

Diocesan Relations - Diocesan Chairmen

The Diocesan Chairmen are the liaison between the Knights of Columbus and the Diocese. They are responsible for the Vocations Programs in the Diocese as well as being a Diocesan representative to the Missouri State Meet Life Campaign Board. The Diocesan Chairmen communicate with the Grand Knights and District Deputies concerning activities and opportunities occurring within the Diocese. The Diocesan Chairmen are familiar with all state programs as they work with the Diocese thus making them a valuable resource to your Council. It is vital that your Diocesan Chairman be made aware of all of your church activities so he can communicate with the specific Diocesan offices. Many times, a Council's outstanding accomplishments are left unknown to the Diocese. The offices of the Diocese are very willing and receptive to working with us. Be sure to contact your specific Diocesan Chairman for any questions regarding a Diocesan activity.

Mike Koehler

Archdiocese St. Louis
280 Deane Ct.
Sunset Hills, MO 63127
(Home) 314-821-1871
(Cell) 314-660-5759
diocesanchairman-stl@mokofc.org

James Eberhard

Diocese of Springfield - Cape Girardeau
223 North Main #110
Sikeston, MO 63801
(D & N) 573-838-4284
diocesanchairman-scg@mokofc.org

David Kiesling Diocese

of Jefferson City 2118
Tanner Bridge Road
Jefferson City, MO 65101
(D & N) 573-635-4931
diocesanchairman-jc@mokofc.org

Cliff Miller

Director of Kansas City – St. Joseph
9407 East 81st St.
Raytown, MO 64138
(D & N) 816-353-4804
diocesanchairman-kcsj@mokofc.org

Religious Vocations



The Knights of Columbus cherishes and celebrates all forms of vocations as gifts of God. But because of the Church's urgent need for priests and consecrated religious women and men, the Order's vocations program gives special priority to promoting these vocations.

As the largest Catholic lay organization in the world, the Order seeks to assist the Church with financial and moral assistance for this purpose. So, what can your Council do to promote vocations?



- **Assign a vocations Chairman for your Council**
- **Encourage families to talk with their children about vocations**
- **Work with your Chaplain or Parish Priest and research Diocesan programs promoting vocations**
- **Pray for vocations - Sponsor adoration time promoting vocations**
- **Partner with other organizations that support vocations like Serra Club**
- **Support the Missouri State Vocations Programs listed below**

Adopt-a-Seminarian Program

Each Council will be given a seminarian to support which will be coordinated by your Diocesan Chairman and the Diocese Vocations Office. The support can be in the form of using the RSVP or simply letters of support and cards or maybe an occasional gift card. You can be creative with your support. Include his information and progress in your newsletters and include him in your Council events if he can attend. It is important that you let your Diocesan Chairman know if you are supporting a seminarian through the RSVP currently so he can assign him to you. Most likely a seminarian will be adopted by more than one Council. We may also be able to extend this support to the Deaconate program as these men need our prayers as well, and also to the religious women in the convent. Look for this to start soon after the fraternal year begins.

Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP)

Under the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP), Knights of Columbus councils or assemblies make an annual contribution of \$500 or more to an individual seminarian or novice to help with their personal expenses and then receives a refund of \$100 back from the Supreme Council, once the paperwork is submitted. Councils and assemblies can sponsor more than one seminarian or novice if their resources permit. In each case, the minimum annual contribution is \$500. The RSVP is unique in that funds go directly to the recipient. The donation is not intended to cover the cost of education; rather these funds are for the recipient to use for his or her personal needs. Be sure to see the Supreme guidelines for eligibility or check with your Diocesan Chairman for guidance. The RSVP does include men and women who are novices or postulants in religious orders or communities. Your Diocesan Chairman will be the focal for this program and will be able to assign you a recipient. A Council can start "tithing" \$42 a month, at the beginning of the fraternal year, to have the \$500 available by the end of the fraternal year. This would be a great way to have your Council focus on vocations. Besides just financial support, the RSVP does require you to provide moral support. See Supreme form #2863 for more information and be sure to **send a copy to your Diocesan Chairman**. If you are currently supporting a seminarian, be sure to let your Diocesan Chairman know so he can assign this seminarian to you in the Adopt-a-Seminarian program. The Diocesan Chairman will then notify the Diocese Vocations office as they need to know what seminarians are supported. Suggestions for the \$100 you receive back from Supreme would be:

Good - Use the money to start the fund for your next RSVP recipient

Better - Send the money to the recipient

* **Best** - Donate the money to the **Missouri Religious Vocations Fund!**