

A portrait of a young man with short, light brown hair, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white collared shirt, and a dark tie. The background behind him is a solid blue color with faint, repeating patterns of a gear and a cross.

# Will you join my Vocation Journey?

| Community: Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis | Alma Mater: University of St. Thomas  
| Email: [John.Nicklaus@rescuevocations.org](mailto:John.Nicklaus@rescuevocations.org) | Phone: (612) 517-5849

*My name is John Nicklaus. 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 Burnsville, Minnesota with my parents and four siblings. The Catholic Faith was a central part of my family. We attended Sunday Mass, prayed before meals, and my father, a deacon, encouraged me to pray daily. I had a longing to live my life for God, but struggled to let Him lead me. This changed, however, in my high school years, when I began to open myself to the Lord and trust in His plan for my life. Year by year, God took the little openness that I gave Him and multiplied it, giving me the grace to follow Him more closely.

## The Call

In high school I did think about becoming a priest, but I pushed that idea away because I was afraid that it meant I would not be able to do what I wanted with my life. During college, the chaplain asked me if I had ever considered seminary. When I told him I had been avoiding that question, he encouraged me to ask God what He intended for my life. As I prayed, I realized that the evil one had been using my fear to push me away from God. Having received peace through prayer, I knew that I could trust God's plan for me whatever it may be. Knowing that God cannot be outdone in generosity, I will follow the path God is leading me on.

*“I knew that  
I could trust  
God’s plan for me  
whatever it  
may be.”*

—John

## 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 [John.Nicklaus@rescuevocations.org](mailto:John.Nicklaus@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?

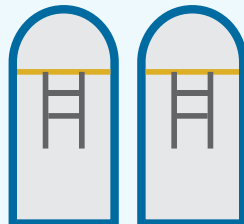
### 350+ INSTITUTIONS



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.