



This is my Vocation Story



Alex Hilton

Community:
Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

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My name is Alex Hilton. I am called to serve Christ and His Church as a priest with the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I grew up in a devout Catholic family in Pennsylvania with my mother and brother. Mass became the highlight of my week as it was especially helpful in bringing me comfort after my father passed away when I was two. The stories of scriptures inspired me and I found a sublime peace and love of God which brought forth the desire to help others and be good.

In college, I met Doc, as we called him, who taught me the art of lifting and jujitsu, along with how to be a “gentle” man. I was discovering what manhood was, and I figured physical strength might play into it.

I learned every lesson Doc would teach me on how to be a classical gentleman, never using strength unjustly, respecting everyone, and showing generosity with my time and efforts. One of the rules in my training was to ‘seek perfection of character’ and this caused me to rethink my actions and lifestyle as, in this time, I had stopped attending Mass. I experienced confusion and was not sure how to truly seek perfection of character without having faith. This led me to dive a little deeper into my philosophy class, yet not fully back into Catholicism.

After I graduated college, I spent two and a half years working in Maryland. During that time, the emptiness and confusion I experienced in secular society disturbed me. Yet, one day I went to visit the Basilica and was blown away by the beauty of the church. As I viewed the beauty and all the different images in the church, I realized that I had so much more to learn about Catholicism. I dove deeper to seek answers and learned as much as I could.

I decided to move back home and soon after, my grandmother passed away. I sought refuge in the Church and found that I was truly at home again.

*“And I will go in to the altar of God: to God who giveth joy to my youth.”
Psalm 42:4 (DRA)*



“Hope in God, for I will still give praise to him: the salvation of my countenance, and my God.” Psalm 42:6 (DRA)

My Vocation

In my home parish, I felt God pulling me again. I spoke to clergy and prayed. I remembered my grandmother’s words at one point saying, “Don’t be surprised if he grows up to be a priest.” She listened to God, so I listened to her and I then started to ask the Lord what it was that He wanted for my life.

Later that year, I was asked if I wanted to serve for Mass, so I did. I was training to be a Master of Ceremonies when I met someone who had been accepted into the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest (ICKSP). I learned a lot about them, and found that they had been everything that I was looking for: promoting liturgical beauty, restoring Catholic culture, chanting the Hours, and the Salesian way.

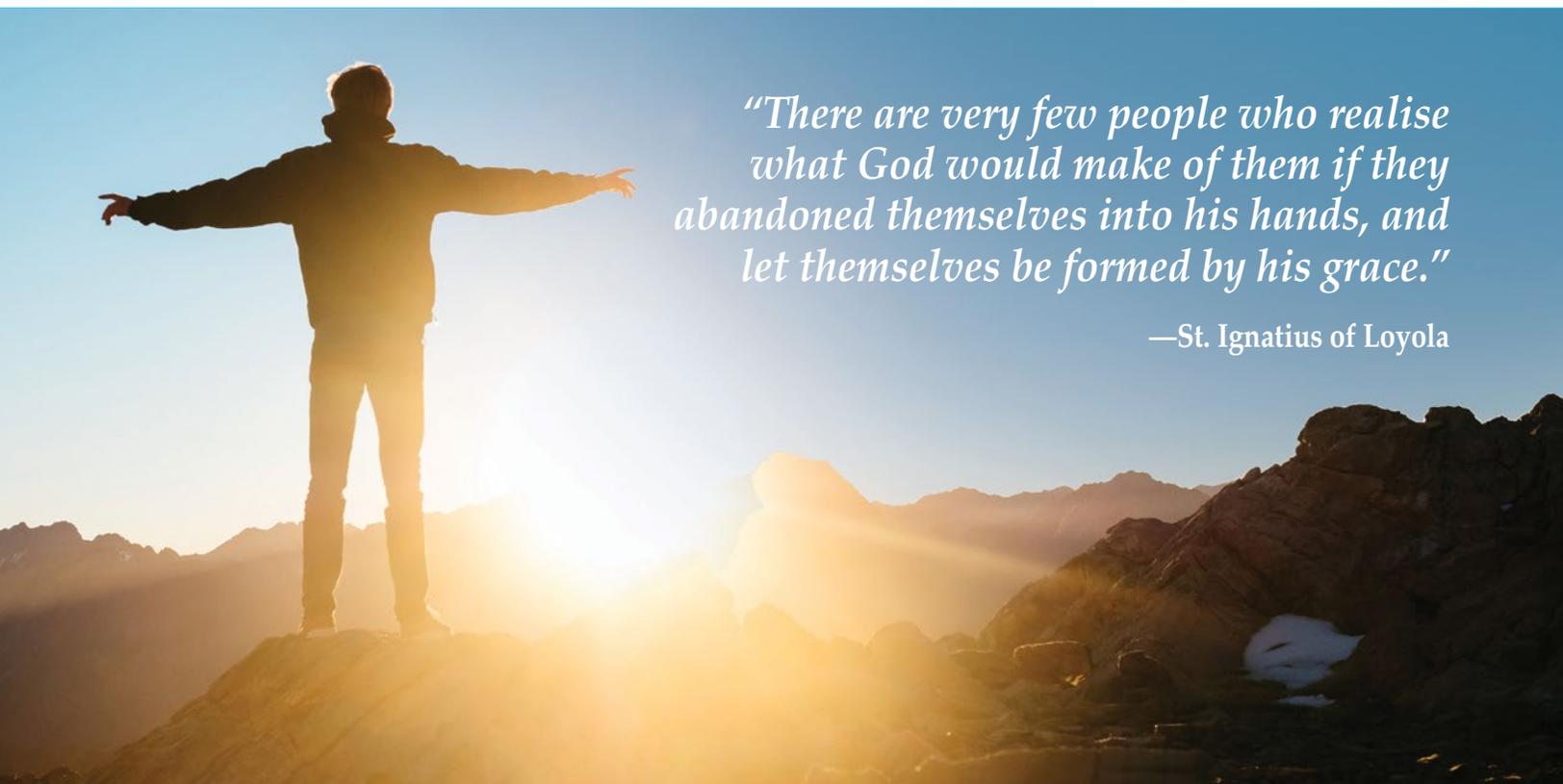
Called to Serve

After visiting the Canons, I felt at home. I felt loved. These people lived the gospel. I was in love with the lifestyle, spirituality, and charity present in every Canon, the oblate, and the candidates. After I came back home, I spent my time trying to conform myself to what I learned from them, chanting along with them on YouTube, praying the breviary, and studying St. Francis De Sales. I was on fire for God, on fire for the Institute, on fire for the future. I was accepted into formation and I have never felt more peace in my life.

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: Alex@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)



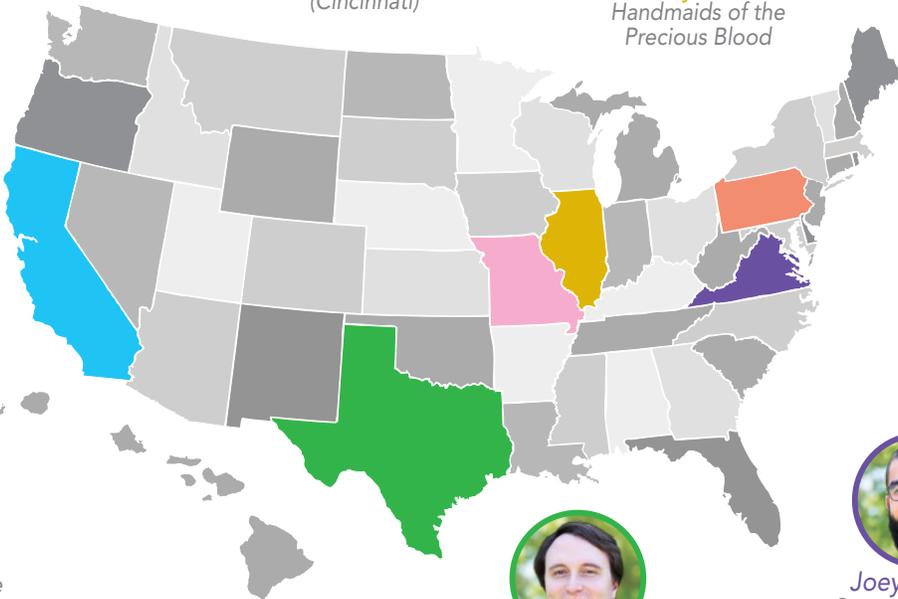
Chrissy Tworek
Handmaids of the
Precious Blood



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?

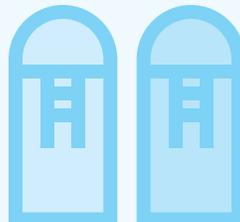
380+



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



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.