

Nominating New Members

Many people who are nominated for membership in the Holy Sepulchre are unaware of our Order and are reluctant to join because they are unsure of what membership means. It is important that you visit with your candidates for membership to explain the purpose of our Order. Please talk informally with them about the Order and share An Introduction to the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre with them. When a candidate feels comfortable and familiar with the duties and responsibilities they are more likely to accept membership.

However, it is very important when introducing them to our Order that you do not invite prospective members to join. Before a person can be invited to join the Order, their pastor must certify the application and the bishop, or archbishop and the Vatican must approve the application you submit. While most applicants are accepted, the most common reason for rejection is lack of a Catholic marriage certificate.

Once approval is received, the Lieutenant's office will mail an invitation to join our Order to the prospective member. Once the invitation is sent, the person making the nomination will be contacted as well. As a member of the Order, you are encouraged to make contact with those you nominated to answer their questions and encourage him/her/them to join.

Submit Applications before February 1

The timing for submitting applications is based on having all approvals received in time to include the new members in our October Investiture. Nominations can be submitted to your section representative at any time, but they must be sent by February 1st so that all approvals can be made in time for the Investiture.

The latest dates for each step of the approval process are:

February 1 – Deadline for submitting Nominations for Membership to Section Representatives. Section Representatives send request for approval to pastors and then to the local bishop.

April 1 – Approvals for nominations received from Archbishop or Bishop by Section Representatives.

April 15 – Bishop approved nominations received at Lieutenancy. Lieutenancy mails membership invitation packets to nominees.

May 31 – Applications from nominees received at Lieutenancy.

Based on how quickly approvals are received, a prospective member will usually receive the invitation packet sometime in March or April. Following the mailing of the packet the person who nominated the member(s) will be contacted and asked to contact the nominee to congratulate him/her/them, answer questions and encourage him/her/them to join.