

This is my Vocation Story



Maggie Verhiley

Community:
Sisters of Life

Alma Mater:
Marian University, Indianapolis

Phone:
(574) 304-4617

Email:
Maggie@rescuevocations.org

My name is Maggie Verhiley. I am called to serve Christ and humanity as a member of the Sisters of Life. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I was raised in South Bend, Indiana in a large Catholic family (the fifth of seven children). On Sundays we would attend Mass and also end each day with prayer time, which included a Bible passage and a homily from my father. This helped me to become well versed in my faith from an early age.

As a cradle Catholic, I was well versed in my faith from an early age. I was blessed to have grown up in a family where questions about faith were encouraged and my parents were eager to answer.

During grade school I became an altar server, and I remained active at church throughout high school (in addition to participating in cheerleading, lacrosse, and other school-based activities).

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—Maggie Verhiley

My Faith

Toward the end of high school I visited Marian University. It was a small Catholic school with a faith-based scholarship program, a good nursing program, and the people were very welcoming. It seemed like a great fit for me, so I enrolled in the nursing program as well as the San Damiano program. Nursing school instilled a love for labor and delivery, and after graduation I got my dream job as a labor and delivery nurse in Indianapolis.

During spring break, 2019, I visited New York with a friend and we attended a “Come and See” event with the Sisters of Life. I’d been somewhat apprehensive about participating as I was not discerning a religious vocation at that time, but hearing about their charism was grace-filled – it was as if someone were reading the poem of my heart. During adoration, I experienced a particular stillness and peace. I seemed to hear Jesus say, “will you give up your life for me as I gave up mine for you?” With this calling came the intense grace to fearlessly say “yes” to whatever the Lord was asking me to do.



My Vocation

In the ensuing months, I spent a lot of time pondering these things and examining my heart. Wishing to keep it sacred, I shared my discernment with only a few close friends. I began meeting with a spiritual director weekly, and Jesus walked with me gently, sweetly, and patiently. Later that year I spent a day with the Sisters of Life, and it was that weekend I fully committed to discerning religious life.

Called to Serve

In November, 2020, I had an extended stay with the sisters in order to experience their daily life. Every act was touched by their charism. I admired the way they loved and served each other while caring for the pregnant women who entered their convents. They performed every task with love and joy; it was the most authentic femininity I had ever witnessed in my life, and in the depths of my heart I desired to be every bit as loving and joyful for Jesus.

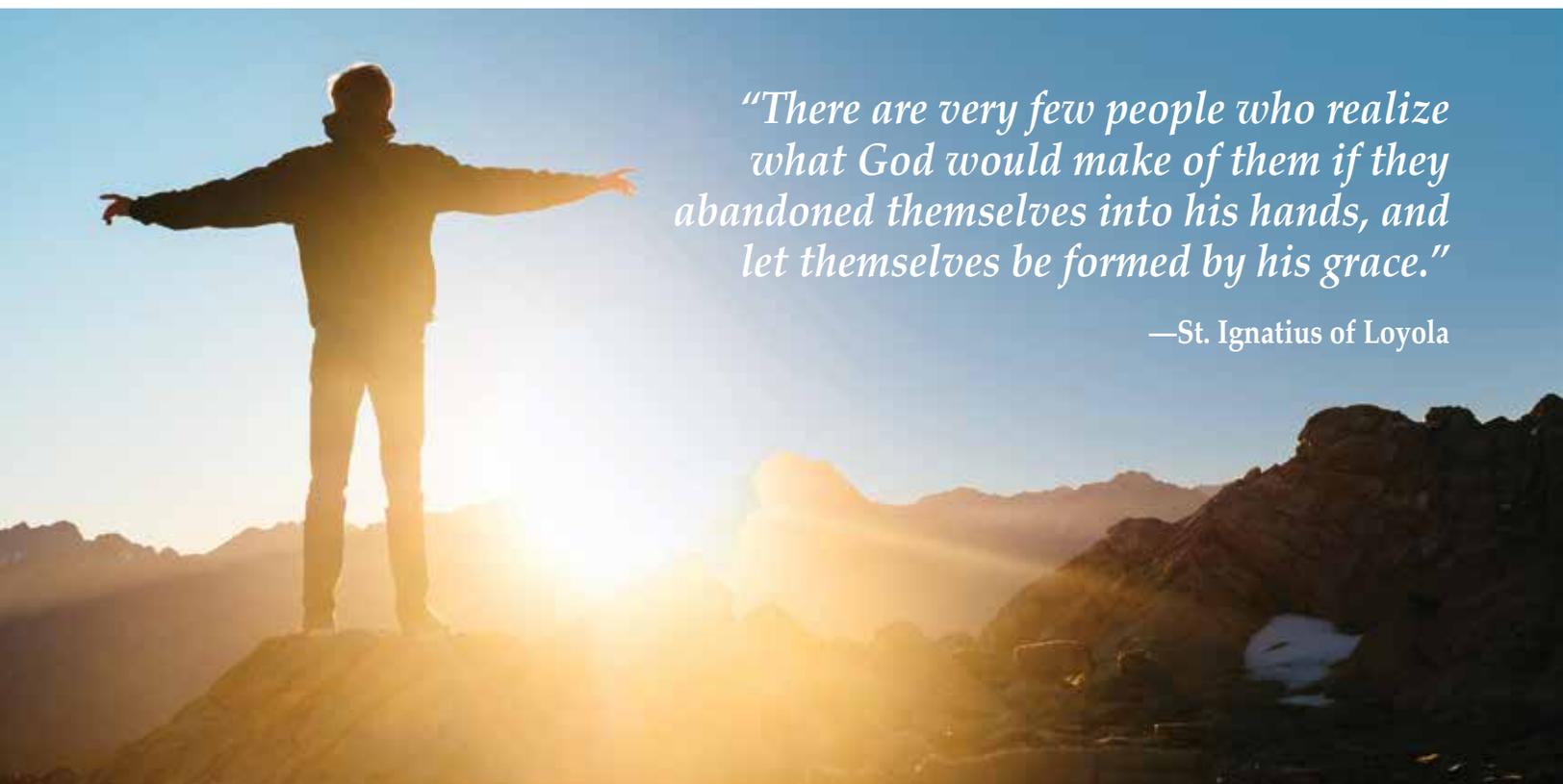
Being a Sister of Life means loving every person you encounter with the heart of Jesus. They take vows of poverty, chastity, obedience, and a fourth vow to protect and enhance the sacredness of every human life. I look forward to serving these women, and the pregnant women they care for, knowing Jesus made me a labor and delivery nurse in preparation for this vocation. I am excited to love the mothers and their children and become a spiritual mother to them, as well as to people all around the world.

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Prayer & Invitation

Please pray that my fellow Labouré classmates and I can resolve the student loan debt blocking our path to religious life. With your help, our class will soon reach its goal of serving Christ and humanity. Please reach out with any questions you might have at: Maggie@rescuevocations.org.



“There are very few people who realize 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.

Ben Steary
Dominican Province of Saint Albert the Great

Hannah Houser
Sisters of Saint Francis of Oldenburg

Jim Musgrave
Archdiocese of Detroit, Michigan

Sean Sontz
The Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter

Maggie Verhiley
Sisters of Life

Chrissy Tworek
Handmaids of the Precious Blood

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

Hector Ramirez
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Sam Dugan
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Erin Lyons
Sisters of the Holy Cross

Rebecca Goldberger
Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Nick Alescio
Diocese of Trenton

Julian Salas
Secular Institute of Schoenstatt Fathers

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

Devin Ray
St. Bernard Abbey

Zoë Lamborn
Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Wichita

Tyler Wisniewski
Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Ron Cuenco
Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America

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

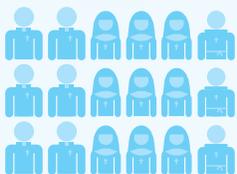
- Are discerning a vocation and have been accepted into a diocese or religious institute
- Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans
- Are trained by Labouré in Catholic-based fundraising and are provided with practical tools, personal mentoring, and accountability
- Share their vocation stories with thousands of Catholic donors, thereby building a culture of vocations and evangelization
- Collectively raise funds as a class of 20-25 aspirants and receive awards from those funds to be applied toward their debt

THE LABOURE SOCIETY

- Works with aspirants to help them 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?

370+



Assisted in their journey to answer God's call

\$810 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.