



# This is my Vocation Story

Tyler Wisniewski

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*My name is Tyler Wisniewski and I am called to serve Christ's Church as a Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Priest. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I grew up in Scottdale, Pennsylvania along with my brother and sister. I enjoyed singing in choir, collecting coins and playing baseball.

## My Faith

I was raised in the Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Church and attending church was always a priority in my family. I was an altar server and with many traveling priests visiting our parish, I became familiar with the new translation of the Divine Liturgy. I learned how our traditions and form of worship greatly differed from the West. My passion for the Divine Liturgy started influencing my private prayer life and as I began to spiritually mature, I yearned for more Eastern prayers.

In college, I gravitated to a public health related major which I felt would lead me to truly make a difference in others' lives. I was interested in genetic counseling where professionals provide personalized help that patients may need as they make decisions about their genetic health. However, as I learned more about the field, I learned that the few Catholic genetic counselors I interviewed could not explain how they defended the dignity of the unborn. Because of this moral issue, I decided to withdraw from pursuing this career. While this decision was difficult, the Holy Spirit was working through it and guiding me to my vocational calling to the priesthood.

*"My passion for the Divine Liturgy started influencing my private prayer life and as I began to spiritually mature, I yearned for more..."*

—Tyler Wisniewski

## My Vocation

Family, friends, and fellow parishioners have always joked about me



*“The Holy Trinity has given me the desire to serve in a new way — as a priest. I can think of no greater life pursuit than helping individuals in their journey to Paradise.”*

—Tyler Wisniewski

entering the priesthood. I would play along but never gave it much thought. If I were to ever enter the seminary, it would have to be for the right reasons. It was not until after completing my bachelor’s degree that I started seriously discerning my vocation. While meeting regularly with my spiritual father and prayerfully considering the next chapter in my life, I began listening to my heart.

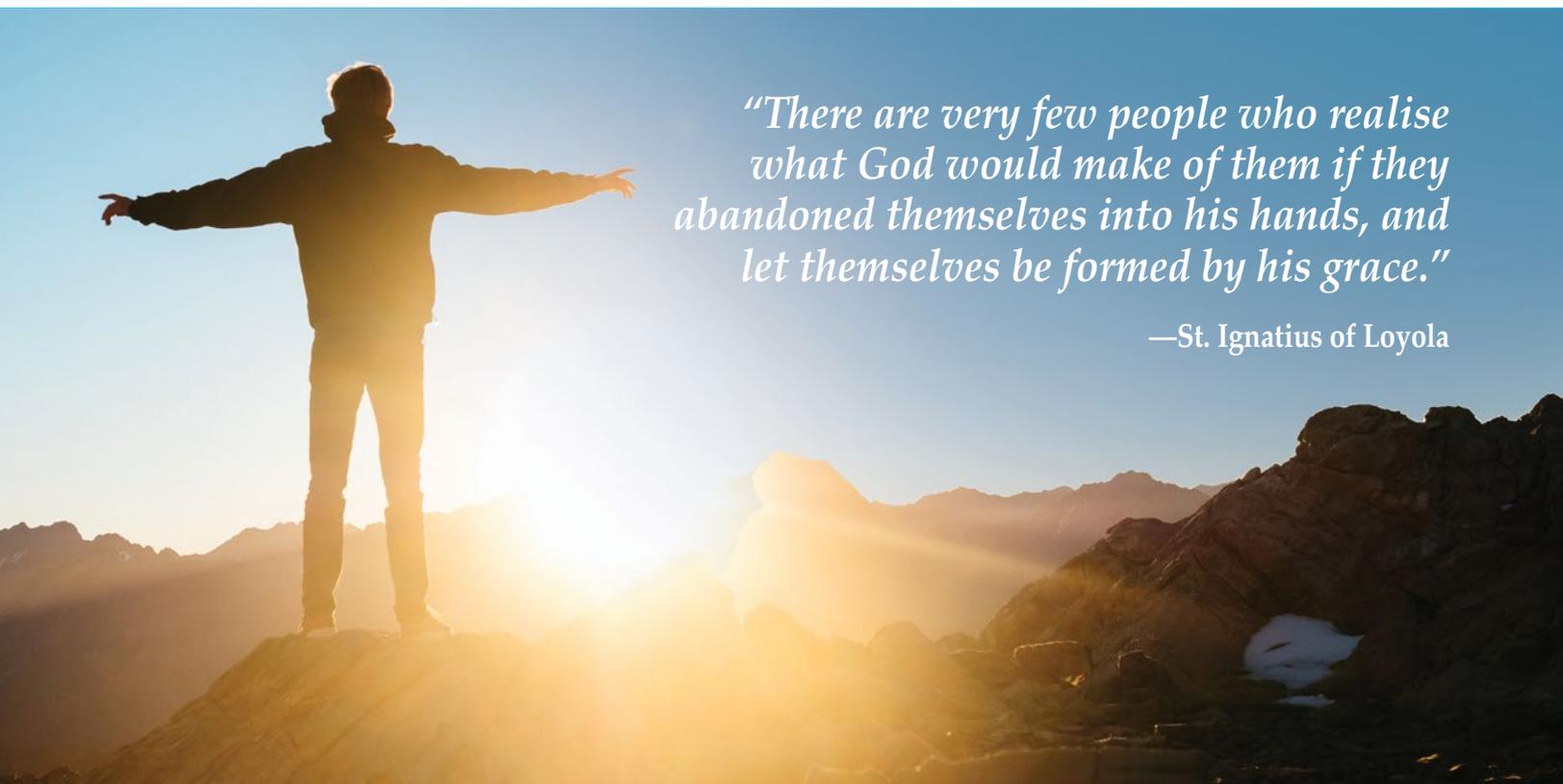
## Called to Serve

It has been a privilege to assist priests and bishops in liturgical services for over 15 years and in all this time, the Holy Trinity has given me the desire to serve in a new way — as a priest. I can think of no greater life pursuit than helping individuals in their journey to Paradise. I know in my heart that this is where I am meant to be and am enthusiastic to bring back the traditions that were eliminated during the period of Latinization. In addition to serving a parish, I see myself directly involved in the fight to defend life at all stages.

## Prayer & Invitation

With the presbyterate under attack in North America in recent years, courageous and passionate priests are needed now more than ever. Please pray that my fellow classmates and I can resolve the student loan debt blocking our path to religious life. With your help, our class will soon reach its goal of serving Christ and humanity.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions you might have at: [Tyler@rescuevocations.org](mailto:Tyler@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)



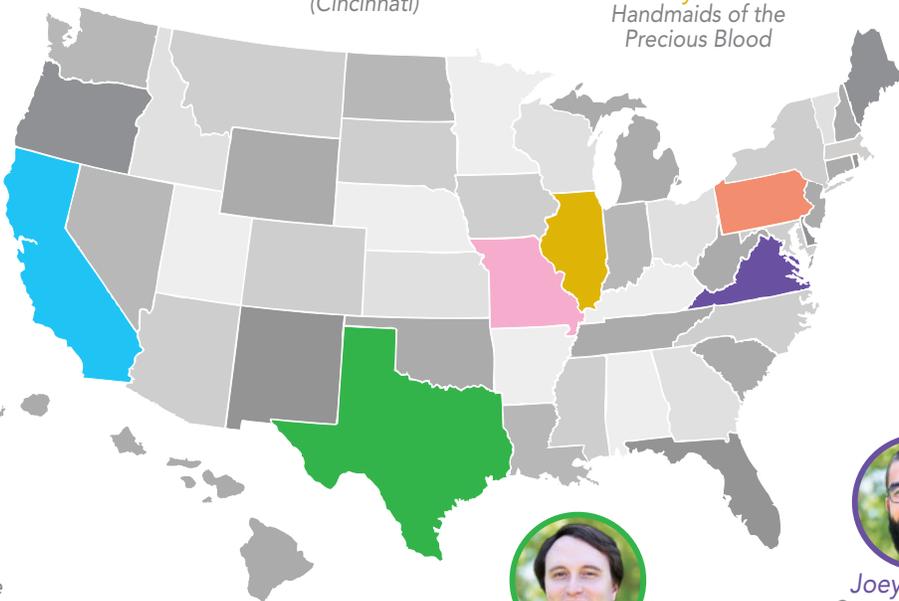
**Chrissy Tworek**  
Handmaids of the  
Precious Blood



**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?

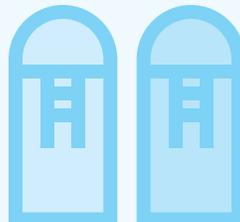
380+



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.