

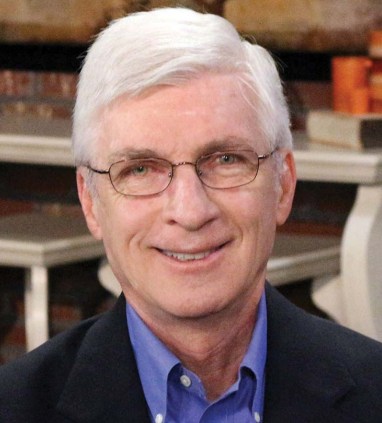


RENEWAL MINISTRIES

CATHOLIC RENEWAL & EVANGELIZATION

JULY 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

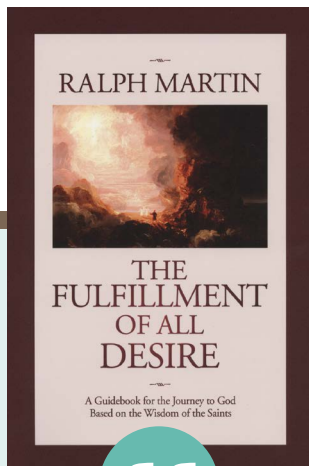


A LETTER ▶ FROM RALPH MARTIN

A Fruitful Life:
Remembering Deacon Chau
PAGE 3

Spreading the Gospel
in Romania
PAGE 4

The Paradigm of Ascent
Q&A with Dan Burke
PAGE 6



Ralph Martin
The Fulfillment of All Desire

Dear Fellow Disciples,

Things continue to heat up, both in the culture and in the Church. Very disturbing things continue to happen in Rome.

The Global Health Conference sponsored by the Vatican that recently concluded featured more than one-hundred speakers, and only two of them were priests. One of those priests had even been “fired” from his previous Vatican job for “editing” a letter from Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; he made it seem Benedict was endorsing the theology of Pope Francis, when no such thing actually happened.

The headline speaker at the conference was Dr. Anthony Fauci, whose “flip flopping” on advice about the pandemic has frustrated many, as well as Chelsea Clinton, a strong advocate of abortion, who called for more censorship on social media platforms to eliminate views on the vaccine that depart from the prevailing media-controlled consensus.

Other speakers included the lead guitarist for the heavy metal rock group Aerosmith, the model Cindy Crawford, and the New Age spirituality guru Deepak Chopra. Many of the speakers advocate for population control and promote abortion. I suppose the Pontifical Council for Culture, which organized the conference, thought they were “engaging” the culture, but the engagement seemed to

be completely one sided, with the “world” being given the blessing of the Vatican to promote its views, with nary a proclamation of the Gospel to be seen. In my book *A Church in Crisis: Pathways Forward*, I give numerous examples of how this continued focus on worldly concerns increasingly gives the impression that the Church is more concerned with “saving the Amazon, etc.” than with saving souls. It calls into question whether we actually believe our own teaching about the primacy of the eternal. **Lord, have mercy! Send your Spirit!**

At the same time, serious divisions among the bishops are becoming increasingly difficult to hide. Cardinals and bishops in many countries are now in open conflict with each other over what the faith actually means. There are clearly those in the American and Canadian hierarchies, and in Rome itself, who are extremely reluctant to consider implementing our own teaching that those who are in serious disagreement with fundamental Catholic truth shouldn't present themselves for Holy Communion and shouldn't be given Communion if they do.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

“Everything that exists is a gift from God. Yet oftentimes we look to the things and creatures created by God for a satisfaction and fulfillment that only God Himself can provide. When the soul wraps itself around the things and the people of this world, looking for satisfaction or fulfillment that only God can give, it produces a distortion in itself and in others as well. Many spiritual writers call the process of unwinding this possessive, self-centered, clinging, and disordered seeking of things and persons ‘detachment.’ The goal of the process of detachment is not to stop loving the things and people of this world, but, quite the contrary, to love them even more truly in God, under the reign of Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Things and people become even more beautiful and delightful when we see them in this light. There are almost always painful dimensions to this process of ‘letting go’ in order to love more, but it’s the pain of true healing and liberation. Christian detachment is an important part of the process by which we enter into a realm of great freedom and joy.”

Nevertheless, brave bishops are increasingly willing to break with the compromised, paralyzed stalemate in the US Bishops' Conference by taking up their responsibility as shepherds of their local flocks and teaching that receiving Communion means you believe and live accordingly to the basic truths of the faith, most notably, the Ten Commandments. This means that the following are grave sins indeed:

- ➔ Directly disobeying the Fifth Commandment by speaking and acting in such a way as to ease the path to killing more and more babies.
- ➔ Supporting the LGBTQ+ agenda in a way that demolishes the Sixth Commandment and opens the door to “punish” those who disagree—which will lead to persecution of the Church.
- ➔ And bearing false witness to all this, thereby trashing the Seventh Commandment.

Catholic politicians aren't the only ones who need to be confronted; all of us need to examine our consciences and use this conflict as an opportunity to draw closer to Jesus and commit ourselves to follow all his teachings, assisted by his grace and the help of one another. Thank God for Archbishop Cordileone from San Francisco; Bishop Olmsted from Phoenix; Archbishop Naumann from Kansas City; Bishop Paprocki from Peoria; Archbishop Aquila from Denver; Archbishop Chaput, recently retired from Philadelphia; Bishop Strickland from Tyler, Texas; and others, who all have spoken clearly and bravely on these matters. You can find their statements on their diocesan websites.

To learn more about these topics, you also can view my video *Who Should be Receiving Communion? (Not Just a Question for Politicians)*, Dr. Mary Healy's video *On the Blessing of Same-Sex Couples*, and more on our YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/renewalministriesrm.

One of the “silver linings” of the Covid shutdowns, which I've mentioned previously, has been our ability to give ongoing serious attention to commenting on such things in a timely manner in the weekly YouTube videos that Peter, myself, and occasionally others do. **If you haven't subscribed to our YouTube channel, I encourage you to do so. It's quick and simple and will give you easy access to all Renewal Ministries' content on YouTube. If you want to be notified when a new video is posted, make sure you also click the notification bell. Another great way to stay in touch with Renewal Ministries is to sign up for our email list on our website (www.renewalministries.net/signup) for our weekly email updates and important notifications.**

Some of our videos are in the range of 100,000 to 300,000 views! It is really encouraging to hear person after person say:

“I am so grateful I found you. I didn't know there was a ministry like this that spoke the truth clearly and charitably. It has been a lifesaver in this time of confusion.”

Consider these comments on recent videos:

“ Thanks for your sacrifice of time and learning to save souls. You and some other faithful lay people, priests, bishops, and cardinals are giving much of yourselves to gather the stray flock and guide us in the way of Christ and heaven. You have been a lifeline.”

“ Beautifully, coherently, and truthfully said. Brava for affording us the words which help us speak our Lord's truth.”

“ Thank you for sharing your wisdom and deep reflections on salvation amidst the confusion and crisis we are living through. Help us to own more and more our responsibility to propose and share Jesus with others with love and more boldness in the Holy Spirit.”

“ This is a well-balanced, Spirit-inspired, and well-researched video. Humility in tone brings out objectivity in a very mature and compassionate way.”

“ Thank you for this video on a topic I have wrestled with many times in different phases of my life. (I'm now 71.) I believe the Holy Spirit is present in your discussion.”

“ I pray this one gets to everyone who has even a salt of belief in them still.”

“ Thank you for caring about us so much. I'm grateful that you constantly try to enlighten and strengthen us. You give me hope, and you also embolden me to speak the truth.”

“ This is a fantastic talk. I'm in Toronto, under strict lockdown, and at Mass today there was no homily—just a Gospel reading. I'm grateful I clicked on this, because it is the sermon I need to hear. Excellent summary of the current crisis from the scriptural and supernatural view—and also an encouraging exhortation to repent and abide in Christ.”

“ Your commentary is wonderful. The Lord has more than nudged me to consider my life and choices, my sins, etc., and to confess and thank Him for saving us through Jesus' sacrifice, resurrection, and return.”

Your prayerful support makes all this possible, and more!

Your fellow disciple,

Ralph Martin

Ralph

P.S. The Audible version of my new book *A Church in Crisis: Pathways Forward*—which I narrate—is now available on Amazon. For many weeks, it has been the top Catholic audio book!

AUDIOBOOK
AVAILABLE AT
AMAZON



A Fruitful Life:

REMEMBERING DEACON CHAU

BY DON TURBITT



Deacon Francis Xavier Doan Ngoc Chau (“Chau”), who served as a Renewal Ministries’ Country Coordinator to Vietnam for nearly fifteen years, recently passed away after a battle with a long illness. Below, Country Coordinator Don Turbitt reflects on Deacon Chau.

It is with great sadness and pride that I speak about my friend Chau. In 1975, Chau was attending seminary in Vietnam. That was when the war with the US was ending, and everyone was fleeing the country. Chau’s brother came into the seminary, grabbed Chau by the shoulder, and said, “Come on, we’re going.” They literally went to the water and jumped in a boat, leaving behind their sisters and parents. (It was primarily young men whose lives were in danger at that time.) After a short time, Chau came into the US.

Chau worked and eventually married. They never had any children. After several years, he became a deacon. He was very dedicated to the Church and the Lord. He was a Charismatic, holy man with a great love for God. He went to Sacred Heart Major Seminary to get a master’s degree. That is where he met Peter Williamson and Ralph Martin. He told his friend from seminary—a new bishop in Vietnam—that he was studying evangelization with Ralph and Peter, and the bishop invited him to come to Vietnam and teach what he was learning in the seminary.

Peter and Ralph encouraged Chau to take someone from Renewal Ministries with him on the trip. I was sup-

posed to go to Russia that year, but my plans changed, and I ended up accompanying Chau. Little did I know it would lead to fourteen years of friendship and eleven trips to Vietnam.

The bishop asked Chau to teach the seminarians each day about what he was learning in the US. Chau actually designed a course and gave tests at the end of the week. The bishop asked me to do evangelization-type teaching to a group of 188 nuns in the evenings. So, Chau taught over one-hundred seminarians during the day and then translated for me and prayed with people at night. It was a very fruitful time, with many healings.

Learning about baptism in the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit was new for both the seminarians and the nuns. Chau’s friend, Bishop Joseph Nguyen Chi Linh, of Than-Hoa Diocese, who was also the acting bishop of the Phat Diem Diocese, was very impressed too.

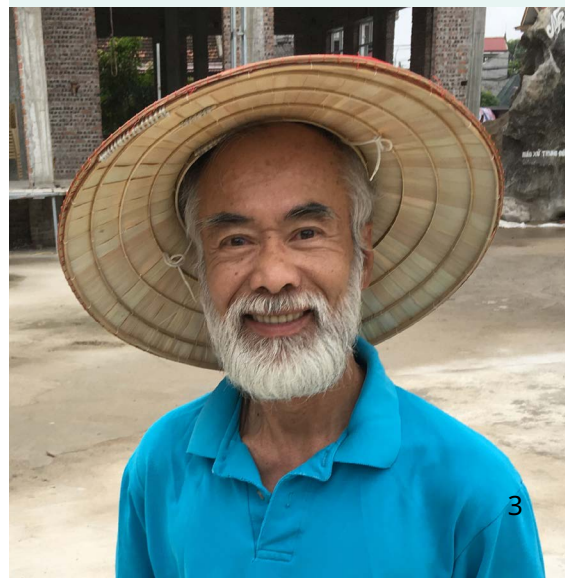
We would go to events with the bishop, to do Confirmation or something like that, and he would allow Chau to do homilies, and he would always have Chau in front. In Vietnam, when the bishop goes somewhere, one thousand or more people show up. There is great honor given to the bishops in Vietnam, and this particular bishop deserved all the honor. So, Chau had opportunities to preach in all kinds of different churches there; he did really great work. The bishop was proud of Chau, and Chau was very proud of the bishop too.

I heard Chau preach all the time, and everybody seemed to appreciate it,

but he only spoke in Vietnamese, which I don’t know. Then one day, the bishop asked Chau to preach in English, because the seminarians were trying to learn English. Chau completely blew me away. It was phenomenal! He really had a depth of knowledge, and he preached powerfully.

Bishop Linh, who eventually became the archbishop of the Huế Archdiocese, once told me that there were ten-thousand people in his diocese. When I asked how many of them went to Mass on Sunday, he looked as if he didn’t understand why I asked the question, and answered, “Ten thousand.” The Vietnamese are just amazing, faithful people. I can’t say enough about them. And Chau was a good representative for them. He thought about other people and not himself. And he will be missed.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*



SPREADING THE GOSPEL IN ROMANIA



BY TIBI MAJOROS

Country Coordinator for Romania

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

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

FINDING NEW WAYS TO SERVE

Our work in Romania was bearing much fruit when the pandemic hit. We originally thought things would settle down quickly, and so I made calls and sent text messages so we could worship at the same time in our homes, even though we couldn't meet as prayer groups. I didn't want to lose our momentum or have people fall away; it is very easy to quit going to prayer group.

Once quarantine ended and outdoor Holy Masses were permitted, we held shortened prayer group meetings after Mass on the church square. It brought us great joy to pray and worship together. The church square is in plain view, where pedestrians can see everything. Praying there was a testimonial deed. To our great joy, people started joining us—mostly those who also took part in the Mass, but sometimes also priests, and once, even the bishop.

In the summer, the authorities lifted some restrictions for a time. I tried to visit at least one community each week. During this time, I also organized two retreats.

During the first retreat, members of two new small groups were encouraged by worship and adoration of the Holy Sacrament. I provided a microphone for those who wished to pray out loud, and the Holy Spirit moved powerfully. These simple brothers and sisters had never done anything like

this; most of them find it hard to even pray aloud in their own communities. Their prayers came from the heart, not from routine. They spoke modestly and cried a lot. At one point, I bowed to the ground. Maybe I should have removed my shoes; God's presence was astoundingly clear. Those brothers and sisters greatly needed the strength they gained from that day. They grew richer through a meeting with God, which they could look back on in the coming months of restrictions.

The other retreat I organized was for a community in Arad. The community was very happy to hear my team's testimonies and encouragement. I have spoken with them for years about following Christ in a deeper and more committed way, and about not just walking ankle-deep into the river of the Holy Spirit. It's good to see many of them progressing nicely in their personal callings. It was a joy to be with them.

I organized a third retreat for another community, which we held online due to the second wave of the epidemic. The retreat lasted three nights, and each night featured a different speaker who also led prayer and worship. The first leader was Deacon Zoltan Kunszabo, Renewal Ministries' country coordinator from Hungary. Since many in Romania don't have an Internet connection, we sought the help of an IT tech who made the Zoom lectures

accessible through a webpage. We also reached out by phone to those without Internet access. Everyone was very grateful. Many additional people ended up joining the lectures! I must confess that I formerly had doubts about the effectiveness of ministering on the Internet, but I'm glad I organized the retreat. It might even be my proudest accomplishment of the year.

YOUTH CAMPS

The epidemic made it impossible to hold any youth camps. However, I formulated an alternative plan that consisted of multiple day-long trips with only a smaller number of youths in the mountains, far away from any settlements. I also found new areas for our rock climbing and caving programs. The biggest challenge with not having a central camp area is the lack of a fridge, kitchen, and shower. The pieces started coming together, but then I realized I was struggling in vain. The parents were afraid. During the entire summer, only two sets of parents contacted me regarding the camp. Finally, I had to abandon the idea. However, I believe that we will try this new, more affordable form of camping this summer.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Five years ago, in collaboration with the youth ministry of the archdiocese of Alba Iulia, we started the "Teljes szívvel" ("Wholeheartedly") youth training program. This complex training encompasses eight weekends. After a one-year hiatus, they invited us to help with it once again. This year, we had multiple training programs running at once—the usual youth leader training programs, and also a new music ministry leadership training program, for those who had completed the regular program in previous years. In total, we had three separate groups with about sixty young people in all.

I came to know the participants as humble brothers and sisters who wanted to serve God. We organized three weekends, two in the beginning

of the year and one more in September, when, for a short period, the harsh regulations were eased. We organized the rest of the weekends online, but we made progress much more slowly this way. The training is still ongoing.

I'm glad I accepted the request to help with these training programs. I believe they can see how essential the Holy Spirit is to this training. Without Him, no matter how well we do things, a necessary element will be missing.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

In September, Bishop Böcskei László, from the Diocese of Oradea, invited me to a colloquium. There were only five people present, including myself, and we talked about what we could do in the current situation. My standpoint was that even though we could not organize any events, we should try to organize trainings for the believers in the online space. My proposals were welcomed with great joy, and I was basically given free reign.

We started two trainings: one for our youth leaders, and another one for believers from all across the spectrum of the Church. The youth leader training is a short, monthly Zoom gathering that focuses on advanced training and team building. In the other training, intended for a wider range of believers, I spoke about evangelization and how to lead others to God. I'm trying to give specific help. I'm striving for it to be spiritual, motivating, and full of personal experience. The recorded videos are edited by the diocese and published on its page. I didn't know what the reception would be like. What if the subject didn't interest the believers? However, I was bombarded with phone messages the day after the first video's release. This was very encouraging! A couple of days later, I learned that more than 3600 people had seen the video in less than three days. I would have never thought the message would get to so many people!

I also started working for Radio Maria (the only Catholic FM radio station in Romania). We spoke a long time about

the lack of evangelizing programs with the station director. Ultimately, a program was born that calls listeners to God and features six speakers in rotation. I became one of the six. Fr. Tibor Karacsony, the station director, also asked me to start my own program on evangelization. We were able to train the Catholic listeners of an entire country! By the grace of God, this broadcast might bring a breakthrough; if not, it at least will give momentum to our work.



Tibi at the Radio Maria studio recording a new program on evangelization. ↗

The past year was like trying to swim against the current. It seemed like the best progress I made was in learning how to use new forms and methods of reaching people. On one hand, I have never been so restricted in my work; on the other hand, God opened doors, and I have never had such big opportunities to help bring others closer to Christ.



PLEASE PRAY

- ▶ For all who minister to others in Christ, that the Lord would bless and guide their efforts as changing circumstances force adjustments in plans and expectations.
- ▶ For all those experiencing loneliness or isolation as a result of medical or other circumstances.
- ▶ For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

THE PARADIGM OF ASCENT Q&A WITH DAN BURKE



The following article is condensed from an interview between Peter Herbeck and Dan Burke, the founder and president of the Avila Institute for Spiritual Formation, that originally appeared on the 2021 season of *The Choices We Face*. You can view *The Paradigm of Ascent* episode on our YouTube channel, at www.youtube.com/renewalministriesrm.

PETER HERBECK (PH) » Why did you write a book on spiritual warfare (*Spiritual Warfare and the Discernment of Spirits*)?

DAN BURKE (DB) » I've been involved with exorcism ministry, which is on the rise. There's always an ebb and flow across history, when the enemy has more or less power. Now it's more. Exorcisms are taking longer. More people are struggling in that, and more lay people are working in deliverance ministry. I felt it was time to equip people in a very practical way, which is my realm of writing, to equip people with the knowledge of how to stay out of the need to go see an exorcist.

I also want to help people understand how to listen to the Holy Spirit and how to better understand the influences coming against them. I tell my students,

"All the thoughts in your head are not yours, and you should not listen to them."

That idea is very liberating.

PH » That's a radical thought.

DB » It is. During the last class I taught, a woman said, "I've been in depression for thirty years, and this course

delivered me." She realized she was being externally influenced. She said, "I was giving into those thoughts. Before, I thought that since this was how I felt, it was me." Jesus spoke of this when He read that passage from the Old Testament about setting the captives free (see Isaiah 61:1-3). This changed the way she thought about her oppression, and then she began to practice the battle against it, which is what St. Ignatius taught. She began to cooperate with the Lord, and He is always so generous to those who begin the healing process. It gets harder later. But instantly, she was delivered of that depression.

There are a lot of people who are not depressed but don't realize they have anxiety, fear, doubt, despair, tepidity, timidity, cowardice, whatever it is, and of course, in our difficult times, that's easy to come by.

PH » I battle with some of those very things.

DB » You do? You're supposed to be perfectly confident, and yet, you're human.

PH » Exactly. It's the battle. We're living in spiritual warfare, and heightened combat is going on. There is a madness in society that fills people with anxiety and confusion. I remember hearing years ago that demons are like rats, and they cling to garbage. Many of us carry wounds, which is the place where the enemy wants to attach to places of vulnerability and weakness.

One of the reasons I love *Spiritual Warfare and the Discernment of Spirits* so much—there's many reasons—is that

it's timely and it's written in a way that is very accessible and gets right to the heart of the matter.

I'd love to read where you describe your early experience. It grabbed my heart right from the start.

Scene 1: Screaming, rage, another full-volume and frightening argument, and then boom! dead silence. A gunshot. I was only nine, but I knew what it was. My two younger brothers and I huddled at the bottom of the stairs, frozen with terror in the eternal silence. Was my mother dead? Would he kill us next? I couldn't move, or run, or think. It seemed like an eternity before we discovered what had happened—although we never really learned the full story.

Help us understand what's happening there.

DB » That was tough to reveal. My stepfather was a man of rage, alcoholism, and abuse; that's part of the story of what I grew up in. People think, "You have it all together. You're running this big ministry, and you influence so many people." They don't realize that I'm just a broken little Jewish boy who God is trying to get out of the way to use. We all have struggles, and I'm not speaking from a high tower, as though I've got it all together and want to tell you how to run your life.

I come out of brokenness. Jesus has radically healed me and transformed my life—through the wisdom of the Church and personal relationship with Him. I want people to know—if I can get free, anyone can get free. That's an important message. Based on where I

came from, from abuse, if I can have peace, anyone can have peace. If I can live in joy and not be a victim, anyone can be free.

PH » This is an important truth for moving forward for anybody in leadership today in the Church. We have to tell the truth about our own lives and the reality of the struggle. We don't have to feel like we have to project an image of perfection; so many people who hear us might end up thinking, "Well, that might be right, but they don't have my history." They're caught in the lie of thinking that, "My history determines my destiny." They get stuck in shame and fear, thinking, "What I'm hearing can never be real for me."

We need leadership that will help disarm that. There's a beautiful and simple process you follow as you come out of that over time.

DB » I came to Christ around age twenty out of despair. Rationally, for me, it was a bullet to the head or a reason for suffering. That was the equation, and I was ready to do one or the other. The Holy Spirit said, "This is a better way." And I began to figure it out. I came to Christ and read and memorized the New Testament. As I was reading, Jesus was saying,

"My peace I leave you, my peace I give you, not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (Jn 14:27)

I thought, "I've come to Jesus, but my heart is troubled. I have hope, but I don't have peace." And He said, "Come to Me all you who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28). I didn't have rest. I had a reason to live, but I was wrestling with, "What is this peace? What is this joy?"

I began to read the New Testament. Romans 12:2 says, "Be not conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." The Greek word for "transformed" is metamorphosis, caterpillar to butterfly. St. Paul teaches us where the battle is:

"We war not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers."
(Eph 6:12)

The battleground is the mind. The enemy creates fortresses of lies and tries to take up an abode, and our job is to destroy those strongholds. Take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. I outline that process in the book. That's the process I went through to get free.

PH » "Destroy arguments and every proud obstacle to the knowledge of God" (2 Cor 10:5). What does that mean?

DB » We believe lies. When I was a little kid—a good, compliant, happy kid, which got wrecked pretty quickly—I overheard my mother telling a neighbor I was a "piece of blank."

It ripped into the core of my being. After I became a Christian, when I would get upset because of some circumstance, I would wonder where my response of disproportionate anger came from. I knew it had to have a different root. Then I realized it was because that person tapped into a lie that my mother had told me, that the enemy had used to create a stronghold.

I learned this practice where I'd write down the lie, "You are a piece of 'blank' and you're worthless." But what's the truth in Jesus? "He created me before the foundations of the world" (Eph 1:4). He formed me in my mother's womb (Ps 139:13), and there's a future and a hope (Jer 29:11). I would write the lie on the left side of the page and the truth on the right, and I would say, "In Jesus' name, I reject the lie X, and in Jesus' name, I embrace the truth. I beg the Lord to set me free and heal me."

I went through that process a million times while, God be praised, memorizing Scripture. I had to learn all those truths about what the Lord says about me and then swap them out for the lies that the enemy wanted me to believe.

PH » The truth has the power to bring down these lies that get built up. As soon as you try to get out, the enemy reinforces those lies to keep you in them, and people feel powerless. But you experienced the power of God's Word cleansing your mind and giving you authority in Him.

DB » That's exactly right. Why did I go into Scripture? I became Christian as a Baptist, and they are very into that. But also, when I read Scripture, I received consolation. It gave me life.

PH » Please explain the "paradigm of ascent."

DB » I began to ask, "What is the common framework within which all of the saints live? What is consistent across Franciscans, Dominicans, Carmelites, and all these beautiful expressions of spirituality?" The Paradigm of Ascent is my way of trying to summarize it. The first step is making a decision for Jesus and saying yes to Him. It doesn't matter if you've been baptized and confirmed—you must live out that reality and say, "Yes, I'm all in." Otherwise, you're not an authentic disciple of Jesus.

Then, you must support that "yes" with frequent reception of the sacraments of Confession and the Eucharist. Daily mental prayer, the rosary, and now I also believe a discernment of spirits examen is necessary because of the demonic forces in our time. The last one is asceticism—self-denying in order to give to another. It's not doing what you want to do, but instead doing what God wants or what another needs or wants as a normative practice of the Christian life. That's the paradigm of ascent. That describes the central activity of every saint that's ever lived.

PH » Why did you also include St. Ignatius' Fourteen Rules for the Discernment of Spirits?

DB » I discovered a lot of this as a Protestant, and then I became Catholic through St. Teresa of Avila. I was Confirmed and received into the Catholic Church on the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Then, I found a Protestant version of her writings. I studied them and found the rest of the saints and wondered about them. My step-father, who fired the gun, was Catholic, so I was very anti-Catholic. But I began to discover the saints and eventually

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

discovered Ignatius. He was the finalization of the bulk of my healing. I still practice his discernment of spirits every day.

These rules help us understand when God's moving and how He moves, when the Devil's moving, and how he moves, how they influence us, how we fight, and how we win. Ignatius is so practical, and he's a warrior.

PH » What are the dimensions of those fourteen rules, and how do you apply them to your life?

DB » Let's talk about Rule Five, because it is the one that stuck with me when I first read Ignatius' rules. In Fr. Timothy Gallagher's book *The Discernment of Spirits*, he uses an example from *Lord of the Rings*, where Galadriel hands Frodo a little vial of light, and says, "This is a light for when all other lights go out." It's a very powerful moment, and Rule Five is that reality. St. Ignatius says that when you make a positive spiritual commitment, you're going to encounter opposition and desolation soon. When that desolation hits, never change. Maintain that commitment until you're back in consolation.

To illustrate: You make a spiritual commitment, desolation hits, and now you're in darkness and feeling negative pressure to quit, along with timidity, cowardice, and negative emotions.

Don't change that commitment until you come back into consolation. St. Ignatius answers why: In desolation, the voice of God is faint and weak, and the voice of the enemy is loud and clear. And in consolation, the voice of God is loud and clear, and the enemy's voice is faint and weak. Therefore, when you're in desolation, never change the prior commitments you made, because the voice of God is too hard to discern. It's too distant, and the enemy is powerful in that moment. Rule Six says the one thing you do change is that you put on your gloves and start to fight by resisting.

PH » You discern this call, and you feel good about it, and you set off into the mission or whatever it is, and it's all good. And then the inevitable comes, the battle comes, and you think, "This can't be right, because I don't feel right. I feel confused and frightened. I'm getting out of here."

DB » And the enemy goes, "Yeah!" And there's a party in hell whenever you do that.

PH » Right. Fr. Gallagher said Rule Five tells us that you never want to put yourself under the guidance of your enemy—and he's going to be your counselor at times of desolation.

What does it mean when Rule Six tells you to put on the gloves?

DB » Let's say you just went to a conference and you committed to twenty minutes of mental prayer each day. The next morning, when your alarm goes off twenty minutes early, the devil's going to go, "You don't need to get up. You're very tired." And your body goes, "Yeah, right." And the devil goes, "You should listen to him. And by the way, you're not very good at this. You've never really succeeded at spiritual things, and I just think you overstepped." And your body goes, "Yeah, it's really cold out there, and you should rest. This is probably not a good idea."

That's how he works. You respond by saying, "Heaven, no! I'm going to pray twenty-five minutes instead of twenty, and I'm getting up." That's the fight! That's one of many strategies discussed in the book.

PH » What about Rule Twelve?

DB » The analogy I use is of motion sensor lighting on your house. Burglars run because they're exposed when the light goes on. Telling another spiritual person when you're struggling is very powerful. It's huge for marriage. I can text my wife one word, "desolation," and she knows to begin praying for me.

The devil likes to work in secret, and as soon as you tell somebody who is holy or spiritual, the light comes on and he is weakened.



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.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US:



youtube.com/renewalministriesrm



@CatholicRenewalMinistries



subsplash.com/renewalministries/app



Visit us at: www.renewalministries.net

UNITED STATES

Chairman of the Board Deacon Dan Foley
President Ralph Martin

CANADA

Episcopal Advisor
Cardinal Thomas Collins, Toronto, ON

Chairman of the Board

Monsignor Gregory Smith, Vancouver, BC

NEWSLETTER

Editor Heather Schultz
Design Emily Bachelor

© 2021 by Renewal Ministries