RENEWAL MINISTRIES

CATHOLIC RENEWAL & EVANGELIZATION

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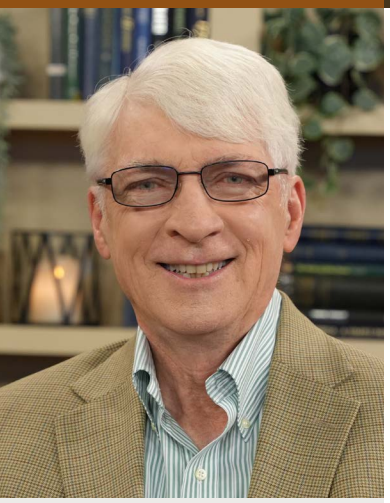
NOVEMBER 2025



A LETTER FROM RALPH MARTIN

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Dear Partners in the Gospel,

I just came back from an inspiring trip to Winnipeg, Manitoba. I spoke at the annual conference of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in that region of Canada, and about two-hundred people attended over the course of the event. I gave four talks on holiness, evangelization, my testimony, and Fatima, and things went very well.

Seeing the maturity and commitment of those attending was particularly inspiring. Some have persevered for many years, and you could see their depth and stability. Some were the fruit of a newly dynamic leadership that has brought fresh energy and initiative to the renewal there. Recently revitalized Bible studies and Life in the Spirit seminars have released an evangelistic spirit in the renewal.

It also was a real joy to meet a number of Renewal Ministries' supporters who were happy to see me in person after so many years of just video contact. I had been in Winnipeg years before for a FIRE rally with our original FIRE team, and then at another time for a charismatic conference. I remember that one of those visits was in winter, and it was cold! Someone told me that Winnipeg is the coldest city in the world for cities with over 500,000 people. They also told me that about ten miles out from the city is the exact geographic center of the US and Canada.

The couple that picked me up and hosted me for much of the conference was a man and his wife who began tithing a few years after they married. Renewal Ministries was first on their list at that time and remains so thirty-four years later, as they continue to not only financially support our work but serve in many ways in the local area as well.

I stayed in the basement guest room of another couple, a deacon and his wife. Next to the guest room is a small chapel where the bishop allows them to keep the Blessed Sacrament. That was such a gift! It also was inspiring to see how the couple prays for people for healing and deliverance on almost a daily basis.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Clergy extended a blessing to participants at the Catholic Charismatic Renewal event in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

Wisdom from the Saints

"If you desire to find Him immediately, see—He is quite close to you. Tell Him what you desire, for it is to console you and grant your prayer that He remains in the tabernacle."

// St. Alphonsus Liguori

For the same reasons you support Renewal Ministries now, would you consider remembering us in your will?

One significant way you can help ensure Renewal Ministries' continued work of Catholic renewal and evangelization is to join the St. Catherine of Siena Society by designating us as a beneficiary in your will or trust.

For more information, please contact Chief Administrative Officer Chris Baker at 734-356-4273 or cbaker@renewalministries.net.

RenewalMinistries.net/plannedgiving

Ralph met two leaders of Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services of Manitoba, Melvin and Maria De Paz, who helped spearhead the event.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I thought the trip was going to be challenging, as I've been experiencing some back pain with a disc pressing on a nerve, and I wondered if I would be able to stand for four long talks. Thanks be to God, I was!

The bishop came for the concluding Mass and my talk, and he warmly greeted me. There are two neighboring dioceses, the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, which is primarily English speaking, and the Diocese of St. Boniface, which is primarily French speaking. I heard many stories of the deep pain that exists because of efforts to not respect the French-speaking community's desire to preserve its language and culture. I heard similar stories when I was in Saskatchewan not too long ago, about the efforts of the Eastern Provinces to throttle industrial development in the Western Provinces. There is a lot of pain, injustice, and suffering in the world, only a portion of which we see reflected in our daily news.

Thank God for the coming of his kingdom, which will establish the just and merciful rule of Jesus over the entire world. Only then will there be no more pain, suffering, injustices, or death!

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

The world needs You.

We need You.

Your brother on the mission,

Ralph

Ralph Martin

P.S. We just completed filming twenty-six new episodes of *The Choices We Face* and are getting ready for our annual board meeting. Meanwhile, other members of our team are out and about, preaching the Gospel. More on that next month!

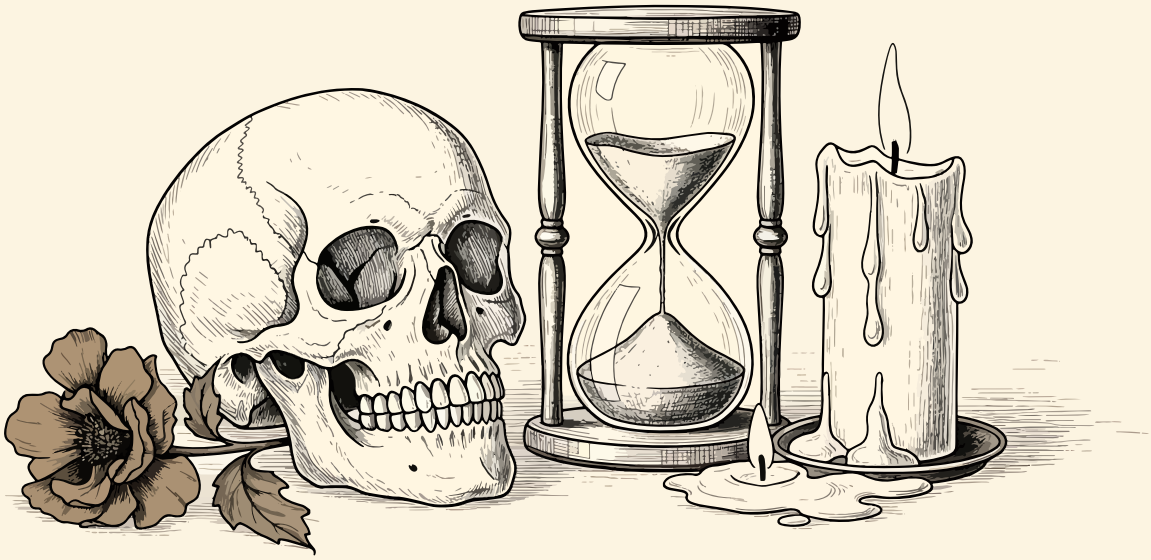
PLEASE PRAY

- For peace within our nations.
- That the Lord would grant his comfort and strength to all who mourn.
- For the prayer intentions of our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

Memento Mori

...Remember Your Death

By Ava Marcarelli, Renewal Ministries' Media Coordinator



The thought of death used to terrify me. I was so consumed with my life and what I wanted out of it that the idea that I could die at any time was too horrifying to consider. Yet just because I refused to think about it didn't mean that time would stop for me! **It wasn't until I had a personal encounter with Jesus, and my gaze began to shift from the things of the world to the things of heaven, that the fear of death began to dissipate.** Because I trust in God's mercy, I don't fear death as I once did. How could I, when Jesus has conquered death and made it the path to new life? As I continue on this difficult path of sanctification, I often consider my own death so that I will be ready when that day inevitably arrives.

The world tries to keep us distracted with its glitz and glamor: "You need this product, job, diet, entertainment, vacation, relationship, etc., and then you'll be happy." When we keep our eyes trained on whatever is in front of us, like a horse with blinders on, it prevents us from coming to terms with the very real and eternal consequences of the decisions we're making. There are plenty of things that may not be evil in and of themselves, such as our careers, relationships, hobbies, or possessions, but they can become idols that consume us. We can become so focused on these things that we forget they are only temporary and can quickly disappear.

When we keep our death ever before us, we live differently.

As we begin this Month of Remembrance and pray for the dead, it is healthy and good for us to remember with hope and anticipation that our own death awaits us. It could be years from now or it could be today. Since we do not know when we will face death, we should do our best to live as if every day is our last by keeping our eyes focused on heaven. Let's also pray for the poor souls in Purgatory who await union with God. When we keep our death ever before us, we live differently. And when we trust in Divine Mercy and are determined to get up every time we fall, we have nothing to fear.

Next-Generation Ministries Experience Growth

BE LOVE REVOLUTION + FORGED + PINE HILLS CAMPS

beloverevolution.com — forgedministry.com — pinehillscamp.com

BE LOVE REVOLUTION + PINE HILLS GIRLS CAMP // By Debbie Herbeck, BLR Executive Director

Be Love Revolution

This fall, Be Love Revolution (BLR) bid farewell to our graduated high school seniors, whom we have discipled since they were Pine Hills campers. Our seniors are leaving the BLR "nest" alive in their faith, ready to spread their wings and God's love!

It's been a joy to watch them meet Jesus personally and grow from insecure middle schoolers to confident disciples and mature leaders. Growth didn't happen overnight, but they consistently chose Jesus!

For four years, they showed up to our 6:30 a.m. Bible study and their Abide small group. They helped monthly at the local soup kitchen, led middle school events, worshipped Jesus together, participated in the Mexico mission trip, and served as Pine Hills Camp counselors. Most importantly, they loved Jesus and one another so well as friends and sisters in Christ.

The BLR team was honored to walk with them, and we are excited to see them "be love" in the places God is sending them!

Pine Hills Girls Camp

This summer marked our fortieth year of Pine Hills Girls Camp, and we celebrated God's faithfulness with another outstanding week! We filled every bed at camp with 204 campers and a staff of one-hundred high school, college, and young adult women. Our theme this year—*All Things New*—was taken from Revelation 21:5, focusing on God's promises to bring restoration and renewal to us.

As I reflect with gratitude on the past forty years of camp, I've witnessed so much growth and fruit in the lives of our campers, their families, and our staff. Some of our early staff now have daughters on staff and granddaughters as campers!

The camp, which originated for the youth of the Word of God Community and then encompassed our local Christ the King Parish, now serves young girls from more than thirty-eight churches and twenty-five schools in Michigan and other states. This means that we have been able to reach many more girls with the Gospel. It is beautiful to see the Catholic identity of camp grow and be expressed through powerful nights of Eucharistic Adoration, daily confession, the celebration of the Mass, and the witness of the lives of the saints. This year, we even had an afternoon workshop called the Hour of Prayer Power, where campers could choose to spend an hour before the Blessed Sacrament.

For forty years at camp, we have helped girls encounter the personal love of Jesus, learn to identify the lies of the enemy, stand in God's truth as his beloved daughters, and create authentic, life-long friendships in Christ. We have raised up and formed leaders who are living as missionary disciples in their schools, families, and jobs. And every year, despite the increasing challenges of our world, camp just keeps getting better! Thanks be to God for his faithfulness!

> **Growth didn't happen overnight, but they consistently chose Jesus!**

Forged

In 2025, Forged has seen tremendous growth as a ministry and in the young men we serve.

This year, we are serving in five area middle schools, where we spend time in discipleship and faith formation with students every week. We help them encounter Christ through praise and worship, Adoration, testimonies, reading Scripture, and praying in the chapel. We want to help Jesus' face and words come alive for them in a meaningful, living way.

We live out our motto, "formed in faith, refined in friendship," by building healthy relationships with the boys through conversations, sports, and games.

We also serve at Father Gabriel Richard High School in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with a weekly Bible study and Mass, fitness club, and Friday open gyms, as well as monthly Adoration. We try to offer something for everyone, no matter where they're at.

For high schoolers, we also host either squad groups or a Forged Night each week. Squad nights are grade-specific small groups focused on forming the internal spiritual, human, intellectual, and apostolic habits St. John Paul II wrote about as being important to form a man. For Forged nights, we gather as a large group to draw closer to Christ through a talk and time of reflection, and we also compete in various physical and intellectual competitions.

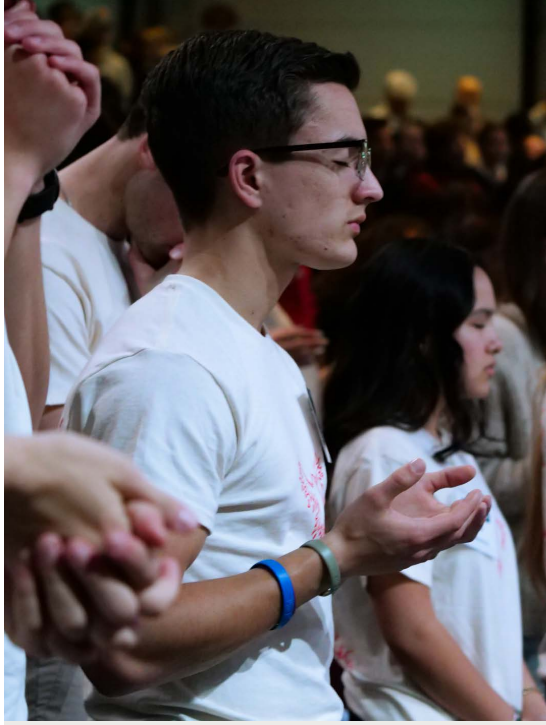
During the summer, about sixty young men were involved with us through additional activities we offered each week. We read *The Cross and the Switchblade* in our book club, worked through the Book of Acts in Bible study, went through a Life in the Spirit Seminar, and offered a board and video game club, a volleyball club, and a basketball club.

We also hosted a summertime weekly, day-long event with a talk, prayer time, and sports that was regularly attended by about forty middle schoolers and another fifteen high school support staff. In addition to this, we offered a leadership cohort for high schoolers that helped them learn that although picking up your cross every day is hard, because of who the Lord is and what He has done for us, they can do it—especially with their brothers.

Camp helps the boys to start operating as sons of God, with the power, strength, humility, and ability to lead and serve others.

Pine Hills Boys Camp

All our summer activities—and almost everything we do as a ministry—builds from the formation and relationships that start at Pine Hills Boys Camp, which has experienced tremendous growth over the past two years. We averaged about one-hundred campers a few years ago and had 182 campers this summer! Camp helps the boys to start operating as sons of God, with the power, strength, humility, and ability to lead and serve others.



REMEMBERING XAVIER

This summer, our community suffered a terrible loss through the death of Xavier Randolph, who passed away at eighteen from a drowning accident.

Xavier embodied much that Forged aims to do. He loved Jesus with all of his heart and therefore set his sights on lofty goals and got busy pursuing them. He prioritized what mattered most and ordered his life accordingly. He brought life, energy, and passion wherever he went.

Xavier made an especially powerful impact in our summer leadership cohort, which includes both faith formation and workouts. In the workouts, Xavier would often finish first but then return to join someone still working. He would do this until every young man was finished. For Xavier, the point was not to "win" for personal gain. His goal was to grow and to help his brothers do the same.

We are hosting a memorial race in Xavier's honor on Nov. 1, 2025, that will support Forged. We hope to have this be an annual event on the first weekend in November. Learn more at www.forgedministry.com.

HOLD NOTHING BACK

by Kevin Philip

Kevin Philip is a Renewal Ministries' country coordinator who lives in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, with his wife and three daughters.

Kevin Philip ministers to a community that lives in the garbage dump in Mexico City. Kevin has been serving regularly with Renewal Ministries in Mexico City since 2021.

DISCOVERING JESUS

I experienced three key events that have allowed me to know God loves me, hear his call to mission, and place my whole life in his hands.

❶ The first happened when I was four. My brother had died from cancer. After he passed away, my family really struggled. Six months later, my mom took me to visit friends who were praying the rosary for us. While they prayed, I looked out at the end of the driveway and saw Michael walking with Jesus. My brother had the biggest, most beautiful smile. I cried,

"Mom, it's Michael and Jesus!"

She ran downstairs and didn't see anything, but I could still see them. When I went outside, they were gone.

❷ The second event happened during a time in my life when I had rejected Jesus. Where we lived, the Northern Lights were a regular occurrence. One evening, while there was nothing "spectacular" about them, my girlfriend and I felt compelled to see them at a nearby clearing. Immediately after we arrived, the Northern Lights moved closer and eventually filled the entire night sky with dancing streams of dazzling colors. Then, in an instant, they disappeared, the entire sky went black, and an image of Mary holding the baby Jesus faded into the sky. I said,

"Look at that—it's Mary and Jesus."

My girlfriend agreed. It faded away and an outline of a dove appeared. Then it all faded away and the Northern Lights returned to the northern part of the night sky.

After that, I became painfully aware of the emptiness of the party scene and other things I was doing. I yearned for something more.

❸ The third event happened while attending a retreat later that year. We were in a chapel with a Divine Mercy image. Jesus' eyes in that image followed me wherever I went. I tried to get Him to look away by reminding Him that I was just a drunk and washed-up football player. But He didn't look away.

Then, He spoke:

"Kevin, I love you. Take up your cross and follow Me."

I had never understood that God could be personal, let alone love me. I never thought there was anything worth loving about me. It was transformative for Him to say those words.

Later, the priest asked anyone who felt called to surrender their lives to the Lord to raise their hand. My mom was with me, and while I didn't want her to see my deep connection with God, my need for God in my life mattered more than any awkwardness with my mom. So, I raised my hand and walked up, while my mom cried in the background.

TRANSFORMATIVE PRAYER

After that, I attended a beautiful worship event. The preacher spoke about the Jesus Prayer—saying Jesus' name with our breath at the most basic form, but in its long form, saying,

"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

The idea is to try to say those words and remember God more often than we remember our breath.

I had major surgery on my ankle two weeks later. I was laid up for six months, three on a couch and three in a walking cast. I only knew two prayers: the Jesus Prayer (in its most basic form) and the Hail Mary. I faithfully recited them more often than I drew breath, and it was utterly transformative. That period was integral for my relationship with Jesus. Otherwise, who knows how long it may have taken before I really had my heart captivated?

NEXT STEPS

After my recovery, I attended an Ignatian retreat, where the priest said he thought God was calling me to be an evangelist. A week later, I was asked to lead a confirmation retreat. Then, I joined a team that did Life in the Spirit

Seminars. Later, I attended a Catholic Bible School that builds people up for mission and proclamation of the Gospel.

After graduation, I got involved in various mission teams and even spent some time in seminary. I left to go on mission in Ireland and England for three months but felt called to return home to continue getting to know the woman I would later marry. We were married in in 2003 and now have three daughters.

A TIME OF PURIFICATION

I love doing ministry work. However, there was a purgative time when no doors were opening. I had to surrender my desire for ministry and the gifts I thought I had. Anything I felt like I was good at—public speaking, prayer ministry, etc.—I had to surrender to God.

St. John of the Cross says even the tiniest of threads can keep a bird tied down and unable to soar. I was trying to cut all these little threads, but I couldn't get rid of my desire to preach the Gospel as a missionary. I had a good career in financial services but began to feel like I was walking in two different worlds. I wanted to preach the Gospel and do more mission-related things, but I couldn't do them both.

In the spring of 2022, I was diagnosed with an aggressive form of macular degeneration. The doctor said I would experience partial blindness in five years and full blindness in ten. I immediately thought,

"Lord, I don't want to go blind selling life insurance, I want to go blind preaching the Gospel!"

That's when I decided I couldn't live in both worlds. After a time of discernment, I left my career in finance and, with my wife, founded Boats on Fire Catholic Ministries (www.boatsonfire.net) in late 2023. We set our "boats on fire" to proclaim the Gospel to all nations.

Shortly after my decision to leave my job, I had another optometrist appointment. This time, the doctor said there was no longer any sign of macular degeneration! We saw this as a sign from God.

I love being a missionary. However, I also want to have a sense of detachment to it; I want to be more attached to the heart of Jesus than to being a missionary.

Just like gold is refined in fire, God calls us into his all-consuming fire. We're certainly getting purified, but sometimes we hang onto the edge and build for ourselves a type of safety net. We've got to allow ourselves to plunge deep into love's crucible, so there's nothing left that's not purified and united with the heart of Jesus.

PARTNERING WITH RENEWAL MINISTRIES

I first met Jim "Butch" Murphy, a Renewal Ministries' country coordinator, at the Bible school I attended. He shared his story and talked about discipleship and living in the Spirit. Everyone loved him, so he came back, and every time he returned, we connected. He shared stories about serving on mission in Mexico City with Renewal Ministries, and I felt drawn to it. Somehow, I knew it would be part of my life. In 2017, my wife and I went on mission in Mexico City together, and in 2019, I felt called to go back. Covid stalled everything, but God used that time to purify our desires and help us cling more to his heart, rather than getting attached the idea of being missionaries.

Kevin Philip with his wife and daughters.

I was able to return in October of 2021—and I've returned for almost every mission since then. I'm grateful for this and for increasing opportunities to serve with Renewal Ministries in Canada.

A MISSIONARY HEART

Bohus Zivcak, another Renewal Ministries' country coordinator, describes a missionary heart as one that's been pierced by the same lance that pierced Christ's side. He said part of the missionary's heart has been broken off and planted in his mission field. That's true for me. There's something about the people, the place, and the things that we do with them that has pierced my heart. Paradoxically, it also remains a place where my heart has found rest.

The missionaries who serve with us are completely transformed. I view this Mexico mission as a journey into the heart of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It's precisely in her heart that we encounter Jesus in his most desperate form: we encounter Jesus in the poor.

In Canada, I get the sense that people know that there is something missing in their faith journey. To compensate, they try to renovate their parishes or have a coffee bistro after Mass. Those things are good but miss the mark of what our hearts long for—total surrender into the heart of Jesus.

As Catholics and missionaries, we need to know Jesus as the lover of our soul and the one for whom our soul longs—like a beggar. Evangelization, at its core, is one beggar telling the other beggar where the bread is. Inspired by this disposition of heart, when we proclaim the Gospel, we simply need to be ourselves. I'm who God made me to be, and my voice and character and background—as unpolished as it all might seem—is precisely what God has chosen.

Courageously, then, let's be who God made us to be and hold nothing back as we proclaim the Gospel in the power and anointing of God!

EVENTS

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

* *Not open to the public.*

St. Paul, MN
NET Lifeline
November 1
Rachel Herbeck
Details: netusa.org/mn-events#lifeline

Ann Arbor, MI
Christ the King Men's Retreat
November 7-9
Ralph Martin
Details: https://forms.ministryforms.net/embed.aspx?formId=97be541c-09dd-4216-b481-0a9a3bf943e5

Ypsilanti, MI
St. Joseph Church Marriage Event
November 8
Peter & Debbie Herbeck
Details: sjypsi.com

Clarkston, MI
St. Catherine of Siena Academy Retreat*
November 11-13
Debbie Herbeck & the BLR Team

Wichita, KS
Forge Presents: Men in the Spirit
November 12
Pete Burak
Details: myforge.org/event/men-in-the-spirit

Wichita, KS
Legatus*
November 12
Rachel Herbeck

Lansing, MI
Legatus*
November 13
Pete Burak

Royal Oak, MI
Deep Dive Series at the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica
November 13
Ralph Martin
Details: shrinechurch.com

Vancouver Island, BC
Women's Retreat*
November 13-14
Rachel Herbeck

Simi Valley, CA
St. Rose of Lima Parish Renewal Talks
November 14-16
Ralph Martin
Details: strosesv.com

Tiger, GA
Lifeteen Women's Retreat
November 14-16
Debbie Herbeck & Rachel Herbeck
Details: lifeteen.com/events/womens-retreat

Columbus, NE
Spirit Catholic Radio Event
November 18
Peter Herbeck & Rachel Herbeck
Details: spiritcatholicradio.com/event/peter-herbeck-and-rachel-herbeck-3

Lincoln, NE
Legatus*
November 18
Pete Burak

Omaha, NE
Spirit Catholic Radio Event
November 19
Peter Herbeck & Rachel Herbeck
Details: spiritcatholicradio.com/event/peter-herbeck-and-rachel-herbeck-2

Raleigh, NC
Raleigh Diocesan Retreat*
November 19-21
Debbie Herbeck

Jacksonville, FL
Recording Pints with Aquinas*
November 20
Ralph Martin

Indianapolis, IN
National Catholic Youth Conference on EWTN
November 20-22
Pete Burak
Details: ewtn.com

Ann Arbor, MI
Upper Room at Christ the King
November 23
Peter Herbeck
Details: ctkcc.net

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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