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LABOURÉ



This is my Vocation Story

Chrissy Tworek

Community:
Handmaids of the Precious Blood

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My name is Chrissy Tworek. I am called to serve Christ and humanity as a religious sister with the Handmaids of the Precious Blood. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I was baptized Catholic. Growing up my family and I did go to Mass most Sundays and CCD on Saturday mornings, but we had no great devotion to the Eucharist, our Blessed Mother, or the Sacred Heart. My faith was always important to me, and it was by the grace of God that even though sometimes it was fighting against the noise of the world, Our Lord always held me in His Hands and never let me wander too far.

My Faith

From my earliest years, I remember feeling physically sick if I knew we had to miss Mass. I didn't understand why Sunday Mass was so important, but I just knew I had to be there. Even with my limited understanding of the faith, the little knowledge I possessed of the depths He went to for my salvation (including shedding His Own Precious Blood) made a deep impression.

The deepening of my faith started in my junior year of college while attending the Catholic church near campus. I volunteered to teach Religious Education and learned the Hail Mary, the Glory Be, and the Act of Contrition right alongside my students.

At first, I was drawn by my senses to the faith - the comforting smells of incense and burning candle wax, and the beautiful sound of the bells from the bell tower and at the consecration. There was a warmth and peace that I found in my new parish, and this allowed me to be open to being drawn deeper.

Before long, I was going to confession every Saturday morning. I also started attending Bible studies and adult formation courses at my new parish. A spark to learn my faith lit up my life!

My Vocation

In time, I discovered my identity in God. If you'd have asked me on December 27, 2014, at the beginning of my discernment, what my identity was, I wouldn't have known how to respond.

"As I've spent more and more time with Jesus in prayer...I have come to realize who I am: I am the daughter of the Father, the beloved of the Son, and the sacred vessel of the Holy Spirit."

—Chrissy Tworek

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“I was excited with the thought of becoming a religious sister... I soon fell in love with the balanced ebb and flow of prayer and work.”

—Chrissy Tworek

As I’ve spent more and more time with Jesus in prayer, inviting Him into my daily life, I’ve come to realize who I am: I am the daughter of the Father, the beloved of the Son, and the sacred vessel of the Holy Spirit.

It is said that if you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans. I had the plans to marry a good, holy Catholic husband - to stay at home and homeschool our pew full of children. I would have said, early in my discernment, that if God was calling me to be a religious sister, I would go kicking and screaming into the convent.

Saint Augustine tells us “To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek Him the greatest adventure; to find Him, the greatest human achievement.” I have found this great romance!

Called to Serve

As I realized I was being called to religious life, I began researching and visiting communities. I was excited with the thought of becoming a religious Sister, a Bride of Christ. I soon fell in love with the balanced ebb and flow of prayer and work.

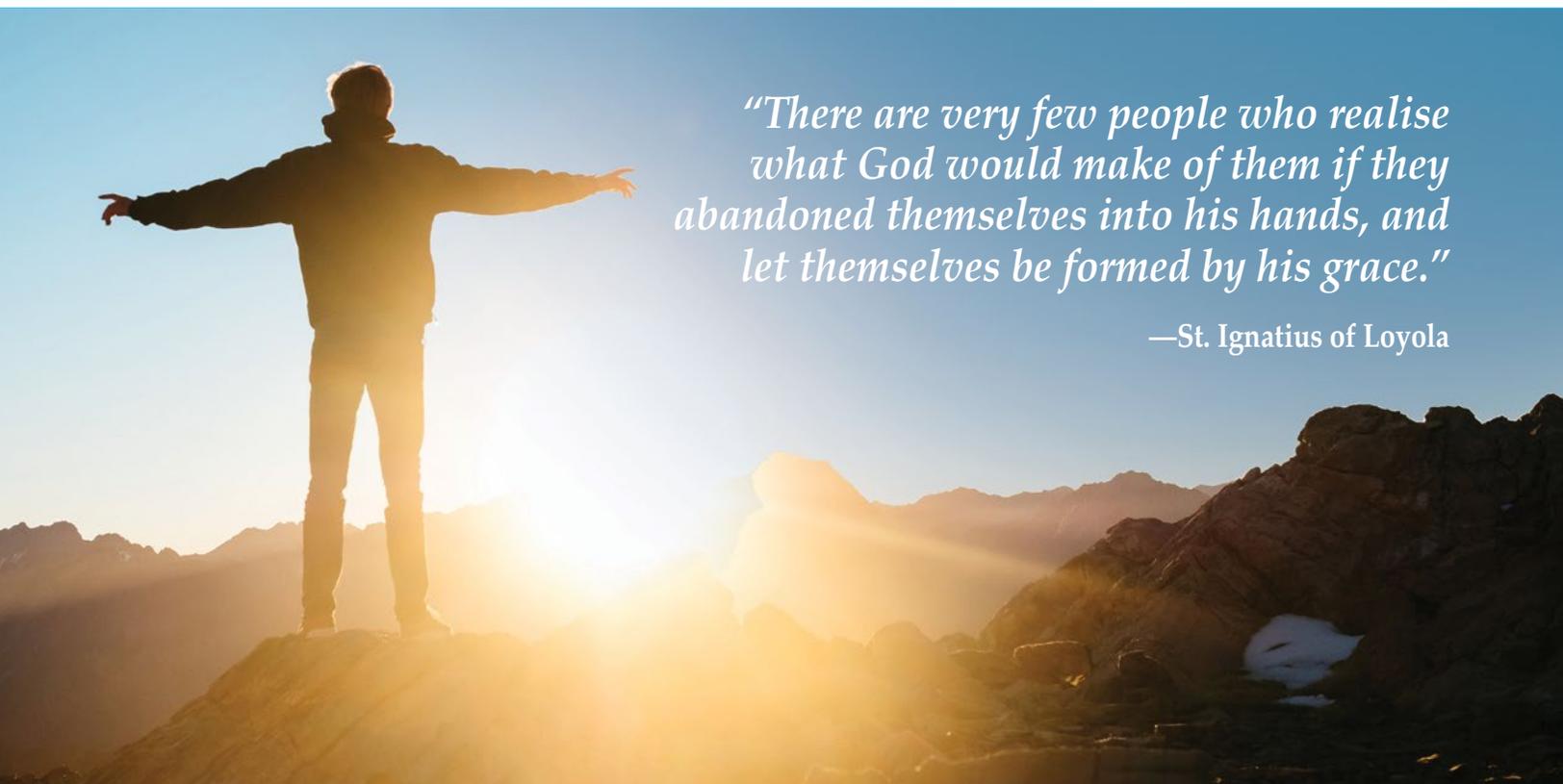
While visiting the Handmaids of the Precious Blood, it became clear they were everything I was looking for and more than I could ever imagine. This particular community appeals to me because the Sisters live very simple lives, offering their prayers and hidden sacrifices for the priesthood. Daily Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and an unswerving loyalty to the Holy Father are aspects their charism that are also meaningful to me.

In prayer, Jesus revealed to me that my heart was created for Him alone, that my prayers and sacrifices were to be offered for the sanctification of priests, and that I was being called to join the Handmaids of the Precious Blood. Saying “yes” to becoming a Bride of Christ has been the easiest yes of my life.

As a contemplative nun, I look forward to joyfully offering my prayers and sacrifices so that strong priests may persevere, despairing priests may be fortified in Christ, and those who are poor in spirit will have their faith restored by the grace of God through good and holy priests.

Prayer & Invitation

Please pray that my fellow Labouré classmates and I can resolve the student loan debt blocking our path to religious life. With your help, our class will soon reach its goal of serving Christ and humanity. Please reach out with any questions you might have at: Chrissy@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)



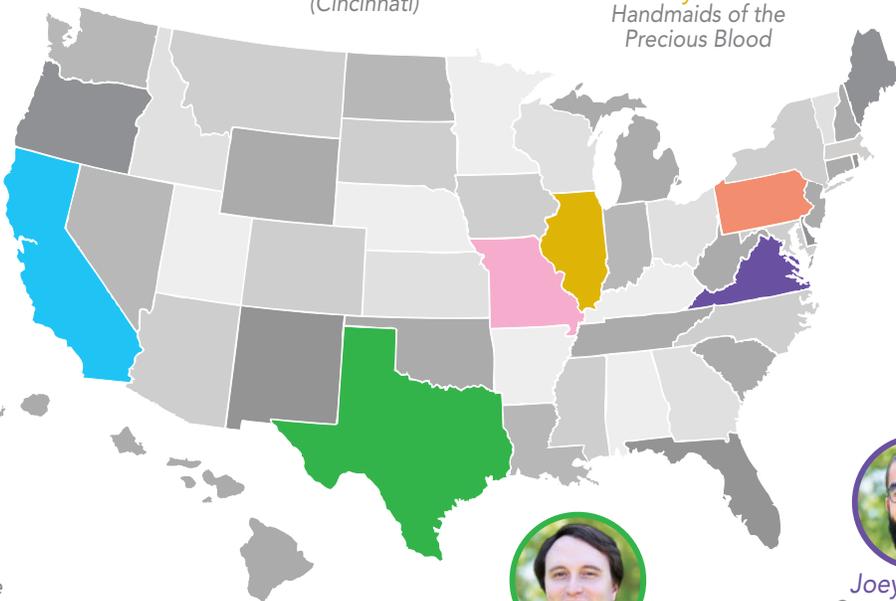
Chrissy Tworek
Handmaids of the
Precious Blood



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?

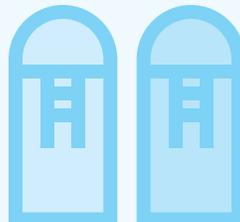
380+



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.