

NDE Paves Way to the Priesthood

On November 14, 2000 Vincent Lafargue, then 25, was involved in a terrible motorcycle accident. Cardiac arrest, propelled him out of his body toward a powerful light in which he felt surrounded by God's absolute love. Such a near-death experience radically changed his approach to life and to the deep meaning he gave to his presence on earth, to the point of leading him to embrace the priestly vocation two years later.



I had three jobs at the same time. Like many people at that age, I thought I was immortal. I used to do everything extremely fast. I was thinking about this that night on my motorcycle, and **I started talking to**

God in my heart. I said to him: "I know I'm going too fast ... I'm doing too much, and I wish I could brake, but I don't know how to do that, especially because I love everything I do." I added, **"If you're so smart, if you really exist, why don't you try to stop me?"**

I was at a red light; and at that moment, very clearly, **a voice started to talk to me.** This voice, very soft and kind — and that had nothing to do with the voice of my conscience — asked me twice: **"Are you really aware of what you are asking me?"** And twice, out loud, not sure what I was doing, **I answered, "Yes."** The light turned green, and **I went about 300 feet before I collided with a car,** at 50 mph. The other car was also going 50 mph, so it felt like hitting a wall at 100 mph. It was very violent. It was very serious, but a number of "coincidences" — meaning the name that God takes when he acts incognito, so these are coincidences made it so that I didn't die that evening.

My heart stopped right outside the door of the operating room. What happened at that moment is much more vivid than anything else in my mind. I suddenly saw a scene that I could observe from above. I saw an injured person on a bed, people bustling around him, and then I heard a beeping sound indicating that a heart was stopping. I was worried about this person without understanding that it was me. I was in a state of total well-being. I suddenly turned around, as if someone was pulling me from behind. But instead of seeing the ceiling, **I saw this immense light, which I had never heard of before. It is much more powerful than sunlight, without being dazzling. I was attracted by it. I floated toward this light** for a few moments, but unlike others, I did not go further. However, for me, **this light was inhabited,** not by a visible person, but **by an obvious presence, which was Love, unconditional Love. And, for me, as I will learn after, love is a Person: God.** This is what I felt very deeply.

I was suddenly thrown back into my body. It was the worst moment of my life, sensorially speaking, even though that's when my heart started again. All my pains were awakened. **I talked about it to the doctor who had performed the surgery.** I told him about what I had seen, the heart massage, the dialogue between him and the nurses, the name on a nametag on the white coat of a caregiver next to my bed. ... The doctor was both interested and confused, saying that I could not scientifically remember any of it, especially the man next to the bed, because I had never seen him outside the operating room. He said **he believed me because everything I said was right, but that it couldn't be explained by science because my heart wasn't beating at that time.**

There are three main characteristics that I observed in myself. First, the fact that **I am no longer afraid of death.** The second element is, indeed, the will to change my life. **I went from my three jobs to a priestly vocation.** The third characteristic is **the need to be at the service of others.**

Our Western Catholic Church is very rationalist; it is very suspicious of the paranormal, in general. Basically, **the only people with whom I can really talk about my experience are the exorcists, because they know very well that there are paranormal phenomena that science does not explain** and that the Church should be interested in. Many faithful are touched by my testimony because they are thirsty for testimonies that allow them to try to understand what science does not explain. I think that the Church must have a word to say about this kind of things. After all, it is about eternal life!

There is nothing in the different accounts [of near-death experiences] that is contradictory to the Catholic faith, because they all speak of absolute love. **Many of them, believers or not, Catholics or not, are held accountable not directly for their actions, but for the amount of love they gave during their lifetime. This is entirely consistent with the Gospel.**