



# This is my Vocation Story

Joey Dumais

Community:  
Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFRs)

Alma Mater:  
Franciscan University of Steubenville

Phone:  
(703) 966-9496

Email:  
Joey@rescuevocations.org

*My name is Joey Dumais. I am called to follow Saint Francis in rebuilding the Church as a friar with the Community of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFRs). This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

Growing up in a Catholic household, I was inclined towards God from a young age. As a kindergartener, I even wanted to be a priest. However, as I got older, I began to stray away from my faith, looking for something else. My insecurities and desire for friendship led me to a different path towards athletics, primarily basketball.

At the beginning of my junior year of high school, I received a stress fracture in my lower spine. This injury took me out of basketball for seven months, the whole of what would have been my first varsity season. Without basketball, I had to confront what my life was about. I began to fill this basketball void with worldly pleasures. Thankfully, I had some amazing friends who loved me enough to call me on to live a better life. These friends invited me to get involved with a non-denominational group that showed me how to have a personal relationship with Christ. Through them, I recognized I had to hold nothing back from this God who loved me so much.

*“When I was in adoration on my Come and See visit, I knew that the Lord was looking upon me, loving me, and calling me to Himself.”*

—Joey Dumais

After this, I wrestled with whether I should be Protestant or Catholic. Through study and prayer, I came to understand that Catholicism is the fullness of truth. I then became committed to uphold and defend this truth in all my relationships.

## My Vocation

While attending Franciscan University of Steubenville, I had the opportunity to go on a mission trip twice to the Bronx with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFRs). The first time, I experienced the love of our Heavenly Father in a new way, and I felt the Lord calling me to be exclusively His. Seeing these men so given to God stirred my heart to be given in the same way. However, I was conflicted as my desires continued to stir for marriage.



*“Christ became incarnate to be with us. I hope to give everything away to be with Him and His people.”*

—Joey Dumais

Prior to returning to the Bronx the second time, many fears began to creep into my heart due to the conflicting desires of my calling. I brought these concerns to one of the friars and he counseled me to bring it all to Jesus. During the trip, I was able to participate in street evangelization with the friars. During this ministry my heart began to burn as I lived this experience with them. I watched the friars so radically and fearlessly love the poor and felt a strong pull to live the same way.

I was fully alive and left the Bronx convicted that I needed to discern religious life intentionally. Soon after, I visited the CFRs and the Lord continued to confirm my journey to religious life. He brought healing and new life to me over the next year which led me into a new place of freedom. While on a second visit to the CFRs the Lord spoke to me in my heart, saying, “I want you to be here.” I responded with the biggest smile on my face, “And I want to be here.” I was filled with the deepest joy and peace, knowing that Jesus was calling me to be totally His.

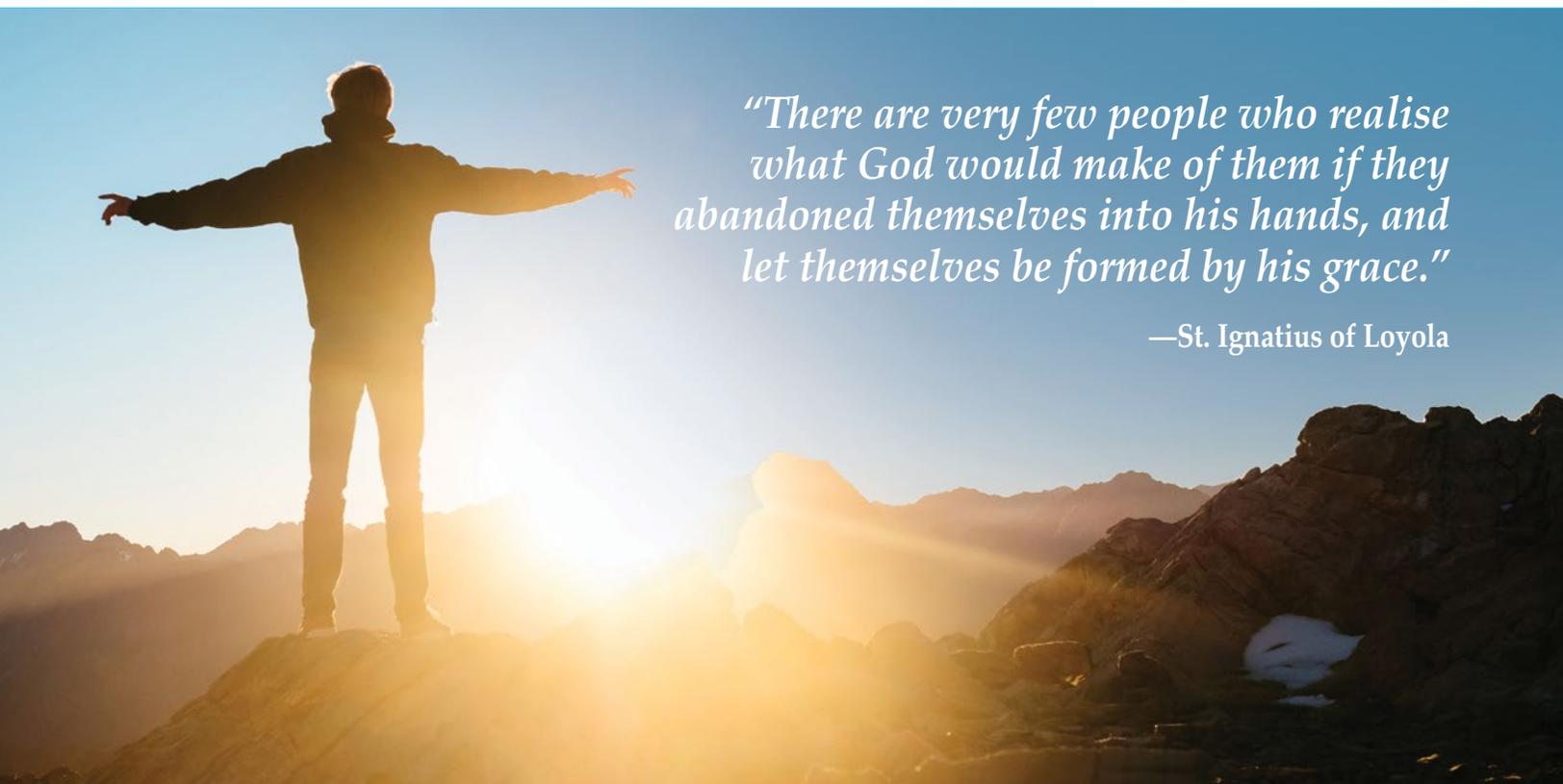
## Called to Serve

The friars are known for being down to earth, living radical and visible poverty, and having joyful and inviting brotherly friendships. Yet, it is their intimate relationship with God and how it flows into their ministry that most captures my heart. The CFRs serve the community through street evangelization, serving the poor, and preaching the Gospel. Through this ministry as a future Friar, I am excited to serve the poorest of the poor and be a witness to the real and fulfilling relationship that Jesus desires with each person.

## 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: [Joey@rescuevocations.org](mailto:Joey@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)



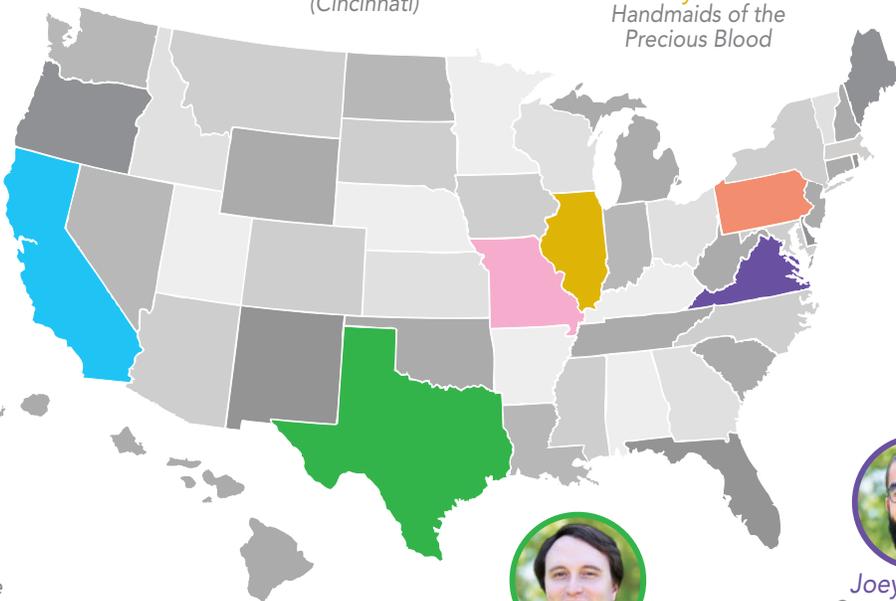
**Chrissy Tworek**  
Handmaids of the  
Precious Blood



**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?

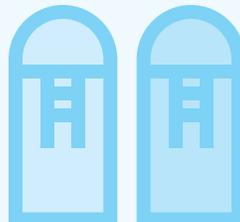
380+



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.