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This is my Vocation Story

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My name is Tim Zappa. I am called to serve Christ and His Church as a priest with the Diocese of Winona-Rochester. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I grew up in a devout Catholic family of eight. We attended Mass weekly and I served at the altar regularly. I thought of the saints as real-world superheroes and wished to imitate them. I often played Mass with my sisters, and I remember being profoundly touched during the point in the Eucharistic prayer when the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ. I knew nothing changed into Christ as we played Mass, yet I still recall having a deep sense of reverence for the actions of the priest that invite the Holy Spirit to transform bread and wine into the Eucharist, even at that young age.

My family moved when I was in the seventh grade, and I began going to public school for the first time. I realized then that a lot of people did not grow up the same way I did. Peers began asking me questions about why I did certain things like eating fish on Fridays, praying the rosary, or praying before meals at lunch. I realized that I didn't really know that much about it. These challenges led me to start seeking answers - first from my parents, then from apologetics resources. In this way, I grew in my knowledge and appreciation of the Catholic faith.

"Ever since those days of playing Mass as a kid, I had a desire to be a priest."

—Tim Zappa

My Vocation

Ever since those days of playing Mass as a kid, I had a desire to be a priest. Inspired by the way priests help others grow closer to God amidst the trials of life, I wondered if the priesthood might be God's path for me. In high school, I began praying a weekly holy hour, asking God if He was calling me to the priesthood. I sensed that I was called...just not yet. In college, I taught elementary faith formation, joined a Catholic young adult group, and began attending annual silent retreats.

Throughout my adult life, whenever a time came for me to enter a new stage, I would ask God if He was calling me to



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—Tim Zappa

the priesthood. Each time I was told, "Not yet." God has used that extra time since high school to show me both the beauty of His creation and the beauty of the people He has created. He has helped me to grow spiritually, intellectually, and socially. God used much of my time and experience before entering seminary to help me understand and grow in love of Him and the people He brought into my life.

Not until I had been living in Rochester for four years did I finally hear the Lord say I could enter seminary. Upon hearing this, I asked God where I should serve. His answer: Winona.

Called to Serve

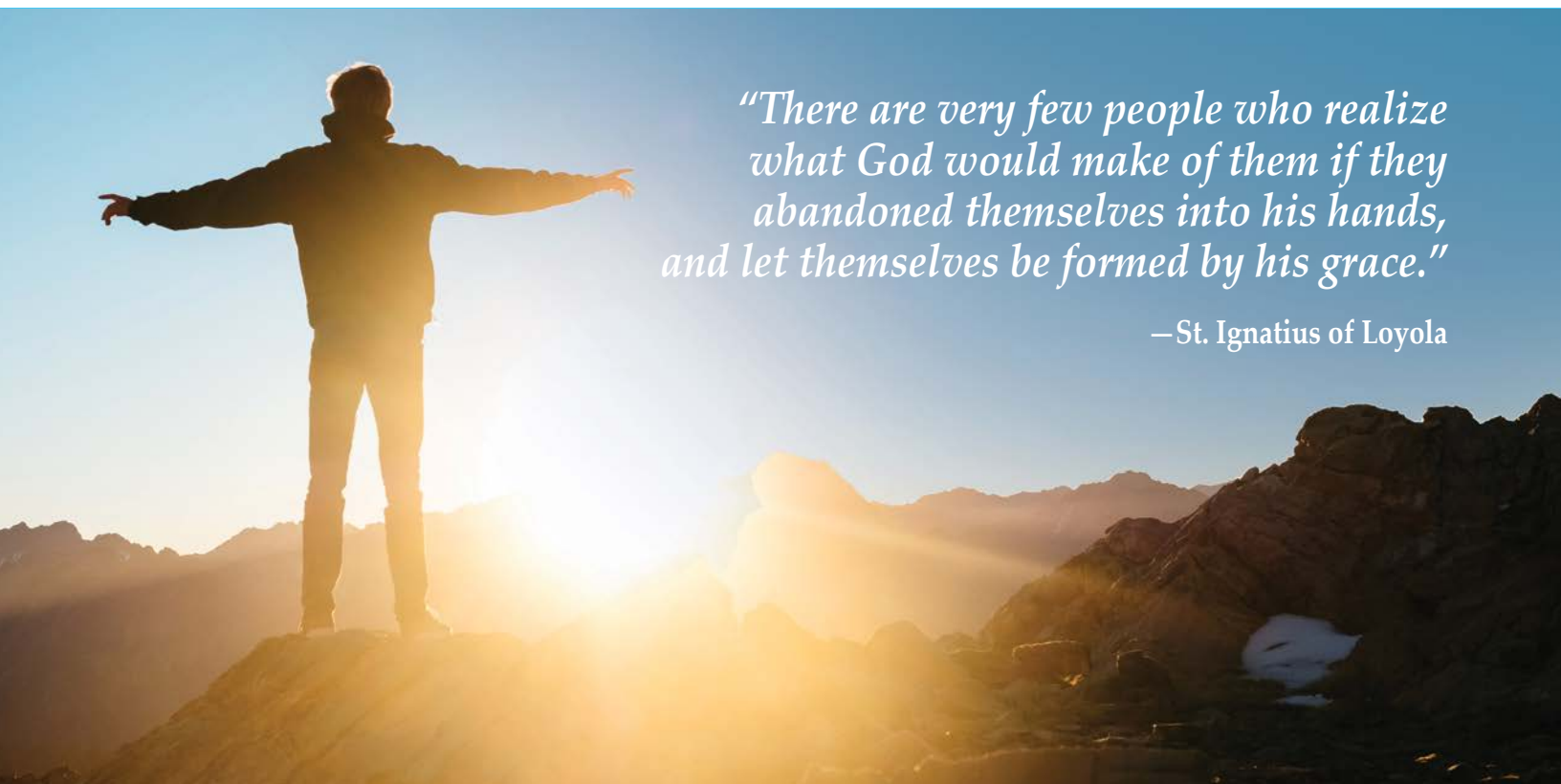
Within the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, I have encountered priests and seminarians seeking to serve God's people by bringing hope, joy, beauty, and the truth of God's love for all. From schools to poverty outreach, prisons to hospitals, churches to farms, there is not an aspect of life into which priests cannot bring God's love.

I look forward to seeing how God can work in and through me to help bring healing and joy to others as a priest, particularly through the sacrifice of the Mass and the sacrament of Confession. God has worked miracles in my life through these sacraments, and I desire to share His grace by providing these amazing gifts to the people of the Winona-Rochester Diocese.

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:
Tim@rescuevocations.org.

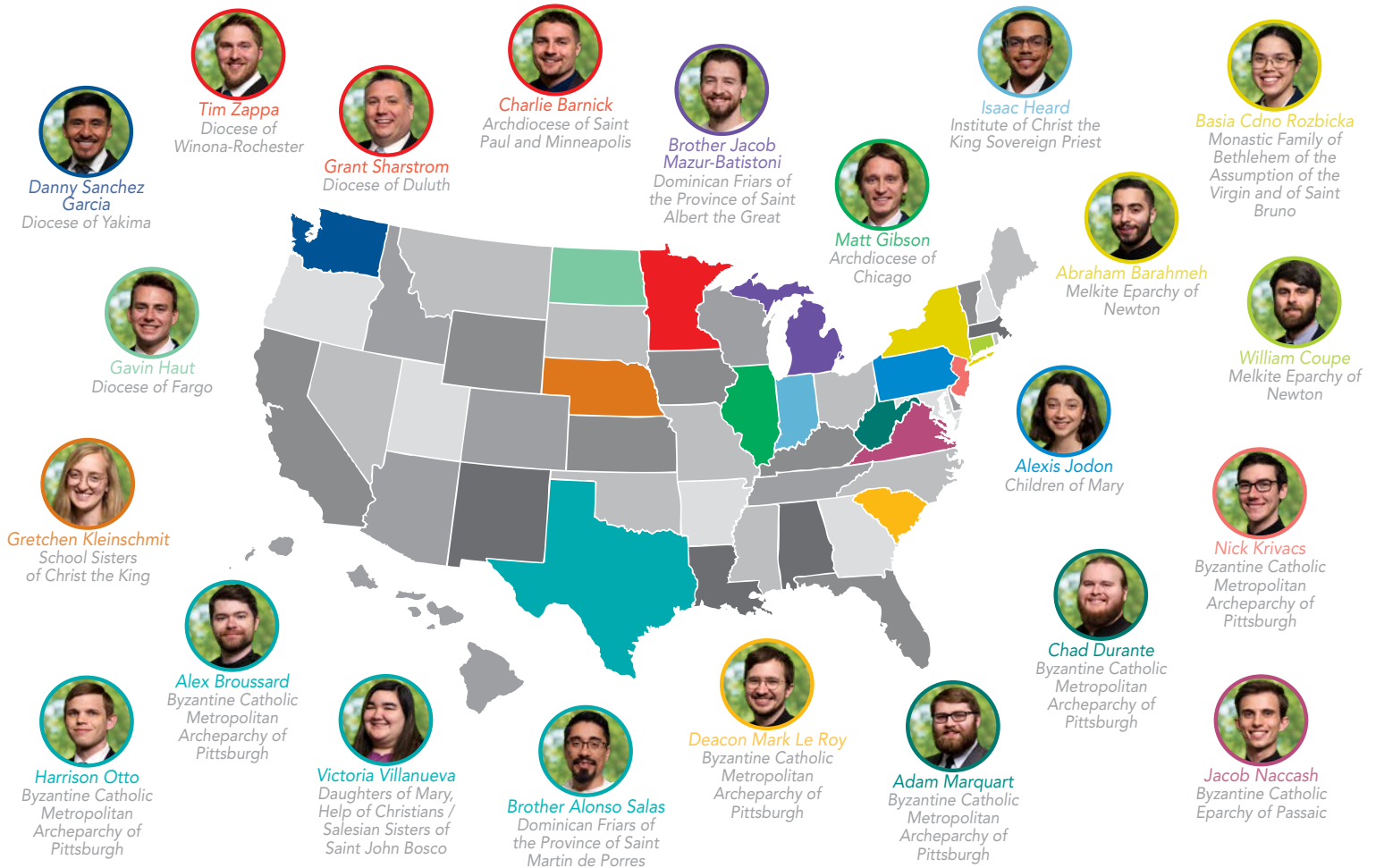


*"There are very few people who realize
what God would make of them if they
abandoned themselves into his hands,
and let themselves be formed by his grace."*

—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?

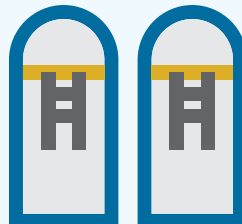
430+ INSTITUTIONS



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.