

# REACHING OUT WEDNESDAYS

## Topic: Funding Seminarrians

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Diocese of Toledo:

Regarding financial support:

- We pay full tuition, room, board, fees, health insurance, and books for seminarrians in Theology.
- For college seminarrians, we pay half tuition, room and board. We pay all the fees, health insurance (unless the seminarrian is still covered under parents' insurance) and books. Upon ordination, the diocese will pay the principal due on any loans these seminarrians incur.
- In the summer, college student are generally expected to live at home and find a job.
- In the summer, all seminarrians in theology (or pre-theology) have an assignment. If this assignment is working in a parish, the parish pays them \$2000 for 10 weeks, plus provides room and board. If this assignment is something like IPF or CPE, our office pays them the \$2000 summer stipend and pays for the program. If the seminarrian lives in a parish rectory, we pay the parish \$875 for room and board.
- If extenuating circumstances arise (e.g. an extra medical bill), we look at it on a case by case basis.

Labadie Communications: Our organization works with dioceses to connect to their laity in both raising funds for the seminarrians education as well as developing a culture of vocations in the diocese to increase priestly vocations. We have been very successful with both.

Diocese of Paterson: Per financial policy tuition room and board is paid by the Diocese for all seminarrians in formation. Books are not covered as the financial policy stipulates that the seminarrian stipend received per semester is to cover "books, travel, registration fees, laundry, insurances, etc.". Additional expenses are paid by the diocese on a case by case basis. During the summer, each seminarrians is expected to do a summer pastoral assignment for 10 weeks. Each one receives \$125.00 weekly from the parish. If a seminarrian takes summer courses during the summer, technically he is not on pastoral assignment although he does reside in a parish. In such cases, the seminarrian receives \$1000 to cover his expenses during studies.

Archdiocese of Omaha: If a seminarrian should be in true need of financial assistance to meet personal expenses, he is invited to personally write the Director of the Office of Vocations to explain and account for the need, along with an itemization of the amount needed. The Office of Vocations periodically receives requests from different Catholic organizations as well as individuals who desire to financially assist seminarrians. Although personal financial assistance is never guaranteed, there are monies available to seminarrians from these benefactor sources if a true need is identified. All 13 requests for financial assistance are carefully and confidentially considered on a case by case basis.

Diocese of Santa Rosa: We provide at this time:

All tuition costs, room/board and books, medical insurance for our men in College and Theology. One round trip ticket a year for men at a seminary location a distance from the diocese.

In case they leave formation they do not have to pay the diocese back. During the months when they are in seminary they receive a stipend of \$230 and on Pastoral Year \$350. During the summer months read below and if assigned the men receive \$350 from the diocese and the parish assists with gasoline costs for parish work.

During College years the seminarrian is free during the summer to do what he wants (make \$\$\$).

Pre-theology formation: more schooling, Spanish immersion, working in a parish, or on their own as with a college student.

Theology: CPE if mandated by the seminary, more schooling, Spanish immersion, working in a parish or a 30 day Ignatian Retreat. We usually ordain men deacons before 4th Year theology.

Diocese of Monterey in California: We pay all seminary costs, including health insurance, for all of our seminarians. If they are able to contribute through personal finances, military benefits, or other grants that is much appreciated but not expected nor required.

Our seminarians are given a one month vacation as per our Clergy Policy for the Diocese. They receive a summer parish assignment that begins right after seminary classes let out and extends until two days before classes resume. The four weeks of vacation is individually negotiated with their summer pastor/supervisor. They receive a regular monthly stipend each month of the year including summer. The parish they are assigned to receives a room & board stipend as well for the summer months.

The diocese pays for air travel to and from the diocese if the seminarian is studying at a distance from the diocese or from his family home.

Diocese of Des Moines: We have a policy that treats differently the men in college seminary from those in pre-theology and theology.

College: we reimburse the men up to \$450 /semester for books, we reimburse for mileage for required vocations/seminarian events, we pay for seminarian retreats when needed, each man receives a \$135 /month stipend during their school months, and when needed we help with the cost of health insurance (typically if the man is older and can no longer be on their parents plan). We DO NOT pay for their tuition, room and board costs, though after they seek out all federal aid, scholarships, and grants we do allow them to apply for up to \$10,000 /yr for no interest loans for schooling. These loans are to be paid back to the diocese regardless of whether the man is ordained. (For exact policy, see attachment)

Pre-theology/Theology: We pretty much pay for everything at this point, including: tuition, room, board, books, reimburse for mileage for seminarian/vocations events, \$450 /semester in books, summer programs and lodging, stipend at \$150 /month while in school or in summer formation programs, health insurance (again, once they can no longer stay on their parents plan), diaconate and priestly preparatory retreats. (For exact policy, see attachment)

Summer support: As stated above, our college men are encouraged to work during the summer and so we do not provide additional monetary support, though in the past we have arranged for free summer lodging if necessary (particularly if they do not have family in the area). This is often the case as well for men in the summer between pre-theology 1 and 2. Following this summer, from the summer between Pre-theology 2 and Theology 1 and beyond, the men are in summer formative programs (ie. IPF, CPE, Spanish language immersion, parish work) and we pay for the program, their accommodations and meals, as well as a stipend (which normally remains at \$150 /month unless they need to buy their own food, and then we give more). The exception to the stipend is if the man is doing pastoral work in a parish full time, and then our practice has been to increase the stipend to around \$600 /month. All assistance is provided by the Diocese.

The only addition that I can think to mention is the assistance given to our seminarians from foreign countries, recently from Latin or South American countries (El Salvador and Columbia). These men receive extra in their stipend per month from the diocese because of a lack of local family or community support. This amount is not specified in our policy to allow extra room for each case, but generally is about \$100 or more. Moreover, generally the seminarians receive at least \$1,000.00 per annum in gifts from local Knights of Columbus Councils and other groups. We have also had situations where a local Serra Council donated a large gift (\$6,000.00) to a seminarian from Columbia to purchase a car.

Diocese of Fargo: We pay full tuition, room and board and a book stipend for pre-theology and major seminarians. We give scholarships toward tuition and a book stipend for college seminarians. We give stipends whenever we assign them to a ministry. It is meant to be equivalent to a simple summer job. We also pay for health insurance for pre-theology and major seminarians.

Diocese of Phoenix: We pay for tuition, room and board for all our seminarians. The Serra club takes care of books. When seminarians have a summer assignment (all pre-theologians, theologians and those collegians that get an assignment (case by case based on their situation)) get \$700 a month and this is paid by the parish in which they are serving. Seminarians receive stipends of \$500 3X a year along with a \$700 check that is given to help them with their taxes in February.

Diocese of Joliet: College - we pay the full room, board and tuition for their first year and 50% of their remaining years in seminary. We give them \$100 per semester to help with books. Pre-Theology and Theology - we pay full room, board tuition and books. For any seminarians that work in the summer - Totus Tuus, CPE, IPF, parish assignment, we give them \$1500 for the summer.

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City: College seminarians are expected to contribute in a direct way toward their college expenses. This responsibility takes into consideration the fact that seminary colleges are private institutions and more costly than public, state-funded institutions. In light of these costs, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will pay seminary college tuition and provide a monthly stipend for all college seminarians. The remaining expense of room, board, books, fees, and health insurance is the responsibility of the seminarian. Financial aid and loan information is available through the Financial Aid Office of each seminary college.

Pre-Theology and Theology Seminarians: The Archdiocese will assume responsibility for all educational expenses of seminarians who have begun their theological program of studies, as well as provide a monthly stipends.

Stipends from the Archdiocese: During the academic year (August–May) college seminarians will receive \$200. per month and Pre-Theology and Theology seminarians will receive \$300. per month. Seminarians attending the North American College in Rome will receive \$400. per month.

Summer Assignment: During a summer assignment in a parish a seminarian will receive \$125. per week (for 8 weeks) paid for by the parish (this includes seminarians taking CPE). A seminarian assigned to Camp OLOG will earn \$300 per week

#### HEALTH CARE

College Seminarians under the age of 25 should be covered by their parents' medical insurance plan. If a college seminarian is unable to be covered under his parents' plan he can personally write the Vocations Director requesting to be covered, at no charge, under the standard Archdiocesan seminarian health care plan currently administered by AETNA.

Pre-Theology and Theology Seminarians: The Archdiocese will provide standard health care coverage currently managed by AETNA for all Pre-Theology and Theology seminarians.

Deductibles, co-payments and prescription drug expenses are the responsibility of each seminarian. If the seminarian should be in true need of financial assistance to meet personal medical expenses, he is invited to write the Vocations Director to explain and account for the need, along with an itemization of the amount of the need. No seminarian is to deny himself of needed medical treatment because of an inability to pay deductibles or co-payments.