

Since 1978 RENEW International has fostered one of the fastest growing Christian spiritual renewal efforts in the world.

The RENEW process brings new life to all aspects of parish communities.

Outstanding results have been achieved in over 270 dioceses in 24 countries around the world.

Our Mission Statement

RENEW International fosters spiritual renewal in the Catholic tradition by empowering individuals and communities to encounter God in everyday life, deepen and share faith, and connect faith with action.



RENEW International
1232 George Street • Plainfield, NJ 07062, USA
Phone: 1-908-769-5400 • Fax: 1-908-769-5660
www.renewafrica.org

Please direct inquiries to MarieC@renewintl.org

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what Church leaders in Africa are saying

Alleluia! We already sense how *RENEW Africa* is beginning to RENEW every community in our diocese. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Right Reverend Michael Coleman
Bishop of Port Elizabeth, South Africa

The focus on Jesus as a person, rather than upon abstract principles, is a powerful way of bringing the group to personal conversion and renewal. Together with the sharing and the very moving stories, most of which are African, this down to earth approach will ensure that the appeal of the meetings will be to the heart rather than only to the head. The *RENEW Africa* Team is to be congratulated on this singular achievement.

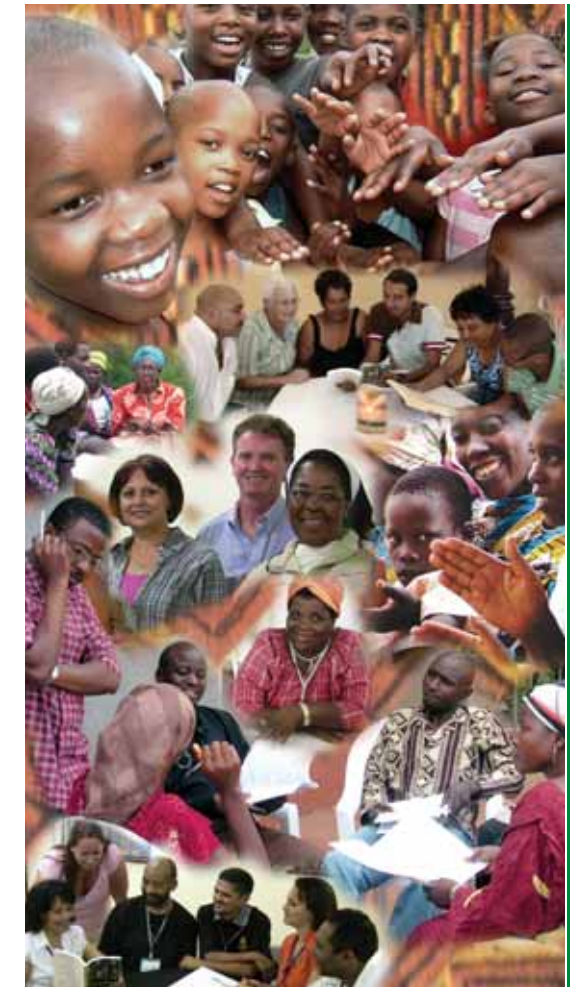
Reverend Albert Nolan, OP
South African Theologian and Author

We see that our people in parishes are leaders, but they are capable of much more. Without RENEW we wouldn't be able to give our people the tools they need to reach out with biblically oriented actions. We look to RENEW to show the trends in the Church and how to address the problems of the times, especially in the areas of social justice, and to exercise responsible social action.

Most Reverend John Moore
Bishop of Bauchi, Nigeria

I cannot think of another pastoral or spiritual initiative which has been welcomed with such enthusiasm by the people and which has had so great an impact on our all parishioners. Believe me when I say RENEW has been the best pastoral plan in my diocese in twenty years.

Most Reverend Paul Verdzekov
Archbishop of Bamenda, Cameroon



a parish-centered process for spiritual renewal

RENEW Africa: Gathered as God's Family is a spiritual renewal process that establishes and strengthens small Christian communities. Members develop a closer relationship with Christ, grow in community, and reach out in service to others.

Goals of the RENEW Africa process:

- Teaching and witnessing to the Word of God in Sacred Scripture
- Developing vibrant communities of faith and service
- Providing a concrete and practical means of evangelization
- Contributing to the establishment and growth of a self-sustaining Church



What does the spiritual journey offered by RENEW Africa look like?

The spiritual path laid out by the *RENEW Africa* process begins with a period of formation for diocesan and parish leaders. The process then guides the participants through five distinct periods of time (called Seasons) each of which lasts six weeks. Each Season engages the entire parish in a basic gospel theme:

- Season I Fall Meet Christ Today**
- Season II Lent Healing the Body of Christ**
- Season III Fall We are Church!**
- Season IV Lent Sharing the Good News**
- Season V Fall The Church in Africa Today**

RENEW International provides comprehensive training for Diocesan Core Communities, Parish Core Communities, Liturgy Planning Teams, and Small Community Leaders. RENEW International staff provides ongoing pastoral support and service for all phases of the process.

How do parishioners experience these weekly themes?

Parishioners experience these weekly themes in several ways, primarily:

- Small Christian communities that meet in homes and other locations throughout the parish during the course of the week
- Family and individual prayer
- Parish Mission

Who participates in the RENEW Africa process?

The *RENEW Africa* process provides spiritual formation for everybody in the parish. The process uses a pastoral theology suited for parish life today.



How do families get involved?

RENEW Africa will strengthen family life as members participate in small Christian communities, liturgies, gatherings, and other activities.

What is the role of the parish priest in the RENEW Africa process?



This process works under the spiritual leadership of the parish priest. In collaboration with the priest, the practical implementation of the *RENEW Africa* process is carried out by the Parish Core Community which is well trained for its role.

How does the RENEW Africa process relate to justice?

The *RENEW Africa* process applies the spiritual standards of Christ to all areas of life. It emphasizes living in just relationships with one another and making concrete applications of the Gospel to life situations.

The *RENEW Africa* process challenges people not only to be of service to the poor and needy, but also to address the underlying causes of injustice.

What happens after the five seasons?

During the Seasons of the *RENEW Africa* process, parish life is renewed, and the faith of the members is strengthened. After the *RENEW Africa* process, small Christian communities continue to grow and develop, becoming evangelizing communities.

To assist with this process of spiritual development, RENEW International has developed a variety of small Christian community materials. These may be utilized between the Seasons of the *RENEW Africa* process as well as after it. *PRAYERTIME, Cycles A, B, & C: Faith-Sharing Reflections on the Sunday Gospels*, a lectionary-based resource, is available through the Diocesan Pastoral Development Office.

The *RENEW Africa* process will offer all trainings in English, Afrikaans, Xhosa, and other languages as needed.

