

This is my Vocation Story



Mary Louise Kohser

Community:
Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ

Alma Mater:
Franciscan University

Phone:
(724) 777-9113

Email:
mary@rescuevocations.org

My name is Mary Louise Kohser. I am called to serve Christ and His body, the Church, as a member of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I was raised in a small Catholic family of four. I remember dressing up once as the Blessed Mother and my teachers turned to each other and said: "She will be a nun someday!" That simple sentence planted a seed in my heart that has been watered and nurtured throughout my life.

My Faith

My family are all faithful Catholics, yet growing up my faith was never personal. I remember in the sixth grade thinking, "how is it that there is a God who loves me?" God answered in a very powerful way: during Mass, while the Host was elevated, I heard God calling me, saying, "Mary, you are mine! Come to Me!" I didn't know what to do with this message, but I knew that I was loved more than I had ever imagined.

As I continued to grow older, and in my relationship with God, I realized I was called to start discerning religious life. I wanted to keep it a secret. God, however, had different plans. He placed it on my heart to witness my faith and my desire to discern religious life with my fellow students. As I opened up more about discerning religious life, more people around me began asking questions. This enabled me to witness personally my love for Jesus. I believe God's effort to deepen my faith continued when I felt called to attend Franciscan University after graduating from high school.

My Vocation

My time at Franciscan University has been incredible! God has drawn me closer through all that I have experienced here, and in particular the women's discernment household. Through that sisterhood, He fostered within me a new relationship with the Holy Spirit and a healing of my heart. Having been so blessed, I felt called to share His blessings, stepping forward, when given the opportunity, to lead these same women as their household coordinator. When I thought I was there to give, God had plans for me to receive. This role opened a new horizon of growth for me in the gifts of spiritual motherhood, compassion, and flexibility.



I have grown much in my relationship with the Lord and I know He loves me like a Father. I have heard him call me to a simple life. To be open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit in service to His children and witness to His merciful love. He has asked me for my life, and I am so eager to give it to Him. Through much discernment I have begun the application process and been approved to move forward with the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. This process has filled me with joy and peace and I am so excited to take this next step.

Called to Serve

The sisters' ministries include retreats for adults and youth, parish missions, teachings for prayer groups, and evangelistic outreaches throughout the world. The opportunity to serve local communities through retreats and service as a sister brings me overwhelming joy. I pray that my life will be used for more than I could ever imagine.

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—Mary Louise Kohser

Prayer & Invitation

Please join me and my Labouré classmates in this joyful journey. We all have a common desire to answer God's call for our lives, yet cannot due to the obstacle of student loan debt. I would love to share with you more of how the Labouré Society, through God's infinite grace, is helping men and women like me enter religious formation to become future priests, sisters, and brothers. Please do not hesitate to reach me at mary@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)

**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)

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

Juan Pablo Chavez
Archdiocese of
Los Angeles

Elizabeth Luna
Missionaries
Guadalupanas of
the Holy Spirit

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

LABOURÉSM
HELP RESCUE VOCATIONS™

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



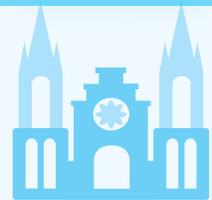
Raised by Labouré aspirants since 2003

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.