



# This is my Vocation Story



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*My name is Caleb Johnson. I am called to serve Christ and His Church as a priest with the Diocese of Memphis. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I was raised in a devout Southern Baptist household with a profound love and understanding of Scripture. I had a personal relationship with God, and attended church with my family every Sunday to worship and every Wednesday for Bible study and youth group. I tended to be a little introverted and explored faith on a more intellectual level.

When my family moved to Memphis, we were left without a Baptist church to attend. In my youth, I had had a very negative view of Catholicism; however, my mother had served as a nurse at a number of Catholic care facilities and had a curiosity about the Catholic Church. After our move, she urged our family to attend classes in the Catholic faith offered at a local Catholic Church—not necessarily to convert, but just to learn about Catholicism.

*“...I was drawn in  
by the True Presence of  
Christ in the Eucharist.”*

## My Vocation

—Caleb Johnson

My curiosity was suddenly met with a level of truth I had never before encountered. I knew the Scriptures well, but for the first time, I experienced the truth of Scripture in its fullness, within the context of history and Sacred Tradition. The splintered factions and disparity of doctrines between the various Protestant sects had long deeply disturbed me, and a few times throughout my life had almost caused me to leave the Christian faith. The coherence of Catholic doctrine was unlike anything I had known. It was a truth I could not ignore. Most of all, I was drawn in by the True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. I had always sought a deeper relationship with Christ—and now, here it was. Seeing the fullness of truth in comparison to everything I had previously studied brought me to the Catholic faith.



*"I'm excited at  
the prospect of being able  
to bring Christ to people  
through the sacraments  
as a priest,  
and...preaching and  
teaching truth with  
clarity and love."*

—Caleb Johnson

Unfortunately, soon after I entered the Church, the COVID-19 pandemic struck. Here I was, a new convert, yet I could not interact with my fellow Catholics and was denied access to the sacraments. Yet I believe this early trial helped strengthen my love for the Church, as it made me realize the importance of the sacraments and community.

## Called to Serve

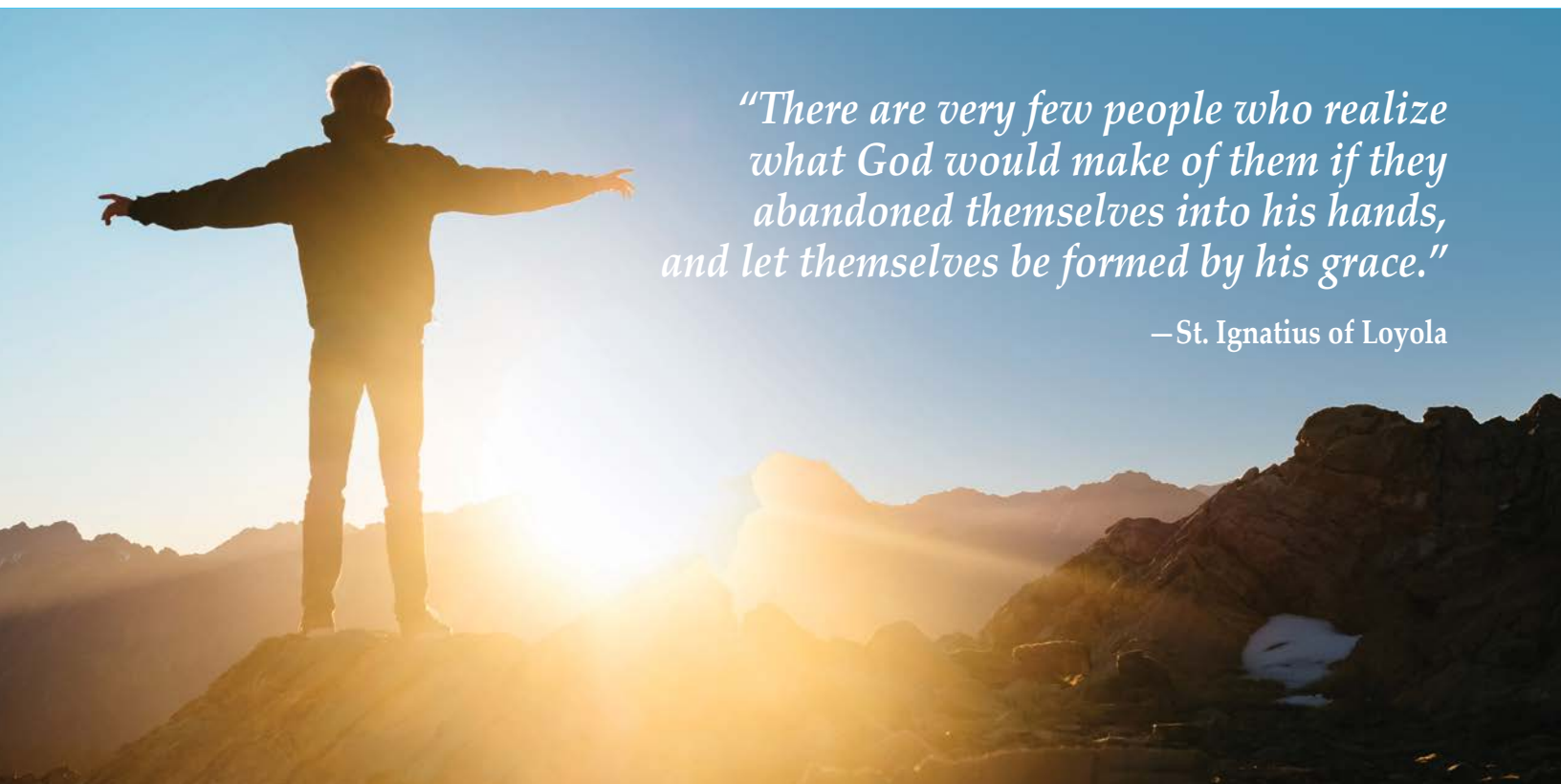
Looking back, I can see that my call came almost immediately after I converted. The priesthood was an idea in the back of my mind that never really went away. Both career planning and romance always ended with me looking towards the priesthood. Yet I worried about my lack of knowledge of prominent saints, Church history, and Catholic culture due to my Protestant upbringing. I reached out to the Diocese of Memphis, and they alleviated my fears and accepted me into the seminary.

We live in a chaotic time, wherein everyone hungers for the truth. I want to be a harbinger of the truth of the fullness of Jesus Christ found in His Church. I'm excited at the prospect of being able to bring Christ to people through the sacraments as a priest, and to preaching and teaching truth with clarity and love. I want to be a part of the Church's mission to bring reason, stability, and the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost and confused world.

## 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:  
[CalebJohnson@rescuevocations.org](mailto:CalebJohnson@rescuevocations.org).

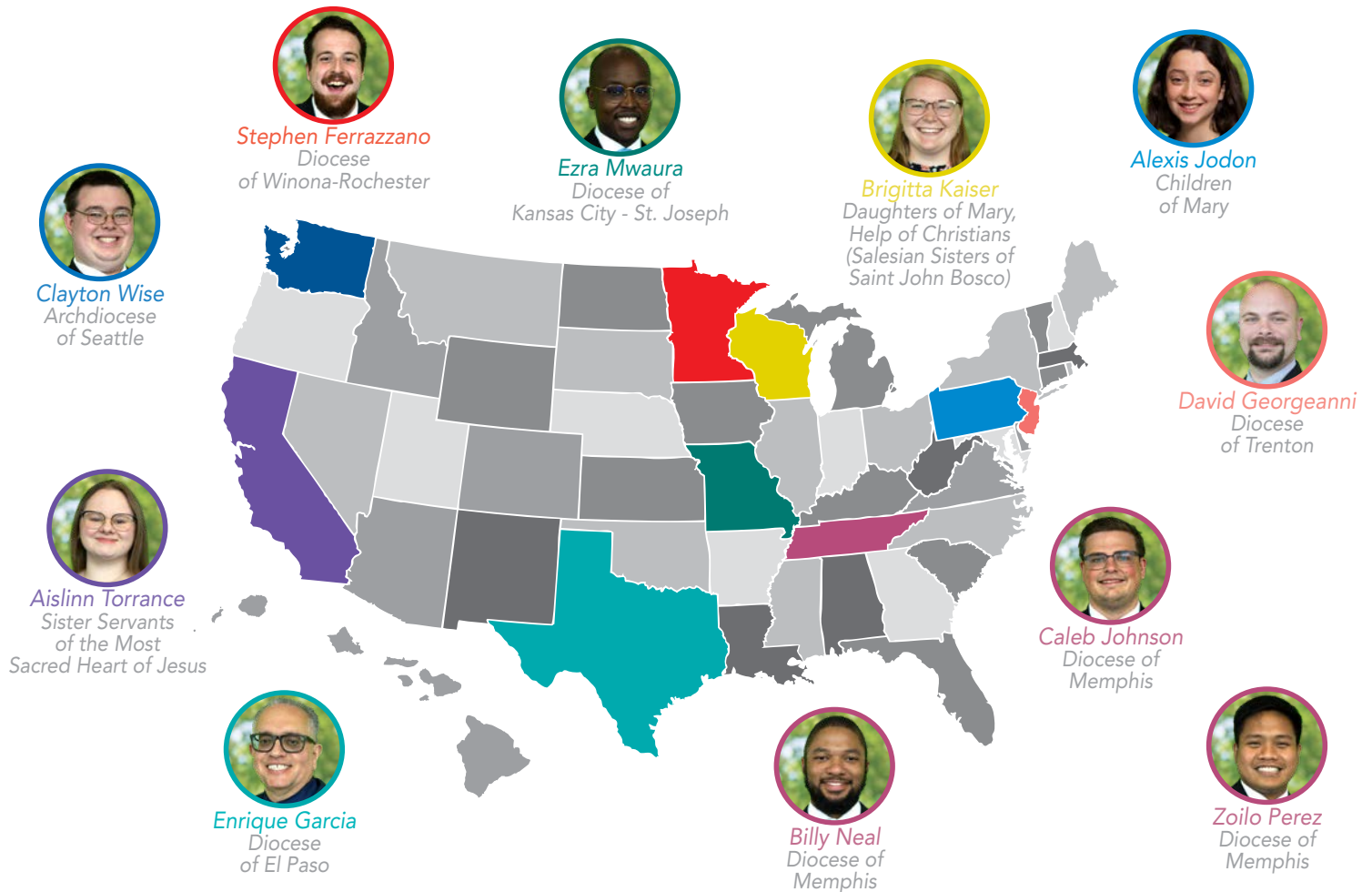


*"There are very few people who realize  
what God would make of them if they  
abandoned themselves into his hands,  
and let themselves be formed by his grace."*

—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 \$60,000 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 education debt.

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](http://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?

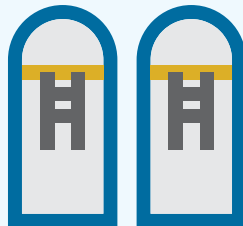
### 350+ INSTITUTIONS



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



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.

### \$14+ MILLION



Raised by 430 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.