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This is my Vocation Story



Grace Mombrea

Community: Carmelite Sisters
of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles

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My name is Grace Mombrea. I am called to make known to the world the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus as a sister with the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I was blessed to grow up in a devout Catholic family, with my siblings as some of my best friends. Our large homeschooling community was a profound blessing in our lives. Through this community and receiving the sacraments, I learned to build my life on the foundation of my Catholic faith.

My Vocation

I attended college at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. In the first few years there, I experienced immense growth in my relationship with God, and began to desire Jesus above all else. While I felt myself drawn at times towards religious life, I was not completely open to it due to fears and a desire for marriage.

During my sophomore year, I decided to serve on a mission trip in Los Angeles. While on the trip, one of the Sisters pulled her white Carmelite mantle from her bag and fastened it around her shoulders. My heart was moved so deeply that it truly ached with a longing both physical and spiritual. I desired to be a bride of Christ, as this sister was. I knew immediately that this reaction did not come from me, but from God, and that He was speaking to me through this experience. I immediately perceived what He was asking of me: I felt that I had truly been proposed to by our Lord!

Following Mass, we went on a hike in the mountains. I heard the Father in my heart tell me, "All that I have is yours," and understood that He meant not only the beauty of His creation, but even more so His own Son. The Father was giving me the gift of His Son out of pure love, and was waiting on my answer. I was so overcome with gratitude that I had a deep desire to respond to this love with the gift of my whole life.

Upon returning from the mission trip, God remained faithful in pursuing me, and it was clear that He wanted me to

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—Grace Mombrea



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remain faithful in my discernment in return. Although there were many fears and unknowns throughout the early stages of the journey, a deep and abiding peace remained in the center of my heart. As I have continued in discernment, this peace has remained present in the midst of both trial and joy. God has shown me that He is enough to fulfill all of my heart's desires.

Called to Serve

The community that Jesus has called me to is the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles. I am drawn in by their deep devotion to our Lord, and the ways in which they live out the Carmelite charism so beautifully.

The Sisters are devoted to contemplative prayer and abiding constantly in the presence of God. From this source of prayer, they share the Lord's love through education, retreat ministry, and healthcare among the aged. They seek to accompany those they serve and to share with them the love of Jesus and Mary. It is my deep desire to join them as a Bride of Christ in this mission.

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:
GraceMombrea@rescuevocations.org.



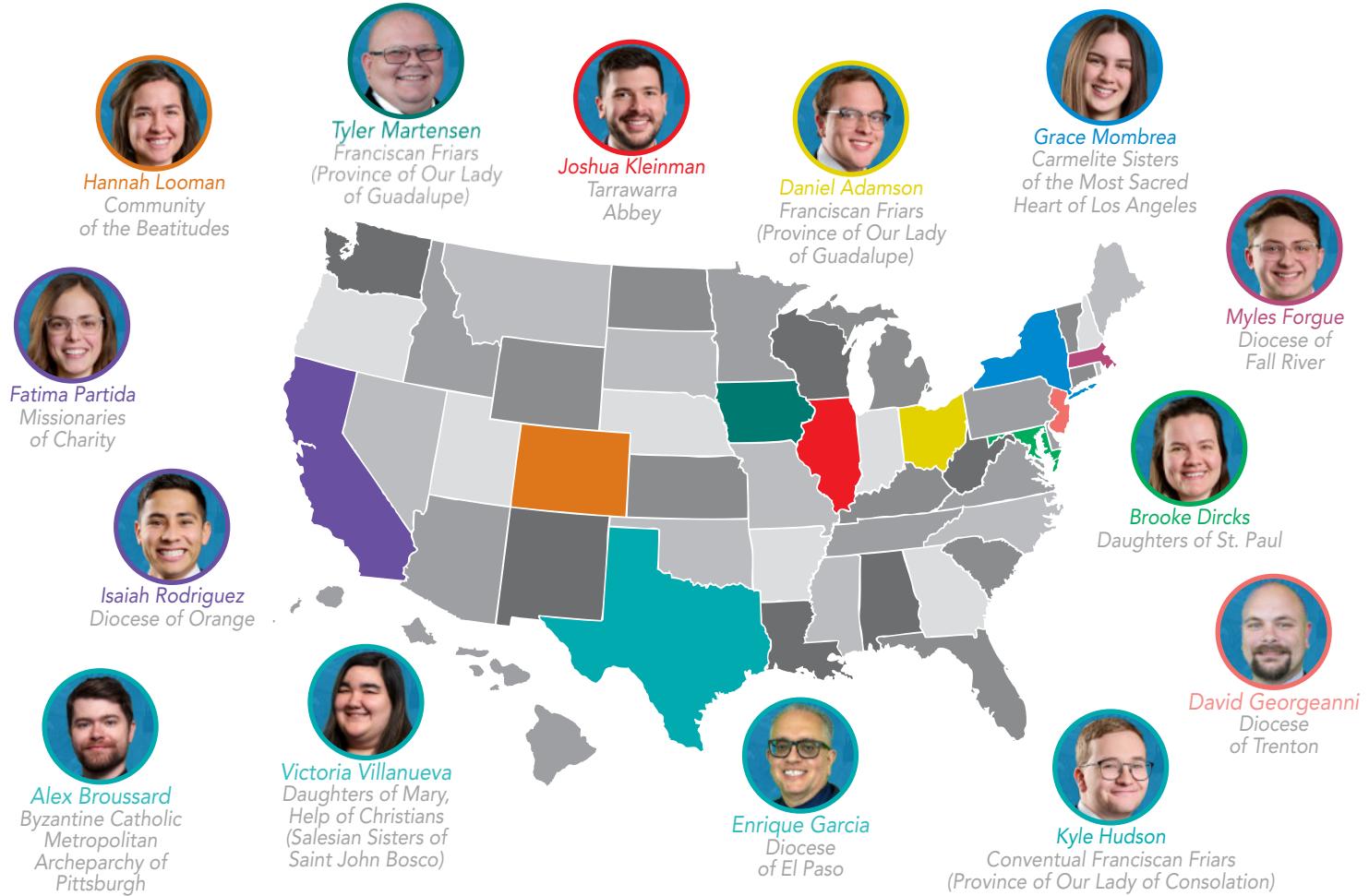
"There are very few people who realize what God would make of them if they abandoned themselves into his hands, and let themselves be formed by his grace."

—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

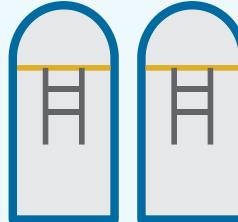
What Has Labouré Accomplished?

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.