

# 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 the priesthood and/or religious life in the Catholic Church.

## Board of Directors

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The Labouré Society  
651.452.1160  
1365 Corporate Center Curve  
Suite 104  
Eagan, MN 55121  
[www.LaboureSociety.org](http://www.LaboureSociety.org)

*The Labouré Society is a Catholic 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization domiciled within the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis but is not a unit of the Archdiocese.*

## 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
- Over 250 assisted into formation to the priesthood or religious life
- Over \$3.2 million awarded, over 90% of aspirant funds received
- A network of thousands of praying singles, families, religious, priests, & bishops
- Efficient service: a modest staff of 3 employees in a donated office

## 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 loan payments toward 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

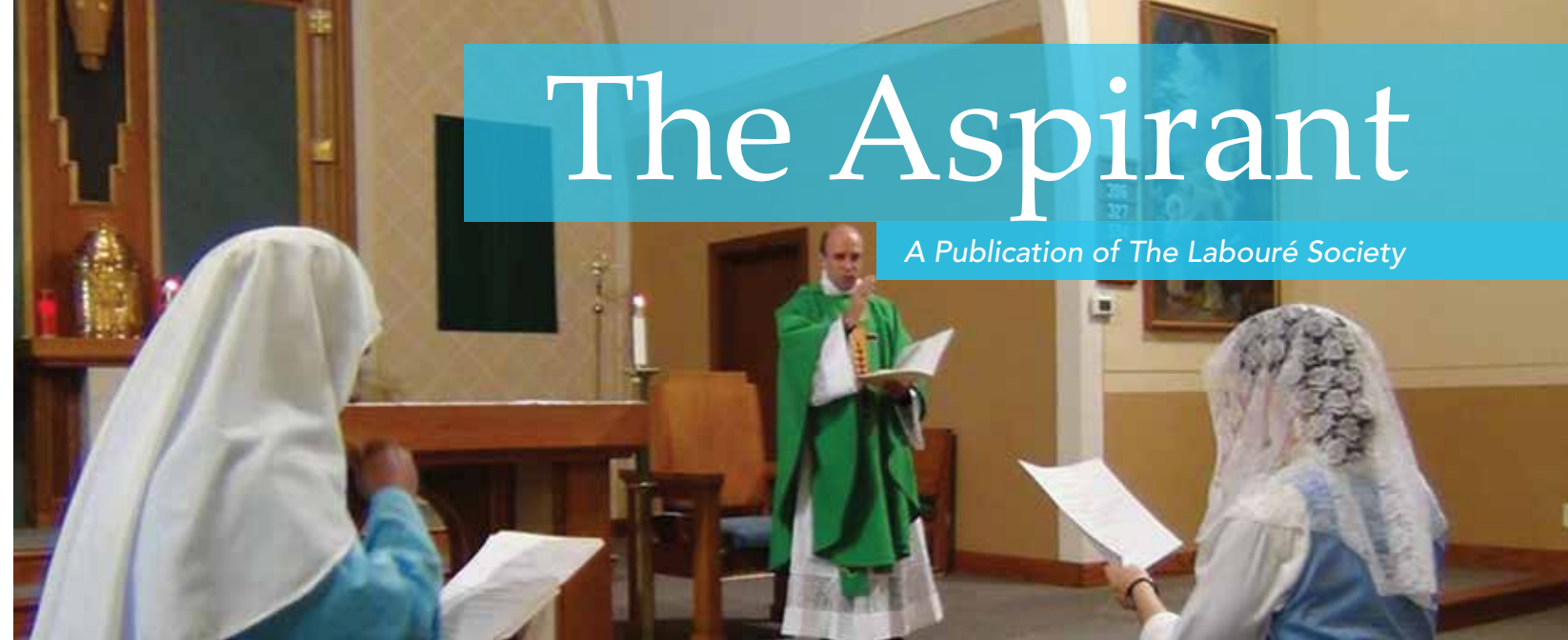
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*The Labouré Society is a recognized Catholic 501(c)(3) nonprofit and all donations are tax deductible. Gifts solicited by our aspirants belong to Labouré and are dispersed upon board approved guidelines to ensure full compliance with IRS rulings. 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 according to the aforementioned guidelines.*

# The Aspirant

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Labouré News

Delivering Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life through Student Loan Resolution | Spring 2015, Volume 9, Issue 2

## Thanks to You...

Labouré alumna, Ana Rodriguez, *began her novitiate with the Discalced Carmelites of San Francisco.*

Labouré alumna, Melanie Bruss, *was received into the Institute of the Consecrates of the Most Holy Savior as a postulant.*

Labouré alumnus, Nelson Cintra, *has been temporarily assigned to Immaculate Conception Parish in Buhl, ID.*

Labouré alumna, Sr. Katheryn Teresa, *is teaching 4th graders at St. James Parish School in Falls Church, VA.*

*More alumni news inside...*

## Springtime Brings a New Flowering of Vocations

Nothing could be more gratifying than following Labouré aspirants as they graduate from the program and go on to achieve their long sought after vocational goals. The many letters and emails we receive from alumni, sharing reflections, milestones, and progress reports, bring joy to our hearts.

Every vocation is a thing of beauty — an echo of the Divine, but when individuals overcome difficult, often seemingly insurmountable, obstacles while striving to answer God's call (as Labouré aspirants must), the rewards are that much sweeter. It has been our great privilege to witness success stories like these year after year.

Labouré aspirants come from diverse backgrounds, and pursue a wide variety of priestly and religious vocations, but they all have one thing in common: a deep and abiding gratitude for the opportunities given them.

For Labouré aspirants, the freedom to answer God's call — to become the next generation of Catholic priests, sisters, and brothers — can be attributed to persistent faith, tireless work and, in large part, to your continued generosity.

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# The Labouré Society Alumni News

## Ana Begins Her Novitiate

From Ana Rodriguez

"Thanks be to God, my community, The Discalced Carmelites of San Francisco, has approved my entrance into the novitiate. My new name is Hermana Maria de San José (Sister Mary of Saint Joseph), and I received my habit on March 19th, 2015, the feast day of Saint Joseph. Thank you for your prayers; the Labouré Society family and supporters/community will remain in my daily prayers."

## Melanie Enters as a Postulant

From Melanie Bruss

"This past December, I was officially received into the Institute of the Consecrates of the Most Holy Savior as a postulant. At that time, I received a new jumper and began wearing a veil (see photo of Melanie on page 3).

"Thank you so much for your love, support, prayers, and contributions to Labouré. Without your support and God's providence I would not have been able to enter religious life. I am very grateful and I try to remember you in my prayers every day! Thank you for everything and I ask you to please keep me in your prayers."

## Nelson's Summer Assignment

From Nelson Cintra

"I have some good news to share with you: I just received my summer assignment. I'll be at Immaculate Conception Parish in Buhl, ID, and its attached mission, St. Catherine's in Hagerman. The population of Buhl is 4,200, and Hagerman is 850. Here is a note from my vocation director:

'There is a Portuguese speaking community of considerable size in the parish and the area. Part of your assignment is to make contact and become familiar with this community. They will be thrilled, I believe, to have the hope of a Portuguese speaking priest!'

"I'm very blessed to have this opportunity. It wouldn't be happening if it weren't for Labouré. Please continue to pray for me. Count on my daily prayers for you."

## Sr. Katheryn Teresa is Busy

From Sr. Katheryn Teresa

"The fall was a busy time that included classes with our formator, Spanish class, and an education class. I also went to St. Agnes Catholic School in West Chester, PA once a week. I spent my time there in the 4th grade classroom where I taught Religion and helped lead smalls groups in Math and Reading. I absolutely loved the students there and was very sad to leave in December.

"On January 10, I was sent on my first mission experience. I am at St. James Parish in Falls Church, VA for 12 weeks. While here, I am helping to teach 4th graders, assisting with after school activities, and getting involved in parish life. This is also an opportunity for me to be part of a local convent community, and see what it's like out in the real world. So far, I'm loving it. This experience is confirming that religious life is God's call for my life.

"Well, that is all for now. As always, I hold you all in my daily prayers. May God bless you abundantly and grant you His peace (see photo of Sr. Katheryn on page 3)."

## News of Sr. Carroll Vincent

From Sr. Margaret Mary, Assistant Superior, Monastery of the Visitation

"The support, encouragement and formation which our soon to be postulant, Carroll Vincent, has received from you and your collaborators at Labouré has been outstanding and invaluable...

This past year, though challenging for Carroll, has been immensely enriching. Her gifts and talents have been brought to light and developed while virtues fundamental to her vocation as a cloistered, contemplative religious have matured and deepened...

Carroll is coming to us with a firm foundation already in place, thanks in large measure to the Labouré Society as well as her own generous response to Grace...

Who can measure the great fruitfulness that may result from all of this? We wish to assure you, and all at Labouré, of a permanent place, not only in Carroll's heart and prayers, but also in the hearts and prayers of our sisters."



## Labouré Alumni Gallery

Clockwise from top left: Sr. Katheryn Teresa (formerly Katie Clemmer; second from left) with Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; postulant Carolyn Villar (at right) with the superior of the Sisters Servants of the Word in Nuevo Leon, Mexico; Melanie Bruss (kneeling), entering into postulancy with the Consecrates of the Most Holy Savior; Sr. Raphaelle Marie (formerly Jessica Condon; second from left) with Sisters of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ; Labouré Aspirant Program Administrator, Maritza Sanchez, with Stephen Galdo of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal; Labouré founder and Executive Director, Cy Laurent, with Sr. Bernadette Rose (formerly Megan Spelic) of the Little Sisters of the Poor, International; [center photo] Sr. Josephine (formerly Toni Garrett; at right), chatting with members of the winter 2015 class of Labouré aspirants, Justin Leedy and Cialinett Colon.