

# This is my Vocation Story

**Elizabeth Luna**

Community:  
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*My name is Elizabeth Luna. The Missionaries Guadalupanas of the Holy Spirit are inviting me to be a sister to serve Christ and humanity. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I was raised Catholic and always felt God was present in my life, especially during the many struggles I faced while growing up.

*“I realized I wanted to become an instrument of God...”*

—Elizabeth Luna

## My Faith

In high school I became interested in art, and one day while working on an assignment in the library I overheard a recruiter from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM) discussing the various programs the college offered. Shortly afterward, I did some research online about FIDM and discovered they offered a digital media program. I immediately knew that's where I wanted to go to school and submitted my application.

## My Vocation

One day, while attending youth Mass in Los Angeles, I saw a large group of nuns wearing habits. I was intrigued by their obvious dedication and sense of joy. I prayed that God would guide me and, after a long period of meditation, an inexplicable feeling washed over me. I felt God telling me that I already had His heart and His love, and that religious life was, indeed, the path I was intended to take.

From that moment, my heart was on fire. I was wanted to pursue the Lord wholeheartedly, and wanted others to know of God's love for each and every one of us. I grew philosophical about my past struggles, realizing we all have struggles of our own. I also realized that I wanted to become an instrument in the hands of God to help others find peace and joy in their lives.



*“I have grown to understand God is calling me to religious life with the Missionary Guadalupanas of the Holy Spirit.”*

—Elizabeth Luna

## Called to Serve

Through online research and time spent with its members and vocation director, I have grown to understand God is calling me to religious life with the Missionary Guadalupanas of the Holy Spirit. Their absolute confidence in the Holy Spirit’s guidance is still present in the community, as are the words of their sainted founder, Fr. Felix Rougier, who said, “With Mary everything, without her, nothing.”

When I read about the lives of Fr. Rougier and holy woman that inspired the community’s founding, Concepción Cabrera de Armida (also known as Conchita), I feel like I’m reading the story of my own soul. The sisters are gentle and strong and inspire my spirit. Their mission is to evangelize and promote God’s motherly love through our accompaniment and mercy in people’s lives. As I strive to enter their community, I know without doubt I have finally come home.

## 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: [elizabethl@rescuevocations.org](mailto:elizabethl@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



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



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



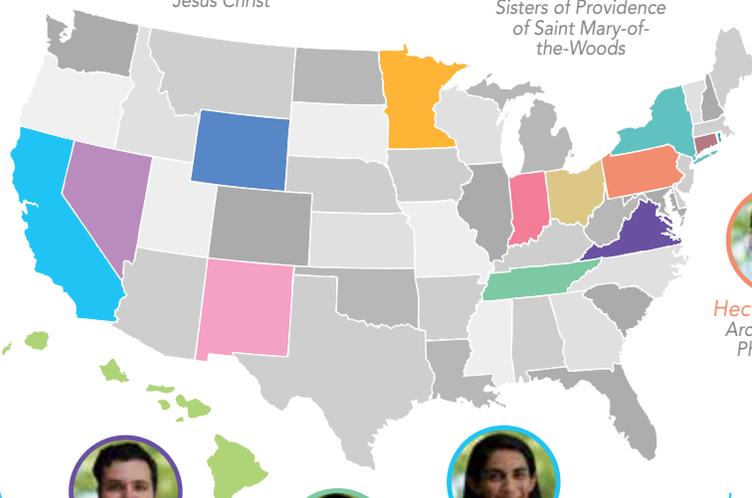
**Sean Tobin**  
Dominican Friars of  
the Province of Saint  
Joseph (Eastern  
Province)



**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



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



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



**Austin Roy**  
Order of Carthusians



**Hector Ramirez**  
Archdiocese of  
Philadelphia



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



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



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



**Juan Pablo Chavez**  
Archdiocese of  
Los Angeles



**Elizabeth Luna**  
Missionaries  
Guadalupanas 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)



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



**Tommy Gies**  
Priestly Fraternity  
of Saint Peter



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

## 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!*

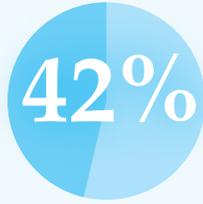
*Our vocations story videos are online at: [www.RescueVocations.org](http://www.RescueVocations.org)*

**LABOURÉ**  
HELP RESCUE VOCATIONS™

# 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.