

# THE WORLD NEEDS HEALING AND FORGIVENESS BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

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In the battle for the soul of our country...

inspire our children to be heroes!



Bring healing to our troubled culture with the story of the first African-American priest, Father Augustus Tolton.

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Faustina

**Vianney** 

Thérèse

Maximilian

**The Passion** 

Evangelize with these powerful dramas.



of Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy

at St. Mark's Church in The Villages, Florida. Little did I know that this performance would heal a painful chapter of my life.

In the darkened church, eyes rested on my beautiful Sister the Faustina (Maria Vargo). The performance was

spectacular, and I was immediately intrigued by Faustina's strength and determination.

Then, on the screen above the stage, a Modern Woman began to relate her story. At that moment my life changed forever. Chills ran through my body, and I started to shake. How could this woman's life parallel mine, and she be forgiven by a merciful God? I did not think that such a thing was possible for me. Here's my story:

In 1968 I married, and by 1974 I had had two daughters and five miscarriages. When my dad suddenly passed away in 1980, I fell into a deep depression. My made hell of addiction as I tried to keep my

denial alive.

"Chills ran through my body and I started to shake. How could woman's this parallel mine, and she be forgiven by a merciful God?"

Three years passed, and I began a rewarding teaching career. But as my slide into addiction and depression continued, I decided to leave my husband and start a new life. Then I found out that I was pregnant again, and

I decided the only way to move on with my life was to have a second abortion. After this life-altering event, I buried my pain and denial in alcohol while maintaining my career as a high-achieving professional.

In 1988, I began to recover from my addiction, fell in love with my husband again, and had raised two very successful daughters. But something was still missing from my life; I needed forgiveness from my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There was a huge hole in my heart - an emptiness in my soul.

After listening to the Modern Woman's story, I finally felt there was hope for me.

"Even if a person's sins were as dark as night, God's mercy is stronger than our misery."

I went to confession and cried my eyes out. I was FORGIVEN. Praise the LORD Jesus Christ! I have been given a treasured opportunity to begin my life over as a child of Christ.

Thank you, Divine Mercy, Maria, and Saint Luke Productions; you have changed my life forever.

Love and blessings,

Theresa

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# My Son the Artist By Patti Defilippis

Our son, John, just graduated from college with a degree in Painting. He shook up the art department a bit with his senior show: a series of large paintings on seven of the Stations of the Cross. Without going into a lot of details, let me just say that it was a struggle—a personal Way of the Cross. He met a great deal of resistance, most especially within himself, fighting daily for the selfdiscipline needed to accomplish such a monumental task. There were many, many moments when it seemed impossible to complete the project. And if he didn't complete it, he wouldn't have graduated. On the last day, it finally all came together, and I cried tears of joy when I learned that he had passed.

I know this experience taught John a lot about God's Providence, but it really taught me a lot too. I worried, prayed, and listened from afar but in the end, I had to trust. And miraculously, God worked through our son to create images that gave Him Glory and touched many people who came into the public space where they were displayed. His paintings were honest and passionate. That's all any of us can hope for—honesty and passion in our flawed efforts. Please pray for Leonardo and me as we, like our son, travel the Way of the Cross to produce *Tolton* this year.



- John & Carmen Sullivan, Lake Stevens, WA



"My children, be ready for the combat." -St. John Vianney

#### "You have convinced me!"

That's what one boy told Leonardo after a *Vianney* performance at the Quo Vadis vocation retreat in Oregon. Through the Holy Spirit and the example of St. John Vianney, that young man was sure of his call to the priesthood.

Ask God to shower graces upon these boys and to multiply the number of vocations a hundredfold!

Be bold with us at Saint Luke Productions!

Wouldn't it be wonderful if there could

be a deluge of vocations from this group of boys? Why not ask God for a 100% response?

# Acting like Thérèse—An Interview with Audrey Ahern

#### Has playing St. Thérèse changed you?

Absolutely! This role has brought me closer to Christ – I feel Him at work in my life in a way that I have not experienced before. I have to ask myself daily, "Am I living up to the example that Thérèse religious person," set?" I really feel I have a friend in Heaven she said, "but that watching out for me.

Has St. Thérèse given you any roses?

No roses, exactly, but one night, a light suddenly stopped working about half an hour before the show. Dominique, my stage manager, and I were at our wit's end. I just



sat in front of the computer praying, "Dear St. Thérèse, please let it work" over and over. Suddenly and with no explanation, it went back on. Another time, I had a terrible cold and laryngitis. That night, two different people commented about the clarity and tone of my voice. I'm pretty sure St. Thérèse gave me some help there, too!

#### Do you have a favorite tour story?

"I'm not a

was really cool."

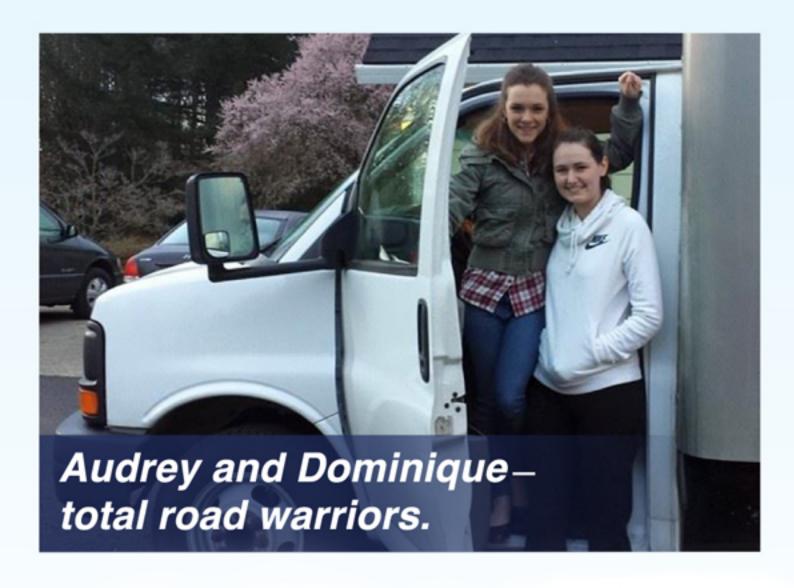
In the small town of Columbus, Nebraska, a team of women set up a

> Eucharistic chapel stayed in Adoration the whole afternoon while we were setting up. Their faith was humbling and inspiring – and their prayers worked!

We had the biggest audience we have had yet. And then after the show, a teenage girl came up to me. "I'm not a religious person," she said, "but that was really cool." Because of those women's prayers, that girl's heart was touched.

#### What has been the biggest challenge?

Before I started, I was most nervous about driving the huge truck. But I love it! I'm a total road warrior now!



### Right next to Disneyland—Entertaining Productions that Inspire

Christ Cathedral Drama Series

For the first time in modern history, the Catholic Church and the arts are coming together in a unique collaboration. The Diocese of Orange, CA and Saint Luke Productions are joining forces to bring the faith dramatically to life in the public square-going out to evangelize our secular culture right next to Disneyland.

phenomenal, historic Catholic outreach is the result of your sacrifice. Thank you. You're touching souls like never before with the Christ Cathedral Drama Series! Check out the new site and spread the word!

www.ccdramaseries.com

## Let's Do This!

I don't know about you, but I'm dumbfounded.

Sometimes I feel like our culture has gone crazy. Marriage is redefined. ISIS is killing Christians, and we do nothing. Christians are shot in their church, simply because of the color of their skin. It makes me feel powerless, and completely out of touch.

But I'm not powerless. Neither are you. If you and I make the effort, through our weakness, God will change the world.

I need you to help me produce *Tolton*, a true American story, and one we need right now.

Our peace and healing are not dependent on Confederate flags being

taken down, or guns being taken away. No! We've got to heal our hearts and embrace the Truth of Jesus Christ.

Help me restore our American culture with our new drama, *Tolton*, on the first African-American priest. So far I've raised \$75,000. Can you help me reach our goal of \$90,000? If you can send \$100, you and I together will renew our country with the story of this heroic priest.

Don't be discouraged. Let's do this!

God bless you,

Leonardo Defilippis

"You and I have to do something."

Lives You've Touched

Look what your gift has done:

"I just came back to the Church. I felt broken, and I realized that by coming to see this wonderful play, that it was for me. It has spoken to me. Thank you."

- Cynthia, Pittsburg, CA

"Wonderfully delightful! I want to be a saint! Inspiring and full of life. Thank you, Audrey—your performance is so well done. I couldn't believe it. My heart smiled."

– Mounira, Vancouver, WA

"I often think of the performance and how for me it renewed my priesthood. Today is like the days of the Curé of Ars in that our culture is without God, and we are so inspired to live the Gospel in the face of adversity. Thank you for the encouragement."

**Maximilian with the Diaz Family**