



RENEWAL MINISTRIES

CATHOLIC RENEWAL & EVANGELIZATION



YEAR IN REVIEW: IT'S AN HONOR TO SERVE

DECEMBER 2021



A LETTER FROM RALPH MARTIN

Dear Friends,

Your support of Renewal Ministries makes us friends in a real sense of the word. We are united in a common mission to bring souls to Christ; brothers and sisters joined in a call from God that is bearing amazing fruit.

The December issue of our newsletter is devoted to summarizing the work of the last year, and there is never enough space to do so adequately, even in a travel-shortened, pandemic year!

The big story of the last year is how - despite the travel cancellations - the Lord enabled us to reach more people and connect with more new supporters than ever before.

When Covid shut everything down in March of 2020, mission trips within the US and especially overseas were canceled and remained canceled for a good while. Domestic travel began to open again early in 2021 - especially in Texas and Florida - and we were permitted to resume travel to these states first. International travel has started to reopen in the last few months, and we have already carried out eight international missions.

In order to continue to reach people when travel was not possible, we began devoting more time and energy to creating weekly YouTube videos. A thoroughly unexpected blessing unfolded as Peter and I committed ourselves to post new videos regularly. As of this writing, we have shared 160 Weekly Messages and our YouTube channel has had over 4.8 million total views!! Although we deeply value in-person

events, where more person-to-person interaction can happen than it can through video, the remarkable fact is that we have been able to reach more people through our YouTube videos than we could have ever hoped to reach through in-person events!

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CURRENT TOP 10 YOUTUBE VIDEOS

1. Fr. Michael Scanlan's Amazing Prophecy: An Urgent Message for Today
2. Two Events That Will Precede the Lord's Return: Are We Seeing Them Now?
3. Flee Now! From the Wrath That is Coming
4. Another Prophecy from Fr. Michael Scanlan
5. Surprised by Truth | feat. Fr. Mike Schmitz (*The Choices We Face*)
6. The Activity of the Antichrist
7. Ralph Martin Responds to Bishop Barron on the Salvation of Non-Christians
8. The Warning; The Illumination of Conscience
9. After the Election: What Now?
10. Trapped in a Demonic Deception

“

As a mother delights in taking her child on her knees, in caressing and feeding him, so does our God delight in treating with love and tenderness those souls who give themselves entirely to Him, and place all their hopes in His goodness and bounty.

// SAINT ALPHONSUS LIGUORI,
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH



PLEASE PRAY

- For families with loved ones who died this past year, that they would find renewed hope and joy in celebrating the coming of the Infant Jesus at Christmas.
- For all students on break from school over the holidays, that they would be renewed by time spent outside the classroom and refreshed by time spent with those they love and that love them.
- For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We continue to reach and encourage many viewers with our television show, *The Choices We Face (TCWF)*, when it is aired on EWTN and replayed on various video platforms. To appreciate the personal impact on viewers of all our YouTube videos, you can visit the channel itself and read the inspiring comments people post under each video. Here is the link to Renewal Ministries' YouTube channel:

[youtube.com/RenewalMinistriesRM](https://www.youtube.com/RenewalMinistriesRM)

Another unexpected and significant “silver lining” from our travel shut down was that I had a chance to write a book that had been on my heart, something I would never have had time to write if I had kept to my travel schedule. That book, *A Church in Crisis: Pathways Forward*, has been at the top or near the top of Catholic bestseller lists for many months, and the audiobook version continues to be in the Top 20. As of this writing, it is the 15th bestselling Catholic audiobook.

Your donations have enabled us to donate and send *A Church in Crisis* to more than 150 English-speaking bishops worldwide. One hundred copies were donated and sent to all the bishops, seminary formators, and key priests in Ghana, Africa. In order to help strengthen the Church in Poland to resist the incredible pressure from the European Union to cave to the secular agenda, the book has already been translated into Polish! Accompanied by a personal letter from me to Polish readers, fifty copies of the Polish edition were donated and sent to all the ordinary bishops of Poland. Copies of the letter and the book were also sent to six non-ordinary bishops of Poland,

thirty Polish priests, and the Ukrainian bishop of the Greek-Catholic Church. There's a battle going on, and the Lord is enabling us, with your support, to engage in it in a meaningful way.

Over 600 people have left reviews of *A Church in Crisis* on Amazon, an extraordinary number of reviews, culminating in an overall five-star rating. I've done over seventy interviews about the book with various media outlets, all of which find its content extremely relevant to the situation we are facing in the Church and the world today. Thanks be to God!



📺 DVD Now Available: First aired on EWTN, this five-part miniseries covers Ralph's new book, *A Church in Crisis: Pathways Forward*.

Everything else that didn't require travel continued to go forward. Our outreaches to high school boys and girls continued to meet, in person, socially distanced, outside when necessary, and in our new office space with its conference room when permitted.

Our outreach to young adults continued to function through Zoom meetings and has resumed in-person visits to various chapters and local communities throughout the US and Canada to strengthen and encourage them.

👇 Our first staff meeting back in the office was like a mini-family reunion!



Even our big annual conferences in the United States - our annual Renewal Ministries Gathering here in Ann Arbor and our Lift Jesus Higher Conference typically held in Toronto, Canada - took place with great effect via live video transmission with thousands of people being encouraged.

We also offered, for the first time ever, virtual Lenten and Pentecost missions. For the Lenten mission I presented wisdom from the Saints from my book, *The Fulfillment of All Desire*, over four sessions. The Pentecost mission included four talks from myself, Pete Burak, Peter Herbeck, and Dr. Mary Healy. All eight presentations can be watched on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/renewalministriesrm

I was very grateful to be able to travel to give five talks to the priests of the Diocese of Richmond, Virginia, and I look forward to doing the same at regional priests' conferences in California in January and Texas in April. I am also looking forward to the privilege of giving the annual retreats for the Friars of the Renewal, the order founded by Fr. Groeschel. The retreats will be given the week after Christmas and the week after Easter. If you would, please, pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all these priests and for a powerful word of the Lord to go forth. I would appreciate that very much. The exact dates are listed in our events' calendar in this newsletter and on our website.

Peter had the great opportunity to assist at two conferences for bishops held this fall, where he provided significant input and made valuable connections. Peter, Pete Burak, Debbie Herbeck, and I have begun to travel again to local Legatus chapters (organizations of Catholic CEOs) to preach the Gospel. Peter, Pete, and I were encouraged as we attended a three-day meeting for key Catholic leaders in Georgia, organized by FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). A highlight for me was speaking at the Napa Institute Conference, where I had the blessing of taking a selfie with Jonathan Roumie, the actor who plays Jesus in



Keynote speaker, Fr. Matthias Thelen, and Renewal Ministries' new board member, Sr. Mary Gabriel, SV, recently enjoyed the Be Love Revolution annual fundraiser with Ralph and Anne Martin and Peter and Debbie Herbeck.

The Chosen! We were also able to host our first seminar in a long-time. The seminar featured Msgr. Charles Pope who spoke to bishops, priests, deacons, and lay leaders about preaching the Gospel amid a culture that contradicts it. Besides those who gathered with us in person in Ann Arbor, many joined us online as well.

Another highlight for us was hosting our annual US Board of Directors meeting in our new office. It was a particular joy to welcome two new members to the Board, Danielle M. Brown and Sister Mary Gabriel, SV.

To all our new supporters who found us through our YouTube videos or through reading my book - a hearty welcome! To those who have been with us for several or many years - deep gratitude for your faithful support. Whether you came early in the morning (in the 1980s) to begin working in the vineyard with us or at the last hour (during the past year), your support is deeply appreciated and indispensable to continuing our work.

Many people at the end of the year take stock of their charitable giving. As you consider your own end-of-the-year giving, please keep Renewal Ministries in mind. The battle for souls is heating up. We need to go forward on all fronts and can only do so with your backing.

Gratefully in Christ,

Ralph Martin

Ralph Martin

With Gratitude

to our BOARDS 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!

WELCOME to our new US Board members:

DANIELLE M. BROWN is the Associate Director of the ad hoc Committee Against Racism at the USCCB. She is a lawyer and a former Michigan Supreme Court appointed Commissioner for the State Bar of Michigan Board of Commissioners.



SISTER MARY GABRIEL, SV is a member of the Sisters of Life, a religious community founded by John Cardinal O'Connor, which is a community dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the sacredness of human life.



AT HOME & ABROAD

01



SAVE
THE
DATES

📍 Lift Jesus Higher Rally | March 5, 2022
www.ljhr.ca

📍 The Gathering | Apr 22-23, 2022
www.renewalministries.net/gathering

01 | LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY

The theme of this year's Lift Jesus Higher Rally was *Consuming Fire*. Fr. Matthias Thelen was our special guest with spirit-filled talks also given by Ralph Martin; Peter Herbeck; Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, Canada; Bishop Scott McCaig, the Military Ordinary of Canada; and others. The event was live-streamed on Feb 27, and has since been viewed more than 40,000 times on our YouTube channel! Next year's Lift Jesus Higher Rally will take place on March 5, 2022.

02



02 | THE GATHERING

Our 2021 Gathering was held on April 17, both in-person and via live-stream from Christ the King Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The theme was *Seek First the Kingdom* with dynamic talks from Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck aimed at helping us internalize Jesus' command to "be not afraid" so that we can go forth and bear fruit in today's world. The talks are now available on our website and YouTube channel and have already been viewed by over 30,000 people! The Gathering will take place next year on April 22-23, 2022.

03



03 | CONNECTICUT MEN'S CONFERENCE

Ralph enlightened a crowd on "Living as Catholics in Challenging Times" in the New Britain baseball stadium at the Connecticut Men's Conference. His talk can be watched on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/cV5wTv6S6nw>.

04



04 | CLERGY CONVOCATION IN RICHMOND, VA

Ralph had the privilege of being the main speaker at the Clergy Convocation for the Diocese of Richmond, Virginia, and gave five talks. The priests are shown here waving to you, our supporters.

05



05 | MSGR. CHARLES POPE EVENT

We were delighted to support a group of bishops, priests, and deacons in their role of preaching and teaching by offering a seminar at our Ann Arbor office which we also live streamed for those unable to attend in person. Guest speaker Msgr. Charles Pope talked about how to preach on important-but-unpopular truths in today's culture.

DIGITAL/ SOCIAL MEDIA

YOUTUBE

YouTube has become an integral part of the mission field for us. As we've become more intentional with utilizing this platform, we've seen our reach skyrocket:

- » We are just shy of five million views on our channel
- » In 2021 alone, we had more than two million views
- » In July of 2021 we surpassed 50,000 subscribers

We've received a multitude of comments like the following, and each one encourages us to keep moving forward on this front:

"How does one ever find the words that adequately express the gratitude I have for your work and the work of Renewal Ministries. You are a gift from God and the messages you share are life changing and life saving. May God continue to bless your work and keep your voice strong as we engage in this unprecedented battle with evil. Thank you."

06 | THE CHOICES WE FACE

Filming for the thirty-eighth season of *The Choices We Face* featured an all-star line-up of guests including Adora Namigadde (Metro Reporter for Chicago NPR news station WBEZ - shown here on set with Ralph), Patti Mansfield, Fr. James Brent, Alan Webb, Danny Abramowicz, Pastor James Ward, Fr. Michael Nixon, and others.

07 | RADIO PROGRAMS

We are celebrating twenty-seven years of *Food for the Journey* with Sr. Ann Shields and seventeen years of *Fire on the Earth* with Peter Herbeck. These shows continue to provide listeners with inspiring teachings, interviews, and testimonies to help them understand what the Holy Spirit is saying in our time.

08 | RENEWAL MINISTRIES' PODCASTS

Last year, we launched two podcasts: *Right Now With Ralph Martin* and *The Hour*. As of this writing, episodes from the two shows combined have over 75,000 plays! *The Hour* and *Right Now With Ralph Martin* can be found on most podcast platforms. (To find *The Hour*, search "The Hour Renewal Ministries.")

06



07




08

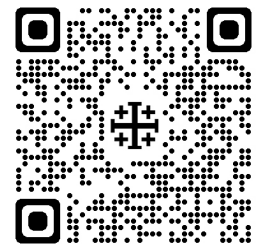


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<https://subsplash.com/renewalministries/app>

— or —

Visit our Media page:
Scan the QR code to the right with your phone's camera 



SCAN ME

09 | id

id is Renewal Ministries' outreach to young adults. For five days in September, the id team went live on YouTube for the "Experience God's Power Challenge." Hundreds of people pre-registered, and thousands have watched since. The conversations unpacked what God has done for us, the new life available to us in Christ, the gifts of the Spirit, and the power that comes from being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Participants were blessed by the wisdom and inspiration of four dynamic and experienced speakers: Mark Hartfiel, Sarah Kaczmarek, Patty Mansfield, and Aaron Richards. During Friday's live stream, Aaron and Pete Burak led people in a prayer for a greater release of the Holy Spirit in their lives. One participant commented: "Aaron is inspiring! So good to hear his teaching! We all need to ask daily for a deep encounter with God. I love what he is doing with kids! Thank God for his willingness to take a leap of faith." We didn't want people to simply learn about God's power but to boldly seek God's power to live as fruitful disciples and to walk away hungry for even more!

10 | BE LOVE REVOLUTION (BLR)

BLR is our outreach to young women, accompanying them in the process of developing a personal relationship with Jesus and growing into mature disciples. The mission of BLR is captured in the motto: Be His. Be Free. Be Love.

11 | ZION MINISTRY

Zion is our outreach to high school boys. Using the model of life-on-life stewardship, high schoolers are paired with young adult tribe leaders to learn, experience, and practice five core identities of Christ's humanity, enabling them to grow into men after his very heart.

12 & 13 | PINE HILLS CAMP

Renewal Ministries is growing again! As a part of our continued outreach to the next generation, we have taken Pine Hills Camps under our wing. The boys' and the girls' camps aim to help young people come to know and experience God in their lives through a relationship with Jesus Christ and the action of the Holy Spirit and to equip them to live as disciples in the world today.



GLOBAL MISSIONS OUTREACH

14



GAMBIA

14-17 | IN-PERSON MISSIONS

We have returned to offering in-person missions in several countries and providing much-needed lay leader training and priests' retreats. We pray for the doors to more countries to be re-opened in the coming months and for even more hearts to be re-opened to the Holy Spirit at these in-person events.

15



SLOVAKIA

18 | COUNTRY COORDINATOR'S MEETING

With hearts wide open to the Holy Spirit and each other, this year's Country Coordinator Meeting was cause for great rejoicing! After a two-year hiatus due to travel restrictions surrounding the pandemic, Renewal Ministries' worldwide missionaries, local staff, and teaching partners gathered together in person and through video streaming.

"Being together again [in person] was like coming home," shared Lavinia Spirito, a Renewal Ministries teacher from Kentucky. "Even though I know that God isn't limited by Zoom, I am! It meant everything to me to attend in person."

16



ROMANIA

Peter Herbeck opened the meeting by casting the vision for the two-day event held onsite at the Renewal Ministries' office in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

"The main thing we want to do is just come before the Lord and worship Him. To place ourselves before that Lord and to listen," Peter announced as participants settled in their seats the first morning. "I've got tremendous conviction the Lord really wants the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the preaching of the Gospel, getting people free, getting people empowered; the stuff that we do, our piece. He is very serious about all of us walking and moving in it."

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CAMEROON

18



EVENTS

**Catholic Business Network Breakfast
Maumee, OH**

Dec. 2
Debbie Herbeck
Contact Paula Kidney:
pkidney@toledodiocese.org

**Board Meeting for Renewal Ministries
of Canada***

Toronto, Canada
Dec. 5-6
Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck

**Women's Advent Tea at St Joseph
Whitaker Parish**

Ypsilanti, MI
Dec. 5
Debbie Herbeck
Contact: gzmijewski@gmail.com

**St. Michael the Archangel Parish Advent
Women's Retreat**

Livonia, MI
Dec. 11
Debbie Herbeck
Contact Patty Breen:
pbreen@livoniastmichael.org

**Retreat for the American Province of the
Friars of the Renewal***

New York, NY
Dec. 26-31
Ralph Martin

**Encounter Conference
Grand Rapids, MI**

Dec. 29
Dr. Mary Healy
<https://encounterministries.us/conference/>

Visit [RenewalMinistries.net/Events](https://renewalministries.net/Events)
for a complete list of events.

* Not open to the public.

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With online participants videocast on one of the meeting room walls in real time, the first day of the meeting was enlivened by joyful worship music, Adoration, Mass, time to pray with one another, and shared meals.



On the second day of the meeting, Ralph Martin provided a small sample of what people from around the world share with him about how the work of Renewal Ministries has impacted their lives. One such person put it quite simply, "You saved my life, and you saved my faith."

Echoing the vision cast by Peter on the first day, Ralph's talk articulated the path Jesus gave us to eternal life.

"We need something that solves what's wrong with life on earth. We need something that solves the problem of sin. We need something that rescued us from death. We need resurrection from the dead. We need eternal life.

"Now, the amazing thing is that that is what we have to offer! We have something to offer in preaching the Gospel that is unbelievably good. I mean, the Good News is amazingly good... If we could invent really good things, we'd never think of this; not only living forever but living forever healed of the wounds of sin, living forever with the divisions among us broken down... Living forever as one in Christ. And the way that eternal life comes is by believing in Jesus who is lifted up [on the cross]... We need to believe in the power of the cross, to repent, obey... and follow the path to eternal life."

With hearts full-to-overflowing with the graces of the meeting, participants returned home refreshed and recharged to do the work the Lord has appointed Renewal Ministries to do in sharing the Gospel.

SAVE THE DATES:

**Lift Jesus Higher Rally
Ann Arbor, MI & Livestream**
Mar. 5, 2022
Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck

**Renewal Ministries' Annual Gathering
Ann Arbor, MI & Livestream**
Apr. 22-23, 2022
Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck

MISSIONS

Ukraine
Dec. 1-13
Don Turbitt



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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NEWSLETTER
Editor Heidi Bratton
Design Emily Bachelor

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