



A LETTER ▶ FROM RALPH MARTIN

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Dear Ones,

We are United in the Lord—One Spirit, One Body, with Him and each other.

Twice a month, we have an “all hands-on deck” Bible study and staff meeting that lasts about two hours. When everyone is there, there are about thirty of us, as interns seasonally grow our team. The first hour of the meeting is devoted to continued formation in the Word of God or another resource for Catholic truth, and we spend the second hour updating one another on what is happening throughout the ministry and celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occasions.

This summer, we took a brief break from studying the Bible to consider a very serious problem we are all facing: the daily flood of “notifications” from text messages, emails, social media posts, YouTube videos, and all kinds of other apps and communication tools.

I recently read “There’s a Good Reason You Can’t Concentrate” by Cal Newport in *The New York Times*. (Yes, I do read it, fully aware of its incredible bias, to see what those out-

side our circle are doing and saying!) This article focuses on the very measurable cognitive decline that has reduced our ability to pay attention, particularly in young people. This decline, which has accelerated over the past two decades, limits our capacity to read and to watch anything that isn’t frenetic in its pace, but perhaps more importantly, it limits our ability to be still, to listen, to reflect, and to pray.

I asked each of our staff to read the article and send me their reflections on how it personally applied to them and their thoughts on how it applies to what we are doing as a ministry, as we use YouTube, social media, television, radio, podcasts, email, and printed materials to share the Gospel. Some of our team reported that reading and reflecting on the article was a challenge, just as the article states.

Everyone shared an excellent reflection, and we spent three recent staff meetings discussing this topic. Most of the staff said this is a huge challenge for them. Many admitted to spending more time than they wished scrolling from one interesting feed to another. They shared that their desire to pray was impacted by their “addiction” to constantly checking their cell phone or their smart watches.

Here is what some of them said:

“Reading it, I became mournful. I regret the amount of time I’ve spent on a screen, flipping through videos and the effects it’s had on my own motivation. I can’t imagine how the teenagers I serve, who know nothing else but this technology, must feel.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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How can someone
contemplate God,
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“I really agree with the article that short-form content from Instagram or Tik Tok effects cognitive performance. This is something I have found to be true. After having used apps that present short form content, I find myself significantly less able to focus and significantly less able to simply just be. I have since deleted these apps, and I find my desire to read has grown, I am better able to form thoughts, and my brain fog and overall distract-edness has gone away.”

“The loss of the ability to concentrate has far ranging and yet to be fully realized effects. How can someone contemplate God if they can’t be still, silent, and focused? How can we hear God’s voice, experience gratitude, love the person in front of us? I think we have a real obligation as an organization to address these things. I really like the idea of the government treating social media like alcohol or cigarettes --- not an outright ban, but clear enforceable rules and guidelines. I still think we can still utilize these platforms strategically to teach, bless, encourage, strengthen, and inspire people because I don’t think they are intrinsically disordered.”

Some agreed with the way England and Australia have recently enacted bans for minors using social media while others thought it needed to be parental and personal responsibility to limit the use of these technologies and its impact.

I know many of you are dealing with similar questions and concerns about the impact of these technologies. We will continue to address these concerns in how we make use of these technologies as a ministry and in our personal lives.

Let’s continue walking together in this amazing journey to the Father’s house that Jesus has invited us to make with him, in him and through him!

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

P.S. I was thrilled to read the first review of *The Coming Judgment: Are We Ready?* on Amazon:

“This passionate, well-researched book shows that the judgment spoken of by Christ and in the Nicene Creed is real and coming for all of us. The neglect of this reality has caused many to fall into tepidity or, worse, never repent. The neglect of teaching the four last things is one reason why much preaching is so banal today. Could this be Ralph Martin’s best book? I think so.”

And I was honored to receive this message from an Archbishop in Eastern Europe:

“This book comes at exactly the right time.”

One highlight of the many opportunities to do radio and video interviews about the new book was spending a long afternoon with Matt Fradd in his new studio with The Daily Wire in Nashville. We spent three hours talking about the book, and I was grateful for the opportunity to talk in-depth about the book and to catch up with Matt. He told me I have been on his show six times—I can’t believe it has been that much!

Matt Fradd with Ralph and the new book!



Ralph on the set with Matt Fradd and his popular podcast, *Pints With Aquinas*. In less than one month, the episodes created from this recording had over a million views on YouTube and Instagram.



CALLED & APPOINTED



The following article was condensed from a *Burning Hearts* interview between Rachel Herbeck and Bishop Robert McClory on May 24, 2026.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.
(Eph 1:18-19)

CALLED TO HOPE

The hope to which we've been called is the ultimate destiny of eternal life with Christ and the saints. That vision towards our ultimate fulfillment is extraordinary, but our lives are not just about holding on, gritting our teeth, and hoping we make it to the end. It's also that we have this experience right now of God entering into our lives through Jesus.

One of the symbols of hope is an anchor—something that roots you. Hope is not optimism and it's not just positive thinking. Hope is rooted in what Christ has done for us, and so we can have certainty about our destiny as we hold on to the anchor who is Christ.

In the letter to the Ephesians, we see a connection between prayers of thanksgiving and hope. Reflecting on what the Lord has done for us and remembering the ways He has been with us in difficult times increases hope in us. Sometimes there are situations in life that you think are intractable. You can't al-

ways see how you're going to get through them, but you do and that gives you a confidence that the Lord is there. Thanksgiving for what the Lord has done and for what He's doing in other people provides further confidence about what He will do, even if right now things are difficult.

GLORIOUS INHERITANCE & INCOMPARABLE POWER

When we think about our glorious inheritance, sometimes we talk about a spirit of adoption. Elsewhere in the scriptures, it says that we are co-heirs with Christ.

I think about those who are referred to as the boat people from Vietnam. Without talking about the details and nuances of that situation, there are these people who are just out on the sea with ramshackle boats hoping to make it someplace. Imagine if some beautiful yacht pulled up and said, "You're my long-lost children. Come on board. Look at what I'm giving you. This is your inheritance." It's as if the greatest

billionaire in the world adopted you. This example is purely in a material sense, but we have an inheritance that far exceeds that. We can just be adrift and hopeless, but the Lord says, "I have blessings to give you in this life and beyond."

Ultimately, our inheritance is our eternal destiny, but it is also that we can have hope, vibrancy, and a knowledge of the Lord's joy and peace for us now. The greatness that the Lord intends for us is his power in us who believe. We have access to the Holy Spirit and to Christ, which can propel us forward. This is the extraordinary vision that St. Paul is giving us, and this is what Christ has done and what God intends to do for us now.

We have access to the Holy Spirit and to Christ, which can propel us forward.

IDENTITY IN CHRIST

As we seek to live this out, it comes down to our identity in Christ Jesus. We are beloved sons and daughters of a loving Father because we have this inheritance.

Oftentimes, people don't know their identity. This can be true at any age, and it's particularly true of young people. They can allow others to define them without saying, "No, I am a beloved son, I'm a beloved daughter of a loving Father, and I have an inheritance given to me in Christ." We can't live according to the world's terms in regard to who we are, but we need to live according to what has been revealed to us by God's word in Jesus Christ.



Listen to *Burning Hearts*

Burning Hearts is available on Renewal Ministries' website at www.renewalministries.net/bh or anywhere you access podcasts.



The Priesthood

What We Need from Them, What They Need from Us

— BY PATTI MANSFIELD —

Saint John Vianney said,

“The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus.”

We know from Scripture that no one takes this honor upon himself, but only those who have been called by God. In my many decades of ministry within the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, I've met many priests. At a certain point I felt like our Lord, and especially our Lady, wanted to involve me more in praying for and ministering to priests.

About 25 years ago, I was asked to prepare a paper for a symposium on what lay people experience working in the Church. I didn't want to just give my own experiences, so my husband and I drew up a simple survey. Many of the questions had to do with priests because as lay people we're working with priests. When I compiled the answers, there was one word that seemed like a banner

over what the laity was saying that they desired from their priests, and that word was purity. As I thought more about it, it seemed to me that purity was a threefold purity: purity of heart, purity of doctrine, and purity in the moral life.

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The power of the priest, is the power of the divine person; for the transubstantiation of the bread requires as much power as the creation of the world.

// St. Bernardine of Siena

1. Purity of Heart.

First, we are looking for men who are seeking holiness, setting the Lord Jesus as the love of their life, growing daily in that yearning for God, and coming to know Him better. Sister Briege McKenna, who has had a worldwide ministry to priests, loves to say,

“Fathers, it's not a job. It's not a nine-to-five. It's a vocation, and you need to deepen your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.”

That's what it's all about.

What else are we looking for from our priests? We're looking for men of the cross who are willing to be conformed to the image and likeness of Jesus Christ. It's a sacrificial life and a very high calling, and God wants to give grace for this calling to be united to Jesus and Him crucified. I remember being at a conference in New Orleans many years ago. It was

Our Part

PRAYER + PRAISE + PRESENCE



the final Mass, and my husband and I were seated on the side next to the priest concelebrants. The priest closest to me had been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease, and he was getting weaker and weaker. Looking at him, I felt compassion and pity, and I said to the Lord interiorly,

"Oh, Lord, what a shame. His priesthood is really being cut short because of his suffering."

In my heart, I heard a word from the Lord:

"You don't understand at all. To the extent that He shares my suffering does my Spirit of Glory rest on him."

2. Purity of Doctrine.

Next, we are looking for purity of doctrine. We want priests who know, love, study, and preach the Word of God. We want to hear the truth of the Word of God, and we want men of courage. Saint Paul warns about being children who are tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine. There are winds of doctrine in the world and in the Church. We're looking for priests who are willing to discern the truth from error.

3. Purity in the Moral life.

Lastly, we are looking for purity in the moral life. In Romans 12, Saint Paul says:

I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Rom 12:1-2)

How is the clergy, and how are we going to live a moral life that is really pleasing to the Lord? With His grace and by being determined in our hearts that we want to please the Lord in our sexuality. When

the fruits of the Spirit are listed, that final fruit of the Spirit is often translated self-control, but I've also seen it translated as chastity. Very few people are willing to talk about chastity, but the laity are looking for priests who are chaste, who have sold out in such a way that the Lord is their treasure, their portion and cup.

My husband and I have a very dear priest friend who is like a brother to us. He's been a priest for over forty years, and because we're brother and sister, he said to me, "You know, the less I watch TV, the less sexual temptation I have. The less I'm scrolling and going to sites that are not healthy, the less sexual temptation I have." I want to tell you that it's always possible to begin again. Sometimes we talk about chastity, and we say it's so hard and I'm already in such mud. No, it's always possible to begin again.

So, what are priests looking for from us? They need the love of their flock. I have three words for what we can do for our priests.

First, **prayer**. Little Thérèse said she went to Carmel to save souls and to pray for priests. She used that phrase of Jesus from the Gospels, where Jesus said, "If salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?" (Mt 5:13) Thérèse said that praying and sacrificing for our priests will help them have the savor of a holy life.

Another thing we can do for our priests is **praise**—not flattery, but sincere thanks, affirmation, and encouragement. Once, I heard such a wonderful sermon on the Queenship of Mary. When I saw the priest a few days later, I said, "Father, that sermon on Mary was so beautiful. I learned so much. Could I have a copy of it?" He emailed me a copy and told me the only other comment he got on that sermon was from one of his brother monks, and he said it was too long.

Lastly, **presence**. Why do priests get into trouble? Some of it is just loneliness and isolation. We need to look for ways that the laity can be a Bethany for them. Some of you may say, "I don't want to have priests to my house. It's too messy. I don't want to cook." Take them out to lunch or dinner. We've had priests over to watch football games and be part of family celebrations. Ask the Lord if He wants you to be a Bethany. Priests, ask the Lord to give you people with whom you can have wholesome friendships.

I remember meeting then-Father Raniero Cantalamessa. He had the ministry of preaching to the Holy Father, but he also gave priest retreats. He knew of my love and call to be with priests. He asked, "Patti, what should I tell them?" I said, "Tell them they have a mother in heaven who loves them and who wants to help them. Each priest is like a Juan Diego for Our Lady of Guadalupe. She wants to embrace them, encourage them, strengthen them, and raise them up to that high calling of holiness and purity in their doctrine and moral life."



This article has been condensed from Patti Mansfield's interview on *The Choices We Face*. The full interview can be found at www.youtube.com/renewalministriesrm in the playlist titled "The Choices We Face 2026."

SPREADING THE GOSPEL IN

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Some of the attendees from several dioceses across Papua New Guinea at the Charismatic Workshop at Mary, Help of Christians, Cathedral in Goroka, Papua New Guinea



BY ANNA FEOLA

**Papua New Guinea
Mission Team Member**

Anthony & Anna Feola are long-time friends and collaborators of Renewal Ministries, where Anthony serves as Country Coordinator for Papua New Guinea. Since meeting as young adults at an international mission school in Sweden, they have lived a life of mission together in the United States and across the world. They currently make their home in Plymouth, Michigan, with their five children.

When asked about our mission work to Papua New Guinea (PNG), the overall experience can be summed up in two words: glorious and grueling.

Tucked away in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, PNG is a beautiful island country struggling to catch up with the modern world and beset by poverty, inadequate healthcare, corruption, and generations of witchcraft, tribal and domestic violence, and polygamy. Traveling here is a feat in and of itself. Including layovers, it takes anywhere from forty-five to sixty hours to reach the Diocese of Goroka, crossing the international dateline, and throwing our circadian rhythm off by fourteen hours. By the time this mission ends, we will have gone from sitting in cramped spaces and standing in secu-

rity lines for mind-numbing hours on end to running with all our luggage at full speed through the heat and crowds only to miss a connecting flight and hear that the next flight out is in two days. We will have lain awake night after night missing our families back home, slogged through jetlag day after day, preached while exhausted, and prayed for the sick while feeling sick ourselves. However, this is exactly what we signed up for when we answered the missionary vocation and opened our hearts to the compelling love of Christ whose journey took him from the glories of heaven to the Cross.



From left to right:

Fr. Adam Samsel

Anthony & Anna
Feola

Tom Hornacek

Bishop Walenty Gryk

This mission began long before we landed in PNG. The weeks and months leading up to this were filled with prayer and preparation—individually and as a team—to hear from heaven and receive the Father’s heart for the people He would send us. We were led to prioritize our preaching and teaching on the narrow road of discipleship, the four last things (death, judgement, heaven, hell), and what it means to truly make Jesus the Lord of our lives and live in the power of the Holy Spirit.

One of the words that came in prayer for this mission was:

“Listen to me, O coastlands, and hearken, you peoples from afar... [say] to the prisoners, ‘Come forth,’ to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’ But Zion said, ‘The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me.’ Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have graven you on the palms of my hands.”

(Is 49:1, 9, 14-16)

Perhaps forgotten by much of the world, the Lord remembered His children in this remote place and poured out His Spirit upon them “as with a new Pentecost.”

The first weekend retreat was lightly attended by approximately fifty lay faithful and a couple priests. Our hosts were initially disappointed in the turnout, but the smaller number combined with the incredible spiritual hunger of the recipients allowed us to go deeper into the Scriptures as we shared messages on *The Narrow Road*, *The Cost of Discipleship*, *Forgiveness*, *Personal Evangelization*, and *St. Joseph & the Blessed Mother: Models of Discipleship*. What began as a slow burn steadily grew into a wildfire as young and old alike surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus and cried out for a greater infilling of the Holy Spirit. We were deeply touched by the spiritual hunger of the people as they received the Word of God with joy. Even the children who sat on wooden planks on the floor for



Anthony Feola leads prayer ministry with children to receive more of the Holy Spirit.

long sessions day after day were fully engaged in prayer and worship, listening intently to the proclamation of the Gospel!

On the heels of that retreat, we launched into a more extensive week-long “Charismatic Workshop” for approximately 200 people from multiple dioceses, covering even more material on discipleship which included talks on *The Gifts of the Spirit*, *Prayer*, *Healing*, *Spiritual Warfare*, *The Power of Praise*, and more. Every day included Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and confessions, and up to four teaching sessions with praise and prayer minis-

try. During the night sessions, numbers swelled to standing room only as word of mouth spread. This retreat was uniquely marked by an outpouring of the Spirit in powerful prayer, gifts of the Spirit, and boldness to be a witness. Many were baptized in the Holy Spirit and prayed with great passion, while two elderly women and a young college student testified of instant healings of painful afflictions.

The culmination of the retreat was an afternoon of street evangelization. Approximately seventy teams were sent out two-by-two to proclaim the Gospel and pray with people in the streets. A tent was erected in town where the music team praised God in song, attracting a crowd and the mission team took turns testifying, proclaiming the Gospel, and calling people to repentance. We met a Protestant minister who cried tears of joy to learn that this was the Catholic Church sharing the Gospel in the streets—something he had never experienced before! Another street preacher was across the way, speaking loudly *against* the Catholic Church. His Seventh Day Adventist followers were known to persecute the local Catholics, even resorting to physical altercations. We invited him to join us, and, despite the obvious conflict, he and Fr. Adam began a dialogue that continued after we left!

Our team was surprised to find an old copy of Ralph Martin’s book on prayer, *Hungry for God*, in a Catholic book store in Goroka, PNG!



EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2026 View complete event list at renewalministries.net/events.

* Not open to the public.

**EWTN Programming
Guest Appearance Recordings***
September 1-3
Ralph Martin

**Ann Arbor, MI
The Choices We Face Production***
September 1-24
Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Pete Burak & Team

**Vancouver, BC
Archdiocese of Vancouver Leadership
Retreat***
September 10-13
Ralph Martin

**Phoenix, AZ
Catholic Medical Association Annual
Educational Conference***
September 11
Dr. Mary Healy

**St. Charles, IL
IGNITE: Fox Valley Men's Summit**
September 18-20
Pete Burak
Details: stpatrickparish.org/events/fox-valley-men-s-summit-ignite

**Ottawa, ON
Military Ordinariate of Canada Clergy
Convocation***
September 14-18
Ralph Martin

**Ann Arbor, MI
Renewal Ministries Country
Coordinator Meeting***
September 23-27
Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck
& the Renewal Ministries Team

**Mankato, MN
St. Thomas More Catholic Newman
Center 9th Annual Gala**
September 27
Pete Burak
Details: catholicmavs.org

**Mankato, MN
Theology on Tap**
September 28
Pete Burak
Details: catholicmavs.org

**Detroit, MI
Youth Minister Workshop***
September 30
Pete Burak

MISSIONS



Uganda
August 30-September 10
Joseph & Frances Auno and Lloyd & Nancy Greenhaw

Brazil
September 4-14
Pete Burak, Peter & Debbie Herbeck,
Rachel Herbeck, and Team

“Wisdom from the Saints”

*“Prayer is the place of refuge
for every worry, a foundation
for cheerfulness, a source
of constant happiness, a
protection against sadness”*

// St. John Chrysostom



PLEASE PRAY

- For parents, grandparents, and teachers, that they may be given wisdom to help young people prudentially navigate the ever-changing landscape of technology & social media.
- For priests, especially those who are experiencing loneliness and isolation, that they may be drawn more fully into the Father's heart.
- For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members.



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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NEWSLETTER

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