

This is my Vocation Story



Ari Lima

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Archdiocese of Miami

Alma Mater:
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My name is Ari Lima. The Archdiocese of Miami is inviting me to serve Christ and His Church as a diocesan priest. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I come from a tight-knit family of Cuban heritage. My father in particular liked to pray the Our Father with us each night. He taught me early on that even a strong and successful man turns to God for assurance and strength.

My Faith

My fifth grade religion teacher once told us about a young man who ignored the calling to be a priest, until one day he broke down in tears and surrendered to God's will. My teacher explained that the young man's tears were not tears of sadness but tears of joy, healing, and liberation. What if I was that young man? The thought was frightening, but this story remained etched vividly in my memory.

While attending the University of Florida, I became very active in fraternity life. This gave me many memories and relationships to cherish, even though I made some mistakes.

In my junior year, I was invited to attend a faith-sharing event on campus. There, I met students in fraternities and sororities who had encountered God. These students were now striving to live for the Gospel, not just to "live for the weekend." That Easter, I experienced the profound assuredness that Jesus is alive. I wanted to know Him, and in order to know Him, I had to change the way I was living.

My Vocation

My parish frequently prayed for vocations to the priesthood at Mass and many people had asked me about the priesthood. In college, a fraternity

"I recognize that my life is a gift from God, and the sacraments are the gifts of God's life which He shares with us. Fueled by God's Grace, I will put myself, my gifts, and passion completely at His service because He is the End for which we are made."

—Ari Lima



brother told me I would make a good priest. And again the thought kept coming, "What if that is for me?"

The key that opened my heart to discerning the priesthood was the idea that anything that would bring me closer to God was a good thing. Hearing the vocation stories of local priests gave me peace and hope. Despite lingering hesitation, I read the classic on diocesan priesthood, *To Save a Thousand Souls*, and God used this to bring me inspiration and peace about the call.

Called to Serve

I started attending "Come and See" retreats for the Archdiocese of Miami. Each time I attended these retreats, I encountered the Lord's presence in a special way. I felt at home with a fraternity of brothers striving for holiness. These weekends filled me with hope, joy, and excitement for the future of the Church.

I have come to believe that the Lord is calling me to serve Him as a diocesan priest. In this vocation, I will put all of my God-given gifts and talents towards reaching many families and building up His Kingdom.

Each day that passes by is one day closer to seeing God face to face. This thought inspires me to surrender my fears and embrace His plan for my life.

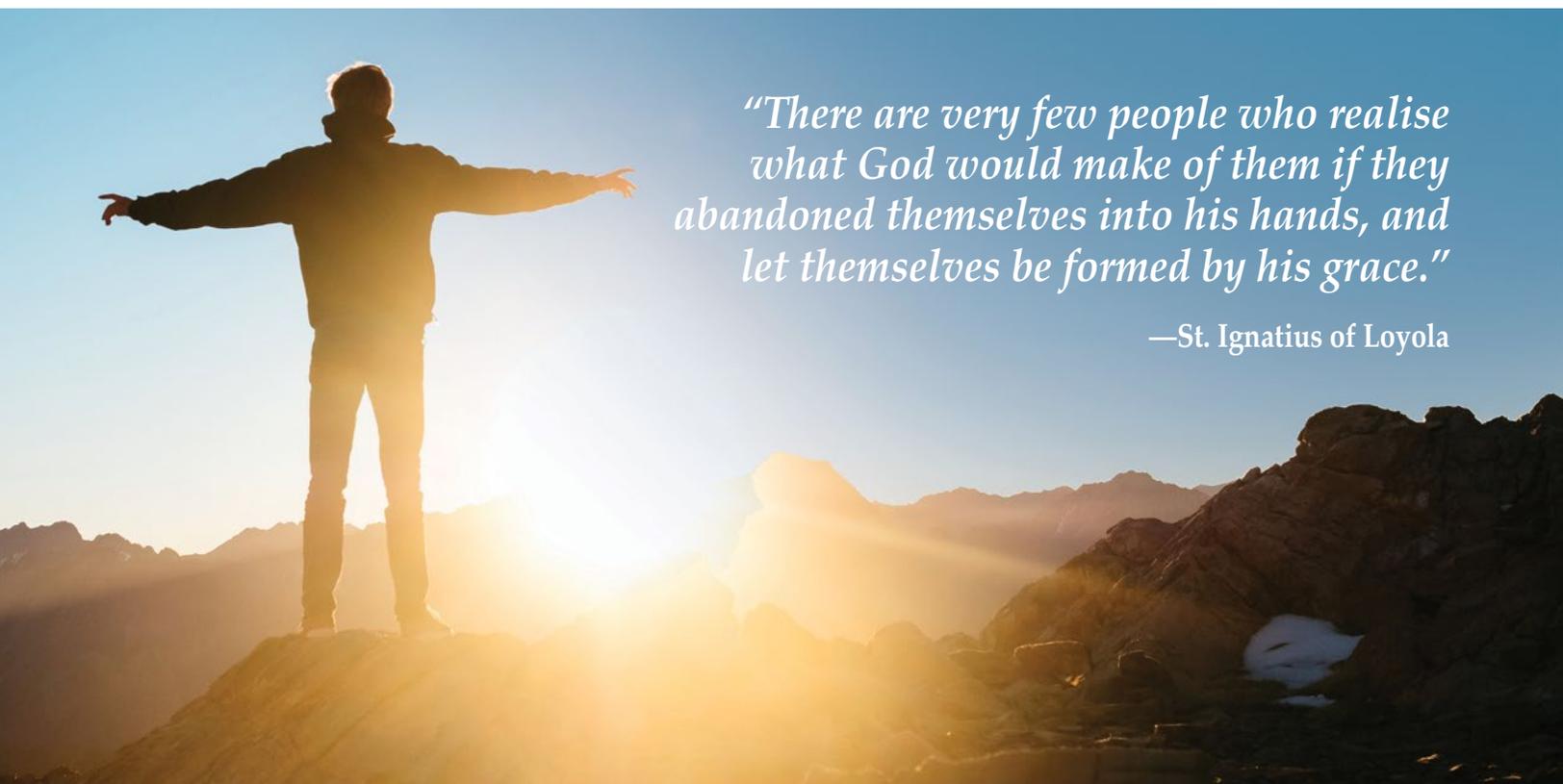
Prayer & Invitation

Please pray for me and my fellow Labouré classmates as we begin the journey to formation.

Feel free to reach out with any questions you might have at: Ari@rescuevocations.org.

"Previously, I was in the business of rehabilitating the body, which was great! But now I desire to rehabilitate souls. God has invited me to be His priest, and I trust He knows what's best for me."

—Ari Lima



"There are very few people who realise 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.

MacLean Andrews
Society of Jesus
(Jesuits West)

Jake Smith
Archdiocese of Denver

Anthony Riley
Archdiocese of Detroit

Dan Roberts
Diocese of Pittsburgh

Tyler Wisniewski
Byzantine Catholic
Metropolitan
Archeparchy of
Pittsburgh

Mary Sorteberg
Disciples of the Lord
Jesus Christ

Chrissy Tworek
Handmaids of the
Precious Blood

Isis Leslie
Our Lady of Confidence
Carmelite Monastery

Josh Parmet
Archdiocese of
Philadelphia

Eddie Huber
Diocese of Orange

Rebecca Goldberger
Apostles of the Sacred
Heart of Jesus

Nick Alescio
Diocese of Trenton

Richard Gaunt
Order of Friars Minor
(Franciscan Friars)

Julian Salas
Secular Institute of
Schoenstatt Fathers

Luis Rodarte
Diocese of El Paso

Devin Ray
St. Bernard Abbey

Ari Lima
Archdiocese of Miami

Joseph Silver
Benedictine Monks
of Our Lady of Clear
Creek Abbey

David Torres
Archdiocese of Miami

Morgan Murray
Religious Sisters
of Mercy of Alma,
Michigan

With your help, we will rebuild the Church!

My goal is to raise \$60,000 (the average student loan amount) before December 31st 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
- As a class of 20-25 aspirants raise funds collectively and receive awards from those funds to be applied to their debt

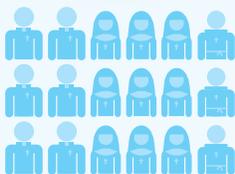
THE LABOURÉ SOCIETY



- Works with aspirants to 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 into formation to the priesthood or religious life

\$10 MILLION



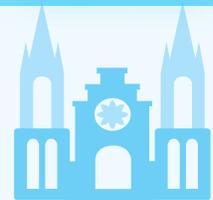
Raised by Labouré aspirants since 2003

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.