



DIOCESE OF LINCOLN

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

June 2017

Dear Supporters of the Labouré Society,

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. Since 2012, I have served as Bishop of Lincoln. In 2014, I met a young woman named Megan Lightfoot at a pro-life dinner hosted in Lincoln. She was in pharmacy school and discerning a vocation to the religious life. Later, through prayer, she realized the Lord's call to enter the Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln, a religious community that witnesses to the joy of consecrated life in my diocese and serves in many educational, administrative, and healthcare related apostolates here.

Megan explained to me that she needed to pay off her loans in order to be able to enter the Marian Sisters. Until she encountered the Labouré Society, Megan was uncertain as to how she might answer the call to religious life with the obstacle of loan payments. She was uncertain as to how soon she would be able to enter religious life. Thanks be to God, Labouré presented Megan with a program to resolve her student loan debt in a timely fashion and respond to her vocational call!

Megan worked extremely hard through Labouré's unique fundraising training program and, together with her classmates, she raised enough money to erase her debt in just 6 months. This compared to the many years it would have taken her to pay off her loans on her own. Megan is currently a postulant with the Marian Sisters. I was deeply impressed by the Labouré program's content, approach, and its effectiveness. There are very few organizations that are helping to encourage vocations to the Church in this way.

The Labouré Society is a critically important apostolate serving an urgent need in the Church today. Our Church today is hungry for truth and in serious need of vocations. The Labouré Society believes that God is giving us these vocations, but we need to assist them in overcoming the barrier of student loan debt. I strongly encourage you to support the work of the Labouré Society in any way you can – through prayer, volunteer work, and most certainly as a donor. By supporting the Labouré Society, we will see a resurgence in vocations to priesthood and religious life across this country. With my blessing and gratitude, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Rev. James D. Conley
Bishop of Lincoln