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This is my Vocation Story

Tess Austin

Community: Daughters of Mary Help
of Christians - Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco

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Franciscan University of Steubenville

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My name is Tess Austin. I am called to dedicate myself to evangelizing young people through reason, religion and loving kindness as a sister with the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians - Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco. This is my story.

In the Beginning

Growing up, my Long Island family was devoted to our Catholic faith and our parish was my home away from home. I was involved with a lot of ministries and felt particularly drawn to Jesus. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit lit a fire for God within me. This flame may have flickered from time to time, but the Lord always drew me back.

In a Holy Hour for Vocations in high school, while the flame was low, I locked eyes with our Eucharistic Lord in the monstrance and He spoke to my heart, "I'm the answer. I'm what you're looking for. I'm right here." The fire for God burns true to this day.

"I locked eyes with our Eucharistic Lord in the monstrance and He spoke to my heart, 'I'm the answer. I'm what you're looking for.'"

—Tess Austin

My Vocation

In the tenth grade, I attended a March for Life Youth rally. At the end of Mass, the presider asked for all women who felt called to religious life to stand up. Something in my heart told me, "Stand up!" and I did. From then on, I set my sights on religious life.

I knew I still needed to grow spiritually, though, so I went to college at Franciscan University of Steubenville. As I progressed through college, my calling to religious life fell dormant while the Lord worked on my heart in other ways. I served on mission trips to Russia and Albania, began working in Liturgical Music and Catholic Education throughout the Diocese of Rockville Centre, and received my Master of Arts in Theology, and knew that if God wanted, He would reawaken my calling.

When the day came, the Lord was clear and direct. I was back at my Alma Mater for the St. John Bosco Conference, praying in Eucharistic Adoration, and Jesus spoke to my heart, "I want you for Myself." A few



months later, I had found my true home with the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians – the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco.

Called to Serve

Throughout my work and ministry, God awakened my maternal instincts in a profound way: spiritual motherhood. The Salesian Sisters educate and form youth around the world to be honest citizens and good Christians, and this is exactly where I feel drawn to follow my missionary and maternal call. I want to live in Salesian spirituality, centered on the Holy Eucharist, devoted to Mary, and bringing Christ to the youth of the world.

In schools, camps, retreats, oratories, parish education, day cares, and youth centers around North America, I will have numerous opportunities to serve the youth of the Church with my Salesian Sisters. I want to devote my life to loving God and helping to win the hearts of His children to Him.

As He has done all throughout my life, the Lord calls me to go where He leads, and as a bride of Christ, I will follow.

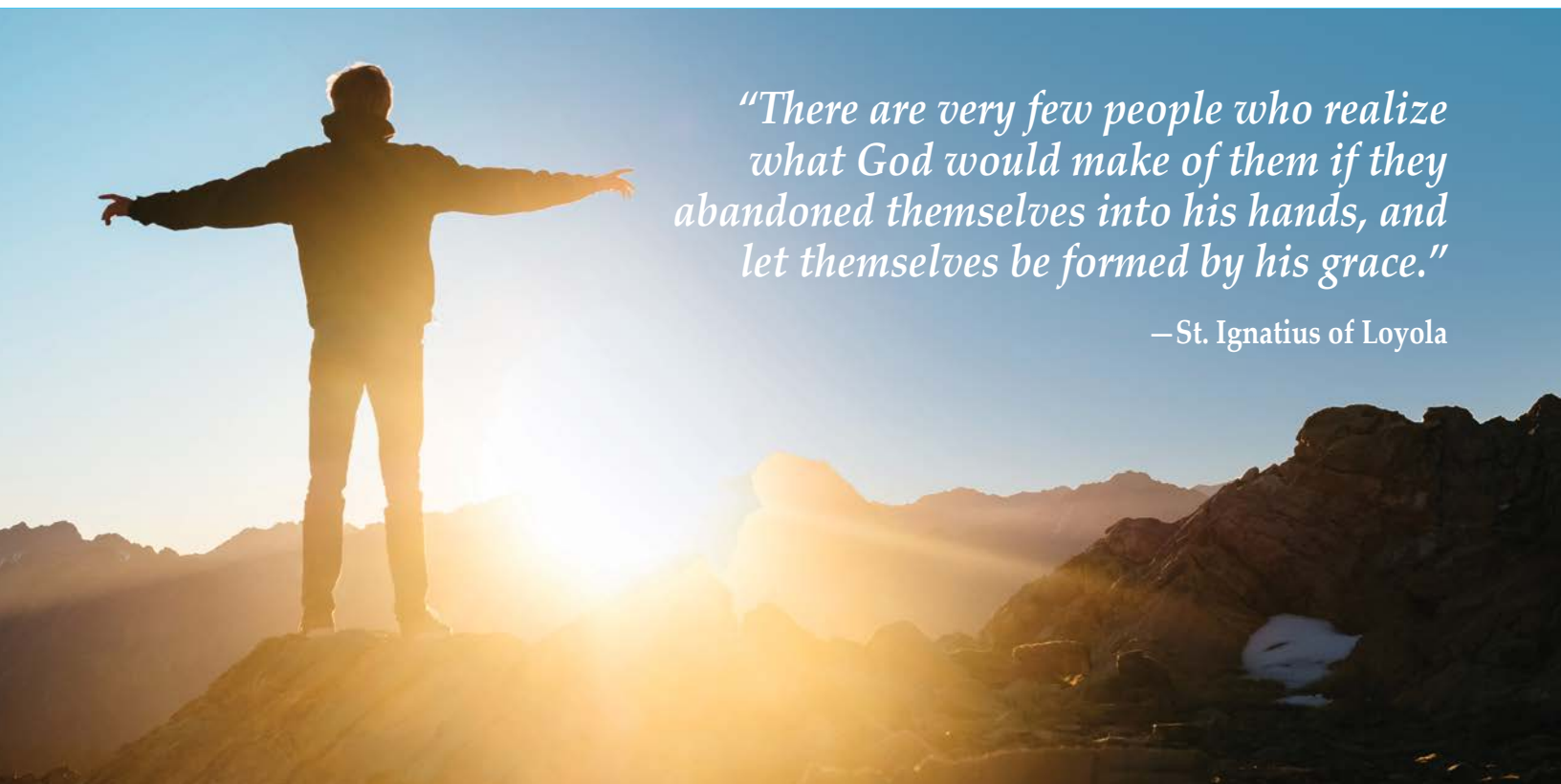
“...the Lord calls me to go where He leads, and as a bride of Christ, I will follow.”

– Tess Austin

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: Tess@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.



Stephen Ferrazzano
Diocese
of Winona-Rochester



Tyler Martensen
Order of
Friars Minor
(Franciscan Friars)



Madeleine McIlheran
Discalced Carmelite
Nuns, Monastery of
the Holy Cross



Becky Hall
Sister Servants of the
Most Sacred Heart
of Jesus



Tess Austin
Daughters of Mary
Help of Christians -
Salesian Sisters of
St. John Bosco



Justin Hollingshead
Diocese
of Albany



Cristal Quinones
Dominican Sisters of
Our Lady of the
Rosary of Fatima



Joe McIntire
Archdiocese
of San Francisco



Steven Webster
Our Lady of the
Holy Spirit Monastery
(Trappists)



Clayton Wise
Archdiocese
of Seattle



Rosemary Bravo
Sister Servants of the
Blessed Sacrament



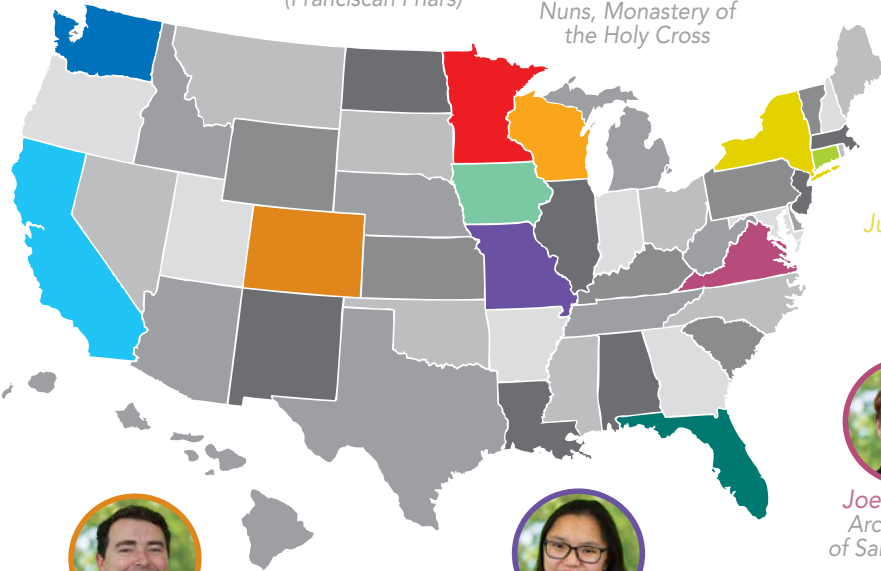
Aislinn Torrance
Sister Servants
of the Most Sacred
Heart of Jesus



Jake Smith
Archdiocese
of Denver



Hannah Lifka
Society of Our Lady of
the Most Holy Trinity
(SOLT)



With your help, we will rebuild the Church!

My goal is to raise \$60,000 (the average student loan amount) during this current six-month class of 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 & 300+ 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 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

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?

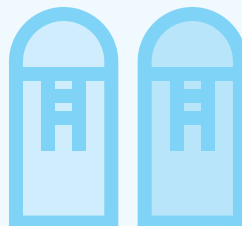
400+



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.

\$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.