

CELEBRATING OUR 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Dear Friends in Christ,

A young seminarian came up to me recently after one of my performances of *Vianney* and said: “For the past few months, I have been struggling with what God is calling me to do, filled with doubts about my vocation to the priesthood. When I saw your portrayal of John Vianney tonight, I suddenly knew that this was the life for me. I want to give everything I have to save souls, just as he did.”

When I returned to my dressing room, I sat down exhausted but grateful for the moment of grace that I had just experienced. I reflected back on literally hundreds of thousands of little encounters over the years. As the church members

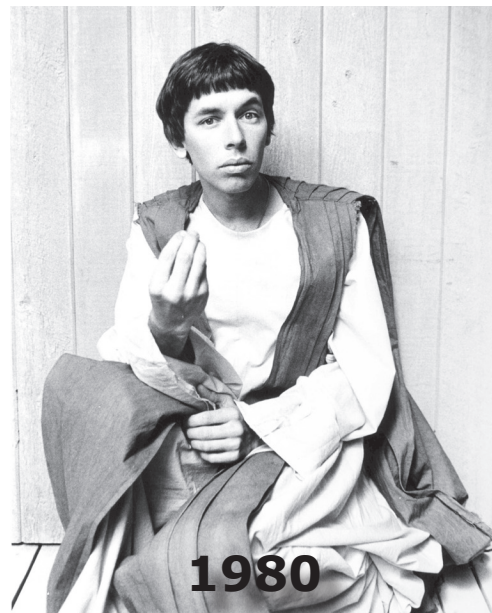
I have had after performances they leave audience

approach me to shake my hand. They tell me how God has touched them through the drama, the suffering they are enduring and their need for prayer, or

of their newfound conviction that God loves them. Then they are gone, and I move on to the next person. So many stories, so many lives touched, and so many people who have touched my life as well, giving me encouragement and setting such wonderful examples of trust in God.

This year Saint Luke Productions celebrates the 30th Anniversary of this ministry to the Church and to our culture. How long ago is that day in 1980 when I stood before an audience of my fellow actors, stage managers and theater technicians at the Oregon Shakespearean Festival in Ashland, Oregon, and performed the First Six Chapters of Saint Luke’s Gospel for the first time. I was petrified! But God gave me the courage to share the Gospel with this most difficult of all audiences, and I have been performing and producing live and film dramas on the Gospels and the lives of the saints ever since. Since that time Saint Luke Productions’ live dramas have reached more than a million people in 48 states and 6 countries. Our feature film *Thérèse* and our video productions have reached countless more in movie theaters and in homes all over the world. We have encountered every kind of obstacle. Each show that we have produced has been an immense risk, but each time God has opened the doors to let His message be heard and seen. God has used so many dedicated artists, musicians, technicians, and office support staff through the years to accomplish all this, and I am grateful to each and every one of them for all they have given to this ministry.

But most of all, I am grateful for the prayers and support of our benefactors. Not only do we rely on your financial help – there have been many miraculous gifts that have kept us going in tough times –



but we rely on your spiritual support. So many times, just when I have been about to despair, I receive a letter that gives me courage. Thank you for your prayers.

I come to you to ask you to make a sacrificial contribution to our new projects. Inside you will read about the exciting things going on at Saint Luke – a new live drama, television and radio projects, a fully functioning film studio, and a new member of our staff, who is on fire with the love of God and the mission of this ministry. Thirty wonderful years have passed; now let us all work together for the entrance into another decade with total trust in God.

All of us here at Saint Luke Productions send our heartfelt prayers for a blessed Christmas to all of you, our dear friends.

God bless you and your family,

Leonardo DeFlijppis

2010



HOW YOU CAN HELP

So many exciting possibilities for the future— all because of the kindness and generosity of people like you. What better way to bring our culture to Christ than through powerful live and film dramas?

MYSTERY DRAMA MOVES FORWARD: (\$100,000) We've made exciting progress with our mystery project, scheduled to open in September 2011. The religious order of the saint we will bring to life has given their enthusiastic endorsement for the drama. However, before we can publicize it, we have to receive approval of the script. We ask for your prayers and financial help so that this script can do justice to the message of this great saint, and production can begin.

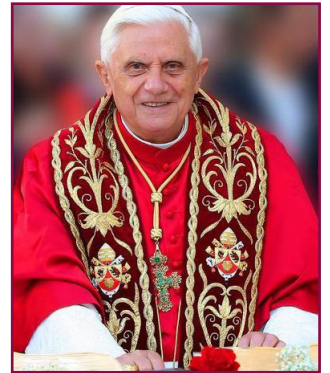


VIANNEY DOCUMENTARY: (\$25,000) The miracle-filled story of God's faithfulness against all obstacles encountered in creating *Vianney*, and the phenomenal response of audiences, will inspire a new trust in Divine Providence in viewers everywhere. Filming and editing many hours of behind-the-scenes footage and interviews has begun in our on-site studio. Help us cover the cost of an editor, camera rental, filming and graphic design.



FILM STUDIO ACOUSTICS AND LIGHTING: (\$5,000 raised, \$15,000 to go) Thanks to the generosity of our benefactors, we're moving forward with a lighting grid and acoustical treatment for our studio, so that we can film new productions. We are counting on your continued support to complete this project. This investment will pay for itself quickly with savings on studio space rental, and will provide a state-of-the-art facility for young, upcoming Christian filmmakers!

BRING VIANNEY TO ROME: (\$30,000) Our plan to bring *Vianney* to the Holy Father has been delayed, but continues to move forward with Vatican support. Everything in God's time, not our own, but we remain dedicated to giving this gift to the Holy Father from the Church in the U.S. Please prayerfully consider making this gift of love possible.



SLP TOUR VAN: (\$20,000) After two major breakdowns in the last 4 months, the Saint Luke Productions van is ready for retirement. Our current van has served us well for the past 12 years and 200,000+ miles (and two transmissions)! We need to replace this van with something more reliable - ideally, a full sized cargo van that can fit the entire set. Please help us travel more miles for the mission!

THÉRÈSE U.S. TELEVISION PREMIERE

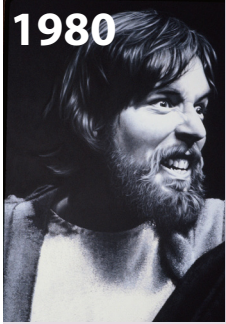
December 8, 2010 - 9 pm EST and 6 pm PST

For the first time on national television comes the story of an ordinary girl with an extraordinary soul. Witness THÉRÈSE, the award-winning, grassroots surprise hit movie that touched the hearts of hundred of thousands of people in its theatrical release. The initial EWTN premiere will include a special appearance by Leonardo on *EWTN Live* immediately before the film. Spread the word so that your family and friends can tune in to this special holiday event. All of Saint Luke Productions' works will begin showing over the next several months, as well as future new programs. This is a very exciting collaboration.

VISIT US ONLINE AT: WWW.STLUKEPRODUCTIONS.COM

HISTORY OF SAINT LUKE The First Decade

1980



Encouragement from a Saint

Benedictine Father Bernard Sander encourages Leonardo to create a religious drama, and Mother Teresa of Calcutta writes to Leonardo inviting him to do something beautiful for God. Thus the one-man show – *The Gift of Peace: The Gospel of Luke* is launched with a tour of Oregon.

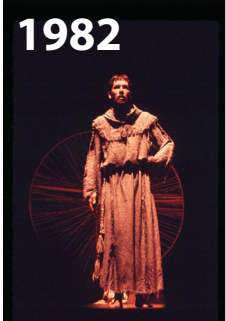
1981



Passion Drama Tours

The second drama, *The Passion According to Luke*, responds to John Paul II's call to "be not afraid to proclaim the truth in the arts. Art must bring man closer to God." The Passion tour expands to the entire West Coast gaining popularity with Catholics and Protestants alike.

1982



Saint Francis Explodes onto the Stage

The third drama, *Saint Francis: Troubadour of God's Peace*, opens for 3,000 people in Portland, Oregon for the 800th anniversary of the birth of Saint Francis. Leonardo lives among the poor on Skid Row to develop the play, and then tours the U.S.

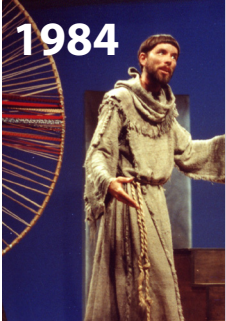
1983



Marriage and Francis Video

Saint Luke Productions creates its first television broadcast, *Saint Francis*. That same summer, Leonardo and Patti marry, forming an artistic team dedicated to redefining religious drama. They will be blessed with seven children, establishing a commitment to family life within the artistic vocation.

1984



California Mission Tour

For the 200th anniversary of Fray Junipero Serra, Saint Francis tours the California Missions. Starting in San Diego and ending in Sonoma, Leonardo and Patti are the first actors to appear at all 21 missions, highlighting the spiritual roots of the state of California.

1985



The Two Lungs of Christianity

As John Paul II opens a serious dialogue with the Orthodox Church, Leonardo answers this call, launching a live production of *The Gospel of John*, in the style of a Byzantine icon. The couple travels with this one-person tour-de-force, with their infant daughter, Clara.

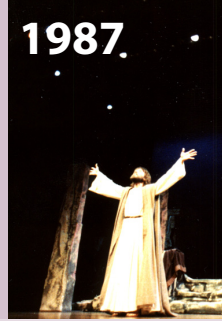
1986



Augustine and the Liturgy

Saint Luke Productions launches a workshop series for lectors, teaching priests, religious, seminarians, and lay readers how to proclaim the Word of God more effectively during the Mass. Leonardo begins work on *The Confessions of Saint Augustine* for the 1600th anniversary of the saint.

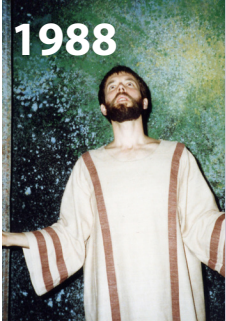
1987



Expanding Horizons

The videos of *The Gift of Peace* and *The Passion According to Luke* are produced, and broadcast as part of the Papal telecast from Universal Studios for an audience of young people. Second child, Francis, is now part of the touring family.

1988



A Restless Heart

The Confessions of Saint Augustine opens in Portland, Oregon and travels around the country with 60 shows, touching 12,000 people. Leonardo is the first to bring this classic work to theater audiences.

1989



Outreach to Eastern Europe

After the fall of the Berlin Wall, John Paul II declares the need to renew and evangelize the former Soviet Empire. In response, Saint Luke Productions broadcasts dramas in Russia, Hungary, the Baltic region and many other Eastern Bloc countries. Baby Mary arrives, and Patti finally stays home.

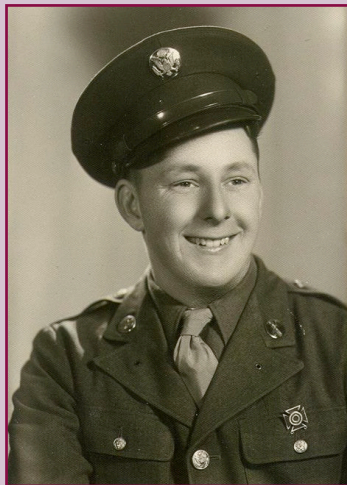
COMING NEXT ISSUE: THE 2ND DECADE

MY FATHER, FRANK DEFILIPPIS 1926-2010

On August 25, 2010, my father, Frank Defilippis, entered into eternal life. Here are my reflections from the eulogy that I gave at his funeral. He was a remarkable man, and my hero.

My Dad loved his garden. In fact, it was his place of solace and refuge his entire life, be it after a long day of work as a meat cutter, or after coaching the countless young people whose lives he touched, and into his sunset years as a place of prayer and reflection. Jesus proclaims that you will know them by their fruit, and indeed Frank Defilippis produced very good fruit in the garden of life.

The first fruits of this garden were to be found in the bosom of his family and childhood. His mother and father, Noni and Pa, as they were so affectionately called, gave him an enduring love and loyalty to family. They lived during the great depression, which is hard for so many of us to comprehend, to fathom the sacrifices that had to be encountered. Pa told the kids: "If you find it on the road, bring it home."



As a boy of just 18 years in October of 1944, he was sent to defend his country from evil on the Pacific front. A soldier in the Army's 77th Infantry Division, he experienced combat in Japan in the famous Battle of Okinawa. Most of his comrades were wiped out. In addition to three amphibious landings in Japan, Frank was pinned down for ten days in a fox hole on the Coral Shore. He met the enemy face-to-face in combat during the day and in the darkness of the night. His stories are not fables, but the reality of war. God protected him for another day.

After the war ended came a great joy in this garden: he was to begin the harvest of his marriage to June Toreson, a city girl from San Francisco, whose trip to the Calistoga County Fair introduced her to Frank Defilippis and his crazy, Italian family. Thus was planted a marriage that was to blossom and last for 59 years. In the flower bed of the family he was a devoted father to every child - all six of them. Through the years, twelve grandchildren arrived, who loved him so much.

The harvest of his years in sports are so well-known and documented not just known locally, but around the nation. The seeds he planted through his years as a coach have been so evident, even during this process of his dying. The parents and athletes have given tribute to him, weeping like children before him as he lay sick. Grown men were overwhelmed with emotion and unable to speak.

Lastly, but most importantly, Frank planted the seeds of faith by his example and love of Christ and His Blessed Mother. He kept an image of the Sacred Heart in his wallet from the time he was in high school. It was with him in every battle in the Pacific. It was with him in his room, placed over his own heart, when he took his last breath.

One night in his final days, as we took turns keeping vigil at his bedside, my wife was saying the Rosary with him and he quietly made the sign of the cross over and over again. He did this during my mother's turn, my sister's, and during my stay with him. Finally my brother Jimmy took his turn, and he continued making the sign of the cross in his sleepy torpor. Then he gently kissed my brother's hand. Here was the harvest of a good gardener. In his very weakness and suffering, he exemplified the reality of what the Church is and should always be –the fruit of love itself.



My father's passing and the fruits of his life push me on to surrender to the one who holds the keys of the kingdom. The *Vianney* drama and our future productions need to reach and inspire every precious soul. I ask you for your prayers for the soul of my father. He was a great man, and will be sorely missed.

ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.STLUKESTORE.COM

FAMILY REFLECTIONS by Patti Defilippis

Suddenly four of my seven children don't live at home anymore, we've sold our big 15-seater van, I drive a Ford Escort, and a two-pound loaf of cheese lasts a whole week in the fridge. This is definitely a new chapter in my life.

Not only is it a new chapter, but a new identity for me as well. I am no longer easily spotted as the mother of a big Catholic family. In

many ways, with my three kids and their multiple outside activities, I have more in common with the moms who have just a

few young ones. Most of them are much younger than me, the consequence of my having had children into my forties. For a

while I was feeling a little self-conscious about this, but as I get used to it, I'm kind of enjoying my new role. For now I move from the harried, in-the-trenches mother, to the experienced (if still harried) mentor. That is the beautiful thing about getting older – hopefully I am learning something. Mostly I am learning humility, because many of the things that I did and

thought were responsible for the goodness of my kids – nursing, homeschooling, sports, music, art – are not, it turns out,

really the point. Those are all good things, and they do bear fruit, but the point, it seems to me, is simply to pray for them and remain faithful to God in my marriage and personal life. God honors all our efforts.

So I find that now I am one of the older, seasoned mothers, and that's just fine. The wonderful thing is that since I have these younger ones still at home, I am able to relate to the younger mothers, and share with them what God has shown me through the years. I loved my wonderful life of full house and chaos, but this new chapter has its purpose too. I pray I can remain present to all of my children, at home and out in the world, lifting them up to God.



MEET DAVID HARRELL

David Harrell, our new touring stage manager and lighting and sound technician, is a graduate of the University of Portland theatre program. He is working hard to bring Vianney to the world.

What drew you to Saint Luke Productions?

The fact that Saint Luke Productions is a viable company rooted firmly in faith and prayer was the biggest draw for me. Since my reconversion to the Catholic faith after college, I have been seeking a career that would allow me to live my faith in a tangible and concrete way. St. Luke Productions proved to be the perfect combination of theatre, my passion and major in college, with my budding faith life. On my first day, I was truly amazed to find that morning prayer begins the day at Saint Luke Productions, setting all of our work in the hands of the Lord and allowing Him to work through us. What a blessing!

What has prepared you most for life on the road?

A constant proximity to faith and growing up in a large family. As one of nine

children, I'm no stranger to the hubbub of activity that I meet every day on the road with *Vianney*. This life can be demanding in many ways—physically, technically, and spiritually. Having lived out my faith in such a large family for so many years, I find it easy to greet the many people I meet, whether they are audience members, volunteers, or just supporters of *Vianney*, as family from the moment of our first encounter.

What has been your favorite part of traveling with *Vianney* so far?

Meeting all of the diverse supporters of *Vianney* and Saint Luke Productions has been my favorite part of my work so far. From priests to seminarians to beautiful laity, I have met so many different faces of the Church, and I have seen how beautifully those faces can work together to bring Christ to the world. Witnessing the dedication and the love of Christ in those I meet inspires me to continue my walk with the Lord in joy and thanksgiving.



What excites you about the future of Saint Luke Productions?

Being a part of a group of young, energetic people makes this work invigorating. I'm most excited about all that I will learn through producing new dramas and finding fresh ways to utilize our newly designed studio, where I hope to have the opportunity to produce film footage for EWTN and other broadcast stations. I look forward to the day when we will all be able to pass on Saint Luke Productions to our children and grandchildren, so the lives of these saints can live on in the heart of the Church.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AT [FACEBOOK.COM/STLUKEPRODUCTIONS](https://www.facebook.com/stlukeproductions)

THE PERFECT GIFT SET



SAINT LUKE PRODUCTIONS DVD GIFT PACK

Get all of Saint Luke Productions' works in one incredible gift pack! Save \$30 by purchasing these DVDs as a full set. Includes: *Saint Francis: Troubadour of God's Peace*, *The Gift of Peace*, *The Passion According to Luke*, *John of the Cross*, *Maximilian: Saint of Auschwitz*, and *Thérèse*.

PRICE: ~~\$95.00~~ \$65.00 + shipping

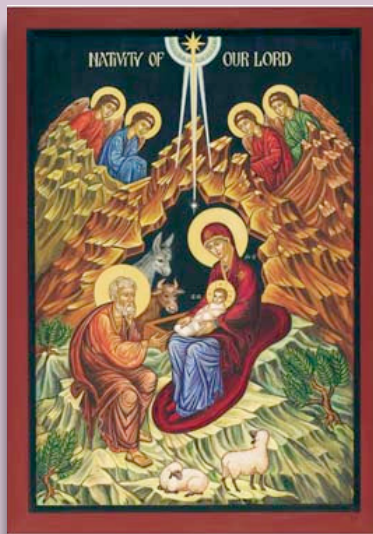
WINDOWS INTO HEAVEN

Icons are God's Word "written" on wood using paint. They are more than pretty pictures, and are often called "Windows into Heaven". When viewed with contemplation, they serve as vehicles that transport us into the spiritual realm. Visit www.stlukestore.com for a complete list of icons by Deborah Anderson.



The Virgin of Vladimir. Inspired by the original Virgin of Vladimir, one of the oldest surviving icons, the artist captures her compassion and grace. 9" x 6"

\$28.00 + shipping



Nativity Icon. A beautiful icon symbolizing God entering into the darkness of this world with the Light of the Christ Child. "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." *John 1:14* 8.5" x 6"

\$25.00 + shipping



Archangel Michael. Although Michael is considered the leading Archangel who fights against evil, this image depicts gentleness, humility and obedience. 10" x 6.5"

\$28.00 + shipping

Saint Luke
PRODUCTIONS

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