

Cor Christi Talking Points

for District Deputies Meeting with Councils

The Knights of Columbus are coming together to financially support a critical undertaking called *Cor Christi*, a new program in Spokane for young men who feel called to the priesthood.

Why is this needed? Because the Vatican is about to make a huge change to seminary requirements: men who want to be priests must now go through a period of “pre-seminary” formation.

Many men in today’s culture—both in the US and around the world—need a period of personal growth in order to start the journey to priesthood. This includes:

- A) Growth in personal maturity and self-mastery
- B) Learning what the Church believes and teaches
- C) Developing a deeper prayer life

Importantly, this new preliminary period must be “separate and distinct” from the seminary.

An entirely new non-profit has been created in Spokane called *Cor Christi*. They have purchased a new building and named it “McGivney Hall” after the priest-founder of the Knights of Columbus. They are now raising funds to renovate the structure, with a goal of opening in Fall 2022.

The overall goal of *Cor Christi* is to form strong Catholic men who are truly ready to begin seminary—and, God willing, one day serve as happy, healthy, and holy priests.

Individual Knights, as well as Councils, are asked to make donations to this worthy cause, which is being supported by bishops throughout the region.

Visit BishopWhiteSem.org to view an excellent video about *Cor Christi* and to access a special Knights of Columbus donation portal.

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COR CHRISTI FAQs

1. Are the Bishops behind *Cor Christi*?

Yes. Nine bishops in the Northwest have already voiced support. Many have sent formal letters. In the coming weeks, even more bishops are expected to lend their voices to support the cause.

2. Why should Knights support *Cor Christi*?

First and most importantly, because *Cor Christi* will be the launching point for future priests. Men who enroll will eventually be serving in our own dioceses and parishes. Second, the Knights' unparalleled support of vocations makes us "front runners" to help fund the program.

3. What's the connection between Bishop White Seminary and *Cor Christi*?

Legally, these are two separate and distinct entities. However, Fr. Daniel Barnett, the Rector of Bishop White Seminary, is overseeing the development of *Cor Christi*. Most of the men who graduate from *Cor Christi* will go on to become seminarians at Bishop White Seminary.

4. How is this different than the RSVP Program?

The RSVP program provides funds directly to young men who have already been accepted as seminarians. The Propaedeutic Phase will be a mandatory pre-seminary program. This campaign is to renovate a building and launch a new formation program for young men who are entering this pre-seminary phase.

5. Who else is supporting *Cor Christi*?

This is a joint effort that will require support from Catholics throughout the region, including Knights of Columbus, Serra Clubs, Catholic Daughters of America, and lay people from dioceses throughout California and the Northwest.