

# This is my Vocation Story

**Emmanuelle del Castillo**

Community: | Alma Mater: | Phone: | Email:  
Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (Sacred Hearts Community) | Pacific Regional Seminary | 808-304-7895 | emmanuelle@rescuevocations.org

*My name is Emmanuelle del Castillo. I am called to serve Christ and humanity as a member of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I grew up Hawaii, and am the youngest of two children in a devout Catholic family. I became an altar server at a very early age (shortly after my first communion). My parents are both sacristans, and my father is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

## My Faith

Although I was surrounded by Catholicism as a child, I never really questioned the teachings of the Church. That changed in high school when, fueled by highly publicized scandals, my peers began making fun of Catholics. I was seeing so much negativity in the press, and getting so much heat from my classmates, that I seriously considered abandoning Christianity altogether.

After much reflection, and through enlightening conversations with a number of priests, I came to understand the faith itself was well worth holding onto. The Church is full of good people, just a few bad apples. Some of the priests I spoke with even suggested I might have a religious vocation, and after attending a few diocesan vocation retreats, and meeting with a persistent vocation director, I began to feel they were right.

## My Vocation

I then applied to the diocesan seminary and was accepted. While there I was growing in faith and my understanding of Catholicism was deepening, but a restlessness in my heart led me to take a break from my studies. The Lord had a greater plan and, just as I made the decision to come home, my mother's health worsened, forcing her to leave her job. I was glad to step up and help the family, as they had helped me with my own needs. It was definitely providential.

One day, a woman asked me what was I doing with my life. I replied "working," and, unsatisfied with my answer, she asked again. At that moment, I began to truly reflect and to ask God what he intended for my life. My heart felt called to serve Him, similar to when I was in the seminary but with a stronger sense of owning the desire. I felt the Lord wanting and moving me to seek Him through religious life. With my family's health and finances improving, I felt the freedom to start pursuing God's will for me.



*"I professed my 'yes' to God, and continue to remember that it is a daily yes which I live for Him."*

—Emmanuelle del Castillo

## Called to Serve

While reflecting on my early childhood alter server experiences, I remembered the religious order that ran my home parish. It was the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. After a series of phone calls and an interview, I was accepted into the pre-novitiate with this order. Because my novitiate was in Tonga, I was exposed to a great deal of poverty, and yet the people there were joyful and grateful for the little they had. Along with my own experiences struggling to help support my family, living in close proximity to the people of Tonga taught me that true wealth has little to do with money.

After a year in the novitiate, I professed my "yes" to God, and continue to remember that it is a daily yes which I live for Him. Soon after, I began my studies per my community's request. I desire to take my final vows and to live out their charism which is "to love." In practice, this is manifested in teaching children, assisting immigrants, and using our individual talents to make the world a better place.

## Prayer & Invitation

Please join me in prayer for all those called to enter religious life. And I ask you to pray for my fellow Labouré classmates and I as we continue our journey to follow our vocations. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you might have at: [emmanuelle@rescuevocations.org](mailto:emmanuelle@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.

## 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](http://www.RescueVocations.org)*

**LABOURÉ**<sup>SM</sup>  
HELP RESCUE VOCATIONS<sup>SM</sup>

# Why is Labouré Needed?



Individuals discerning a priestly or religious vocation in the US annually\*



Are blocked from pursuing this call due to education loans\*



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.