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This is my Vocation Story

Brother Jacob Mazur-Batistoni

Community: Dominican Friars of the
Province of Saint Albert the Great

Alma Mater:
Hope College

Phone:
(810) 969-2476

Email:
Br.JacobMazur-Batistoni@rescuevocations.org

My name is Brother Jacob Mazur-Batistoni. I am called to dedicate myself to prayer, study, community and preaching as a priest with the Dominican Friars of the Province of Saint Albert the Great. This is my story.

In the Beginning

Growing up Catholic was an integral part of my childhood. I learned that God is a personal God who wants to be in relationship with me. In prayer, I spoke with Him as a friend, telling Him about my life and thanking Him for the good things He gave me. As a teen, after confessing my sins and looking at the crucifix, I wept as I realized that Jesus suffered and died for me, and that my sins were really gone.

At a faith conference when I was 18, I experienced a call to discipleship during Eucharistic adoration. The next day at the conference, a priest invited anyone who felt called to the priesthood to come to the front for a blessing. I felt my stomach drop and thought, "Oh no! Why does it seem like he is talking to me?" I was not open to the idea. I told Jesus I would follow Him, but not as a priest.

*"...I wept as I realized
that Jesus suffered
and died for me..."*

My Vocation

—Brother Jacob Mazur-Batistoni

During college, I attended a Catholic charismatic conference. Before leaving for the conference, I asked my sister to pray for me. While there, God called me to a life empowered by the Holy Spirit, serving His people. Then came the moment: after Mass, the priest said he received a prophetic word that six young men in the room were being called to the priesthood. My stomach dropped as it had before: "Oh no, not this again!" I thought. Yet over the days that followed, it became clear that Jesus wanted more for me. Then, in a phone conversation with my sister, I said "I think God is calling me to be a priest." She began to cry and responded, "Every time I prayed for you, I had an overwhelming sense that God was going to call you to be a priest."

That sealed the deal. I went on a Dominican "Come and See," and heard that everything the Dominicans do is



"I look forward to the joy of offering absolution through the radical mercy of Jesus."

—Brother Jacob Mazur-Batistoni

for the goal of preaching the Gospel for the salvation of souls. This resonated with me deeply and I thought, "I could give my life to that." I entered the Dominicans a few months after graduating from college.

Called to Serve

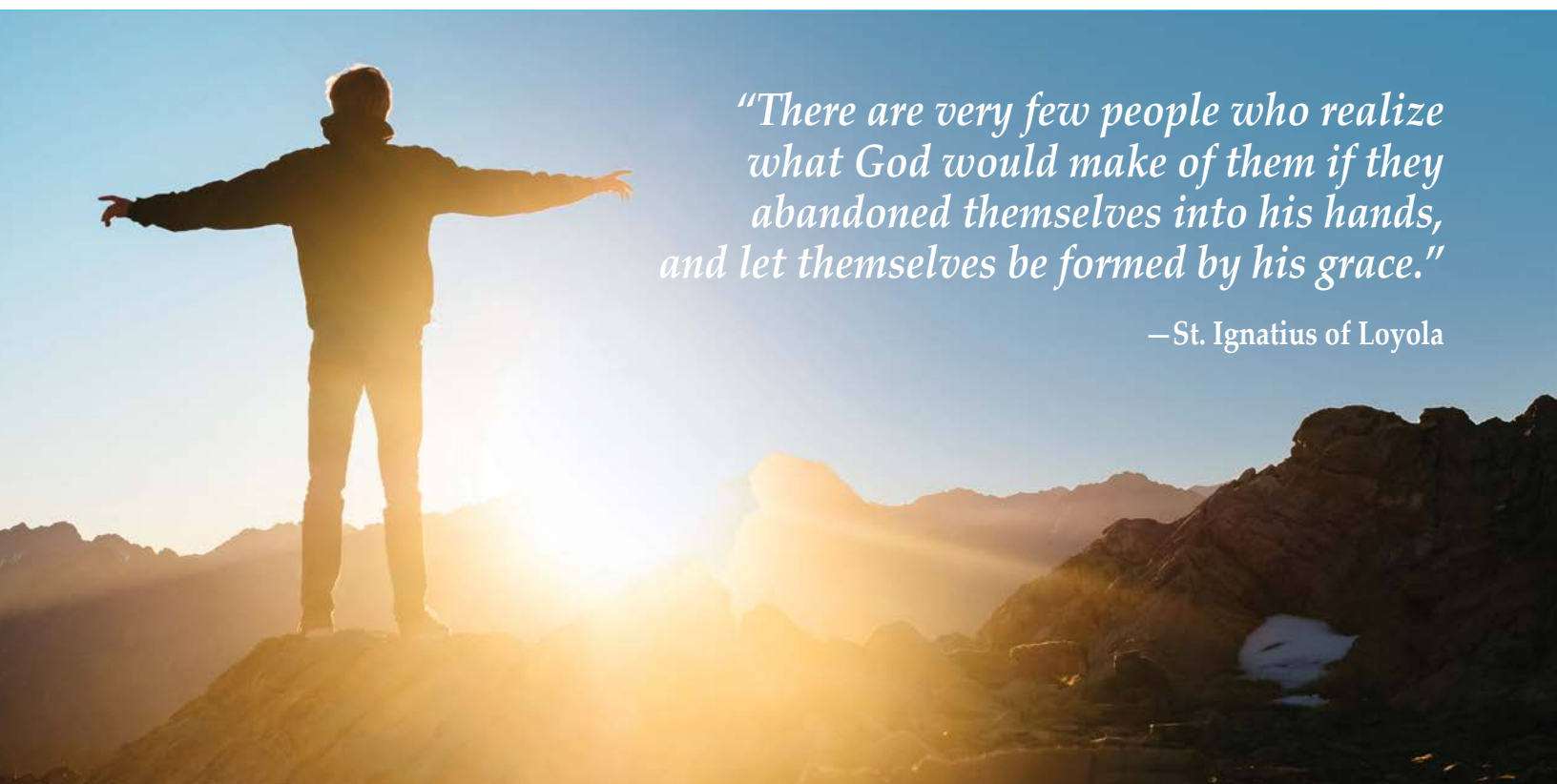
The four pillars of Dominican Life are Prayer, Study, Community, and Preaching. We seek to bring people into a deeper communion with Jesus through talks and sermons, pastoral counseling, casual conversations, and public prayer with the Liturgy of the Hours. Prayer suffuses everything we do, as contemplation is the fuel for our preaching. In campus ministry, I have seen Jesus work amazing things through my vocation as a Dominican friar. Being a brother to the students has been a beautiful experience.

As I think ahead to priestly ordination in a few years, I look forward to the joy of offering absolution through the radical mercy of Jesus and blessing people *in persona Christi*. I desire to feed Jesus' lambs with the Eucharist and share Christ's love and mercy through the sacraments. Most of all, I look forward to being a preacher, so that I can introduce others to my friend Jesus.

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:
Br.JacobMazur-Batistoni@rescuevocations.org

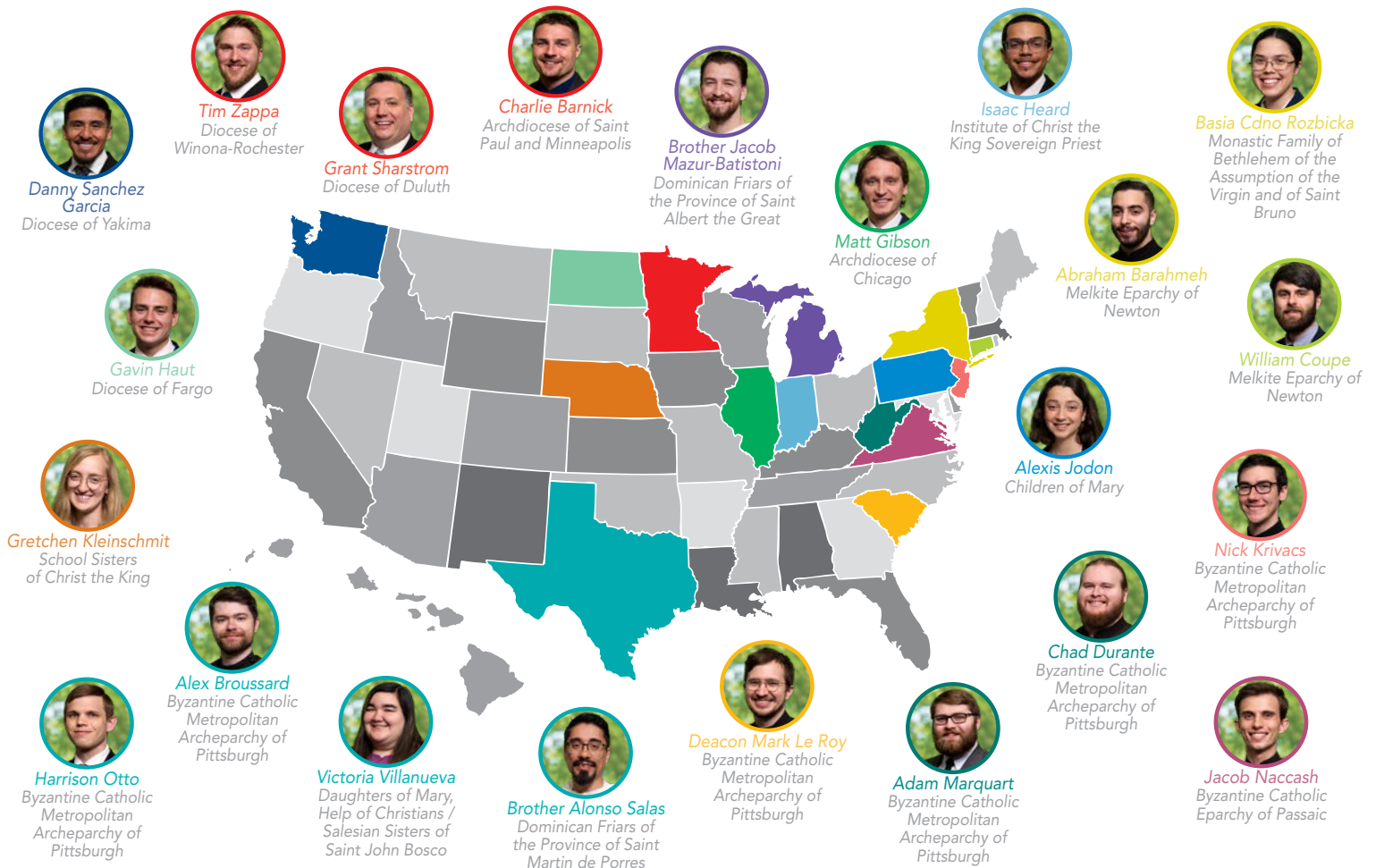


"There are very few people who realize what God would make of them if they abandoned themselves into his hands, and let themselves be formed by his grace."

—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®
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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?

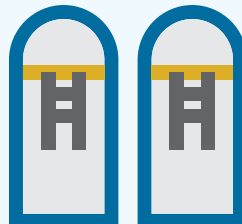
430+ INSTITUTIONS



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.