



This is my Vocation Story



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My name is Joe Coffey. I am called to serve Christ as a diocesan priest in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I was raised in a large Catholic family, seven brothers and sisters. I always had a great relationship with my parents and siblings. My parents were incredible examples of Christian charity, and provided me the intellectual grounding to support that life. Suffice to say, I had a wonderful foundation in the faith.

My Faith

Growing up I was extremely extroverted and had a large group of friends. Learning about the Church and my faith always interested me, particularly Church history, theology, and apologetics. Throughout my early years, I loved altar serving and would volunteer every Mass. I enjoyed serving and learning about the Church.

Throughout this time, I was struggling with sin and living a double life. This continued throughout high school and into college. While on a study abroad trip to Israel, I had the opportunity to attend mass at the Holy Sepulcher, prayed the stations of the cross along the via Dolorosa, and walked the paths that Christ walked. I developed strong relationships with students who were deeply devoted to Christ and this reminded me that there was something better than how I had been living. However, I didn't know how to break free of the sin that had gripped me. Thankfully, God had a plan to help me out.

Taking a class with a faithful Catholic professor led to good discussions and overcoming my struggles with faith and reason, my last intellectual hurdle. I realized my only hope was to let go of everything and take a step in faith. While on a conference, I got on my knees in Eucharistic adoration and begged God for faith. This was the start of my journey home.

"I realized my only hope was to let go of everything and take a step in faith."

—Joe Coffey



My Vocation

It was a long journey from there, and when I graduated college I started to truly pursue my faith. I started going to different young adult Catholic events, searching for community, which I found in the Villanova University humanities department. I was finally pursuing Christ in a group of like-minded Catholics. It was this time that truly sparked a flame in my heart and first helped me to seriously consider the priesthood.

After returning home, due to Covid lockdowns, I continued to struggle but I also learned to surrender to Christ and eventually discerned a call to serve as missionary with Mission Youth. In this time, I made amazing progress in cutting out sin and realized that prayer is the best armor I have in that battle. The formation in prayer also further ignited my desire to consider the priesthood.

Called to Serve

While on a retreat on the feast of my confirmation saint, the Lord beautifully affirmed the calling of my heart to become a priest. Sitting in the choir style seating in St. Martins chapel, listening to the seminarians sing morning prayer, I knew this was what God created me to be. The journey has been long, and there were times where I set down my cross and never wanted to see it again, but through the grace of God, I returned. Now my entire soul yearns to become a priest, to unite my life with Christ, and help lead others to the joy I have found in His heart.

I desire to serve Christ and His Church in similar ministries that brought me closer to Him. To work with the youth, to provide sacraments to those desiring our Lord, and ultimately to journey with everyone I encounter to be the hands and feet of our Lord.

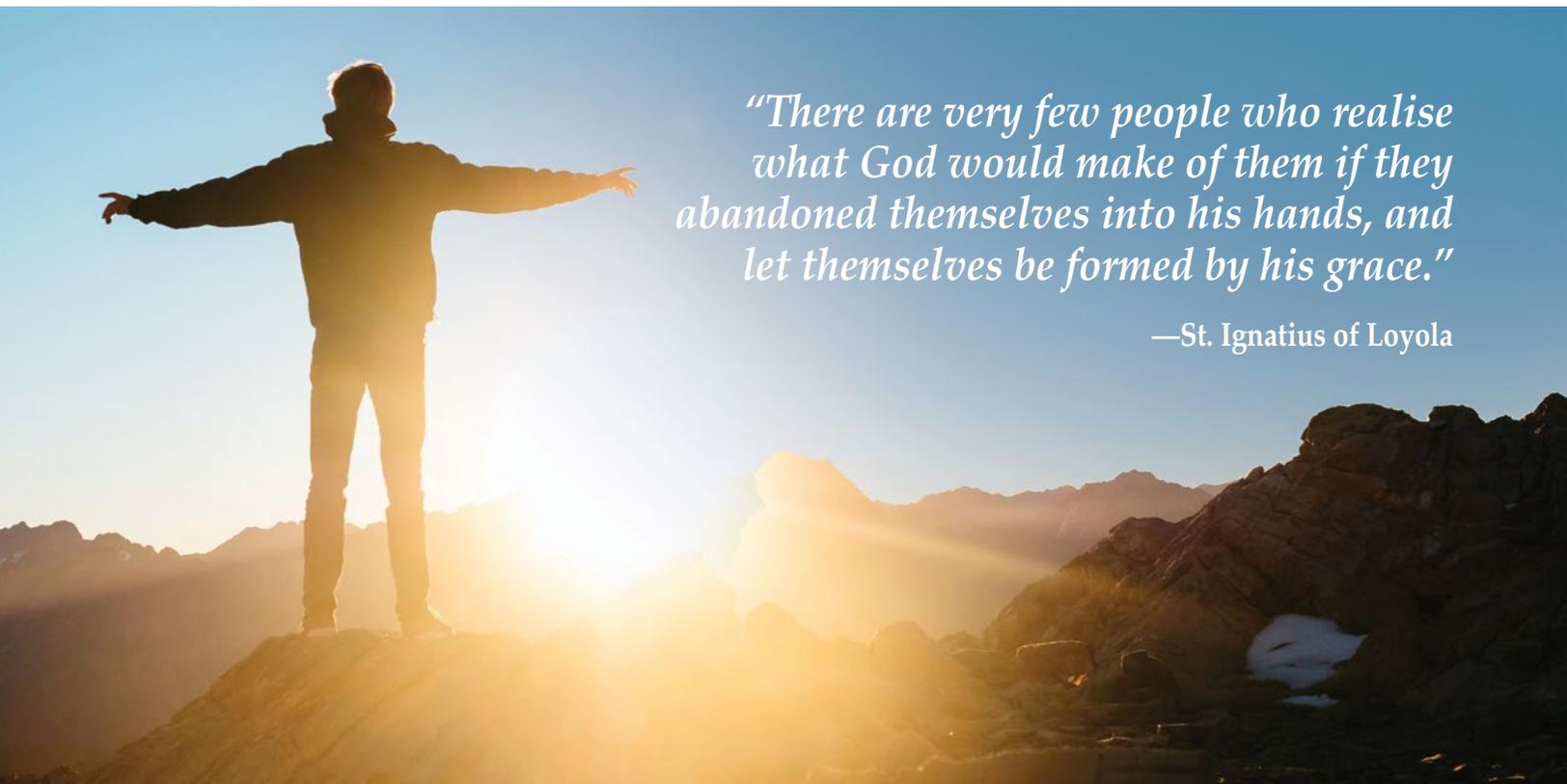
Prayer & Invitation

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:
Joe@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



“My entire soul yearns to unite my life to Christ through his priesthood.”

—Joe Coffey

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

LABOURÉ[®]
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

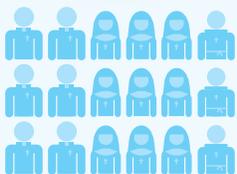
THE LABOURE SOCIETY



- 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



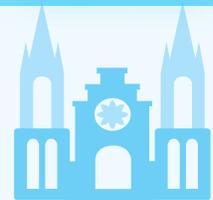
Raised by Labouré aspirants since 2003

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.