



# DONATE

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# This is my Vocation Story

Brandon Yurcisin

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*My name is Brandon Yurcisin. I am called to serve Christ and His Church as a priest with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I was baptized Catholic as an infant, and my family practiced the faith until I received my first Communion at ten years old. My grandma was the secretary at her parish, and she and my grandfather continued to encourage my faith once my immediate family no longer practiced. My grandma brought me along to help with projects in the parish, and she and my grandfather took me to Sunday Mass. It was their influence that kept me connected to the Church.

Family life was challenging and when I was in seventh grade, my parents divorced. This had a negative impact on much of my life, including my relationship with God. However, by ninth grade, I knew that I was missing something. At the suggestion of my pastor, I joined RCIA to prepare for Confirmation. My grandma both drove me to and from and attended RCIA classes with me weekly.

Throughout the rest of high school, things began to improve in my life. I built new friendships, got involved in theater, and began to be much more interested in religion.

*“In life there will always be struggle, such is the nature of things, but in life there is also hope and happiness.”*

—Brandon Yurcisin

## My Vocation

The first time I experienced a call to the priesthood was during RCIA in high school. The call was mysterious, yet remained, ever so faintly, in the back of my mind as time went on. I wanted to grow in my understanding of God and what that meant for me. Questions regarding God and religion lead me to study theology and philosophy as an undergraduate in college. During my last semester of college, I studied in Rome, and there my questions about God became more focused on my Roman Catholic Faith. The architecture, art, music and history helped me to more deeply appreciate the truth and beauty of the Catholic Church.



After college, I spent a year serving with AmeriCorps. During that time, I felt the urge to turn to God for direction about my future. The call to the priesthood that I had felt years earlier now resurfaced full force, and I was ready to respond.

## Called to Serve

Having visited Philadelphia a number of times during college, I found it to be extremely welcoming, and felt as if I was very much at home there. The priests that impacted me growing up, through their desire to serve and be available to me and others, were role models of what a good and holy priest should be. The desire to apply for seminary with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia grew, and I am now a seminarian. I look forward to not only administering the sacraments, but also teaching about the meaning and importance of them. I want to be like a bucket, filled with the love of God, continually outpouring on His children, that they too may know the love of Christ.

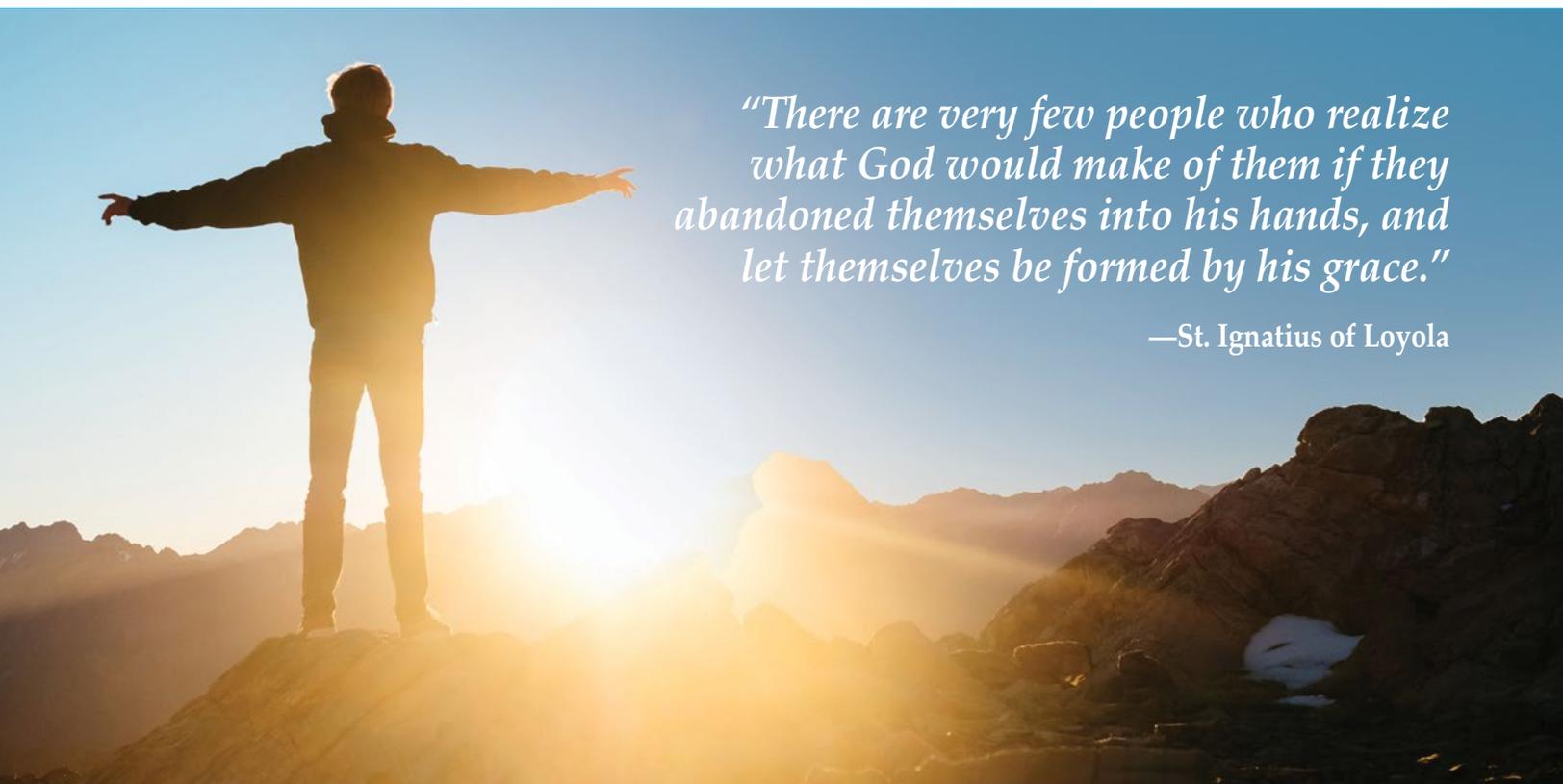
## Prayer & Invitation

Please pray for me and for my fellow Labouré classmates on our vocation journeys.

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

*“I felt the urge to turn to God for direction about my future. The call to the priesthood...resurfaced full force, and I was ready to respond.”*

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*“There are very few people who realize 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

This means that I am a fundraiser for a class of aspiring priests, sisters and brothers. A recent study confirmed that nearly one out of every two 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 nation.

**Lizzie Kenkel**  
Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln

**John Solheid**  
Congregation of St. Basil

**Alexandra Buchmayer**  
Passionist Nuns of St. Joseph Monastery

**Katie Power**  
Discalced Carmelites of St. Therese of Lisieux

**Michael Horka**  
Capuchin Franciscans of the Province of St. Joseph

**Antonio La Barbera**  
Diocese of Lubbock

**Amanda Tennyson**  
Discalced Carmelites of Our Mother of Mercy and St. Joseph

**Noah Marangoni**  
Diocese of Erie

**Kiana Nava**  
Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles

**David Georgeanni**  
Diocese of Trenton

**Brandon Yurcisin**  
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

**Jake Smith**  
Archdiocese of Denver

**Latonja Taylor**  
Poor Clares of Clarisse Monastero S. Maria Del Paradiso in S. Leonardo

**Tony Ramirez**  
Norbertine Fathers of Saint Michael's Abbey

**Dan Rochester**  
Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

**Marie Arnold**  
Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará

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

*My goal is to raise \$60,000 (the average student loan amount) before June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year via The Labouré Society, a Catholic non-profit that helps aspirants like me to answer God's call.*

Every aspirant is in serious discernment with a diocese or community and is required to work to liquidate his/her assets in order to make his/her 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 that we can answer God's call together!

Our class video, once available, may be viewed online at [www.rescue vocations.org](http://www.rescue vocations.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 80+ bishops & 250+ religious institutions 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?

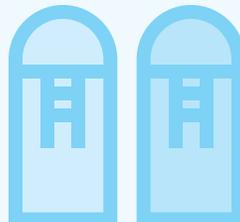
400+



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.

\$12 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.