



RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Proclaiming Jesus through Catholic Renewal and Evangelization **November 2018**



A letter ▶
from Pete Burak

Dear Friends,

First off, thank you, Ralph, for inviting me to write this month's letter! I know we all look forward to your report, encouragement, and wisdom, and I'm honored to have the opportunity to fill a small portion of your shoes. And I'd also like to thank all of you for your prayers and support, which allow myself and the rest of the Renewal Ministries' team to earnestly seek the will of the Lord and to attempt to faithfully respond to His call. Praise be to God, He continues to pour out His grace, mercy, and anointing on Renewal Ministries, and I'm excited to share some of our recent activities, initiatives, and ministry that reflect this divine accompaniment.

Earlier this year, Peter Herbeck and I had the wonderful opportunity to speak at the Steubenville Power and Purpose Conference. This was extra special for me, since I graduated from Franciscan University in 2010, and the campus holds many life-changing memories for me, including meeting, courting, and falling in love with my wife, Cait. The whole weekend, I found myself continually praising God and thanking Him for the late Fr. Mike Scanlan and all the other faithful men and women who have worked to make Franciscan what it is today (including Sr. Ann, Ralph, and Peter and Debbie Herbeck).

While I thoroughly enjoyed giving my Saturday morning keynote, called *A New Vision: Seeing What God is Doing*, and interacting with the team and the conference participants, I'd like to highlight a prophetic word the Lord gave me during the Friday evening prayer time. The Lord placed on my heart Ezekiel 37:1-14. In this passage, Ezekiel is brought to a valley filled with dry bones and commanded to prophesy over the bones that they may have new life:

"Prophesy to these bones and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord"

(Ez 37:5-6; emphasis mine).

In a particular way, I believe this passage speaks to the sobering reality presented by my generation and the one following. As a whole, we have radically disengaged from the Church and therefore are coming to resemble more and more the valley of dry bones seen in Ezekiel. God, who is the source of light, truth, goodness, and life, is being rejected, and we need people of faith to stand up and proclaim with clarity and conviction the "Word of the Lord." We need disciples who can hear the voice of God and speak out over this generation and prophesy that the Lord desires new sinews, new skin, new breath, and therefore new life!

**What would our Church,
country, and families look like
if we who believe proclaimed
with prophetic boldness the
Good News of Jesus Christ?**

Ezekiel tells us, "So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great host." May this verse penetrate our minds, break our hearts, and provide a spiritual springboard to wade into this generation with new energy, knowing the Lord desires deep communion with them, and we can and must participate in His saving work!

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▶ Pete Burak speaks at an MCC Conference—one of Renewal Ministries' and i.d.9:16's latest initiatives.



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i.d.9:16 is one of the ways Renewal Ministries is responding to the prophetic call from Ezekiel. We exist to form young adults into intentional disciples of Jesus Christ. This mission has primarily been accomplished through parish partnerships we call chapters, where we provide a vision, training, content, and ongoing resources. Over the past several months, our team has trained three more chapters and have two more scheduled! We value this expansion because of the increased ability to proclaim the lordship of Christ over this generation and help raise missionary disciples who can engage their peers.

Another method of responding to the challenge from Ezekiel is a new initiative from both Renewal Ministries and i.d.9:16, called the Millennial Church Conference (MCC). The MCC seeks to train parishes on how to empower young adults by examining the characteristics and trends of Millennials, analyzing what they are saying to the Church and how the Church is responding, and diving deeper into the importance of evangelization and discipleship for this generation.

We've piloted the conference in four dioceses (Milwaukee, Joliet, Rockford, and Green Bay) and we've received invitations from several more. We see the MCC as a "professional development" day for a diocese, because priests and their teams receive fresh insights and inspiration for reaching this elusive and often-confusing generation. Here are some responses we've received so far:

"This was an extremely engaging, enriching, and inspiring conference! The presenters were enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and made their presentation interesting by using videos, Power Point, and music! I would highly recommend going!"

—Lynn, pastoral council member

"The Millennial Church Conference gives insight into the characteristics of the upcoming generation that is the future of the Church. However, this generation is the CURRENT church, and this conference shares the importance of their presence in today's church."

—Lisa, youth minister

"This conference is absolutely worth your time!!! It is thought-provoking and helps you enter into the life of those in the Millennial generation who actually 'think' differently than you might."

—Deacon Hank

Overall, I hope this letter provides a glimpse of hope for the future of our Church and younger generations. While we may be walking through a valley of dry bones, we are convinced the Lord is inviting ALL of us to prophetically speak new life over our friends, children, and grandchildren. May we respond like Ezekiel, with humble obedience, and may we see the dead come alive in Christ, through His Spirit, in the heart of the Church!

Go make disciples!

Pete

COMING SOON! Renewal Ministries' App



- Find your favorite shows quicker and easier!
- Receive special announcements and offers!
- Get early access to presentations from conferences and the Renewal Ministries' Gathering!
- Read the newsletter before it arrives in your mailbox!



CREATED FOR THIS

Recently, the program coordinator for i.d.9:16—Renewal Ministries’ outreach to young adults—joined the Sisters of Life in New York as a postulant. Before leaving, Katie Perrotta (pictured above, left, with the i.d.9:16 team and Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT) shared her journey of discernment with us.

Q: *When did you feel called to religious life?*

A: My Confirmation sponsor asked if I would have an openness to religious life. I said “yes.” I see that as an opening of my heart to that possibility. However, I didn’t think seriously about it until I met the Sisters of Life at a FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) conference about five years ago.

Q: *What attracted you to the Sisters of Life?*

A: In addition to vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, they vow to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life. They make a total gift of themselves for the dignity of the human person.

At an i.d.9:16 retreat, I realized my heart breaks for women in crisis pregnancy and for their children. When I met the Sisters of Life, I saw so much of myself in them and a deeper reality to the meaning of love.

Q: *Tell us about your pro-life involvement.*

A: My parents taught my ten siblings and I a deep understanding of the dignity and value of each person. Also, my mother had an innate ability to find people in need of help. She bought maternity clothes, cribs, and other things for them. Once she befriended a girl she met at Wal-Mart who was unmarried and had no family support. That girl came to our house many times.

My mom taught me that to be pro-life, you have to do something about it. It’s a verb.

Q: *How did you learn about i.d.9:16?*

A: In college, i.d.9:16 provided me with a women’s group, mentorship, and Disciples’ Nights. Also, seeing how much my peers needed to know the Lord inspired me to want to do something about it. When the door opened to work with an organization that had impacted me so much, I jumped at the opportunity.

Q: *Did your work help you answer the call to religious life?*

A: Yes. Working with Pete, Joey, and Katelyn inspired me to walk with the Lord, listen, and pray earnestly and ardently. They provided a witness of the joy we experience when we follow the Lord and how freeing it is when you surrender to Him. I’ve seen them lay their gifts at the altar and take on God’s heartbreak for young adults. Also, the witness and passion of the Renewal Ministries’ staff has been profound—even during their own times of desolation and hardship.

Q: *How did your dating relationship help you hear God’s call?*

A: I was dating a man who was faithful, ambitious, and caring, but God wasn’t giving us the call to move forward. We had dedicated our relationship to Fr. Solanus Casey, who had done a litany to Our Lady of Loretto to discern his vocation, so we did that same novena last year. Shortly after it ended, on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we had a staff Mass. During intentions, I prayed for women facing crisis pregnancies. Internally, I began to struggle. I finally told the Lord, “I’m ready to surrender this and give it to You.”

The Lord then impressed upon my heart just how seriously He takes the lives of women facing crisis pregnancies and the lives of the children who are so vulnerable. He said, “Will you take on the cross for these women and children? Will you offer your life to comfort My heart?” It was a voice not my own, but so calm and distinctly loving. I thought, “Thank You, Lord, for showing me what You created me and my heart for.”

Q: *What happened after that?*

A: While preparing for an i.d.9:16 Instagram video, I spoke about a time when I carried the bells at the front of an Advent procession to proclaim the Lord’s presence, and people dropped to their knees when I walked by. Advent is ringing the bells—calling us to our knees and reminding us that Christ is with us. That night, I sat with the Lord, and in the silence, I heard—when I finally shut up—in this still, inviting, calm voice, “Will you ring the bells for the rest of your life?”

I knew that meant being a Sister of Life. They are proclaiming, “He is here.” In seeing the bride—a religious sister—you get a glimpse of the bridegroom, Jesus. I was profoundly awestruck and felt very unworthy and ill-equipped.

One additional inspiration in which the Lord further confirmed in my heart His power to do great things with simple people’s lives came the night before Renewal Ministries’ Lift Jesus Higher Rally in Toronto, in praying and seeing Sr. Ann and her joy in her vocation. I realized the Lord can do radical things with people’s lives and it satisfies them and the Lord can bless the whole Church through it.

Renewal Is Happening in France

Mary Healy speaks at a healing service at Sacre Coeur in Montmartre, France. ▶



REFLECTION FROM CAROLYN KITZ

I joined Dr. Mary Healy for the first half of a month-long “tour de France,” in which she spoke in seven different locations about the Holy Spirit, healing, deliverance, and the gifts of the Spirit in evangelization. Many hearts were encouraged, and the Lord showed His favor and love through signs and wonders.

The trip began with about a thousand people who were on a pilgrimage to Lourdes led by the Beatitudes Community, a Charismatic community that includes priests, consecrated men and women, and lay people. Mary spoke on healing, explaining that in Exodus 15, God revealed His name as “the Lord who heals you,” and that we cannot separate healings from who He is. During the healing service, Mary reminded everyone of the story of the woman with the hemorrhage, challenging the audience to ask themselves whether they simply “bump into” Jesus, or whether they truly “touch” Him. That evening, about twenty-five people came forward during the healing service to testify to healings.

In Paris, Mary gave two days of teaching to Anuncio, an amazing group of young adults who engage in street evangelization. She then led a healing service at Sacré Coeur in Montmartre. Raphael Cornu-Thenard, the leader and founder of Anuncio, was worried that there might be low attendance, since it was a holiday weekend and the same day that France was playing in the soccer World Cup Final. But the Lord did not disappoint! Every seat was filled, and tourists walking around the basilica stopped to listen as Mary spoke about the great love of Jesus and how healings are the visible proof of His good news. When the time came to invite people for healing prayer, two long lines immediately formed and had the team praying for nearly two hours, ending only because they had to close the basilica, and the World Cup was about to begin!

After prayer, several people came forward to testify, including one woman who had stomach cancer and experienced so much pain, she was unable to stand up straight. After she received prayer, her pain left, she was able to stand up straight, and she believed that she had been healed.

We then took a train to a retreat center at Notre Dame du Laus in the Alps, near Italy, a site of eighteenth-century apparitions of the Virgin Mary. There was a conference of the Pentecost Fraternity, a network of Charismatic prayer group leaders from all over the country. Mary encouraged the members of Pentecost Fraternity to walk in the Lord’s power as they seek to evangelize the nation. She explained that the need for deliverance is great, because we are living in a culture of hedonism and paganism, in which the absence of God has led to all kinds of spiritual bondage. We need the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit as part of evangelization, so that the Gospel will be both seen and heard.

...the need for deliverance is great, because we are living in a culture of HEDONISM & PAGANISM, in which the absence of God has led to all kinds of SPIRITUAL BONDAGE.

Mary described two key prophetic moments in the Charismatic Renewal: the Duquesne weekend in 1967, when the Lord poured out “living water” on the students gathered in retreat, and the international leaders’ meeting in Bethlehem in 2013, when there was a power outage that became a prophetic sign of the divine power that the Renewal needs to seek from on high. On our last evening, the Lord gave His own confirming signs—as the meeting began, under a huge tent, there was a powerful thunderstorm with heavy rain and bolts of lightning.

During this “tour de France,” it became apparent that the Lord is bringing about a great renewal in France today, reclaiming this Catholic land for Himself. Through France’s renewal, there is hope for the revitalization of the faith in Europe. “France is in My heart, and My heart resides in France,” said the Lord to one missionary.

REFLECTION FROM MARY HEALY

For the next part of the mission, I went to Les Dombes, a former Trappist monastery that is now run by Chemin Neuf, a Charismatic community that is similar to Beattitudes but is ecumenical. Chemin Neuf is responsible for twenty-five parishes in several countries, and they were holding a week-long training conference for hundreds of priests and lay ecclesial ministers from those parishes. I gave my testimony and a teaching on how to keep alive the flame of the Holy Spirit. Many of these people were new to the Charismatic dimension, and it was beautiful to see how the community members gently led them into an experience of the Holy Spirit and His gifts.

I joined Beattitudes again at Lisieux, where they were holding a retreat for about a thousand people, which included teachings and a healing service. One woman came who had great difficulty walking with two canes, because of multiple fractures in her legs from an accident. She had prayed a novena to St. Thérèse for her healing, and that night her prayer was answered! She held up her canes and showed everyone that she could now walk without any difficulty.

○ In Montpellier, on the Mediterranean coast, I joined Anuncio again, for their annual festival, in which they train and send out young adults to evangelize in the streets and on the beach. During the evening session on the second day, many of these young people gave their lives to the Lord for the first time. On the third day, the bishop celebrated Mass for them in a tent set up on the beach, and called each of them by name to send them out to evangelize in the name of the Church. Only at the end of Mass did they each find out what team they would be with and what city they were being sent to. It was very inspiring to see the courage of these young people and the depth of their desire to lead others to Christ.

Finally, at Hautecombe, a magnificent abbey on Lake Bourget, Chemin Neuf was holding its annual festival, “Welcome to Paradise,” during which more than a thousand young adults gather from many countries for spiritual formation (with talks translated into a dozen languages). I gave a workshop on signs and wonders as part of evangelization.

Everywhere I went, despite the steep decline of Christian faith in France, there were unmistakable signs of a new springtime. It was very moving to see how many people were willing to brave uncomfortable living conditions, often staying in tents, with no air conditioning and temperatures up to one-hundred degrees, in order to grow in their faith and learn to share it with others. It was also inspiring to see the generosity of the community members, who spend many long hours in prayer, preparation, and service to offer these life-changing events to others. Truly the Lord is rekindling the fire of His love in France, a land that has given the Church so many saints.



◆ Mary is pictured above with a young man from Poland who founded a young adult community focused on praise and worship two years ago, at age sixteen. The Lord told him to reach out to young people who are wounded and struggling.

◆ Mary spoke at a festival that trains young adults to evangelize in the streets and on the beach.



Please Pray...

- ✚ **FOR** all youth and young adults to be given the grace to listen to the Lord’s call in their lives, and that they may answer “yes” with the fullness of their hearts.
- ✚ **FOR** healing for everyone hurt by the actions of those within the Church, and for a renewed commitment by all to cling more closely to the Lord and to speak the truth “in season and out of season” (1 Tm 4:2).
- ✚ **FOR** the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.



By Bruce Rooke

TEAM MEMBER FOR 2018
MISSION TO HUNGARY,
Slovakia, & Poland



Bruce is pictured above
with his wife, Julia.

“We think evil is basically good. We think we need it, at least a little, in order to experience the fullness of being. We think we can bargain a little with evil, keeping for ourselves a little freedom against God. But the truth is that only the person who abandons himself totally in God's hands becomes, not his puppet, but one who is truly himself. He becomes not smaller, but the greater.”



Pope Emeritus
Benedict XVI

Spreading the GOSPEL in Europe

A Trip Through the Land of Saints and Martyrs: HUNGARY, SLOVAKIA, AND POLAND

“The world is charged with the grandeur of God.” –Gerard Manley Hopkins

After two weeks in the land of saints and martyrs, we touched back down in Detroit.

Peter and Debbie Herbeck, my wife Julia, and I had travelled through Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland, engaging with different leaders and covenant communities; sharing Word, prayer, and Pentecost with students and believers; and immersing ourselves in the deep living history of faith these countries hold.

When you come back from a mission trip, it can be like carrying a candle. You hope the fragile light of those smiles doesn't flicker out in the rush of your return and the demands of your to-do lists.

Fortunately, we carried back a bonfire.

The Spirit is strong here. Strong enough to break the iron bars of a dark Nazi cell in Auschwitz and outlast another forty-five-plus years of Communism. But what you remember—what stays with you after you walk the horrors of Birkenau or kneel before the blood-stained cassock of St. John Paul the Great—is not the weight of the crosses, but the resolute joy of St. Maximilian Kolbe and the Holy Father's echo of the angels:

“Do not be afraid!”

And even though the people here are now facing many of the same challenges that we face in the West, there is longing for a God who is stronger than their fears, a God who dreams big.

Bruce Rooke speaking to Catholic high school students in Podolinec, Slovakia.



BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Julia and I got a head start on some of those dreams by going to Budapest first, where we spent a wonderful time with Country Coordinator Deacon Zoli Kunsabo and his wife, Panni, at their “Only One” homeless shelter. The place resounded with transformed and transforming lives, and one chorus was heard over and over: “There was just something different about this place than all of the other shelters.” Deacon Zoli and Panni continue to dream big with God, as they pray with energetic excitement (as only Hungarians, like my wife, can!) for what God has next for them and their community.



Youth playing outside at the opening of the River of Life Community Center.

PODOLÍNEC, SLOVAKIA

After picking up Peter and Debbie, we drove with Bohuš Živcák, country coordinator from Slovakia, and another community member, Marek, to Podolíneec, Slovakia, where we stayed in a 375-year-old Redemptorist monastery that once served as a concentration camp for hundreds of religious during the Communist oppression. There is a great sense of peace and welcome here.

The same can be said for The River of Life community that makes its home here. Founded by Bohuš and Redemptorist Fr. Michal Zamkovský, it continues to gather in and renew more and more lives. We had the honor of being with them at their amazing new community center that operates like a loving invitation to the abundant life. Children of all ages play together in the large outdoor space (without mobile phones or boredom!), and inside, the worship and deep prayer is somehow both public and personal. But as its name testifies, The River of Life is more than a reservoir, as it now flows out beyond its walls to love the ones He loves: from a nearby Catholic school, where a number of members are teachers (and where Debbie and Peter elevated and challenged both high school students and faculty), to the far reaches of Nairobi, Kenya, where they are now building new relationships in mission.



The Voice in the Desert Community created vibrant worship paintings.

KRAKÓW, POLAND

After a Lord's Day hike in the High Tatras, following in the footsteps of John Paul II, we moved on (with aching legs) to Kraków, Poland. We took in the majesty of the John Paul II Sanctuary and its breathtaking mosaics, then went "next door" to kneel before the relics of St. Faustina within the Shrine of The Divine Mercy, bathing our prayers in the red and white rays emanating from the heart of the Merciful Jesus. We were with members of The Voice in the Desert, a vibrant young Charismatic Catholic community in the heart of Kraków. Later that evening, we joined in their bi-weekly open meeting, where 150 young people and families (leaving their shoes at the door!) worship, pray, dance, and, yes, even paint their way through the night. Hungry for experienced teaching, they sat rapt as Peter passionately showed them their place in the history of the Charismatic Renewal. The Spirit was especially strong in the hearts of men there, as Peter and Bohuš called them to stand as chosen sons, stop cowering in their hidden sins, and seek the freedom and power that they have in Christ. The Heart of Christ beats loudly in this community, as evidenced by their radical hospitality and the many times the image of a heart is portrayed in the paintings they create, real-time, throughout the worship.



Debbie Herbeck speaking at a Pentecost conference.

BIALYSTOCK, POLAND

A six-hour train ride then took us to our last stop: Bialystok, Poland, and the Pentecost Life in Freedom conference. Beautifully hosted by the Ezechiasz (Hezekiah) Covenant Community, Peter and Debbie inspired the 300-400 people who gathered, in talk after talk (after talk!), that we are free to live large in Christ because we are chosen, we are saved, and we are sent sons and daughters of the King. Julia and I were privileged to share the testimony of our marriage, which proves, yet again, "jak e wspaniały jest nasz Bóg" (How Great Is Our God). The Spirit descended in the many prayer sessions we had throughout, from praying over the young people there, to the Charismatic call of Father George during Mass, to the many private Unbound and healing prayers that we had the honor of experiencing throughout the weekend.

Behind it all towered a twenty-foot-tall image of St. Faustina's Merciful Jesus that served as the backdrop for the stage. As we stood dwarfed before it, its size seemed to capture perfectly how we felt throughout this trip:

**Our God is one
very big God
indeed.**

On the Road

November 2018 ENGAGEMENTS

Ann Arbor, MI
i.d.9:16 Disciples' Night
Nov. 1
Debbie Herbeck
Contact: Katelyn@id916.com

Dominican Republic
Siervos de Cristo Vivo
Nov. 2-4
Dr. Mary Healy
Contact: info@cscv.info

St. Louis, MO
St. Louis University Catholic Studies
Talk
Nov. 5
Ralph Martin
Details: www.facebook.com/SLUCenterForCatholicStudies/

Villahermosa Tabasco, Mexico
Priests' Conference*
Nov. 5-9
Dr. Mary Healy

Tulsa, OK
Legatus Meeting*
Nov. 8
Peter Herbeck

Houston, TX
Women's Retreat
Nov. 10
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: https://cccgh.com/womens-retreat

Columbus, OH
Women's Retreat
Nov. 10
Debbie Herbeck

St. Louis, MO
Legatus Meeting*
Nov. 12
Ralph Martin

Bronx, NY
Hispanic CCR Conference
Nov. 16-18
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: centrobronx.com/r3

DeKalb, IL
Great Lakes Men's Conference
Nov. 17
Pete Burak
Details: thetalk.org

Ann Arbor, MI
Advent Morning of Reflection
for Third Order Carmelites
Nov. 17
Ralph Martin
Details: ctkcc.net/calendar

Brighton, MI
Encounter School*
Nov. 19
Dr. Mary Healy

South Bend, IN
Women's Retreat
Nov. 30-Dec. 2
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: www.diocesefwsb.org/Womens-Ministry

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

MISSIONS

Rwanda
Nov. 4-17
Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw

Hungary
Nov. 10-13
Dcn. Zoltan Kunszabo

Mexico
Nov. 14-20
Jim "Butch" Murphy

Serbia
Nov. 23-25
Dcn. Zoltan Kunszabo

Ethiopia
Nov. 23-Dec. 4
Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw

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



SAVE THE DATES

Lift Jesus Higher Rally
March 2, 2019

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Renewal Ministries' Gathering
April 5-7, 2019

RENEWAL MINISTRIES

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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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content and so much more!

Editor
Heather Schultz

Design
Emily Bachelor

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www.renewalministries.net

P.O. Box 1426 Ann Arbor, MI 48106 phone 734-662-1730

In Canada P.O. Box 400 Station U Toronto, ON M8Z 5Y8 phone 416-251-4255