

# This is my Vocation Story

**Noemy Banuelos**

Community:  
Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles

Alma Mater:  
Franciscan University

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*Hello, my name is Noemy Banuelos. The Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles are inviting me to serve Christ as a sister. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I am from Colton, California, am one of nine children, and grew up in a strong Catholic family. In high school I was involved in a plethora of activities such as welding, wood carving, pottery, fashion merchandise, and band. I enjoyed all of them, as well as people, places and events.

## My Faith

My eldest sister entered religious life when she was 18 years old and has been a Carmelite sister for seventeen years. Although I understood the life of Carmel because of my sister, it was only from an outside perspective. Coming to recognize the authentic joy that drew my sister (and is now drawing me) into the Heart of Carmel has been a beautiful, yet somewhat difficult, journey.

I attended a youth retreat in Los Angeles when I was 16 years old, and it was there that I first experienced the overwhelming satisfaction of a deep quenching love. I was not intending to participate at all, but succeeded in doing so until the end of the retreat when the chaos in the arena was at its peak. In the midst of this chaos my heart became still. I was overwhelmed by the feeling of being loved, and it confused me. My confusion became a powerful prayer of uncertainty. I crouched in my seat and began to sob. This experience was a lasting grace, a tangible reminder of my first love.

## My Vocation

I'd been attending the Sister's Handmaiden women's group and family nights, and it was during one of these monthly visits that I heard a talk given on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This talk refined my understanding of the love I had received and of my personal relationship with Jesus. The beauty of religious life, specifically Carmelite spirituality, was nurtured during my time away attending college at Franciscan University.



This time away from Carmel was fruitful and I had the space to grow spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally. I delved deeper into my understanding of religious life through study and interaction with various sisters from different communities on campus. Most importantly, my prayer life was strengthened; this opened the door to deepening my relationship with Jesus.

## Called to Serve

In August of 2019, by the grace of God I became a Candidate with the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles. The sisters are completely dedicated to God and the service of the Church. Their lives are grounded in prayer, which flows into their apostolates of healthcare, education, and giving retreats. I am grateful to God for giving me this opportunity to enter into the sacred space of formation as he continues to mold me into a gift of love.

*“I am grateful to God for giving me this opportunity to enter into the sacred space of formation...”*

—Noemy Banuelos

## Prayer & Invitation

Please pray for my fellow Labouré classmates and I so that we may follow Christ in all that we do especially through this beautiful journey. 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. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at: [noemy@rescuevocations.org](mailto:noemy@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



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



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



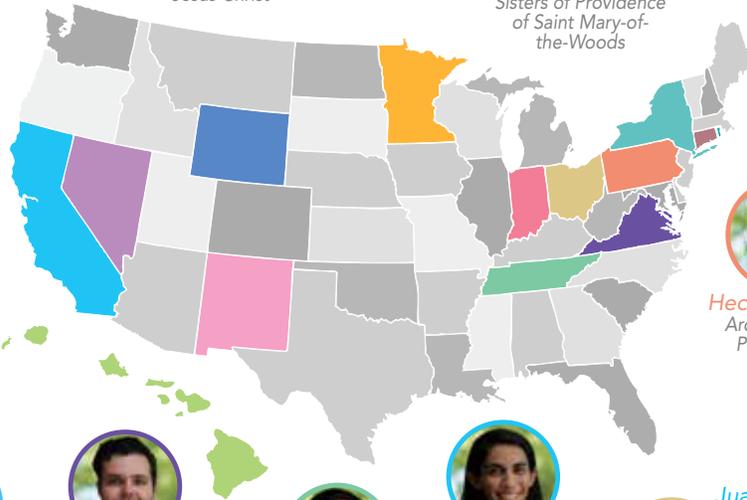
**Sean Tobin**  
Dominican Friars of  
the Province of Saint  
Joseph (Eastern  
Province)



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



**Buchi Akpati**  
Disalced 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 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?



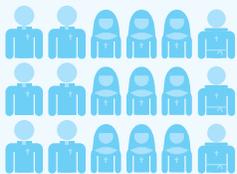
- Are discerning a vocation and have been accepted into a diocese or religious institute
- Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans
- Are trained by Labouré in Catholic-based fundraising and are provided with practical tools, personal mentoring, and accountability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