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LABOURE

This is my Vocation Story



Victoria Villanueva

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Salesian Sisters of Saint John Bosco

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My name is Victoria Villanueva. I am called to dedicate myself to evangelizing young people through reason, religion and loving kindness as a sister with the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians / Salesian Sisters of Saint John Bosco. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I grew up in McAllen, Texas, enjoying a variety of hobbies and activities. Though my family's devotion to Mass ebbed and flowed, my parents made sure I knew my faith.

As I grew up, my mom encouraged me to be an altar server. At first, I didn't understand why. One day at Mass, I prayed to see Jesus on the altar. Then, before my very eyes during the consecration, I was granted a grace to see not the priest, but Jesus Himself standing before the altar. My heart burned with the desire to move closer to Him, and I carry this desire with me to this day.

My Vocation

I can't identify one single moment in which I knew that I had a vocation to religious life. Instead, God has whispered to me throughout every season of my life. Having spent my high school years in ministry, I picked a Catholic college with the intention of keeping the faith I had developed. Instead, as my college years progressed, I found myself lost, alone, and fallen away from the Church.

Yet God wasn't finished with me. I found friends who encouraged me to go to Confession, and by God's grace (and to my surprise!), I ended up in the confessional of my childhood parish priest who had long since retired. I met another young woman discerning religious life, and the prospect of a religious vocation began to feel real for the first time.

I've felt the pursuit of God every step of the way, even when I had turned away from Him during my undergraduate years. I have been loved endlessly and unconditionally, and I know now that I must show that same love to others.

*"God wasn't
finished with me."*

—Victoria Villanueva



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Called to Serve

During a vocations retreat, I met the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians. After a few meetings and interactions, I eventually decided to discern with them, because with them I have felt seen, known, and loved.

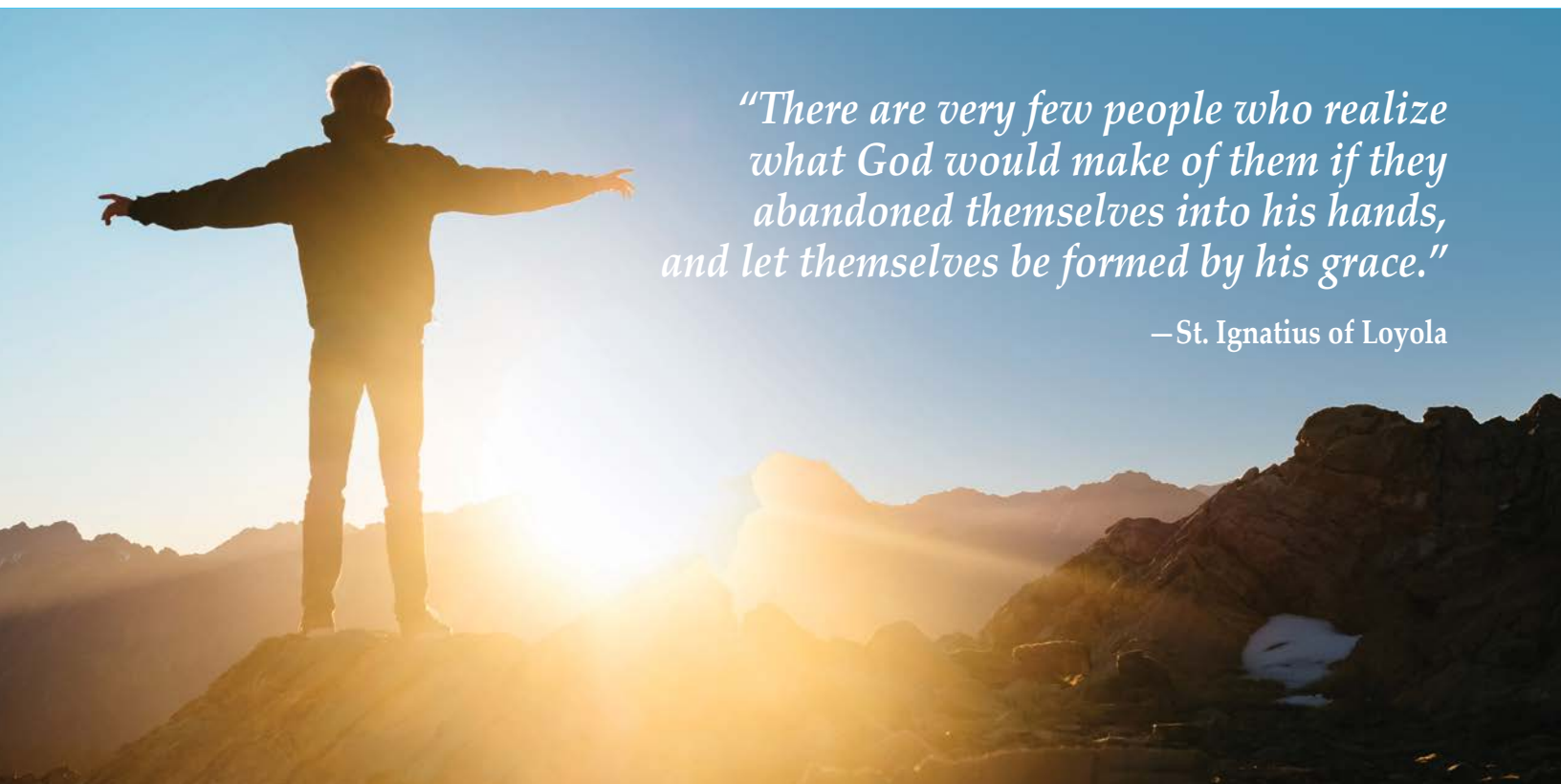
God has shown me that I am made to work with young people, to walk with them and to create a space for them. I can help them grow while ensuring that they, too, know they are loved deeply and unquestionably by our Heavenly Father.

When I think about my vocation, I remember Psalm 27:4: "This I seek: to dwell in the Lord's house all the days of my life. To gaze on the Lord's beauty, to visit His temple." My greatest desire is to belong to God fully and to do everything I can in service of Him and His people. This is truly my vocation: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, and to gaze upon God's beauty in the young people He created.

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:
VictoriaVillanueva@rescuevocations.org.

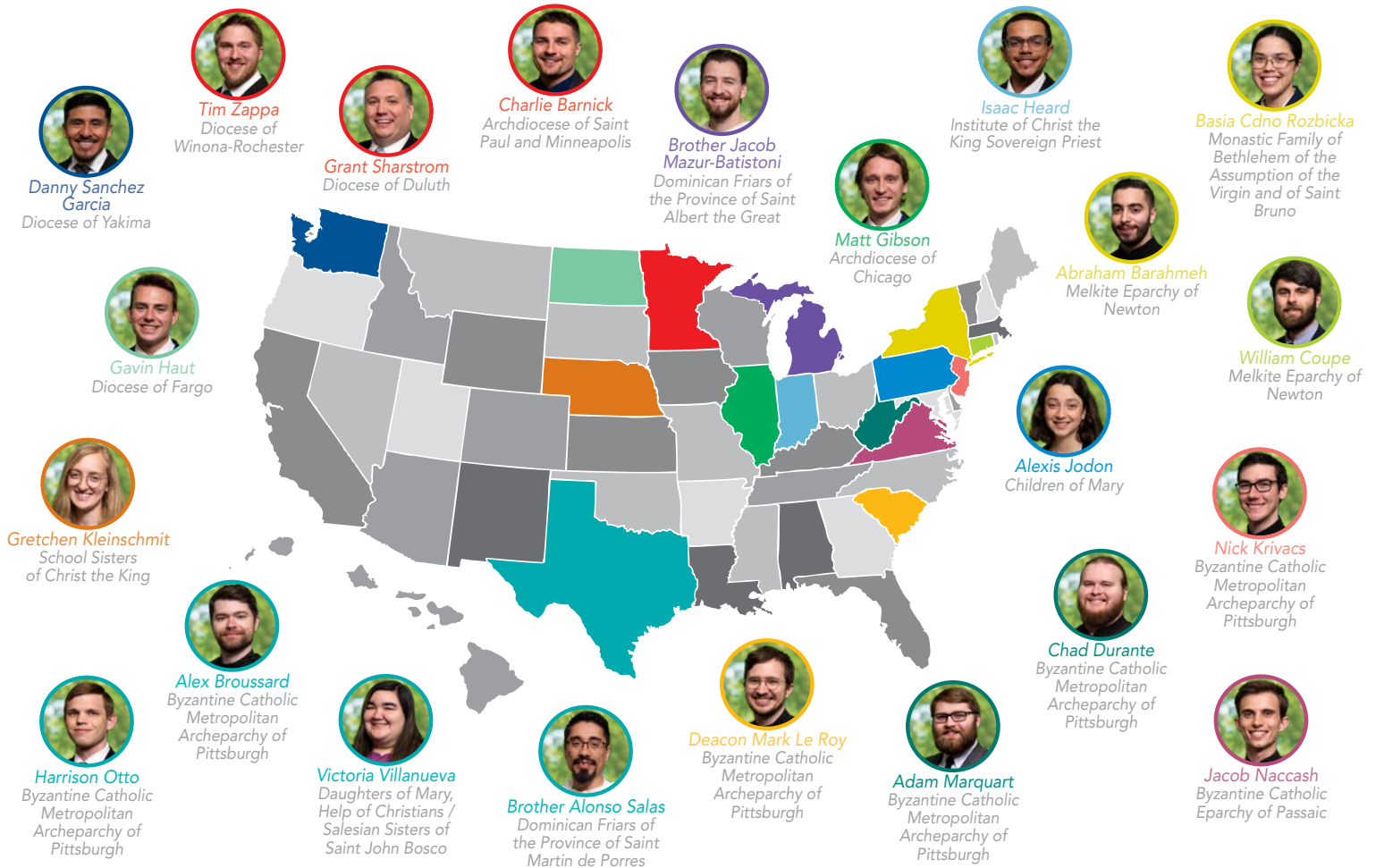


*"There are very few people who realize
what God would make of them if they
abandoned themselves into his hands,
and let themselves be formed by his grace."*

—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.rescue vocations.org. **LABOURÉ®** HELP RESCUE VOCATIONS®

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?

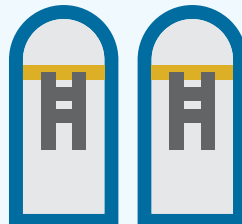
430+ INSTITUTIONS



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.