

This is my Vocation Story



Hannah Houser

Community:
Sisters of Saint Francis, Oldenburg

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Muskingum University

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My name is Hannah Houser. I am called to serve Christ and humanity as a Sister of Saint Francis, Oldenburg. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I was raised in Hamilton, Ohio, in a Catholic family of seven. Through their actions and words, my parents passed along their strong faith and Franciscan charism. From an early age I was interested in helping others, so my childhood activities included volunteering with special needs children, taking care of animals and the environment, and American Sign Language.

Although I am not deaf, I attended Saint Rita School for the Deaf through second grade due to Apraxia. My interest in the Catholic faith grew during middle school, and immediately after confirmation and first communion felt Mary, our mother, calling me to serve the Lord.

My Faith

While attending Hamilton High School I joined Young Life, which further deepened my faith and helped me to better understand how to share my love with others. My pastor at that time, Father Ray, inspired me and gave me the courage to sign the Mass (along with its songs and prayers), and the religious sisters I encountered from time-to-time were a great influence in my life.

My major at Muskingum University was sociology with a focus on animal and environmental issues; and my involvement with Cru (a campus Christian ministry) allowed me to spend time with like-minded Christians and to sign for musical presentations and other events.

After graduation, I began attending Saint Julie Billiard Parish and joined the choir where I continue to sign at Sunday Mass throughout the year. Sharing God's word through signing is a talent that allows me to bring God's grace to

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children, and I’ve recently begun teaching signing to grade-schoolers. I’ve also become a volunteer assistant with a youth group where I help teenagers learn about the Bible.

My Vocation

My extended family includes priests, deacons, and religious sisters, and my mother and grandmother are associate members of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Oldenburg, so the idea of religious life came naturally to me. One day, while listening to and signing the song ‘Color of Wind’ it occurred to me that God was leading me to a vocation with the Sisters of Saint Francis of Oldenburg. The realization came with a great burst of joy.

I’ve spent much of the past year visiting the sisters and learning about the Franciscan charism. The sisters share the gospel of Jesus Christ and their trust in the Lord through example, and being near them has helped me to grow in my faith. Whenever I am with the sisters I feel like I’ve come home.

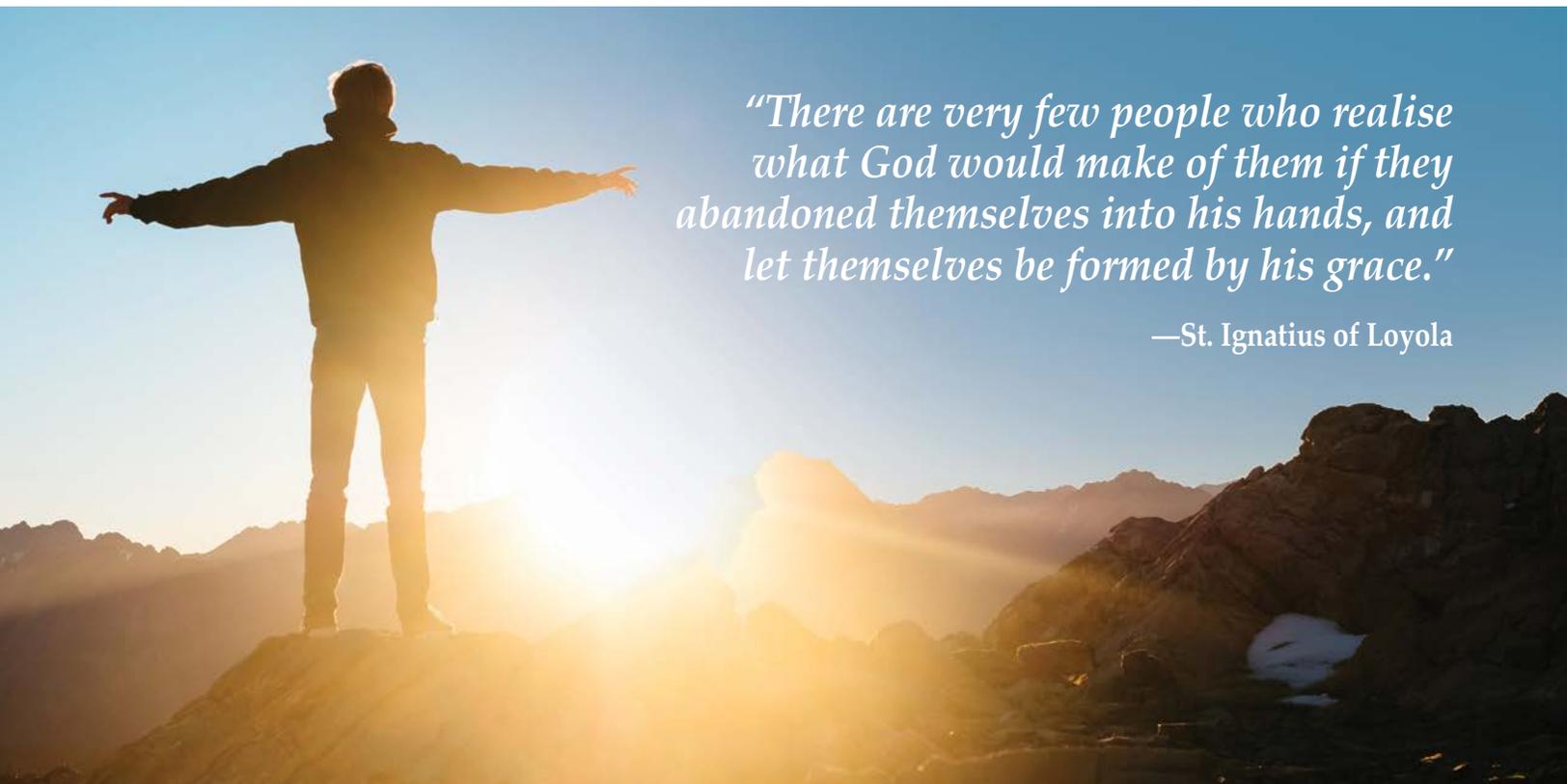
Called to Serve

I’m very excited about serving God and the community as a Sister of Saint Francis of Oldenburg. I have a great love for the Franciscan way of life, and look forward to teaching children and adults about the virtues of love, charity, and mercy through example.

Prayer & Invitation

Please pray that my fellow classmates and I can resolve the student loan debt blocking our path to religious life. As you know, the Church desperately needs 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: Hannah@rescuevocations.org.



*“There are very few people who realise
what God would make of them if they
abandoned themselves into his hands, and
let themselves be formed by his grace.”*

—St. Ignatius of Loyola

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 from entering formation to become a priest, sister or brother. My classmates are discerning all over the country.

Ron Cuenco
Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land

Hannah Houser
Sisters of Saint Francis, Oldenburg

Jim Musgrave
Archdiocese of Detroit, Michigan

Peyton Kerkman
Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln, NE

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

Richard McAlister
Diocese of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

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

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

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

Joseph Lynch
Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

Jean Clumson-Eklu
Congregation of Saint John

Erin Lyons
Sisters of the Holy Cross

Elizabeth Luna
Missionaries Guadalupanas of the Holy Spirit

Hector Ramirez
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Fran Masawi
The Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg

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

Joseph Silver
Benedictine Monks of Our Lady of Clear Creek Abbey

Sarah Huckins
Disalced Carmelite Nuns in San Diego

Victoria Clarizio
Passionist Nuns, Pittsburgh, PA

Tyler Wisniewski
Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

With your help, we will rebuild the Church!

My goal is to raise \$60,000 (the average student loan amount) before December 31st 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

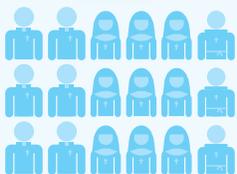
- Are discerning a vocation and have been accepted into a diocese or religious institute
- Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans
- Are trained by Labouré in Catholic-based fundraising and are provided with practical tools, personal mentoring, and accountability
- 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?

325+



Assisted into formation to the priesthood or religious life

\$8.6 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.