



ARCHDIOCESE
OF
SAINT PAUL &
MINNEAPOLIS

OFFICE OF THE AUXILIARY BISHOP

March, 2017

Dear Friends,

As the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis I have witnessed the Labouré Society play a vital role locally and nationally in building a culture of vocations. The Lord has a special call for many in the Church, a call to give their lives for him totally in a religious vocation as a brother, sister or priest. The Lord continues to issue this call. It is our job to create the culture for it to be heard and to remove those obstacles that may block its fulfillment.

The Labouré Society offers a creative and effective solution to one of the largest obstacles now facing those pursuing a vocation, student loan debt. Many called to a priestly or religious vocation are now being turned away because of the large debt college education imposes on today's young people. The religious institutions and diocese they seek to enter are often not able to take on the growing financial burden of the candidate's educational debt. Labouré provides a unique approach to this problem. 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 towards delivering needed vocations to the Church. Our archdiocese has already benefitted from the service Labouré provides, as have many others.

As John Paul II said, "Those who are called to the consecrated life have a special experience of the light which shines forth from the Incarnate Word. ..." (*Vita Consecrata* 15). This is the radical gift of consecrated life. I am happy to give my support to The Labouré Society as they help young people respond to God's call, so that this light may shine in an often dark world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Andrew H. Cozzens, S.T.D., D.D.
Auxiliary Bishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis

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