

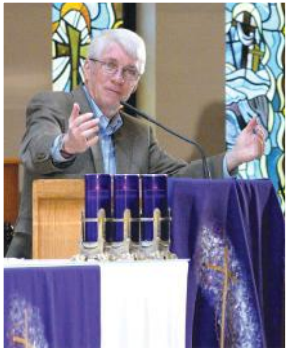


RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Celebrating
35
YEARS
of God's
Faithfulness

...
November
2015

Proclaiming Jesus through Catholic Renewal and Evangelization



A letter
from Ralph Martin

DEAR FRIENDS,

There has been a lot of “chatter” from various prophetic sources – including some well-respected Christian leaders – that suggest we may experience a significant global collapse. The sense being communicated is that God is permitting this collapse to shake people free from the false securities they have been trusting. I **do not know** exactly what might happen or when it might happen. I **do know** that we should all examine our own relationship with the Lord, our trust in Him, and our willingness to be a light to others if indeed a time of global disruption unfolds.

It may be wise to make some modest preparations such as stocking up some food and water in case supply chains are indeed disrupted. ***But our primary preparation must be continued communion with God and contact with our brothers and sisters in Christ.*** If such a collapse occurs and the Internet is still working, we will post whatever wisdom the Lord gives us to share on the home page of our website: RenewalMinistries.net



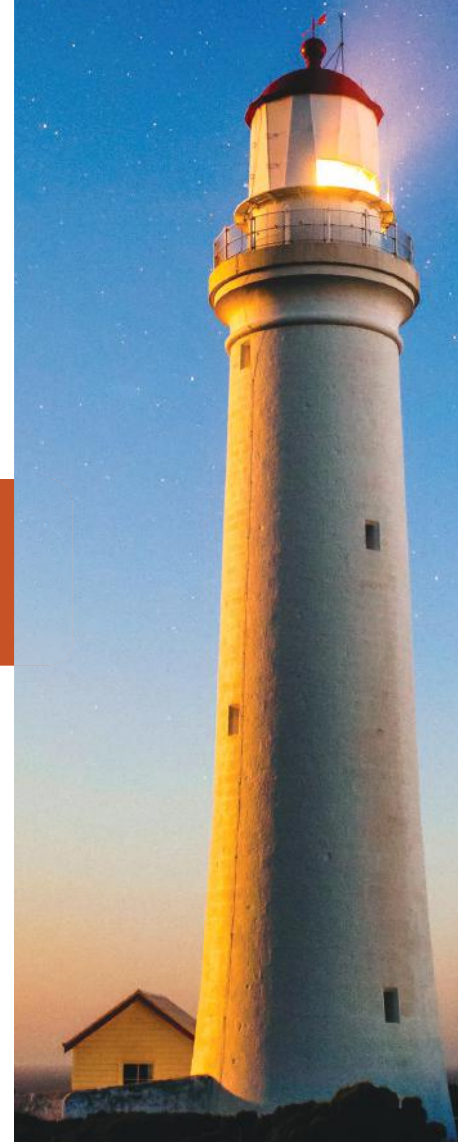
In the meantime, we all need to get up every day and try as best we can to love and serve the Lord in the situations where He has placed each of us, relying on Him for the strength and energy we need to continue to seek and serve Him and our neighbor.

That’s what we continue to do at Renewal Ministries. Peter Herbeck and Sr. Ann have just returned from a truly wonderful opportunity to give three talks each to all the priests and bishops of the Archdiocese of Detroit. In talking with them and some priests from the Archdiocese, it seems like the Holy Spirit was really at work in a wonderful way.

Something very good is happening in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

As I write this, we are just finishing the taping of 26 new episodes of *The Choices We Face* TV program. Each episode is truly inspiring! We are blessed.

“...we should all examine our own relationship with the Lord, our trust in Him, and our willingness to be a light to others...”



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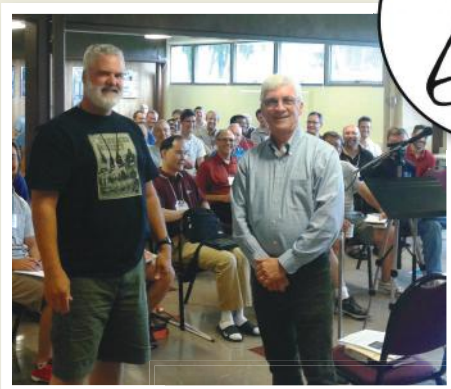
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“...pray for each other in these times of great challenge & great opportunity!”

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Recently, I was able to participate in another really encouraging event; the annual retreat of the Companions of the Cross. This is a relatively new religious order, founded by Fr. Bob Bedard in Ottawa, Canada, and now serving in a number of locations in both Canada and the United States. **A number of the Companion priests and seminarians have gone on Renewal Ministries mission trips. Fr. Scott McCaig, Moderator of the Companions, is on our Canadian Board of Directors.**



I was privileged to be asked to give the talks for the retreat and was able to spend several days with them. The retreat itself was held in Ogdensburg, New York just across the border from Canada. I was very impressed by the health of the order. They have 40 priests and 20 seminarians, with many different personality types. They have great respect for individual differences and at the same time great unity of brotherly spirit. Things are looking good for their continued growth. Their **FOUR SPIRITUAL PILLARS** are beautifully integrated and strongly operative in their lives and work:

- ✠ *Eucharist*
- ✠ *Mary*
- ✠ *Charismatic*
- ✠ *Obedience to the Magisterium*



THE COMPANIONS OF THE CROSS *Annual Retreat*

TOP • Ralph is pictured with Fr. Scott McCaig, Moderator of the Companions of the Cross and member of Renewal Ministries' Canadian Board of Directors.

BOTTOM • Recently, Ralph gave the annual retreat for the Companions of the Cross, a relatively new religious order based in Ottawa, Canada.

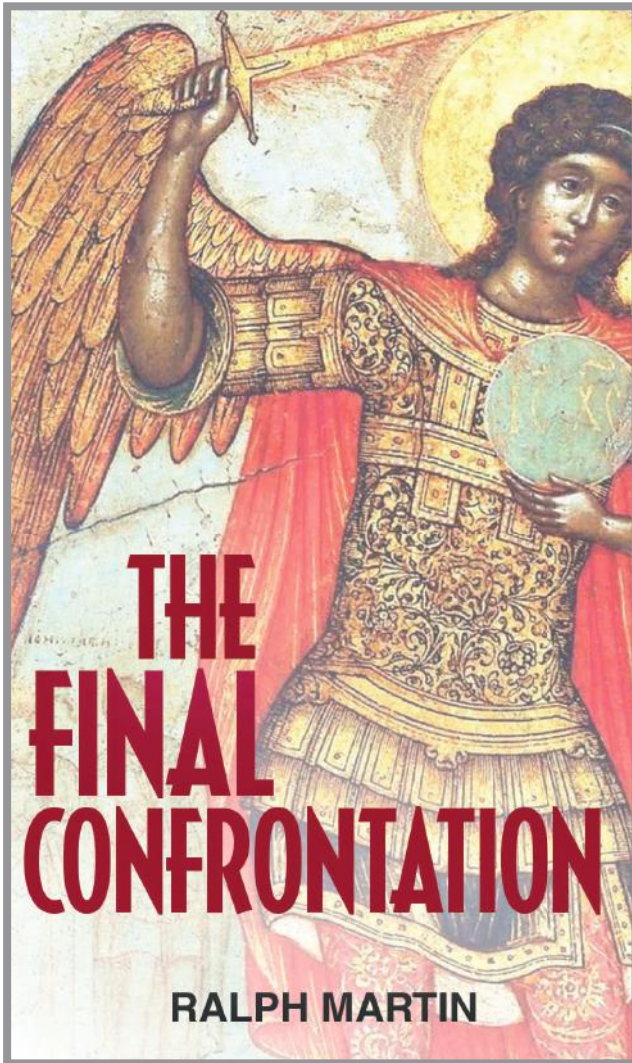
We are privileged to have many of their seminarians studying at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, as well as have two of their priests on faculty. Their primary ministry is in parishes where they serve together in supportive teams with committed lay people. Last year, one of their priests was named as auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Ottawa. When he was named, he was the second youngest bishop in North America. Bishop Christian is a guest on one of the newly taped television programs so you will all have a chance to meet him in 2016.

The phenomenal interest in my booklet *The Final Confrontation* continues. **After distributing the initial 25,000 copies in record time; we printed another 30,000 copies and are busy filling back orders.** Many people are buying multiple copies and sharing them with family members, friends, and even whole parishes. (See p.3 for reader comments on *The Final Confrontation*.)

Indeed, I ask every member of the Renewal Ministries family to pray for each other in these times of great challenge and great opportunity!

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin



Comments on THE FINAL CONFRONTATION Over 30,000 copies sold!

Every concern I've been feeling about what's happening is spoken to in this booklet. You've given me such reassurance. I am so grateful that someone is pointing these things out! This is a sobering but essential message. The great apostasy is happening and the final confrontation is on. - Calgary, Alberta

I spent many years living in accordance with the two big lies described in the booklet. I was thinking that God's mercy will save me without a single effort from my side. I had a justification for every sin and I was certain that God would accept them. What a lie I was living! Reading the booklet helped me understand my mistakes... Also, it has encouraged me to work on the two things that the section 'Our Response,' explains. This booklet has been extremely useful and valuable for my spiritual life. Whenever I feel the need I re-read it. - London, England

I was particularly struck by the man mentioned in your August Newsletter who remarked that 'in his parish there is such a presumption that everyone will be saved that there is a great indifference to both holiness and evangelization.' I see that in my own family and am greatly troubled. Please join me in praying that they will repent of their sin of presumption." (We will!)

My husband and I both think that every family should read this booklet to their young adult children. - Via e-mail

This booklet is a treasure for those families who are trying to prepare their children for what is to come. What an eye opener! - Mesa, Arizona

24TH ANNUAL
Lift Jesus Higher Rally
TORONTO • MARCH 5

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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SAVE the DATES

2016

THE GATHERING:
Rich in Mercy
YPSILANTI • APRIL 15-17

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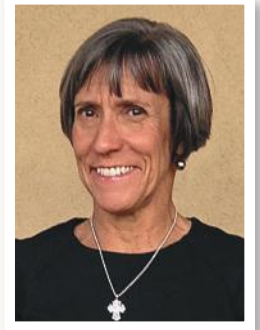


Evangelizing Women *in* **CRISIS PREGNANCIES**

By **Jill Norton**

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE GIFT OF LIFE CENTER

Jill Norton serves as the Chairwoman of the Board of Directors and President of Our Lady of Guadalupe Gift of Life Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico.



Our Lady of Guadalupe is revered as the Star of the New Evangelization, as well as protector of the unborn. It is only fitting that our crisis pregnancy center, which is named in her honor strives to *evangelize the mothers while saving the lives of their babies.*

Our Lady of Guadalupe Gift of Life Center began operating as a Catholic crisis pregnancy center in March of 2012. It grew out of a group that prayed near an abortion facility. Nine months later, when the abortionist left town (Praise God!) we began shaping it into a Catholic Pro-Life Center.

Once the center became competent in providing financial assistance, services and material needs to ensure women would carry their babies to term, we began teaching Natural Family Planning. We learned that in doing so, many women became chaste and changed their lives. We felt led by Our Lady and Her Spouse, the Holy Spirit to work even more closely with the women, delving into their backgrounds and encouraging them to return to Church (or begin going for the first time), to be chaste, to consider marriage instead of living with their boyfriends and enrolling their children in CCD.

Soon, we began to take our responsibilities as part of the New Evangelization more seriously. We began to question women even more intensely about their faith circumstances. We now require every woman who comes in for services to view a one-hour Theology of the Body DVD from Christopher West. It doesn't matter what the woman's religious affiliation is, she **MUST** watch the DVD.

Our rationale is that we may only get one shot at a woman. So we want her to at least understand God's plan for her, as His daughter, to be chaste, marry and remain with one husband for life, raising her children in the Church and participating in it actively herself. As a result, even more women are agreeing to baptize their babies (as well as their older children) and have returned to active participation in their faith.

We also conduct chastity presentations for middle school CCD students and confirmation candidates. Countless students and parents tell us these presentations have changed their lives. The presentations are one and a half hours long, include information about the genesis of the contraceptive culture, statistics on the resulting destruction of marriage and the family, abortion statistics worldwide, a testimony of a post-abortive woman and a testimony of a former porn addict. Most parishes invite us back every year.

The evangelistic outreach requires herculean effort in the way of follow-up to ensure women get their children baptized, attend church and enroll their older children in CCD. But it's the **ONLY** way we will break this cycle of promiscuity and destruction of the family. It is always worth it, if for no other reason than we will be able to stand before God knowing we tried our best to point women back to Him and His Church.



Our Lady of Guadalupe Gift of Life Center volunteers work tirelessly to save babies from abortion. They work equally hard to encourage the mothers to baptize their babies and live chastely. Pictured above is the baptism of a baby saved by the Center.

An important evangelistic outreach of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Gift of Life Center is our website: www.olglife.org. We recently updated it based on research provided by the Vitae Foundation so we could appear on a directory of crisis pregnancy centers that they are creating for New Mexico.

We followed many of their suggestions to attract women who are on the fence about whether or not to have an abortion. But we refused to change our name to something with an exclusively medical orientation. We retained our Catholic identity despite research finding that women on the fence are drawn toward neutrality and seek a center that is concerned about them and their needs. We're nearly positive that the research conducted didn't determine how many women are drawn to Catholic pregnancy ministries BECAUSE they are Catholic. Our Lady of Guadalupe is revered by Catholics and non-Catholics alike in this area and culture, so we adamantly left our ministry and its title in her hands.

In addition, we have modified the website to insert Christian principles (e.g. *"There may be an unwanted pregnancy, but not an unwanted baby."*) and we've posted articles advocating chastity and non-abortive benefits.

Our next project is to offer a Women of Grace Foundational Study in an attempt to raise up an army of Catholic women mentors who will mentor younger women in their parishes and become part of Johnnette Benkovic's One Million Souls Initiative. We will repeat the study as often as we are able to recruit participants.

All of our work is oriented towards bringing our clients into or back into the Church. We work VERY hard to get them grants for rent payments, car repairs, public housing, child care, and other areas of assistance like encouraging them to get a GED or attend community college. All the while, we are encouraging the baptism of their babies, chastity, marriage and active church participation. The idea is to permanently break the cycle of contraception, promiscuity, child bearing out-of-wedlock and poverty. We don't always succeed and there's a lot of recidivism, but we don't give up. ✚

Lori Zucker is Executive Director of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Gift of Life Center. Despite the fact that she is completely blind, she volunteers countless hours counseling women, works tirelessly to get the babies and their older siblings baptized and to encourage the women to participate in church life. She's even godmother to many of the babies!



LIFE SAVING STATS

- Women served 209
- Babies born 112
- Babies due 3
- Toddlers served 166
- Baptisms 40
- Baptisms pending 23

DO NOT THROW AWAY YOUR con·fi·dence

By Debbie Herbeck

On a warm fall weekend in Michigan, surrounded by a lake and changing trees, the world is a beautiful place. Yet the 80 young adults who gathered for the fourth annual i.d.9:16 Summit, know that the world in which they live and are called to share their faith, is anything but serene and predictable. And so, the Summit theme of Confidence, based on HEBREWS 10:35-36 was timely and applicable: *Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that you may do the will of God and receive what is promised.*

Through talks by Peter and Debbie Herbeck, Fr. Scott McCaig, the Moderator of the Companions of the Cross, and Pete Burak, Director of i.d.9:16, personal prayer, small groups, men's and women's sessions, as well as Mass, Confession, Eucharistic Adoration and prayer ministry, the retreat was designed to help young adults go deeper with the Lord and live more confidently as intentional disciples in the midst of a challenging and changing world.

The weekend also reflected the expansion of i.d.9:16. In addition to the Ann Arbor chapter, participants represented other chapters in Michigan, including Lansing, Livingston County, and Saline, as well as chapters in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Cape Girardeau, Missouri.



Despite the busyness of life for young adults with careers, new marriages and growing young families, everyone was appreciative of the time away to be refreshed and strengthened spiritually and to build supportive community. When asked to sum up their experience of the 2015 Summit, here's what people had to say:

- *I feel the fire of the Lord! The flame in my heart is brighter than ever before.*
- *Life changing! I really don't want to leave, but at the same time I'm eager to be a disciple—to share the Good News and God's love to others.*
- *It was a peace-filled recharge to re-enter the battlefield with boldness and strength that is not our own.*

By Emmanuel Tamakloe
GHANA COUNTRY COORDINATOR



In addition to serving as country coordinator for Renewal Ministries, Emmanuel works with the National Office of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Ghana as coordinator for Missions, Formation and Praise & Worship Ministries. He and his wife live in Kumasi, Ghana with their daughter.

Spreading the GOSPEL in Ghana

*The entire mission of the Church, then,
is concentrated and manifested in evangelization.*

CHRISTIFIDELIS LAICI, 33



This year, the Renewal Ministries mission in Ghana focused on the New Evangelization. Our team which included Samuel Aduse-Poku, Athanasius Amuzu, Anthony Kendja, and Joseph Yaw Boateng presented four workshops. The first was for the seminarians of the Divine Word Missionaries. The remaining three were conducted for catechists and Charismatic Renewal leaders in three different dioceses.

➔ DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES

The novice master for the Divine Word Missionaries of the Ghana Province invited the Renewal Ministries team to conduct a one-week program in Kwahu-Nkwatia in the Eastern Region of Ghana. There were 15 novices representing six different countries.

The formation centered on the New Evangelization. The team shared on the need and urgency for the New Evangelization, as well as their experiences of walking with God as Christians. The team prayed with the novices for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Most of these novices were not acquainted with the Holy Spirit. But they were open and allowed the Holy Spirit to fill them.

In response to a talk on street evangelization, the novice master and novices decided to apply what they had learned in nearby Nkawkaw. *This was the first time in Ghana - not only for this novitiate but all seminaries in Ghana - that seminarians together with their novice master embarked on street evangelization.*

People listened to the Word of God and gave their lives to Jesus. Many people were amazed to see Catholics and most especially, seminarians in their cassocks doing street evangelization. This witness strengthened the faith of many.

The mission was a turning point for most of the novices. They testified to how their minds and hearts were opened to the working of the Holy Spirit and the need for the New Evangelization. They pledged their readiness to put to use what they received.

➔ GOASO DIOCESE

The second workshop was in the Diocese of Goaso, where we focused on leadership for the New Evangelization. The program was held at the Manfo Grotto and drew about 60 leaders from various parts of the diocese.

The formation was based on Mark 16:15:
“**Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.**”

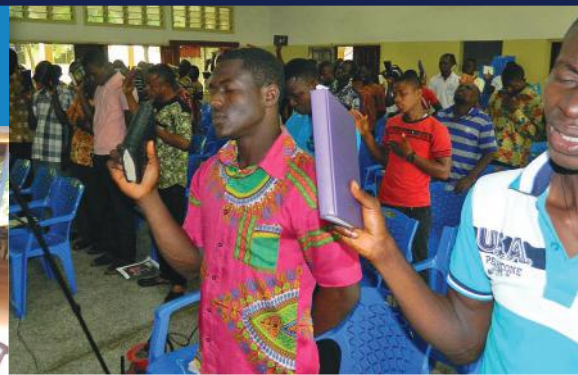
The team gave talks on the following topics:

- Go into the World
- What is Evangelization?
- What is the Church Saying about Evangelization?
- Prayer, a Tool for Evangelization
- Love, a Tool for Evangelization
- Giving Your Testimony
- Directing the Conversation
- Follow Up and Discipleship



In addition, there were sessions for praise and worship, prayer ministry, and evangelization role playing. Then the participants were given the opportunity to apply the teachings. They were sent to the Manfo Township to share the Word of God with those they met. **Even though it was the first time some of them embarked on such an activity, they returned with joy and gratitude to God for the experiences and encounters they had in sharing their faith.**

Each of the workshops included time for praise and worship, as well as teaching on the practical aspects of evangelization. Pictured below are some of the leaders of the Charismatic Renewal in the Goaso Diocese.



Effective evangelization begins with intercessory prayer. Above, catechists and Church leaders in the Obuasi Diocese pray for themselves and those they will be evangelizing.

The novices from the Divine Word Missionaries took to the streets to proclaim the Gospel. Some of them held signs inviting people to give their lives to Christ.



OBUASI DIOCESE

Next, we traveled to the Obuasi Diocese to conduct evangelization training at the St. John Paul II formation center in Ofoase Kokoben. The training drew about 60 catechists, Charismatic Renewal leaders and other Church leaders from various parts of the Diocese. During the training, we were graced to have a visit from the Most Reverend John Afoakwa, Bishop of Obuasi. He encouraged the participants to fully commit to the program.

Each day began with Eucharistic adoration and personal prayer time before breakfast. During the four-day training, the team gave talks on:

- The Great Commission
- Prayer Intercession for Evangelization
- Giving Your Testimony
- Directing the Conversation
- Proclaiming the Basic Gospel Message
- Taking Evangelization to the Streets
- Door-to-Door Evangelization
- Empowered to Evangelize

After a time of prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the participants were sent out two-by-two to evangelize in the streets. Many could not believe that they were sharing their faith for the first time. One person said it was a great opportunity to share the faith with Muslims and people of other religions. Another said, **“I am going back not as the same as I came, but realizing I have been called and sent.”**

WIAWASO DIOCESE

We conducted the fourth workshop in Sefwi Afere in the Diocese of Wiawso. Approximately 80 catechists and Renewal leaders participated. We followed a similar format and presented the same topics that we presented in the Obuasi Diocese.

The participants said that the workshop will help them in their ministries as catechists and Renewal leaders. Many of them have never had such a formation program. They resolved to reach out, to witness and bring revival to their church communities.

They demonstrated their commitment when we sent them out two-by-two to evangelize. We instructed them to spend three hours witnessing in the streets. After about 90 minutes, it started raining heavily so we thought they would return immediately. But they continued to evangelize for the full three hours. They returned soaking wet but filled with great joy!

Many of them observed that there is **“a lot of work to be done and it is up to us.”** We encouraged them to continue witnessing to people about Jesus Christ no matter what challenges they may encounter.



The chaplains for the Renewal in each diocese expressed gratitude to Renewal Ministries for helping to form their leaders.

It is their prayer that God will bless Renewal Ministries with the grace and resources to form more people to evangelize and bring the love of the Father to our needy and dying world. ✝

On the Road

November 2015 ENGAGEMENTS

São Paulo, Brazil
Mar a Dentro Community
Anniversary*
October 29-November 7
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL

Providence, RI
Clergy Convocation*
November 2-4
Ralph Martin

College Park, MD
Lay Dominican Conference
November 4-6
Ralph Martin
Contact: LayDominicans.org

Ann Arbor, MI
i.d.9:16 Disciples' Night
November 5
Join us via livestream: id916.com/live
Contact: pete@id916.com

Toledo, OH
Lift Jesus Higher Rally
November 7
Peter Herbeck
Contact: LJHRtoledo.com

Cleveland, OH
Ohio Catholic Educational Association
November 13
Ralph Martin
Contact: oceaconvention.org

St. Louis, MO
Council of Major Superiors of Women
Religious Symposium*
November 14
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL

Wadsworth, OH
Sacred Heart Parish Men's & Boys'
Conference
November 14
Peter Herbeck, Pete Burak
Contact: Mark Smith 330-606-7195 or
smithme2300@gmail.com

Donaldson, IN
Diocese of Ft. Wayne-South Bend
Women's Retreat
December 4-6
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
Contact: Jan Torma
jtheartpraise@msn.com

Toronto, ON
Catholic Renewal Ministries
Board Meeting*
December 6
Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck,
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL

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

MISSIONS

Serbia
November 9-11 & 27-28

Ghana
November 4-8

Turkmenistan
November



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

Please Pray...

- In Thangsgiving for all those who support Renewal Ministries with their time, talent and treasure.
- For the repose of the souls of all those who are remembered by the Renewal Ministries family.
- For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

“No duty is more urgent
than that of returning thanks.”

St. Ambrose

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Chairman of the Board
Deacon Dan Foley

President
Ralph Martin

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Episcopal Advisor
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Chairman of the Board
Monsignor Gregory Smith, Vancouver, BC

Renewal Ministries is a Catholic ministry committed to renewal and evangelization in the Church. It seeks to proclaim Jesus Christ through its TV and radio outreaches, as well as through books, conferences, retreats and other international evangelistic events.

Editor
Rose Wingfield

Design
Emily Bachelor

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