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This is my Vocation Story



Peyton Kerkman

Community:
Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln, NE

Alma Mater:
Benedictine College

Phone:
(402) 750-9866

Email:
Peyton@rescuevocations.org

My name is Peyton Kerkman. I am called to serve Christ and humanity as a member of the Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I was born and raised in Norfolk, Nebraska. Although my brothers and I were baptized Catholics, we rarely attended Mass until my mother converted to Catholicism when I was 13. I participated in every sport from soccer to basketball, and enjoyed visiting my grandparents' farm on weekends where my cousins and I would build forts and 'help' my grandfather with chores.

My Faith

My interest in the Catholic faith began to grow while I was in high school. I took on leadership roles with my parish youth group, sang in the choir, and served as an extraordinary minister. I also began attending daily Mass.

People noticed, and more than once members of my parish asked me if I'd considered becoming a religious sister. I also remember a humorous conversation with one of my teachers at the time about future plans. She said, "let me know when you're going to be entering the convent." I laughed, but she was affirming what my heart was already feeling.

"...while praying one day I heard Jesus gently asking me a simple question: 'will you give me your entire heart?'"

—Peyton Kerkman

My Vocation

I began seriously discerning a vocation to religious life as a freshman at Benedictine College. The following summer I served as a Life Teen missionary, and through that experience I encountered a number of vocation directors. I had an especially meaningful conversation with Sister Amy Marie of the Marian Sisters, and much of the joy and wisdom she shared remains with me to this day.

During my sophomore year I attempted to place my discernment on hold, but while praying one day I heard Jesus gently asking me a simple question: "will you give me your entire heart?" I began devoting more and more time to prayer in order to learn what Jesus had in store for me, and when the fear and uncertainty vanished, it

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became clear I was being called to the Marian Sisters. Days later, I had the opportunity to meet, once again, with Sister Amy Marie.

That fall I spent my first weekend with the Marian Sisters at their convent in Lincoln. I felt instantly drawn to their authentic joy, and experienced a deep sense of belonging and peace. When I left, I knew I would be back. In the meantime I began praying a novena to Saint Therese, asking her to confirm my calling to the Marian Sisters by placing before me some yellow roses. To my surprise, I received a yellow rose and a white rose on her feast day. When it happened, I turned to my FOCUS discipler and said, "I think I'm going to be a Marian!"

Called to Serve

During the fall semester of my sophomore year I fell more deeply in love with Jesus. I knew the Bridegroom was calling me to be His bride, and as I got to know the Marian Sisters it became easier for me to respond.

For two years I had prayed to have a heart like Mary's — a heart entirely open to God's will — and now God was answering that prayer. My heart had been broken and wounded, but God was gradually transforming it into a masterpiece. Those two years had prepared me to say 'yes' to God with confidence.

During my next weekend with the Marian Sisters I asked for, and received, my preliminary application papers, and in January of 2020 I gave my first 'fiat' to Christ. I view that day as the beginning of a lifelong adventure.

"I knew the Bridegroom was calling me to be His bride, and as I got to know the Marian Sisters it became easier for me to respond."

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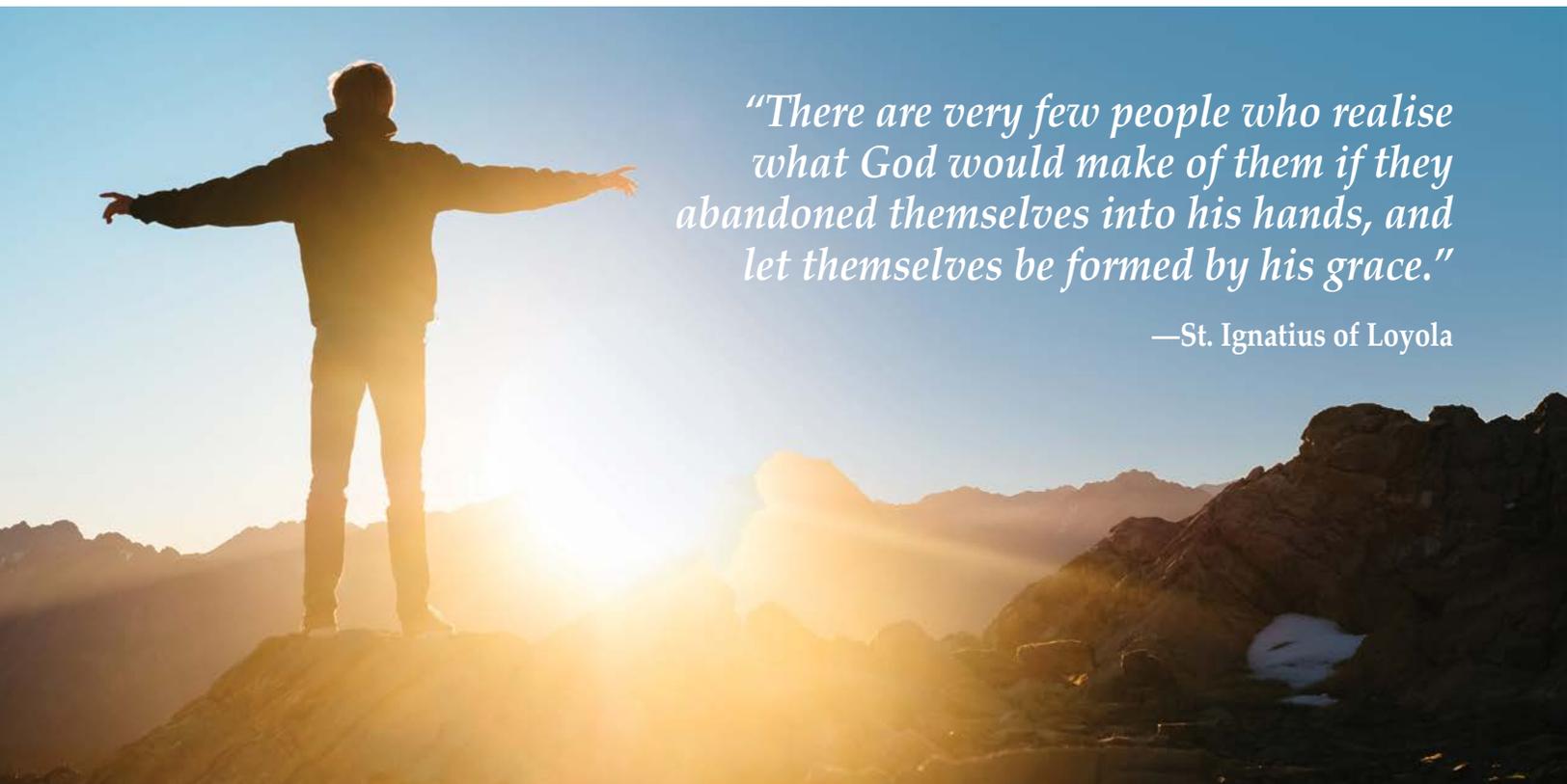
Prayer & Invitation

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: Peyton@rescue vocations.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

Erin Lyons
Sisters of the Holy Cross

Elizabeth Luna
Missionaries Guadalupanas of the Holy Spirit

Hector Ramirez
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Jean Clumson-Eklu
Congregation of Saint John

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

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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

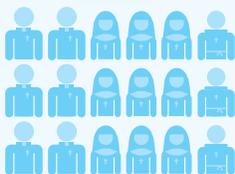
- Are discerning a vocation and have been accepted into a diocese or religious institute
- Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans
- Are trained by Labouré in Catholic-based fundraising and are provided with practical tools, personal mentoring, and accountability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



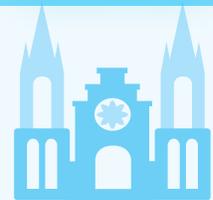
Raised by Labouré aspirants since 2003

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.