

CROCHETING FOR SOULS

During the scene where Faustina begs Jesus for the conversion of a soul for every stitch she makes, actress Jennifer Pagano crochets a little piece of needlework. She asks the Holy Spirit to show her someone to whom she should give it. Here's what happened one night in San Clemente, CA:

Elena was not planning to come to see *Faustina*, but her boss had an extra ticket, so she agreed to go. She knew nothing about Saint Faustina or Divine Mercy, yet when the play began, she started to cry.

"God was speaking to me personally with every word," she explains. "I felt just like the modern woman in the play, calling out, 'I have nothing going for me. I'm lost. God help me! Give me a sign.'"

**"God help me!
Give me a sign."**

When *Faustina* was over, in awe Elena approached the actress, still in her habit. When Jennifer heard her name, she exclaimed, "Why, that was Saint Faustina's first name! I give this to you, Elena." And she handed her the crocheted square.



The gift was an answer to prayer for Elena.



Elena looked at her in amazement. "Thank you for this gift," she said through tears. "This play told my story." She went on to explain, "I came from Russia, with no idea what I was getting myself into. I had a very hard time, much sadness, but the worst was when my mother died, so far away in Russia. I sank into a deep depression and lost all hope. Now I feel Jesus close to me again."

Afterwards, while Jennifer was loading the truck to head for the next performance location, she saw Elena sitting in her car, holding the crocheted square, weeping in prayer.

"I felt the Holy Spirit using this production to draw this soul closer to Him," Jennifer explains. "The love goes as deep as the pain goes. He will never allow pain without something new to be reborn. This all leads us in deeper union with His perfect love."

Over and over again we are reminded that God is touching souls through these dramas. You're making these moments of grace possible. May God reward you for your prayers and for your generous donations to Saint Luke Productions.



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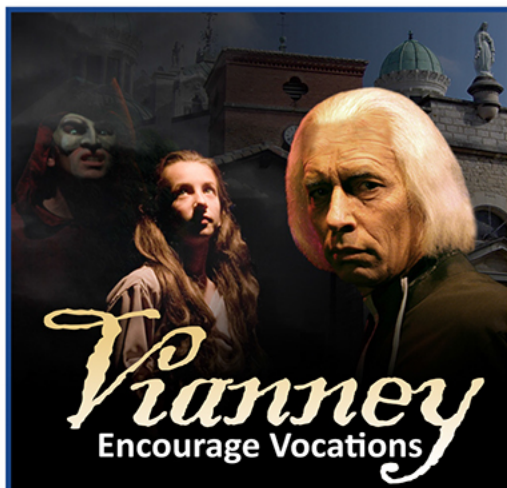
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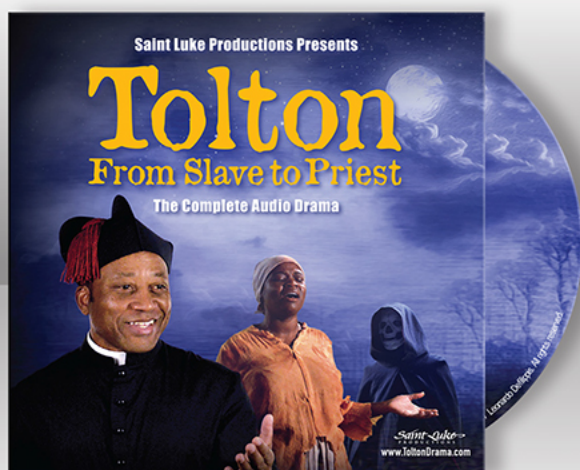
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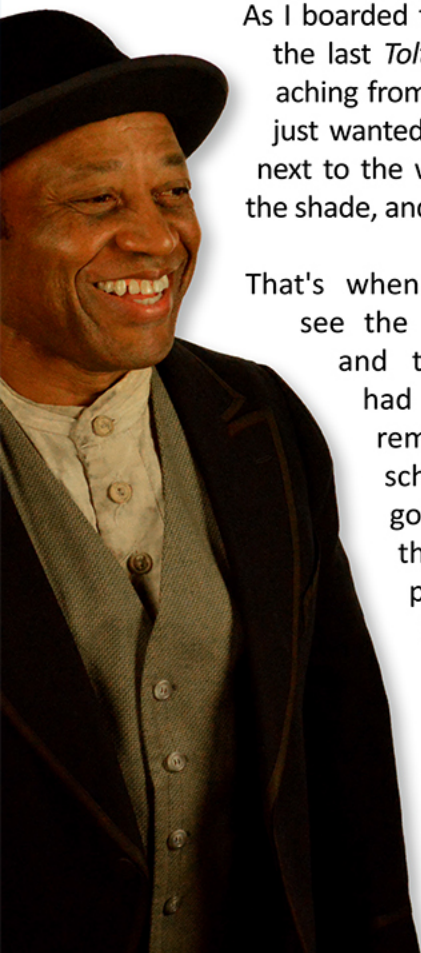
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Your Smiles Keep Me Going

By Jim Coleman



As I boarded the plane after the last *Tolton* tour, I was aching from head to toe. I just wanted to sleep. I sat next to the window, closed the shade, and shut my eyes.

That's when I started to see the faces, smiles, and tears of the people who had attended the shows. I remembered the elementary school student who said he was going to be a priest. I heard the voices of the nuns and priests who said they were praying for more Father Toltons – and for me. I saw the tearstained face of the woman who told me that in the final scene of the show she hadn't seen me or Father Tolton, but the son that she had lost,

She didn't see me, but the son she had lost.

telling her it was going to be ok. As I held her hands, she urged me to continue to share Father Tolton's life.

I no longer felt the aches and pains, but the tears rolling down my face. I heard myself saying, "Lord, I thank you for choosing me to tell this story."



These people make it all worth it.

Everything Has Changed

Family Reflections

By Patti Defilippis

When my son and daughter-in-law announced that they were expecting, I cried tears of joy. It was as if, after 18 years away from babies, I had begun to think of life as being about ending things: no more big dinners every

night around a full table, no more soccer games, no more family prayers. So much of having adult children is fun, rewarding, and exciting, with all their adventures and achievements. But there is also a bittersweet nostalgia in this chapter of life.



Nora and Grandma

The future is full of life and possibilities!

With this new person coming into the picture, it's all changed. The future is full of life and possibilities! And now that I've met Nora, now that I've seen her light up with

smiles at seeing me, I am reminded that this is our greatest work – the passing on of our faith and world to a new generation. God made this beautiful girl, and I am fortunate to share in her discovery of creation.

Faustina's Song Comes to Life

Editor Mien Yockmann reflects on how God's creation inspires his own.

In the year and a half that I've been working on the editing the film of *Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy*, I've come to such a profound understanding of not only Saint Faustina's sacrifice, but how it has transformed my inner life.



"Oh, Sweet Jesus, source of Mercy"



"Bring joy and hope to sinful man..."



"From your open heart, a pure spring..."



"Flows comfort to repentant souls."

As I strive to transform green screen footage into a world where Faustina's song of praise can take wings, I spend time in God's creation to listen to His quiet voice in the songs of birds and the splash of river water. I find no place where His Spirit dwells more freely than in the woods, fields, waterfalls, and streams that are within a few minutes' drive from my home.

In this woodland, I start down a trail that follows a river. Hacking through some briars, I find a nice secluded place where I can settle onto a log. The river is swelling over its banks, so some of the spray hits my arms and neck, I close my eyes and think of her song, letting the melody saturate my thinking.

In this woodland, I start down a trail that follows a river.

The inspiration comes together when I return to the office the next day. The freshness of the hike still lingering in my memory, I place Faustina in a woodland environment.

Next, I find some leaves that create great background and foreground elements rendering the scene more three-dimensional, as opposed to just a backdrop of fake-looking forest.

With a little dash of blur here and some lighting there, the resulting shot makes my heart sing!

Through moments like these, as I listen to God's song in nature and to Saint Faustina, my faith has grown so much deeper.

So, thank you! Your generosity is creating a film of great truth and beauty. I ask you to continue to support us. Pray for us and for the completion of Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy.

You'll be thrilled when you see *Faustina*! Your prayers and financial support will spread Divine Mercy to our hurting world.

God Called a Priest Through VIANNEY

By Deacon
Ben Bray



Vianney was the trigger that moved Ben Bray to answer God's call.

Deacon Ben Bray will be ordained to the priesthood in the Seattle Archdiocese this June. Please pray for him, and thank God for his vocation.

In 2010 I was at the Quo Vadis Vocation Retreat for young men in high school, and the play Vianney from Saint Luke Productions was part of the program. When I saw the performance, I was blown away. Leonardo Defilippis' portrayal brought

the character to life, showing the saint's love for the priesthood. I was stunned with how much St. John Vianney suffered, both physically and spiritually. It was during one of the closing scenes that I felt Jesus personally calling me to the seminary.

"If a priest truly knew what it meant to be one," spoke Leonardo in the character of the saint, "he would die of love." I began crying because I didn't believe I had what it took to be a priest. But hearing this line made

me realize that God wanted to give me an incredible gift in the priesthood, despite what I believed about myself. As I cried, I felt loved by God and invited to something that was greater than I imagined.

I began crying because I didn't believe I had what it took to be a priest.

After Vianney ended, I decided to talk with a priest about entering the seminary. It has been almost a decade since I first saw Vianney, but that play was the trigger that moved me to answer the call to the priesthood. I am now a deacon and look forward to my ordination in June.

Without Vianney I'm not sure how far I would have gone on this journey. I'm truly blessed to have experienced this performance and am

grateful to all who are involved with Saint Luke Productions. This ministry touches lives in a powerful way; I know it touched mine!

Look how your gift touches souls!

"I went to a production of Faustina - thru her intercession I was able to forgive my father for the sexual abuse I endured from him. I think it brought peace to him and I know peace for me. Thank you."

~ Anonymous

"I absolutely loved Tolton. It touched on every emotion from hatred to sadness to pride at being a descendant of slaves, a Catholic and an American. I really hope to have the courage of Fr. Tolton and continue with my faith journey."

~ Felicia M., Washington, DC

"The Maximilian production moved all hearts among us. I wept. To see the battle of Good vs. Evil so clearly laid before us is a very needed wake-up call that all the world should hear."

~ Lisa K., Dundee, OR



How You Can Help

Help me find the right people.

2020 will mark the 40th anniversary of Saint Luke Productions. As we thank God for all He's accomplished through this ministry, we are also looking to the future.

Through the years my wife Patti and I have learned how to take a creative idea, produce it, and share it with hundreds of thousands of people. Now we want to pass on this expertise to the next generation. **We want to be open to their new ideas, and the new technologies that can bring the Truth of Jesus Christ to a worldwide audience.**

I've always asked for your help with projects. Now I'm asking for your support to hire talented, experienced, faith-filled people.

Right now we're searching most especially for a development director to spearhead a major gifts campaign this year. With this person in place, we'll raise the funds to hire:

- + A marketing director (2020)
- + More writers, actors, directors, designers and composers (2021-2025)
- + In the next seven years, a new executive director to take over the reins and carry on our mission of evangelizing through theater and the media. (2026)



We're embracing new ideas, and we're looking for talented people!

Please pray that God sends a development director to head our major gifts campaign.

In the meantime, **I need your financial help to keep Saint Luke Productions afloat.** Therefore I beg your generous donations, so that we can continue to bring inspiring live and film dramas to our culture. A gift of \$100 – or more if you can manage it – would help so much.

Thank you for your friendship. Your prayers and support are changing lives!

God bless you,

Leonardo Defilippis

Leonardo Defilippis

"These works are so needed in these critical times."

My first encounter with Saint Luke Productions was at a Thérèse performance some 20 years ago. Later Leonardo's portrayal of Maximilian's deep love for our Blessed Mother and the life of John of the Cross truly inspired me. I wholeheartedly support Saint Luke Productions monthly, because I believe these works are so needed in these critical times. I thank God for these magnificent dramas.

~ Cecilia McCarron

Thanks for your
friendship, Cecilia!

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