



RENEWAL MINISTRIES

CATHOLIC RENEWAL & EVANGELIZATION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OCTOBER 2024



Dear Fellow Disciples,

I am inspired by you. I am inspired by how many of you use our booklets or books to spread God's Word to others. I am inspired by how many years many of you have been supporting our ministry. I am inspired by the notes you write and the stories you tell about your own perseverance, often amid great suffering.

I am also inspired by the people I meet while carrying out the mission the Lord has given us and the chances I have to visit with you or pray for you at various events both in the US and overseas.

I am also inspired, each year, by the priests who travel to Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit to spend five weeks working toward a pontifical degree granted through the Angelicum University in Rome, which is entrusted to the Sacred Heart Major Seminary faculty to oversee.

This year was no exception! Our students included priests from around the world, including various African and South American countries. Seminary professors took our

classes, as well as monks from monasteries and parish priests. We also had members of four new religious orders that are responding to the calls of the New Evangelization, living lives of holiness with an openness to the Holy Spirit, and preaching the truth with courage and love. We had priests from various rites in the Church: Chaldean Catholics from the Iraqi diaspora, Syro-Malabar Catholics from India, and our own Latin Catholics. My time with them was very encouraging! Help is on the way! The numbers aren't great, compared with the magnitude of the harvest, but every little bit helps, and the thirty priests currently in our Licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL) program are already a big help wherever they are serving.

What I most enjoy about teaching these priests each summer is how engaged they are with the material. They are working in the field, and they know what is needed to grow closer to the Lord and in their priestly service.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

A LETTER ▶ FROM RALPH MARTIN

Simple Tools to Share
God's Word
PAGE 3

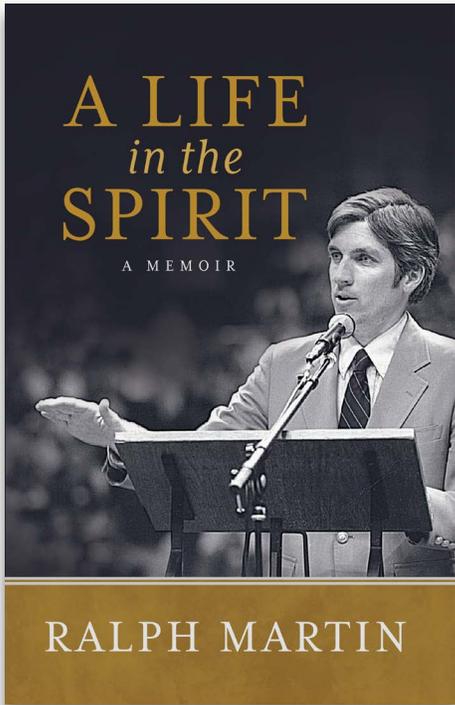
Be Bold and Fearless
PAGE 4

Mission to Nigeria
PAGE 6

Event Calendar
PAGE 8



Many priests and one religious sister gathered from around the world to study at Sacred Heart Major Seminary this summer.



NEW BOOK FROM RALPH MARTIN

A Life in the Spirit chronicles Ralph Martin's journey from the early days of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal to becoming one of the most courageous voices defending the truth of the Gospel during an age of dissension and disbelief.

Ralph shares his initial radical commitment to Christ and, as that commitment deepened, how he entered more fully into the spiritual tradition of the Church and advanced theological studies that grounded his work of fundamental Catholic renewal within the solid tradition of Catholic teaching.

This book recounts Martin's struggles through obstacles and opposition, as well as beautiful reflections on family life and remarkable experiences with the likes of Pope St. John Paul II, Mother Angelica, and many others.

ORDER ONLINE:

www.renewalministries.net/shop

ORDER BY PHONE:

(734) 662-1730

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This summer, I taught Models of Evangelization and Stages of Spiritual Growth.

In the Models course, we took an in-depth look at some of the great saints of evangelization throughout the centuries, such as St. Benedict, St. Patrick, St. Vincent Ferrer, St. Ignatius of Loyola, and St. Francis De Sales. We also discussed the lessons we can learn from the Acts of the Apostles and even from a radical monk like Anthony of the Desert. We also studied the very challenging-but-insightful book *Divine Renovation*, written by Fr. James Mallon, a member of the Canadian Catholic Renewal Ministries Board of Directors. We also had many guest speakers during the course, including our own Debbie and Peter Herbeck and Pete Burak, who told us about contemporary models of evangelization that are bringing many people to the Lord.

In the course on Stages of Spiritual Growth, we went through my book *The Fulfillment of All Desire* chapter by chapter, studying in depth the great wisdom found in the Doctors of the Church. One of the priests in our course had such a deep grasp of this wisdom that I recommended to his superior that he could someday be the novice master! We are blessed with these priests.

We are blessed with you!

Until next month,

Ralph Martin

Ralph Martin

The priests from the summer STL class, along with Ralph and Anne Martin, Pete and Cait Burak and family, Peter Herbeck, Dr. Peter Williamson, and Dr. André Ville-neuve, enjoyed a special dinner together.

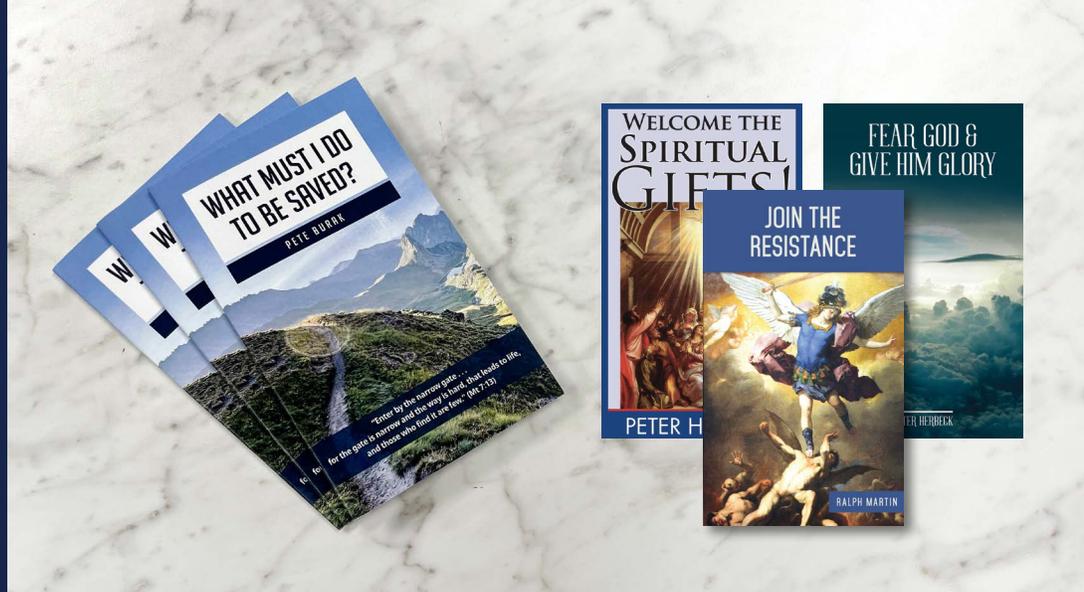


“ Wisdom From the Saints

*Take courage, toil and strive zealously, for nothing will be lost.
Every prayer you make, every Psalm you sing, is recorded;
every alm, every fast is recorded.*

// St. Cyril of Jerusalem

SIMPLE TOOLS — to — SHARE GOD'S WORD



We recently reached out to people who purchased multiple copies of our booklets to learn how they used them to spread God's Word. We hope their responses inspire you to consider simple ways to do the same! You can view the products available in our store at www.renewalministries.net/store.

A man from Texas ordered a large assortment of booklets. He puts them in a basket in his church's chapel.

He has been doing this for some time but said that lately, the booklets have been going faster.

He also encourages people in his prayer group to share the booklets with others. In the past, when he led Life in the Spirit Seminars, he also would give participants the booklets *A New Pentecost* and *Welcome the Spiritual Gifts*. He said,

"I know Renewal Ministries' booklets always contain content you can depend on."

...

A man from Louisiana placed a large order of the booklet *What Must I Do to be Saved* to distribute at an upcoming men's conference. He thought the booklet was a good fit both because he had recently heard Pete speak and because the theme of the conference is *Can You Handle the Truth?*

"In our Bible study, we've been talking about the idea in other faiths of 'once saved, always saved.' In his booklet, Pete does a good job of explaining the Catholic view."

A man ordered sixty copies of the *Finding New Life in the Spirit* guidebooks for participants in his parish's Life in the Spirit Seminar. He said,

"The Holy Spirit was definitely at work. We also used the *As by A New Pentecost* video series (which is available to purchase at bit.ly/LISvideos or watch online at bit.ly/LISonline1). Our first session fell on the feast of Jesus' baptism. Despite terrible winter weather, more than fifty people responded to our appeal. We know that all who attended are now more aware of how the Holy Spirit is working in and through them."

...

A woman from Michigan ordered one-hundred copies of *Fear God and Give Him Glory* to hand out to people she comes across in day-to-day life as well as people in her women's group and other activities she is involved in. She keeps a few in her purse so that they are always on-hand. She explained,

"I was hoping to leave them around in different spots, like the chapel at the Catholic hospital where I work. But mostly, I share them in one-on-one situations where there is a conversation happening."

One woman ordered ten copies each of *Join the Resistance* and *What Must I Do to be Saved?* She said,

"I teach, and I like to distribute the booklets to students, friends, and folks I meet. I also leave them at various locations, in parishes, centers, etc."

...

A man who ordered a large number of multiple booklets said,

"Several years ago, my wife and I purchased a kiosk and a lot of bulk CDs to be placed in the back of our church. I placed the booklets from my recent Renewal Ministries' order in the kiosk so they are available for anyone to take home and read."

...

A woman who ordered ten copies of *Join the Resistance* said,

"I distributed the booklets as freebies at a talk I did on spiritual warfare. All ten were taken! Thank you for helping me spread the word that we have more control over spiritual warfare than we realize . . . with Jesus' help, of course."

BE BOLD & FEARLESS

INTERVIEW WITH KEVIN WELLS

The following article is condensed from a 2024 *The Choices We Face* interview between Kevin Wells (KW) and Ralph Martin (RM). You can watch the original interview here: bit.ly/TCWFWells.



KW: When I turned forty, I went on a retreat. I was fed up with malaise and sloth. I wasn't in mortal sin, but I felt like God expected more of me.

On the last night, I was on the banks of the Potomac River. There was a driving wind, and waves were slapping against the dock. The Holy Spirit convicted me to say,

"God, You sent your Son into the world to endure violence and redeem all of humanity. I think I need to be struck down. I need to be awakened to the reality of your will for me. So, strike me down. God, make it violent."

RM: That's a very brave prayer.

KW: It was inspired, because I had never had the thought before in my life. A month later, almost to the exact second, I had a brain aneurysm. I was struck down. God kept his end of the bargain.

I should have died. I had a failed invasive brain surgery, and blood was drowning my brain. Something miraculous happened. A priest and his assistant prayed over me, asking for the intercession of my Uncle Monsignor Thomas Wells. And I'm with you today. After that, everything changed. When I finally got back on my feet—it took a while to walk and get it back together again—I began to see that comfort was not part of the equation.

The least comfortable person in history was Jesus Christ, the starved man on the cross. The poor man of Nazareth, who had no place to lay his head.

I said,

"If I'm comfortable as a husband, or a dad, or a proclaimer of my Catholic faith, then I'm no good."

I began looking more interiorly at my own self. I began seeing in a way I didn't want to see that priests seem to be comfortable behind the ambo, contracepting the truth of the proclamation of the Gospel, afraid to tread into certain places. I said, "This doesn't make sense." They're Jesus Christ—in persona Christi Capitis—why would they not want to live as Christ ontologically asked them to? To sacrifice, to negate their worldly comforts. They are not bachelors; they are servants of the Lord.

RM: I think Archbishop Chaput said the time of comfortable Catholicism is over. Comfortable Catholicism isn't going to be able to stand against the culture that's coming against us, against hostility to Christ and the Church. Everybody's called to leave comfortable Catholicism and become a convinced Catholic.

KW: There is no more standing on the wall. I think more Catholics are wanting to give themselves fully and completely to the Lord and to be bold, but they don't know how to do it.

It was arrogant for me as a sportswriter to write a book about priests, but my book *The Priests We Need to Save the Church* was really a pleading, a thirsting for priests, a cry to "please tend to my soul." I studied the great priests who were saints, because I couldn't write a book unless I knew what the paragons did. Monsignor Tom Wells was my father's brother. He had a magnanimity, a joy and a love for the Eucharist that was explosive. He was very well known in the DC area for twenty-seven years, before he was murdered in his rectory in 2000. He had been sent to that parish to break up active homosexuality in the rectory in the four priests before him. A year later, my uncle was found dead.

My uncle is a casualty of Satan's wrath, but I had seen for almost twenty-five years what a magnanimous priest does: he saves marriages, he's unafraid to proclaim truth to friends. My friends would question him on something in the faith, saying, "I don't believe this, Father. I believe that I can do a certain thing with a girl." And my uncle would say,

"That's fine, but you're on a path that's taking you to hell."

RM: He wasn't afraid to tell people the truth, because he really loved them.

KW: It was all about souls and about asking, "What did Christ want him to say?" People consistently responded by knocking on the rectory door weeks later, saying, "Father, thanks for waking me up to the reality of my sin."

RM: Tell me about your newest book, *Priest and Beggar*.

KW: Venerable Aloysius Schwartz was a startling American priest. He raised his hand in 1957 and asked to go to the worst place in the world—post-war Korea. That's where he started his priesthood. And within fifteen years, this devastated land was brought back to health. He built Boys Towns, Girls Towns, hospitals, hospices, and homes for those with leprosy and tuberculosis.

Father Al cared for twenty thousand of the most hurt children—the poorest of the poor—in six different countries. He founded the Sisters of Mary, who take these kids in for five years, usually starting at age twelve. Then, they go out into the world as some of the greatest Catholic missionaries we have.

They don't have earbuds, video games, or popular music. It is pure catechism. It is teaching from nuns who love them, who get into the wound, take it out, and say, "Now let the graces come in."

Between three- to four-thousand children graduate each year and go to universities, workplaces, and their old villages as full Catholic missionaries. You can visit www.worldvillages.org to help these sisters and learn more.

The sisters go into the most dangerous villages in the world. Two by two, they'll walk up mountains and past drug runners, traffickers, and murderers. They have no fear, because they're protected by Mary's mantle, Fr. Al's intercession, and Jesus Christ. They go into villages and lean-tos, and they walk into rooms. It's like lifting the lid of a coffin. They'll look down at a twelve-year-old child and say, "It's time to come down this mountain."

These sisters are heroes because they don't care if they die. They're in a state of grace.

RM: There is no better way to die than doing God's will in God's time, under his control and providence.

I know you're also very concerned about what's going on in the world and in the Church. What do you see happening, and how you are encouraging people to respond?

KW: What's happening from Rome, from the Vatican, is deeply confusing. It troubles me when I hear words like backwardism or rigidity or questioning the Creed. It's trawling. There seems to be a purposeful desire to soften or re-engineer two-thousand years of something radiant, transcendent, and true. It's deplorable. It simply can't be done.

We need to proclaim the Good News untethered, with a missionary zeal. It's accepting that you will be uncomfortable. It's proclaiming your faith to the person next to you in an airport. As the forces within the Church come against the truth, we need to push back through Jesus Christ and beg the Holy Spirit to give us the right words to say.



As the forces within the Church come against the truth, we need to push back through Jesus Christ and beg the Holy Spirit to give us the right words to say.

RM: Don't we see that major Protestant churches have tried this already? They've tried to say, "People will like us more if we de-emphasize our teaching on sexuality and allow divorce and don't talk about heaven, hell, repentance, or sin." Every church that has done that has gone into radical decline.

We have prominent leaders in the Catholic Church saying, "Let's take that path. The world will like us more." No, the world will laugh at us for imitating them. Why be a Catholic if it's no different than the world?

KW: Jesus and the saints and the martyrs did not genuflect to the world. They stood up to it. They proclaimed the blazing furnace of truth.

RM: Jesus is only asking one thing:

*"Come follow Me, abide with Me.
Let my Word abide in you."*

KW: Everything we do must come from prayer. And I think many of us, including priests and bishops, have stopped praying. Once you stop receiving the Holy Spirit through a devoted prayer life, through going to Mary, through placing yourself at the foot of the monstrance and saying, "Please speak to me, Lord"—once you do that, you begin to make compromises with the Church and the world.

I always bring it back to that one word: prayer. Prayer is essential, the root of everything we do as Catholics.

Prayer is work. But the centerpiece of my identity or a priest's identity should be Jesus Christ spread out on the cross, bleeding out. He was not comfortable doing that. So, if I'm going to reject prayer because I'm comfortable and I'd rather watch ESPN, or look on my cell phone, then shame on me. Shame on anyone who rejects prayer. We must pray for boldness, for fearlessness.

Kevin Wells is a former Major League Baseball writer, an award-winning journalist, and a best-selling author. He is a freelance writer and an active evangelist who speaks on various Catholic topics. He is the president of the Monsignor Thomas Wells Society, dedicated to the promotion of strong priests and seminarians, and to the practice of the fullness of the Catholic faith. Kevin lives in Maryland with his wife and three children.



SPREADING THE GOSPEL IN NIGERIA



BY PETER NEWBURN
Country Coordinator for Cameroon

Peter has served in full-time ministry for over thirty-five years. He and his family spent three years as missionaries in Cameroon, where Peter was a theology teacher at the major seminary. He also worked for almost nine years as a parish life coordinator in the Diocese of San Bernardino, California, where he was responsible for overseeing all aspects of pastoral ministry and the administration of a large parish.

This was my first time in Nigeria and Renewal Ministries' first mission there. We did not go to the southern, Christian part of Nigeria; instead, we traveled to northeastern Nigeria, which is near the birthplace of Boko Haram. It is predominantly Muslim, and Christians are in the minority. (Boko Haram means "Westernization is Sacrilege." It has been declared a terrorist group by the government.) Foreigners are not very common in northeastern Nigeria.

I partnered in this mission with Fr. Jude Langeh, CMF, the Claretian superior in Cameroon who has become my main collaborator. Bishop Hilary Dachelem, a fellow Claretian, invited Fr. Jude and me to lead the annual retreat for priests in his Diocese of Bauchi.

We flew into Abuja, the capital city, and were met by two transitional deacons from the Diocese of Bauchi. They drove us nearly seven hours to Bauchi the next day. We stayed at the diocesan pastoral center for a week-long clergy retreat.

The next morning was the Feast of the Epiphany. We were invited to a local parish, where Fr. Jude presided and preached. We were both warmly welcomed. It was a wonderful, lively, and faith-filled liturgy.

Later, fifty-two priests from the diocese gathered with their bishop for an annual retreat. Fr. Jude gave the first presentation on the Call to Holiness for priests. Then, I proclaimed the fundamental message of the kerygma (the basic content of the Gospel), exhorting the priests to apply it to their lives personally and to let it form the foundation of their preaching and priestly ministry. At the conclusion, one priest stood up and exclaimed:

"We have been taught philosophy and theology, but why have we not been taught this?"

He expressed that he loved hearing the Gospel message proclaimed in such a simple-yet-impactful manner.

UNBOUND – THE 5 KEYS –

1. Repentance & Faith
2. Forgiveness
3. Renunciation
4. Taking Authority
5. The Father's Blessing

The basic content for the retreat was Unbound as a method for healing, deliverance, and freedom. As we took the priests through each of the Five Keys—repentance and faith, forgiveness, renunciation, taking authority, and the Father's blessing—we led them in prayer related to each key. As is always the case, the teaching on forgiveness and the invitation to forgive was especially impactful. So many people have made vows that they can never forgive someone. We explained that holding on to unforgiveness is like drinking poison and hoping the person who hurt them will die. It was very evident that several of the priests struggled with unforgiveness, and many of them experienced greater freedom through a decision to forgive.

One afternoon, after a teaching on the Father's Blessing, we led a time of worship and opening up to the Holy Spirit. Several priests testified that they were touched by the experience. The final presentation focused on the Call to Mission. Dinner was a celebration with special food, drink, music, and dancing. It was a fun and joyful evening.

DAY OF FORMATION

After the retreat, Fr. Jude and I led a day of formation on the Five Keys to about 190 laity and religious at the diocesan cathedral. The participants were very engaged, open, and hungry for the teachings and testimonies we shared. A group of young men responsible for leading the diocese's outreach to young people approached me with great appreciation. They asked for copies of our PowerPoint presentation to translate into the local dialect and share with others in their purview of ministry around the diocese. I gladly shared it with them, with the permission of Matt Lozano, who is responsible

for Unbound training for Heart of the Father Ministries.

Bishop Hilary appreciated our willingness to include the laity in our mission. In fact, he and his advisors announced they plan to make it an annual tradition that whoever they bring in to facilitate their clergy retreat should also present a summary of the content to the diocese's lay leadership and religious.

FUTURE PLANS

The door seems open in Nigeria for more Renewal Ministries' mission opportunities. On my return flight, I met two other bishops from the northeast and a priest from the southern Nigeria who may be interested in having us come to their dioceses.

I am so grateful to all those who support and pray for Renewal Ministries, who help make it possible for our missions to clergy, religious, and laity in Nigeria, Cameroon, and elsewhere.

Peter Newburn prays over Fr. Jude Langeh before a talk. Together, the two led a day of formation on the Five Keys.



Testimonies

In his closing comments to the priests, Bishop Hilary expressed appreciation for the retreat content and how we shared it with great conviction and authenticity. He highlighted the collaboration between Fr. Jude and me, exhorting the priests to recognize the gifts of the laity and to seek ways to collaborate with them, each with their own gifts and charisms.

In a private conversation with Fr. Jude and me, Bishop Hilary acknowledged the division, tribalism, and mistrust amongst the presbyterate of the diocese, and the challenges he himself experiences as bishop. He said,

“Even if I am not fully unbound, this is something that is so needed in our church. I will be recommending this program to my brother bishops!”

Fr. Bitrus (meaning “Peter”) shared with me that he now understands how to pray with the authority of Jesus and to help those he is ministering to realize the power and authority they have as children of God. They do not need to fear any other power influencing them or their families. This is a common pastoral concern in central Africa.

Fr. Dennis shared with me that he loved the retreat.

“What you presented was so simple, yet so deep,” he said, with great appreciation. The vicar general of the diocese declared: *“This was one of the best retreats I have ever made.”*

Bishop Hilary added,

“If you change the life of one priest, it will transform the lives of one thousand others.”

EVENTS

OCTOBER 2024

Regina, SK
Saskatchewan Men's Conference
October 4-5
Pete Burak
Details: archregina.sk.ca/event

Tempe, AZ
Blessed Is She Retreat
October 4-5
Debbie Herbeck
Details: blessedisshenet/pages/drawn

Waukesha, WI
Wisconsin Conference
October 4-5
Ralph Martin & Peter Herbeck
Details: liaison.815@gmail.com

Mexico
Irrefrenable Misericordia
October 6
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: facebook.com/IrrefrenableM/

Hartford, CT
Diocese of Hartford Clergy Convocation*
October 7-9
Pete Burak

Lansing, MI
Michigan Catholic Women's Conference
October 12
Pete Burak
Details: michigancwc.org

Ann Arbor, MI
Renewal Ministries Annual Board Meeting*
October 13-14
Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Pete Burak, and the RM Team

Boise, ID
Legatus*
October 17
Pete Burak



PLEASE PRAY

- ▶ For peace in our countries, our families, our homes, and our hearts.
- ▶ That during this Month of the Holy Rosary, our world will grow in its respect of life at all stages.
- ▶ For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

Indianapolis, IN
St. Paul Evangelization Society Board Meeting*
October 17
Peter Herbeck

Wichita, KS
Diocese of Wichita Clergy Convocation*
October 21-24
Dr. Mary Healy

St. Paul, MN
Pentecost Today National Leaders Meeting*
October 25-26
Dr. Mary Healy

Ann Arbor, MI
Rooted & Grounded in Love: Be Love Revolution's Annual Fundraiser
October 25
Debbie Herbeck and the Be Love Revolution Team
Details: [beloverevolution.com/fundraiser](http://belovereolution.com/fundraiser)

Columbus, OH
Federation of Seminary Spiritual Directors Conference*
October 25
Ralph Martin

St. Paul, MN
USCCB Evangelical-Catholic Dialogue*
October 26
Dr. Mary Healy

** Not open to the public.*
View complete event list:
renewalministries.net/events



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If you have additional questions, contact Editor Heather Schultz at 734-636-9183 or hschultz@renewalministries.net.



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Renewal Ministries has partnered with My Catholic Will to make the process simple! Visit www.mycatholicwill.com/renewalministries and use code "RENEWAL" to make your will for free!



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.

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NEWSLETTER

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