

REFUND SUPPORT VOCATIONS PROGRAM (RSVP)

Overview

As the strong right arm of the church, Knights of Columbus are committed to providing moral, financial and spiritual support to our future priests and religious at all stages of their formation. Through this program, council and parish families will raise funds to support seminarians in their area. For every \$500 given to an individual, the Supreme Council will refund the council or assembly \$100. The maximum refund a council or assembly can receive is \$400 per individual supported. Councils are also called to provide their “adopted” seminarian or religious aspirant with moral support and prayers for their success. For RSVP resources, visit www.kofc.org/rsvp.

Featured Program Requirements

- *For two program credits toward the Columbian Award* – Complete the requirements to qualify for at least one RSVP refund. Report activity and apply for the refund using the [RSVP Report Form](#) (#2863).

Action Steps

1. Identify a program chairman to oversee all action steps and delegate tasks, as needed. If coordinating with the parish, confirm pastor approval with grand knight, and then set up subsequent parish ministry collaboration meetings.
2. Set an annual goal for your RSVP.
3. Conduct various events in your parish and community in order to reach your goal! Potential activities include:
 - On the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, ask the pastor to allow a second collection earmarked to support seminarians and your council’s RSVP efforts
 - Conduct a Seminarian Breakfast after Masses on a given Sunday. Invite the seminarians supported by your council to attend the event, meet the parish, participate in the celebration, and pray together.
 - Conduct a Seminarian Dinner following the breakfast blueprint outlined above
 - As a council, make a resolution to allocate a specific amount collected at various fundraisers for RSVP
4. Build public interest for your program! Promote each event in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
 - Prominently display promotional posters
 - Bulletin announcements
 - Pulpit announcements
 - Post on your council and parish website / social media pages
5. On the day of each event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including [Prospect Cards](#) #921A). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
6. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.



7. In addition to financial support, councils are called to aid their “adopted” seminarian or postulant with moral and emotional support, and prayers for their vocation and vocations throughout the church. This is a central aspect of RSVP and must be fulfilled in order to satisfy the program requirements. Providing such support is easy and can be accomplished through a variety of efforts:
 - At the end of each council meeting or event, take a moment to remember the seminarian you support and together recite the [*Prayer for the Canonization of Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney*](#) (#10502-A) for his vocation and for vocations throughout the church
 - Invite the seminarian you support to attend all council events, particularly fraternal activities
 - Send cards to your seminarian on major holidays (i.e., Easter, Christmas), holy days and his birthday
 - Ask the seminarian or postulate how your council can best assist him throughout the year
8. Once your goal is reached, complete the associated reporting forms.
 - Immediately after your program is finished, complete the [*RSVP Refund Application*](#) (#2863) and the [*Fraternal Programs Report Form*](#) (#10784)
 - At the end of the fraternal year, complete the [*Columbian Award Application*](#) (#SP-7)

Resources

1. #4688- [*Brochure*](#)
2. #2863- [*Refund and Plaque Application*](#)
3. #10743- [*Vertical Poster*](#)
4. #1942- [*Vocations Handbook*](#)
5. #10502-A [*Prayer for the Canonization of Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney - Prayer Card*](#)

Program resources can be ordered by your grand knight, financial secretary and/or program director on Supplies Online via [Officers Online](#).

Link

www.kofc.org/rsvp