



Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon **OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**

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January 17, 2023/ Saint Anthony, Abbot

Dear Clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful of the Diocese:

Together with the Archdioceses of Regina and Keewatin Le Pas, the Diocese of Prince Albert and the Eparchy of Saskatoon and our own Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, I am asking for your support of this year's Vocation Endowment Campaign – a province-wide initiative lead by the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus Charitable Foundation in partnership with the Catholic Bishops of Saskatchewan.


The Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus Charitable Foundation established the “Vocations Endowment” in 2018 to support the education and formation of seminarians. The earnings from the Endowment are distributed annually in equal amounts to each seminarian within all Saskatchewan dioceses and eparchy.

Calling seminarians to the priesthood is one of the top priorities of the diocese. And with each seminarian, there is a corresponding cost for education and formation. At present, our Diocese budgets more than \$30,000 per year for each of our Seminarians. While our funding sources are limited, the support provided through the K of C Foundation is most helpful to us in meeting these costs. In 2021 and again in 2022, the Vocation Endowment provided each seminarian with a \$4,000 bursary - About 12% of the overall cost.

The Knights of Columbus have a long and positive relationship with our faith communities. Their countless hours and tireless support as volunteers and advocates serving the mission of our church is important in many ways. As Saskatchewan bishops, we are particularly thankful for their support offered through this campaign.

Each parish within our diocese, as their means permit, is asked to partner with their local Knights of Columbus Council to promote and conduct this year's campaign. Parishes province-wide will conduct the campaign during one weekend in the month of February, ideally one of the first two weekends of the month. Father Colin Roy has agreed to represent our diocese as a member of the provincial Vocations Endowment Steering Committee and assist in facilitating our communication process.

Sometime during the latter part of January, a representative from the local Knights of Columbus Council will ask to meet with the Parish Priest and/or Chair of the Pastoral Council to develop a campaign plan specific for your parish and all associate parishes served by that Parish Priest.

 In all things we are *rooted in Christ*,
in His desire to bring God's love to all peoples.

The Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus Charitable Foundation has asked that if a Parish Priest does not have a Knights of Columbus Council in any of the parishes he serves, he should immediately contact Executive Director Gerry Gieni by phone at (306) 631-1610 or by email at ggieni55@gmail.com. Likewise, if a parish priest and/or Parish Council has not been contacted by their local Knights of Columbus Council by January 23, the priest or Pastoral Council Chair should contact Gerry Gieni. Provincial Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus Charitable Foundation representatives will provide assistance with communicating with local Knights and planning for the Campaign.

The Knights will provide further information and support materials for the campaign. They have also developed a video which provides information on the campaign. It may be viewed at:

- Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/779740416/2c9dbo2fo6>; or
- Google Drive: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hFaC1F6LmLXgSPR3CPnl8Za8OzdkJmc/view?usp=sharing>

On behalf of myself and all Saskatchewan Bishops, I thank you for your support of the efforts of the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus Charitable Foundation and their Vocations Endowment campaign.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Mark A. Hagemoen". The signature is written in a cursive style.

✠ Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen