



Will you join my Vocation Journey?

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My name is Ethan Ward. I am discerning a call to serve Christ and His Church as a priest with the Archdiocese of Mobile. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I grew up in Alabama, where I was raised in a non-denominational Christian household with my older brother and my parents. We went to church together every Sunday as a family and were baptized together. At the time, I understood baptism as an important step in my Christian life, though I had not yet developed a deep personal relationship with God.

The Call

During the COVID-19 pandemic, with daily life disrupted and personal challenges intensified, I ultimately was brought to a point of prayer and transformation. I met a fellow college student with whom I began attending a Bible study. Even though we initially disagreed on theological issues, as he was Catholic, our conversations sparked my curiosity. I began researching the Catholic Church, and by the summer of 2021, was Confirmed into the Church. I became deeply involved in campus ministry and began seriously discerning the priesthood.

Through this discernment, I gained a clearer understanding of the sacrifices and beauty of priestly life. After graduation, I considered a corporate job offer, but heard a clear calling from God to become a missionary instead. My time as a missionary has been deeply fulfilling, especially witnessing to students and helping build authentic faith communities. Throughout it all, the call to the priesthood has remained persistent, so I seek to respond with an open heart.

“I gained a clearer understanding of the sacrifices and beauty of priestly life.”

—Ethan

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 Ethan.Ward@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?

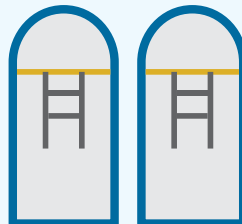
350+ INSTITUTIONS



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.