

# Diocese of Dallas



OFFICE OF THE VICAR GENERAL/  
MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

March 7, 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you know many college graduates are completing their studies with substantial debt from student loans. One of the often overlooked impacts of this reality is its effect on college graduates seeking to enter religious life. Since religious orders are not able to assume these debts and the long formation process and eventual vow of poverty precludes sufficient income to pay them off, other means are needed. The Labouré Society was formed in 2003 to assist students with clearing their student debts in a timely fashion so as to allow them to enter a religious congregation. I am aware of a young woman helped by the society who is now professed as a Sister of the Holy Family of Nazareth and working as a youth minister. I am very grateful for the existence of the society and their dedication to assisting serious young men and women who desire to serve the church as religious.

This has again come to my attention recently listening to the witness of a young woman, graduating from college this spring and desiring to enter a religious community soon after. In fact, she has already been accepted. She is bright, enthusiastic and very dedicated to pursuing this vocation. Her talk demonstrated a long history of discernment of a religious vocation and active attention to this call. She has my whole-hearted support. She lacks only one thing: the means to clear her student loans so as to be free to be free to enter religious life upon graduation.

The Labouré Society is well known to the bishops of the United States, having made presentations at our meetings, and also because of the many men and women who are able to pursue their call to the priesthood or religious life thanks to the works of Labouré. As an organization they spread a culture of vocations. Each Labouré aspirant represents a new wave of growth in the Church, but one that needs our help to come to fruition. Any assistance that you can offer to these young men and women will be most appreciated.

With every wish for your continued growth in faith, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Gregory Kelly".

Most Reverend Gregory Kelly, V.G.  
Auxiliary Bishop of Dallas