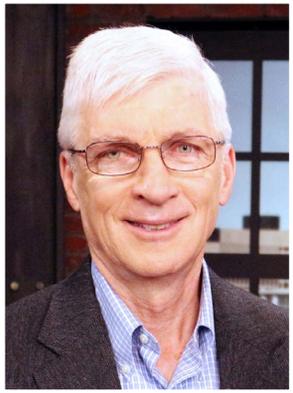


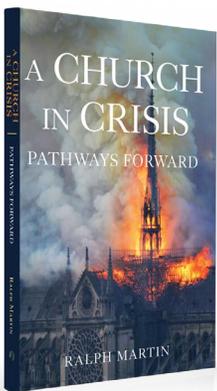


RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Catholic Renewal and Evangelization **NOVEMBER 2020**



A letter ▶
from *Ralph Martin*



NOW SHIPPING!
RALPH'S NEW BOOK

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for details

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Starting the Conversation
Page 3

Walk With Me
Page 4

Preparing for Whatever
May Come
Page 6

Dear Fellow Soldiers of Christ,

We are definitely in a battle, within the Church as well as within the wider culture.

Today was a sobering day, as I was forced to confront some of our internal problems as a Church in a vivid way. I was teaching a group of transitional deacons who will be ordained next year. They wanted to talk about the case of a young priest in a particular diocese who tried to speak to his parish about some of the pressures on people today to go along with “woke” culture and accept the gay agenda, Marxist revolution, the suppression of conscience protections and religious freedom, and the muzzling of free speech. His pastor, responding to upset parishioners, immediately silenced him and apologized to the parish for the young priest’s “insensitivity.” The pastor reaffirmed how he wanted the parish to be a welcoming, inclusive place where everybody feels at home. He told them that he had directed the young priest to not preach on these topics anymore.

And when I got home tonight, I received this email from another young priest in another state:

I just wanted to sincerely thank you for your and Peter Herbeck’s videos! They have been such a light for me in this present darkness!

It has been so hard being a priest (especially a newly ordained one at that), in our present circumstances. Everything that is going on both in the world and even in the Church, has been the cause of so much stress and an overwhelming feeling of helplessness, especially as the concern of being silenced for speaking the truth keeps growing, as so many good priests are being silenced by their respective ordinaries.

I am trying to hold on, and by God’s grace, will. But I just want to thank you for the part you are playing to help so many of us keep perspective and keep our eyes on the Lord.

In a later note, he continued,

Regarding the silencing of the priests, it’s like the prophets in the Old Testament—in fact, it seems as if we’re, in many ways, in the same place—temple corruption and silencing of prophets.

I know God is with us, and I can only call to mind the passage from our Lord about how people before longed to see the days that we are seeing, and as difficult as this time is, I believe that. I feel blessed to be alive at this time and to see what I believe we will be seeing soon. It is just very difficult in the meantime.

Thank you again for the hope that you (and Renewal Ministries) continue to provide in this time!

Yes, sometimes young priests could benefit from checking with reliable people before they address sensitive issues to avoid unnecessarily inflammatory language, etc. But rather than being shut down and publicly humiliated by Church leaders, as they so often are, they should be affirmed in their desire to speak the truth and their concern for peoples’ salvation.

Unfortunately, the instinct of so many of our leaders is to do “damage control,” to “put out the fire,” without proper regard for the truth that needs to be spoken that indeed will be controversial and may even cause necessary division. The whole mentality of “keep the peace,” “don’t rock the boat,” and “don’t say anything that could offend anybody,” is a sure recipe for betrayal of the Gospel and infidelity to Jesus. Jesus said that He came to bring not peace but a sword, a sword that will divide truth from error, sin from righteousness, and the foolish from the wise.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Right now it seems that many in the Church are “straddling the issue,” with one foot wanting to be accepted by the world and to not offend the world, and another foot in the Kingdom, wishing to please Jesus, but torn. But we are reaching a decision point and cannot put it off much longer.

Where do we stand? Are we with Jesus? Or with the world?

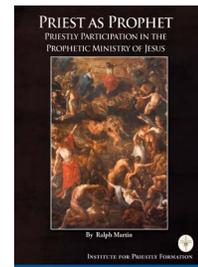
Whom are we trying to please? The world or the Lord?

What do we fear, offending people or offending the Lord?

We need to pray very much for our priests and bishops, that they may be delivered from the fear of man and that they may fear only God; that they may stop “straddling the issue,” and choose complete fidelity and obedience to Jesus. We need to pray for our bishops, that their concern to preserve the façade of unity with their fellow bishops not prevent them from fearing God more than man, and that they will speak the truths that need to be spoken. We need to pray for support and consolation for priests who are trying to be faithful witnesses but are not being supported by their superiors, that they persevere anyway, in determined humility, seeking God for wisdom about how to proceed, and that they are given brothers to support them in their often-painful isolation. May they be visited

by angels if need be, and given the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The booklet I recently published could be a big support for such priests, *Priest as Prophet: Priestly Participation in the Prophetic Ministry*. And even more so my new book, *A Church in Crisis: Pathways Forward*, which is now available at our online store, www.renewalministries.net/shop.



The Church is being purified. The Church is being tested. Lord, give us the grace to pass the test and remain faithful. The words of a great Dominican moral theologian, Fr. Servais Pinckaers, OP, come to mind:

The Church in its turn must stand alone before God far from the world, in order to be rooted in Christ, in God. These are the questions asked: will the Church dare to believe in the Word of God, even when it seems to be a folly, a scandal, the stupidity of a prescientific age in the eyes of the world’s learned ones? Will it have the courage to hope in God when human hope is gone, and renounce human support if need be? Can it love God more than the world and all it offers, more than itself . . .? The crucial point in the encounter between Christianity and the modern world is found in the affirmation and audacious preaching of the supernatural, other-worldly character of faith in Jesus Christ. . . . In the measure in which it avoids detachment and the transcendence of human values in order to remain bonded to the world . . . Whatever upheaval illusions, books it may produce, it is self-condemned to spiritual sterility. It recoils before the cross of Christ. (Servais Pinckaers, OP, *The Sources of Christian Ethics* [Washington DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 1995], 313-315.)

As the battle gets more intense, grace will abound even more. Look for it, welcome it, respond to it.

In Jesus, our dear and powerful Lord,

Ralph Martin

Ralph

P.S. I'd also like to invite you to join me for our first-ever digital Advent Mission! Each Sunday in Advent, from 8-9 p.m. ET, I'll be teaching and answering questions about the themes and wisdom found in my book *The Fulfillment of All Desire*. These sessions will happen in a live, online format! You can visit our website for more information and to register. Please also consider inviting your pastor to promote this mission to your entire parish! We hope as many of us as possible can join together in preparing our hearts to receive Christ in a very special way this Christmas.



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 at 734-662-1730, ext. 130 or hschultz@renewalministries.net



STARTING -THE- CONVERSATION

In recent months, we have continued to receive orders for our products—and even requests for extra copies of our newsletters—from people who believe it is more important than ever to share God’s Word and encouragement with others. We share some of their stories below and hope they inspire you to consider new ways in which you might help share the Lord’s message today.

One man from California ordered one-hundred copies of Peter Herbeck’s booklet *Unfailing Promises*. He learned about the booklet from listening to Peter on the radio every morning. This is his second order of the booklet. He plans to share his recent order of booklets at a St. Vincent de Paul weekly food distribution. He chose this booklet, in part, because of its hopeful message. He said he also sees it as “easy evangelization, and not preachy.”

“This book basically says, ‘I need help, what does Jesus say about that?’ It’s easily accessible and helpful,” he explained.

One of his friends also ordered copies of the booklet; he is on dialysis and wants to share them with people also receiving dialysis.

A woman from Louisiana ordered multiple copies of *Hope in the Midst of Suffering* and *What Happens When I Die?* to share with friends and her priest.

She said she chose these booklets because of “the hope” in them. She added, “I have Parkinson’s and sometimes it gets bad, and I listen to Sr. Ann all the time.”

She also shared that she feels very blessed, and that, “God’s been good to us.” Her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren gather at their home weekly to pray the rosary together and to eat a meal prepared by her husband. She said the tradition began almost thirty years ago, after one of her sons died.

A woman from Virginia ordered twenty copies of *Welcome the Spiritual Gifts* to share with members of her parish’s RCIA class, who were finally able to enter the Church in late September after Covid shutdowns.

“I want to say to them, ‘There’s more to this!’” she said. “I think we don’t know our identity and power as Catholics. We need something to keep our heads together right now. We are an Easter people.”

She appreciates that the booklet explains how God works through people’s diverse gifts.

Her prayer is that the recipients will respond to what they read in the booklet. She said the class is mostly men who are “really on fire” for the Catholic faith. She thinks the booklet will help fuel that fire by showing them “what Confirmation really means.”

She also hopes that the group will use the booklet as a reason to keep meeting. “They are used to getting together and discussing things,” she said. “Hopefully this piques their interest in continuing to do that and discussing this booklet together.”

A man from California requested one-hundred extra copies of Renewal Ministries’ August newsletter to share with fellow parishioners, family, and friends.

He hopes the message in the August newsletter, which shares Ralph Martin’s reflections on Fr. Michael Scanlan’s 1976 prophecy, serves as “a wake-up call from the Lord, and (that) many people respond.”

“You see so many people turn away from the Lord, and you wonder how long God can be mocked,” he added. “I was struck by Ralph’s article and the prophecy. We have to

do what we can to help people wake up. If the Church—the only instrument founded by the Lord to combat evil—can’t get it right, it’s like the last straw. So, whatever I can do to help, I would like to do. It’s time for all of us to do what we can.”

He said he appreciates Renewal Ministries “trying to help people turn back to God.”

He continued, “The bottom line is salvation. As Bishop Fulton Sheen said, ‘The best way to get to heaven is to take someone by the hand and lead them there.’ It’s incumbent upon us to do whatever we can as soon as we can.”

A man from Michigan ordered fifty copies each of *Unfailing Promises*, *Forever Grateful for Mercy*, and *Why Be A Christian?* to share with the less fortunate. He volunteers at the Deo Gratias Café, run by two Felician sisters whose

mission is to “provide unconditional hospitality to those in need.”

“I was looking for something to introduce Jesus to them that is simple and easy to read,” he explained.

"WALK WITH ME"

BY SR. ANN SHIELDS, SGL

This article is an abridged version of a talk that will appear on the 2021 season of The Choices We Face.



*Road to Emmaus,
by Fritz von Uhde, 1891*

One day there was a wind storm, and after everything calmed down, when I was walking home, I turned the corner onto my street and saw that every single tree was uprooted from what had been six blocks of beautiful maple trees.

The storm was strong, but short, and one tree had hit the next tree, had hit the next tree. And I could see that their roots were only about a foot long. I had grown up around maple trees, and I knew their roots are big. I thought, "These can't be maple trees—I must be wrong." Three months later, I was speaking in Nebraska, and I asked about those trees. One man asked me to describe the leaf, and he said, "Yes, that's a maple tree. Tell me about the roots." I told him, and he said, "That's a maple tree, but the roots are shallow because they didn't have to fight to find water."

Water was easily accessible. They had everything they needed. They didn't have to go deep. And that's where we've been, in some ways. We have not had to fight the kind of battles that may be before us.

I've gone to country after country, Eastern Europe, and other countries in the East. I don't name some of them for obvious reasons. One of the things I've seen in them is a realization of what a gift faith is, and how hard they had to work to protect it. Generally speaking, we don't have to look to find water. Until this year, it has been easily accessible. Before Covid, Mass was there; we maybe had to drive a little, but it wasn't that bad. We had this availability, that availability. We had to make some sacrifices, but it wasn't that hard.

But the people I saw in some countries didn't have anything. In the Eastern part of the world, I was with a group of people, and a priest was celebrating Mass for us. It was very challenging, because it was unlawful to do it. We were gathered in this little room, and the priest was probably in his late twenties or early thirties, and right after the consecration, there was a pounding on the door. It was frightening, and I thought, "I'm going to be sent out of the country, and I won't get back, but for these people, it's going to be a lot more difficult."

It turned out to be a neighbor, and the situation was resolved, but when that knocking came, this priest stood up and laid his body across the coffee table, covered the chalice, and held the host. I looked at him, and I thought, "This is real. He's laying his life down." It wasn't just an image.

After Mass was over, I said, "Father, I don't think I've ever been to a more beautiful Mass than this." And he said to me, "Gladly will I give my life for the sake of the Eucharist."

He knew what the Eucharist was and he was ready to give his life for it.

I don't know if I'm ready. I want to be. I want to practice what I'm preaching.

How real is my faith?

How real is your faith?

Am I ready to die for what I believe?

I know that sounds dramatic, but I think we really need to look at it. Our roots are shallow, because we haven't had to fight for it. It's been easily accessible. Our roots haven't had to go deep, just like those trees.

Their roots didn't go deep because they had such easy access to water. We have had easy access. Now, God wants our roots to go down deep in Him.

**GOD WANTS
OUR ROOTS
TO GO
DOWN DEEP
IN HIM.**

Probably the most important thing that we need to know has to do with our life of prayer. That's where it all begins. That's where we should ask,

*“When I come to pray,
do I really believe that Jesus is here?
Do I believe He is present, and that
when I come to pray, I am heard?”*

Do you remember the passage in the Gospel of Mark where it says Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and then it says He called those He wanted to come and be with Him (See Mark 3:13, Luke 6:12-13). Then it says, “And then he anointed them, and then he called them to be his disciples.” He called them to be with Him. So, my question to you, and the most important question for you, for your families, and for all those you deal with, is,

“How close are you to the Lord?”

Are you with Him? Or do you just say,

*“Reporting for duty. Pray for this person.
Pray for that person. Pray for the other
person. Give this talk. Handle this issue.
Thank You, God.”*

There are times when God will accept that. But every day? Every day, before God's face, give Him time, whatever the cost. Give Him time every day. Pray for others. Pray for those you care for, those you love. Read the Scriptures daily—the living Word of God. That's what has power to transform you, to give you the courage you need, to give you the wisdom you need, to give you hope when you want to give up.

Every day, come before Him. He called His disciples to be with Him. That means, live with Him. Live your life with Him. Don't just pray and then go back to your normal life. It's a particular expression of our lives when we pray, but our faith should encompass all our lives. Let's give Him everything. Read the Scriptures daily. Repent of your sins when you fail. Don't hide it.

If you want to be light shining in the darkness—and I hope and pray that you do, because that's what God has called us to be, and we need light right now in the darkness of our world—come before the Lord and say,

“Teach me what to do here. Teach me what your priorities are for today. Teach me what I should focus on. Help me.”

Ask the Holy Spirit,

“Walk with me. Accompany me.”

Do you know that God really wants to do that? He wants to walk with you. You say, “But I'm a sinner!” Well, we all are! Go to Confession as fast as you can, because if you don't, what happens is that your eyes become dimmer, your ears become more stopped-up. You can't see as clearly as God wants you to see or hear as clearly as He wants you to hear. He wants to reveal Himself to you. He loves you as though you were the only person on the face of the earth. He can do that, we can't. He loves you, totally. You don't have to take less love from Him because He has to give it out to somebody else. He has infinite love, and it's all for you, every bit of it.

He needs you. He needs each one of us to give Him time, every day, with the Scriptures. It was the Word that changed my life. It was when I realized that the Word was living and active, and that the Word had the power to change my life, and it has, although I'm still very much a work in progress.

I want you to say, “Lord, use me.” For that to happen, you've got to draw very close to Him, so that He can impart to you the gifts that He wants you to have. Many, many souls may be saved because you were willing to go deeper, so that when the storm comes for us, your roots will be down very deep, and you will stand the storm very well. That's what God has for us. It's an analogy, but I believe it's true.

He wants to use you. He wants to save us, to save the Church. We're all in difficulty right now, in faith, and hope, and love. So, come. As Jesus said, “Come to me, all who labor or are heavily burdened”—that's us—“and I will give you rest” (Mt 11:28). He will give you Himself, and when He gives you Himself, you have all you need.

May He be glorified in you and through you, for the honor of the Father. Amen.



We must make God present again in our society. This is the first essential element: that God be once again present in our lives. That we do not live as though we are autonomous, authorized to invent what freedom and life are. We must realize that we are creatures, aware that there is a God who created us and that living in accordance with his will is not dependence but a gift of love that keeps us alive.”

//Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Please Pray...

That the Lord will guide and protect the United States during its the upcoming elections.

For all of those across the US and other countries who are suffering due to natural disasters and fires. May God provide for all of their needs, bring healing, and restore wholeness.

That the hearts of men and women from around the world will turn back to the Lord in prayer.

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

PREPARING FOR WHATEVER MAY COME

This article was taken from Ralph Martin's video

TWO EVENTS THAT WILL PROCEED THE LORD'S RETURN: ARE WE SEEING THEM NOW?
that originally appeared on Renewal Ministries' YouTube Channel (www.YouTube.com/renewalministriesrm).

I want to share with you some really important things in God's Word that can really help us in our daily life to be prepared for whatever may come.

I've been noticing on the Internet lately a lot of speculation about whether we're in end times, or about whether Jesus is going to come soon, and one response to this speculation is cynicism—to say, I've heard this before during other times in history, even in recent history.

Times have been really bad before, where people have speculated in this way, and the Lord hasn't come. The other response is to take seriously the fact that the Lord will come, but also not to jump to conclusions about when. In one of Peter's Epistles, he says people have gotten cynical, saying, "When is the Lord going to come? Things are the same, just as they have been." (See 2 Pt 3:3-4.)

Peter says, "No, they're not the same as they always have been. The Lord one time sent a flood to destroy the wicked on the earth. Next time, he's going to send fire—it's going to happen, so don't get cynical. Try to hasten the coming of the Lord by living lives of holiness." (See 2 Pt 3.) We can actually prepare for the Lord's coming by being that purified bride the Lord is looking for when He returns.

There are some very clear signs Scripture says need to take place before the Lord returns, and these are things worth paying attention to.

We read about this in 2 Thessalonians:

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling to meet Him, we beg you brothers not to be quickly shaken in mind or be excited, either by spirit or by word, or by a letter purporting to be from us to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way. (2 Thes 2:1-3)

Paul says two things need to happen before the Lord will return:

1

First is something that Scripture refers to as an apostasy or the Great Rebellion. What is an apostasy? It isn't something pagans do. It's something baptized Christians do. It's a turning away from faith on the part of those who once had faith but have parted from it, who have believed the lies of the Evil One and no longer follow Jesus Christ.

I don't know if what we're seeing today is the great apostasy Scripture talks about, but I do know that soon after Emperor Constantine became Christian in the Fourth Century, Christians were no longer persecuted and Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire.

All the Western nations in some ways adopted Christianity as their religion, and it became very influential—but what we're seeing now is a systematic repudiation of that heritage in country after country. Neither Catholic France, Catholic Spain, nor Catholic Italy exists anymore. We still have lots of churches and saints' shrines, but very few Italian Catholics practice their faith and follow Jesus. It's a very serious situation.

There's a wonderful remnant in these countries of dedicated Catholics who are following Jesus, but each country as a whole is repeatedly repudiating Jesus Christ as a guide in any way that affects civil society. The same is true in the US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand—there's a growing hostility toward Christ and the Church. There's a growing aggressive effort to sideline Christians from the public life, to say Christian views on marriage and the family are hate speech and shouldn't be spoken about and shouldn't be taken into account in making public policy. We have a very serious situation.

Today, more and more Catholics are believing the world, rather than the Word of God and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. We are living through a great apostasy. One of the most disturbing things I've seen in recent years has been the celebration in Ireland when they legalized abortion and gay marriage. Tens of thousands of people came into the streets of Dublin celebrating the killing of babies and the blatant rebellion against how God created the human race male and fe-

"THERE'S A GROWING AGGRESSIVE EFFORT TO SIDELINE CHRISTIANS FROM THE PUBLIC LIFE . . . WE HAVE A VERY SERIOUS SITUATION."

“JUST WHEN THINGS COULDN’T GET ANY WORSE . . . THE LORD WILL APPEAR AND PUT DOWN THE WORK OF EVIL, REWARD HIS FAITHFUL ONES, AND USHER IN THE KINGDOM OF HIS FATHER.”

male and the appropriate use of sexuality in a marriage between one man and one woman open to having children.

Those views are getting increasingly discriminated against, repudiated, sometimes even legislated as an illegal thing to say, and that’s happening to some pastors who are being called before human rights tribunals because they dared to speak God’s Word in these important areas. In Ireland this year, more people are being ordained bishops than priests. One priest is being ordained for the entire country of Ireland this year. How far they’ve fallen from the blessing God gave them as one of the strongest Catholic countries in the world!

Something like a great apostasy is happening. We don’t know if it’s the Great Apostasy or not, but it’s worth noting that a significant thing is happening in terms of repudiation of Christian faith in many traditionally Catholic countries.

2

The second thing St. Paul says needs to happen before the Lord’s return is the removal of a certain kind of restraint that He has placed on the manifestation of evil and lawlessness, a removal of the restrainer, and a removal of the one who restrains him.

Scripture scholars debate about what this could be. Some say perhaps it was the Roman Empire keeping chaos back—of course, that’s not relevant right now. Some say it’s Michael the Archangel. Some say it’s simply a decision of God to protect the world from unrestrained evil until just before He returns, when unrestrained evil will be able to manifest itself as a test of people’s faith.

For those whose hearts are with the Lord, it’s a test that they’ll pass. For those whose hearts are not with the Lord, it’s a test that they’ll fail, with very serious consequences. Second Thessalonians says,

And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, and the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by his appearing and his coming. (2 Thes 2:6-8)

Just when things couldn’t get any worse, and all hell is breaking loose, and it looks like Christians are a disappearing minority, the Lord will appear and put down the work of evil, reward his faithful ones, and usher in the kingdom of his Father.

St. Paul continues,

“The coming of the lawless one by the activity of Satan will be with all power and with pretended signs and wonders” (2 Thes 2:9).

That’s why real signs and wonders are important. Real signs and wonders should draw people to Jesus. False signs and wonders draw people to something else, someone else.

Satan works through false signs and wonders that mesmerize people, that attract people but don’t bring them to repentance and faith, and He also works through every wicked deception. Remember Jesus said, “Satan is a liar and a murderer”—so one of the ways that Satan works is by infiltrating lies (Jn 8:44).

Paul says,

“The day is coming when the doctrine of demons will be infiltrated onto the Church through plausible liars” (1 Tm 4:1-2).

That time is certainly here. We have such confusion in the Church, so many lies people are believing, so much confusion and lack of a clear sound of the trumpet. Jesus told us we would be living in those times—and those times have in some way been present throughout all Church history, with false teachers and false prophets.

The Catechism talks about this final trial that the Church must go through. Who is going to perish in the final trial?

Those who “refused to love the truth and so be saved” (2 Thes 2:10). We need to treasure the Word of God. We need to treasure what God has revealed to us. We need to take it seriously. We need to base our life on it. It’s the only solid ground there is—it’s the only thing that will protect us from being misled by the end-time confusion.

If we’re not in the end-time confusion, we’re in a time of tremendously great confusion, during which the same principle applies:

“Therefore God sends upon them a strong delusion, to make them believe what is false, so that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thes 2:11-12).

This is a hard saying. It’s possible that the Lord is revealing to us that if you harden your heart and close your heart to God’s light and truth, you can so consign yourself to darkness and unrepentance, and become so hardened in sin, unbelief, and cynicism, that you become a victim of even greater darkness, delusion, and belonging to Satan, sometimes without even realizing it.

What’s the lesson for us today? I don’t know if the Lord is about to come. I do know some signs of his coming that Paul talks about in 2 Thessalonians 2 may be present right now. We’re seeing a tremendous revelation of lawlessness, a removal of all kinds of restraint on moral behavior, rebellion against God creating us male and female, rebellion against the law of our countries, and deception about what’s going on. Stealing is stealing. Assault is assault. Violence is violence. Breaking the law is breaking the law. Killing people is killing people. We can’t justify it under any circumstance at all, and yet it’s being ignored, it’s being encouraged, it’s being used. **We’re living in serious times. Whether this is the time before the Lord comes or not, I don’t know, but I do know that we’re all being put to the test today.**

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

PREPARING FOR WHATEVER MAY COME

Are we going to remain faithful, even though so many fellow Catholics are turning away? Are we going to remain faithful to the revealed Word of God as it comes to us in Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, even though lots of people are questioning it, putting it in doubt, and saying it's old-fashioned and we've got to get with the times, we've got to get on the right side of history. If we're trying to get on what people are calling the right side of history—we are going over a cliff.

“ IF WE'RE TRYING TO GET ON WHAT PEOPLE ARE CALLING THE RIGHT SIDE OF HISTORY— WE ARE GOING OVER A CLIFF. ”

We need to hold on to God's Word and be faithful no matter what other people are doing. We need to pass the test of this time. We can't close our hearts to the truth—and sometimes, out of pride, we don't want to humble ourselves and admit a painful truth. Sometimes we don't want to admit there are things in our lives that need to change. Sometimes we don't want to admit we're rationalizing sin in our lives, and it's going to take God's grace for us to swallow our pride, humble ourselves, kneel down, and confess our sins. Go to Confession if it's a serious

sin, because we need to be right with God and the Church. We need to be filled with his Word and clear about what the truth is. We need to be decisive, determined, and clear about, “For me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (Jo 24:15).

I know a lot of us are saddened by division in our households. Many of us can't answer for our households any more. We've got to answer for as many people that we have responsibility for, who are willing to listen to us, as we can. And for those who are not willing to listen to us that we have some responsibility for, we need, as Mary at Fatima encouraged the children to do, to pray and fast for the salvation of sinners, for the conversion of sinners, for souls.

That's what it's all about. That's what these signs are trying to alert us to. Apostacy and great deception are happening, and our only protection—our great protection—is to be firmly rooted in Jesus Christ and clinging to his Word, eating his Body, drinking his Blood, being with our fellow brothers and sisters who are trying to live the Catholic life.

That's what Renewal Ministries is trying to do as we bring these messages to you. We're trying to encourage and strengthen you so that the trial we're now going through may be a trial that we pass, and that we become more deeply rooted in Jesus Christ because we are faithful in the face of temptation, trial, apostacy, and lawlessness. ✠

The full video can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/oY67yLXwcuM>

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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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