

Renewal Ministries

September 2007

Proclaiming Jesus through Catholic Renewal and Evangelization



Dear Friends,

A letter from Sr. Ann Shields, SGL

February 12, 1931 marked the beginning of international Catholic radio. These excerpts from the newspapers captured the tremendous excitement and enthusiasm of the event. (www.vatican.va)

- **L'Osservatore Romano:** "Yesterday in Rome all the radio sets were turned on; groups of people gathered around the wonderful apparatus to listen. Wherever there was a radio set available, people would crowd around it. Loudspeakers were placed outside many electric and appliance shops, or outside the offices of the newspapers. There are crowds everywhere, blocking the traffic in some areas..."
- **News Chronicle:** "For the first time the voice of a Pope was heard in London, and by millions of other believers about the world...3,500 Catholics stood for hours in Westminster Cathedral waiting to hear the voice of the Pontiff."
- **The New York Herald:** "Few events in the history of the world can compare with the profound impact the Head of the Holy Roman See made during his address directed to the entire planet...and such a thing could not have been foreseen by any preceding Pope. This is a miracle of science, and no less a miracle of faith."

Today with the advent of satellites and computers, ipods, cell phones and the internet, radio can seem like a commonplace, even old fashioned means of communication. Yet my own experience in this ministry shows me that it is **still a "miracle of faith"**. God uses it! Lives are changed; people make decisions that radically affect their eternal future. They listen in the privacy of their cars and homes; while they exercise, endure long commuter drives or work as long distance truckers across the United States. I've heard from many of them and I marvel that God uses radio to bring people face to face with themselves and with Him!

John Paul II said: "Radio offers perhaps the closest equivalent to what Jesus was able to do with large groups through his preaching. Radio is an intimate medium which can reach people on the street, in their cars or in their homes. Radio may well be the most cost effective means of reaching large numbers of people who may not want to read or may lack exposure to Catholic publications, but will be willing to 'eavesdrop' on Catholic radio stations." (*Attributed to Pope John Paul II—Message to Catholic Media meeting*)

I began doing *Food for the Journey* in 1993. The Lord put the thought in my head one day during my personal prayer time. Having no access to anyone involved in radio and knowing that Catholics had very little involvement with Catholic stations at the time, I promptly put it back in the Lord's hands and asked Him to make a way for me if this was His inspiration. Six months later EWTN radio called and asked if I would consider doing a radio program. It began by airing three times a week. As I write this newsletter fourteen years later, we are nearing the completion of 3,250 programs. *Food for the Journey* is now aired five times a week on forty stations across the country as well as several internet stations. The program is also broadcast via satellite in many countries around the world. (I have heard from listeners in Brazil, remote parts of China and the Middle East.) Podcasts of all radio shows are also now available.

Peter Herbeck's radio program, *Fire on the Earth*, began more recently in 2005. It also is broadcast five days a week and is now heard on 27 Catholic radio stations across the country and via satellite to many other countries. Anyone can access these radio programs any time through our website: www.renewalministries.net.

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“I marvel that God uses radio to bring people face to face with themselves and with Him!”

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Dear Friends

“Many days I plan my lunch hour around your show where I just sit in my car and listen. You are truly a gift from God. Through your talks, you have inspired me to try to improve my relationship with the Lord.”

In the last eight months phone, letter and email contact with people who hear the programs has quadrupled! Why? We're not yet sure of all the reasons but we do think God is giving us more wisdom in addressing the deepest concerns of people—about the world, the Church, how to think, to pray, to become holy and how to deal with suffering. We speak about relationship with God, and the power of the sacraments and the Scripture to guide us in our daily circumstances. I believe the programs give people clarity, wisdom and hope.

☒ “I was Godless my entire life. I had no religion or belief to speak of, but during RCIA last year, I launched an ‘investigation’ into the Lord. In months of intensive study both in and outside the classroom, I found Him, and in no uncertain way. So, after spending forty years in the wilderness, I was baptized at the Easter Vigil, 2007. Christ’s Church has changed my life. My wife and I regularly listen to you on KVSS Spirit Catholic Radio. While I love the sacramental life only the Catholic faith provides, my passion (aside from perhaps the Eucharist) is *being in the Word*. In fact, if I go too long without devoting time to reading the bible, I begin losing ‘The Way.’ You are so helpful for me in that regard, using Scripture as a means to negotiate the challenges and crosses of my daily life!” (Listener in Omaha, NE)

☒ “I am an avid listener and supporter of Radio Maria. I have the privilege of living about 20 minutes away from Alexandria here in Louisiana, and I am a great fan of your show. I have listened almost daily for a year now, and am always learning something or being driven to pursue my faith more deeply. I really enjoy how you get to the heart of topics and challenge everyone to look deeper and

to go farther than their comfort zone. Also, I am reading your booklet ‘Hope in the Midst of Suffering’ and I am simply enthralled by it. Rarely do I find material that makes me look at my life in such depth, and so often at that. I find myself wanting to read the entire thing in one sitting, and yet all I have to read is one paragraph or section and then feel the need to pray and reflect on what I have just read.” (Listener in Metairie, Louisiana)

☒ “Many days I plan my lunch hour around your show where I just sit in my car and listen. You are truly a gift from God. Through your talks, you have inspired me to try to improve my relationship with the Lord. Sometimes, your words are the kick in the pants that are needed for that day. I teach 4th grade catechism and sometimes find myself incorporating some points that you’ve made into my lesson. I can’t count the number of days that I’ve come home and told my wife, ‘Today, my nun said...’ (Hope you don’t mind being referred to as ‘my nun’). This will lead to my wife and I having discussions about ‘my nun’ moments. I’ve told some of my friends about you, too.” (Listener in Scott, Louisiana)

☒ “I praise and thank God that through the internet I am able to listen to you. Your

teaching is very inspiring and believe me it is food for my day! It lifts me up, builds me up, draws me closer to holiness... We are often starved for such good religious teaching in this part of the world and through the internet we can listen to all of you and read the newsletter through the website...” (Listener in United Arab Emirates)

☒ “My wife and I have been



Peter Herbeck’s daily show, *Fire on the Earth* helps listeners respond to the call of the New Evangelization.

listening to your programs for about two years. The first thing I do at work is tune in to your website. Your words are a daily inspiration and my wife and I share our thoughts on the talk when I get home. For the past year we have been trying to attend daily Mass and Communion. I thank the Lord Jesus Christ for allowing us to hear his word through you. May the Holy Spirit continue to work through you and on all of us who listen to your program. A BIG, THANK YOU SISTER!" (*Listeners in Miami, FL*)

✉ "Your show was awesome! Keep on preaching, my brother in Christ. I absolutely loved it. I agree we must live out our Catholic faith daily and I thank God and pray for all at Renewal Ministries. Keep up the great work!" (*Listener in Tennessee*)

✉ "This is just a note to let you know of the many unexpected ways the Lord is using your teachings to transform lives and open minds and hearts to the power of the Spirit. We heard *The Fellowship of the Unashamed* talk on your 'Mind of Christ' series. I used it in a teaching at a charismatic prayer group while another person used it in his witness at an ACTS men's retreat in our area. When another asked, I let him borrow both 'The Mind of Christ' and 'True Discipleship' series. Isn't it good to know your resources are being used way beyond our particular ministries and movements, beyond the boundaries of where we live to impact the wider church and the world? I see John Paul's words coming to life when

he spoke in 1998 about collaboration among the movements..." (*Listener in Wentzville, MO*)

In addition to the phone calls, letters and emails, we find that people are starting to attend our summer programs because of the advertisements on Catholic radio. During the School of Spirituality, a young man approached me and told me this story. Several years ago, he was very concerned about some family matters and didn't know how to resolve the issues. Driving to work one day, he noticed a car in front of him with the bumper sticker with **Catholicradio.com**. He had never heard of Catholic radio so out of curiosity he checked it out online.

"As I began to listen," he said, "I found many others dealing with my issues and I found answers. Your program, *Food for the Journey*, has changed my life. It has taught me how to pray, use the scriptures, find answers for life's difficulties and for my own personal challenges. I may have heard these things growing up but I don't think so. Thank you for what you are doing!"

God wants us to grow in holiness through our daily lives, through the joys and sorrows we face. He wants us to become conformed to Him. My experience is that in the midst of the noise, the hectic pace, the confusion and discouragement faced by many, Catholic radio is providing a lifeline for thousands. If a particular financial arrangement is able to be finalized in the next few weeks, Peter and I may have a listening audience that will reach millions in the U.S. Stay tuned!

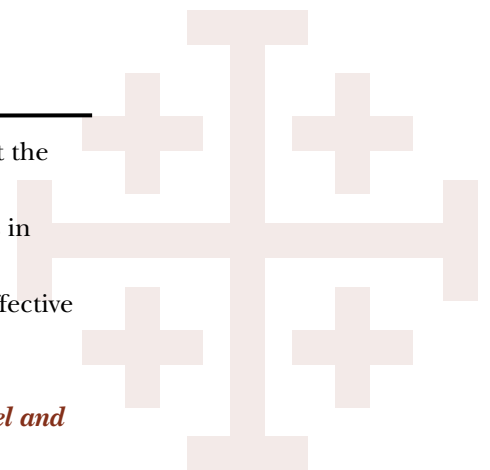
Sr. Anna Shiecas

“My experience is that in the midst of the noise, the hectic pace, the confusion and discouragement faced by many, Catholic radio is providing a lifeline for thousands.”

Please Pray...

- + For the deepening conversion and empowerment of priests and seminarians throughout the world. May they truly represent Christ to the world.
- + For the preparation and taping of the 2008 season of *The Choices We Face* television shows in September and October.
- + For the radio shows *Food for the Journey* and *Fire on the Earth*, and the use of all media as effective means of communicating God's truth.
- + For all the intentions of our supporters and their family members.

Thank you for your continued support through prayer as we labor together for the Gospel and the renewal of the Church.





Love One Another

By Peter Herbeck

“They reminded me of what can happen when brothers and sisters give their all to a vision, trusting that the Lord will act.”

One of the most important and rewarding developments in Renewal Ministries over the past few years has been the growing number of opportunities to minister to priests and religious all over the world. This is always a privilege, especially given the number of people’s lives they impact as priests. In Africa, it is not uncommon for one priest to oversee the pastoral care and instruction of ten thousand people or more.

This past June, a small team including His Eminence Peter Cardinal Turkson from Cape Coast, Ghana, Deacon Alex Jones from the Archdiocese of Detroit, Fr. Chas Canoy, associate pastor of St. Thomas Parish in Ann Arbor, Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw and I, were privileged to lead a retreat for 450 priests from six different East African countries. The retreat was co-sponsored by leaders from the Ugandan chapter of the Fraternity of Priests and the National Office for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

In 2003 we gave our first priests retreat in Uganda to 350 priests. From that meeting, held at the National Seminary in Gaba, the initial chapter of the Priests’ Fraternity was established. The Fraternity exists to provide a small group support network for priests, and a regular forum for accountability and friendship in the Holy Spirit. Due to the success of the first retreat and growing interest in the Fraternity, local leaders decided to provide another retreat, hoping to draw as many priests as they did the first time. To their surprise, 600 priests registered for this year’s retreat. Unfortunately, housing limitations forced them to limit registration to 450.

Commitment to a Vision

The core team of organizers for the retreat inspired all of us with their total dedication to serving the priests and bishops in attendance, but most importantly for their commitment to bringing everyone on the retreat into a personal experience of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. The team of priests and lay leaders, led by Bishop Christopher Kakooza, Auxiliary Bishop of Kampala, were convinced that the Holy Spirit had something special for each priest

who came to the retreat. They worked day and night for weeks preparing for the retreat, and during the retreat itself had to overcome two days of no electricity or running water. One of the priests, Fr. David, a professor at the Major Seminary, spent one morning delivering buckets of water to each living situation so priests and bishops could bathe and have water for the toilets. All this, and many other obstacles, were faced with tremendous humility, grace, and joy in the Lord.

Their gracious service to their brother priests, and their expectant faith helped to create an environment of brotherhood and openness to the work of the Holy Spirit. Their contagious faith captured me, lifting my own expectations for the retreat. They reminded me of what can happen when brothers and sisters give their all to a vision, trusting that the Lord will act. Expectant faith is like a doorway that has been opened to receive the work of the Spirit; it’s a disposition of surrender which expresses itself in concrete decisions and actions, anticipating the Lord’s action. As one priest described it, “expectant faith means to lean on God in such a way with our entire lives that if he wasn’t there, we’d fall flat on our faces.”

The organizers risked a great deal. They knew that in order for priests to attend, a significant amount of their expenses would have to be subsidized. At the same time, they believed the Lord was telling them to make room for as many priests as was physically possible. The lecture halls of the seminary could hold a maximum of three hundred priests. When registrations quickly exceeded that number, they decided to turn the cafeteria, the largest room in the complex, into a large lecture hall and sanctuary for the week. Food was then served outdoors under the sun and stars, where priests ate three meals a day.

When the idea for the retreat first surfaced, the core team asked Renewal Ministries to provide the teaching team, as well as financial help to underwrite expenses. We agreed on

“To be in a room full of priests and bishops singing and dancing, with hands raised, a radiant joy on their faces, tasting the goodness of the Lord together and refreshed with a new hope in the Spirit for their personal lives and for their priesthood was a great privilege.”



The National Conference in Namugongo, held before the priests retreat, drew more than 10,000 people from all over Uganda. Many people were on the road for several days and some walked over 200 miles to be at this powerful three day event.

an initial budget, but we soon discovered it wasn't enough. The brothers had received a word from the Lord, "to widen their tent pegs" and to make room for a big turnout and this was coming true. It was wonderful to see the response of the priests, but it also meant they needed to come up with more money.

I'm mentioning this because it was the generosity of Renewal Ministries' supporters, including many of you who receive this newsletter each month, which made it possible for us to help fill those financial needs. The cost to bring more than 400 priests from six different African countries together for six days is high. But thanks be to God, and to you, for that provision. It's this sacrifice that helped bring about what I believe was one of Renewal Ministries' most important missions.

Renewing the Shepherds

The theme of the retreat was, "Love One Another as I Have Loved You." The first part focused on God's limitless love through the gift of Jesus. During the second half of the week the presentations focused on "Leadership in the Holy Spirit". Cardinal Turkson gave some challenging and inspiring meditations on the life of Moses, providing insight into the ways the Lord trains and forms the leaders of his people, forging faith, courage, obedience and identity through trials.

Deacon Alex gave an anointed talk on the transforming power of the preached word of God. He spoke with passion and humility from his own experience of twenty-five years as a former Pentecostal pastor. He challenged the priests to rely more on the power of God's word, and to cultivate a more lively expectation of the confirming signs of the Holy Spirit as they preach. The talk went forth with a convincing power of its own, and many priests jumped out of their seats with loud applause and raised hands.

Each day also included morning and evening prayer, the Rosary, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and small group time. In the evenings we offered an optional session on the *Unbound* method of prayer ministry led by the Greenhaws and nearly all the priests attended. This simple five step method of praying



Some of the 430 priests who attended the retreat in Ggaba express their joy here with His Eminence Peter Cardinal Turkson, and (to his left) Archbishop Paul Bakyenga from Mbarara and Bishop Robert Muhiirwa from Fort Portal.

with people is a useful tool for helping people remove the obstacles in their lives that block the work of the Holy Spirit. Like all of us, priests struggle with human weakness and temptation, and because of their vocation, they are prime targets for the devil's attack on the Body of Christ. Many of the priests experienced new freedom in their lives as they opened themselves to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in a new way. I don't think I will ever forget the evenings as we ended these sessions. To be in a room full of priests and bishops singing and dancing, with hands raised, a radiant joy on their faces, tasting the goodness of the Lord together and refreshed with a new hope in the Spirit for their personal lives and for their priesthood was a great privilege. The Lord was with us in power! As one priest expressed, "I have been a priest for the last twenty-five years and this is the greatest retreat I have ever been on, and from which I have drawn the greatest benefit." Blessed be God!

Days Ahead

Throughout the retreat priests from Kenya, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and South Africa pleaded with us to hold similar retreats in their countries. I would like to ask you to pray with us as we seek the Lord's will in response to these invitations. Thank you for your prayers, your love, and financial support without which we could not respond to the needs of our priests throughout the world. +

Mission to Turkey

“All Christians in Istanbul are very aware of the recent murder of three Protestant missionaries in southern Turkey.”

“Before we prayed, we asked the group to recognize what their decision to follow Christ could mean. Yet when we asked for a show of hands of those who wanted a fresh outpouring, every hand was raised.”

It's exciting to be a part of history— especially when you can see it unfolding before your eyes. All the work Renewal Ministries has been doing over the past years to usher a spiritual renewal in Turkey is yielding a harvest of large proportions. Last summer we saw God really touch Fr. Drtad (an Armenian priest) and his wife Tanya in a special way through an outpouring of the Holy Spirit during our pilgrimage to Ephesus. It's amazing to see how Father's whole outlook has changed. He now understands how important it is to have and use the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We could really see an anointing for ministry and leadership being given to him.

In January he and Tanya visited the Armenian Patriarch and shared their testimony. For the first time they officially identified themselves as charismatic. They weren't sure how he would respond. They want to be empowered to do more for the people of Turkey and being under the Patriarch's authority, they believed this was an important step to receiving the Lord's blessing and grace. The Patriarch received the news with joy.

We witnessed two additional blessings from the Lord this year. Fr. Zacchaeus, another priest and lifelong friend of Fr. Drtad, was touched significantly by the Holy Spirit during our visit as well as an Armenian transitional-deacon who will be ordained in August. Dcn. Levon will be moving to Germany and told us he would visit his bishop and ask if we could come there to minister with him!

Last year we prayed with Fr. Anton, pastor of St Anthony of Padua Cathedral in the Beyoglu district. During our visit we discovered that he requested Oreste Pesare, the Executive Director of International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) to come to Istanbul to officially initiate the first Catholic Charismatic Renewal Group in Turkey. The Catholic Bishop of Istanbul granted his request!

When we arrived, Fr. Drtad was presenting the *Life in the Spirit Seminar* to three separate groups at St. Vartan's Armenian Church in the Fericoy district. He invited us to come and pray with the participants for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. About 100 people sat eagerly waiting for the culmination of their ten week course. We told them that the Holy Spirit comes to empower the saints for ministry and that their decision to receive the Holy Spirit should not be taken lightly. All Christians in Istanbul are very aware of the recent murder of three Protestant missionaries in southern Turkey. Both Fr. Bruno, our long time friend who has been ministering in Turkey for over 40 years, and Fr. Drtad spoke of those missionaries as martyrs. Before we prayed, we asked the group to recognize what their decision to follow Christ could mean. Yet when we asked for a show of hands of those who wanted a fresh outpouring, every hand was raised. As we prayed for them, there were tears and great joy and several later told Fr. Drtad that it was the greatest spiritual experience of their lives.



A special highlight for our group was receiving the blessing of His Beatitude Patriarch Mesrob II Mutafian of the Armenian Church, seen here with Fr. Bruno (left) and Fr. Drtad.

By Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw

For the second year now we spent an entire day at the Senior Citizens Home run by the Sisters of the Poor. They were so thrilled that we had come back to see them. The large building is four stories high and run by a handful of nuns and other workers. We prayed over all the residents; there were Armenians, Turks, French and Jews, many from various faiths but it didn't matter, they all wanted prayer. We prayed for their needs and to accept Jesus into their hearts if they so desired. We also prayed for each of the nuns.

During our remaining time in Turkey we conducted our 2nd annual bus tour pilgrimage, this year through historic Cappadocia. Our group doubled from last year to 47—American Catholics, Armenian Catholics, Turkish Catholics and Armenian Orthodox. The real difference we recognized in our group this year was in the area of spiritual maturity. Like last year, every day we would take the bus and visit breathtaking ancient ruins, and every afternoon and evening we would teach. This year's topic was the "Unbound" model of prayer. During the break times we prayed over people using the "Unbound" method. The people were more open, eager and receptive to whatever the Lord wanted for them.

At one particular prayer session, there was a woman who was full of fear to the point of being delusional. We spoke to her for almost an hour, trying to help her understand the principles of forgiveness. She resisted until about ten minutes before the session needed to end. Then suddenly she dropped to her knees and began to beg God for forgiveness, and began forgiving others. She then renounced many things that have kept her in bondage for so long. Slowly we could see a change in her face. By the next day she looked like a completely different woman. On the bus trip to Istanbul she was ministering and visiting with the rest of the group. During that last leg of the trip, a twelve hour drive, there was a lot of prayer ministry going on in the back rows of the bus.

One young man was especially touched during one of the "bus ride" prayer sessions but it wasn't evident until later that evening when he gave a short testimony. He said that during the week he was not particularly inspired by our talks, but believed that the Lord wanted to



John Kazanjian spoke to about 100 participants at the *Life in the Spirit Seminar* prayer session, hosted by St. Vartan's Armenian Church. Many described their Baptism in the Holy Spirit that night as the "greatest spiritual experience of their lives."

He said that during the week he was not particularly inspired by our talks, but believed that the Lord wanted to speak to him personally but he just didn't know how to listen. He kept stopping and groping for words to describe his experience. He had never been to a prayer meeting or seen the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He knew that the Lord touched him, but didn't know how to describe it. He just stopped abruptly and started to cry. Later, during the meeting, he moved to the back of the room, and began to laugh and laugh, quietly though out of respect. But as everyone stood up to be prayed with, he let loose. It was an infectious, joy-filled laughter. Some people were crying, some were just standing for a long time with their eyes closed, but anyone who got near this young man couldn't help but share his joy. Everyone was so happy. The Holy Spirit had come to Cappadocia, to the Orthodox and the Catholics.

Last year the Lord blessed us with a beautiful rainbow on the last day of our visit in Ephesus. This year in Cappadocia we were all amazed to see a double rainbow on our last day. It was as if God wanted to show us He was doubly happy!

Another special highlight was a visit to the city of Kayseri (Cesaria). We went to Holy Mass at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church on the Feast Day of St Gregory with His Beatitude Patriarch Mesrob II Mutafian presiding. His presence drew many reporters and photographers from the local press and after Mass our group received his blessing.

The plans are laid for the coming year. Fr. Drtad and Fr. Zacchaeus are planning four *Life in the Spirit Seminars* at different Armenian churches in Istanbul. The Patriarch has given his blessing for the work of Frs. Drtad and Zacchaeus. Our hope is that in the not too distant future we can hold a large event at the Armenian cathedral in Istanbul. +

“He said that during the week he was not particularly inspired by our talks, but believed that the Lord wanted to speak to him personally but he just didn't know how to listen.”

On the Road

“Everything in the Church is done to create love, in love, for the sake of love, and by love.”

St. Francis de Sales

September 2007

Mission to Papua New Guinea

September 1–14

Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw and Team
Contact Jessica Sherwood at 734-662-1730 x32 or jsherwood@renewalministries.net

Omaha, NE, Legatus Chapter Meeting

September 12

Sr. Ann Shields
Contact Jim Carroll at 402-571-0200, x11

Howell, MI, St. Joseph's Parish Mission

September 14–16

Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields
Contact number: 517-546-0090

Budapest, Hungary

Catholic Evangelization Conference

September 17–20

Ralph Martin
Contact: kunszabo@freemail.hu

Mission to Hungary

September 16–22

Dcn Steve Thomashefski and Team
Contact Jessica Sherwood at 734-662-1730 x32 or jsherwood@renewalministries.net

Newport, NH, St. Patrick's Parish Mission

September 21–22

Ralph Martin
Contact number: 603-868-1422

Keene, NH, St. Bernard Parish

September 23–24

Ralph Martin
Contact Joy at 603-352-2861

Ann Arbor, MI, Renewal Ministries Country Coordinator Meetings

September 27–29

Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields

Vancouver, BC

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference

September 28–29

Ralph Martin
Contact: fireblade@shaw.ca

Bay City, MI

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference

September 28–29

Sr. Ann Shields
Contact: Judy Troxell at 989-684-4640

October 2007

Ann Arbor, MI

US Board of Directors Meeting

October 7–8

Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields, Gary Seromik

New Boston, MI, Taping for *The Choices We Face* Television Shows

October 4, 9–11, 17–19, 22–24, 31

Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields

Mission to Slovakia

October 13–28

Tom Edwards and Team

Mission to Romania

October (dates to be confirmed)

Dcn. Steve Thomashefski and Team
Contact Jessica Sherwood at 734-662-1730 x32 or jsherwood@renewalministries.net

Mission to Poland

October 23–29

Don Turbitt

Contact Jessica Sherwood at 734-662-1730 x32 or jsherwood@renewalministries.net

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Renewal Ministries is a Catholic ministry committed to renewal and evangelization in the Church. It seeks to proclaim Jesus Christ through its TV and radio outreaches, as well as through books, tapes, conferences, retreats and other international evangelistic events.

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