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This is my Vocation Story

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My name is Joshua Kleinman. I am called to work for Christ and pray for His Church as a monk with the Tarrawarra Abbey. This is my story.

In the Beginning

Though I attended Jewish school up to age six, which instilled in me an early sense of identity, I was raised in a home without much religious conviction. My father is a secular Jew, and my mother was raised Catholic but not actively practicing during my childhood. We celebrated Passover, Hanukkah, Christmas and Easter in a cultural way growing up, but faith simply wasn't something we talked about.

Secular, modern culture taught me to find worth in achievement, and I eventually entered medical school. Yet inwardly, I longed for a connection to something greater. I took a leave from medical school and moved to Australia to do graduate research in philosophy and mental health. At the time, I viewed this as an academic endeavor; looking back, I know I was seeking to fill the spiritual void in my life.

On a long drive through rural Australia, I providentially happened upon a podcast about St. Teresa of Avila's "Interior Castle." Listening, I felt God asking something of me. So, I prayed. The words "Follow me" spoke directly to my heart. Jesus was inviting me into a personal relationship with Him.

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—Joshua Kleinman

My Vocation

Something changed after that trip. My inner life became steadier and more joyful. I joined RCIA, and was baptized into the Church. When my sponsor heard I'd been reading St. Teresa of Avila, she said, "You should visit Tarrawarra!" I booked a retreat at the Cistercian abbey, where I encountered monastic life and found myself drawn to the peace of prayer and work (*Ora et Labora*).

To me, Tarrawarra conveyed a sense of home. The brothers are loving, kind, and joyful. I found that the Cistercian way – the Divine Office, obedience through the Rule of St. Benedict, and working alongside others – met my longing for simplicity and communion and drew me into an experience of grace that lifted my heart to the Lord.

Additional visits and conversations with the vocation director aided my discernment. I found that I seek to follow Christ with my whole being, letting go of attachments and traveling with others on the journey to God.



Called to Serve

The Cistercians of Tarrawarra Abbey serve the world simply through the quiet, monastic life of prayer, work, silence, and community, oriented entirely to seeking God and following Christ. It is, no doubt, an ordinary life—yet paradoxically that's what makes it beautiful. It has been described as a royal road for seeking God, time-tested for over 1,500 years. The vows of stability, obedience, and conversion of life; the silence and community; and the central place of the liturgy in the monastic day all converge into a way of following Christ not only spiritually but concretely. It is a moving reminder that our Risen Lord is present, enduring, and worth living for.

Tarrawarra helps bring people to Christ by being a sign of God's presence, love, joy, and peace in a distracting and disoriented world. Visitors are "received as Christ," as the monks provide hospitality in the form of private retreats, spiritual direction, and an invitation to join in daily Mass and prayer. Christ is also made present through the monks' distribution of altar breads to parishes throughout Australia.

What inspires me most is knowing that the abbey, above all, is a school of love. To dedicate my life, through hidden fidelity to the Gospel, for the sanctification of the entire Church, would indeed be a matchless privilege.

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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: JoshuaKleinman@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.

Hannah Looman
Community of the Beatitudes

Tyler Martensen
Franciscan Friars (Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe)

Joshua Kleinman
Tarrawarra Abbey

Daniel Adamson
Franciscan Friars (Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe)

Grace Mombrea
Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles

Myles Forgue
Diocese of Fall River

Fatima Partida
Missionaries of Charity

Isaiah Rodriguez
Diocese of Orange

Brooke Dircks
Daughters of St. Paul

Alex Broussard
Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

Victoria Villanueva
Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians (Salesian Sisters of Saint John Bosco)

Enrique Garcia
Diocese of El Paso

David Georgeanni
Diocese of Trenton

Kyle Hudson
Conventual Franciscan Friars (Province of Our Lady of Consolation)

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. **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?

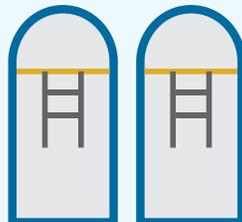
350+ INSTITUTIONS



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.

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.