



Most Rev. John R. Manz
Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago

October 5, 2015

Dear Friend in Christ,

Thank you for your service to the Church and for receiving the work of the Labouré Society into your Parish and community. I am heartily enthusiastic about the work of Labouré and desire for its works to be well known in our local Church. The Labouré Society's mission is to deliver imperiled vocations to the priesthood and religious life through the mitigation of student loans by a combination of expert loan mitigation strategies and biblically-based philanthropy.

I have only recently learned of the great impact student loans are having on all vocations and specifically those to the priesthood or religious life. 42% of those discerning religious vocations are blocked from entering formation due to the balance of their student loans. I learned of this while speaking with a local candidate for the Missionaries of Charity. She is one of over 250 vocations Labouré has worked with to mitigate their student loans and deliver into their respective formation programs. Through her story I learned of the aid offered by the Labouré Society and saw first hand the results. I also came to appreciate that this was not a hand out to those discerning, but rather a way for those discerning to work out the obstacle of their own student loans. The Labouré program is one that nurtures a deeper discernment for each aspirant, while fostering skills that every diocese and religious institution needs.

As an organization they spread a culture of vocations. Each Labouré aspirant and their classmates represent a new wave of growth in the Church, but one that needs our help to come to fruition. When given the opportunity, please meet with local Labouré representatives and aspirants. Your investments of time, talent, and treasure will touch and transform countless lives as each aspirant enters formation and lives out their vocation.

I am compelled to help and invite you to prayerfully consider likewise. Please be generous in your support and know that you are rebuilding the Church as you do.

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. John R. Manz
Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago

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