# Saint-Cuke Newsletter Fall 2011 - Vol. 21 - No. 2

## **VIANNEY SPEAKS NOW ON DVD**

Dear Friends in Christ,

You did it! Thanks to your prayers and financial sacrifice, we finished *Vianney Speaks*, and it's now available on DVD! I hope you'll order a copy, and I encourage you to watch the program

HE POWERFUL

JOHN VIANNEY

when it premieres on EWTN (also online at www.ewtn.com) this October 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM Eastern and October 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 PM Eastern. I am really excited about how this dramatic presentation turned out and I can't wait to hear what you think.

We could not have done this right here in our own studio if it hadn't been for your donations – you funded the soundproofing of the studio and paid for the beautiful soundtrack. You paid for the green screen that created the authentic backgrounds of 19th

century Ars, France. You paid for the hours of filming, editing, graphic design, and the documentary on the making of

the program.

When you see *Vianney Speaks*, I hope you'll agree that it was worth all the months of sacrifice. The message of John Vianney is so firm, yet so loving, and understanding of human nature. You will journey back into the 1800's to enter into the little church at Ars, and listen to the words that converted so many souls – eventually more than 100,000 people a year were coming to the tiny village to hear Vianney preach. I pray that *Vianney Speaks* will give you new confidence that nothing can separate you from the love of God. He is longing for you.

This is our eighth film/video production, and as I see it completed, I am filled with gratitude for 30 years of God's amazing providential care for Saint Luke Productions. A great number of you have been with us through all these adventures. It has been a remarkable journey filled with

many seemingly insurmountable challenges, and many, many miracles. Perhaps the most obvious is that. in the midst of this crazy lifestyle of touring, film production, and the everpresent administration of a non-profit, Patti and I have been blessed to raise seven beautiful children. We have never been secure, but we have learned to trust in God.

One of these days I'll have to write a book about the many inspiring, unbelievable, and often hilarious experiences we've had.

To celebrate all the wonderful times, and in gratitude to God, we'd like to invite you to our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration this October 18<sup>th</sup> in Vancouver, Washington on the feast day of Saint Luke, our patron. You may be too far away to make it, but if you can come, we'd love to see you and rejoice together at God's generosity.

All these years I have never forgotten that it is through you that this work continues. So I come to you again with some ways that you can help:

• Please purchase copies of the DVD *Vianney Speaks*. This powerful program

will touch your heart, and the hearts of those you love who have lost hope in God's mercy.

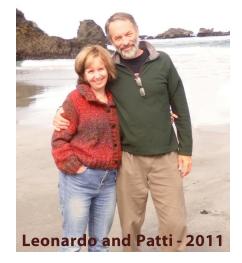
- Please send us a donation in honor of our 30 years of service to the Church in theater and the media. Whatever you send will be greatly appreciated.
- Please share any memories that come to mind of your encounters with Saint Luke Productions on the back of the enclosed card, or at the following website: www.stlukeproductions.com/30Years. Send photos too! This would be a great treasure to me.
- Please pray for us. God can work miracles, and we need them to produce new dramas!

I know that you are concerned about the messages the media is feeding to the younger generation. You can change that message by helping us spread the Gospel through film, theater, television, and radio. God is working through your generosity to bring about beautiful dramas that change lives the little way – one soul at a time.

Please give what you can, and I hope to see you on October 18<sup>th</sup>!

In Christ,

Leonardo Deflippis



## **HOW YOU CAN HELP**



#### BRING SLP FILMS INTO HOMES INSTANTLY!

Did you know that *Thérèse* is now available from NETFLIX instantly on your computer or television? Since going on NETFLIX, more than 34,000 people have viewed the film! Now NETFLIX wants all our other movies. We just need you to fund the process of transferring these films to this



electronic medium. What a great way to evangelize! You can touch thousands of people with the inspiring stories of Maximilian Kolbe, John of the Cross, Saint Francis, and the Gospels. Be the one to bring the saints and scriptures to NETFLIX. Film transfer: \$9,000

#### PURCHASE HD CAMERAS AND LIGHTS:

Those of you who have generously sacrificed for our studio soundproofing and lighting grid have built the foundation to create programs in the future. Now we need your help to purchase two high definition cameras and more lighting equipment so that we can produce more works efficiently, without huge rental fees. There has to be someone who reads this who will be called by the Holy Spirit to help. Bring Christ's message to light in the media. 1 HD camera: \$6,000 1 film lighting instrument: \$500 Lighting Package: \$3,000



# Benedictus Moments Daily Meditations of Pope Benedict XVI Presented by Leonardo Defilippis Today's Meditation: "The Meaning of Christ's Resurrection" Produced by Saint Luke Productions

#### BRING THE POPE'S MESSAGE TO THE WORLD:

"Pope Benedict's reflections are powerful! Very deep, they go right to the soul!

Thank you!" We are continuing to record 365 two-minute readings from the Pope's writings for every day of the year. Each two-minute spot takes numerous people about one hour of record, edit, and add music. That's 365 hours of work for a year of BENEDICTUS MOMENTS! When we have the whole year finished, we'll have a treasure that shares the Pope's message with the entire English-speaking



Listen to the Pope now with your smartphone QR code reader or visit www.stlukeproductions.com

world! Can you sponsor one day of BENEDICTUS MOMENTS?

Cost for producing one radio spot: \$100

#### GET SLP A NEW (USED) VAN:

Our old van has seen better days, and is beginning to cost us more in repairs than it is worth. Can you help SLP get on the road this fall (we're heading for California!) without breakdowns? We need a reliable full-sized van (or cargo truck) to transport our sets and our team to parishes all over the country. We're praying you'll help us arrive safely at each performance location.

Cost of a newer van: \$10,000-\$15,000



#### BE THE ONE TO ORGANIZE A TOUR

That's what an 11 year-old boy said to Leonardo after a recent performance of VIANNEY. It only takes a little spark to light that fire, and the spark is a personal encounter with Saint John Vianney, the patron saint of priests. Bring that spark to your parish community and you'll receive a TRIPLE blessing from your donation: vocations and conversions from the show, helping Saint Luke Productions produce new dramas, AND a tax-deduction for your sponsorship. Call Karissa today at (360) 687-8029 to find out how easy and affordable it is to sponsor a show!



CALL (360) 687-8029 TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR SHOW

# WHAT ONE PERSON CAN DO...



have followed with some interest the success of the VIANNEY production in touching the lives of the people who see it ... I was somehow hoping that maybe if VIANNEY came here, we might see an increase in vocations to the priesthood. My home province is New Brunswick, Canada, and in that province, the shortage of priests has culminated in a crisis situation... I believe a production like VIANNEY could invigorate our communities in encouraging vocations, especially during this period of hostility towards the Church."

That was the first email we ever received from Dr. Sephora Tang. Through the dedication of this remarkable young woman, we launched a tour of Eastern Canada that was one of the most fruitful in our 30 year history.

This was the result of the prayer and sacrifice of one determined person, who really cared about the fate of her Church and began the journey to open Canada to the heart of Saint John Vianney. She was not a person in a leadership role or one who had a lot of influence; it was simply her faith and desire that surprised us all.





Here's what Sephora did: She immediately started to pray and to gather different prayer groups to do the same. She found faithful priests in Ottawa who would back the performance, contacted the vocations director, and then was able to get the Archbishop's attention. The vocations director then contacted the Archdiocese of Toronto, and they got excited. That excitement spread to the London and Pembroke dioceses. In every diocese the vocations directors and the bishops got on board for performances. Not satisfied with just these regions, Sephora inspired Prince Edward Island, the Diocese of Saint John, and the Archdiocese of Moncton in New Brunswick to get behind VIANNEY. A woman there organized a show in Halifax, Nova Scotia for a huge Marian gathering.

The fruits of all this hard work? We watched as young men flocked to the vocation directors, filled with desire to give their lives to God in the priesthood. One seminarian was having doubts about his vocation, worrying that he was unworthy. After meeting John Vianney, who himself was unqualified to lead, he regained his confidence. The Korean community especially touched us with their own stories of martyrdom which make the lives of the saints so real and so modern. The Ukrainians also understood Vianney's suffering, having been subjected to the tortures of communism. A student at the University of Fredericton, who had been immersed in secular philosophy, started asking about the Faith, and he was challenged to see the world through different eyes.





Canada is a really secular place, where the Catholic faith is often ridiculed. VIANNEY challenged many to have the courage to express their faith in Christ and the Church in Canada without embarrassment. Just as in the Early Church, the faithful women did not abandon Jesus or the Apostles, but went out courageously and proclaimed the Resurrection to all, so too did one young woman light a fire that will, I pray, bring a new light to a dark and cold world.

... AND YOU CAN DO IT TOO! Bring this play to your diocese and community and see what John Vianney can do to light that fire of priestly fervor and love among all the faithful.

# HISTORY OF SAINT LUKE The Third Decade and Beyond



#### **Jubilee & First Feature Film**

A national tour of the Gospel According to John is launched to celebrate the 2,000th anniversary of Christ's birth. Our first feature film, Thérèse is filmed during the summer in Oregon, Washington, France, and Italy, miraculously completing production in record time.



#### **Proclaim to All Nations**

We expand our live outreach, with many actors sent out to portray the saints and the life of Christ. Brian Shields portrays St. Francis of Assisi, Mike McNamara and Chuck Huber present the Gospels, Margaret Litschi plays St. Thérèse, and Leonardo performs St. Maximilian.





#### Post-production & Distribution

The editing of the *Thérèse* movie is completed in Culver City and Burbank, California, and is screened at Sony Pictures and Warner Brothers Studios. Luke Films is formed as the first Catholic film company to distribute a major motion picture for theatrical release.



#### John Paul II and Thérèse

Leonardo and Lindsay Younce (Thérèse) travel to Rome for an audience with the Pope, who blesses the film reel. The Propagation of the Faith sponsors a private Vatican screening. Patti and Leonardo are invited to meet the Pope, who watches *Thérèse* in his summer residence.



#### Thérèse in Movie Theaters

The motion picture *Thérèse* premieres in New York City and begins its theatrical release in Regal, AMC, Century, and many other U.S. movie chains. In its first week, *Thérèse* is one of the top ten box office movies in the country. A 20x40 foot poster of Thérèse is displayed in Times Square.



#### Thérèse Fulfills Her Mission

The *Thérèse* movie expands to 300 cities in the U.S. and Canada, including French showings in Quebec and Spanish showings in Mexico. Later, *Thérèse* comes to DVD through Xenon Pictures and becomes one of their top-selling products. SLP wins the Mother Teresa Award in New Mexico.



#### **The Cross and Hard Times**

Thérèse is the Catholic DVD of the year, many conversions occur, and a flurry of stories hit our office. However, SLP feels the effects of six years of production and distribution, and is near collapse. Through the grace of God, perseverance, and hard work, SLP moves forward stronger.



#### **A New Beginning**

After the challenge of movie distribution, SLP moves to its new location across the Columbia River into Washington. We undertake the monumental task of building offices, a studio for live and filmed works, and editing/recording rooms to consolidate all the ministry's resources into one home.



#### **Revival of Live Encounter**

SLP returns to its roots to focus on the live theatrical encounter. Leonardo performs for the largest crowd in SLP history: 3500 at a men's retreat in Detroit. VIANNEY is conceived, and preview scenes are presented during tours of *Maximilian*, *The Gospel According to John*, and *Augustine*.



#### Year of the Priest

Just as Leonardo is writing the new play on John Vianney, the Pope declares the "Year of the Priest" in the saint's honor. VIANNEY premieres in Houston, followed by a national tour, and a performance for the US Catholic Bishops. VIANNEY is the most popular play in SLP history.



#### **VIANNEY'S Impact Expands**

SLP begins its 30th year celebration. The VIANNEY play reaches record numbers, but more importantly, vocations to the priesthood are fostered, priests are renewed, people return to the sacraments, and a new zeal is found in parishes and families. Daughter Lucy plays St. Philomena.



#### Into the Future

The *Vianney Speaks* DVD is completed in our beautiful new studio. SLP moves into the future with innovative media: radio content, instant film downloads, a dynamic web presence, and new live theater. Pray for us as we use modern means to share the excitement of the Christian Faith!

# FAMILY REFLECTIONS by Patti Defilippis

The fall has begun, the older kids are off to college, graduate school and post-college jobs and we are back to our

relatively small family of three children and Leonardo and me. As you might have guessed from my writings these many years in this column, I have homeschooled most of the years that I have been a parent. I love homeschooling, and I still am homeschooling the youngest one three days a week, but the other

two go to high school, and the rhythm of my life continues to change.

What I have realized is that, with a big family, the rules of the game keep changing. I can't hang onto the past. It was so wonderful when they were little and were all under my care. We went everywhere together, we read stories after lunch, did co-op unit studies with other

families, went on field trips and learned together. It was a juggling act for sure, but it was a magical, special time.

Now we are in a different chapter homework. sports, government, student carpools, dances, jogcarwashes, a-thons, jobs and all the kids are so busy that it's a rare night when something isn't going on. I am learning to embrace this new existence, and go with the flow. Both

lifestyles have their good points and bad points, but the important thing, it seems to me, is that we stay united in our faith and that we don't give in on the big issues. It's harder to hold the line with modesty, dating, language, music, and all the temptations of the world. And a little flexibility on the small things is necessary.

What I try to do is to keep listening,

keep respecting their insights, and keep reminding them to think always of the other person's feelings. My kids continue to surprise me with their faith and goodness, and the older they get the more I enjoy their company. I like to talk to my son about the music he likes, and to hear about soccer plays from my 14 year-old daughter. What would I do without my youngest to keep me on time and make sure I have my keys? I am glad to be an encouragement and sounding board over the phone for my adult kids. I want to respect them as individuals, and trust them to make the right decisions. It's hard to let go, but the blessings are great when they share with me.

I guess what I am trying to say is that every chapter is different, and there is no point in mourning the past, or trying to keep things the same. It would be boring, anyway, if nothing ever changed. Thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of today. May I take every turn in the road as a chance to grow in holiness.

#### AUTHOR AND ARTIST MICHAEL O'BRIEN ON *VIANNEY*

One of the great graces which the Holy Spirit gave to the Church during the "Year for Priests" was the play VIANNEY, created and performed by Leonardo Defilippis, the founder of St. Luke Productions. As this drama becomes more widely known, so too the powerful anointing that flows through it continues to touch the souls of priests and laity everywhere it is performed—to date, more than a hundred thousand people have attended the live performances.

The story itself is inherently gripping: the tale of an apparently ungifted young man who is called to the priesthood, but lacks the qualities that are considered essential. He is somewhat slow of wit and has nothing attractive about him. After many trials and delays he is ordained and sent to an obscure, hard-hearted little parish after the French Revolution. With little or no resources

other than his desire to love God and to pastor his hostile flock, he gradually wins souls for Christ, and begins a revolution of faith and love that gathers momentum over the forty years of his ministry. Moreover, the effects of this humble pastor's obedience continue to this day, reaching all around the world, increasing in its fruitfulness.

The story would have been moving in its own right. Yet Defilippis has so embodied the spirit of the saint that the audience soon forgets they are watching a performance. As we are drawn into the unfolding drama, a powerful and particular grace flows. Interestingly, what might have been a distraction, the ingenious use of multimedia for the other characters, succeeds very well. It is flawlessly woven into the live scenes and includes a beautiful musical score by Randall DeBruyn. It is no small task to convey the simplicity of holiness,

divine strength made manifest in weakness. Defilippis's every gesture, every movement of body and face, the pacing, the



choice of dialogue and inflection of voice, works toward the embodiment of a mystery of grace—the invisible incarnated in a living "word."

Bravo! Maximum bravo!

Michael O'Brien is the author of many published novels and essays that deal with the crisis of the family in a secular age. He is also an accomplished painter of religious images. Visit Michael at studiObrien.com to see his beautiful art and to read his insightful essays.



# Join Saint Luke Productions for our 30th Anniversary Celebration

Tuesday, the 18th of October, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. St. Joseph Church - Marian Hall 400 S. Andresen Rd. Vancouver, WA 98661

R.S.V.P. (360) 687-8029 or online at www.stlukeproductions.com/30Years
Dinner is \$25 per person or \$200 for a table of eight.
Priests and religious, please come as our guests.



## **GET YOUR COPY OF VIANNEY SPEAKS ON DVD**

Travel through time to the 19<sup>th</sup> century church of Ars, France, in this dramatic presentation of *Vianney Speaks*, performed by Leonardo Defilippis. Witness firsthand the inspiring sermons and intimate prayers of Saint John Vianney, that vividly illustrate the human frailty, humility and fervor of the patron saint of parish priests.

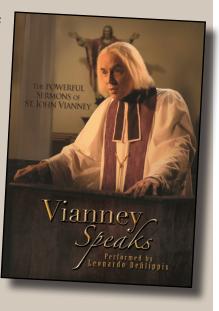
DVD Special Features: Trailer • Meet John Vianney • Making of Vianney Speaks Vianney Movement • Vianney Live Trailer



Watch the trailer now with your smartphone QR code reader or visit www.vianneyspeaks.com



Available now for only \$23 (includes shipping)





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