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This is my Vocation Story



Brendan Devine

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Diocese of Fréjus-Toulon (France)

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My name is Brendan Devine. I am called to serve Christ and humanity as priest in France. This is my story:

In the Beginning

I grew up in a loving home where my parents gave me the Catholic faith and a Catholic education. At my parochial school, in my home state of Connecticut, I learned that I was created in God’s image and called to Him by Christ’s redemptive work on the cross. Looking back, I realized I received the gift of service from my school. From an early age I served at the altar and volunteered, especially with the elderly.

My Faith

While in high school, I read the Confessions of St. Augustine and was inspired by the saint’s deep thirst for truth, although at that time I couldn’t fully appreciate his conversion and repentance. While earning a degree in economics and history from Cornell University, I made several lasting friendships.

I found inspiration in the examples of St. Philip Neri and St. Augustine to dedicate my life to the service of God and neighbor. I came to understand that while the path of marriage was natural and compelling, my desire to serve Christ and the Church was supernatural and more completely fulfilling.

My Vocation

I wanted to enter priestly formation immediately after college, but through counsel of loved ones, I was advised to wait and establish a career for five years while continuing to discern my calling. When I was not at my corporate finance job in Texas, I was blessed by the Divine Liturgy and

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—Brendan Devine



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—Brendan Devine

sense of community at a small Eastern rite parish. Through this time, I began to deepen my faith and found myself desiring to serve as I once did as a child.

For the past two years I volunteered at a shelter for children coming out of abusive or dangerous situations. Here the Lord put on my heart the desire to return to them some of their dignity just as He gives to us. Serving at this local shelter gave me the grace to continue to foster my vocation.

After a few years in Texas, I knew I still desired to serve Christ and the Church in a more substantial way, so I began researching places to live out this life.

Called to Serve

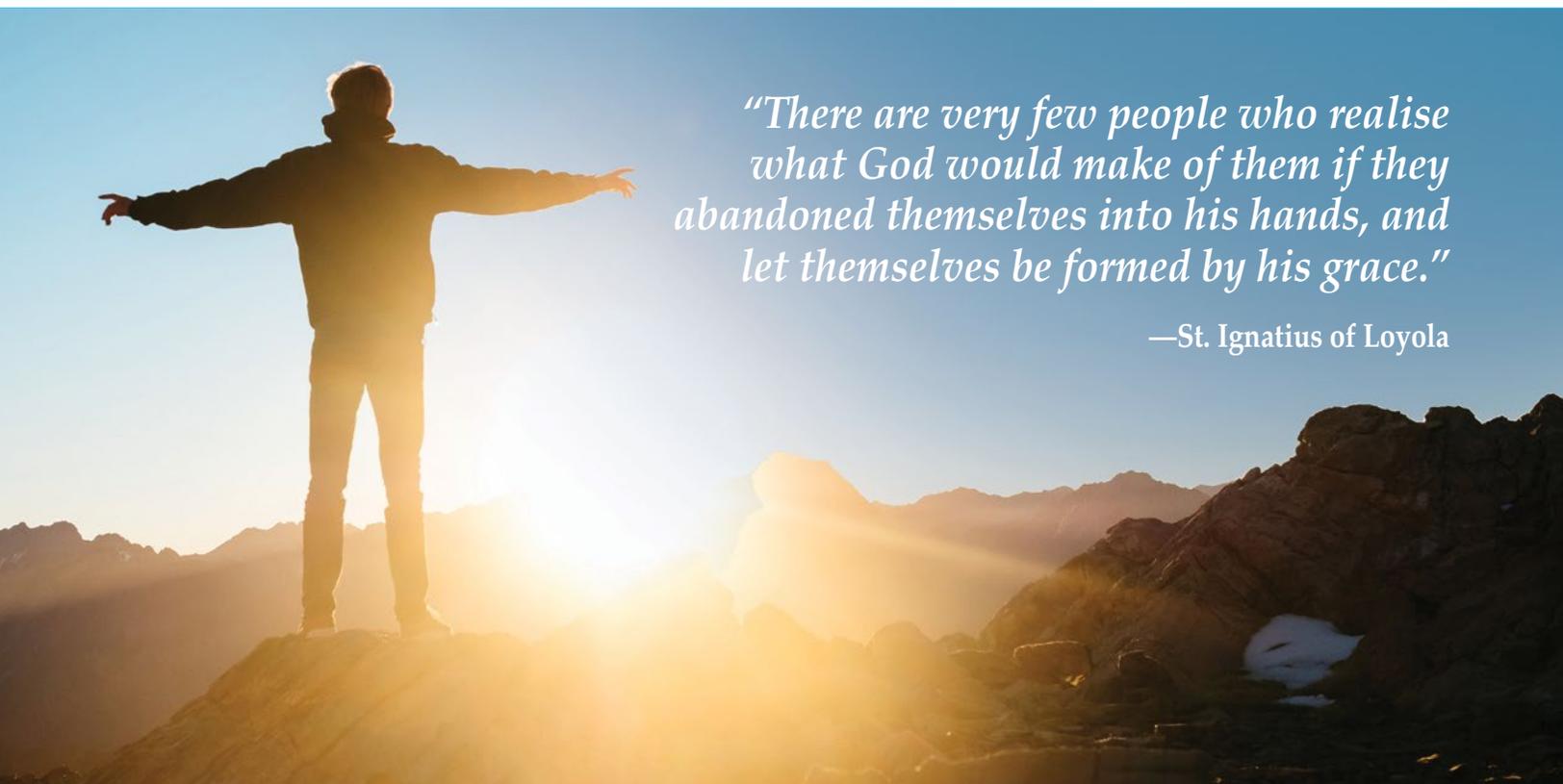
After long prayerful discernment and seeking a diocese to serve, I followed the advice and guidance of a priest friend. He directed me to a diocese that is actively seeking to live out Pope St. John Paul II’s model for the New Evangelization. The more he shared and I researched, the more this diocese felt like a great fit.

I look forward to this journey and hope to soon live out St. Augustine’s “blessed life” as a priest who loves the Mass and desires to make a gift of myself.

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: Brendan@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)



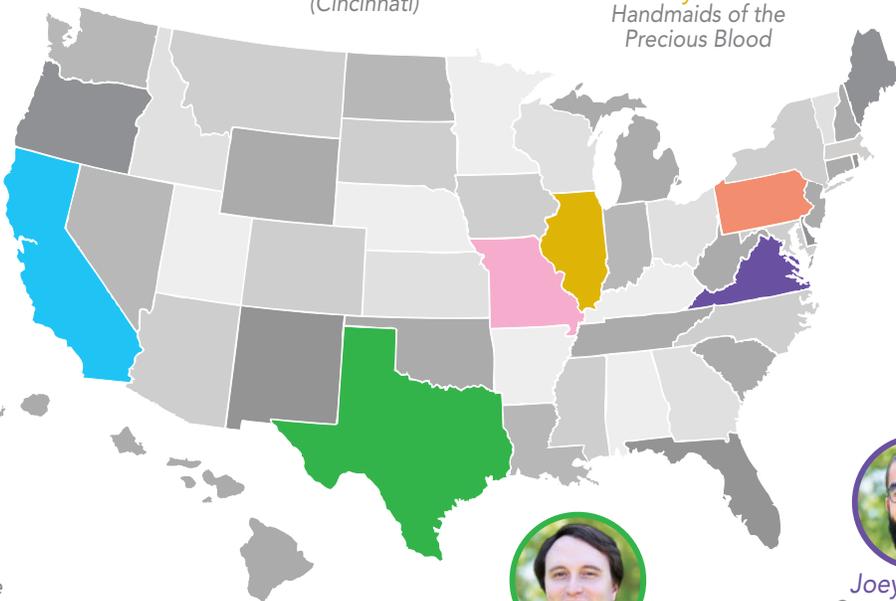
Chrissy Tworek
Handmaids of the
Precious Blood



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 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

LABOURÉ[®]
HELP RESCUE VOCATIONS[®]

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?

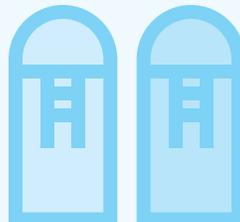
380+



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



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

Labouré Staff raise separate funding for overhead and general operation expenses

\$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.