

# DONATE

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# This is my Vocation Story



Matthew Brewer

Community:  
Diocese of Memphis

Alma Mater:  
Notre Dame Seminary Graduate School of Theology

Phone:  
(901) 299-1989

Email:  
MatthewBrewer@rescuevocations.org

*My name is Matthew Brewer. I am called to serve Christ and His Church as a priest with the Diocese of Memphis. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I credit my faith to my family, friends, and upbringing as part of a faith-filled, Catholic homeschool group. My friends and I attended daily Mass growing up, and every First Friday we'd have classes to teach us more about our faith. The parents of this group all took their faith very seriously and were role models of a Catholic family. I was also active in my parish's youth group, and other events such as Diocesan Youth Celebration and multiple retreats. In high school, I prayed, "God, I will be a priest if it is what You want, but You have to kick me into applying."

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'God, I will be  
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what You want...'"*

**—Matthew Brewer**

## My Vocation

Whenever the local bishop came to our parish, he would give a talk about vocations. On one visit, he pointed to the statue of Our Lady and said, "She knows some of you have a vocation to the priesthood, and She knows who you are." Just as I was leaving the church, a hand fell on my shoulder and a voice boomed, "Don't think you can get away that easily!" It was the bishop's assistant. He told me later that he had seen something in my face when the bishop was talking about vocations, and led me back to the bishop. (That assistant now serves as the Director of Vocations for the diocese.) This was the "kick" I had told God I needed.

At first, I did not want to tell my parents about my discernment. I was afraid that they might be too supportive, and push me into a vocation that I had just started discerning. As I was driving home with my mother after the bishop's visit, I prayed, "God, I can't do this. You have to make her ask me." At the exact moment I finished my prayer, my mother asked, "Have you ever thought about being a priest?" I was shaken, but replied that I had a meeting with the vocation director the following week. She was silent, as if God was telling her not to say anything further for fear of scaring me off.



*“I see the beauty in the Fatherhood expressed through the person of the priest, and seek to one day be that father...”*

—Matthew Brewer

## Called to Serve

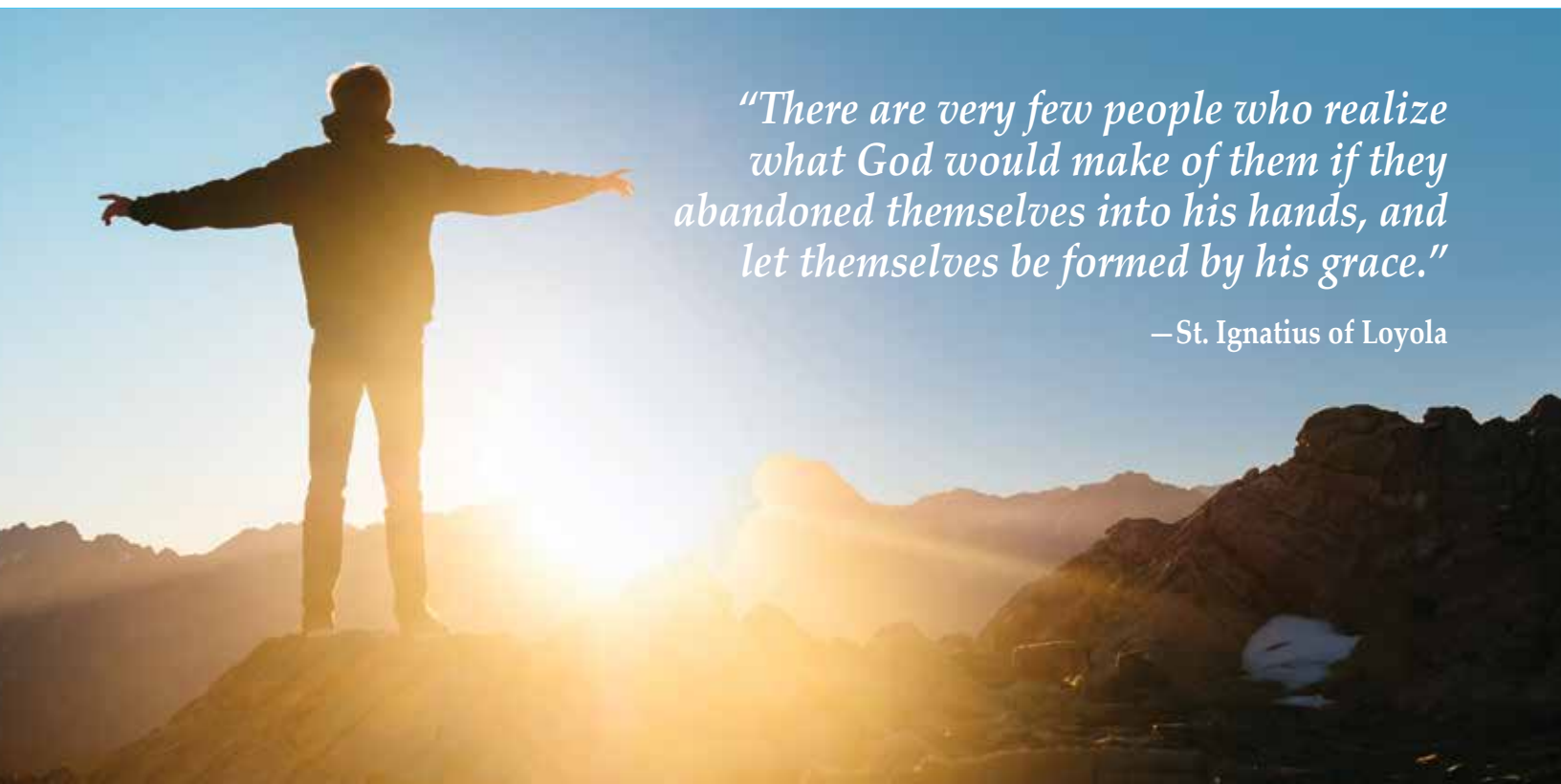
I have been blessed with many pastors and spiritual directors of all ages over the years, but it has always been the young priests who have inspired me to pursue my vocation. They demonstrate that the priesthood of Jesus Christ is alive and thriving in today’s world. I long to be one of them.

I look forward to teaching and preaching, especially the ethical concerns that are so seldom shared, but are so necessary in our society today. I want to offer the Eucharist, reconciliation, and spiritual direction to others. I see the beauty in the Fatherhood expressed through the person of the priest, and seek to one day be that father to the people of my diocese.

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



*“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. Many discerners are blocked from entering seminary and religious communities due to student loan debt. It is the only thing that prevents them from formation to become a priest, sister or brother. My classmates are discerning all over the nation.



**Christian Rickert**  
Dominican Friars  
(Province of St. Albert the Great)



**John Solheid**  
Congregation  
of St. Basil



**Tyler Martensen**  
Order of  
Friars Minor  
(Franciscan Friars)



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



**Antonio La Barbera**  
Diocese  
of Lubbock



**Brian Hurley**  
Order of  
St. Basil the Great  
(Ukrainian Rite)



**Jake Smith**  
Archdiocese  
of Denver



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



**Michael Zafuto**  
Diocese of Memphis



**Josué Limon**  
Diocese of Tucson



**Matt Selzer**  
Diocese  
of Pittsburgh



**Ryan Graham**  
Society of Jesus  
(U.S. West Province)



**Noah Marangoni**  
Diocese  
of Erie



**Brandon Yurcisin**  
Archdiocese  
of Philadelphia



**David Georgeanni**  
Diocese  
of Trenton



**Aislinn Torrance**  
Sister Servants  
of the Most Sacred  
Heart of Jesus



**Juanita Rios**  
Benedictine Sisters  
of Transfiguration  
Hermitage



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



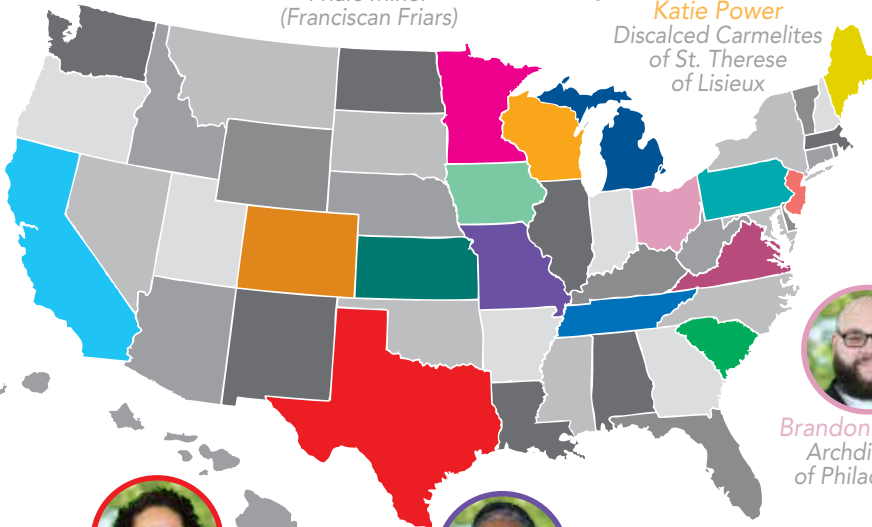
**Matthew Brewer**  
Diocese of Memphis



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



**Joe McIntire**  
Archdiocese of San  
Francisco



## 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 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?



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 and/or formation expenses

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 educational debt



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?

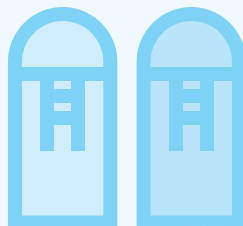
400+



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.

\$13 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.