

# Will you join my Vocation Journey?



| Community: Carmelite Friars (Province of St. Elias)

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*My name is Patrick Horvat. I am discerning a call to seek the Face of God through prayer, fraternity, and ministry as a friar with the Carmelite Friars (Province of St. Elias). This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I grew up in Dumont, New Jersey. Though I attended CCD and weekly Mass, I had very little understanding of the Faith. I assumed that God was a far-off deity who possessed a simple affection for us rather than a deep, abiding love. The significance of the Eucharist and the Cross were, sadly, lost upon me.

## The Call

During my freshman year of college, I was struck by how joyful and genuine the Catholic missionaries who worked in campus ministry were. I began to understand that God loves me with an infinite, indescribable magnitude. Prayer became a time I spent with the One I truly loved, and Who truly loved me. In these times, when there was no noise, but only His voice, I truly felt God's love as He drew me closer to Himself.

I began to altar serve, and got to know priests of various dioceses and religious orders. As I spoke to these men who devote themselves entirely to God, I felt a warmth permeate my heart. During Mass and Eucharistic Adoration, the words rang in my mind like a bell: "Come and See." I felt a desire for brotherhood bound in obedience, chastity and poverty—so that everything I am belongs to God.

*"When there was no noise, but only His voice, I truly felt God's love as He drew me closer to Himself."*

—Patrick

## An Invitation

As I follow God's calling to religious life, 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 [Patrick.Horvat@rescuevocations.org](mailto:Patrick.Horvat@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?

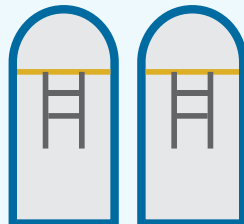
### 350+ INSTITUTIONS



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.