

A LETTER ▶ FROM RALPH MARTIN

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Ralph gave the annual
retreat for the Friars of the
Renewal.

Dear Companions on the Way,

In our April newsletter, we featured the amazing ministry to priests, deacons, and seminarians that the Lord has enabled Renewal Ministries to do over the years. Since April, I've had more opportunities to support priests than ever before in such a short period of time.

After Easter, I had the joy of giving the annual retreat to the Friars of the Renewal (Fr. Benedict Groeschel's order) from the New York/New Jersey area at a retreat house in Philadelphia. These friars are the real deal! While being refreshingly human, they are living holy lives totally focused on the Lord. Truly, they are living in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.

A week later, I spoke in Austin, Texas, at one of the great priests' conferences sponsored by the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. This was the second time that I've spoken at these conferences this year, and a third one will be in West Virginia. Priests are hungry for support in the faith and fellowship with one another.

In May, I was privileged to give eight talks to the priests of the Diocese of San Jose at the invitation of Bishop Oscar Cantu.

It was a joy to reconnect with two of the priests of this diocese who had graduated from the STL program at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit where I teach.

A few weeks later, I traveled to England at the invitation of the British branch of the Confraternity of Catholic Clergy, to give them a two-day retreat in the historic city of York (this is where Constantine, on military maneuvers, learned that he was to be the next Roman emperor). While there, I also spoke at several other locations, including a one-day conference sponsored by St. Anthony's Communications, where I ran into a priest who runs the Science and Religion Center at Oxford. During his talk, he mentioned how reading *A Crisis of Truth* many years ago helped set him on the right path. It was humbling and inspiring to hear testimonies like this.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



📍 An overhead view of the approximately two-hundred priests who participated in the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology's Priests' Conference in Austin, Texas.



📍 Ralph praying before a talk at the parish mission at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Wichita, Kansas. He spoke on the theme, *Living as Catholics in Troubling Times*.



📷 Photo credit St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Wichita, KS

📍 Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the papal nuncio to the United States, presides at the opening Mass for the Eucharistic Congress in Corpus Christi, Texas.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

While in England, I also spent a few days with the Friars of the Renewal at their house in Bradford, England.

I gave a talk to several hundred people, some of whom came from as far away as Northern Ireland. Others came from London. The friars support some very committed Christians in their midst who are important witnesses to their people.

In June, while giving a talk to FOCUS missionaries and students in the Los Angeles area, I was surprised to run into one of the friars I had met in England.

He was there as a spiritual counselor to the students! The friars are flexible and open to helping wherever they are needed but still maintain a wonderful fidelity to their challenging rule and community life.

After returning from England, I traveled to Buffalo, New York, to give several talks to the priests of the diocese, who were together for the first time in three years due to Covid and other impediments. It's a diocese that has been beaten down by many unresolved lawsuits involving clergy sex abuse, the need to declare bankruptcy, and the closing of its seminary. The Lord helped me encourage them to continue following Jesus with even greater fervor and fidelity to his teaching.

In between all these events, I spoke at a parish mission in Wichita, Kansas, and at conferences in Fresno, California, and Tucson, Arizona.

I also had the unique opportunity to have breakfast with Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the papal nuncio to the United States, along with Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, the archbishop of San Antonio, and Dr. Andrew Lichtenwalner, director of the Office of Evangelization for the Archdiocese of Atlanta, at the invitation of Bishop Michael Mulvey, as **we all were speakers at the Eucharistic Congress in Corpus Christi, Texas, where he is the bishop.**

Another highlight of this summer was teaching for two weeks at the seminary's summer in-person STL classes.

I taught a three-hour class every morning on Models of Evangelization and then a two-hour class every afternoon on Stages of Spiritual Growth. This has been a special time of being able to serve the Church and her priests.

While all of this is happening in North America, amazing things are happening in Africa as well. It is amazing how Renewal Ministries' support for a band of disciples in Uganda has released a great flow of blessings on hundreds of priests and seminarians, and on a growing number of bishops in Uganda and in other countries where they have been able to serve as well. You'll be inspired by the article on pages six and seven of this newsletter.

We certainly are living in challenging times! Your prayers and support are more appreciated than ever, as we continue to proclaim the Gospel when it's convenient and inconvenient.

Don't forget to get your weekly dose of encouragement from Peter Herbeck and I on our YouTube Channel, at www.youtube.com/RenewalMinistriesRM.

Until next time,

Ralph Martin

Ralph

📍 Ralph gave eight talks to 120 priests at the San Jose Diocese Clergy Convention. He spoke on evangelization, holiness, what's going on in the Church today, the Holy Spirit, and Our Lady of Fatima. Bishop Oscar Cantu is seated in the front row.



📍 Ralph gave several talks to 130 priests and two bishops of the Diocese of Buffalo, celebrating its 175th anniversary as a diocese.



📍 Fr. Peter Littleton prepared dinner on Ralph's first day in England.



📍 Ralph spent two days giving four talks on the themes of *A Church in Crisis* and *The Fulfillment of All Desire* to the Confraternity of Catholic Clergy in York, England.





OFFER IT UP

This interview is condensed from a 2022 episode of *The Choices We Face*, in which Ralph Martin (RM) interviewed Fr. James Brent (FJB), OP, from the Dominican Friars Province of St. Joseph. It can be viewed at www.youtube.com/renewalministriesrm.



Fr. James' original video on suffering can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HU8Ynfvkjoc>.



RM: Your video about joining our suffering with the suffering of Christ had tremendous insight. I would like you to share some of that. First, though, please tell us about yourself.

FJB: I was raised in a Catholic family. I wandered away from the faith, but God's grace brought me back. I earned

my doctorate in philosophy and then sensed a call to the priesthood and the Dominicans. I was ordained in 2010 and now teach philosophy and some theology at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, DC. I also travel the US giving retreats for college students, young adults, and various groups.

RM: The theme of St. Dominic is sharing out of your contemplation and the balance of contemplative and active. The Eastern Province has a significant intellectual apostolate that provides material about faith and reason—including a video series and a lecture series on truth issues at prestigious secular universities.

FJB: There has been a renewal of the Dominican order in recent years. The Lord has granted us this grace of teaching and preaching on secular campuses through the Thomistic Institute. We also have a series of YouTube videos called Aquinas 101 and a network of student chapters on college campuses that invite Dominican friars and Catholic professors to give talks.

RM: What is the Lord showing you about suffering and offering it up?

FJB: Catholics once commonly spoke of offering up their sufferings to God. It makes sense with an understanding of Jesus' sacrifice and the sacrifice of the Mass. Unfortunately, many Catholics

no longer have a basic understanding of what this means.

It's important for us to understand what it means to offer it up, because we're all going to suffer. The good news is that our suffering can make a big difference in the grace that the world receives. If we join our sufferings to the cross in love, we can obtain through Christ the outpouring of the grace of the Holy Spirit upon the world. This is the only way that the grace of the Holy Spirit is given to the world—through Christ's sacrifice and the sacrifices we offer with Him.

During WWII, American Catholic servicemen were issued a prayer book with a Mass clock so they could find out where Mass was being offered at any time. They could unite all their sufferings at that moment to the Mass being offered in New York, Paris, Jerusalem, or wherever. That's how seriously Catholics once took this idea.

RM: Why did this understanding almost disappear?

FJB: The cross of Jesus is never a popular message. To preach the cross has always been a source of scandal. It's hard to speculate why the proclamation of the cross has waned, but it's the message that saves the world and there's a need to proclaim it now more than ever before.

RM: Why does Christ's cross save the world?

FJB: Jesus is the eternal Son of God. His Sacred Heart was filled with love, and out of an act of obedience to the Father, He chose to lay his life down on the cross (Jn 10:18). Because his death was an act of love and obedience, it had an ineffable value in the eyes of the Father sufficient to merit the salvation of the entire human race and all sins past, present, future, or possible.



RM: A lot of people today don't feel like there's anything we need to be saved from. They don't understand the concept of sin and think there are just mistakes and failures.

FJB: Everyone has a conscience and knows the difference between right and wrong. Everyone has received some measure of light about good and evil. Everyone is weak according to the flesh. The Church's teachings are clear that unless a person is living in a state of grace, that person will sooner or later give himself or herself freely to mortal sin. We all need to be saved by the grace that comes to us thanks to the cross of Jesus Christ.



RM: We all need to be saved from the reality of original sin, from the actual sins that we've committed, from being a slave to the culture we're living in, and from being a slave of the devil, who Jesus says is the ruler of this world. If you're not in Christ and availing yourself of his sacrifice, you're in grave danger of being enslaved by the world, the flesh, and the devil, and being lost forever.

Mary told the children of Fatima to accept their sufferings and offer them in reparation for sin and the conversion of sinners. She said many souls are going to hell because so few people are willing to pray and offer sacrifice for them. This relates to what you're saying.

FJB: All the saints have a keen awareness of the need to offer sacrifices to make satisfaction for the sins of the world. Christ's sacrifice is not insuffi-

cient; it is a call to participation. We're called to participate in his work of offering sacrifice out of love, and all the saints felt that call deeply.

Only in the last several decades has this theme fallen out of the ordinary consciousness of Catholics.



RM: Thank you for bringing it back. Many people wonder why we make reparations for sin. People wonder whether it's important that sinners are converted and whether there is such a thing as sinners. This gets to the heart of the confusion and the virus of Universalism running through the Church.

FJB: Twentieth-century popes talked about the erosion of the sense of sin, and only the Spirit can awaken the conscience so people can be converted. Bl. Conchita, from the early twentieth century, was convinced that God wanted to renew the face of the earth, and particularly the priesthood, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. She believed this outpouring would not happen unless everyone joined hearts with Christ on the cross, offering their sufferings to the Father.

When you and I suffer, we receive an opportunity to join that suffering with Christ. Jesus says,

This is my body which will be given up for you and this is the chalice of my blood which will be poured out for you (Lk 22:19-20).

Similarly, you and I can take all our sufferings—especially our physical sufferings—and say in our hearts, “This is my body which will be given up for you.” We can say that because, through our baptism, we are united to Christ in his priesthood.

There is the royal priesthood, which unites all the baptized to Christ, and there is the ministerial priesthood. Only the ordained minister can make the sacrifice of Christ present on the altar. But all the faithful are called by virtue of their baptism to unite with Christ's sacrifice. They can join in that prayer and say to the Father, “This is my body which will be given up for you.”

Jesus, the High Priest, lives in those who are living in grace. He gathers their sufferings into his hands, and He offers all of us to the Father.



RM: We need to tell people not to waste their suffering. Join it to the suffering of Christ.

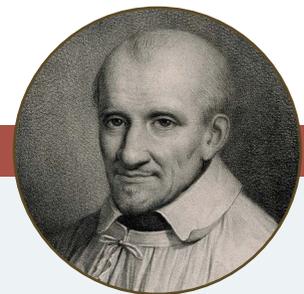
FJB: Mass is the time to unite our sufferings with Jesus and to say, “This is my life, these are my sufferings. I offer all of it to You, Father.”



RM: We need to ask the Holy Spirit to bring us back to all these truths of the faith that many people have drifted away from.

Paul says, “I make up in my own body what's lacking in the sufferings of Christ” (Col 1:24). Nothing lacks in Christ's sufferings, but He gave us a chance to participate in the salvation of the world.

FJB: That means when we offer our sufferings for a particular intention—just like the priest offers the Mass for a particular intention—it has big effects. We can offer it for the conversion of sinners, for souls in Purgatory, and for people who are suffering and caught in sin, for them to be rescued and delivered.



If we only knew the precious treasure hidden in infirmities, we would receive them with the same joy with which we receive the greatest benefits, and we would bear them without ever complaining or showing signs of weariness.

// St. Vincent de Paul



SPREADING THE GOSPEL IN **ZIMBABWE**

For more than twenty years, **Renewal Ministries** has supported the **Emmaus Center**, a Catholic community within Uganda that bears much fruit for the Lord. The following report outlines the Ugandan Emmaus Center's recent outreach to another Emmaus Center in Zimbabwe. This outreach was funded by the generosity of **Renewal Ministries' supporters**.

By Joseph Aonu Okiror

Co-Founder and Director of the Emmaus Centre in Katikamu, Uganda

AN INVITATION

In 2018, Bishop Paul Horan of the Diocese of Mutare in Zimbabwe, the newly appointed president of his country's bishops' conference, visited the Emmaus Center in Uganda. The Emmaus Community in Zimbabwe was going through difficulties, and he wanted to learn from us. The late Fr. Collier, OCM, started the Emmaus Community in Zimbabwe in 2006 after completing a Life in the Spirit Seminar in Uganda. Afterward, Fr. Collier asked us to help him start an Emmaus Center in Zimbabwe. Sadly, he died before he could lay a solid foundation for the community.

Bishop Horan invited us to Zimbabwe to offer a priests' retreat, strengthen Zimbabwe's Emmaus Community,

and provide formation to Catholic Charismatic Renewal leaders. Since Zimbabwe is struggling due to a long-stretched economic war, he also asked for help raising funds for the priests' retreat.

During a bishops' meeting in Uganda in 2019, we met Bishop Horan again, and he repeated his request for us to provide Life in the Spirit Seminars for all his priests. We suggested that Renewal Ministries might consider his request, and in fact, they agreed to provide the necessary funds. Unfortunately, the unforeseen challenges of Covid lockdowns required us to postpone the retreat until May 2022.

THE CHALLENGES

A six-person team traveled from Uganda to Zimbabwe for the priests' retreat and leadership training. Coming from a hot environment, we found ourselves struggling with the cold winter weather; however, we managed to persevere with a smile each day.

Fr. Roy, the priest in charge of renewal in the diocese, briefed us upon our arrival. The facts were very disturbing. Only three percent of the fourteen-million people in Zimbabwe are Catholics, and many Catholics have joined other religious sects and cults. One of these cults has more members than all the Catholics and yet it is only recruiting Catholics and others.

Fr. Roy's report was rather bleak; however, he encouraged us to be ourselves and offer what God had laid on our hearts, including playing instruments

to make the worship more lively. We even bought a guitar, which helped greatly during praise and worship. The priests joined in the dance, clapping their hands and singing freely.

Although the bishop wrote personally to invite every priest, only thirty-four out of sixty-three priests attended, including the bishop, who was there the entire time. We suspect many did not want to have anything to do with the Charismatic Renewal and so found reasons to not come.

We discovered that some of the participants were very critical and cautious about the Charismatic Renewal. As the retreat progressed, though, they all came to love it. The participants needed healing and forgiveness, as they had deep issues among themselves. Thankfully, they experienced genuine reconciliation before the end of the retreat.

ADORATION AND INTERCESSION

We attribute the success of the priests' retreat to the fact that the diocese organized twenty-four hours of adoration and intercession before the Blessed Sacrament during the program. The Holy Spirit's presence was evident through anointed talks, sharing groups, and the celebration of the Eucharist. Even those who were skeptical about the retreat grew to deeply appreciate what was happening. We prayed for the baptism of the Holy Spirit for everyone and commissioned everyone, including the bishop, who wanted to be commissioned afresh.

We noted many areas of growth in participants throughout the retreat:

- Many priests admitted having had no personal relationship with the Lord Jesus until the retreat. They openly shared that they had a lot of intellectual knowledge about Jesus but lacked personal experience. They came to understand how Jesus' sacrifice on the cross needs a personal response in order to activate the faith.
- The priests came to better understand the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.
- Adoration motivated the priests to spend time in prayer.
- Participants said they were deeply blessed by the example of the facilitating team's unity.

In his homily for the closing Mass, Bishop Horan exhorted the priests to be open to the Holy Spirit, who allows us to be effective witnesses of the Gospel. He also thanked Renewal Ministries for making the retreat possible, and he encouraged the priests to offer many prayers for Renewal Ministries and its collaborators. He hopes other dioceses also will allow their priests to do Life in the Spirit Seminars for deeper Christian living.

We also spent four days training Renewal leaders by teaching from portions of Patti Mansfield's book *As by a New Pentecost* and Ralph Martin's books *The Urgency of the New Evangelization* and *A Church in Crisis: Pathways Forward*. This training was well received by both the priests and the leaders.

BEARING FRUIT

We observed with humility that the reason Uganda is ahead of most countries in Africa in terms of evangelization and formation is that Renewal Ministries has invested many resources in the country over a long period of time, sponsoring programs for priests, seminarians, and bishops. International priests' retreats have borne fruit in this area, as well as Life in the Spirit Seminars for priests and major seminarians. We are seeing many positive fruits, such as great openness to the baptism of the Holy Spirit by many priests and bishops. In fact, many new bishops participated in a Life in the Spirit Seminar, Unbound, or other leadership formation program at the Emmaus Center when they were still priests. Today, they form a ring of support for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

Recently, a bishop who had attended a Life in the Spirit Seminar at Emmaus with his fifty parish priests testified on its positive impact. Providentially, I was able to tell him that Renewal Ministries had approved funds for another batch of his priests; he was very happy and commented that this is the way to go for priests.

With Renewal Ministries' help, the Holy Spirit has started strengthening Christian leadership in Africa and building God's kingdom by bringing many people to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is our humble prayer that God in his generosity will enable this work to continue.



LEAVE A LEGACY OF FAITH

For the same reasons you support Renewal Ministries now, would you consider remembering us in your will?

.....
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.

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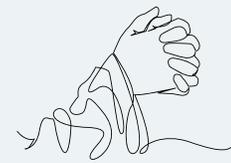
The Zimbabwe mission concluded with the leaders praying for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and commissioning all participants (pictured at right).



EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2022

Visit RenewalMinistries.net/Events to view all events.



PLEASE
PRAY

Kalamazoo, MI

All Michigan Charismatic Conference

September 2-4

Peter Herbeck, Debbie Herbeck, and Dr. Mary Healy

Details: theservantsofmary.org

Fort Worth, TX

Legatus*

September 8

Debbie Herbeck

Memphis, TN

Parish Mission

September 9-10

Ralph Martin

Details: justaguyinthepew.com/event-single/pew-ministries-speaker-series-featuring-ralph-martin

Brooklyn, MI

id Summit*

September 16-18

Pete Burak & the id Team

Ann Arbor, MI

Fr. Gabriel Richard High School

Freshman Retreat*

September 19

Debbie Herbeck & the Be Love Revolution Team

Des Moines, IA

Legatus*

September 20

Pete Burak

Washington, DC

SPES Bishops' Conference*

September 21-23

Peter Herbeck

Plymouth, MI

Our Lady of Good Counsel School Retreat*

September 22

Debbie Herbeck & the Be Love Revolution Team

South Bend, IN

Holy Cross College Mind & Heart Lecture

September 22

Dr. Mary Healy

Fargo, ND

Redeemed Eucharistic Conference

September 23-24

Dr. Mary Healy

Details: fargodiocese.net/redeemed

Keizer, OR

Western Oregon Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference

September 23-24

Ralph Martin

Details: woccr.org

Omaha, NE

Magnificat Women's Breakfast

September 24

Debbie Herbeck

Details: magnificatomaha.org

Ann Arbor, MI

Renewal Ministries' Country Coordinator Meeting*

September 28-October 1

Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck & the Renewal Ministries Team

► That in times of uncertainty, "the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:7).

► That the Lord will provide wisdom, strength, comfort, and healing to those facing health challenges and to those caring for them.

► For the prayer intentions of all our supporters, their family members, and their parish families.

Sydney, Australia

Share the Holy Spirit Online Conference

September 29-October 2

Dr. Mary Healy

Details: servantsofjesus.org/shs_2022

Fairfax, VA

Families for Christ Conference

September 30-October 1

Ralph Martin

Contact: Glen Gamallo

jmjgabe7@aol.com

* Not open to the public.

MISSIONS



South Africa, Lesoto, & Botswana

September 2-12

Lloyd & Nancy Greenhaw

Ireland

September 8-21

Tom & Jean Marie Edwards



Renewal Ministries is a Catholic ministry committed to renewal and evangelization in the Church. It seeks to proclaim Jesus Christ through its TV, radio, and social media outreaches, as well as through books, conferences, retreats, and other international evangelistic events.

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