

This is my Vocation Story

Sean Tobin

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My name is Sean Tobin. The Order of Friars Preachers are inviting me to serve Christ and His Church. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I was raised in Greenwich, Connecticut in an extended Catholic family, where cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents were ever-present. It was a rich and loving environment that fostered faith and education. When not studying, I enjoyed playing baseball, cross country running, and especially reading. My favorite pastimes to this day include painting and drawing – interests instilled in me by my parents, who were both involved in the arts.

My Faith

Although we faithfully attended Mass on Sunday, and were schooled in the fundamentals of the faith, belief in Jesus Christ was not a central part of my life. Then, at the Jesuit high school I attended, I found myself asking the bigger questions in life: “What kind of person do I want to be?” “What is my purpose?” Things truly began to change during my junior year – specifically on the Feast of the Epiphany. As the priest performed the consecration, God made known to me for the first time His true presence in the Eucharist. From that moment on I began to understand that, if Christ is the center of my life, everything else must conform more perfectly to His will.

Strengthened and encouraged by the Mass, the sacraments, and the friendship and influence of holy men and women, I’ve grown to see how cooperating with God’s grace leads one to great things: life spent in pursuance of God’s will is what Christians are called to each and every day.

My Vocation

As a child, I was occasionally told by priests, family, and CCD instructors that I would make a good priest, but as I grew older any notion of the priesthood quietly faded into memory. My pastor in high school inspired me to revisit thoughts of religious life by demonstrating the transformative effect a holy pastor could have on others in bringing Jesus Christ to them.

While attending the Dominican-led Providence College, I experienced the same high calibre of education and faith formation. I’ve encountered many exceptional professors, priests, and friends who have inspired me to embrace the Faith; through them, I’ve come to understand, little by little, that God is calling me to devote my life to sharing the joy of Jesus Christ with others, just as my mentors have done with me.



Called to Serve

The Dominican Order is grounded on four pillars: study, prayer, community, and preaching; it is through study that the friar preacher learns the truths of God, the Church, the Blessed Virgin, and Christian life; it is through prayer that those truths are distilled in contemplation; it is through community that the friars, in imitation of the Holy Trinity, learn to dwell in charity and common life; and it is through preaching that the friars communicate those truths, bringing God to all people in every stage of belief.

I am particularly drawn to the Dominican apostolates, which include teaching at universities, working at colleges and hospitals as chaplains, visiting prisons, and staffing parishes; and the most central Dominican charism of uniting the intellect and the heart to preach the Gospel ceaselessly.

I have had a thousand small encounters that have beckoned me to enter formation with the Dominicans. One moment I'll always remember occurred during the Feast of Saint Albert (a teacher of Saint Thomas Aquinas and a doctor of the Church). The priest celebrating Mass (perhaps the most brilliant man I've ever met), was unable to restrain himself from shedding tears from the Holy, Holy, Holy, to the confection of the Eucharist. Like all Dominicans, he knew that what was central to his identity was not the love of knowledge, but the knowledge of love. I have worked each day to be worthy of that humility. It was at that moment that I felt the power of Saint Thomas's words when he said, "Non nisi te Domine" (Nothing but you, Lord).

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—Sean Tobin

Prayer & Invitation

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.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions you might have at: sean@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)



Thomas Conroy
Dominican Friars of
the Province of Saint
Joseph (Eastern
Province)



Austin Roy
Order of Carthusians



Hector Ramirez
Archdiocese of
Philadelphia



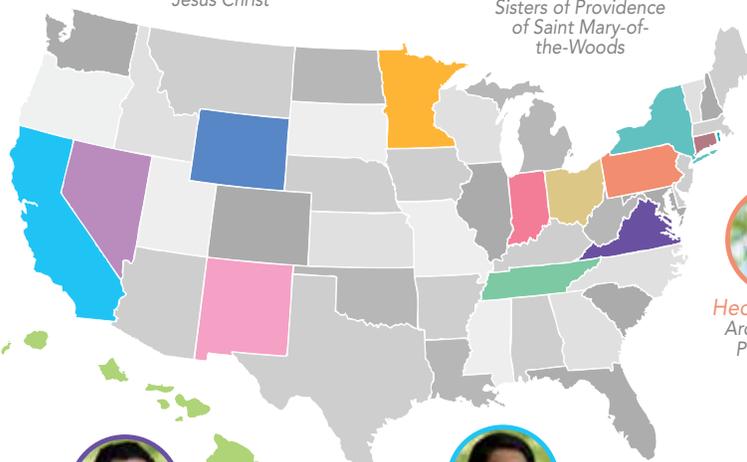
Matthew Nordquist
Franciscan Friars of
the Holy Spirit



Juan Pablo Chavez
Archdiocese of
Los Angeles



Elizabeth Luna
Missionaries
Guadalupanas of
the Holy Spirit



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



**Allyssa Hebrado
Fernandez**
Marian Sisters of the
Diocese of Lincoln



Jean Clumson-Eklu
Congregation of
Saint John



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 Banelos
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!

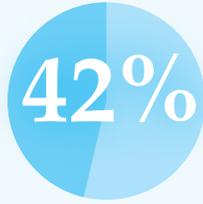
Our vocations story videos are online at: www.RescueVocations.org

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?

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.