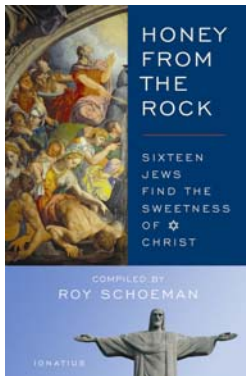


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Christine Valentine-Owsik  
Valentine Communications  
For: Ignatius Press  
215-230-8095  
[valencom@aol.com](mailto:valencom@aol.com)



## **16 Jewish converts to Catholicism describe their incredible journeys**

SAN FRANCISCO, April 6, 2007 – Some are famous – others more obscure – but all have one thing in common and describe it in this new book: a singular account of the unique, life-changing transformation that led each of these contemporary Jews into the Catholic Church.

*Honey From The Rock: Sixteen Jews Find the Sweetness of Christ* (Ignatius Press) is newly released book by the best-selling author of *Salvation Is From The Jews* (Ignatius), Roy Schoeman, also a Jewish convert to Catholicism.

“When I would tell my conversion story after the release of my first book, I saw the often profound effects it had,” says Schoeman. “It reinforced the faith of Catholics, or in some cases, helped bring them back to the Church. It also helped change their attitudes about the relationship between Jews and the Catholic Church, and on the evangelization of Jews.”

Yet, Schoeman knew of other Jews whose conversion accounts he considers much more astounding than his own.

In the 300-page book, Schoeman chronicles their stunning stories for the world – not because they are spectacular on their own merit, but to show “how fervently Jesus wants to bring home the wandering sheep from their own flock, and the extraordinary lengths to which He is willing to do so.” (“Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” were Jesus’ words (Matthew 10).

“Is my story more impressive than that of the Jewish middle manager at IBM, who was ‘zoomed up from his office to Heaven for a short visit,’ and returned – hair

A Division of Guadalupe Associates, Inc.

Editorial: 2515 McAllister Street • San Francisco, California 94118 • (415) 387-2324 • Fax (415) 387-0896  
Distribution: P.O. Box 1339 • Fort Collins, Colorado 80522 • (970) 221-3920

standing on-end – knowing that Jesus was in fact the Jewish Messiah?” says Schoeman. Of course it is not, he says.

“Or that of the rabidly anti-Catholic, wealthy young banker who describes a direct apparition from the Blessed Virgin – upon which he pleaded to be baptized on the spot?” The man called off his wedding and later became a Catholic priest in the Holy Land.

Another account includes that of a formerly depraved, decadent Jewish superstar musician who, despite himself, fell prostrate when the Blessed Sacrament was elevated in its monstrance during Benediction (as he was there directing the choir). Shortly thereafter, he left his stardom to become a Carmelite priest.

Then there’s the story of the Chief Rabbi of Rome who was celebrating the most solemn Jewish liturgy of the year (Yom Kippur) in the synagogue, and had a vision of Jesus calling him. He knew it would be his last time officiating as Rabbi. He and his family became Catholic a short while afterward.

Asked why he would give up the synagogue for the Catholic Church, the Rabbi replied, “But I have not given it up. Christianity is the integration, completion or crown of the Synagogue. For the Synagogue was a promise, and Christianity is the fulfillment of that promise,” he said.

The book details the story of a Hasidic (ultra-orthodox) young Jewish man who had lost his faith in God and was preparing to kill himself, when he stopped in an empty New York City church and experienced Jesus speaking to him from a stained glass window. He was forever transformed.

“In today’s world of soft drinks, sugar and ice cream, we may not appreciate honey the same way as did the Jews of three thousand years ago, who knew nothing else as sweet,” says Schoeman. “May the deep appreciation of the Jews in this book for the ‘honey from the rock’ ... sharpen the taste buds of those who have always lived with the taste of it, so to speak, in their mouths ... And may it inspire those still wandering in the desert to strike the rock, receive the rivers of milk and honey waiting for them, and ‘taste and see the sweetness of the Lord’ (Ps 34:8).”

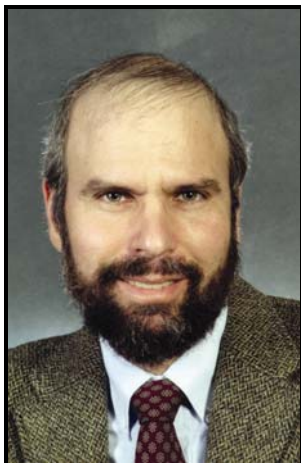
Jews and non-Jews alike need to realize, according to Schoeman, that “in entering the Catholic Church, a Jew is more of a Jew than ever!” He understands the true role of Judaism and is loyal to the Jewish Messiah. “Some very ‘Jewish Jews’ before us entered the Church and felt not less, but more, Jewish as a result.”

Renowned author, speaker, radio and television host, Dr. Alice von Hildebrand, says, “This is a gripping book sketching powerfully the Jewish metaphysical restlessness that nothing can satisfy until they taste Honey from the Divine Rock and recognize in Christ the King of the Jews and the Roman Catholic Church as the fulfillment of Judaism.”

World-recognized Catholic theologian, speaker and author, Dr. Scott Hahn, says, “God’s covenant with Israel was neither revoked nor abolished. It was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, and *Honey From The Rock* is powerful proof of that fulfillment.”

###

San Francisco-based Ignatius Press, founded in 1978, is one of the largest Catholic publishers in the world. Ignatius Press is the primary English-language publisher of Pope Benedict XVI. Dedicated to publishing and distributing information on the Catholic faith, Ignatius Press publishes over 40 books each year (with over 1,800 titles in print). Its author-roster includes some of the foremost names in the Catholic Church. Ignatius Press is also the publisher of *Catholic World Report* and *Homiletic & Pastoral Review* magazines. [www.ignatius.com](http://www.ignatius.com)

**Roy H. Schoeman**

Born 1951, Roy Schoeman grew up studying Judaism under the most prominent Rabbis in American Judaism. He was raised in Englewood, New Jersey (a suburb of New York City), and his parents were German-Jewish Holocaust refugees. His father had left Germany in 1933, when it was still possible; his mother and her family, however, were trapped in France under the German occupation. They later escaped to “Free France,” then to Cuba, and finally to the U.S. Roy’s parents were very active in the local “Conservative” synagogue (“Conservative” is the “middle” of the three major denominations of Judaism in the U.S., less observant than “Orthodox” but more observant than “Reform”). He attended local private secular grammar and high schools, but also a Jewish after-school education program (like Catholic “CCD”) all the way through from first grade until high school graduation.

Roy always had a religious nature and took Judaism very seriously. As a senior in high school, he was exposed for the first time to Hasidic Judaism (ultra-orthodox), and spent three months in the entourage of a Hasidic “mystic charismatic” Rabbi traveling around Israel over the summer after high school. He flirted with the idea of staying in Israel to study Judaism in a “yeshiva” (something between a Jewish seminary and Jewish religious community for young men), but returned to the U.S. and began studying at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree with Honors from MIT in June 1973, with a four-year GPA of 4.7 out of 5 (“A” average).

Immediately after college, Roy worked as a computer scientist, designing computer languages, compilers, and operating systems, for Cambridge Information Systems Laboratory (Cambridge, Mass), Systems Analysis Corp. (Copenhagen, Denmark), and the Department of Defense. From 1974-1976, he served as a special (i.e. part-time) graduate student at M.I.T. in artificial intelligence, holding a 5.0 GPA.

In 1978, he entered the Harvard Business School M.B.A. program, and two years later, received an M.B.A. with “high distinction” (i.e. magna cum laude). Along the way, Roy won a number of

awards including Baker Scholar, Copeland Award finalist (i.e. Marketing Prize), Century Club, and First and Second Year Honors. His completed examination papers were likewise chosen for use as model answers for courses in finance, marketing, managerial economics, and accounting.

He then served as Consultant at Boston Consulting Group, involved in all aspects of major corporate strategy studies for Fortune 100 clients.

From 1981 – 1984, Roy served on the faculty of Harvard Business School to teach the core M.B.A. program marketing course. He received the highest ever first-year teaching ratings, and was named to Board of Directors of two start-up companies. Since 1984, Roy has worked in professional management consulting.

In 1987 Roy had a dramatic and profound "mystical conversion experience" which compelled him to become a Roman Catholic. He became more and more engaged in prayer and religious studies. He spent some time with several religious communities, exploring the possibility of a religious or priestly vocation. He also went on numerous pilgrimages, contributed to and helped edit a few Catholic books, and helped produce and host a local Catholic TV show ("Fatima Today," shown until recently on Boston Catholic TV).



ignatius press

Contact: Christine Valentine-Owsik  
Valentine Communications  
For: Ignatius Press  
215-230-8095  
[valencom@aol.com](mailto:valencom@aol.com)

**Honey From The Rock:  
Sixteen Jews Find the Sweetness of Christ**

**Product Fact Sheet**

**Author:** compiled by Roy Schoeman  
**Release Date:** March 2007  
**Length:** 300 pages  
**Price:** \$16.95  
**ISBN:** 978-1-586-17115-5  
5 ¼ x 8 Sewn Softcover  
**Order:** [www.ignatius.com](http://www.ignatius.com)  
1-800-651-1531

Best-selling author and Jewish convert to Catholicism, Roy Schoeman, here again shows the clear link between Judaism and Catholicism in these inspiring stories of modern-day Jews who became “fulfilled Jews”, as Schoeman says, through their spiritual journey into the Catholic Church.

Schoeman presents their true stories in his usual high-interest, paging-turning style. He puts forth captivating conversion details of a variety of Jews, including some who came from secularized, liberal, or even atheistic backgrounds – while others came from orthodox Judaism. Some were highly skilled professionals, while others were unschooled; some wildly rich and successful – even famous, others down and out.

*Honey From The Rock* reveals sixteen conversion stories – each as unique as the individuals involved – but at the same time, with haunting similarities, according to Schoeman.

###



## Broadcast Interview Questions

For

Roy Schoeman

### *Honey From The Rock*

1. How did you come to write this book about other Jewish converts to Catholicism?
2. And tell us a bit about your own conversion to Catholicism.
3. Were there some Jews whom you know – and of course, you should feel free to keep their identities anonymous – who were reluctant to tell their conversion stories?
4. What were some of the catalysts – as well as the obstacles – that certain of the Jewish converts in your book were affected by along the way?
5. Did their conversions in any way hamper their professions or successes – or perhaps – lead to them?
6. What is the main reason that Jews today might dismiss Christianity or Catholicism – and what can well-meaning converts and/or “cradle Catholics” do to communicate with them?
7. Would you consider doing a sequel to this book with more conversion stories – since you’re sure to hear of more of them once these are circulated?
8. Finally, can you tell us about any interesting developments going on in Israel and the Holy Land regarding Jews and the impact of Christianity on them?