



RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Proclaiming Jesus through Catholic Renewal and Evangelization

October 2017

Dear Companions on the Journey,

Greetings in the great love of God!

Sometimes when I see various news reports that indicate the ongoing radical decline in our culture or confusion in the Church, it does make me cry out to the Lord: How long, oh Lord? Come quickly!

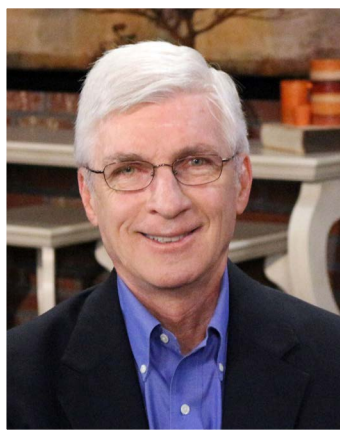
Reading a news report today about gross immorality among priests in Rome, and then seeing a distressing photo of the Canadian prime minister marching in a gay pride parade and posing for a photo with a naked woman, and seeing naked men parading in front of young children indeed makes me cry out. Lord, have mercy!

Wow. Productive, thriving lives based on killing babies! Reaching our full potential by eliminating someone else's? Whoa! How far we have fallen, how deep the darkness becomes!

Yet I know the Lord permits the evil to unfold because He has a greater redemptive purpose, and He will come at the perfect time—when everyone has been given the most generous opportunities to be saved!

In the meantime, we all have to work while the light lasts and get up each day ready to live our day, as much as possible, in a way that's pleasing to the Lord. Doing our work, showing up to pray, offering our suffering for the redemption of the world and the salvation of souls! And loving people—everyone!

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A letter ▶
from *Ralph Martin*



And then the news proclaims that Oregon has just passed a bill providing free abortions for all, including illegal immigrants, for any reason whatever, at any time of the pregnancy. The governor says, "The ability to control our bodies and make informed decisions about health are critical to providing all Oregonians the opportunity to achieve our full potential and live productive, thriving lives" (www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/jul/6/kate-brown-oregon-governor-to-allow-free-abortions).

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Forty-four priests from the USA and other countries studied at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Michigan, this summer, for a five-week session of the STL Degree program that Ralph leads. Ralph taught two of the classes; the priests pictured above studied *The Theology of the New Evangelization*.



“Hopefully this will help set the world on fire —or at least those within our reach.”

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That’s what we try to do each day at Renewal Ministries. We know that’s what many of you do as well. It’s only a small part of what you do for the Kingdom, but what you do to share the message of salvation with souls using our booklets and other resources is truly inspiring:

→ A woman from Dracut, Massachusetts, ordered one hundred copies of *Forever Grateful for Mercy* for participants in a pilgrimage to a Divine Mercy shrine and also to increase interest in a Divine Mercy prayer cenacle. She said, “We’re trying to put them out there and hope more people will get the message!”

→ A man from Lincoln, Nebraska, ordered up to one hundred copies of each *Faith More Precious than Gold*, *Hope in the Midst of Suffering*, *The Mercy of God and the Joy Repentance Brings*, *The Final Confrontation*, and *Captured by Mercy*. He is a hospital chaplain and distributes them to patients and families. He said, “The content of titles like *Hope in the Midst of Suffering*—that’s everybody who’s here. They’re very relevant booklets. And, the style is very approachable. Sr. Ann uses a lot of Scripture—which, for Protestants, is very reassuring.”

If he has a conversation about something like redemptive suffering with a person, he will leave them a booklet, “so if they want to go deeper, they can do it in private.” He also leaves booklets in the hospital chapel for people to take.

→ A woman from Osseo, Michigan, ordered one hundred copies of *Welcome the Spiritual Gifts* to use with a Life in the Spirit Seminar she will co-host. She and her friend were inspired to lead the seminar after attending Renewal Ministries’ 2017 Gathering. Her friend had picked up the *As By A New Pentecost* DVD set at an earlier event, and during the Gathering, the two decided “we just have to do this!” She explained, “I’ve been Catholic all my life, but didn’t really know anything about the Charismatic movement. Now I want to help other Catholics find out about it!”

→ One woman from Deerfield, Illinois, purchased twenty-five copies of *Welcome the Spiritual Gifts* to give to members of her Scripture study group. Because of her involvement with Charismatic prayer groups, they always ask her a lot of questions at Pentecost. When she recently read *Welcome the Spiritual Gifts*, she thought, “This has everything I could tell them and more!” She bought copies for everyone in her group, plus some extra. Next, she hopes to distribute *Light in the Darkness*, which she thinks “everybody should read—it’s so insightful about what is going on today!”

→ The founder of a women’s retreat ministry in Arizona ordered 300 copies of *Welcome the Spiritual Gifts* to distribute at retreats. She liked how “it covers all the various gifts found in Corinthians, Romans, and Ephesians.” She said, “It is a very practical, simple, and easy way to understand the gifts of the Holy Spirit.” She has used many of Renewal Ministries’ pamphlets in the past, and believes they “compliment what we like to teach and be an example of.”

→ One man from Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, purchased one hundred copies of *The Final Confrontation* to distribute at his parish’s annual ChristLife series. “We see this as an excellent tool to capture what Ralph Martin shared as a speaker at the ChristLife annual conference,” he said. “He touched a sense of urgency with regard to evangelization that I felt we need to reinforce, so folks get a sense of how important it is to act on these things we’re learning.”

→ The chairperson for the North Macomb Vicariate in Michigan ordered 3600 copies of *Welcome the Spiritual Gifts* to place in its parishes for Pentecost. She said many of their priests were excited to get the booklets. “When I see people looking at the booklet, I say, ‘This is the best booklet on gifts! It will open your eyes to a new adventure!’” she said. “People need to know they are unique and that they have gifts.” She said the group ordered the booklets, because “we really felt this is what the Lord wanted us to do. We’ve got to be creative.” She has shared Renewal Ministries’ booklets for years, because “they’re solid, and you’re not going to go wrong.” She added, “Hopefully this will help set the world on fire—or at least those within our reach. I’m just trusting He’s going to bless it.”

→ One of our long-time friends also is using our booklets in his work as an Uber driver! He has a unique story of how God turned his attempt to earn money for a vacation into a ministry. You can read his story on the following page.



It is absolutely true: Where sin abounds, grace abounds still more. Thanks be to God!

Your brother in the battle,

Ralph Martin

Please Pray...

✞ That the Holy Spirit would inspire our worlds’ leaders to guide their nations in a manner that accords with His truth.

✞ That the Lord would open the hearts and ears of those in need of hearing His Word, and that He would open the hearts, ears, and mouths of those He wishes to share it.

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



PLANTING SEEDS OF FAITH

How driving an Uber car became an evangelization opportunity

Larry Yelinek, a long-time friend of Renewal Ministries, began driving for Uber in September 2016, as a way to save money for a vacation with his wife. However, the job quickly became something more.

It began with a bumper sticker Larry put on the back of his car for a local Catholic radio station. Soon, he added two more to the back of the seats—so they couldn't be missed. Next, he began giving invitations to an upcoming Alpha class led by i.d.9:16 Director Pete Burak. He handed out items he picked up at local churches, like the Divine Mercy chaplet. Finally, he began handing out his own library of Renewal Ministries' booklets. When those were gone, he got more—and more—to distribute to his passengers.

When the situation seems appropriate, Larry asks the passenger about themselves: What are you studying? What do you teach? At which restaurant are you a cook?

As the Holy Spirit inspires, Larry then will often share a story from his own life, like the healing of his hip, which had been in need of replacement, that he experienced at Renewal Ministries' 2016 Gathering. That event has inspired Larry's own evangelization outreach: "I need to give it away. I know I'm supposed to be planting seeds."

*"When I talk, I ask the Holy Spirit to guide me, and if I screw up, to fix it," said Larry.
"I just try to get out of the way."*

Larry now keeps a few Renewal Ministries' booklets in his car and asks his passengers to pick out the title that means something to them.

Popular titles include Sr. Ann Shields' *Captured by Mercy*, Peter Herbeck's *Do I Really Want God?* (available as a free download on our website, www.RenewalMinistries.net, under "Resources"), and Ralph Martin's *Overcoming Sin, Is There Any Hope for Me?*, and *The Final Confrontation*.

"I pray that the people He wants me to pray with are there," said Larry. **"God sends them to me. The Holy Spirit is so powerful and alive today—don't put Him in a box."**

Below are just some of the experiences Larry has had while speaking to his passengers about the Lord:

▶ Larry offered his services to drive a monsignor visiting the US from Ghana, Africa, to an event. When he called to thank Larry, their conversation shifted to a discussion of the Holy Spirit, and Larry asked if the priest had been baptized in the Holy Spirit. He answered no, but was open to Larry praying with him. Larry prayed with the monsignor, gave him the booklet *A New Pentecost*, and maintains regular contact with him. Larry said, "I am honored to say, this monsignor is going back to Africa and is taking the Holy Spirit with him."

• • •

▶ One woman got in the car with a few children on a hot day; they were just making a couple-minute drive to their grandmother's house, where there would be air conditioning. As they pulled into the driveway, the woman pointed to a nearby, burned-down house, and said, "That is where my husband recently died in a house fire."

Larry stopped the car. He explained, "We stayed there for several minutes. I prayed for her and her kids. When the grandma walked out, I shared with her the importance of a mom and a grandma's prayer. Then, I gave her a few booklets. It was a blessing for the mom, the kids, and the grandma—who wasn't even my passenger."

• • •

▶ Larry also related the following story: "A month ago, I had to help a woman out of her house and guide her to the car. I prayed with her. With my mom's rosary, I prayed with all of the angels and saints. And that woman, who I had to almost carry out, walked into the pain clinic without pain."

"We have to be evangelists," said Larry. **"We can't sit there and expect the problems we see to go away without us opening our mouths."**

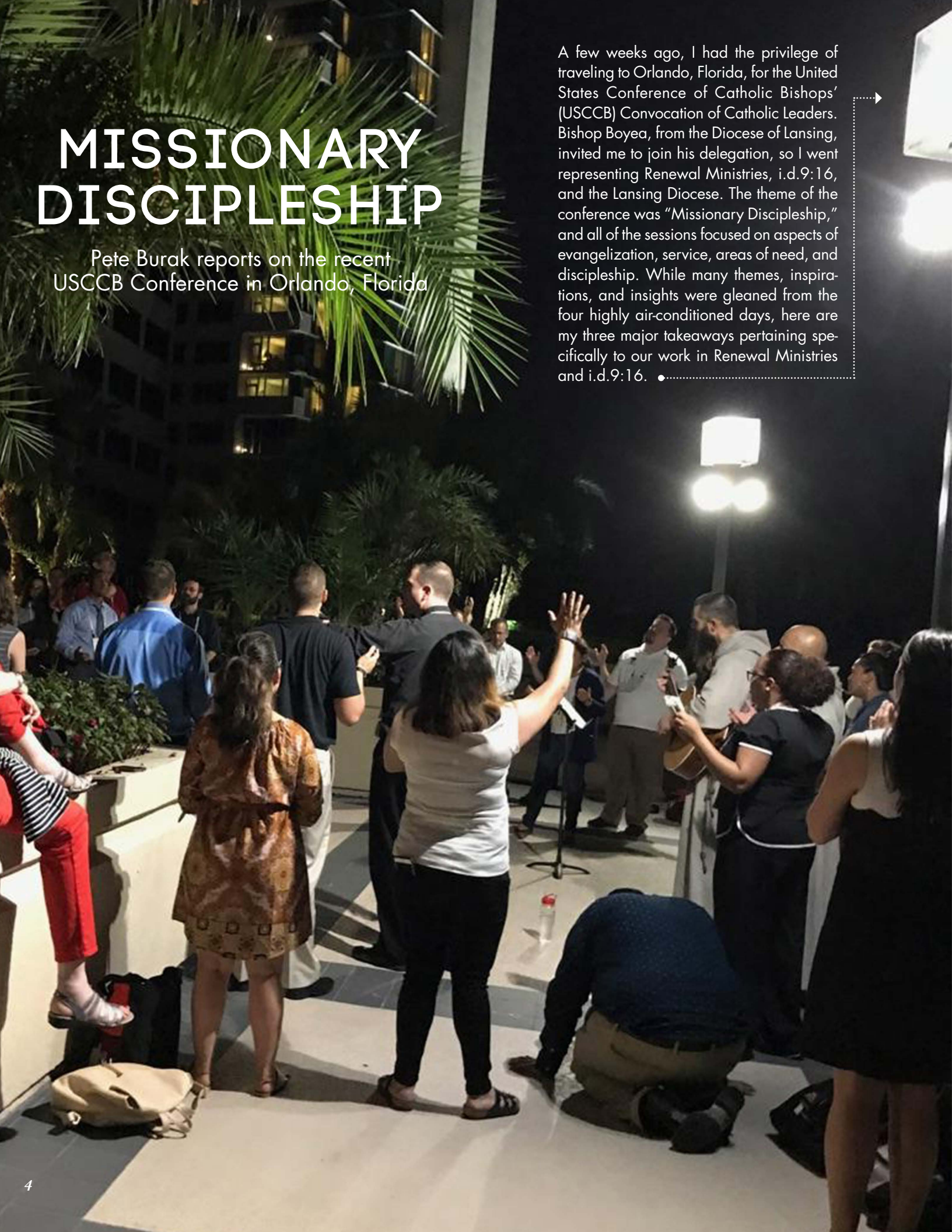
Larry offers this advice to people who want to share the Good News in their own lives: "You don't need a degree in Scripture. You just need Jesus. You can talk about someone you know."

He now sees his work as something much more than a way to provide for an annual winter getaway: "I don't look at it as a job. It's a ministry. It's an evangelization tool, and I'm using it as best I can."

MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP

Pete Burak reports on the recent USCCB Conference in Orlando, Florida

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of traveling to Orlando, Florida, for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Convocation of Catholic Leaders. Bishop Boyea, from the Diocese of Lansing, invited me to join his delegation, so I went representing Renewal Ministries, i.d.9:16, and the Lansing Diocese. The theme of the conference was "Missionary Discipleship," and all of the sessions focused on aspects of evangelization, service, areas of need, and discipleship. While many themes, inspirations, and insights were gleaned from the four highly air-conditioned days, here are my three major takeaways pertaining specifically to our work in Renewal Ministries and i.d.9:16. ●



1

INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

“*In what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*”

(2 Tm 2:2)

In this passage, Paul instructs his disciple Timothy to repeat Paul’s process of discipleship with other men and women. This is not an earthshattering revelation, but I’m struck by Paul’s desire for *Timothy’s disciples* to be equipped to disciple others as well. The Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) calls this “spiritual multiplication.” I’m convinced the solution to the “crisis of discipleship” we face in the Church is not simply to make more disciples, but to form disciples who can also form disciples. Instead of transferring the faith to one generation in your discipleship family tree, i.d.9:16 equips our initial disciples to produce new members of the family. While the question of how to do this remains largely unanswered (though I do think we are on the right path), **I left Orlando utterly convicted that intentional discipleship must remain our focus as we move forward.**



i.d.9:16 Director Pete Burak spending some quality time with Bishop Earl Boyea at the USCCB conference in Orlando, Florida.

2

MORE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

During the orientation session, I was looking through the schedule, wondering when participants would have an opportunity to fervently call out for more of the Holy Spirit to empower our missionary efforts. An idea to organize a time of prayer and praise flitted through my mind, but I “prudently” decided to relax and not worry about it.

I had the great joy of rooming with Fr. Mathias Thelen, a close friend and collaborator with Renewal Ministries, which led to some incredible conversations and a few laughs. At one point, I casually mentioned the idea of praying with people at the convocation, and he responded with great enthusiasm.

Fast forward a few days, and I found myself on the fourth-floor rooftop, next to one of the hotel pools, with over one hundred of my new friends, crying out together to the Spirit for more and praying for the bishops, the participants, and all the areas we represented.

—  see photo at left —

A Franciscan Friar of the Renewal (CFR) brother led us in worship and the Holy Spirit truly lit hearts on fire. We ended up praying with many of the leaders, and I walked away more convinced than ever that a new evangelization must be accompanied by a new Pentecost.

There is a deep hunger for the power, freedom, and anointing necessary to make disciples, and the Holy Spirit is eagerly responding to anyone who asks and is open.

Overall, the convocation marked a significant step forward in the vision, mission, and language of the American Catholic Church. I thoroughly enjoyed the networking and time spent with other “beggars who have discovered the feast.”

Let’s pray that the work begun in Orlando continues, and that we are bold in our pursuit of Jesus and the people He loves.

3

CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE

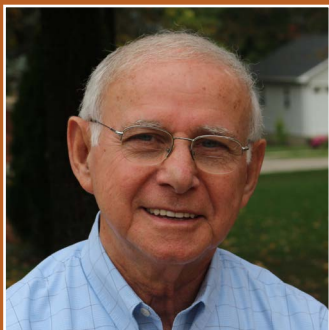
The final session of the convocation included an excellent presentation by Patrick Lencioni, a very successful and faithful businessman, who has helped create the Amazing Parish Conference. He focused on five keys to building a great team, but the nugget that struck me the most was his articulation of the difference between our circle of concern and our circle of influence.

Simply put, our circle of concern includes things that we are rightfully worried about (world hunger, our government, the Catholic Church) but are hard to do anything about. It’s important to talk, and think, and pray about these things, but at the end of the day, we have very few tangible actions we can take to bring about real change.

Our circle of influence includes things directly impacted by our actions. This could include our families, our parishes, and most concretely, our own holiness. Ironically, the more we focus on our circle of concern, the smaller our circle of influence becomes; conversely, the more we dive into our circle of influence, the larger this circle grows, giving us a greater impact on the circle of concern.

In other words, if we focus on the people, institutions, problems, and opportunities the Lord has put right before us, we’ll end up having a more significant reach.

This was an awesome reminder for us at Renewal Ministries and i.d.9:16. i.d.9:16 is intensely focused on the future of our generation and the Church, and yet we need to dive deeper into the chapters, parishes, and most importantly, the people the Lord has brought into our circle of influence.



By Don Turbitt

COUNTRY COORDINATOR
for VIETNAM

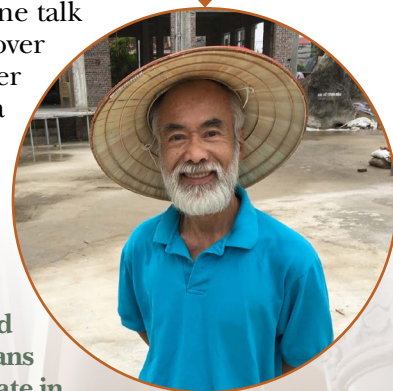
Don has been a Catholic lay leader, father, and businessman for over twenty years. His ministry in the Church has been diverse. For forty-five years, he has coordinated the People of God's Love Prayer Group. He has led parish missions and conferences throughout the world. Don is the director of international ministries for Men of St. Joseph International. In 2013, Don and his wife, Pat, received the Lumen Gentium Award from Bishop Thomas Tobin of Providence, Rhode Island, for their work in the New Evangelization.

Spreading the GOSPEL in Vietnam

Due to government restrictions in the past, there has been a shortage of priests in Vietnam, but they now have so many seminarians, I believe that problem will soon disappear. However, it does take thirteen years of study to become a priest in Vietnam.

Fr. Hoan, the brother of a seminarian I know from my home in Providence, Rhode Island, was very hospitable and gracious to Deacon Chau and me. Deacon Chau is a native of Vietnam who now lives in Detroit. We spent four days in Fr. Hoan's parish and ate wonderful meals in the homes of his parishioners and his rectory. My experience with the Vietnamese people has been one of great blessings. They are such honorable people and, like Italian Americans, you can't come into a house without them graciously offering food to you.

- Deacon Chau gave the homily at Mass each day. He also gave a teaching each day to a group of singles on marriage. I gave one talk to the parish and one talk to the singles. We also prayed over the people after my talk. People lined up for healing prayer every time they saw us, both before and after Mass. At a meal after Mass, one man said his sinuses were healed when I prayed with him.



When we were eating in the Vietnamese homes, the men sat at one table, and the women and children sat at another table, separate from one another. Even at Mass, the men sit on the right, and women and children sit on the left. We Americans may not think that's a good idea, but the divorce rate in Vietnam is eight percent, and for Catholics it's five percent, while in the United States, we are over fifty percent.



On Sunday, we drove to the diocese of Thanh Hoa, to meet with Archbishop Joseph Nguyen Linh. Bishop Linh recently was promoted to archbishop and now presides over two dioceses, Thanh Hoa and Hue. In time, the government will approve a new bishop for Thanh Hoa. Along with his new responsibilities, Archbishop Linh is also the head of the Bishops' Committee for Vietnam.



Archbishop Joseph Linh is not a tall man, but he is a giant of a man in the Church. The people love him, and I deeply admire him. He had to wait three years after graduating from the seminary before the government would allow him to be ordained. After that, he was imprisoned four times, once for nine months, once for four months, once for three months, and once for nine days. What a privilege it was to spend time with him!



We also took time to visit my sixteen “adopted granddaughters.” Five years ago, I attended the first vows of these religious sisters, and it all happened on my birthday. I was sitting with Archbishop Linh when he announced my birthday, and he also said I should adopt these sisters as my “granddaughters.” So, for the last five years, we have been building a very warm and happy relationship. They have been praying for me and my family, as I also pray for them. My “granddaughters” are very mature, hard-working young women, but around me, they act like little girls, laughing and playing around their “grandfather.” I have been blessed by this relationship.

After they took their final vows at Mass, we all went together with their families to the convent hall for dinner. I had the opportunity to sit with Archbishop Linh and the three heads of the order for a wonderful feast. At the end of the day, I spent some private time with the sisters, prayed with each of them, and said my farewell to all of them.



The following day, I was given an opportunity to speak to 550 catechists receiving their yearly instruction in the Thanh Hoa Diocese. Eight percent of the population in Vietnam is Catholic, which equals six million people, and ninety percent of the Catholics attend Sunday Mass. I was told by one pastor that sixty percent of his parishioners attend daily Mass. The first Mass is at 4:45 a.m.! Since Renewal Ministries has come to the diocese of Thanh Hoa, the number of Catholics has increased from 120,000 to 150,000. I believe Archbishop Joseph Linh is the main reason for such a dramatic increase.



The next day, we went with Archbishop Linh to visit three parishes. The first parish had hundreds of people standing on both sides of the driveway to receive the archbishop. A drum and bugle corps was part of the reception, and there was an overflow crowd in the church. The next parish had an escort with one-hundred motorbikes, with the archbishop's flags on each bike, which led us from the highway to the church. There was another overflow crowd in the church and a huge meal for everyone after Mass. The third parish was way out in the bush. They had completed a summer camp to learn English and were happily celebrating the end of camp.



The next day, we flew to Hue (pronounced “Way”), which is the new diocese under Archbishop Joseph Linh. We spent our time in Hue meeting the leading priests of the diocese and planning next year's mission. One priest we met was Fr. Anthony Ha, who told us he spent twenty-one years in the seminary, because there was a twenty-year period in which the government would not allow any priests to be ordained.



We returned to the Phat Diem diocese by overnight train, a twelve-hour ride. The following day, we spent time with Bishop Joseph Nguyen Nang, who celebrated Mass for youth.

We continued to pray for the sick each day, before and after Mass. The people have great faith and are a blessing to be with. The temperatures were always in the high nineties and slightly over one-hundred degrees each day, but the joy of the work made all things pleasurable. The people in Vietnam are a delight to be with, and my heart swells with joy when I am in Vietnam.

On the Road

October 2017 ENGAGEMENTS

Lima, Peru
Bible Course for CCR Leaders
Sept. 29-Oct. 1
Dr. Mary Healy

Brazil
Catholic Charismatic Renewal
Oct. 4-11
Peter Herbeck

Ann Arbor, MI
i.d.9:16 Disciples' Night
Oct. 5
Mike Bishop
Contact: katie@id916.com

Chamberlain, SD
Sioux Falls Clergy Convocation*
Oct. 9-10
Dr. Mary Healy

Milwaukee, WI
Millennial Church Conference
Oct. 11
Pete Burak
Contact: pete@id916.com

West Chester, PA
Fatima 100 Conference
Oct. 14
Ralph Martin
www.fatima100conference.org

Saginaw, MI
Scripture and Evangelization Talks
Oct. 14
Dr. Mary Healy
Contact: dosborn@dioceseofsaginaw.org

Ann Arbor, MI
Renewal Ministries' Annual US Board Meeting
Oct. 15-16
Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields

South Bend, IN
Legatus*
Oct. 18
Ralph Martin

Huntersville, NC
St. Mark Catholic Church
Oct. 20-21
Ralph Martin
Contact: Michael.griffith@stmarknc.org

Calgary, ON, Canada
Annual Catholic Charismatic Conference
Oct. 20-21
Peter Herbeck and Pete Burak
Contact: peter4god@shaw.ca

Lockport, IL
St. Dennis Parish
Oct. 21
Sr. Ann Shields
Contact: Michael Fonda at mjfonda@hotmail.com

Spain
CCR Encuentro
Oct. 21-22
Dr. Mary Healy
Contact: casares.mj@gmail.com

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

“ It is becoming ever clearer in our time that only moral values and sacrifices make it possible to build a world worthy of human life. If there is no moral force in souls, if there is no readiness to suffer for these values, a better world simply cannot be built. On the contrary, the world will deteriorate every day and selfishness will dominate and destroy all. ”



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Kansas City, MO
Kairos United in Christ Ecumenical Conference
Oct. 24-26
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: www.kairos2017.com

Chicago, IL
***Priests' Conference on the Gospel of Mark at Mundelein Seminary**
Oct. 28
Dr. Mary Healy

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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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Download the **i.d.9:16 mobile App** for easy access to all of the above Renewal Ministries' content and so much more!

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