

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.

Board of Directors

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Aspirant Program Administrator

The Labouré Society
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1365 Corporate Center Curve
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Eagan, MN 55121
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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 \$3.6 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 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.

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Aspirant News

Delivering Priestly and Religious Vocations through Student Loan Resolution | Summer 2015, Volume 9, Issue 3

Thanks to You...

Labouré alumna Sister Marianna Christine Hudson, OSB, was received for Solemn Profession at the Monastery of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on July 9th.

Labouré alumnus Steven Galdo received Investiture with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal at St. Joseph Friary, New York on July 17th.

Labouré alumna Sarah Meier entered Bethlehem Monastery of Poor Clares (Colettine) in Barhamsville, Virginia on July 22nd.

Labouré alumnus the Rev. Father Allen Joseph Alexander, MIC was ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Michigan on July 25th.

A Weekend of Sunshine and New Beginnings

Labouré welcomed another group of talented, enthusiastic young people to Minneapolis this past July for a three-day weekend centered on education, fellowship, and prayer. There were smiles all around as they arrived at the Embassy Suites event center in Bloomington and were greeted by Labouré staff, board members, and former aspirants.

Each day began with a beautiful Mass celebrated by Labouré alum, Fr. Chris Johnson, SJ. Activities included many interesting and informative talks, workshops, and panel discussions designed to provide aspirants with the tools they need to remove the financial obstacles preventing them from pursuing their vocations.

The Summer, 2015 class hails from across the country, with degrees ranging from Philosophy and Theology to Biochemistry and Information Technology. Their impressive academic credentials are matched only by their unbending faith and commitment to serving the Lord.

Thanks to your prayers and generous support, a new class of aspirants is prepared to "...do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work." [John 4:34].

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Called to serve The Summer Class of 2015

Contemplating God As The World Rushes By

An Excerpt from Labouré Alum Justin Leedy's Vocation Story

"...In the last semester of my undergraduate studies, I stumbled upon a Sunday evening Mass where I discovered a choir all wearing white robes, singing what sounded like music from heaven. I was captivated and moved by the music. I kept coming back every week, recognizing that something about the music led me inexorably to thoughts of God..."

"I began to learn about the communities of men who devoted their whole lives to worshipping God through chanted prayer. I decided to imitate these monks by praying the Liturgy of the Hours and the Divine Office and fell in love with the rhythmic prayer. I felt as though the total orientation to God that I experienced at the chanted Mass was spreading throughout my daily life..."

"One evening while I was discerning whether to stay in the seminary or become a monk, I was standing in front of the campus church as the sun was setting. I was lost in admiration at the intensity of its color and light. Although dozens of students and professors rushed around me on their way back and forth from class, some noticed me staring and turned to follow my gaze. With these few, I shared a moment of contemplating a higher beauty beyond where we were in the world. This moment stayed with me as a metaphor for the mission of a monk. A monk stands still and contemplates God while the world rushes by, reminding us of the higher reality."

When I had decided to pursue a monastic vocation I looked for a community that was living this kind of life. My spiritual director recommended the Benedictine monks of Norcia, Italy. When I visited the monastery, I immediately felt at home. Most of the men who had taken their vows of obedience, stability, and conversion in Norcia were Americans like myself. They came to Norcia, the ancient Nursia, which is the birthplace of St. Benedict, to consecrate their lives to the worship of God. They do this by chanting the psalms, meditating on the scriptures, and striving to pray constantly."

~Justin Leedy will enter postulancy with the Benedictine Monks of Norcia, Italy, in October.

Pope John Paul II on Vocations

"In the hidden recesses of the human heart the grace of a vocation takes the form of a dialogue. It is a dialogue between Christ and an individual, in which a personal invitation is given. Christ calls the person by name and says: 'Come, follow me.' This call, this mysterious inner voice of Christ, is heard most clearly in silence and prayer. Its acceptance is an act of faith."

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 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 to get involved. Together we have prayed for these vocations. Together we can deliver them to a Church in need.



BILL DUFFERT

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



BRIANA MURPHY

Home: Kansas
Community: The Servants of The Lord
Alma Mater: Benedictine College, Atchison, KS
Major: Theology



EUNICE AMANKWAH-ADDO

Home: Massachusetts
Community: Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Alma Mater: Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)
Major: Biochemistry



KRISTA FERRELL

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



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



MARIA MARTINEZ

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



MONICA NGENO

Home: Minnesota
Community: Vistation Monastery
Alma Mater: Minnesota State University
Major: Biology
Graduate Alma Mater: San Diego State University
Major: Public Health

Behind and before every vocation to the priesthood or to the consecrated life there is always the strong and intense prayer of someone: a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a community...

~Pope Francis

"During... confession, a priest, seemingly out of nowhere, asked me if I had ever thought about becoming a priest."

~Bill Duffert

"I want to quench Jesus's thirst by doing spiritual works... and by taking the Gospel to the world by preaching with my presence."

~Maria Martinez

"I hope to join the Sisters in their selfless giving and I am eager to start the path God has laid out for me."

~Krista Ferrell

"I went into my local chapel to spend time with our Lord... I heard a still small and gentle voice ask of me, 'Will you be Mine?'"

~Eunice Amankwah-Addo