



Diocese of Worcester

Office for Vocations • Holy Name of Jesus House of Studies

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Director of Vocations

Financial Policies:

Associates; College 1-4; Pre-Theology 1-2; Theology 1-4.

1) *College-level seminarians* are men who have been accepted as seminarians for the Diocese, and into approved college seminaries (or the Holy Name of Jesus Institute)

2) The Office of Vocations is also engaged in dialogue with men who are presently attending state or private colleges or universities, but who have not yet formally applied to be accepted as seminarians. These men are referred to as *associates to the vocations program*. *Associates* generally apply to the Diocese during their last year of college studies.

3) Associates are responsible for 100% of their tuition, room & board costs. Subsidized and unsubsidized federal student loans may be acquired to afford tuition, room & board costs. Information and online applications for Federal student loans can be found at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>

4) College-level seminarians, (men who have been accepted as seminarians for the Diocese, and into approved college seminaries or the Holy Name of Jesus Institute) are responsible for all tuition costs. However, the Diocese generally covers all room & board costs.

5) Associates, college-level seminarians, pre-Theologians, and Theologians who are still considered legal dependents in regard to their relationship to their parents, are usually covered under their family's health insurance plans for the duration of their undergraduate and graduate studies.

6) College-level seminarians, Pre-Theologians & Theologians who are no longer legal dependents and who can not afford health insurance should notify the Director of Vocations to inquire about assistance. Generally, if a particular seminary offers health, dental and/or vision plans, seminarians are asked to enroll in these plans at the expense of the Diocese. The seminary may bill the Office for Vocations for payment of these insurance plans. If no plan is offered through the seminary, seminarians should alert the Vocation Director so that other arrangements can be made. It is the responsibility of all seminarians to become familiar with their insurance plans, to choose care-providers within their insurance plans, and to complete all required insurance paperwork associated with hospital, doctor, dentist, or optometrist visits. If the co-pays for a particular plan are

exorbitant, or if sicknesses or injuries requires several visits, seminarians may ask the Director of Vocations for assistance.

7) All loans secured for College 1-4 are personally repaid by associates or college-level seminarians. However, the repayment of loans are generally deferred until the end of seminary studies. Repayment of these loans generally begin a month after the Masters of Divinity is earned.

8) The tuition, room & board of Pre-Theologians and Theologians are paid in full by the Diocese.

9) No personal loans are granted to associates, college-level seminarians, pre-Theologians or Theologians by the Diocese. However, exceptional expenses due to extraordinary circumstances may be brought to the attention of the Director of Vocations for discussion and possible assistance.

10) On rare occasions, Associates, College-level seminarians, Pre-Theologians and Theologians may be called back to the Diocese in the midst of their studies to attend a special diocesan event or meeting. By prearrangement with the Director of Vocations, seminarians may be reimbursed for travel expenses.

11) College-level seminarians, Pre-Theologians & Theologians receives per-semester stipends of \$1375 both in August and January. These stipends should be applied toward transportation costs, textbooks, and other miscellaneous expenses.

12) Associates and College-level seminarians are not required to enter summer parish internships over the summer months. However, beginning with the first summer following their first years of pre-Theology or Theology, they are required to work in parishes for ten week internships.

13) Pre-Theologians and Theologians serve in ministerial work for ten weeks each summer until ordination to the priesthood. The parishes to which they are assigned provides a weekly stipend of \$230. Deacons receive \$245/week. Seminarians are asked to set aside some funds to assist with expenses incurred during their academic years.