

# This is my Vocation Story



**Sean Sontz**

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The Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter

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*My name is Sean Sontz. I am called to serve Christ and humanity as a priest with the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I grew up in Albany County, New York, with a younger brother and three older stepsisters. I was raised Catholic, attended Mass and Sunday school, and was confirmed in the tenth grade, but that was the extent of my experience with the faith.

## My Faith

While attending a local community college I often listened to Christian radio hosts. I felt ready to give Christianity another chance, but didn't know if I wanted to be Catholic. When I transferred to Notre Dame University during my Sophomore year, I was introduced to a lot of great Catholic people. Having joined the Militia of the Immaculata, I began to realize that Catholicism was, indeed, the One True Faith. I grew closer to the Church during my junior year and was eventually consecrated to the Blessed Mother. My roommate at the time taught me a lot about the faith and helped me to realize it is possible to become a saint in this life. I also began serving the Latin Mass, which played a big role in my discernment.

*"God put the desire to be a priest in my heart, and I began discerning."*

—Sean Sontz

## My Vocation

During my senior year I visited Spain and Rome with friends. Before we left, my roommate described how vocation discernment works. At the time I felt called to marriage, but while traveling I listened to Fulton Sheen's biography, *Treasure in Clay*, and realized that God had different plans for me: He was placing the desire to become a priest in my heart, and I immediately began discerning.



Upon returning to Albany County, my pastor became my spiritual director. He has been a great help in guiding me through much of my discernment.

## Called to Serve

Although I felt God had blessed me with graces conducive to serving as a parish priest, I was also interested in belonging to a community that offered the traditional sacraments. After visiting a variety of communities and abbeys, through prayer and reflection I began to understand that God was calling me to join the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP).

FSSP is a canonically approved society, which ordains priests to offer the Mass and other sacraments according to the Roman Rite of 1962. Its mission is to catechize, hold retreats, organize pilgrimages, and provide a full sacramental and cultural life for lay Catholics.

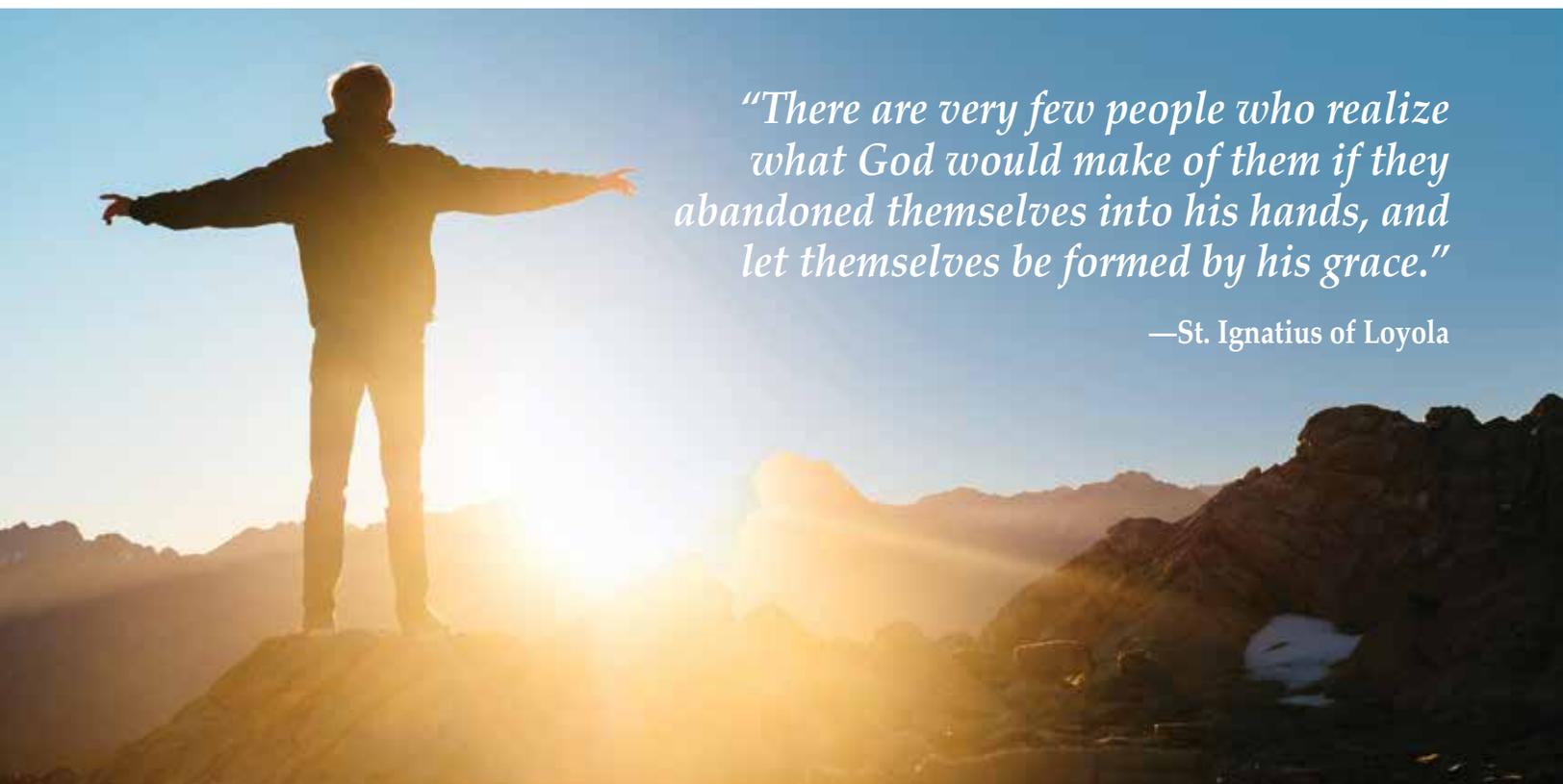
As a priest of the Fraternity of St. Peter, I look forward to fostering the spiritual well being of parishioners, drawing them closer to Christ through a deeper understanding of the faith, assisting in the conversion of hearts, and introducing the faithful to the traditions of the Church.

*“I look forward to doing everything for the salvation of souls and the greater glory of God.”*

—Sean Sontz

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

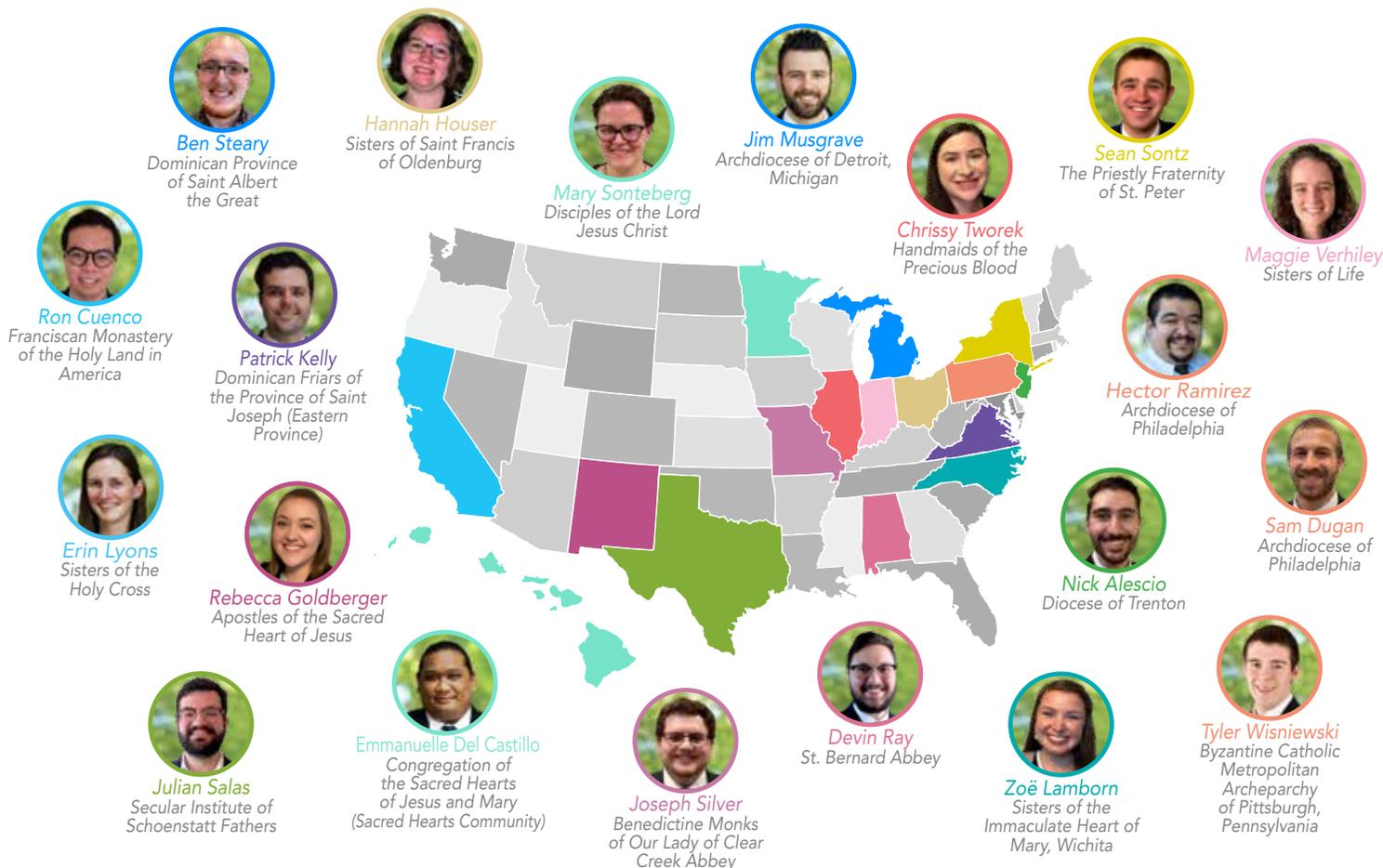


*“There are very few people who realize what God would make of them if they abandoned themselves into his hands, and let themselves be formed by his grace.”*

—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

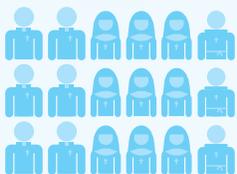
- Are discerning a vocation and have been accepted into a diocese or religious institute
- Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans
- Are trained by Labouré in Catholic-based fundraising and are provided with practical tools, personal mentoring, and accountability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