



# This is my Vocation Story

Aloni Bonilla

Community:  
Koinonia John the Baptist

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*My name is Aloni Bonilla. I am called to evangelize in the power of the Holy Spirit as a religious sister with the Koinonia John the Baptist. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

As my mom raised both my younger sister and me, she led us to a personal relationship with Jesus through prayer and worship. Often, my mom would remind me of the love of God as my Father. Despite this solid foundation, we did not practice the Catholic faith.

After the tragedy of losing our house in a fire, my family was led more deeply into the Catholic Church. We were left with no belongings, but this suffering enabled us to identify with those who were living on the streets. A ministry at our local parish served the homeless in the community every Sunday. I met Jesus in serving those who seemed rich internally and yet poor externally. This experience helped me to develop a spirit of gratitude and led me to receive my first communion and confirmation sacraments at the age of sixteen.

In my early college years, I strayed away from the Catholic Church. My choices during this time eventually led to my being briefly incarcerated. I was lost and unhappy as I sought to fill a deep emptiness inside. God used suffering to deepen my faith. Just as in poverty, I had experienced richness, now, while in jail, I experienced freedom.

Shortly after reading the Gospel of Matthew, I had an experience with the risen Lord Jesus. He didn't look at the lifestyle I was living. He didn't judge me based on my poor decisions, but He brought light into the darkness of my heart. From that moment on, I knew Jesus was calling me to be His disciple, just as he called Matthew. Jesus was calling me to a life of conversion and a closer relationship with Him.

## My Vocation

Seeking a life of discipleship, I joined a young adult ministry and continued to grow through faith and friendship. During this time, people would ask if I ever considered religious life. I was initially resistant to the idea, but could not completely dismiss it.

*“God called me to not only follow Him but to be His own. My response to love gave me the opportunity to be fully alive.”*

—Aloni Bonilla



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—Aloni Bonilla

While attending World Youth Day in Poland, the Lord gave me the graces of total detachment and an open heart to whatever He wanted. I felt Him calling me in a new way, and this convinced me to take the possibility of religious life more seriously. I responded to Jesus by offering one year as a personal vow to live an intentional single life. I later joined a small group of women who were also discerning a vocation to consecrated life.

Every year for four years, I renewed this private vow to the Lord. My life suddenly felt that it had meaning and joy. I dedicated myself more deeply to the Lord. It was as if my response to love gave me the opportunity to be fully alive. During those four years, my spiritual life grew radically. God was calling me to follow Him even more intensely. I moved across the country, and for three months lived with a religious community to discern God’s call.

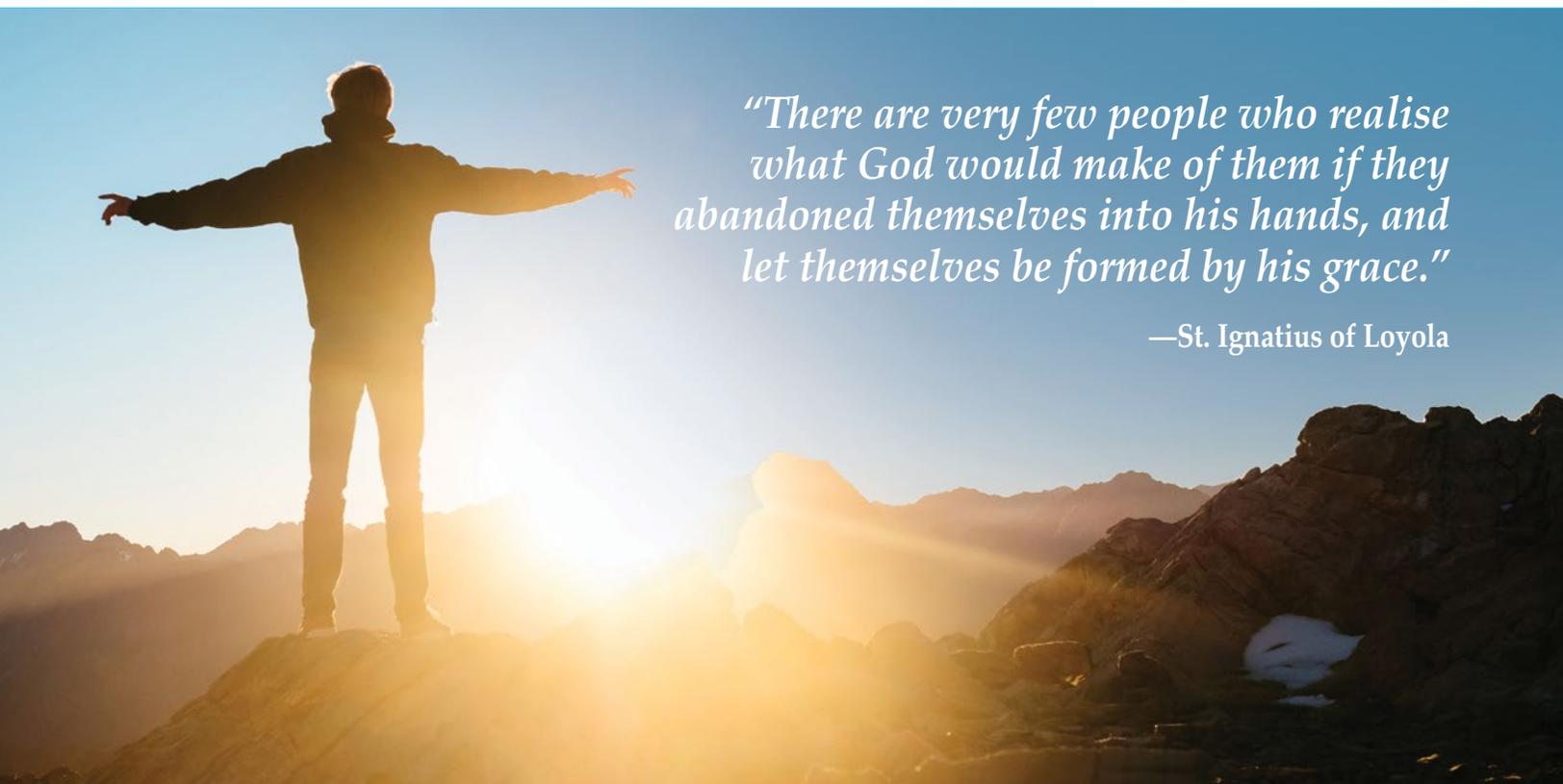
## Called to Serve

Through prayer and further discernment, I found a home within the community called Koinonia John the Baptist. This community stood out to me because it is an international family that includes consecrated sisters and brothers, priests, and a laity component. Within our community we encounter Christ, redeemer and Lord, through Houses of Prayer, family community, healing Masses, Agapitos (agape), retreats, formation courses, Koinonia Days of Prayer and Annual Charismatic Congress. Through these encounters of faith, we give witness of our lived experience of Christ. We also minister to the sick, aging and poor. Just as they welcomed me with open arms, each member radiates the joy of the Holy Spirit through their way of life. The gift of joy spreads through their words and actions of service to one another and to the Church as a whole. I desire to live my life with them in community.

## 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:  
[Aloni@rescuevocations.org](mailto:Aloni@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.



**Luis Cano**  
Society of Jesus  
(Jesuits)



**Latonja Taylor**  
Franciscan Monastery  
of St. Clare  
(Cincinnati)



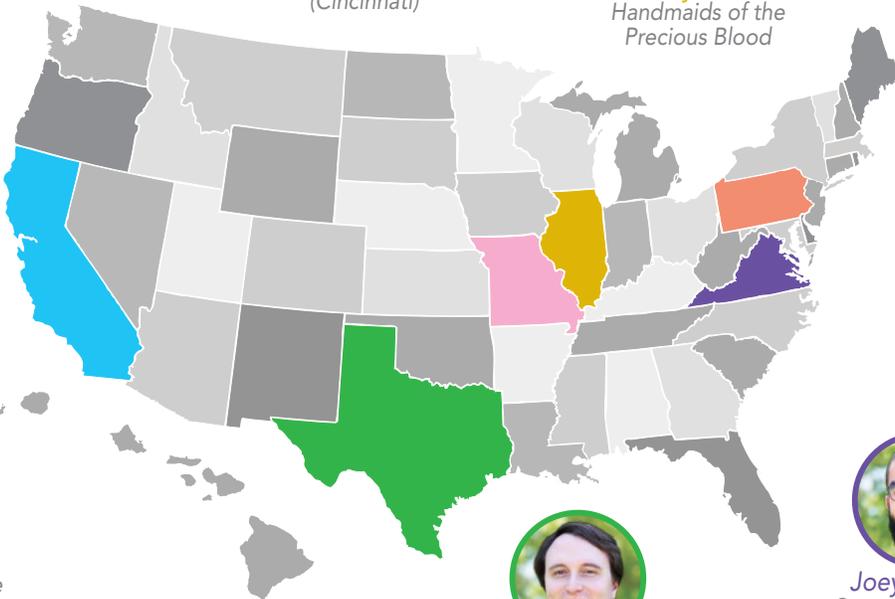
**Chrissy Tworek**  
Handmaids of the  
Precious Blood



**Tyler Wisniewski**  
Byzantine Catholic  
Archdiocese of  
Pittsburgh



**Aloni Bonilla**  
Koinonia John the  
Baptist



**Alex Hilton**  
Institute of  
Christ the King  
Sovereign Priest



**Jacob Lozano**  
Canons Regular of the  
Immaculate Conception



**Brendan Devine**  
Diocese of  
Fréjus-Toulon  
(France)



**Joey Dumais**  
Community of the  
Franciscan Friars  
of the Renewal (CFRs)

## With your help, we will rebuild the Church!

My goal is to raise \$60,000 (the average student loan amount) before December 31<sup>st</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?



The average amount of educational loans blocking aspirants in Labouré from answering God's call\*



Many religious communities cannot afford to assume their aspirants' loan debts



Most dioceses will allow some debt but have a limited threshold for acceptance



Supported by 50+ bishops & 150+ religious communities to help deliver their aspirants debt-free

# How does the Mission Work?

## OUR ASPIRANTS

Are discerning a vocation and have been selected 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, 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 upon joining the program

Trains each aspirant in Catholic-based philanthropy

Mentors each aspirant to build a unified class; each individual works toward the collective goal

Accompanies each aspirant through ongoing accountability and guidance to ensure successful completion of individual and class fundraising plans

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?

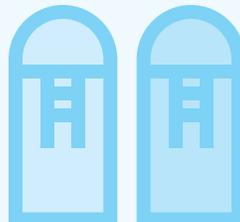
380+



Assisted into formation for the priesthood or religious life

## SEPARATE FUNDING SOURCES

100% of aspirant-raised funds go to the direct benefit of aspirants in the program



Labouré Staff raise separate funding for overhead and general operation expenses

One organization - two separate silos of funds. Labouré supports vocations at no cost to the aspirant or their institution.

\$11.5 MILLION



Raised by Labouré aspirants since 2003

\*According to 2022 Forbes Magazine, the national average education loan debt can be as high as \$40k. For aspirants in the Labouré program the average debt is \$60k-80k. 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.