

# Will you join my Vocation Journey?

LABOURÉ®



| Community: Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Newton

| Alma Mater: Franciscan University of Steubenville

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*My name is Christopher Karroum. I am discerning a call to serve Christ and His Church as a priest with the Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Newton. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I am from the suburbs of Cleveland, Ohio and grew up in a very Catholic Middle-Eastern family. My family went to the Melkite Church for Sunday and Holy Day Divine Liturgy. My parents tried their best to instill the Faith in me, but being a young boy who just wanted to be lazy and stay home, I often protested having to serve Divine Liturgy, or go to Sunday School. However, when I got into high school and began attending youth group, something clicked. I was brought out of the singular Catholic home that I know and love, and into the larger Body of Christ.

## The Call

During COVID-19, I turned to social media for connection, and quickly found myself on the Catholic side of the internet. I met amazing young people my age also pursuing the Lord in those troubling times, and even met with some of them in-person. During one of these gatherings, I was invited to an academic retreat at our local seminary. I experienced an academic study that was paired with a true love for God.

Through many God-inspired interactions and providential encounters, I was guided to college to obtain my BA in Theology. I met a group of men who truly fought to obtain Heaven, and through their friendship, I continued to deepen my relationship with the Lord. My heart grew in love for sacramental ministry during this time, as did my desire to be the face of God to those who have been hurt by the world.

*“I continued to  
deepen my  
relationship with  
the Lord.”*

—Christopher

## 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 [Christopher.Karroum@rescuevocations.org](mailto:Christopher.Karroum@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?

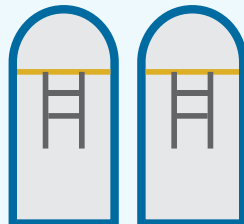
### 350+ INSTITUTIONS



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.