



# Will you join my Vocation Journey?

| Community: Archdiocese of Hartford | Alma Mater: University of Connecticut  
| Email: [Jake.White@rescuevocations.org](mailto:Jake.White@rescuevocations.org) | Phone: (508) 963-0178

*My name is Jake White. I am discerning a call to serve Christ and His Church as a priest with the Archdiocese of Hartford. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

I grew up in Worcester, Massachusetts. Though I received the Sacraments and attended a Catholic elementary school, my family didn't practice the Faith. Most of my youth was taken up with sports, clubs, friends, and relationships.

## The Call

In college, I suffered a minor crisis about what career to pursue and what I wanted to do with my life. I realized I needed to develop my relationship with God, so I opened the Bible unprompted for the first time in my life. I read all four Gospels in succession over the course of a week. I distinctly remember being brought to tears because I could feel how alive the Scriptures are and how deep God's love is for me.

Soon thereafter, a close friend converted to Catholicism. This captured my attention, because he was vehemently anti-Catholic before converting. That was the catalyst for my own journey of reclaiming my lost Catholicism.

Eventually, God began inviting me to discern the priesthood. Every time I prayed, I would think about the priesthood. One Sunday at Mass, I offered my life to God. After receiving the Eucharist, I knelt and closed my eyes, imploring the Lord to guide me toward His will for my life. Suddenly, in my mind, a blood-stained Eucharist appeared with a wound from Jesus' crucifixion through the center. I heard the Lord speak to my heart, "...lead them to Me. Be with Me in this way." In time, I visited the Vocation Director, who confirmed that God seemed to be inviting me to discern the priesthood.

*"Every time I  
prayed, I would  
think about the  
priesthood."*

*—Jake*

## 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 [Jake.White@rescuevocations.org](mailto:Jake.White@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?

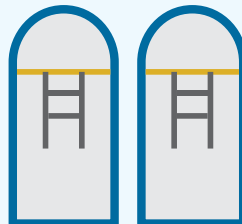
### 350+ INSTITUTIONS



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.