RENEWAL MINISTRIES
CATHOLIC RENEWAL & EVANGELIZATION
DECEMBER 2025

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'"

(Isaiah 9:6)

— 2025 — Year in Review

Very Dear Friends of Renewal Ministries,

The years are going fast, aren't they? As I look back at all that has transpired this past year, I'm amazed at how much the Lord has accomplished with our humble team.

At our bi-weekly Bible studies, there are now sometimes as many as twenty-five of us in attendance, including volunteers, part-time employees, and some alumni who have a "lifetime pass" to attend our Bible studies whenever they want. So far, the main takers on this are Gary and Anilu Seromik, Elizabeth Rouhana, and my wife, Anne.

There also is tremendous fruit borne through the efforts of our very noble country coordinators. There are about twenty of them, spread throughout the world, our true partners in significant missions in each country we serve.

We've done missions in thirty-six countries this year. These are not just statistics; these are thousands of lives touched by being delivered from serious sin or demonic oppression, healed, given the courage to persevere through suffering, encouraged to share the Gospel with others, given the grace to love in difficult situations, and so much more that only God knows.

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The Renewal Ministries' staff is pictured here after a Bible study this summer, when we had interns for Be Love Revolution and Forged joining us, as well as Fr. David Dodd, TOR.

In 2025, our Bible study covered the Gospel of John and the Book of Acts.

Renewal Ministries Podcast Network

Find a faithful Catholic voice in challenging times:

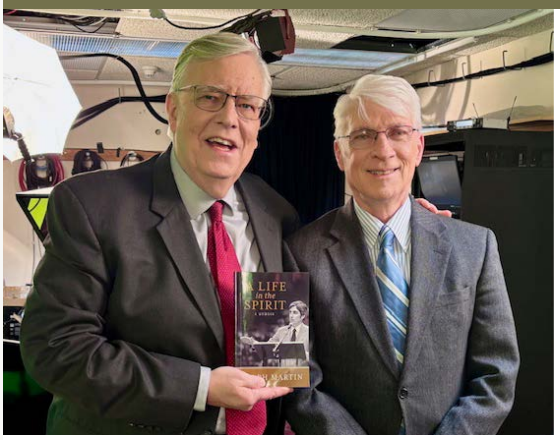
www.renewalministries.net/podcasts

(or access these programs anywhere you listen to podcasts)

Rachel Herbeck and Sr. Ann Shields in the Ave Maria Studios on Sr. Ann's last day of recording *Food for the Journey*.

Food for the Journey archives can be accessed at renewalministries.net/ffj.

Ralph discussed his memoir, *A Life in the Spirit*, on *EWTN Bookmark* with Doug Keck.



Ralph was a guest on the program *Women of Grace* with Johnette Williams.

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We also have impacted hundreds of thousands of souls through our expanding media. We've just completed taping twenty-six new half-hour programs to be broadcast over EWTN and on our YouTube channel for our forty-second year of *The Choices We Face*, the longest running Catholic TV program in the world. We were sad to see Sr. Ann Shields retire after thirty years of producing new episodes of *Food for the Journey*, although you can still access her program at www.renewalministries.net/ffj. Thankfully, Rachel Herbeck picked up the torch with *Burning Hearts*, an appropriately named radio program that airs every weekday. You can access *Burning Hearts* at www.renewalministries.net/bh.

Over the past year, our YouTube videos have garnered over a million views, and six-thousand new subscribers have joined our channel. If you haven't already, you too can be notified of each new video by going to www.youtube.com/@renewalministries, clicking the subscribe button, and opting to receive notifications by clicking the bell.

In addition to all this, Peter and Debbie Herbeck, Rachel Herbeck, Pete Burak, Steve and Katie Norman, and I have had opportunities to preach and teach in many places, strengthening the faithful throughout Canada and the US, as well as countries far afield.

Very close to home, in southeastern Michigan, we have an amazing expansion of outreach to high school boys and girls, through regular weekly visits and periodic retreats to about eight area schools and through our record-breaking summer camps (which each experienced their highest-ever number of campers this year). A team of our high school girls even ventured to Washington State to help conduct a similar camp for girls there.

We see these local initiatives as producing disciples who will eventually serve in various places around the country, as they go to college, get jobs, get married or enter religious life, and be agents of evangelization wherever the Lord plants them.

Ralph gave four talks at the Southern California Renewal Communities' Conference, with two-thousand people in attendance.

Ralph spoke to the students at St. Catherine of Siena Academy in Wixom, Michigan.

We also just completed our annual meeting with our country coordinators and board members. This year, they came together at a nearby retreat center to interact with our staff and plan future initiatives. It was a very inspiring experience for all.

At the board meeting, we accepted the resignation of Tom O'Brien, who had served for over thirty-two years. We also accepted the resignation of Deacon Dan Foley, who had served as chairman of the board since 2011. We promptly elected him as vice-chairman, to serve with Bishop Robert McClory of Gary, Indiana, who was elected our new chairman.

We also have more staff news. This is the last newsletter that Heather Schultz, our wonderful editor—and more—for the past ten years, will be editing. We are sorry to see her go but are inspired to see how she continues to look for where the Lord is calling her to serve, in this case, in her own parish as the director of communications and office manager. We are confident that the newsletter will remain in very capable, and very faith-filled, hands with our new editor, Jessica Jenkins. I want to bid fond farewell to Heather and a warm welcome to Jessica, who has been serving as our excellent receptionist for two-and-a-half years.

Your support of Renewal Ministries makes possible all this and more. If you could consider remembering Renewal Ministries in a special end-of-the-year gift, we would be most grateful, as will all those your gift helps us reach.

Gratefully yours,

Ralph Martin

Ralph

Give Now...

You can donate on our website at **www.renewalministries.net/donate,** *or scan this QR code:*

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THE CHOICES WE FACE

This fall, we recorded our forty-second season of *The Choices We Face*, which will begin airing in March 2026. The season features a tremendous lineup of guests, including Bishop Donald Hying, Fr. Donald Haggerty, Sr. Louis Marie Zogg, Patti Mansfield, Janelle Gergen, Dr. Jacob Imam, and Jake Khym. **Below, one special guest is Ralph's granddaughter Annie Baldante!**

AT HOME & ABROAD

"Thank you for all you do on behalf of the Catholic Church and people all over the world. We all benefit from your missionary work, your publications, and your broadcasts. I never fail to be inspired by your stories, your guests, and your insights about the faith and the love of Christ."

(Letter)

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"Thank you for your anointed teaching, your powerful witness, and the encouragement you continually poured into us. We are especially grateful for the gift the Lord has given you—to take profound and sometimes daunting topics and present them with such clarity and simplicity. We cannot wait to welcome you back!"

(Email)

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"You have been such an inspiration to my husband and I. The world has gotten off the spiritual path, and Renewal Ministries gets you back on."

(Letter)

Top left, Rachel and Debbie Herbeck teamed up to speak at a women's conference in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. At right, Peter Herbeck is pictured with Fr. Mathias Thelen, Bishop Scott McCaig, and Bishop Jerry Vincke at the Encounter Conference in Toledo, Ohio.

Pete Burak and Rachel Herbeck spent a week in Brazil with the Cancao Nova community outside of Sao Paolo and the Jave Nissi community in the Diocese of Pouso Alegre. They also spoke at a weekend conference with three-hundred leaders from various communities. While in Brazil, they met many people passionate about seeking the Lord. One community was called "Holy Armpits" because they always carried their Bibles under their arms!

Bottom left, Peter Herbeck is pictured at an Encounter Ministries' event in Brighton, Michigan. At right, he led a NET Ministries Leaders' Retreat in St. Paul, Minnesota.

"It felt like a great community all there to worship Jesus and hear wonderful testimonies of faith. I feel I received a wonderful blessing. I am so excited to attend again."

(Facebook comment)

LIFT JESUS HIGHER // YOUTH RALLY

About eight-hundred people attended the Lift Jesus Higher Youth Rally in Toronto. The event featured motivating talks, inspirational testimonies, Adoration, and powerful worship. One participant said, "I liked how Deacon Larry Oney talked about how God's plan is there for you, you just have to trust in Him, and your past doesn't define what your future will be." Pictured, youth and young adult leaders prayed with particpants.

LIFT JESUS HIGHER // ADULT RALLY

About 1700 people attended the Lift Jesus Higher Rally in Toronto (pictured below). The theme was *Power from On High*. The day included talks by Bishop Scott McCaig, Deacon Larry Oney, and Katey Norman. One participant said, "The rally has given me strength and helped me grow. The Holy Spirit works in a powerful way here. It deepens my faith, and the praise and worship always lift my spirit."

"What a fabulous day of anointing and lifting Jesus higher and higher. Thank you—tons of blessings! Felt the presence of the Holy Spirit!"

(Facebook comment)

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"A day of rejuvenation and inspiration to continue on in this journey gifted to us as his servants of faith. No better way to spend a Saturday. The Lift Jesus Higher Rally has never left me disappointed! It has enriched me with inspiration to never give up despite what is in current events globally."

(Facebook comment)

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"It was a great spiritual day. For those of us returning . . . to a great ice storm, it gave us strength to proceed in all the trials we had. God was so good."

(Facebook comment)

Save the Date

MARCH 14, 2026

TORONTO ONTARIO

Details: www.ljhr.ca

GLOBAL MISSIONS

In 2025, Renewal Ministries completed fifty missions in thirty-six countries. We have plans to complete forty-two missions in twenty-nine countries in 2026.

Slovakia | In Slovakia, we shared the pro-life message with students, teaching them about a baby's development and the awful truth of how abortions are performed. We also helped celebrate the Presov Maranatha Community's thirtieth anniversary Ohen (FIRE) Rally. Both Peter Herbeck and Pete Burak joined us for this powerful event!

2025 Mission Countries:

- Botswana
- Brazil
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Croatia
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Ethiopia
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea-Bissau
- Hungary
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Latvia
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Lithuania
- Malawi
- Mexico
- Namibia
- Papua New Guinea
- Romania
- Rwanda
- Scotland
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- St. Vincent
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sweden
- Taiwan
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- United States
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Papua New Guinea | We held a Eucharistic healing service where people touched "the hem of his garment" (the monstrance) and received prayer.

Ethiopia | Six-hundred people celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal—and less than two percent of the population is Catholic!

Cameroon | In early 2025, our team led a retreat for Capuchin friars facing challenges from civil unrest. Later, we led conferences for priests, religious sisters, lay leaders, and youth leaders.

NEXT GENERATION

BE LOVE REVOLUTION | Pictured is a Be Love Revolution Talitha Koum event, at which middle school girls gathered for an evening of fellowship and growing closer to the Lord. Be Love Revolution serves young women through a weekly Bible study; twice-monthly gatherings with Adoration, teaching, and small group discussions; small groups that meet for discipleship and prayer; weekly time serving middle school and high school students; and more.

"Forged has greatly helped me to grow in my Catholic faith throughout my time in high school. Additionally, it has given me brothers who are rooted in Christ and who continually challenge me to pursue Him."

(High school senior)

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"Every person we have encountered through Be Love Revolution and Pine Hills Camp embodies the true face of Jesus. Our daughter's experiences have been priceless!"

(Parent)

FORGED | Pictured at left, members of Forged attended the Diocese of Lansing men's conference. Forged helps young men be "formed in faith, refined in friendship." This school year, Forged is serving six middle schools and one high school weekly. It also offers spiritual, social, and competitive nights that engage the boys in a dynamic way and present the fullness of the Gospel.

Pine Hills Camps | This year, Pine Hills Girls' Camp celebrated its fortieth anniversary and both camps had their most campers ever! The camps include powerful prayer meetings, talks, Spirit-filled leadership, fellowship, and fun!

DECEMBER 2025

EVENTS

Toronto, ON
Catholic Renewal Ministries Canada Board Meeting*
December 1 // Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, and Team

Hales Corner, WI
St. Mary Faith Community Parish Mission
December 1-3 // Pete Burak
Details: stmaryhc.org

Monroe, NY
Sacred Heart & St. Patrick Parish Mission
December 4-5 // Dr. Mary Healy
Details: shspparish.org

Ann Arbor, MI
Young Adult Advent Retreat
December 6 // Pete Burak
Details: sta2.org/church/news/young-adult-advent-retreat

Sydney, Australia
The Perennial Wisdom of Evangelii Nuntiandi (via Zoom)
December 8 // Ralph Martin

Toledo, OH
Catholic Business Network Breakfast
December 11 // Peter Herbeck
Details: eventbrite.com/e/the-power-of-hope-does-not-disappoint-tickets-1758463755429?aff=erelexpmlt

Aparecida, Brazil
GERAÇÃO ATÔMIKA
December 13-14 // Pete Burak
Details: e-inscricao.com/colodedeus/geracaoatmk25

Grand Rapids, MI
Talk at Sacred Heart Catholic Church
December 13 // Ralph Martin
Details: sacredheartgr.org

Ann Arbor, MI
Talk at St. Augustine Homeschool Enrichment Program*
December 14 // Ralph Martin

Des Moines, IA
Forge Annual Board Meeting*
December 16-17 // Pete Burak

* *Not open to the public.*

For a complete listing of events, visit RenewalMinistries.net/Events.

Thank You

To those whose selfless commitment helps guide our ministry

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» Country Coordinators (L-R, with home country if not US) • Andrzej Lewek (Poland) • Nancy and Lloyd Greenhaw • Tom and Jean Marie Edwards • Deacon Zoli & Panni Kunszabo (Hungary) • Tom Hornacek • Terry Quinn (Ireland) • Fernando Nascimento (Brazil) • Deacon Tibi Majoros (Romania) • Kevin Philip (Canada) • Peter Newburn • Anthony Feola • Dr. Estelatus Mtemanyenja (Tanzania) • Dr. Bohus Zivcak (Slovakia) • *Not pictured: Jim Murphy, Emmanuel Tamakloe (Ghana), Joseph and Francesca Aonu (Uganda), and Dr. Peter Williamson.*

PLEASE PRAY

- For all families to grow more like the Holy Family during this Advent and Christmas season.
- That the Lord will comfort all those who are mourning.
- For the prayer intentions of all our supporters, their family members, and their parish families, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

RENEWAL MINISTRIES

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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