

# This is my Vocation Story

Sarah Huckins

Community:  
Discalced Carmelite Nuns in San Diego

Alma Mater:  
John Paul the Great Catholic University

Phone:  
(530) 392-2389

Email:  
SarahM@rescuevocations.org

*My name is Sarah Huckins, I am called to serve Christ and humanity as a Carmelite Sister. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I am the third child of seven kids and we grew up in the rural town of Auburn, California. I was raised in a Catholic homeschooling family and enjoyed spending time with my siblings and exploring the outdoors.

## My Faith

My dad worked for a minor seminary and I considered the seminarians to be my adopted brothers. Their example of sacrifice greatly impressed me as a little girl, and I wanted to join the seminary too! At age 13 I attended the seminary's sister school, which formed young girls to become consecrated women. There, I embraced the faith as my own and grew more open to God's will.

While in high school I worked as a prep cook. I attended Mass in the morning, then went to work and prepped for the day, enjoying three hours of silence before the store opened. Sometimes another girl would work with me and we would accomplish our tasks in companionable silence. One morning I thought to myself, "Wow, I went to Mass today: Jesus is in my soul! I could do this — I could spend my whole life in work, in silence, and in prayer with Jesus within me and a sister beside me."

## My Vocation

As I got older I became more interested in marriage and, although a longing to answer God's call persisted in my heart, I pushed it away. During this time I would pray in adoration, kneel beneath a statue of the Blessed Mother, and lay my troubles at Her feet.

A few months later, while visiting my cousin, who is a religious sister in Fatima, Portugal, I felt called to discern with a local congregation. During

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the year I spent with them I learned the true meaning of mercy, the immense value of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, and the importance of trusting in Him. My love for Our Lady of Fatima and her messages of reparation and prayer for the salvation of souls was rekindled, but I felt that Jesus, knowing my deepest desires, was leading me to something greater.

## Called to Serve

After returning home I reached out to a variety of congregations, all of which advised me to attend college and return after graduation. I started classes at John Paul the Great University and was soon introduced to the Carmelite Sisters of San Diego. While talking with the novice mistress it occurred to me that, in the final apparition of Fatima, Mary appeared to bless the world as Our Lady of Mount Carmel. I also remembered a moment in prayer when the idea of Jesus as a prisoner of love came to me; it inspired me to imitate Him, but the significance of this realization had eluded me until I met the Carmelites.

During this time, many seemingly ordinary circumstances revealed deeper spiritual meanings. The sisters invited me to discern in greater depth by living with them for three months. While there, I felt like I had found my home. I look forward with great anticipation to the adventure of service that Jesus has prepared for me!

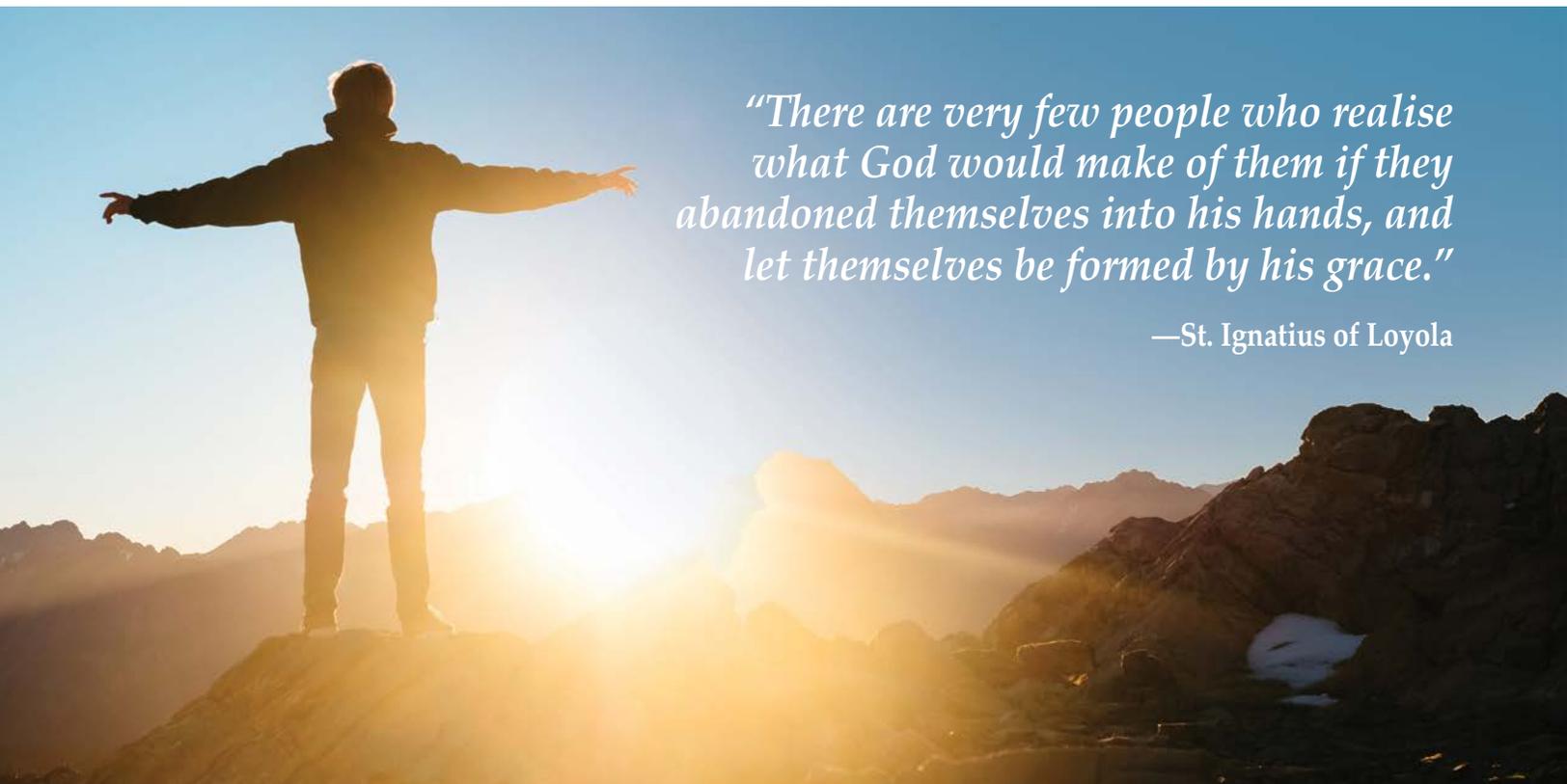
## Prayer & Invitation

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: [SarahM@rescuevocations.org](mailto:SarahM@rescuevocations.org).

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

**LABOURÉ**<sup>SM</sup>  
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

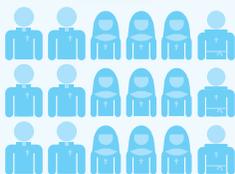
### THE LABOURE SOCIETY



- 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



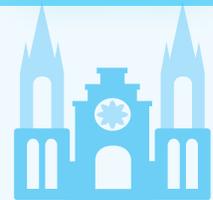
Raised by Labouré aspirants since 2003

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.