




Knights of Columbus

Fourth Degree
MEMORANDUM

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DENNIS J. STODDARD
Supreme Master

**TO: U.S. STATE DEPUTIES
U.S. DISTRICT MASTERS**

**FROM: DENNIS J. STODDARD 
SUPREME MASTER**

RE: MILITARY CHAPLAIN SCHOLARSHIP

Date: OCTOBER 6, 2011

To support priestly vocations for the military, the Knights of Columbus has established the new military chaplain scholarship, 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.

Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Military Archdiocese has reported that he could not estimate the amount of good that this new initiative will have for the spiritual welfare of military personnel and their families.

The U.S. Military Archdiocese, which supplies Catholic chaplains, estimates that it needs 800 priests to fully serve all of the Catholic men and woman in uniform today, but they are only able to supply 280-barely a third of the number needed.

Through the Knights program, the military archdiocese contracts with each participating diocese to fund 50 percent of the cost of a seminarians five-year education-typically \$12,500 per year.

In return, the candidate agrees that, following ordination and three years of service at the parish, he will commit to serve as a military chaplain under the auspices of the military archdiocese for a minimum of three to five years.

The Supreme Council Board of Directors has charged the Fourth Degree of the Order of the Knights of Columbus to lead an Order wide campaign to raise \$200,000 per year for the next five years.

Our goal is to have each State Deputy and District Master in the Continental United States work together to raise just \$4,000 from their jurisdiction for this program. Many state jurisdictions currently have successful vocations programs and could easily donate \$4,000. Others can organize a statewide campaign and offer each council and assembly the opportunity to become part of this campaign by hosting an event or simply making a donation to the program.

Without doubt, a \$4,000 donation should not burden any of our jurisdictions. State Deputies and District Masters working hand in hand should have no problem meeting this challenge and can certainly surpass it. Please make checks payable to **Knights of Columbus**. In Memo area, write: **Military Scholarship**

A Vice Supreme Master serving as an area field coordinator for this program will be contacting you soon to assist you in designing your campaign for optimal success.

Cc. Vice Supreme Masters