

World RENEW



Send forth your spirit and renew the face of the earth

Fall 2008



Kaze! Welcome!

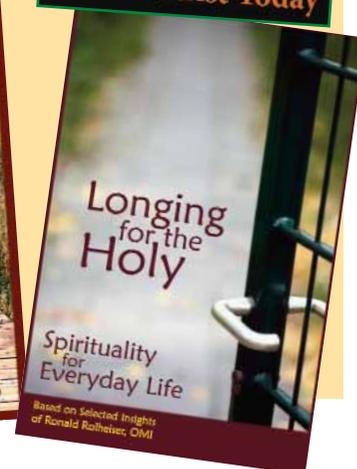
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Sowing Seeds of Peace in Burundi

RENEW International's work in Burundi is one of which we are most proud. Burundi is one of the world's poorest and most densely populated nations in Africa and almost constantly plagued by flood and famine. A land long ravaged by war, chaos, oppression, and ethnic conflict between the Hutus and Tutsis is finally enjoying peace.

Since 2004, RENEW International has played an important part in the lives of Burundi's Catholics. In a land that has suffered so much, the faith of its majority Catholic population has been reinforced by devotion to the Church and the sure knowledge that the message of Christ will help them meet the struggles that are part of everyday life. Working with both lay leaders and parishioners, RENEW International brings its peace-building ministry to thousands each year.

On Arrival

Visited with the Country Representative for Catholic Relief Services in Burundi, Jeanine Scott-Shines. Very welcoming, as always.

Bubanza Orphanage

Fr. Salvator, who runs the orphanage, expressed his appreciation for the support given by different RENEW Staff members*. Noticed the children have no toys and no daily program, which makes it harder to care for them. Suggested he seek out a Montessori group to train staff at the orphanage and provide manipulative

materials. He was very interested in the method, took notes, and assured me he would research it on the Internet.



To offer a flavor of the work of RENEW International in Burundi, here are some extracts from a 2008 diary by Sister Marie Cooper, who has led RENEW International's work in that country since 2005.

In her two busy weeks in Burundi, Sister Marie visited 42 parishes (in a country where parishes can have between 10,000 and 30,000 parishioners), bringing the Gospel to a people whose faith is frequently the one constant factor in their lives.

Over the last years, the presence of RENEW International in South Africa, Rwanda, and Burundi has made a significant contribution to bringing stability to countries where poverty, injustice, and racial and ethnic strife are common in everyday life. We received this tribute from Bishop Kizito Bahujimhigo of the Diocese of Ruhengeri, Rwanda: "RENEW has done more for reconciliation in Rwanda than any other group I know."

Bubanza – Non-Violence Workshop

Our workshops are usually offered with a process of sentence-by-sentence translation. In the past, this worked well enough. But for this workshop, soon recognized we needed a different approach.

Concentrated on small group work, so participants could dialogue with each other in Kirundi.

We had two exercises planned. First invited participants to draw or depict in some way a situation of violence they had experienced. Second, later in the workshop, asked them to draw a non-violent resolution to that same event. The discussion was very lively, and the participants depicted a whole range of types of violence (personal, institutional, cultural). Encouragingly, they proved equally clear on the forms of non-violent response that could be used (negotiation, peaceful demonstration, boycott). The workshop also offered two complete faith-sharing sessions, the second one in Kirundi. The closing ritual, too, was in Kirundi.



* A number of RENEW International staff members contribute to the support of the orphanage.

ARISE Starts in Parishes

as reported
by Lane Lambert
in the *Patriot Ledger**

Anyone who has gone to or driven by a Catholic church in the past few weeks has heard the announcement or seen the banner: *ARISE Together in Christ*.

It's not just a roadside exhortation for believers, but the launch of an ambitious, three-year renewal program that the Archdiocese of Boston hopes will revive the spiritual commitment of parishioners who've been shaken by the clergy sex-abuse scandal and parish closings.

Designed specifically for the Boston Archdiocese, the small-group faith-sharing sessions will begin October 5 and continue through November 2010. They're expected to involve tens of thousands of members in about half the parishes in eastern Massachusetts.

After years of trauma and disenchantment, "we think this will enliven the parishes," said Mary Ann McLaughlin of the Archdiocese Office of Worship and Spiritual Life.

ARISE was prepared by RENEW International, of Plainfield, N.J., affiliated with the Archdiocese of Newark. (RENEW also produced the *Theology On Tap* program that has been staged at Bad Abbots in Quincy and other area pubs.)

Launched as the Archdiocese celebrates its 200th anniversary, *ARISE* will be held through November 2010, in five "seasons" of six weeks each. To cover the Boston area's diversity, *ARISE* will be offered in six languages—English, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, and Lithuanian.



Sister Honora Nolty, O.P. of RENEW International at the *ARISE* training workshop for the leaders of the small faith-sharing communities

Photo by Lisa Bul. Reprinted by permission of the Patriot Ledger.

Groups of 10 to 12 parishioners will gather to study the Bible and discuss how to live out Christian teachings more deeply—from more activity in social missions to a readiness to share their faith.

"Cradle Catholics are not so much in the habit of daily Bible reading," McLaughlin said. "We think this will help people hear the Scripture with new ears, and make it more present in their lives."

ARISE also aims to instill a fresh interest in evangelizing, the faith-sharing practice that's most often associated these days with conservative Protestants.

Boston College theology professor Thomas Groome said the program holds great promise to inspire lay Catholics to deeper participation. Boston College history professor James O'Toole of Milton said *ARISE* is the first such renewal campaign in the Archdiocese's history, and perhaps in the American Catholic Church. Nothing like it was needed in generations past, he said, when Catholic life was heavily rooted in the parish. O'Toole said the evangelization element could prove to be crucial in strengthening young Catholics' looser ties to the institutional Church.

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* adapted from the original article in the *Patriot Ledger* (Quincy, MA) and reprinted with permission. The full original article can be found at PatriotLedger.com.

Enliven everyday life ...

Longing for the Holy

Longing for the Holy: Spirituality for Everyday Life is a 12-week spiritual journey process for those who want to enrich their sense of the presence of God and develop a deeper spirituality. Based on selected insights of best-selling author Father Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I., it concerns the way we channel the deep longing at the core of our beings and explores the implications of the central mysteries of Catholic faith—the Incarnation, the Eucharist, and the Paschal Mystery—for spirituality. Attending to the cultural challenges that keep us from realizing our true desire, it considers the important themes of church community, justice, sexuality, the practices of the spiritual life, and being a mystic of the everyday.

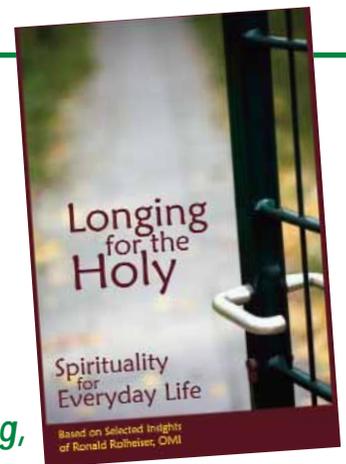
Suitable for small community faith sharing or individual reflection, people will experience how the gentle spiritual guidance and practical wisdom of Fr. Ronald Rolheiser can enliven everyday life with this new faith-sharing resource from RENEW International.

“RENEW has done it again! In Longing for the Holy they have mined the depths of Rolheiser’s classic work, and made faith sharing, grounded in authentic Christian spirituality, a journey worth taking.”

Rebecca Titford,
Director of Religious Education,
Archdiocese of Mobile

In accord with RENEW International’s charism of fostering small Christian communities that focus on spirituality, Sr. Terry Rickard, Executive Director, recently announced two complementary spiritual processes for parishes relating to today’s life and culture.

Sedientos de Dios: Una espiritualidad para la gente de hoy has been developed for Spanish-speaking communities and *Longing for the Holy: Spirituality for Everyday Life* for the English-speaking.



Longing for the Holy Parish Kit

includes essential resources to bring this enriching spiritual experience to the members of your parish community:

- *Longing for the Holy: Spirituality for Everyday Life*: sample participant’s book
- *Longing for the Holy: Sourcebook for a Spiritual Journey*
- *Sowing Seeds: Essentials for Small Community Leaders*
- *Gleanings: A Personal Prayer Journal*
- *Longing for the Holy: Musical Selections on CD*
- *Longing for the Holy*: audio-book on set of CDs
- Prayer Bookmarks—set of 50
- Plus access to web-based resources and support

All for only \$119.00 (plus S&H)

The Small Community Leaders Workshop introduces the themes of the sessions in an interactive presentation experience.

The **Participant’s Book** contains twelve sessions. Every session includes prayers, reflections, sharing questions, and stories from our companions on the journey: saints and contemporary people of faith.

\$12.95 per copy (plus S&H)

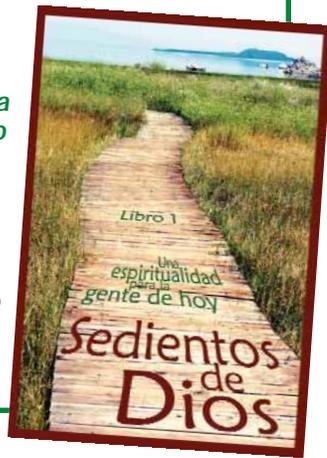
For these, and faith-sharing resources, visit:
www.renewintl.org/store

Covering different dimensions of contemporary spiritual life, these resources will help small community participants/readers reflect on the source and meaning of our deepest longings and discover ways to address the challenges that prevent many of us from realizing our true desires.

Dioceses and parishes completing *Why Catholic?* or *¿Por qué ser católico?* or *RENEW: Spiritual Renewal for the 21st Century* / *RENACER: Renovación Espiritual para el Siglo 21* will discover new life for their parishes through the *Sedientos de Dios* and *Longing for the Holy* processes, both of which have an inter-generational appeal.

“Posiblemente no se pueda encontrar un recurso más completo en español para el uso en pequeñas comunidades cristianas hispanas. Sedientos de Dios, una espiritualidad para la gente de hoy, verdaderamente cumple lo que su título indica y lo hace de una manera actualizada, inculturada, accesible y concretizada en la vida diaria. Las diferentes sesiones van llevando progresivamente a los grupos a la profundización en el seguimiento de Cristo en su propia vida diaria, invitando suavemente a la responsabilidad en la vida familiar, comunitaria, eclesial y social.”

Carmen Aquinaco
President, National Catholic Council
for Hispanic Ministry



Sedientos de Dios

Sedientos de Dios: Una espiritualidad para la gente de hoy es un proceso de doce sesiones (presentadas en dos libros de seis sesiones cada uno) que nos ayudara a descubrir la presencia de Dios en toda nuestra realidad familiar, de trabajo, comunidad, Iglesia. Este proceso de desarrollo espiritual ofrece sugerencias de crecimiento en la vida de oración y comunitaria de hoy. Ideal para los grupos parroquiales, las organizaciones parroquiales y los grupos de oración. Es un buen recurso para las pequeñas comunidades que comparten su fe o que desean reflexionar a un nivel mas profundo.

El Padre Allan Figueroa Deck, S.J., Director Ejecutivo del Secretariado de Diversidad Cultural en la Iglesia de la USCCB, esta muy entusiasmado con los libros y nos dice: “No cabe duda que el pueblo de Dios tiene una sed enorme de vida espiritual y se les ha ofrecido muy poca formación en este tema. Este libro llena ese gran vacío. Que se aproveche este bello recurso de formación espiritual para las comunidades hispanas de hoy!”

Sedientos de Dios Paquete Parroquial

recursos esenciales para enriquezar la espiritualidad tanto de su comunidad parroquial como de sus miembros:

- *Sedientos de Dios: Una espiritualidad para la gente de hoy*, Libro I & II – libro para participantes
- *Sedientos de Dios: Guía para un peregrinaje espiritual*
- *Sembradores de semillas: Guía para los animadores de pequeñas comunidades cristianas*
- *Sedientos de Dios: Sesiones de reflexión en CD*
- Cruz: San Damiano
- Oración de confianza en Dios (paquete de 50 marcadores)
- Acceso a recursos via internet

\$ 119.00 (más cargos de correo y envío)

El Taller para los animadores de pequeñas comunidades Sedientos de Dios: presenta los temas de una manera interactiva.

Cada **libro de participante** contiene seis sesiones, y cada sesión ofrece momentos de oración, reflexión y preguntas para el compartir; y un vistazo sobre peregrinos en el camino, es decir, historia de la vida de santos o de personas de hoy día, llenas de fe.

Libro 1 para participantes (sesiones 1-6)

Libro 2 para participantes (sesiones 7-12)

Cada libro \$6.95 (más cargos de correo y envío)

Para estos y otros recursos, visita:

www.renewintl.org/store

ARISE Together in Christ

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O'Toole said the evangelization element could prove to be crucial in strengthening young Catholics' looser ties to the institutional Church.

McLaughlin said Cardinal Seán O'Malley didn't plan the program as a direct response to the sex-abuse crisis and parish closings. He first worked with RENEW when he was bishop in Fall River in the 1990s. But she said the Cardinal and other Archdiocese leaders believe *ARISE* can help parishes deal with "a variety of challenges," including the loss of thousands of churchgoers in recent years.

Jane Kuklis at St. Mary's in Scituate is confident that *ARISE* will make a difference. In the midst of an accelerating culture of change, "it opens many doors for your faith," Kuklis said.

The parish launch of the *ARISE* process was also covered by an article in *The Pilot*, (the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Boston) which can be consulted online at both www.BostonPilot.com and at www.renewintl.org



Photo courtesy of St. Mary's Parish

Members of the *ARISE* parish team at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Dedham with one of their promotional banners.

How You Have Helped Campus RENEW

In the Spring 2008 edition of World RENEW, Sister Terry invited you to help RENEW International respond to the urgent need for including young adults in the Church through *Campus RENEW*—a process which provides an opportunity for students, in colleges and universities not only across the United States but also in several other countries, to share faith in small communities. Your generous responses to Sister Terry's letter have helped pilot two highly requested projects.

Your donation has underwritten a "One-Visit" version of *Campus RENEW*. Some campuses are not able to absorb the costs of the full four-season process, so we have devised a nine-hour workshop which covers the entire pastoral process.

Thereafter it is the Campus pastoral staff who provide the ongoing on-site support, but with telephone



and internet pastoring from the RENEW International Campus team.

We were contacted recently by high school pastoral staff asking if something similar to *Word on Campus* but suitably adapted for the younger age

group could be made available. This request arose out of *Campus RENEW* participants and campus ministers sharing their experiences with the *Campus RENEW* process while visiting high schools. Thanks to your support, we have been able to send *Campus RENEW* materials to a number of interested high schools, so that the students themselves can suggest changes that would better meet their needs. Ultimately, we hope this will lead to a pastoral process in high schools and parish youth ministry settings.

We thank you for your prayers and generosity. With your support, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of these young adults.

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of RENEW International,

What does “mission” mean nowadays?

For Catholics in the United States mission has more often meant pastoral outreach to Catholics who are less well-off than ourselves. In practice this has meant to Third World countries—and, of course—we still need to do that today. It also means reaching out to areas of the United States where the Church is impoverished, both in terms of personnel and financial resources. We are proud to say that RENEW International is active in mission work in both the United States and overseas (as you can see from the feature on Burundi on page 2).

RENEW International is currently working with ten U.S. mission dioceses, including some in Mississippi, Tennessee, and North Dakota. Typically this means working with small faith-sharing groups in small towns and on Indian reservations.

In many of these areas, Catholics represent at most five percent of the population. A parish may have no more than twenty families. It is not uncommon for three parishes—even large ones—to share one priest. In circumstances like these, the faith-sharing groups we promote and support are vital to sustaining and nourishing the faith of ordinary Catholics.

The bishops and people of these dioceses welcome the resources that we are able to offer, and in particular the four-year *Why Catholic? Journey through the Catechism* process (also offered in Spanish as *¿Por qué ser católico?*). This is because precisely where the Catholic Church is poorest in terms of revenue and personnel, other churches seem to be better off. Young people are attracted by the so-called “mega-churches.” Latinos seem particularly susceptible to the often aggressive



Why Catholic? and *¿Por qué ser católico?*
faith-sharing in Madisonville, Tennessee

proselytizing by some of the evangelical churches. Those who remain know all too well they form a tiny minority in a surrounding culture often engrained with prejudice against Catholicism.

If we were left to ourselves, and saw priests but rarely, how would we fare? With faith-sharing groups, people are no longer alone; they have the regular sharing, based on Scripture, and the opportunity to grow in both knowledge and appreciation of the Catholic tradition to which they belong.

A participant in rural Alabama said recently:

// Before *Why Catholic?* I shied away from religious questions. Now by learning more about the richness and traditions of my Catholic faith, I share faith more confidently.”

Your gifts make the continuation of our work in home mission areas possible. Would you consider sponsoring a poor parish? We welcome any help you are able to offer us in this so necessary outreach to strengthen our brothers and sisters in the practice of their faith.

Gratefully,

Sister Theresa Rickard, O.P.
Executive Director



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Save these Dates!

Annual Fundraising Dinner
June 4, 2009

Pleasantdale Chateau, West Orange, NJ



Annual Golf Classic
September 17, 2009

Fiddler's Elbow CC, Bedminster, NJ



For more information about either event, please visit our website:
www.renewintl.org

To make a gift to RENEW International, please go to:
www.renewintl.org and visit "Get Involved"

If you have remembered RENEW International in your will, thank you.
If you would like to consider doing so,
please contact our Executive Director, Sr. Terry Rickard, O.P.,
at 908-769-5400 ext 160, or terryr@renewintl.org

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