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This is my Vocation Story

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My name is Latonja Taylor. I am called to serve Christ and humanity as a nun with the Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I grew up in Chicago as a Baptist, with devout gospel singers in my family. However, we did not actively practice the Baptist faith. My mom had a beautiful voice and was often requested to sing at churches. Although I did not inherit my mother's gift, I did inherit her artistic skills, so during school I participated in art programs and ran track.

My Faith

Slowly, throughout my life, the Lord brought me closer to Himself through the influence of various friends. It wasn't until after college, during my tours in Europe, that I was exposed to the Catholic Church. I was impressed when I saw the beauty of several churches and heard about the history behind the church, priests, and saints. Their stories made me think, "God really does take care of his people." I was in awe as I saw some religious sisters for the first time and I remember thinking, "how does a person become a Catholic nun?" I never asked and at the time I was not sure what their life was like. However, I started kneeling and praying in the churches out of respect for Christ and thanking God for allowing me to travel and see all the beautiful churches that I had never experienced before.

Into my adulthood, God took me by storm. My faith caught me at a pivotal moment in my life. One evening, I attended an all Women Conference and the speaker told her story testifying to what God had done for her during her trials. I was moved and thought, "I want to know more about Jesus." That night at home, I lit a candle, turned off the light, and meditated. I asked Jesus which religion should I follow, Catholicism or Judaism? After a

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time of prayer and research, the question was resolved: Catholicism it is!

My Vocation

In 2016, I joined RCIA at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis and on Easter of 2017, I entered into the Church. As Christ continued to help me grow, I joined the Ministry of Care, Extraordinary Eucharist Ministry, and the Johanna Prayer Ministry. Within two years after becoming Catholic, God had me taking baby steps into consecrated life. Before I knew what hit me, I was up all night looking at different orders for discernment.

Called to Serve

Through patience and perseverance, God led me to the Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare. I hope to fully blossom like a flower into the image of Christ, and focus on the Sacred Heart of Jesus through prayer for the world. I desire to serve, in the same way as St. Clare, the example of the love of Christ. The Franciscans of St. Clare's mission is to pray for the needs of the Church, the world, and all people, and I hope to please God with that mission.

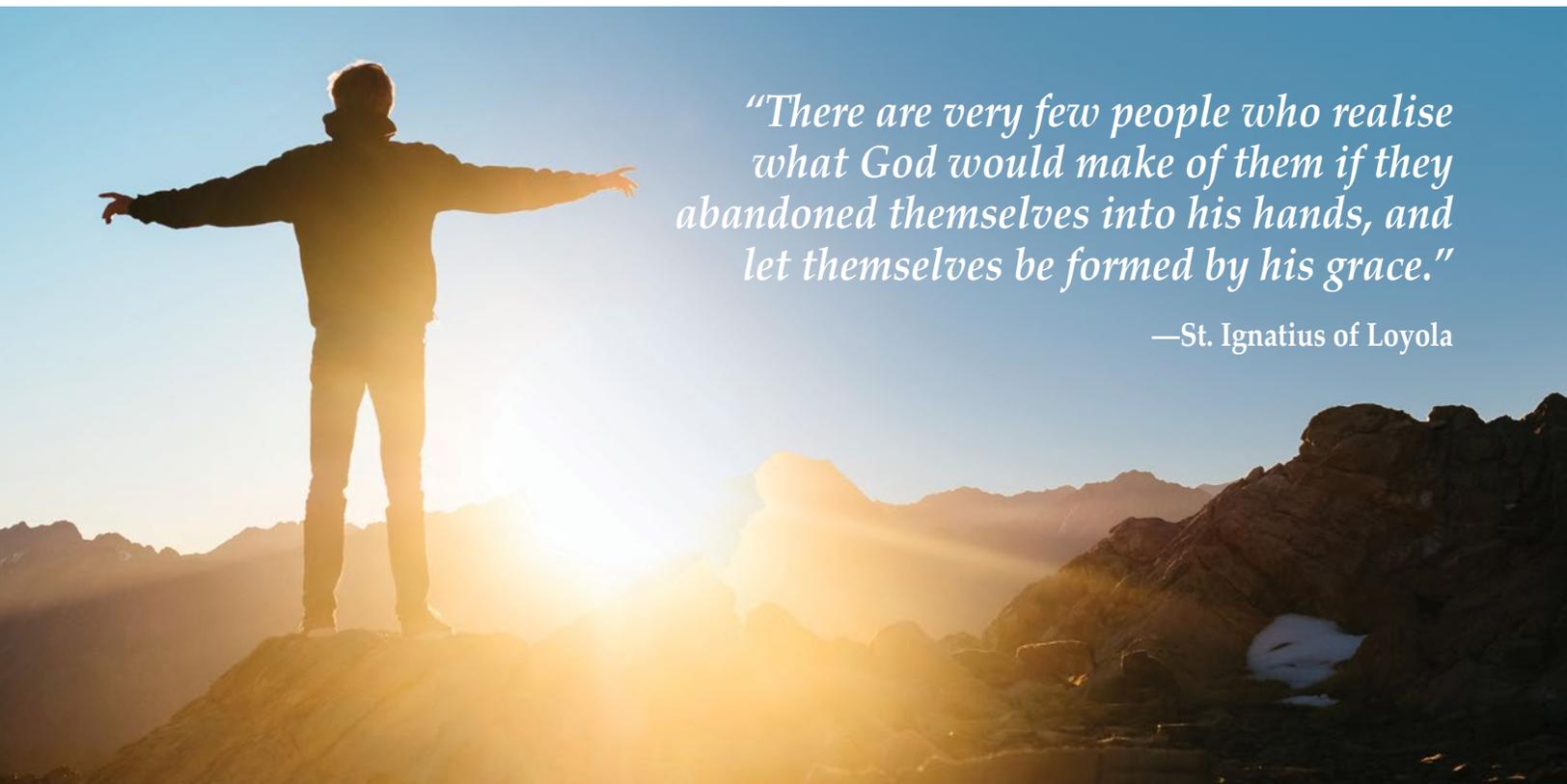
"I desire to serve, in the same way as St. Clare, the example of the love of Christ."

—Latonja Taylor

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: Latonja@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.

Each individual is represented by a circular portrait and a text block containing their name and affiliation. The map shows various states highlighted in different colors, indicating the geographic distribution of the aspirants.

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

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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

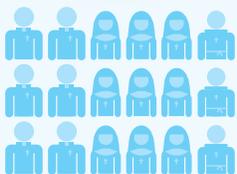
THE LABOURE SOCIETY



- 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.