

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.



“The thought suddenly struck me about the Faith: ‘It’s true. It’s impossibly true.’”

—Thomas Conroy

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.

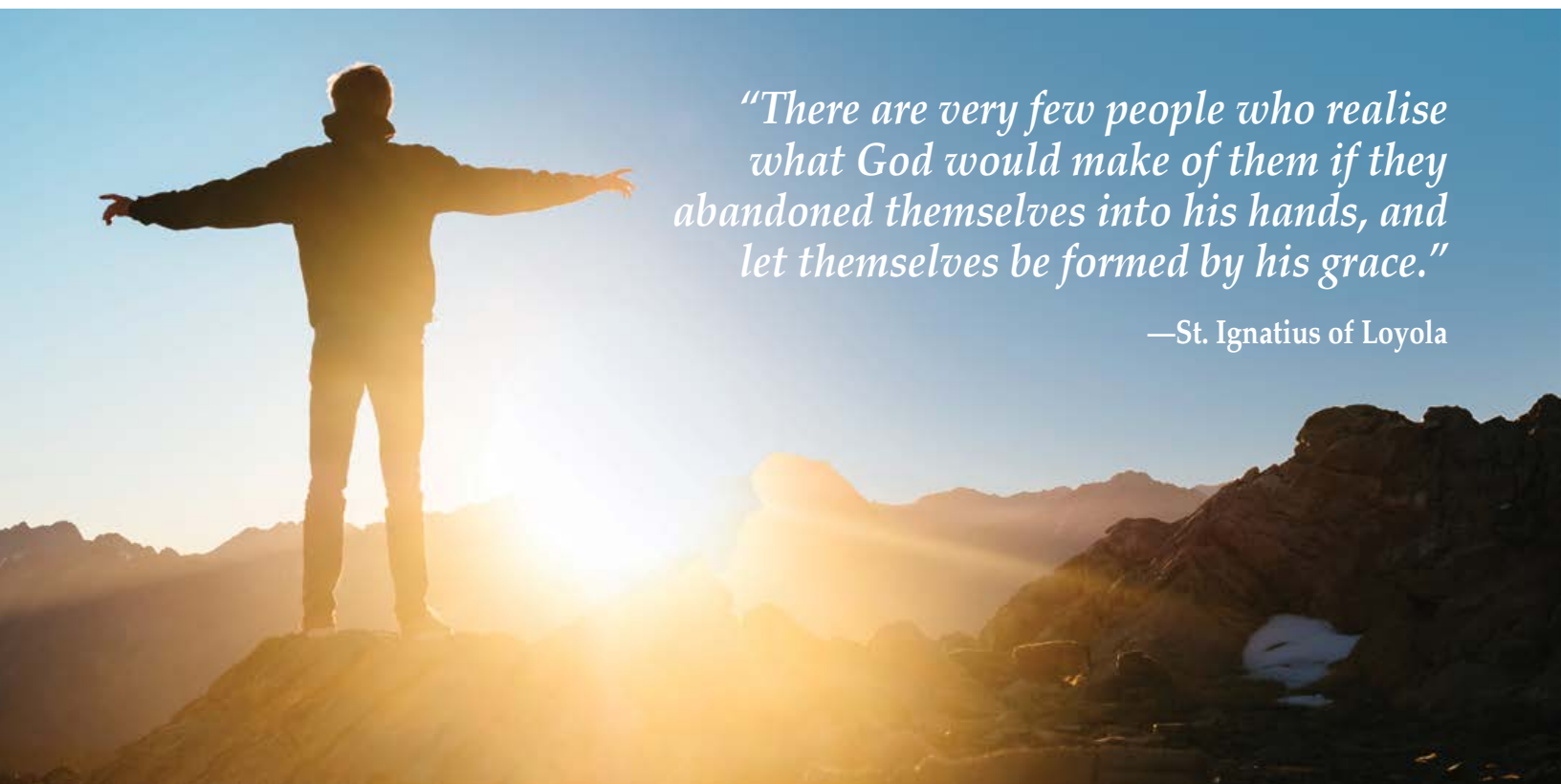
Called to Serve

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.

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.



“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

Joseph Lynch
Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

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

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

Thomas Conroy
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!

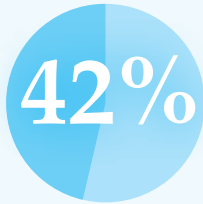
Our vocations story videos are online at: www.RescueVocations.org

LABOURÉSM
HELP RESCUE VOCATIONS™

Why is Labouré Needed?



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

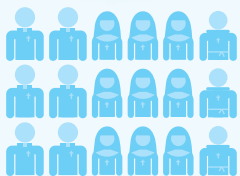
- Are discerning a vocation and have been accepted into a diocese or religious institute
- Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans
- Are trained by Labouré in Catholic-based fundraising and are provided with practical tools, personal mentoring, and accountability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

325+



Assisted into formation to the priesthood or religious life

\$8.6 MILLION



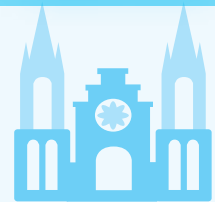
Raised by Labouré aspirants since 2003

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.