



March 29, 2022

Dear Pastor:

A Blessed 5th Week of Lent.

It has been a challenging number of years for the priesthood in America and around the world, particularly from the perspective of the media. It is a rare occasion when the sacrifice and commitment that calls men to this vocation is presented well by the media or Hollywood.

Enter FATHER STU.

You may have heard that a major motion picture on the life of a modern-day Catholic priest will be released in theaters on April 13th. Well-known Hollywood actor Mark Wahlberg portrays Father Stuart Long from Helena, Montana.

Mark describes this film as his "passion project". He has written a letter to the Bishops of the US which is attached. Please take a minute to read it.

Based on a true story, Father Stu is an unflinchingly honest, funny and ultimately uplifting drama about a lost soul who finds his purpose in a most unexpected place.

Once you see it, I think you will agree that in many ways this film is a love letter to God. For the first time in decades, a film has come along that beautifully portrays a story of redemption and conversion that ultimately results in a vocation to the priesthood that is filled with courage and compassion.

Even though this film was made for you, and your brother priests, this film reaches beyond the Catholic experience to capture the attention and interest of anyone who loves movies. It's a great film that happens to be about a Catholic priest, and in that way, it's a victory for faith. FATHER STU is truly a story of hope in a time that can sometimes feel hopeless. And the fact that Hollywood is delivering it remains truly remarkable!

As Father Scott Borgman, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Orange noted, Father Stu is

"Not for the faint of heart, the rough and tumble profanity of Stu's pre converted life portrays the struggle of a street guy from a broken family trying to make it in boxing and then as an actor. Two lessons stand out. The portrayal of the importance of forgiveness in setting our hearts free exposes the entanglement and bitterness of unforgiveness which ultimately produces atrophied and ineffective lives. Whereas the discovery of redemptive suffering as an invitation to extract meaning for a fuller experience of life reveals an often-neglected source of hope and significance. Film experts agree that without a good storyline, a script is doomed from the beginning. Fr. Stu has a good story in spades and will leave you pondering the lessons and applying them to your own life. The audience was so moved that once the credits began, no one moved. And there was scarce a dry eye in the place."



Father Stu is a film that every priest and seminarian should see. It honors your vocation.

Father Stu is a film that every man over the age of 18 should see. It demonstrates that no one is beyond redemption, and everyone deserves second chances. Knights of Columbus councils, Men's Ministries and Faith Formation groups should be encouraged with a night out for this film.

Father Stu is a film for your college students and young adults because it doesn't water down the faith or the reality of what life looks like when you are trying to make your way.

We hope you will see the film with your parish. Sony Pictures has made it possible for church groups to see this film as early as April 6th. And they are offering special group sales discounts when a group brings their priest! Visit this page on the Father Stu website:

<https://www.fatherstumovie.com/groupsales/>.

Bishop Vetter from the Diocese of Helena and Bishop Thomas from the Diocese of Las Vegas (and who is portrayed briefly in the film as the Bishop who ordains Father Stu) have given their endorsements considering the R rating. Please see the attached statement.

The Father Stu website (www.FatherStuMovie.com) has additional resources for you to use as well to let your parishes know this film will be in theaters.

Please feel free to email me or call me at lwheeler@carmelcommunications.com or by phone (404) 519-1987 with any questions or needs you may have.

We hope to see you at the theater!

For the greater glory of God,



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