

Her Tears Made the Actor Cry

Moments like this make all the work worth it.

As he came on stage for the curtain call after a Tennessee high school performance of *Tolton* actor Jim Coleman looked out into the audience...

...and saw a young girl about 15 years old. She was crying. Afterwards, as the students were filing out, she walked up to the stage with a few of her friends.

"Thank you so much for telling this story," she said.

And then she broke down crying again. The other girls held her, all of them weeping. As they walked away, Jim looked at the principal who was standing next to him. Tears were flowing down his face as well. "What is going on? What just happened?" Jim wondered, his own eyes welling up with tears.

"This family just moved here from Sudan and they're Muslim," the principal told him.

"Her mother wanted her daughter to go here. I reminded her that this is a Catholic school and

"Jesus Christ is my favorite martyr and I want my daughter to know him."

she would have to study Catholicism."

"Jesus Christ is my favorite martyr, and I want my daughter to know him," her mother told him. "I want her to know Catholicism."

"To see that girl accept this story was an answer to prayer. She saw the goodness of the Christian faith," the principal explained.

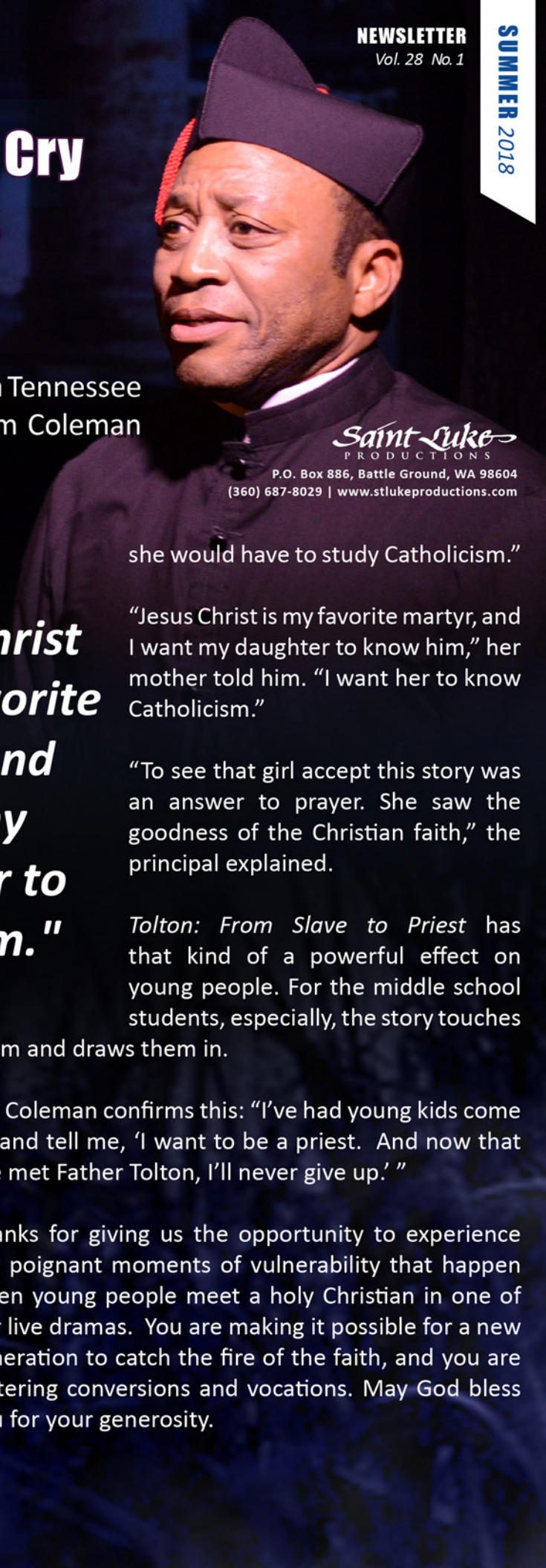
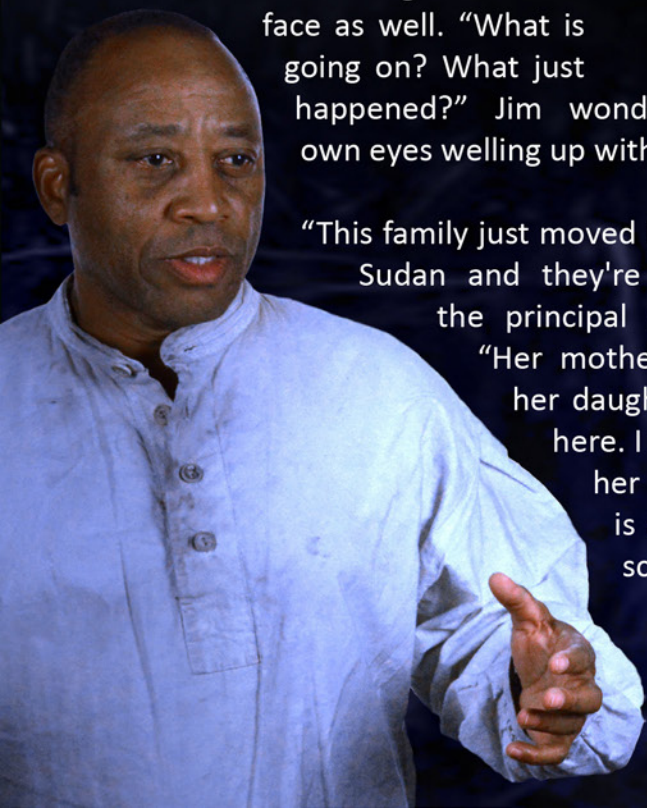
Tolton: From Slave to Priest has that kind of a powerful effect on young people. For the middle school students, especially, the story touches them and draws them in.

Jim Coleman confirms this: "I've had young kids come up and tell me, 'I want to be a priest. And now that I've met Father Tolton, I'll never give up.'"

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to experience the poignant moments of vulnerability that happen when young people meet a holy Christian in one of our live dramas. You are making it possible for a new generation to catch the fire of the faith, and you are fostering conversions and vocations. May God bless you for your generosity.

Saint Luke
PRODUCTIONS

P.O. Box 886, Battle Ground, WA 98604
(360) 687-8029 | www.stlukeproductions.com



NEW

Tolton: From Slave to Priest
Audio Complete Live Drama

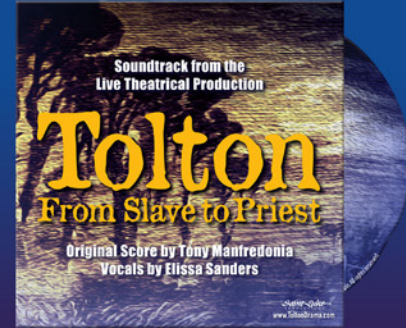


CD \$15 / Download \$10

In this performance CD, you'll experience Augustus Tolton's escape from slavery, his struggle to become a priest, his courage in the face of persecution, and his triumph in the face of death. Listen and be inspired.

NEW

Tolton: From Slave to Priest
Soundtrack

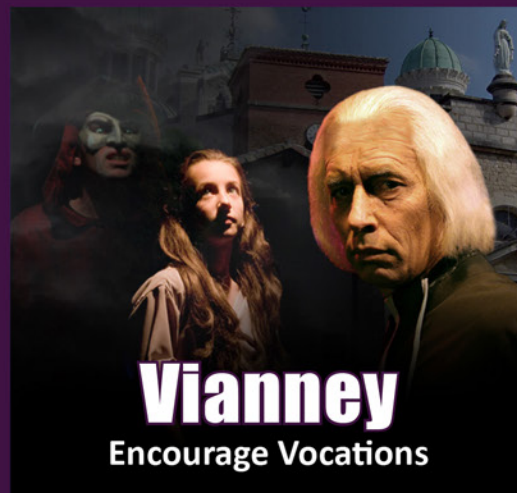


CD \$10 / Download \$7.50

This vibrant musical score, based on traditional spirituals of the post-Civil War era, will transport the listener to a deeper appreciation of the richness of our American Christian heritage.

Want to see these shows?

Sponsor a performance & inspire your community!



Call us at (360) 687-8029, or visit us online, and bring a show to your community. It's easy and affordable. We provide you with everything you need to make the event a success — posters, flyers, ticket templates, web banners, and more.

An Arduous Journey Home

Mien Yockmann has spent the last six months editing the Faustina film. Here he reflects on what this experience has meant to him:

If you were to tell me just a year ago that I'd be working for a Catholic organization on a film about a mystic saint, I would've looked at you cynically, and said, "Yeah, right!" Yet that's exactly where I am today.

I entered places so dark I felt not even the light of God could reach me.

It's not that much of a stretch, I guess. I went to Catholic schools and was even baptized in the Jordan River in Jerusalem while on pilgrimage to the Holy Land in my youth. But life has a way of taking you away from your roots and your faith. My wanderings found me dabbling in all manner of things that brought me to very dark places where I felt not even the light of God could reach me. Mine was an arduous journey back home to God's grace.

Working daily on *Faustina*, I find myself transported back to the weekends and summers I spent helping the Little Servant Sisters at St. Joseph in Strawberry Hill, New Jersey, near where I grew up. Like Sister Faustina, many of the Sisters were from poor Polish families. My rounds with them as they tended the sick and destitute taught



Your donation is touching Mien Yockmann, *Faustina* film editor.

me the true meaning of discipleship and working "in the trenches" to lighten the sorrows of the world.

Coincidence? Hardly. God's mysterious ways become clear when your eyes are opened to miracles.

That's what Saint Faustina is doing for me – she's opening my eyes. I'm deeply moved by her sacrifice, which inspires me to put my whole heart into this unique film experience.

So thank you. Your generosity has made it possible for us to produce a film of captivating beauty. I am compelled to say a daily prayer of gratitude that I should be in such a fortunate and blessed position as its editor.



Follow the *Faustina* DVD at stlukeproductions.com.

Green Screen Magic

Faustina Arrives in Warsaw at Night



The X's on the green screen are used to track movement.



A modern city is placed behind the actress.



Tourists are vaporized to create 1930's Warsaw.



With moonlight and darkness, the night scene is complete.



Watch behind-the-scenes videos online at stlukeproductions.com/editing.

You'll Love This Talented Musician

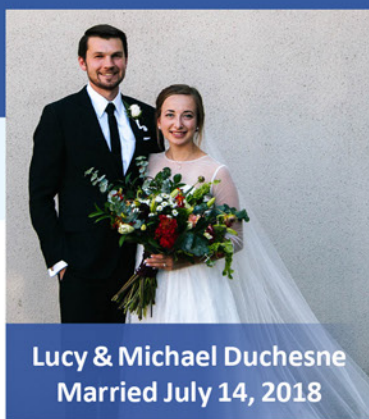
God sent Tony Manfredonia to compose, orchestrate and record our beautiful *Tolton* score.

"Throughout my career as a composer, I've written mainly concert works, video game soundtracks, and most recently, operas. While fulfilling, these were nothing quite like creating the score for Tolton. From studying Father Tolton's journey, to incorporating spirituals of his

time, the process brought me even deeper into my relationship with Christ. It's been nothing but a blessing to provide my God-given gifts back to the Lord through Tolton: From Slave to Priest!"



Here's the man behind the *Tolton* soundtrack.



Lucy & Michael Duchesne
Married July 14, 2018

Duchesne. We had a wedding reception here in our backyard, with more than 200 people attending.

It's been an emotional time for me. Lucy is the second to the youngest, and I've never had a wedding for a daughter before. I felt, as we began the process of preparations, completely confused about what my role should be.

I felt confused about what my role should be.

The central question I had was, "Whose party is this anyway?" At the age of 63, my priorities are different from Lucy's and Michael's. My son, Francis, age 31, gave

me very good advice: Do not place the fear of offending people above your relationship with your daughter or with her husband.

This really cleared things up for me. I decided that it was not my party, but theirs. Leonardo and I set a budget for what we could spend, and then let them work within those limits to make their day beautiful. It was.

Lord, please bless Lucy and Michael with a marriage centered on You. Thank you for helping us all to focus on what was most important: the sacrament they've received, and the joy of the people we love celebrating together.



Please pray for the newlyweds.

Whose party is it, anyway? *Family Reflections*

It's easy to get mixed up when there's a wedding.

By Patti Defilippis

Meet Our New Tolton Actor

Since the beginning of 2018, actor Jim Coleman has been playing the role of Father Augustus Tolton. Our Backstage Crew got a chance to talk to him. Here is an excerpt from that talk:

How did you end up performing the role of Father Tolton?

I got a call this past December from Leonardo, who asked if I'd be interested in the role. I knew nothing about Father Tolton. Growing up in Texas in an all-black community, Catholicism wasn't an option. I didn't even know that there were black priests. That's why this story absolutely fascinated and inspired me. I decided to take a leap of faith and accept the role.

What has been your most miraculous experience of "the show must go on"?

When we were in Bakersfield, CA, the computer containing the whole show was stolen out of the back of truck. It looked like the end. But then, like a superhero, Leonardo flew to the rescue. Ten minutes before showtime he arrived with a new computer, and the show went on. Saint Luke Productions asked everyone to pray and thousands of you did. So thank you so much for your prayers. They worked.

How is playing Father Tolton different from other roles?

I've been an actor for 30 years. Generally, I take on a role and when it's over, it has no effect on me. But this time, it's different. Every night I ask Father Tolton to allow me to step out of the way so that he can tell his story. The tears that I shed in the show are real — I actually feel his pain, and it has really changed me. And when I come offstage, I'm overwhelmed by the heartfelt thanks that I receive for telling this story.

Let Me Share the Applause With You

"I was truly mesmerized! Tolton was beautiful, profound and touched the depths of my heart and soul ripping open a desire to love Jesus so much more."

Angela Weinmuller, Brush Prairie, WA

"WOW! What an amazing production. I am extremely moved and had no idea how inspiring the life of Saint Augustine was. Thank you Saint Luke Productions for changing the world, one saint at a time!"

Annie Jo Accetta, Yorba Linda, CA

"Because of your portrayal of Maximilian Kolbe, I am alcohol free, after 47 years of intense alcohol use. It got me moving, thinking, and going to seek help and also looking into Our Lord of Divine Mercy."

J.K.

You touch souls when you give.

YOU DID IT! All this was made possible by you.

In our 2017-2018 season our live productions reached:

42,000 People in **27** States/Provinces at **153** Live Shows

Thérèse & Augustine
audio live dramas were
produced and distributed.



Tolton live drama and
Tolton soundtrack are
now available.



All CDs and downloads are available online at www.stlukeproductions.com/store.

Thank you!

Join our Backstage Crew, and do even more.

You know it's expensive and complicated to produce these projects. That's why I'd like to invite you to **become an official member of our Backstage Crew** here at Saint Luke Productions.

I need you to make a monthly pledge of \$10, \$20, or \$50, or one-time gift of \$120 — whatever you can afford. Can I count on you every month, for just a small amount, so that we can have the resources to plan ahead for new dramas?

I'll be sending you exclusive videopasses, so that you can go behind-the-scenes to watch rehearsals, take a tour with our directors and actors through our studio, and attend special

live Backstage Crew events. You'll also receive a monthly letter, keeping you up with all our projects.

So please, if you love these dramas, send a donation today. The summer months are tight for us, so I depend on your support right now. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

God bless you,

Leonardo Defilippis
Leonardo Defilippis



Thanks for joining,
Anthony!

"To win souls to God"

Saint Luke Productions is on the battle field and we must, out of love, keep filling their arsenal with whatever we have to share. I'm a Backstage Crew member because I want to keep this ministry strong and fit for the ongoing battle to win souls to God. Plus, I live in Malta! Now I have a chance to see more of their inspiring work.

~ Anthony De Giovanni
Valetta, Malta

Why Give

Join online at www.stlukeproductions.com/backstage.