

# This is my Vocation Story



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Community:  
Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

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*My name is Rebecca Goldberger. I am called to serve Christ and humanity as a sister with the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I am the youngest of four children and was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Catholic faith was an important part of my upbringing. We attended Mass every weekend, prayed together, attended Catholic school, and were involved in the life of our parish. I also learned a great deal about the faith from my grandparents. My grandmother was a devout Catholic, and I loved to look through all of her religious books and listen to her speak fondly of my patron saint, St. Therese of Lisieux.

## My Faith

From an early age, I had a very specific idea of what I wanted my life to look like, and I was determined to make that vision a reality no matter what. I wanted a husband, children, and a career in healthcare. Religious life wasn't even a consideration. In fact, during my late teens and early twenties I strayed from the faith: I married outside of the Church, earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico, obtained a Master's degree from New Mexico State University, and became a Registered Dietician.

*"I want to be an  
instrument of God's  
healing for others..."*

—Rebecca Goldberger

When my marriage ended in divorce just a few years later, it ushered in the most painful – and transformative – chapter in my life. At that time, I began to realize not only how far I'd drifted from the Catholic Church, but also how much I missed it. I went to confession for the first time in years, started attending daily Mass, and went to adoration regularly.

## My Vocation

Soon after returning to the faith, I started to wonder about religious life. It had never been part of my plan; however, the thought kept returning. The idea of giving up my possessions, my career, and control of my life was frightening, and I continued to dismiss the idea until the pandemic began.



*“My dream is to consecrate myself to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and bring His love to others.”*

—Rebecca Goldberger

Then, witnessing the amount of suffering people were experiencing made it clear to me I wanted to devote my life entirely to loving God and serving others.

I was unsure what to do next. Overwhelmed by the number of religious communities, I used the National Religious Vocation Conference Vocation Match tool, and one of my matches was the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (ASCJ). Although I browsed a number of different communities, something kept drawing me back to the Apostles.

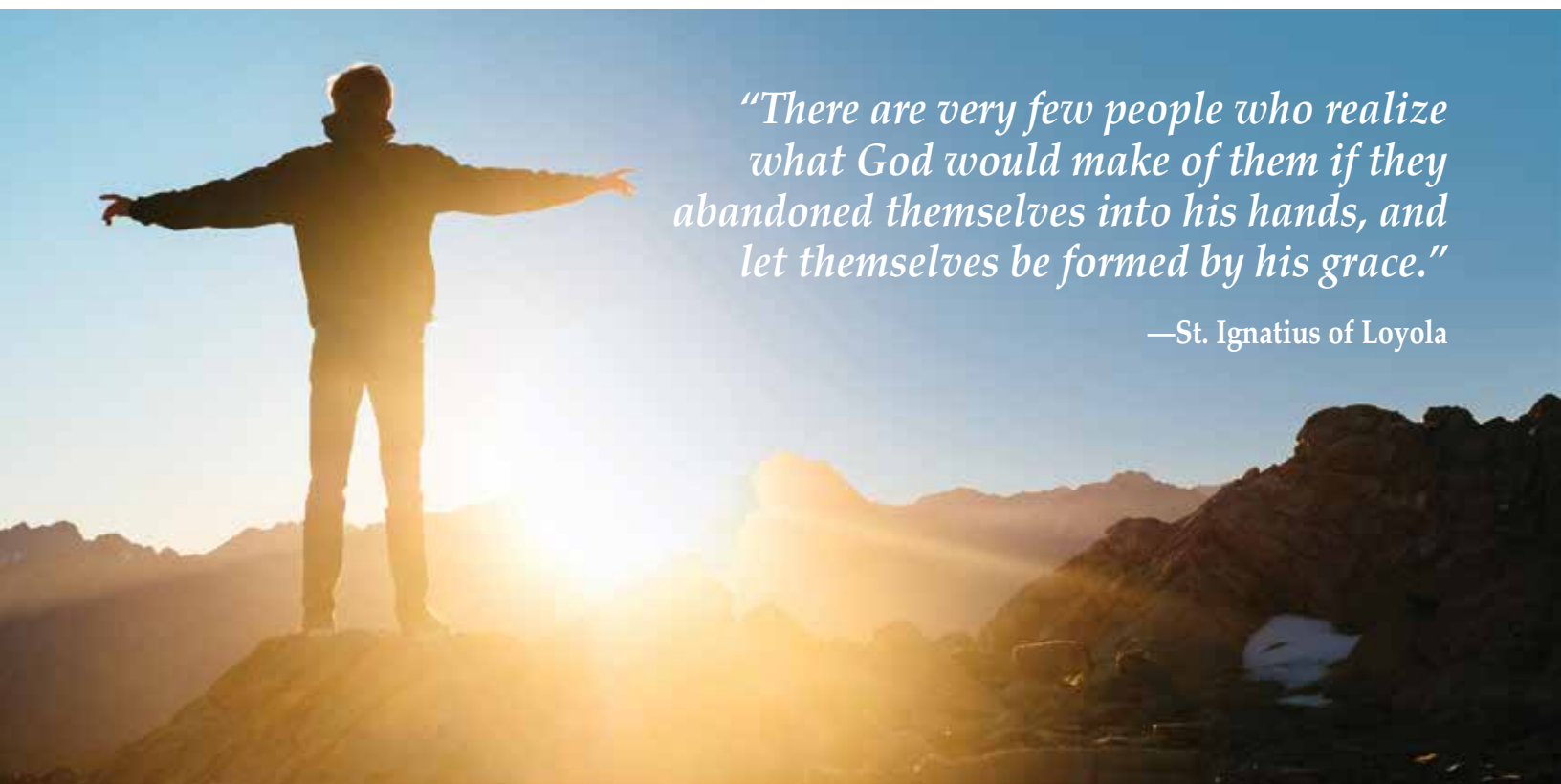
## Called to Serve

On the ASCJ website they ask, “Does the thought of becoming a religious sister excite you and at the same time frighten you?” I’d never had the words to describe how I felt about religious life until then. After a good deal of prayer and reflection I reached out to ASCJ virtually, and the more Apostle sisters I met, the more interested I became in their community. There is so much joy and laughter whenever I interact with the sisters, and I feel more at home with them than with other communities I’ve contacted.

The Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus describe themselves as apostles of love. They work in several ministries, but no matter what activity an Apostle is engaged in, her main purpose is to bring everyone she meets to the Heart of Jesus, where they will be loved beyond measure. In the Heart of Jesus, all of our wounds are healed: I understand this from my own experiences. My dream is to consecrate myself to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and bring His love to others.

## 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: [Rebecca@rescuevocations.org](mailto:Rebecca@rescuevocations.org).

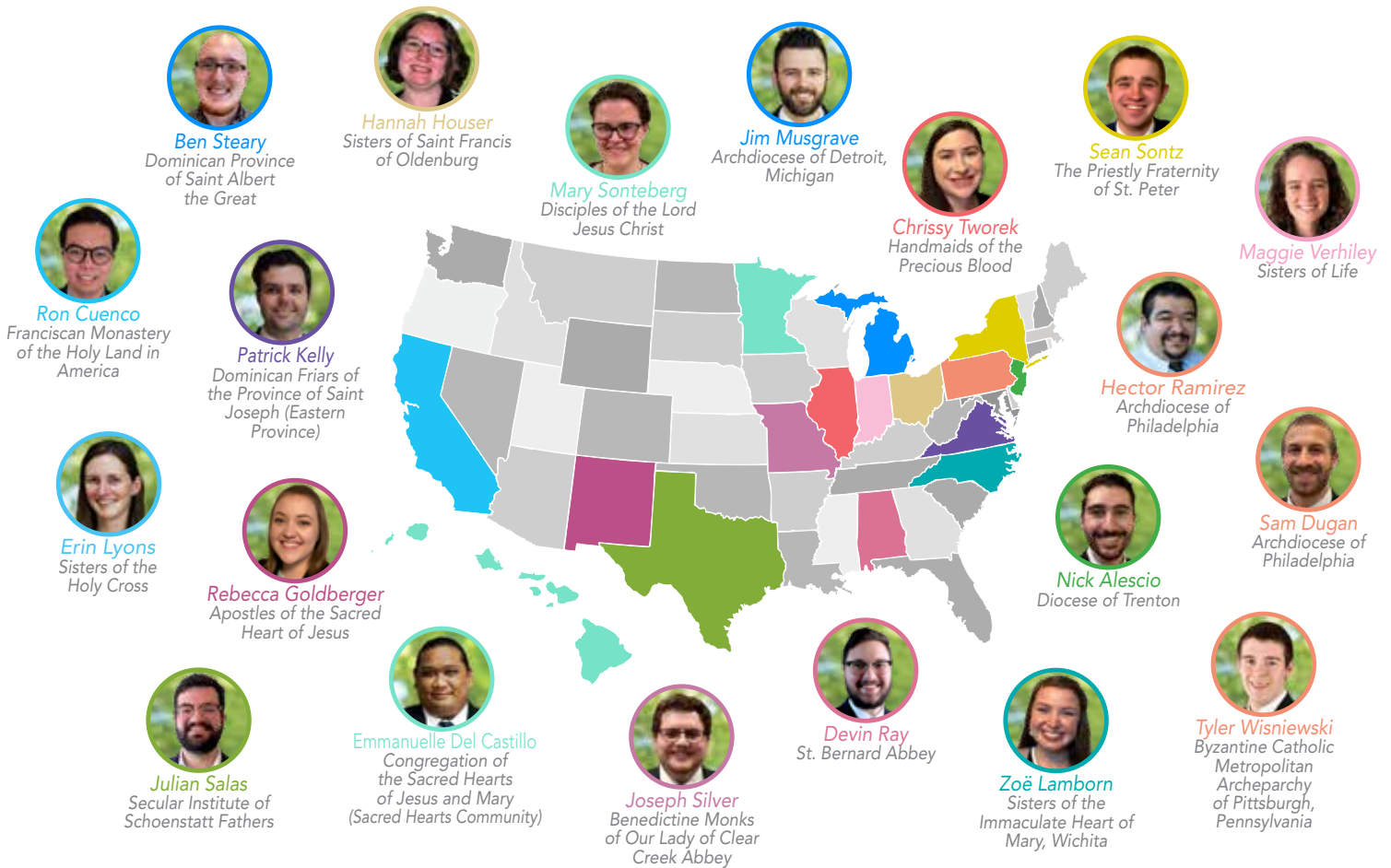


*“There are very few people who realize what God would make of them if they abandoned themselves into his hands, and let themselves be formed by his grace.”*

—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)*

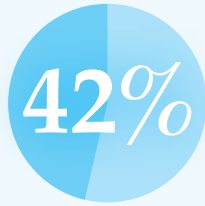
**LABOURÉ**<sup>SM</sup>  
HELP RESCUE VOCATIONS™



# 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

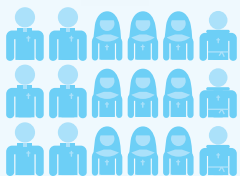
- Are discerning a vocation and have been accepted into a diocese or religious institute
- Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans
- Are trained by Labouré in Catholic-based fundraising and are provided with practical tools, personal mentoring, and accountability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



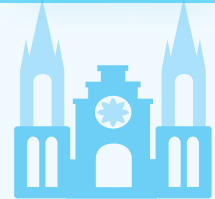
Raised by Labouré aspirants since 2003

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.