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# This is my Vocation Story



Rosemary Bravo

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Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament

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*My name is Rosemary Bravo. I am called to devote my life to the adoration of the Holy Eucharist, and to Catholic education as a Sister Servant of the Blessed Sacrament. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I grew up in Los Angeles, the fourth of five girls in my family. When I was a little girl, I remember seeing an image of Jesus at our parish. He seemed to be telling me, "You are mine," and I just knew from then on that He was with me. When I was eight years old, my family began going to our parish more regularly. In addition to Sunday Mass, we became involved in Wednesday scripture studies; and praise, worship, and healing events on Fridays. After receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at age sixteen, I began teaching Confirmation classes, a service that I continue to do even today.

While in college and working full-time, my life became very busy and I started to drift away from the practice of my faith. After a few years of drifting, I fell into a deep depression and knew that something needed to change. I attended a retreat that my father recommended. While there, I encountered Jesus once again and developed a desire to know Him on a deeper level. I wanted to grow in my understanding of the Catholic faith, which I have been doing every day since.

*"I felt a desire to go deeper -- a sense that something more needed to happen."*

—Rosemary Bravo

## My Vocation

After faithfully practicing the Faith for five years, I felt a desire to go deeper -- a sense that something more needed to happen. This was a pivotal moment in discerning my vocation, as I began to seek the next step in following God's call.

Seeking the next step led to me attending a Divine Mercy Conference. At this conference, Jesus showed me my need for deeper healing, and at the same time began that process. Healing continued with the help of the rosary, Mass, and regular adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It was at this same conference that someone gave me a book about the Eucharist. In that book, I read a testimony by a sister who shared her Eucharistic vocation story. Upon reading it, I felt a desire to ask God if that was the direction in which He was calling me. In my mind and heart, I felt His "Yes."



The following day, while teaching Confirmation class, a sister came to share her vocation story and answer questions the students might have. The next week, I mentioned to the confirmation coordinator my discernment, and she asked if she could share my information with the Sister Servant of the Blessed Sacrament. I said "Yes." She also gave me the sister's contact information.

That week was a busy one for me, but I knew in my heart that I needed to contact that Sister. At Mass, I prayed to God, asking Him to help me find the right time to call her, and to give me the courage and words to speak. During communion, I noticed that the very same sister was there! After Mass, I walked over, introduced myself, and she has been walking with me in my vocational discernment ever since.

## Called to Serve

What draws me to this particular community is that the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament have a deep devotion to both the Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and to Catholic education. The Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament dedicate their lives to serving the under-served populations of immigrants and children in California. They joyfully share the love of Christ with all.

As a religious sister, I want to continue showing the love of Christ to everyone -- every child, every parent, every person I encounter. Everyone desires the love of the Father and of our Blessed Mother, whose love graces us with hope, joy, and peace! As a religious sister, I want children to grow in relationship with Jesus; to know that He is truly present in the Eucharist and that we can receive Him and spend time with Him in Adoration; and that we should follow His example. Jesus yearns for us and wants to give us His gifts of peace and eternal life!

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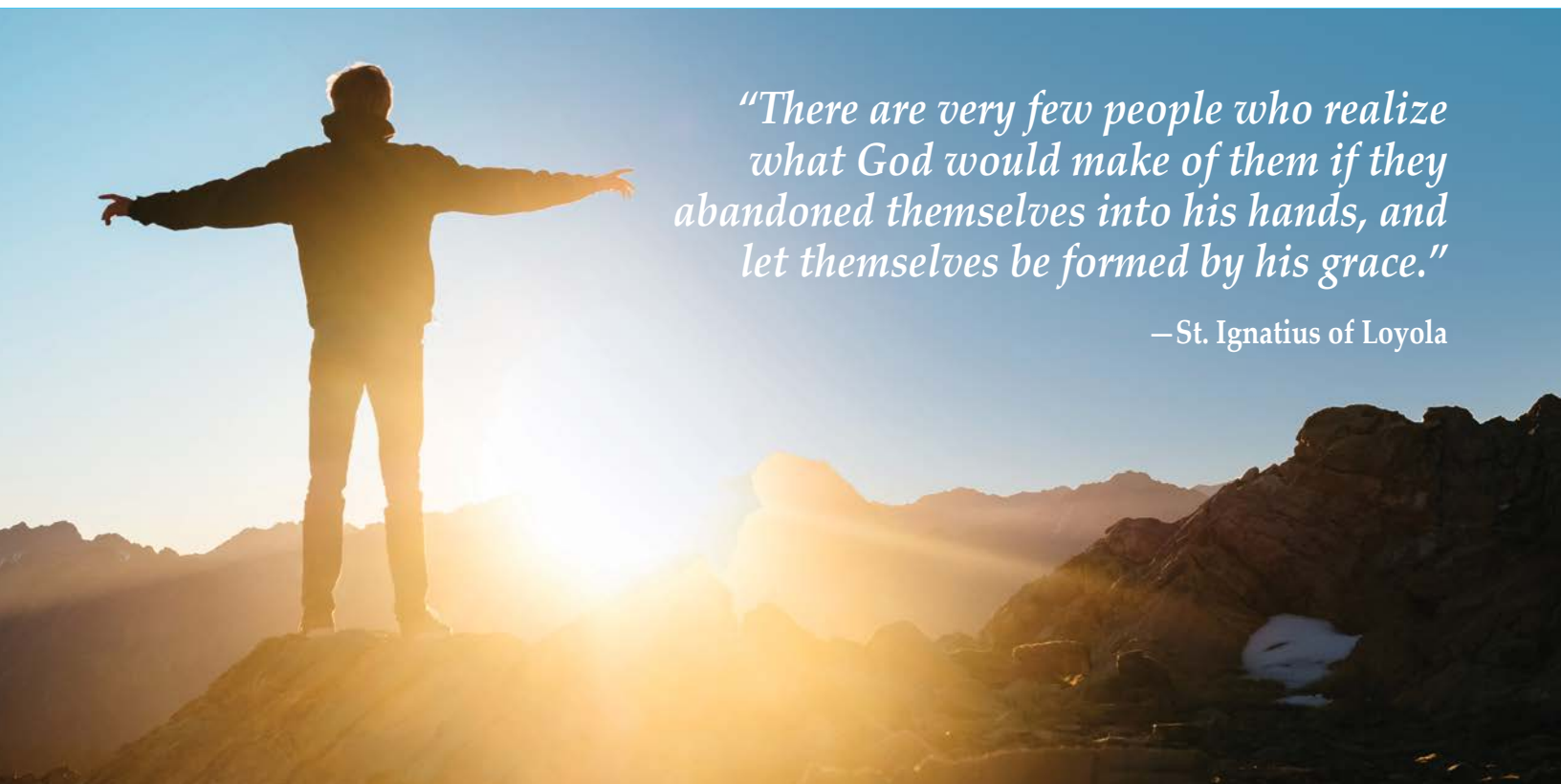
## Prayer & Invitation

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



**Stephen Ferrazzano**  
Diocese  
of Winona-Rochester



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



**Madeleine McIlheran**  
Discalced Carmelite  
Nuns, Monastery of  
the Holy Cross



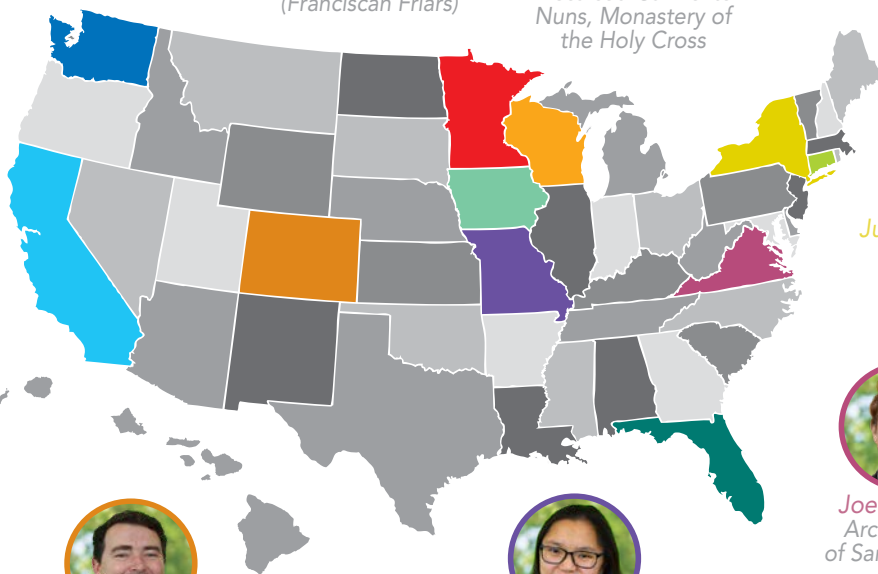
**Becky Hall**  
Sister Servants of the  
Most Sacred Heart  
of Jesus



**Tess Austin**  
Daughters of Mary  
Help of Christians -  
Salesian Sisters of  
St. John Bosco



**Clayton Wise**  
Archdiocese  
of Seattle



**Justin Hollingshead**  
Diocese  
of Albany



**Cristal Quinones**  
Dominican Sisters of  
Our Lady of the  
Rosary of Fatima



**Rosemary Bravo**  
Sister Servants of the  
Blessed Sacrament



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



**Joe McIntire**  
Archdiocese  
of San Francisco



**Steven Webster**  
Our Lady of the  
Holy Spirit Monastery  
(Trappists)



**Jake Smith**  
Archdiocese  
of Denver



**Hannah Lifka**  
Society of Our Lady of  
the Most Holy Trinity  
(SOLT)

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

*My goal is to raise \$60,000 (the average student loan amount) during this current six-month class of 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.rescuevocations.org](http://www.rescuevocations.org). HELP RESCUE VOCATIONS®

**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 & 300+ 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?

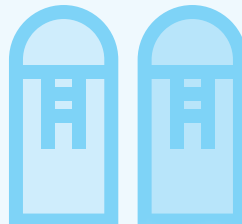
400+



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.