

This is my Vocation Story

Patrick Kelly

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My name is Patrick Kelly. The Order of Friars Preachers is inviting me to serve Christ and humanity. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I was raised in Virginia. I was confirmed Catholic, and our family attended Mass regularly. The priests I knew while growing up were authentically holy and strong witnesses to the faith. Like other kids I enjoyed playing sports, achieving a black belt in Tae Kwon Do and making the high school swim team. I also enjoyed learning about history and drawing. While in high school I participated in two inner city mission trips, helping the impoverished with home repair projects, yard work, and general chores. Those experiences gave me a better understanding of the importance of caring for those less fortunate than ourselves.

My Faith

While in college, some friends and I visited a Dominican church in Charlottesville, Virginia. I was so impressed by the beauty of the service I subscribed to the Dominican Magnificat Magazine and began reading *The Life of Saint Dominic* by Bede Jarrett.

During my senior year, I had the rare but incredible experience of donating bone marrow to a 15-year-old boy. Undergoing the required evaluations and x-rays, along with the procedure itself, was a grueling process, and it happened at the same time I was studying for final exams and applying for jobs. Although exhausted, I felt an overwhelming sense of joy knowing God was using my life as an instrument of His love and mercy in the life of another who was less fortunate.

My Vocation

At this time I gradually began to realize God was planting the seeds of a vocation, but the burden seemed too large, too daunting. After graduation I accepted a new job in Richmond, VA. My new lifestyle brought independence, interesting responsibilities, and a great group of friends – all the things I thought would make me happy, but something was missing; I still felt as though I were waiting for my life to begin.



“Through spiritual direction, and after a considerable amount of prayer, I have surrendered to the fact that God is calling me to religious life.”

—Patrick Kelly

Remembering my experiences at Charlottesville, I reached out to the Dominican friars for guidance and was invited by the vocations director of the Eastern Province to a vocation weekend. Through spiritual direction, and after a considerable amount of prayer, I have surrendered to the fact that God is calling me to religious life.

Called to Serve

From the very beginning I was drawn to the Dominican lifestyle. The idea of a common fraternal existence conformed to Christ, and committed to sharing the joys of labor, study, and prayer, appeals to me. I like the notion of following in the footsteps of the Order of Friars Preachers, who continue to be “on fire” for the Faith, and have selflessly spread the Truth of Jesus Christ for over 800 years.

The Dominican friars work in hospitals, parishes, and college campuses, witnessing to Christ and serving humanity. As a member of the Order of Preachers, I look forward to leading a life dedicated to service, prayer, and study.

Prayer & Invitation

Please pray for my fellow Labouré classmates and I as we begin our journeys to formation. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about my story please don't hesitate to reach out to me at: patrick@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.

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 VOCATIONSSM

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

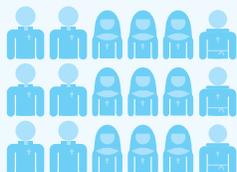
- Are discerning a vocation and have been accepted into a diocese or religious institute
- Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans
- Are trained by Labouré in Catholic-based fundraising and are provided with practical tools, personal mentoring, and accountability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