

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

To schedule media interviews, or to request images or review copies, contact:

STEPHANIE A. SIBAL, PUBLICIST

800.282.1865 x206 | sibal.1@nd.edu

Ave Maria Press, Inc., P.O. Box 428 Notre Dame, IN 46556

A Ministry of the United States Province of Holy Cross

GALEA SHARES JOURNEY FROM SCARED TEEN TO RENOWN PRIEST/MUSICIAN/SPEAKER

NOTRE DAME, Ind.—As a teenager, Fr. Rob Galea felt hopeless and disconnected from God. His reaction to those painful feelings was addiction, violence, and destructive friendships. When the recording artist and former Australian *X Factor* contestant finally let God in, his life completely changed. In *Breakthrough*, Galea shares his journey from scared teenager to passionate priest and invites readers to learn more about the Catholic faith so they, too, can find hope in Christ.

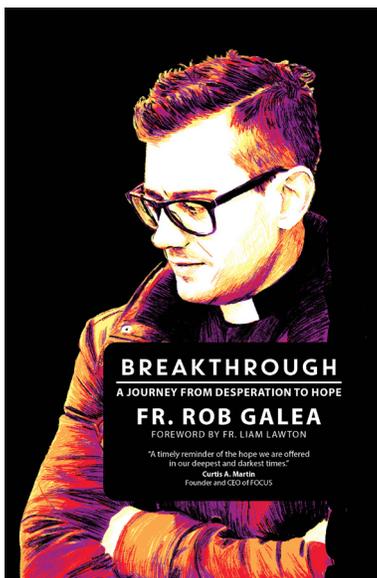
Galea was a lonely, miserable teenager. He wanted to feel like he belonged, so he joined a gang. He went clubbing. He drank. He stole things. He lied. His reckless lifestyle ultimately led him to hide in fear for his life from other gang members. He was so desperate in those days spent in his dark bedroom that he contemplated ending his life.

Then a phone call from his grandmother about a youth group at a nearby church—an invitation not originally intended for him—helped Galea turn his life around. When he finally let God break through his loneliness and fear, he began to experience freedom and God’s unconditional love.

In *Breakthrough*, Galea takes readers on his journey to seminary, the move from his home country of Malta to Australia, and the development of his ministry as a priest, speaker, singer/songwriter, and recording artist. Along the way, he’ll help readers see the life-changing journey of discipleship and how to find hope in the Catholic faith.

Fr. Rob Galea’s ministry reaches more than 200,000 young people a year through the Stronger Youth Program in Australia and through speaking to schools, parishes, and concerts worldwide. While already popular in Australia for his music and outreach ministries, Fr. Rob is a rising star in the United States with an increasing number of events throughout the country, including the Los Angeles Religious Education Conference and the National Catholic Youth Conference.

QR codes in the book give readers access to an exclusive area on Fr. Rob’s website, frobglea.com, with additional content, including music.



Breakthrough

*A Journey from
Desperation to Hope*

By Fr. Rob Galea

ISBN: 978-1-59471-837-3

224 pages • \$15.95

Also available as an eBook.

“Contemporary culture compels approaches to evangelization that are new in ardor, method, and expression. Fr. Rob Galea’s efforts to reach young people with the saving power of the Gospel exemplify all three, and in his new book, he reveals precisely where his zeal for the mission originates—in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who is living, present, and accessible to all people in his Church.”

MOST REV. ROBERT BARRON
Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

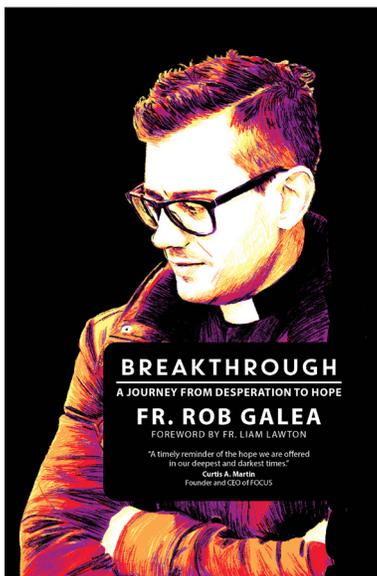
Fr. Rob Galea is a Catholic speaker, recording artist, songwriter, and priest of the Sandhurst Diocese in Victoria, Australia. Originally from Malta, he travels the world speaking to youth and young adults at schools, parishes, concerts, and conferences such as the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress and the National Catholic Youth Conference. He ministers to more than 200,000 young people annually and has an international presence through weekly posts to his popular YouTube channel.



In 2008, Galea cofounded the Stronger Youth Program, one of Victoria's largest Catholic youth movements. He appeared as a contestant on Australia's version of *X Factor* in 2015 and sang the English versions of the official 2008 and 2016 World Youth Day songs. Galea has recorded with renowned artists such as pop idol Guy Sebastian, Paulini, Gary Pinto, Natasha Pinto, Ira Losco, and Amelia Farrugia. He has shared the stage with the likes of Matt Maher, Hillsong United, and Darlene Zschech.

“God loves you more than you could ever know. He knows your joy and fully understands your pain. God is able to take that darkness in your life, that mess, and turn it into a beautiful message, but he can only do that when we hand all things over to him; when we surrender our hearts, lives, burdens, and pain. God created you for joy, freedom, and life.”

Excerpt from *Breakthrough*



Breakthrough
*A Journey from
Desperation to Hope*
By Fr. Rob Galea
ISBN: 978-1-59471-837-3
224 pages • \$15.95
Also available as an eBook.

PRAISE FOR *BREAKTHROUGH*

"In *Breakthrough*, Fr. Rob Galea invites us into his ongoing journey of encountering Christ and shows us how this encounter can be life-changing and fruitful if we open ourselves to the love of Jesus. A timely reminder of the hope we are offered in our deepest and darkest times!"

Curtis A. Martin
Founder and CEO of FOCUS

"Fr. Rob bears his heart and soul in *Breakthrough*. His vulnerability and authenticity are refreshing, his story is encouraging, and his love for the Lord is an inspiration to anyone who seeks Jesus and desires to give their life to him. I enjoyed this book and highly recommend it to anyone, especially young people who want to love the Lord and know where they fit and how God can use them."

Katie Prejean McGrady
Author of *Follow*

"Fr. Rob's book is more than just the journey of a young man to human and spiritual maturity; it is also a blatantly honest, inspiring, and edifying story for any person who seeks to allow God into his or her life. Rob's story reveals what happens when God is allowed to break through our little, personal worlds. It is the story of a dynamic, young, committed Catholic priest, singer and performer, and a testimony to the Mighty One who continues to do great things in the lives of young women and men today."

Rev. Thomas Rosica, C.S.B.
CEO of the Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation

"One of the Church's most effective evangelists and entertainers (and those are by no means mutually exclusive categories), Fr. Rob Galea shares his remarkable life with us in his first book. Along the way, we learn lessons about faith and forgiveness, suffering and hope, laughter and tears. Open these pages to find out why he's one of the most well-known and beloved priests on the world stage today."

Rev. James Martin, S.J.

SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. What is the number one message you want readers to come away with from the book?
2. How did you know that God was speaking to you when you were in your most desperate state?
3. Trust can sometimes be a difficult thing. Are there baby steps readers can take to begin to trust God and those who love them?
4. If someone is feeling hopeless, what can they do to start breaking that cycle?