

This is my Vocation Story



Isis Leslie

Community:
Our Lady of Confidence Carmelite Monastery

Alma Mater:
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Phone:
(908) 227-7147

Email:
Isis@rescuevocations.org

My name is Isis Leslie. I am called to serve Christ and humanity as a Discalced Carmelite nun at Our Lady of Confidence Carmelite Monastery. This is my story.

In the Beginning

My parents did not raise me and my siblings in any faith while we were growing up. However, when I was four, I dreamed that I visited God on a mountain and this always stayed with me. I believe this was God's way of showing me His presence and, though I did not understand it at the time, He would use this to help draw me to my vocation later on.

I started learning more about God through my Jewish neighbors who taught me Hebrew; books that introduced me to sacraments and women religious; and the suburban Chicago Catholic high school I attended one summer.

My Faith

It wasn't until much later in my life, while I was working on my doctorate in political theory, that I began to realize there was more to reality than I was finding in my secular studies. When a Christian professor gave me text for my dissertation research on Ralph Waldo Emerson that offered a Catholic perspective, I wanted to know more about the faith.

Because of my dissertation, I began to discover deeper aspects of Catholicism which came alive in me. I learned about the Church's social teaching when I worked at Georgetown University, and I wanted to be part of it. I found St. Ignatius of Loyola's Spiritual Exercises in the university's library, and I felt that the saint understood more about the unseen reality that I'd been experiencing. I knew that I wanted to become Catholic and after more discernment I entered the Church in 2010, with the support and prayers of my siblings and friends.

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—Isis Leslie



My Vocation

From the time of my baptism, I knew the Lord was calling me to the consecrated life. It was not an entirely new sense because I'd long been interested in the life of religious nuns and sisters.

When I was at Mass one day in Washington, D.C., I met nuns from Our Lady of Confidence Monastery. They kept coming to mind and two years later I asked to make a discernment retreat at the monastery. I felt at home with the cloistered, contemplative community whose apostolate is prayer. I was attracted to the fact that these nuns spend two hours each day in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and pray especially for the well-being of priests.

Called to Serve

In my discernment, I came to understand that monastic life is a realization of my childhood dream where God revealed Himself to me on a mountain top. I realized that living a life of prayer as a discaled Carmelite nun will be an expression of the Transfiguration where the glorified Christ appeared to Peter, James and John on Mount Tabor and revealed Himself to them. This gave me great peace and confidence in my vocation which God has been preparing me for my entire life.

The Lord has reassured me in a number of ways that he is calling me to Our Lady of Confidence monastery for a life of prayer, discipline and obedience. I've also sensed since my baptism that he wants me to write about what he is showing me. With the nuns of the community, I will serve Christ by praying for priests and the world.

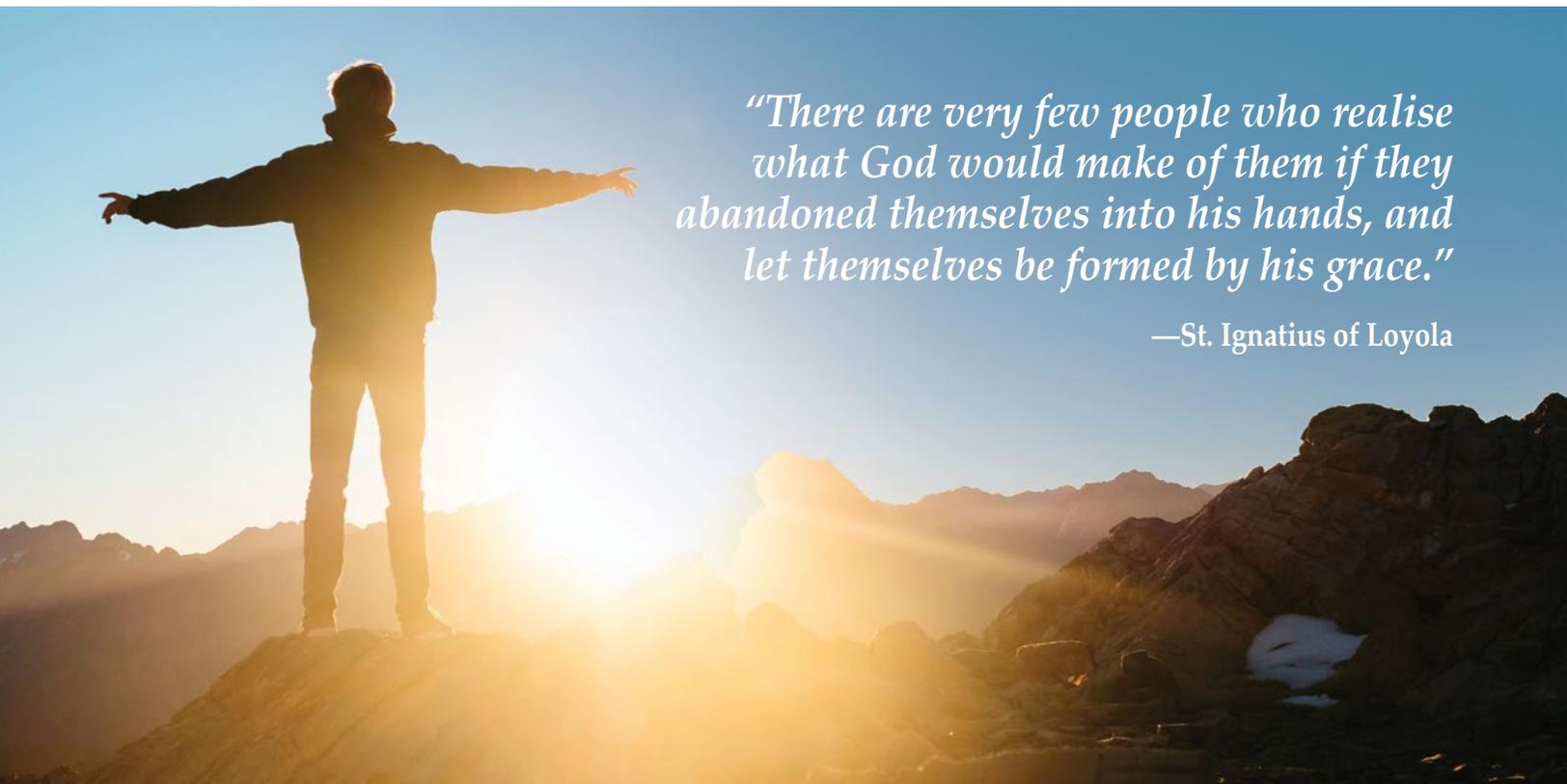
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—Isis Leslie

Prayer & Invitation

Please pray for me and my fellow Labouré classmates as we begin the journey to formation.

Feel free to reach out with any questions you might have at: Isis@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.

MacLean Andrews
Society of Jesus
(Jesuits West)

Jake Smith
Archdiocese of Denver

Anthony Riley
Archdiocese of Detroit

Dan Roberts
Diocese of Pittsburgh

Tyler Wisniewski
Byzantine Catholic
Metropolitan
Archeparchy of
Pittsburgh

Mary Sorteberg
Disciples of the Lord
Jesus Christ

Chrissy Tworek
Handmaids of the
Precious Blood

Isis Leslie
Our Lady of Confidence
Carmelite Monastery

Josh Parmet
Archdiocese of
Philadelphia

Eddie Huber
Diocese of Orange

Rebecca Goldberger
Apostles of the Sacred
Heart of Jesus

Nick Alescio
Diocese of Trenton

Richard Gaunt
Order of Friars Minor
(Franciscan Friars)

Julian Salas
Secular Institute of
Schoenstatt Fathers

Luis Rodarte
Diocese of El Paso

Devin Ray
St. Bernard Abbey

Ari Lima
Archdiocese of Miami

David Torres
Archdiocese of Miami

Morgan Murray
Religious Sisters
of Mercy of Alma,
Michigan

Joseph Silver
Benedictine Monks
of Our Lady of Clear
Creek Abbey

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

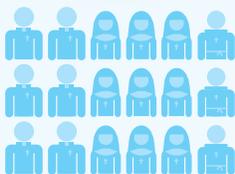
THE LABOURÉ SOCIETY



- 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?

370+



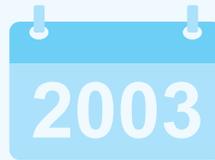
Assisted into formation to the priesthood or religious life

\$10 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.