

This is my Vocation Story



HANNAH MUSGROVE

How it Began My name is Hannah Musgrove and I am 24 years old. I grew up in Illinois with my parents and younger sister. I was raised Catholic and attended a Catholic School from kindergarten to eighth grade where I began to learn about the Lord and His Love for me and all His children. I became aware of the sacraments, the saints, the Holy Bible, and what it means to be a gift to others. At a young age, I was attracted to everything I was learning about the faith and had a longing to be with Jesus and Mary in Heaven.

Home: Illinois
Community: Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary
Degree: Child Development
Alma Mater: Illinois State University
Occupation: Child Care Teacher

My Faith When I attended high school, I began making concrete choices to take ownership of my faith. I wanted to love the Lord with all my heart, mind, body, soul, and everything in between, but questioned if I was holding back from the Lord. Even though others around me did not seem to highly value the faith, I was certain I needed Him in my life and would stay close to Him. This continued as I attended college and realized more and more how I wanted Christ as the center of my life.

My Vocation My initial desire to become a religious sister occurred when I was in first grade. As I learned about the saints, I had an attraction to people who centered their life on Christ and wanted to bring others to Him. In a particular way, women who gave their life to be totally consecrated to Christ always stood out to me. I did not fully understand what was happening in my heart at the time, but there was a stirring in my heart to do the same, and that nothing else would fulfill my heart. Yet even then I began to internalize the challenge to give up worldly things in such a radical way! As I grew up the thought was always in the back of my mind and heart. It became stronger even though I tried to push it away.

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—Hannah Musgrove

When I attended college, a Catholic Newman Center on campus provided many blessings and faith-filled relationships for me. It provided the opportunity for me to grow in my Catholic faith and learn about God. Meanwhile I was hoping to keep my religious vocation on the “backburner” pretending it was not there.

Throughout my time at the Newman Center, I encountered the Lord’s love realizing how vital it was to have a relationship with Christ. As I grew in my relationship with Him, He was healing my heart. God wanted to reveal His plan of Love for my life to me and what He was revealing was what I wanted to avoid! I was wrestling with the Lord over what He wanted for my life, as I continued to confront the stirrings of my heart to be a religious sister and seeing the many invitations He was giving me.

Called to serve The Winter Class of 2017



I pretended to want my own plan and did not want to admit that I was unhappy with it! In the Lord's immense merciful love, He was very patient with me as He pursued my heart and revealed that He created me to be all His. He was inviting me to an intimate relationship with Him, yet I had continuously been too afraid to respond. I was afraid of the unknown life as a religious sister. I realized I was settling for less and was not living the life He wanted for me. It was in giving that fear to the Lord and trusting His love would triumph over my weaknesses that I can rest in Him. It was after giving my small "fiat," that my heart began having deep peace. With the intercession of Blessed Chiara Luce, she helped me to repeatedly say, "For you, Jesus, if you want it, then I want it, too."

Called to Serve During my time at the Newman Center, I met religious sisters from the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary. I was in awe of the beauty and joy that radiated from them. I wanted to learn and be formed in their charism, but being reminded of my fear of the unknown, I did not want to think about being one of them! Yet, as I began to spend more time with them, the Lord was revealing the melody of my heart of the song I was to sing to Him with my life; to be a servant. As I began walking with the community, I began seeing how much peace there is in His will. The Lord continued to open doors during my discernment with the community and I was accepted as a candidate. Our charism is to be a living image and presence of the Heart of Our Lady in the Heart of the Church, placing our Marian charism at the service of the Petrine principle. *Whatever is needed in the Church, we are to give our "fiat" in order to help bring souls to Christ in reparation and consolation of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary.* Our world needs the presence of Our Lady, the model of authentic femininity and motherhood. The Hearts of Jesus and Mary were pierced so they could bring forth life, and in this way, the Lord is asking the same of my heart. My heart is filled with joy and peace to give the Lord my whole life in the plan He has created me for in this adventure of love. However, I cannot enter into religious life until my student loans are resolved. What pain this is to my heart! I ask of your prayers and assistance in this mission so I can fully embrace my vocation.

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'fiat' that my heart began
having deep peace."
-Hannah Musgrove*

Prayer & Invitation I invite you to join me in prayer, asking the Lord to open the hearts of those He has called to be His. Please prayerfully consider helping my classmates and me with your financial support to the Labouré Society. You can be the One to make a difference in delivering another vocation to the church we love. May we, like Our Lady, give our "fiat" to the Lord and go in haste in partaking in His mission of building the civilization of love and life. May we always want what Jesus wants for our lives! For more information, please contact me at hannahm@laboureaspirant.org.

-Hannah Musgrove

Why I'm writing

I am not only an aspirant to religious life; I am also a fundraiser for these vocations. A recent study confirmed that nearly 1 out of 2 aspirants have student loans and thus most communities and dioceses cannot accept them. It is the only thing that prevents many – including me – from entering formation to become a priest, sister or brother.

I am seeking to raise the average student loan amount of \$60,000 before June 30 for a Catholic non-profit that helps aspirants like me — The Labouré Society. Through Labouré, my fellow aspirants and I work together as a class raising donations from \$10 – \$10,000 to deliver each of us into formation. 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 sharing our stories, remembering us in prayer, and financially investing in our future.

At the end of our class, Labouré will issue awards based on individual effort and the funds available to Labouré. They will administer the awards while we are in formation over a three year period (you can learn more about the program on the back of this letter). If we leave formation for any reason, we will resume our own payments. Plus, every aspirant in Labouré has been accepted by their diocese or community and is required to work and liquidate their assets as able to make their own maximum loan payments.

At the beginning of our class, we met and participated in an intensive 3-day training on the ethics and spirituality of fundraising. We are learning practical skills that will help us now and in our future vocations. We have also developed as a team to learn from and support each other. You can see our picture below.

Will you join our vocational journeys? Please partner with us and be part of our vocation team so we can answer God's call together!

LABOURÉ

Winter 2017 Class of Aspirants to the Priesthood and Religious Life



▶ Our vocations story videos are online at: www.LaboureSociety.org

About The Labouré Society

Why are we needed?

- There are an estimated 10,000 individuals discerning a priestly or religious vocation in the US annually
 - 42% are blocked from pursuing this call due to education loans*
 - The average vocational 'aspirant' in Labouré owes \$60,000 in education loans
 - Most religious communities cannot assume this debt
 - Most dioceses will allow some debt but have a limited threshold for acceptance
- * (NRVC, Vision Study, 2010)

What have we accomplished?

- Operating since 2003
- Listed in the Official Catholic Directory
- Over 250 assisted into formation to the priesthood or religious life
- A network of thousands of praying bishops, priests, religious, families, and singles
- Over \$5 million awarded to aspirants for loan mitigation
- Labouré program support from bishops, superiors, and vocation directors nationwide

How do we do it?

Our Aspirants:

- Discern a vocation & are accepted into a diocese or religious institute*
 - Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans
 - Apply to Labouré & meet intake requirements
 - Are trained in ethical fundraising – empowered with practical tools, personal mentoring, & accountability
 - Share their vocation stories and participate in building a culture of vocations and evangelization
 - Raise funds for Labouré to benefit many vocations
 - Are awarded monthly payments towards their education loans
 - Receive final award payout after 3 years & enter freely into a lifetime of service as a priest, sister, or brother
- *(The Institute must be listed in the Official Catholic Directory)

The Labouré Society

- Works with aspirants to utilize all personal means to mitigate the loan amount (loan consolidation, asset review, financial counseling, employment, etc.) prior to acceptance into the program
- Trains each aspirant in biblically based philanthropy
- Forms a semi-annual 'class' of aspirants
- Mentors each aspirant to build a unified team; each individual works toward the collective goal
- Provides ongoing accountability to ensure proper preparation & completion of personal fundraising plans
- Equips each aspirant with an online fundraising platform for donation processing, reporting, marketing and communications, assessment of goals, and class interaction
- Facilitates ongoing aspirant/donor communication and updates after aspirant enters formation
- Manages aspirant award payments while they are in formation
- Completes award payout after three years active formation

LABOURÉ
BRIDGE TO MIRACLES

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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. 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 reallocated toward current or future aspirants.