

Letter from Amanda Stueve whom the Serra Club of Kansas city in Kansas supported while she discerned entering the Community of the Little Sisters of the Lamb. Shortly after her investiture she went to France with the Lamb Community. Here is her most recent letter to us.

Amanda is standing, 4th from the left with a light tan shirt.



A Simple House missionaries with members of a family that has been long-time friends with the ministry

Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people...(Is 62:10)

Hello everyone! May the peace of Christ be with you!

A lot has happened for me since I last reached out to you. You may remember from my previous update that as a part of my journey with the Little Sisters of the Lamb, I was sent for a time of ministry with A Simple House of Sts. Francis and Alphonsus, a lay Catholic group that does inner-city evangelization and ministry, and has a similiar approach to forming authentic friendships with the poor as the Community of the Lamb. They do amazing work and the people there are truly dedicated to following Christ and bringing others into relation with Him. There's not a lot of bells and whistles in their work, just a simple dedication to walk with people for the long haul, to encourage the good, to (gently) oppose the bad, to help with small material needs and to witness to Christ and provide help to grow closer to him. You can see more about them in this new snazzy video we made this year:

<https://youtu.be/ixFAnwsErHk>

via their website: asimplehouse.org

or by following them on instagram: @ash.catholic



While I was there, the Lord continued to clarify something that had already been on my heart while at the monastery, and with the sisters' guidance, I have discerned a call from the Lord to remain "in the world" as a lay person. I loved the monastery and grew immensely during my time in formation with the Little Sisters, and I still long for a contemplative life, but while engaged in an active lay ministry I felt a freedom and fulfillment that was missing in monastic life. I believe the Lord can use my whole self more fully when I am more deeply engaged in ministering "in" the world: "beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals [wisdom] cries aloud. (Pr 8:3)"

Accordingly, I have left formation with the Little Sisters of the Lamb and do not believe I will return to religious life. I resume payments on my student loans as of November, and the remainder of the funds that you donated will go to support

aspirants currently in formation for the priesthood or religious life. You can never know the gift you gave me by freeing me to pursue religious formation. I am closer to the Lord, less fearful in following his will, more aware of my interior state, more completely dedicated to His work and more courageous in loving my neighbor than I was before.

I was originally sent to be with A Simple House until December, and I would ordinarily have finished out at least this time with them. However, one of my grandfathers is currently undergoing treatment for lung cancer, and needed someone to stay with him to enable him to remain in his home. Thanks to God's amazing providence, I was able to leave early and move to western Kansas to stay with him while he needs me. So that is where I will be for a few months, and what happens after that only God knows at this point. Probably some kind of full time ministry, but I will discover that later! I look forward to the great adventures I feel the Lord has in store for my future, and I hope you are excited for me, too!

The image of the "gate" or the "threshold" in Scripture and the intercession of St. Catherine of Siena have been especially important to me during this part of my discernment. St. Catherine was a lay Dominican, and is one of the patron saints of the Community of the Lamb. She both tended the sick and did hands on work with the poor, and influenced political leaders and engaged in the international politics of her time. The "gate" of the city is the meeting place of worlds; those who are at the gate belong to the city and the work of the city but are outside its fortifications. At this point, I feel there is a strong possibility that the Lord will call me to be dedicated totally to him while remaining in a lay state, potentially even becoming a "consecrated lay woman" in the Community of the Lamb. But for now, I am "putting out into the deep" and following his call step-by-step.

I would love to hear from you to know how you are doing and take any new prayer requests.

Please continue to pray for me, and know of my prayers for you!

In Christ,
Amanda

P.S. My new contact information:

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Address:

PO Box 33

Jennings, KS 67643

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