



# This is my Vocation Story



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*My name is Timothy Rodriguez. I am called to serve Christ and His Church as a diocesan priest. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I was raised in a devout Catholic family in Southern California. My mother and grandparents, especially, had very strong faith stemming from their experience and encounter with Christ, more than intellectual knowledge.

As a child I played Mass, wearing a blanket for a chasuble. A few years later, I joined my two older brothers and became an altar server. Being close to the altar helped me grow reverence for the liturgy. As my reverence and faith grew, I still found time to enjoy hobbies like studying history and reading books, as well as being a passionate runner in high school.

## My Faith

I didn't experience a dramatic faith conversion during my youth but at one point during my confirmation preparation I felt with conviction that I believe everything I had learned about the faith while growing up.

Feeling a deep love for the Lord and his Church in high school, I studied theology and philosophy while also seeking to encounter Christ in the sacraments. I read the Bible and consulted other sources that taught me about the Church's intellectual tradition. Apologetics provided a way to dialogue with non-believers at my public school. And while I was learning about the faith I volunteered at my parish and taught catechism.

A Holy Land pilgrimage strengthened my faith and reminded me of the historical reality of Christianity.

I studied humanities with emphases in theology and philosophy at John Paul the Great Catholic University in San Diego where I earned a B.A. in August 2021. Serving as head sacristan and liturgist in college enhanced

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—Timothy Rodriguez

my devotion to the Mass and helped me unite myself to the priest’s action through active participation in the liturgy. Through my studies and service I drew closer to Christ and desired to follow him in the priestly vocation.

## My Vocation

I started thinking about priesthood long before college. As a young altar server and volunteer at my parish, elderly ladies often encouraged me to consider it. More than once I heard, “You’ll be a priest one day.” Their comments embarrassed me because at the time I assumed I’d have a family. After I gained a better understanding of the priesthood I responded with, “If God wills it.”

I saw different facets of the priesthood from my parish clergy and from my communion and confirmation sponsors who were members of the religious community, Missionaries of the Holy Spirit. Their reverence and witness really made great impact on me and I believe fostered my vocation. My services and love of the liturgy, along with my study of theology have also impacted my vocation.

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## Called to Serve

When I had discerned a call to priesthood, I explored several religious communities. But I more seriously considered studying to be a priest in my home Archdiocese of Los Angeles because it is large and diverse, and I could be closer to my family.

I made a retreat at the archdiocese’s major seminary and while there I entered in deeply. While there I was able to picture myself as a day in the life of a seminarian. I can see myself praying, studying and being formed by the Holy Spirit there through its rigorous academic program and integration of spiritual, human, intellectual pastoral dimensions.

This solidified my decision to serve as a priest with my home diocese. I look forward to sharing with the People of God in Los Angeles my knowledge and passion of the liturgy. Also, working in religious education and faith formation ministry sharing with those I encounter the love and mercy which God has shown me. Lastly, working with the youth and young adults, forming the next generation of faithful Catholics, and building up the kingdom of God in Los Angeles.

## 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: [Timothy@rescue vocations.org](mailto:Timothy@rescue vocations.org).

# 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.RescueVocations.org)

**LABOURÉ**<sup>®</sup>  
HELP RESCUE VOCATIONS<sup>®</sup>

# 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

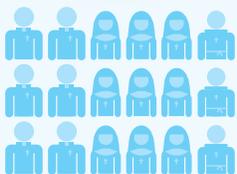
### THE LABOURE SOCIETY



- 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.