



# Will you join my Vocation Journey?

| Community: Diocese of Buffalo | Alma Mater: West Virginia University  
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*My name is Nathan White. I am discerning a call to serve Christ and His Church as a priest with the Diocese of Buffalo. This is my story.*

## In the Beginning

My childhood home of East Aurora, New York is a culturally Catholic area, and my faith was important to me as a child. I was an altar server from sixth grade through high school, and served Mass in the cathedral, but did not have much of a prayer life or a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

## The Call

When I attended college, I met a wonderful priest who taught me the importance of a personal prayer life. I slowly began to discover the depths of God's love and care for me, and was transformed by it. The thought of being a priest began to live persistently in the back of my mind.

In prayer, I asked the Lord whether or not this was something I actually had to do. After sitting in both mental and physical silence for a half-hour, the following thought came to mind: "Peter, do you love me?" I knew that verse was from Scripture, but couldn't remember where. Looking it up, I found that verse is from the Gospel of John, when Our Lord entrusts the Church to Peter...and that this verse is a part of the readings for a priestly ordination! The symbolism was obvious to me. I had received my answer: if the Lord is inviting me to fully serve at His altar for the rest of my life, my response can only be a joyful YES!

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*—Nathan*

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

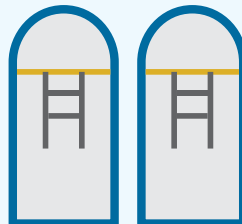
### 350+ INSTITUTIONS



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.