

A portrait of Eloy Cuevas, a man with a beard and dark hair, wearing a dark suit and tie, smiling slightly. The background is a blue pattern of faint icons related to education and faith.

# Will you join my Vocation Journey?

| Community: Diocese of Yakima | Alma Mater: Central Washington University  
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*My name is Eloy Cuevas. I am discerning a call to serve Christ and His Church as a priest with the Diocese of Yakima. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I grew up in a Catholic family in Jalisco, Mexico. Along with my six brothers, I was raised to know the importance of participating in the life of the Church. My parents brought us to Mass every Sunday, and eventually I became an altar server because I loved being close to the liturgy. Faith was intrinsic to my family life—not something that we chose to do, but just part of who we were.

## The Call

When I was eighteen years old, I moved to the United States. I had to make a choice to continue to practice my Faith actively, or let it fade away. I loved the Catholic Faith, so I began to spend more time at Mass and Adoration.

I had long thought of priests as "super humans" who always knew they were special and set apart for more. One day, though, a discussion with a mentor priest revealed to me that priests are simply normal men who answer God's call. I began to think more seriously about following the path to the priesthood. Many people shared with me that they were praying for my discernment, and this support was, and continues to be, incredibly helpful.

I know full well that I am still a work in progress, learning each day to be more open to prayer, willing to listen, and to be corrected when needed. I cannot walk this path on my own, but I know that God will never forsake me while striving to grow closer to Him.

*"I began to think more seriously about following the path to the priesthood."*

—Eloy

## 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 [Eloy.Cuevas@rescuevocations.org](mailto:Eloy.Cuevas@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?

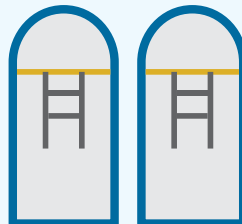
### 350+ INSTITUTIONS



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.