

Dear Father:

In keeping with the commitment of the Knights of Columbus to do all we can to encourage holy vocations, I am pleased to announce a new program that allows seminarians to join our ranks free of charge. This arrangement is designed to become a great benefit to the Order as well as to our future priests.

By joining our Order, the men in your priestly formation program will be associated with dedicated Catholic laymen and priests, with opportunities to form strong fraternal bonds and receive encouragement, prayers, and financial assistance. In turn, our Order will gain the grace that comes from supporting vocations, as well as the hope that comes with having more men in our ranks who are preparing for the sacred priesthood.

In brief, the new free-membership program works in this way:

Any man preparing for the priesthood, who is enrolled in major seminary, minor seminary, pre-theology, or pastoral or spiritual formation years, is eligible to join the Knights of Columbus for free through our new online membership portal. The regular \$30 fee will be waived if the seminarian enters a special code at the time he submits his online membership application. The seminarian can renew his free membership each year, attesting online each time that he is still enrolled in a priestly formation program, or that he has been ordained to the priesthood.

By joining online, the seminarian becomes a member of the state council where he resides. He then has the option of transferring his membership to a local, parish-based council, where he can meet personally with his brother Knights and benefit from the charity, unity and fraternity that we are known for.

Seminarians who are already Knights of Columbus can receive free membership by renewing their membership using the promo code via the online portal.

Details of the free membership program are also contained in the enclosed fliers. I ask you to share these fliers with your seminarians, and inform them of this opportunity.

I am very excited about the possibility of welcoming even more seminarians into the Knights of Columbus and seeing the graces that will flow to our Order and our future priests. As we all know, the Church and the priesthood are being tested in our day, and the Knights of Columbus is proud to stand in solidarity with the men who are courageously answering God's call to pursue a priestly vocation.

Joining you in prayer for more holy vocations, I am

Respectfully,

Carl A. Anderson Supreme Knight