

# The Aspirant

A Publication of The Labouré Society



Aspirant News

Delivering Priestly and Religious Vocations through Student Loan Resolution | Winter 2016, Volume 10, Issue 1

## Thanks to You...

12 new aspirants are working together to *remove the financial obstacles that prevent them from answering God's call.*

Labouré alumna Sister Marie Dominic of the Incarnate Word *was received for Solemn Profession at Corpus Christi Monastery.*

Labouré alumna Sister Katie Clemmer *was received for Solemn Profession with Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

Labouré alumna Briana Murphy *has entered formation with the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara at Saint Kateri Tekawitha convent.*

## Frigid Temperatures, Warm Hearts

With few exceptions, members of the current class of Labouré aspirants hail from mild climates, so imagine their surprise when they arrived in the Twin Cities for “Boot Camp” this past January and were greeted with below zero temperatures!

Fortunately, things warmed up quickly with an inspirational opening address delivered by Labouré Founder and Executive Director, Cy Laurent. Each day's agenda was jam-packed with presentations, discussions, and workshops — all tailored to help transform spiritually minded people into fundraising superstars.

If accomplishments are any indication, this class is more than up to the challenge. Degrees include: law; psychology; history; biomedical visualization; philosophy; and health science, among others. These individuals have proven themselves in academics and their fields of expertise; they are now responding to a higher calling.

Thanks to your generous support, in the coming months the winter, 2016 class of Labouré aspirants will embark on a new journey — one that will lead to untold blessings. Please keep them in your prayers.

# Called to serve The Winter Class of 2016

## Doing God's Will Joyfully in Imitation of Mary and St. Francis

### An Excerpt from Labouré Aspirant Megan Lightfoot's Vocation Story

"I have come to a deeper awareness and knowledge of joy as our Lord has drawn me closer to His heart. True joy is a gift from God and a fruit of prayer, one that I have not always known yet now desire to share with everyone. The Marian Sisters' charism of 'Doing God's will joyfully in Imitation of Mary and St. Francis,' is one that speaks directly to the desire of my heart to respond to God's love with a great Yes, as Mary did in her Fiat, and to live with great simplicity and love like St. Francis.

The Marian Sisters have various apostolates in service to the diocese, including teaching, women's ministry, healthcare, and more. God willing, the gift of my vocation and education will be united in a gift to the diocese to glorify God and invite others to encounter Christ.

*~Megan Lightfoot seeks to enter formation with the Marian Sisters of Lincoln.*

## Pope Francis on The Mission of Every Christian

"Most of you know the story of Saint Katharine Drexel, one of the great saints raised up by this local Church [Philadelphia]. When she spoke to Pope Leo XIII of the needs of the missions, the Pope... asked her pointedly: 'What about you? What are you going to do?' Those words changed Katharine's life, because they reminded her that, in the end, every Christian man and woman, by virtue of baptism, has received a mission. Each one of us has to respond, as best we can, to the Lord's call to build up His body, the Church."

## Join Us

Help us deliver much needed priests, sisters, and brothers to the Church. Labouré needs you as a:

1. Prayer Partner — sign up and be given an aspirant to provide prayer support throughout his or her vocational journey.
2. Regional Advocate — be the voice of Labouré in your area, spreading awareness for future aspirants and inviting the lay faithful to learn how they can end the current vocation crisis.
3. Aspirant Accountability Partner (AP) — APs are assigned an aspirant and serve as friends, mentors, and guides during the Labouré fund-raising process.

Email [info@labouresociety.org](mailto:info@labouresociety.org) to get involved. Together we have prayed for these vocations. Together we can deliver them to a Church in need.



AMANDA STUEVE

**Home:** Kansas  
**Community:** Little Sisters of the Lamb  
**Alma Mater:** Kansas State University  
**Major:** Anthropology, Political Science  
**Graduate Alma Mater:** Texas A&M University  
**Major:** International Affairs



BILL DUFFERT

**Home:** Minnesota  
**Community:** Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis  
**Alma Mater:** Saint Mary's University  
**Major:** Elementary Education  
**Graduate Alma Mater:** University of Saint Mary's of the Lake  
**Major:** Philosophy and Religion



NICHOLAS MARTELL

**Home:** California  
**Community:** Diocese of San Bernardino  
**Alma Mater:** University of California  
**Major:** History  
**Graduate Alma Mater:** Western State University College of Law  
**Major:** Law



**ALICE SNEE**

**Home:** Louisiana  
**Community:** Society of St. Teresa of Jesus  
**Alma Mater:** Louisiana Tech University  
**Major:** Architecture  
**Graduate Alma Mater:** Ave Maria School of Law, FL  
**Major:** Law



**TYLER KOESTER**

**Home:** Ohio  
**Community:** Dominican Province of Saint Joseph  
**Alma Mater:** Franciscan University of Steubenville  
**Major:** Philosophy



**PATRICIA CLARK**

**Home:** Michigan  
**Community:** Discalced Carmelites –Monastery of St. Therese  
**Alma Mater:** Baylor University  
**Major:** Nursing  
**Graduate Alma Mater:** University of Michigan  
**Major:** Nursing / Biobehavior



**THOMAS DAY**

**Home:** Indiana  
**Community:** Dominican Province of Saint Joseph  
**Alma Mater:** Saint Joseph's College  
**Major:** History



**KRISTA FERRELL**

**Home:** North Dakota  
**Community:** Annunciation Monastery  
**Alma Mater:** University of Mary Hardin-Baylor  
**Major:** History



**NICHOLAS CASE**

**Home:** California  
**Community:** Archdiocese of San Francisco  
**Alma Mater:** Northwest Christian University  
**Major:** Philosophy  
**Graduate Alma Mater:** Union Theological Seminary  
**Major:** Systematic Theology  
**Graduate Alma Mater:** The Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology  
**Major:** Philosophy



**LARYN KOVALIK**

**Home:** California  
**Community:** Verbum Dei Missionary Fraternity  
**Alma Mater:** Denison University  
**Major:** Biology  
**Graduate Alma Mater:** University of Illinois at Chicago  
**Major:** Biomedical Visualization



**MEGAN LIGHTFOOT**

**Home:** Nebraska  
**Community:** Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln  
**Alma Mater:** Creighton University  
**Major:** Health Science  
**Graduate Alma Mater:** Creighton University  
**Major:** Pharmacy



**NORBERTO MEDINA JR**

**Home:** Texas  
**Community:** Claretians CMF  
**Alma Mater:** University of Houston  
**Major:** Psychology

*“From the midst of His suffering, I heard the Lord say to me, ‘I have made you for myself and you are mine.’ I knew then that I needed to seriously investigate religious life.”*  
–Amanda Stueve

*“Almost every priest that I would come in contact with asked if I had considered the priesthood. This made me feel encouraged that this was the path that God wanted me to pursue.”*  
–Nicholas Martell

*“Five years after giving everything to God I received notification that I had been accepted as a postulant. I am thrilled to think that one day I might wear the habit of the Discalced Carmelites.”*  
–Patricia Clark

# About The Labouré Society

## The Aspirant

A publication of  
The Labouré Society

## Mission

The Labouré Society exists to provide financial assistance and spiritual support to individuals who must resolve student loans in order to pursue a vocation to priestly or religious life in the Catholic Church.

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## 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 educational loans\*
- The average vocational 'aspirant' in Labouré owes \$45,000 in educational 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 260 assisted into formation to the priesthood or religious life
- Over \$3.8 million awarded, over 90% of aspirant funds received
- A network of thousands of praying singles, families, religious, priests, & bishops

## How do we do it?

### Our Aspirants:

- Discern a vocation & are accepted into a diocese or religious community
- 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 & participate in building a culture of vocations & evangelization
- Raise funds for Labouré to benefit many vocations
- Are awarded monthly payments towards their educational loans
- Receive final award payout after 3 years & enter freely into a lifetime of priestly or religious service

### The Labouré Society

- Works with each aspirant to ensure all personal means are utilized 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 building 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 real time donation processing, reporting, assessment of goals & class interaction, marketing & communications tools
- Facilitates ongoing communication & updates between aspirants & donors after formation entrance
- Manages aspirant award payments while they are in formation
- Completes award payout after 3 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 awarded but not dispersed to a former aspirant are reallocated toward current or future aspirants.*