

Will you join my Vocation Journey?



| Community: Archdiocese of Miami | Alma Mater: Florida International University
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My name is Deacon Jonathan Sánchez. I have discerned a call to serve Christ and His Church as a priest with the Archdiocese of Miami. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I grew up in Miami, Florida, a child of Cuban and Colombian descent. My mother often reminds me of how she gave me to the Blessed Virgin Mary when I was very young. Raised by my mother and grandmother as an only child, I had a faith-filled upbringing, including regularly praying the rosary and receiving a Catholic education thanks to my mother's sacrifices. Yet a lack of male role models took its toll.

The Call

When I met the Heralds of the Gospel while in middle school, the men in this religious community became the male role models I needed. They changed the trajectory of my life, teaching discipline, comportment, etiquette, silence, beauty, and mission. I know that God saved my life through the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Heralds of the Gospel. While initially I thought I was called to join their community, my discernment eventually led me down a different path.

Though I had been in conversation with the archdiocesan Vocations Director since my junior year of high school, I took time to grow and mature. After graduating from college, I worked in Catholic education and some other fields for a time, yet continued to sense the Lord's call.

Retreats have been essential to my hearing God's voice. Again and again, through these periods of intense listening to the Lord, God has revealed to me His love and the deepest desires of my own heart: the priesthood.

*"God has revealed to me
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*—Dcn. Jonathan
Sánchez*

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 Jonathan.Sanchez@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?

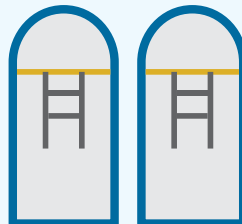
350+ INSTITUTIONS



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.