



This is my Vocation Story



Israel Kidda

Community:
Capuchin Franciscans, Province of St. Mary

Alma Mater:
Hunter College

Phone:
(347) 602-0735

Email:
Israel@rescuevocations.org

My name is Israel Kidda. I am called to serve with the Capuchin Franciscans. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I was born and raised in a devout Episcopalian family in Arkansas, and my childhood was a happy one. I had a good relationship with both my mom and dad as well as my cousins who were like brothers to me. Growing up I was very connected with nature, whether exploring the woods or helping my family with our large vegetable garden.

My Faith

During high school, I grew in my conviction that all people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. The large size of my high school also influenced my desire to live in a large city, which played a role in my vocational discernment. A significant injury, just after high school, forced me to slow down and invest in my faith life, really listening to God and seeking his involvement in my life.

I went to college in New York City, and while studying philosophy there, continued to grow in my understanding of who God is and how He is calling me to live. After college, I spent time working for nonprofit homeless services, both in street outreach and case management aimed at providing permanent supportive housing for individuals experiencing chronic street homelessness in Manhattan. My desire to help the poor and marginalized originated in childhood when I served alongside my grandfather in various ministries. Though I did not know it at the time, all of this was leading toward a religious vocation in the Catholic Church.

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My Vocation

My call to join the Catholic Church came during a profound time of prayer I had in a Catholic church while I was on a meditation retreat. As I knelt before the crucifix, in that church, I had immense clarity that I needed to become Catholic and dedicate myself to serving Christ. When I got back to NYC, I quickly looked up Catholic churches with RCIA programs that were easy for me to get to during my work week. I also began looking into religious life. I felt at home and inspired by the community I joined.

Called to Serve

After becoming Catholic, I spent some time discerning with an order in the Holy Land, but I felt moved to serve Christ directly in the poor. This realization caused me to return to New York and begin discernment with the Capuchin Franciscans. I feel at home with this fraternity. The Capuchins' concern for both working directly with the poor and marginalized, and their commitment to contemplation, matches my spirituality so perfectly. The Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Mary is based primarily in New York City and Boston; both cities that I feel connected to in the Northeast, and feel I am called to serve. I believe that within this community, I can continue to grow into the man God is calling me to be; not leaving anything behind, just moving forward.

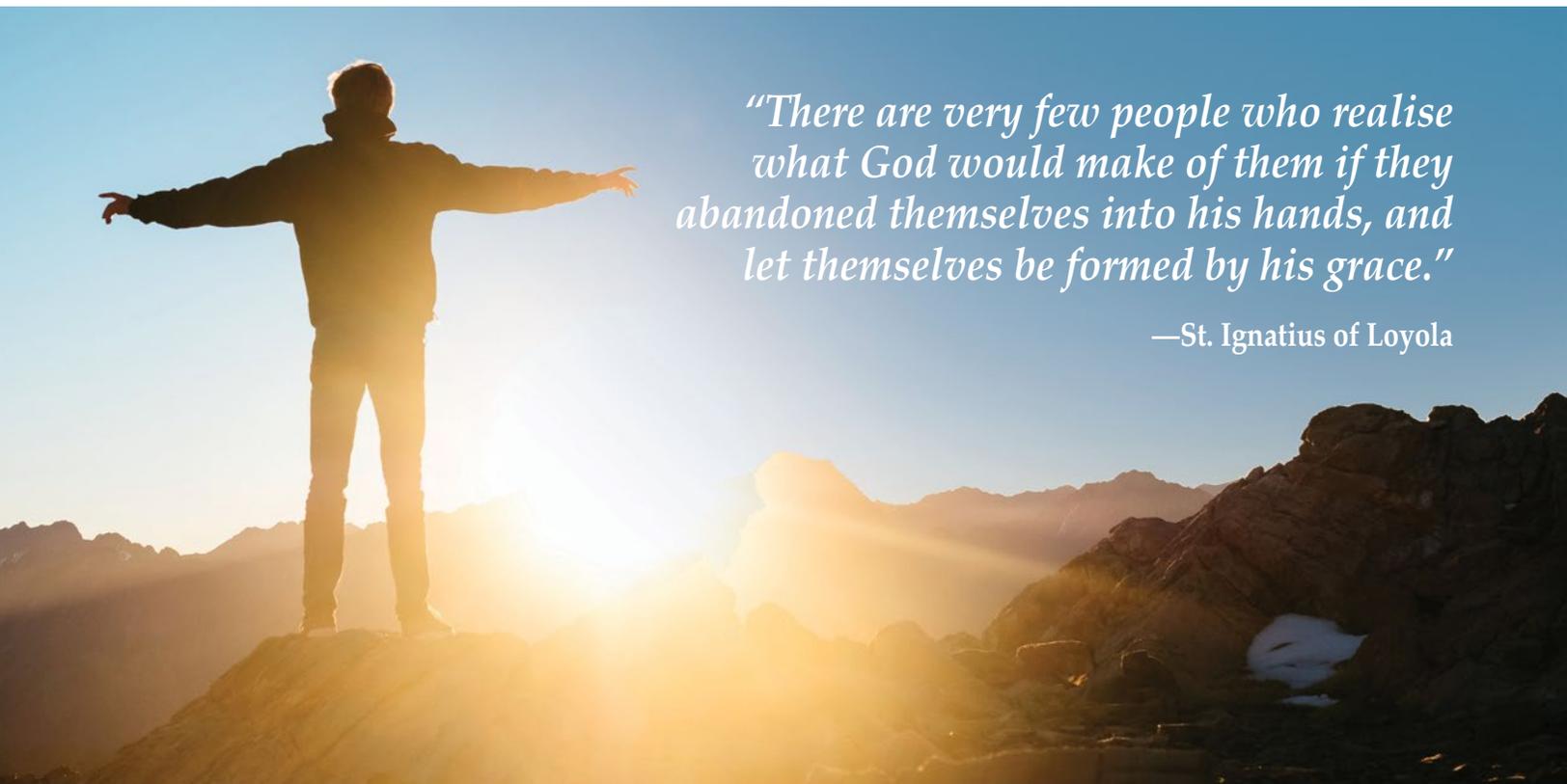
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Prayer & Invitation

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: Israel@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.

Each individual's name and affiliation are listed below their portrait:

- Bailey O'Hare: Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan
- Latonja Taylor: Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare (Cincinnati)
- Israel Kidda: Capuchin Franciscans, Province of St. Mary
- Brendan Devine: Diocese of Fréjus-Toulon (France)
- MacLean Andrews: Society of Jesus (Jesuits West)
- Mary Sorteberg: Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ
- Chrissy Tworek: Handmaids of the Precious Blood
- Josh Parmet: Archdiocese of Philadelphia
- Timothy Rodriguez: Archdiocese of Los Angeles
- Tyler Wisniewski: Byzantine Catholic Archdiocese of Pittsburgh
- Joe Coffey: Archdiocese of Philadelphia
- Jacob Lozano: Canons Regular of the Immaculate Conception
- Isis Leslie: Our Lady of Confidence Carmelite Monastery
- Richard Gaunt: Order of Friars Minor (Franciscan Friars)
- Melissa Cartwright: Sisters of Bon Secours
- Luis Rodarte: Diocese of El Paso
- Straton Garrard: Order of Friars Minor (Franciscan Friars)
- Devin Ray: St. Bernard Abbey

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

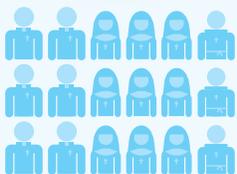
THE LABOURE SOCIETY



- 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.