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This is my Vocation Story



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My name is Julian Salas. I am called to serve Christ and humanity as a Schoenstatt Father. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I was raised Catholic and regularly attended Mass with my mother. I had a good relationship with the Church, but it was shallow; I really just liked being able to spend time with my friends.

Childhood isn't always simple and kind, and when my parents divorced while I was in elementary school it was a blow to my understanding of God's love. I drifted into a dark place during middle school, but my mother's gentle pushes and my parish's youth group helped me find my way back to the faith from an apathetic, atheistic lifestyle.

My Faith

Before starting high school, my mother convinced me to go on a retreat with our parish youth group. There, I encountered Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time and went to confession for the second time in my life. After this, I started taking part regularly in parish activities. I wanted to give back to my community as a way of giving thanks to God for extending a helping hand and showing me He loves me. After that, I attended many retreats and even led a few of them.

As an undergraduate in college I became truly on fire with the faith and engaged in some serious self-reflection to better understand who God was calling me to be.

My Vocation

The question of my vocation was merely an inner dialogue for quite some time. I didn't consider it seriously until a particularly grace-filled monastic retreat. I soaked in the beauty of the monastic lifestyle and listened to powerful vocation stories of young men not much older than I was.

It was then that I felt a soft voice calling on my heart to consider religious life.

"...I understood what it really meant to live in a community striving for sanctity and being unafraid of taking risks for the faith on a daily basis."

—Julian Salas

LABOURÉSM

HELP RESCUE VOCATIONSSM



“I look forward to inspiring others to pursue a life of sanctity while renewing the Church through faithful practice of the traditions of the Church.”

—Julian Salas

I hesitated at first, but I soon learned to appreciate the situation God had placed me in. Having divorced parents enables me to connect with others who are experiencing the pain associated with broken families.

Called to Serve

I soon joined a Schoenstatt men’s group, where I felt a deep sense of connection. Through the experience of growing with my brothers in the group, I understood what it really meant to live in a community striving for sanctity and being unafraid of taking risks for the faith on a daily basis.

The more I learned about the Schoenstatt charism, the more I felt drawn to their lifestyle and mission. Schoenstatt Fathers are dedicated to forming Christian leaders and nurturing the faithful as they strive to become their ideal selves: that is, saints. They also maintain a number of Marian shrines around the world, offering a place of pilgrimage and reflection where the faithful can encounter Jesus and the Blessed Mother in a very special way.

It was while visiting a Schoenstatt shrine that I realized I was being called to a religious vocation. As a Schoenstatt Father, I look forward to being a spiritual guide and inspiring others to pursue a life of sanctity. I feel the apostolic zeal to renew the Church through restoring faith within those I encounter, and helping to transform the world into a place where God can reign.

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: Julian@rescuevocations.org.

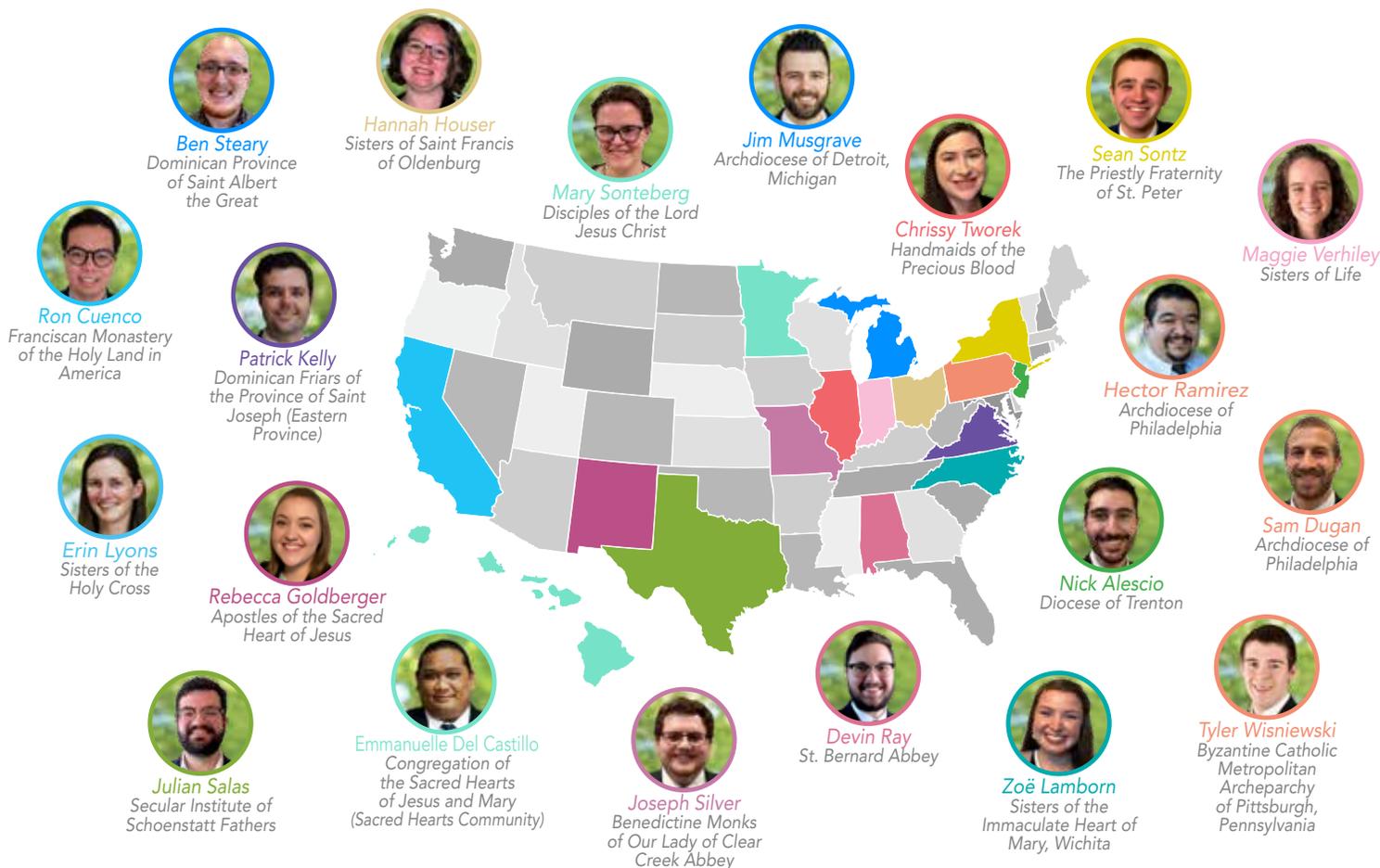


“There are very few people who realize what God would make of them if they abandoned themselves into his hands, and let themselves be formed by his grace.”

—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

LABOURÉSM
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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

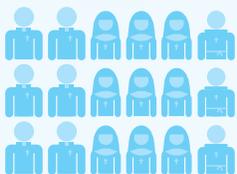
- Are discerning a vocation and have been accepted into a diocese or religious institute
- Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans
- Are trained by Labouré in Catholic-based fundraising and are provided with practical tools, personal mentoring, and accountability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