Catholic Renewal and Evangelization

October 2019



A letter • from Ralph Martin



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

WE REALLY ARE SISTERS AND BROTHERS, BECAUSE OF JESUS!

Last month you read our "Manifesto"—Renewal Ministries' attempt to discern what we are facing today and what our response will be going forward: full-steam ahead with all the opportunities the Lord is giving us to make a difference in people's lives.

And that's exactly what we've been doing in these last few months.

We continue to impact the lives of priests in many different ways. I was honored to be asked by Dr. Scott Hahn to join the team serving 220 priests at the annual priests' conference held in West Virginia each year. Thirty priests were turned away, as capacity had been reached. Scott, Dr. John Bergsma, and I each gave three talks. It seemed like our talks really complimented each other, and the priests were very much encouraged, more deeply informed, and strengthened

to go on preaching and teaching the Word of God no matter how difficult the circumstances.

Then it was time for our summer Licentiate in Sacred Theology classes, where all the priests in our program—about fifty—come together each summer for five weeks of residential classes at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. They take on-line classes during the rest of the year and can finish the program after four summers. I must admit, these are my favorite classes to teach. The priests come a little "beaten up" by the difficulties involved in being a priest these days, and leave greatly encouraged, strengthened in their conviction about the truth of our faith, and more deeply rooted in the power of the Spirit and in prayer.

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Staying Catholic Made it Possible Page 4

Accompaniment: Important But Insufficient Page 5

Spreading the Gospel in Tanzania Page 6

> On the Road Page 8



Drs. Scott Hahn, Ralph Martin, and John Bergsma all spoke at the annual East Coast Priests'
Conference in West Virginia. They are pictured above with the 220 priests who attended the event.
The priests left encouraged, informed, and strengthened.

Continued from page 1

This year, we had a night during which one of our new ministries, *Live Free Unbound*, was even able to provide trained prayer teams to pray with a number of our priests for greater interior freedom in their lives. What a tremendous blessing! It is a sign of how our different ministries, under the umbrella of Renewal Ministries, can work together.

The priests shared powerful testimonies about the effect the class has had on them and, hopefully, will have on their ministry:

"As I complete my fourth summer, my heart is filled with gratitude for all the blessings I have received during my study here for the last four years. Thank you for all that you have imparted to me through your lively classes and also from your witness of life. I am grateful for this privilege. I am going back to India filled with great zeal for mission. May God bless you."—Fr. Thomas

"Thank you very much for your class. Many things have been clarified that I will start applying in (my work). . . . The prayer with (Live Free Unbound) has given me a lot of strength to overcome fear and undergo a deeper personal conversion. I appreciate your kindness with everything. Definitely, you and your friends have to come to Peru. I will stay in touch with you and also start preparing for a renewal in ministry."—Fr. Javier

"Thanks for everything, especially the chance to be edified by one another's personal testimonies and pastoral experience, and for the chance to visit Renewal Ministries and receive prayer from the members of the Live Free Unbound team. Through the testimonies, I came to know my brothers much better and got the chance to let them know me better as well. I look forward to coming back next summer, God willing. Be assured of my prayers and please pray for me and my community. I am very happy with my experience this first summer."—Fr. Curtis, MC

"Thank you so much for the class! It truly changes our hearts and minds and sets us on a new direction to be more bold, loving, and holy. It gives us clear directives in a time that everything seems to be so confused and confusing. Thank you for helping us with this clarity! Thank you for helping us with your faith and service! Thank you for the program and the class!"—Fr. Orlando



Recently, our deeply committed Country Coordinator Tom Edwards sent us a simply amazing report on his latest mission to Tanzania, where over many years, he has brought thousands to conversion, healing, deliverance, and discipleship, including many priests and bishops, in seventeen different dioceses. See the inspiring account on pages six and seven of this newsletter!

i.d.9:16 has launched four new chapters in 2019. There are now seventeen total chapters in twelve different states. i.d.9:16 also recently added four new team members and has helped lead three Millennial Church Conferences.

And Peter, as usual, is on the move preaching and teaching in Seattle, Washington; Birmingham, Alabama; Cleveland, Ohio; and other places as well. He recently spoke to over 300 young adults at an IndyCatholic event in Indianapolis, Indiana, on the topic of finding our purpose in God and bearing fruit for His kingdom.

Sr. Ann continues to recover from the stroke she experienced in November of 2018. Thankfully, she was able to



record new episodes of *Food for the Journey* that first aired in early September. We also are grateful that we recorded all three years of the liturgical cycle of her *Food for the Journey* radio programs, so her ministry has been able to continue uninterrupted while she recovers.



"The original sin that besets our race was rooted in the sin of unbelief and pride. It led to direct disobedience, to the darkening of the mind and heart, and the corruption of human nature that issued in death. Only when we crucify our desire to be independent from God through faith, conversion, and baptism, and humbly accept our status as creatures dependent on God for everything, can we be saved."

DR. RALPH MARTIN
President of Renewal Ministries

Also, our new app now has 2,290 followers. It's an easy way to access all our resources and programs. You can download it for Android or Apple; it is available through app stores.

Furthermore, our "farm teams" of young men and women continue to expand and grow. Be Love Revolution had a special summer meeting at which young girls could join their high-school-age sisters or friends for an introduction to following Christ together as a "band of sisters." It was very inspiring. Both my wife, Anne, and my own grand-daughter shared with me about how good it was.

Pine Hills Girls' Camp once again reached capacity, with 192 girls and more than seventy staff members. I was thankful at a recent staff meeting to hear Camp Director Debbie Herbeck share the following reflections: "The theme was John 3:36, 'A Love Story.' We talked about how God so loved the world, and we led them through it. They really got the Gospel message. We need to ground them and root them in the truth of who God is. When we've got that, everything else falls into place." That same message—about the truth of who God is—is what we're trying to communicate through everything Renewal Ministries does!

The young men's high school ministry had its first meeting with the parents of the young men involved and have come up with a name: Zion! We're all going up to Zion—the holy city, Jerusalem, symbol of our heavenly city, the New Jerusalem.

They are happy, whose strength is in you,
In whose hearts are the roads to Zion.
As they go through the Bitter Valley
they make it a place of springs,
the autumn rain covers it with blessings.
They walk with ever growing strength,
they will see the God of gods in Zion. (Ps 84:5-7)

Let's all continue our pilgrimage, with joy and trust in the Lord, no matter what the circumstances, on our way to the heavenly city, Zion!

Your brother in Christ,

Rolph Martin



The Be Love Revolution hosted an event this summer that allowed high-school-aged young women to introduce their younger sisters and friends to what it means to follow Christ together as a "band of sisters."

Please Pray...

- For those seeking to help lead others to the Lord, that they will be given the grace to hear Him speak and the wisdom to share His truth in love.
- That we may surrender our lives more completely "to Jesus through Mary," especially during this month of the Most Holy Rosary.
- For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.



FOR DETAILS, VISIT THE PILGRIMAGE WEB PAGE: www.RenewalMinistries.net/pilgrimage

or contact Corporate Travel: (866) 468-1420.



STAYING CATHOLIC Made it possible

-Q&A-

WITH A LONG-TIME RENEWAL MINISTRIES' SUPPORTER

The following interview took place between Renewal Ministries' Administrative Assistant Therese Jones and supporter Ann Cassano. We share it here as an encouragement and reminder of the difference made by persevering in faith.

Q: How would you describe your relationship with Renewal Ministries? I know you went on pilgrimage with us in 1996.

A: I've been following Ralph since the 1970s. He gave a talk at one time called A Crisis of Truth,* which my husband and I heard. We were so impressed with it that we got a copy and invited a houseful of people to come see it. This opened our eyes to what was really happening in the Church, and it helped a lot of people. We continued to do this type of thing all through the years. We lived in many places.

Q: So you would take Ralph's teachings and distribute them to others, no matter where you were?

A: Yes. In the 1980s, I worked as a DRE for about ten years. I watched EWTN and all of Ralph's programs, and I learned so much. He took us along, taught, and formed us. That was helpful back then, when the Church was worse off than it is now.

Q: Why do you say it was worse then?

A: No one knew what was really going on. It was a confusing time.

Q: So it was worse because there was no clear voice?

A: Exactly. EWTN, Ralph Martin, and things coming out of Steubenville seemed to be the only voices that were sounding a clear message and were saying the same things. That really helped me stay Catholic!

Q: Going back to how you promote the message, you said you purchase materials from Renewal Ministries and share them with others wherever you live?

A: Yes, I do. The people in our last parish were very open to learning more about the faith. For about twelve years, we met together, first in a Catholic book club, and then working together in faith formation programs, many of which were aired on The Choices We Face, or through DVDs we purchased from Renewal Ministries of conferences, rallies, etc. Because of the other participants' openness and thankfulness for all they were learning, they grew and continue to grow in the Spirit. I am so grateful for Renewal Ministries' DVD As By a New Pentecost, which makes it so easy to present the Holy Spirit to everyone. Shortly before I moved, we formed a prayer group that still meets weekly to praise the Lord and grow in the faith. I hope to bring this kind of growth and understanding of our faith to the retirement community I now live in.

Q: Thank you so much for sharing, Ann. You are such an inspiration!

A: My husband, Bill, passed away recently, and he had had a really rough year. But for eighteen months, Bill offered his suffering from lung cancer for the salvation of souls. And then, he died a beautiful death. I'm so grateful for Renewal Ministries' witness to the Catholic faith; because of Renewal Ministries, I knew how to pray, I knew how to sing praise, and when Bill died in my arms, it was a really blessed time. Let me tell

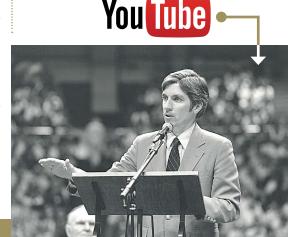
you a story:

Right after my husband died, I could see him running through the clouds, happy, free, and without pain. I was filled with joy! Our deacon (who is ninety-two years old but still serving) had come to see Bill regularly, and had left shortly before Bill died. As I was holding Bill, seeing this vision, the doorbell rang. It was the deacon again! With tears in his eyes, he embraced me and comforted me. I asked him how he knew that Bill was gone, and he said the Holy Spirit had told him! I have so much joy! I thought this would be the hardest time of my life—sixty-one years of marriage and knowing him five years before that—but it has instead been filled with grace and joy. I think this is possible because I know where he is. I have hope that he is happy—running and pain free. That is my faith—the faith that was developed in large part by Ralph and his teachings, but EWTN and Steubenville as well. This faith has carried me through.

Q: Ann, you inspire me. I want to help others to live out the truth too. Thank you!

A: I even trained as a spiritual director, and Ralph's sister Therese taught part of the program. This all has happened—was made possible—because I stayed Catholic, which was largely because of Ralph. He needs to know this. We need to tell him. It makes a difference!

*Ralph Martin's video presentations of A Crisis of Truth are available on the Renewal Ministries' app or online, at www.youtube.com/renewalministriesrm



Friendship is a universal desire and one of God's great gifts to humanity. Preaching the Gospel and making disciples can seem intimidating, only for the very wise and holy, or even outdated for the modern world. However, friendship, or "accompaniment," a term made popular by numerous documents and statements from Pope Francis, seems doable, attainable, and just radical enough.

The Cursillo movement simplifies this high call by promoting a simple yet sticky catchphrase: "Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ." While overly simplistic, there's something to boiling down evangelization to authentic friendship. While the Holy Spirit can convict hearts at any time or place, most people come to faith through the personal interaction with Christian believers who sacrifice time, talent, and treasure to help them come to know Christ.

Pope Francis' latest apostolic exhortation, *Christus Vivit*, with its 299 sections and roughly 35,000 words, represents a massive, both in its length and room for interpretation, contribution to the Church's exciting focus on young people. In an effort to respond to the younger generations' crisis of faith and the epidemic of non-belief, and the perceived reasons for this decline, leaders are rightfully attempting to adjust the Church's pastoral approach. I would describe this as a shift to an emphasis on listening, dialogue, and accompaniment, with a delayed proclamation of some of the more difficult teachings found in Sacred Scripture and the Catechism.

Most would agree that friendship, mutual understanding, and journeying with people are essential elements for evangelization, or the making of disciples, through faith and conversion. Christus Vivit 292 rightfully promotes these actions and elaborates on the power of the individual disciple who knows how to and values listening and walking with non-believers. However, I have noticed a growing trend for leaders to allow a nebulous definition of accompaniment that permits the celebration of the process without requiring the needed conversion.

The words *listening, dialogue,* and *accompaniment* all have real value, but their strength is neutered when we expand their definitions to include all of the Church's missionary activity and strategy. Since *Christus Vivit* presents a vast range of examples and angles of ministry to the next generation, readers can gravitate toward a curated understanding of mission, evangelization, and accompaniment. Too often these personal definitions downplay or de-emphasize the stirring, unchanging, Jesus-given mission of the Church: to seek and save the lost by preaching a message of love, mercy, joy, and peace but also repentance, forgiveness, and a new way of living.

Accompaniment is evangelization, but evangelization is not complete or encompassed by accompaniment. Accompaniment or loving friendship is an aspect of evangelization—that being the necessary time and relationship-building

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that should and can lead to a clear proclamation of the Gospel and an invitation to respond. A holistic and Jesus-centered evangelization emphasizes accompaniment, but in my experience, it is easy to promote accompaniment alone to avoid the difficult, awkward, and potentially relationship-altering moments of genuine conversion.

An unbalanced emphasis on accompaniment will not produce what we all hope for: a radical increase in genuine conversions described by St. John Paul II as "expressed in a faith that is total and radical." Additionally, watering down our message, or completely avoiding the hard topics of sin, salvation, hell, and judgment, does not enhance someone's strategy of accompaniment but rather postpones or eliminates its ultimate end, namely more people believing the full truth of the Gospel. While a gentle approach, which intentionally delays some of the more difficult teachings of Christ, may be what the Spirit intends for a particular season of someone's journey toward faith, too often we use friendship and the fear of losing a friend as an excuse for never calling our friends to fully commit their lives to Jesus, with all the ramifications of that decision.

The differentiating nature of the Church exists not in her symbiosis to broader society but her unique assessment of life, death, and salvation. Being in the world but not of it, accepting and even desiring suffering, loving and caring for the margins, eagerly anticipating heaven though it means physical death, and loving your enemies are all examples of a radical divergence from aspects of the modern secular mindset. Ironically, these beliefs are also the most attractive for those who have ears to hear and for people who have successfully been accompanied. The Church will not and should not be the cool kid on the block, the fun dad, or the center of all that is hip and novel, and that is OK because our mission is not simply walking with people no matter where they decide to roam but rather entering into genuine loving relationships while remaining the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

¹ Redemptoris Missio 46



By Tom Edwards
COUNTRY COORDINATOR
for TANZANIA

Tom is Renewal Ministries' country coordinator for Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Tanzania. Tom began full-time ministry in 1974; it soon evolved into an international outreach of lay Catholic evangelization and mission with an emphasis on preaching and teaching Scripture. Tom and his wife, Jean Marie, make their home in St. Augustine, Florida.

TANZANIA, AFRICA





Spreading the GOSPEL in Tanzania

Renewal Ministries has made twenty mission forays in seventeen dioceses into the vast country of Tanzania. We have introduced renewal events with several days of outdoor Catholic rallies every time. We also have visited some of the dioceses multiple times.

Bishop Beatus Christian Urassa invited us to serve in Sumbawanga, a town (and diocese) in the far-western reaches of Tanzania. Our team included brothers and sisters from across the US and the world, including Nairobi, Slovakia, Kenya, and Tanzania.

The name of the town "Sumbawanga" literally translates as "throw away your witchcraft." This originated with local spiritual healers who wanted to keep away intruding witch doctors. Superstition and the practice of the "dark arts" are still prevalent in the area. The town is famous for the practice of witchcraft; to be a witchdoctor from Sumbawanga is a claim to fame, a boast that appears in Internet ads.

The students of St. Theresia Girls' School in Sumbawanga received God's message with joy. They prayed for inner healing and found much freedom.

Our schedule included ten days of intense ministry in outdoor Catholic preaching rallies, and daily workshops on Catholic faith, youth, and young adult ministry. Our family life workshop was of special interest to Bishop Beatus and the vicar general. It featured intense teaching on the evils of abortion, the consequences of contraceptives, Natural Family Planning, and the basic principles of Theology of the Body.

When we arrived, we learned that the retreats we had planned for religious sisters and priests had been cancelled due to opposition. There are two large orders of sisters in the diocese who had been told by their superiors that any sister attending our events would immediately "lose their veil."

Although disappointed, we immediately put the matter to prayer and the Lord's providence. Our team moved into "Plan B" mode. The Lord did not disappoint. The people of Sumbawanga and far-reaching areas were like dry sponges thirsting for God. People from surrounding towns came with their families and slept on the grounds of the two local parishes, caring for their children and cooking on open fires. The response to all of our events was beyond anything we had imagined for a first-time effort like this.

I want to share with you our team members' responses regarding this mission:

God's presence was overwhelming. People were touched by Jesus in a powerful way. About 2000 people were present on Sunday. Every day, more and more people listened to God's Word. On Wednesday, there were about 4000 people; on Friday, many more; and on Saturday, more than 5000 people attended, hungry for the living God. Every day, people gave testimonies of physical healing. They spoke of being filled with God's presence and love. Many were delivered from evil spirits as God poured out grace like waves into their dry hearts. How hungry they were! His Word was like an oasis in the desert. You could see smiles and joy on their faces.

Many sat in the dust, some under trees, and some up in trees. I met young people hungry for God's love. They had so many questions about forgiveness. God touched their hearts incredibly and led them to forgive." —Bohdan Novak



One thing that moved me was the openness of school children we visited. They discovered they could love because God had loved them first. We prayed for them, asking God to fill their hearts with His love. They came to hear God's message with joy. They responded well when prayed with for inner healing. They prepared their hearts by surrendering all to Jesus, and then they invited the Holy Spirit into their hearts. God started a great work in them, and I am sure He will continue it."—Sr. Damiana

At the afternoon rally, I was touched by the faith, joy, and gratitude of a man whose liver was completely healed. For a while, he was dancing and praising God. His whole liver was infected and swollen. He spent most of his income for treatment with different doctors without success, because the infection kept coming back. The Lord healed him completely. His doctor testified this as well when he went for another checkup."—Sr. Mary Justin

This marked my seventeenth journey to Africa in twenty years. What impressed me the most were the similarities of the people today with those living in New Testament times. I reflect on journeys of the Holy Family to Jerusalem, the birth of Jesus, the presentation in the temple, and the finding of the lost child in the temple.

We witnessed hundreds of people who traveled great distances by foot and other difficult means to arrive at the church grounds to set up camp for two weeks. They built fires, prepared and ate meals, washed clothes, and slept on the ground and floor so they could attend the daily workshops and rallies. Truly, a faith-filled people!" —John Mathe



Never before in Tanzania have we seen so many babies and children! Hundreds of babies were in attendance at every event, and the cathedral was constantly overflowing. In Sumbawanga, one of the poorest areas in Tanzania, life is precious. Young women consider childbirth a sign of maturity and prestige. Most women have ten to twelve children.

Jean Marie Edwards shared the following reflections:

- I think it will take me many months to fully comprehend the depths of God's love and works amongst His people in Sumbawanga. The hunger for Him was so powerful. Surely, the Lord satisfied that hunger with abundance.
- In every workshop, every rally, every divine appointment, God was powerfully present and dwelt in each and every soul. Their eyes, faces, and entire beings showed their grateful hearts to their God for what they were learning and experiencing. His presence was so real and so beautiful.
- The prayers were raw and honest, and the youth prayed them with all their hearts while tears streamed down their faces. They prayed not only for themselves but for the others. They opened their minds and hearts deeply to their God and in turn were touched by the very heart of God. Such love!
- I want to thank you again for all you do, especially in making sure we always have the (fetal models frequently used on our missions to help participants gain a more clear understanding of the various stages of life within the womb) to take and leave with the people. Words can't do justice to the power they have. The Lord pours Himself out through them. I am in awe every single time we show them. Being able to leave them is huge. It is another way Renewal Ministries deeply, deeply touches the hearts of God's people everywhere. It is going to be so awesome in heaven to see face-to-face all the babies and their families that were given life because of how the Lord uses these little models.

Bishop Beatus was very enthusiastic about the family life teachings and the fetal models that we use to teach the people about the stages of life in the womb. He asked us to leave the models, as well as our teaching notes, posters, and videos.

On the Road.

October 2019 ENGAGEMENTS

Bismarck, ND Legatus* Oct. 3 Ralph Martin

Exclesior, MN Fr. Dosh Speaker Series Oct. 3

Debbie Herbeck

Details: www.stjohns-excelsior.org

Wellandport, Ontario **Gethsemane Ministries' Conference**

Oct. 5-6 Ralph Martin Details: http://gethsemaneministries.com/events.php

Rockford, Illinois Day of Renewal Oct. 5

Peter Herbeck Details: http://charismaticrenewal. rockforddiocese.org

Detroit, MI **Conference on Evangelization**

Oct. 11-12 Ralph Martin

Details: shms.edu/calendar/all

Milwaukee, WI **Inheritance Young Adult Conference**

Oct. 12 Pete Burak

Details: https://archmil.regfox.com/ inheritance-2019

Renewal Ministries' US Board Meeting* Oct. 13-14 Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck

Houston, TX Legatus* Oct. 15 Ralph Martin

Ann Arbor, MI

Hartford, CT **Priest Convocation***

Oct. 15 Pete Burak

Rockford, IL Legatus* Oct. 15 Pete Burak

Boyne Falls, MI Archdiocese of Detroit Deacons' Convocation* Oct. 17-19 Peter and Debbie Herbeck

Gallup, NM Missionaries of Charity Retreat* Oct. 17-20 Dr. Mary Healy

Columbus, OH "From the Cathedral Pulpit" Oct. 19 Ralph Martin

Contact: 616-224-1295

MISSIONS

Slovakia Oct. 8-24 Tom Edwards

Malaysia Oct. 9-21 Don Turbitt

Ethiopia Oct. 10-21 Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw

Serbia Oct. 19-20 Deacon Zoltan Kunszabo

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

Malta **Cenacolo Covenant Community Annual Conference** Oct. 25-27

Peter and Debbie Herbeck

Middletown, NJ

New Jersey CCR Conference Oct. 25-26 Dr. Mary Healy Details: https://www.dotccr.org

Williamston, MI **Live Free Unbound Conference** Oct. 26-27

John and Michelle Kazanjian Details: www.livefreehub.net

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

RENEWAL MINISTRIES

In the United States

Episcopal Advisor

Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, St. Louis, MO

Chairman of the Board Deacon Dan Foley

President Ralph Martin

In Canada

Episcopal Advisor

Cardinal Thomas Collins, Toronto, ON

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.

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Heather Schultz

Emily Bachelor

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