

This is my Vocation Story

Matthew Nordquist

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Franciscan Friars of the Holy Spirit

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Hi, my name is Matthew Nordquist. The Franciscan Friars of the Holy Spirit are inviting me to serve Christ and His Church. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I am from Fairmont, Minnesota and the oldest of five children. My family grew up enjoying road-trips, fishing, almost every sport, and having a lot of fun together.

My Faith

When I was twelve years old, the Lord asked me very directly to think about being a priest. Simultaneously with that grace, I received a great convicting belief in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist. From that point forward, I desired to know more about the God and Church that had pierced me so deeply.

My Vocation

After my freshman year at Benedictine College, the Lord spoke to me at work one day and said, "You need to go." So, I did. I left everything and went to seminary. After two years in seminary, I had no doubt that the Lord was calling me to be a priest. As I went forward in formation for four more years, there was a restlessness that resided in my heart. Then through a series of extraordinary and ordinary events alike, God called me to pursue religious life, and specifically to follow Saint Francis of Assisi.

"...God called me to pursue religious life, and specifically to follow Saint Francis of Assisi."

—Matthew Nordquist



Called to Serve

After getting to know the Franciscan Friars of the Holy Spirit better, I thought, “man, God made me a religious order.” The friars preach and live penance while serving on a Native Reservation in the area of Phoenix, Arizona.

The friars have been an answer to the deepest longings of my heart. The very thought of bringing Christians together, living the life of Saint Francis, to praise and worship our God in truth, and to evangelize the earth wherever we may be, sets my soul on fire at the very thought.

Prayer & Invitation

Please join me in praying for all discerning their vocation and especially me and my fellow aspirants at this time. The Lord desires all of us to be saints and our generosity together will bring many souls to our Blessed Lord.

If you would like to learn more about how you can help, please contact me at matthew@rescuevocations.org. Pax Christi!

“The very thought of bringing Christians together... sets my soul on fire.”

—Matthew Nordquist

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



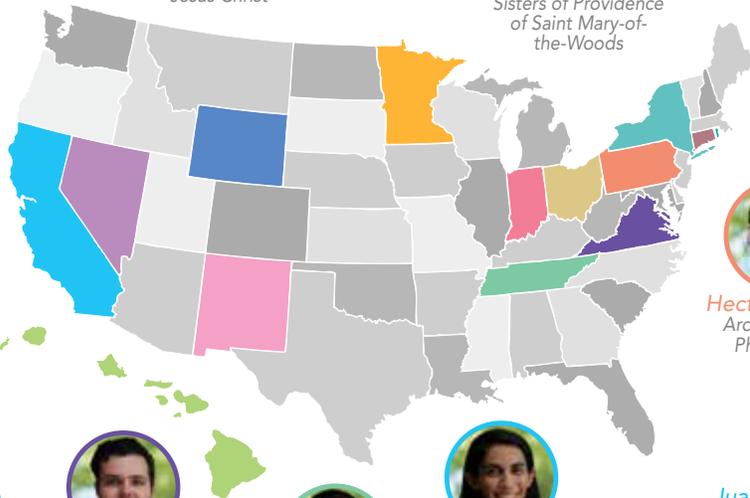
Sean Tobin
Dominican Friars of
the Province of Saint
Joseph (Eastern
Province)



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



**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)



Juan Pablo Chavez
Archdiocese of
Los Angeles



Elizabeth Luna
Missionaries
Guadalupanas of
the Holy Spirit



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

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

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?



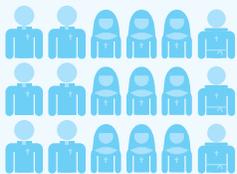
- Are discerning a vocation and have been accepted into a diocese or religious institute
- Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans
- Are trained by Labouré in Catholic-based fundraising and are provided with practical tools, personal mentoring, and accountability
- 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



- 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.