



RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Spotlight on the LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY



JUNE 2025



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Since Renewal Ministries' earliest days, we have been blessed to collaborate in mission with extraordinary brothers and sisters from around the world. In March, we celebrated our thirty-fourth annual Lift Jesus Higher Rally in Toronto, Canada, with about 1700 adults and eight-hundred youth! Even after thirty-four years, it never gets old! Every year, the Holy Spirit comes in power and imparts hope, healing, and renewal to those in attendance at both the adult and youth rallies.

This year, we spoke with some people who have attended for thirty years or more! One woman 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." Another man "had a spiritual awakening" at his first rally. He said, "It makes my faith stronger and gives me a fresh infilling of the Spirit."

Another woman, who was attending for the first time, joined the Church last Easter. She said, "It's been beautiful. I've been able to feel the Holy Spirit through the speakers."

We've included in this newsletter condensed versions of talks from the adult and youth rallies. Once again, we were blessed to be led by an inspired team of speakers, including Cardinal Thomas Collins, archbishop emeritus of Toronto; Bishop Scott McCaig; Fr. Rastislav Dluhý; Deacon Larry Oney; and Katey Norman. As they become available, you will be able to view the talks at www.renewalministries.net/ljhr-talks.

Pete Burak and my daughter Rachel Herbeck did a wonderful job emceeding. As I watched these two next-generation leaders shepherd the crowd through the day, I was

grateful and amazed. Grateful that the Lord is continuing to add gifted young leaders to our Renewal Ministries' team, and amazed as it dawned on me that Pete was just three years old, and Rachel wasn't even born when we first launched the Lift Jesus Higher Rally.

We could not have done it without the hard work and servant leadership of our staff, the members of the Lift Jesus Higher Rally Steering Committee, our Canadian board members, and the many volunteers led by Suresh Dominic and his team from Gethsemane Ministries.

Finally, as the Psalmist declares, "my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices" because of the faithfulness and goodness of God (Ps 16:9). When his people come together with hungry hearts, ready to lift Jesus higher, the Holy Spirit always comes, and the love of God is poured out. We are blessed. May the Lord grant us many more years of communion in mission with brothers and sisters throughout the world.

In Christ,

Peter Herbeck

A LETTER ▶ FROM PETER HERBECK



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JESUS: BAPTIZER IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

// PETER HERBECK, VICE-PRESIDENT OF RENEWAL MINISTRIES



He came to give you a new power and the capacity to live a new way of life . . . Let's ask for a fresh outpouring of the Spirit.



A very wise priest once told me, “Seek the anointing of the Spirit more often in your life. Ask the Holy Spirit, ‘What do You have for me? I want more of it!’”

Jesus came to be one of us so that we can have what He has. In heaven, He took his seat at the right hand of God. All power, authority, and glory came upon Him, and now He shares that with us. He sends the Spirit to those who believe in Him.

We have been given a spirit of adoption so that Christ may live in us, and we may live in Him. There's nothing greater in the cosmos than this. The Holy Spirit wants to help us come into a living experience and awareness of it. The more you appreciate the glory that you have been given, the more confidence you're going to have in all circumstances; the more confidence, joy, and sense of purpose you're going to have; and the more the Lord can direct your life. As Paul says,

“We have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us.”
(2 Cor 4:7)

Unfortunately, we spend more time worrying about our earthen vessels than the glory that's in them. This is the enemy's strategy. We spend time wishing we had someone else's gifts instead of recognizing our dignity and the glory in us.

These two simple steps can deepen our personal relationship with Jesus.

1. JESUS IS SAVIOR. He knows the depth of your sin, corruption, and infidelities—and He came to break the chains of sin. He loves you and is asking you to give Him your sins, along with the past and whatever holds you back. He is looking at you with tender love. Pray,

**“Jesus, you are my savior.
You've taken away all my sins.
Thank you for your love.”**

He came to give you a new power and the capacity to live a new way of life. He wants you to walk in the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—in a deeper way. Let's ask for a fresh outpouring of the Spirit.

2. JESUS IS LORD. All power and authority in heaven and earth has been given to Him. On Good Friday, when Jesus died on a cross, He showed us what it looks like to live under God's authority. He humbled himself by becoming obedient even unto death, and God highly exalted Him, giving Him a name above every name.

Are you holding onto any pattern of life, behavior, or relationships that you know are not God's will for you? I was at home one time, reading my Bible, when I looked at a stack of poker chips and asked the Lord, “What are those?” In my mind, He replied,

“Those are your idols, money, and power—everything you're holding on to. I want you to learn to give everything to me.”

An image popped into my head of Him on the other side of the poker table. He looked at me, looked at those chips, and asked,

“What's going to be your play?”

I threw Him a couple of chips. He shook his head and said with a smile and great love,

“No, there's one play. It's to go all in.”

Let's do that today.

The Lord wants to know, are you ready to get moving—even if it's just in little ways? Wake up in the morning and say, “I'm on a mission, and the King is sending me. Where is He sending me today?” That's the adventure of our lives. Give Him permission.

UNLIMITED

// KATEY NORMAN, DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP FOR BE LOVE REVOLUTION



The Lord wants to give us that same power to hear Him and respond. We have a responsibility to speak and act when the Lord asks us to.



When I was twenty-one, I was bound for death. I was living like the prodigal son, filled with things of this world and not of the Lord. I returned home, and my mother sensed something was wrong. She invited me to confession. I gave a long confession with much crying and tears—and the Holy Spirit forgave my sins and showed me that He loved me and had good plans for me.

Three weeks later, I received a call from Fr. Mike Scanlon, then-president of Steubenville University. I had applied there to escape my sins, but they had denied my acceptance. Now, Fr. Mike felt the Lord wanted me to be at Steubenville. So, I went!

Fr. Mike became my spiritual director and taught me about the Holy Spirit—a person longing for relationship, like the Father and Son. He taught me about opening myself up to the Lord. Once, Fr. Mike woke up in the middle of the night and the Lord asked him to go to the perpetual Adoration chapel. When he got there, the Eucharist was gone. The Holy Spirit prompted him to drive into town and turn left on this street, right on that street, into this driveway, up to this house, through the door, and up the stairs. He listened the whole time. He opened a door and saw a satanic ritual was about to take place. Fr. Mike said, “Give Him back.” They handed the Eucharist over, and Fr. Mike left.

The Lord wants to give us that same power to hear Him and respond. We have a responsibility to speak and act when the Lord asks us to. After graduation, the Lord called me to work in campus ministry. I wanted to know it was his will, because I was unsure about working at a very liberal school.

That's what I want for my life: more of the Holy Spirit and more of his glory, every day.

The Lord inspired me with the story of Ezekiel, saying,

“Even if they don't listen to you, they will know that I have sent one to be among them.”

It wasn't my job to fix things or bring healing. That's the Lord's job. I just had to open myself up and say, “Come and be here, Lord.”

That time became such a gift! On a mission trip, I prayed with people who received the Lord's healing, and we saw multiplication of food and conversions of students who had not been catechized or even baptized. It was beautiful, because we were seeking more. That's what I want for my life: more of the Holy Spirit and more of his glory, every day. The Lord wants that for us as well.

As I drove my children to school one day, I felt prompted to ask the Lord to help us seek his voice. We prayed,

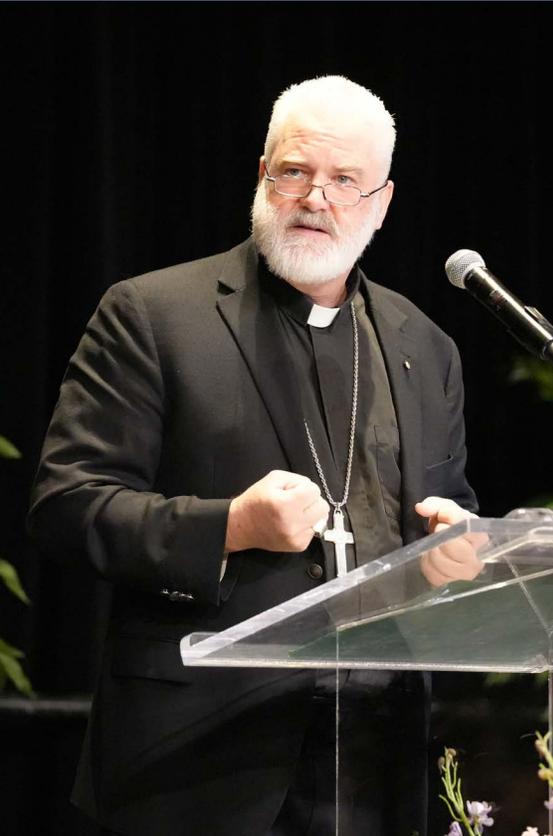
“Jesus, who do You want us to love today?”

Then, I asked them to listen to his reply in their hearts. My son said that the Lord wanted him to be loving to a certain boy who did not have many friends. Later that day, that boy was chosen last when they picked teams for soccer. Then, some kids began making fun of him. My son knew the Holy Spirit wanted him to talk to the boy, so he went over and said, “It's so good you're here. I'm glad you're on my team.”

These are simple things, but my son is six, and he was obedient to what the Holy Spirit asked. There are souls at stake who don't know the glory of the Holy Spirit. We are called to show them love, joy, and wonders, and to speak words of knowledge and prophecy into their lives. We must invite the Lord to break through—by means of our own vulnerability, humility, and obedience—so that this country becomes a beacon of blazing fire for the Lord.

CLOTHED WITH POWER

// BISHOP SCOTT MCCAIG, CC, BISHOP OF THE MILITARY ORDINARIATE OF CANADA



The Holy Spirit is meant to empower us for mission, convict us, correct us, lead us, equip us, and build the kingdom of God through us. We should never settle for less.

When we look at the promises of Jesus and the life of the early Church, one thing becomes clear. Dr. Mary Healy wrote, “Jesus Christ did not die and rise from the dead for a powerless Church unable to cope with the cynicism, brokenness, and spiritual emptiness that surrounds us. He died and rose to form a people alive in Him, filled with joy, walking in the gifts and the power of the Holy Spirit, and bearing witness to his victory over sin and death.

You and I, as disciples of the living and risen Lord Jesus, are not supposed to be white knuckling it through life, just getting by, clenching our teeth, and hoping to survive the onslaught of a broken and wounded world. We’re meant to be taking the world for the kingdom of God. Our very lives are witness to his victory and permeated by the graces, love, power, and joy of the Holy Spirit.

Kingdoms rise and fall, and they will continue to do so until the Lord comes. Our first allegiance is to the kingdom of God. Our hearts yearn for the life of God. The Holy Spirit is meant to empower us for mission, convict us, correct us, lead us, equip us, and build the kingdom of God through us. We should never settle for less.

In baptism, we became adopted sons and daughters of God. Original sin—alienation from God—was destroyed

in us, and we became temples of the Holy Spirit. Every time we receive a sacrament, the Holy Spirit increases within us and strengthens us.

Here’s the question we need to answer: If we have received the Holy Spirit in extraordinary ways, and his presence and power is permeating our lives, why do so many of us act exactly as we did before we knew Him? Where is that transfiguring power? Where are those graces that are given and poured into our soul in baptism, strengthened and anointed in confirmation, and added upon through the Eucharist and the other sacraments? Why do many who have received the sacraments get captured by the world and get sucked away from the life of God?

This problem is not new to us. Jesus rose victoriously from the dead, and the apostles hid in fear (Jn 20). They’d been with the Lord for three years and had seen people raised from the dead—and they hid in fear. They had no idea what to do. So, they went back to fishing (Jn 21)—to the lives they were leading when Jesus first found them; nothing seemed to have changed.

Jesus did not immediately send out his apostles to the world. He knew they were not ready. After his death, he appeared to them over forty days, spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and enjoined them “not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait”



(Acts 1:4). He promised them something more—and they received the Holy Spirit. They were ordained priests in the upper room—and they went out from there preaching.

As Jesus said, the apostles needed to “be baptized with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:5). Don’t you think that is also the case for you and me? The whole Church needs it. Baptism literally means to be drowned in, immersed in something. In sacramental baptism, we are immersed in the waters that the Lord transforms so that we become grafted onto Him. It has many wonderful effects. Baptism in the Holy Spirit is another washing in the Holy Spirit. It’s not a sacrament, but it’s also an immersion, a washing in the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is already within us through the sacraments, but He needs to be unleashed in our lives. Let me use an analogy. Imagine it’s Christmas morning, and someone gives you a beautifully wrapped present. You receive it and go home with the gift. Do you have it? Yes. Have you fully received it? No.

What if you put that present on a shelf and never looked at it again?

It belongs to you, but you’re not using it. You must tear off that wrapping paper, open the box, take it out, and start using it. That’s how you fully receive the gift.

When that is gift unleashed in our lives, we should expect to see three things:

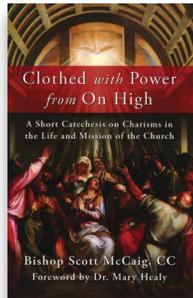
1. A new awareness of the reality and presence of Jesus in our lives.

When I was my religious community’s director of formation, many of our seminarians had never been on a roller coaster. They had heard about them, but one day, I took them on a roller coaster. On the way there, they said, “This will be interesting.” And then, halfway through the ride, their faces filled with utter terror, their eyes bulged out, their hair blew back, and they screamed at the top of their lungs. It was a whole different reality! In the same way, it’s not enough to just know about Jesus—we must

know Jesus and experience his presence, love, mercy, correction, power, and immense goodness.

2. The presence of charisms—spiritual gifts—in the lives of believers.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit mentioned in Isaiah 11 are for you! They allow you to go where the Spirit wants you to go. The charisms, however, are given for the good of others and the building up of God’s kingdom. When a charism is operative in our lives, something comes alive inside of us. It gives us grace, power, and courage for the specific work God created us for. When you discover your charisms and begin using them, your life will take on new meaning. Your head will pop off that pillow in the morning. When the Holy Spirit is operating within you, it’s supernaturally anointed, and it makes an impact. Charisms are not badges of holiness. They’re gifts for service, proof of love, and power from on high for the building up of the kingdom. (Learn more about this in my book *Clothed with Power from on High*, available at www.renewalministries.net/store.)



3. Power for sanctification. The Holy Spirit eliminates sin and sin patterns in our lives, brings our lives into God’s order, and draws us into deeper communion with God. Baptism in the Holy Spirit flips our priorities. We start looking differently at what matters and what doesn’t matter. Prayer becomes more attractive, and the spiritual world opens up. It brings about a deep maturity. It does not replace the need for receiving sacraments or practicing virtues but empowers those things and gives them fuel.



PLEASE PRAY

- That the Holy Spirit will descend in a new and powerful way upon the faithful this Pentecost.
- That the Lord will help us to hear his voice and respond in faith to his call in our lives.
- For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

The gift of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the watershed of any life. I converted to Catholicism because I started reading the Church Fathers and realized the early Church was the Catholic Church. That was great! But weeks later, I stumbled into the meeting of a group that was praying with freedom, joy, and love that burned in my heart. These people knew Him in a way I did not. As I prayed with them, I tentatively raised my hands, and my heart ached for what they had. God heard that silent prayer and poured out that grace upon me—and it changed the trajectory of my life. When I consider that day, I want to weep for God’s goodness in stepping into my life in such a profound way, immersing me in his Holy Spirit, and unleashing those graces within me.

Even if we’ve already received baptism in the Holy Spirit, we can ask for more. We can ask for the gifts to be stirred up again. God is generous. We can never ask for too much of the Holy Spirit in our lives; He wants to fill us and set us ablaze.

POWER FROM ON HIGH

// DEACON LARRY ONEY, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF HOPE AND PURPOSE MINISTRIES



The Lord has something new for us. He gives us both power and authority to divinely enable us for this moment.

We're getting ready for a great harvest, and God is preparing us to be the harvesters. There's not a great army coming; we are the great army. The Master of the Harvest is Jesus, and He's commissioning and strengthening us.

In Acts 1:4-5, Jesus ordered the disciples to "wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, 'you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'"

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not just a one-time event, because for some of us, the pressure of life drains the anointing. The Father needs to fill us up again. There's one baptism and one confirmation, but God wants us to operate from an overflow. He wanted his apostles to be "clothed with power from on high" (Lk 24:49). He wanted them to be his witnesses throughout the world, and He wants the same for us today.

God knew the disciples were going to face hard things—and we're going to face hard things. To stand and proclaim the Word of God, we must adopt a posture of humility, docility, anointing, power, authority, holiness, and freedom.

We need to remain open to the Lord and teachable. When serving the Lord, don't say, "Look at me and the things I can do." It's not about us; He gives the gift of anointing—and He always has a fresh anointing for us. Yesterday's anointing is not for today. Today's anointing is for today—and we don't need to worry about God running out! He doesn't want for anything. Don't say, "I already did that." Don't look back to the beginning of your journey and be content with having received baptism in the Holy Spirit decades ago. The Lord has something new for us. He gives us both power and authority to divinely enable us for this moment.

We must open ourselves up to the power from on high that Gideon received in the Book of Judges. Gideon was hiding, but God called him a "mighty man of valor" (Jgs 6:12)—a champion. Finally, Gideon was ready to go into battle, and he gathered 32,000 men. God told him to send home the fearful ones—and ten-thousand men remained. God said that was still too many, and He gave them another test—and only three-hundred men remained. God was

saying that the victory would come not by Gideon's power or might, but by the Lord.

God also sees us as his champions. It doesn't matter if you feel insufficient. God says, "You're not able, but I'm giving you divine enablement and a fresh anointing." God raises up new people; He's raising up new people now. We must acknowledge our sin and cry out to the Lord.

God wants to position us for his kingdom's purposes. The Holy Spirit came down in Acts to help the apostles be ready to testify and to preach and teach God's Word. The Holy Spirit wants to give us the same gifts today. God knows there will be pressure and strongholds against us. We need to pray against the strongholds that keep us from receiving the anointing.

What strongholds are you facing? Where do you need healing? In the name of Jesus, we need to break every chain: addiction, anxiety, depression, despair, bitterness, confusion, anger, and more.

Jesus is a Way Maker; there is power in his name. Rebuke these spirits, bind them, and take authority over them in Jesus' name. Tell them to be gone in the name of Jesus Christ. Come into agreement with the Father's plan for your life so that you can live in the freedom of the sons and daughters of God.



LIFT JESUS HIGHER YOUTH RALLY 2025

About eight-hundred people attended the Lift Jesus Higher Youth Rally. Following is some feedback from our interviews with the participants:

"The best part was Adoration. It was very powerful."

"My favorite part of the day was Steadfast Worship's performance."

"I loved the talks and the testimonies. They were all very relatable."

"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."



RECEIVING the POWER

// BY FR. RASTISLAV DLUHÝ



When the Spirit breathes powerfully, people come to life. Many young people are broken because of family situations. They may be crushed, but then the Holy Spirit comes with his power, and Jesus breathes, and they come to life like beautiful flowers.

Without the breath of God, everything would be lifeless like in a museum. Without the breath of God, the Bible would be interesting—but it wouldn't touch your life. Once you receive his breath, it can change your life.

After Jesus' death, the apostles were afraid. They locked themselves in.

But when Jesus came, He said, "Peace be with you" (Jn 20:19). He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (Jn 20:22). He didn't give one word of blame; He forgave them and gave them his Spirit.

The Holy Spirit wants to heal us. He wants us to receive forgiveness for our sins and the power to share that forgiveness with others.

My greatest joy is when I hear confessions all day. I see the power of the Holy Spirit bring people to life.

How do we receive the power of the Holy Spirit? First, don't be afraid of this power—which is greater than an atomic bomb. Some fear—the fear of God—is a gift. He's holy and powerful, but his power is for our good. He wants to renew us; He wants us to be like a blossoming flower.

Second, remain receptive to the Lord and open to all He has for you. Ask yourself: "Do I desire the Holy Spirit?" If so, pray for that! And if not, pray for the desire to desire the Holy Spirit!

Let me tell you a little about myself. I entered the seminary at eighteen, and I had a very bad relationship with my father. It weighed on me and took away

my joy and freedom. I prayed every day for healing in that relationship. One day when I was twenty-three, I was at home, and my father was shouting at me. I can't remember why, but I know it was unjust. And the Holy Spirit came. I had prayed for six years: "Lord, I want to forgive. I want to love him."

Such a love came into the room at that moment! I asked my father, "Can you forgive me for everything?" I imagine he was not ready, but I was ready—by the Holy Spirit—to forgive him. I felt love for my dad like never before.

It was a miracle. The relationship consisted of so many wounds. But on that day, I heard in my heart, "Your dad is very wounded, but he's also my son." For the first time, I looked at my father and saw a very wounded son of the Father. That's my biggest testimony: my forgiveness to my dad and my love for him. Now I sit with him very often when I am at home. We don't agree most of the time—about sports, politics, or religion. But I sit with him and say, "Father, cheers." I hated him, but through the power of the Holy Spirit, I now love him. I'm so grateful.

The power of God is bigger than our wounds, our past, or our traumas. There are no limits. Let's ask Him to show us his power, heal our wounds, and help us to become ourselves through Christ our Lord.

Fr. Rastislav Dluhý is a Slovak Catholic priest and a member of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists).



***Without the breath of God,
everything would be lifeless . . .
Once you receive his breath,
it can change your life.***

EVENTS

JUNE 2025 View complete event list at renewalministries.net/events.

Lansing, MI
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
Mission
June 5-6
Pete Burak
Details: ihmlansing.org

Steubenville, OH
Glory: Women's Gathering
June 6-8
Debbie Herbeck
Details: steubenvilleconferences.com/events/glory

Jackson, MI
Pine Hills Boys Camp*
June 8-14
Pete Burak

Indianapolis, IN
Youth Event*
June 13
Rachel Herbeck

Vero Beach, FL
Legatus*
June 18
Rachel Herbeck

Atlanta, GA
Legionaries of Christ Day of Study*
June 19
Ralph Martin

St. Louis, MO
Cornerstone Ministry Conference*
June 17-19
Dr. Mary Healy

Steubenville, OH
Power & Purpose Conference
June 20-22
Pete Burak & Dr. Mary Healy
Details: steubenvilleconferences.com/events/power-purpose-conference

Memphis, TN
Memphis Catholic Men's Conference
June 27-29
Pete Burak

* Not open to the public.



Spirit of truth, you are the reward of the saints, the comforter of souls, light in the darkness, riches to the poor, treasure to lovers, food for the hungry, comfort to those who are wandering; to sum up, you are the one in whom all treasures are contained. Come! . . . Consume in us whatever prevents us from being consumed in you.

// St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi



THE CHOICES
WE FACE

'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/the-choices-we-face

JUNE GUESTS & TOPICS:

Current of Grace
(06/08/25) // Bishop Scott McCaig, CC
Bishop Scott speaks at a 2024 priests' retreat in Uganda about the necessity of a strong, vibrant, orthodox faith filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Coming Back Home
(06/15/25) // Miguel Zuniga
Miguel Zuniga talks about his experiences with the supernatural that led him back to Jesus after leaving the faith of his childhood.

The Desires of Your Heart
(06/22/25) // Al & Patti Mansfield
Al and Patti Mansfield share how they met and embarked on their vocation of Christ-centered marriage and Spirit-filled ministry.

There's Always More
(06/29/25) // Sr. Mary Gabriel, SV
Sr. Mary Gabriel shares her faith journey, from falling in love with Jesus to her vocation with the Sisters of Life.



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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