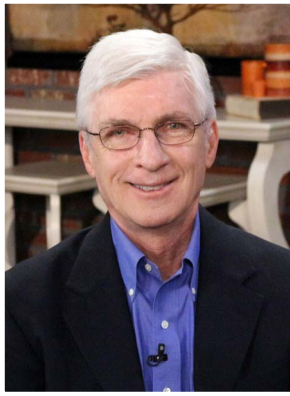


YEAR IN REVIEW: SILVER LININGS



Letter

FROM RALPH MARTIN

Dear Fellow Disciples of Jesus the Lord!

This is our newsletter's "year-in-review" issue. Our fortieth anniversary certainly turned out to be quite a year, although not in most of the ways we expected. Covid-19's impact on all of us has been significant. Besides its effect on our personal lives, it has greatly impacted the work of Renewal Ministries, but with remarkable "silver linings."

We had to cancel all our travel both domestically and internationally—that meant cancelling many, many trips and missions. Starting on March 13 and continuing through the end of this year, we have not been able to conduct any of our typical international missions, and what we have been able to do has had to take on new forms. Sometimes this has been because the borders are closed to travelers (even the border between the US and Canada has been closed, and remains closed, to "non-essential" travel as of this writing). Sometimes it has been because of quarantine measures required in the various countries or upon returning to our home countries.

Fortunately, we have been able to stay in touch with our Country Coordinators and partners in the various countries through Zoom and have been able to offer them some support during this time, even though neither we nor they have been able to carry out the many events that were planned. You can read more about our missions during this most unique year on page six of this newsletter.

Our outreach to young adults, id, quickly moved to virtual Disciples' Nights and had some really amazing national virtual "Theology on Tap" events that drew thousands of participants. They also developed an online "Spirit Filled Leaders Course," which

now has its second cohort moving through it. (See page eight.)

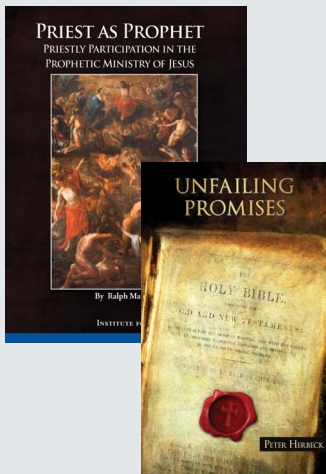
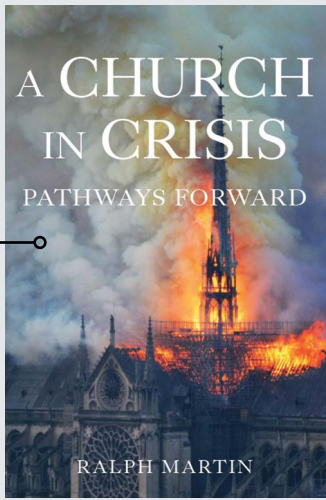
Our other "next-generation" outreaches, Be Love Revolution (geared toward high school girls) and Zion (directed toward high school boys) scrambled to keep up with different masking and social distancing requirements, as the rules changed continually here in Michigan, but were able to maintain significant contact with hundreds of young men and women, during a time when such connection was possibly more needed than ever. (See page seven.)

And, like many, we have discovered the real value of "virtual" meetings and conferences. While international missions that I was scheduled to travel to in Canada, Brazil, Peru, Ireland, and Italy were cancelled as "live events," they quickly converted to virtual events, and so I was able to "be there" virtually. In fact, a variety of virtual speaking opportunities opened up, including events hosted in Scotland and Costa Rica. I must say, I felt the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit as I spoke at these conferences! Other team members also reported experiencing the same thing. A number of us were also invited to participate in large virtual conferences, on evangelization, the rosary, the power of Pentecost, Christian business practices, marriage and family, and many other topics.

continued on page 2

NEW RESOURCES FOR 2020

These and other great resources can be found on our website:
www.renewalministries.net/store



“ Let’s pray fervently, while there is still time, that God will hear our prayers and accept our sacrifices and repentance and heal our land. And if the whole land can no longer be healed, let us pray that we, in humility, may be part of the ‘remnant’ continuing on in his service by his grace and mercy, no matter what storms are raging, witnessing to the bright light of Christ which the darkness can never overcome and knowing that the power that is at work in us is greater than the power that is at work in the world. ”

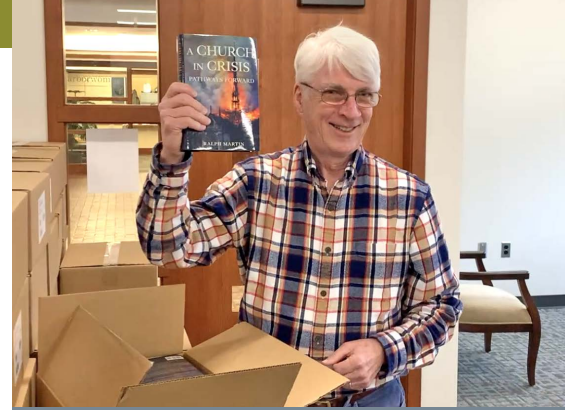
//Ralph Martin

*A Church in Crisis:
Pathways Forward*

Continued from page 1

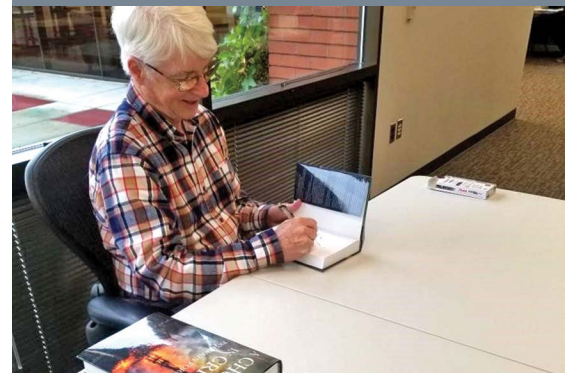
I travelled to Pittsburgh, my first airplane and auto trip of the year, to speak at the Apostolate for Family Consecration's summer camp and Totus Tuus conference, held near Steubenville. While there, I continued recording the audio version of my new book, *A Church in Crisis: Pathways Forward*, at Emmaus Road Publishers, the publishing arm of St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, led by Scott Hahn. That definitely is another of the silver linings.

As I mentioned in a recent newsletter, many people had been urging me to republish a book I wrote nearly forty years ago, *A Crisis of Truth: The Attack on Faith, Morality and Mission in the Catholic Church*. When I reread the book, I thought a whole new book was needed, but didn't know if I would ever have the time to write one. Then all travel was cancelled, and I suddenly had an extended period of time in which I could do this in addition to my other responsibilities. Both Renewal Ministries and Emmaus Road Publishing offered pre-publication discounts on the book, and between us, more than three-thousand copies were pre-ordered! *A Church in Crisis: Pathways Forward* also reached Amazon's Number One New Release in Christianity. The endorsements for the book are strong, and there is a lot of interest in it. I hope it will help people understand the sources of the confusion we are experiencing in the Church today and the powerful attack on Christ and the Church coming from a well-organized global secular culture.



⬆️ Ralph receiving the first copy of his new book, *A Church in Crisis: Pathways Forward*.

⬇️ Ralph signed over 1,300 copies of his book—one of the pre-order bonuses!



Even though we couldn't have our live Annual Gathering, we had a virtual Gathering in April attended by more than 26,000 people from all over the world. We received many messages expressing gratitude for making it so widely available for people who had always wanted to come but hadn't been able to, due to distance or other factors. We were blessed to speak a message of clarity and hope into the midst of a world that, at the time, was largely shut down and experiencing much darkness.

Ralph Martin traveled to Steubenville, Ohio, to record an audiobook of *A Church in Crisis: Pathways Forward*. He is shown here with St. Paul Center Vice President and Recording Engineer Rob Corzine.



One of the most remarkable “silver linings” was our increased commitment to regular YouTube videos on the Renewal Ministries’ YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/renewalministriesrm). Peter Herbeck and I each post a new video on most weeks, and other members of our team also post videos from time to time. The response has been amazing. We grew from about seven-thousand subscribers at the beginning of the year to more than 26,000 as of this writing. We also have now reached over two-million views on our YouTube channel! Some of our videos have gotten more than 100,000 views:

- *Fr. Michael Scanlan's Amazing Prophecy: An Urgent Message for Today*, my first video on Fr. Michael Scanlan’s 1976 prophecy, has now been viewed more than 256,000 times as of this writing, and been translated into eight languages.
- *Another Prophecy from Fr. Michael Scanlan*, the second video on his 1980 prophecy, has been viewed more than 116,000 times.
- *Two Events that will Precede the Lord’s Coming* has been viewed more than 113,000 times.

And many other videos by Peter and myself have received tens of thousands of views, like *Shocking Warnings*, which has been viewed more than 48,000 times. You can read more about our social media outreach throughout the year on page five. There were a couple times that at the end of the videos, I made a very low-key request for support so we can keep doing what we’re doing, and the response was generous. Thank you!

By the time September came, and it was time to do our annual TV production for *The Choices We Face*, the production studio we use was ready to work with us, utilizing creative social distancing and their usual excellent level of work. These programs will start airing in March 2021, and they are inspiring!

During all this time, Peter Herbeck and Sr. Ann Shields also have been able to keep their five-day-a-week radio programs going. (Sr. Ann is still recovering from her stroke but is able to continue recording new programs, thanks be to God.)

Financially, the first part of the pandemic was challenging. We were down \$250,000. But as the year went on and we found new ways to carry out our mission, the support returned. We typically receive much of our support at the end of the year, and if any of you are able to help us continue proclaiming the lordship of Christ and inviting “all men everywhere” (Acts 17:30) to repent and turn to Christ, we would be deeply appreciative.

Your loyal and generous support in prayer and giving means a lot to us. We are grateful.

Let’s all keep on, keeping on. I am writing this before we know the results of the American election, but whatever is going on when you read this, remember: Jesus is Lord and everything that happens does so under the providential hand of God. He only permits “bad things” to happen because He has a greater plan to turn evil on its head and bring good out of it.

Your grateful brother,



Ralph Martin

P.S. By the time you receive this, we will have begun our first-ever LIVE, online Advent Mission, based on my book *The Fulfillment of All Desire*. It’s not too late to register! Please join us on each Sunday in Advent, from 8-9 p.m. ET. I will both share insights from the saints and answer questions from participants. Help strengthen your spiritual foundations, or discover the basic decisions and practices necessary to make further progress in the spiritual life.

THE FULFILLMENT of ALL DESIRE

AN ADVENT MISSION WITH RALPH MARTIN



4 Sundays

🕒 LIVE AT 8PM ET

WEEK 1 | NOV 29
“BASIC DECISIONS”

WEEK 2 | DEC 06
“IMPORTANT PRACTICES”

WEEK 3 | DEC 13
“INITIAL CHALLENGES”

WEEK 4 | DEC 20
“BASIC STABILITY”

This LIVE, online Advent Mission will help you build a solid foundation for the spiritual journey!

Each Sunday in Advent, Dr. Ralph Martin will present inspiring insights from the saints on the first stages of the spiritual journey, as found in his book *The Fulfillment of All Desire*.

This Advent Mission is for everyone! Ensure your foundations are still strong, or discover the basic decisions and practices necessary to make further progress in the spiritual life!

MORE DETAILS & REGISTRATION:
www.renewalministries.net/advent

AT HOME & ABROAD

01



📍 Lift Jesus Higher Rally (Virtual Event)

Feb 27, 2021 | www.ljhr.ca

📍 The Gathering (Virtual Event)

Apr 17, 2021 | www.renewalministries.net/gathering

SAVE
THE
DATES

01 | LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY

The theme of this year's Lift Jesus Higher Rally was *Jesus, Light of the World*. The rally took place in Toronto, Canada, before Covid-19 shutdowns. Speakers included Ralph Martin, Fr. James Mallon, and Christy DuPuis, all speaking on how we should bring Jesus' light into the world, and that He will be victorious! The youth rally theme was *Jesus is King*. Next year's rally will take place virtually on Feb 27, 2021.

02



02 | THE GATHERING

Renewal Ministries' live-streamed Gathering reached nearly 25,000 unique viewers in twenty-two countries. The event, featuring Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck, with a special appearance by Sr. Ann Shields and music led by Dan Dirkes, was hosted at Christ the King Catholic Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The theme, *Jesus, Light in the Darkness*, focused on the hope and encouragement so needed during times of uncertainty. Next year's Gathering—which also will be live-streamed—will take place April 17, 2021.

03



03 | MEN ON FIRE CONFERENCE

Peter Herbeck and Bart Schuchts, from the John Paul II Healing Center, spoke at the Men on Fire Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, in October. The event had both live and live-stream options. The goal of the conference was to help men step into their own personal Pentecost, know who they are in Christ, live into God's purpose for their lives, and take back what belongs to them and God.

04



04 | APOSTOLATE FOR FAMILY CONSECRATION

Ralph Martin travelled to Bloomingdale, Ohio, where he spoke at an Apostolate for Family Consecration's Holy Family Fest event. He is pictured at a book table with his grandson Christian Sollom.

05



05 | LEGATUS SUMMIT EAST

Pete Burak gathered with Legatus members from chapters across the country for their semi-annual summit, dedicated to cultivating the Legatus mission of studying, living, and spreading the Catholic faith in members' professional and personal lives.

DIGITAL/ SOCIAL MEDIA

06

06 | RENEWAL MINISTRIES' PODCASTS

We launched two new podcasts this year in an effort to make some of our most important messages more widely accessible. *The Hour* and *Right Now With Ralph Martin* can be found on most podcast platforms. (To find *The Hour*, search "The Hour Renewal Ministries.")



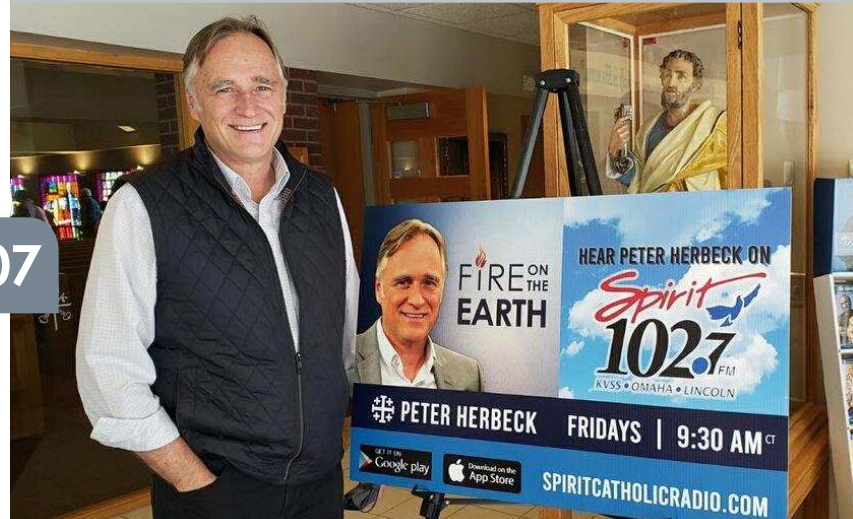
07 | RADIO PROGRAMS

Our radio programs are going as strong as ever! We are celebrating fifteen years of Peter Herbeck's *Fire on the Earth* and twenty-six years of Sr. Ann Shields' *Food for the Journey*.

07

08 | THE CHOICES WE FACE

Ralph is shown here on set with Dan Burke, who is part of a great lineup of guests joining us for the thirty-sixth season of *The Choices We Face*.



09 | HELLO & GOOD-BYE

This fall, we said good-bye to TV Producer Jack Lynch, who has served us wonderfully for seven years, and welcomed his replacement, Elizabeth Ryzpka, who also will be handling our social media outreaches. Both Jack and Elizabeth are notable for their deep dedication to the Lord, their love of Renewal Ministries' mission, their excellent technical competence, and their work ethic! We are sorry to see Jack go, but know that he is following the Lord into new fields of life and service. We also are grateful and amazed that the Lord has again sent us someone so well-suited to serve the mission in Elizabeth.

08



▶ YOUTUBE PRESENCE

- » We've had over two-million views on our channel.
- » In 2020 alone, we had more than one-million views—over three-hundred percent higher than the views in 2019.
- » Our channel's followers have increased by more than five-hundred percent from last year.

f FACEBOOK PRESENCE

- » We are just shy of ten-thousand Facebook followers—an increase of almost fifty-percent from the same time last year.

09



SAME NEEDS, ADAPTED APPROACH

BY PETER HERBECK // RENEWAL MINISTRIES' VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

As Ralph mentioned in his letter, we were only able to complete a handful of our forty scheduled missions this year, but we remain in close communication with our Country Coordinators and continue to provide financial and other support to our leaders in various countries. We also have been working to utilize technology and relationships with people on the ground to find ways of sharing God's Word even without the option of international travel.

One highlight of our efforts to stay connected with our Country Coordinators was when we hosted our annual meeting via Zoom. We had four different meetings that focused on prayer, a discussion with Ralph about his new book, praise and worship, and time for listening to the Lord. It was almost like being together, it worked so well. One of the key words we received was that the Lord wants us to stand before Him with a holy fear during this epic time. We must be ready to do whatever He needs us to do. We must be ready in prayer, humble ourselves before Him, pay attention and listen to Him, and cooperate with his purifying work.

We also have stayed in close contact with our partners on the ground in different parts of the world. Some of them were put in a very difficult financial position due to the pandemic, and we made sure they continued to receive needed financial support from us.

For example, Mexico is unique among our mission countries due to the medical and other material resources we regularly provide to the people living in the garbage dump there. We have sent financial resources and medical supplies on a couple occasions for things like stomach and respiratory issues, which

we typically give them, since they don't have access to antibiotics or things like that. Country Coordinator Jim Murphy is spearheading that, and we are in the process of raising money to be able to do more and to possibly send a couple people in 2021 to see how things are going. We plan to do something quarterly that can keep at least some level of the most crucial, essential support we've been giving them.



📍 MEXICO

In January, we sent a team of young adults on mission in Mexico. We served 125 patients through our medical clinic and also distributed large amounts of food, offered Mass, and strengthened relationships.

Thankfully, we have been able to use local teams to move forward with missions in some countries, including Ghana, Lithuania, Slovakia, Uganda, Kenya, Congo DR, and Mexico. This fall, Country Coordinator-in-Training Estelatus Antony Mtemanyenja, and others who live in the country, also led crusades and leadership training in Tanzania.

We are hoping to utilize a similar strategy if we need to rework some of our missions scheduled in early 2021. The events will be smaller, but they will still be fruitful. We also are hoping to have more online meetings with leaders in various countries and give talks via a livestream format, maybe even for a priests' conference. We've gained more experience with this, and it has been going very well. One of the biggest keys will be determining what people think is most needed and what they're capable of doing, technology-wise. Our friends and leaders in different parts of the world need strengthening. We can send them financial resources, but they also need teaching, good sharing, and good interactions. The teams are excited about these possibilities. We're saying,

"You guys can do this! It's wonderful when our Country Coordinators can be there, but the key thing is that the Lord is there. If you're there, the Lord is there, and He is going to use you!"

To everyone reading this newsletter:

Let's remember how much encouragement we all need, and how we can help provide that for each other through the small pockets of people that we know. It's so powerful when we just come and lift up the Lord together. Remember who He is, and remember He's got everything under control.



📍 ZAMBIA

6 Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw ministered to leaders in Katete, Zambia, in early 2020.



REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION

be love revolution

BY DEBBIE HERBECK // BLR DIRECTOR

Be Love Revolution's year began with a young adult Mexico mission trip, weekly Bible studies, retreats for high schoolers and middle schoolers, Toronto's Lift Jesus Higher Youth Rally, BeLoved events, small groups and mentorship, lunch-time worship at the local high school, and a new chapter in London, Ontario. Then Covid hit . . .

Not meeting in person for almost three months was a challenge, but we trusted that He who began a good work would carry it on to completion (Phil 1:6). We reached out through Facetimes and Zoom Bible studies and small groups, while also honoring the girls' additional time at home for family and prayer.

After the long winter and quarantine, we began our new "normal"—masks, social distancing, and growing societal tensions. We asked the Lord for good weather, so we could gather weekly in large backyards. The sun shone for three glorious months of Wednesdays, as we came together for teaching, worship, fellowship, and a renewed sense of purpose.

Sadly, August's week-long Pine Hills Girls Camp was not possible. Instead, we followed the Lord's inspiration and created Better is One Day, which took place over three days and allowed each of the sixth through eighth grade groups to gather outside for a one-day camp tailored to their needs. God's love, power, and joy were poured into our hungry campers and staff!

As winter nears, we are exploring new ways to continue meeting in person. We have carefully resumed our Bible study, small groups, and Adoration nights. We are leading discipleship groups of seventh and eighth graders during their school day, and doing one-day retreats. A new Be Love Revolution chapter began in Traverse City, Michigan, and there is interest in three more locations. More than ever, we see the need to evangelize and disciple young people, and we believe in-person connection is vital to their spiritual and emotional health. 2020 may feel like the year of Covid, but we know it is the Year of Our Lord!



ZION

BY JOEY MCCOY // ZION DIRECTOR

Because Zion has such a focus on face-to-face connections, everything we were doing had to be put on pause in March. Tribe leaders started doing biweekly Zoom Bible studies, which kept something alive.

Quarantine was largely a time to enter into the silence together, simply seeking God and clinging to Him. We trusted God to bring fruit from this moment of abiding.

Thankfully, the stay-at-home order lifted, and our summer was decidedly fruitful! Tribes gathered weekly, staying outside and mixing fun/challenging things with spiritually formative things. Momentum returned better than ever: the guys were eager and attendance was high. Moreover, we added fifteen new freshmen to our tribes! It slowly became apparent how much of a culture has formed in Zion.

In late July, we returned to our normal rhythm, which takes place within five two-month blocks that develop different foundational qualities of living as men of God: Story-Bearer, Pilgrim, Warrior, Heir, and Friend. Each block is a different angle of helping the guys "put on Christ" in a formational way. We aim to be not just talks or a series of events, but tribes living a way of life together.

And it is starting to happen! Praise God! Tribe leaders have taken considerable steps in holiness, high school seniors are leading, younger guys are starting to commit, and we find ourselves with something formative that has solidified under our feet. By the work of the Holy Spirit, over the past year (and more), something very good has been established. There is a unity and a dynamism to what we are doing that is quiet, sure, joyful, mature, patient, and very promising.

We have fourteen young adult men and forty-five high schoolers. Not a huge number, but a great one. Now, I pray we may go deep with those whom God has given us.

REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION



BY PETE BURAK // id DIRECTOR

It's been quite the year for id! Much like the rest of the world, we've ridden the highs, lows, challenges, and opportunities of all the various massive changes in society, the Church, and our daily lives. Throughout all of it, our conviction has not wavered; Jesus Christ is Lord and He has called us to help young adults become intentional disciples. We have sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit as we've needed to pivot from in-person discipleship to forming and inspiring people digitally. "How" has looked very different over the past eight months, but our "what," to equip and launch Spirit-filled leaders, has only grown.

Through the **Spirit-Filled Leaders Intensive Course**, digital Disciples' Nights, two National Theology on Taps, and numerous phone and Zoom calls with our id Chapter Leaders, our team has worked hard to expand the mission and vision of id.

During this time, we've had team members transition to new things and new people join the team. We've spent extra time praying and seeking the Lord's guidance for where He's leading us next. We've reached out to all of our supporters and provided daily social media inspiration to continue to spread the net out wide. We helped launch a new podcast, *The Hour*, and provided dozens of digital talks for various conferences and groups. We've been challenged to dive deeper into our team's core values, and find creative ways to maintain team unity, clarity, and conviction. Our chapters have risen to the occasion and followed our lead as we've introduced a revamped chapter development roadmap and officially rebranded from i.d.9:16 to id.

Overall, we feel tremendous wind in our sails. The need for young adult evangelization and discipleship is growing, especially in parishes, and we feel equipped to continue to grow by investing in leaders around the world who long to see a community of missionary disciples develop in their parishes!



Many Thanks

to our BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to the members of our US and Canadian Boards of Directors.

Their prayers, wisdom, and support have a priceless impact on the success of the ministry.

PLEASE PRAY...

- *That the joy and peace found in Bethlehem may be ours this Christmas.*

- *That the Lord will open many doors to share the truth and beauty of the Gospel in the upcoming year—and that we (Renewal Ministries and our supporters) will be able to hear his call and respond "yes."*

- *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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