RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Proclaiming Jesus through Catholic Renewal and Evangelization

November 2016



A letter • from Ralph Martin

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Time is flying, isn't it? Summer sped by and fall is quickly moving on. But Jesus is Lord, and all that is of value will be saved in Him, and we will have eternity to celebrate His good works!

66 This is

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Sometimes when I am at Mass, I am distracted, and it is only with effort that I pull myself back to the precious reality that is unfolding. At other times, the Holy Spirit in His kindness helps me to "really tune in" and participate with awe in the Holy Sacrifice. This past Sunday was like this.

We sang a Jim Cowan song at Communion—"Who am I, that I should receive the Cup of Life outpoured, the Bread of Life, the Blood of Christ, the Body of my Lord?"—which seemed to perfectly capture the awesome reality of the gift of Jesus. When we receive the Body and drink the Blood, we truly are being given eternal life outpoured. What a gift!

This is the long-sought "fountain of youth" that European explorers searched for all over the world but never found. This is the gift that guarantees death is not the end. Instead, death is merely the transition to the new heavens and new earth, where the fullness of Gods' love rules. We become part of this heavenly reality through the resurrection from the dead and life everlasting—a life of

such magnificence, joy, and fulfillment that we "can only imagine" it, and that so imperfectly.

As Mercy Me sings in I Can Only Imagine, "Surrounded by Your glory, what will my heart feel? Will I dance for You, Jesus, or in awe of You be still? Will I stand in Your presence or to my knees will I fall? Will I sing Hallelujah, will I be able to sing at all? I can only imagine."

I had another experience when we recently sang *America the Beautiful* at Mass. Tears came to my eyes as I considered how this great nation, on whom God truly has shed His grace, is now wickedly turning away from Him and declaring independence from Him—so many of its citizens are claiming to be able to create themselves and decide for themselves what they shall be, celebrating the most shameful immorality, and calling virtue vice and vice virtue. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy, in which we beg God's mercy "on us and on the whole world" for the "sake of His sorrowful Passion," is indeed a timely prayer.

Yet in the midst of the great grace of the Eucharist and the great sadness of seeing our country turn away from our Lord, our task is to do what we can each day to love God and our neighbor by carrying out our daily responsibilities. For us at Renewal Ministries, that means continuing to reach out with the Good News of Christ's redemption and the witness to that found in Holy Scripture and the tradition of the Church.

Thank you for your generosity, which makes this possible. You can see some of the ways in which your faithfulness is bearing fruit on page five of this newsletter, where we have included a sampling of the many letters we receive from people each day.

Faithfully yours,

Rolph Martin

Ralph Martin



TRUST ME - PUTTING OUR TREASURE IN ITS PLACE -

Ralph Martin gave the following talk at a recent i.d.9:16 Disciples' Night. The text below has been abridged from its original form; you can hear the entire talk by visiting our YouTube channel. Simply go to our home page, RenewalMinistries.net, and click on the YouTube icon on the left side. You will find the talk under Playlist > Conferences > Putting Our Treasure In Its Place.

It's really amazing how much Jesus and the apostles teach about money. I want to start this discussion on money—on our "treasure"—by reminding us what it means that Jesus is Lord.

I say to you, "Today if you hear his voice, harden not your heart" (Ps 95:7-8).

Jesus is Lord—do you understand how important that is? He's the Lord, He's God, and everything He says to us is important, so we want to hear what He says about money.

Some of the greatest competitors for the Lordship of Christ are money, sex, and power. These are strong desires in human beings—almost unconscious desires that lead us in a certain direction. They are competitors to the Lordship of Christ, unless they are in harmony with His Lordship.

That's why one of the pillars of i.d.9:16 is ongoing conversion—more and more wanting Him to be Lord of our lives—and it doesn't happen all at once. I'm still finding parts of my life that I'm opening to the Lord that I didn't know were closed to Him.

In Matthew 6:24, Jesus says, "No person can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other or be attentive to one and despise the other. You cannot give yourself to God and money."

Jesus also says it is hard for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God (Mk 10:23, Mt 19:24). The disciples were shocked and asked, "Lord, who can be saved?"

Jesus said that with man it's impossible, but with God we can find a way.



An excessive, disordered love of money becomes the root for all evil (1 Tm 6:10), because people start cheating, cutting corners,

making deals, etc. Jesus teaches His disciples to hold on to wealth a little lightly—to hold on to everything in life a little lightly. We need to keep giving it to the Lord; we need to keep surrendering it to the Lord.

In 1 Timothy 6:7-10, Paul gives basic advice about our attitude toward money: We brought nothing into this world, nor have we the power to take anything out of it. If we have food and clothing, we have all that we need. Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They're letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires that drag man down to ruin and destruction.

Another both challenging and life-giving passage, Hebrews 13:5-6, instructs us to keep our lives free from the love of money, and to be content with what we have. But how do we be content with what we have? By trusting in the Lord, who said, "I will never abandon you, nor will I forsake you."

Therefore, we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid; what can man do to me" (Heb 13:6)? For those who love God, everything works according to the good. Whether we live or die, we can't lose if we are in Christ and He is our Lord.

How is this really possible?

In my work, I've met wealthy people who have millions and millions of dollars, but don't think they have enough to begin giving to the Church. I also know people with lots of money who are so afraid of losing it that they can't give.

I've also had the opposite experience. I was in little village in India one time. They were very excited about seeing an American for the first time. They gathered in a little huddle and started talking to each other, and they were really excited. They said, "Wait, we've got something for you!" Somebody ran off, and about twenty minutes later, they came back with a bottle of Coca Cola.

I can't tell you how moved I was by that. I knew that I needed to take that Coca Cola, even though it was the collective wealth of the village. They pooled their resources to buy it for me, and they were so happy to do it.

Being content with what we have isn't a function of how much we have—it's a function of Who we know. It's a function of the relationship we have with the Lord Himself.

Let me share a bit of my personal testimony with you **②**

When my wife and I got married, I only had a part-time job. I was digging sewer lines in Williamston, Michigan, and then we got hired at St. Mary's Chapel, but not at a very high wage. My wife was a lab tech, but we were pregnant with our first baby and she was going to have to stop work, and we were wondering how this was going to work.

One day on her way home from the hospital, my wife stopped at the chapel and said, "I'm not leaving, Lord, until You let me know whether this is going to work out or not."

I was back in our one-bedroom apartment praying the same prayer—"Lord, help, what is going to happen?"

I had this absolutely strong experience of God saying,

"I'm your Father; you can rely on Me. You can trust Me."



My wife got the same sense, so she came home and told me what she experienced, and I told her what I experienced. We didn't know how it was all going to work, but we knew the Lord had assured us of His care.

Later, I remember praying on the floor of our apartment, which had hardly any furniture. I felt like the Lord told me, "I am going to give you a Scripture passage that you need to make the key Scripture passage of your life."

It was Luke 12:28-31: "Unbelievers are always worried about what they're going to eat what they're going to wear, what the future's going to bring, and I say to you, seek first the kingdom of God and his holiness and these other things will be added as well, because your heavenly father knows you need them."

This is not the prosperity Gospel. This is not the promise of getting a Cadillac or a Mercedes. This is a promise that God the Father is going to give us what we need to carry out the mission for which He created us.

I can't tell you enough how important it is to take seriously these words of Jesus: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His holiness, and these other things will be added as well."

If you put the first things in the first place, the second things are going to work out really well. If you try to put a second thing in the first place, there's going to be tremendous strain and frustration, and it's not going to work.

Let me tell you how my wife and I started to deal with the question of tithing. In the Old Testament, you had to give the first ten percent of your income, of the produce of your fields, to the Lord. It is not a requirement in the New Testament.

But in the New Testament, an even greater price has been paid for us; a greater deed has been done for us—Jesus' death on the cross—so generous giving is encouraged.

When my wife and I got married, we had few worldly possessions. We shared one very used car with three other couples. We didn't have a lot, but we started tithing—giving ten percent, with half for the parishes we attended, half for causes we believed in, and then giving alms. We were just trying to pass on what the Lord was giving to us, and that has been our practice for over forty years.

Sometimes in the early days, when we'd be serving meals, we'd be concerned about not having enough food—and honestly, the food was multiplying!

How is this possible? It's knowing the Father's love. It's gratitude for Jesus' sacrifice and wanting to follow His teaching.

Continued on page 4

2

Please Pray...

- "For discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace." (Prayer Before an Election, from usccb.org)
- In gratitude for the abundant graces poured down upon us during the Jubilee of Mercy, which ends this month. May the Lord continue to share His mercy with the world—and may growing numbers of people open their hearts to receive it.
- For the prayer intentions of all of our supporters and their families, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

Save the Dates...



— March 4, 2017 — Toronto • Ontario

Renewal Ministries GATHERING

— April 7-9, 2017 — Ypsilanti • Michigan

TRUST ME Continued from page 3

Jesus says, "Do not be afraid any longer little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide moneybags for yourself that do not wear out—an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy, for where your treasure is so also will your heart be" (Lk 12:32-34).

St. Francis DeSales has tremendous wisdom about how to make this concrete: How do you know you're not fooling yourself about your relationship to money? How do you know you're letting Jesus really be Lord of your finances? He talks about some of the ways we can deceive ourselves in this area and some practical steps we can take to keep turning this area over to the Lord.

The first thing he says is waiting until you have enough is a delusion. You're never going to feel like you have enough. He says start where you are, being generous with what you have. The second thing he recommends is asking yourself what happens when you lose money.

Do you freak out? Do you feel like the end of the world has come? What happens to your heart? Are you so attached to money that it's disturbing your whole life—or can you move beyond it, trusting that the Lord will provide?

He says if you find your heart very desolated and afflicted at the loss of money, you love it too much. The strongest proof of love for a lost object is suffering over its loss. Instead, accept your losses meekly, patiently, and avail yourself of the opportunity to live more simply. The Apostle Paul said, "I know how to handle the want and I know how to handle abundance. I know how to abase and I know how to abound" (Phil 4:12).

We need to have a certain detachment and freedom about leaving our money in God's hands. Talking about disciples, St. Catherine of Sienna said, "The Lord gives a lot of money to people He knows can handle it well. And if He's not giving you a lot of money, maybe it's for the good of your soul, maybe He knows you couldn't handle it well."

Scripture also has advice to people who are wealthy: "Tell those who are rich in this world's goods not to be proud, and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth. Let them trust in the God who provides us richly with all things for our use. Charge them to do good, to be rich in good works, and generously sharing what they have, thus they will build a secure foundation for the future, for receiving that life which is life indeed" (1 Tm 6).

You can't outdo the Lord in generosity. I can't tell you how much the Lord has blessed us like He says He will bless those who follow Him. I'd recommend if you're not already tithing to start doing it, even if you hardly have any money, and see what the Lord will do. ‡

Want to hear Ralph's complete talk, including Q & A?

Check it out on the Renewal Ministries' YouTube channel by going to **youtube.com/RenewalMinistriesRM**. Click on Playlists, open the Conferences category and select "Putting Our Treasure In Its Place."



Your Generosity at Work

Testimonials from those impacted by Renewal Ministries

- Nas twenty-two years old and had a Fu Manchu mustache and hair down to my shoulders and was working in a steel factory. My life was going nowhere and I decided to abstain from drugs, sex, and alcohol for a year, and then my mom and sister invited me to my first prayer meeting. That changed my life. I met my wife at that prayer meeting and we are still crazy in love forty-one years later. I have lots of health issues now, but am full of gratitude to God. The Blessed Mother has consoled me greatly and I wish only to honor her for the rest of my life.
- Your calling out to us in the pews so terribly unaware of our times and our place in them . . . is reviving my hopes and calming my worry for my family members not practicing their faith due to social media especially.
- ▶ It is so good to listen to you on EWTN. You have helped me to be a loving person. When I was a young woman, I was living the "fast life" in the New York City business world. One night, God spoke to me and asked me to give up dating in the fast lane. I said "yes," but asked, "What happens to me when I'm an old woman?" He said, "Do you think I would abandon you?" I am eighty-four years old now, and I can truly say that God has taken good care of me and continues to do so. You helped me so much to overcome my sins.
- This year made the third time I've been able to attend a Renewal Ministries' Gathering, and I truly believe the Holy Spirit is poured out to all who are present.
- My drive in consists of a rosary, and then I listen to Peter Herbeck. I want to thank him for his vocation. I find his talks incredibly inspiring and they help me through the day. (Pinckney, MI)
- ▶ [The Fulfillment of All Desire, which recently celebrated its ten-year anniversary] is one of the best books I have ever read, and I still refer to it. It's a book one can re-read and learn something new each time. Bless him!

- I recently discovered your program *The Choices We Face* on EWTN. What a blessing these shows have been to me. At age sixty-one, I have only been a Catholic Christian since April of 2015. My journey has been a rocky and godless life, knowing all along how wrong it was. It cost me so much in hurt to others, family, and myself. Somehow Jesus broke through, and I little by little came to my senses, asking for His help and forgiveness. I never want to go back on the broad way again. God bless you and your ministries. (Schuyler, VA)
- ♦ I have this overwhelming feeling this morning to tell you how much your radio show has enriched my life. I recently told a friend about you and she pointed out your name to me, "Shields"—I'm putting on the armor of God. Thank you for talking to me every morning.
- Words fail me when I try to describe your DVD As By A New Pentecost. I went through these sessions this past summer and your DVDs were awe-inspiring. (New York, NY)
- When I read the paper you delivered at the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars, I was happy to see your contribution to recapturing the historic teaching of the Church on the urgent need to preach the Gospel. Not only is the truth about hell being obscured, but the confidence in the authority of Scripture is being undermined. Please continue your work in this area.
- We just came from the Power and Purpose Conference in Steubenville and LOVED Dr. Ralph Martin. We just checked out Renewal Ministries and see wonderful things happening there. We are very much interested in attending the Saturday portion of Gathering 2017.
- [The announcement that Dr. Mary Healy joined the Renewal Ministries' team was] a GREAT moment!!! She combines great knowledge with great passion and great love!!! When you meet her, you can "feel" the Holy Spirit. God bless you!!!
- OI love your website and all the wonderful evangelization you are doing all over the world... When I was a senior in high school and terribly lost and wounded, your testimony came straight to my heart and allowed Jesus in—completely put me back on the right path.

Your continued prayers and financial support make Renewal Ministries' work possible.

If you would like to be a part of our mission, please consider a donation.

Visit www.renewalministries.net, and click on "DONATE," or call 734-662-1730.



By Peter Newburn COUNTRY COORDINATOR for Cameroon

Peter has served in full-time ministry for over thirty years. spent three years as missionaries in Cameroon, where Peter was a theology teacher at the major seminary. He also worked for almost nine years as a parish life coordinator in the Diocese of San Bernardino, California where he was responsible for overseeing all aspects of pasto ral ministry and the administra tion of a large parish



Bishop Sosthène Bayemi is the first clergy in the country to credit his vocation to the Charismatic Renewal.

Pictured left to right:

Peter Newburn, Bishop Sosthène Bayemi and Renewal Ministries' Canadian Board member Bishop Scott McCaig.

Spreading the GOSPEL® Cameroon

FAR MORE THAN WE ASK OR IMAGINE

I have served the Catholic Church in full-time ministry for over thirty years, in various positions of leadership and in various parts of the country. I am so grateful for my affiliation with Renewal Ministries, which has provided tremendous inspiration to my faith and an outlet for my passion for evangelization. My first mission with Renewal Ministries was to Tanzania in 2009. In subsequent years, I went to China and Papua New Guinea. Each time I'd come home fired up, with renewed zeal for my ministerial work.

My wife Joy and I considered being full-time missionaries, but thought we'd have to wait until the kids were grown. Then we discovered an organization called Lay Mission Helpers, based in Los Angeles, which sends lay people and families to various countries as missionaries. After five months of formation, Joy and I and our three young children were sent to Cameroon in West Africa, where I had been asked to serve as the first lay person to teach theology at the major seminary. We literally left everything—our home, possessions, family, and friends—to be full-time missionaries for three years, from 2012-2015.

Though challenging at times, it was truly a wonderful experience for our family—to live a simple lifestyle, to experience African culture, to gain a broader understanding of the Body of Christ, and to be witnesses to our Catholic faith. Joy and I believe that our overseas missionary experience was one of the best things we have done for our children!

Joy and I believe that our overseas missionary experience was one of the best things we have done for our children!

While in Cameroon, I was appointed country coordinator for Renewal Ministries. I made contacts with numerous bishops and the national leadership team for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) to let them know of our vision and our work. We now have a special relationship with Bishop Sosthène Bayemi, the National CCR Coordinator for the Episcopal Conference in Cameroon. He is a visionary and pastoral leader, the first clergy in the country

to credit his vocation to the Charismatic Renewal. We are being invited by various bishops to lead the annual clergy retreat in their dioceses and to provide training to lay leaders in the Renewal. Our fifth mission in Cameroon was last month.



It is a tremendous privilege to facilitate personal and ministerial renewal for priests. In most cases, it is the first experience for these priests to have lay people give them formation and lead them in prayer. We have found that teaching the Unbound approach to healing and deliverance is especially helpful in the African context. Clergy and lay leaders alike have found it to be pastorally effective, personally empowering, and solidly grounded in Catholic teaching.

At the clergy retreat in the Diocese of Obala, some of the priests, who had been negative toward the Renewal, commented that their perception of Charismatics had changed. They now felt much more personally open to the Holy Spirit, and discovered a new sense of fraternity amongst themselves as priests. Bishop Sosthène commented:

66 We were not a family before; now we are. It is a new beginning for us!

In the Diocese of Mamfe, where we were first invited to lead the diocesan priests' retreat, one elder priest shared how he had been harboring resentment and unforgiveness in his heart for years against many of his fellow diocesan priests. He experienced God speaking clearly to him that not only did he need to forgive, but that he needed to ask forgiveness. When he expressed, "I am now forgiven, and I forgive all of you!" the room erupted in shouts of jubilation. He and the chancellor and the vicar general locked arms and began to jump up and down amidst joyful celebration.

There were other testimonies from the priests, that they had found a "new power" and "new freedom" in their priestly life. Others expressed a powerful sense of unity in the Spirit of Christ. The vicar general proclaimed: "There has been a mighty break-through in this diocese!" The bishop commented: "Fifteen years ago, the Holy Father created the Diocese of Mamfe. But today, it was born!" The tears were rolling down my cheeks as I witnessed the divine power and mercy exhibited amongst the priests that day.



Michelle Kazanjian praying through the [Unbound] Five Keys with priests.

We were given the special privilege lay leaders in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in June. There were about 150 leaders present for the entire three days, representing seventeen out of twentytwo dioceses in Cameroon. We provided training in the Five Keys to Living in Freedom (Unbound), led prayer over the whole group each day, addressed questions and heard testimonies, and met with individual leaders. Each evening, we had Mass, praise and adoration. Oh, how those Cameroonians praise the Lord!



meet with youth leaders and to present St John Paul II's teaching on how our God-given desire for relationships and sexual love are intended to lead us to spousal union with God (Theology of the Body). We have found that young people of every culture are hungry to learn the truths that undergird the Church's teaching.

Three years ago, I had the opporto lead the annual national gathering of tunity to meet Sister Miriam Osee, a Cameroonian and friend of Renewal Ministries, who served for years on the executive board for International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS). She was so excited about the potential impact our ministry would have in Cameroon. From her prayer with me, the Lord put on my heart to pray the passage from Ephesians 3:20-21 for the country—"Now to Him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in

> Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen!"God is answering that prayer in Cameroon in a big way!

I am so very grateful to those who invest in this effort, for your prayers and financial gifts, which make our missions possible. I am genuinely excited for future mission opportunities in

We have also had the opportunity to Cameroon. I am continually amazed at how God always seems to bless our work and how the Holy Spirit works in such powerful ways. God's anointing is truly on Renewal Ministries! +



November 2016 ENGAGEMENTS

Ann Arbor, MI i.d.9:16 Disciple's Night

Nov. 3 Fr. Mathias Thelen Contact: julianna@id916.com

Denver, CO Legatus Meeting* Nov. 3

Nov. 3 Peter Herbeck

Winnipeg, MB Catholic Charismatic Conference

Nov. 4-6 Dr. Mary Healy Contact: 204-895-7544

Forest Hill, MD St. Ignatius Parish

Nov. 4-5 Ralph Martin Contact: labdon70@gmail.com

Pittsburgh, PA New Evangelization for the New Millennium Conference

Nov. 5
Peter Herbeck
Contact: santos724@windstream.net

Tatralandia, Slovakia European Network of Communities* Nov. 10-14

Nov. 10-14 Dr. Mary Healy

Steubenville, OH Symposium on Pope Francis' Vision for Renewal of the Church Nov. 10-12

Ralph Martin Contact: Franciscan.edu Lansing, MI
Diocese of Lansing Catholic
Charities Retreat*
Nov. 10-11

Peter Herbeck and Sr. Ann Shields

Sterling Heights, MI Awaken Ministry at Ss. Cyril and Methodius

Nov. 18 Peter Herbeck

Contact: dierkesw@aol.com

Detroit, MI Archdiocese of Detroit Synod on Evangelization*

Nov. 18-20 Ralph Martin

Grosse Pointe Farms, MI Encounter

Nov. 20 Peter Herbeck Contact: 313-885-8855

San Antonio, TX Society of Biblical Literature's Annual Meeting*

Nov. 26-28 Dr. Mary Healy

Boca Grande, FL Priests' Convocation* Nov. 28-30

Nov. 28-30 Dr. Mary Healy

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

MISSIONS

Rwanda

Nov. 12-27 Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw

Mexico

Nov. 13-19 Jim Murphy

Ghana

Nov. 17-20 Emmanuel Tamakloe

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

We are at war.
We are in a spiritual war.
Our enemy is Satan
and his minions.
Our weapons are the Cross of
Christ and the grace and mercy
that flows from His pierced side
as Blood and Water.
In this war,
Jesus encourages us,
telling us to trust in His mercy
and know that the victory



is always on our side. 🤧

DR. PETER KREEFT

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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.

Visit our website—For email, blog, podcasts, resources, & more! www.renewalministries.net

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