



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FOURTH DEGREE

MICHAEL R. McCUSKER  
SUPREME MASTER

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November 21, 2023

Worthy Vice Supreme Masters,

Please find the donation information for two of our charities that I would like our Districts and Assemblies to concentrate on. Please ask your District Masters to report to you the Assemblies donations for each.

**Warriors to Lourdes** to culminate on Veterans' day(s) in each respective jurisdiction in the world. Collections from fund raisers, and any donations can be made year-round, we would like to see concentration on this program during the Summer and Fall months. See Supreme website for current video to share with your Provinces, Districts, and Assemblies on Warriors to Lourdes.

**Father McGivney Military Chaplain Scholarship program** to culminate in April, the birth month of Father Emil Kapaun. Collections from fund raisers, and any donations can be made year-round, we would like to see concentration on this program during the Winter and Spring months. See Supreme website for current content to share with your Provinces, Districts, and Assemblies on the Father McGivney Military Chaplain Scholarship program.

Donations can be made as follows:

Online at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org)

All Jurisdictions but Canada  
Checks can be made to & mailed to:  
Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc.  
PO Box 382154  
Pittsburgh, PA 15251-8154

In Canada  
Checks can be made to & mailed to:  
Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc.  
PO Box 174  
Orangeville, ON L9W2Z6

**In the Memo line of all checks, you must designate the Charity your check is written for, so PLEASE mark either, Warrior to Lourdes, or Father McGivney Chaplain Scholarship program.**

Michael R. McCusker  
Supreme Master

## WARRIORS TO LOURDES

You can give back to those who serve. Help send our service men and women on a pilgrimage like no other.



"It is very easy to lose faith or suffer both physically and spiritually, but the healing we have enjoyed, both during our trip to Lourdes and since returning, is something that I wish we could share with all of our fellow service members, particularly those suffering." Jonathan A., Marine Corps, 2017 Warrior Pilgrim

In partnership with the Archdiocese for Military Services U.S.A., the Knights of Columbus provides the opportunity and means for our non-wounded, wounded, ill and injured U.S. warriors to participate in the Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage for a period of prayer and spiritual guidance.

We accompany and support our warriors and their families throughout the course of the pilgrimage which occurs during the annual International Military Pilgrimage (PMI) in Lourdes, France.

Every \$2,600 raised sends a warrior to Lourdes.

If you need to reach the Office of Charitable Giving regarding this donate page or donating, you can do so Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00am to 4:30pm Eastern:

Phone: 1-800-694-5713

Email: [info@kofccharities.org](mailto:info@kofccharities.org)

## **FATHER McGivney MILITARY CHAPLAIN SCHOLARSHIP**



Established in 2011, the Knights of Columbus Father McGivney Military Chaplains scholarship program helps fund the education of seminarians preparing to become Catholic chaplains in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Having barely a third of the number of chaplains needed to meet the needs of the 1.8 million Catholics served by the archdiocese worldwide, the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS), created the "Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program" to recruit priestly vocations for the benefit of the armed forces. The military archdiocese contracts with participating dioceses and religious orders to fund 50 percent of the cost of a seminarian's five-year education — typically \$20,000 per year. In return, the candidate agrees that following ordination and three years of service at a 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.

While the number of seminarians has increased as a result of the Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program, the program initially placed a huge burden on the archdiocese, which receives no financial assistance from the military or government.

Through this scholarship, the Knights of Columbus has relieved some of this burden. The scholarship program is named for Father McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus, the world's largest Catholic fraternal organization.

Fundraising for the Order wide project is led by the Fourth Degree. with the goal to distribute \$1 million in scholarship money to the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA over a period of five years at a rate of \$200,000 per year.

That goal was met and in 2020, since the cost of educating seminarians continues to rise, a new goal is \$2 million was set.

Since its inception, the initiative has garnered an increase in cosponsored seminarians. In 2020, this co-sponsored program has produced:

- Fifty-one priests, forty-seven seminarians are currently studying for the priesthood (from 37 dioceses and 1 congregation).
- Of those, in 2020, nine men will be ordained deacons, and eight men will be ordained priests.

Through this scholarship, the Order hopes to ensure the future development of the Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program, and increase the number of Catholic chaplains, to serve the Catholic men and women in uniform today. The Archdiocese of Military Services USA continues to recruit your men to serve as military chaplains at great cost; and our Order-wide fundraising projects help to support the program, which is led by Fourth Degree members, the patriotic degree of the Knights.

These funds will help produce a new generation of much-needed Catholic chaplains to minister to U.S. military personnel and their families. For inquiries and donation for the Military Chaplin Program, please see below:

For the Military Scholarship administration, please contact Michael R. McCusker

Fourth Degree Supreme Master, Knights of Columbus Headquarters, New Haven CT.

For questions regarding a donation, please contact us at 800-694-5713 Monday to Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. EST, or email [info@kofccharities.org](mailto:info@kofccharities.org).

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