

VIANNEY DEFENDS THE PRIESTHOOD

Dear Friends in Christ,

VIANNEY, our latest drama currently on a nationwide tour, could not have hit the stage at a better time. In the face of the scandals involving priests, the public's confidence has been shaken. These scandals have been misrepresented in the media to give the impression that this problem is exclusive to Catholic priests, and that it is infecting a majority of priests and our Church at large. You have likely seen the battering the media has delivered upon Pope Benedict XVI himself, especially this past Easter.



It's time we stand up and defend our good and holy priests! We must highlight this spirit of sacrifice and adventure to which they have given their lives!

And VIANNEY does just that. In the ten months since our opening, I've performed for more than 80,000 people, in 145 performances in 22 states – that includes nearly 2,000 priests, over 1,500 seminarians, and 91 bishops and cardinals. It's been exhausting, but at almost every performance, I have witnessed the entire audience rise in standing ovations honoring their priests. Confessions and Adoration often follow the performance, and I venture that many, many souls return

to the sacraments.

Before one performance, my stage manager Joseph and I knelt before the Blessed Sacrament, asking for strength to give it our all one more time, so that, as Jean Vianney said, a "big fish" might be caught for God. As I greeted the audience at the door as they left the performance that night, I was approached by a man, in tears, who said to me, "I have been away from the Church for years, filled with anger and hatred for the Faith, but tonight my heart was softened, and I am reconciled with

God." He passed by me, and I moved on to the next person. Later that night, as I told Joseph his story, he reminded me of our prayer. That humbled, penitent man was the "big fish." All the hard work and travel were suddenly put into perspective; to see a soul brought back to God is a profound experience.

And vocations have been flowing from this work! A few weeks ago I was in Colorado Springs, and Bishop Sheridan attended the performance, as did 14 priests. After the show, as I often do, I encouraged any interested young men to talk to the bishop. Several went up to him, and a 13 year-old boy made an appointment to see him. I see this happening all over the country- youth

on fire for Christ, wanting to make a radical choice to serve the Church. VIANNEY is acting as a catalyst for this longing.

This October we'll celebrate 30 years of bringing live dramas, films and videos on the scriptures and the lives of the saints to audiences all over the world. Thank you for being there – you've no idea how much your confidence means.

I am asking for your prayers and financial support, especially as the summer months are always a challenge to us. Please give what you can so that we can stay afloat and produce new projects. The bottom line is we simply cannot do this without your help. I beg you to especially and regularly pray for our beloved priests and certainly, all future priests of our beloved Church.

God bless you and your family,

Leonardo DeFlippis

P.S. On June 11, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI surprised the world by declaring Saint John Vianney the Patron Saint of All Priests in the World. In celebration, we are planning a performance in Rome as a gift to the Holy Father from the Church in the United States. What an encouragement it will be to our Holy Father at a time when he needs our love and support so much! Please give whatever you can to make this dream happen!



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Thank you! It is because of your generosity and prayers that we have been able to reach more than 80,000 people during this Year for Priests. Here are some specific ways that your donations will help us in the coming year:



BRING VIANNEY TO ROME: (\$30,000) We are planning to bring the performance of VIANNEY, *the newly declared Patron Saint of All Priests*, as a gift to the Holy Father from the people of the U.S. and Canada. Vatican officials have encouraged us that the project is moving through all the proper channels and it looks like this exciting event will happen this fall. We need your help to show the Holy Father that we believe in him and that we love our priests!

NEW LIVE DRAMA TO OPEN AUGUST 2011: (\$100,000) We are starting fundraising now for a new one-woman production that is in the development/scriptwriting stage. More about this exciting new project in the next few months. Please pray for this intention. Sorry to remain mysterious, but trust me, this will be a powerful show that you won't want to miss!



VIANNEY DOCUMENTARY: (\$25,000) A cameraman traveled with Leonardo and Joseph on their Colorado tour, filming all the aspects of tour life and the performance. We'll film some more this summer and, with your support, will have a fascinating documentary on the making of VIANNEY, and the many miracles of the Year for Priests on television by this fall.

FILM STUDIO ACOUSTICS AND LIGHTING: (\$20,000) We are excited to produce new films and television dramas in our own facility. By keeping production in-house, we'll save a fortune in renting expensive studio and editing space. The final completion stage for our professional studio will be acoustical engineering and a lighting grid. We hope to complete this phase in July, so that we can film the VIANNEY documentary for TV!

SPONSOR VIANNEY IN YOUR COMMUNITY: It costs about \$3,250 to bring a performance to your church or theater, when the shipping and travel expenses are spread over several shows in a region. This is a wonderful opportunity to give back to your parish, and a way to show your support for your pastor with the dramatic and inspiring story of the patron saint of priests. And your gift is tax deductible!



SAINT LUKE JOB OPPORTUNITY



TOUR STAGE MANAGER /SOUND ENGINEER/FILM EDITOR

Joseph Holt, who has been traveling with Leonardo, is getting married, and will be settling in Medford, Oregon. We will miss him very much, but this opens up an exciting chance for someone with a love of the Church, a love of theater, a love of sound and film engineering, and a love of travel and people, to tour all over the U.S. (and possibly overseas!) with our VIANNEY drama. When not on tour, there's an opportunity to film, record and edit new projects in our on-site recording studio. If you know of a 22+ young man with an outgoing personality who loves working in film and theater, please pass on this wonderful professional and spiritual opportunity. Have him send a resumé and cover letter to: operations@stlukeproductions.com.

SCHEDULE YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE PERFORMANCE: 1-800-683-2998

A YEAR TO REMEMBER by Francis Defilippis

Last May I graduated from Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, and came home to the exciting project of producing our newest live drama, VIANNEY. Little did I know how God would use my interest in and aptitude for technology to move Saint Luke Productions into the 21st century, poised to produce and distribute new dramas that utilize the media in ground-breaking ways. Let me share with you some of the amazing technological innovations that I have been a part of during my year with Saint Luke.



June 2009

My dad came up with the brilliant idea of using projected images in his new VIANNEY drama. I was able to find a projector which sits one foot behind the set, and projects a 6' X 8' image. Then we designed a set that accommodated the machine and the screen.

July 2009

July was spent filming, building the set, and rehearsing the production which incorporated video. I had a crash course in film, sound recording and editing in our on-site recording studio. What an exciting accomplishment to see it all coming together!

August 2009

VIANNEY opened in Houston and all my technological experiments were put to the test. By the grace of God, the multimedia effect was a complete success! The audience loved the interaction between the actor on the stage and the cast of actors on the screen.

*September -
October 2009*

I finally began work on producing the VIANNEY complete audio performance. For this I not only had to record the CD, but to design the packaging as well!

*November
2009*

Big changes in the office – Now that the show was on the road, I launched into building the office infrastructure. We wanted to centralize all information for greater efficiency, organization and productivity. The first step was to purchase a massive new server, or central computer, where all the information in the office would be consolidated into a simple filing system.

December 2009

We then began an overhaul of our accounting department, switching to a new program, and creating a more reliable system of checks and balances to ensure financial accountability to our donors.

January 2010

We sell DVDs, books, CDs and icons at our performances and on our webstore. The tracking of this inventory has been a nightmare, and so we instituted a new point of sale system, using barcodes and a mobile scanner, which makes sales at performance so much easier and accurate. This has been a godsend!

*February -
March 2010*

I began building a database system which would make the tour scheduling and publicity a lot easier, so that contact with our sponsors would run smoothly and their publicity materials could be produced quickly. This has been a big project!

April 2010

Our website went live with a new content management system, which allows anyone in the office, not just a computer programmer, to make changes and add content to the site. Take a look at www.stlukeproductions.com – I think you'll enjoy all the new features!

I am very proud of what we have accomplished this year. While my dad was out on the road doing 145 performances for 80,000 people, the rest of us here in the office have been doing hidden work that might not seem exciting to audiences, but is the backbone of the ministry. I thank God for this opportunity to serve with my talents. I have learned so much, and I pray that I have paved the way for other young, innovative artists and thinkers to join us in this important work.

VISIT OUR UPDATED WEBSITE AT VIANNEYDRAMA.COM

UNWRAPPING GOD'S GIFT



*By Fr. Bob Vaillancourt
Vocation Director ~
Diocese of Portland, Maine*

My journey with Leonardo and Joseph throughout our vast Diocese was

a pure gift for me. I witnessed two men profoundly in love with the Lord and His Church. Their energy and giftedness elated me! Thank you, men of God!

I had the privilege of being on the road with VIANNEY for five nights, witnessing over 1,500 Catholics from the State of Maine in awe of St. John Vianney and his message to the Church. It is clear that this saint has a profound word for the Church today especially through the saint's deep love for the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation. Many priests were in tears realizing the depth of the gift of Priesthood and how the Lord longs to renew His Church THROUGH His Priests.

I am in awe of how the Holy Spirit used VIANNEY to stir the hearts of those present, giving them a renewed respect for priests and a deeper love for the Lord. The play projected how God fiercely and abundantly loves His people and how priests have the power to make that known by his way and example of life, his teaching of the Truth and his love and teaching of the "Real Presence." May we continue to unwrap the gift that God is giving us through Jean-Marie Vianney and the Lord's priests! I pray that all my brother priests will be lured into the mystery of this saint!

MEET GREG STONE

Greg Stone, our new Operations Director, is an engineer with a diverse background in the Forest Products Industry and a passionate love of Our Lord. He is working hard to streamline the Company's operations in order to take on future projects.

What most interests you about working for Saint Luke Productions?

It is such a blessing to start the day in prayer, meditating and reflecting on scripture with my new colleagues. Working side-by-side with people who share my values and faith in Christ is encouraging and inspiring. From a more practical standpoint, combining my career experience and interests with my faith in such a deliberate way is simply amazing.

What is your vision for the future of Saint Luke Productions?

With our own on-site studio we will be producing not just new live dramas, but films, and television and radio programming that will reach people who never enter a church –that's the power

of the media. We are also making huge strides here in improving the efficiency and accountability of our ministry by using technology. This is fascinating to me as an engineer, but what really excites me is that these improved business practices will make us better stewards of the sacrificial donations of our benefactors. We want Saint Luke Productions to be a model of Christian charity in the workplace, so that other artists who long for God will join us in producing new dramatic films, theater and radio that change the lives of everyday people who otherwise would never know the beauty of the Catholic Church. The possibilities are truly only limited by our imaginations.

What was the strongest influence on your faith?

Reflecting back to my childhood, I really owe a great deal of thanks to my mother, who persevered in getting us kids to Mass weekly, despite our complaints. It's truly amazing to look back and realize how much I took the love of God for granted. But all along the way, He was there, and



throughout the years, He has captured my heart with an immense love, and I move forward with a new sense of trust and confidence in the glory of God.

What's next for you?

I am engaged to be married to Karissa Burt (live drama coordinator here at Saint Luke) this December. Our relationship has been a tremendous blessing, as has been the vocational discernment process. We are excited to begin a family and look forward to the Sacramental Grace that comes through marriage as we journey towards Heaven together. Today is the dawn of a new day, and I pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in my work with Saint Luke Productions, my upcoming marriage, and in all that I do.

ORDER ONLINE AT <https://store.stlukeproductions.com>

FAMILY REFLECTIONS by Patti Defilippis

A busy weekend ahead of me, with lots of driving to soccer games, dances, Mass, a baby shower, the grocery store - not to mention filling out forms for college financial aid, writing newsletter articles, cleaning the house, cooking meals, reading stories, talking on the phone to absent husband and adult daughter, defrosting the freezer and ordering pork and lamb from a farming friend, and most important, listening to each person's worries with complete and loving attention. Such is my busy, diverse life as chief happiness provider for my entire brood. Sometimes I don't handle all of this very cheerfully.



me to go forth and be a source of joy to my family. He made me think how much my moods affect those around me. I am reminded of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. Her most important directive to her sisters, and it remains the central charism of her order, was to smile all the day long, through every circumstance. It sounds so simple, but I see that this is the key to my vocation as a mother. If I am tired, if I am stressed, everyone feels it and our home stops being a place of sanctuary, joy and rest. If, on the other hand, I can smile through my troubles, if I can focus on how my mood directs the mood of my family, I can really change the world in some small way. Perhaps I don't feel

that peace interiorly, and I need to limit my activities some so that I don't reach a breaking point. But if I can at least smile, and maybe even laugh, no matter what I am experiencing inside, I am doing my job.

To be a mother is exhausting, but to create a space of peace and security for my family - even if it is a space that is less than clean and ordered, even if the meals are late, and the bedtimes irregular - (one of these days I'll get those things under control) depends on my attitude.

God grant me the grace to smile in the midst of chaos, of turmoil, and of uncertainty. Give me an open heart to listen to those who open up to me, and the words to say that give them hope and trust in Your Mercy and ever-present love.

A priest recently encouraged

LIVE DRAMA NEWS by Karissa Burt

My, how the last ten months have flown by! Since August 2009, we've added new people and all kinds of new technologies to our office, four of our staff members are engaged to be married, and VIANNEY has been all over the U.S! It feels like just yesterday our entire team was down in Houston nervously awaiting the premiere of VIANNEY - after all the attacks from the devil, we had no idea what would happen when 7:30 p.m. rolled around on August 4th. What an overwhelming response the show received that night, and in the 144 performances that followed! People are inspired by the story of this humble pastor of souls. No wonder the Holy Father has declared Saint John Vianney the Patron Saint of All Priests.

Because we've had so many requests, we're extending the VIANNEY tour through Spring 2011. Here is our tentative tour itinerary (besides Rome!):



- California
- Florida
- Alabama
- Georgia
- Wyoming
- Archdiocese of Boston
- Archdiocese of New York
- Archdiocese of Kansas City
- Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph
- Diocese of Cleveland
- Diocese of Pittsburgh
- Archdiocese of Washington
- Archdiocese of Newark
- Diocese of Dallas
- Diocese of Shreveport
- Diocese of Reno
- Diocese of Yakima
- Diocese of Spokane

If you see your region listed (or even if you don't!) make sure you let your pastors, bishops and vocation directors know that you want VIANNEY to come! Or better yet, schedule a performance in your community, and encourage others to do the same. We help you through the whole process and provide you with everything you need to make the performance a success, financially and spiritually. I would love to work with you, so please call 1-800-683-2998, or email me at livedramas@stlukeproductions.com for more information and we'll see where the Good Lord guides us!

VIANNEY TOUR EXTENDED THROUGH SPRING 2011

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

Leonardo did an amazing job capturing the spirit and zeal of St John Vianney...He made him come alive! There were some really powerful lines in the show and the presence of the evil one hit home. We need to be vigilant in our prayer lives and in our closeness to God!

Natalia Fletcher
Office of Priestly Vocations
Archdiocese of Denver

Leonardo Defilippis was remarkable in his portrayal of John Vianney. I have to admit that, at times, tears were running down my cheeks. The acting, and the work of his audio and visual technician, Joseph, produced a show that could best be described as captivating. Many of the scenes stand out in my memory, but John's confrontations with the Devil and his receiving Communion on his death bed are most memorable. I cannot remember a performance that touched me as deeply as this one did.

Msgr. Joe Linster, Pastor
St. Patrick Church, St. Charles, IL



It was so impressive, and I believe many people were touched... It was a special blessing for the college students and myself to get to know Leonardo and Joseph as we helped them set up and tear down the set. I was very amazed at the use of technology, lights, and sound in the performance! Leonardo really has a passion for touching hearts through this performance and it showed in his performance and remarks.

Josh Houde
St John Vianney Parish,
Fort Kent, Maine

Everyone who knows the power of confession and the grace that it brings, will love VIANNEY, the drama, and John Vianney, the saint.

Pat Desideri, St. Charles, IL

The Vianney play was remarkable and a great boost for vocations to the priesthood. As some young man told me afterward, "How could you not think about the priesthood after watching (the play)?"

Fr. Jerry Vincke
Director of Seminarians
Diocese of Lansing, MI

What a truly wonderful, Spirit-filled production! Leonardo brought Saint John Vianney to life!!!...We will do a better job of encouraging and praying for our priests! They are truly gifts!

Belinda Keiter, Columbus, NE,
Archdiocese of Omaha

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Travel day-by-day with Leonardo on tour and get the latest updates on projects, upcoming performances, and behind the scenes adventures. We really appreciate our Facebook friends who pray for us and share in our ministry. Become a fan by clicking the "Like" button. This is a tremendous way that you can help us build awareness of our ministry.

Saint Luke
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