

LABOURE SOCIETY: DEBT ASSISTANCE

So, what does your community do when someone presents himself to the monastery who seems to be an ideal candidate with the right combination of piety, intelligence and maturity but he's got one problem....he has an enormous amount of educational debt? Do you send him away until he's got that taken care of? That could take quite a while. Is your community financially able to set up a plan to assist him in taking care of that debt? You're fortunate. I have recently been introduced to an organization, which exists solely to assist young Catholic men and women to take care of their educational debt so that they can enter religious life or seminary training. It is called the Laboure Society.

The Laboure assists these young people in the following way. When they have been accepted to seminary or religious life subject to the resolution of their education debt they can be accepted by Laboure as one of their aspirants. They are given training and tools to raise money for the Society that corresponds to the amount of debt, which they are carrying. They then go back to their home diocese and solicit funds for this noble purpose. Those who donate to this cause receive a tax donation for their generosity. And, once their amount has been raised they are then free to enter the seminary program or religious congregation to which they have been accepted. Once they enter, Laboure begins making the payments on their loan. The society will continue making payments for 36 payments after which they will pay off the loan in full. If the individual discerns out of religious life or seminary before those three years are up, they take up the payments two months after they have separated from their situation and are not obligated to repay the Society what has been paid on their behalf.

At my monastery, we had a young lady who was a student in the University who felt a calling to life at St. Walburga's Abbey in Colorado but was carrying a debt of over \$40,000 which prevented her from immediately entering the community there. Through the help of the Laboure Society she was able to raise more than enough funds to cover her debt and is now waiting only for the Abbess to set a date for her entry.

More information about the Laboure Society can be found at their website: <https://labouresociety.org/>

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