

## LENTEN MINI-MISSION

*“Be doers of the Word, not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” James 1:22*

SESSION	SPEAKER	TALK ORIGINALLY GIVEN AT
1. A World in Danger: Fatima’s Urgent Message	Dr. Ralph Martin	Lift Jesus Higher Rally, Toronto, CA
2. Mercy in the Midst of Trials	Johnnette Benkovitch	The Gathering, Ann Arbor, MI
3. Hope in a Time of War	Sr. Ann Shields, SGL	John Bosco Conference, Franciscan University, OH
4. Prayer: The Best Kept Secret	Sr. Mary Gabriel, Sisters of Life	FOCUS Leadership Summit, Dallas, TX
5. The Virgin Mary Appears to a Jewish Harvard Professor	Roy Schoeman	Eucharistic Convention, Auckland, NZ

### SPEAKER BIOS:

#### **Dr. Ralph Martin:**

Ralph Martin is the president of Renewal Ministries ([www.renewalministries.net](http://www.renewalministries.net)), an organization devoted to Catholic renewal and evangelization. Renewal Ministries is the sponsor of *The Choices We Face*, a widely viewed weekly Catholic television and radio program distributed throughout the world, and engages in a wide variety of mission work in more than thirty countries.

Ralph also is the director of Graduate Theology Programs in Evangelization and a professor of theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in the Archdiocese of Detroit ([www.shms.edu](http://www.shms.edu)). He holds a doctorate in theology from the Angelicum University in Rome.

Pope Benedict XVI appointed Ralph as a consultor to the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization, and he continues to serve in this capacity. Ralph also was appointed as a theological expert for the Synod on the New Evangelization.

He is the author of the widely read *The Fulfillment of All Desire: A Guidebook for the Journey to God Based on the Wisdom of the Saints*, and many books on spirituality and evangelization, such as *Will Many Be Saved? What Vatican II Actually Teaches and Its Implications for the New Evangelization*, and *The Urgency of the New Evangelization*, as well as many articles in scholarly and popular publications.

Ralph and his wife, Anne, reside in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and have six children and seventeen grandchildren.

#### **Johnnette Benkovitch:**

Johnnette S. Benkovic is Founder and President of Women of Grace®, a Catholic apostolate for women. She is also Founder and President of Living His Life Abundantly® International, Inc. After years of being a non-practicing Catholic, in 1981 Johnnette experienced a deep conversion back to her Catholic faith. Her conversion sparked a new vocation: that is, one of sharing the Gospel message through the utilization of media. She has been an inspiring and consistent presence on Catholic radio (1987) and in Catholic television (1988) ever since.

On the personal side, Johnnette lost her son Simon in a tragic vehicular accident, just after he returned from Iraq as a decorated soldier. Soon after Simon’s death, she lost her beloved husband of more than thirty three years, Anthony, to terminal brain cancer. Through these tragedies, Johnnette was strengthened by her faith,

family, friends and the prayers of the many wonderful supporters of Living His Life Abundantly® and Women of Grace®. Family life is very important to her. She enjoys time with her daughters, grandchildren, extended family and friends.

**Sr. Ann Shields. SGL:**

Sr. Ann Shields, S.G.L., is an internationally noted conference and retreat speaker, and the author of numerous books on Catholic spirituality, including *Deeper Conversion*, *To Be Like Jesus*, and *More of the Holy Spirit*. She currently hosts the popular daily radio program *Food for the Journey*.

She is part of Renewal Ministries' leadership team and a member of The Servants of God's Love, a charismatic religious community established in the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan.

Sr. Ann was awarded the Benemerenti Medal by Pope Benedict XVI in September of 2012 for service to the Church. She also is a recipient of the Aggiornamento Award, given by the Catholic Library Association in recognition of outstanding contribution through her books and articles for the renewal of parish and community life.

**Sr. Mary Gabriel, Sisters of Life:**

Sister Mary Gabriel is a member of the Sisters of Life ([www.sistersoflife.org](http://www.sistersoflife.org)), a New York based community of consecrated women religious dedicated to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life. The Sisters have missions in New York, Connecticut and Toronto, Canada through which they bring the liberating message of the Gospel of Life, the beauty of human love and the mercy of Christ to those they serve. The Sisters accompany pregnant women in need, some of whom live with the Sisters; walk with those healing after an abortion experience; and host retreats on the spiritual life to all women and men. Sr. Mary Gabriel is originally from Long Island, NY and has been a member of the Sisters of Life since 1999. She currently serves as Novice Director for the community.

**Roy Schoeman:**

The author, Roy Schoeman, was born in a suburb of New York City of "Conservative" Jewish parents who had fled Nazi Germany. His Jewish education and formation was received under some of the most prominent Rabbis in contemporary American Jewry, including Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, probably the foremost Conservative Rabbi in the U.S. and his hometown Rabbi growing up; Rabbi Arthur Green, later the head of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College who was his religion teacher and mentor during high school and early college; and Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, a prominent Hasidic Rabbi with whom he lived in Israel for several months. His secular education included a B.Sc. from M.I.T. and an M.B.A. magna cum laude from Harvard Business School. Midway through a career of teaching and consulting (he had been appointed to the faculty of the Harvard Business School) he experienced an unexpected and instantaneous conversion to Christianity which led to a dramatic refocus of his activities. Since then he has pursued theological studies at several seminaries, helped produce and host a Catholic Television talk show, and edited and written for several Catholic books and reviews.