

RSVP: REFUND SUPPORT VOCATION PROGRAM

Through the Knights of Columbus Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP), councils, assemblies and Squires circles “adopt” one or more seminarians or postulants and provide them with financial assistance and moral support.

RSVP money is used by seminarians and those in religious formation for Tuition and books, Car Insurance, Travel Expenses, Emergency expenditures and other living expenses.



In addition Knights write letters to students, Sponsor dinners for them, Invite them to join the Order and most importantly, pray for vocations.

The following persons are ineligible for RSVP funds:

- Priests or religious seeking assistance for continuing education.
- Religious brothers not currently studying for the priesthood.
- Candidates for the permanent diaconate.

ADOPT A SEMINARIAN PROGRAM FOR THE CATHOLIC CLASSROOMS

The purpose of this program is to encourage classes in Catholic Schools or Religious Education to adopt a seminarian and support him through prayer and communication throughout the school year. A spiritual adoption is a pledge to pray for seminarians on their journey to fulfilling the Call of Christ to the priesthood. The path each young man has committed to embark on isn't an easy one. It is one of self-sacrifice and humble devotion to God and others. The young men in our seminaries have taken up the challenge of duty and devotion to the Lord and his flock.

Action Steps:

1. Through your pastor or diocesan vocation office select a seminarian your class wants to adopt.
2. Involve your class in the selection process.
3. As the teacher make an initial contact with the seminarian and let him know that your class is adopting him for the school year.
4. On a regularly scheduled basis have your class write letters, notes, pictures, birthday cards, Christmas cards, Easter cards etc. Be creative. The point is for your students to communicate with him on a regular basis. This can be accomplished if you do it as a class activity.
5. If the seminarian is available invite him to the class at some point during the year and have him share his journey of discernment. You can make this into a pizza party etc. Again be creative.
6. Contact the Vocation Resource Team for questions and additional help.
7. This program can include postulants discerning a vocation to Religious Life or can be tailored to adopt a priest or religious

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PILGRIM VESSEL VOCATION AWARENESS PROGRAM

Servant OF Love



Vocations Are Born in and from Prayer
“Behind and before every vocation to the priesthood or to the consecrated life there is always the strong and intense prayer of someone: a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a community. This is why Jesus said: ‘Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest,’ that is, God the Father, ‘to send out laborers into His harvest’ (Mt 9:38).”

Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer; and only through prayer can they persevere and bear fruit.”

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What is It?

- A Vocation Awareness Program centered in the parish community
- A Program that involves the entire parish community
- A Program that enhances vocation awareness through family participation
- A Program that calls families to explore the possibility of a religious vocation for a family member
- A Program that involves praying for vocations by families and parish members

How It Works

1. Each Sunday a family, couple or individual will be called forward at the Mass to receive the Pilgrim Vessel you selected to use, example, Chalice, Statue, Painting of a saint or religious, Crucifix or any religious article that would be appropriate for your parish
2. A short ceremony is conducted of less than 2 minutes.
3. They take the vessel home with them.
4. At home they create a place of honor to place the vessel.
5. Per the Program Handouts they received, the pilgrims will set up a schedule to conduct a short prayer service to pray for vocations from their family and parish. This can be done as part of the meals, in the evening after dinner or even prior to bed-time.
6. Return the pilgrim vessel the following Sunday prior to the beginning of the Mass that is used for the Pilgrim Service.

How Do We Get Started?

- Contact the parish pastor
- Explain the program and its purpose
- Offer to organize and administer the program

Action Steps after approval from Pastor

1. Select a vessel to be used in the program
 - Chalice, Statue, Painting of a saint or religious, Crucifix or any religious article that would be appropriate for your parish
2. Organize a committee to oversee the program
3. Set up the Sundays and the Masses for the pilgrimage to be started on a regular scheduled basis.
4. Determine the frequency of the pilgrimage
5. Introduce the program to the parish, through bulletin announcements, pulpit announcements, parish web site, handouts, set aside an evening for introduction and kickoff, involve other parish ministries.
6. Put together a packet to be distributed to each family who will participate on their assigned Sundays.
7. Select the first pilgrim family.
8. Set the date for the kickoff of the program.
9. Begin the program.

[St. Vincent the Pilgrim Vessel Vocation Program Model](#)



Family Receiving the Vessel

We began our pilgrim vessel program on Pentecost Sunday. Since our parish is staffed by Vincentian Fathers and Brothers we selected a statue of St. Vincent DePaul as the pilgrim image.

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