



RENEWAL MINISTRIES

CATHOLIC RENEWAL & EVANGELIZATION

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SEPTEMBER 2025



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Wisdom from the Saints

"If you truly want to help the soul of your neighbor, you should approach God first with all your heart. Ask him simply to fill you with charity, the greatest of all virtues; with it you can accomplish what you desire."

// St. Vincent Ferrer



During his time with the Legionaries of Christ and Regnum Christi, Ralph took part in a panel discussion that included Fr. Boniface Hicks.

Dear Friends of the Mission,

Our Renewal Ministries' team continues to be given opportunities by the Lord to contribute to the health of the Church and the salvation of souls.

Legionaries of Christ and Regnum Christi Vicar General Fr. John Bartunek, whose bible study on prayer is my wife's favorite, recently invited me to a special meeting of the "Regnum Christi Family," which includes the Legionaries of Christ priests, the Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi, the Lay Consecrated Men, and many other lay contributors. The meeting, held at Mundelein Seminary near Chicago, was very special.

After years of sorting out the trauma of discovering that their founder was living a horrendous double life that included gross immorality, they are emerging in a good way, ready to carry on their mission of helping people become disciples of Christ. They are humbled, chastened, and in a good place to be used by the Lord going forward.

The meeting was called to consider how to integrate the charismatic dimension, including healing and prophesy, into their charism. While they were going through their purification, many members found it helpful to connect with various healing ministries and charismatic missions. While there now is a general openness to this development, there are legitimate issues being raised about how this can be integrated with their fundamental call.

I was very impressed by all those who shared and by the attendees' maturity. I am confident that the Lord will give them the wisdom they seek. I was one of four "outside experts" invited to offer input and felt it was a privilege to do so.

This summer, I also had the privilege and joy of being asked to give eight talks to our local, amazing religious order that is expanding all over the country, the Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist.



Ralph recently gave eight talks to the Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist.

Ralph spoke at the National Conference for Deacons in St. Louis, Missouri, that included the deacon's wives.



Peter Herbeck spoke at a conference for Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services of Manitoba.



Peter Herbeck and Bishop Scott McCaig spoke at a priests' retreat for the Diocese of Green Bay.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I also recently spoke at the National Conference for Deacons in St. Louis, Missouri. Their wives also attended, and it was a blessing to support these men and women doing so much for the Church.

Additionally, I traveled to Cameroon with Bishop Scott McCaig to do a retreat for hundreds of priests, like what we did last year in Uganda. I hope to share more details about my time there in next month's newsletter!

Meanwhile, many other members of our Renewal Ministries' team also have been exceptionally busy with opportunities to preach the Gospel.

Peter Herbeck led a marriage retreat with Debbie, spoke at a conference for Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services of Manitoba in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, and spoke with Bishop Scott McCaig at both the Encounter Conference in Toledo, Ohio, and a priests' retreat for the Diocese of Green Bay.

Rachel Herbeck also has been speaking at events across the US and Canada. She spoke with her mom, Debbie, at a Beloved Daughters Conference in Calgary, Alberta. Rachel shares below about some unique encounters at the event:

We had a few women randomly walk into the conference off the street. One was an older woman who hadn't been in a Catholic Church in over twenty years. She happened to be driving by and felt convicted to come inside, not knowing that a retreat was happening. She came up to my mom afterward and said, "I'm home."

A teenage girl, who was not in the faith, also happened to walk into the Church right before we called all the teenage girls to the front to be prayed over. So, we got to pray over her!

Rachel also ran a summer discipleship group with young women who expressed a desire to learn how to die to themselves, take up their crosses, and follow Jesus. They committed to meeting weekly to grow closer to the



Lord and each other. They deepened their relationships with Jesus and grew in consistent prayer time, an increased love for Christ and their neighbor, and zeal for spreading the Gospel.

Forged, an outreach of Renewal Ministries that ministers to young men, continues to grow under the leadership of Director Steve Norman. Forged offered an abundance of discipleship opportunities this summer that included bible studies, various clubs, social nights, and a Life in the Spirit Seminar.

As I write this, Debbie Herbeck and the Be Love Revolution team are preparing for another great year at Pine Hills Girls Camp. They will celebrate the camp's fortieth anniversary and its highest enrollment yet!

In addition to camp, the Be Love Revolution team spent the summer helping

middle and high school girls encounter Jesus. They hosted a high school bible study and launched a bible study for seventh and eighth grade girls, who loved it! The team also held weekly Adoration nights and small groups to help the girls grow as disciples.

Be Love Revolution also sent six rising high school juniors to Washington state to help launch Camp Solanus, modeled after Pine Hills. The girls were wonderful leaders and missionary disciples. In the past, we have sent people to help with a camp for young men also started in Washington.

Pete Burak recently spoke at the Steubenville Power & Purpose Conference and a men's conference in Barcelona, Spain. He also led another amazing weeklong Pine Hills Camp for middle school boys. More boys attended than

ever before—and those numbers included three of my grandsons. Anne and I enjoyed hearing them excitedly recount their adventures when we had lunch with them on their way home!

None of this would be possible without your support—your love, prayers, and financial giving. Thank you!

Ralph Martin

Ralph

P.S. You have probably already heard this, but just before this newsletter went to press, I was fired from Sacred Heart Major Seminary. When I asked Archbishop Weisenburger for an explanation, he said he didn't think it would be helpful to give any specifics but mentioned having concerns about my theological perspectives. I had been teaching there for more than twenty-three years and was the director of Graduate Theology Programs in the New Evangelization.

I have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support I have already received, and I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has prayed for me or offered support in any way. Your kindness means more than I can say. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for us all. I'm sure He has a plan to bring wonderful good from it!





Love is the Key

Encouraging Young People in Faith

— BY DEBBIE HERBECK —



The following article is condensed from a YouTube video that can be viewed at bit.ly/dherb825.

When looking at the culture and at how quickly young people are leaving the Church, it can be easy to feel discouraged. How do we encourage young people and help them grow in the Lord? How do we be the people God is calling us to be in whatever role we have in a young person's life?

First, continue to grow. We cannot give what we do not have. To lead young people into a deeper relationship with Christ, we must deepen our own relationship with Him. There's always more of Him to know and love. Growing in faith through daily prayer, Scripture, reading, and reception of the sacraments enables us to be authentic witnesses to who Jesus is. This is what it means to be disciples.

Our primary responsibility in our families is to help our children grow by regularly getting them to the sacraments. As they get older, it's okay to let our kids know we are works in progress and that we are continuing to grow in our own relationship with the Lord.

Second, we must be spiritual warriors fighting for the young people in our lives. War is underway, and the enemy isn't the young person that we can't get along with. The enemy is not flesh and blood; it's powers and principalities. The

young people in our lives need us standing by their sides, fighting for them, and speaking truth into their lives. We need to take up the armor of God daily, fight valiantly alongside them, and pray for them as warriors.

Finally, the most important thing is to love. The most fundamental desire of every person is to be seen, known, and deeply loved. Sometimes, young people look for that love in the wrong places or in ways that can be potentially harmful or incomplete, but the cry of their heart is to be loved. So, let's love our children and the young people in our lives well.

Our instinct is to want to fix them—but what they really need is for us to listen. We need to put our phones down and engage with them, give them eye contact, and hear what they're saying.

A second way of loving young people is by affirming them. It can be easier to see what's wrong with others than to see what's right with them—particularly our own children. We must ask the Lord to help us see what He sees in our children, to help us love what He loves in them. Then, we must affirm what God sees in them; that goodness will build them up and help them.

As a parent or adult in a child's life, it is OK to say no and to hold a standard within the home—a lifelong standard of heroic virtue. Don't be surprised when young people fall but use it as an opportunity to help them grow, seek God's mercy, and re-encounter his love.

This is why young people love St. John Paul II. He held up a high standard of heroic love and virtue. It's why people loved St. Mother Teresa. She loved everyone no matter where they were at. Love is the key.

Let's help young people know they are loved and valued, and let's not be discouraged by the times we live in. They are difficult, but this is not the first time that Christians have lived in difficult times. We will get through this together. Let's be encouraged and continue to love and encourage the young people God has put in our lives.

GROW
+
FIGHT
+
LOVE

AFFLICTED BUT NOT CRUSHED

Condensed from the July 8, 2025,
episode of *Burning Hearts*



In *Burning Hearts*, a podcast from Renewal Ministries, host Rachel Herbeck uses the Scriptures to draw us into a deeply intimate conversation with the Lord. She asks us to consider two questions:

What is God saying to us?

— & —

What are we doing about it?

Rachel helps listeners discover how to make their own roadmap through the Word of God so He can set their hearts on fire with zeal for his Word.



Listen

Burning Hearts is available on Renewal Ministries' website at www.renewalministries.net/bh or anywhere you access podcasts.

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

God Himself dwells in our souls. Each of us is a temple of God. We carry a treasure—but we also are afflicted. What does St. Paul say about this? **"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed"** (2 Cor 4:8-9). Early Christians could praise God in difficult circumstances because they had something greater than their circumstances.

Around the second century AD, the Roman Diognetus wrote a letter describing Christians:

Christians are indistinguishable from other men either by nationality, language or customs. They do not inhabit separate cities of their own, or speak a strange dialect, or follow some outlandish way of life. Their teaching is not based upon reveries inspired by the curiosity of men. Unlike some other people, they champion no purely human doctrine. With regard to dress, food and manner of life in general, they follow the customs of whatever city they happen to be living in, whether it is Greek or foreign. (www.vatican.va/spirit/documents/spirit_20010522_diogneto_en.html)

Christians blend in culturally—so what distinguishes them from others? He continues,

They pass their days upon earth, but they are citizens of heaven. Obedient to the laws, they yet live on a level that transcends the law. Christians love all men, but all men persecute them. Condemned because they are not understood, they are put to death, but raised to life again. They live in poverty, but enrich many; they are totally destitute,

but possess an abundance of everything. They suffer dishonor, but that is their glory. They are defamed, but vindicated. A blessing is their answer to abuse, deference their response to insult. For the good they do they receive the punishment of malefactors, but even then they, rejoice, as though receiving the gift of life.

In other words, Christians are not distinguished by their dress, food, or jobs. They are distinguished by everything in terms of character, hope, and faith. This makes them extraordinary.

God cares deeply about our suffering. As Christians, the thing that most witnesses to the world is how we act when we are afflicted.

Some of the holiest people I know are going through the deepest afflictions, and when things happen to them, they go in secret to the Lord. They carry it with joy. They talk to trusted people.

How do the world's circumstances affect you? Are you living in fear of wars that are happening? Are you constantly talking about all the evil and suffering in the world? Do you feel like life is knocking you out and you're ready to give up and give in?

Christian hope is different. Where others would give up in the face of affliction, we have hope. When we are persecuted, we can give back love, because Christ is loving through us. We simply need to ask for more of the Holy Spirit.

There are times in my life when I've been crushed, perplexed, confused, or frustrated. The Lord said to me then, and He is saying to you now, *"Give me that burden. I want to renew joy in you. I want to renew hope in you. I want you to run and not grow weary, but I will do it in you."*

Let's be encouraged to live differently, because we have a treasure in earthen vessels. Let's go into that treasure and find strength.

SPREADING THE GOSPEL IN LIBERIA



BY EMMANUEL TAMAKLOE
Country Coordinator for Liberia,
Gambia, Ghana, & Guinea-Bissau

Emmanuel began sharing the Good News with the youth in schools and parishes in Ghana in 1996. The Lord continued to open doors for him through parish missions, rallies, retreats, conferences, and a school of evangelization. He first worked with Renewal Ministries in 1999, at the school of evangelization in Akim Swedru, Ghana. He currently works full time with the National Office of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Ghana as coordinator for missions, formation, and praise and worship ministries. Emmanuel, his wife, and their daughter live in Kumasi, Ghana.

Emmanuel presents a copy of Ralph Martin's book *A Church in Crisis* to Bishop Andrew Karnley, of the Cape Palmas Diocese.



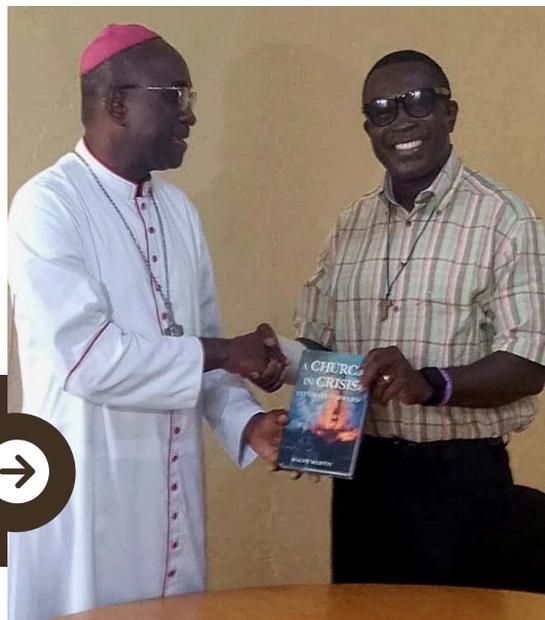
The Call

*"The love of Christ impels us"
to proclaim Christ.*

(2 Cor 5:14, NABRE)

*"You must have the courage to speak about Christ, to bear witness
to your faith through a lifestyle inspired by the Gospel."*

(St. Pope John Paul II at World Youth Day 1989)



Diocese of Cape Palmas

Fr. Prince Sieh kicked off Renewal Ministries' recent mission to Liberia by celebrating Mass for our team and the St. Theresa Cathedral community. He welcomed our team and the sixty-five participants taking part in the evangelization training, which included daily Mass, prayer times, and teachings.

Later, the team met with Bishop Andrew Karnley, of the Cape Palmas Diocese. He expressed his excitement as he welcomed us and expressed the need for his people to be equipped to reach more souls with the Gospel message.

The program concluded with a parish revival at the cathedral.

Participants share that they were greatly inspired by our teachings on evangelization:

“Even though I am a devout Catholic, going out to evangelize is not something that has been encouraged. Now, I have been challenged to step out and share the Gospel.”

“I wish I had known this at the beginning of my ministry. After this training, there is so much more that I can do and accomplish for the Lord.”

“How I wish this could be extended to every Catholic, because most of us don’t know there is a place for lay faithful in evangelization. If this training is organized for all Catholics, we would understand that we have a collective responsibility of going out to evangelize.”

“Not everyone we see in our parishes knows Jesus. I have been encouraged to start doing door-to-door evangelization, especially to members of our parishes and lapsed Catholics who have stopped coming to church.”

Dioceses of Gbanga and Monrovia

In the Gbanga Diocese, we visited Bishop Anthony Richard Bowah. We spent hours with him speaking about many things, especially the challenges within the diocese.

He expressed his commitment to collaborating with us to ensure our annual mission to Liberia becomes very fruitful. He appreciates our help addressing various challenges and misconceptions about the Catholic faith within the diocese.

Ninety-five participants from the two dioceses took part in our evangelization training program, which included Masses, prayer times, teachings, and practical outreach.

Bishop Bowah encouraged participants to take all the teachings seriously and thanked the two priests for their willingness to learn. He openly expressed his joy in Renewal Ministries’ presence and support.

One participant remarked, “I hardly see Catholics going out to preach. The closest I have seen is my priest going to visit sick parishioners. No one has ever taught us to go out and preach the Gospel.”

Another participant shared, “These documents give me proof that evangelization is indeed our Catholic identity.”

Evangelization & Pilgrimage

We sent participants out in groups to proclaim the Gospel—and the response was very positive! One group met a middle-aged woman who had never been to church. After speaking with her, she accepted Jesus and promised to come to Sunday Mass. Another group met a shopkeeper who agreed to let them share the Gospel with her. While they were speaking, she sent away people who wanted to buy things from her, because she didn’t want to be distracted from their message. She accepted the Lord Jesus and asked the group to pray for her.

After the training, our team joined in the annual diocesan pilgrimage and led a night of prayer after the pilgrimage’s opening Mass. We started with praise and worship followed by a short-yet-powerful exhortation that examined God’s readiness to turn the situations of men around regardless of how far we have gone from Him.

The following morning, we did a nearly ten-mile prayer walk and Stations of the Cross. The pilgrimage continued with a penitential service followed by adoration and prayer for inner healing. Priests heard individual confessions, and then there was the celebration of the Eucharist, a candlelight procession, and the rosary.

Closing Mass and Commissioning of Participants

At the end of the pilgrimage, Bishop Borwah reiterated his appreciation to the team. He also re-emphasized his commitment to support our work and the growth of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal within his diocese.

The bishop encouraged all who were present, including his priests, to be open to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, as he believes this is a movement established by the Holy Spirit to revive the Church. He shared that his fellow bishops from other parts of the continent testify to the positive influence of the renewal in strengthening the spirituality of their dioceses and assisting their growth.

We thank God for his faithfulness throughout this mission and for the privilege of being vessels through which the message of the Gospel could reach the people of Liberia!

The ten-mile diocesan pilgrimage included Stations of the Cross, a penitential service, Eucharistic Adoration, and prayer for healing.



EVENTS

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

* Not open to the public.

Ann Arbor, MI
The Choices We Face Filming*
September 2-30
Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, & Pete Burak

Las Vegas, NV
Legatus*
September 9
Pete Burak

Fort Worth, TX
Legatus*
September 11
Rachel Herbeck

St. Paul, MN
NET Leaders Retreat*
September 12
Peter Herbeck

Winnipeg, MB
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference
September 12-13
Ralph Martin
Details: catholicrenewalservices.com/events

Gulf Breeze, FL
44th Annual Charismatic Conference
September 20
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: ptdccb.org/register/

San Francisco, CA
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference
September 19-20
Peter Herbeck

Toledo, OH
Toledo Pastoral Conference
September 23
Pete Burak

Cleveland, OH
Let Love In: Mother-Daughter Retreat
September 28
Debbie Herbeck & Rachel Herbeck
Details: tobcle.org/event/let-love-in/

Denver, CO
St. Paul Evangelization Society Meeting*
September 29-October 2
Peter Herbeck

MISSION



Zimbabwe & South Africa
August 26-September 6
Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw



PLEASE PRAY

- ▶ That those mourning may grieve with the hope found only in Christ.
- ▶ For Catholic families to grow closer to each other by emulating Christ's sacrificial love.
- ▶ For the prayer intentions of our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

CREATE RIPPLES OF FAITH
WITH A
Legacy Gift



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 Heather Schultz at 734-662-1730, ext. 130, or hschultz@renewalministries.net.

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RenewalMinistries.net/plannedgiving



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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