



## A LETTER ▶ FROM RALPH MARTIN

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## Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Moving into 2026, the big news is that we now have an International Episcopal Advisory Council. You can see who's on it and their photos on page three of this newsletter.

We've always been able to count on the support of the two neighboring dioceses, the Archdiocese of Detroit and the Diocese of Lansing, but with a new archbishop in Detroit and our own Bishop Boyea retiring from Lansing sometime after his 75th birthday in April, we thought the time was right to ask some of our other bishop friends to express their support for what we are doing and be available to advise us. We were astounded by their strong response. Virtually everyone we asked agreed right away and expressed their appreciation for what we do and were happy to offer their support. It's really an amazing line-up of many well-known and highly-respected bishops. Since we are an international ministry we were grateful for the bishops from outside of North America who agreed to express their support—very significant bishops like Archbishop Anthony Fisher from Sydney, Australia, who is a Dominican and noted scholar, as well as a representative on a number of Vatican committees. Archbishop Fisher just recently

asked me to deliver a lecture on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's important apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, for the Archdiocese of Sydney, which I did via Zoom. Another bishop on our council is Archbishop Ginteras Grušas from Vilnius, Lithuania, who is currently serving as head of the European bishops conference. Since Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City agreed to join the advisory council he was elected president of the US bishops' conference. The same thing happened with Archbishop Sample of Portland, Oregon, who was elected chair of the US bishops' Religious Freedom Committee.

Additionally, we are extremely grateful to the recently retired Archbishop of Toronto, Canada, Cardinal Thomas Collins, who has also served for many years as episcopal advisor to our Canadian branch of Renewal Ministries, for agreeing to chair the board.

We are very blessed and very humbled by their support.

Besides that, more of the (wonderful) same. Missions all over the world. There have been many opportunities to continue to preach the gospel throughout North America, as well as internationally. Pete Burak, who has just published his first book (see the reply card), continues his role as one of the go-to "anchors" for EWTN's coverage of special events. In this case, he co-hosted coverage for the National Catholic Youth Conference, which 16,000 young people attended and which included a live Zoom session with Pope Leo.

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Pete Burak co-hosting EWTN's coverage of the 2025 National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis with Montse Alvarado and Fr. Aquinas Guilbeau.



Ralph spoke to the men of Christ the King Parish in Ann Arbor at their annual men's retreat.

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I had the privilege of giving the annual men's retreat at my own parish, Christ the King in Ann Arbor. I gave five talks on growing in holiness and loved the time with my own people. There were a lot of incredibly positive responses.

Shortly after that, I was in Simi Valley, California, giving three talks at a parish there that is known for hosting well-known but often controversial speakers, such as Charlie Kirk. Because of the hostility expressed towards these speakers, even though I wasn't speaking on anything political, they provided me with two big bodyguards in case anyone tried to attack me. No one did.

Rachel Herbeck did her first long overseas mission with Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw to Rwanda, which she writes about on page six, and Peter Herbeck and Rachel went out to Omaha to support Catholic radio there.


Occasionally, I am contacted by universities in various countries who have a student who wants to write their thesis or dissertation on evangelization. Since I am fairly well known for having published a lot on this topic, they sometimes ask me to serve on the examining committee for a particular student's work. Recently, the only Catholic University in South Africa asked me to do so and in return they sent me their St. Monica Award.

In November, I was able to attend the CHARIS Ministries Gathering in Pennsylvania at The Ark and the Dove. I will share more about this in next month's newsletter.



Ralph with his security team at a parish event in Simi Valley, California.

**ST AUGUSTINE**



**St Monica Award**

Named in honour of St Monica, who devoted so much of her talent, time and effort to the 'care' of her son,  
St Augustine of Hippo, the St Monica Award honours someone who has, in some meaningful way, made an important contribution to the life of St Augustine College.

Awarded to

**Ralph Martin**

*Therese Marie Sacco*  
Therese Marie Sacco  
President

*Kirstin Urquhart*  
Kirstin Urquhart  
Assistant Registrar

31 October 2025

And what a wonderful expression of appreciation we received from our good friends and co-workers in Uganda! It's addressed to you also!

*"Today, in a special way allow me on my own behalf and on behalf of Emmaus Centre Katikamu and the so many bishops, priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, plus multitudes of lay people in Uganda and indeed in Africa, to sincerely thank all of you at Renewal Ministries USA and Canada for the tremendous financial and human resources given us over the years for the salvation of souls and for equipping saints with tools for mission.*

*We can never thank all of you enough and the many supporters of Renewal Ministries wherever they are, whose generosity keeps both your mission and ours on the move, transforming lives for Christ!*

*We thank God that during the last three years alone, sixteen bishops, 1,650 priests and 540 seminarians from nine African countries, including several thousands of lay people were deeply touched by the love of God during our joint outreaches including last year. All this was made possible because of your generous kindness!*

*Indeed, gold and silver, we don't have but we pray that...May the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob bless and reward all of you and your supporters abundantly as you continue to spread the Gospel of truth."*

We are blessed, and you are blessed, for being allowed to participate with the Lord in such fruitful work. Your support makes many, many things like this possible. Thank you.

*Ralph Martin*

Ralph

# Renewal Ministries' International Episcopal Advisory Council

We are so grateful to the Lord for this group of distinguished bishops who are publicly standing with us in our mission! Please keep them and our ministry in your prayers.



**Council Chair:** Cardinal  
Thomas Collins  
Archdiocese of Toronto  
*(retired)*



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Gerard W. Battersby  
Diocese of LaCrosse



Bishop  
Earl Boyea  
Diocese of Lansing



Bishop  
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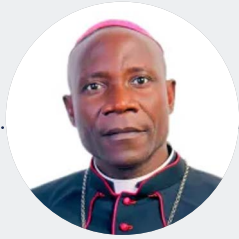
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Archdiocese of  
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Bishop  
David Toups  
Diocese of  
Beaumont



# HAS THE HOUR OF THE CHURCH ARRIVED?

This article is condensed from Ralph Martin's YouTube video of the same title, which can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/oqFbLxIOWcM?si=HuOkVorVxCxP2Xrr>.

I recently had the privilege of interviewing Fr. Donald Haggerty for our upcoming season of *The Choices We Face*. Fr. Haggerty is a priest of the Archdiocese of New York and one of the most insightful spiritual writers today. In his book, *The Hour of Testing: Spiritual Depth and Insight in a Time of Ecclesial Uncertainty*, he talks about how we are living in a time of tremendous hostility in the culture towards the Church and towards God. He describes it as a metaphysical rupture in which people are departing from reality. It reminds me of Romans chapter one where Paul says,

*“although they knew God they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him,”*

and

*“they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator.”*

(Rom 1:21, 25)

**One of the themes of Fr. Haggerty's book is how man today has cast off God and is putting himself in the place of God. He is glorifying himself rather than God, and we are seeing this in many ways.**

Science is ready to solve the problem of death, but the solutions that scientists are talking about involve uploading our brain into a computer somewhere. The kind of eternal life that they are promising through science is not eternal life. It is the prolongation of fallen human life and all its darkness, pain, and suffering. The eternal life that Jesus came to offer us is not just a prolongation of human life on this earth. It is a higher level where there will be no more death, pain, or suffering, and where our bodies will be glorified with the glory of God because of God's mercy and love to us in giving us Jesus. What is really at stake in this battle right now – the hostility towards God, the order of creation, and his Son, Jesus Christ – is a very profound challenge to the Church.

In *The Hour of Testing*, Fr. Haggerty says this:

**These proposals of modern day science, as in the Nazi period, depend on the death of God as the Creator. The whisper of the satanic voice can be distinctly heard in such talk. Most of humanity will not realize what is happening and will likely acquiesce once again in history without protest to the superior intelligence and authority of the scientists. The future decades may display instead a shocking acceptance of these supposed advances. The truth of God will be denied, and the consequence will be new forms of godless inventiveness in science and technology. . . . Without God, the perception of reality has become subservient to a purely subjective spirit. We have become godlike individuals who can determine what is real rather than creatures who receive what is real from a divine source of power beyond ourselves. (80-83)**

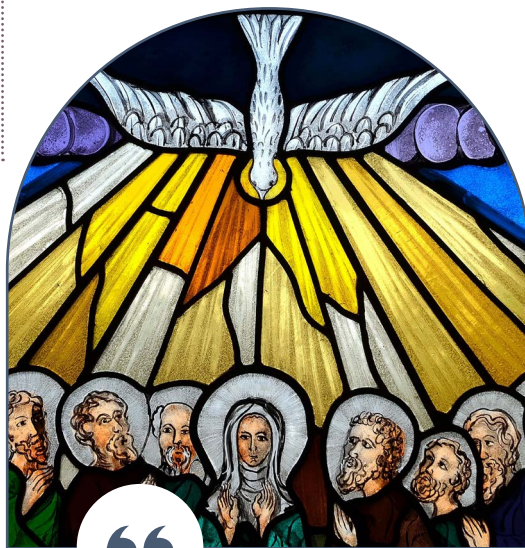
Besides pointing out the seriousness of the challenge from a culture that is turning away from God and putting itself in the place of God, Fr. Haggerty also talks about the sickness coming into the Church. **There is a rebellion in the Church and people are casting off the authority of God. He says we are living in a time where people are calling for doctrine to change, even though doctrine cannot change because it comes from God. God is revealed to us through the reliability of Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, and we find a reliable account of it in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and yet, there are huge forces within the Church that no longer accept what the Catholic Church teaches about marriage and sexuality, gender identity, and how the Church itself should be ordered and structured.** The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that the Church itself is going to have to go through a severe trial and test just before the Lord returns where a false Messianism is going to arise, where perhaps the Antichrist is going to arise and promise a solution to the world (CCC, 676-678). It may be a scientific solution, a political solution, a medical solution, or a solution to the problem of death and poverty, but it is going to come with a price. It is going to come with the price of rejecting Christ or creating a Christ in our own image to suit ourselves, and this is one of the great dangers in the Church today.

There are a lot of people who are sympathetic towards Christ and who consider themselves good Christians, but it is not the real Jesus Christ. They create a Christ that affirms them in what they want to do with their life and what they believe. Fr. Haggerty told me about the pain in his own heart when he hears confessions and counsels people. There are quite a few people that come to him who are

daily communicants and who are living in manifest mortal sin and illicit relationships. They are doing things that are deadly, things that Scripture and the Church say will exclude us from the kingdom of God, and they think everything is fine. A lot of people have reinterpreted the Christian faith and what it means to be a Catholic to suit what they want to do. This is a grave deception.

**So, what does Fr. Haggerty suggest we ought to do?**

He suggests we ought to be realistic, to acknowledge that we have serious challenges facing us. Right now, we are in a tremendous satanic assault on the Church and within the Church. We need to keep the truth clear in our head and to meditate on the Word of God. We need to respect the Tradition of the Church. We need to use the Catechism of the Catholic Church as a sure guide to what the Church teaches. Jesus promised to be with us and He is going to give us wisdom. He will not let us be separated from the Church, even if large sections of the Church go into apostasy or Church leaders no longer teach the truth clearly.



“

**Jesus promised to be with us and He is going to give us wisdom.**

Fr. Haggerty identifies that there can be an apostasy of silence—that is, not explicitly denying truths of faith, but never talking about them. If truths of the faith are not spoken about regularly, people can have the impression that they're not important or we don't believe them anymore. So, he emphasizes the importance of priests having the courage and boldness to speak the truth of love and fearing God more than human beings.

**The solution that Fr. Haggerty spends most of his time in the book talking about is us being more fully united to the Passion of Christ and more fully joining ourselves with his suffering love for the sake of the salvation of the world.** He proposes that we offer all the suffering of this time – the suffering of the test we are enduring, the suffering of disunity in the Church, the suffering of apostasy, the suffering of evil that is arising in the world, the suffering of confusion and contradiction in the Church – and letting it drive us deeper into relationship and union with the Lord. I think of Paul's words:

*“I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church.”*

(Col 1:24)

Of course, nothing is lacking in the suffering of Christ. It is totally sufficient for the salvation of all the billions of human beings who ever lived, but all the human beings who ever lived or will live need to open their hearts to receive that mercy. **The Lord is giving us a chance to participate with Him in the salvation of souls by offering all our suffering, particularly the suffering of living in a time of ecclesial uncertainty, and bearing the pain of that with Jesus.**

# SPREADING THE GOSPEL IN RWANDA



**BY RACHEL HERBECK**  
Rwanda Mission Team Member

Rachel Herbeck is the Director of Young Adult Discipleship for Renewal Ministries and hosts *Burning Hearts*, a daily podcast and radio program. She received her degree in Catholic Studies from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. Rachel has worked extensively in youth ministry and speaks to youth and young adults at retreats, conferences, and events in the US and Canada. She currently resides in Plymouth, Michigan.

In October, I had the privilege of joining Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw on a Renewal Ministries mission to Rwanda. I have served on our mission to Mexico many times, but this was my first time serving on a mission in a different country. Renewal Ministries has been working with the Charismatic Renewal in Rwanda for over twenty years. The Lord led us there in a particular way after the genocide as He began to do a profound work of healing in the country. The core message of this trip, in addition to the preaching of the gospel, was finding freedom in Christ through prayer and the five keys of Unbound ministry. Throughout our time there, the Lord revealed His love and the power of the gospel through signs and wonders, and we witnessed miracles and freedom found in Christ through prayer ministry and the Eucharist.

We spent significant time in two dioceses: the diocese of Ruhengeri and the diocese of Kigali, the capital city of Rwanda. The first week in Ruhengeri was spent teaching and preaching the gospel and offering Unbound ministry every day. Many of the people we had worked with on missions in the past had experienced incredible freedom through Unbound prayer and desired for us to train other leaders in the charismatic renewal in the principles of Unbound—repentance and faith, forgiveness, renunciation, authority, and the Father’s blessing. Each day

we had about 1,000 people gather at the cathedral there. We sang, danced, and worshipped the Lord. Nancy and Lloyd taught about how to step into our God-given authority over the evil one. Two of the core spirits that the Lord combats there are a spirit of unforgiveness and a spirit of witchcraft. There is great faith in the people, but there are also deep wounds from the genocide and from the significant presence of witch doctors. We saw great fruit as the Lord destroyed the yoke of bondage that these spirits cause.

*“We saw great fruit as the Lord destroyed the yoke of bondage that these spirits cause.”*

#### ONE STORY AMONG MANY

One of the most powerful ways I saw this was when we had the opportunity to pray with people and walk them through the five keys of Unbound. After the teachings each day, we would spend some time praying with people and hearing their stories. I could write pages about the amazing work the Lord did in these encounters, but I will share one particular story that represents how the Lord was working. We prayed with a young woman in her thirties who had a swollen leg from her knee down to her toe. It had been very swollen for seventeen years. As we began to talk, pray, and hear her story, we discovered that when she was young, a neighbor had put a curse on her that she would never get married. At various times, different members of her family had also brought her to a witch doctor to seek healing for her leg. In addition, she shared about sexual encounters that had left her feeling broken and empty. As we prayed, we invited her to renounce the spirits that had gained power over her through the witch doctors and to forgive the men who hurt her. There was a point where she forgave a particular man who had sexually taken advantage of her. As she forgave this man, the swelling in her leg began to go down right before our eyes. It continued to shrink until it was essentially the same size as her normal leg. As this happened, she cried and thanked the Lord over and over again for healing her and setting her free. Her spirit was so light and her smile so joyful, it was clear the Lord not only physically healed her but set her free internally from unforgiveness and spirits of darkness.

#### THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

To end our time in Ruhengeri, there was a closing Mass where the Lord continued to pour out his healing graces upon all of us. The organizers were expecting 2,000 people in an outdoor venue right outside the cathedral. When Mass began, they counted approximately 35,000 people who showed up. We enjoyed a beautiful liturgy together, and immediately following the Mass, the priests exposed Jesus in the monstrance and began a Eucharistic procession that lasted for hours. As Jesus passed through the crowds, it was easy to lose sight of Him because of the sea of humans surrounding the priest carrying the monstrance. The only way I could identify his location was by the crowd surrounding his presence that would erupt in dancing and worship with such vigor, energy, and reverence. As the Eucharist passed by the people, Jesus was casting out demons, healing the sick, and above all, moving people to worship and adore Him in such an amazing and profound way. It was clear that the people present had a profound conviction that in their poverty what they needed the most was for Jesus to pass by them. The most important thing was to get in front of Jesus in the Eucharist and allow Him to do the work.

#### AN INSATIABLE DESIRE

Seeing Him work in the lives of individuals in such a deep way through prayer and witnessing the power of the Eucharist truly deepened my faith.



A Eucharistic procession ended the closing liturgy in Ruhengeri.

I was so moved by the palpable hunger of the people. Like me, they were weak and broken, but they showed up with an amazing hunger and desperation for God. They came with a deep conviction that He could and would work in their lives and in their circumstances in ways that were unimaginable. We made a commitment to the Lord that we would return home and share the stories of what He had done, so that our faith would increase. God wants to deepen in each one of us a hunger for Him, an insatiable desire that only He can fill. We are used to filling this space with other people, entertainment, pleasures, or even “catholic things” or content that are still not Jesus himself. Our prayer is that these miracles grow in us a deeper desire for God and for his will to be done on the earth.

Pictured left to right: Rachel Herbeck, Bishop Papias Musengamana of the Diocese of Byumba, Tom Hornacek, Nancy and Lloyd Greenhaw, Dr. Francois Xavier Ngabonziza, and Fr. Epimaque Makuza.



# EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2026 View complete event list at [renewalministries.net/events](http://renewalministries.net/events).

\* Not open to the public.

**Novi, MI**  
**Holy Family Parish Marriage Event**  
February 6  
Peter & Debbie Herbeck  
Details: [holyfamilynovi.org/events-news](http://holyfamilynovi.org/events-news)

**Ann Arbor, MI**  
**Christ the King Women's Retreat**  
February 6-7  
Dr. Mary Healy  
Details: [ctkcc.net](http://ctkcc.net)

**Lima, Peru**  
**Retreat for Priests\***  
February 8-16  
Ralph Martin & Bishop Scott McCaig

**Fort Lauderdale, FL**  
**Good News Cruise**  
February 8-15  
Rachel Herbeck  
Details: [goodnewscruise.com/2026-good-news-cruise](http://goodnewscruise.com/2026-good-news-cruise)

**Flint, MI**  
**Flint Powers High School Staff Retreat\***  
February 9  
Pete Burak

**Novi, MI**  
**Holy Family Parish Retreat**  
February 13  
Peter Herbeck  
Details: [holyfamilynovi.org/events-news](http://holyfamilynovi.org/events-news)

**Houston, TX**  
**Prince of Peace Parish Divine Mercy Conference**  
February 21  
Ralph Martin  
Details: [pophouston.org](http://pophouston.org)

**Appleton, WI**  
**Esto Vir Men's Conference**  
February 21  
Peter Herbeck & Pete Burak  
Details: [estovir.com](http://estovir.com)

**Oklahoma City, OK**  
**Oklahoma Catholic Women's Conference**  
February 21  
Dr. Mary Healy  
Details: [okcatholicwomen.com](http://okcatholicwomen.com)

**Tulsa, OK**  
**Healing & Evangelization Conference\***  
February 26-28  
Dr. Mary Healy

**Dripping Springs, TX**  
**St. Martin DePorres Lenten Parish Mission**  
February 27-28  
Ralph Martin  
Details: [smartindp.org](http://smartindp.org)

**Dartmouth, NS**  
**Parish Mission**  
February 28-March 4  
Peter Herbeck & Rachel Herbeck



PLEASE PRAY

- ▶ For an increased devotion to the Holy Family and greater awareness of their love and intercession.
- ▶ For our priests and bishops to experience greater openness and docility to the movements and consolations of the Holy Spirit in their ministry.
- ▶ For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

## Wisdom from the Saints

*"Only in Christ do we find real love, and the fullness of life. And so, I invite you today to look to Christ. When you wonder about the mystery of yourself, look to Christ who gives you the meaning of life."*

// St. John Paul II



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.

Scripture references in the newsletter are from the *Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition* of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

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