



RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Catholic Renewal and Evangelization

JULY 2020



A letter ▶ from Ralph Martin

“ Deepen your knowledge of Jesus. This ends loneliness, overcomes sadness and uncertainty, gives real meaning to life, curbs passions, exalts ideals, expands energies in charity, brings light into decisive choices. Let Christ be for you the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

//St. John Paul II

Dearly Beloved!

Yes, absence makes the heart grow fonder. Not being able to see so many of you from time to time at conferences, our annual Gathering, or periodic visits, is being felt! I'm sure many of you are feeling the same thing if you are in a super locked-down state, like we are in Michigan. Hopefully by the time you receive this, we will be able to see each other more.

In the meantime, as usual, God has brought some great blessings through the trial He is allowing us to experience. We normally have between three-hundred and four-hundred people join us in Ann Arbor for our annual Gathering, which is a great reunion for faithful friends and supporters that we very much look forward to. At the same time, there is always the awareness that some of our most faithful friends and supporters have never been able to be with us for various reasons.

And so this year, while disappointed that we could not gather in person, we were “blown away” by how powerful our live-streamed Gathering was and how many of our friends and supporters from all over the world were able to join us. Many weeks later, we are still getting letters and emails (and donations!) from people who were profoundly touched by the action of the Spirit through the live-streamed Gathering. I don't think I've ever read so many deeply heart-felt reports of what an event meant to so many people. We are profoundly grateful to the Lord for making this possible. It's like parched soil all over the world was refreshed by the living waters that somehow poured out from our local parish church and its great music ministry.

I can't tell you how much joy I felt when I saw person after person commenting on the “live chat” feature of our YouTube Channel transmission that they were with us, praying, rejoicing, singing, “communing” (even though virtual, it was very real!) with their brothers and sisters all over the world. Peter, Sr. Ann, and I have traveled extensively over the years, and what a joy it was to see dear servants of the Lord in Hong Kong, India, Ghana, Italy, Ireland, Malta, Hungary, the

Netherlands, the Philippines, China, and so many of our Canadian brothers and sisters we have known over the years, join us.

It really felt like a reunion of the far-flung Renewal Ministries' family. And we at “headquarters” feel very blessed to be part of such a family.

At a certain point in the Gathering, I did ask people, not to take anything away from their parish or any ministries they were supporting, but to give us, if they could, some of the “crumbs” from their table to help us continue our work. We were blown away by the “crumbs” that added up to a real help in being able to go on. It didn't cover the amount of money that we were down for the first three months of the year, but it was a tremendous boost, and we all felt the Lord was saying to us in your sacrificial giving:

“I'm with you; I'm going to provide.”

We've included as many of the responses to the Gathering into this newsletter that we could; they are so inspiring!

Many have suggested that we do live-streamed gatherings like this periodically, and we intend to. If you give us your email address, we will make sure you are notified. Just fill out the form enclosed with the physical newsletter or go to our website and sign up for our newsletter, and we will send you an email notification about the next live-streamed gathering.

Your grateful brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

Ralph Martin

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MAKING AN IMPACT

RESPONSES TO THE RENEWAL MINISTRIES VIRTUAL GATHERING

Out of necessity, we made this year's Gathering a virtual event, and we were amazed at the reach:

44,099
VIEWS

24,792
UNIQUE VIEWERS

22
COUNTRIES:

- 1 United States
- 2 Canada
- 3 United Kingdom
- 4 India
- 5 Australia
- 6 Ireland
- 7 Philippines
- 8 Malaysia
- 9 Malta
- 10 Hong Kong
- 11 Italy
- 12 Brazil
- 13 Germany
- 14 Grenada
- 15 Hungary
- 16 Trinidad & Tobago
- 17 Ghana
- 18 Bahamas
- 19 Indonesia
- 20 Mexico
- 21 New Zealand
- 22 South Africa

“I watched with friends in Michigan and Florida. We felt a powerful connection through this livestream. We were left nearly speechless with the power of God made manifest. The praise and worship was an indescribable gift! The teaching and conversation in the Spirit of Ralph and Peter remains to be plumbed to its depth. I have four pages of notes from the evening. Thanks be to God for more quiet time ahead—to listen for the Lord, to reflect, to seek.”

“It was a blessed time to enter into prayer, praise, and worship of our Lord and King. Also, a beautiful setting in Christ the King to join our hearts together. Ralph's word concerning what we most fear at the point of our own death spoke deeply and allowed the Lord to pierce my heart. Then to truly pray: ‘Jesus I trust in you.’”

“I watched the Gathering at work. I was blessed beyond blessed. I was moved to go to the roof of the office building where I work, to worship our Father in heaven. I was challenged, inspired by the Holy Spirit to surrender all to our God. I thank God for your faithfulness.”

“So many wonderful moments. I am so grateful! I saw a photo of the ‘Spirit of Detroit’ with a t-shirt that read, ‘Exhausted, but not defeated.’ That's how I feel as a family doctor in a pandemic—more calls, texts, emails, and Facebook messages than I ever dreamed of. But this faithful Gathering has repaired my spirit and reinvigorated my desire to not waste a moment of this opportunity to share Jesus!”

“It was wonderful to be able to ‘raise a Hallelujah’ with you all and share in the blessings of the Gathering. Thanks and praise to the Lord and all involved.”

“It was a pleasure and a privilege to participate in the Gathering last weekend. The entire evening was anointed. Congratulations for offering hope, courage, and good spiritual insight so appreciated during this challenging time.”

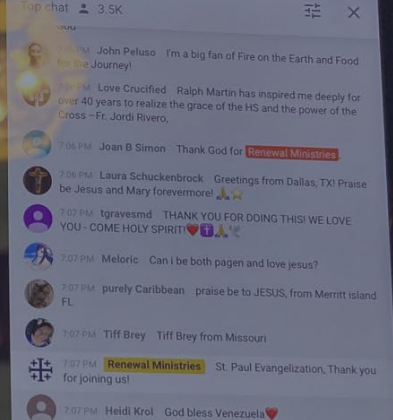
“The Scripture verses stirred many hearts, and debunked and washed away the anxieties, fears, reservations, doubts, anger, loneliness, and helplessness from this pandemic reality. The talks were intense, relevant, and inspiring!”

“Living for so many years in Mumbai, we have never been able to participate in such a fantastic event. Now that it is being offered free and live streamed, it has become a once-in-a-lifetime event. We pray for a mighty outpouring of grace over all who participate.”

“Thank you for this incredible, blessed evening in the power of the Holy Spirit! What a grace to pray and worship with brothers and sisters from all over the world! Thank you for your sensitivity to what the Spirit is telling you, and bringing it to us with such humility and grace!”

“The moment that touched me most was when all of us around the world joined hands in the Spirit and prayed for God's authority and glory to be manifest in the coming days against the virus in such a way that everyone realizes that God loves them and personally cares for them! The sensation of praying as one universal body brought me to tears!”

“I really enjoyed hearing the Lord speak to me via the Holy Spirit. I have the coronavirus . . . my heart has been touched by hearing, and taking my anxieties and fears and bringing them to the Lord. I did this though all of your gifts.”



“ Thank you all! We are still talking over some of the things we heard. For one thing, the need to look to Jesus and hew closely to his Word amid the conflicting voices, and . . . surrender ourselves and our loved ones to the protection and care of the Lord and our Blessed Mother. Be not afraid!”

“ What a great and powerful evening! The Holy Spirit was present! Lives were touched! You had very prophetic words—you challenged us all. We all need more praise, worship, and thanksgiving! It will overcome all these emotions that creep into our lives that take our eyes off of the Lord.”

“ Thank you for tonight's time of prayer, worship, and teaching! My spirit so needed it! Thank you for listening to that which was spoken to your heart! Being present, knowing that we all were one—the power of the Holy Spirit's anointing and presence was tangible!”

“ We watched the entire presentation, including the music ministry's offering after 9 p.m., and my wife's ninety-seven-year-old mother, who's in long-term care, joined us by phone to hear your talk. She has short-term memory issues and normally would be inundating us with questions; however, she remained silent while listening intently to you. We've thought she may be afraid of death, but your consoling words spoke volumes to her—and so many others. Thank you for that and for the blessed forty years of Renewal Ministries. You have, indeed, been a godsend.”

“ The talks and worship were so refreshing to the soul during these strange times. The Covid-19 cloud that hangs over us was removed, and we can see more clearly with spiritual eyes. ‘Oh death, where is your victory, where is your sting?’”

“ Lives were changed and souls were saved! The message was clear, concise, and definitely of the Lord. I was moved by your sincerity and much you said confirmed what the Lord has been saying to me. Thanks for sharing your hearts. We are so blessed to be a part of Renewal Ministries and can't wait to begin the mighty harvest!”

“ The Gathering was very powerful. I received very deeply from the Lord, not only through the anointed teachings, but the prayer experience at the end.”

“ **I was so enriched and inspired by the talks and music! How exciting to be part of such a large group of believers from all across the world.**”

When Ralph spoke, I was calmed. When Peter spoke, I was inspired. When the song played, *You Are My All in All*, I was uplifted. It eased the heavy anxiety I was feeling. Thank you for giving us hope, strengthening our faith, and reminding us God is in control.”

“ I watched the whole night and entered in to the prayer, praise, and repentance. It was wonderful. I live in Newfoundland and would never have been able to go. It was well done to open these encouraging talks to everyone. It takes great courage and great love to speak so plainly.”

“ We truly received so much grace from the Lord and know without a doubt your talks were Spirit-inspired. I personally try to endure my anxiety-ridden mind, which I have had for far too many years, but your talks went a long way to helping.”

“ Forty years, praise God! Thank you, Ralph, Peter, and all connected with Renewal Ministries for your steadfastness, fortitude, wisdom, and joy!”

“ **Thank you for embracing the unique time we are living in and for opening your annual Gathering to so many. It was a blessed time. Thank you also for the new YouTube updates you are posting . . . I stand in agreement with your exhortation that it is extremely important to take hold of this quiet time with the Lord and stay in deep communion with Him. It is critical to not miss this moment in time and prepare for what is coming.**”

“ Thank you! I was in a place of spiritual discouragement with all of the challenges we are facing as a parish and school. I now feel realigned with the Lord and am experiencing a profound deliverance from that discouragement, praise the Lord!”

“ The spiritual depth last night was something I hadn't experienced in years!”

“ Thank you from Hungary for the Gathering. It was such a great grace to have the opportunity to join you, listen to you, pray with you.”

“ ‘What the enemy means for harm, God will turn for good.’ Social distancing keeps everyone apart, but through the Internet, the whole world was reached with the Good News. The messages were anointed and so very valuable in times such as these and always.”

“ I'm sure you have already heard how amazing and wonderful your YouTube videos are, but I wanted to tell you how helpful they are for me. I just listened to the reflection on 1 Peter 5. I feel discouraged often as a mother and found this particular talk especially encouraging and helpful. I am passing all of these along as I hear them.”

“ **Our most heartfelt thanks goes to you for the wonderful Gathering and your leadership and encouragement during these crazy times we are living in. Your voice and words are needed and welcome for all of our souls as we try, by the grace of God, to navigate through these times, with the help of the Holy Spirit. There is a great ‘stripping and purification’ that the Lord is allowing in our hearts, minds, bodies, and souls these days . . . ‘If today you hear His voice harden not your hearts’ (Heb 3:15). From Nova Scotia, ‘Thank you and God bless you.’**”

“ On behalf of the management and staff of Shalom Media USA, I would like to convey our heartfelt thanks for our collaborative efforts on the live streaming of Renewal Ministries' fortieth year virtual gathering. The more than three-thousand views on (Shalom) Facebook alone attests to the outpouring of anointing on the Gathering. Praise God!”



WATCH IT!

If you missed the Gathering or want to watch it again, you can view it on our website at www.RenewalMinistries.net/gathering or on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/renewalministriesrm.

HOPE IN A TIME OF TRIAL

The following text is an abridged version of Peter Herbeck's recent Gathering talk.



It's so important for us to be able to see, in the midst of this great challenge, when nations and the Church are being shaken, that the Lord is not the source of this virus, but his permissive will has allowed this to happen.

One of the first things we saw when this began to expand was the human heart confronted by the power of death, which is outside of our control. You could see its effect: people filled with anxiety, fear, panic.

This began like a global Lent the Lord brought to the earth in the context of a battle. He took us off the treadmill—off the intensity of daily life—and brought us home, to the quiet, and out of the pattern of this world. The Lord is bringing us closer to Him. He is saying,

“Be still and know that I am God.”

The Lord wants to speak to us and prepare us for what lies ahead. He wants a deeper abiding. He wants to reveal more of Himself to us. He wants to talk to us about what He sees in us, what He wants to do in our lives, how He wants us to draw near to Him and find our stability and security in Him.

I recently was trying to tune my guitar. It requires quiet. You have to listen closely, so that as you're turning the keys, you can hear an exact point where the vibrations come together and the guitar is tuned. As I was doing that, I felt like the Lord said,

“This is why I've called you to the quiet. I want to attune your heart to mine, and it requires that you listen closely and really lean into it.”

It's not easy to hear clearly, and this is why the Lord is trying to bring about more silence in our lives.

There is a tendency for us to come out of the fast pace of life and simply replace it with more noise. The Lord wants us to shut down the noise in our life, find some solitude, some silence, and let Him speak to us. He wants to help us deal with the shaking that's going on in the world. The Lord is shaking the nations and the Church, and He wants us to face what's shaking in us.

What in us is unshakeable? The Lord wants each of us to lay hold of the unshakeable presence of Christ in our hearts and lives. The whole world is running, panicking. But the Lord has given us power; He's present in our lives, and He's unshakeable. He wants us to receive strength from knowing He is dwelling in our hearts.

In the Book of Acts, it's amazing to read about the apostles' transformation. Those same men who were so afraid now go forward in the power of the Holy Spirit, and they begin to do the work of Jesus. Peter raises a lame man. They find themselves in front of the Sanhedrin, who are trying to intimidate them, and the apostles are different. The shaking and purification that went on in them, the grace and

victorious presence of the Holy Spirit given to them on Pentecost, transformed them profoundly, and they were different men. They were standing on the rock. They were unshakable in their confidence in God.

The powers that be said, “You need to stop talking about the resurrection from the dead.” They even beat the apostles—but what does Peter say so confidently?

He says, “We are going to obey God. We have to do what God tells us to do; that's the foundation of our lives together in Christ.”

We see the transformation. We see the life the Lord's calling us to live more fully—more yielded, more free, more confident in the Lord and engaged in his mission. We even see the apostles gather and pray, saying, “Lord, the kings of the earth are coming against us, just as You said they would.” Instead of hunkering down in fear, they asked for more of the Holy Spirit and were given more hope and courage to move forward and proclaim the Gospel.

The Lord wants us to speak to Him each day in quiet: “Lord, take away whatever prevents my radical surrender to You. Take away my fear of death, the future, and my finances.” These are hard times. Maybe you've lost your job, your business. In the midst of our challenges, the Lord wants Christianity to be not only an idea, but an experience in our hearts—so that we can confidently say, “No matter what

circumstances I'm in, I'm content. I've learned to abase, and I've learned to abound. I know the secret of contentment in Him who is my strength. I have strength for everything" (Phil 4:11-13).

The Lord wants us to grow in intimacy with Him, and then He wants to send us. I believe the Lord is preparing each of us for a further launching of mission, with greater unity, anointing, and surrender to Him. It's a time of greater preparation that He does not want us to miss.

In 2016, I was in Uganda for a big priests' conference. I had been going through a real spiritual battle while I was there, so some of our team members prayed Unbound with me. It was a great moment of prayer, and then I went to Mass. After Communion, I was at peace, thanking the Lord for his goodness, and as I was sitting there quietly, I felt like the Lord said to me, "Take up your journal." As soon as I picked up my pen, I felt the fear of the Lord on me—a healthy fear of God, the amazing experience of his presence and holiness. I felt like He said,

"Peter, my discipline is on my Church. I'm coming to break strongholds that are holding my Church, parts of my Church that are in compromise, parts of my Church that are living in the fear of men, parts of my Church that aren't living in the freedom of my children."

As I wrote this down, I felt like He said,

"You are going to see chaos, confusion, rage, apostasy. This is my discipline on my Church, because the judgment of God begins in the household of God. I'm going to purify my Bride, whom I love."

God purifies those He loves. It's a good thing, his redemptive discipline, when it comes on the life of the Church.

The Lord is coming to free the Church from things it is struggling with. He's going to manifest sin and weakness in

the Church so He can purify it. His end game is for the Church to be a light in the darkness, because his heart is out there for a lost world. I felt like He said He is going to empty the idols that are in the world that the Church herself is tempted to lean on, that the baptized are leaning on—money, sex, power. We have been drinking in the lies of the culture, and now we are beginning to see the great battles that are going on between the Church and the world.

Over the last decades, we've gone from one thing to the next: legalization of abortion, redefinition of what it means to be human, redefinition of marriage, denial of gender, lack of proper stewardship of the environment, greed. So many things are laying hold of the broader culture, and now the kings of the earth are pressing the Church to salute what's absolutely inconsistent with the Gospel.

I felt like the Lord was saying,

"I'm going to empty the idols before the eyes of my Bride, so she can see the emptiness of it."

Now here we are: The US had the biggest budget in the economy of the world—some said in the history of the world—and then comes the coronavirus, and it all goes away. We're in a financial crisis. We're facing death. We're being shaken. We see the lack of control. We see what's happening in the stock market, bank accounts, businesses, and

it produces fear. In the midst of it, the Lord wants his Church to come closer to Him and read the signs:

Where's the real strength?

What does the world need?

What the world needs is the Lord. It needs a Church that is alive, confident in Him, moving in his power.

In the Acts of the Apostles, we see power come forward in the Church. We see formerly cowardly men stand up before earthly kings and declare the lordship and majesty of Jesus. They're not afraid any more.

That's Christianity. That's supposed to happen to you and me. We're not supposed to hunker down and tremble in fear as if God has forgotten us. You're the temple of the living God—the one who destroyed sin and death dwells in you right now. It's crucial for the Church to lay hold of this. It's your inheritance. Don't let the devil try to take it from you.

God has set us aside to be in his kingdom, moving in his power, so we can declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called us out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

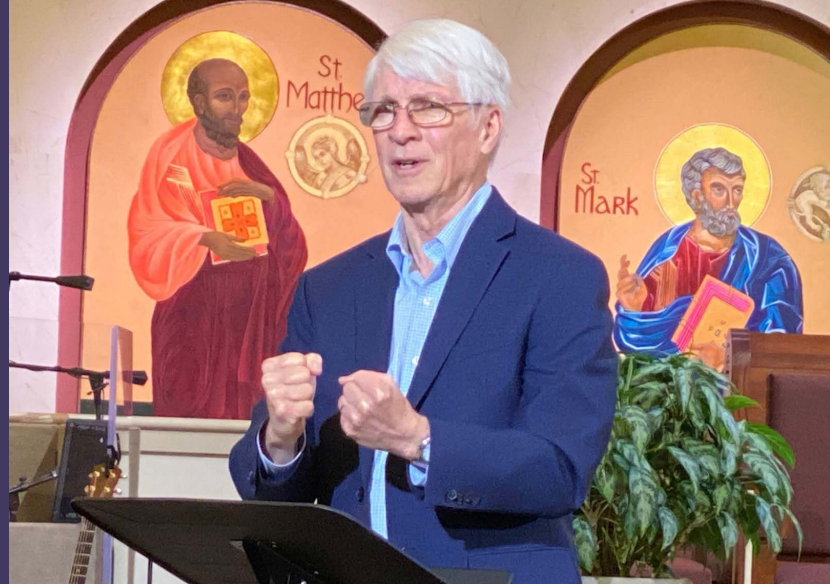
Let's live in the light. Let's be the light. Let's maximize all the time we have in the land before He calls us home.



The music ministry team from Christ the King Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan, led powerful praise and worship during Renewal Ministries' livestreamed Gathering.

OVERCOMING FEAR & ANXIETY

*The following text is an abridged version
of Ralph Martin's recent Gathering talk.*



God's people have been robbed of confidence in his Word's truthfulness and reliability, and when that happens, we can't know God any more. We know Jesus because He spoke to us. He showed Himself to us. He became flesh, and like Jesus said,

*"Heaven and earth will pass away
before my Word will pass away"*

(Mt 24:35).

Recover your confidence in God's Word. It's our lifeline in the midst of what we're experiencing.

Fear and anxiety are gripping the world right now. Jesus told us not to be gripped by anxiety about finances or health. It's normal to be anxious or worried. It is not normal to let anxiety and worry make us their slaves, to keep us from the freedom Jesus wants us to have.

FINANCIAL ANXIETY

When I was about to get married, I was a partially employed, recent graduate living with three other guys. I was sitting on the floor of our sparsely furnished apartment, saying, "Lord, how is this going to work?" The Lord gave me a Scripture passage that's been foundational for our whole marriage:

"Do not worry about your life and what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear"

(Lk 12:22).

Jesus says He cares for even the little things in life, like lilies of the field.

Paul talks about spiritual armor—the shield of faith that extinguishes the devil's fiery darts (Eph 6:16). What do I mean by faith? Trust in Jesus' goodness, love, and truthfulness. Trust in his sacrifice for us on the cross. Trust in his promise and resurrection.

The world is full of noise. The world is full of illusions and demonic deceptions. The only way we can protect ourselves against it and triumph over it is with the shield of faith, which is the person of Jesus and his Word.

"Oh you of little faith, do not look for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not worry any more. All the unbelievers of the world are looking for these things, but your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek first his kingdom and his holiness, and these things will be given to you as well"

(Lk 12:28-31).

This is not the prosperity Gospel, but it is a precious promise. Our Father knows what we need to fulfill the purpose for which we were created and the responsibilities we have. He says, don't worry about those things. Worry about being in right relationship with God. Seek first God's kingdom and holiness, and these other things will be added as well.

God needs to be first in our life. Obedience to Him needs to be our life's driving force, because his Word is a lifeline. It's light to our feet, a lamp in the darkness. Our trust is in the Lord. Things come; things go. Times of prosperity come; times of want come. Right now, it's a time of want for many, but our trust is in the Lord.

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart is." St. Francis de Sales offers practical wisdom about how to determine whether your trust is in God or money. If you are devastated by financial setbacks, or if you don't think you have enough to give anything to someone else, it's a sign your treasure is your possessions.

St. Francis de Sales said, "Once you start giving even out of the little you have, you're going to be surprised, because you can't outdo God in generosity." He says it's going to hurt when you give, until the Lord restores it and gives it more abundantly. That's another promise in Scripture:

**Recover your confidence in
GOD'S WORD.
It's our lifeline in the midst of
what we're experiencing.**



“Bring the tithes into the storehouse; see what I do for you, says the Lord. Give and it will be given to you, pressed over, flowing out of your lap”

(Mal 3:9-11).

There’s a dynamic of surrender, even in the area of finances.

Scripture also says,

“Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have”

(Heb 13:5).

This is possible, because God said:

“I will never fail you, nor forsake you”

(Heb 13:5).

Therefore, we can confidently say,

“The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What can human beings do to me”

(Heb 13:6)?

We can say these things because of the promise He made to us and the love He’s shown us. Scripture says,

“Perfect love casts out fear”

(1 Jn 4:18).

Look at the cross—we can’t be any more loved than we’re loved! We can be confident in his love. God’s heart is grieved when we don’t let Him father us. We think we’re on our own in this world, that it’s up to us. We need to use wisdom and prudence, and balance faith and reason, but God loves to father his children, and we need to have confidence that we’ve been adopted into the family of God. We are God’s sons and daughters; nothing but sin can separate us from the heart of Christ.

ANXIETY ABOUT HEALTH

The other big fear is that of getting sick, of dying. The devil uses our fear of dying to keep us locked up, to keep us from praising, to keep us from loving, giving, obeying, risking, surrendering ourselves to God. But Jesus came to defeat both death and the fear of death.

At one time, I began getting overly concerned about my health. If I had headaches, an upset stomach, or not enough sleep, I’d go easy on myself

and say, “I should wait until tomorrow, when I feel a little better, to pray.” Then I read something St. Teresa of Avila wrote about nuns in her convent: “They’re stopping coming to prayer. They say they just had a headache. Then they say maybe they’ll have a headache again, and then they stay away from prayer three more days, saying, ‘Maybe I’ll have another headache!’” She said, “Oh God, help me, this complaining among nuns! If you don’t swallow death and the lack of health, you’ll never do anything.”

That convicted me. I was like those nuns. When the Lord convicts you of something, He often gives you the grace to get free of it, and that was the case. I’ve never since been afraid of any health problem. And on recent international trips, I’ve had kidney stone attacks in foreign countries, in emergency rooms where I couldn’t speak the language. But there was a peace, a trust in the Lord that never would have been there before.

We need to be at peace about the fact that we are going to die. Look at your own death, and trust God for the timing of it, how it happens, and those you might leave behind. Go to your deepest fear, and say, “Jesus, I trust in You.”

St. Francis de Sales says if you’re sick, and the Lord hasn’t healed you yet, and the doctors haven’t healed you yet, don’t waste your suffering. This came home for me when I was at Fatima a couple years ago, and I particularly connected with Sts. Jacinta and Francisco. They both died in the Spanish Flu in 1918. Mary asked them, “Are you willing to accept the suffering that comes your way, in reparation for the sins that offended the Lord so much, and for the conversion of sinners?” Lucia wrote, “We eagerly said yes . . . we had no idea what we were saying yes to.” But when Jacinta got the Spanish Flu, Mary asked her, “Are you willing to suffer a little longer so more souls can be saved?” Jacinta said, “Yes.” She died alone in a hospital, but Mary was with her.

Don’t waste your suffering. There’s tremendous power, tremendous grace that can be released if we join our suffering to the suffering of Jesus. St. Paul says,

“I make up in my own flesh what’s lacking in the suffering of Christ”

(Col 1:24).

Nothing is lacking in the suffering of Christ, but Jesus is so generous, He’s giving us the privilege of participating with Him in the salvation of the world—not just through the witness of our lives or the preaching of the Gospel, not just through our faithful service and our vocations, not just through our cooking and cleaning and all the things that are part of our life, but in our suffering.

The very pain right now that we’re suffering can release grace into the world, can make reparation for sins that offend God, and can release grace for the conversion of sinners.

Jesus says,

“Do not fear those who can kill the body. Rather fear him who can destroy both body and soul in hell”

(Mt 10:28).

There really is a heaven and a hell—and it matters whether or not we respond to Jesus. Jesus said,

“If you’re right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away”

(Mt 5:29).

He’s making a very strong point—do whatever you need to do to turn away from serious sin.

Life is short, and only one thing is necessary—to throw ourselves at the feet of Jesus, ask for his mercy and forgiveness, and become his disciple. Jesus says,

“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me even though he die yet shall he live, and whoever believes in me shall never die”

(Jn 11:25).

For a Christian, death is an entryway into paradise—a far better life.

Due to cancellations and some events switching to an online-only format, please visit our website at www.RenewalMinistries.net/events for the most up-to-date calendar.

THE HOUR A New Podcast from Renewal Ministries

Renewal Ministries recently launched a new podcast, called *The Hour*. id Director Pete Burak hosts the program, which examines the "signs of the times" to draw out practical, personal, and spiritual insights to help people grow in holiness and build the kingdom. Driven by inspiring guests, listeners can expect weekly, fast moving, and Spirit-filled conversations.

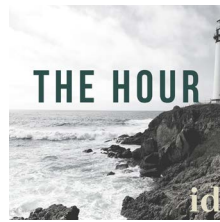
What inspired *The Hour*? Pete explained in the first episode that the name is taken from Pope John Paul II's prophetic message:

"The hour of the laity has struck."

He explained, "We thought: Our hour has struck. What does that mean for us? Especially in our time: How do we operate? What's the Lord calling us to? What's the Church need from us? These are unprecedented times. Every week, new challenges and opportunities confront those trying to live an authentically Catholic life."

Pete continued, "What 'the hour of the laity truly struck' meant to this saintly pope was that we more clearly understood our vocation—a vocation to the apostolate, to building the kingdom, to preaching the Gospel, to stepping into and participating in our priestly, prophetic, and kingly office."

"What the pope was identifying is needed more now than ever. As the institutional Church suffers in many ways, as many dioceses have a priest shortage, as many people's faith in the hierarchical and institutional aspect of the Catholic Church is maybe at an all-time low, who is going to fill the void? Who is going to step up and share what God has done in their life? Who is going to step up and do that with the same spirit that characterized St. Paul when he said, 'Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel?' Who is ready to answer that call? Who is ready to say, 'Yes, Lord, I'm ready. Send me.' The hour is here for us not to shrink back and therefore be destroyed, but to step forward and boldly proclaim who Jesus Christ is—Lord, King, and Savior."



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Please Pray...

For our government leaders, that they would seek the Lord's wisdom regarding their decisions during this time.

For healing of all of those experiencing suffering related to Covid-19, be it through illness, loss of loved ones, depression, economic uncertainty, or other reasons.

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



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