### SAINT FRANCIS DVD SALE

Saint Francis: Troubadour of God's Peace is a delightful dramatic production that captures the joyful spirit of Pope Francis' namesake.

<del>\$15.00</del> \$12.00 (Includes free shipping)



# **Sleeping on Our Doorstep** On the Road with Faustina The Man of Many Faces Casting Call: Saint Francis **And More!**



The breathtakingly beautiful music score from the feature film Thérèse.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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More at: www.stlukestore.com



















## SAINT LUKE PRODUCTIONS **INSPIRES AUDIENCES**

"Thank you for everything you and your amazing team do to bring Catholic culture to a darkened world. Your productions are truly lights in the darkness." - Wendy Clark, Houston, TX

> "Vianney is an extraordinary work of art." - Michael J. Miller, Journalist

"It is really something how the production of Faustina is producing so many fruits of confession. Thank you Jesus!" - Father Jim Parker, IL























Maria Vargo, actress, and Shalea Otto, stage manager, have been touring the country with Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy since last October. So far, they have performed for more than 24,000 people. We caught up with them in Indianapolis to hear what it's been like.

#### What is your favorite thing about touring with Faustina?

Maria: I love getting to say the words of Sr. Faustina and having that relationship with the Lord every night. After the show, I greet the people and see how deeply they have been moved and affected.

Shalea: So many good people! We go out to spread the word about Divine Mercy and fire people up in their faith, but so many times we're the ones who are evangelized; the people we meet fire us up.

## \*Twas too sick to stand up let alone dance or sing.

#### How do you prepare, Maria?

Maria: Getting dressed in the habit is a part of the process. I try to be very respectful, and I place the relic of Saint Faustina in my pocket. Then I pray three times, "Jesus, I trust in You!" I turn the entire performance over to the Holy Spirit, and ask Saint Faustina to help me.

## Tell me about a time when you overcame a huge challenge on tour.

Maria: Right before a performance before a huge crowd in California, I got deathly ill with the flu. I was crying out to God, because I was too sick to stand up, let alone dance or sing. A volunteer comforted me as I lay there shivering, saying, "All for souls. All for souls." I felt that Saint Faustina was

strengthening me, and as this kind woman helped me into the habit, she started to cry. "This is the closest I'll be to Saint Faustina in this world," she told me. It was so humbling. Somehow I gained the strength through her prayers and Saint Faustina's to perform the show that night.

#### What's it like traveling together?

Shalea: Someone nicknamed us the Dynamic Duo. I really appreciate how different we are. Our stories are so different. Our personalities are so different. We can bring out the best and the worst in each other, and we can really learn

from that. I feel so blessed to have someone who is helping me to become a better person.

Maria: I'm grateful to God that Shalea cares so much about the performance. She's always there for me. I can rely on her to get it right.

## What would you say to someone considering booking this show?

Shalea: The people who walk into the show are not the same people who walk out. If you want something in your life and in your community to change, the Faustina production can do it. You'll be so glad you brought her into your midst.



## **CASTING CALL**

**Now Auditioning!** 

We're casting an actor to play <u>Saint Francis</u> for our U.S. tour this fall.

Do you know a talented actor? Is that someone you?

Contact us today!

We want you! God wants you! You need to be at least 22, have theater experience, a willingness to travel and work hard, and a passion for the Faith.

And if you're a talented young actress, we're also casting our live production of *Thérèse*. Pray that God will call these gifted actors to serve him at Saint Luke Productions.

Visit <u>www.stlukeproductions.com/casting</u> to learn more.









## **SLEEPING ON OUR DOORSTEP**

"How often we say: it's not my problem! How often we turn the other way and pretend not to see!" ~ Lope Francis

t was pouring rain and 32° F. Yet there they sat, with their grocery cart full of belongings and their little dog, outside the door of the church hall. They were ready to bed down, under the awning, as they did just about every night.

Anna smiled at me as I went in to pick up my kids from choir practice. "Only a few more weeks," she answered when I asked her for the latest update. Her face was glowing with excitement and joy. Her husband Michael chimed in, "She was blessed by the Archbishop last night. She was so nervous!"

So these encounters went, week after week. Yet they wouldn't come in - they ate the meals that were brought to them outside, because of the dog, perhaps, or because they were embarrassed, just didn't feel that they belonged. But she wanted

to become a Catholic, and he wanted to return to the Church. So they gradually became a part of the community. It was awkward - they were homeless, yet they never asked for anything, except a piece of the pavement.

Still, they were part of us. God had put these particular, real individuals literally on our parish doorstep. Here were the poor, and they were part of our family. We could not ignore them.

Over and over in my head I heard the words of Pope Francis: "To love God and neighbor is not something abstract...it means seeing in every person the face of the Lord to be served, to serve him concretely."

Then Maria Vargo came to perform Faustina at our

parish. You have to know Maria - she talks to everyone! "Are you coming to the play tonight?" she asked, when she saw them sitting outside. Well, how could they do that? They had a dog, their clothes were tattered, and they would have to leave their stuff. "No, I don't think so."

That kind of response doesn't stop our Maria. "You have to come. I'm performing. I want you there." So they figured it out. Complicated, but they borrowed Maria's phone, called a friend, and she agreed to bring her car, so the little dog and all their stuff could stay in there.

How could they do that? They had a dog, their clothes were tattered, & they would have to leave all their stuff. I was overjoyed to see them at the show. It really touched them. I gave them both a big hug at the end. Anna had tears in her eyes. "Thank you."

As the Easter Vigil approached, they moved closer and

closer to the heart of our community. They came in. They got food stamps. They found shelter. And they made friends.

On Holy Thursday night, I watched Anna as she knelt in adoration before Our Lord at the altar of repose. When she finally got up, it was my turn to say thank you. Thank you for inspiring me. You have nothing, yet you are rich in faith. You see the Truth and it is all that you desire. Thank you, Anna and Michael, for showing me what it means to be a Christian.

So the reason I'm telling you this story is (Continued on page 2)

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# YOU DID IT!

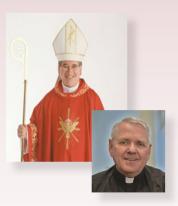
What a privilege to have The Passion performed for our sisters.

During Holy Week! And at no charge! Leonardo told us that your gift made this possible. Thank you, dear donor!

~ Sister Maria Goretti, OP, Houston, TX



Because of you, our inspiring dramas have been performed all over the U.S. These communities say, "Thank you!"



We would never have been able to bring Faustina to the Laredo Diocese, a mission diocese on the U.S.-Mexico border, if it were not for your kindness. What a blessing! Thank you.

~ Bishop James A. Tamayo, D.D., Diocese of Laredo, Texas

66 Because of your donation, Vianney has been a great blessing to the Baker Diocese. Thank you!

~ Father Rick Fischer, Vicar General, Diocese of Baker



66 Because of your generosity, The Passion was presented at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Yours is a gift that will be treasured forever!

~ Zoë Krizak, Baytown, Texas



Thanks to your generosity, we've got a new (to us-it's a 2006) 16 foot truck! Thank you, dear friends!

#### SLEEPING ON OUR DOORSTEP (Continued)

because I need your help. I'm inspired by Pope Francis to reach out to the poor who suffer in mind, body or spirit. That's why I'm releasing a new and updated production of *Saint Francis: Troubadour of God's Peace* this fall.

I need you to help me with this! This summer we're casting a new actor in the lead role, and adding music, lights and video to appeal to today's audiences. I am counting on your support as we launch into this ambitious project. If you can send just \$100, we'll be able to pull this off. And even if you can't send that much, God works. He'll multiply your gift, and we'll bring Saint Francis' message of conversion and radical Christian faith to the poor, to the rich, to the young and to the elderly. This is powerful evangelization!

Anna and Michael inspire me. They make me think of Saint Francis.

At the Easter Vigil, Anna stood before the congregation and professed her faith loud and clear. She was baptized and washed clean. Now she is our sister, and we owe it to her to spread the message of God's love for every human being. Let us follow her into the Kingdom, by sacrificing everything to spread the Good News.

Please help me do this. Pray for the Saint Francis show, call our office to book a performance, and send whatever you can - \$100 for production expenses would be terrific. Let's evangelize our troubled world together!

In Christ,

DONATE SECURELYAT STLUKEPRODUCTIONS.COM



#### THE MAN OF MANY FACES

By Patti Defilippis

Dad! Your beard! You shaved!

Yes, he shaved. And then a few months later he grew it again, because he had to perform *The Passion*, and a fake beard is uncomfortable and a huge amount of work to take on and off.

Last month Leonardo was a 33 year-old Jesus, and now he's a 70 year-old John Vianney.

"My dad's the only one I know who heads to Walgreens because he's out of mascara!" our daughters remark with a laugh. They've grown used to seeing

styrofoam wig heads on the kitchen table, sometimes covered with white yak belly hair, sometimes with flowing brown locks. Their dad's costumes fill an entire closet - everything from ornate vestments to the raggedy robes of Saint Francis.

My husband is a man of many faces. The characters are so different, but each show has one thing in common: the saint

portrayed is a facet of Jesus himself. Saint Francis is the joy and simplicity of Jesus. Maximilian Kolbe is His passionate love for His Mother and His neighbor. John Vianney is His humility. And so I, too, get to know all these saints, because they are friends of the family.

My dad's the only one I know who heads to Walgreens because he's out of mascara!

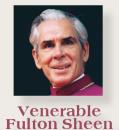
Isn't that how we're supposed to look at each other anyway?

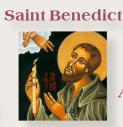
Thank you, Lord!

What a life. What a crazy adventure. What a chance to look at my husband, and see Jesus himself.

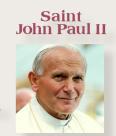


# WHAT DO YOU THINK? VOTE NOW!



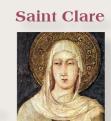








Blessed Mother Teresa



In 2015, we'll produce a new live drama.
Fill out the survey card & help us decide what it should be.