

A letter • from Ralph Martin

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Beloved,

Lent is over, the Easter season is now with us, and we are approaching the feast of Pentecost.

During Lent, I was deeply struck at how it was through His suffering and death that Jesus won for us the gift of the Holy Spirit. And, brothers and sister, it is through our own sacrificial offering of our lives that the Spirit is released in a fuller way in our own lives and spills over to those we love and are praying for.

Jesus "did it all" for us, but He is now calling us to participate with Him in the redemption of the world, as we take up our own crosses and follow Him, growing in self-sacrifice and in zeal for the salvation of souls. "The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective" (Jas 5:16). While only God is fully righteous, we are growing in righteousness as we persevere in following Jesus, and so our prayer increases in its power.

And so also our sacrifice. Jesus' whole life was a sacrifice, and we are now called to follow our Master, with His grace, and make of our life a sacrifice as well—out of love. Sacrifice is a measure of love and the sacrifice of Jesus is the measure of the greatest love. We are called to participate in that love, and little by little we can do so as we continue to "keep our eyes on Jesus," as St. Teresa of Avila tells

us to, and "show up" every day to do His will as best we know it; love the people in our life and those we randomly meet, including any enemies; and face in His direction in prayer.

"Present your bodies as a living sacrifice" (Rom 12:1).

One of the significant ways in which we share the Gospel and bring souls to Christ is through the written word, books, pamphlets, articles. It's amazing how many people have been touched over the years through these means. I was speaking in Omaha recently at the St. John Paul II Catholic Center at the University of Nebraska in Omaha, and the deacon who introduced me mentioned that The Fulfillment of All Desire is a classic and will be read by many long after he and I are no longer on this side of the veil! It's one of the foundational books for us here at Renewal Ministries, and we encourage any of you who have not read it to get a copy and read and reread it in connection with your prayer time.

I regularly get letters like this:

For Lent, I am reading your book for the second year in a row. I did this last Lent as well. It seems like I have underlined something on almost every page. The challenge of drawing closer to God is graced by the inspiration I find in your book. The way the Holy Spirit is moving me this year is even more profound than last year. I am confident that reading your book will be a practice of mine for years to come. Your book is definitely not one to be read once and then put on the shelf. I can't thank God enough for the graces I am receiving from meditating with your book in hand.

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Ralph recently led a clergy convocation for the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana. He is pictured here with the priests and Bishop David Talley.

Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields (who incidentally continues to recover and was able to share a short reflection at our Gathering last month), and Pete Burak all have contributed to our writing mission, and many souls are being touched. Not only our books, but our booklets are having a big impact as well.

How wonderful was it to receive this message from a friend of a clinical psychologist:

I wanted to share with you regarding my suicidal client. She was discharged from the program prematurely. It seems they didn't want her committing suicide while she was there and discharged her before she was ready or safe. Earlier this week, she attended a three-evening conference. The first evening she was there (only two days after discharge), she was sitting waiting for the talk to begin when she says a pamphlet landed out of nowhere at her feet entitled What Happens When I Die?, which she brought to her session. While I haven't read it, she indicated that the pamphlet quite clearly discussed not taking one's own life for fear of hell and outlined the path to heaven. She came in questioning her course of action, and the pamphlet was written by Ralph Martin! Thank you for your prayers on her behalf. While I feel she still is not safe and we are taking it day-to-day, I see the power of our prayers at work. Praise God and thank you both.

Ralph recently spoke to a group of about a 100 Chaldean young men about the call to the New Evangelization and why it matters.

Let's all pray for this soul and for all tempted to suicide, which the devil is aggressively tempting many to do these days! The clinical psychologist, who is Catholic, and her friend, who is also a counselor, were praying for this tempted person mightily. For me, it was a wonderful confirmation of praying for those tempted to suicide, which I began to do after a local incident. A priest in the Archdiocese of Detroit preached a sermon after the suicide of a high school student and was criticized for saying that suicide is gravely wrong, even though God is certainly merciful and we can't judge the ultimate fate of a soul.

I knew that the congregation at the funeral for this young person was filled with other young people, many of whom were undoubtedly battling depression or temptations to see suicide as an answer to their problems. I was very glad the priest did what he did despite the criticism, and from that time on, I began to pray for those tempted to suicide. The way I do it is this: when I wake up in the middle of the night from time to time, I grab my rosary at my bedside and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for those who are dying, the souls in purgatory, and more recently, also for those tempted to suicide. I saw this amazing account of my booklet helping someone resist this temptation as kind confirmation from the Lord that our prayers are important and we should never give up, even when we don't know what our prayers are achieving.

Like you, I'm sure, I've been bitterly disappointed when something I've prayed for that I felt for sure would be a wonderful thing to happen, didn't happen. I remembered the words of the Lord, "For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened" (Mt 7:8), and I asked the Lord, "I asked, I knocked, I sought, why didn't this happen???"

And then I remember the Lord's parable about the widow that wouldn't stop asking but just kept on until she received what she was asking for (Lk 18:1-8). And the words of Jesus to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thes 5:17).

So let's keep on praying even when we don't see the fruit of our prayers. But how special it is when the Lord does give us a glimpse into the amazing ways in which He may or even is answering our prayers in the affirmative! When I am asked to sign copies of my book *The Fulfillment of All Desire* at various speaking events, I almost always inscribe it with this short exhortation: "Keep on!"

And so, let's all of us, keep on!

Thank you for your continued support and friendship, prayers and financial giving!

In our dear Lord,





In January, Renewal Ministries welcomed Be Love Revolution (BLR) into its family. Be Love Revolution is an outreach primarily to high-school-aged young women that is led by Debbie Herbeck and a team of young adult women with hearts for serving the next generation.

"I am very grateful—and in amazement—how Be Love Revolution has grown to reach more and more young girls and help them establish strong identities in Christ," said Renewal Ministries' President Ralph Martin. "What a valuable service in such challenging times! We are honored to have BLR join the Renewal Ministries' family of ministries that are strengthening men and women, boys and girls, all over the world."

Renewal Ministries' Vice President Peter Herbeck agrees: "This is a mature ministry that has successfully mobilized young women from elementary through high school and college and is doing a very effective job of making disciples. They are talented and inspiring young women who are hungry to love as Jesus loves."

BLR officially began in 2013 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with the intention of creating a culture that helps young women develop a personal relationship with Jesus and grow into mature disciples. Its mission is three-fold:

BE HIS | Help young women know the personal and transformative love of Jesus.

BE FREE | Form young women to live freely and confidently as daughters of God.

BE LOVE | Equip and empower young women to be God's love in the world today.

Today the ministry "spreads its net wide" to reach large numbers of young women at its weekly event called "Beloved," which features practical talks, testimonies, small groups, and praise and worship. BLR also reaches large numbers of young women at retreats and Pine Hills Girls' Camp. An important part of BLR's ministry, however, is reaching smaller numbers through women's groups, Bible studies, mission opportunities, and one-on-one mentoring; those smaller numbers are intentional, Debbie explained. In fact, the key to BLR's success is that it has moved away from a programmatic approach and into personal mentoring and discipling.

"We have lots of girls involved, but I see tremendous fruit from the smaller groups and our more personal times together," said Debbie. "Girls have a place to share their lives and be accountable to each other. They are growing as disciples, and being equipped and empowered as leaders. It's inspiring to see the older girls leading retreats, giving talks, and praying and caring for their younger sisters in Christ. It's an environment of faith where everyone is learning how to love."

"Accompanying, discipling, and being with girls—it works," added Debbie, who has thirty-five years of experience in youth and women's ministry, leading Pine Hills Girls' Camp, mission work, speaking, and writing. "In today's culture, young people need personal care and formation, not just information. Mentorship is not passive; we walk with them day in and day out, helping them to confidently choose Christ."

"Mentorship is an investment in someone's life," she continued, "and it can be hard to do because it takes time, energy, and patience. By being present, we want to remind them in a visible and tangible way that they are loved and valued."

According to one high schooler, "I've grown as a daughter of Christ; I've learned to face my fears, try new things, and I don't have to worry about being judged by others."

BLR was featured on a 2018-19 episode of *The Choices We Face*. Afterward, Debbie said they received dozens of calls from women who want to implement BLR in their parish or school—which reflects the "hunger and need for this kind of ministry to young people."

BLR has begun expanding outside of the Ann Arbor area. According to Debbie, there is a fledgling chapter in Maryland and one starting in Lansing, Michigan, that is "ready to go, has the vision, and has the support within the local high school and parish." Groups in northern Canada, Kansas, and even someone in Italy have all expressed interest in establishing BLR in their communities as well.

Debbie said, "If women have a vision for what we are doing and the ability to not just run a program, but to invest in and mentor young women—to create a culture of love—then they can do what we are doing. Saint Mother Teresa is our model because we believe that loving the person right in front of you is possible for all of us, and this causes a ripple effect. We sincerely believe we can transform the world through a revolution of love—one person at a time."



2019 RALLY

HOPE IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING

Over 4500 adults and youth attended the Metro Toronto Convention Centre for the 2019 Lift Jesus Higher Rally, which Peter Herbeck opened by declaring:

"This is not business as usual.
We are here to declare Jesus' lordship
and to lift Him high with our hearts.
He's going to win His victory
in the Church in this hour."

SPEAKERS INCLUDED:

- ▶ Ralph Martin
- ▶ Fr. Mark Goring, CC
- ▶ Miriam Wright
- ► Cardinal Thomas Collins (Mass celebrant and homilist)



Save the Date for next year's LJH Rally SATURDAY · MARCH 7, 2020





HOPE IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING

Ralph Martin discussed suffering—and how "Scripture tells us there is a way of suffering that actually releases God's blessings into the world."

"There is pain in our Church and countries—thousands of consecrated people exchanged the truth for lies," said Ralph. "How painful it is to see cowardice, and that a lack of authority that was given by God to protect His people wasn't exercised. Paul told Timothy to admonish the sinner publicly so people would be afraid to sin. Today, there is no public admonishment. We are teaching too much prudence and not enough courage in seminaries. Jesus said, 'I haven't come to bring peace, I have come to bring a sword'" (Mt 10:34).

Ralph explained the significance of Fatima, which "shows us how suffering can release grace into the world when we journey with Christ."

He asked, "Are you willing to accept your suffering and turn it into a mighty offering for God, to save souls? The journey will require things from us we never thought it would require. It forces us to pick up our cross and follow Jesus in a way we probably weren't counting on. We need to make a choice, to keep saying 'yes' to God, no matter what."

Ralph spoke about the great joy and hope that await us in heaven, thanks to "the love and sacrifice of Jesus, that has made it possible for us to say, 'O Death, where is your sting?' We have hope in the midst of our suffering for one reason only: Jesus. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. You can rest the weight of your life on that. If you build your life on the rock that is Jesus, it's going to stand. On anything else, it will be swept away."

He concluded with encouragement to seek friendship with Christ and connection with each other. He said, "Intercede: Your prayer is powerful! Pray for the departed. Also, so many are suffering without hope—ask God to make you sensitive to people so that you can share your hope. And persevere. Don't waste your suffering. Persevere until the end and you will see your suffering doesn't compare to the glory that is to come."



HOPE IN THE BATTLE

Fr. Mark Goring, CC, spoke about the importance of guarding our hearts, and the role of Mary in recent private revelations to "awaken faith, charity, and hope." He said she has always shared the Gospel message: "Repent of sins. Believe."

He discussed apparitions from Argentina, in which the Blessed Mother spoke to a housewife named Gladys. Mary warned about the number of God's children losing their "radiance of the presence of God."

He said the Blessed Mother also made severe warnings about drug usage: "Doing drugs is the opposite of guarding your heart; it . . . opens yourself up to the evil one, who prowls like a roaring lion waiting to pounce."

Fr. Mark said in our world today, "we've allowed our hearts to be stolen"—and darkness has spread throughout the world as a result.

He explained that the Bible's instructions to build the temple say, "Fire must be burning continuously on the altar. It must never go out." Fr. Mark added, "This is true for every child of God. Jesus said, 'I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already ablaze!' That fire is meant to burn in our hearts."

Fr. Mark said the Blessed Mother tells us to "go to Jesus, because He makes all things new." He added, "He will turn no one away. He will ignite a fire in your heart—but...we need to stand like Elijah and the children of Fatima and proclaim we are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ."

"The rally was uplifting & beautiful.
I've always had my faith, but this
increases it. And today, if I had
doubts, it removed my doubts.
It's fulfilling, and every speaker
is always good."

-Conference Attendee





WALKING IN FREEDOM

Renewal Ministries' Canadian Board Member Miriam Wright shared her testimony and spoke about how her life has been affected by the power of Unbound Ministry, an approach to deliverance and healing prayer.

"I knew the Lord had a call on my life, but when I went to the university, I had gotten pregnant. Now my son and his wife live (nearby), and I have three grandbabies—but then, I had lost my sense of who I was as a daughter of the Lord," said Miriam. "I had entered the university thinking I would be a doctor. When my choices led me to another path, I felt lost—like I was on the wrong path. I had allowed my heart to be stolen, and I didn't know it."

One day, Miriam's mother asked her to attend the Lift Jesus Higher Rally. "That simple invitation changed my life," Miriam said. "I bought one of Ralph's CDs about the lives and wisdom of the saints—and now I have listened to all of them. I heard the testimonies of people who had lived with tremendous suffering—and yet they suffered with such joy and such peace."

Miriam then read the Renewal Ministries' newsletter and decided to attend its annual Gathering—where she learned about Unbound Ministry. When Miriam received Unbound prayer, a team helped her through the Five Keys, which are basic responses to Unbound prayer: repentance and faith, forgiveness, renunciation, authority, and the Father's blessing. She realized she needed to forgive herself and renounce the lie that she was never in the right place:

"I saw Jesus on the cross, looking down at me, and saying, 'This is why I died. John 3:16 became, 'And God so loved Miriam' In that moment, everything I knew about Jesus became a relationship with Jesus. It was an encounter with the Son of God in my life, and it changed everything."

Miriam continued, "Our faith isn't about ideas, it's a relationship with a Creator who created us for love—a God who died for us while we were still enemies."

LIVING WITH INTEGRITY

In his homily, **Cardinal Thomas Collins** emphasized our need to live lives of integrity. He said, "We cannot have a crust of discipleship on the outside—like a tree beautiful to look at but empty on the inside."

In order to live lives of integrity, our minds, lips, and hearts must be one, said Cardinal Collins. He said praying the Jesus Prayer ("Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner"), going to reconciliation, spending time with the Blessed Sacrament, and taking time to reflect and not remain superficial with the Lord can allow the Lord to shine through our lives and not block His light from others.

He said, "We have to say, 'Lord, purify us. Allow us to live a life that reaches out."

LIFT JESUS HIGHER YOUTH RALLY STORMS

OVER ONE-THOUSAND YOUTH sold out the John W. H. Bassett Theatre for a day filled with praise, music, powerful testimonies, Mass, Adoration, and more.

High school student Nuradi said her favorite parts of the day were the praise and worship and Adoration:

"These moments help us to remember why we gather and why we pray, because it's so powerful."

"I love the testimonials, the energy, and the Spirit—the way they invite the youth to enter in," added a woman who brought three buses of youth to the rally. "During the day, I like to look at the kids' faces instead of at the stage, and I could see they were engaged. Even the shy kids were up by the stage for the concert and for prayer."





"Patti, I have a great feeling that you will be in my country one day." These words were scrawled on a postcard from Rio sent to me by a Brazilian Jesuit in 1971. They proved to be prophetic! Since 1994, I have been to Brazil more than twenty-five times. I am in love with Brazil and her people, and I can understand their word "Saudades." It means: "I'm missing and loving you!"

Why do I love Brazil? I love the way Brazilians have embraced and lived the baptism in the Spirit with enthusiasm and joy. There are twelve million Brazilians who are baptized in the Holy Spirit. I remember hearing Archbishop Alberto Taveira tell thousands of university students, "You are called to be apostles of the baptism in the Spirit." There it is! Baptism in the Spirit: front and center! Eight hundred vibrant communities have borne tremendous spiritual fruit and priestly vocations. Then there are the fourteen-thousand prayer groups under the leadership of the Charismatic Renewal of Brazil (RCC).

The baptism in the Spirit has overflowed in works of prayer and formation; intercession; evangelization; care for the poor; ministry to children; outreach to university students, lawyers, judges, and politicians; twenty-four-hour Catholic Charismatic radio and television; publications; and more.

One of the things I love the most is the way Mary is honored in Brazil, especially Our Lady of Aparecida, their patroness. The Brazilians have set to music the Prayer of Consecration, "O my Queen, O my Mother, I give myself entirely to you." I have never been to an event of the Renewal in Brazil where Our Lady was not honored and welcomed. I believe that this integration of Mary and the Holy Spirit is the secret of their fruitfulness, and we would do well to learn from them!

Speaking of Aparecida, I was called there suddenly in July 2018, to replace Sr. Briege McKenna at a retreat for priests. Aparecida is the town where Our Lady appeared about three hundred years ago, and it is the spiritual heart of Brazil. There were over two hundred priests; the average age was about thirty-eight! Some men had just been ordained and about a third of the priests were new to the Charismatic Renewal. I was there just after the abuse scandal broke in the States, and I wanted to do something to strengthen the priesthood. By the grace of God, I was able

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to minister personally through the charismatic gift of revelation to each man. I've been used in this charism before, but never with the speed and accuracy that I experienced during those days. It was an increase and acceleration of grace because the times we're living in call for it!

And that leads me to the prophetic word I received my last day with the priests:

Brazil will lead the world in this new move of My Spirit which is coming. As you yield to Me, as you praise Me, as you look to Me, I will greatly increase your numbers. I will open doors that until now have been shut. I will give you an "entrée" to people who up to now have been closed. You will be amazed at the way the fire spreads. As in the beginning, in the first Pentecost, my Spirit will use you with great power. Be careful. Make sure to keep yourself very humble and to acknowledge that it is My power using you and not any force of persuasion of your own. Break your pride. Break your egoism. And you will see what the power of My Spirit can do. Remain humble, looking at Me and watch what I, the Lord your God, will do.

Two months later, I was back in Brazil for a conference for six-thousand teens at the Sanctuary of the Mother of God in Sao Paolo, home of my dear friend Fr. Marcelo Rossi, whose vocation was born in the Charismatic Renewal. His nearly twenty-five years of priesthood have been spent lifting up the Lord Jesus Christ through his celebration of the Eucharist (over six-thousand people come to Mass at 6 a.m.), his music, and his books. He is followed by close to ten-million people daily on the Internet and is one of the best-known priests in Brazil. What a joy to call the youth "to love Jesus as He has never been loved before!"

Katia Roldi Zavaris, president of the National Council of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Brazil, then invited me to the National Formation Conference in January of this year at Cancao Nova, in the largest covered stadium in Latin America. Brazil is celebrating fifty years of Charismatic Renewal in their country. For me, Katia is a living example of what Saint John Paul II meant when he spoke about "the feminine genius"—the particular way a woman can exercise leadership with maternal grace. When Katia assumed the presidency, this event drew four-thousand leaders and very few priests. This year, there were fifteenthousand leaders (most under the age of thirty-five), three-hundred seminarians, and 180 priests, along with many bishops.

The leadership council began the celebration by processing in with an open Bible over their hearts to signal the commitment to reading and obeying the Word of God. Katia had been deeply impressed by the prophetic word I received at Circus Maximus in the presence of Pope Francis on June 3, 2017. In one of her talks, she referred to that prophecy:

Lift up your eyes and see, that the fields are white for harvest. And if you would obey me, and if you would obey the prompting of my Spirit, you will yet see, infinitely more than you can ask or imagine. You will yet see the power of my Spirit descend upon the human race. I tell you, the fields are white for harvest, but I need your obedience, I need your docility, I need your faith, and you will yet see marvels that will astound you, infinitely more than you can ask or imagine, for the glory of my name.



The fields are white! As people entered, each one received a sheaf of wheat. After Katia's presentation, the young people went through the crowd of fifteen-thousand, collecting all the wheat in baskets, which were then placed at the feet of Jesus. Katia made the point that Pentecost in the Old Testament was a harvest festival as well as a time to celebrate the giving of the law on Sinai. Our Pentecost is meant to bring in a harvest of souls by the power of the Spirit.

My travel companion received a prophetic word for the Brazilian leaders, knowing nothing about my prophecy to the priests last July. The similarities are striking!

I am sending a new and greater wave of My Spirit upon you. Greater things will you do in My Spirit. All that you have seen and experienced has been a foretaste of My Spirit with you. As I release this new wave upon you, there will be increase . . . exponential increase of numbers . . . increase in My gifts and power. As you love My Mother and remain low in humility, I will bring more! You, My people of Brazil, will be a light, a witness to the world of the new and fresh outpouring of My Spirit. They will look upon you and hunger and thirst for My Spirit to come in new ways. You will bring My Spirit to the world.

AMEN! Let it be!



On the Road.

May 2019 ENGAGEMENTS

La Celle St. Cloud, France **Parish Conference**

May 4

Dr. Mary Healy

Details: www.paroisse-lacellesaint-

cloud.com

Benin, West Africa **Charism School**

May 6-10

Dr. Mary Healy

Contact: jsakiti@yahoo.fr

Batavia, IL Fatima Talk to Grade School Students and Parish*

May 9

Ralph Martin

Louisville, KY Legatus*

May 9

Pete Burak

Okemos, MI St. Martha's Parish Event

May 14

Ralph Martin

Contact: michaelsiminski56@gmail.com

Royal Oak, MI **Parish Presentation**

May 15

Pete Burak

Contact: parishoffice@st-mary.org

Steubenville, OH **Encounter Conference**

May 17-19

Peter Herbeck

Details: https://steubenvilleconferences.com/

Lansing, MI **Millennial Church Conference**

May 22 Pete Burak

www.eventbee.com/v/millennialchurch2019#/tickets

66 When tempted, invoke your guardian angel. Ignore the Devil and do not be afraid of him. He trembles at the sight of your guardian angel. 99



St. John Bosco

MISSIONS

Haiti

April 30-May 7 Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw

Ghana

May 21-June 2 **Emmanuel Tamakloe**

Serbia

May 24-25

Dcn. Zoli Kunszabo

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

Please Pray...

- ightharpoons For all of those in times of trial,that they may seek the Lord and trust in Him as their "Hope in the Midst of Suffering."
- For our world's youth, that they would seek and find our Lord and build their lives on His truth. Also, for those ministering to young people, that the Lord would give them the wisdom, grace, and strength to persevere in loving without counting the cost.
- For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

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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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Heather Schultz

Emily Bachelor

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