

Saint Luke

Newsletter

Lent 2012
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COURAGE

“I expect to die in bed, my successor will die in prison, and his successor will die a martyr in the public square.”

These words of Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago, bring home to me the truth that things are coming to a head in our culture, and that our faith will be put to the test. This is the world that our children and grandchildren are entering. To be a Christian in this century, in this country, will take a courage that must be developed in our homes and parishes.

That is why I feel so enormously grateful to God for the opportunity to perform *The Passion According to Saint Luke*, with a new and impressive musical score, a beautiful multi-media set, and enhanced dramatic lighting. I feel compelled at this moment to bring Christ Himself, the Word of God, to modern audiences. Our ministry is trying to break through the secular mindset of dependence on self and the myth that we have control over our lives, so that we might enter into the freedom of dependence on God. I do believe that, considering the persecution that the Church is encountering for her steadfast protection of life at all stages, it is essential that we focus on Christ. As Pope Benedict XVI tells us, “Because Jesus turned death into a proclamation of thanksgiving and love, He is now able to be present down through all ages as the wellspring of life, and we can enter into Him by praying with Him.”

Sometimes I wonder why, after all these years, God is asking me to do this work: to head out on the road, to produce new film and radio productions, to send this newsletter to you. What I pray Saint Luke Productions can give to the world and to our children is the gift of courage. The hunger in young people, their idealism, is palpable. When they see Christ and His saints brought to life before them, it touches a chord, and these young voices sing out, “That’s what I want! That giving of self is the only thing that will make me happy.” It gives them something to live for. That is why I do this work.



It has always been a struggle. When the THÉRÈSE movie came out, we wondered if (and hoped that) it would bring financial security. That was far from the outcome. We have taken years to recover, and are now grateful to be operating in the black. But this lack of security has been our greatest gift, actually. Because we are neither “in control,” nor “independent,” we have been called to rely completely on God, working through you, our generous supporters. This dependence has, in fact, given us a great awareness of our responsibility to be honest, and to constantly ask the Holy Spirit to move through us, so that the work is faithful to the sacrifice and trust of so many people.

I want to convey to you how urgently I need your help. Listen to the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke: “I have prayed for you that your faith may never fail; you in turn must strengthen your brothers.” All of us have a responsibility to strengthen our brothers and sisters, our children and friends, building their courage for the challenges to the Faith that are before us. Help me do this. Send whatever you can to support us in this work: your prayers and financial donations. We’re now booking *Maximilian: Saint of Auschwitz*, whose message is so important for our age – and I need your help to get these stories seen by as many people as possible. Maximilian is the saint for our difficult age who tells us: “I don’t fear death. I fear sin.” May we all have the courage right now to say the same.

God bless you, *Leonardo DeFlippis*

SEE LEONARDO DELIVER THIS MESSAGE IN PERSON

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

POTENTIAL PROJECTS - YOU MAKE THEM HAPPEN!

Here are just a few of the many projects we hope to produce in the next several years. Make a donation to move them forward!

Live Dramas: *St. Clare*, *St. Padre Pio*, *Blessed Miguel Pro*, and *Fulton Sheen*.

TV Programs: *The Imitation of Christ*, *Saints through the Centuries*, *More Vianney Speaks*, and *Sermons of the Saints*.

Radio Programs: *Daily readings from Blessed Teresa of Calcutta*, *Family Reflections with Patti Defilippis*, *Poetry of the Saints*, and *Conversations with Saint Thérèse*.

Feature Films: *Vianney: The Movie*, and *The Life of the Mother of God*.



WE NEED FILM AND THEATER LIGHTS

We have a beautiful state-of-art studio, recording suite, and now an HD camera because of you, our friends who believe in this ministry. Thank you! Now we're asking you to help us get the lighting equipment that will make it possible for us to film without costly rental fees, and also to transition from antiquated theatrical lighting to the exciting potential of modern LED instruments for our touring shows. You'll see some of the effects of these lights in our new production of *The Passion*. Help us explore the breathtaking possibilities with this amazing technology!

One film lighting instrument: \$500 One theatrical LED with a focusable beam: \$800

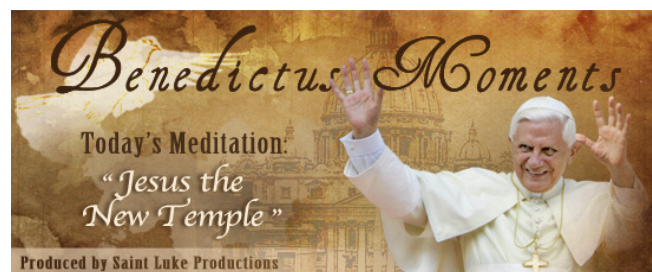
SPONSOR ONE HOUR OF BENEDICTUS MOMENTS

"A word of thanks for the superb daily meditations on your website recently the meditations have proved invaluable... Leonardo Defilippis does a superb job each and every time with well crafted presentations."

- Liam, Sicily, Italy

BENEDICTUS MOMENTS is being heard all over the world!! Each two-minute spot from the writings of Pope Benedict takes an hour to record, edit and finish with the musical score. It takes us 365 hours to record a year's worth of these beautiful treasures, and we still have quite a few left to complete. Can you sponsor one day of BENEDICTUS MOMENTS? You'll be spreading the wisdom of our Holy Father through the powerful media of radio and the web.

One day of BENEDICTUS MOMENTS: \$100

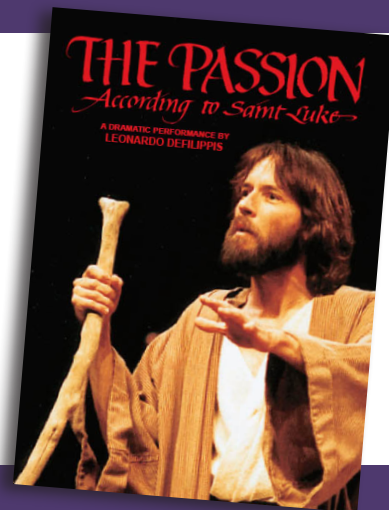
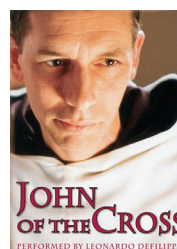
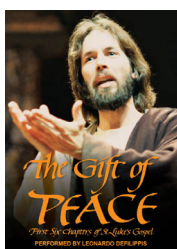
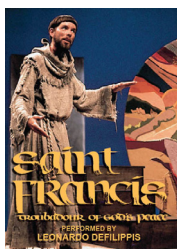
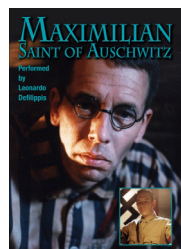
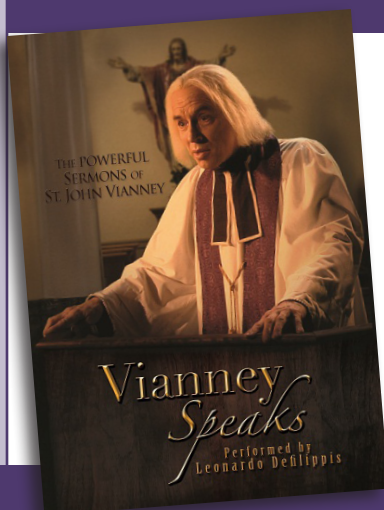


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Keep our ministry afloat and give the gift of faith!
Special limited time offer to our friends and benefactors:

25% off any DVD at stlukestore.com

Use coupon code : [lent2012](http://stlukestore.com)



VISIT STLUKESTORE.COM FOR MORE ITEMS

BEHIND THE SCENES OF *THE PASSION*

It started out as a simple idea. We would reopen *The Passion According to Saint Luke*, making a few changes, and schedule a limited tour during Lent. Well, as with most of our ideas, things got more complicated, and, it appears, God wanted something more from this production – He wanted it to be better than we ever hoped.

The Passion was the second production that Leonardo produced for a tour in 1981. It had a very spare set, and a musical score that was just a suggestion to establish the atmosphere. “What would happen,” he recently asked Greg Stone, who, besides being an amazing director of operations here in our office, is also a gifted musician, “if we were to add some



orchestration to enhance the score?” All this is possible with the miracle of computer technology. Greg set his mind to the project, and what started out as a simple request turned into weeks of work, and finally into an orchestral score that is truly inspired and enhances the performance beyond our wildest imaginings. Because of this powerful musical soundtrack, the poignancy of, for instance, Jesus’s cautionary words to Peter, “Remember that Satan has asked for you, to sift you all like wheat,” bring tears to the eyes.

We also set to work on automating the lighting, and increasing the versatility of our original lighting instruments with the addition of several high-tech LED instruments that have the ability to change to a multitude of colors. Joseph Holt, stage manager and lighting designer, also worked for weeks refining the lighting cues. One particularly beautiful effect is that of Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane bathed in a pale blue light.

Perhaps the most remarkable addition to the production is the element of the video backdrop. We set media coordinator Emma Olwell with the formidable task of designing images for every moment of the play, to be projected on a huge screen behind the life-sized wood cross in the center of the stage.



She has created an environment, full of color and symbolism, which transports the audience to Jerusalem, the desert, the Garden of Gethsemane, Calvary, and the empty tomb. These images underscore the profound mystery of the Gospel in a way that makes Christ’s sacrifice real and relevant.

The wig that Leonardo had planned to use for the production was tired to say the least. With only a few days before the opening, would it be possible to find a new one that would fit the image of Leonardo as Jesus? He and Patti set off with a mission, and arriving at an Afro-American beauty supply store, discovered it was owned and operated by a Korean family. Picture the scene: Leonardo kneeling on the floor in the middle of the store before the kind Korean lady, trying on wig after long flowing wig. Finally they settled on some lovely long locks, with curls cascading down Leonardo’s back. It was a bit long, but had potential in a sort of untamed, Biblical style. These are the adventures of an actor still on the road with the Gospel after 31 years.

So *The Passion According to Saint Luke* has been launched in a spectacular new production, and the Lenten schedule is very full, thanks be to God. However, what is most remarkable is not the production elements that enhance the show, but the power of the Gospel itself. It is new, it is vibrant, it speaks to people in their fears and worries, and it gives comfort that is undoubtedly supernatural. Schedule a show in your community for Lent of 2013. Take the risk. Step out in faith with us, and watch in amazement as God touches hearts with the Word Made Flesh, Christ Jesus.



SEE GREG DELIVER THIS MESSAGE IN PERSON

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I Should Have Been a Monk - The Story of Bill and Donna Dugaw

by Patti Defilippis

I want to share with you the story of two remarkable people, who for many years were financial and prayer supporters of Saint Luke Productions, Dr. Bill Dugaw and his wife Donna. Bill died six years ago, and Donna passed away a few days before Leonardo's dad did in 2010.

Bill was a "country doctor" in the little town of Toledo, Washington for most of his professional life, and I first met Donna and him in 1981, when Leonardo and I were touring the state of Washington with *The Gift of Peace* production. Their example was a tremendous influence on my life. They had twelve children, and lived in a beautiful home out in the country. I remember so clearly those first impressions – the evening rosary, with Donna rattling off the scriptural quotes between Hail Marys and the matter-of-fact way that Bill went through the mysteries. No sentimentality, no apologies, just straightforward faith and confidence in the eternal implications of their acts.

When I met them, they were at about the stage of life that we are at now – only a couple of children at home, empty bedrooms filled with bunk beds, phone calls every day from adult children, and a habit of hospitality that made me feel so welcomed and at home. Most important, I recognized the central aspect of faith in the life of this beautiful family. We weren't married yet, but I felt instinctively that the

example of Bill and Donna Dugaw was what I wanted in family life – a selfless love of their children, and a persevering prayer for every one of them as they moved away into their own lives. In this they were very much like my own parents and my in-laws, from whom I had learned everything about what it means to be a parent.



We kept in touch through the years, and every month for many of those years we received a donation to Saint Luke Productions from them, along with the latest news. Donna was a mentor to me, Bill an amazing example of intelligence and humor. He was a voracious reader, but even in his reading there was order and discipline. He always had several books going at a time, in all different genres:

biographies, theology, novels, medical journals, and whatever else caught his fancy. He would read for a set number of minutes in each category, and then move on to the next book, keeping all of these ideas in his head at the same time. He read every morning on his exercise bike, and every evening in his special chair. The library grew to be enormous, and at the end of his life he started giving the books away. "Take whatever you want," he'd say, and when we'd open these books at home, we'd find his characteristic check marks, noting the spot where he stopped in his daily rounds of reading, ready to resume there the next day. They are treasures.

Bill also wrote his life story, as a gift for his children, entitling the book *I Should Have Been a Monk*. Leonardo and I were

honored to receive our own copy, and I read it cover to cover. What amazed me was once again the pragmatic faith that filled their lives. They suffered tragedy, losing their child Tommy to a drowning accident, and yet they never lost confidence in God, and in the fact that they would meet their child again.

I think it was because we shared with Bill and Donna a common vision of Catholic family life that we remained so close over the years. I last saw Donna about a year before she died, and it was as always a non-stop conversation about the things that mattered most to both of us – our faith and our children.

I guess I am telling you this story because, in a way, it has so much to do with Saint Luke Productions. This has been the enormous blessing for me of this work – the people we have come to love along the way, and the tremendous examples we have received from them. My parents have been my primary examples of what it means to be family, but after that, I have been very fortunate to learn so much by following the guidance and footsteps of the wonderful people who have been brought into my life by this ministry. May God bless Bill and Donna Dugaw with the reward they so richly deserve for their faithfulness as Christians, as parents and as friends.



SEE PATTI TELL THIS STORY IN PERSON

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FAMILY REFLECTIONS by Patti Defilippis

As of January 15th, we became the host parents to a seventeen year-old exchange student, “Rena,” from Hainan Island in China. I was hesitant to jump into this, with everything else going on. I am not the kind of person who can go with the flow when someone doesn’t want to cooperate especially with the spiritual agenda of the family. What if this person, who listed her religion as “none” in her application packet, dug in her heels, and refused to go to Mass with us, refused to say the Rosary, refused to go to bed at a reasonable time, do chores, or abide by our rules about dating, modesty, etc.? Would it act as poison in our family with the other kids becoming resentful of her privileges and exemptions? Perhaps these were unnecessary things to worry about, but I did worry.



It turns out, as usual, fear is useless. Rena has become a great blessing for our family, whom we have come to love very much. She is an open and naturally joyful soul, who loves being a part of what she considers “a big family.” “Big” is a relative term – an only child herself, she’s experiencing just three children in our home. What would she think of seven, our full house? She fits right in, joining in all family activities, prayers, and even in cleaning house. It has been fascinating to learn about her culture, but especially to watch her open up to Christianity.

While she knows little about the Catholic faith, she is being drawn into it by Christ, through a personal relationship with Him, and her discovery is something quite mys-

terious. What she is absorbing is this presence of Christ in her friends, her host family and her teachers. I don’t know where it will all go. Will she have the courage to accept this Truth, and carry it back to China, where it will be challenged and perhaps persecuted? Is she ready to commit her life to this Truth, when it contradicts so much of what government has told her? God has given her so much grace, so much natural goodness – honesty, modesty, self-discipline and obedience. Perhaps these qualities, which make her such a delightful addition to our family, have been given to her to strengthen her for the trials to come.

I pray for Rena that she continues in her search for the Truth. When God gives someone this desire for Himself, she won’t rest until she rests in Him. That will take courage, but God gives young people that courage, and it thwarts the power of the mighty, changing our world one soul at a time.

MEET EMMA OLWELL

Emma Olwell, our new media coordinator, is a graduate of Franciscan University’s Multimedia program. She is passionate about bringing hope to the world through film and media at Saint Luke Productions.

What drew you to SLP?

I’ve always believed in the power of storytelling to change people’s hearts and minds. People everywhere seek the same things – passion, true love, and a cause to give their lives for. A lot of what passes for entertainment today tries to make us believe we can find those things here on earth, or create them for ourselves, without God. It isn’t true. Through our media and theater productions, Saint Luke Productions is trying to expose Christianity for what it is – the true path of heroes.

Have you always had a strong faith? Or did you have a conversion experience that changed your direction?

Even though I was raised by a wonderful

Catholic family, in my early college years I stepped away from my roots to pursue the hollow college party scene. The fast and secular lifestyle I adopted left me feeling so crushingly lonely, used and empty. It was only when I turned back to my Catholic faith that I rediscovered a sense of meaning, and a sense of worth – the kind that comes from knowing you are God’s unique and beloved creation.

How did God prepare you for this work?

My interest in film goes as far back as junior high, when I spent all my time recording movies with my friends in our backyards. I’m a graduate of Franciscan University’s Multimedia program, which stresses a flexible, multi-faceted approach to media. In a world where the latest technology changes monthly – flexible is mandatory. My few months at Saint Luke Productions have called upon my every moment of training in graphic design, marketing, film editing, audio production and more. I love the vari-

ety of challenges and projects we tackle here, and my days are never boring.

What has been your favorite project so far?

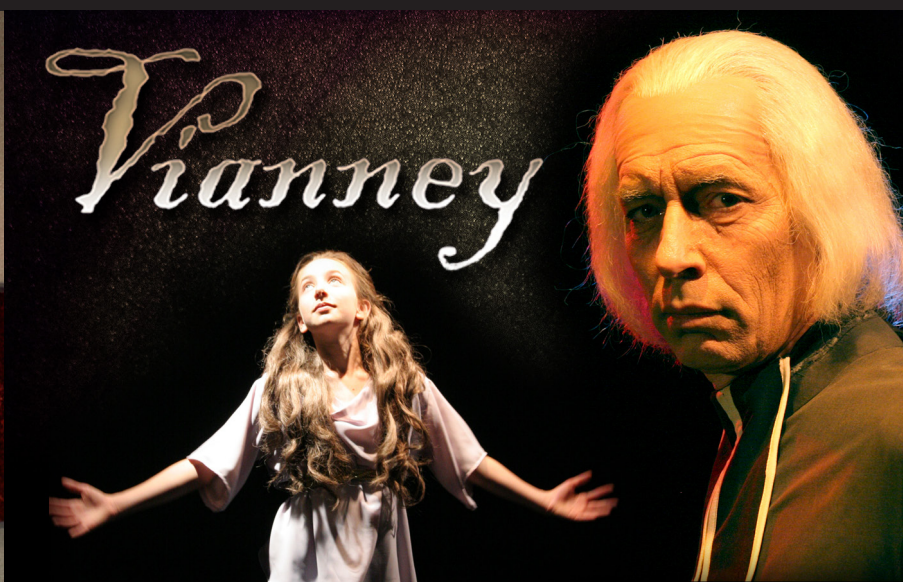
Working on *The Passion* has been such a gift to me. Christ’s suffering and death is the most dramatic story every told, and it has been such an awesome artistic challenge to visually interpret the atmosphere of that story. Designing forty images to be projected onto a 9 by 12 foot screen was by far the largest (literally) project I have ever attempted, but ultimately a rewarding opportunity for me to stretch my creativity.



WATCH EMMA’S INTERVIEW IN PERSON

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