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LABOURE

This is my Vocation Story

Marie Arnold

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Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará

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My name is Marie Arnold. I am called to commit all of my strength to inculturate the Gospel as a religious sister with the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I grew up moving a lot as my dad served in the U.S. Army. While we were stationed in Germany, my family began to practice the Catholic faith more devoutly. My mom, sister and I began to pray a weekly rosary together, and attend the Stations of the Cross. The practice of my faith gave me insights into the heart of Jesus, and I was moved by His great love and suffering for me and for others.

After high school, I attended university and was blessed to find a beautiful, vibrant Catholic community. In my walk with others, I found that my sinful heart could be forgiven and loved through the Church in Her sacraments, Eucharistic Adoration, and devotion to Our Lady.

“In allowing my heart to be pursued by God alone, I found love, joy, and peace in Him alone.”

—Marie Arnold

My Vocation

In my second year of college, I felt an invitation from the Lord to simply be with Him. At that moment, I told the Lord that if that invitation was truly placed on my heart by Him, then He must change my heart to match His Will. The Lord answered my prayer the following year, while I was on an Ignatian Retreat. Christ in His Passion made it known to me that I had placed my relationship with a man above my relationship with the Lord. I saw the pain I caused Him. Then, in His love and peace, I encountered the Resurrected Lord and truly allowed my heart to be pursued by Him. In this moment, I came to know the true desires of my heart with clarity. Christ asked for a chance to pursue my heart and that I consider being His alone. Before I could even think, the response of my heart was yes. However, I had to experience some healing and purification of heart before fully discerning my vocation.

I finished college and the next year went on mission as a Seton Teaching Fellow, teaching catechism and learning to better love those around me. In laying down my life for others, I found the healing I needed. I found my heart fulfilled and stretched in spiritual motherhood. During these times, I was reminded of my vocation to be His alone as a religious sister.



“There is joy in contemplating the Lord and his goodness that continues to encourage me to pursue laying down my life in a life of prayer and contemplation.”

—Marie Arnold

Called to Serve

I'd heard of the Servidoras, also known as Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará, many times before attending a “Come and See” visit with them. Eventually, I found myself on their community website. Intrigued, I decided to attend a “Come and See” with the sisters. At the end of the short weekend, I'd found a home in which the Lord took a little piece of my heart to keep, so that I might return.

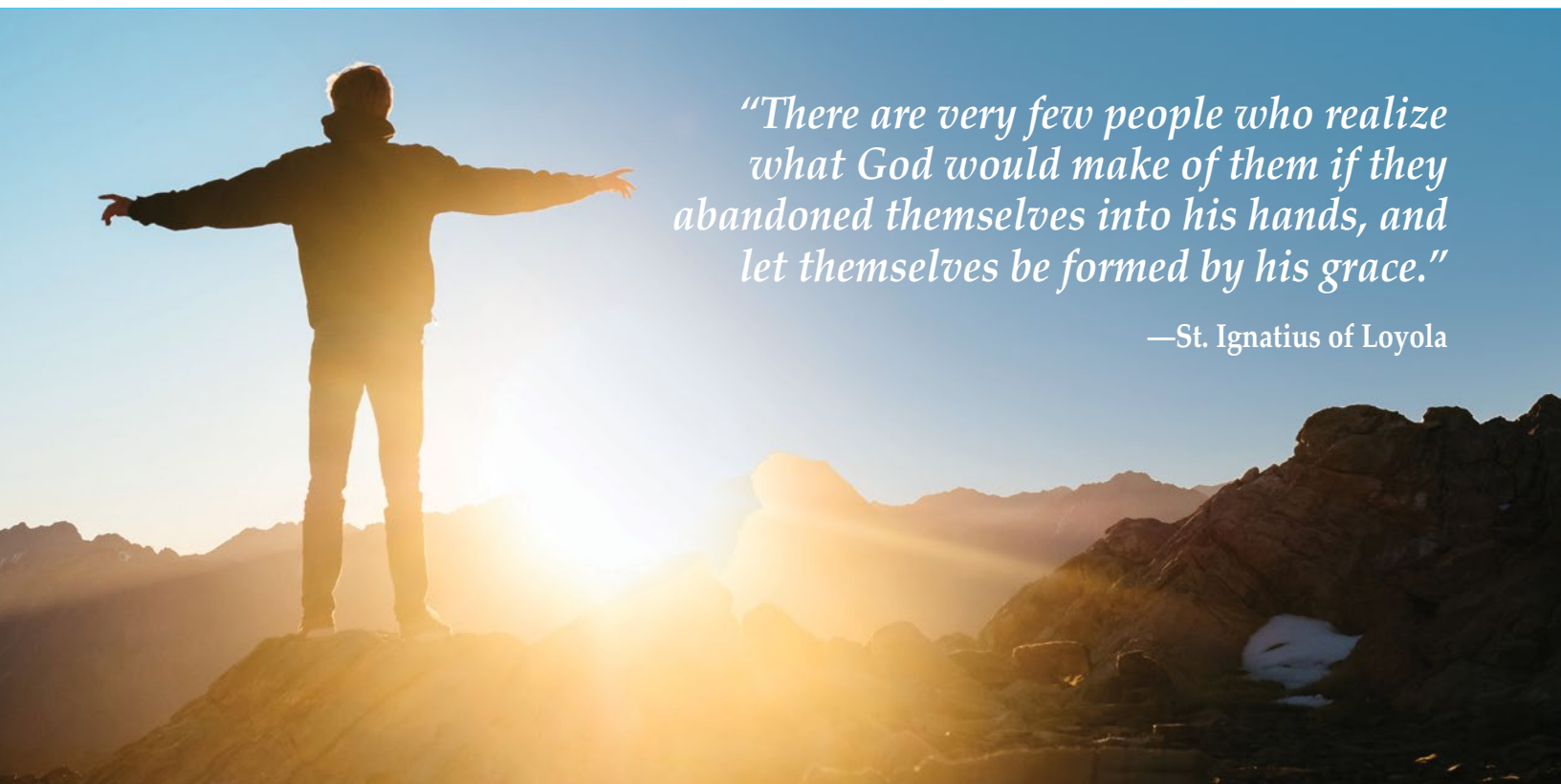
When I returned to work and life in the world, I found myself thinking about the Servidoras more and more. I couldn't shrug the peace, joy, and love that I had experienced with them. In subsequent visits, I found more of myself in their daily life, and experienced freedom in their life of prayer and true joy in contemplating the goodness of the Lord through manual labors like cleaning and sewing, and times of recreation.

The Lord has been pursuing my heart to be at the heart of His body, the Church. I look forward to laying down my life for others in a life of prayer and contemplation, so that others may come to know, love, and serve Christ.

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: Marie@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 Yurcin
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 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?

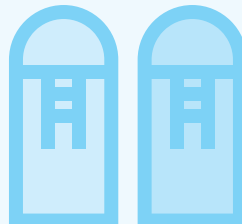
400+



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.