

# This is my Vocation Story

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*My name is Austin Roy. The Order of Carthusians is inviting me to serve Christ and His Church. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

My name is Austin Roy and I'm from Fort Wayne, Indiana. Growing up, we lived on a large corner lot, which served as the neighborhood playground. As television was not a big part of my life, I spent most of my spare time playing basketball, baseball, soccer and pursuing other outdoor activities with friends.

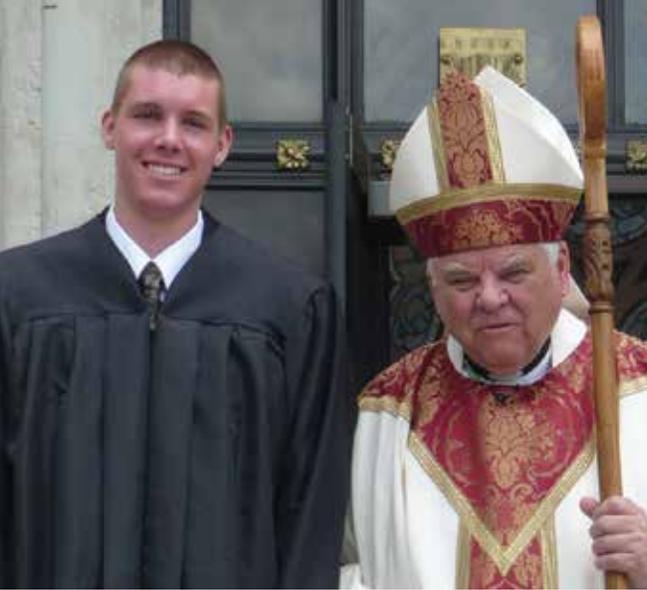
We were a Catholic family, and I regularly prayed the rosary, attended Sunday Mass, and even served as an altar boy. Despite many opportunities to grow in holiness, I viewed church-related activities as obligations rather than opportunities. Though I never doubted my faith, during my formative years I took Catholicism for granted and found the secular world far more interesting.

## My Faith

Somewhat surprisingly, the tool God used for my conversion was the Internet. Many graces I have received in recent years have come through lectures, talks, and homilies I've encountered on YouTube. In fact, discovering a talk entitled "How to Raise a Man" by Fr. Chad Ripperger represented a moment of transformation for me. In this video, Fr. Ripperger explains the duties of a Catholic man as husband and father. His words inspired me to alter my habits and strive with my whole being for higher standards.

About this time, I discovered the writings of Saint Louis de Montfort and began learning more about Marian spirituality. I was previously unfamiliar with Marian consecration, but I soon fell in love with the notion of belonging entirely to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The giving of my whole being to Mary became an overarching theme in my everyday life, and has remained a foundational part of my spirituality ever since.

Despite this conversion, my Christian formation was still in its infancy. Again, it was YouTube that introduced me to Catholic literature. I was especially drawn to Carmelite spirituality in general, and Saint Teresa of Avila's *The Interior Castle*, in particular. Through reading *The Interior Castle*, I developed an abiding love for contemplative prayer and the desire for a deeper union with Our Lord and Lady (although, at this time I was still under the impression God was calling me to married life).



*“...the Blessed Virgin spoke to my heart and helped me to understand I was, in fact, being called to the religious life.”*

—Austin Roy

## My Vocation

These experiences prompted me to seek out a spiritual director, who quickly challenged my assumptions regarding a lay vocation. My spiritual director recognized the spiritual graces I had received, and encouraged me to consider life as a religious priest. This recommendation was initially surprising (and somewhat frightening) to me, but later that evening the Blessed Virgin spoke to my heart and helped me to understand I was, in fact, being called to the religious life.

## Called to Serve

In my search for religious orders that best suited my spiritual abilities and inclinations, the Carthusians were at the top of my list. If there is a theme to my calling, it would read: Alone with Mary and Jesus. A Carthusian is dedicated to prayer, study, and sacrifice – precisely the sort of life I’ve been searching for. Although it’s difficult to put my attraction to the Carthusian way of life into words, a Carthusian monk once wrote: “When God calls, it is so self-evident that all the words and arguments are left behind. When God reveals Himself there is no room for discussion.”

## Prayer & Invitation

Please pray that my fellow Labouré classmates and I can resolve the student loan debt blocking our path to religious life. As you know, the Church desperately needs new priests, sisters, and brothers. With your help, our class will soon reach its goal of serving Christ and humanity.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions you might have at: [austin@rescuevocations.org](mailto:austin@rescuevocations.org).

*Pictured below: The Winter, 2020 Class of Labouré Aspirants*



# I am an aspirant of Labouré

I am also a fundraiser for a class of aspiring priests, sisters and brothers. A recent study confirmed that nearly 1 of every 2 aspirants is blocked from entering seminaries and religious communities due to student loan debt. It is the only thing that prevents many – including me – from entering formation to become a priest, sister or brother. My classmates are discerning all over the country.

**Conor Maher**  
Dominican Friars,  
Province of the  
Most Holy Name  
of Jesus

**Gretchen Erlichman**  
Dominican Nuns of  
the Monastery of  
Our Lady of Grace

**Mary Louise Kohser**  
Disciples of the Lord  
Jesus Christ

**Damyán Mendoza**  
Institute of Christ the  
King Sovereign Priest

**Michael Howard**  
Institute of Christ the  
King Sovereign Priest

**Sean Tobin**  
Dominican Friars of  
the Province of Saint  
Joseph (Eastern  
Province)

**Brittany Behrens**  
Sisters of Providence  
of Saint Mary-of-  
the-Woods

**Thomas Conroy**  
Dominican Friars of  
the Province of Saint  
Joseph (Eastern  
Province)

**Emmanuelle Del Castillo**  
Congregation of  
the Sacred Hearts  
of Jesus and Mary  
(Sacred Hearts Community)

**Buchi Akpati**  
Discalced Carmelites  
Monastery of the Little  
Flower of Jesus

**Austin Roy**  
Order of Carthusians

**Allyssa Hebrado  
Fernandez**  
Marian Sisters of the  
Diocese of Lincoln

**Jean Clumson-Eklu**  
Congregation of  
Saint John

**Hector Ramirez**  
Archdiocese of  
Philadelphia

**Matthew Nordquist**  
Franciscan Friars of  
the Holy Spirit

**Cullen Hilliker**  
Dominicans, Province of  
Saint Albert the Great  
(Central Province)

**Erin Lyons**  
Sisters of the  
Holy Cross

**Patrick Kelly**  
Dominican Friars of  
the Province of Saint  
Joseph (Eastern  
Province)

**Phillip Baker**  
Dominican Friars of  
the Province of Saint  
Joseph (Eastern  
Province)

**Noemy Banuelos**  
Carmelite Sisters  
of the Most Sacred  
Heart of Los  
Angeles

**Tommy Gies**  
Priestly Fraternity  
of Saint Peter

**Juan Pablo Chavez**  
Archdiocese of  
Los Angeles

**Elizabeth Luna**  
Missionaries  
Guadalupanas of  
the Holy Spirit

## With your help, we will rebuild the Church!

*My goal is to raise \$60,000 (the average student loan amount) before June 30th of this year for The Labouré Society, a Catholic non-profit that helps aspirants like me to answer God's call.*

*Every aspirant has been accepted by a diocese or community and is required to work to liquidate their assets in order to make their own maximum loan payments. Through Labouré, my fellow aspirants and I work together as a class, raising donations which will be divided amongst the class and ultimately applied to our remaining student loans.*

*We are blessed to have this opportunity to share our love for God, our vocation stories, and to invite hundreds of individuals to support vocations like ours by financially investing in our future and the future of the Church.*

*Will you join our vocational journeys?*

*Please partner with us and be part of our vocation team so we can answer God's call together!*

*Our vocations story videos are online at: [www.RescueVocations.org](http://www.RescueVocations.org)*

**LABOURÉ**<sup>SM</sup>  
HELP RESCUE VOCATIONS<sup>SM</sup>

# Why is Labouré Needed?



10,000  
Individuals discerning a priestly or religious vocation in the US annually\*



42%  
Are blocked from pursuing this call due to education loans\*



\$60,000  
The average amount our vocational aspirants in Labouré owe in educational loans

## How does the Mission Work?

### OUR ASPIRANTS

- Are discerning a vocation and have been accepted into a diocese or religious institute
- Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans
- Are trained by Labouré in Catholic-based fundraising and are provided with practical tools, personal mentoring, and accountability
- Share their vocation stories with thousands of Catholic donors, thereby building a culture of vocations and evangelization
- As a class of 20-25 aspirants raise funds collectively and receive awards from those funds to be applied to their debt

### THE LABOURE SOCIETY

- Works with aspirants to utilize all personal means to mitigate their loan amount prior to acceptance into the program
- Trains each aspirant in Catholic-based philanthropy
- Mentors each aspirant to build a unified team; each individual works toward the collective goal
- Provides ongoing accountability and personal guidance to ensure proper preparation and completion of the individual fundraising plans of each aspirant
- Equips each aspirant with an online fundraising platform and multi-media fundraising tools
- Facilitates ongoing aspirant/donor communication and updates after aspirant enters formation

## What Has Labouré Accomplished?

320+



Assisted into formation to the priesthood or religious life

\$8.1 MILLION



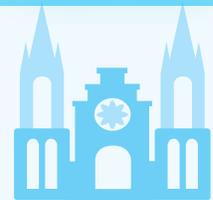
Raised by Labouré aspirants since 2003

PROVEN



In operation since 2003

TRUSTED



Listed in the Official Catholic Directory

\* NRVC, Vision Study, 2010

The Labouré Society is a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and is listed in the Official Catholic Directory. All donations are tax deductible. Gifts solicited by our aspirants belong to Labouré and are dispersed upon board approved guidelines to ensure full compliance with IRS rulings. All gifts made to Labouré are non-refundable. Aspirants who leave Labouré are not required to repay any funds disbursed but are strongly encouraged to support Labouré however possible. Funds granted but not dispersed to a former aspirant are made available to other Labouré needs.