

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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[www.vianneydrama.com](http://www.vianneydrama.com)

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***VIANNEY DRAMA FOR YEAR OF THE PRIESTHOOD***

The live theatrical one-man drama VIANNEY, performed by Leonardo Defilippis, will be performed at several parishes across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on November 30 – December 4, 2009.

This production is touring the U.S. as a part of the worldwide celebration of the *Year of the Priesthood*, declared by Pope Benedict XVI. Over the last few years, the scandals that have wracked the Catholic Church have damaged the reputation of this ministry, and have tainted the public's understanding of what it means to be a priest. As a result, priests and laity have been hesitant to encourage vocations to the priesthood in their congregations and families. In response to this crisis and to reinvigorate and inspire fervent prayer for vocations and a new and deeper understanding of this most important calling, Pope Benedict XVI has declared a *Year of the Priesthood* from June 2009 through June 2010, and has chosen the beloved Saint John Vianney as the patron of this year, and as the patron of all the priests of the world. VIANNEY is a perfect introduction to the saint, and gives a new and encouraging answer to the question, "What is a priest?"

John Vianney, commonly known as the Curé of Ars, lived in the era following the French Revolution, which had decimated the Catholic faith in France. A poor peasant, incompetent in his studies of Latin and theology, he was ordained anyway because of the shortage of priests. Vianney was then sent off to the obscure village of Ars, where the people had fallen into decadence, crime and debauchery. In his determination to save every single soul put into his care, he encountered tremendous resistance, and even violent supernatural attacks. Many nights, witnesses attested, the furniture was thrown around the rectory supernaturally, and the next morning the Curé emerged bruised and exhausted. Vianney courageously overcomes these attacks, and succeeds not only in reforming the lives of his parishioners, but also in drawing, by his holiness and his ability to read souls, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to the tiny parish. Sixteen hours a day were spent in the cramped confessional, and people were willing to wait in line for days for a few minutes of his counsel. Vianney himself found the onslaught difficult to bear, and even tried to escape to a monastery to live and pray in peace. In the end, however, he returned to his flock, recognizing his role as "the shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep."

"I find the character of John Vianney extremely endearing," says Defilippis. "He was a truly eccentric character, wearing a ragged cassock, living on a diet of nothing but one potato a day, yet sparing no expense for the church or his children. His love and concern for the salvation of every single person he encountered came through in his every word and action. There is an urgency in him that is extraordinarily compelling and convicting."

Leonardo Defilippis is best known for his direction and starring role in the feature film THÉRÈSE, which generated phenomenal grassroots support and played in mainstream

movie theaters for an unprecedented 70 weeks and is now in DVD release. His non-profit company Saint Luke Productions has, for 30 years, produced live, film and television dramas on the scriptures and the lives of the saints. Their live productions have toured the U.S., Canada, and Europe, with audiences totaling more than one million people. Their film productions have received numerous prestigious awards, and have been seen by audiences all over the world.

VIANNEY is suitable for ages 12 and up. Admission for all performances will be a free-will offering. The tour is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

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**Information at a Glance:**

**Monday, November 30, 2009 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**St. John Bosco Church**

235 E. County Line Road, Hatboro, PA 19040

Information: Chuck Burgy @ 215-672-7280 or [Busmgr@saintjohnbosco.org](mailto:Busmgr@saintjohnbosco.org)

**Tuesday, December 1, 2009 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**St. Cornelius Church**

160 Ridge Road, Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Information: Tammie Curran / 610-459-2502 / [stcorn1@comcast.net](mailto:stcorn1@comcast.net)

**Wednesday, December 2, 2009 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**St. Helena Social & Recreation Center**

1489 DeKalb Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

Information: St. Helena Parish Office @ 610-275-7711 or [gmalony@sainthelenachurch.org](mailto:gmalony@sainthelenachurch.org)

**Thursday, December 3, 2009 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Holy Cross Church Parish Hall**

651 E. Springfield Rd, Springfield, PA 19064

Information: Father John Gabin @ 610-626-3321

**Friday, December 4, 2009 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church**

6700 Roosevelt Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19149

Information: Parish Rectory @ 215-332-6166 or [olorbulletin@yahoo.com](mailto:olorbulletin@yahoo.com)

***Additional Performances in PA:***

**Saturday, December 5, 2009**

**2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. – 2 Performances!**

**Trinity High School - Auditorium**

3601 Simpson Ferry Rd., Camp Hill, PA 17011

**Admission:** \$10 Adults/ \$3 Ages 16 & Under

Priests, Seminarians, Religious, & Deacons – Free

**Tickets & Information:** Contact Your Local Parish Office or the Secretariat for Clergy and Consecrated Life @ 717-657-4804 x 350

**Sponsored by:** Diocese of Harrisburg