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# This is my Vocation Story

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*My name is Bailey O'Hare. I am called to serve Christ and humanity as a Religious Sister of Mercy of Alma, Michigan. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

Growing up in a small Minnesota town, I learned about the Catholic faith, the value of community and the fun of sports. Each Sunday my parents brought my two brothers and me to Mass. They also taught us to pray before meals and before bed. Although I didn't develop a personal relationship with Christ then, this upbringing allowed for an initial foundation to fully enter in deeper with Christ later in my life.

## My Faith

During high school I attended the National Catholic Youth Conference where the youth I saw living their faith inspired me to consider a Catholic college. At Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, I got involved in campus ministry events. While praying before the Blessed Sacrament on a retreat during my freshman year, the Lord gave me the grace to recognize His true presence. I thought, "If that is true, that changes my life!"

*"This upbringing allowed for an initial foundation to fully enter in deeper with Christ later in my life."*

—Bailey O'Hare

While in my college theology class, my classmate, a Religious Sister of Mercy, invited me to join the sisters for a Holy Hour and dinner. I was impressed by their peacefulness and joy, as well as their apostolates of serving the poor, sick, and ignorant through healthcare and education. I discovered it was possible to be both a religious sister and a medical professional.

I saw that joy again in the women who invited me to join their bible study in my dorm. I started going to daily Mass, praying in the chapel and deepening my relationship with Christ.

Slowly, I gave over small parts of my life to Christ, but I sensed He wanted me to offer my entire life. I hoped He would "sign off" on my plan to be a wife, mother and doctor. What came to mind instead was the idea of giving myself as a religious sister.

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## My Vocation

I approached a priest about what I was sensing from the Lord, and he put me in contact with the Religious Sisters of Mercy on campus. I spent more time with the sisters and would walk with one of them often. I told her what I was experiencing and how I longed to be a mother. As she explained spiritual motherhood, I realized that she was being a spiritual mother to me.

Still, I hoped God would lead me toward marriage. After I asked Him for a sign, I kept running into the sisters. Finally, I accepted the grace to surrender my plan and trust Him with my life.

## Called to Serve

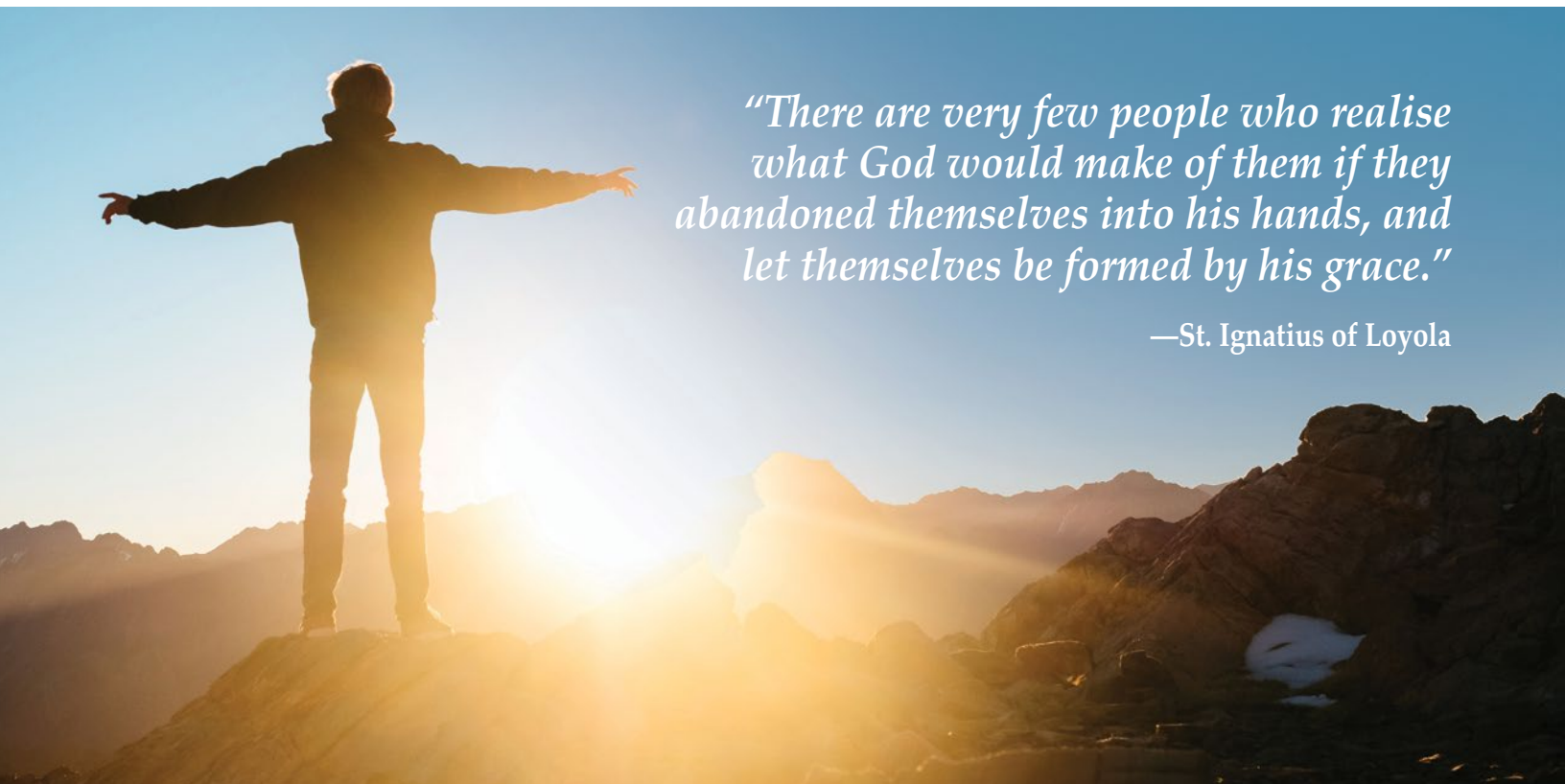
I continued discerning God’s will as I did medical research after college and was accepted at Creighton University School of Medicine. I visited other religious communities, but my time spent at the Religious Sisters of Mercy’s motherhouse was where I felt at home. Their identity as brides of Christ and the fruit flowing from their prayer into their apostolates resonated with me. I shared their desire to care for people’s physical, spiritual, mental, and intellectual needs.

With peace and joy, I look forward to living out the community’s charism of mercy as a sister and contributing to their life of prayer and mission of comprehensive healthcare.

## 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: [Bailey@rescuevocations.org](mailto:Bailey@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.

## With your help, we will rebuild the Church!

My goal is to raise \$60,000 (the average student loan amount) before June 30<sup>th</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!

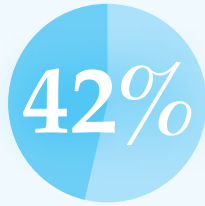
Our vocations story videos are online at: [www.RescueVocations.org](http://www.RescueVocations.org)

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# Why is Labouré Needed?



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

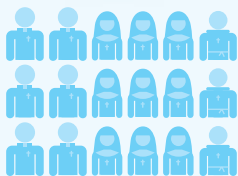
### THE LABOURE SOCIETY



- 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?

370+



Assisted into formation to the priesthood or religious life

\$10 MILLION



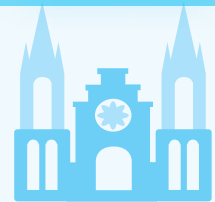
Raised by Labouré aspirants since 2003

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.