



## Catholic Club for Religious Vocations

# OUR CASE *for* SUPPORT

*Building a culture of vocations  
in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.*

**Join us in financially supporting men discerning the priesthood.**

*“The formation of future priests, both diocesan and religious, and life-long assiduous care for their personal sanctification in the ministry and for the constant updating of their pastoral commitment are considered by the Church one of the most demanding and important tasks for the future of the evangelization of humanity.”*

*-Pope St. John Paul II, Pastores Dabo Vobis*

## *a special MESSAGE*

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I write to you as the head of the Catholic Club for Religious Vocations (CCRV), I’m reminded of the deeply personal journey that led my wife, Sarah, and me to establish and nurture this organization. Our path to CCRV has been one shaped by faith, personal experience, and a profound commitment to supporting those called to a life of religious service.

Our son’s ordination as a priest in 2023 stands as a testament to our family’s dedication to vocations. The journey wasn’t easy; we witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by those in priestly formation, especially the financial burdens that often accompany such a sacred pursuit. It was during our son’s years of formation, where Sarah and I stepped in to provide the necessary support, that the vision for CCRV truly took shape.



It is this personal experience that drives our mission at CCRV. We understand the hurdles and the sacrifices required, not just by the discerners but by their families as well. Our goal is simple yet profound: to offer the support and guidance to more men discerning priesthood, support that we once had to provide on our own.

CCRV is more than just an organization; it’s a community built on empathy, understanding, and unwavering support for those who answer the call to serve God in the most devoted way. With your help, we can extend this support, making the journey of discernment a shared one, filled with hope and encouragement.

Thank you for joining us in this mission. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of future priests and their families.

With gratitude and faith,

**Mark and Sarah Degani**

## HISTORY of the ORGANIZATION

*“Seminarians are pivotal to the future of the Church.”*

### Founding of CCRV

► *Providing support for seminarians.*

The Catholic Club for Religious Vocations (CCRV) was established in 2019, emerging from the former Serra Club. Its inception was driven by the recognition of a pressing need within the Archdiocese of Santa Fe: direct support for seminarians, who are pivotal to the future of the Catholic Church. Initially, CCRV’s primary focus was to provide financial assistance to seminarians in the form of stipends, addressing their basic living expenses and enabling them to pursue their spiritual and educational formation without undue financial burden.

### Evolution of CCRV’s Focus

► *Fostering vocations.*

Since its foundation, CCRV has witnessed and responded to the evolving needs of the Archdiocese. In the light of a growing necessity for a holistic approach to vocational discernment, CCRV has expanded its mission. It now actively collaborates with the Office of Vocations to support a broader spectrum of vocational discernment efforts. This expansion reflects a deeper commitment not only to the immediate financial needs of seminarians but also to fostering a culture where vocations in priesthood, religious life, and Holy Matrimony are actively encouraged and nurtured within the Catholic community. CCRV’s adaptive and responsive approach demonstrates its unwavering dedication to nurturing the future of the Church in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.



## our MISSION

*To nurture those in the initial stages of religious vocational discernment and formation, while fostering a culture of vocations among the Catholic faithful within the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.*

We know that Christ will not abandon His Church. He still calls men to the priesthood. As Catholics who love the Church, CCRV will do everything we can to create an environment for those men to freely say yes to Christ.

By providing targeted support and resources to those discerning the priesthood, we aim to cultivate a robust environment where the seeds of vocational calling are sown, nurtured, and brought to fruition, contributing to the spiritual richness and vitality of the Church and Her communities.

## our VISION

*To see the Archdiocese of Santa Fe thriving with a dynamic culture of vocations, where every Catholic actively participates in discerning and supporting calls to the priesthood, religious life, and Holy Matrimony.*

We envision a future where this culture permeates every parish, inspiring a new generation of devoted clergy, religious, and families.

Through the collaboration of the entire Catholic community, we hope to foster a legacy of vocations that are not only encouraged but are seen as integral to the spiritual life and growth of our Church, ensuring a vibrant and faithful future for all.



# a BEACON of HOPE and SUPPORT

Over the past four years, the Catholic Club for Religious Vocations (CCRV) has been a beacon of hope and support within the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, channeling the generosity of our community into a profound impact on the lives of those discerning their call to the priesthood. Through unwavering dedication and the heartfelt contributions of our benefactors, CCRV has successfully raised approximately \$75,000. This significant sum has been instrumental in underpinning our core mission: to provide financial assistance to seminarians in the form of living expense stipends.

Our commitment to this cause has not only alleviated the financial burdens of these future priests but has also allowed them to focus intently

**\$75,000 raised over the last few years**

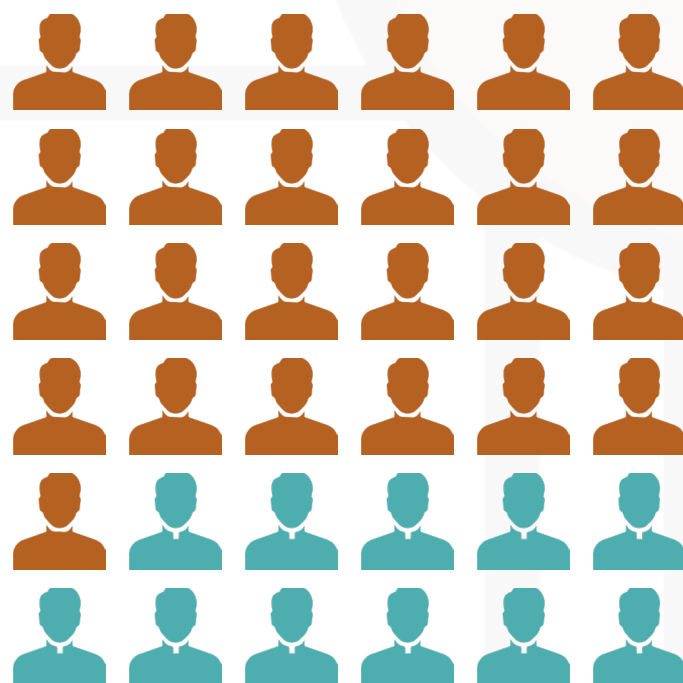
on their spiritual and educational formation. By ensuring that our seminarians can pursue their vocation without the added weight of financial hardship, we are investing in the future of our Church and the spiritual welfare of our community.

The \$75,000 raised over the past few years is more than just a number – it represents the collective faith, hope, and love of a community united in fostering a thriving culture of vocations. Each dollar has been a stepping stone towards sustaining and enriching the spiritual life of our Archdiocese, securing a future where the Catholic faith continues to flourish through the dedication of our seminarians and future priests.

*We extend our deepest gratitude to all who have contributed, for it is through your generosity that we can continue to support and celebrate those who are answering God’s call.*



## 36 SEMINARIANS SUPPORTED



## 11 ORDINATIONS FACILITATED

## inspiring TESTIMONIES



“As a recently ordained priest, I am extremely grateful for the ways the CCRV assisted me during my seminary formation. Not only did they provide monetary assistance to help me meet basic needs, but they gave reminders through care packages and event planning that I have a community of generous people back in the archdiocese who care about supporting my vocation in whatever ways they can. I believe the flourishing of this ministry will contribute to the flourishing of vocations in our archdiocese.”

- Fr. Agustin Henderson, recently ordained priest



“Seminarians take a big risk entering seminary, uprooting their lives to follow Christ in a radical way. They rely heavily on the support of the Church for which they seek to devote their lives, and the CCRV is perhaps the most direct way to support them, spiritually, emotionally, and financially. Stipends from the CCRV help with all the needs that come up, including the expenses of getting to and from seminary, school supplies, auto insurance, cell phone bills, and general personal expenses.”

- Fr. Michael Niemczak, Former Vocations Director



“CCRV plays a pivotal role in seminary formation in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. They support us as seminarians in a variety of ways that include prayer and encouragement, and providing financial support. The support that I have received from CCRV has enabled me to discern my vocation while not worrying about not having my financial needs met.”

- Seminarian Rico Landavano



“CCRV is a tremendous support for us seminarians, and an inspiring group for wanting to ensure we have not only financial support, but spiritual support with their prayers. I am so touched that members of the former Serra Club took the initiative to form this club and to take extra time to set up social events, and to increase our stipends over the last several years. My formation has been made so much easier thanks to CCRV and I cannot express enough how grateful I am for all they do for us seminarians.”

- Deacon Jacob Romero, Seminarian

## our strategic PLAN

Our future is focused on expanding our reach and deepening our impact. Key objectives include increasing the number of discernment retreats, enhancing our digital platform for global access, and establishing a House of Discernment.

These initiatives align with our core mission to provide comprehensive support for those exploring religious vocations, ensuring that anyone, anywhere, can access the guidance they need.



### Short-term Goals (1-2 Years)

#### 1 Strengthening Support for Current Discerners and Seminarians

- Focus on enhancing support mechanisms for those already in priestly formation and actively discerning their vocations, including financial assistance, mentorship programs, and spiritual guidance.
- Implementation of immediate support structures like stipends, counseling services, and educational resources.

#### 2 Initial Steps in Development/Fundraising

- Establishing a solid donor base of minor benefactors through digital outreach and setting up recurring donation systems.
- Initiating relationships with major benefactors and communicating the immediate and future needs of the organization.
- Hiring an Executive Director to oversee and enhance donor relations, particularly focusing on interactions with major benefactors and the strategic development of fundraising initiatives.

#### 3 Building Communications Infrastructure

- Developing a robust digital presence, including a website and social media platforms, to raise awareness and engage with the Catholic community.
- Collaborating with On Fire Media for effective digital marketing and communication strategies.
- The Executive Director will also play a key role in shaping and executing the communications strategy, ensuring consistent and effective messaging across all platforms.

### Mid-term Goals (3-5 Years)

#### 1 Expanding Discerner Outreach

- Launching programs and initiatives to help more men make the decision to actively discern a vocation to priesthood.
- Organizing discernment retreats, workshops, and seminars in collaboration with the Office of Vocations and Vianney Vocations.

#### 2 Enhanced Development and Fundraising Strategies

- Building a sustainable fundraising model that includes a mix of minor and major benefactors, grants, and fundraising events.
- Attracting and supporting an experienced, full-time executive director to oversee donor relations and fundraising initiatives.

#### 3 Comprehensive Communications Plan

- Establishing a regular communication schedule with benefactors and the community, including newsletters, updates, and success stories.
- Engaging younger audiences to foster early consideration of priestly life through targeted campaigns and educational programs.



## our strategic **PLAN** (cont.)

### Long-term Goals (Beyond 5 Years)



#### 1 Broader Vocation Cultivation

- Collaborating with schools and youth organizations within the Archdiocese for vocational awareness programs.
- Executing other initiatives to support the discernment of priesthood, religious or consecrated life, and Holy Matrimony for young people.

#### 2 Sustainable Development Growth

- Establishing an endowment or reserve fund to ensure long-term financial sustainability.
- Expanding the network of benefactors and exploring new avenues for fundraising.

#### 3 Founding a House of Discernment

- Planning and establishing a House of Discernment for young adults considering various vocations, including priesthood.
- Creating a community environment that nurtures virtues, prayer, and discernment.

By prioritizing immediate support for current discerners and seminarians while gradually building towards fostering a broader culture of vocations, CCRV aligns its short-term actions with

its long-term vision of nurturing future Catholic leaders. The phased approach ensures a solid foundation for sustainable growth and impactful change within the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.



## ACHIEVING our PLAN

To realize our plans, we have outlined the necessary costs. This includes funding for the expansion of retreat programs, ongoing operational costs, and the establishment of the House of Discernment. We pledge continued transparency in all our efforts at stewardship of donations.

Currently, we face a financial gap, particularly in the areas of program expansion and digital platform enhancement. Your support can help bridge this gap.

These initiatives align with our core mission to provide comprehensive support for those exploring religious vocations, ensuring that anyone, anywhere, can access the guidance they need.



### SUMMARY OF ANNUAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Executive Director Salary and Benefits

≈\$126,000 - \$136,500

Operational Budget

≈\$15,000

Outsourcing to Agencies

≈\$32,500 - \$44,500

Marketing and Outreach

≈\$15,000

Annual Fundraising Gala

≈\$10,000

This budget accounts for the immediate operational needs and strategic investments to enhance CCRV's capacity for fundraising and impact. The higher end of the range allows for greater flexibility in outsourcing and operational expenses.

Donor contributions are not just financial inputs; they are investments in the future of CCRV and its mission.

They enable the organization to transition from a volunteer-driven model to a professionally managed one, thus significantly enhancing its ability to make a lasting impact in fostering vocations within the Catholic community.

The contributions and support from donors play a crucial role in enabling CCRV to achieve its mission and objectives.

**Total Estimated Annual Budget: ≈\$198,500 - \$221,000**

## Why does CCRV need an Executive Director?



If the current trajectory of new priestly vocations persists, retiring priests will leave vacancies that cannot be filled. This would stretch the priests of our Archdiocese in unforeseen ways. Fr. Adrian Sisneros already experiences some of that stretch, serving as both the Vocations Director for the Archdiocese and pastor of a parish. He needs to partner with an experienced, skilled leader so that together they can assist more men to joyfully enter seminarian studies and to be ordained priests.

### The Executive Director will provide...

- 1 **Strategic Leadership:** Leadership and strategic direction to drive CCRV's mission forward, implementing fundraising, communications and marketing best practices.
- 2 **Donor Relations and Communication:** Build relationships and communicate with benefactors to improve funding that supports vocations and maintain the transparency donors deserve.
- 3 **Operational Efficiency:** A full-time, experienced leader ensures higher operational efficiency and effective implementation of programs that a volunteer-only staff cannot provide.

Your donations will help attract an Executive Director who will do the work necessary to make CCRV more effective and sustainable.



## HOW *your* DONATIONS will drive IMPACT



### ► Sustainable Growth

Donor support ensures the financial sustainability of CCRV, allowing it to grow its impact over time.

### ► Enhanced Effectiveness

With the right resources, CCRV can implement its initiatives more effectively, resulting in a more significant impact on vocational discernment and support within the Archdiocese.

### ► Community Engagement

Increased funding allows for more community engagement initiatives, fostering a culture of vocations and strengthening the Catholic community's involvement in vocational discernment.



## help us ensure the **FUTURE OF THE CHURCH**

Your involvement will be a testimony of your desire to foster a culture of religious vocations in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Whether through donations, volunteering, or advocacy, you can help CCRV continue its vital work. Every contribution, big or small, has a direct impact on the lives of potential ministers of the Word of God and the Sacraments.

*If we love the Sacraments, we cannot afford to leave this work undone.*

Visit our website or contact us directly to learn how you can be a part of this important mission: [www.ccrvnm.org](http://www.ccrvnm.org)

### WAYS TO GIVE

1

**For Major Gift options of \$5,000 or more:**  
Please contact Mark Degani, (505) 200-1218

2

Your gift of \$50 a month covers monthly stipends for our current seminarians. **Easily set up recurring monthly donations online at [ccrvnm.org](http://ccrvnm.org)**



3

**Send a check with “Donation” in the Memo to:**  
CCRV c/o Mark Degani  
5820 Mafrag Ave NW,  
Albuquerque, NM 87114.

## Catholic Club for Religious Vocations **BOARD of DIRECTORS**



**Mark Degani, President**

Mark, a lifelong New Mexican and co-founder of CCRV with his wife Sarah, is deeply committed to the seminarian community. His journey, from an Air Traffic Controller to an influential union member, showcases his dedication and leadership skills. Mark’s personal connection to the cause, through his son Fr. Cameron, a former beneficiary of CCRV, fuels his passion for supporting the future of the Church.



**Sarah Degani, Secretary**

Sarah Degani, co-founder of CCRV and Mark’s wife, brings a nurturing perspective and a rich professional background, from teaching preschool to nursing, to her role. Her commitment to the cause is personal and heartfelt, inspired by her son’s journey from a seminarian to Fr. Cameron. Sarah’s diverse experiences and maternal insight add depth and compassion to the board.



**Liz Ann Perea, Treasurer**

Liz Ann Perea, a seasoned accountant with over 30 years of experience, applies her financial expertise to support CCRV’s mission. Her active involvement at the Aquinas Newman Center and her personal interactions with seminarians, including Fr. Darrell Segura, have deepened her commitment to nurturing future Church leaders. Liz Ann’s professional acumen and personal faith drive her dedication to the seminarian community.







 [www.ccrvnm.org](http://www.ccrvnm.org)

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