

LENTEN MINI-MISSION

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

SESSION	SPEAKER	TALK ORIGINALLY GIVEN AT
1. It's Time to Grow Up	Fr. John Riccardo	Id916 Meeting, 2019
2. The Final Confrontation	Dr. Ralph Martin	The Gathering, 2018
3. An Abortion Survivors Story	Abbey Johnson Gianna Jessa	Fox News Interview, 2019 House of Commons, Victoria, AU, 2008
4. It all Begins with Prayer	Fr. Augustine Torres Jim Cavezal	SLS Conference 2020 SLS Conference 2019
5. On Mission	Christy Dupuis	New Evangelization Summit, Ottawa, CN, 2018
6. Living with an Eternal Perspective	Ken Yasinski	New Evangelization Summit, Ottawa, CN, 2015

SPEAKER BIOS:

Fr. John Riccardo:

Fr. John Riccardo was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit in 1996. After working for several years in the professional world, he entered the seminary to begin studies for the priesthood. He studied philosophy at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, studied theology at the Gregorian University in Rome and received a Sacred License in Theology (S.T.L.) from The Pope John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family.

Since 2007, Fr. John has served as pastor at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth, Michigan. He is an expert on John Paul II's Theology of the Body and a very popular speaker and teacher at pro-life and church events.

Dr. Ralph Martin:

Ralph Martin is the president of Renewal Ministries (www.renewalministries.net), an organization devoted to Catholic renewal and evangelization. Renewal Ministries is the sponsor of *The Choices We Face*, the longest running Catholic TV program, and engages in a wide variety of mission work in more than thirty countries. He 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) and 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, and was also appointed as a theological expert for the Synod on the New Evangelization.

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

Abby Johnson

Abby Johnson has always been fiercely determined to help women in need. This desire is what led Abby to a career with Planned Parenthood, our nation's largest abortion provider, and caused her to flee the organization, becoming an outspoken advocate for the pro-life movement.

Today, Abby travels across the globe sharing her story, educating the public on pro-life issues, advocating for the unborn, and reaching out to abortion clinic staff who still work in the industry. To date, this ministry has helped over 430 workers leave the abortion industry. Abby lives in Texas with her husband and seven precious children.

Gianna Jessen

Gianna was intended to die before she was born, just another of the 1.2 million abortions each year in the United States. At 7 ½ months, she was bathed in a burning saline solution. Two months premature and weighing just two and a half pounds, she spent her first couple of months in a hospital. Eventually, she entered the foster care system.

The failed abortion also provided the "gift" of cerebral palsy, as she calls it: "It allows me to really depend on Jesus for everything." Halls of government have yielded floor time to hear her story, and modern communications have taken her story where she herself cannot go, including China, via the internet. "I'm invading the culture as an unconventional woman, just being me," she says. "I am honest, with myself and with Jesus. To the point where one might mistake my honesty for irreverence. But I would rather risk that and give Him my truest self than live life thinly veiled. I find most of

are very funny indeed. I would say I laugh most of the time and cry at other times. But the crying is merely sowing seeds of joy for the future. My goal is to live the impossible since nothing is impossible for God.”

Fr. Augustine Torres, C.F.R.

Originally from South Texas, Fr. Agustino Torres, C.F.R. has been working in active ministry within the Church mostly with youth, the poor and the pro-life movement. He entered the Franciscan friars of the renewal in 1999 and now serves as a member of the general counsel for his community. He studied Pope St. John Paul II's theology of culture under Avery Cardinal Dulles and graduated from St. Joseph Seminary. He has been a part of founding various apostolates around the world, including a chapel-building project in the mountains of Central America, Catholic Underground in NYC and St. Anthony's Shelter in the Bronx. He is the founder of Corazon Puro and Latinos Por la Vida, organizations dedicated to awakening and accompanying young leaders in areas of great need, along with Casa Guadalupe and JPPII houses of discernment. He hosts the EWTN Español television show “Clic con Corazon Puro” and a new show called “ICONS.”

Jim Caviezel

Jim Caviezel is an American actor best known for playing Jesus Christ in the 2004 Mel Gibson's controversial movie, 'The Passion of the Christ'. His other notable works include 'Bobby Jones: Stroke of Genius', 'Frequency', 'The Count of Monte Cristo', 'Angel Eyes', 'Déjà Vu' and 'The Thin Red Line'. Jim has also been part of a few TV series such as 'The Wonder Years', 'Murder, She Wrote' and 'Person of Interest'. Besides being an actor, he is also an occasional car racer. Jim's fantastic ability to play a variety of characters, especially the ones that undergo extreme pain and torture, had once led to his acting coach John Kirby addressing him as a spiritual center. As an actor, Caviezel also received press coverage for his refusal to do certain kinds of nude scenes out of respect for his wife and Roman Catholic faith.

Christy Dupuis

Christy says, “Growing up in a small prairie town, I thought I had it all, but if someone had asked me why I was Catholic I wouldn't have been able to respond.” At University she fell away from the faith. One night, coming home from a bar, she thought, “Is this really as good as it gets?” Her family finally convinced her to go on a retreat, where a team member said to her: “Did you know, if you were the only person standing before the Cross at Calvary, Jesus still would have died just for you.” She says, “I had no idea!” Experiencing Eucharistic Adoration for the first time, she somehow knew Jesus was before her in the monstrance and thought, “You have given everything to me, how can I not give everything back to you.” Back at University she became a CCO (Catholic Christian Outreach) campus missionary. On her first CCO parish mission, a woman in her 60's said to her: “I've attended Mass my whole life. Why didn't I know how much Jesus loves me? This changes everything.” This reaction in many parishes that summer convinced her of the great need for missionaries right here at home. She states, “I believe that parishes are meant to be hubs of evangelical activity; communities that support, inspire, and build up disciples and send them out to be missionary in every area of the world.” Christy and her husband have 4 children and live in Martensville, SK.

Ken Yasinski

Ken Yasinski has been speaking full time for 20 years within the Catholic Church. He is the founder of Face to Face Ministries, a Lighthouse Catholic Media Speaker, author, and songwriter. Ken grew up in a strong Catholic home in St. Walburg, SK, then moved to Saskatoon to attend the University of Saskatchewan. It was there, at the age of 19, that he had a renewal of his Catholic faith and his desire to share Christ grew. After obtaining a 4-year B.A. in Psychology and a 3-year certificate in Religious studies, he was hired as a youth minister for six different parishes in the diocese of Prince Albert. After two years of starting up these programs, calls began to flood in requesting Ken to speak and lead various events. By 2002 he was on the road every second weekend speaking and leading people in worship before the blessed sacrament through musical Eucharistic adoration. Ken currently speaks regularly for parish missions, conferences, and retreats across Canada and internationally. His passion for the faith, fidelity to the Church, and his ability to communicate with clarity, inspires Catholics to an extra-ordinary life in Christ. At the core of every message, he challenges people to realize their full potential in life – to be a saint. Ken is also a busy husband currently residing in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada with his wife Janelle, and their five children.