

This is my Vocation Story

Thomas Conroy

Community:
Dominican Friars of the Province of Saint Joseph (Eastern Province)

Alma Mater:
Mount St. Mary's University

Phone:
(571) 356-3794

Email:
thomas@rescuevocations.org

My name is Thomas Conroy. The Dominican Friars are inviting me to serve Christ and His Church. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I am one of three children and grew up in a Catholic Family in Northern Virginia. My childhood was marked by Boy Scout Camp and visits to the relatives in Maine.

My Faith

It was not until I entered high school that I was aware that the faith had a reality to it. Yet still, God was something I pulled out of a box on Sundays, looked at and admired, then put Him back into it for the rest of my week. In college I went to daily Mass occasionally, but my prayer life was non-existent. This misconception persisted until I realized while on a retreat that my understanding of God was fundamentally inadequate. Suddenly, Christ was now a person in my life, and two things followed from this: if I really cared about Him and wanted to draw close to Him then I had to spend time with Him every day in prayer, and I had to become more involved with the campus faith life — I couldn't keep somebody so good to myself.

"After my junior year the call became so strong that I had to talk to someone."

—Thomas Conroy

My Vocation

When college started, I shunted off the idea of the priesthood saying to myself, "You don't need to do something so... radical." But God is very, very patient. After my Junior year the call became so strong that I had to talk to someone. I soon attended a day of recollection for my local diocese, which was at the studium for the Dominican Province of St. Joseph. I had known about them beforehand, but this was my formal introduction to the order. I was intrigued by their charism and their way of life.



I vividly remember sitting in adoration looking at the Sacred Host and the thought suddenly struck me about the Faith: "It's true. It's all impossibly true." The thought that followed was: "Well, what am I going to do about it?" That question, born and developed through prayer, Mass, and the grace of God, led me to what I hope is the answer: to give my life completely to God as a member of the Order of Preachers for the salvation of souls.

Called to Serve

The Dominican Order exists for preaching for the salvation of souls. They do this in many different ways such as being a parish priest, teaching at a university or foreign missionary evangelization. If there is an opportunity to preach the Gospel, its likely you'll find some Dominicans there.

"The thought suddenly struck me about the Faith: 'It's true. It's impossibly true.'"

—Thomas Conroy

Prayer & Invitation

One does not aspire to become a priest or religious on one's own, they are borne along by the many prayers of the Body of Christ. Please pray for me, my Labouré classmates, and all those who are contemplating pursuing consecrated life or the priesthood.

If you would like to get in contact with me about the Labouré Society and their work, please email me at: thomas@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



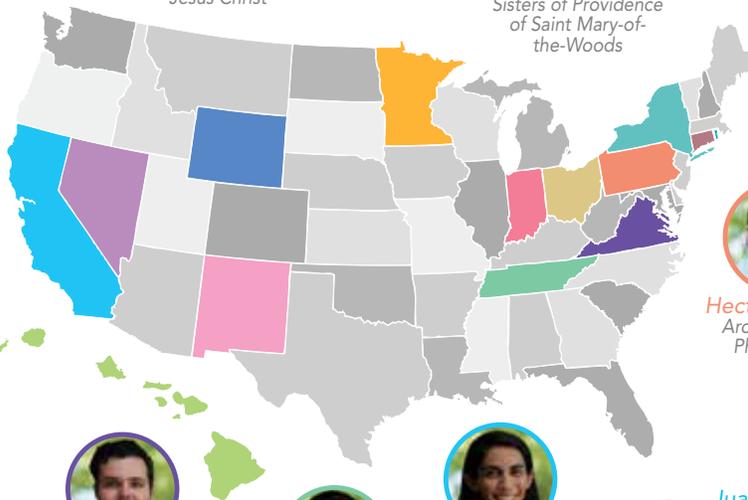
Sean Tobin
Dominican Friars of
the Province of Saint
Joseph (Eastern
Province)



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



Buchi Akpati
Disclaled 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



**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

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.