



This is my Vocation Story

Luis Rodarte

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Diocese of El Paso

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My name is Luis Rodarte. The Diocese of El Paso is inviting me to serve Christ and His Church as a diocesan priest. This is my story.

In the Beginning

My mother believes that my younger sister and I are blessings from heaven because she and our father were only able to conceive after much prayer. Our parents raised us in the Catholic faith in El Paso, Texas. We regularly received Sunday Eucharist at our parish, and I served for many years as an altar boy. I was also fortunate to attend Catholic grade school and high school.

My Faith

During high school, a few of my classmates and I spent Holy Week teaching catechism to people of all ages in Mexico and Texas in a program called Chaplains.

While studying biology at the University of Texas in El Paso, I gradually drifted away from God. Upon graduation I was accepted into medical school in Guadalajara, and it was there that I attended a papal Mass with Pope Francis during his 2016 visit to Mexico. I distinctly heard a quiet, strident voice at that Mass, and it was asking me about my future.

“From the time I was in fifth grade, He had repeatedly placed the idea of priesthood on my heart.”

—Luis Rodarte

My Vocation

That wasn't the first time I'd heard the Lord asking me to consider the priesthood. From the time I was in fifth grade, He had repeatedly placed the idea of priesthood on my heart. The calling was ever-present, especially when I prayed, but I was determined to pursue a career in medicine.

During my second year of medical school, concentration became difficult. I wrestled with the one voice telling me to become a physician and the other



persistently calling me to priesthood. Eventually, I brought the dilemma of my discernment to two local priests.

One day, while praying before the Blessed Sacrament, I asked God to quiet my mind if he wanted me to become a priest. I told him that if He did I would begin exploring a religious vocation the following day. At that moment everything went quiet and I felt at peace; I immediately contacted the diocesan rector and began the seminary enrollment process.

Called to Serve

My overwhelming desire is to serve as a priest in my home diocese, which ministers to many immigrants. I've been blessed by retreats in our diocese that bring youth and young adults to serve, and to experience the Holy Spirit.

As a priest, I look forward to working with couples preparing for marriage – if we want to bring social justice to the world, the family is the central pillar of our society.

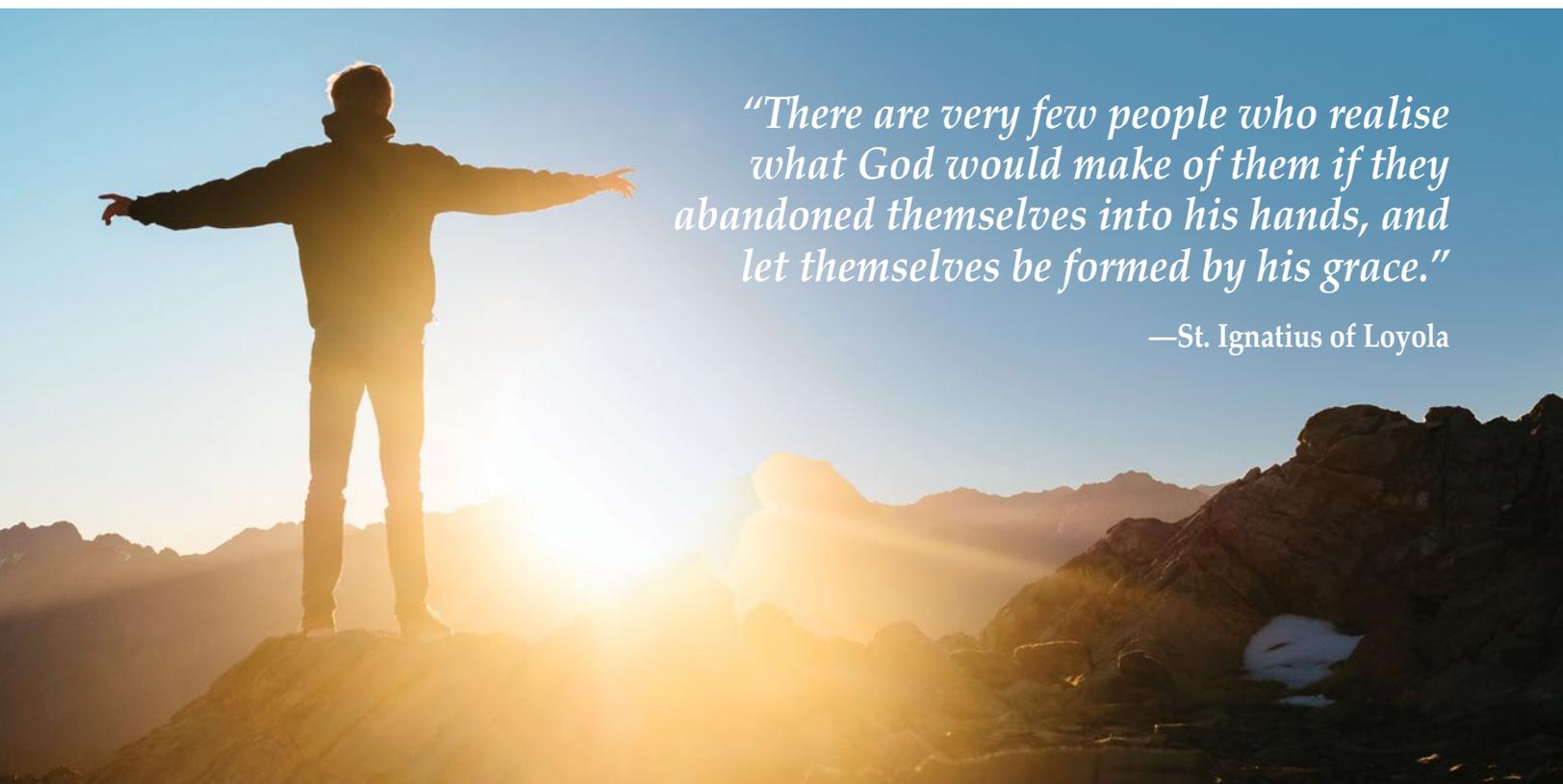
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Prayer & Invitation

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: Luis@rescuevocations.org.



“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

Mary Sorteberg
Disciples of the Lord
Jesus Christ

Anthony Riley
Archdiocese of Detroit

Dan Roberts
Diocese of Pittsburgh

Tyler Wisniewski
Byzantine Catholic
Metropolitan
Archeparchy of
Pittsburgh

Chissy 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

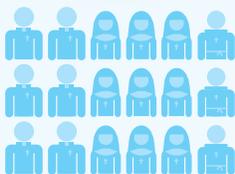
THE LABOURÉ SOCIETY



- 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



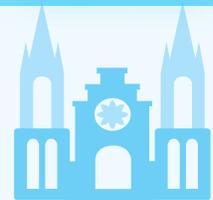
Raised by Labouré aspirants since 2003

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.