

# This is my Vocation Story

**Tommy Gies**

Community:  
Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter

Alma Mater:  
Franciscan University

Phone:  
(610) 427-1411

Email:  
tommyg@rescuevocations.org

*My name is Tommy Gies. I desire to share the richness and beauty of the Mass with others, so that they may come to know how the heart of Jesus burns with love for them. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I currently live in Spring City, Pennsylvania, I am one of six children and was raised in a devout Catholic family.

## My Faith

My mom took us to daily Mass and we prayed the Rosary as a family. My parents had told me that God loved me, and that Jesus died out of love for me. I believed it, but the love of God was something I knew by the testimony of others, and not personally.

In my sophomore year of high school everything changed. At summer camp, during Adoration, I came to realize for the first time that Jesus is really there in the Eucharist. This meant that everything about the Faith was real. Jesus really did give everything for me, because He loved me. I realized that night that God not only wanted me to follow Him but to delight His gaze. He longed for me, all of me, and I longed for Him. I began to see myself as His beloved son.

As I cultivated a deeper relationship with The Lord through prayer, study, spiritual reading, and Sacred Scripture, I came to see Him as ultimately the mystical spouse of my soul, and myself as his beloved. I came to understand that the heart of the Faith is intimacy with the Lord.

*“I came to understand that  
the heart of the Faith is  
intimacy with the Lord.”*

—Tommy Gies

## My Vocation

I first heard the call to the priesthood when I was 8 years old. One day after Mass, I went up to my dad and said, “I think God wants me to be a priest, and to be under some kind of authority.” I did not know how to discern at that time, but seeds were being planted. It was after my deeper conversion at camp that I started to seriously consider the priesthood. After Jesus revealed how He gave Himself totally for me, the only response I could make was to totally give myself to Him.



I came to see the beauty of the priestly vocation and to desire to become both priest and victim with Christ through experiencing the traditional Latin Mass. This is what made me realize that I wanted pursue a vocation formed by the traditional liturgy and devoted to its cultivation.

## Called to Serve

The apostolate of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter is to restore Catholic life through the traditional rites and sacraments of the Church. Its goal is to provide the traditional Mass for the faithful and to cultivate the fullness of parish life, from catechism lessons, to young adult groups, men's and women's groups, and charitable outreaches such as pro-life ministry and mission trips. At its heart, the mission of the Fraternity is to restore Catholic culture, so that Christ the King may reign in hearts of individuals and in their families.

My hope as a Fraternity priest is to administer the sacraments to the souls entrusted to me, offer Holy Mass for them, to counsel them, instruct them and teach them the beauty and richness of Catholic Tradition. I hope to be a Father of souls, to bring Christ to others in everything.

*"My hope as a Fraternity priest is to administer the sacraments to the souls entrusted to me..."*

—Tommy Gies

## Prayer & Invitation

I invite you to join me in praying for the continual increase of vocations. I also humbly ask that you pray for my vocation, and those of my Labouré classmates, that we may be able to enter into formation and so be formed by Christ into the saints he has called us to be. If you would like to learn more about how you can help me and other Labouré aspirants, you can reach me via email at [tommyg@rescuevocations.org](mailto:tommyg@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



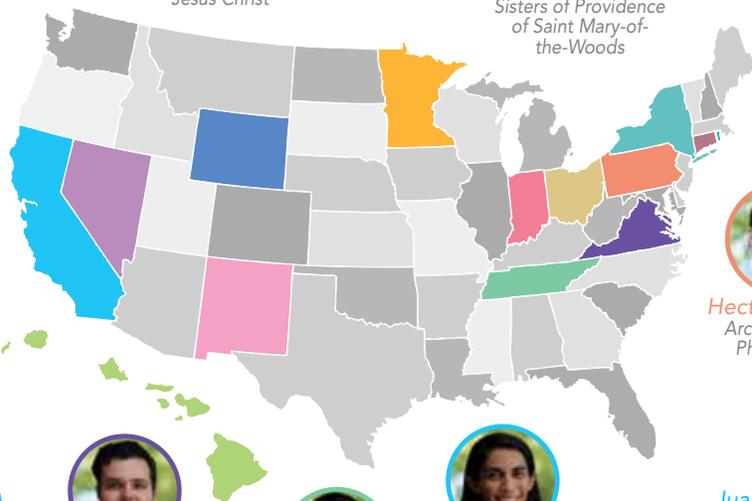
**Sean Tobin**  
Dominican Friars of  
the Province of Saint  
Joseph (Eastern  
Province)



**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



**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



**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)



**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!*

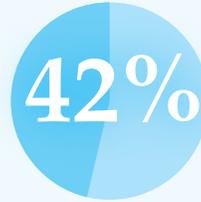
*Our vocations story videos are online at: [www.RescueVocations.org](http://www.RescueVocations.org)*

**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?



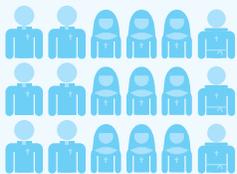
- Are discerning a vocation and have been accepted into a diocese or religious institute
- Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans
- Are trained by Labouré in Catholic-based fundraising and are provided with practical tools, personal mentoring, and accountability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