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This is my Vocation Story



Juanita Rios

Community:
Benedictine Sisters of Transfiguration Hermitage

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My name is Juanita Rios. I am called to dedicate myself to a life of prayer for all people as a sister with the Benedictine Sisters of Transfiguration Hermitage. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I was born and raised Catholic. From an early age, I always felt most comfortable and at peace surrounded by the sacred. This included in my grandma's bedroom, with her rosary and other Catholic images on the wall; during Mass at our parish; and in the predominantly Catholic area in which I grew up. I loved attending Mass and felt at home there; I would have gladly stayed longer. I even had dreams about being in the Church during Mass. In one of those dreams, I saw the Crucifix lit up brightly. It didn't speak to me, but in my soul, God was speaking to me to get closer to Him. As my childhood years went by, I attended Mass with my family on a regular basis, as well as religious education and Sacramental preparation. My grandma knew I loved her rosary and she gave me my very own glow-in-the-dark rosary, just not as big as the one hanging on her wall. I still have it, along with a collection of other precious rosaries which I cherish.

*"God is always
with me no matter
what I'm going
through, seeing me
through the
storms of life.
It comforts me
to know He
truly loves me."*

—Juanita Rios

My Vocation

On St. Patrick's Day when I was fourteen years old, I was looking out our front door at the sky. Suddenly, I felt in my heart that I should become a religious sister. I didn't hear a voice; the thought just popped into my head and I never forgot it. Soon afterwards, a community of religious sisters arrived at our parish. My mom made friends with them and we started hanging out with them. One of the sisters gave me a Miraculous Medal that I still have to this day. The sisters were instrumental in helping me realize that I wanted to be just like them. I attended their college, majored in theology, and planned to become a sister. I was involved in many religious activities on campus. It was a special time.

After graduation, though, I had second thoughts about becoming a Sister. I wound up entering into several challenging relationships, but the Lord kept his hand on me. I prayed to God for His assistance and guidance. In



"I can do anything through Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They always accompany me on the road to Heaven. I can always trust in Jesus to accompany me on the road of life."

—Juanita Rios

response, over time, I felt the nudge to return to the path I had left after college. I heard a call-in program on which a man mentioned that he had heard the call to become a priest but had not gone through with it. The program host, who was a religious sister, said something to the effect that she wouldn't want to be standing before God knowing that she never answered His call. I don't remember what the caller said after that, but those words were emblazoned in my mind and my heart. My heart still yearned for something more and I finally listened and paid attention.

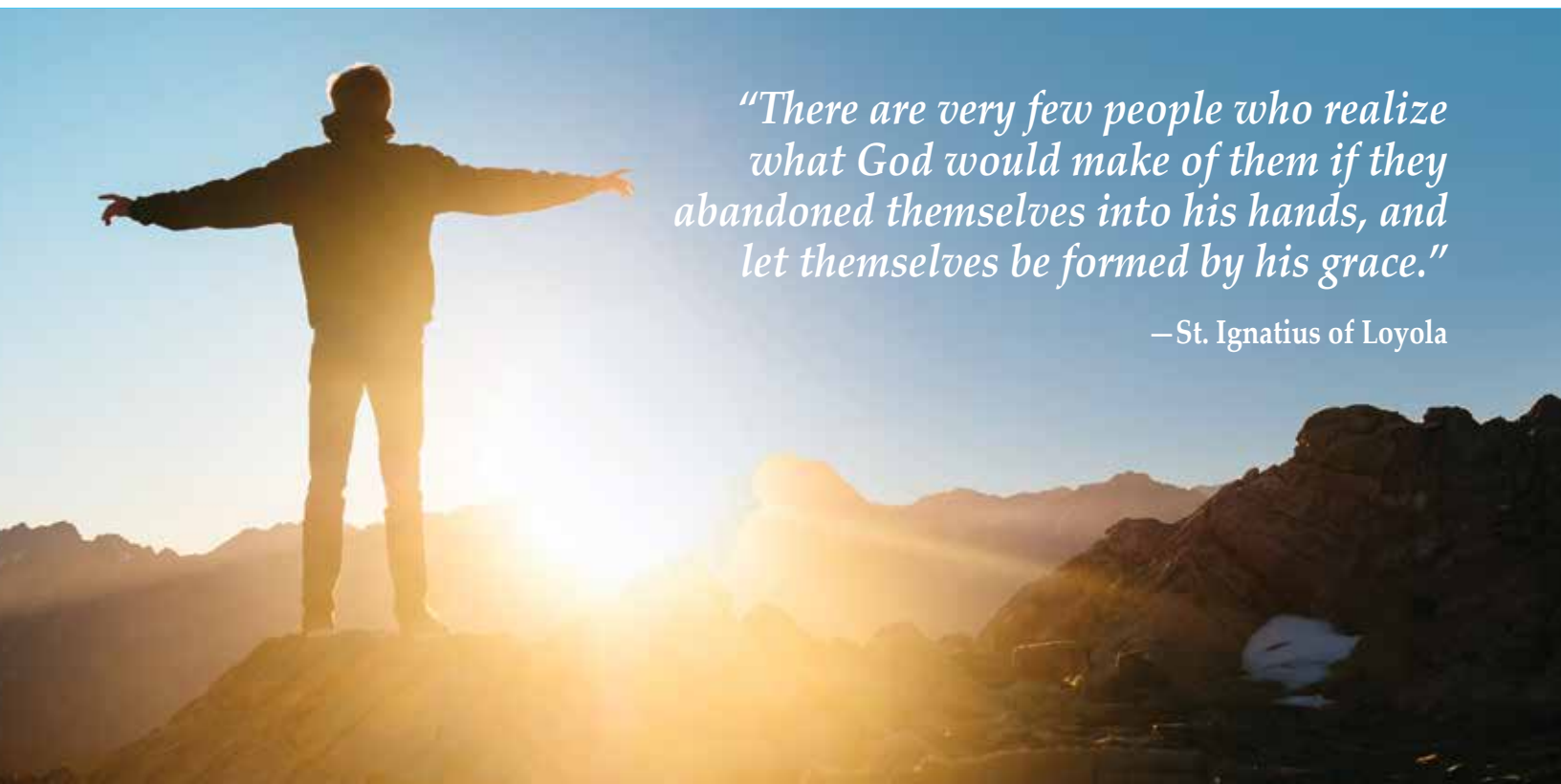
Called to Serve

In discerning God's will for my life, I've encountered the Sisters of the Transfiguration Hermitage in Windsor, Maine. As a cloistered Benedictine community, they live a life of prayer and work within the Monastery. Our world is so in need of prayer. It is my desire to serve as a Sister, offering my days, indeed my whole life, as a prayer, given to God for the good of His people.

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: Juanita@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. Many discerners are blocked from entering seminary and religious communities due to student loan debt. It is the only thing that prevents them from formation to become a priest, sister or brother. My classmates are discerning all over the nation.



Christian Rickert
Dominican Friars
(Province of St. Albert the Great)



John Solheid
Congregation
of St. Basil



Tyler Martensen
Order of
Friars Minor
(Franciscan Friars)



Alexandra Buchlmayer
Passionist Nuns
of St. Joseph
Monastery



Antonio La Barbera
Diocese
of Lubbock



Brian Hurley
Order of
St. Basil the Great
(Ukrainian Rite)



Jake Smith
Archdiocese
of Denver



Katie Power
Discalced Carmelites
of St. Therese
of Lisieux



Michael Zafuto
Diocese of Memphis



Josué Limon
Diocese of Tucson



Matt Selzer
Diocese
of Pittsburgh



Ryan Graham
Society of Jesus
(U.S. West Province)



Noah Marangoni
Diocese
of Erie



Brandon Yurcisin
Archdiocese
of Philadelphia



David Georgeanni
Diocese
of Trenton



Aislinn Torrance
Sister Servants
of the Most Sacred
Heart of Jesus



Juanita Rios
Benedictine Sisters
of Transfiguration
Hermitage



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



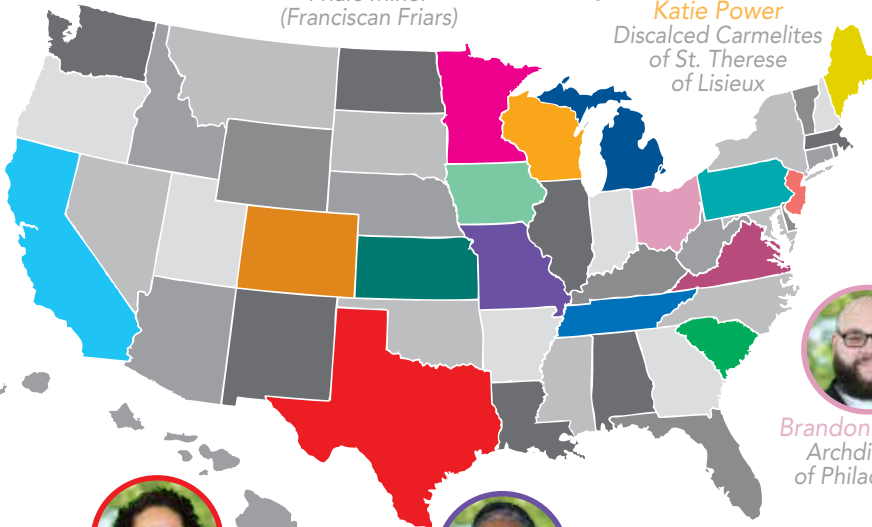
Matthew Brewer
Diocese of Memphis



Marie Arnold
Servants of the Lord
and the
Virgin of Matará



Joe McIntire
Archdiocese of San
Francisco



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 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?



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 and/or formation expenses

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 educational debt



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?

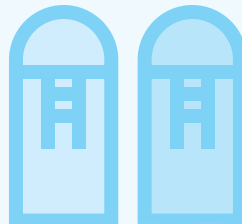
400+



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.

\$13 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.