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This is my Vocation Story



Mary Sorteberg

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My name is Mary Sorteberg. I am called to serve Christ and humanity as a Franciscan sister with The Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I was raised Catholic in a Charismatic Community in Saint Paul, Minnesota, the third of six children. My life was very much centered on prayer and family. We gathered for daily morning prayer, never skipped Sunday Mass, and grew together as a family through home schooling, chores, and fun. Growing up, I never considered a religious vocation; I was under the impression the whole concept of vocations was vanishing. As I continued my faith journey, I would realize I'd been mistaken.

My Faith

I attended a Catholic high school where I gradually became more aware of the importance of prayer in my life. Through that prayer, I felt called to attend Franciscan University. I initially hesitated because of the expenses, but God promised He would help me and asked me to trust in Him. Taking that step led me along some of the most beautiful roads I have ever walked and I'm still walking today!

"...I felt God was calling me to follow Him and deepen my relationship with Him."

—Mary Sorteberg

During my sophomore year I studied abroad in Gaming, Austria. While there, I felt God was calling me to follow Him and deepen my relationship with Him. In response, I began keeping a daily holy hour, and discerning a religious vocation.

My Vocation

Having returned to the Franciscan University, I began visiting religious communities and further discerning religious life. I also became more involved in chapel ministries and was reintroduced to the Charismatic Renewal. At one of the university's vocation fairs I encountered the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ (DLJC) and was immediately drawn to their joy and Christ-centered spirituality.

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“I look forward to drawing souls closer to God through a personal relationship with Him.”

—Mary Sorteberg

Although previous obligations (along with COVID-19) prevented me from visiting the sisters at their convent, God eventually opened the door with a virtual “Come and See” event.

Getting to know the DLJC sisters was a joyful experience. In all my searching, I had never encountered a community that centered their apostolate on prayer the way DLJC does. Their charism includes evangelization, retreats, parish work, teaching, and spiritual direction – all balanced with an equal amount of silence and contemplation.

Called to Serve

Having spent time with the DLJC sisters virtually, I was invited to visit them in person. While there, God beautifully revealed a home He had prepared for me. Grace was abundant everywhere – in the beauty of the surroundings, in the spirituality of the order, and especially in the humble yet exuberant way the sisters gave witness to God in their daily lives. I knew Our Lord was inviting me in His goodness to become a part of this very special charism.

Following this life-changing retreat, I was emboldened to say “yes” to my vocation. As a sister of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, I look forward to drawing souls closer to God through education and spiritual guidance, witnessing to Him as a member of a community dedicated fostering holiness, and evangelizing to those who are poor in spirit.

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: MaryS@rescuevocations.org.

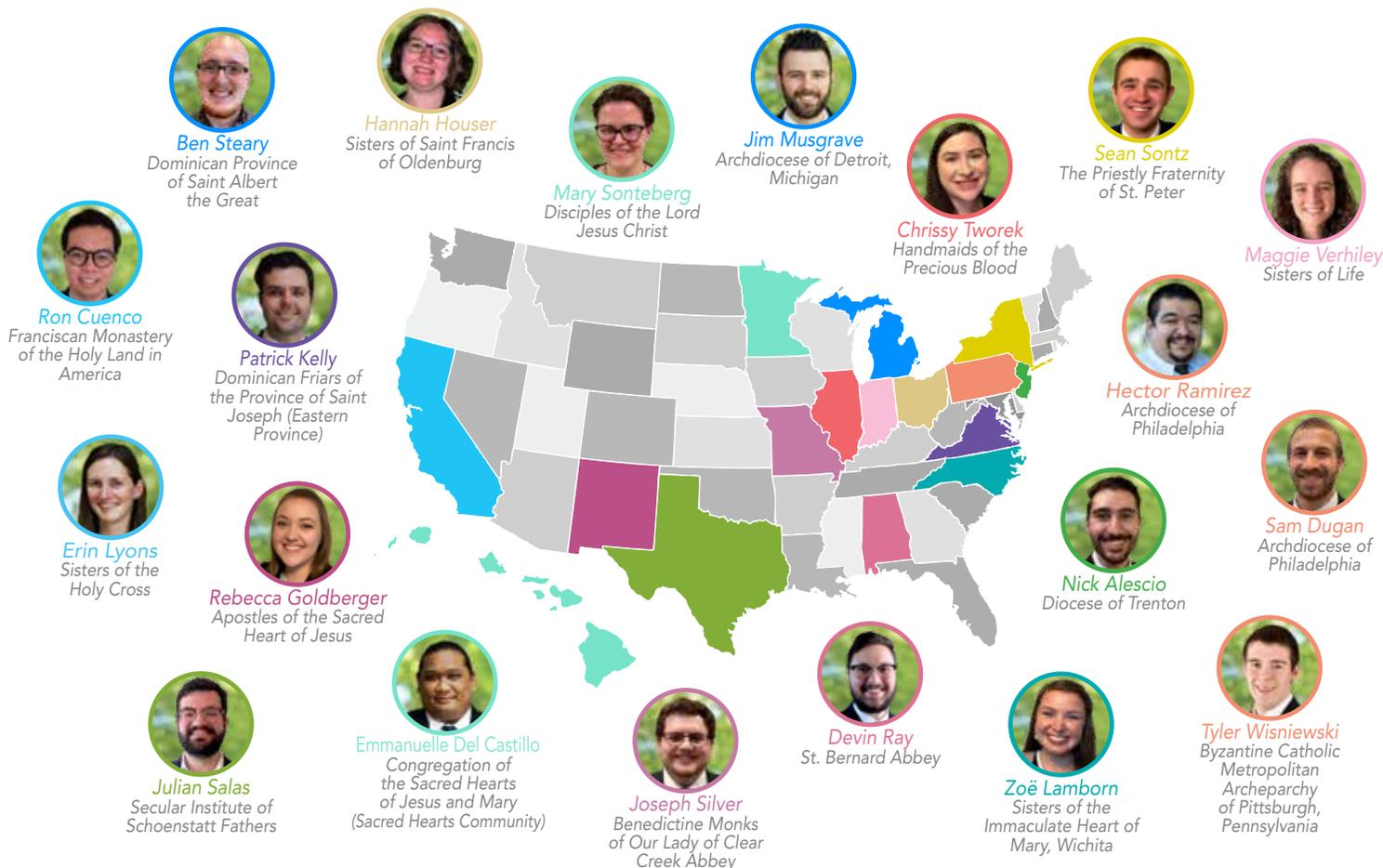


“There are very few people who realize what God would make of them if they abandoned themselves into his hands, and let themselves be formed by his grace.”

—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

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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

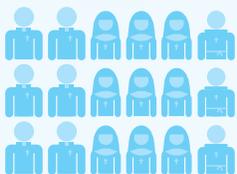
- Are discerning a vocation and have been accepted into a diocese or religious institute
- Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans
- Are trained by Labouré in Catholic-based fundraising and are provided with practical tools, personal mentoring, and accountability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