



# A MIRACLE OF MERCY

## Your generous gift saves souls.

Father Mike had only been ordained a priest a year when he came to the performance of *Maximilian: Saint of Auschwitz*. Little did he know, as he entered the packed auditorium and found a seat, how God would use this play – and him – to bring forgiveness to two young souls.

The lights dimmed. Onto the stage stepped a sinister figure, who laughed as he told the audience how ridiculous it was for the child Raymond Kolbe, later to be known as Maximilian, to pray the rosary.

As the play continued, the Devil became

***“Father, we need  
to talk to you right  
away,” the boys  
whispered.***

more and more obvious in his attacks, working through the Nazis to “undermine the morals of the people.” Maximilian called on the audience to ask Mary, the “Immaculata,” to come to his aid to resist these evil forces.

Halfway through the play, Father Mike noticed two teenage boys get up from their seats. They rushed up to him with a look of terror on their faces.

“Father, we need to talk to you right away,” they whispered. Alarmed and concerned, he followed the boys out of the auditorium.



***“I don’t fear death. I fear sin.”***

“We’ve been into some really bad stuff. It didn’t seem serious before – just playing around. Satanic stuff, Father. But the Devil in that play – he’s real. We’re scared.”

Father Mike let them talk, and then he invited them to make their confessions. And a great burden of sin was lifted from them in a few short minutes. They were free.

Then they went back in and watched the rest of the play, renewed and restored.

When Leonardo heard this story later that night, he was humbled and in awe of God’s power of healing working through this play. Moments like these make all the work worth it. Thank you for bringing about miracles of mercy through your support of these dramas.



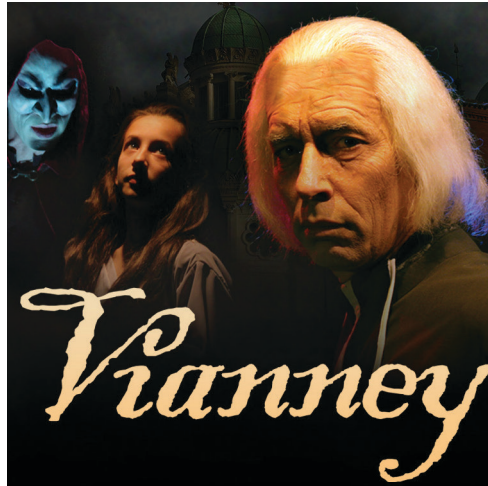
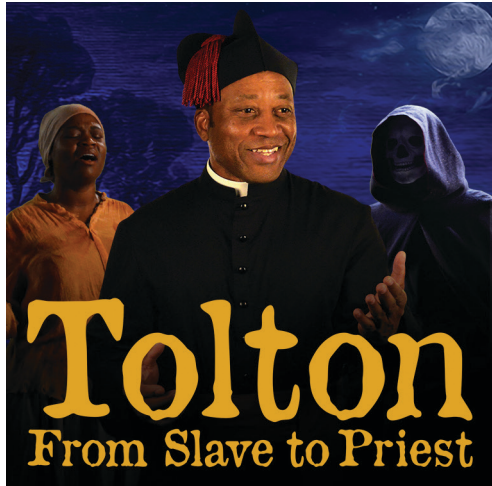
# YOU DID IT! So Many Souls Touched by YOUR Donations.

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**30,000** People in **18** States/Provinces at **132** Live Shows

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*Saint Luke*  
PRODUCTIONS

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# MEETING YOU HAS CHANGED ME

By Jennifer Pagano

Over the past year I have traveled from east coast to west portraying *Faustina, Messenger of Divine Mercy*. Performing the show has been a powerful experience for me as an actress. By God's grace, I have learned to appreciate the greatness of God's gift of mercy.



The response from audience members after the shows always surprises and humbles me. Some have told me that the show was a turning point in repairing a broken relationship.

Many have shared stories and asked for my prayers. A brawny looking man said, "I never cry, but my tears flowed easily." I imagined Jesus opening the door into that place of his unspoken pain.

*"I never cry, but my tears flowed easily."*

Every night I ask God to help me to be not just an actress performing a role, but a messenger of His mercy to the faithful who come to see this drama. I myself have been touched by God's loving forgiveness, and now He's using me to share that gift with others. How awesome is that?



Jennifer Pagano - Not just an actress, but a messenger of God's mercy.

# THE BLESSING OF SOLITUDE

Family Reflections

By Patti Defilippis

I don't like to be alone. Leonardo's been on tour the last week, and I have been spending my evenings in our big empty house. I intend to read, to knit, and to clean.

But instead I watch TV.

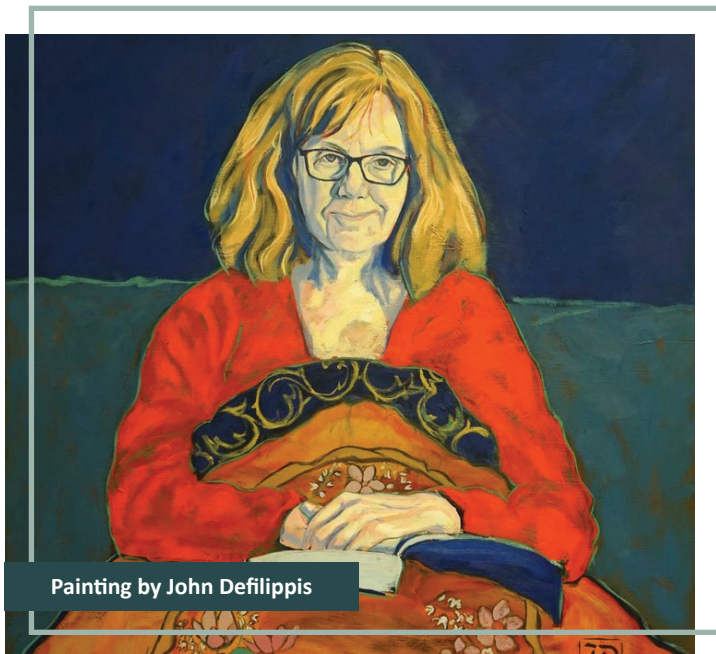
It's a temporary situation, but there is a an emptiness in my heart when he is gone. Which makes me think,

*Perhaps this emptiness is good for me.*

morbid or not, of what it would be like if he were really gone, and I were truly on my own. So many people, so many of *you* are, I know. How do you do it?

I wish I were one of those people who really feels the presence of God all day long. Perhaps that is the blessing of solitude. Perhaps I need solitude to discover this presence. Perhaps this emptiness is good for me.

Dear God, show me the way to your presence, in the lonely space that the world cannot fill.



Painting by John Defilippis



# FAUSTINA MOVIE UPDATE

By Leonardo Defilippis

Here's a glimpse of a powerful scene from the film.



**"In an instant I saw horrible things."**



**"This is a torture greater than my death."**



**"Look and see the human race in its present condition."**

With the Holy Spirit's help, we are striving to capture, in cinematic form, the sorrowful mystery of the Scourging of Jesus.

Picture Faustina alone in her convent cell. All of a sudden, she is transported in a vision to the time and place of the scourging. Seeing her weep like the holy women of Jerusalem, Jesus looks up in great anguish.

"I suffer even greater pain than that which you see, my daughter," He tells her.

She suddenly realizes it's for our sins of impurity that Jesus was tortured. "Oh, how dreadful was Jesus' moral suffering during the scourging!" she tells us.

"Look and see the human race in its present condition," Jesus directs Faustina.

In a stunning turn, the soldiers who are whipping Christ transform into people from our own age. Priests and religious and high dignitaries of the Church, and laypeople of all walks of life take turns scourging Our Lord mercilessly.

***The soldiers  
whipping Christ  
transform into  
people from our  
own age.***

Wow! What a revelation for our times, especially as we see all the scandals in the Church, and the abuse of human dignity in our society. I pray that the Faustina movie will draw many in our broken, thirsting world to the fountain

of Mercy, who is Christ Himself.

Please help us with your donation to finish *Faustina* by Divine Mercy Sunday 2020.

## AUDIENCES THANK YOU!

Let me share the applause with you:

***"I found the Tolton play  
inspiring. I feel like I am  
battling the tides as well."***

Daniel Pontzer, Glen Burnie, MD



***"Maximilian was the most  
inspirational performance I've  
ever seen! Thanks be to God  
for the work of this actor."***

Nancy Montani, Williamsville, NY



***"When I saw Faustina, I came  
out the happiest guy in the  
world. Before that, I could  
forgive you for anything, but  
myself? Never. After the show,  
I can finally forgive myself."***

John Kenyon, Lyndhurst, NJ





# STAGE MANAGERS FOUND!

**Through your prayers, God is sending the people we need.**

Meet Kellan Connolly and Angelyn Von Rueden, the newest members of the Saint Luke Productions team. Kellan is traveling on the *Tolton: From Slave to Priest* tour and Angelyn with *Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy*. Say hi to them when you see them at a show!

## TWO YEARS WITH TOLTON

By Sean Hanus

**“Don’t give up,” Father Tolton seemed to tell me. “Persevere!”**



As a recent college graduate, I packed up all my things and made the five-day drive from upstate New York to Washington State, to join the Saint Luke Productions team as the stage manager for *Tolton: From Slave to Priest*. Two years later, my time with Venerable Father Augustus Tolton has ended, and I'm the studio manager at our home office, supervising the touring teams. It's been quite a ride!

Over the course of 165 performances in 24 states, I have grown in my devotion to Father Tolton. In every struggle and mishap on the road, I would think about all the hardships that he had to face.

Like the time the show laptop was stolen and Leonardo had to fly down to Bakersfield, CA to bring us a

***I pieced the show together, my hands shaking.***



replacement. It looked like the show would have to be cancelled. I thought of Father Tolton and prayed for his help. “Don’t give up,” he seemed to tell me. “Persevere!”

Leonardo rushed through the door 10 minutes before showtime. I had him stall the audience while I pieced the show together, my hands shaking. Thirty minutes later the show began, and ran with just a few hiccups. I learned a lesson in trust from Father Tolton that night.

Even when his own brothers and sisters in Christ persecuted him, Father Tolton never lost faith, but kept loving them. I hope to imitate his unconditional love and sacrifice as I pursue my own vocation, whatever that may be. I am truly blessed to have been a part of spreading Father Augustus Tolton's story.



**Controlling the lights, sound and video for the show.**



# JESUS IS OUR SOURCE OF INCOME. I'M SO GLAD HE SENT YOU!

**Help the Church and change lives with  
your support of these dramas.**

Dear Friends,

2020 marks Saint Luke Productions' 40th Anniversary!

Seems like only yesterday that Patti and I were newlyweds, setting out on the road to share the Gospel through dramatic productions. We used to tour with our first baby, Clara, handing her to an audience member while we put on the show, and putting her to bed in a blow-up swimming pool. Those were simple, happy days.

I know I have asked for your patience many times for the completion of the *Faustina* film. I'm asking your patience again. I'm also asking for your prayers, because we really want to bring this beautiful movie to you by Divine Mercy Sunday 2020.

**And I could really use your help right now.** It takes a lot of people and money to produce a film and to send touring teams out on the road, and we rely on your support. **Please send what you can as soon as you can - \$100 would be a big help.** If you can send more, that's great, or less, that's great too.



**On tour with babies in 1987.**

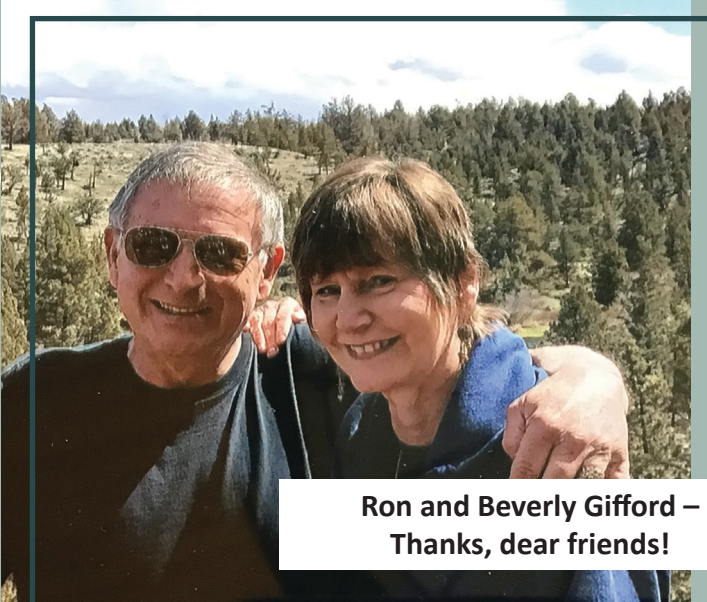
I really feel we're doing this work together, you and I. I pray that God will reward you, here on earth, or later in Heaven, for the love you show for souls when you support this work.

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

In Christ,

*Leonardo*  
Leonardo Defilippis

WHY WE GIVE



**Ron and Beverly Gifford –  
Thanks, dear friends!**

**"By supporting Saint  
Luke Productions, we're  
evangelizing** - reaching  
thousands of people in ways we cannot  
and in places we could never go. What  
a blessing to be a very small part of  
this very important work. We hope  
everyone will have a chance to attend  
these wonderful productions and we  
pray that God will abundantly bless all  
their endeavors."

~ Ron and Beverly Gifford

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