

# This is my Vocation Story



**Sam Dugan**

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*My name is Sam Dugan. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is inviting me to serve Christ and His Church as a diocesan priest. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I was raised in a large Catholic family in Marlton, NJ. We attended Mass almost every Sunday, but that was pretty much the extent of my church involvement. Although I was interested in God from an early age, practicing my faith was not a big part of my personal life.

## My Faith

After a period of waywardness, I started searching for meaning and purpose while attending Clemson University. I had tasted the emptiness of all that our rebellious culture tries to sell us, and I was looking for a way back to the straight and narrow path.

One evening while deep in thought, I had a powerful experience in which I heard God's voice. He made His presence known to me in such a way that I had absolute certainty the Christian God was the one true God. Now I wanted nothing more than to understand Him and to deepen my relationship with Him.

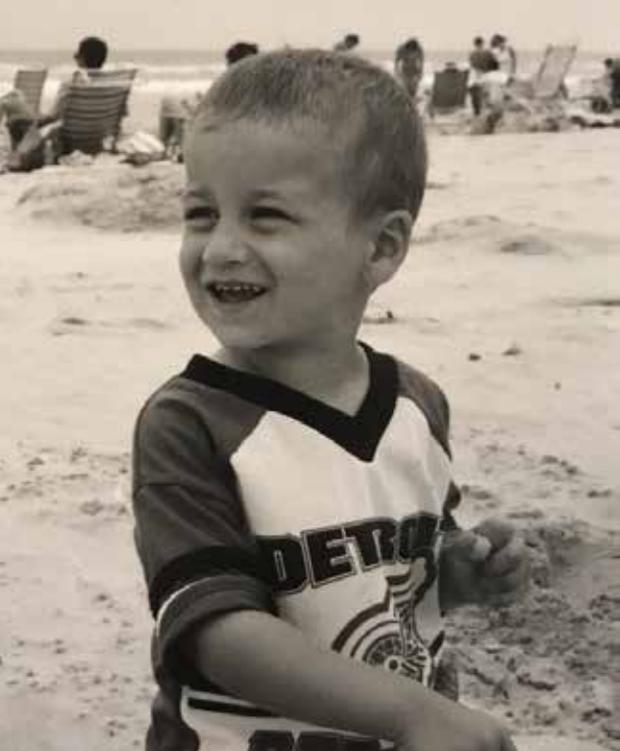
By the grace of God and the guidance of His providential hand, I stumbled upon the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas. I was mesmerized in finally seeing, through him, how deeply rational and intellectually profound our faith is. I was convinced almost immediately of the truth of our Catholic faith, and knew it would become the center of my life. I felt as if I had finally come home.

## My Vocation

I knew the only proper response to God's love and mercy was to love Him with all my heart, all my soul, and all my strength: to give Him my whole self and my whole life — all that I am and all that I have.

*"I look forward to  
offering my life  
to God for the sake  
of the world."*

—Sam Dugan



I wanted to serve God, and I felt Christ calling me to fight for His Church and to join the front lines of the battle. I received a lot of encouragement when I began sharing my vocation with others — priests, relatives and friends were all of the opinion I would make a good priest.

## Called to Serve

I briefly considered the Dominicans, but I was very impressed by Archbishop Chaput and ultimately decided to apply to Philadelphia's diocesan seminary.

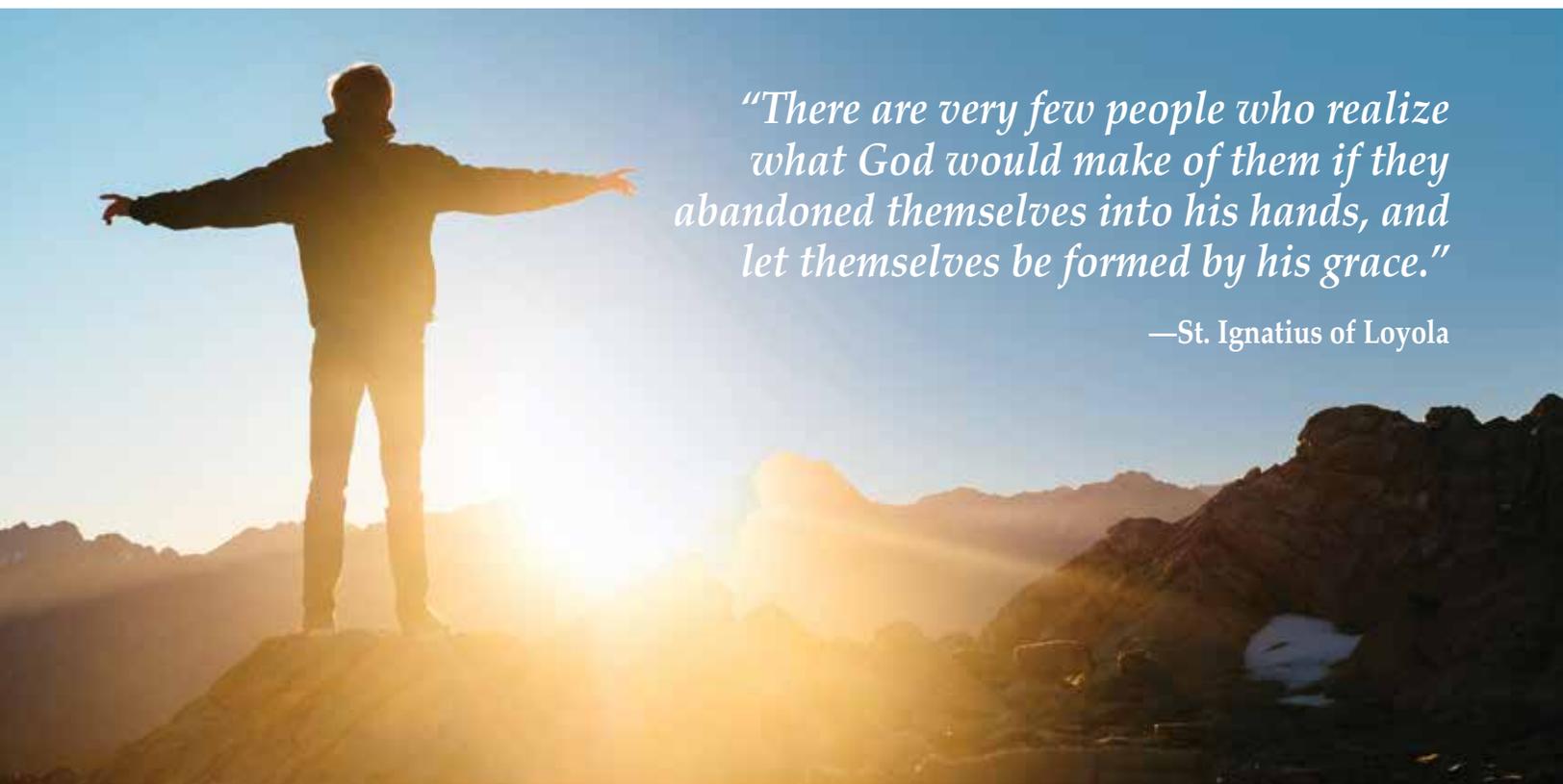
As a second year seminarian with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, my calling has only grown stronger and clearer. I thank God He has led me to such a wonderful institution. I look forward personally to becoming a priest of Jesus Christ so that I might serve as an instrument in His hands for conversion of sinners and the salvation of souls.

## Prayer & Invitation

Please pray that my fellow Labouré classmates and I can resolve the student loan debt blocking our path to religious life. With your help, our class will soon reach its goal of serving Christ and humanity. Please reach out with any questions you might have at: [Sam@rescuevocations.org](mailto:Sam@rescuevocations.org).

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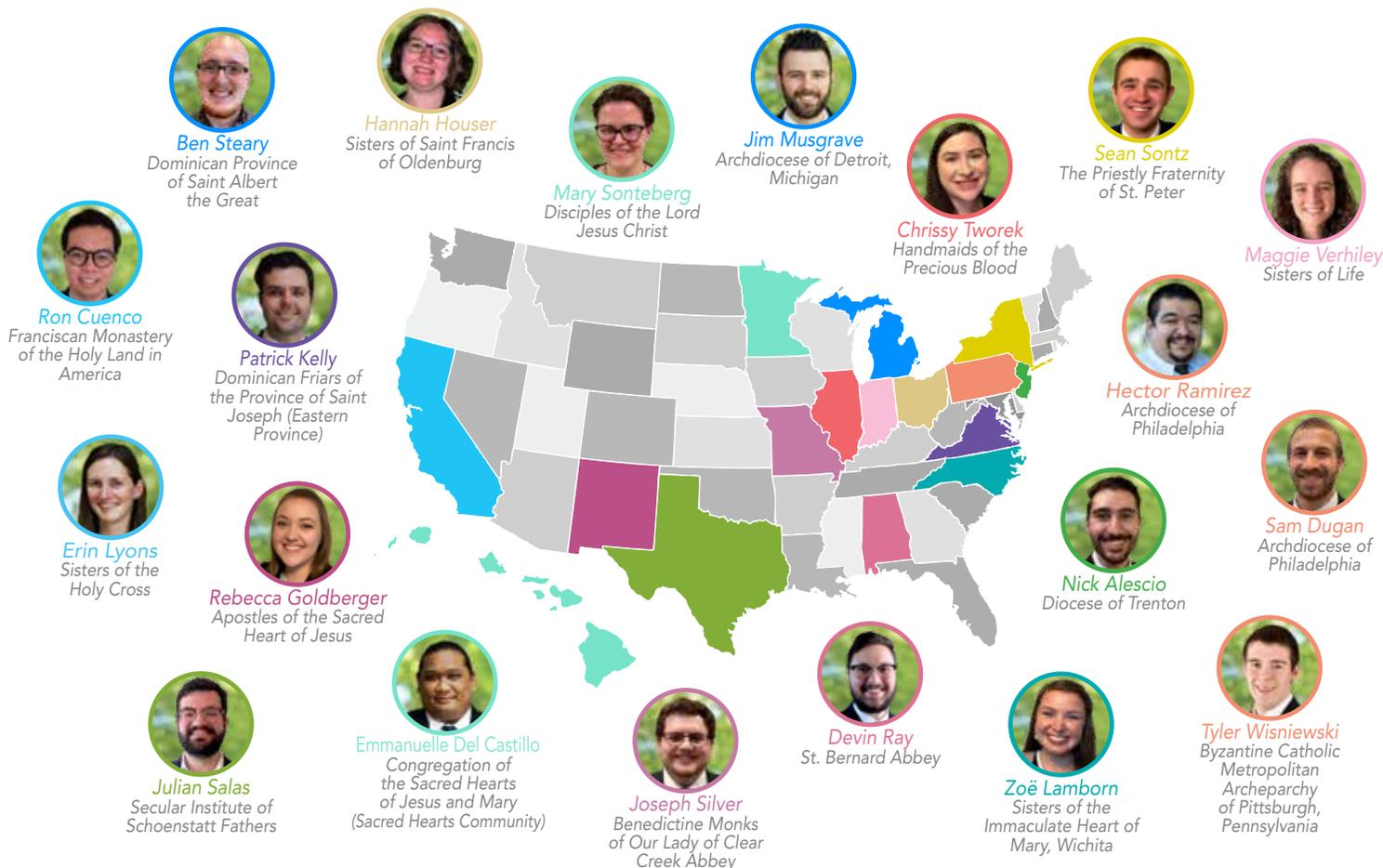


*"There are very few people who realize what God would make of them if they abandoned themselves into his hands, and let themselves be formed by his grace."*

—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.



## 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**<sup>SM</sup>  
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

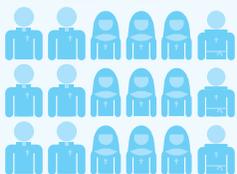
- Are discerning a vocation and have been accepted into a diocese or religious institute
- Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans
- Are trained by Labouré in Catholic-based fundraising and are provided with practical tools, personal mentoring, and accountability
- Share their vocation stories with thousands of Catholic donors, thereby building a culture of vocations and evangelization
- Collectively raise funds as a class of 20-25 aspirants and receive awards from those funds to be applied toward their debt

### THE LABOURE SOCIETY

- Works with aspirants to help them 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?

370+



Assisted in their journey to answer God's call

\$10 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.