

This is my Vocation Story

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Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

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My name is Michael Howard. The Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest is inviting me to serve Christ and His Church. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I was born and raised in Southern California and come from a family of 12 children. My parents, devout Catholics, gave us an authentically Catholic and well-rounded upbringing, which instilled in us an appreciation for classical music and literature, a passion for athletics, and a strong devotion to the Faith.

My Faith

Every evening after dinner, my parents would lead the Holy Rosary which we prayed together as a family. I believe that this habit and the example of my parents granted me the grace of having a strong devotion to the Virgin Mary from a young age. This devotion helped me to grow in virtue and love for my Catholic Faith.

My Vocation

Serving as an altar boy gave me the privilege of being in close proximity to the priest during the Mass. It also gave me the opportunity to be more deeply drawn into the mystery of the Mass and its sacrificial nature. This gave me a deeper understanding of the importance of the priestly role as mediator of graces. I have had the privilege of knowing many holy priests. By their example I developed a stronger prayer life. It was during this period that I first felt a strong call to serve Christ and His Church with my whole being by becoming a priest.

As a college student, surrounded by so many distractions, the call seemed to waiver. Nevertheless, silent retreats and the chance to share my Faith with friends kept the flame lit. I began to take true ownership over my Faith and to recognize not only the spiritual beauty but also the literal and aesthetic beauty of Holy Mother Church. It is in the Church that one can only completely find that which is true, good and beautiful. This realization completely relit the flame to respond to God's will.



Called to Serve

I have come to realize that the Catholic life is a life ordained towards the sanctification and salvation of souls and at the center is the most holy sacrifice of the Mass. It is this prospect of playing such an intimate role in the sanctification of souls, both within and without the flock of Christ, through the divine liturgies, that has drawn me to the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. Their mission is to spread the reign of Christ in all spheres of human life particularly through the Church's liturgical tradition, the saints, music, art, and architecture. The priests in this community strive to be instruments of God's grace through apostolic work by preaching retreats, teaching catechesis, and providing spiritual guidance.

Prayer & Invitation

Please offer your prayers and sacrifices that my fellow Labouré classmates and I might overcome the student loans which are blocking us from our vocations. Today more than ever, Holy Mother Church desperately needs holy priests, sisters, and brothers.

With your generosity, our class will soon reach its goal of serving our King, Jesus Christ. If you would like to learn more on how you can help, please contact me at michaelh@rescue vocations.org. Pax Christi!

"It is in the Church that one can only completely find that which is true, good and beautiful. This realization relit the flame to respond to God's will."

—Michael Howard

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



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



Michael Howard
Institute of Christ the
King Sovereign Priest



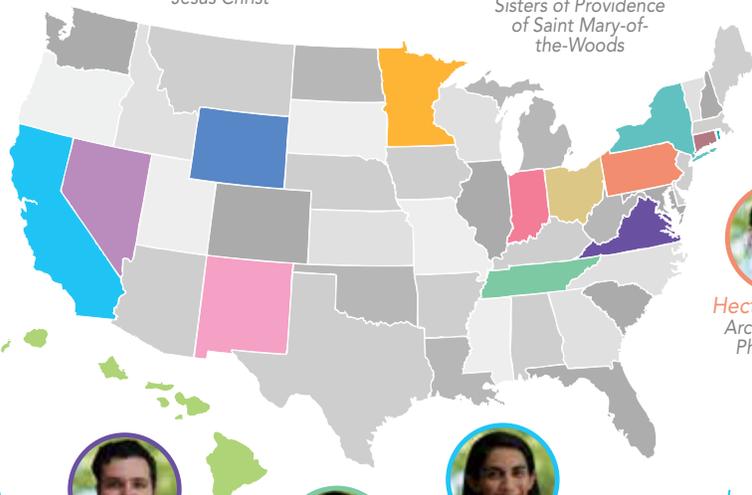
Sean Tobin
Dominican Friars of
the Province of Saint
Joseph (Eastern
Province)



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



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 Banelos
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

LABOURÉSM
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

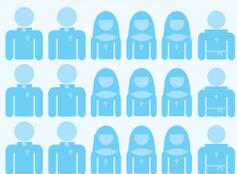


THE LABOURE SOCIETY

- 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



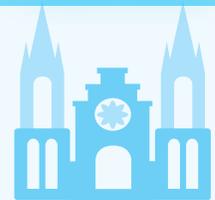
Raised by Labouré aspirants since 2003

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.