

LABOURÉ

HELP RESCUE VOCATIONS

Dear Bishops and Vocation staff,

As you know, dioceses face growing challenges in the formation of seminarians to the priesthood, namely that of fully formed candidates and sufficient resources.

Do you want men who...

- LEAD from experiences grounded in best practices of business and Catholic philanthropy?
- Have EVANGELIZED hundreds of people through the sharing of their vocation story?
- Hold personal ACCOUNTABILITY as a key to success?
- DISCERN daily their call to the priesthood through active reflection and discussion?

Do you want the resources to...

- Accept candidates with student loan debt beyond your current financial threshold?
- Free your seminarians from the burden of student loan debt while fostering a culture of vocations?
- Cover the student loan debt paid by your diocese at ordination while building a stewardship mindset in your diocese?
- Provide financially for the formation of each candidate while releasing the current funding sources for other diocesan needs?

If these formation characteristics and resources were provided to you during a summer module of training and fundraising, would you want them for your men?

If “YES” was your response to any question above - Labouré can help you!

Please contact us to determine how Labouré may best serve you through our unique process of human formation, business best practices and practical Catholic philanthropy. Our new Diocesan Program builds upon the traditional Labouré model while providing formative results for your unique diocesan needs. The following pages will help provide a fuller understanding of the formative and financial benefits of the new diocesan program. To schedule a training session or address any questions please contact us. Thank you for your consideration and for any opportunity to serve you and the church you lead.

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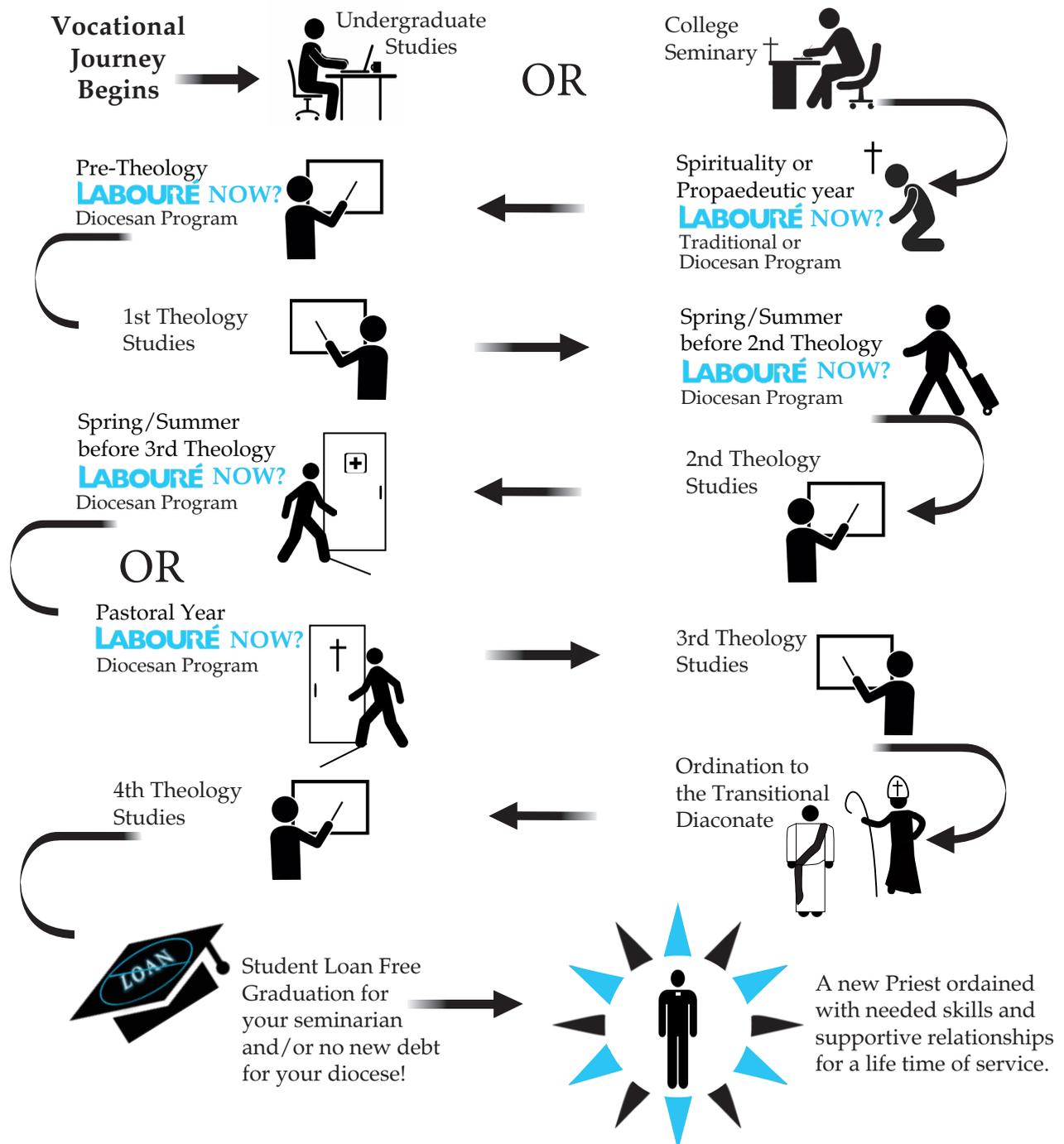
“I attended the Labouré training. What I found was not only a wonderful program that helps candidates overcome the obstacle of student debt, but a process that addresses the Human, Spiritual, and Pastoral dimensions of formation in a way that no seminary can provide.” - Fr. Jeff Eirvin-Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Portland

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The demands of seminary formation often differ in the timing and composition of its modular components. The path below illustrates the flexibility of the Labouré Diocesan Program to meet the unique demands of diocesan formation. Dioceses/Seminaries may choose a single or multiple 6 month opportunities of participation to best meet the formative and financial needs of your men and your diocese.

When does Labouré best fit into your formation program?



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The human formation provided by Labouré programing has been well demonstrated in the feedback from the bishops, superiors and vocation directors who have benefited by our traditional program since its start 2011. They have been impressed by the following characteristics and outcomes of the Labouré program over the last 6 years.

What can Labouré do for your Seminarians?

Leadership

Participants are taught to initiate all relationships with gratitude for the gifts of time, talent and treasure, while themselves staying focused on the most important task. Participants will encounter many well intentioned individuals who want to help them with their activities and some who want to tell the participant what to do or how to do it, or to ask sharp questions. The participant is coached on a wide variety of skills needed to communicate with individuals who present a difficult set of circumstances. The participants learn a process by which they handle challenging human interaction in a manner most able to diffuse an uncomfortable encounter. These are essential skills—like so many learned during the Labouré program—which the future priest will carry with him over the life of his vocation, skills which will serve him well in so many personal encounters, and which will serve him well in leadership positions, collaboration opportunities and in engagement with parishioners.

Evangelization

The participants's sharing of his vocation story is the heart and soul of the Labouré program. On average each participant shares his vocation story with hundreds of Catholics over the course of a 6 month class. A class of 25 participants will share their story with a minimum of 4000 Catholics. Catholic audiences range from individuals to whole parishes of Catholics who receive the gift of hearing from holy men who are eager to turn their lives over to Christ and His church. These stories encourage and inspire Catholics and reinvigorate their faith. They come away energized in their faith and excited about the church's future. The evangelization component of the Labouré program is extremely powerful, and its impact has been felt far and wide. God is alive and calling!

Accountability

The Labouré program is built upon open collaboration and transparency. Weekly reporting of key activity and a system of coached feedback with staff and trained volunteers reinforce the responsibility each participant has to their fellow participants and to those supporting them. Not unlike a pastor to his trustees.

Discernment

The Labouré program strengthens ongoing discernment in two very effective ways. First, each participant shares their vocation story hundreds of times over the course of the 6 month class, and with each story the participant is asking someone to join them in their vocation journey. This constant reflection on how they are being called by God combined with a journey of working hard to seek funding to answer that calling deepens the participant's level of commitment to their calling. Secondly, the activity of fundraising is considered quite challenging and difficult by most participants. Fundraising is quite humbling and it tends to go against the "giving" nature of the participants. This battle of will versus nature continually leads the participants to ask God: "God if you don't want me to be a priest tell me now so I can put this phone down or avoid this next donor meeting! Those who successfully emerge from the program after 6 months or more, emerge with a strengthened commitment to priesthood having fought and worked hard through a humbling yet rewarding process. This strengthening process helps explain why 80% of the participants who have worked through the Labouré program have gone on to final ordination, profession of final vows or are currently in formation. This percentage is unheard of in formation programs around the country.

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Communication

Labouré works with participants on 3 levels of communication

1. [Stylistic](#) – Labouré uses the DiSC assessment with every participant and volunteer (AP) to help them understand how they give and receive communication. This understanding is woven throughout the entire Labouré program to help the participants focus on how to help others receive what is communicated and how to understand it.
2. [Written/Verbal](#) – Program staff work with each participant to help them find their “voice.” Many have never shared their vocation story outside of an essay to their vocation director. Labouré works closely with each participant to compose their vocation story in an evangelistic model which they will share with thousands of Catholics. The story invites the Catholic listener into the joy of the participant’s vocation, and the listener genuinely begins to understand that the participant is presenting to them a rare gift—the gift of being able to participate in and contribute to a joyful story which will result in a blessing to the church, a Catholic priest who will serve the sacramental and spiritual needs of countless Catholics. In addition to helping the participants find their “voice,” the Labouré program dramatically improves and refines the participants’ public speaking skills as they tell their story to hundreds of Catholics in large groups, small groups and one on one. Labouré also creates a collection of professionally prepared and individualized “participant story” materials in print, video and online.
3. [Promotional](#) - Labouré teaches best business practices for leveraging the participant story materials in the most effective manner. Though this form of communication is secondary to personal communication, the promotion of their efforts through social and other media creates a climate rich with fundraising potential.

Failure management

Inherent in any philanthropic activity is the need to handle rejection and situational failure. Not everyone a participant meets will be able or even willing to support their efforts. Utilizing elements of Franklyn Covey combined with a Catholic ethos, Labouré provides participants with real time coaching and counsel to view such situations as an opportunity for growth rather than discouragement.

Time management

Building upon Franklin Covey principles and strategies, each participant is required to submit a working schedule and plan of activity for the duration of the 6 month class term. This schedule and plan is reviewed and referenced throughout the program by both program staff and the participant’s accountability partner (AP). Participants are trained in the responsibility of caring for the gift of another’s time while juggling the real demands of a job, Labouré work and a spiritual and personal life.

Student loan resolution

The Labouré model was created to meet the stringent requirements of both nonprofit tax law and canon law. Labouré participants raise money as a collective class of participants. Donations to the class are never earmarked for an individual participant but Labouré records who solicited the funds to track participants fundraising activity. Under this model funds raised are tax deductible for the benefactors and the awards are nontaxable for the participant. Additionally Labouré has a 37 month award payment process applied to the student loan debt. This process assures the benefactor that their investment will always and only support active vocations. **This same process provides canonical freedom of discernment to the participant and it resolves their student loan debt in months rather than the typical years to decades.**

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The philanthropic impact of the Labouré program has a ripple effect upon the regions where Labouré participants fundraise. The relationships they form and the witness they present have invigorated parishioners, schools and parishes. One such parish invited a Labouré program participant to speak at the parish on the day of their annual diocesan appeal. As a result of that day, the annual appeal goal was met, the participant had a successful appeal and the weekly collection increased the day of the appeal and for 3 weeks after. Albeit only a data point of one, this shows promise that more of the lay faithful can be inspired to give than the typical 20% or less who regularly do.

How can Labouré impact your Diocese?

Vocational awareness

Each participant typically interacts with 300-400 individuals personally over the course of the 6 month class. This number increases exponentially through the group presentations and parish appeals made in that same time frame. The regular Catholics in the pew are given the rare gift of hearing a devout young man share his call to the priesthood and be invited into that call with the future priest. This witness has consistently been reported by benefactors as a beacon of hope for the future of the church and one that they needed to hear. The new vocation "crisis" is not one of inadequate numbers of candidates but rather adequate numbers with inadequate resources to respond. This awareness brings a new energy to the parish as they embrace "their" future priest and help him along his vocational journey.

Leadership development

Through the Labouré diocesan program each diocese is given the opportunity to provide volunteers to serve as accountability partners (APs) for their program participants. These volunteers receive the same training as the participants in addition to a program of coached mentoring (coaching for performance). The APs are given new skills in service to their diocese while building lifelong personal relationships with future pastors. Though less intense than that of their AP relationship each participant will establish strong ties to hundreds of their benefactors throughout the dioceses. As they become priests these personal relationships will serve to strengthen the parish and diocesan community.

Stewardship development

The typical Catholic gives less than 2% of their income to the church. This same rank and file Catholic often sees vocations to the church as a dying breed. When an participant in the Labouré program comes to them in a parish or individually, that Catholic mindset tends to change. Individuals meet a living vocation and are personally invited to invest in the future of the church resulting in funds raised significantly beyond any second collection. The corollary to the change noted above is that affecting the Priest. The typical parish priest sees fundraising as a necessary evil or an unpleasant task at best. The long term effect of having seminarians participate in Labouré will produce a new generation of pastors who view fundraising as an opportunity that, as Fr. Henri Nouwen would say: "is as spiritual as giving a sermon, entering a time of prayer, visiting the sick or feeding the hungry." Positive philanthropic standards integrated into a Catholic ethos equip the participant with stewardship skills they will carry over the life of their priesthood. These skills are a gift which the ordained priest will use to create a parish mindset which welcomes the opportunities for tithing, charitable giving and stewardship. The fundraising mindset taught by the Labouré program becomes the pastor's launching pad for ultimately forming stewardship parishes and dioceses. Dioceses and parishes where charitable giving and stewardship are viewed as what we "get to do" rather than what we "have to do."

Local impact

Money stays in the diocese in support of their own. The funds raised by a class of participants are the same funds awarded through the merit process to the benefit of those in the participant class. 10% of the funds raised by a participant class in the diocesan program is tithed (forward funded) to the benefit of the next participant class to cover their material and fundraising expenses (i.e. laptop, software, individualized marketing materials, gift processing fees/merchant services etc.)

What Bishops are saying about Labouré:

Most Reverend William E. Lori

Archbishop of Baltimore, MD

“The Labouré Society is well known to me because representatives from the Society have made presentations to the bishops at our USCCB meetings. The Society is approved by the bishops of the United States and has our full support.”

Most Reverend George J. Lucas

Archbishop of Omaha, NE

“The Labouré model teaches biblically principled fundraising philanthropy for vocations, while giving candidates an opportunity to evangelize with their own stories of how the Lord has called them to a life of service. The Labouré program empowers candidates to resolve their own student loan debt and to make a choice to enter formation in freedom.”

Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann

Archbishop of Kansas City, KS

“I appreciate that future priests, religious brothers and sisters will enter their service to the People of God, stronger for having had real-world experience of philanthropy and fundraising through their Labouré training.” “I strongly endorse the work of the Labouré Society in helping to foster a culture of vocations specifically by removing the barrier of student loan debt...”

Most Reverend James D. Conley

Bishop of Lincoln, NE

“Greetings in the Lord! I am writing to you because I have witnessed the important, life changing work of the Labouré Society within my diocese.” ... “The Labouré Society is a critically important apostolate serving an urgent need in the church today.”

Most Reverend Andrew H. Cozzens

Auxiliary Bishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis, MN

“Through Labouré candidates work to raise funds for vocations through a formational process and a proven philanthropic method. This ensures every dollar given to Labouré works toward delivering needed vocations to the Church. Our archdiocese has already benefited from the service Labouré provides, as have many others.”

Most Reverend John r. Manz

Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, IL

“The Labouré program is one that nurtures a deeper discernment for each aspirant, while fostering skills that every diocese and religious institution needs.”