



# Will you join my Vocation Journey?

| Community: Chemin Neuf Community | Alma Mater: Facultés Loyola Paris  
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*My name is Br. Lukas Kroesen. I am discerning a call to dedicate myself to be a herald of the coming kingdom as a brother with the Chemin Neuf Community. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

Born in Austria to an Italian mother and Austrian father, I grew up in the Catholic Faith with my two younger sisters. I served Mass at my home parish and went to religious youth events, but only out of obedience to my parents. Sometimes I would pretend to fall asleep during the family rosary, but my mother would motivate me at every new decade to persevere. My parents' persistence would bear fruit after I turned twelve.

## The Call

At the age of twelve, I again obeyed my parents who wanted me to participate at an event with Eucharistic Adoration and confessions. Entering into the church, I almost immediately felt compelled to go to confession. Upon exiting the confessional, I looked at the Blessed Sacrament and felt God's overwhelming goodness. This experience prompted me to attend Mass daily, which became a regular practice.

Years later, I began medical school at the Charite University in Berlin. Through a Catholic young adult group, I joined a student house run by the Chemin Neuf Community. Over the years, I felt drawn to the spirituality of the Chemin Neuf Community. During a silent retreat, I realized that, no matter what path I chose, holiness could be found in either vocation: as a doctor, husband, and father; or as a religious. I pursued God's calling to religious life within the Chemin Neuf Community, and have since sensed a possible call to the priesthood as well.

*“Over the years, I felt drawn to the spirituality of the Chemin Neuf Community.”*

— Br. Lukas

## An Invitation

As I follow God's calling to religious life and 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 [Br.Lukas.Kroesen@rescuevocations.org](mailto:Br.Lukas.Kroesen@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?

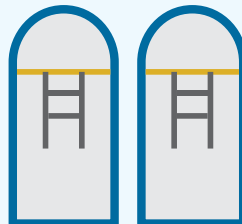
### 350+ INSTITUTIONS



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.