



This is my Vocation Story

Chad Durante

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Metropolitan Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

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My name is Chad Durante. I am called to serve Christ and His Church as a priest with the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. This is my story.

In the Beginning

As the only child in a devout Catholic family in West Virginia, I've been surrounded by the beauty and love of God from day one. I was born on Good Friday, despite an Easter due date. I was simply too excited to celebrate the Lord's Passion and Resurrection to wait any longer to be born.

One day during my elementary school years, I attended Mass and had a profound experience. When the priest raised the Host during the Consecration, I felt something change in my soul. At that moment, I felt a calling to the priesthood... and yet, for a while, I tried to resist it. I thought the life of a priest would be too difficult, and I wasn't ready for the challenge.

*"I began to think of the
life of a priest as a good
life indeed."*

—Chad Durante

My Vocation

However, I met so many happy priests and deacons over the years that I began to think of the life of a priest as a good life indeed, and I began to feel more comfortable with the possibility of entering into that life. Still, I went to college trying to put off answering the call to the priesthood for "later."

I became a leader in the Byzantine Club at my college, as I had grown up learning about Byzantine Catholicism from my mother's side of the family. The club sought to bring the beauty of Eastern Catholic traditions to our college campus, and even hosted the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, an incredible liturgical hymn, during the fifth week of Lent. When I began altar serving on weeknights, I couldn't see myself being away from the altar long-term, as it was the most fulfilling place in the world for me.

By my junior year of college, I knew that I could no longer put off answering God's call to the priesthood. Day by



day, I was being drawn ever closer to my vocation. I decided to enter the only Byzantine Catholic seminary in the nation, in response to God's calling for me to worship Christ through the beauty of the Eastern Catholic traditions.

Called to Serve

As a Byzantine Catholic priest, I'll be able to minister to the laity by offering both spiritual and practical assistance on a daily basis. I look forward to dwelling at the altar all the days of my life, and to entering into the beauty of the Divine Liturgy. I especially look forward to offering Reconciliation and spiritual direction to my parishioners. Above all, I seek to continue following the path of the Lord, and to join the long lineage of men who have devoted their lives to Christ as His priests.

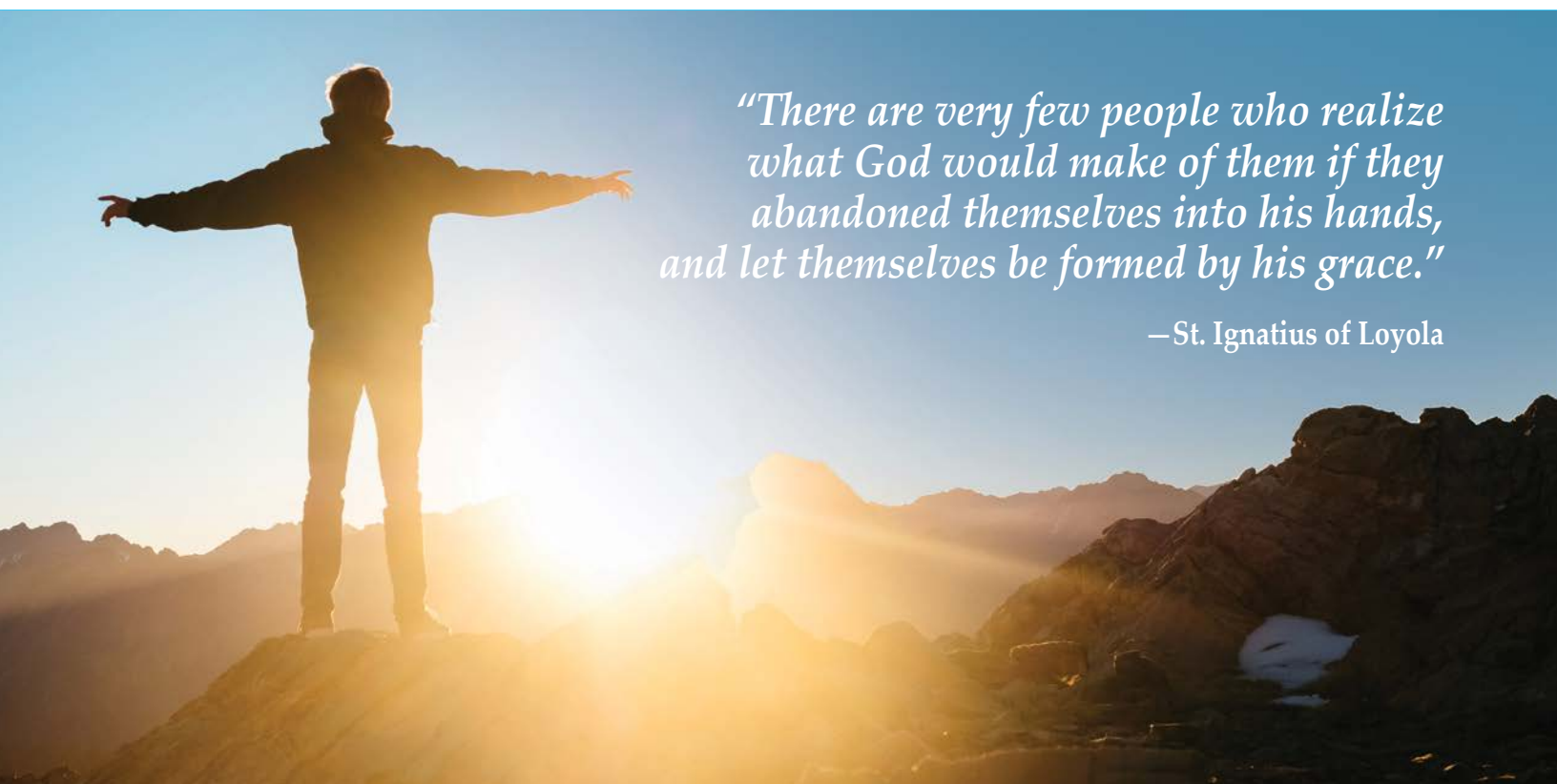
"I look forward to dwelling at the altar all the days of my life."

—Chad Durante

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: Chad@rescuevocations.org.

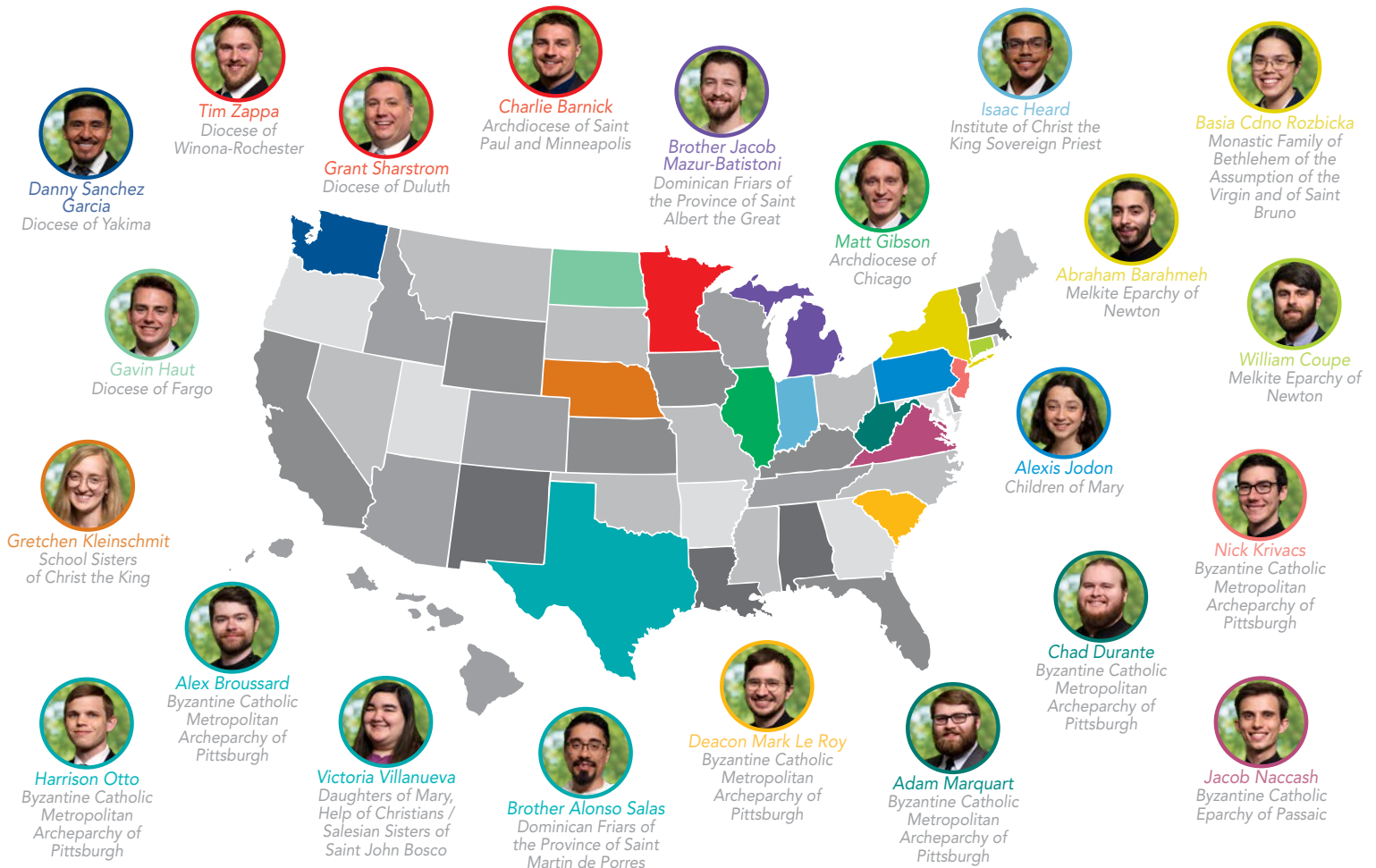


"There are very few people who realize what God would make of them if they abandoned themselves into his hands, and let themselves be formed by his grace."

—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 pursuing seminary / religious formation due to student loan debt - and that's not the only obstacle. Many of our religious institutions struggle to pay for candidates' seminary / formation. My classmates are discerning all over the nation.



With your help, we will rebuild the Church!

My goal is to raise \$40,000 during this current 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 / eparchy 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. **HELP RESCUE VOCATIONS'**

LABOURÉ®

Why is Labouré Needed?



The average amount of educational debt blocking aspirants in Labouré from answering God's call*



Many religious communities cannot afford to assume their aspirants' loan debts



Most dioceses / eparchies will allow some debt but have a limited threshold for acceptance



Rising formation costs often limit missionary activities and care of aging priests and religious.

How does the Mission Work?



Are discerning a vocation and have been selected into a diocese / eparchy 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?

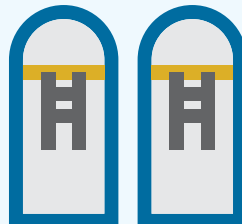
430+ INSTITUTIONS



Supported by 350+ religious institutions & 80+ bishops to help deliver their aspirants debt-free

SEPARATE FUNDING SOURCES

100% of aspirant-raised funds go to the direct benefit of aspirants in the program



One organization - two separate silos of funds. Labouré supports vocations at no cost to the aspirant or their institution.

Labouré Staff raise separate funding for overhead and general operation expenses

\$12+ MILLION



Raised by 425 Labouré aspirants assisted into formation for the priesthood or religious life 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 \$80k-100k. 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 program needs.