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This is my Vocation Story



Enrique Garcia

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My name is Enrique Garcia. I am called to serve Christ and His Church as a priest with the Diocese of El Paso. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I was raised in a devout Catholic family with my four siblings. We were deeply involved in parish life in our home church in El Paso, Texas. When I wasn't serving at Mass, I was playing sports and throwing myself enthusiastically into reading and learning.

My mother has been a constant rock of faith and prayer for me, as St. Monica was for St. Augustine. No matter how much I neglected my relationship with her and my father through the years, she was there to intercede for me and remind me of God's love. I spent many years physically and emotionally removed from my parents, but like the Prodigal Son, I've come to realize that God was calling me back to my mother's side as an important step towards the priesthood. He's asked me to practice serving Him by first serving my mother. I pray that, God willing, He grants me the consolation of allowing my mother to live long enough to see me be ordained a priest.

“...like the Prodigal Son, I've come to realize that God was calling me back to my mother's side as an important step towards the priesthood...”

—Enrique Garcia

My Vocation

Though I heard the call to the priesthood in elementary and high school, the calling lay dormant through my college years. After a period of lapsed faith, I went on a pilgrimage to the Basilica of San Juan in Texas. There, I went to Confession for the first time in years. As I prayed the Stations of the Cross, I was moved to tears.

I had spent years as a high school English and history teacher, as well as an administrator, in public schools. In time, God helped me along my vocation journey by placing the desire in my heart to serve Him as an educator in a Catholic school. When I became the principal at a Catholic high school, I realized that I was responsible for being a faithful



steward and spiritual leader for my students and staff. In this way, He gradually opened my mind and heart to saying "yes" to the priesthood.

When I finally said that full "yes," I stumbled upon the High Calling Program, a year-long program designed to help men discerning a call to the priesthood. Led by priests, this formation was instrumental in preparing me for the seminary.

Called to Serve

When I answered God's calling to the priesthood, I knew I wanted to join the seminary where my journey first began: El Paso, Texas.

It's my prayer that God would use the vehicle of my priesthood to work with youth discerning their own vocations. My hope is that I will be able to help young people grow in their faith and be better prepared than I was to overcome the challenges they'll face in college and beyond.

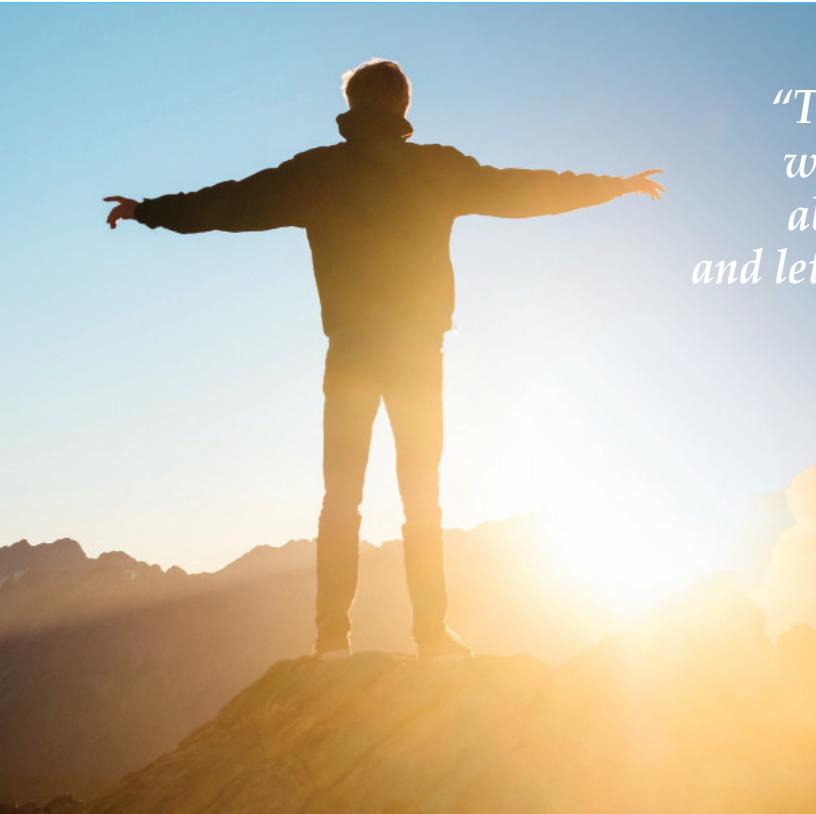
Prayer & Invitation

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:
Enrique@rescuevocations.org.

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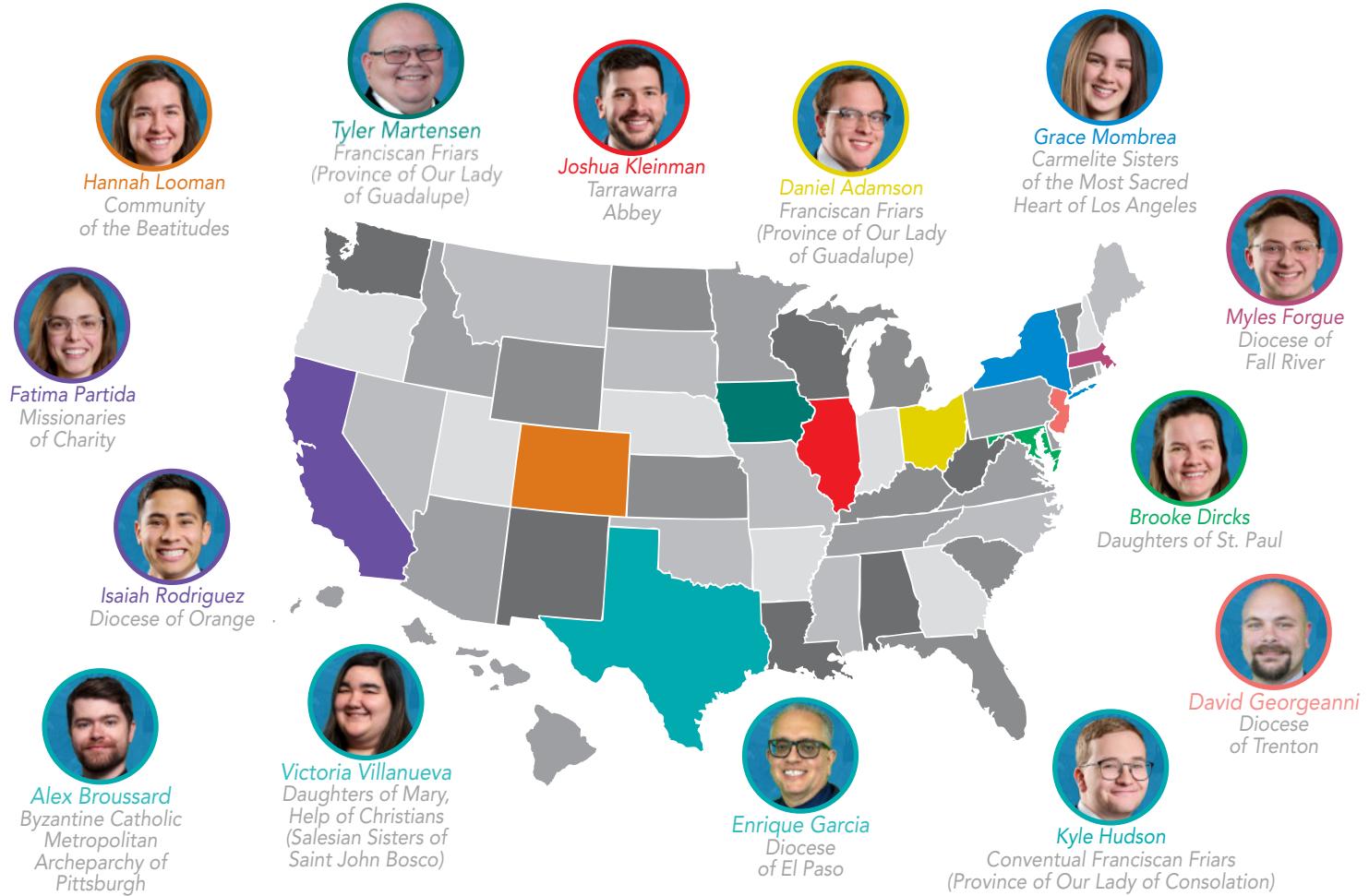


"There are very few people who realize what God would make of them if they abandoned themselves into his hands, and let themselves be formed by his grace."

—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

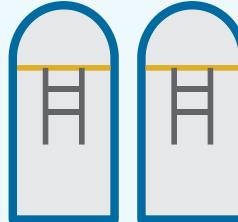
What Has Labouré Accomplished?

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.