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# This is my Vocation Story

Brooke Dircks

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*My name is Brooke Dircks. I am called to radiate the light of the Gospel to everyone as a sister with the Daughters of St. Paul. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I was raised Catholic, attending Catholic school through high school, and Mass most Sundays with my family. I had the simple faith of a child. However, when I was eleven years old, I experienced some challenging events that shattered my faith. During my adolescence, I strayed far from God.

Throughout high school, I struggled, but things began to improve during college. I found a passion for classical music and poured myself into my studies and performances. Despite the happiness that came from this pursuit, I was not at peace. I craved stability and relationship.

When live music ceased during the COVID-19 pandemic, I moved home. A close friend, the music director at my childhood parish, invited me to serve as a cantor. I accepted the position with no intention of returning to the Faith; however, God had different plans. After about a year, I found myself listening to the readings and homilies with genuine interest.

## My Vocation

The priests preached often about the need for confession. Each week I resolved to go, only to end up putting it off for another week. Finally, at a friend's invitation, I went. It was my first confession in sixteen years, and the graces I received surpassed anything I could have imagined.

The following week, I attended Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Kneeling, I prayed, "Come, Holy Spirit." At first my mind wandered, but eventually, I fixed my gaze upon the monstrance, and suddenly I knew that Jesus was truly there. I was moved to tears as I recognized Jesus' presence and love in a deeper way than I ever had before. In the silence of Adoration, God revealed Himself to me and began to transform me.

I began attending daily Mass, prayed often, and became involved in my parish. For the first time in a very long time, I found peace. Shortly after this, while on a family trip to Greece, I experienced a profound encounter with God.

*"I prayed with a  
heart full of gratitude,  
asking the Lord how  
I could ever  
thank Him enough.  
He responded with  
the invitation to  
give Him everything."*

**—Brooke Dircks**



*"I desire to join the Daughters of St. Paul in sharing the love of Jesus with others, especially those who, like me, wandered away for a while."*

— Brooke Dircks

Surrounded by the beauty of the natural world, I prayed with a heart full of gratitude, asking the Lord how I could ever thank Him enough. He responded with the invitation to give Him everything. I desired to do so and began thinking about religious life.

Though I questioned why God would call me when I had been away from Him for so long, I could not stop thinking about religious life. I spoke with a priest about this desire and he advised that I focus on my relationship with Jesus. In response, I began going to Adoration as often as I could. I was intentional in prayer, bringing everything to Jesus. Months went by, and I realized that I had fallen totally in love with Jesus—and that He was totally in love with me!

## Called to Serve

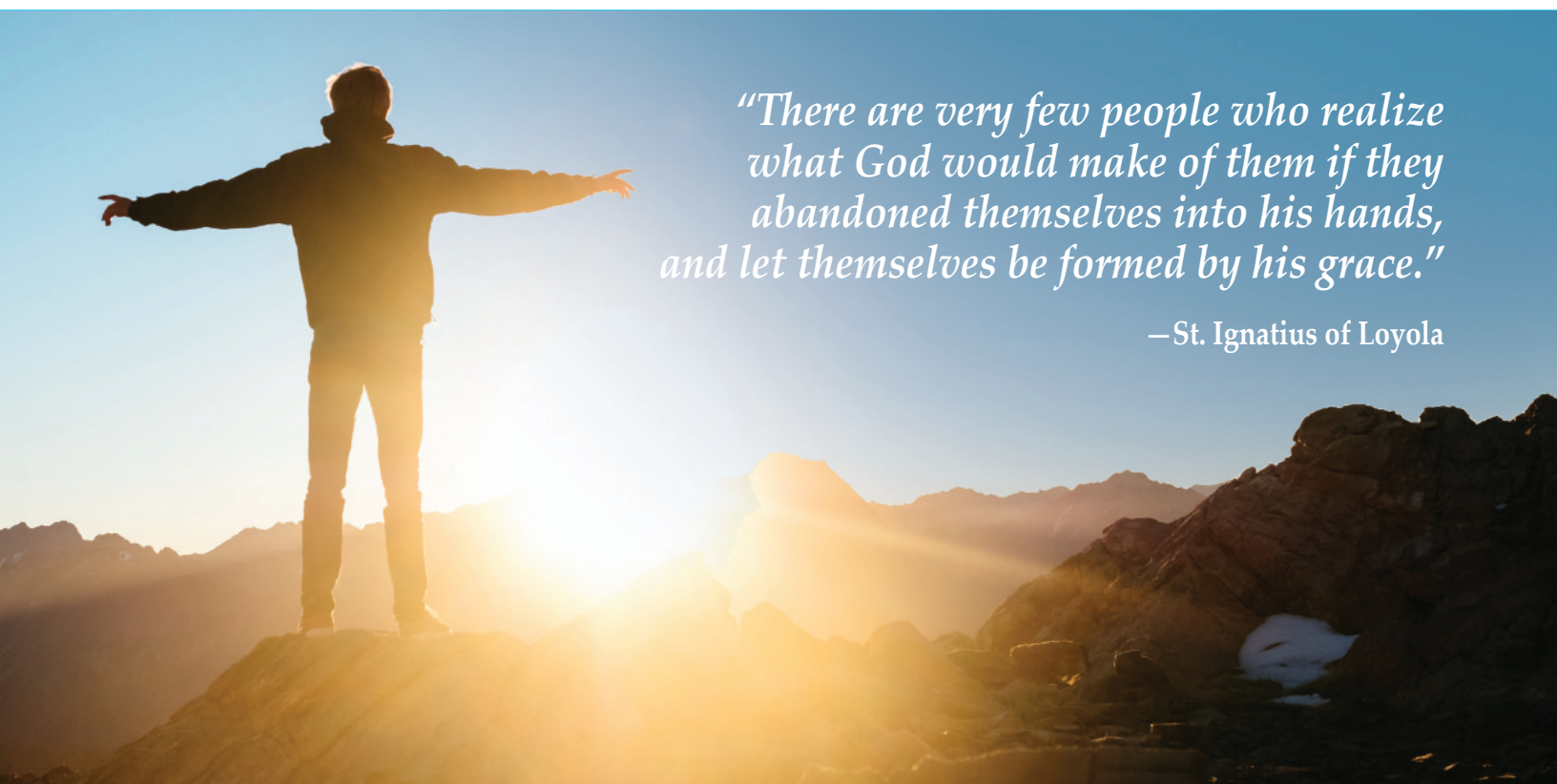
I began researching religious communities, and when I discovered the Daughters of St. Paul, I was intrigued. As I spent time with them, I was moved by their warmth, welcome, and contagious joy. I love that despite being very active, the sisters are completely rooted in the Eucharistic Lord. Everything begins with Jesus.

I desire to join them in sharing the love of Jesus with others, especially those who, like me, wandered away for a while. There is nothing greater than the Lord's love, and I am confident that, with His grace, I can and will spread it.

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

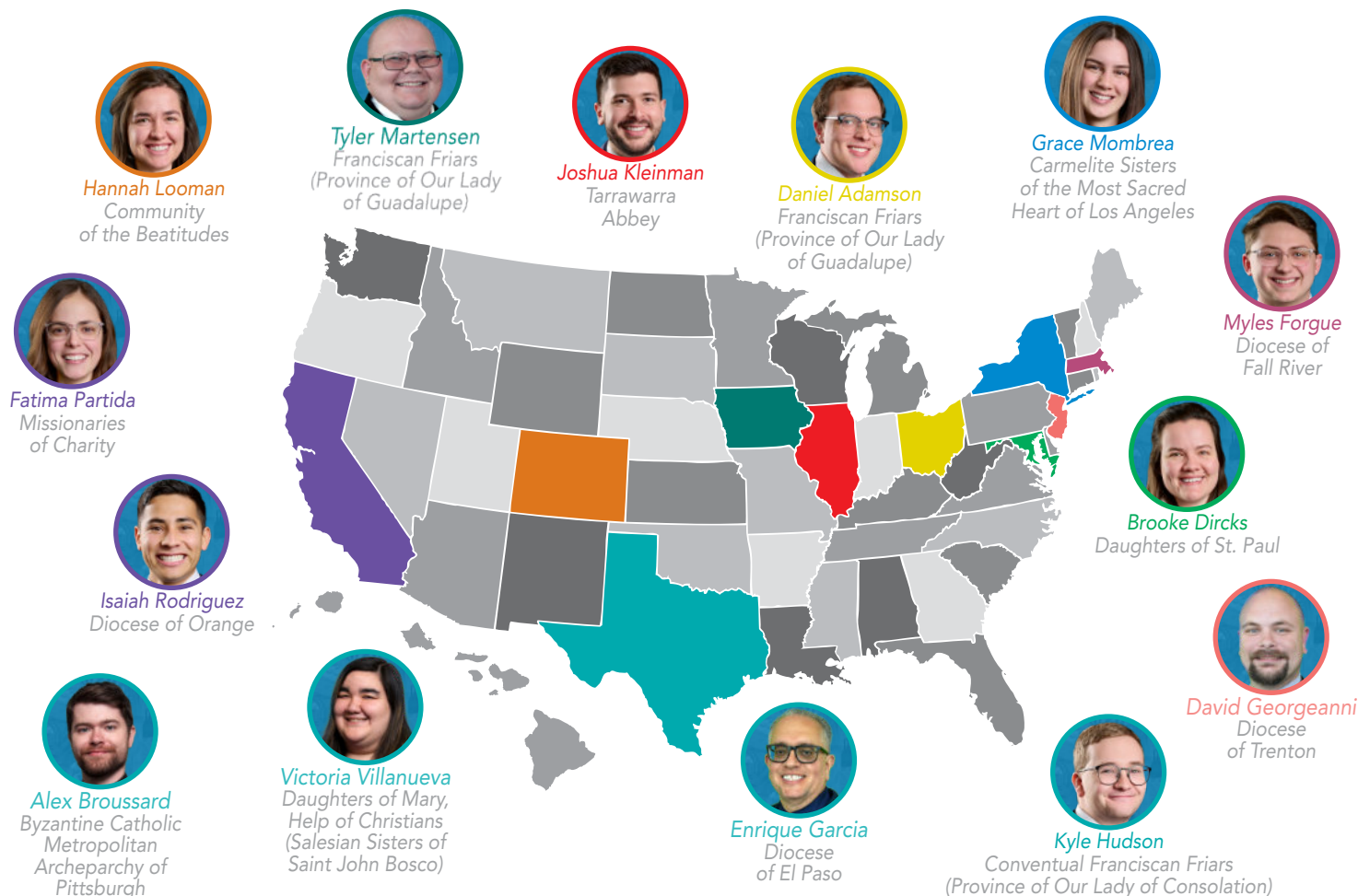


*"There are very few people who realize what God would make of them if they abandoned themselves into his hands, and let themselves be formed by his grace."*

— 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.rescue vocations.org](http://www.rescue vocations.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?



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

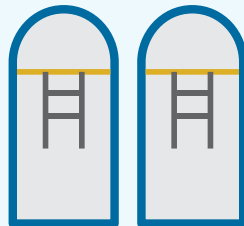
## What Has Labouré Accomplished?

### 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.

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.

### \$15+ MILLION



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.