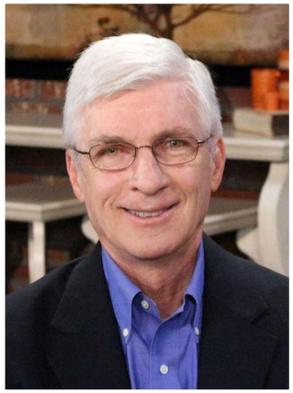




RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Catholic Renewal and Evangelization

APRIL 2020



A letter ▶
from Ralph Martin

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

AT LAST WE'RE IN APRIL!

For those of us who live in northern climates, this is a very welcome development.

The long hours of darkness, cloudy skies, periodic snow, and lower temperatures give way to more daylight, rising temperatures, and more sunshine. Also, April just happens to be the month when Easter happens this year. And the resurrection of Jesus is the greatest, most positive, and most welcome development the world has ever seen! Jesus truly is the “light of the world,” and he who walks in the light of Jesus will never see darkness or death (Jn 8:12). As Jesus said, even if we see physical death, we will not be dead but introduced into a life of unimaginable splendor free of all suffering, pain, sin, and sorrow.

Only in Jesus are the root miseries of the human race overcome: sin, death, suffering, sickness, demonic oppression, hatred, lust, greed, injustice, betrayal, abuse, oppression, and the list goes on.

The really Good News is that Jesus is reaching out his hands and heart to the whole human race, offering to us a share in this amazing existence—the life of glory. We need only to take his hand, and rest on his heart, and allow Him to take us with Him back to paradise, back to the Father’s house, where He has prepared a place for us! Amazing. Truly too wonderful for words. Let’s rejoice in our amazing blessing of being given the gift of faith in Jesus, and let’s continue to witness to Him and pray for others to respond to this amazing grace and amazing love.

Recently, the Renewal Ministries’ family had the joy of seeing one of our mission team members made a bishop! Msgr. Robert McClory, a priest in the Archdiocese

of Detroit, and pastor of the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, was named the fifth bishop of Gary, Indiana. Bishop McClory went to law school at the University of Michigan here in Ann Arbor, and we all got connected at that time.

continued on page 2



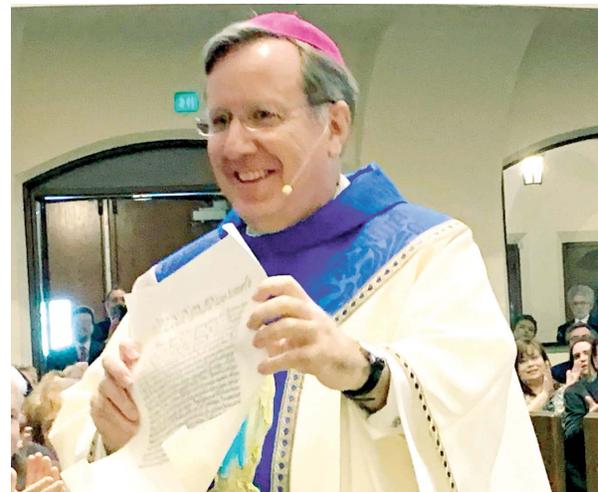
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Coronavirus: A Different Perspective
Page 3

Fr. Jonathan Meyer,
Being Prepared
Page 4

Spreading the Gospel in Romania
Page 6

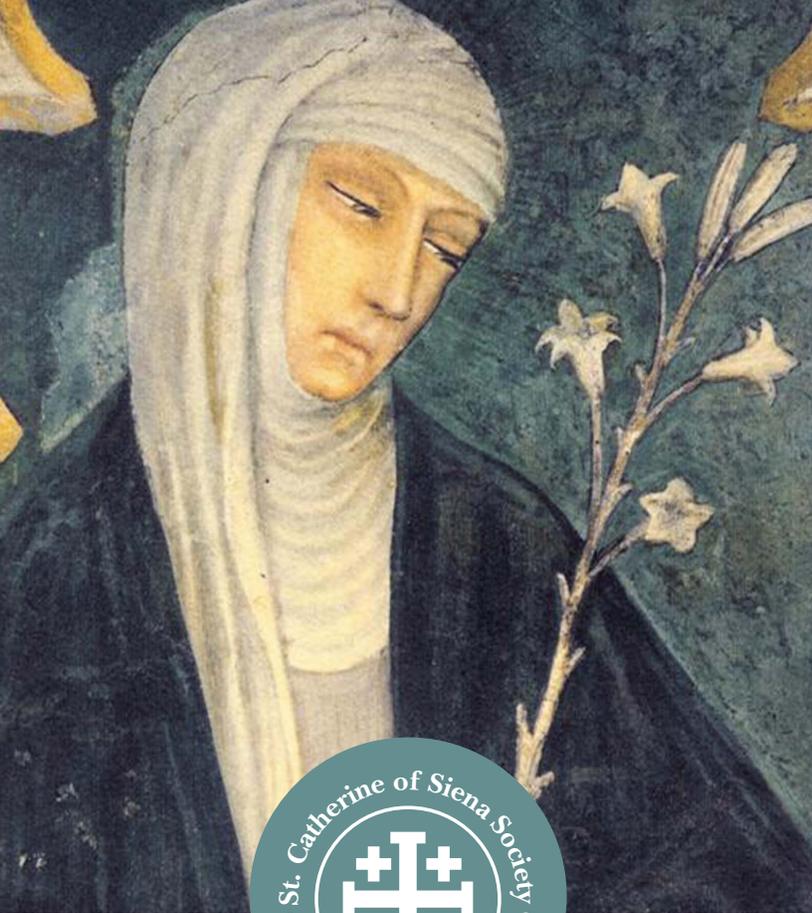
On the Road
Page 8



Msgr. Robert McClory's installation as bishop of Gary, Indiana:

- 🕒 Holding a letter from the pope.
- 🗣️ Speaking to the crowd after his installation.





For the same reasons you support Renewal Ministries now, would you consider remembering us in your will?

LEAVE A LEGACY OF FAITH

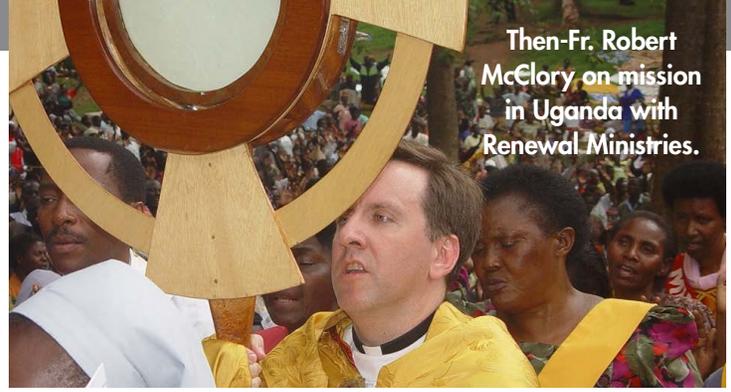
One significant way you can help ensure Renewal Ministries' continued work of Catholic Renewal and Evangelization is to join the St. Catherine of Siena Society by designating us as a beneficiary in your will or trust.

For more information, please contact Heather Schultz:

☎ 734-662-1730, ext. 130

✉ hschultz@renewalministries.net

RenewalMinistries.net/plannedgiving



Then-Fr. Robert McClory on mission in Uganda with Renewal Ministries.

Continued from page 1

He went on mission trips with us to Eastern Europe and Africa, and we kept in contact all these years. Peter and Debbie Herbeck, along with Anne and I, were invited to his ordination ceremonies and celebrations and were able to rejoice with him at the new responsibility he has been given. Let's pray for him to continue to be guided by the Holy Spirit!

In this issue, you'll read a report on our Romanian missions, which don't see the "big numbers" that some of our missions see, but which are very beautiful and very fruitful in a humble and holy way. We are inspired by the perseverance and faithfulness of our country coordinator in Romania, Tiberius Majoros.

You'll also read about the wonderful story of a young priest who is making significant headway in leading his parish to holiness and mission.

In this issue, you'll also see information, an "ad," for our St. Catherine of Siena Society. I know many of our supporters are at the point in their lives when they think of their wills. It would be a great grace and encouragement to know that we are remembered in your wills. We have several generations of leadership now working in our mission and hope that this work can continue far into the future, as the Lord provides.

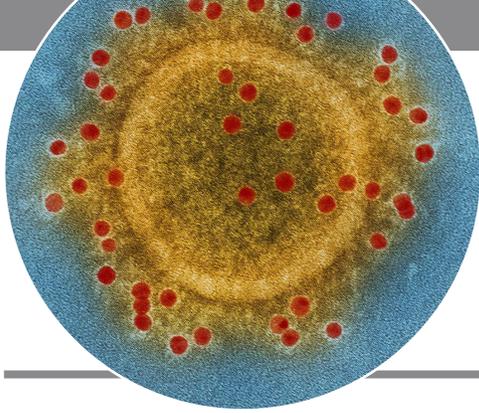
Thanks for your perseverance and faithfulness.

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

Ralph

P.S. Registration for the Renewal Ministries' 2020 Gathering is temporarily suspended due to the unprecedented issues we are all facing with the coronavirus. Please bear with us as we determine options going forward. Stay up to date by visiting our website at www.RenewalMinistries.net/gathering. On the following page, I have included some thoughts on the current coronavirus pandemic.



CORONAVIRUS: A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

The following was taken from a recent staff meeting where Ralph discussed how we should respond to current fears surrounding the coronavirus.

Knowing God's love for us, knowing his promise to us, knowing He will never forsake us, knowing that the promises in Luke 12:22-30 and Matthew 6:26-33 are rock-solid frees us and gives us confidence to say,

**"The Lord is my helper.
I will not be afraid.**

What can human beings do to me?"
[Hebrews 13:5-6]

Of course, that is really relevant right now regarding the coronavirus fear. There's a whole tendency for fear to grip us individually, to grip the whole world, and to grip the culture. Yet Hebrews 2:14-15 says: "Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil who through the fear of death kept the human race in bondage."

One of the things the devil uses is fear. I suspect he has a plan right now to use the fear that's going on. One of the things that fear is a symptom of and is rooted in is ultimately a fear of death: a fear of not having enough, a fear of bodily harm, a fear of not being loved, a fear of being abandoned . . . a fear that we'll run out of money, a fear that we'll be fired from our job, a fear about retirement, a fear about the future, a fear about the past, a fear about past sins coming out, a fear about how we're going to handle today. There are just all kinds of fears, and most are deeply rooted in the fear of not being, of not having enough, of not being able to be.

Jesus came to destroy that fear. For a Christian, Jesus says, "Even if you die, you will not die." The hope of the resurrection defeats fear. Jesus has conquered death. For Christians, death is no longer the end. For non-Christians, for people who reject the Word of God, for people who persist in unbelief and refusal to repent, something worse than physical death awaits—the second death, eternal separation from God in the lake of fire. Those are the images that Scripture uses.

For a Christian, physical death is transformation into freedom from suffering, freedom from fear, perfect love, perfect communion, perfect well-being, risen bodies, no more dying. A Christian can't lose. Whether we live, whether we die, we can't lose. And so Paul is conflicted, he says it's better to be with the Lord, but it's really good to serve you now. **It's all in the hands of the Lord. The Lord wants to free us from death. He even wants to free us from the fear of getting the coronavirus, or any kind of virus, or any kind of other illness. He wants to free us from the fear of death.**



Join us for **RENEWAL MINISTRIES' ANNUAL GATHERING**

JESUS
Light
OF THE WORLD

April 25, 2020
YPSILANTI • MICHIGAN

The theme of this year's Gathering, "Jesus, Light of the World," focuses on the hope and encouragement so needed today! Circumstances don't have to control us—no matter how difficult or scary things might seem. We can find confidence, hope, and joy in Jesus' words:

*"I am the light of the world;
he who follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life."*

(Jn 8:12)

**IMPORTANT:
CORONAVIRUS & THE GATHERING**

*We are working out options for the 2020 Gathering.
For the latest details, visit www.RenewalMinistries.net/gathering
or email Kathleen Kittle at kkittle@renewalministries.net.*



Fr. Jonathan Meyer, the pastor of All Saints Parish in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, gained national attention in the wake of the 2019 March for Life incident regarding boys from Covington Catholic High School, after sharing a homily entitled, “Are your Catholic sons ready to battle?” (The original homily can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbFP5p571CE.)

Below, we have condensed his 2020 The Choices We Face interview with Ralph Martin.

BEING PREPARED

RALPH MARTIN » **Tell us your story.**

FR. JONATHAN MEYER » I was born and raised Catholic, but the faith never meant much to me. When I was a college sophomore, some nondenominational Christian friends invited me to events. I finally went to a praise and worship session, where I experienced the love of God for the first time in my life in a very real and profound way. I was moved to tears, and I heard God speak very clearly to me:

“John, be a priest.”

I had never considered the priesthood. I had a girlfriend, and I was like, “What is this?” I tried to sneak out, because I’d been crying. This young lady I knew from class followed me out and asked, “John, have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior? Do you know who Jesus is?”

I said, “Listen—I say the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be every night before bed. I think I’m good.”

It was really a working of God at that moment. She looked me straight in the eyes, and she said, “John, you have no idea who Jesus is.”

She walked away, and I still remember that feeling. I went home, and my heart was just burning with love for the Lord. I had two questions:

1 Did God really just call me to be a priest?

2 Do I know who Jesus is?

I joined a men’s Bible study and prayer group, and I kept going to weekly praise and worship sessions. I fell madly in love with our Lord. By the end of that year, I changed my group of friends, and a knee injury ended my running career, but the idea of priesthood wouldn’t leave me. So, I broke up with my girlfriend and entered St. John Vianney Seminary in Minnesota.

At this point, I had never really been catechized. I was pro-choice. I had no idea that Jesus was present in the Blessed Sacrament. I had never prayed a rosary. And yet I had gone to church every Sunday.

At seminary, I was surrounded by tremendous brothers. I wanted to be a priest, because I wanted to convert Catholics to accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. My life was so radically changed by prayer, by praise and worship music, and by daily encountering the Lord in the Word of God. I looked at my Catholic friends, and none of them had Jesus. And then at seminary, I encountered Jesus’ Church and was set on fire with the beauty of the sacraments and the beauty of truth. I remember one day, I saw twenty seminarians holding signs that said: “God loves your baby.” “Pro-Life.” “Pray for the Unborn.”

I thought,

“Catholics are pro-life?”

I’d never known. I’d never heard a pro-life homily in all my life. So I went to the library and just started researching, “What does the Catholic Church teach about abortion and why?”

The first few months of seminary were a deep immersion into what the Church teaches, and then I was like,

“Jesus Christ is amazing, and his Church is amazing! It’s a both/and!”

RALPH » Your homily (about the Covington boys) was inspiring. The Scripture passage that came to mind was if the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who is going to come to battle (1 Cor 14:8)? The Church is full of uncertain trumpet sounds, and so few people are coming to battle, so few people are holding on to their faith. We need to prepare our people, we need to prepare ourselves to hold our positions in the face of tremendous pressure to deny certain aspects of the faith, different aspects of what it means to be a human being. Marriage and family are under attack. Basic male/female identity is under attack. Sexual morality is thrown by the wayside. Honoring God, and worshipping Him, and adoring Him is missing in action, so it was refreshing to hear you talk in that way.

FR. JONATHAN » I’m constantly blessed by people who say, “Thank you for saying what I believed but haven’t found anyone else saying.” The culture may not want the truth out there, but there are a lot of people’s hearts that do.

RALPH » Please share what you’re doing to strengthen young people.

FR. JONATHAN » Our young people have to be fortified if we want them to have a future in the faith and in the

Church. We have to teach them to be men and women of great faith and great prayer. I've devoted a huge part of my priesthood and life to trying to form young disciples.

I've been actively involved in the catechesis and formation of young people. I also coach cross country and track at the local public high school.

RALPH » The public high school allows a priest to coach?

FR. JONATHAN » It does. I believe individuals are just looking for anyone who wants to help young people. So many people in our society and culture have given up on the youth, and our public institutions are looking for good people who want to help. I often say, "Your best ability is your availability." I've made myself available. I've been coaching in the public schools nine years, and it's been a great blessing. We've had individuals baptized. We've also had whole families come into the Church.

I don't have my Bible out at practice; it's not appropriate. But I wear my clerics or cassocks into and out of the school, and I wear my collar and pants when I am actively coaching at meets. It changes the demeanor of the team.

RALPH » Pope Francis is calling us to be on the peripheries. Public high school is a periphery. Young people are a periphery. You're there, welcoming them—not with some kind of, "I'm OK, you're OK" mindset—but through your witness, your counsel, and your example, to an encounter with Jesus Christ.

Tell me about your training with young people last summer.

FR. JONATHAN » We as Catholics so often defend the faith. But if we want to form evangelists, why aren't we teaching our high school kids to walk up to other high school kids and say, "Why don't you believe every child conceived in the womb should receive the same rights and dignity as us? Why do you believe that artificial contraception is good for marriage?"

RALPH » What would you say to the average Catholic who is suffering right now, wondering what's going on in the Church and why is no one else saying what you are saying?

FR. JONATHAN » I'd say what you're feeling is right. You should feel hurt and abandoned, because oftentimes that might be where you're at—when you look at it from one perspective.

I also would say Jesus is in your parish church tabernacle, Jesus is in your next reception of Holy Communion, and that will never change. We need to be people of tremendous prayer, because our intimate relationship with Christ that we find in prayer and in silence should never be affected by the sins of priests or the scandals of bishops.

I encourage people during times like this to turn more and more to prayer, the rosary, and time in Adoration—and that is where we will find our peace.

RALPH » And when there is confusion about what is true, we have the Catechism of the Catholic Church—a reliable transmission of what Jesus has given us in Scripture and Tradition to help us understand what the Church teaches.

FR. JONATHAN » We do. At the base of all of this, Jesus Christ became man, He died for us, and He sent us to go make disciples. No matter what's happening in the Church, your next-door neighbor still needs to be loved and your neighbor who doesn't know Jesus needs to know Jesus.

RALPH » We need to know Jesus more ourselves. When people ask me, how could you stay in the Catholic Church, I say there's a Scripture passage that makes a lot of sense to me: "We have this treasure in earthen vessels" (2 Cor 4:7). One contemporary translation says, "cracked pots." So, yes, the containers for the treasure sometimes leak—they're cracked—but the treasure's still the treasure. Jesus is still the treasure of the Catholic Church.

FR. JONATHAN MEYER'S

"Bare Necessities" for a life of faith:



1

Are you spending at least ten minutes a day in silence? If not, open your heart.



2

Where is the rosary in your life? Spend time meditating on Scripture with the Blessed Virgin Mary.



3

Can you attend one daily Mass a week, if you're not attending daily Mass at all? Or increase your attendance by a day if you already attend daily Mass?



4

Come back to Confession! No matter how long it's been, the Lord's waiting for you in the sacrament, and He loves you very much.



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 is also the former president of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Transylvania. Tibi began collaborating with Renewal Ministries in 1998, promoting and pioneering the work of evangelization in Hungary and Romania. Each year, he 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 sons.



Spreading the GOSPEL in Romania

For the first time, we recently focused our mission work on areas in northwestern Romania, where renewal and evangelization are virtually absent. We worked in three small towns—Valea lui Mihai, Tasnad, and Simleul Silvaniei, which each have between 8,000 and 14,000 inhabitants—and in the smaller locality of Tarcea. In Tasnad and Simleul Silvaniei, we had to start from ground zero. In the other two localities, we found a few people open to working with us.

We began by visiting these groups with a certain regularity. Later, we tried to encourage them with the greatest faith, and to train them to work with people when we were not available. Having local helpers proved to be a good idea. They helped the local group grow spiritually stronger, and some of these brothers and sisters were able to use their newly acquired skills to serve in other places.

In Tasnad and Simleul Silvaniei, the strategy was different. In each place, we organized an evangelization event followed by a prayer ministry time. Our hope was that this would give people an opportunity to encounter God, and that they would become thirsty for more. We were greeted with open arms in each of these places. Both parish priests were very encouraging. After the evangelization events, in each place, over forty people of all ages signed up for a follow-up seminar!

In Tasnad, almost all of the participants were very open and finished the ten-week-long seminar. In Simleu, only half of the participants finished the seminar. In each city, a group formed after the seminar—with over twenty people in Tasnad and eight in Simleu. Now we have four groups in those areas.

GROWING IN FAITH

The first fruit I want to mention is that the team I worked with experienced immense growth. Racz Rozalia is a good example. At the beginning, she only helped us lead small group talks. She was happy, and she felt useful. A turning point came during the time of prayer ministry in the fifth week, when we ask the Holy Spirit to come into the participants' hearts. It was her first time doing prayer ministry. She received a short training beforehand and become the third member of a prayer team. During their time of prayer for participants, she had thoughts come into her mind, but she had no courage to say them out loud. However, when the religious sister in her group said a prophecy, Rozalia was surprised, because she had the same thought in her mind. It happened again and again. Finally, Rozalia got some courage and spoke something out loud. The person was so touched, she could not stop thanking God and Rozalia for those words! Rozalia flourished. Usually she is a quiet, balanced lady who does not talk much, but on the way home, she could not stop talking. She never thought that God could use her! Since then, she has become a permanent member of our team. Praise the Lord!



Prayer ministry teams prayed with seminar participants in Tasnad.

MINISTERING TO SENIORS

The second thing I want to mention is about the senior brothers. Over the last decade or so, I have worked primarily with youth—even though I never felt that I have a special calling just for youth. I have told people that it doesn't matter to me whether somebody is seventeen or seventy—all of them need Jesus! This year, I worked with a lot of people in an older age bracket, and it was a good experience!

In Tasnad, I learned that, just as the best way to reach young people is with other young people, the best way to reach an older group of people is also with people their age. The priest in Tasnad gave me a group of seniors to work with for the ten-week session, and the helper they most wanted to accompany me was Boer Magdi, a retired woman who has been widowed twice. They were amazed how full of fire she is—she has gone through so much and yet is balanced, happy, and serves the Lord. She is a person like them, but with Christ, she lives so differently.

One of the participants in Valea lui Mihai said it this way:

“I was religious all my life, and attended the church each Sunday, but after the seminar . . . everything changed.”

The participants encountered God in a way they never had before, and they live now in a personal relationship with Jesus they never had imagined was possible.

CONVERSION LEADS TO SERVICE

The group in Tarcea is really converted—trying to follow the Lord, reading the Bible, and thirsty for more. Three hours was barely enough for us to pray with them in the chapel, even though Tarcea is a poor village, and therefore the chapel was cold in February. The worship time was more than two hours, not because they are good singers, but because they couldn't stop. They knew only a few songs, but it didn't matter. In a short break between songs, I shared a testimony about how good God was to me in the previous week. As soon as I finished, the next person began talking about how wonderful Jesus had been to them that week! When she finished, a new testimony came. We would sing one more song, new testimonies would be shared, and so on.

During weekdays, when these brothers go out to the fields to work, they now gather for a short time to pray and worship. It does not matter what the others around them think. They also visit the poorest people in the village. One woman had nobody to take care of her; she was almost black with dirt. They washed her and cleaned her house. One of them washed all of her clothes.

When they got a new parish priest who no one in the village liked, this group decided to love and accept him. When they helped with a parish feast day event that no one else would help with, the priest was so impressed with their work

that he talked about this group and thanked them again and again in front of all the priests who were present. The way he spoke changed the opinion of a priest who had been against the renewal. Now, by the grace of the Lord, the next Holy Spirit seminar will be organized in his parish!

A SKEPTIC'S PRAYER

The best story happened when a local religious teacher, Arnold, joined the Tasnad seminar at his priest's request. He was reserved and skeptical. When we prayed for an outpouring of the Spirit, I said something about this being the day when you need to be open for the gifts God wants to give you. He thought, “I will test God; I will ask for a few things.” He made a mental list of five things. When he received prayer, the prayer leader said: “The Lord wants to give you something today. The Lord gives you this . . . and that . . .” She told him exactly the five things he had asked the Lord for fifteen minutes earlier. The two had never seen each other before. Arnold later said in his testimony that he had never thought something like this was possible. He encountered God like never before, and now he is one of the leaders in his community. Praise the Lord!

After this evangelization event in Tasnad, over forty participants, thirsty for more, signed up for the follow-up ten-week seminar!



On the Road

APRIL 2020 ENGAGEMENTS

IMPORTANT:

The following events may be re-scheduled or canceled. For the most up-to-date info, please visit the website associated with each event, or contact the organizer.

Canton, MI Women's Catholic Bible Study at St. John Neumann

April 2
Pete Burak
Contact: Michelle Green at
mpg734@att.net

Fremont, NE St. Patrick's Parish Mission on Healing and the Holy Spirit

April 3-4
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: www.stpatsfremont.org

Grosse Pointe Farms, MI St. Paul on the Lake Encounter Series

April 19
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: www.stpaulonthelake.org/encounter

St. Paul, MN Catechetical Institute School of Discipleship*

April 21
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: semssp.org/ci/events-and-opportunities/school-of-discipleship

San Francisco, CA Legatus*

April 22
Pete Burak

Napa Valley, CA Legatus*

April 23
Pete Burak

Ypsilanti, MI Renewal Ministries' Gathering

April 25
Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields, Pete Burak, Debbie Herbeck
Details: renewalministries.net/gathering

Netherlands CCR Netherlands' Celebrate Festival

April 26-27
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: <https://celebratefestival.nl/programma>

Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana Legatus*

April 28
Ralph Martin

Please Pray...

For all of those in leadership positions within the Church, and all people of faith, that when necessary, they may have the courage to be a sign of contradiction in this world.

For families to be strengthened and brought closer to the Lord and each other.

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



We are at war.

We are in a spiritual war. Our enemy is Satan and his minions. Our weapons are the cross of Christ and the grace and mercy that flows from His pierced side as blood and water.

In this war, Jesus encourages us, telling us to trust in his mercy and know that the victory is always on our side.

// Dr. Peter Kreeft

* 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.

CONNECT ↔ WITH US...



Visit our website— www.renewalministries.net for programs, blog, contact info, resources, & more!

Download the Renewal Ministries' App for easy access to all of the above Renewal Ministries' content and so much more!

Editor

Heather Schultz

Design

Emily Bachelor

© 2020 by Renewal Ministries

www.renewalministries.net

P.O. Box 491 Ann Arbor, MI 48106 phone 734-662-1730

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