

# DONATE

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# This is my Vocation Story



Morgan Murray

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*My name is Morgan Murray. The Religious Sisters of Mercy are inviting me to serve Christ and His Church. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I was raised Catholic in a loving home by my father (a cradle Catholic) and my mother (a convert from Methodist upbringing). Even before my mother converted to the Catholic Church, my parents made sure that we attended Mass on Sundays and Holy Days as a family. They ensured that both my brother and I received a Catholic education for elementary and middle school and a Christian education for high school. I thrived in the Catholic school environment and the seeds of faith were planted, nourished, and able to take root. This is where the foundation for my prayer life was laid.

## My Faith

I've had times throughout my life where I was more serious about my faith than others. I never went completely away from the faith, but I certainly strayed for a time. I was a very devout child, and into middle school felt a call to religious life. I maintained my faith in high school and college, but then pushed away the idea of religious life and focused more on my education.

After completing graduate school and moving back to my hometown, I started attending Mass at my home parish and became involved in the parish life. It didn't take long before I started to experience a deep restlessness that I didn't understand. I felt like something was missing from my life. After attending a parish mission, I began having a weekly Adoration Hour at my parish and eventually added a second and third hour. I couldn't explain why, but the restlessness went away when I was there, and I wanted to spend as much time at the church as I could.

*“Our Eucharistic Lord asked me, ‘Why are you looking for a spouse when I am the Perfect Spouse?’ I hope to joyfully respond to His call everyday by uniting my heart with His.”*

—Morgan Murray

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# My Vocation

One Sunday, my pastor gave a homily about the vocation of marriage and mentioned the importance of praying for your future spouse. This wasn't something I had thought to do before, so I started. One morning during my Adoration Hour, I was praying when I heard the Lord ask me, "Why are you looking for a spouse when I am the Perfect Spouse?" I looked around the tiny chapel because the voice was so "loud" that I felt like it must have been asked out loud, but I knew in my heart Who had spoken.

I asked the Lord if he was calling me to religious life again. He graciously, kindly, and patiently said that He had been waiting for me and was inviting me to be His in a special way. I answered that I would follow wherever He would lead and asked Him to stay with me the whole way. Ever since that day, nothing has been more important than my relationship with Him.

## Called to Serve

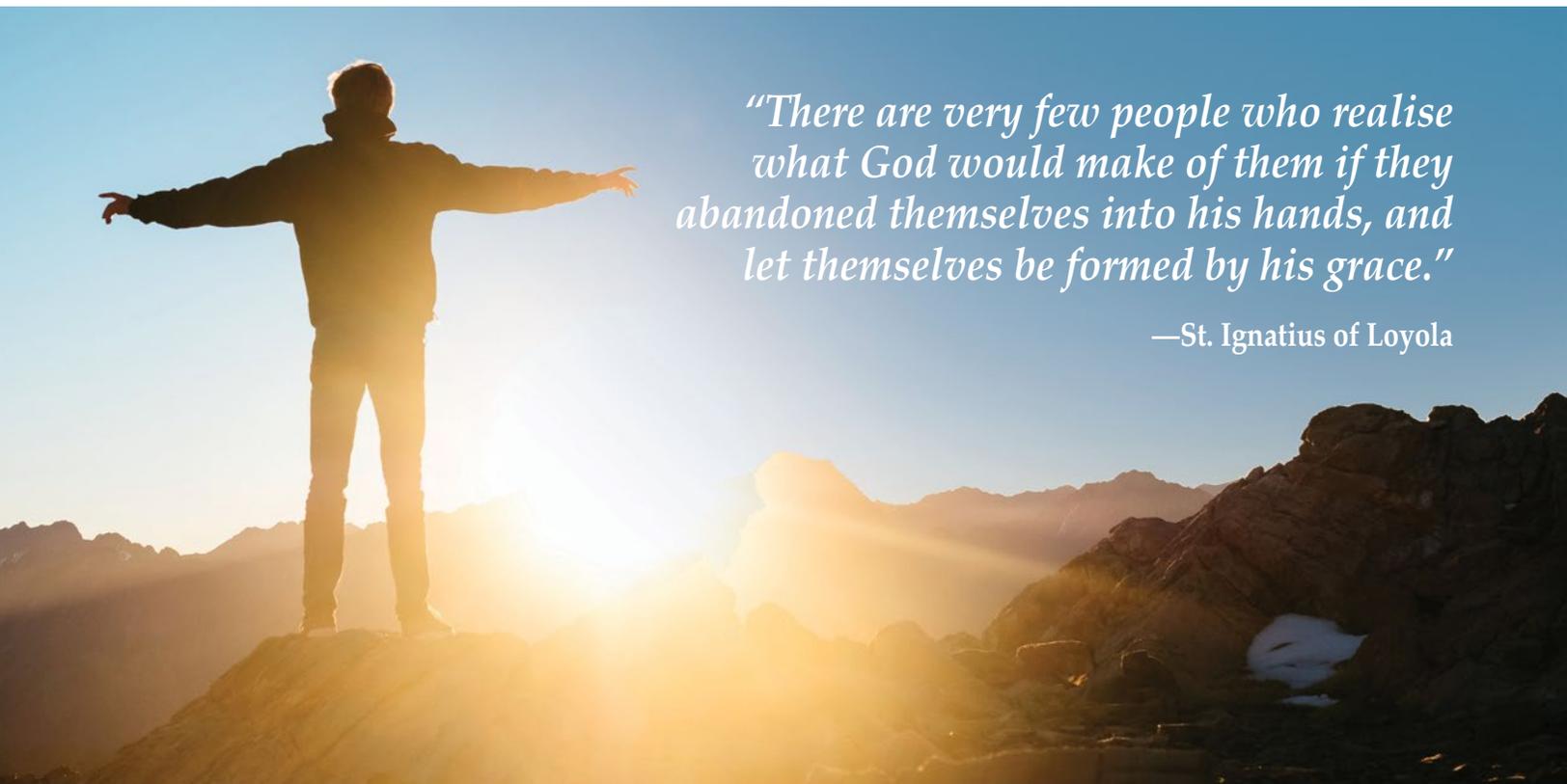
When I first learned of the Religious Sisters of Mercy, I was initially drawn to their life of service through works of mercy. As a pediatric nurse practitioner I was interested to learn that many of the Sisters work in health care. As I learned more about the Sisters, their daily routine of prayer as a community, which includes Mass and a Eucharistic Holy Hour, is what appealed to me the most. Though they work in several different areas of service, their priority is their relationship with Jesus as His bride. After spending time with the Sisters, I have come to understand that they are spouses of Christ before all else. This resonates with me because of the way Christ called me to my vocation by inviting me specifically into a spousal relationship with Him. I desire to serve the One who has called me to be His and bring others to Him so they can experience the same love and mercy that He has shown me.

*"I desire to serve the One who has called me to be His. I want to bring others to Him that they too may experience the love and mercy He has shown me."*

—Morgan Murray

## 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: [Morgan@rescuevocations.org](mailto:Morgan@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 31<sup>st</sup> 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)*

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# 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

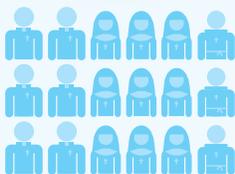
### THE LABOURÉ SOCIETY



- 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



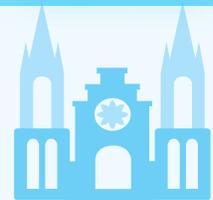
Raised by Labouré aspirants since 2003

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.