

Will you join my Vocation Journey?



| Community: Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph

| Alma Mater: Conception Seminary College

| Email: Weston.Warner@rescuevocations.org

| Phone: (660) 238-3876

My name is Weston Warner. I am discerning a call to serve Christ and His Church as a priest with the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I am from the small town of Holden, Missouri. Both of my parents were converts to Catholicism, and were youth ministers besides, so my siblings and I were surrounded by the Catholic Faith from a very young age.

The Call

I first encountered God's plan for my life at a Church camp the summer following fifth grade. During Eucharistic Adoration in a dark room, with the only light being a spotlight on the Lord, I experienced within my heart the abstract God as a personal, all-loving God for the first time in my life. Prompted by a retreat leader to "Ask the Lord what He wants for your life," I did, and immediately, a huge wave of love and acceptance rushed from the Eucharist, poured into my heart, and enveloped me. Then, the thought popped into my mind, "priest." I wish I could say I responded with joy and obedience immediately, but I did not.

Throughout middle school, I struggled with my faith, going back and forth between a relationship with Christ and no relationship. In eighth grade, tired and ashamed of the back and forth, I told God to leave me alone. He did, but a few months later, I realized my error and begged God to help me. Immediately, I felt a sense of conviction, and within my heart, said, "I choose Christ."

A few years later, the call came once again while on retreat. Looking at the tabernacle, I asked God what He wanted from me. Just as before, the wave of love and acceptance enveloped me and the thought "Go be My priest" came to mind. This time, I immediately responded, "If this is Your will for me, then I will do it." Ever since, I have been falling more and more in love with God.

*"Looking at the
tabernacle, I asked
God what He
wanted from me."*

— Weston

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 Weston.Warner@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?

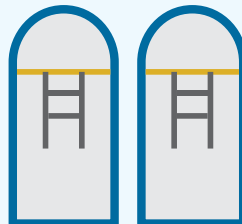
350+ INSTITUTIONS



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.