

# 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 and/or religious life in the Catholic Church.

## Board of Directors

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1365 Corporate Center Curve  
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Eagan, MN 55121  
[www.LaboureSociety.org](http://www.LaboureSociety.org)

The Labouré Society is a 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 \$2.5 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 granted monthly award payments covering their educational loans upon entrance into formation
- Receive final award payout after three years of formation & 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, full time 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 monthly loan payments while they are in formation
- Completes award payout after 3 years of active formation

**LABOURÉ**  
BRIDGE TO MIRACLES

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The Labouré Society is a recognized 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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Aspirant News

Delivering Priestly and Religious Vocations through Student Loan Resolution | Fall 2014, Volume 8, Issue 4

## Thanks to You...

Labouré alumna Jessica Condon (now known as Sister Raphaelle Marie) entered her novitiate with the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in Texas on the Feast of St. Clare.

Labouré alumna Melanie Bruss entered her novitiate with the Consecrates of the Most Holy Savior, Minnesota.

Labouré alumnus Steven Galdo entered the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal at St. Joseph Friary, New York.

Labouré alumna Sarah Golden entered her novitiate with the Poor Clares at Bethlehem Monastery, Virginia.

## Another Step Closer to Vocations

As the Fall, 2014 class of Labouré aspirants entered the Embassy Suites Conference Center in Bloomington, Minnesota, their enthusiasm was palpable. These gifted individuals of various ages and backgrounds came from all across the country with dreams of serving the Church and humanity. Until recently, the obstacles to pursuing a vocation to the priesthood or religious life seemed insurmountable; but now, with your help, they were finally preparing to answer God's call.

After daily Mass celebrated by Labouré alum Fr. Chris Johnson the aspirants attended inspirational presentations, panel discussions, and workshops designed to prepare them for the journey ahead. Speakers Nelson Cintra and Tara Clemens – former Labouré aspirants who have since entered the seminary and a Dominican monastery – shared best practices and valuable insights learned from their own time as Labouré aspirants.

Once again, through your prayers and generous support, a new class of aspirants is ready to serve the Church. They are running "...straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus..." [Philippians 3:14].

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# Called to serve The Fall Class of 2014

## Mysterious Ways

*A letter from Tom Kissel, one of our Regional Advocates:*

Praise be Jesus Christ!

I'd like to share an inspiring story from Vocation Day at Franciscan University.

During the lunch hour, our good friend Sr. Bernadette was fortunate enough to sit next to a wonderful young woman named Crista. Crista related that she had met with a vocations director the previous morning who informed her she could not enter her desired order due to outstanding student loans. Sr. Bernadette, with her characteristic zeal, replied, "You need to come with me!" and led her straightaway to the Labouré booth.

After Crista shared her dilemma, I explained the mission and gift of Labouré, which immediately brought a smile to Crista's lips and tears to her eyes.

Later, Sr. Bernadette shared the rest of Crista's story: after her appointment with the vocation director the previous day, and in a state of despair, Crista prayed to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and was comforted by a sense of assurance that Our Lady would intercede. Hours later, Crista was directed to the Labouré booth.

There are no accidents.

## Pope Francis on Vocations

In his weekly radio address, Pope Francis recently stated that vocations are "...a diamond in the rough, which need to be polished with patience and care so they come to shine among the faithful."

## Coming Up

Join us in delivering 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 their 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 this 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.



MARVIN ABELLA

**Home:** California  
**Community:** Capuchin Franciscans  
**Alma Mater:** ITT Technical Institute  
**Major:** Electronics Engineering Technology



BRENDEN BELL

**Home:** Nevada  
**Community:** Oblates of the Virgin Mary  
**Alma Mater:** Boston College  
**Major:** Theology



MARK BOCINSKY

**Home:** Colorado  
**Community:** Servants of Christ Jesus  
**Alma Mater:** University of Florida, Gainesville  
**Major:** Business Administration



ANTHONY HAMATY

**Home:** Florida  
**Community:** St. Augustine Diocese  
**Alma Mater:** University of Miami School of Medicine  
**Major:** Medicine



LARYN KOVALIK

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



ALISON LAWN

**Home:** Pawcatuck, CT  
**Community:** Discalced Carmelite Nuns (Danvers, MA)  
**Alma Mater:** Franciscan University of Steubenville  
**Major:** Theology



MARIA MARTINEZ

**Home:** Illinois  
**Community:** Missionaries of Charity  
**Alma Mater:** International Academy of Design and Technology  
**Major:** Information Technology



SARAH MEIER

**Home:** Colorado  
**Community:** Poor Clares of Langhorne, PA  
**Alma Mater:** Washington University in St. Louis  
**Major:** Physical Therapy



JEFF RYAN

**Home:** Illinois  
**Community:** Marians of the Immaculate Conception  
**Alma Mater:** Franciscan University of Steubenville  
**Major:** Theology

*"I am deeply grateful to have heard God's call... I am reaching out to you to work with my classmates and I towards our desire to enter religious life."*

–Laryn Kovalik

*"God continued to increase that desire and one day in prayer I found myself reflecting on the story of the Rich Young Man. The man asks Jesus what he must do to gain eternal life and Jesus says to obey the commandments. The man probes further, saying, 'I've done all this since I was a child. What else must I do?' Jesus says, 'Go, sell what you have, give it to the poor and come follow me.'"*

–Mark Bocinsky

*"As the Holy Father passed by me in the Pope Mobile our eyes met for what seemed to be the longest five seconds of my life."*

–Alison Lawn

*"I posed the question to Jesus how I could possibly thank Him. He answered me with two very simple but powerful words. In the stillness of my soul, I heard 'Serve Me.'"*

–Anthony Hamaty