

Alane Howard

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Member of the Lisieux House since 2015

Living at the Lisieux House has given me the stability and the faith community I needed, for the first time in my discernment journey, to really settle down and gather the courage to make bold risks and “go for broke.” I didn’t have to ask myself if I was really where I was supposed to be. I knew that, for the next three years, I was being given a unique opportunity to deepen my life of prayer, grow in love and self-sacrifice by living in community with other young women, and experiment fearlessly to discover how God is calling me to give of myself, develop my talents, and answer His call for my life.

The stability and low financial cost that the Lisieux House has offered encouraged me to be creative. I explored several different careers and became involved in a variety of ministries. I was able to travel, visiting a religious community in Assisi to discern with them for a month, and attend week-long healing retreats at the John Paul II Healing Center in Tallahassee, Florida, first as a participant and twice more as a volunteer. It’s even allowed me to weather several personal and family crises, especially due to the support and love I felt from my housemates in community.

The deeply authentic and loving relationships I’ve formed with my housemates at the Lisieux House has been integral to my formation here. “Perfect love casts out all fear.” Every woman I’ve been privileged to live with at the Lisieux House has shared that she came to the House attracted to the prospect of living with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament so close by, under our very roof. With this focus on the love of God, we have formed such a tight-knit and truly loving community. With them, I have wrestled with the practical challenges of community life, especially one that is at its very beginning stages. The result is that we’ve worked hard and played hard together! This has been incredibly helpful for me personally, casting out many different fears about living in community and my ability to work well with others. It also affirmed the vocation that I think God is calling me to: a life of action and prayer lived in community. My time living at the Lisieux House equipped me with the tools I needed to make my next step in discernment after nearly 10 years discerning religious life. Three of those years have been spent in this beautiful lay community.

For the past year and a half, with my spiritual director’s guidance, I have been corresponding with Kim Glass who is a member of the John Paul II Healing Center team. We have both been exploring a deep desire for a religious community that is characterized by a charism of healing and evangelization. At the end of this January, we received the blessing of the bishop of the Tallahassee-Pensacola diocese to begin a year of deeper prayer and discernment about what this new religious community might look like. I am so blessed, and so excited, to embark on this new adventure in my life! I will be forever grateful to St. Matthew’s parish and the Archdiocese of Seattle for offering this opportunity for such deep personal formation at the Lisieux House. I know it has been a crucial ingredient for my spiritual, emotional, and relational growth. The Lisieux House and the relationships I have formed in our little community has been an incredible gift to me!