

This is my Vocation Story



Ben Steary

Community:
Dominican Province of Saint Albert the Great

Alma Mater:
Michigan Technological University

Phone:
(810) 841-6919

Email:
Ben@rescuevocations.org

My name is Ben Steary. I am called to serve Christ and His Church as a religious brother with the Dominican Province of Saint Albert the Great. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I have always had a yearning in my soul for the highest things, but, having been raised without a religious tradition, I was at a loss for how to satisfy my spiritual needs. I was blessed with loving parents who provided me with a happy childhood, so when I set out into society I was quite healthy and open, but without faith.

My Faith

As the years passed, I realized I hadn't been prepared with the concepts necessary to live with a true human spirit. My intellectual upbringing instilled a broad indifference to Christianity, so I made flailing attempts to find meaning in a world unable to satisfy my needs. My experiences produced both blessings and curses.

Having brought me very low, the Lord saw fit to lift me up again through the writings of two of His greatest saints: St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Augustine of Hippo. He did not force the Catholic faith on me, but invited me sweetly to enter into it at my own pace. I still wasn't convinced that God truly existed, but I began considering the thought. More importantly, I knew that I loved Him.

At last, I understood what had been missing in my life. I longed to be known perfectly and to be loved perfectly, but no created thing could satisfy that hunger — only the Creator. From that point on, I never questioned my decision to join the Church; I was joyfully received on Easter Sunday, 2019.

My Vocation

Although I had discovered the object of my heart's desire, I had yet to fully understand how to respond (or if someone like me could respond in a way pleasing to God). As St. Thomas delivered my heart to the Lord, St. Augustine would set it ablaze.

“...I want to help awaken people's hearts to their need for Christ's love and mercy.”

—Ben Steary



*“As time has gone on,
I really can’t imagine
myself living any
other way.”*

—Ben Steary

I threw myself into studying the faith, learning to pray, and eventually moving into my parish. This experience increased my aspiration to pursue religious life in the manner of St. Thomas, while in a tradition steeped in the thought and spirituality of St. Augustine.

It was difficult at first: I accused myself of being over zealous as a new convert, but once I overcame that feeling the process felt very natural. As time goes on, I really can’t imagine myself living any other way.

Called to Serve

After a good deal of searching and reflection, I reached out to the Dominican Province of Saint Albert the Great and was invited to a Come and See event. During my time with the friars, I was struck by their camaraderie and their deep devotion to the Trinity. I was also attracted to their charism of witnessing to Christ through campus ministry, education, and preaching the Gospel in word and deed.

As I pursue my calling to serve Christ as a Dominican priest, I especially look forward to engaging with young people and non-Christians. My faith has been a great blessing in my life, and, because I have received this grace, I want to help awaken people’s hearts to their need for Christ’s love and mercy.

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: Ben@rescuevocations.org.

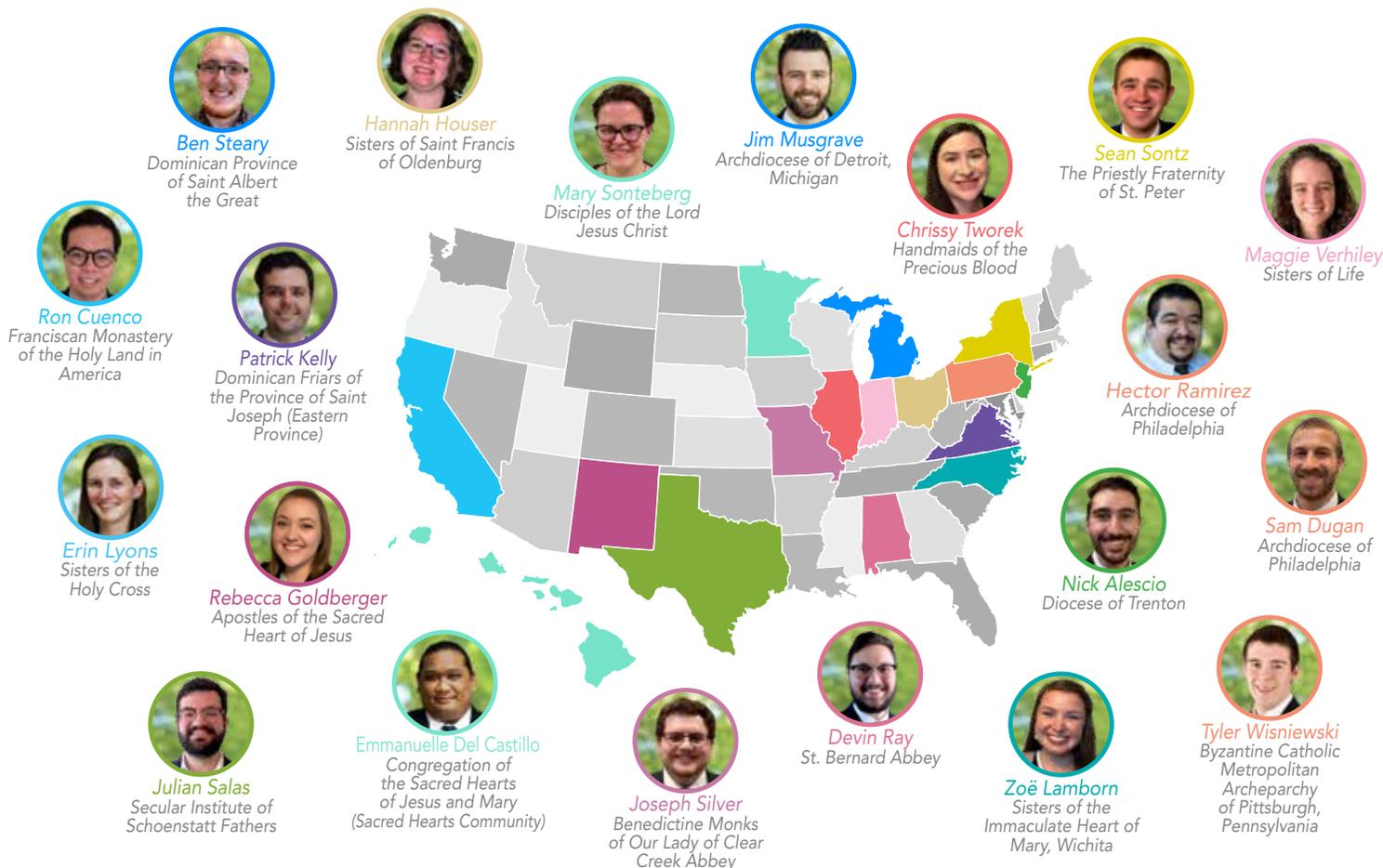


*“There are very few people who realize
what God would make of them if they
abandoned themselves into his hands, and
let themselves be formed by his grace.”*

—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
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

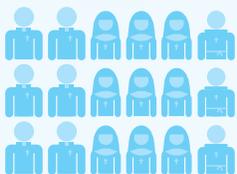
- Are discerning a vocation and have been accepted into a diocese or religious institute
- Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans
- Are trained by Labouré in Catholic-based fundraising and are provided with practical tools, personal mentoring, and accountability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