

REACHING OUT WEDNESDAYS

Topic: ESL Programs

Archdiocese of Atlanta: We use the Josephinum seminary in Columbus, OH for ESL. They have a full time ESL staff, rather than tutoring (which some seminaries promote as ESL). It is an excellent program, in that it allows seminarians to be fully immersed in formation (English, with Spanish spiritual direction and some Spanish liturgies), while also being full time ESL students. Then the students gradually transition to theology (or philosophy) while still having some ESL support as needed.

Priests of the Sacred Heart - US Province: Our program at Sacred Heart School of Theology (Hales Corners, WI) works well with such language needs. Many students from Latin American countries come with little or no language skills.

The Legionaries of Christ: Our order provides a good "immersion" Spanish course called Curso de Hispanidad. For more information, you can see the website: <http://curso.fidesio.com>
This could be an option to give to the priest who was asking about the Spanish courses.

Diocese of Lafayette LA: I believe that St. Joseph Seminary College in Covington, LA has an excellent ESL Program. It is a seminary college run by Benedictine Monks and Fr. Matthew Clark, OSB is present at our NCDVD conventions.

Diocese of Oakland: Look into the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey, CA. They have one of the best ESL programs in the country. Students live with an English speaking family. We've had seminarians there. A good program.

Diocese of Memphis: We use the ESL Learning Center on the campus of St. Thomas University in St. Paul, MN. However, there are other ESL Centers close to seminaries: St. Louis, MO close to Kenrick; Columbus, OH – close to the Josephinum; and Cincinnati, OH – close to Mt. St. Mary Seminary. We've tried two seminaries to teach English and it just didn't work. The seminaries just do not have the resources to divide the students up according to their English abilities and teach them according to their individual English skills. The ESL Center have the ability to do that.