

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fund for Vocations grants to enable 7 vocations to religious life to proceed.

Falls Church, VA  
February 4, 2008

The *Mater Ecclesiae* Fund for Vocations (the Fund) announced today the issuance of seven new grants for Catholic young people entering religious life. With the aid of the Fund's St. Joseph Student Debt Relief Program seven men and women will continue on their path of discernment for religious life. These new grantees will join over thirty other grantees serving in religious orders all over the country.

The religious orders these grantees will enter include:

- Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles of Kansas City, MO
- Passionist Nuns of Ellisville, MO
- Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara of Upper Marlboro, MD
- Salesian Sisters of Bellflower, CA
- Dominican Nuns of Summit, NJ
- Canons Regular of St. John Cantius of Chicago, IL

The Fund was created to alleviate the serious obstacle that student loans can present to individuals who seek to answer God's call to consecrate their lives to service of the Christ and his Church. Because of their eventual vow of poverty, people who enter the religious life must do so free of all debt. However, the high cost of a college education means that many young people take on student loans to obtain a college degree, and the difficulty of paying down these loans - often tens of thousands of dollars - can delay or in some cases prevent many qualified individuals from responding to the call to religious life. The Fund's St. Joseph grant program enables recipients to begin their formation immediately by promising to make the minimum monthly payments on their student loans as long as they remain in formation, and pay the loans in full within five years after taking final vows.

The Bishop of Arlington, the home diocese of the Fund, the Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde recently offered the following endorsement of the Fund's efforts: "*The Mater Ecclesiae Fund for Vocations is a prime example of our Lord's providential care. Many who feel prompted to discern actively their vocation by entering seminary or religious formation are sadly prevented from doing so until most, if not all, of their prior education debts are retired. ... I pray that your organization and the funds you provide will continue to be a great source of blessing in support of many future priests and consecrated religious. I want to express my deep personal gratitude to you and ask the Lord to strengthen you both, spiritually and financially, in your service to Him and His holy people.*"

The founders of the *Mater Ecclesiae* Fund for Vocations, Corey and Katherine Huber, have been working to help men and women enter religious life since they first became aware of the problem that student loan repayment posed for many who sought to enter the religious life in 2003. In November 2006, the Hubers founded the *Mater Ecclesiae* Fund to continue their work with public support. This opened the door for the Catholic laity to join in the mission to promote a revival of religious vocations. The Fund is currently enabling 36 individuals to pursue their vocation.

The Fund received 501(c)(3) status in February 2007. Additional information can be obtained by visiting the Fund's website at [fundforvocations.org](http://fundforvocations.org). Bishop's Loverde's full endorsement can be found at [fundforvocations.org/Endorsements.php](http://fundforvocations.org/Endorsements.php).

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