



Will you join my Vocation Journey?

| Community: Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

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My name is Aiden Nicholas. 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 grew up in Brighton, Michigan with four siblings. My parents made sure we never missed a Sunday Mass or Holy Day of Obligation, and that we received the Sacraments often. Yet as I grew into my teen years, I didn't believe or understand how a perfect God could love me, a sinner. The more I doubted God's love for me, the angrier I became. Though I never stopped going to Mass or believing in the True Presence of the Eucharist, I stopped receiving communion.

The Call

As young as age four, I had felt an invitation from Jesus to become a priest. Yet the incompatibility that had grown in my mind between my sins and a perfect God had distanced me from Him.

One night in high school, I had a moment of clarity. I wanted there to be more to life than darkness and anger. I wanted to believe that God's mercy and love were really for me. I felt an invitation to return to the sacrament of Confession after a long time away—an invitation that I accepted.

The next morning, I received the Eucharist at Mass, and repeated the most important prayer of my life: "Jesus, I trust in You." In that moment, Jesus rewarded my act of faith, making the truth of His Sacred Heart known to me. From that moment on, my life changed. As I began to rebuild my relationship with Jesus, I again became aware of His invitation to the priesthood. He gave up His life for me; now I was being asked to give up my life for Him and for His Church.

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—Aiden

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 Aiden.Nicholas@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?

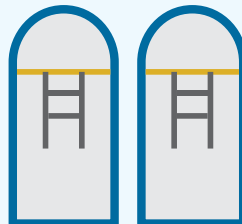
350+ INSTITUTIONS



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.