

FINANCIAL POLICY FOR DIOCESAN SEMINARIANS

This financial policy, governing all seminarians studying for the Diocese of Spokane, becomes effective January 1, 2003. It shall be reviewed every three years. The administration of this statement of financial policy shall be the responsibility of the Director of Seminarians.

COLLEGE FORMATION

Tuition

College seminarians shall be responsible for the full payment of their personal, educational, and housing expenses. Seminarians are expected to avail themselves of education grants, low interest student loans, Knights of Columbus grants and any other means whereby college students normally finance their education. Seminarians in the formation program of Bishop White Seminary receive a discount on tuition at Gonzaga University (as of 01/01/03 this discount was 25%). Additionally, the Diocese will contribute up to 25% of the cost of tuition, according to the needs of the seminarian. The amount of this grant will be determined in consultation with the Director of the Seminarians and the Bishop's Secretary for Business Affairs. Students needing to take advantage of this assistance must request it in writing from the Bishop.

Ordinarily, the Diocese does not make personal loans to seminarians for their expenses.

Room and Board

Seminarians are responsible for the payment of room and board fees at Bishop White Seminary.

Insurance

All personal health and life insurance coverage is the responsibility of the individual seminarian at the college level of formation.

Exceptions

The Diocese recognizes that each seminarian comes to formation with unique financial needs. No seminarian will be barred from the formation program because of a demonstrated inability to pay his tuition and educational expenses. Therefore, exceptions to the above policy can be made in consultation with the Director of Seminarians and the Bishop's Secretary for Business Affairs. Any exceptions must receive approval by the Bishop.

THEOLOGICAL FORMATION

Room, Board and Tuition

The Diocese will assume financial responsibility for room, board, tuition, academic expenses as well as psychological evaluation fees for its seminarians in theologates. All seminarians will be required to pay for their own personal expenses (e.g. books, parking fees, key deposits, etc.) Any other expenses incurred by theology students are their personal responsibility. Seminarians in theology will receive a modest monthly stipend from the diocese. The amount of this stipend is determined by the Director of Seminarians in consultation with the Bishop's Secretary for Business Affairs.

Travel

Once each year, during the four-year period of theological studies, seminarians may request diocesan funds equal to the normal and direct travel expenses to the place of study from the student's home and the return. Ordinarily this request should be made only if the student has no other means to meet travel expenses.

Special Programs

The Diocese will fund only those special courses, institutes, etc., outside the normal program when participation in the special program is approved by the Director of Seminarians.

Summer Placements

Seminarians in theological studies who are assigned to parishes or other institutions for pastoral experience will be paid a monthly stipend of \$400.00 by the Diocese for the duration of the assignment. The parish or institution of assignment will provide for room and board.

Insurance

The cost of medical and dental insurance for students in theology is to be covered by making use of the seminarian's family insurance policy. If this is not possible, insurance should be obtained through the policy offered through the individual Theologate. If a student cannot be insured through the Theologate, he will be covered by the Diocese of Spokane. In August of each year, the Bishop's Secretary for Business Affairs will review the coverage of each seminarian to ensure that all seminarians are properly covered.

Ordinations

The Diocese will provide flowers, programs, music and a reception for all ordinations to the Diaconate and Priesthood. Seminarians will be responsible for all other related expenses including invitations, holy cards, special dinners, etc.

Exceptions

Any exceptions to the financial assistance policy for theology students will be made in consultation with the Director of Seminarians and Bishop's Secretary for Business Affairs. All exceptions must be approved by the Bishop.

MATCHING GRANTS: PAY-BACK OF COLLEGE STUDENT LOANS (Revised Feb. 19, 2013)

Circumstances may be such that a newly ordained priest may have responsibility for paying back student loans received during his college years.

Commencing the first year of his ordination to the order of Presbyter, the Diocese will provide a matching grant equal to the amount of principal paid by the grantee during each fiscal year (up to \$2000), provided that the payment of interest on the total principal is current.

A grantee shall be eligible as long as he remains in active ministry under the authority of the Bishop.

The matching grant shall be paid only on the outstanding principal of loans made after the first year in the standard four-year college seminary program. Any exception must be reviewed by the Moderator of the Curia and approved by the Bishop.

Requests for this matching grant must be submitted in writing to the Moderator of the Curia by June 1. The request must include accurate and complete documentation in support of the matching grant request.