things going in the opposite direction.

“God wants to give us an increase of faith. Whatever our level of faith is, God wants to increase it. God wants us to be light in the darkness. Our lives need to more clearly reflect Him . . . which we can do by honest admission of sin and frequent reconciliation.”



# On the Road

## May 2017 ENGAGEMENTS

**London, England**  
**Alpha Leadership Conference\***  
May 1-2  
Peter & Debbie Herbeck

**Atlanta, GA**  
**Legatus\***  
May 3  
Dr. Mary Healy

**Charlotte, NC**  
**Legatus\***  
May 4  
Dr. Mary Healy

**Ann Arbor, MI**  
**i.d.9:16 Disciples' Night**  
May 4  
Tom Noemi  
Contact: pete@id916.com

**Joliet, IL**  
**Men's Conference**  
May 6  
Peter Herbeck  
Contact: Tim Botka at (815) 600-3575

**Madison, WI**  
**Legatus\***  
May 11  
Pete Burak

**Gaylord, MI**  
**Diocesan Pastoral Council\***  
May 11-12  
Sr. Ann Shields

**Ottawa, Canada**  
**New Evangelization Summit**  
May 12-13  
Peter Herbeck  
Contact: michael.j.dopp@gmail.com

**Honolulu, HI**  
**Clergy Convocation\***  
May 15-19  
Ralph Martin

**Lincoln, NE**  
**Legatus\***  
May 16  
Peter Herbeck

**Canton, MI**  
**Women's Catholic Bible Study\***  
May 18  
Peter Herbeck

**Canada**  
**High School Principals and Board Members\***  
May 18-19  
Sr. Ann Shields

**Canton, MI**  
**Archdiocese of Detroit Young Adult Event on Marriage**  
May 19  
Peter & Debbie Herbeck  
Contact: grovel.david@aod.org

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

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

## MISSIONS

**Haiti**  
May 1-10  
Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw

**Ghana**  
May 8-14  
Emmanuel Tamakloe

**Serbia**  
May 12-24  
Dcn. Zoltan Kunszabo

**Slovenia**  
May 17-29  
Donald Turbitt

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

“It is from the Spirit that Jesus obtained the knowledge that astounded the doctors of the law and his fellow citizens, the love that accepts and forgives sinners, the mercy that reaches down toward the misery of man, the tenderness that blesses and embraces the children, and the understanding that soothes the pain of the afflicted.”



St. John Paul II

## 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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