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LABOURÉ

This is my Vocation Story



Latonja Taylor

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Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare (Cincinnati)

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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."*

—Latonja Taylor

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.

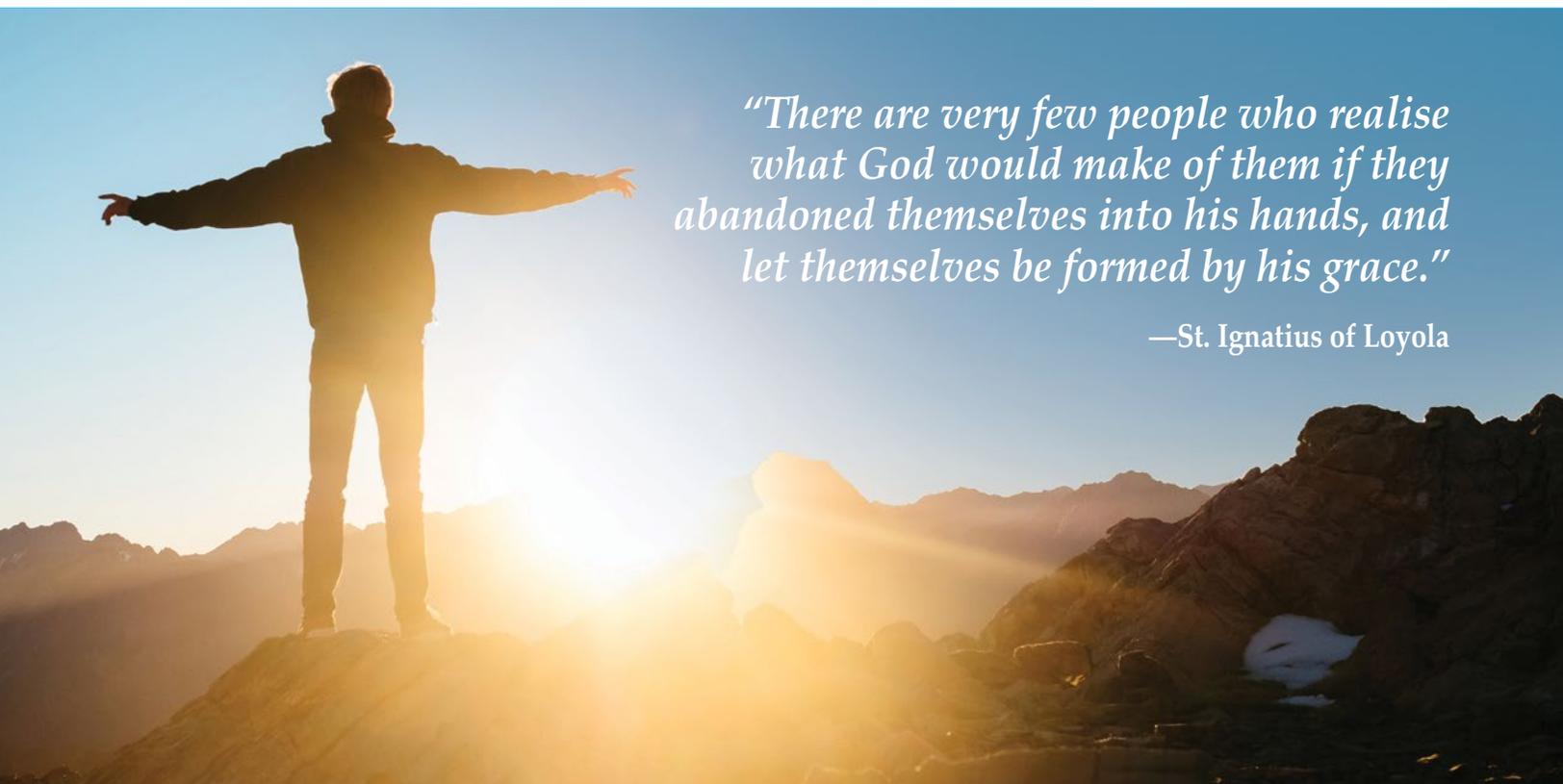
"I desire to serve, in the same way as St. Clare, the example of the love of Christ."

—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.



Luis Cano
Society of Jesus
(Jesuits)



Latonja Taylor
Franciscan Monastery
of St. Clare
(Cincinnati)



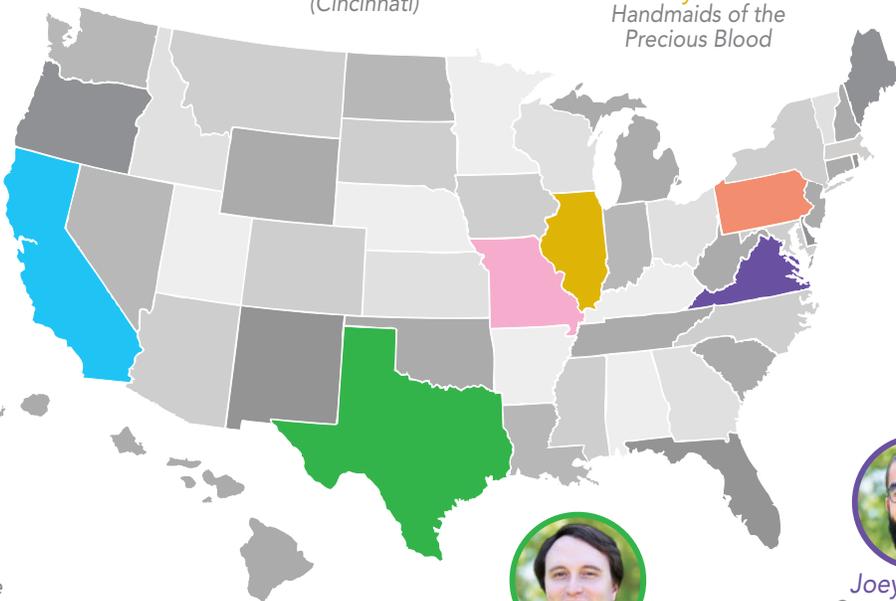
Chrissy Tworek
Handmaids of the
Precious Blood



Tyler Wisniewski
Byzantine Catholic
Archdiocese of
Pittsburgh



Aloni Bonilla
Koinonia John the
Baptist



Alex Hilton
Institute of
Christ the King
Sovereign Priest



Jacob Lozano
Canons Regular of the
Immaculate Conception



Brendan Devine
Diocese of
Fréjus-Toulon
(France)



Joey Dumais
Community of the
Franciscan Friars
of the Renewal (CFRs)

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

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Why is Labouré Needed?



The average amount of educational loans blocking aspirants in Labouré from answering God's call*



Many religious communities cannot afford to assume their aspirants' loan debts



Most dioceses will allow some debt but have a limited threshold for acceptance



Supported by 50+ bishops & 150+ religious communities to help deliver their aspirants debt-free

How does the Mission Work?

OUR ASPIRANTS

Are discerning a vocation and have been selected 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, 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 upon joining the program

Trains each aspirant in Catholic-based philanthropy

Mentors each aspirant to build a unified class; each individual works toward the collective goal

Accompanies each aspirant through ongoing accountability and guidance to ensure successful completion of individual and class fundraising plans

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?

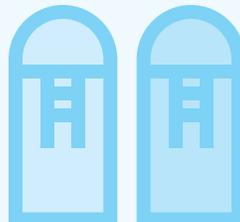
380+



Assisted into formation for the priesthood or religious life

SEPARATE FUNDING SOURCES

100% of aspirant-raised funds go to the direct benefit of aspirants in the program



Labouré Staff raise separate funding for overhead and general operation expenses

One organization - two separate silos of funds. Labouré supports vocations at no cost to the aspirant or their institution.

\$11.5 MILLION



Raised by Labouré aspirants since 2003

*According to 2022 Forbes Magazine, the national average education loan debt can be as high as \$40k. For aspirants in the Labouré program the average debt is \$60k-80k. 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.