

# Will you join my Vocation Journey?



| Community: Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis | Alma Mater: Gustavus Adolphus  
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*My name is Charlie Barnick. I am discerning a call to serve Christ and His Church as a priest with the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I was blessed to be raised in a Catholic family with loving parents and a father who taught me the importance of faith, personal sacrifice and the conviction to do what is right. Yet growing up, my faith life lacked true intimacy with Christ, and I spent my time focusing on sports, video games and friends.

## The Call

As I entered college, I decided to be more intentional about my faith. I chose to say no to the worldly behaviors college life often brings. I sought a brotherhood that I discovered was difficult to find. One day, the thought to consider the priesthood came to my mind. Unsure what to make of it, I asked God to show me a sign—a red cardinal—if He wanted me to consider the vocation. The next morning while walking to class, I saw one lone cardinal. God had answered me, and thus began my discernment.

Though there were ups and downs emotionally and spiritually over the next few years, I followed through on a desire to become an intentional leader of faith amongst my peers. I brought football teammates to Adoration, led the team in prayer, and started a Bible study group. For a long time, though, I was resistant to the call to the priesthood because I was afraid that my friends and family might treat me differently if I pursued it.

A book from my grandmother called *All In: Breaking Barriers to the Priesthood* finally pushed me out of my comfort zone. I visited the Saint Paul Seminary and was able to interact with other men who all wanted to give their lives to Christ. I saw the brotherhood that I had desired being lived out.

*“God had answered me, and thus began my discernment.”*

—Charlie

## An Invitation

As I follow God's calling to the priesthood, I seek others to accompany me on this journey. May we meet so that I can share more? Until then, please keep me and my classmates in prayer, and feel free to reach out to me at [Charlie.Barnick@rescuevocations.org](mailto:Charlie.Barnick@rescuevocations.org).

# Why is Labouré Needed?



Escalating education costs block many aspiring priests and religious from answering God's call.



Many religious communities cannot afford to assume their aspirants' loan debts



Most dioceses / eparchies will allow some debt but have a limited threshold for acceptance



Rising formation costs often limit missionary activities and care of aging priests and religious.

## How does the Mission Work?

### OUR ASPIRANTS

Are discerning a vocation and have been selected into a diocese / eparchy or religious institute

Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans and/or formation expenses

Are trained by Labouré in Catholic-based fundraising and are provided with practical tools, personal mentoring and accountability

Share their vocation stories with thousands of Catholic benefactors, thereby building a culture of vocations and evangelization

As a class, aspirants raise funds collectively and receive awards from those funds to be applied to their educational debt

### THE LABOURÉ SOCIETY

Works with aspirants to utilize all personal means to mitigate their loan amount upon joining the program

Trains each aspirant in Catholic-based philanthropy

Mentors each aspirant to build a unified class; each individual works toward the collective goal

Accompanies each aspirant through ongoing accountability and guidance to ensure successful completion of individual and class fundraising plans

Equips each aspirant with an online fundraising platform and multi-media fundraising tools

Facilitates ongoing aspirant/donor communication and updates after aspirant enters formation

## What Has Labouré Accomplished?

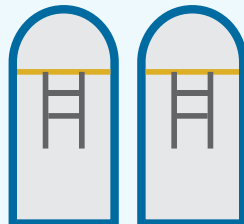
### 350+ INSTITUTIONS



Supported by 350+ religious institutions & 80+ bishops to help deliver their aspirants debt-free.

### SEPARATE FUNDING SOURCES

100% of aspirant-raised funds go to the direct benefit of aspirants in the program.



One organization - two separate silos of funds. Labouré supports vocations at no cost to the aspirant or their institution.

Labouré Staff raise separate funding for overhead and general operation expenses.

### \$15+ MILLION



Raised by 480 Labouré aspirants assisted into formation for the priesthood or religious life since 2003.

\*According to 2022 Forbes Magazine, the national average education loan debt can be as high as \$40k. For aspirants in the Labouré program the average debt is \$80k-100k. 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. All gifts made to Labouré are non-refundable. Aspirants who leave Labouré are not required to repay any funds disbursed but are strongly encouraged to support Labouré however possible. Funds granted but not dispersed to a former aspirant are made available to other Labouré Aspirant needs.