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## **Sidebar: André House**

### ***Soup Kitchen Experiences Inspire New Family Drama from Family Theater Productions of Hollywood***

**HOLLYWOOD, Calif.**—Family Theater Productions’ newest family drama evokes real feelings of compassion and concern. That may be because “40 Hours” is inspired by the writer’s experiences while he worked at a soup kitchen.

Father David Guffey, C.S.C., National Director of Family Theater Productions, wrote and directed the short family film-based film on his experiences at André House, a soup kitchen and homeless center in Phoenix. “40 Hours” relates to the First Glorious Mystery of the Rosary, *The Resurrection*.

“This story comes from my experiences when I was Director of André House,” Father Guffey said. “There were several emotional events that demonstrated the power of faith and prayer, inspiring me to write about them as a family drama.”

In “40 Hours,” a sheltered teenaged volunteer becomes involved with an array of people at a homeless shelter. She gets close to another volunteer, who is still struggling with her past. She tries to help her new friend but learns the hard way you can only assist those who want help. So she turns to prayer and asks God for a miracle.

The real experiences that inspired the short film occurred at André House, a ministry to the homeless and poor populations of the Phoenix area. The soup kitchen and homeless center serve hundreds of people in need every day. André House was founded by two Holy Cross Priests in 1984 and is dedicated to serving Jesus through others.

The Arizona ministry is named for Saint André Bessette, who was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010. André was a brother of the Congregation of Holy Cross who became known as the “Miracle Man of Montreal” because of the hundreds of people who credited their healing to him.

“André House is a ministry of love,” Father Guffey said. “All visitors are treated with respect and are considered guests. More than 10,000 people volunteer each year to help us meet the needs of the marginalized and less fortunate citizens in the Phoenix area. We do this to serve Jesus. As Christ said, ‘Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’”

For more information about André House, go to [www.andrehouse.org](http://www.andrehouse.org). For more information about “40 Hours” and Family Theater Productions, go to [www.FamilyTheater.org/40Hours](http://www.FamilyTheater.org/40Hours).