



Knights of Columbus - Council 9709

All Saints Council 9709 - Raleigh, N.C.
Serving Church, Community and Council since 1988
The Catholic Community of Saint Francis of Assisi



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC COMMUNITY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ALL SAINTS COUNCIL 9709 REFUND SUPPORT VOCATIONS PROGRAM (RSVP)

"VOCATIONS TO THE MINISTERIAL PRIESTHOOD AND TO THE CONSECRATED LIFE CAN ONLY FLOURISH IN A SPIRITUAL SOIL THAT IS WELL CULTIVATED." (POPE BENEDICT XVI TO THE 45TH WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS, APRIL 13, 2008)

REFUND SUPPORT VOCATIONS PROGRAM (RSVP)

Description

<http://www.kofc.org/un/en/members/programs/vocations/refund-support-vocations-program.html#/>

As an organization, the Knights of Columbus have always worked hard to encourage young men and women to consider God's call to service in the priesthood or religious life. Under the motto "Keep the Faith Alive," the Order's vocations initiative has a number of programs that include opportunities to provide financial support during the years of religious formation. In association with this objective, the Knights of Columbus Council located at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Raleigh, NC, "sponsors" men from Holy Name Province who are in various stages of their journey of formation for the priesthood, by providing financial assistance. More importantly, through continued prayer, the Council requests God's blessings and support.

"Vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life can only flourish in a spiritual soil that is well cultivated." (Pope Benedict XVI to the 45th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, April 13, 2008)

Through the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP) the Knights of Columbus has cultivated this spiritual soil for more than 30 years. While the order has a number of vocations programs, RSVP is the primary program through which councils, assemblies and circles provide financial and moral support to men and women preparing for the priesthood or religious life, and every council, assembly and circle is encouraged to participate.

RSVP allows councils and assemblies to "adopt" one or more seminarians or postulants and provide them with financial assistance and moral support.

The intent of RSVP is to demonstrate support for individual seminarians. RSVP support is not solely financial aid, and councils are asked not to base their support on the financial needs of the seminarian. All seminarians are worthy of support through RSVP by virtue of the fact that they are discerning a religious vocation, not because of their financial situation.

Please remember that with RSVP, Knights provide more than financial support; members write letters to the seminarians or postulants, sponsor dinners for them, invite them to join the council and, most importantly, pray for vocations.

Participating councils and assemblies receive a \$100 refund for every \$500 donated to an individual. The maximum refund a council or assembly can receive is \$400 per individual supported per year.



Abraham S. Joseph, OFM

Abraham was born and raised in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. He came to the U.S. in 2000, and completed a bachelor's degree in accounting from Monroe College in the Bronx. Prior to entering formation, Abraham worked as an accountant at the September 11th Families Association in Manhattan. Getting to know the friars at St. Francis of Assisi Church on West 31st Street in Manhattan, where he was a Eucharistic minister, server and RCIA sponsor, Abraham was impressed by the way they ministered to people in need. Abraham served a year internship at Holy Name of Jesus-St. Gregory the Great Parish on West 96th Street in New York City. He has been involved in various ministries, including liturgy preparation, adult education, administrative tasks, and justice, peace and integrity of creation work.

"The friars are always sensitive about dignifying the human being. By their work, they are making the world a better place. They are continuing the work of Jesus Christ." Abraham

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Milestones

Simple Vows – 08/02/2014

Solemn Vows – 08/25/2018 ([Abraham Joseph Solemn Vows](#))

Ordained to Diaconate – ???

Priestly Ordination – TBD Spring 2020



Br John Neuffer, OFM

John came to know the friars through internet research and subsequent visits to our parishes in Raleigh and Durham, NC. A regular parishioner at Holy Family Church in Hillsborough, NC, John serves as a sacristan, a leader for elementary religious education, and as IT support for the parish. John works professionally as a systems analyst and product manager for Fidelity Investments in Durham. After having spent some time with the friars of Holy Name Province in Raleigh/Durham, John is inspired particularly by the friars' focus on social justice and community living.

John's home parish was St. Andrew's in Apex. He entered postulancy on Aug. 23, 2017 and is assigned to Holy Name College. He is currently at the interprovincial novitiate in Santa Barbara Mission, Oakland, CA.

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Milestones

Reception into the Novitiate – 07/25/2018



Sr Susanna Boylston, OSC

Susanna is originally from Pennsylvania and came from a small, very close family. Her parents raised her and her sister in the Episcopal Church; family prayers, scripture reading, regular attendance at Church on Sundays, and active participation in Sunday School and other church functions were the norm in her family.

Susanna says she first felt the call to religious life when she was in grade school. Nevertheless, it took her several decades, a few detours, and a lot of searching and prayer before she entered the Catholic Church and began discerning a contemplative vocation in earnest. She spent those decades and detours in higher education, first as a student – earning a bachelor’s and two master’s degrees – and then as an academic librarian.

Retreats at the Well of Mercy in NC led her to a parish staffed by Jesuits, and those wonderful Jesuit priests encouraged her to make the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, which helped her to say “Yes” to God. Susanna declared, “Guided by the Jesuits and a monk at Mepkin Abbey, I began discerning with several contemplative communities, including the Poor Clares in Travelers Rest. God kept leading me back to the Poor Clares, and so I said “Yes” again, with deep peace and great joy in my heart.”

Susanna entered the monastery in Travelers Rest in July 2018 and became a novice on June 23, 2019, the Feast of Corpus Christi; and is now Sr. Susanna of the Body of Christ

“I marvel at what God is doing in and with my life, and my heart’s desire is to keep saying ‘Yes’ to Him as I dedicate myself to this life of prayer for the world. Like my Poor Clare sisters, I strive each day to walk in the footprints of our dear Lord, the Poor Christ, and to be a mirror of His love and mercy for others, as St. Clare instructed.”

Email: susanna@poorclaresc.com

Address: Monastery of St. Clair, 37 McCauley Rd, Travelers Rest, SC 29690

Milestones

Reception into the Novitiate – 06/23/2019



Theresa Clark

Theresa was born in Brooklyn, New York and attended St. Vincent DePaul grammar school and parish where she sang in the children' choir and fell in love with the beautiful liturgies of her church. It was during that time that she wondered if God was calling her to become a sister. However, being the oldest child, she was called upon to help her family in many ways, and her sense of a religious vocation did not come to fruition quite yet. Theresa left college when she was younger due to financial reasons but went back to college in 1984 to pursue a career in nursing, graduating with a Bachelor's in Science, Magna cum Laude, in 1987. In 1999 she graduated from the Loyola Institute of Ministry Program in New Orleans, Summa cum Laude. This 3-year program filled her life with a very deep appreciation of her faith and helped her to see that her "job" as a nurse was really a ministry. Theresa is still a licensed nurse helping the Poor Clares sisters with those skills.

Over this course of time, Theresa discerned with a few apostolic and contemplative communities, but none seemed to be where God was calling her. Around 1997, in the middle of her marriage (1993-2001; ending with an annulment in 2004), Theresa started to regularly visit the Trappist Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, Georgia. Theresa became a Lay-Cistercian in 1999, and in 2000 responded to a call from the Abbot to become the nurse for the monastic community. She worked in this capacity for the next five years. In 2010, the call for a deeper life spoke to her again, and in 2013 Theresa contacted another Benedictine community of sisters and spent 3 years attending discernment retreats. However, this was not to be her final calling. Eventually, she found the Franciscan sisters of Philadelphia. Finally, in letting go of everything, of experiencing poverty in her discernment process, God finally got through to her. Shortly after, while visiting the Poor Clares in Travelers Rest, SC, Theresa remembers so vividly the feeling of calm and inner peace of just being there. In April 2018, she came to the Poor Clares Monastery for a 2-week long immersion experience, and then a 1-month candidacy in August. She entered as a postulant on the Feast of St. Andrew on November 30th, 2018. Andrew asked Jesus, "Rabbi, where do you live?" and Jesus replied, "Come and see." Theresa also heard Jesus say this to her.

Theresa's journey to religious life has been a long journey, but now her journey and dreams have finally come together as she recalls the words of Isaiah that Paul speaks of in 2 Corinthians, "At the time of my favor I have answered you..." Entrance into the wonderful community of Poor Clare sisters has truly been God's answer and that she is in the right place to live out a life as a contemplative.

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Milestones

Candidacy into the Poor Clares – August 2018

Reception as a Postulate – 11/30/2018
Reception into the Novitiate – TBD Fall 2019