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This is my Vocation Story



Amanda Tennyson

Community:
Discalced Carmelites of Our Mother of Mercy and St. Joseph

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University of Mary

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My name is Amanda Tennyson. I am called to be love in the heart of the Church as a nun with the Discalced Carmelites of Our Mother of Mercy and St. Joseph. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I was raised in a devout Catholic family. Faith was an important part of my homeschool studies. I read biographies and writings of the saints and starting in high school, was involved in a variety of ministries, including music ministry, sacristan and altar serving, religious education, and youth ministry. Several parishioners told me that I would make a “good nun,” but my dream was to get married and have a big family.

My Vocation

Regular attendance at daily Mass and Eucharistic adoration during high school laid the foundation for discerning my vocation. These, along with the witness of my parish priest, sparked a desire for holiness and a deeper relationship with the Lord. Though my desire was still to get married and have a big family, I felt that I needed to be at least open to religious life. I told God that if He wanted me to become a religious sister, He would have to give me a desire for it and remove the obstacles from my heart. Ever so gently, over the next four years, He did precisely that.

One day, I was the last one in church, praying before our Lord in the tabernacle, and I realized that my obstacles were gone and that I deeply desired to be a Sister. As a spiritual mother, I would still have the big family of which I had dreamed. I was filled with an overwhelming JOY I could not contain! I had fallen in love, and I desired more than anything to be a Bride of Christ!

Exploring and experiencing various religious communities over the next several years, I discerned that God was calling me to be hidden with Him in a contemplative life.

*“I long to be hidden
in the Pierced Hearts
of Jesus and Mary.”*

—Amanda Tennyson



Called to Serve

While at university studying Catholic Studies and Liturgy, I'd been blessed to dive deeper into the rich traditions of the Catholic Church, including the Traditional Latin Mass and a few of Her different spiritualities. Through the witness of college friends and multiple Third Order Secular Carmelites, I became attracted to the spirituality of the Discalced Carmelites: focusing on living a hidden life of prayer and sacrifice for the Church, especially for priests.

The mission of the Carmel of Our Mother of Mercy and St. Joseph is to follow the Little Way of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face and the example of the Holy Virgin of Mount Carmel, seeking union with the Beloved through prayer and penance, solitude and silence. My deepest desire is to walk the hidden path of love first trodden by my Beloved and His Mother - to be united ever more deeply with the One Whom my soul loves... to be enclosed in the garden of God.

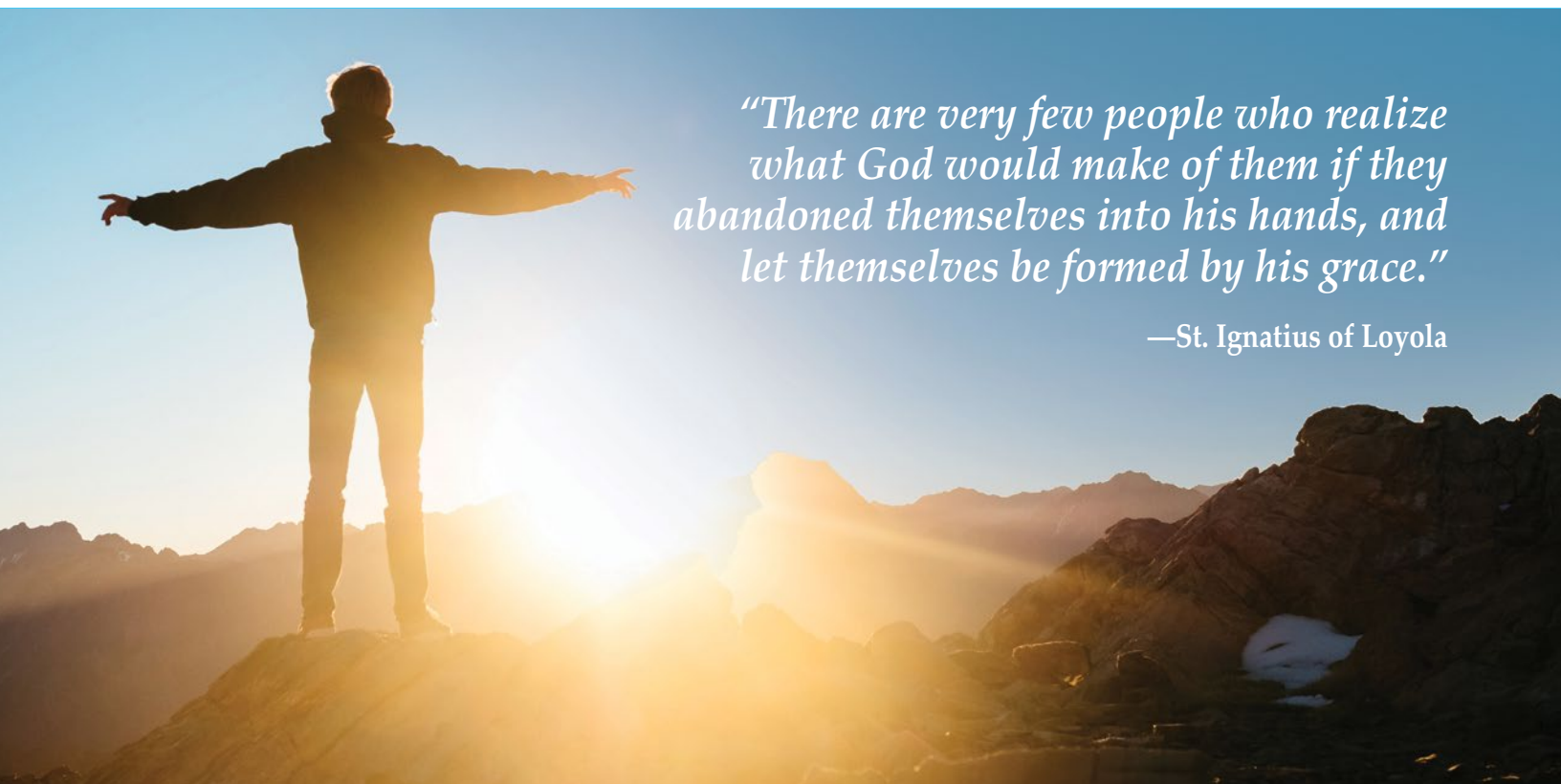
"My deepest desire is to walk the hidden path of love first trodden by my Beloved and His Mother - to be united ever more deeply with the One Whom my soul loves..."

—Amanda Tennyson

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: AmandaT@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

Kiana Nava
Benedictines of Mary,
Queen of Apostles

Jake Smith
Archdiocese
of Denver

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

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 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?

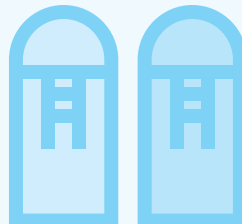
400+



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



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

Labouré Staff raise separate funding for overhead and general operation expenses

\$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.