



RENEWAL MINISTRIES

CATHOLIC RENEWAL & EVANGELIZATION

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OCTOBER 2026



A LETTER ▶ FROM PETE BURAK

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Dear fellow beloved children of God,

Between the endless stream of young people filling the Renewal Ministries' office during the summer and the five kids Cait and I parent each day, I've spent a considerable amount of time around children. Recently, I've been reflecting on the big difference between being childish and child-like. Child-ish behavior includes whining, intentionally antagonizing others, big emotional swings, and constant self-concern. We expect this from young children and part of our responsibility as parents and leaders is to help them mature and develop the virtue necessary to curb those instincts and purify those desires. But in Matthew 18, Jesus issues a surprising and challenging declaration, *"Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."* We should all long to end up in heaven and Jesus is tying salvation to becoming like a child!

Clearly, Jesus isn't inviting us to be child-ish, so what does he mean instead? I think about the young women at Pine Hills Girls' Camp when they arrive at the start of camp, full of unbridled enthusiasm, big expectations, and the endless joy-filled interactions with other campers and counselors. I think about the young men of Forged participating in Leadership Company who came together twice a week to pray, train, and bravely work together to overcome a grueling 10 km Spartan Race. I think about the little girls who come to Be Love Revolution's Daughters of the King or Talitha Koum, ready to have fun, learn about Jesus, and be inspired to radically choose holiness. I think about the middle school boys who attended PPR (Play-Pray-Repeat) this summer, competing, laughing, and listening to talks on the Ten Commandments, while being challenged to live as men of God. **To live with childlike faith is to trust God, ask for his help, joyfully receive his assistance, and to believe him.**

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*"Truly I say to you,
unless you turn and
become like children,
you will never enter the
kingdom of heaven."*

Matthew 18:3

Seventh through ninth grade campers at Pine Hills Girls Camp gather as a cabin, with their counselors, on the first day of camp

Middle school boys gather for a time of prayer at PPR (Play-Pray-Repeat), a weekly time of prayer, fun, and formation led by Forged in the summer.



Each summer, Be Love Revolution hosts Daughters of the King, an evening of worship, teaching, and lots of fun for elementary-aged little girls.



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These last few months, I've been inspired by witnessing our young people as they encounter Jesus, decide to follow him, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and begin to share him with others. The young men and women we serve aren't finished products, but most of them are eager, joyful, and willing to respond to our leadership and the movement of the Spirit. Their childlike-ness reminds us to approach God the same way. **We too are called to trust his plan, be open to his power, repent of our sins, and expect him to transform us from 'one degree of glory to the next' (2 Cor 3:18).** Isn't it amazing that our loving Father is not frustrated by our insecurities, annoyed by our doubts, or overwhelmed by our weaknesses?

I want to thank you for your ongoing and faithful support of Renewal Ministries. Without your prayers and donations, we wouldn't be able to evangelize and disciple the next generations. We gratefully recognize the special opportunity we have to walk with young people, especially since so many communities don't have the resources to do the same. While there are plenty of stories and statistics to illustrate that young people are increasingly

hungry and drawn to the Catholic faith, the need remains enormous, as I am sure many of you have experienced first-hand. Youth are wounded, anxious, and confused. The world has offered them a fundamentally different version of reality than the Church and too many have believed it. This has led to what St. Paul describes in Romans 1:

"So they are without excuse, for although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened."

If you haven't read Romans 1:16-32 in a while, you should. It is an amazingly accurate description of the realities of rejecting God, embracing sin, and sin's destructive effects. These things are most clearly seen in the younger generations who are wrestling with ever-increasing and addicting technological advances, isolation caused by the breakdown of families, and confusion of their identities being defined by feelings and desires. **But, as always, Jesus is still Lord, the Gospel is still true, and the Holy Spirit is still convicting hearts, healing souls, and setting people free.**



Every Tuesday morning, more than forty high school girls gather at the Renewal Ministries' office to study God's Word together.

One of the beautiful aspects of Renewal Ministries is the privilege of preaching and ministering to people all over the world through missions and media and personally walking with people in our own backyard. We believe that all of our work has the potential to create a 'ripple effect' of impact and grace as those we serve go throughout the rest of their lives changed, inspired, and empowered. Be Love Revolution continues to joyfully and effectively encounter young women, invite them into deep discipleship relationships, and see them come alive in the Lord! Two of my daughters attended the biggest Pine Hills Girls Camp ever, with more than two hundred campers and one hundred staff, and they came home practically bursting with enthusiasm for Jesus and the women they spent the week with...as a father, what could be better than that? Forged continues to look boys in the eyes and lovingly challenge them to go deeper with the Lord. As the co-director of Pine Hills Boys' Camp (also our biggest camp yet with 190 campers and 80 staff), I witnessed first-hand the power of creating an authentically Christian, masculine environment in which the boys are filled with the Holy Spirit, learn how to lead, and have a great time. As the young people we serve encounter Jesus and grow in discipleship, they learn how to bring the Lord to their families, friends, schools, colleges, and workplaces throughout the United States, Canada, and the world!

Friends, let's be inspired by the faith and zeal of our young people and let's all commit to living as children of God so the world can be transformed and we can one day enjoy the reward of Heaven together!

Pete Burak

Pete Burak

Seventh through ninth grade boys worshipping the Lord during a time of prayer at Pine Hills Boys Camp.



Forged's Leadership Company after finishing the Spartan Race this summer. More than 20 young men, along with their adult mentors, participated in Leadership Company this summer, coming together two mornings a week for prayer and to train for the race.



PLEASE PRAY

- For youth and young people, that they may encounter the Lord in a deep and personal way and be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit to live as committed disciples.
- For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, may young men and women cultivate the space and silence in their lives to hear God's voice, and have the courage and love to respond to his call.
- For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members.



The

WEEKLY INSPIRATION

Each Friday, Renewal Ministries sends The Weekly Inspiration, an email with a short reflection from one of our talented team, sharing what the Lord is currently putting on their hearts, and links to books and articles that are currently inspiring, challenging, or bringing our team joy. We hope you are blessed by these recent reflections from our team.

Do you want to be inspired each Friday morning?

You can receive The Weekly Inspiration by signing up at: renewalministries.net/email



HIDDEN ZEAL
by Katey Norman

I begin each year with a renewed focus and direction on where the Lord is leading. Historically, I will discern a word or Scripture and then the Lord will direct me to a saint to be a friend on the journey. This year, I was excited about the verse Christ put on my heart from John 2:17 and Psalm 69:9: "...zeal for Your house will consume me." As an extrovert overjoyed at an outwardly passionate reading, I looked forward to whatever bold and loud saint the Lord would lead me to. Would it be St. Francis of Assisi this year? Perhaps St. John the Baptist? Maybe the fierce St. Joan of Arc?

I was quite surprised that God made it abundantly clear that the saint He wanted me to grow with this year was St. Charbel—a powerhouse in the Maronite rite and a man I knew absolutely nothing about.

As I started to read about this Lebanese saint, I quickly came to realize

that his life on earth was very still and quiet. He lived out a monastic vocation, and no written wisdom was ever procured from him. I began to question if I misheard the Lord—could a saint so hidden be a match for a zeal that consumes?

Of course. Because the Lord's giants teach us about the need for every type of saint. Beyond that, the Lord has begun teaching me through this marriage of zeal and contemplation that each feeds into the other. My natural disposition to be excited about zeal will never reach its full potential if I am not also surrendered to the beauty of contemplation.

I continue to learn that while the Lord is incredibly steadfast in his love for me, He also surprises me with new ways to draw closer to Him. These invitations have helped me to let go of the pride that can creep into a seemingly well-curated and aesthetic prayer life. In exchange, He renews His promise to me that life with Him is an incredible adventure and one that He always makes new.



WAITING HAS A PURPOSE

by Chris Baker

The world hates waiting. We feel it in traffic jams, in waiting rooms, in the long line at busy restaurants when we're hungry and tired. We feel it when the weather refuses to cooperate with our plans, or when our latest diet or workout program isn't delivering results as fast as the influencers promised. We live in a culture that worships instant gratification and treats waiting as wasted time.

But the Christian life tells a different story.

In Christ, waiting is not passive resignation or white knuckles and gritted teeth. It is Spirit-filled faithfulness—a leaning into the Lord with trust, repentance, and expectation. The world waits with frustration; the Christian waits with hope. Because in the Kingdom of God, waiting is not empty. Waiting has a purpose.

When God asks you to wait, it becomes the daily battleground where the Holy Spirit strengthens you to rise again. Every morning you choose hope over despair, trust over fear, surrender over control, you wage war—not by your strength but by the power of the Holy Spirit within you.

And when God asks us to wait, two movements rise inside:

1. You either cling to Him in love,
2. or you cling to the desired outcome in fear.

Here is the good news: after repentance and belief, those who are asked to wait find that all waiting—every longing, ache, and unanswered prayer—draws your heart towards the final promise in Scripture:

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth... He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.”
—Revelation 21:1–4

Your pain is real, but it is not eternal. God's goodness is. Hold onto hope not because circumstances change, but because God cannot be unfaithful. And when the Holy Spirit is at work in you, waiting is never passive—it is powerful.



SALT OF THE EARTH

by Natalie Klackle

Have you ever stopped to think about salt? I love to cook, bake, and experiment in the kitchen, so I spend more time thinking about salt—the different kinds of salt, their flavors, textures, and other properties, if something is too salty or needs just the smallest pinch of flaky French sea salt to brighten it—than I imagine most people do.

Sodium chloride, as salt is formally known, is an amazing ionic compound. It flavors, preserves, tender-

izes, and helps provide structure to our food. It purifies through its abrasiveness and anti-bacterial properties. It has medicinal uses, extinguishes certain types of fire, and de-ices roads, among many other uses. Without salt, our experience of the world would be duller, less flavorful, and more dangerous.

When we keep in mind salt's incredible properties, Jesus' words in Matthew's Gospel become more potent. He tells his disciples, “You are the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13), directing his followers to flavor, preserve, tenderize, purify, protect, and provide structure to the world. As disciples of Jesus, we should brighten, enrich, and strengthen the world around us.

Jesus' command to be salt also comes with a warning—salt that

loses its taste is “no longer good for anything” (Matthew 5:14). While sodium chloride can't spoil, salt can taste less salty because it absorbs odors, impurities, and moisture, which can alter or dilute its flavor. As the salt of the earth, we need to be proactive about protecting our saltiness, flavoring and brightening the world without absorbing too much of the culture.

When you get a moment, take a tiny taste of salt on its own, and then sprinkle the tiniest pinch of that same salt on a bite of fruit or a vegetable. Notice how the salt brightens and amplifies the goodness of your bite and remember, just like salt, we are called to brighten and amplify the goodness of the Lord in the world.

A REFLECTION ON BEING ON MISSION IN Hungary

by Rachel Herbeck



Rachel Herbeck (second from right) with young women at Lelkes Napok, a summer camp for young adults in Budapest.

Peter Herbeck and Deacon Zoltán Kunszabó are teaching during a session at one of the New Jerusalem Community's summer camps.



Rachel Herbeck and Deacon Zoltán Kunszabó are teaching during a session at one of the New Jerusalem Community's summer camps.



In July, I had the privilege of traveling on mission with my dad, Peter Herbeck, to Budapest, Hungary, where we were able to serve at two different summer camps led by Deacon Zoltán & Panni Kunszabó and the New Jerusalem Community.

The first week, we served young adults who are eighteen to twenty-five at Lelkes Napok, a camp hosted by multiple communities in Budapest that minister to young adults. Each day at camp, there would be preaching and teaching in the morning, followed by prayer workshops, activities, Mass, and then preaching, adoration and worship each evening. Each morning, we were able to preach the Gospel and help invite these young people into a deeper encounter with the Lord.

During the camp for young adults, we focused on sharing the core of Jesus' message:

We have been given new life in Him.

As many participants were already following the Lord, we encouraged them to go even deeper in their relationship with him and to begin to live differently each day through the power of the Holy Spirit because of the new life God has given us in his Son.

One of the things I was particularly moved by was the importance of personal relationships on the road to eternity. I was sitting at lunch with a group of young women in their late teens and early twenties just talking about the Lord in a little small group. As I developed relationships with these women, it reminded me of the small groups we run at home in the United States. As I learned their hearts and their stories, as we prayed with them, and ultimately, as we loved them, the power of what the Lord was doing was increasingly powerful, intimate, and precious. Our preaching was important and necessary, but Jesus showed me how much he wants to do when we deliver his message in

the context of relationships where we truly love the people to whom we are ministering.

Our second week in Hungary was spent at a camp for families run by the New Jerusalem Community. With a similar schedule of preaching, teaching, camp activities, Mass, worship and adoration as the young adult camp, we embarked on a series of teachings about Jesus' warnings about the end times in Mark 13.

This week was particularly beautiful because the attendees included many young families who came to camp for a whole week to encounter Christ and to receive deeper formation as a family. Their commitment to leading their families to Christ was inspiring and amazing to witness, as the Lord ministered to these families in such a beautiful way. One particular day stands out to me; my dad preached the deceptions that will come in the last days before Christ's return in the morning. In the evening, the whole camp gathered and began the night by diving into Revelation 1, in which John receives a vision of Jesus standing in the center of his Church. We made a deliberate choice not to do prayer

ministry that evening, and stayed completely and totally focused on the person of Jesus that was before us in Eucharistic adoration. As Revelation 1 was broken open, we heard Jesus described as the beautiful and magnificent One in God's word and we worshipped in the Eucharist.

This sounds so simple, perhaps it is like something we do often at our church or in our community,

“

Wisdom from the Saints

“Be patient with everyone, not only with the powerful, but also with the weak.

Finally, be strong lest prosperity raise you up too much or adversity cast you down. Be humble in this life so that God may raise you up in the next.”

// St. Stephen of Hungary

but the Holy Spirit was with us in a special way because the role of the Holy Spirit is to exalt Jesus. So often, when we pray and worship, we focus on Jesus and ourselves, but that week, as we walked through Jesus' warnings on the end times, instead of caving into fear and despair, we chose to focus on him. We chose to worship him, to exalt him, and to ask for a deeper and clearer revelation of him. There was both an intense weight and an intense freedom to our worship as we focused solely on Jesus.

While there was a lot of fruit from our ten days on mission, the Lord clearly showed us that he wants the preaching of the Gospel to be supported by personal relationships. He showed us that, throughout the communities he is building and bringing together all over the world, the Holy Spirit wants to work powerfully by lifting up and exalting the name of Jesus.

As I reflect on our mission, we were loved, we loved, and we lifted up the name of Jesus each day. Friends, let us commit to doing these things in our daily lives no matter where we go or where we are planted.



EVENTS

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

Toledo, OH **Catholic Business Network Breakfast** *October 1*

Rachel Herbeck
Details: eventbrite.com/e/catholic-business-network-presents-rachel-herbeck-empowered-to-evangelize-tickets-198752599575

Port Huron, MI **Scripture Talk** *October 3* Dr. Mary Healy Details: holyltrinityph.org

Omaha, NE **Omaha Clergy Conference*** *October 6-7* Dr. Mary Healy

Bloomington, OH **Totus Tuus Family Conference** *October 9-11* Ralph Martin Details: afc.org/totus-tuus/

Rapid City, SD **Diocesan Youth Rally** *October 11* Pete Burak & Rachel Herbeck Details: rapidcitydiocese.org/rally26/

Ann Arbor, MI **Renewal Ministries Board Meeting*** *October 11-12* Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Pete Burak & the Renewal Ministries Team

Indianapolis, IN **USCCB Evangelization Summit*** *October 13-15* Pete Burak

Griswold, IA **Forge Heart of the Mission Retreat** *October 15-18* Pete Burak Details: myforge.org/event/heart-of-the-mission/

Regina, SK **Made for Greatness Men's Conference** *October 16-17* Peter Herbeck Details: made4greatness.ca

Regina, SK **Made to Be Women's Conference** *October 16-17* Debbie Herbeck Details: madetobe.net

Lake Geneva, WI **Diocese of Joliet Deacons & Wives Conference*** *October 17* Dr. Mary Healy

Ann Arbor, MI **Free Indeed: Be Love Revolution Annual Gala** *October 23* Debbie Herbeck & the BLR Team Details: beloverevolution.com/fundraiser

Omaha, NE **Forge Night: Men in the Spirit** *October 27* Pete Burak Details: myforge.org/event/men-in-the-spirit-2/

Lansing, MI **St. Gerard School Staff Formation Day*** *October 30* Pete Burak

Tijuana, Mexico **Irrefrenable Misericordia 2026** *October 30-November 1* Dr. Mary Healy Details: facebook.com/IrrefrenableM/posts/973292585044979/

* Not open to the public.

MISSIONS

Rwanda *October 14-November 1* Barbara Heil, Lloyd & Nancy Greenhaw, and Team



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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