

This is my Vocation Story

Brittany Behrens

Community:
Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods

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My name is Brittany Behrens. The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods are inviting me to serve Christ and share His love and hope to the world. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I am from Howell, New Jersey and am the middle child among my two sisters. I enjoy hiking, playing board games, reading about classical studies, horseback riding, and playing soccer.

My Faith

I grew up in a Catholic family and my faith was an integral part of my childhood. My enthusiasm for the faith was genuine; however, I quickly started to feel lost when my family fell away from the Church eleven years later. I spent time focusing on my prayer life, but without any real direction. It was challenging. As the years went by, I desired to be a practicing Christian again, worship God with others, and to better understand my faith as an adult.

I attended a small women's college in rural Virginia. I was attracted to the idea of being part of a community of women who were rich in tradition, focused on working to better themselves, and supporting of each other. While in school, I joined a Theology on Tap group lead by a local Presbyterian pastor and continued to be involved in my campus's spiritual life office.

My Vocation

In college I felt called to pursue religious life although it took me a while to explore that calling. I signed up for a Christianity course and among the assigned readings were the Epistles of Paul and the apocryphal Acts of Thecla. I was very moved by both readings and felt drawn to their dedication to chastity and living a life of service to God. I began asking my roommate at the time, who was a devout Catholic, every hard hitting question about Catholicism that I'd heard. She patiently answered all of my questions and I am so thankful she did because, in my Junior year, I returned to the Church. The day I first returned to Mass, the reading was about the lost sheep being returned to the flock. There was no question, I was home.

After my confirmation, I started attending Mass and small group meetings at my parish, volunteering for ministries, and researching religious communities. I couldn't ignore the feeling anymore; I had to pursue religious life.



Called to Serve

I found the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. I was attracted to their mission of serving those in need along with their emphasis of the importance of eco justice in our world right now. Their charisms are love, mercy, and justice. I like the way those play into one another, starting from a place of love, coming to a place of empathy, and then being inspired into action.

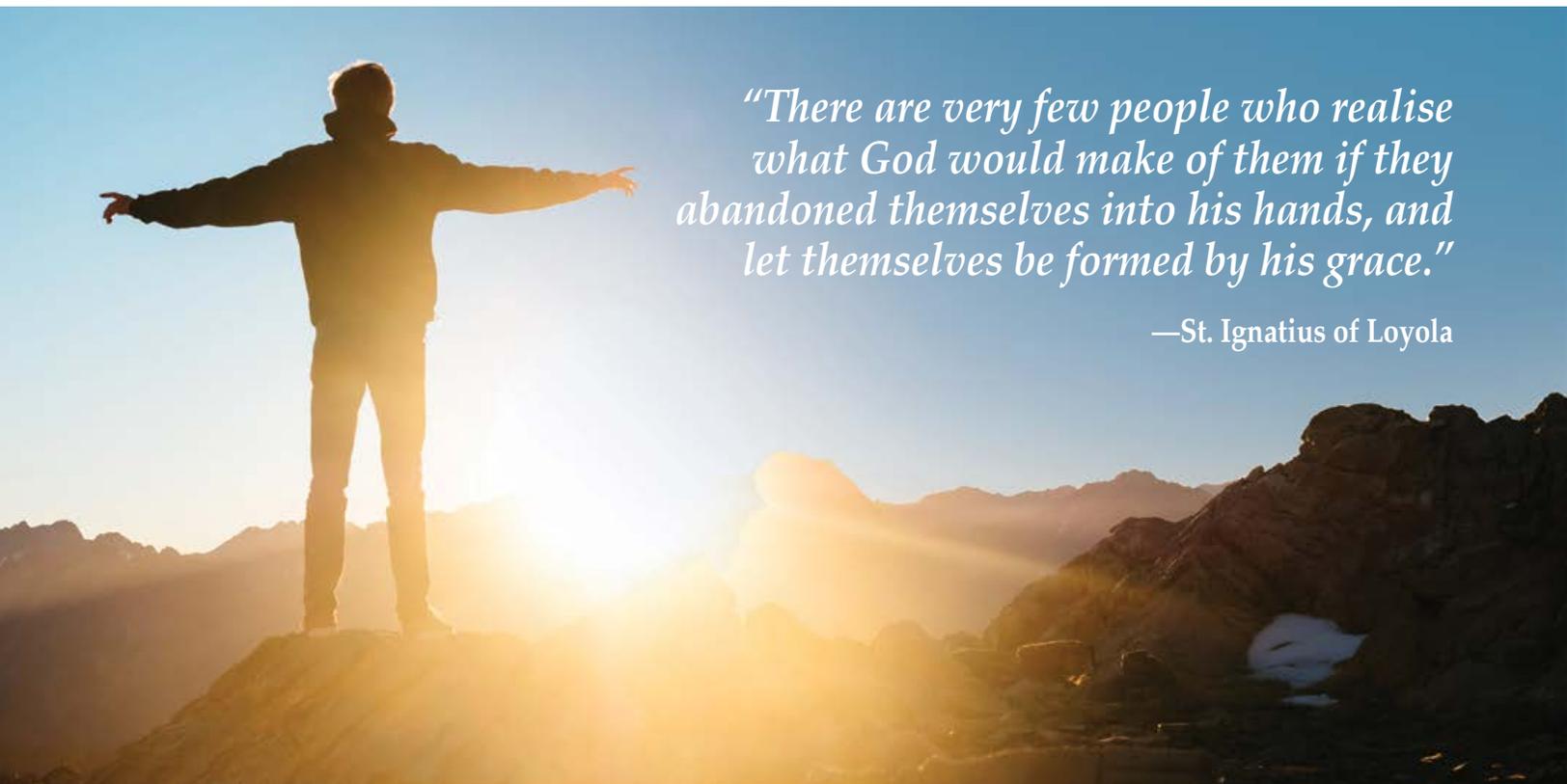
Every time I visit the sisters I am impressed with the many different and relevant ministries they have. I am drawn to their spiritual and social ministries and how the sisters are challenged to do things they never dreamed possible because their community sees and cultivates the gifts within them. I find this in their prayer life as well. They use a wide variety of prayer styles and reflection techniques which opens up new ways of seeing how God moves in creation and in your own life.

"I started attending Mass and...researching religious communities. I couldn't ignore the feeling anymore; I had to pursue religious life."

—Brittany Behrens

Prayer & Invitation

Please join me in prayer for all those called to enter religious life. And I ask you to pray for my fellow Labouré classmates and I as we continue our journey to follow our vocations. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you might have at: brittany@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

Joseph Lynch
Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

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)

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
Discalced 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?



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?

325+



Assisted into formation to the priesthood or religious life

\$8.6 MILLION



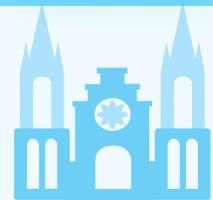
Raised by Labouré aspirants since 2003

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.