



Will you join my Vocation Journey?

| Community: Diocese of Yakima | Alma Mater: Mount Angel Seminary
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My name is Levi Russell. I am discerning a call to serve Christ and His Church as a priest with the Diocese of Yakima. This is my story.

In the Beginning

Growing up as one of three children in a Protestant family, I lived a life centered around love, prayer, and truth in my family. We prayed before meals and at bedtime, and went to worship services at our local church on Sundays. This was a tremendous gift that would have a profound impact on my vocation.

The Call

Through the positive influence of my brother, who experienced his own conversion after a missionary trip, I attended my first Catholic Mass and was drawn to the Holy Eucharist. I felt this mysterious calling to follow the Lord; to do the exact same thing the priest was doing for God's people.

After being received into the Catholic Church, I continued to experience this call. Yet my view on perfectionism and guilt held me back. In conversation with my pastor, he encouraged me to not let past sins keep me from discerning a vocation. A few months later, I felt God calling me in a particular way to be a "slave of His mercy." Providentially, on Divine Mercy Sunday, I was accepted into seminary. Now in my third year there, I continue to pursue God's will for my life.

*"I felt God
calling me in a
particular way to
be a 'slave of His
mercy.'"*

—Levi

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 Levi.Russell@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?

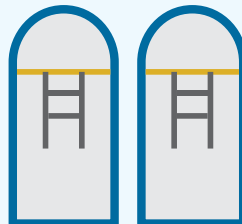
350+ INSTITUTIONS



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.