

## **MILITARY CHAPLAINS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**The U. S. Military Archdiocese, which supplies Catholic Chaplains to our military troops estimates that it needs 800 priests to fully serve all the catholic men and women in uniform today. Unfortunately, there are only 280 priests currently assigned to the Archbishop, barely a third of the number needed to minister to 229 military installations in 29 countries throughout the world.**

**Most of the combat troops today are lucky if they see a priest one time during their entire tour of duty in Afghanistan. Some of our service men from Kentucky are serving their fourth or more tours of duty in Afghanistan and are living in constant danger of the unthinkable. For those of you who have served in combat know the fear of dying in battle. Just think of yourself lying on the field of battle, wounded and there is no priest available.**

**In order to help with this dire need, the Knights of Columbus has established a new scholarship program to help fund the education of seminarians preparing to become Catholic chaplains in the U. S. armed forces. The program will distribute \$1,000,000.00 in scholarship money to the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, over a period of five years at a rate of \$200,000.00 per year. Fund raising for the *order wide* project will be led by the Fourth Degree, the patriotic degree of the Knights. The scholarship money will be dedicated to the Archdiocese's "Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program" which was initiated to recruit priestly vocations for the military to benefit the armed forces as well as participating diocese and religious orders throughout the country. Through this program, the Military Archdiocese contracts with each participating diocese to fund 50% of the cost of a seminarian's five year education-typically \$12,500.00 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.**

**The Fourth Degree has placed a goal of \$4,000.00 per year for each jurisdiction for the next five years for a total of \$20,000.00 from each of**

**the 50 states of the USA. Actually, I know that we can achieve the total goal in less than five years. Any donations received over the annual \$4,000.00 will be credited to the next year's goal. Our State Deputy and the KY District Master will be kept abreast of the progress of this project.**

**I know that the 10,800 Knights in our Commonwealth will accept this challenge and get the project running. I also feel, that each of the 69 councils, 25 assemblies and numerous ladies auxiliaries in Kentucky will want to be a part of this very worthy and patriotic program.**

**The procedure will be as follows:**

**Donors will make a check payable to the "Knights of Columbus". In the memo section of the check please write, "Military Scholarship." Mail all checks to my address below. When the checks arrive, I will prepare a spread sheet showing the donor, amount, check number and date received. Spread sheets and checks will be forwarded to the Supreme Master's office where the checks will be deposited into the proper account. I will also send a copy of the spread sheet to the State Deputy and to the KY District Master for their information.**

**Joseph B. Dant, FM  
Vice Supreme Master**

**2913 Sheldon Road  
Louisville, KY 40218-4721  
(502) 491-7196, (phone & fax)  
(502) 291-3104 (cell)**