

This is my Vocation Story



MOISES J. PINEDA

How it Began Hi, my name is Moises J. Pineda from Managua, Nicaragua. I am one of two children and was baptized Catholic, but my family did not practice the faith. We struggled with various difficult family issues during my childhood. Looking back, God was taking care of us in His way and patient with us in the way things turned out.

My Faith In school, I prayed to God to help me with obstacles such as a school grade, but I did not grow up going to Holy Mass. I lived a very secular life. My outlook on life was diminishing every year and losing all purpose. My mother continued praying for me every day. At the age of 26, after many years of living careless and feeling empty, I surrendered. My thought was "Am I going to accept or reject Jesus Christ?" I already knew what rejecting Him had done for me. Since I wanted a positive change in my life, I knew I had to shed my old self and accept and live for Him. The choice was clear.

I had taken some time to reflect on my life and shed my old ways. I wholeheartedly and sincerely prayed asking God to help me live a spiritually-filled life. Like the loving father He is...He answered. I started attending Holy Mass as an adult on my own, became involved with my parish, and desired to explore the Roman Catholic faith more. I enrolled myself in the local RCIA program. I received the two sacraments I hadn't yet received – Holy Eucharist and Confirmation – and through God's grace, became His instrument

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to start a homeless ministry that is still active and going strong.

My Vocation While living at a Catholic men's residence to further my discernment, I was at a vocation awareness retreat in the Archdiocese of Miami when I came to the realization that God may be calling me to the vocation of priesthood.

I sat in front of the Blessed Sacrament and prayed about the direction in life God wanted of me. I brought my fears and weaknesses to Him for wisdom and guidance. Learning about and living in the seminary during that duration, I felt a strong and yet lovingly powerful tug in my heart that the priesthood was my calling in life. What I experienced was profound. I attended Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and recited several daily prayers. I found the things of this world losing their appeal. As I prayed for humility, interest in my profession lessened and a growing desire to do ministry full-time grew.

Home:	Florida
Community:	Archdiocese of Miami
Degree:	Finance
Alma Mater:	Florida International University
Graduate Degree:	Business Administration
Alma Mater:	Nova Southeastern University
Occupation:	Life Cycle Manager

Called to serve The Winter Class of 2017



Called to Serve I have come to appreciate and begin to understand God's mercy and grace in my life. I have come to know and fall in love with Our Lord Jesus Christ, ever grateful for His saving me from the path of self-destruction I was on. It is said that those who are forgiven much, love much. This love inspired me to explore the diocesan priesthood and after a vocation awareness retreat, I sought out a spiritual director. It is a beautiful witness to Christ that diocesan priests spiritually journey with their parishioners and become a member of their families. These are the journeys I look forward to begin!

I believe God is calling me to serve as a priest for the Archdiocese of Miami, FL to minister to His faithful and all. I desire to be that compassionate, loving, faithful, reverent, and merciful priest that St. Padre Pio was. "Many are invited, but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14) constantly strikes me. "Why me Lord?" was something I pondered at the beginning. Now, I say, "Here I am. Speak, for your servant is listening." (Genesis 46:2 & 1 Samuel 3:10). My call to serve now brings me so much joy as I think about helping others understand God's infinite mercy.

Not only has He been faithful to me, but through others, He has helped me overcome many roadblocks along the way. I realize we need to rely on His strength to carry us daily for without Him, we are nothing. Now as I seek to enter seminary formation, one final roadblock remains. Like so many previous obstacles, I will need help to

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overcome it. My student loans right now are the only impediment to entering the seminary. I long to be there already as does my diocese, but I trust God has people for me to meet before I enter into formation.

Prayer & Invitation I invite you to learn more about the Labouré Society. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, join me in praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. I pray

that God, in all His mercy, glory, love, and beauty, may touch many hearts to say "YES!" to giving up their lives as a sacrifice of love. Please pray for my vocation and my other Labouré classmates. We desire to save as many souls as possible for Jesus Christ! If you would like to learn more about my fellow aspirants and the Labouré Society program, please contact me at moises@laboureaspirant.org. AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM!

—Moises J. Pineda

Why I'm writing

I am not only an aspirant to religious life; I am also a fundraiser for these vocations. A recent study confirmed that nearly 1 out of 2 aspirants have student loans and thus most communities and dioceses cannot accept them. It is the only thing that prevents many – including me – from entering formation to become a priest, sister or brother.

I am seeking to raise the average student loan amount of \$60,000 before June 30 for a Catholic non-profit that helps aspirants like me — The Labouré Society. Through Labouré, my fellow aspirants and I work together as a class raising donations from \$10 – \$10,000 to deliver each of us into formation. We are blessed to have this opportunity to share our love for God, our vocation stories, and to invite hundreds of individuals to support vocations like ours by sharing our stories, remembering us in prayer, and financially investing in our future.

At the end of our class, Labouré will issue awards based on individual effort and the funds available to Labouré. They will administer the awards while we are in formation over a three year period (you can learn more about the program on the back of this letter). If we leave formation for any reason, we will resume our own payments. Plus, every aspirant in Labouré has been accepted by their diocese or community and is required to work and liquidate their assets as able to make their own maximum loan payments.

At the beginning of our class, we met and participated in an intensive 3-day training on the ethics and spirituality of fundraising. We are learning practical skills that will help us now and in our future vocations. We have also developed as a team to learn from and support each other. You can see our picture below.

Will you join our vocational journeys? Please partner with us and be part of our vocation team so we can answer God's call together!

LABOURÉ

Winter 2017 Class of Aspirants to the Priesthood and Religious Life



▶ Our vocations story videos are online at: www.LaboureSociety.org

About The Labouré Society

Why are we needed?

- There are an estimated 10,000 individuals discerning a priestly or religious vocation in the US annually
 - 42% are blocked from pursuing this call due to education loans*
 - The average vocational 'aspirant' in Labouré owes \$60,000 in education loans
 - Most religious communities cannot assume this debt
 - Most dioceses will allow some debt but have a limited threshold for acceptance
- * (NRVC, Vision Study, 2010)

What have we accomplished?

- Operating since 2003
- Listed in the Official Catholic Directory
- Over 250 assisted into formation to the priesthood or religious life
- A network of thousands of praying bishops, priests, religious, families, and singles
- Over \$5 million awarded to aspirants for loan mitigation
- Labouré program support from bishops, superiors, and vocation directors nationwide

How do we do it?

Our Aspirants:

- Discern a vocation & are accepted into a diocese or religious institute*
 - Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans
 - Apply to Labouré & meet intake requirements
 - Are trained in ethical fundraising – empowered with practical tools, personal mentoring, & accountability
 - Share their vocation stories and participate in building a culture of vocations and evangelization
 - Raise funds for Labouré to benefit many vocations
 - Are awarded monthly payments towards their education loans
 - Receive final award payout after 3 years & enter freely into a lifetime of service as a priest, sister, or brother
- *(The Institute must be listed in the Official Catholic Directory)

The Labouré Society

- Works with aspirants to utilize all personal means to mitigate the loan amount (loan consolidation, asset review, financial counseling, employment, etc.) prior to acceptance into the program
- Trains each aspirant in biblically based philanthropy
- Forms a semi-annual 'class' of aspirants
- Mentors each aspirant to build a unified team; each individual works toward the collective goal
- Provides ongoing accountability to ensure proper preparation & completion of personal fundraising plans
- Equips each aspirant with an online fundraising platform for donation processing, reporting, marketing and communications, assessment of goals, and class interaction
- Facilitates ongoing aspirant/donor communication and updates after aspirant enters formation
- Manages aspirant award payments while they are in formation
- Completes award payout after three years active formation

LABOURÉ
BRIDGE TO MIRACLES

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The Labouré Society is a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and is listed in the Official Catholic Directory. All donations are tax deductible. Gifts solicited by our aspirants belong to Labouré and are dispersed upon board approved guidelines to ensure full compliance with IRS rulings. Aspirants who leave Labouré are not required to repay any funds disbursed but are strongly encouraged to support Labouré however possible. Funds granted but not dispersed to a former aspirant are reallocated toward current or future aspirants.