



This is my Vocation Story

Jake Smith

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Archdiocese of Denver

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My name is Jake Smith. The Archdiocese of Denver is inviting me to serve Christ and His Church. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I was blessed to have been born to Catholic parents who made every effort to ensure that I was properly catechized. We lived a good but humble life as my parents made many sacrifices to make a Catholic education possible for me and my 11 siblings. Throughout those formative years, I cultivated an interest in math and science and set my sights on becoming a medical doctor. I wanted to help people in need, and medicine seemed a wonderful career opportunity to do just that.

My Faith

In my early teens I felt a force deep within that was drawing me towards the priesthood. I kept these thoughts to myself but started to experience moments of my soul “catching fire” during the Mass at the words of consecration.

These moments continued for a few years and as graduation from high school was looming, God seemed to be asking me to make a choice: pursue the Catholic priesthood, or continue advancing towards my goal of becoming a doctor.

I attended a Catholic university and throughout my undergraduate studies I regularly received the sacraments and made lifelong friends through the Catholic Student Organization. God continued to call and the priesthood was an inescapable theme. In four short years, a graduation was once more approaching and again I felt God asking me to make a choice.

My Vocation

I began to keep God at “arm’s length,” and year by year, my academic

“I feel called to surrender my career aspirations so that, after completing priestly formation, I might become a bridge that leads souls back to God.”

—Jake Smith



“By pursuing the spiritual fatherhood of the priesthood, I hope to guide souls to Heaven through a life of service and administration of the sacraments.”

—Jake Smith

achievements and honors grew as my personal faith life weakened. My spiritual life received a huge blow when the coronavirus pandemic began to spread throughout the US, and the Archdiocese gave a dispensation that lifted the obligation to attend mass.

One night, while in my third year of medical school, I was trying to fall asleep and suddenly, the thought came that maybe I should really think about being a priest. I almost laughed aloud. It had been nearly six years since I defiantly plugged my ears to God’s voice.

The Holy Spirit led me to make a good confession and I decided to renew my relationship with God. A few months later, while I was praying in Adoration, a family walked in to pray and the Lord spoke to my heart that He wanted me to be a minister of the sacraments for that family and for others. I opened my heart and mind to the priesthood and placed everything I had into his hands. I was finally ready to let go of my medical career and desires to save lives and offer myself to God, as His priest, in order to help save souls.

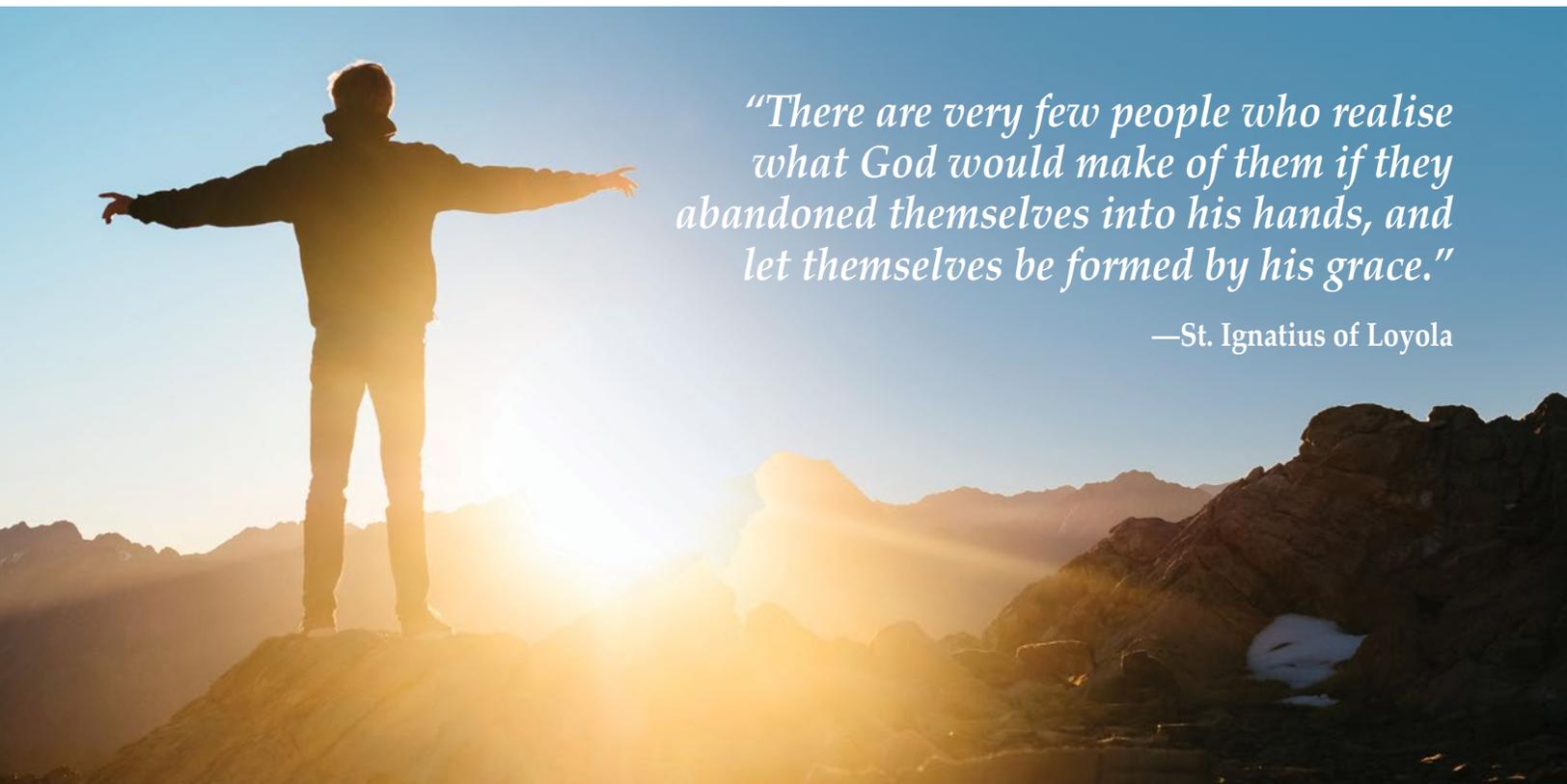
Called to Serve

I am blessed to say that God has led me to discern the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Denver. The Archdiocese is my home and the priests there inspire me to emulate them in administering the sacraments, especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Confession, and Last Rights. I look forward to seeing where this call will lead and the lives God may touch through my vocation.

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: Jake@rescue vocations.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

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

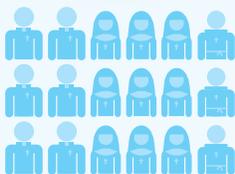
THE LABOURÉ SOCIETY



- 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



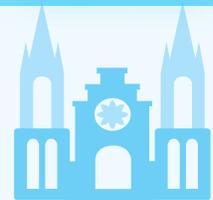
Raised by Labouré aspirants since 2003

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.