

REACHING OUT WEDNESDAYS

Topic: Diocesan Loans

Diocese of St. Cloud: We used to have loans in our diocese, but then the diocese had a hard time collecting from the candidates and it became too much of a hassle. So now, we ask the student to get a loan from their local bank, give us the note of loan for our files and if they get ordained at the end of the journey, then we will go and pay those loans. The loan can be taken out for tuition only. Secondly, we use to do Operation Andrew dinners, but the Bishop would occasionally get sick or something would come up and we would cancel with the perspective students. Our practice was to have prayer and supper at the Bishop's residence. We finally decided not to continue this practice because the hope and excitement was diminished everytime it was canceled. I now do this without the Bishop and instead do it at a Priest's rectory of an area and invite a few neighboring Priests and ask them to bring a couple of young men. We do evening prayer, each priests shares part of their vocation story and then Supper.

Archdiocese of St. Paul - Minneapolis: Our archdiocese does not make loans, but recommends that the student contact their parish, local KC clubs, Serrans, and, for those with unmanageable debt, suggests that they look into help offered by www.labouresociety.org.