



# RENEWAL MINISTRIES

## CATHOLIC RENEWAL & EVANGELIZATION

JUNE 2026



**A LETTER** ▶  
FROM RALPH MARTIN

**Dear Friends,**

**We could not do what we are doing to reach so many without your support. Again and again, thank you.**

### THE LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY

Last month, Rachel wrote the opening letter and mentioned the Lift Jesus Higher Rally that had just concluded. Isn't it great to see younger people emerging to join us in carrying out our mission?

This month, I would like to give you a fuller account of this wonderful event. Each year it is the highlight of our year in our support of our brothers and sisters in Canada. This year was our 35th year of "lifting Jesus higher" in Toronto, and throughout Canada and the rest of the world through the video recordings of the event.

**Just being there is wonderful, even before a single event on the program happens. Seeing how happy everyone is to be there is truly a foreshadowing of the kingdom, with so many races, ethnicities, and languages present and all united in the joy of Jesus!**

We have an exact count: 1,969 were there for the adult conference and 848 for the youth conference. Additional photos of the rally and summaries of the talks given take up the bulk of this issue. Very inspiring!

### PILGRIMAGE OPPORTUNITY

Some of you may remember that several years ago Renewal Ministries arranged for our supporters to join us on a pilgrimage "in the footsteps of St. Paul." We all were looking forward to this trip a great deal when Covid hit and it was cancelled.

Now, I am happy to report that Fr. Dave Pivonka, President of Franciscan University of Steubenville and a member of our Renewal Ministries Board, has asked me to join him in leading a pilgrimage "in the footsteps of St. Paul," starting the day



**March 29-April 8, 2027**

### GREECE PILGRIMAGE IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL WITH GREEK ISLE CRUISE



*Join Fr. Dave Pivonka & Ralph Martin  
in experiencing the holy sites of:*

- Thessaloniki • Philippi • Kavala
- Kalambaka • Meteora • Athens • Corinth
- Cruise (Celestyal Cruises) • Mykonos
- Kusadasi • Ephesus (Mary's House)
- Patmos • Heraklion • Santorini

**DETAILS & REGISTRATION:**  
[faithandreason.com/pilgrimage/greece-pilgrimage](http://faithandreason.com/pilgrimage/greece-pilgrimage)

after Easter next year and including all the main locations. Four days will be spent on a ship to visit sights that we couldn't see if we were only traveling on land. We do not expect to be shipwrecked though—we are not planning to follow that closely in the footsteps of St. Paul. This is a chance to bring the Renewal Ministries family and the Franciscan University family together on an inspiring journey.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### Special Edition

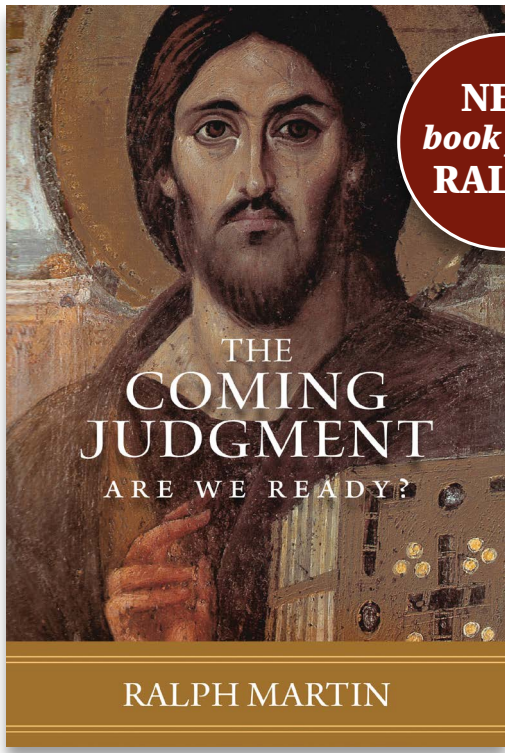
Spotlight on the 2026  
Lift Jesus Higher Rally



LJH

### TALK HIGHLIGHTS FROM:

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**NEW  
book from  
RALPH!**

# ENDORSEMENTS

“People of God, pay attention! This book is important. Ralph Martin has been a faithful, courageous proclaimer of truth for decades, and *The Coming Judgment* is another example of this. In an age that mocks the realities of heaven, hell, and judgment, Dr. Martin brings a sobering, honest, and convicting light. Drawing from Scripture, the saints, theologians, and the Church’s Tradition, Martin clearly articulates these essential realities with a courage too often missing in our time. I have no doubt that this book will place readers before eternal realities in a way that will lead to repentance and conversion.”

**// Fr. Dave Pivonka**, President,  
Franciscan University of  
Steubenville



“Too many people, pastors included, put their heads in the sand when it comes to our ultimate destiny. Ralph Martin treats this often-neglected topic with his customary theological depth and popular accessibility. I thank Martin for another compelling contribution to contemporary Catholic theology that reminds us all of the eternal horizon that grounds the Christian life.”

**// Most Rev. Anthony Fisher**,  
Archbishop of Sydney, Australia



### MY NEW BOOK

I have a new book out titled *The Coming Judgment: Are We Ready?*

It is being published by Emmaus Road Publishing, whose president is Scott Hahn. The book is a major treatment of the “last things,” which should be first in our minds and hearts, but often is not. I have treated these themes in various ways over the years, but this is my most extensive treatment of them yet. Grounded in the best Catholic scholarship on these topics but written in a completely accessible style, I think it will help us all to keep our eyes on the goal, and hopefully, help many others as well. People who have read it have called it “very powerful” in its clarity and impact. I am absolutely thrilled by the amazing leaders who have read it and offered endorsements. You can order online, by phone, or via the reply card that accompanies this newsletter.

**I will personally sign every order received during the month of June! I won’t be able to inscribe any message, but I promise to sign it personally and say a prayer for you as I do.**

More news next month!

Your brother in Christ,

*Ralph Martin*

Ralph Martin

“*The Coming Judgment* is a timely book that prepares this generation for the ultimate and certain end of time. This is one book you will not regret reading, as it just might be the wake-up call that this generation desperately needs.”

**// Jeff Cavins**, Creator of the  
Great Adventure Bible Studies



“This work functions as an excellent primer on the ‘last things’: the judgment that awaits us all at death, the hope of heaven, and the need to avoid eternal separation from God. *The Coming Judgment* is an excellent resource for seminarians, priests, and lay evangelists. It is simultaneously a work for fundamental formation in eschatology and a guide in spiritual theology.”

**// Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P.**,  
Rector, Pontifical University of  
St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum)



“In an age dulled by religious indifference and a lost sense of sin, Ralph Martin’s voice cuts through the fog with the urgency of the prophets. He brings Scripture’s own urgent cry to bear: ‘Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand!’”

**// André Villeneuve**, Associate  
Professor of Old Testament and  
Biblical Languages, Sacred Heart  
Major Seminary



### ORDER

Order by the end of June  
to receive a signed copy!

ONLINE:  
[www.renewalministries.net/shop/the-coming-judgment](http://www.renewalministries.net/shop/the-coming-judgment)

PHONE:  
(734) 662-1730

# No Greater Love

// RALPH MARTIN, PRESIDENT OF RENEWAL MINISTRIES



**One of the amazing things about the whole Christian story is that God is looking for friends. God is looking for people to love Him back. No greater love has the world ever known than what Jesus has done for us.** He wants to bring us into that love and help us to participate in it. Jesus says in the Gospel that even the pagans love each other, but He wants us to love our enemies. “I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven.” (Mt. 5:44-45) That is supernatural love that takes the supernatural power and action of God in our life.

When asked about the greatest commandment, Jesus says,

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength, . . . [and] your neighbor as yourself.”* (Mk. 12:30-31)

That’s a challenging command, and it is a command. Even in the theme today, No Greater Love from John chapter 15, Jesus says,

*“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.”* (Jn. 15:12-14)

We’re talking about a process of purification and growth in holiness.

One of the things I’ve been thinking about recently and marveling at is the command the Lord gives us to be holy. It goes back to Leviticus. Three different times in Leviticus the Lord says,

**“You shall be holy; for I the Lord your God am holy.”**

Holiness isn’t just something for spiritual people or people who have a special vocation to be a priest or a nun. This is addressed to every single human being.

For us to become holy, something big must happen in our life. We know that the Lord doesn’t command what he doesn’t give us the grace to fulfill. Even though we don’t necessarily see clearly how we can get to that point of being holy like the Lord, that’s exactly what he’s doing in our life right now.

The command to be holy isn’t just an Old Testament command. The appropriateness of taking off our shoes before the holiness of God remains today. One of the things that’s most missing in the world and the Church today is an appropriate fear of the Lord, an appropriate recognition of how far beyond us is the holiness of God, how far beyond us is his goodness, power, and truth.

This holiness is what saves us and what brings us into relationship with Him. You were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, a Lamb without blemish or defect. This salvation that Jesus paid such a price for isn’t imposed on anyone. It has to be received. We must have faith in Jesus. We must become one with Jesus through baptism and be joined to Jesus’ Body and Spirit. The only ones who are going to be in heaven are those who have taken a hold of Jesus and are raised with Him from the dead. **There’s a choice to be made, and because people aren’t clear that there’s a choice to be made and that salvation isn’t automatically applied to everybody, there is a lack of urgency in evangelization. We must speak to souls about salvation while there’s still time.**

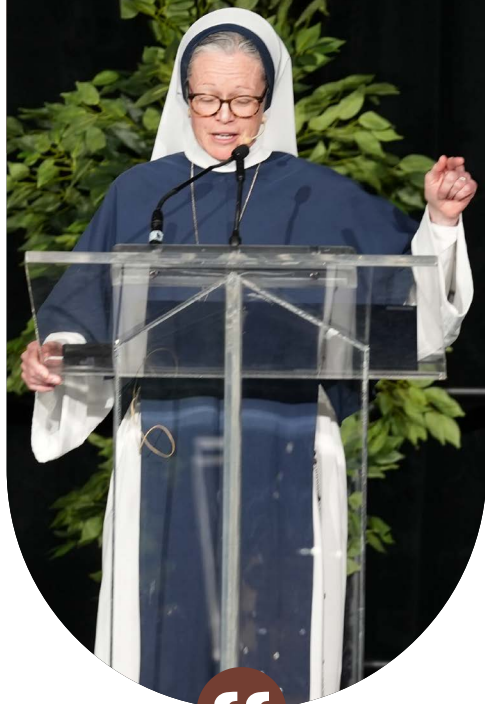
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*Holiness isn't just something for spiritual people or people who have a special vocation to be a priest or a nun. This is addressed to every single human being.*



# Love in Action

// SR. MARY GABRIEL DEVLIN, SV,  
PROFESSED MEMBER OF THE SISTERS OF LIFE



*A life of love in action has a lot to do with receiving Jesus and others. It's a lot about practicing the gift of hospitality . . .*

*If you want to practice hospitality, you need to be open to having your day interrupted.*

All love in action begins with Jesus' love and action. He's not only our model, our pattern, our way, and our good shepherd. He's also our gate, both to the Father and to loving others as He loves. It's his mercy, courage, and patience that fills our weakness and makes our love supernaturally effective. The Gospel of John tells us that to those who receive Him, who believe in his name, He gives power to become children of God. Elsewhere in the Gospel, Jesus says to his disciples,

*"He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives him who sent me." (Mt. 10:40)*

A life of love in action has a lot to do with receiving Jesus and others. It's a lot about practicing the gift of hospital-

ity, living in expectation of the unexpected visitation of God. Jesus tells us,

**"Behold, I stand at the door and knock." (Rev. 3:20)**

If you want to practice hospitality, you need to be open to having your day interrupted. Jesus interrupts us so that we can welcome Him into our lives in new ways and to welcome his mercy. He also interrupts us to call us to welcome others with Him.

We have a convent in the Bronx and it's right next to a school. One time, a kindergartener asked a sister, "What's on your head?" So, the sister started talking about veils and brides and weddings. She finished by saying, "Well, as a sister, I wear a veil because I'm married to Jesus." The little girl, as only a Bronx five-year-old could, slammed her hands down on the cafeteria table and said, "He chose you?!"

Thanks a lot, kid. Don't think I don't ask myself the same question every time I look in the mirror? But it's true! Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe, chose me. And you know what? He chose you, too. He gave Himself completely.

He suffered the humiliation and pain of the cross for you. Why? Because He loves your love. He values your unique, unrepeatable love. If you don't love Jesus with your love, no one else can.

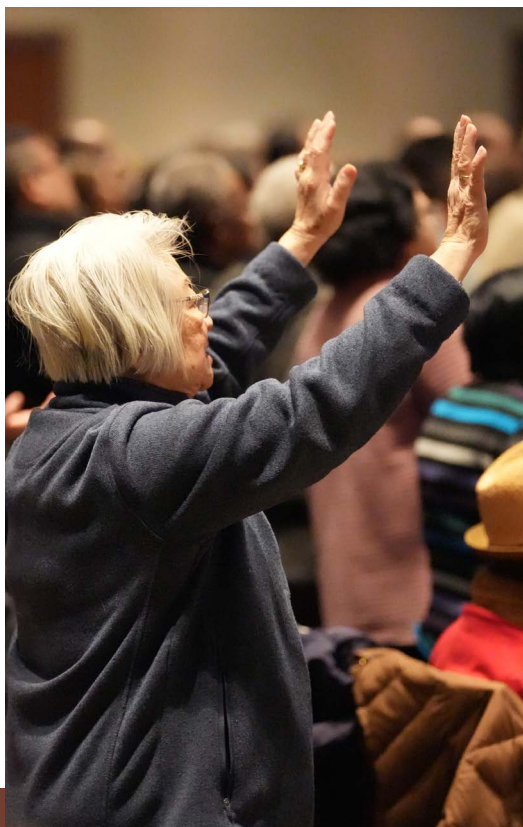
**Jesus associates Himself with the lowliest, the vulnerable ones, the helpless in our midst. He says, "Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me." (Mt. 25:40, NIV) Each of you has particular and personal gifts that God has given you—spiritual gifts, gifts of nature, gifts of grace. Some of them are remarkable gifts, and some of them are very humble. Each of them matter. Each of them is needed.**

One of my sisters was accompanying a pregnant woman whose baby was very sick with indications that her genetic abnormalities would require intensive lifelong care. The doctors were pressuring her to abort. She didn't want to, and yet she knew that she did not have the resources to parent this child.

After months of praying and searching, no family was found to adopt this little one. Very late in the pregnancy, one of our priest friends announced from the pulpit one Sunday what the situation was, and that this baby needed a family willing to adopt her.

Within 24 hours, seven couples came forward asking to adopt her. Seven couples within 24 hours were willing to allow their lives to be interrupted at short notice by a baby who would need lifelong care. It's a privilege and honor to go out of our way to serve Jesus in those who need a welcome.

**Every day Jesus shows up through your yes to love, whether it's a neighbor asking for a ride, or the opportunity to hold our tongues. Jesus is consoled by our willingness to offer our sufferings to Him for others who don't know Him or who might be tempted. In every act of love to which we say "yes," Jesus Himself is loved.**



# The Love of Christ Compels Us

// PETE BURAK  
VICE PRESIDENT OF RENEWAL MINISTRIES



**We have been talking about “No Greater Love,” and now the question is, what is your response to that love? What is your response to God’s un-failing, awesome, never-ending love?**

In his second letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul says,

*“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”*  
(2 Cor. 5:14-15, NIV)

Another translation would say, “The love of Christ controls us.” (RSVCE) Ask yourselves for a second, would you say that your motivation for life is the love of God? Would you say that

what drives your decision-making and your behavior is first and foremost the understanding, belief, and transforming power of God’s love for you? When we look at that word “compels” in the Greek, there are two different meanings. The first understanding is to hold together and to gather. You could say the love of God holds us together, brings us into harmony, and makes us integrated. The love of God pulls us to Himself and draws us into life with Him, and by drawing us to Him, we are then separated from anything that is not of Him. Part of that life of holiness is wholeness—being full and complete in ourselves in Him.

If I’m being drawn together by the love of God, I’m being drawn away from other loves, which we would call sin.



*To be compelled by the love of God is to care enough to see souls saved. To live in the fear of the Lord is to tremble at the reality of how serious this is—not out of servile fear of God but out of awe at the enormity of the opportunity to participate in Jesus’ saving work throughout the world.*

The first response to the love of God compelling us, then, is repentance. As He draws us to Himself, the response is to get on our knees and say, “Lord, forgive me. Lord, I’m sorry for the ways that I’ve cooperated with false loves. I’m sorry for the ways that I’ve been disintegrated by sin. I’m sorry for the ways that I haven’t been united to you and have just been united to myself.” We bend the knee, not out of despair but out of great hope and joy. When the love of God compels us to repent, we become a new creation. St. Paul says,

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, and behold, the new has come.”*  
(2 Cor. 5:17)

**The love of God compels us and controls us, but it also moves us and propels us forward. As the power of the Holy Spirit comes and dwells in us, not only does He purify us, make us sons and daughters, set us free, and make us a new creation, but then He also sends us to proclaim it.**

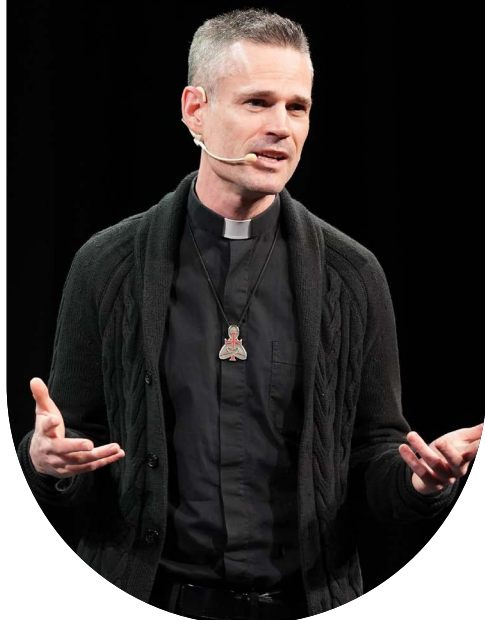
As we are transformed, fear of the Lord begins to develop in us. The fear of the Lord produces wisdom, and wisdom helps us to see who we really are. Wisdom is knowing God’s mind about something. It’s understanding things as God understands them. As we acknowledge who He is and He gives us this gift of wisdom, we begin to see that it’s vitally important that people meet Jesus. It’s eternally important that people repent, begin to obey, and are transformed. We are compelled by this belief that the world—every single person—needs to repent and proclaim. To be compelled by the love of God is to care enough to see souls saved. To live in the fear of the Lord is to tremble at the reality of how serious this is—not out of servile fear of God but out of awe at the enormity of the opportunity to participate in Jesus’ saving work throughout the world.



# The One Who Lays Down His Life

// FR. ALEX COLAUTTI, CC

DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONS FOR THE COMPANIONS OF THE CROSS



**They say there's a God-shaped hole in every human heart that is so big that only God can fill it.** When I was younger, I tried to fill it with all kinds of things that seemed to medicate the pain of the profound sense of emptiness inside of me. Starting in high school, I turned to drinking and partying. When I got to college, I was drinking six or seven days out of the week. I was trying to fill the emptiness with whatever I could get my hands on.

One day, my mom came to me and said, "Alex, would you go on a free trip to this place called Medjugorje, if I paid for it?" Medjugorje is this beautiful little town in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Apparently, Mary, the mother of Jesus, has been appearing there since the

1980s. My mom could see that I was really struggling, and she was looking for anything that might be able to get me on the right path. I thought, "Why not? A free trip. I'll check it out and do something new."

When I got there, something began to change in me. I felt this sense of interior peace and stillness that I hadn't felt in years. In Medjugorje, people line up all day long to go to confession. The idea popped into my head, "You should go, Alex. You should go to confession." I immediately thought, "I would like that. It's been a long time, and I would love to get a fresh start." But then something else happened. These waves of shame began washing over me. "You can't go

in there, Alex. If you tell the priest the things that you've done, he's going to stop you mid-confession and kick you out." I was wrestling. I wanted to go to confession, but I hadn't been for years because I was ashamed and afraid.

**In the midst of the wrestling, God's grace broke into my life. Every single sin I ever committed in my life was suddenly present to my conscious awareness. The terrible things I did, the people that I hurt, and the ways that I hurt myself were instantly brought to mind. I also realized for the first time in my life the relationship between my sin and the cross. I realized that Jesus died for me and for all the terrible things that I did. He didn't just die for humanity in general. He died for me. I was confronted with the horror of the things that I had done, and yet it was absolutely nothing compared to the overwhelming, unconditional love that I felt washing over me.**

Something has value to the extent that someone is willing to pay for it. What is your value? Your value is the only begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ, coming into this world and laying down his life. The Scripture says,

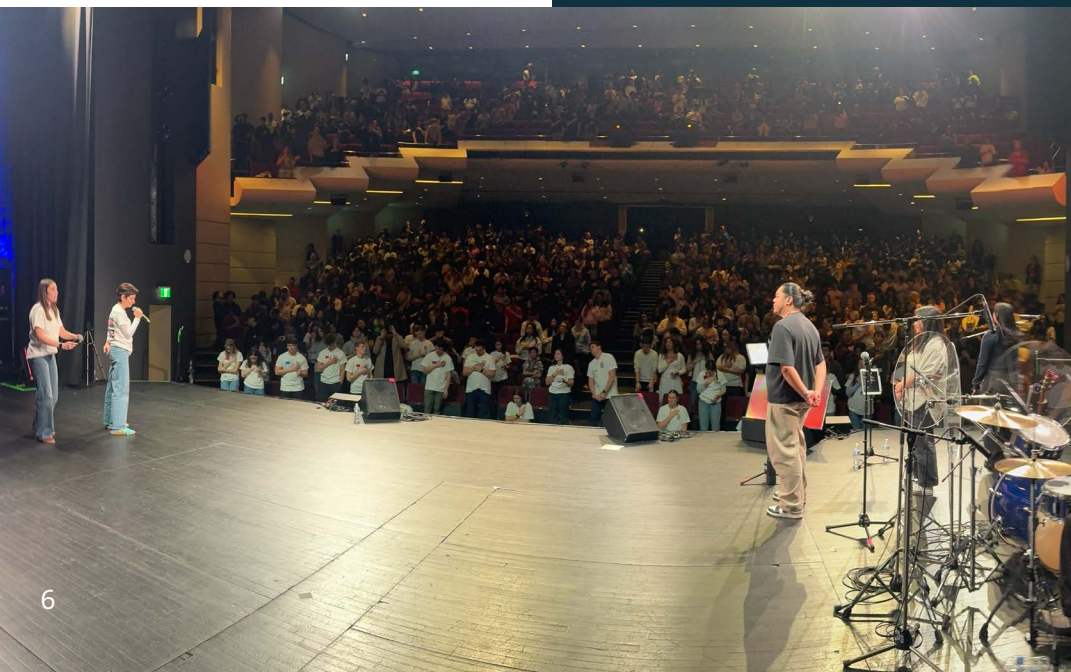
*"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."*

(1 Pt. 2:24)

On that day in confession, I was healed. I felt this infusion of God's love into my heart and soul, and that gnawing emptiness that I felt before was gone. The huge, gaping, empty space in my heart was filled with God Himself. I didn't need to fill it with these other things anymore. Jesus died knowing all the things you would ever do that make you feel unlovable and unworthy. Jesus sacrificed Himself so that through Him, you might have life to the full.



*Something has value to the extent that someone is willing to pay for it. What is your value? Your value is the only begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ, coming into this world and laying down his life.*



# Responding to Great Love

// RACHEL HERBECK

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FORMATION FOR BE LOVE REVOLUTION



*“Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (Jn. 15:13)*

That means there's no love in the world, no love that you can feel, not a love from a friend, not a love from the spouse that you hope to have, not a love from the acceptance of the world that is greater than this love. There is no love more powerful than the love of the God-man who came and gave his life for you. This is the greatest love.

**What do you do with that truth? We're used to showing up to school, youth group, and church as consumers. We get used to information washing over us. Maybe we have even repeated a prayer and said “yes” to Jesus, but the true story that is being presented to you today demands a real response. We're talking about God becoming man and dying for your sins. How do you respond to someone who gave their life for you?**

Imagine that a guy wants to propose. He's been dating this girl. He's so in love with her. Every day he thinks about how he wants to spend the rest of his life with her and to build a life together. He wants to have kids with her and get to heaven with her. Imagine that he's grinding at work to get the money for the ring, all for that moment when he can put it on her finger when she says yes. Imagine he's down on one knee and he says, “Will you marry me?”

And she says, “Yes, I really want to marry you. I want to give my whole life to you. I want to spend every day with you. I want to be committed to you. Yes, I will marry you, but I still want to be able to see other people. . .”

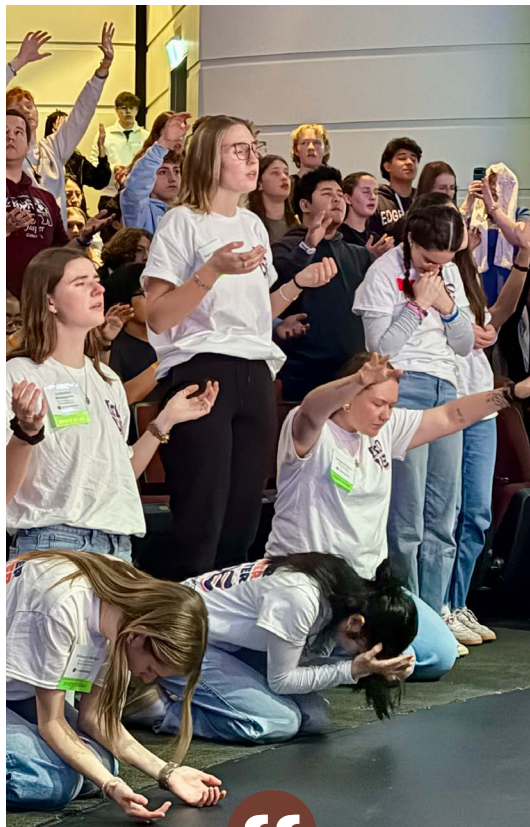
What would you say that? Would you say, “Okay, I love you so much, so I'm going to allow that”? What would that do to your heart? It would break it.

This is often what we do with God. The cross is a proposal to us. The Holy Spirit revealed in a private revelation to St. Bridget of Sweden that through his crucifixion Jesus suffered 5,480 wounds to his body. This is his proposal to you.

As Jesus Christ hangs on the cross, He's saying, “I'm giving you everything—my body, my blood, my heart, and my love.” So often we come to events like this, and we say, “Yes, Jesus. I give you everything.” Then, we go home, and our lives and our hearts stay the same. We keep the same affections, habits, and sins. We keep the same toxic friendships that lead us away from the Lord. Our time is our own and we decide we don't have five minutes for prayer. The only exchange for one who dies to give you everything is to say, “Here's everything in return—my time, my talent, my treasure, my heart, my sins, and my shame.”

Many of us, even those who have walked with Jesus for a long time, spend the journey giving Him little breadcrumbs. How does He respond? Does He come off the cross and say, “You're not giving me everything, so I'm done with you”? No, He doesn't get down. He stays and He waits.

**His offer to give you everything isn't dependent on your response, but the way to life and freedom, the way out of that hole that you can't climb out of yourself, is to make a step in giving Him everything.**



“

*The only exchange for one who dies to give you everything is to say, “Here's everything in return—my time, my talent, my treasure, my heart, my sins, and my shame.”*

*Save the Date*  
Lift Jesus Higher Rally  
April 24, 2027



# EVENTS

JUNE 2026

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



\* Not open to the public.

**Steubenville, OH**  
**Glory: Women's Gathering**  
June 5-7  
Debbie Herbeck & Rachel Herbeck  
Details: [steubenvilleconferences.com](http://steubenvilleconferences.com)

**Jackson, MI**  
**Pine Hills Boys Camp\***  
June 7-13  
Pete Burak

**Hamilton, New Zealand**  
**Various Talks throughout New Zealand\***  
June 9-11  
Dr. Mary Healy

**Perth, Australia**  
**CHARIS National Conference**  
June 11-13  
Dr. Mary Healy  
Details: [charisaustralia.org.au/2026-national-conference](http://charisaustralia.org.au/2026-national-conference)

**Steubenville, OH**  
**Power & Purpose Conference**  
June 12-14  
Rachel Herbeck  
Details: [steubenvilleconferences.com](http://steubenvilleconferences.com)

**Ann Arbor, MI**  
**UCO Banquet & Golf Classic**  
June 13  
Peter & Debbie Herbeck  
Details: [ucoweb.org/golf](http://ucoweb.org/golf)

**Steubenville, OH**  
**Priests, Deacons, & Seminarians Conference**  
June 15-19  
Pete Burak  
Details: [steubenvilleconferences.com](http://steubenvilleconferences.com)

'The Choices We Face' is the longest-running Catholic television program in the world! Each episode explores an important topic concerning the faith. Watch these and other episodes on our website at:

[www.renewalministries.net/tcwf](http://www.renewalministries.net/tcwf)

## JUNE GUESTS & TOPICS:

**A Man on Purpose**  
06/07/26 // Pete Burak

**Lord, Renew Your Wonders**  
06/14/26 // Fr. Ed Fride

**Knowing the King**  
06/21/26 // Miriam Wright

**Boldly Proclaim the Gospel**  
06/28/26 // Rachel Herbeck

**Washington, DC**  
**GIVEN Forum\***  
June 24-28  
Dr. Mary Healy

**Augusta, GA**  
**Unity Forum**  
June 24-27  
Dr. Mary Healy  
Details: [forumforunity.org](http://forumforunity.org)

**Green Bay, WI**  
**Diocese of Green Bay Priest Retreat\***  
June 28-July 2  
Peter Herbeck & Bishop Scott McCaig

## MISSIONS



**Papua New Guinea**  
June 15-30  
Anthony & Anna Feola and Tom Hornacek



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.



# Thank You

## TO OUR BOARDS & COUNCIL

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### NEWSLETTER

**Editor** Jessica Jenkins | **Design** Emily Bachelor

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## PLEASE PRAY

- ▶ For the Church in Canada, that she would experience a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ For the people of God to know the compassionate love of the Sacred Heart more deeply and to share it with the world.
- ▶ For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members.