+T+ RENEWAL +T+ MINISTRIES

CATHOLIC RENEWAL & EVANGELIZATION

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It is not always within your power to control your feelings. You will recognize that you have love if, after having experienced annoyance and contradiction, you do not lose your peace, but pray for those who have made you suffer and wish them well.

// Jesus to St. Faustina

Dear Friends of Renewal Ministries,

Ralph asked me to share some insights the Lord is giving us regarding things that are profoundly influencing the young people we work with. I think some lessons from the annual camp we run for middle school boys could prove valuable for us all.

I love Pine Hills Boys' Camp. Since 1980, for one week at the beginning of each summer, roughly 175 guys have come together to seek the Lord, challenge themselves, learn Christian leadership, and have an absolute blast! Since 2000, the camp has been a staple of my year. I had the joy of first attending as a camper, then serving as a counselor, and now leading as a camp codirector. Pine Hills is typically the most tangibly fruitful thing I do each year. Where else can you engage with eager and energetic young men, help them receive Jesus' love and mercy, and end the week with over three-thousand water balloons? This year, as always, God showed up, the Spirit moved in power, and dozens of boys surrendered their lives to Jesus. During one prayer meeting, Fr. Jim Rolph and Fr. Ed Fride estimated they heard over onehundred confessions. God's mercy flowed and the boys responded.

As leaders of the camp, we delight in receiving the boys as they are at the beginning of the week, getting to know their hopes, desires, wounds, and insecurities, and then challenging and inviting them into greater

freedom, peace, and confidence. Every year, this process of establishing trust, initiating encounter opportunities, and encouraging deeper conversion takes time and patience. This year, however, I noticed a troubling trend—an increase in the number of boys who had a particular lie from the culture deeply embedded into their minds and hearts. Perhaps you have heard it:

"You are what you feel. Your feelings define you."

Although most of these boys had received a new identity through baptism that was supported and built upon by their families, a false understanding had taken root through the culture's persistent emphasis on self-concern. Instead of society teaching young men how to give of themselves, serve others, and choose the good regardless of their feelings, it encourages them to boldly express their desires, demand whatever they want, and act according to their feelings at the moment. Additionally, society now values individual expression over humble obedience.

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Today, we are told to look inward and search our own hearts for the truth. The world has taught these boys they must always be happy, that happiness comes from freedom, and that freedom comes from doing whatever they want, with whomever they want, whenever they want—as long as those actions don't encroach on someone else's pursuit of happiness. In Planned Parenthood v Casey, US Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy even stated,

"At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life."

This absurd and irrational assertion represents a growing and popular worldview. At camp, we engage this mindset, present the truth of our identities in Christ, and provide an environment where a biblical worldview reigns supreme. I've heard feelings are valuable companions in life but horrible leaders, so during their week at camp, the boys are given the chance to detox from the world and put on Christ.

Everything we're seeing in the campers also is present with the young adults we serve through id. This individualistic, relativistic, emotionally driven, feelings-pursuing, and noncommittal mindset plays out differently with young adults but is equally damaging. In id, we seek to form young adults into intentional disciples of Jesus Christ, which requires a mindset completely antithetical to the one I just described. Jesus values and lives from a communion of love with the Father through the Spirit. Jesus is not merely a truth; He is the truth. Jesus conforms Himself perfectly to the Father's will through radical and joyful obedience.

Jesus acknowledges emotions but is not governed by them. He commits completely to his disciples and expects the same in response. Quite simply, the only antidote to an identity corrupted by prideful self-determination is emulation, conversion, and surrender to Jesus.

In the New Testament, we encounter a Lord who radiates humility and obedience. Jesus receives the confirmation of his identity from the Father,

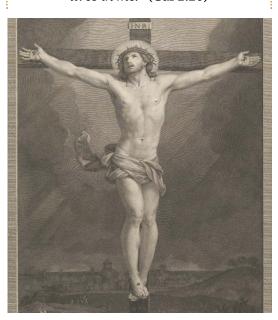
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Mt 3:17)

The incarnation reveals the posture we should take before the Father:

"Christ Jesus, though in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men." (Phil 2:6-8)

St. Paul exhorts his followers to imitate him as he imitates Christ. What does that look like?

"I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (Gal 2:20)



The crucifixion is the greatest act of obedience in the history of the world: God the Father sends the Son to redeem humanity, and the Son agrees and perseveres to the end. Jesus' willingness to follow the Father's will emerges not out of servile fear or even a strong emotional response but out of unfathomable love. He says,

"But I do what the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father." (Jn 14:31)

Jesus perfectly demonstrates how to receive, walk in, and persevere in one's

true identity, bestowed by the Father and confirmed by the Spirit. He is not subject to emotions or feelings but is grounded in truth.

You might be wondering: How do we help people see the reality of false identities rooted in feelings and help them instead lay hold of God's vision for them? At Pine Hills, it's a combination of proclamation, apprenticeship, and immersion. Every day, the truth is preached from the stage during our prayer times and confirmed through the leadership of the staff in all the small interactions and conversations at meals, activities, and squad times. The counselors journey through each moment of camp with the boys, participating with them and modeling what it looks like to persevere, challenge themselves, and remain joyful.

The ninth graders' daily workout is one immersive experience that stands out. We call it Milk and Cookies to disguise from the seventh and eighth graders what's really going on. Every day, the ninth graders participate in a more intense workout that challenges their bodies and minds to push through and learn how to overcome their feelings in order to do the right thing. They are taught how to lead in these types of environments, and they are free to rise to a new level or succumb to their feelings. I love seeing the ninth graders stagger back from their first Milk and Cookies, but by the end of the week, run back into camp with their heads up and smiles on, filled with the confidence of having done well a very hard thing.

Jesus shows up to camp and He will show up for us, just as He promised He would, ready to reveal to us who we are, what we're made for, and where we're going. Like the ninth graders, let's embrace our Milk and Cookies, submit our will and emotions to the Father, and learn what it means to become like Jesus.

Hat Buk

Pete Burak

id Director (intentionaldisciples.com)

NOTHING WITHOUT THE LORD BY RALPH MARTIN This article is condensed from a YouTube video that can be found at www.renewalministries.net/nwtl

A priest once told me, "Whatever you do, remember: Nothing without the Lord."

That phrase stuck with me: "Nothing without the Lord." It's helpful to remember that whether I'm waiting to get off an airplane, driving in my car, or just working, the Lord is always with me. He is always near. He is always in us, and we can be aware of Him. This makes me smile. It's a peace and a joy to know the Lord is always with us.

This is a simple way to remember fundamental truths. The Lord will be with us until the end of the age (Mt 28:20). He's the vine, we're the branches, and if we stay connected to Him, we're going to bear much fruit (Jn 15:15). His grace, love, and friendship are always with us. Jesus and the Father will come and dwell with us (Jn 14:23).

Scripture says,

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. . . . The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:4-7)

The phrase "nothing without the Lord" helps keep my mind and heart in the Lord and helps me make my needs known to Him. He is my friend; He's with me always. The more I can remember that, the more his presence, love, and peace can be in my heart.

Scripture also says,

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thes 5:16-18)

Rejoicing always is a fundamental part of God's will for us. We've been delivered, we've been saved, we are loved, and if we keep following Jesus, we're going to join Him in the most overwhelming love, communion, and goodness of eternal life. It's already beginning, but it's going to blossom after our deaths. When we're raised from the dead, it's going to be amazing, so rejoice always—even amidst the difficulty.

"Pray constantly." (1 Thes 5:17)

I'm finding this phrase, "Nothing without the Lord," a way of praying more constantly. My goal is to remember, more and more frequently, to thank the Lord, ask for his help, and acknowledge his presence in everything.

People often say they wish they knew God's will for their lives. This verse gives us the answer,

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for **this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."** (1 Thes 5:16-18; emphasis mine)

"

All harm comes to us from not keeping our eyes fixed on You. It couldn't be clearer: Nothing without the Lord.

Even in the very most mundane and bodily aspects of life, give glory to God—because the Lord is with us always. After all, Scripture tells us,

"Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Cor 10:31)

I travel a lot, and when I'm alone in a strange city, it helps to remember the Lord is at my side. Sometimes we experience his presence, sometimes we don't, but in faith to acknowledge that the Lord is always with us is important.

St. Teresa of Avila said,

"All harm comes to us from not keeping our eyes fixed on You; if we were to look at nothing else but the way, we would soon arrive. . . . Remember Jesus close to your side. . . . Get used to this practice! Get used to it! I'm not asking to do anything more than look at Him."

That's virtually identical to, "Nothing without the Lord." If we keep our eyes on Jesus, we will soon find ourselves at our destination, and we will get the help, strength, peace, joy, and confidence we need to manage the challenges of daily life in this world.

WORK CITED

1. Ralph Martin, *The Fulfillment of All Desire* (Steubenville, OH: Emmaus Road Publishing, 2006), 129.



Over twenty years ago, as an undergraduate student at Michigan State University, I went on a spring break trip to Panama City Beach, Florida, to do beach evangelization. On each day of our "vacation," we would approach strangers on the beach, tell them about Jesus, share the "four spiritual laws," invite them to make an act of faith, and offer to pray with them.

The world has changed a lot in twenty years, and while there is always the possibility of a stranger responding to a brief conversation about Jesus on the beach with a radical, whole-life change, it is even less likely today than it was then. The cultural chasm between radical disciples of Jesus and the average person on the street has become vast. If you find spaces where you can listen "undetected" (i.e., people have no idea you're a Christian) as people speak freely about their worldview, you will likely find that your approach to daily life as a Christian is so foreign it's like you're living on another planet.

As many of us stand at the precipice of that chasm, looking at the souls on the other side who desperately need Jesus, we are confronted with an important question:

What is the best way to bridge that growing divide and bring people into a saving encounter with Jesus?

In other words, how do I evangelize today?

First, I think it is necessary to acknowledge that we are starting from a place much further back than we might realize. It is hard to fathom the depth of woundedness that comes from embracing and championing grave sin. It is hard to grasp the depth of woundedness that comes from multiple generations of brokenness, where someone's entire conception of "normal" is contrary to a Christian life ethic. We need to be honest about the landscape, accepting that we will encounter people who are devastatingly broken, wounded, and distrustful—people who will struggle to conceptualize the goodness of what is offered in Christ. Often, much more groundwork needs to be laid before the heart of the Gospel can be heard and received (much more than a five-minute conversation on the beach).

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Here are a handful of things that I believe are essential to consider for the question at hand:

- 1 We underestimate what is possible in us by God's grace.
- We need radical dependence on God and constancy in prayer.
- We need to look more like Jesus in all our relationships and in every encounter with another person.
- 4 We need deep humility.
- We need the willingness to invest deeply, relationally, and for the long haul in people who don't know Jesus.

It is critically important that we begin by deepening our understanding of a fundamental truth: through the grace of baptism, the Holy Trinity *indwells your soul*. The triune God, who created the universe, who created you, who loves you, who conquered death, divinely indwells your soul! Words will always fall short of the enormity of this depth of relationship we have with God, but really and truly, you are as St. Paul says, "the temple of the living God" (1 Cor 6:16).

Do you live (and evangelize) out of a sincere, deeply held belief that almighty God indwells your soul? Do we know and believe that "nothing will be impossible with God" (Lk 1:37; emphasis mine)? Our God brings galaxies into existence with a word, raises people from the dead, and has power over all creation. He is intimately with us and available to guide our evangelistic endeavors, infuse them with grace, and multiply our efforts to make them supernaturally fruitful. He also is exceedingly able to help us navigate the relational difficulties that arise from so much brokenness and moral upheaval. He did the wildest, most incomprehensible thing and became man to be our model of holiness. He commanded us to imitate Him and showed us how.

I sometimes hear from Christians that they are afraid being in the world will destroy their faith, that they should cut non-Christians out of their lives or create exclusive enclaves to shut out the world and protect their faith. I hear stories of people leaving their jobs to find "safer" places, far from the immoral lives of coworkers. But Jesus ate "with tax collectors and sinners" and spent time with the woman at the well and the woman caught in adultery, all while masterfully declaring saving truth, calling to repentance, and perfectly loving sinners back into communion. By grace and by his power, it is possible to imitate his perfect love towards those who are broken and trapped in sin, while not compromising our own faith. Jesus wasn't safe when He died on the cross to save us. He doesn't call us to be safe. But He does say that if we die with Him, we will also rise with Him.

So, first, we must know that the impossible is possible with Jesus, and He who is powerful enough to create the universe and rise from the dead dwells within us. But we also need to know the impossible remains so, apart from prayer and radical reliance on God. We need to normalize asking God for everything. He knows exactly who we should talk to, when we should talk to them, how we should talk to them, when they are ready to hear and respond, and He knows what words they need to hear. So, we should ask Him who is all-knowing to help us. Pray that God gives you his heart, equips you with his words, and gives you the grace to imitate Him in your words and actions in every encounter with the lost.

One thing I do often is put everything into the hands of Jesus and Mary, saying something like,

"Jesus, Mary, I am not able to do this, please take care of everything."



And by everything, I mean my body language, my words, arranging the time and place of encounters—everything! And I invite some dear saint friends to join me in prayer. For instance, I often ask St. Anthony to find a way where there is no way.

Closely connected to this radical dependency on God and constancy in prayer is humility. The saints tell us this is the foundational virtue, necessary for the full development and exercise of other virtues. The virtue of humility is at work when we entrust things to Jesus, when we understand that we can do nothing apart from Him, and when we understand that He alone knows

enables

everything, and we **HUMILITY** do not. Humility is also approachable; in the face of great woundedness, it enables trust.

This brings me to the final item for consideration. Proportionate to the expanse of the chasm is the amount of investment we must be willing to make. That isn't to say Jesus can't build a bridge overnight where there wasn't one, but usually, long-term relational investment is necessary. Relational ministry makes the kind of difference that changes lives with permanence. And real, life-changing relationships take time. I once heard a story of a man (we'll call him Joe) whose next-door

neighbor was not a person of faith. He appeared to loathe everything Joe did: the fact that he had so many loud kids, the time of day he mowed the lawn, whether he trimmed his trees, everything. But Joe was patient and kind. He constantly made gestures of care and neighborliness. He didn't let the overt negativity of his neighbor affect his kindness. One day, after many years of living next door, Joe's neighbor called in the middle of the night. He had just learned that his son had committed suicide. Do you know what he said to Joe?

"You are the only person in my life who I knew would be there for me."

At perhaps his darkest moment, this neighbor knew Joe would care, knew Joe would show up. I believe Joe's witness is a lesson for all of us.

In the Gospel, Jesus invites us to radically care for our neighbor, who has been stripped and left for dead by robbers (cf. Lk 10:25-37). How radical is our love for our neighbor, who has been stripped of life by sin, the world, the flesh, and the devil? What is needed is a profound commitment to the lost in our midst—a commitment to showing up for our neighbor day in and day out, perhaps for years, in ways that build trust, restore brokenness, heal wounds, and pave the way to receiving the Good News of Jesus Christ.

When we think of radically loving our neighbor in this way, it can be daunting. The investment is a whole-life kind of investment. I'll share one of the best pieces of advice I ever received:

Build the Kingdom like Jesus did.

Jesus primarily poured into twelve men and then even more deeply into three of those twelve. And those twelve men changed the world. This challenged me to always ask, "Who are my twelve? Who are my three?" That is my challenge to you too. You don't have to take on your whole neighborhood, but ask the Lord, "Who are my twelve? Who are my three?" and then pray, fast, listen to Jesus, and pour out your life so that they too might live.



BY NANCY GREENHAW
Country Coordinator for Haiti

Nancy and Lloyd Greenhaw minister in the United States, Haiti, Papua New Guinea, Ethiopia, and several other countries in Africa. They conduct missions, conferences, and retreats for adults and youth. They also are involved in prison ministry and work with the homeless.

Nancy and Lloyd live in Texas and have two daughters, fourteen grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren. We recently led a team of twelve people to the Diocese of Jeremie, where amid other outreaches, we led what may have been the first evangelization school in all of Haiti! About twenty people were chosen by their local parishes to participate in the school. The participants were excited and asked very insightful questions. Although many of the concepts were new, they eagerly embraced all we taught.

HAITI MISSIONS, INC.

We again partnered with Haiti Missions, Inc. (HMI), which continues to do amazing works of mercy. HMI funds St. Bridget School and feeds its 235 students and staff each day. HMI also employs seventy local Haitian men and builds four homes a month. Half the cost of each \$8000 home is provided by matching funds raised at an annual silent auction. So, a concrete, hurricaneresistant home that gets people off the ground and greatly improves health only costs donors \$4000. HMI also distributes food and solar lights to approximately six-hundred people each year and feeds the prisoners in Jeremie approximately six times a year.

HMI is now building four houses a month, so there was not much time to

dedicate all the houses that had been built since we were last there just six months earlier. These dedications were great for all the young people on our team. One young woman was so touched by the joy of the recipients that she spontaneously pledged funds for another house! Lloyd and I also were able to dedicate a house that had been sponsored by our grandson. The joy of the people receiving homes is incredible!

While Lloyd and I taught the evangelization school, the team dedicated houses and distributed clothing, food, and solar lights. We provided 146 families with desperately needed money and food. This help is essential because residents cannot access the supplies that they used to get before the last earthquake damaged the only road to Port-au-Prince. The government tried to fix the road, but instead, gangs took it over and now have complete control of that point in the highway. It is a very dangerous situation, resulting in people being cut off from food, supplies, and other necessities. Our team flew into Port-au-Prince and then to Jeremie, thereby bypassing the dangerous or impassable roads. Unfortunately, not everyone has this option.

PRISON MINISTRY AND MORE

On our first night, we held a program in the church at Our Lady of the Assumption with Father Willie, the assistant pastor. About one-hundred participants attended. After praise and worship, we spoke on the power of Pentecost, which the Church had celebrated the prior weekend. We led them in an empowerment service, asking God to release the gifts they had received at baptism. Afterward, Fr. Willie processed with Jesus in the monstrance as we prayed for healing and freedom.

The next day, we attended morning Mass with the Sisters of Charity. We had ample time to pray with sick women who are part of the ministry of Mother Teresa's group, and some members of our team prayed over the sick men in the dormitory. Then we spent time with the children. There were at least fifteen babies just starting various modes of walking. Most of us sat on the ground with the children so they could get used to us. Some of the girls sang with the older kids.

Next, we drove to the prison in Jeremie, which is always a shock to the system, no matter how many times you have been there. We think there were fifty to seventy-five men in each of the cells; the cells are dark and without windows, so it's hard to tell how large they are.

Lloyd preached and gave his testimony to the men. HMI paid a guard to translate. Lloyd then asked the men if they would like to pray and ask Jesus for the true freedom of knowing and loving Him. All the men crowded in and repeated the Miracle Prayer. They seemed appreciative.

I spoke with the women as a group for about ten minutes with Fr. Willie working as my translator. Then, some of the girls and I prayed over the women individually. At that point, we didn't have a translator, but the Holy Spirit can cut right through language barriers. The rest of the team distributed barbecue chicken and rice in small Styrofoam packages along with cold drinks. Most of the prisoners don't eat unless people bring them food.

EVANGELIZATION SCHOOL

For the evangelization school, we had an excellent interpreter named Monday, who has been our interpreter each time we've served in Haiti. He knows Catholic theology and reminds us of some of the great interpreters from Africa. The first session was on the basic understanding of evangelization. We gave an overview of Christ's mandate to make disciples and taught about how the Church exists to evangelize.

Our team helped dedicate many hurricaneresistant homes that were built by HMI (Haiti Missions, Inc.).



We distributed Bibles, and the participants were very happy to get them. Then, Lloyd spoke on the Universal Call to Holiness. He stressed that holiness and mission are an essential part of their lives. The next morning, Lloyd talked about the lordship of Jesus and the fact there is no other name by which mankind can be saved. Lloyd stressed the absolute need to know the Word of God and that there is life in the Bibles we gave them—if they make Scripture a daily part of their lives. He shared stories of healing and conversion, and you could see the participants get excited about their call to go forth.

Next, I spoke on the gifts of the Holy Spirit they received at baptism and the need to release these gifts for the salvation of themselves and others. I discussed how to give a testimony and had them write their own three-minute testimonies and share them in pairs. They really enjoyed it! Lloyd then talked about the basic Gospel message. Later, I taught the Five Keys from Unbound Ministry. They immediately saw the need and power of this model because of the many people hurting in their parishes.

We also prayed over the participants for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. They asked God to clothe them with power and to release all the gifts they need for holiness and service. Then, they gave God permission to use them in any way He wanted. We went through the various gifts, beginning with tongues. I was a little surprised as most seemed to receive them-which showed us a real openness to the Holy Spirit and his gifts. We followed by asking for gifts of faith, healing, prophesy, preaching, and teaching. We always have them pray in tongues for each gift, and it really seemed to work, as they lost themselves in the Lord. It was a powerful time!

Finally, we commissioned all the participants, and some gave their testimonies. At the end of the Mass, the vicar general gave each student a certificate for participating. He now wants us to hold a school in his parish!

St. Paul, MN St. Paul Seminary Day of Recollection* November 1 Dr. Mary Healy

Rapid City, SD Real Presence Radio Fundraiser

November 3 Ralph Martin Details: yourcatholicradiostation.com/ banquet

Chicago, IL **Resurrection College Prep Girls High** School Freshmen Retreat*

November 4 Debbie Herbeck & the Be Love Revolution Team

London, ON id Community Retreat*

November 4-6 Pete Burak & the id Team

Sioux Falls, SD Real Presence Radio Fundraiser

November 10 Ralph Martin Details: yourcatholicradiostation.com/ banquet

Latrobe, PA St. Vincent Archabbey Seminarian Retreat*

November 11-12 Ralph Martin

San Antonio, TX Legatus*

November 15 Ralph Martin

Wixom, MI St. Catherine of Siena Academy Senior Retreat*

November 15-17 Debbie Herbeck & the Be Love Revolution Team

Paterson, NJ Legatus* November 17 Pete Burak

Denver, CO Ablaze Conference

November 18-20 Dr. Mary Healy Details: denverablaze.com/upcoming-2022-events/

Bismarck, ND Real Presence Radio Fundraiser

November 21 Ralph Martin Details: yourcatholicradiostation.com/ banquet

* Not open to the public.

Save the Date **MARCH 4, 2023** IN PERSON ? TORONTO

Details: www.ljhr.ca





- For all those struggling with infertility, difficult pregnancies, premature births, or pregnancy/infant loss, that the Lord will be present with his peace, comfort, strength, and healing, and that He also will provide any needed material help.
- That the Lord will guide our efforts to evangelize, and that they made be made fruitful by our willingness to respond when we hear Him say, "This is the way, walk in it" (Is 30:21).
- For the prayer intentions of all our supporters, their family members, and their parish families.

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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