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This is my Vocation Story



Joseph Lynch

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My name is Joseph Lynch and I believe I am called to spread the love of Christ to others as a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I grew up in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, in a tight-knit homeschooling Catholic family with five younger siblings. I enjoyed playing sports, ranging from basketball to cross country, and during the long winters I looked forward to camping up north.

My Faith

My parents made certain our faith was a central part of our lives. In this setting, I experienced a taste of the richness of Catholicism early on, and it made me want more.

Reading about St. Isaac Jogues and other missionary martyrs stirred something inside of me. There was an adventure and athleticism in their lives that led me to look up to them like sports heroes.

For a few years, my family lived in an old rectory next to our parish, which gave us the opportunity to be deeply involved in the life of the Church. While serving Mass in the mornings, I began to imagine becoming a priest.

My Vocation

I attended a Catholic college in part because that attraction to the priesthood remained. I was also excited to continue running cross country and track, which had provided a fraternity I had not found anywhere else. I studied journalism and history, and looked forward to writing and teaching in the future.

Things were going well, except something was missing. I had a desire for an intimate relationship with Christ but it was being muffled in the noise of so many other desires and activities. As God always does, He acted first.

“I had a desire for an intimate relationship with Christ but it was being muffled in the noise of so many other desires and activities.”

—Joseph Lynch

LABOURÉSM

HELP RESCUE VOCATIONSSM



“The idea of following Christ without reserve gave me a strong sense of joy, and I felt the adventure, not just the sacrifice, in saying yes to His call.”

—Joseph Lynch

Halfway through college, an injury took me out for the rest of the cross country season. The loss prompted me to turn to prayer and spiritual direction from a monk on campus.

While developing a daily prayer life, I began to love praying Lectio Divina with the Scriptures. One day in this prayer, I heard the Lord calling me to commit wholeheartedly to Him. The idea of following Christ without reserve gave me a strong sense of joy, and I felt the adventure, not just the sacrifice, in saying yes to His call.

Called to Serve

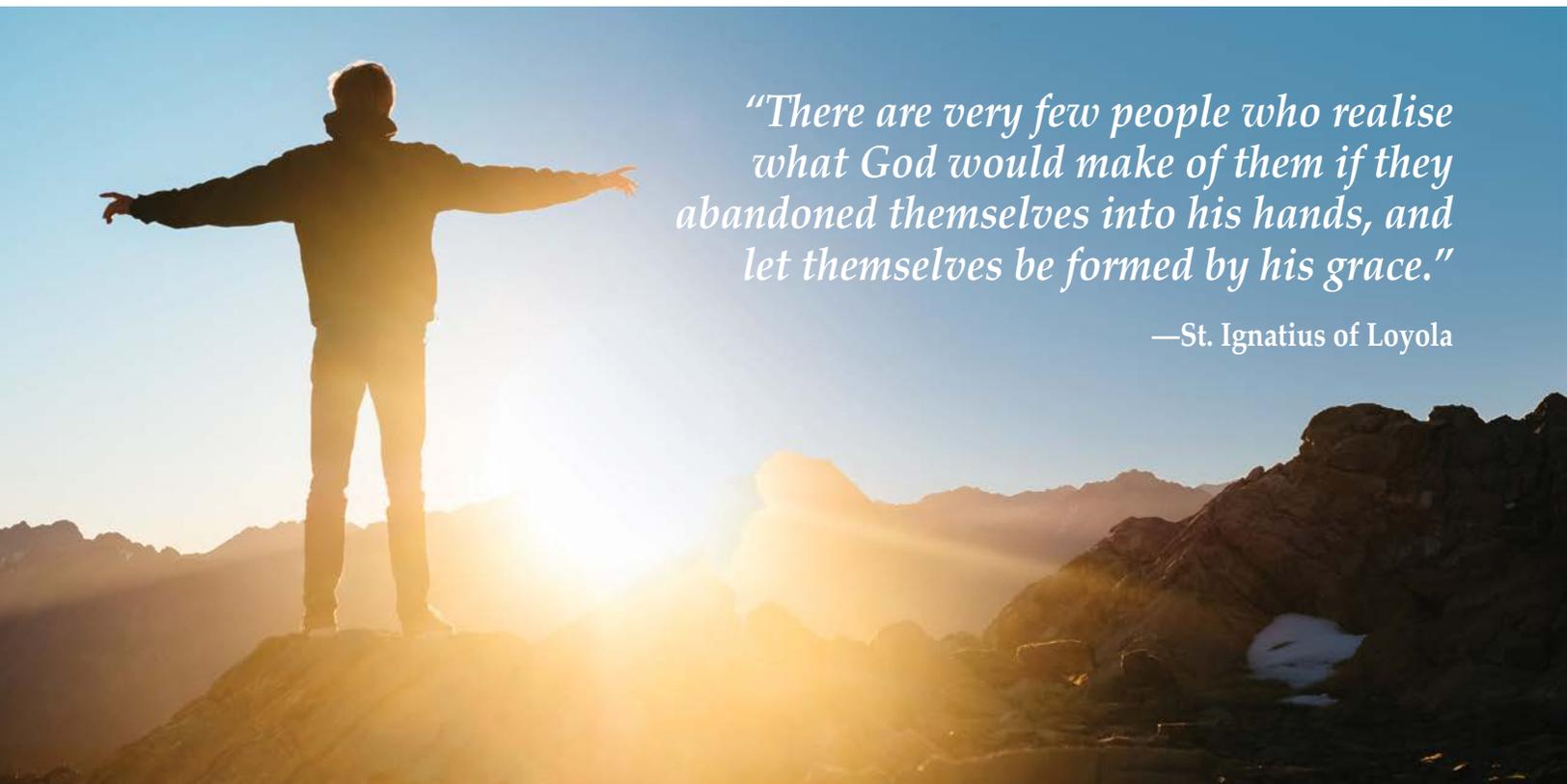
I had heard of the Community of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFRs), but never thought I might be called to join them. After meeting some CFRs while on a mission trip though, I was reminded of the missionary saints I had read about when I was younger. The respect I had for them suddenly turned into an amazement that I might be called to be one of them!

The CFRs are down-to-earth, but they are bold in their mission, which is to wholeheartedly embrace Jesus Christ by living the Gospel through contemplative prayer and service to the poor. It’s a mission that is deeply needed at this time of brokenness within the Church and society, and it is a great gift to be called to join in it.

Prayer & Invitation

Please pray that my fellow classmates and I can resolve the student loan debt blocking our path to religious life. As you know, the Church desperately needs 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: Joseph@rescuevocations.org.



“There are very few people who realise what God would make of them if they abandoned themselves into his hands, and let themselves be formed by his grace.”

—St. Ignatius of Loyola

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 from entering formation to become a priest, sister or brother. My classmates are discerning all over the country.

Ron Cuenco
Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land

Hannah Houser
Sisters of Saint Francis, Oldenburg

Jim Musgrave
Archdiocese of Detroit, Michigan

Peyton Kerkman
Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln, NE

Gretchen Erlichman
Dominican Nuns of the Monastery of Our Lady of Grace

Richard McAlister
Diocese of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

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

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

Joseph Lynch
Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

Patrick Kelly
Dominican Friars of the Province of Saint Joseph (Eastern Province)

Erin Lyons
Sisters of the Holy Cross

Elizabeth Luna
Missionaries Guadalupanas of the Holy Spirit

Hector Ramirez
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Jean Clumson-Eklu
Congregation of Saint John

Fran Masawi
The Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg

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

Joseph Silver
Benedictine Monks of Our Lady of Clear Creek Abbey

Sarah Huckins
Disalced Carmelite Nuns in San Diego

Victoria Clarizio
Passionist Nuns, Pittsburgh, PA

Tyler Wisniewski
Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

With your help, we will rebuild the Church!

My goal is to raise \$60,000 (the average student loan amount) before December 31st 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 VOCATIONS™

Why is Labouré Needed?



Individuals discerning a priestly or religious vocation in the US annually*



Are blocked from pursuing this call due to education loans*



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

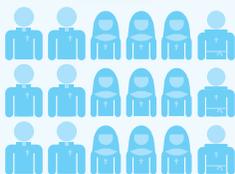
THE LABOURE SOCIETY



- 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?

325+



Assisted into formation to the priesthood or religious life

\$8.6 MILLION



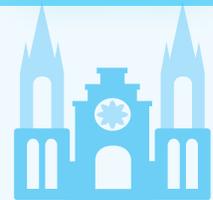
Raised by Labouré aspirants since 2003

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.