

# DONATE

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# This is my Vocation Story



Brian Hurley

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*My name is Brian Hurley. I am called to bring God's mercy to His people as a priest with the Order of St. Basil the Great. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

Though I was baptized Catholic and attended Sunday Mass and Catholic schools from kindergarten through university, the Faith wasn't truly imbedded in my life in any meaningful way, and my heart never truly connected with God. I was focused instead on violent video games and music, unhealthy tv shows and the like. After going off to college and losing a debate on the existence of God with my atheist roommate, I consciously rejected God in my heart and began just "floating" through life with no real sense of purpose. After leaving school, I felt restless and decided that living abroad would be freeing.

I moved to Shanghai and got a job as an English teacher. Devoid of true inner peace, I attempted to fill the void within in various ways, yet wound up sinking into an even darker place in life. In January 2021, I reached my lowest point. I realized that in consciously turning away from God, I had gotten exactly what I'd asked for -- just not in the way I'd anticipated. I cried out to God for forgiveness, with true repentance in my heart, and felt an invisible weight dissolve away. In an instant, my despair and sorrow were replaced with a sense of joy!

## My Vocation

I knew from my Catholic upbringing that to truly "get right with God," I ought to attend the Sacrament of Confession. A Chinese Catholic friend arranged for me to meet with the pastor of her parish. I confessed all the sins of my entire life, weeping once again for them. I was absolved through the Sacrament, and left feeling a warmth around me and a sense of oneness with the Lord. For the first time I could remember, I felt clean, with an interior peace I had never before known.

*"I went to the other side of the world looking for the answer, and the answer was back home all along - in the Catholic Church. I want to become a priest and a monk because I want to disappear completely into the mysteries of Our Lord, and hopefully through His will I may guide others into those mysteries as well."*

—Brian Hurley



I recalled my mother telling me about how people are “called” to religious life. I sensed that perhaps God might be calling me. After a long period of prayer and reflection, and discussion with a priest in China, I made the decision to return to America and explore a vocation to the priesthood.

## Called to Serve

In America, after a period of discerning if and where God might be calling me to serve as a priest, I discovered the Ukrainian Catholic Church. I began attending the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. The Eastern rite brought the truths of the Catholic faith alive for me. I met a Byzantine priest-monk, and expressed to him my desire to live a more traditional Christian life. He invited me to his monastery to discern God’s path for me.

St. Josaphat’s is a semi-cloistered monastery. Its primary mission is deepening the prayer life of the Byzantine Catholic community and educating them in the mysteries of the Catholic faith.

I have learned that Christianity is not an ideology or an intellectual project, but a mystical way of life that modernity and the world cannot equal. I look forward to being a spiritual father, especially for youth, to help them avoid the same mistakes that I made. I want them to know that what the world offers is a lie and cannot compare to the truths of the Church and Christ’s love for them in the Blessed Sacrament. I also hope, as a priest, to encourage family fathers to focus on holiness, their own relationships with God, and truly nurturing the faith within their families above all else.

*“...I have lived the life of the prodigal son, and just as the prodigal son when he returned received his father’s ring and robe, I receive my Heavenly Father’s grace.”*

—Brian Hurley

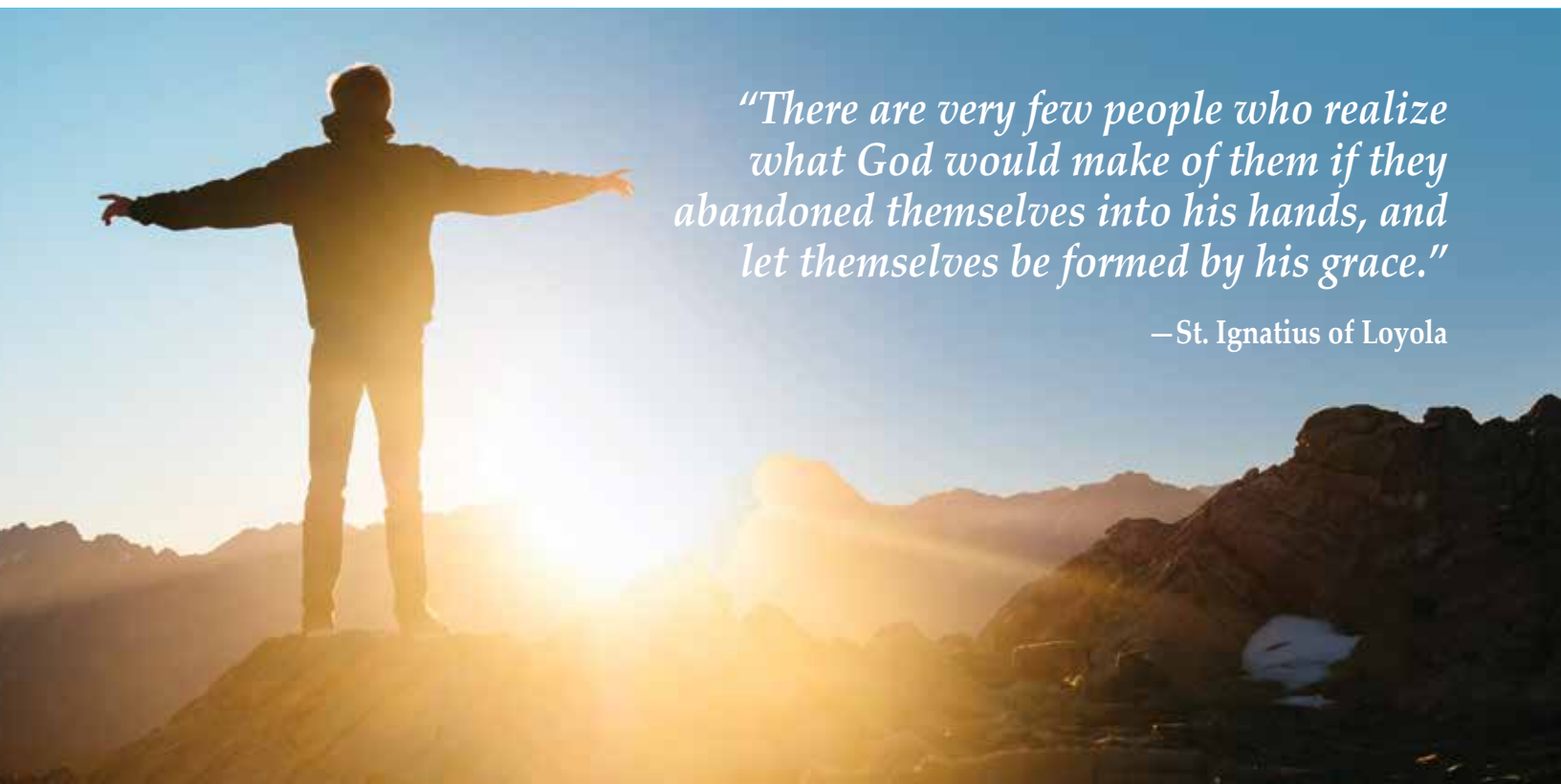
## Prayer & Invitation

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: [Brian@rescuevocations.org](mailto:Brian@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



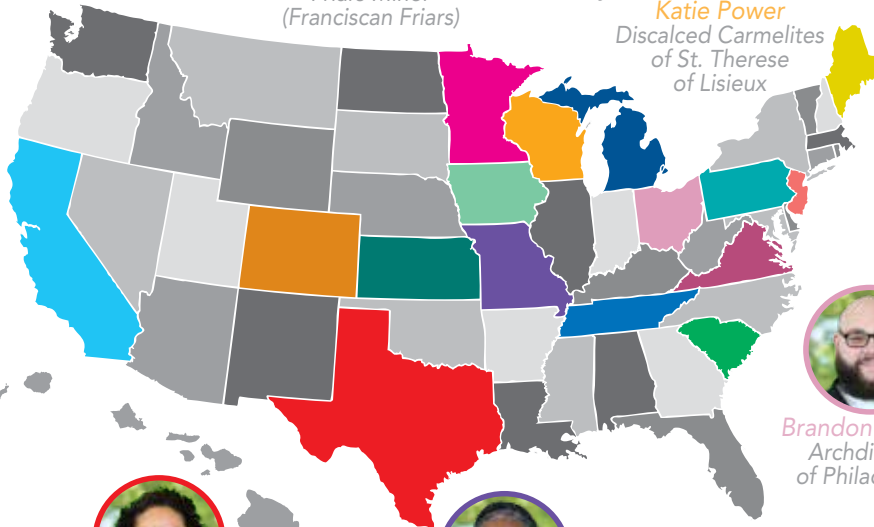
**Matthew Brewer**  
Diocese of Memphis



**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?

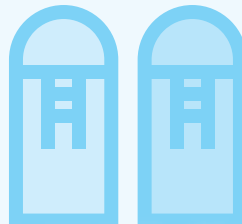
400+



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.