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# This is my Vocation Story

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*My name is Alexandra Buchlmayer. I am called to strive for perfection in God's love by living in His Divine Presence as a nun with the Passionist Nuns of St. Joseph Monastery. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I grew up in a Catholic family, and always loved attending Mass. From the time I was three years old, I remember dragging my grandma to the front pew so that I could see what was happening. I remember watching the choir, and thinking to myself that one day I, too, would join the church choir.

I was blessed to attend Catholic schools for most of my education, which allowed me to grow in my faith even as a child. I loved reading the Children's Rhyming Bible, my favorite book growing up. I would read those stories over and over again. I wrote out prayers that I would place in a prayer box for God to receive while I was sleeping. My teachers noticed and encouraged my faith; my fourth-grade teacher even gave me a copy of St. Therese of Lisieux's *Story of A Soul*, saying that I reminded her of St. Therese. She and others helped sow the seeds of a religious vocation in my young heart.

*“Christ my Beloved Spouse,  
In mercy and in love,  
Let my flesh become Your Flesh,  
My blood, Your Blood.  
I shall live and die for You O’  
Sweetest Desire.”*

—Alexandra Buchlmayer

My faith deepened in high school when I got my driver's license and was now able to attend Mass every weekend. I also joined our school's rosary club and began to take an interest in theology.

## My Vocation

During high school, several people, including my school chaplain and parish priest, asked if I had ever considered religious life, but it wasn't until I began preparing for Confirmation that I really took the question seriously. At that point, I decided that if I truly desired to follow God's will, then I needed to be open to whatever it was. I began truly praying about my vocation and seeking to discern how the Lord was calling me to live.



Throughout college, I attended daily Mass, which helped grow my faith and aided in my discernment.

It was in a time of prayer during Adoration that I knew God was calling me to be a religious sister. Although I had been afraid of what my friends and family would think, and of the idea of giving up marriage and family life, as soon as I said “yes” to the Lord, I felt those fears melt away and I was left with a deep sense of peace.

## Called to Serve

I discovered the Passionist Nuns on the feast day of their founder, St. Paul of the Cross. I loved their devotion to the Passion of Christ, a devotion I have had since high school when I first began meditating on sitting at the foot of the Cross.

The mission of the Passionist Nuns is to spread a greater devotion to the Passion of Christ, to make His great love and sacrifice more well known. This is done both through intercessory prayer and through the retreat houses they run where people can come and encounter Christ to find grace, healing, and salvation through His Passion. I look forward to joining this mission and bringing souls closer to Christ through prayer and penance.

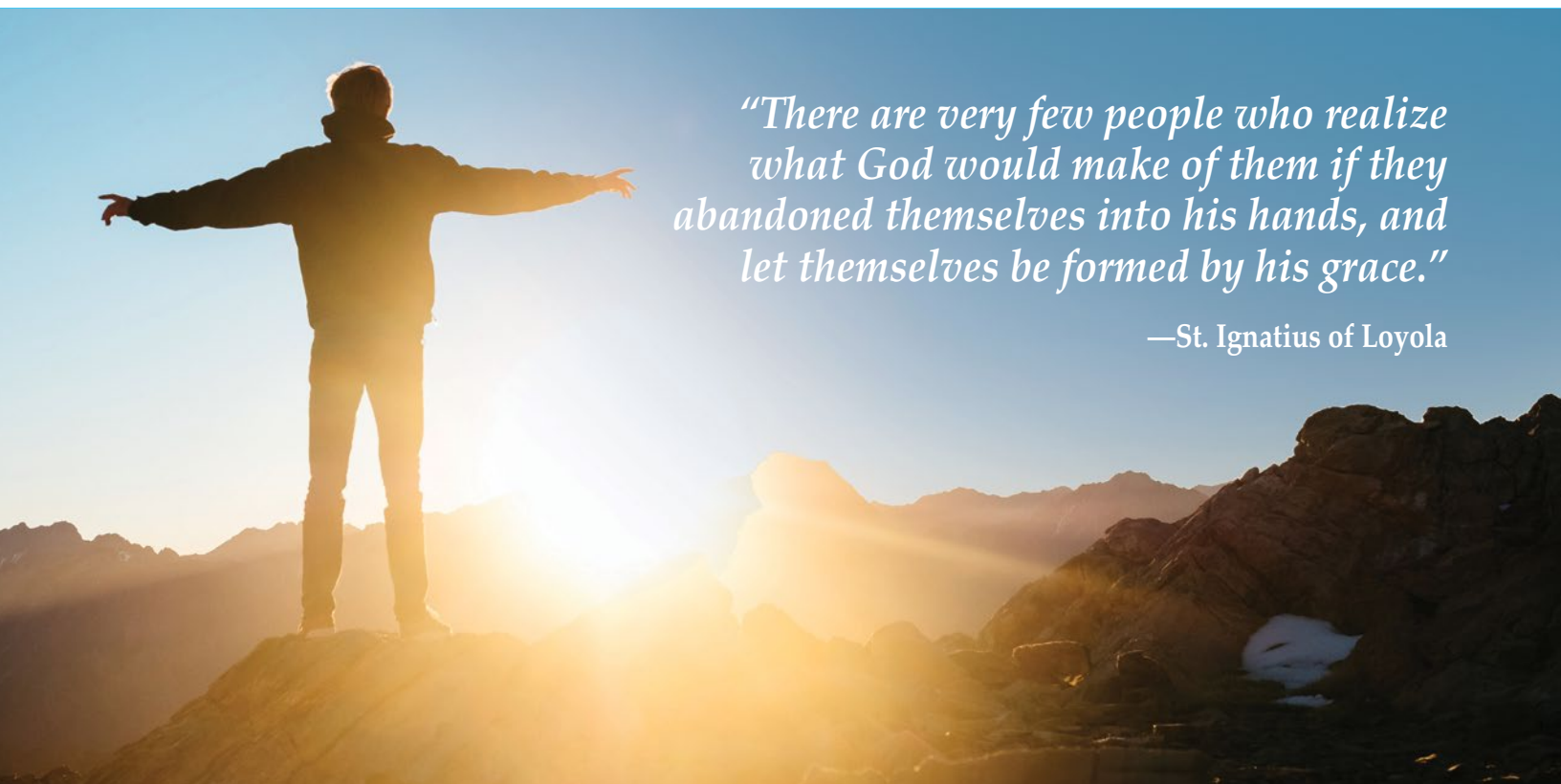
*“I long to be:  
A wife worthy of Christ,  
A mother worthy of  
the Holy Infant,  
A daughter worthy of  
the Father,  
A woman worthy of  
Mary’s company.”*

—Alexandra Buchlmayer

## Prayer & Invitation

Please pray for me and for my fellow Labouré classmates on our vocation journeys.

Feel free to reach out with any questions you might have at:  
[Alexandra@rescuevocations.org](mailto:Alexandra@rescuevocations.org).



*“There are very few people who realize 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

This means that I am a fundraiser for a class of aspiring priests, sisters and brothers. A recent study confirmed that nearly one out of every two 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 nation.

**Lizzie Kenkel**  
Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln

**John Solheid**  
Congregation of St. Basil

**Alexandra Buchmayer**  
Passionist Nuns of St. Joseph Monastery

**Katie Power**  
Discalced Carmelites of St. Therese of Lisieux

**Michael Horka**  
Capuchin Franciscans of the Province of St. Joseph

**Antonio La Barbera**  
Diocese of Lubbock

**Amanda Tennyson**  
Discalced Carmelites of Our Mother of Mercy and St. Joseph

**Noah Marangoni**  
Diocese of Erie

**Kiana Nava**  
Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles

**David Georgeanni**  
Diocese of Trenton

**Brandon Yurcisin**  
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

**Jake Smith**  
Archdiocese of Denver

**Latonja Taylor**  
Poor Clares of Clarisse Monastero S. Maria Del Paradiso in S. Leonardo

**Tony Ramirez**  
Norbertine Fathers of Saint Michael's Abbey

**Dan Rochester**  
Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

**Marie Arnold**  
Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará

## 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 via The Labouré Society, a Catholic non-profit that helps aspirants like me to answer God's call.*

Every aspirant is in serious discernment with a diocese or community and is required to work to liquidate his/her assets in order to make his/her 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 that we can answer God's call together!

Our class video, once available, may be viewed online at [www.rescue vocations.org](http://www.rescue vocations.org). **LABOURÉ®** HELP RESCUE VOCATIONS®

# 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 80+ bishops & 250+ religious institutions 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?

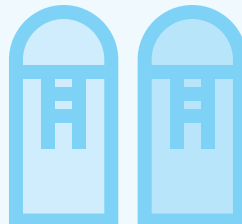
400+



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.

\$12 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.