

This is my Vocation Story



NICK TROFIMOFF

How it Began Hi! I'm Nicholas Trofimoff from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I am 26 years old and one of two adopted children. My brother and I were given the incredible opportunity to grow up with the unconditional love of a tremendous Catholic family. My family has made the love and mercy of God the Almighty, undeniably apparent in my own life.

My Faith My faith has always been my shield. Even before I took ownership of it, my faith was the evidence of the great gifts given to me. My faith was a literal series of gifts from the hard work and sacrifices of my parents. They committed to sending my brother and me to a parochial school which they themselves never had the opportunity to attend. My faith aided me in accomplishing great things but I was "serving two masters." I found myself living for God's kingdom at times and yet succumbing to sin and choosing my plan over His. Years of battling and only partially committing to the faith left me seeking more.

Once I took ownership of my faith I was drawn to work towards seeking "The Best Possible Version of Myself." I sought to radiate the love of Jesus Christ and "Be led by the Immaculata." The change happened when I finally sought to give my Yes to God in all things, and, giving only Him my life. I became increasingly committed to my devotion and practice of the faith. The more involved in the church I became, the more I understood what is expected of a disciple of Christ and the many ways I could remove the barriers preventing me from accepting the invitation offered to all through Christ's sacrifice. The more barriers I removed and the less distance I allow myself to drift from Christ, the more I was filled with the

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grace of God to continue. The more involved I became the more access I felt to salvation. This journey has created a desire to serve the Lord and our church with my whole being and acknowledging the authority of God as the source of all my blessings.

My Vocation I initially set out to answer a call to serve by joining the military so I might serve our nation as an officer in the military. As I did so for many years, I continued to listen and discern His call to serve Him more directly. On Divine Mercy Sunday the spirit of the

Easter church filled within me as I heard God's call to pursue a vocation to the priesthood. After my adult confirmation, and after I fully embraced the path to follow, I gained an immense amount of resolve and purpose. Now I seek to serve the Body of Jesus Christ by participating more fully in the sacraments and offering my life in greater service to the members of our church as a priest.

Called to serve The Winter Class of 2017



Called to Serve Wisconsin is my home. I truly can appreciate this sentiment now after living away from home pursuing my dreams and career choice to serve in the military and further my studies for over 8 years now. My diocesan seminary is less than 3 miles from my childhood home. I truly wish to serve the community that has been so instrumental in my upbringing. I seek to grow in greater and greater communion with our God through consecrated service as a diocesan priest. I believe my life's experiences and my opportunities to serve under tremendous leaders in different locations

throughout the world will help me to fulfill the mission of the new evangelization. I believe the blessings I have been given will bear fruit through committed service to the community and the Archdiocese.

While I am still a work in progress I have faith that the Church and the Seminary will form and mold me to best serve those who will one day be under my care. I am extremely excited to give my everything to serve but I have a very difficult obstacle to overcome, my student loans.

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Prayer & Invitation Dear brothers and sisters, pray with me for peace, and allow God to enter into our hearts. May we pray for the increase in vocations to the Church and that we all may continue to serve and participate in the sacraments more fully. I pray for everyone who reads my story and for all those able to help the cause of all of my Labouré Society classmates and me with your financial support. Let us pray we will continue to be led by the Immaculata and be of service to our

Catholic Church. Please pray for all men and women discerning a vocation to serve the Almighty God. The best way to reach me is via email at nick@laboureaspirant.org.

-Nick Trofimoff

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.