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This is my Vocation Story

Tyler Martensen

Community: Franciscan Friars
(Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe)

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My name is Tyler Martensen. I am called to follow the example of St. Francis as a friar with the Franciscan Friars (Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe). This is my story.

In the Beginning

My early life was pretty chaotic. My parents divorced when I was young, and neither felt attending church was a priority, though both encouraged me to find God in my own way. My step-mom had a crucifix that I used to like to hold and gaze upon, curious what it was all about.

In middle school, I had a friend who was Catholic. Occasionally, I would stay over at his house on weekends and go to Mass with his family. Though I didn't understand what was happening, I was intrigued, and started to feel drawn towards the Mass.

When I was in high school, the local Catholic church held a memorial service where firefighters and EMS personnel were honored for 9/11. Afterwards, there was Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, along with Benediction. I had never seen anything like this, and didn't even know what was going on; yet when the Blessed Sacrament passed before me, I felt wonder and awe, and in an instant, I knew exactly Who was passing before me in the Eucharist: it was Jesus! I felt like the Apostle Matthew—God called him, and he dropped everything and followed, even though he didn't know where he was going. A fire had been lit in my heart and soul. I met with the Religious Education Director at a nearby parish, took some classes, and was confirmed Catholic the following Easter.

*"...when the
Blessed Sacrament
passed before me,
I felt wonder and awe,
and in an instant,
I knew exactly Who
was passing before me
in the Eucharist:
it was Jesus!"*
—Tyler Martensen

My Vocation

After becoming Catholic, I went to Mass every weekend, and participated as an altar server as often as I could. One of my teachers asked me if I had thought about the priesthood. I began to think about it and felt that I had a calling, so shortly after graduating, I reached out to the local vocations director. He felt I had some maturing to do before I would



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—Tyler Martensen

be ready to take the next steps.

I trained as an EMS tech, and worked in that field for about six years. Then, during COVID, I began discerning again. I felt I definitely had a calling of some kind. I decided to attend Briar Cliff, a Franciscan university. There, I became involved with campus ministry, including speaking to area high school students about the importance of their faith. During this time, I discerned that instead of the diocesan priesthood, I was being called to religious life. I met with various orders, and the Franciscans reached out to me in return.

Called to Serve

As my work in the EMS field indicates, I have a desire to help the less fortunate in their time of need. The Franciscan Order of Friars Minor serve the community around them. I love how they roll up their sleeves and dive in. Whether it's in ministry or running hospitals, clinics, and other public services, they help others—and in doing so, bring the Gospel to the people and are Christ to others.

I look forward to living in community with the Franciscans, continuing to grow in holiness, and living a life of service to others around me.

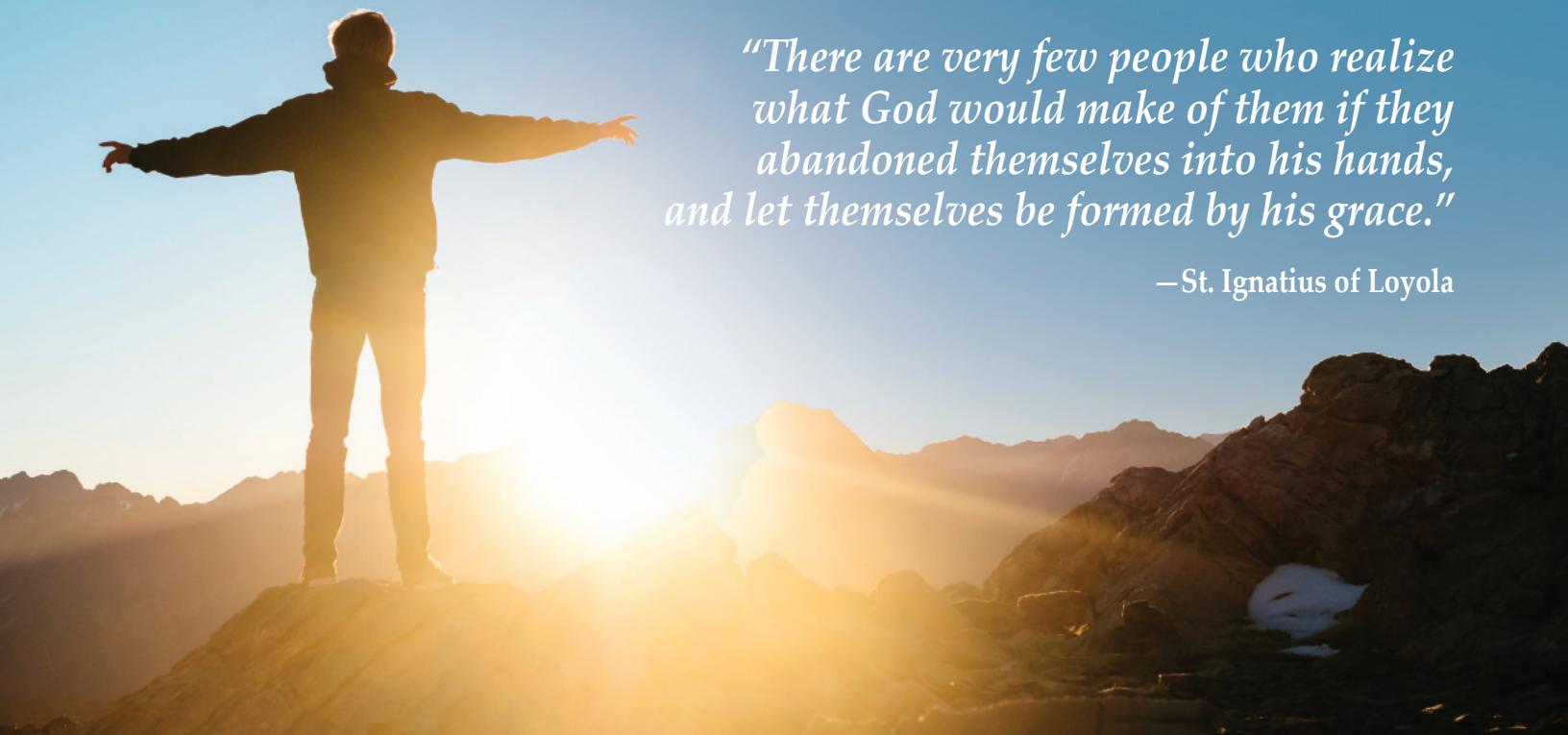
Prayer & Invitation

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:
TylerM@rescuevocations.org.

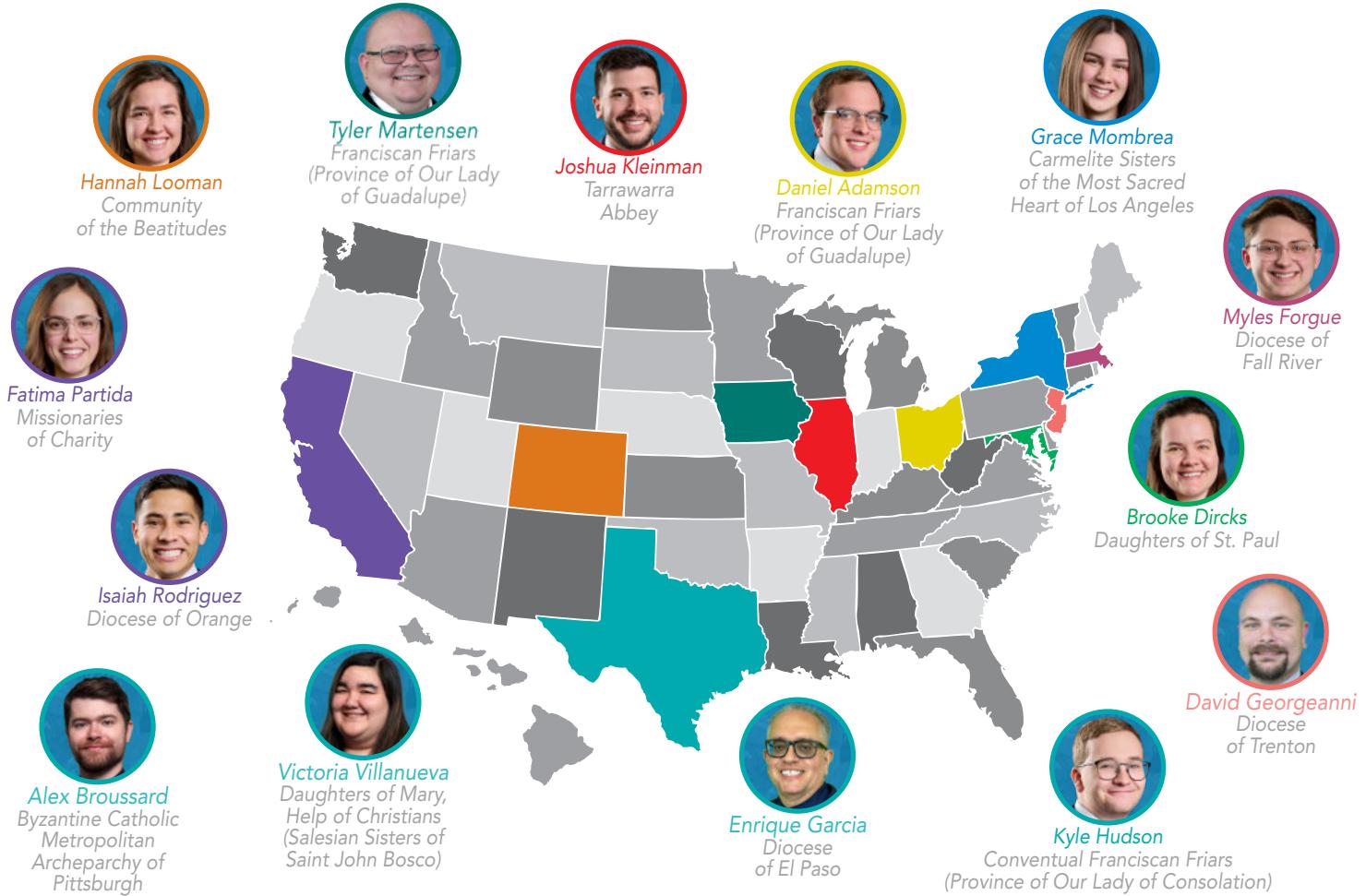
“There are very few people who realize what God would make of them if they abandoned themselves into his hands, and let themselves be formed by his grace.”

—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

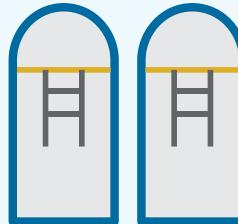
What Has Labouré Accomplished?

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.