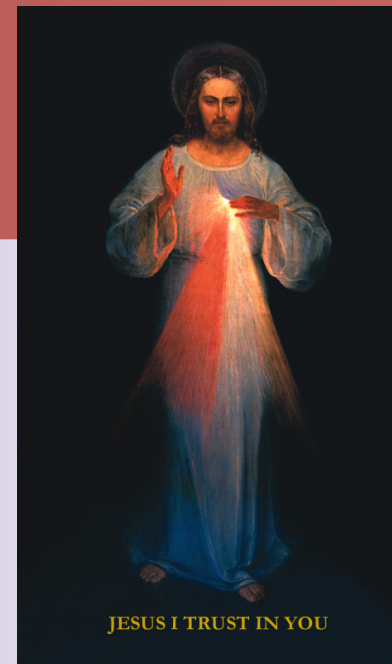


# Saint Luke

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2013  
VOL. 23 - NO. 1



## “I’m done. I want a divorce.”

These were his words as he handed her, the mother of his five children, the papers that would end their marriage.

As they headed for the lawyer’s office, she dashed off a frantic email to my wife Patti and to other friends: “Pray for us!” It looked pretty hopeless. Patti was shocked and dropped everything to draw the children round to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, a short and simple prayer begging God over and over, “For the sake of His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.” I also offered up my performance that night for this desperate situation.

**“I knew there was no chance, no hope, no possible way on earth that this divorce wasn’t going to happen.”**

Imagine our surprise the next morning, on receiving this email:

*“I believe in God....I believe in miracles....I believe in hope.....but nonetheless, yesterday, I knew there was no chance, no hope, no possible way on earth that this divorce wasn’t going to happen. There is no explanation....none, but that your love, prayers and sacrifices moved the Heart of God to pour His Divine Grace upon us once again. This morning, after both of us had already met with divorce attorneys earlier this week, my husband told me he doesn’t want a divorce.”*

There you go. The power of prayer amazes me again.

That’s why I’m driven, I’m compelled, I’m determined to produce a new live drama that spreads this good news:  
FAUSTINA: MESSENGER OF DIVINE MERCY

**“IF YOU DON’T KNOW HER ALREADY, YOU ARE GOING TO LOVE THIS BEAUTIFUL SAINT, FAUSTINA.”**

This is so exciting – a brand new, one-woman show that will bring the message of God’s Mercy to our despairing age. FAUSTINA will open, God willing, this October.

If you don’t know her already, you are going to love this beautiful saint, Faustina. I can’t wait to share her with you in this new show.

This summer, as you might imagine, we’re in heavy-duty production mode. We’ll be completing the script, hiring the actress and an actor to play Christ, recording the musical score, building the set, filming the video component, booking the season of performances, producing all the publicity materials and getting the word out to the media, and most importantly, rehearsing.

I have seen miracles happen – a perfect example is our feature film on Saint Thérèse! All we need to accomplish God’s work is contained in the words, “Jesus, I trust in You.”

I ask for your prayers for this project. You know I need your financial help, too. Can you send \$100 to cover some of the production costs?

Send whatever you can. The world is in a mess, and the answer is God’s Divine Mercy.

In Christ,

*Leonardo Deflijpis*

**SEE LEONARDO TELL THIS STORY IN PERSON**

Scan this code with your smartphone or tablet QR reader, or visit [stlukeproductions.com](http://stlukeproductions.com)



# YOU DID IT!

*Here are some recent accomplishments made possible by YOU!*

## BENEDICTUS MOMENTS



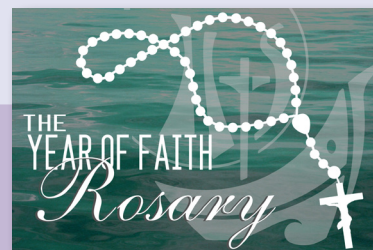
Broadcast on 40 radio networks and stations!



## FAUSTINA

You funded the script research, costumes, and a nationwide talent search!

## YEAR OF FAITH ROSARY



In English and Spanish! Download on our website or receive a free CD with your donation!



## MAXIMILIAN & THE PASSION

Seen live by more than 31,000 people in 15 states!

## MAX MOMENTS

Our new video/audio production in research and development.



**f** **FACEBOOK**  
One post with 14,000 views!

# Thank you!

# NOW YOU CAN MAKE FAUSTINA HAPPEN!

Here's how your donation can help us with production costs:

- Van for touring team: \$20,000
- Projection system: \$10,000
- Set design and construction: \$3,000
- One day of filming: \$1,000
- Sound system elements: \$700
- One day sound recording: \$500
- Lighting instrument: \$450

DONATE SECURELY ONLINE AT [STORE.STLUKEPRODUCTIONS.COM](http://STORE.STLUKEPRODUCTIONS.COM)

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SAINT OF AUSCHWITZ



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*Vianney*



MERCY FOR A  
DESPERATE AGE...

*Faustina*  
messenger of *Divine Mercy*



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2013-2014



# SEARCHING FOR

*Tired of the corruption of Hollywood and Broadway, professional actors jump at the chance to use their talents to serve God.*

# Faustina

Our talent search for that special woman whom God is calling to play Faustina has left no stone unturned. We've contacted theatrical agents, theater companies, all the top drama schools in the country, and every Catholic university with a drama department. We've sent audition emails to our entire e-mail list, and the response has been terrific.

Countless actors and actresses have been uploading their résumés to our website. We provide them with a script online, from the *Diary of Saint Faustina*, and they send us their audition videos electronically. I wish you could see these videos. I am discovering new insights into the saint's character by watching these performances.

Probably the most moving part of this experience is reading the answers to the questions asked of the applicants. What faith! What trust in God! What a hopeful vision of the future of our Church! Here's a quote:

*"There have been times of discouragement and disillusion, being surrounded by a secular industry where modesty and morality are ridiculed, but I've always trusted that the Lord put this particular love for theater on my heart for a reason."*

**"I've always trusted that the Lord put this particular love for theater on my heart for a reason."**

I wish we could hire every one of these faith-filled young people. Now you can help us as we search for A TALENTED YOUNG MAN TO PLAY CHRIST on the screen in our new live production. Do you know someone? Tell him to visit [stlukeproductions.com](http://stlukeproductions.com) and audition!

## PRAYERS FROM THE CROSS by Leonardo Defilippis

*"The pain in my outstretched arms, fixed motionless on our giant wooden cross, was intense."*

I was performing the crucifixion in a Lenten performance of *The Passion According to Saint Luke*, with the two thieves projected on the screen behind me. It had been a long tour, and I was tired. Reaching out my hands, I proclaimed the words of Christ, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Suddenly, something special happened; without my planning it, a swell of names came into my mind, with the urge to pray for

their immortal souls: the dictator of a country, then an abortionist doctor, a dying woman with children who would be left behind, the souls of an actor who died of AIDS, and of a young man who had just committed suicide. Every night after that, at the moment of the Crucifixion in each performance, I waited. The names would come, and I would pray.

God has granted me the tremendous grace of sharing in His sufferings.



What a unique honor it is for me, a mere actor, to be the channel of God's Divine Mercy. Pray for me, that God might continue to use me as His instrument.

**SEE LEONARDO TELL THIS STORY IN PERSON**

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“EAT THIS...”



“...NOT THAT”



by Patti Defilippis

At the beginning of Lent, I was diagnosed with a condition that has forced me to completely alter my diet, giving up almost all grains, starches and sugar. It’s really hard: a roller-coaster ride of emotions, a complication in every outing and especially in travel. But it’s also a spiritual opportunity to detach.

I’m a great one for ambitious Lenten resolutions, which gradually fall apart. It was quite different to actually give something up and stick to it, especially since I couldn’t feast on those things when Easter came. This condition takes two years to cure, so I am thinking of this as a novitiate into a deeper relationship with God. I have no choice but to turn to God for strength in the face of discouragement. I am also learning not to look too far ahead (two years?!) and to take one day at a time. Panic happens whenever I project into the future with anything, so this is a good training ground for my will – controlling the fear of my own inadequacy.

Perseverance is the key for so many things. Even though I blow it every day, I know God can accomplish great things if I just keep moving forward in trust. I have tried to teach this to my kids, and I hope they have the courage to stand firm, especially in their faith, which will face so many challenges and persecutions.

I ask God for courage to do His Will, and to continue to strive for holiness in the little sacrifices of daily life.



## “EXTRAORDINARY EVIL, EXTRAORDINARY GRACE...”

An Interview with  
**FATHER MICHAEL GAITLEY, MIC**

*Why is Divine Mercy so relevant right now in our culture?*

evil. Turn to me. Trust in me. I long to give you a peace that the world cannot give.”

*Were you surprised when Leonardo contacted you about FAUSTINA: MESSENGER OF DIVINE MERCY?*

Yes. When he called, I thought to myself, “It’s the voice of Jesus from the *Gospel of John* CD. Jesus is calling me!” In all seriousness, that actually is how it felt when I spoke with Leonardo, but for a different reason. Even before he finished explaining the project, it seemed completely clear to me that it’s something the Lord desires — and it’s a perfect fit.

*Why do you think the Faustina production will be so powerful?*

People say they know that the mercy of God is infinite, but in their hearts, they’re still convinced that they’re too bad for such mercy, that they’ve committed too many sins. A live drama presentation can become an encounter that breaks open our hearts to let in the tender mercy of God. It has the power to convince us, each one of us individually, on a deeper level, “Jesus loves me” — period. What

will it be like to see Jesus and Faustina on stage as real, living people. What will it be like to be in the same room with them as they look at us and speak to us? I can hardly wait to find out.

*Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, is the director of the Association of Marian Helpers, and the author of the bestselling books, Consoling the Heart of Jesus and 33 Days to Morning Glory, and of the new book, The ‘One Thing’ is Three. When he is not preaching retreats and missions, Fr. Michael lives and works at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass.*



## Our culture is going to pot. Literally!

I just finished giving a talk in Colorado, and that state, along with others, had recently legalized pot. That, for me, was yet another sign of the downward slide of our culture. People may say, “Oh, it’s just pot.” But that’s the thing: We already live in a culture of addiction and bondage to substances and sin. The last thing we need is more drugs!

So many of us are stressed out, anxious, frightened, and depressed. The suicide rate is higher than ever. In some ways, we’re living in a time of unprecedented evil. The good news is that God is not outdone by evil, and that in a time of extraordinary evil, God offers extraordinary grace. (See Rom 5:20.) This good news is the message of Divine Mercy. God wants to tell us, “Be not afraid! My mercy is more powerful than

READ FATHER GAITLEY’S FULL INTERVIEW AT [STLUKEPRODUCTIONS.COM](http://STLUKEPRODUCTIONS.COM)

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"I was absolutely blown away by the *Gospel of John* audio CD. I've probably listened to it a hundred times, and it continues to move me to this day."

-Father Michael Gaitley, MIC

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# What's INSIDE:

- Divorce & Divine Mercy
- Searching for "FAUSTINA"
- Prayers for an **Abortonist** from the Cross
- "Extraordinary Evil, Extraordinary Grace." - an interview with Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC

**...and more!**

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