



Knights of Columbus

Fourth Degree

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Vice Supreme Masters
District Masters

From: Dennis J. Stoddard
Supreme Master

RE: Military Chaplain Scholarship Fund

Date: September 16, 2021

At the September 10-12, 2021, Supreme Assembly Meeting held in New Haven, CT. Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly addressed the Vice Supreme Masters on the importance of the Co-sponsored Military Chaplain Scholarship Fund.

Supreme Knight Kelly once again charged the Fourth Degree of our Order to lead this most important program and continue the campaign to raise the necessary funds to educate our seminarian students.

You should all be aware of our previous support of priestly vocations for the military through the scholarship program, reserved exclusively for seminarians who will, once ordained, serve both their home diocese and the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, as a uniformed chaplain.

The Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program of which chaplain candidates are members, is a vocations partnership between the AMS and cooperating dioceses and religious communities around the country.

Co-sponsored means that a cooperating, non-AMS bishop or religious agrees to accept a prospective chaplain in his territorial diocese or religious community as a seminarian, and the seminarian will participate in the chaplain candidacy program of one of the U.S. Military branches.

The AMS and the seminarian's home diocese split the cost of \$40,000-per-year formation in half of the tuition, room and board, and other expenses, up to \$20,000 a year per Co-Sponsored Seminarian

Meanwhile, the AMS is struggling to pay the Co-Sponsored Seminarians' tuition and other formation expenses. The AMS receives no funding from the military or the government and gratefully welcomes donations.

The Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus has taken on this charge from the AMS and has since 2011, donated over \$2 million dollars.

At our Supreme Assembly meeting, Supreme Knight Kelly recommitted the Fourth Degree of our Order to continue our support of the AMS Co-Sponsored program through the 2023 fraternal year.

Our goal is to work with each State Deputy, District Master, Grand Knight, and Faithful Navigator to promote this most important program.

Every council, assembly and yes, ladies auxiliary, should consider making a small monthly donation, single payment donation, and to host fund raising events throughout the fraternal year.

It is important that our members are aware that people in military service to their country is a very special vocation. Those who serve their country in the armed forces are subject to special conditions of life which demand a suitable adapted apostolate. They are engaged in the most delicate ministry of peace and love. The co-sponsored program recognizes that this ministry requires a special calling, the military form of life demands an extraordinary flexibility and creativity. At the same time, it offers exceptional challenges to chaplains who have personal access to thousands of young people. The potential benefits for the Church at large through priestly ministry to military personnel is enormous.

Understand that we have just over 800 billets for Catholic Chaplains, yet we have around 200 on active duty, the need is there, your support is greatly needed.

It is most important that you distribute the following information to your members.

Donations should be made payable to:
Knights of Columbus Charities
On the memo line write "Military Chaplains."

Mail checks to:
Knights of Columbus
Attn: Maryann Ludington, Charities
One Columbus Plaza
New Haven, CT 06510

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis J. Stoddard", written in a cursive style.

Dennis J. Stoddard
Supreme Master