

RSVP REFUND AND PLAQUE APPLICATION SECTION I AND II MUST BE COMPLETED TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE RSVP PLAQUE

DIRECTIVES FOR SECTION I: (RSVP) REFUND INFORMATION

To qualify for the refund, the following conditions must be met:

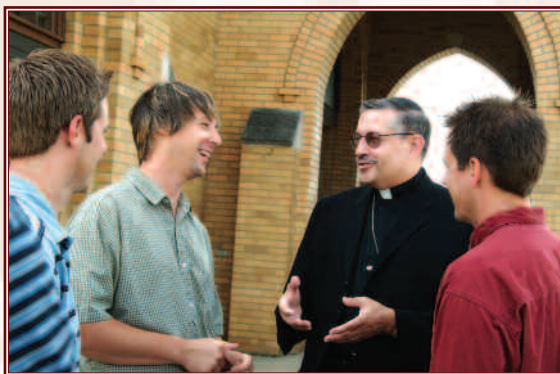
- Money given to each individual must be vocation related, donated between July 1 and June 30 within the fraternal year applied for, and must amount to at least \$500* per individual.
- The money must have been given to an individual and NOT to an institution or fund.
- The money must be given to a seminarian, postulant or novice only.
- The money must be paid with a check drawn on a council or assembly account.
- **Copies of any cancelled check(s) (both front and back sides) or other documentation (such as a bank statement or a signed and dated letter indicating the monetary amount received by the individual) must be attached to the application.**

* For Mexico and the Philippines the amount is \$250. For Squires the amount is \$100.

DIRECTIVES FOR SECTION II: (RSVP) MORAL SUPPORT INFORMATION

Substantial moral support is required. This includes the following:

- correspondence between council and seminarian/novice,
- personal visits to seminary or religious residences,
- invitation of seminarian/novice to council events,
- similar signs of interest.



The RSVP Refund and Plaque Application (#2863) is found at www.kofc.org/forms or in the Council Report Forms Booklet (#1436) and applications are due by June 30.

For any questions in regards to this program, please visit www.kofc.org/rsvp or contact the Department of Fraternal Services at (203) 752-4475 or fraternalservices@kofc.org.

For information on joining the Knights of Columbus, please visit our web site, www.kofc.org.

RSVP

“Vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life can only flourish in a spiritual soil that is well cultivated.”

Pope Benedict XVI to the 45th World Day of Prayer for Vocations — April 13, 2008

Through RSVP (Refund Support Vocations Program), the Knights of Columbus has cultivated this spiritual soil for more than 30 years. While the Order has a number of vocations programs, RSVP is the primary program through which councils, assemblies and circles provide financial and moral support to men and women preparing for the priesthood or religious life, and every council, assembly and circle is encouraged to participate.

Since the beginning of the program in 1981, the Knights of Columbus has given over \$50 million to the support of seminarians through RSVP, with the Supreme Council refunding more than \$9 million to local units. Along with financial aid, the assistance through this program also involves prayer and moral support, including letters and visits (at least four letters and one personal contact per seminarian in every fraternal year). In this way, besides providing financial assistance, RSVP creates bonds of friendship between Knights and future priests, many of whom join the Order and become chaplains as a result.



Under this program, local Knights of Columbus councils or assemblies agree to make an annual contribution of \$500 or more to an individual seminarian to help with his expenses. Council and assemblies can sponsor more than one seminarian. In each case, the minimum annual contribution is \$500 per seminarian. For every \$500 given to an individual, the Supreme Council will refund the council or assembly \$100. For councils in the Philippines and Mexico, the minimum annual contribution is \$250 per seminarian. For every \$250 given to an individual, the Supreme Council will refund the assembly or council \$50. **The maximum refund a council or assembly can receive is \$400 per individual supported.** For circles of Columbian Squires, the annual contribution per seminarian is a minimum of \$100, with each circle eligible to receive from the Supreme Council a refund of \$20 for each \$100 contributed.

The following persons are eligible to receive RSVP funds:

- Seminarians who have been accepted by a diocese and are currently in their “spirituality” year,
- Seminarians attending a major seminary (usually, four years) in preparation for priestly ordination,
- Seminarians in their “pastoral” year (most often, when they are deacons),
- Seminarians attending college seminaries (sometimes called minor seminaries),
- Seminarians who belong to a religious institute and are currently in formation for the priesthood (religious seminarians are often called “Brother” even though they will eventually be ordained as priests),
- Men and women who are novices or postulants in religious orders or religious communities.

Those eligible for assistance include foreign seminarians studying in the United States or Canada; U.S. or Canadian seminarians studying overseas; seminarians from your home diocese currently attending a seminary in another diocese, state or country; and seminarians from other states or dioceses attending a seminary located in your jurisdiction.

Persons not eligible for RSVP funds are the following:

- Priests or religious seeking assistance for continuing education;
- Religious brothers not currently studying for the priesthood; and
- Candidates for the permanent diaconate



All councils, assemblies, and circles can participate in the RSVP Program.

When considering the vast range of acts of generosity, support for religious vocations is among the most worthwhile. If financially able to participate, consider supporting one or more seminarians or postulants as part of the RSVP Program. All you need is the name of a seminarian.

Contact your State Vocations Chairman.

