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This is my Vocation Story

Katie Power

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My name is Katie Power. I am called to immerse myself in prayer supported by faith, hope and charity as a nun with the Discalced Carmelites of St. Therese of Lisieux. This is my story.

In the Beginning

When I was young, I attended Mass on Sundays, prayed with my family, and went to religious education classes, but I didn't truly invite God into my life. My older sister, though, had a strong faith life, which influenced me. I saw her love for Jesus and thought, "Maybe there is something to that."

One day in high school, everything changed. I was listening to the radio when a secular song came on with the lyrics: "I'm the song that's promising you all your wants and needs... Oh, how you want it to be real, and it can be... If you only live in me." Suddenly, I knew at that moment that Jesus was talking to ME! It was Him, calling out to me with a deep, personal love, begging me to let Him love me, and to love Him back. This personal encounter with God as a real person who exists, and intimately knows, loves and speaks to me, was the greatest moment of my life! I knew that the deepest longings and desires of my heart could be satisfied in the person of Jesus Christ - all I needed to do was talk with Him.

"I had the most beautiful intimacy with Jesus in the Eucharist, and knew that that was where I wanted to be for the rest of my life."

—Katie Power

My Vocation

After my personal conversion, I spent four years at Franciscan University of Steubenville. In my junior year, I felt that the Lord was calling me to discern religious life. I was not ready to hear this, though, as I had wanted to get married and have children.

I studied abroad in Austria, where I met three wonderful Franciscan Sisters, and saw them as they truly are—funny, joyful, peaceful, youthful, feminine women! The Sisters showed me that a vocation is a result of the Lord using your gifts, talents, desires, personality, and experiences to bring you to a life which allows you to receive the fullness of His love, and spread it to others. I realized that the deepest desires I had—to be loved and to love—could be fulfilled in the religious life just as much as in marriage.



“I knew in that moment that Jesus was a real person who speaks to me directly and who loves me personally.”

—Katie Power

During Eucharistic adoration on my last night in Austria, I said to the Lord, “I just need you to be very clear and very obvious. Which is it? Marriage or religious life?” He answered: “Religious life.” Once back on campus, I experienced the most beautiful intimacy with Jesus in the Eucharist. I knew that union was what I desired for the rest of my life, and that ultimately, that is the cloistered life. The Lord spoke to me once more in adoration, and it was as if He proposed. I joyfully responded with a heartfelt yes!

Called to Serve

In my senior year of college, I had an incredible encounter with St. Therese through her autobiography, *Story of a Soul*. Therese, her Little Way, and her emphasis on God’s Merciful Love drew me into a deep understanding of my vocation. God was calling me to be love.

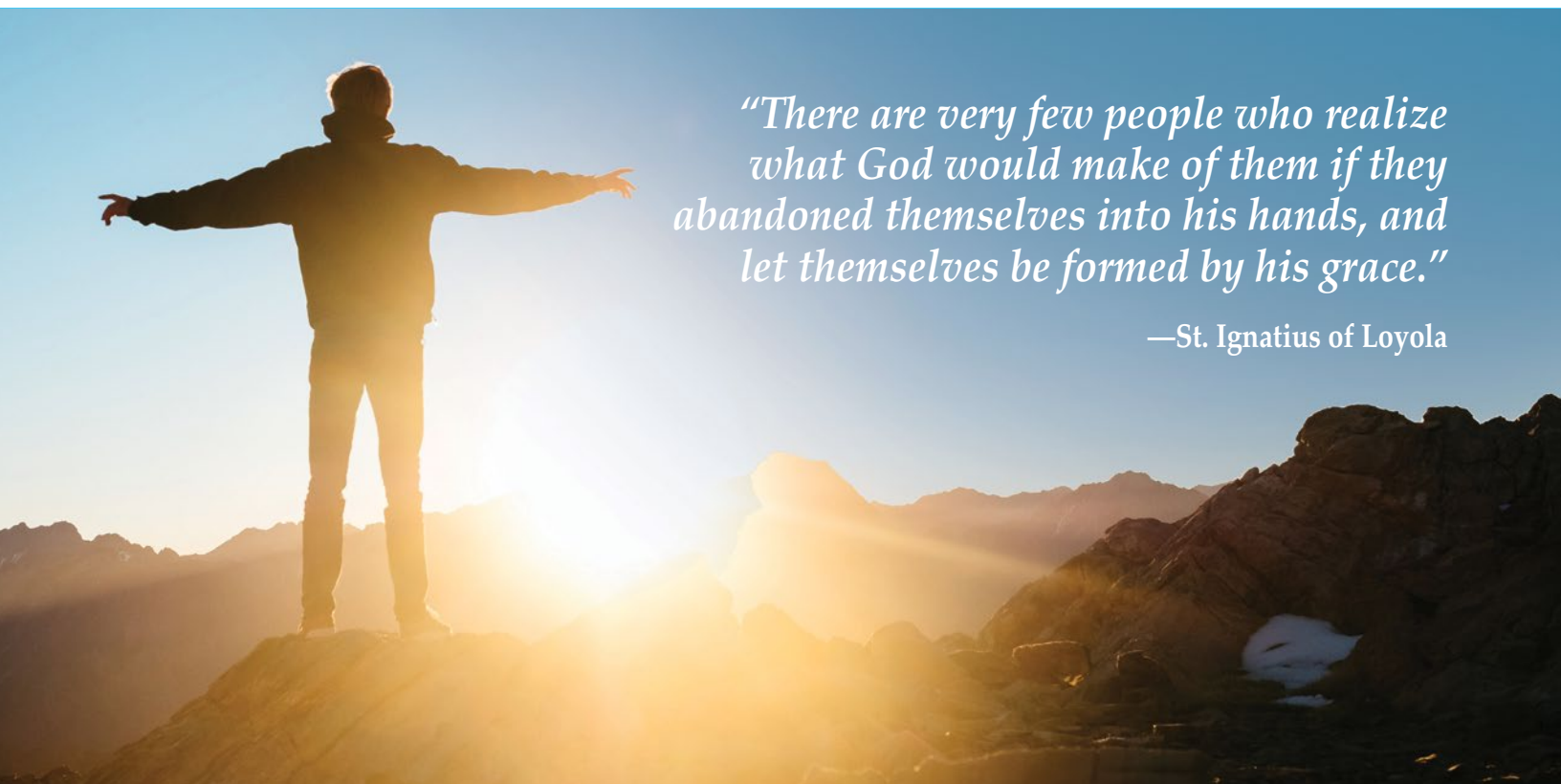
My spiritual director told me about a community of Carmelites that resonated with me. Their order is founded on the essentials of my own spirituality: a deep relationship with Our Lady, a love for Jesus in the Eucharist, and intimate union with God in prayer.

The Carmelites of St. Therese of Lisieux promise to live in the cloister all their life, carrying out the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Their daily lives revolve around prayer, spiritual reading, and various manual labors, all offered for souls, particularly for the Church, priests, and missions. I look forward to living in a constant spirit of prayer and reparation for souls, that all may know of Christ’s deep, personal love and be united with Him eternally in Heaven.

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: KatiePower@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.

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

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

Noah Marangoni
Diocese
of Erie

David Georgeanni
Diocese
of Trenton

Brandon Yurcisin
Archdiocese
of Philadelphia

Marie Arnold
Servants of the Lord
and the
Virgin of Matará

Dan Rochester
Institute of Christ the
King Sovereign Priest

Tony Ramirez
Norbertine Fathers
of Saint Michael's
Abbey

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

Jake Smith
Archdiocese
of Denver

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 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. **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?

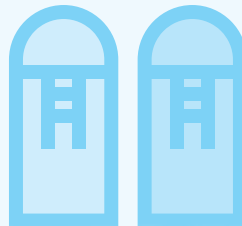
400+



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.