



RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Celebrating
35
YEARS
of God's
Faithfulness

Proclaiming Jesus through Catholic Renewal and Evangelization

September
2015



A letter
from Ralph Martin

Battle for the Family

Brothers and sisters in Christ, in light of the very strong response to my booklet, *The Final Confrontation*, I thought it would be useful this month to share the thoughts of a well-respected Cardinal, as well as the approved Marian apparitions which speak to the present confrontation. These are captured in the following article originally published by *OnePeterFive*, a blog dedicated to rebuilding the Catholic ethos.

Ralph Martin



Sister Lucia:

“Final Confrontation between the Lord and Satan will be over Family and Marriage.”

by Steve Skojec

Rorate Caeli has published a translation of a remarkable interview, originally published in 2008, with Cardinal Carlo Caffara of Bologna. In it, he references correspondence he had with Sister Lucia, the principle visionary of Our Lady at Fatima:

Q. There is a prophecy by Sister Lucia dos Santos, of Fatima, which concerns “the final battle between the Lord and the kingdom of Satan.” The battlefield is the family. Life and the family. We know that you were given charge by John Paul II to plan and establish the Pontifical Institute for the Studies on Marriage and the Family.

Yes, I was. At the start of this work entrusted to me by the Servant of God John Paul II, I wrote to Sister Lucia of Fatima through her Bishop as I couldn't do so directly. Unexplainably however, since I didn't expect an answer, seeing that I had only asked for prayers, I received a very long letter with her signature – now in the Institute's archives. In it we find written: **the final battle between the Lord and the reign of Satan will be about marriage and the family. Don't be afraid, she added, because anyone who operates for the sanctity of marriage and the family will always be contended and opposed in every way, because this is the decisive issue.** And then she concluded: **however, Our Lady has already crushed its head.**

Talking also to John Paul II, you felt too that this was the crux, as it touches the very pillar of creation, the truth of the relationship between man and woman among the



“The final battle between the Lord and the reign of Satan will be about marriage and the family.”



Inside this Issue

Do Not Refuse Him
Who is Speaking
Page 4

Mission to Romania
Page 6

On the Road
Page 8

“...the notion that there is at this very moment a battle taking place for the heart of the Church and the souls of the faithful is no longer in dispute.”



PRAYER
to
St. Michael the Archangel

*St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the
wickedness and snares
of the Devil.
May God rebuke him,
we humbly pray,
and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.*

continued from page 1

generations. If the founding pillar is touched the entire building collapses and we see this now, because we are at this point and we know it. And I'm moved when I read the best biographies of Padre Pio, on how this man was so attentive to the sanctity of marriage and the sanctity of the spouses, even with justifiable rigor on occasion.¹

Does this come as any surprise to those watching the events currently unfolding in the Church? We have referenced various apparitions in the past that are related to this, beginning with Our Lady of Good Success, in the 17th century:

“Thus I make it known to you that from the end of the 19th century and shortly after the middle of the 20th century...the passions will erupt and there will be a total corruption of morals... As for the Sacrament of Matrimony, which symbolizes the union of Christ with His Church, it will be attacked and deeply profaned. Freemasonry, which will then be in power, will enact iniquitous laws with the aim of doing away with this Sacrament, making it easy for everyone to live in sin and encouraging procreation of illegitimate children born without the blessing of the Church...In this supreme moment of need for the Church, the one who should speak will fall silent.”²



When we reflect on the division among prelates at the Synod, Our Lady of Akita comes to mind:

“The work of the devil will infiltrate even into the Church in such a way that one will see cardinals opposing cardinals, bishops against bishops. The priests who venerate me will be scorned and opposed by their confreres... churches and altars sacked; the Church will be full of those who accept compromises and the demon will press many priests and consecrated souls to leave the service of the Lord.”³

Catholics are not required to believe in even the most approved and venerated private revelations, but many of us choose to do so. Does this battle relate to the famous discourse Pope Leo XIII was alleged to have heard in a vision between Christ and Satan, which led him to compose the prayer to St. Michael? (*See left.*) How long the final battle will last, and what will come after?

It is impossible to know. But the notion that there is at this very moment a battle taking place for the heart of the Church and the souls of the faithful is no longer in dispute.

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¹<http://rorate-caeli.blogspot.com/2015/06/cardinal-what-sister-lucia-told-me.html?m=1>

²<http://www.fisheaters.com/apparitions.html#success>

³<http://www.ewtn.com/library/MARY/AKITA.HTM>

SAVE *the* DATE

2016
Gathering
April 15-17



Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Marriott at Eagle Crest

forming young adults into
INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES of Jesus Christ.



Is your parish or diocese looking for a dynamic young adult discipleship and evangelization program? For more information about how you can bring Renewal Ministries' young adult ministry, i.d.9:16, to your parish or diocese email:

Pete Burak | Pete@id916.com

Watch the Monthly Disciples Night LIVE
THURSDAY • SEPTEMBER 3 at 7:40 p.m. EDT
id916.com

WILL YOU HELP US *save souls?*

Speak to souls about this great mercy while it is still the time for granting mercy.

DIARY OF ST. FAUSTINA #635

Now is the time when mercy is being extended to the world. But this time will come to an end and the Lord will return in glory to judge the living and the dead. Souls are perishing. Time is of the essence. Laborers and resources are very limited.

You can help save souls when you include Renewal Ministries in your will. A bequest made to Renewal Ministries will make it possible for us to reach more souls with the Gospel through radio, television and missionary service.

Please consider making an investment with eternal rewards. For more information or sample language, please contact:

Gary Seromik
gseromik@renewalministries.net
734-662-1730 ext. 21.



DO NOT REFUSE HIM WHO IS SPEAKING

By Sr. Ann Shields, SGL



I want to speak to you today as if I were your mother or grandmother. I want to prepare your hearts for the coming trials. Let's begin by focusing on the Scripture which speaks of God's unshakable kingdom:

See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less shall we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. His voice then shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates **the removal of what is shaken, as of what has been made, in order that what cannot be shaken may remain.** Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire. Heb 12:25-29 (RSV)

First, we need to distinguish what is shakable from what is unshakable. The aspects of our lives that are founded in Christ are unshakable. The shakable are the many things that work against us: our sins, our weaknesses, and our selfishness.

Neither you nor I know what's coming down the pike. The best thing we can do is be very clear about what is shakable in us and do something about it in Christ. So that when that day comes, we will not be shaken.

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...

*The shakable
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and our selfishness.*

We really have to look at our vulnerabilities. And we have to look at our sins. Not that we are going to eliminate them completely. But knowing them guards us against the work of the enemy because he always goes after what is shakable. Always. He weakens us and he frightens us. And he angers us. And all of our energy goes to dealing with those things rather than what God wants us to deal with.

There are times when I know I have fallen. But I remember one powerful experience when I stood for the Gospel and the effect that it had. I was in a very long Customs line. In the line next to me was a man cursing and swearing about all kinds of things just in normal conversation with other people. He kept using the Lord's name in vain. This went on for a good 10 minutes.

Finally, I said to myself, "Well what are you going to do about this? Is God asking you to do anything about this?" I honestly felt pushed to walk over to him and say, "The name you are using so freely is the name of the one I love most in the world. God is the one I love most in the world and I would appreciate it if you would not speak of Him that way." Utter silence followed. I went back and just stood in my line.

I took that one opportunity and since then it has been a lot easier. I didn't



have to criticize him. I didn't have to get angry. I didn't have to condemn. All I had to do was tell him what the name meant to me. I hope I see him in heaven. I hope it made a difference.

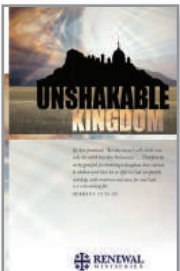
Are we ashamed of the Gospel? Are we ashamed of the truth? How many people are lost because we are silent? Some years ago, the Lord showed me hundreds of thousands of souls being lost because there was no one speaking. There was no one witnessing.

It takes time. We all have our vulnerabilities. We all have our weak spots. We need wisdom and discernment; when to do it, how to do it. But you can discern right into the grave and do nothing.

We have known God's love. We have known his mercy. It is incredibly good news – news that the world needs. It doesn't know it needs it. The world rejects the thing it most needs because it's blind and deaf.

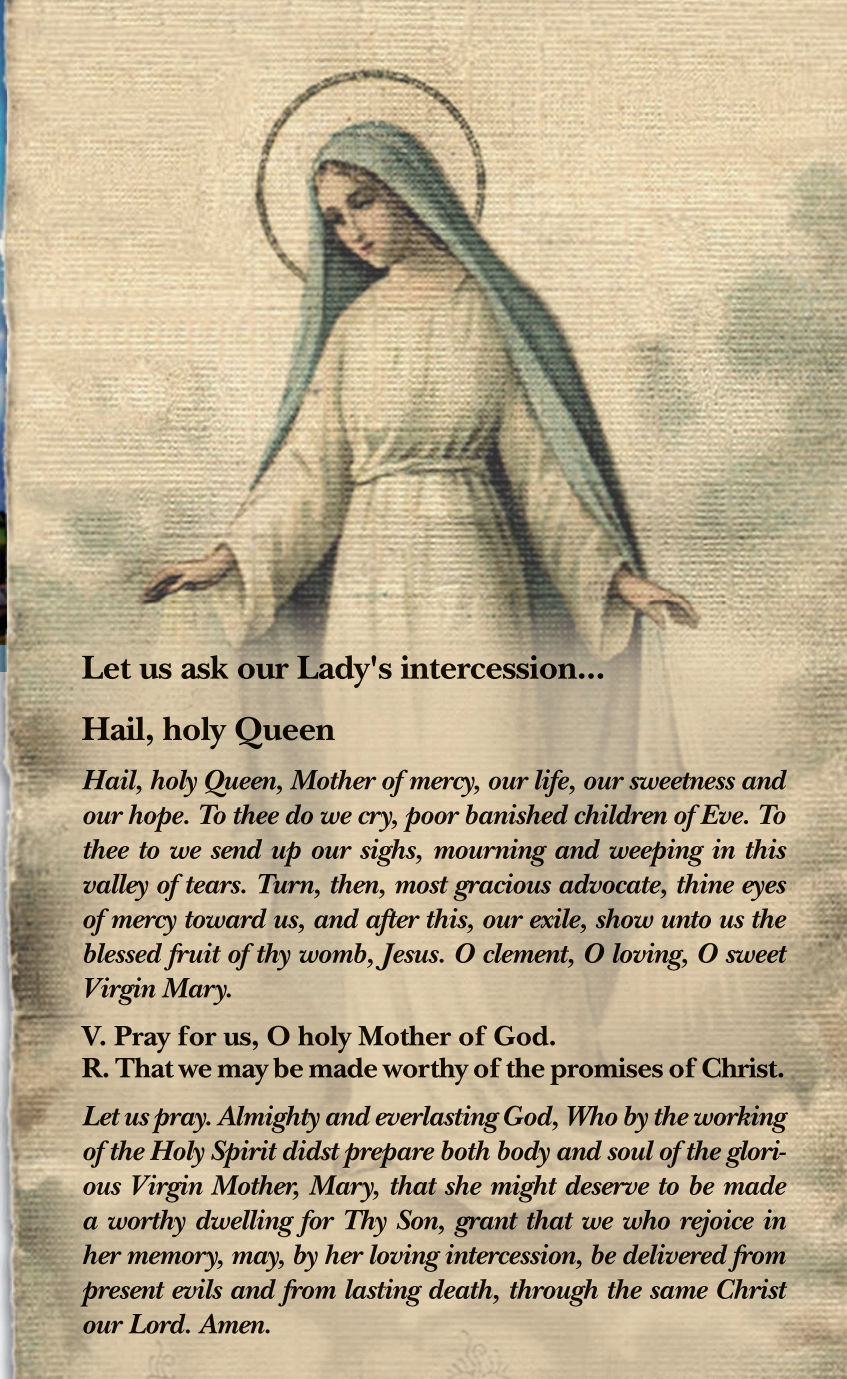
But if you are living the life that you profess to live, if you really are living it in your daily life, you literally become light in the darkness. You don't see it. You're the last one to see it. You will become light in the darkness. As it gets darker your light will shine out more and lives will be changed. ✝

For an inspiring testimony on trusting God during shaking times, watch "Miriam's Story and Song." Here is a link to YouTube: m.youtube.com/watch?v=_ige6CcXuMg



Editor's note:

This article is an excerpt from the talk Sr. Ann gave at the Renewal Ministries' 2015 Gathering. Her entire talk is available in the *Unshakable Kingdom* CD and DVD sets. For more information, see the enclosed order form.



Let us ask our Lady's intercession...

Hail, holy Queen

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee to we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, Who by the working of the Holy Spirit didst prepare both body and soul of the glorious Virgin Mother, Mary, that she might deserve to be made a worthy dwelling for Thy Son, grant that we who rejoice in her memory, may, by her loving intercession, be delivered from present evils and from lasting death, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

“ We have known God’s love.
We have known his mercy.
It is incredibly good news –
news that the world needs. ”



Spreading the Gospel in Romania

By Tibi Majoros

COUNTRY COORDINATOR
for ROMANIA



Tibi is the founder of the community of St. Paul Oradea and the administrator of Foundation Missio. He began collaborating with Renewal Ministries in 1998, promoting and pioneering the work of evangelization in Hungary and Romania. Each year Tibi organizes evangelistic events, Holy Spirit seminars, youth camps, retreats and rallies, and helps to form young leaders.

He and his wife Martha live in Oradea, Romania with their three teenage sons.

This mission was a cooperative effort between Renewal Ministries, a youth organization called Keresztirany and the diocesan youth director. The team members were seven young adults from “Youth Island,” a 10-month apostolic school of evangelization. I had met them a few months earlier when I spent several days teaching and training them.

The trip included participating in a regional youth evangelization conference in Cluj and meeting with youth in Varlak, Oradea, Petreu and Valea lui Mihai. It also included a short visit to an orphanage in Belfir.

One of the most touching moments was in the orphanage, where God broke our hearts. We brought some food, spent a few hours there playing, praying a bit with them, speaking a bit about Jesus. Probably it was one of the best things we ever did in our life.

A highlight was the team building trip with the “animators,” a group of young helpers from all corners of the diocese. We wanted them to spend time with the seven from “Youth Island” to see what it means to follow Jesus, have a regular prayer life, and serve the Lord. We spent a day together. They had time to ask questions, to talk personally, to play together. In the end they became friends. My intention was to go deep, not just entertain them. My prayers were answered. Hopefully, these 24 teens will be leaven for other youth in the diocese.



The mission team visited an orphanage in Belfir. It is home for about 20 children of varying ages, from quite young children to about 12th graders. The group sang with the children, twisted balloons into various shapes and played group games.

It was a joyful day for them.



The team members enjoyed the view from the top of a hill in a mountain region not far from Oradea.

In addition to achieving the mission objectives, my young team members grew in their faith. Here are some of their testimonies:

Czumbil Timi:

"During the mission in Erdély I had many fears and temptations. I felt that neither my testimonies, nor my ministries were even remotely as good as the others'. But looking back I've learnt that it doesn't matter how I see, or feel. God is the one who put the things that I talk about in my life. This is exactly why these things can touch other people's lives, and in such situations we have to make a decision in faith, and step out to tell people what we've experienced with God. I've also experienced the Holy Spirit using me, regardless of what I felt, through a little idea."

Holt Sebastian:

"God did quite a big miracle while we were in Oradea. Thursday we were leaving for Monospetri, but the forecast was for rain there. So we prayed. Honestly we didn't say any big words, it wasn't even a long prayer. It was kind of like, "God it can rain as much as it wants here, but we don't want to see any rain where we are going"...and there was no rain. It was amazing to see and experience, how seriously God takes things when we go somewhere for Him, and how real is the statement that he will confirm our preaching with signs and miracles."

Simon Évike:

"For me these few days were very useful, because they gave me the opportunity to use what I've learnt in the Apostolic School of Evangelization in a spontaneous manner. I've grown especially in the prayers before the ministries. It meant a lot that we had a common prayer life. On the other hand I've also experienced that if God in my personal prayer showed me how He wanted to use me and what He wanted to say through me, He also responded to these. He shows me who to love and how to love him or her on that day, or who to talk to and what to talk to them about, and how to act in the group."

Szöke Bogi:

"During the week I learnt that I shouldn't expect acknowledgment from the people, but from God. The world's lie is that we have to achieve some kind of result or success, to be able to call ourselves valuable. God has created us valuable to start with and we don't have to prove anything, because in His eyes we are valuable as we are, and as such we have to spend time with Him, to be able to believe that we have many treasures in ourselves."

On the Road

September 2015 ENGAGEMENTS

Ogdensburg, NY
Companions of the Cross Annual Retreat*
September 1-4
Ralph Martin

Ann Arbor, MI
i.d. 9:16 Disciples' Night
September 3
Join us via livestream: id916.com/live
Contact: pete@id916.com

Ann Arbor, MI
The Choices We Face Taping*
September 8-22
Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck

Detroit, MI
Archdiocese of Detroit Priests Retreat*
September 14-16
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL,
Peter Herbeck, Debbie Herbeck

Ann Arbor, MI
i.d. 9:16 Fall Summit
September 18
Pete Burak
Contact: pete@id916.com

Mason, MI
St. James Parish Day of Reflection
September 26
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
Contact: 517-676-9111

Ann Arbor, MI
Country Coordinator Meeting*
September 30 - October 3
Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck,
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL

Davison, MI
St. John the Evangelist, Fatima Apostolate
October 3
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
810-653-2377

Des Moines, IA
Clergy Convocation*
October 4-7
Ralph Martin

West St. Paul, MN
St. Joseph Parish Men's Conference
October 10
Peter Herbeck
Contact: 651-457-2781

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

MISSIONS

Mozambique
September 3-10
St. Lucia
September 20-27
Slovakia/Czech Republic
October 8-23
Serbia
October 15-18
Rwanda
October 25-November 9
Mexico
October 18-24

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

Please Pray...

- ✚ That catechists may give witness by living in a way consistent with the faith they proclaim.
- ✚ That the family will be rediscovered as the essential agent in the work of evangelization.
- ✚ For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

“ *There is no evil to be faced that Christ does not face with us. There is no enemy that Christ has not already conquered. There is no cross to bear that Christ has not already borne for us, and does not now bear with us.* ” Pope St. John Paul II

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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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