

This is my Vocation Story

Erin Lyons

Community:
Sisters of the Holy Cross

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My name is Erin Lyons. The Sisters of the Holy Cross are inviting me to serve Christ and His Church. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I was raised Catholic (the youngest of three children), and lived in Oceanside, California near a beautiful monastery perched atop a hill overlooking the town and the harbor. I enjoyed attending Mass at the chapel, as well as shyly interacting with the cheerful monks who lived on the grounds.

My Faith

My faith was primarily formed by my mother's witness. She was a quiet example of what a woman and mother should be. We were very close, and her strong devotion to God, as expressed in prayer, meditation, and spiritual readings, made a lasting impression on me. I wanted nothing more than to follow in her footsteps.

Unfortunately, while in high school I gradually drifted away from the faith. I stopped going to church and spent most of my time in school and working. It was a confusing period in my life because I still believed in God and wanted to be a saint, but the "rules" of the Church seemed too difficult to follow. I felt that, since I was young, I had plenty of time to be "free," and would take my faith more seriously in the future.

I went to college to become a registered nurse, eventually qualifying to work in the E.R. I really enjoyed working with patients and my coworkers, but I couldn't shake the feeling God was calling me to something greater, something more profound.

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—Erin Lyons

My Vocation

While attending silent retreats centered on Eucharistic adoration I felt the emptiness inside me slowly fade and, although thoughts of religious life began to enter my mind, the desire for marriage, family, and a secular career remained strong. I wavered between the two vocations, but the decision seemed daunting - I remember wanting to put the choice entirely in God's hands.



“It was during a pilgrimage to Lourdes and Fatima that my calling to religious life grew more insistent.”

—Erin Lyons

It was during a pilgrimage to Lourdes and Fatima that my calling to religious life grew more insistent. From that moment on, I was seriously considering a religious vocation. Ending my career was painful, but it was the right thing to do, and I haven't regretted it.

Called to Serve

Through the silent retreats and the guidance of my spiritual director, I reached out to the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Following meetings with their vocation director, and visits to their community, I fell in love with the order. I'm particularly attracted to their charism, which includes supporting the priest's ministry through devotion to Our Lord's suffering in His Passion. The sisters also actively take part in domestic, administrative, and retreat work focused on family ministry.

Thanks to divine providence, and the fervent prayers of my family, I feel I have finally found God's calling. My one desire is to continually grow with the sisters, serving priests, families, and communities in whatever capacity God desires.

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: erin@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



Damyan Mendoza
Institute of Christ the
King Sovereign Priest



Michael Howard
Institute of Christ the
King Sovereign Priest



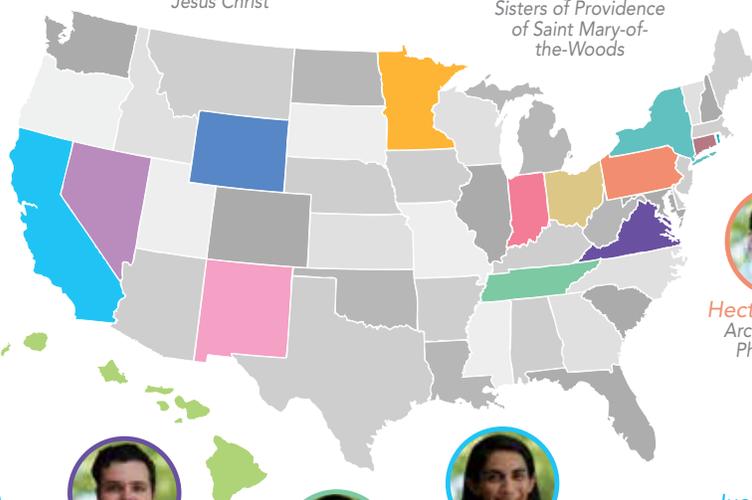
Sean Tobin
Dominican Friars of
the Province of Saint
Joseph (Eastern
Province)



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



Buchi Akpati
Discalced Carmelites
Monastery of the Little
Flower of Jesus



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



Austin Roy
Order of Carthusians



Hector Ramirez
Archdiocese of
Philadelphia



Matthew Nordquist
Franciscan Friars of
the Holy Spirit



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



Jean Clumson-Eklu
Congregation of
Saint John



Juan Pablo Chavez
Archdiocese of
Los Angeles



Elizabeth Luna
Missionaries
Guadalupanas 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)



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



Tommy Gies
Priestly Fraternity
of Saint Peter



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

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



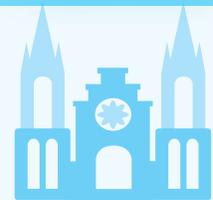
Raised by Labouré aspirants since 2003

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.