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This is my Vocation Story

Kyle Hudson

Community: Conventual Franciscan Friars
(Province of Our Lady of Consolation)

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My name is Kyle Hudson. I am called to serve God and live by the example of St. Francis as a friar with the Conventual Franciscan Friars (Province of Our Lady of Consolation). This is my story.

In the Beginning

I grew up in Texas, within a loving Catholic family. Though we attended Mass weekly, we didn't discuss the Faith much at home. When my grandparents needed hands-on care, they moved in with us. This not only provided me with an appreciation for the sick and aged, but also an up-close understanding of the importance of serving others.

The COVID-19 pandemic struck during my senior year of high school, and I spent many weeks quarantined at home. Isolated from my peers and society, I spent my days in empty pursuits such as TV and video games. Through time, I fell away from the Church due to a lack of Mass attendance.

As I was about to start my freshman year of college, I thought seriously about what I wanted to do with my life. One night on the internet, I found a discussion of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Learning about Our Lady set a fire within my heart that grew into a devotion to Mary, which in turn led me back to the Church.

My Vocation

Following my return to the Church, parishioners often asked me if I'd thought about the priesthood. After dating a few great girls in college, they, too, asked me, one after another, following the end of our relationships, if I'd considered being a priest. I began to realize that God was telling me something.

I looked into the diocesan priesthood as well as a few different religious orders, but nothing seemed like a fit. I began to think perhaps I was not cut out for a religious vocation after all.

Then I heard a talk on the difference between joy and happiness. Happiness is like a bowl of ice cream: enjoyable in the moment, but after an hour, the feeling dissipates. Joy, on the other hand, is the ever-lasting peace one feels in a loving relationship with God. I realized that this joy was what I longed to attain, and decided to give discernment of a religious vocation another try.

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—Kyle Hudson



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—Kyle Hudson

Called to Serve

In prayer, I turned to my confirmation saint: Maximilian Kolbe. I thought, "Perhaps if I follow the path this great saint took..." which led me to the order to which he belonged: the Franciscan Friars Conventual.

I attended an ordination of a Franciscan Friar. During the Eucharistic prayer, all of the friar priests went up to the altar, while the friar brothers remained in the pews, sitting among the people. It struck me: THIS is what I believe God is calling me to — a life of service and ministry not from the pulpit, but among the community, using my actions more than my words. I had found where I belong.

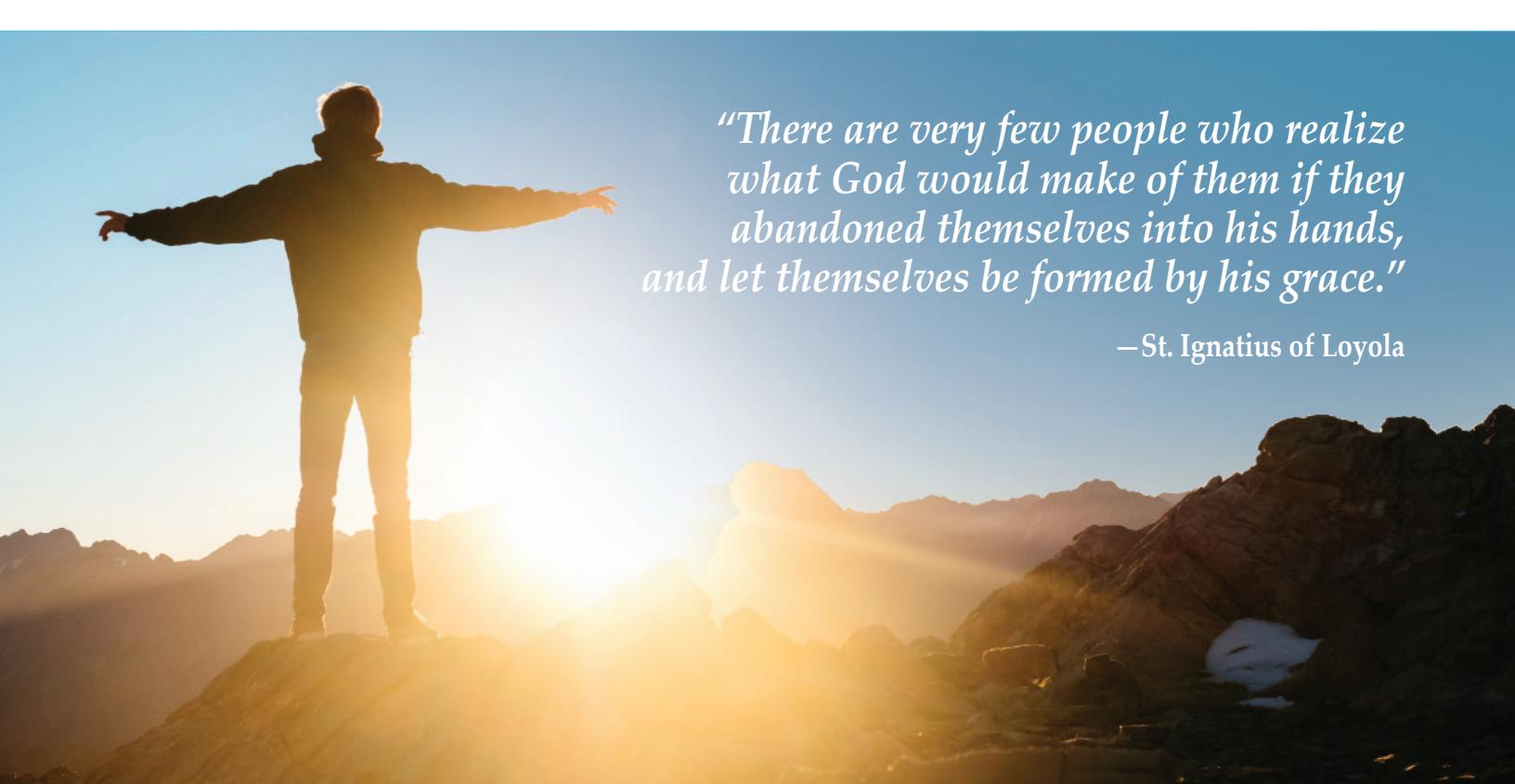
The Franciscans bring people to Christ primarily through prayer and their work in nursing homes, schools, soup kitchens, and retreat centers. Their dedication to helping the poor, homeless, sick, dying, and marginalized strikes a chord within me. My experience with my grandparents growing up enabled me to see the beauty of serving others; I now wish to dedicate my life to serving those in need.

I look forward to becoming a friar and pouring out my love to those who are struggling and oppressed. I want to show them that God truly loves them, and that their lives are unique and beautiful.

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: KyleHudson@rescuevocations.org.

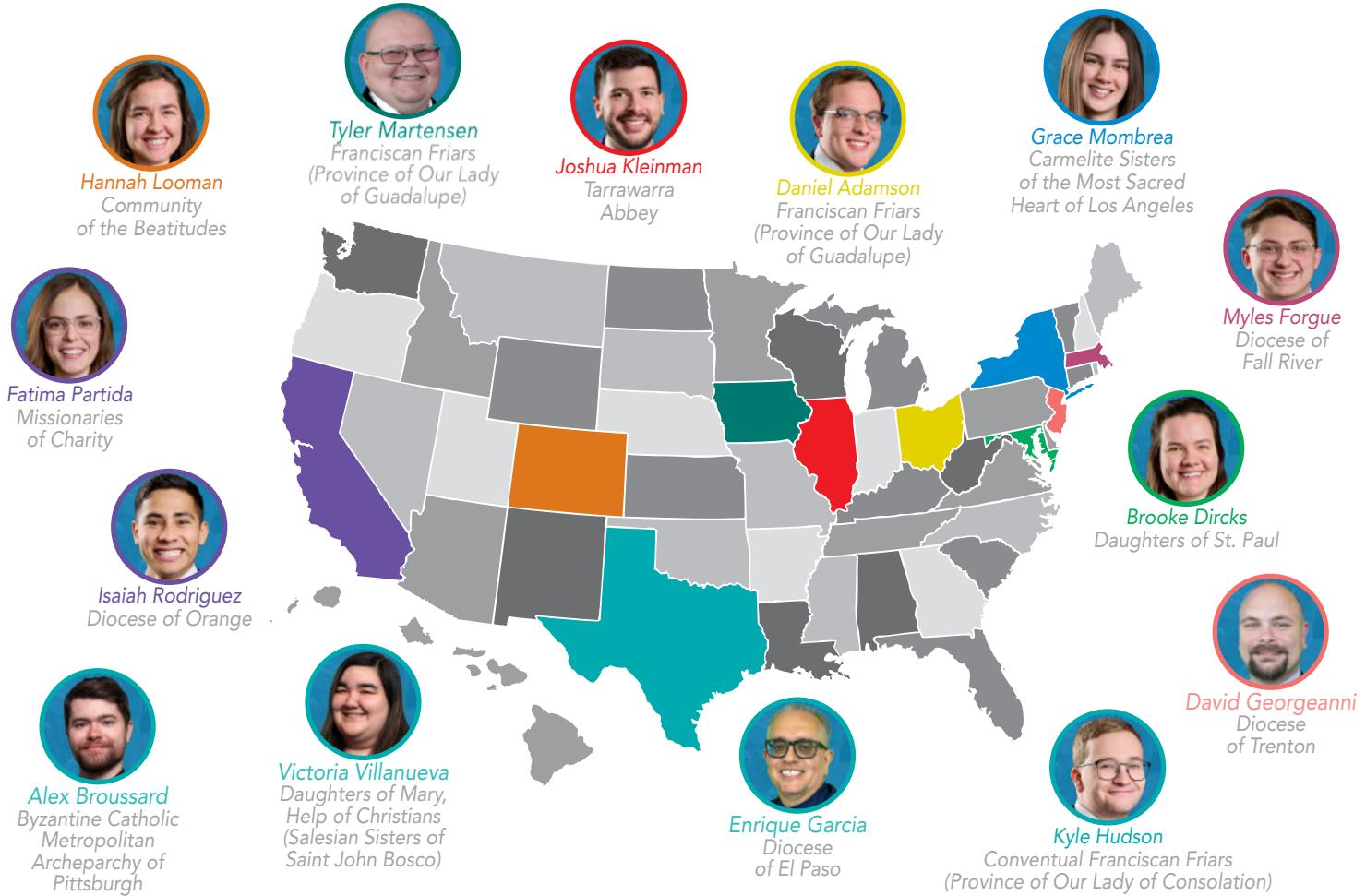


"There are very few people who realize what God would make of them if they abandoned themselves into his hands, and let themselves be formed by his grace."

—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 / religious formation. My classmates are discerning all over the nation.



With your help, we will rebuild the Church!

My goal is to raise \$50,000 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.rescuevocations.org. **LABOURÉ** HELP RESCUE VOCATIONS

Why is Labouré Needed?



Escalating education costs block many aspiring priests and religious 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?

OUR ASPIRANTS



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

THE LABOURÉ SOCIETY



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

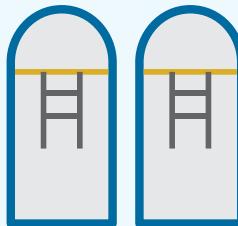
What Has Labouré Accomplished?

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.

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

\$15+ MILLION



- Labouré Staff raise separate funding for overhead and general operation expenses.

- Raised by 450 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.