



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

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As Auxiliary Bishop of the Santa Barbara Region of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and a former rector of the Mundelein Seminary in Illinois, I have seen the load that prior student loans can be to those discerning the priesthood. Religious communities, dioceses, seminaries and parishes cannot take on the repayment of hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt from those called to the consecrated life.

This is where the Labouré Society comes in. It reaches out to the men and women wishing to devote their lives to the service of Christ and His church by alleviating this roadblock. The process is one of empowerment and teamwork. Beneficiaries work as a class or a team to fundraise for all and payments are made to them in stages to ensure they complete their programs of formation.

As part of the Santa Barbara Pastoral Region, I have seen closely the work of formation carried out by the local St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, California, and appreciate the support provided by the Labouré Society to assist candidates who otherwise could not repay their student loans.

It is my firm conviction that financial burdens should not be in the way of committing to a life for Christ, when the candidate has met all the other requirements of admission to formation. I personally value the process of the Labouré Society which involves those receiving assistance in the fundraising effort. This valuable training will prepare them with skills for the nonprofit and fundraising aspects of a life of service to the Catholic Church.

I heartily support the work of the Labouré Society and wish to encourage their founders and members to continue this mission of charity.

Blessings to all those who have already or will prayerfully consider contributing to assist our brothers and sisters who have a call to the priesthood or religious life,

The Most Reverend Robert E. Barron,
Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles
Santa Barbara Pastoral Region