



# DONATE

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# This is my Vocation Story

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

## In the Beginning

As a child, my family attended Mass on Sunday, but I never saw church as meaningful -- until a newly-ordained priest was assigned to my home parish. For the first time, I saw a priest without gray hair, a dynamic, engaging, relatable man who made a relationship with Jesus Christ seem real. Then another young priest communicated with me -- via Facebook! These two priests had lit a spark in me, which would soon burst into flame.

I wanted to make a difference in kids' lives, so I thought I'd teach. In college, I was told that STEM courses were the future. Unfortunately, I didn't have an aptitude for science. I jumped from physics to neuroscience to chemistry; yet academically and emotionally, something was off. I realized that my plans weren't working out.

## My Vocation

After finding out that I had failed a chemistry exam, I felt the prompting to go to the cathedral to pray. I told God, "Whatever you have in store for me, I will do it. I will follow you. I put my life in Your hands."

*"Allowing God to direct our steps and reveal our vocation to us is a beautiful gift! He has an unbelievable, unique plan for us that uses our gifts and talents!"*

—Matt Selzer

I talked to my parents about my future. They told me to do what would make me happy. I realized that my strengths were in writing and speaking, relationship building, and working with people, so I switched my major to communications. I also began to pray and attend daily Mass, and the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood came to mind with increasing frequency. I met with the priest in my home parish and his advice was, "If any part of you thinks you might have a vocation, go to seminary!" By my senior year of college, I decided to apply. I couldn't go further in life without discerning what God had in store for me. After all, I'd told God that I would follow Him wherever He led.



## Called to Serve

Having now spent almost five years in formation, I know who I am, what gifts and strengths I have, and how God might ask me to use them in the service of His Church. Spending time in parishes in the Diocese of Pittsburgh has shown me the hunger for Jesus among the faithful. Our diocese has suffered amidst turmoil within the Church and world. I believe that God is calling me in the midst of such hardships to be the light of Christ.

I look forward to celebrating the sacraments and finding new, creative ways to lead people to the Lord. I see the priesthood as the perfect fulfillment of everything I have ever wanted to be: a teacher, a mentor, a leader, a father, a positive example to youth, and a light in the darkness of our world. As I continue my formation in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, I am immensely grateful for the love and providence God has shown me along the way.

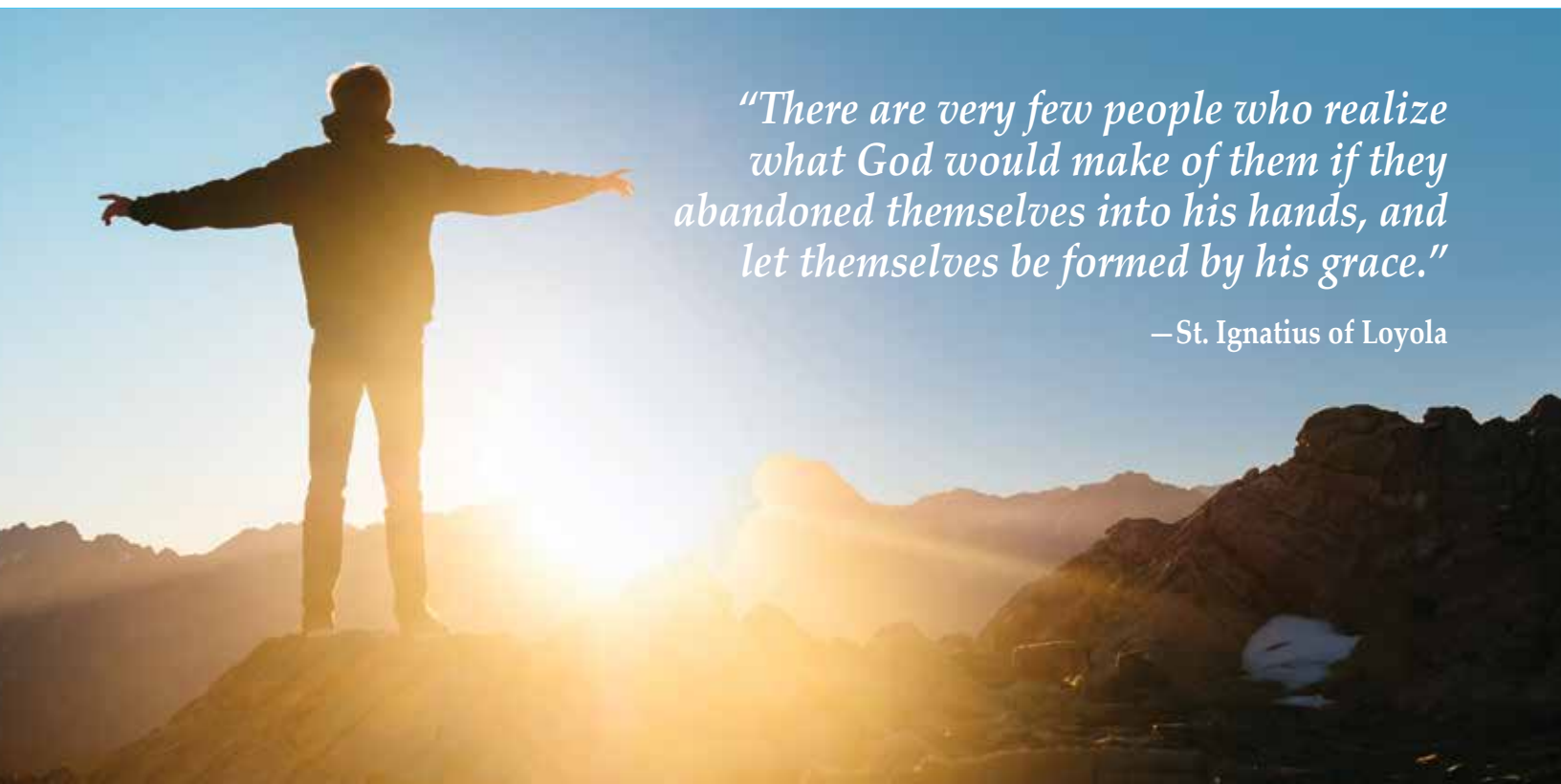
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—Matt Selzer

## 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:  
[Matt@rescuevocations.org](mailto:Matt@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



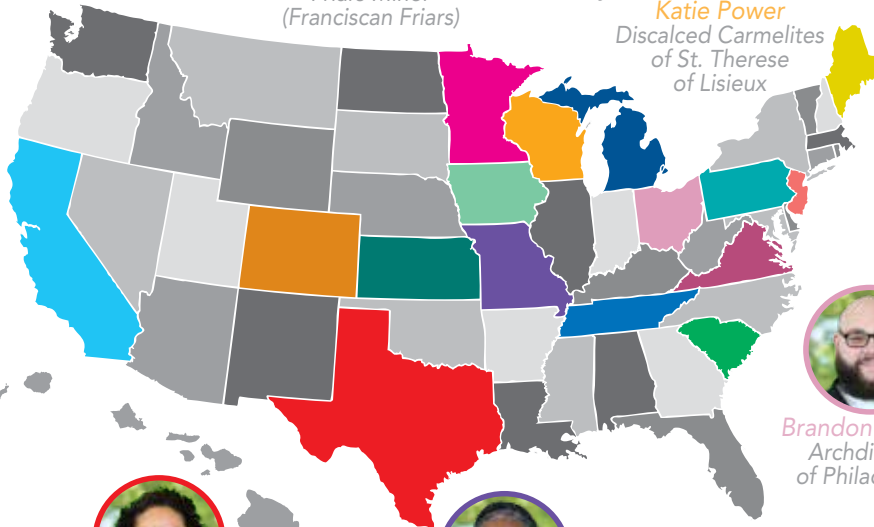
**Matthew Brewer**  
Diocese of Memphis



**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?

### 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 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

### 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?

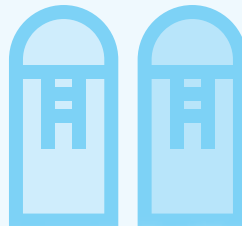
400+



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.

\$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.