

Seminarian Vincent Nguyen  
Santa Clara de Asis Catholic Church  
22005 Avenida de La Paz  
Yorba Linda, Ca 92887

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SK Tom Dodge  
Treasurer – OC Chapter K of C  
18221 Montana Circle  
Villa Park, Ca 92861-6454

Dear Brother Dodge,

Peace and blessings to you and your family in this New Year! I am Vincent Nguyen, the seminarian that you addressed in the letter you sent to St John's Seminary back in October 2019. I regret not receiving your letter earlier until now because I am currently on my pastoral parish internship year at Santa Clara de Asis Church in Yorba Linda. I only saw your letter when I returned to the seminary a couple weeks ago for my annual retreat-hence... the very late response!

Thank you so much again for reaching out to me and for the words of encouragement and motivation on my journey to the priesthood. With regards to my vocation story... to make it concise: I was born and raised here in Orange County, and am the only child in my family. The person that "planted the seed of vocation" in me is my uncle/baptismal godfather, Rev Vincent Nguyen (a priest of the Diocese of Austin). Growing up, I was involved with various ministries at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Westminster, Ca (my home parish), such as altar serving at Mass, teaching catechism/confirmation, being a youth leader in the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement, K of C Council 3926, etc. Being involved in all these various ministries helped enkindle the seed of vocation within my heart. I started my formal discernment to the priesthood/religious life during my high school years, where I visited several religious communities. After I graduated high school in 2012, I attended one year at Golden West Community College in Huntington Beach, Ca. I was accepted into the formation program with the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (The Redemptorists of the Denver Province) in the Fall of 2013 and subsequently moved over to Bronx, NY where the Redemptorist Pre-novitiate was located. The Redemptorists sent me for my undergraduate at St John's University in Queens, New York, where I graduated with a BA in Philosophy with minors in Theology and Spanish in the Spring of 2016. In the Fall of 2016, I entered the Redemptorist Novitiate in Toronto, Canada (spiritual year). During this year, I came to the realization that God was still calling me to be a priest, but rather as a diocesan priest back in the Diocese of Orange. After nearly 4 years with the Redemptorist, I left the Redemptorist novitiate late March 2017. I was then accepted into the Diocese of Orange in the Fall of 2017, where I started my studies in Theology at St John's Seminary in Camarillo, Ca. Currently, as mentioned, I am in my 7<sup>th</sup> year of formation and currently doing my pastoral internship at Santa Clara de Asis in Yorba Linda, Ca. God willing, I will complete my internship mid June this year, where I will return back to St. John's Seminary for 2 more years of studies (Class of 2022).

Thank you to you and the Knights of Columbus for remembering me and my brother seminarians in your prayers. Also, for your intention to share my vocation story with the other Councils and the assistances in my journey. Please know that the Knights of Columbus remain in my daily prayers. Also, I believe it may be best to have future communications via email ([vincentnguyen29@gmail.com](mailto:vincentnguyen29@gmail.com)) to avoid any delays in responding (like this time 😊).

Blessings,

Vincent Nguyen  
Seminarian – Diocese of Orange