

This is my Vocation Story

Allyssa Hebrado-Fernandez

Community:
Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln

Alma Mater:
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My name is Allyssa Hebrado-Fernandez. The Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln are inviting me to serve Christ and His Church as a sister. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I was born in the Philippines and my family immigrated to the United States when I was six years old. Although I was raised Catholic and regularly attended Mass on Sundays, our family was not especially religious.

My Faith

During high school, a friend who was an alumna of NET Ministries helped me deepen my relationship with Christ through prayer and adoration. It was through her discipleship that I learned how to walk with the Father and to grow in my desire to know Him more fully and His plans for me. Later, while serving as a missionary with NET, I became interested in Franciscan Spirituality. Before long, friends and family were suggesting I might become a nun. At the time I didn't take any of it seriously, but a seed had been planted.

*“My love for the Lord
was becoming more
profound, more
intimate...”*

—Allyssa Hebrado-Fernandez

My Vocation

During my freshman year at Benedictine College I occasionally saw religious sisters on campus. I was immediately drawn to them and, at the suggestion of my spiritual director, I prayed for an encounter. As providence would have it, three days later I had the opportunity to meet the vocation director of the Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln. I spent the rest of the year getting to know the sisters and found myself completely falling in love with their community and way of life. They were so welcoming and inviting every time I approached them – I've never felt more fully myself. And the more we spoke the more I discovered how much I wanted to be one of them. At the same time, my love for the Lord was becoming more profound, more intimate; and, for the first time I seriously considered the vocation to religious life.



“From the very beginning I was attracted to their authentic joy for the Lord.”

—Allyssa Hebrado-Fernandez

One morning, while praying before Mass, I felt the Lord’s voice saying: “Allyssa, are you willing to grow old with me? To spend the rest of your life with me? To know me more fully and commit yourself to me entirely?” And upon hearing these words, I was elated and overwhelmed with so much joy! It was clear the Bridegroom was calling me, and it was essential that I respond. The Lord is preparing a new home for me as I prepare my heart to receive new sisters.

Called to Serve

At Benedictine, I enjoyed many opportunities to meet and interact with a variety of religious communities, only to realize that the Lord was slowly guiding me toward the Marian Sisters.

From the very beginning I was attracted to their authentic joy for the Lord. Whenever I am around them, I immediately feel the presence of God, and it’s a very beautiful experience that brings me closer to the Heavenly reality. I’m excited to join these living witnesses to Christ as they dedicate their lives to serving the needs of others. The Marian Sisters live joyfully, doing God’s will in imitation of Mary and St. Francis; their work consists of education, social work, and health care.

Prayer & Invitation

Please pray that my fellow Labouré classmates and I can resolve the student loan debt blocking our path to religious life. As you know, the Church desperately needs new priests, sisters, and brothers. With your help, our class will soon reach its goal of serving Christ and humanity.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions you might have at: allyssa@rescuevocations.org.

Pictured below: The Winter, 2020 Class of Labouré Aspirants



I am an aspirant of Labouré

I am also a fundraiser for a class of aspiring priests, sisters and brothers. A recent study confirmed that nearly 1 of every 2 aspirants is blocked from entering seminaries and religious communities due to student loan debt. It is the only thing that prevents many – including me – from entering formation to become a priest, sister or brother. My classmates are discerning all over the country.



Conor Maher
Dominican Friars,
Province of the
Most Holy Name
of Jesus



Gretchen Erlichman
Dominican Nuns of
the Monastery of
Our Lady of Grace



Mary Louise Kohser
Disciples of the Lord
Jesus Christ



Damyán Mendoza
Institute of Christ the
King Sovereign Priest



Michael Howard
Institute of Christ the
King Sovereign Priest



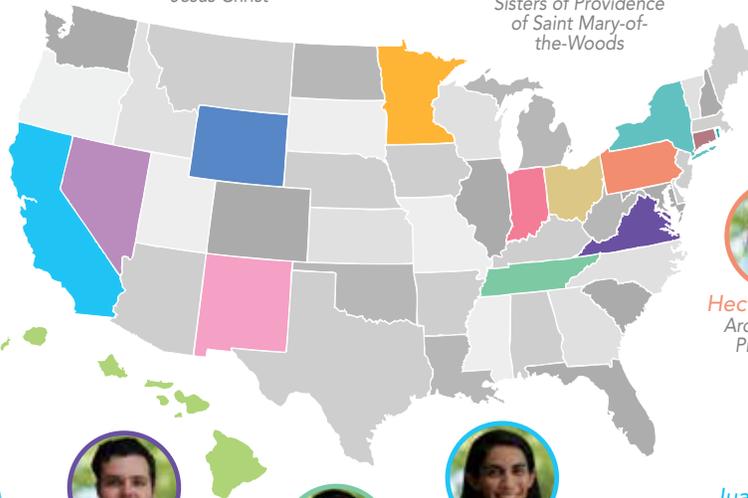
Sean Tobin
Dominican Friars of
the Province of Saint
Joseph (Eastern
Province)



Emmanuelle Del Castillo
Congregation of
the Sacred Hearts
of Jesus and Mary
(Sacred Hearts Community)



Buchi Akpati
Disclaled Carmelites
Monastery of the Little
Flower of Jesus



Brittany Behrens
Sisters of Providence
of Saint Mary-of-
the-Woods



Thomas Conroy
Dominican Friars of
the Province of Saint
Joseph (Eastern
Province)



Austin Roy
Order of Carthusians



**Allyssa Hebrado
Fernandez**
Marian Sisters of the
Diocese of Lincoln



Jean Clumson-Eklu
Congregation of
Saint John



Hector Ramirez
Archdiocese of
Philadelphia



Matthew Nordquist
Franciscan Friars of
the Holy Spirit



Cullen Hilliker
Dominicans, Province of
Saint Albert the Great
(Central Province)



Erin Lyons
Sisters of the
Holy Cross



Patrick Kelly
Dominican Friars of
the Province of Saint
Joseph (Eastern
Province)



Juan Pablo Chavez
Archdiocese of
Los Angeles



Elizabeth Luna
Missionaries
Guadalupanas of
the Holy Spirit



Phillip Baker
Dominican Friars of
the Province of Saint
Joseph (Eastern
Province)



Noemy Banuelos
Carmelite Sisters
of the Most Sacred
Heart of Los
Angeles



Tommy Gies
Priestly Fraternity
of Saint Peter

With your help, we will rebuild the Church!

My goal is to raise \$60,000 (the average student loan amount) before June 30th of this year for The Labouré Society, a Catholic non-profit that helps aspirants like me to answer God's call.

Every aspirant has been accepted by a diocese or community and is required to work to liquidate their assets in order to make their 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 remaining student loans.

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 we can answer God's call together!

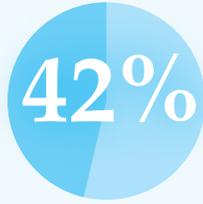
Our vocations story videos are online at: www.RescueVocations.org

LABOURÉ
HELP RESCUE VOCATIONS™

Why is Labouré Needed?



10,000
Individuals discerning a priestly or religious vocation in the US annually*



42%
Are blocked from pursuing this call due to education loans*



\$60,000
The average amount our vocational aspirants in Labouré owe in educational loans

How does the Mission Work?

OUR ASPIRANTS

- Are discerning a vocation and have been accepted into a diocese or religious institute
- Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans
- 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 of 20-25 aspirants raise funds collectively and receive awards from those funds to be applied to their debt

THE LABOURE SOCIETY

- Works with aspirants to utilize all personal means to mitigate their loan amount prior to acceptance into the program
- Trains each aspirant in Catholic-based philanthropy
- Mentors each aspirant to build a unified team; each individual works toward the collective goal
- Provides ongoing accountability and personal guidance to ensure proper preparation and completion of the individual fundraising plans of each aspirant
- 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?

320+



Assisted into formation to the priesthood or religious life

\$8.1 MILLION



Raised by Labouré aspirants since 2003

PROVEN



In operation since 2003

TRUSTED



Listed in the Official Catholic Directory

* NRVC, Vision Study, 2010

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 needs.