

We found Tolton — Your prayers did it!

Actor Andrae Goodnight will play this true American hero.



Fr. Tolton, pray for us.

Thank you! The Lord has answered your prayers and sent us the perfect actor to play the first African American priest in our new live production, *Tolton: From Slave to Priest*.

"I see my role, particularly as a Black Catholic, as a way to answer the question, 'Who is my neighbor?'"

He realizes that there will be many challenges in presenting this drama. "I see my role, particularly as a Black Catholic, as a way to answer the question, 'Who is my neighbor?' Augustus Tolton was on the outside. Rejected by every seminary in America, he was finally ordained in Rome. I hope this play pushes forward the conversation about what it means to be a truly welcoming Catholic community."

So now we're beginning the production process. Rehearsals start in July, and we're shooting for an October opening. There is so much to do, but we're proceeding in trust, because we believe *Tolton* will be a significant instrument of healing for the divisions in our country.

Meet actor Andrae Goodnight—you're going to love him! A Catholic convert, Andrae is talented and on fire for the Faith. He and his wife Cheryl are the parents of six children. This beautiful family is willing to sacrifice so that Father Augustus Tolton can be seen and heard.

"The story of the first Black priest in America touches me in a very personal way. It is a journey inward, and his sanctity beckons me to prayer and my own personal pursuit of holiness,"

Andrae explains. "To play Father Tolton, I need to connect to his humanity. I am seeking not only to play this role, but to become the role I play."

We're counting on your prayers and support to carry us through this monumental project. See how God has answered your prayers so far by sending us the actor to play this role! Pray especially for Andrae, that he will be given the grace to bring Father Augustus Tolton to life in a powerful way. And pray for Cheryl and their kids, too!



Andrae Goodnight sees this role as call to prayer.



Meet the Goodnight family inside...

Meet the Goodnights

The family gives *Tolton* a thumbs up.

"I am overjoyed that Andrae is to play such a holy and important figure in our American Catholic story. I know he will truly embrace the role and bring Father Tolton to life," says Cheryl Goodnight. "I ask for your prayers that Father Tolton will bring our family many graces, as Andrae tours the country away from all of us at home. May we learn to trust God more, as He leads us on this new journey."

The kids are unanimously excited.

Eden declares, "Yeah!"

Ephrem gives a resounding, "Yes-s-s!"

According to Isaiah, "That's cool!"

While Elijah says with a smile, "I want to see him at the theatre."

According to Zion, "I think it is a good idea for a play, and I think my dad will be a perfect fit for the role of a priest."

And finally Imani adds, "I'm so proud that my dad will play the first African American priest."

"I'm so proud that my dad will play the first African American priest."



Back row: Ephrem, 3; Cheryl; Imani, 13; Andrae
Front row: Eden, 5; Isaiah, 7; Zion, 11; Elijah, 10

Look at the lives you've touched.

"Amazing. The Faustina drama really hit home. Spoke to me directly. I could feel the pain I inflicted upon Jesus through my life choices. I can feel His mercy. Thank you so much."

~ Doylestown, PA

"Beautiful! Very moving! I am going to make some huge changes in my life starting tonight!"

~ Buckeye, AZ

"My husband's family were Polish Jews who were killed in Auschwitz. Maximilian: Saint of Auschwitz helped me understand the horror and suffering they endured. May God protect all human life, especially to its natural end."

~ Tempe, AZ



"Who are you, O Immaculate Conception?"



Crazy but Rich

By Patti Defilippis

This year I was ready to cut way back. But then...



When the kids were little, our Easter overflowed with traditions: special breads, special tablecloths, an Easter tree covered with years of decorated Ukrainian eggs, a Seder dinner on Holy Thursday, a papier-mâché tomb with little cut-out figures of

guards, angels and Jesus, and the climax of the Easter Vigil at Mount Angel Benedictine Abbey. Our favorite holiday of the year.

Now, with so many of the kids away and on their own, it's hard to get up the energy to do all these things. This year I was ready to cut way back. I'm tired.

But then my daughter came home from college, full of excitement. Last year she spent Easter in Spain, where the spectacle of Holy Week – processions every night – takes over the city. As much as she loved the foreign traditions, she was extremely homesick for our

family's special way of doing things.

I didn't realize how much all those traditions meant to her and to her 18-year-old sister. It

didn't matter to them whether it was all perfect. It just mattered that we kept the feast in the way we always have. So we all mustered the energy to set up the tree and the tomb, and we baked and baked, and we drove the hour and a half Saturday night to the Easter Vigil. When we got home, some of the bread was still not baked, so I was up until 3:30 a.m. finishing it off.

Crazy. But I'm grateful my daughters insisted we make the effort. Thank you, Lord, for making me see the joy of Easter through the eyes of my children. What richness!



It didn't matter to them whether it was perfect.

Your Example Inspires Our Actors

Actor Sean Tivenan is having the time of his life as *Saint Francis: Troubadour of God's Peace*:

"My favorite thing about touring the country is meeting so many faith-filled people. Being welcomed into people's lives and homes has been a great encouragement to me, and opened

me up to the beauty and diversity of the Catholic faith. Since I'm engaged to be married, I also have enjoyed seeing so many examples of Christian marriage. Please pray for me and for my fiancée, Jayne. I hope to meet you at a performance!"



Pray for Sean and Jayne.

Oh, the People You Meet!

By Audrey Ahern

Father Ed's billboards are beacons of hope.



Fr. Ed & actress
Audrey Ahern

It's 11:00 p.m., and you'd expect an 83-year-old retired priest to be tucked up in bed – unless that priest is Father Ed Nadolny.

Father Ed is probably having a lively phone conversation with a complete stranger, one of the countless souls who call

him after seeing his "I LOVE YOU JESUS" billboards scattered along the Connecticut highways like beacons of hope. Along with this outspoken message of faith, Father lists his own personal cell phone number.

He takes calls any hour of the day or night. To those who call to complain about the overt message of faith, he feigns deafness. "What did the billboard say?" he asks. When the caller grumbles, "It said, 'I love you, Jesus.'" Father Ed's deafness suddenly disappears. "Well, that's great!" he cries. "I love Jesus, too!"

Father Ed is a firecracker, at once one of the kindest, gentlest, and most fearless people I have ever encountered. Our paths crossed during our Connecticut school tour of



Thérèse, which he organized, sponsored, and funded entirely himself. Young people need the example of the saints more than ever, he believes, so he brought St. Thérèse's Little Way to as many of them as possible.

***"Well, that's great!
I love Jesus, too!"***

Not one to mince words, Father Ed gave me advice on my love life within five minutes of meeting me. (He turned out to be right.) At the same time, he offered such support and inspiration – most of all through

his own example of self-sacrifice. We still keep in touch, although it's hard to get a hold of him. The last time we talked, he kept the conversation short. "I have to go," he said. "I've got to get back to work. I'm raising money to buy keyboards for poor children in South America."

TWO NEW CDs

New *Thérèse: The Story of a Soul*

Actress Audrey Ahern brings St. Thérèse to life in a captivating audio performance of our live production. Includes the soaring original musical score by Sister Marie Thérèse Sokol, OCD



Audio CD

\$20

New *Wisdom of the Saints Rosary*

Each mystery is preceded by a profound meditation from the words of the saints. Recited by the actors and staff of Saint Luke Productions.



Audio CD

\$15

Price Includes Shipping & Handling

NOW BOOKING

Call (360) 831-4500 to learn more.

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

Inspire our children to be heroes!

Tolton

From Slave to Priest

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

Learn more at:

www.toltondrama.com

"The experience of bringing Saint Luke Productions to our area was so very rewarding....The absolute professionalism of all involved plus working with the actors and staff makes you feel like you have known them forever, with their genuine friendliness and love of our beautiful Catholic Faith."

~ Cynthia Kuzia, Amsterdam, NY

ALSO BOOKING

Francis

Maximilian

Thérèse



Also ask about Vianney, Faustina, The Passion & Augustine.

You Are My Hope

Time is short, and our need is urgent.

Thanks to all of you who prayed for me during my recent knee replacement surgery. I want you to know that I prayed for you, too. Now I'm on the road to recovery, and I look forward to leaping on stage again in the fall.

In the meantime, things are busy and exciting here! Because of your generosity and prayers, we have two new productions in the works this summer:



Faustina
MESSENGER OF DIVINE MERCY
on DVD



Tolton
From Slave to Priest
A New Live Drama

Now that we're finally down to the wire, the really expensive production time is beginning. Rehearsals and filming begin next month.

Time is short, and our need is urgent. Can you send \$100 (or more, if you can manage it) right away so we can move forward?

Together you and I can bring these stories of healing and mercy to our divided country. Please join me – you're my backstage crew and I'm counting on your support.

God bless you,

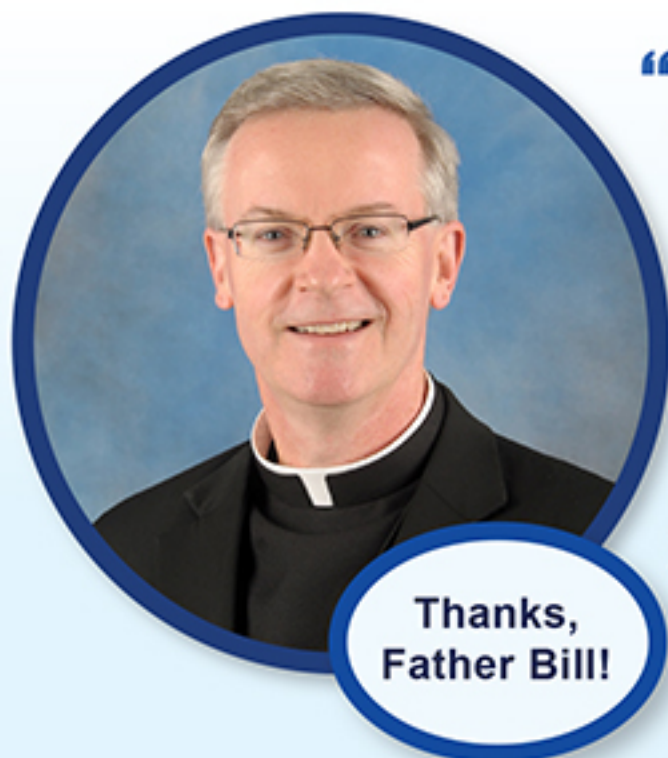
Leonardo Defilippis

P.S. I'm so grateful for whatever you can send, especially your prayers.



*I need you.
God needs you.
Please send
what you can.*

Donate securely online at: www.stlukeproductions.com/donate



Thanks,
Father Bill!

"I put my money where my mouth is."

"From the day I first met Leonardo, I started nagging him to write a play about Saint Faustina. When I read that it was in pre-production, I 'put my money where my mouth is.' The parishes where I have served have had a number of their awesome dramas, and virtually every time my people say that they felt like the saint depicted paid us a personal visit. I am continuously inspired by what I've experienced and encourage others to support this ministry!"

~ Fr. Bill Quinlivan
Diocese of Buffalo, NY

**Why I
Give**