



Looking good, girl

In a society saturated with photo-edited images of models on magazine covers, not to mention billboards pushing plastic surgery, three young Catholic women from Miami are facing down the beauty industry — and not just figuratively.

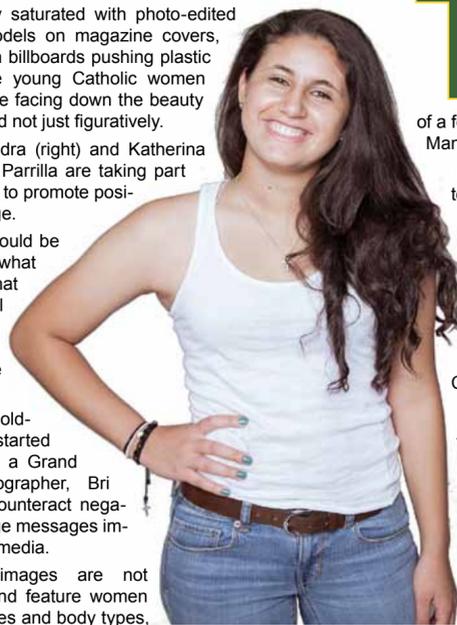
Alanna Cuadra (right) and Katherina and Christina Parrilla are taking part in a campaign to promote positive body image.

"I know I should be thankful for what I have and that God made all of us in His image and likeness," she said.

Called Go Boldly, it was started this spring by a Grand Rapids photographer, Bri Luginbill, to counteract negative body image messages imparted by the media.

Luginbill's images are not touched up and feature women of different ages and body types, including those with disabilities.

Visit www.goboldlygr.com or watch a PSA by Go Boldly at www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdxpV_ZOcA.



(CNS photo/courtesy Go Boldly)

Winners

Movie tells story of Catholic high school team's amazing winning streak

By MICHELE JURICH | Catholic News Service

This is how a movie gets made.

"I found the book in the Santa Monica (California) High School football team locker room when I was cleaning it," said David Zelon, who in addition to being the father

of a football player, is executive vice president at Mandalay Entertainment Group.

In spring 2009, in a place that "smells of testosterone and sweat," he found what would become his latest film project.

"I'm 30 pages into it," he recalled, "and I felt like I found a needle in a haystack. It's an amazing story."

The book, "When the Game Stands Tall," recounts the amazing winning streak of De La Salle High School in Concord, California, coached by Bob Ladouceur.

Upon meeting with its author Neil Hayes, Zelon learned there was an even more amazing story, one that the original book didn't recount. Get a copy of the paperback, Hayes told him.

It was in that story that Zelon, who produced the inspirational movie, "Soul Surfer," found the heart of the narrative of the Ladouceur film, which opens in theaters Aug. 22.

In what Zelon described as a "perfect storm," Zelon, the father of a high school star —

who would play four years at Harvard, on teams that won two Ivy League championships — found a story that spoke to him. And, he hopes, to many more.

De La Salle High School would run that winning streak to 151 games, over a dozen years, before losing. But the story told in "When the Game Stands Tall" is much bigger than wins and losses. Ladouceur not only coached football at De La Salle, but also taught religion.

For Zelon, finding the right director was essential. "Thomas Carter really fit the bill perfectly," Zelon said. "He captured the raw emotion of sports in 'Coach Carter.' He's a huge sports fan."

"Coach Carter" recounted the story of the Richmond (California) High School coach who took his team off the court until the student-athletes' grades improved.

In casting the lead role of Ladouceur, Zelon said he was "looking for somebody who worked on multiple levels."

"He needed to be somebody who understood sports," he said. "He needed to understand iconic coaching. He needed to be athletic himself. He needed to have a basis of faith in his life so he would fit both sides and give us balance."

Jim Caviezel was the name that "floated to the top," Zelon told *The Catholic Voice*, Oakland's diocesan newspaper. "He checked all the boxes."

Caviezel may be best known for his portrayal



(Observer screen grab)

Leaping tables in a single bound

Jim Caviezel gets around. Sometimes in unexpected ways.

He and others involved in the television series "Person of Interest," took part in ComicCon at San Diego, California, last month. When a young fan asked a question of Caviezel, another panelist urged him to "give her a hug." Caviezel bounded over the

table to do just that.

Read more at www.patheos.com/blogs/christophers/2014/07/jim-caviezel-jumps-over-a-table-to-greet-a-young-fan-at-comic-con/#ixzz39ohR3cJm.

Caviezel has also said he picks roles of characters who are "redeemable." You can hear his whole interview at www.patheos.com/blogs/christophers/2013/11/jim-caviezel-i-look-for-redeemable-stories.

— Sharon Boehlefeld

of Jesus in Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" in 2004. But he's also become familiar on television in the dramatic thriller series, "Person of Interest."

Zelon and Carter flew to New York to meet with the actor, who took them to a concert with him.

"We went out and saw Johnny Mathis," Zelon recalled. "Johnny Mathis gave this amazing concert. His voice was like an angel. We shared this creative experience together. We bonded together."

Zelon found coach Ladouceur to be an interesting character. "He doesn't have to preach," he said. "He just does it. He lives it. He walks the talk."

Caviezel echoed that sentiment about "Lad" being a man of few words.

interview.

What he read in the script "had great redemption in it," Caviezel added. He spoke to the paper in Charlotte, North Carolina, where the film was screened for attendees at the Catholic Media Conference in mid-June.

From his own time on the basketball court in high school and knowing some top coaches over the years, Caviezel said he has seen firsthand how turning boys into men, working on the qualities of the inner self and "sacrifice, brotherhood, commitment ... are so essential in having a strong team."

"Winning is just a byproduct of working on that inner self. It's the heart," he added.

Zelon told *The Catholic Voice* the De La Salle athletes also earned his respect. About a year after he had acquired the rights to the book, Zelon and screenwriter Scott Marshall Smith went to a De La Salle football game.

"One of the things that impressed me about this team immensely was something that happened in the locker room after the game. They were playing a team, and were beating them. They were up 35-0 at the half. Lad said, 'Seniors, you're done for the night.'"

The juniors went into the game. De La Salle ultimately won 49-7.

Afterward, Zelon overheard some talk around the lockers — it was eight of the juniors discussing their effort that night, including the fact they "only scored 14 points in the whole second half."

Bottom line, he said, the players decided that they had to do better, recommit themselves to the team and take on additional practice and preparation.

"There was not an adult in sight," Zelon said. "They were having a conversation you would pray that kids would have on their own. They had learned their lessons so well, they had embraced the De La Salle concept so well. We stood there with our mouths opened. I was so impressed by that."

Zelon is hoping that moviegoers will be inspired by Ladouceur.

"This story was honed and built over 30 years; three decades of work went into formulating a program that turned out great young men," Zelon said. Perhaps others might want to understand the roots of success, not just on the field, but in helping boys become men."



(CNS photo/courtesy TriStar Pictures)

"Here's a guy in a room and he's not saying much. He's looking at his coaches. He knows they're capable of doing what they do. He lets them coach. But his presence is felt," he told the Oakland paper in a separate

Actors Michael Chiklis (left) and Jim Caviezel portray De La Salle High School football coaches in the movie "When the Game Stands Tall." The film is about a Catholic high school and the record-setting winning streak of its football team.

VOCATION CORNER

The desires of our hearts

"If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world." — C.S. Lewis

Our hearts were made by God and for God.

We could, in fact, extend this by rightfully saying that the whole reason why God created us (and the world and all that is in it) was in order to share His love with us and to receive our love in return.

If we search the depths of our hearts and if we are honest with ourselves, I truly believe that each and every one of us without exception, will find that there is a desire within each of us that nothing in this world can satisfy or fulfill. When applying this to C.S. Lewis' beautiful quote, this proves for us the truth all of us in fact have been created for another world.

We are called to sanctity because becoming a saint is the one and only way to enter into the world that we have ultimately been created for. This means that we need to spend the days of our lives striving to grow in holiness and virtue and to discovering the individual path that God has planned for each of us.

It is only in trying to hear and follow God's voice that we will have the deepest longings and desires of our hearts satisfied. So today reach out in prayer to the one who made you out of love, and ask Him how He is calling you to love Him in return.

— Father Keith Romke, Diocesan Director of Vocations
Write to him at kromke@rockforddiocese.org.



Q I know Pope Francis just told some Evangelical Christians that we should call each other "brother" and "sister." And in his top 10 list for happiness, he says we are supposed to respect each other's beliefs. I think I understand how to do that with other Christians, but how am I supposed to deal with people who aren't Christian at all?

A Well, I'd say that Jesus summed it up pretty well as to how to deal with all sorts of people, no matter what their situation, when He said: "Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." (Mt 7:12) That being said, at the same time as Christ said that this is how we are called to act, He never promised that it would be easy!

Take your first, example, that of respecting the beliefs of other Christians. We need to make sure that we respect their beliefs, however this does not mean that we have to accept their beliefs.

Christ established one Church, with one set of truths.

We need to make sure that we don't slip into a relativism where two people agree that they each have their own truth even if these truths differ from each other. That simply can't happen.

What we need to do is to be able to talk about our beliefs in such a way that others will be inspired by them. This will happen naturally, because the truths of the Catholic faith are the truths that our hearts were made for and that they long for.

Meanwhile, when others share their beliefs, if they differ from ours, we need to respect that by acknowledging and praising the elements of truth that exist within other Christian denominations. We do in fact have much in common and that ought to be respected.

At the same time however, if dialogue opens up concerning the differences, we must in a charitable way seek to uphold the truth of what it is that we believe.

If we say that these differences don't matter, then we are, in fact, disrespecting our own faith.

We must take measures to ensure that our dialogue never becomes contentious or that it gets to the point where the seeking of truth is no longer the goal. Dialogue should seek to bring another to the truth, not to simply prove to them that they are wrong. Hopefully this suffices to explain how we respect other Christians.

I say all of this because I think the framework remains the same for trying to respect the beliefs of people who are not Christian at all. We need to strive to see the commonalities that exist between us and them, and to be grateful for the common beliefs that we share.

The bottom line is that all of us are created in the image and likeness of God, which means that every single human being has vestiges of God stamped within their being and their soul even if they aren't aware of it.

While in the most extreme cases, there may not be a whole lot of commonality between us and other non-believers, even then we should strive to stay focused on their good qualities rather than dwelling on the bad.

At the same time we should desire more than ever in these cases to present the truth of our Catholic faith in a hope-filled and joyful manner. Again this should be done so as to allow them to come to see the beauty of what we believe, and not in a contentious manner that would make them raise their defenses.

So to sum it all up, I agree with Pope Francis that respecting the beliefs of others can in fact bring happiness because it allows us to focus on the positives in others while at the same time giving us the opportunity to spend time rejoicing on the gift that we have been given in our own Catholic faith.

This month's YO Father question is answered by Father Keith Romke.
Send your questions to youngobserver@rockforddiocese.org.

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