

Reviews

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song "Take Me" was chosen to be the CatholicSingles.com song for the month of September 2007.

Always Forward is very professional in all aspects. Stein worked with producer David Smith at Smith's Icon Music Studios in Nappanee, Indiana, where he recorded the project. Smith lends his musical talents to the project as well, complementing Stein's vocals and acoustic guitar.

You can order your copy of *Always Forward* at joelstein-music.org, and look for Joel to be a part of the upcoming *Catholic Music 2008* project from Spirit Wing Records. Joel's music has already found a place on Catholic radio, including the "Catholic Music Express."

We can expect to hear more great things from Joel Stein!

Jim O'Meara

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The Thirsting

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bassist Chelsea Gentry joined the band as a non-Catholic, and is now "very excited about the Faith." He explains, "The textbook version of our mission statement is to inspire Catholics to love and to follow Jesus in the Eucharist, Mary our Blessed Mother, and all of the teachings of the Catholic Church." He adds, "I want to create a generation of Catholics on fire for the Faith, in love with the Blessed Sacrament and the teachings of the Church."

Behind each song on *No Greater Love* lies a story. Here is a small sampling of the stories that Daniel wished to share with *GrapeVine* readers.

1. "In This Sacrament": I knew I wanted to write a song about the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and I wanted to teach about what the Sacrament it is and where it came from, emphasizing Peter the first pope. There are so many people who don't know where the sacrament is in Scripture. Also, a lot of people don't realize that every sin hurts the church. Ultimately, we want everyone – even non-Catholics – to say, "Hey, I want this sacrament!"

2. "I Am Not Worthy": I was at mass one time at the University of Portland, and I heard those words come out of my mouth. It struck me, "You need to write a song about this, Daniel." I've visited Rome and Medjugorje ... and I heard God tell me, "Daniel, if you'll devote yourself to Me in the Eucharist, I'll take you all over the world."

3. "Ocean of Mercy": It's inspired by the diary of St. Faustina where she talks about an ocean of mercy. Simply abandon your life to God. It's only when we're fallen that we're found. I go downstairs and play this on my guitar and say, "This song needs to be heard by people."

Music and lyrics powerfully proclaim Daniel's goal during The Thirsting's concerts. Though a year has yet to pass since the band's recording debut, their gigs have included shows at college Newman Centers, the Seattle archdiocesan youth rally, and opening for Matt Maher in Vancouver, Washington. Perhaps their most momentous concert, however, took place on September 2 of this year at Joshua Fest in Quincy, California. The popular music festival hosts the biggest names in Christian rock and hip hop, some of whom have successfully crossed into secular music.

After nearby appearances in California and a few more shows this fall, Daniel will begin touring the country on his own while the rest of The Thirsting is in school. He says, "I really feel in my heart to take it to a parish level right now, as far as it can go across the nation. I want to give the church a band that is willing to meet the people on a grassroots level." In order to successfully bring The Thirsting to the rest of the United States, Daniel has learned to give the future to God. He recalls sitting in his basement, hearing God assert, "Let Me be your booking agent." Now, when he calls parishes to promote the band, he says, "They tell me that they were just having a conversation

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