

This is my Vocation Story



ANTHONY LIBRIZZI

How it Began My name is Anthony Librizzi, from Glen Ellyn, Illinois. I am one of four children; the youngest of three boys with a younger sister who is the baby of the family. I grew up in a Catholic family and we went to Mass on Sundays. When I was growing up, Mom worked days and Dad worked nights so we were left on our own for much of the time. They tried to make sure we all attended CCD because it was important to them that we receive each of the sacraments. I remember in my late grade school years my parents sent us to a non-Catholic summer program on the weekends, but I don't think they realized it wasn't actually Catholic. In eighth grade we moved to a new town. That year I was supposed to make my Confirmation. Unfortunately, my parents were so busy with all of the activities of the move, they didn't get us back into CCD for a while so I ended up not making my Confirmation.

Home:	Illinois
Community:	Marians of the Immaculate Conception
Degree:	Hotel Restaurant Management
Alma Mater:	Art Institute of Pittsburgh

My Faith After high school I kept my faith, but didn't make it to Sunday Mass every week. Fast forward many years and it wasn't until my early thirties that things started to change for me spiritually. One day I was listening to a commercial FM radio station on my drive to work and was really disturbed by the negative talk I was hearing on the radio. I couldn't believe it! To myself I said, "Enough is enough!" and stopped listening to secular radio. I was searching for a good source of news and inspiration. Eventually I found Relevant Radio and one of their very engaging hosts. Eventually that person was no longer on the air so I found several Christian music radio stations and this is where my faith life really started to bloom. Through the lyrics of the Christian music, I found God speaking to me in a different way, in a way I never thought God would ever speak to me. At this point I started to go back to Mass on a regular basis. It is also the same time I started to ask myself, "Is this it, am I here to just live and die or does God have a greater purpose in mind for me?"

*"...I felt God asking me to follow Him, but I didn't really know what that meant."
-Anthony Librizzi*

My Vocation About ten years ago, I was away from home on a business trip over a weekend. On that Sunday I experienced the Latin Mass for the first time. During this Mass I felt something different and I felt God talking to me in a new way.

When I returned home from this business trip, my life took a faith-filled turn. As my spiritual life was deepening by going to Mass regularly, I felt God asking me to follow Him, but I didn't really know what that meant. On this journey God kept placing Himself in my path. Occasionally, I didn't feel like attending

Called to serve The Winter Class of 2017



Holy Mass, but each time God made sure I would make it there in order to receive Him. It was in the Mass that I started to understand that God is present body, blood, soul and divinity in the Eucharist. I started to attend Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It was there that God began to really speak to me and I began to listen to what He was calling me to do. For a long time though I said, "No, not me Lord." But He kept persisting.

I began to pray fervently and discern whether He was truly calling me to a religious vocation. After Easter in 2015, I decided to find a spiritual director and continued more deliberate discernment of God's call. His call has led me to the Marians of the Immaculate Conception.

Called to Serve As I have developed in my faith, there are four things I have grown close to and have increased in my devotion: Mary, Divine Mercy, the Eucharist, and Priesthood. With each of these devotions, I have looked to find them wherever God is leading me to live out my vocation. The community I have been accepted into - the

"It was in the Mass that I started to understand that God is present...in the Eucharist."

-Anthony Librizzi

Marians of the Immaculate Conception - has a charism to spread the news of the Immaculate Conception, pray for the souls in purgatory, assist Diocesan communities as priests, and spread the Divine Mercy message. The vocation director and my brothers of the Marians are very excited for me to enter as a postulant. Like too many other people discerning a religious vocation, my student loan debt is a major obstacle preventing me from entering with the Marians.

Prayer & Invitation Please pray for my fellow brothers and sisters entering into religious communities and diocesan seminaries. My vocation is an invitation to strive to live according to the truth of who God created me to be. Please pray for my vocation and my fellow Labouré aspirants specifically so that we can be more and more conformed to Christ's image. Thank you for taking the time to read and hear my vocation story and for your support and encouragement. If you have additional questions, please contact me at anthonyl@laboureaspirant.org.

Again, please know we are so very appreciative of your generosity. You are in our prayers.

-Anthony Librizzi

Why I'm writing

I am not only an aspirant to religious life; I am also a fundraiser for these vocations. A recent study confirmed that nearly 1 out of 2 aspirants have student loans and thus most communities and dioceses cannot accept them. It is the only thing that prevents many – including me – from entering formation to become a priest, sister or brother.

I am seeking to raise the average student loan amount of \$60,000 before June 30 for a Catholic non-profit that helps aspirants like me — The Labouré Society. Through Labouré, my fellow aspirants and I work together as a class raising donations from \$10 – \$10,000 to deliver each of us into formation. 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 sharing our stories, remembering us in prayer, and financially investing in our future.

At the end of our class, Labouré will issue awards based on individual effort and the funds available to Labouré. They will administer the awards while we are in formation over a three year period (you can learn more about the program on the back of this letter). If we leave formation for any reason, we will resume our own payments. Plus, every aspirant in Labouré has been accepted by their diocese or community and is required to work and liquidate their assets as able to make their own maximum loan payments.

At the beginning of our class, we met and participated in an intensive 3-day training on the ethics and spirituality of fundraising. We are learning practical skills that will help us now and in our future vocations. We have also developed as a team to learn from and support each other. You can see our picture below.

Will you join our vocational journeys? Please partner with us and be part of our vocation team so we can answer God's call together!

LABOURÉ

Winter 2017 Class of Aspirants to the Priesthood and Religious Life



▶ Our vocations story videos are online at: www.LaboureSociety.org

About The Labouré Society

Why are we needed?

- There are an estimated 10,000 individuals discerning a priestly or religious vocation in the US annually
 - 42% are blocked from pursuing this call due to education loans*
 - The average vocational 'aspirant' in Labouré owes \$60,000 in education loans
 - Most religious communities cannot assume this debt
 - Most dioceses will allow some debt but have a limited threshold for acceptance
- * (NRVC, Vision Study, 2010)

What have we accomplished?

- Operating since 2003
- Listed in the Official Catholic Directory
- Over 250 assisted into formation to the priesthood or religious life
- A network of thousands of praying bishops, priests, religious, families, and singles
- Over \$5 million awarded to aspirants for loan mitigation
- Labouré program support from bishops, superiors, and vocation directors nationwide

How do we do it?

Our Aspirants:

- Discern a vocation & are accepted into a diocese or religious institute*
 - Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans
 - Apply to Labouré & meet intake requirements
 - Are trained in ethical fundraising – empowered with practical tools, personal mentoring, & accountability
 - Share their vocation stories and participate in building a culture of vocations and evangelization
 - Raise funds for Labouré to benefit many vocations
 - Are awarded monthly payments towards their education loans
 - Receive final award payout after 3 years & enter freely into a lifetime of service as a priest, sister, or brother
- *(The Institute must be listed in the Official Catholic Directory)

The Labouré Society

- Works with aspirants to utilize all personal means to mitigate the loan amount (loan consolidation, asset review, financial counseling, employment, etc.) prior to acceptance into the program
- Trains each aspirant in biblically based philanthropy
- Forms a semi-annual 'class' of aspirants
- Mentors each aspirant to build a unified team; each individual works toward the collective goal
- Provides ongoing accountability to ensure proper preparation & completion of personal fundraising plans
- Equips each aspirant with an online fundraising platform for donation processing, reporting, marketing and communications, assessment of goals, and class interaction
- Facilitates ongoing aspirant/donor communication and updates after aspirant enters formation
- Manages aspirant award payments while they are in formation
- Completes award payout after three years active formation

LABOURÉ
BRIDGE TO MIRACLES

1365 CORPORATE CENTER CURVE • SUITE 104 • EAGAN, MN 55121 • LABOURESOCIETY.ORG • 651-452-1160



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. 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 reallocated toward current or future aspirants.