

# Will you join my Vocation Journey?



| Community: Diocese of La Crosse | Alma Mater: University of St. Thomas  
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*My name is Alex Radtke. I am discerning a call to serve Christ and His Church as a priest with the Diocese of La Crosse. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

Growing up in Wisconsin, my parents always made sure my sister and I attended Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation, and that we learned as much as we could about our Catholic Faith. When I wasn't at church or with my family, I was exploring the natural world around me.

## The Call

I was raised to practice servitude as a key component of my faith. Whether it was volunteering at the food bank or participating in Mass as an altar server, I found myself drawn to working for the good of others. I threw myself into youth group, youth ministry events, and youth choir. I spent a lot of time at Eucharistic Adoration during my childhood years, and this is where I learned the most about my faith.

From a young age, I felt called to sit in front of the Blessed Sacrament. One day, at my youth group summer camp, I found myself sitting there once again. I asked God what He wanted me to do with my life, and immediately I felt the pull to the priesthood. I was shocked, so I asked Him again: "What do You want me to do?" Again, the same pull. For a third time, I inquired, and this time, a clear statement from the Lord: "I want you to be a priest."

After the third response, I felt completely calm and peaceful. There was no fear or distress. I continued to pray about this calling to the priesthood for the next few years, but God had spoken. I'm ready to answer.

*"From a young age, I felt called to sit in front of the Blessed Sacrament."*

*— Alex*

## 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 [Alex.Radtke@rescuevocations.org](mailto:Alex.Radtke@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?

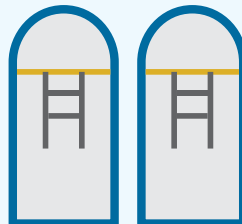
### 350+ INSTITUTIONS



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.