

3.03.02

Financial Assistance to Seminarians

- A. Prior to acceptance as a diocesan seminarian, each applicant is expected to participate in psychological testing as determined by the Director of Vocations or the Bishop. The Diocese covers the fee for this testing.
- B. If a student studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Crookston desires financial aid from the Diocese, they must complete the Financial Aid Form.

Theologians

(A theologian is to be defined as any seminarian who has previously completed an undergraduate degree).

- A. The Diocese is not liable for any obligations, financial or otherwise, incurred by the theologian prior to his acceptance as a student for the Diocese. But, upon request, assistance in meeting these obligations will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- B. Grants will be given for room, board and tuition to theologians regardless of need or ability of family to support him.
- C. The Diocese grants each theologian an annual textbook allowance. Each theologian will receive a monthly stipend throughout the academic school year. The amount of the allowance and stipend will be set by the Office of Vocations.
- D. A theologian may borrow up to a maximum of \$1,500.00 annually for personal expenses at a rate of 1% over prime rate, simple interest inceptive at the date of the note. He is expected to repay this loan whether he is ordained to the priesthood or not. This transaction will be carried out by a promissory note. Upon ordination or termination of studies, the theologian will agree in writing to a set monthly payment, but in all cases the entire loan must be paid off within seven (7) years from ordination or discontinuance of studies. The Diocese of Crookston Accounting and Finance Office will bill the student for this amount. Accounts delinquent by more than 60 days will be referred to the Bishop for action.
- E. Each theologian is encouraged very strongly to obtain summer employment, provided he is not assigned to ministry.
- F. The theologian who wishes to attend summer school must seek the permission of the Bishop and then negotiate the related expenses with the Director of Vocations in consultation with the Finance Officer.
- G. Theologians studying for the Diocese of Crookston have the option of receiving health and dental coverage through the Diocese and payable by the Diocese. The Office of Administration for the Diocese will send, upon request, the necessary application papers for health coverage.

- H. Costs for transportation to and from the seminary are the responsibility of the theologian. The Diocese will pay a travel allowance for a one-way trip to the seminary in the fall and a one-way trip home in the spring. The amount of this allowance is set by the Office of Vocations.
- I. Theologians working in the Diocese for a parish or any agency of the Diocese, or the Diocese itself, are to be paid as follows:
 - 1. The Diocese is to pay the theologian, including deacons, a monthly stipend set by the Office of Vocations.
 - 2. The parish or the diocese, as the case may be, is to pay the theologian, including deacons, the diocesan mileage rate for use of his car in parish work, to provide for room and board for the theologian or deacon.
- J. When a theologian is staying at a rectory in the Diocese due to his involvement with CPE or ongoing education, the Diocese is to reimburse the parish \$150.00 per month for room and board. This presumes that the seminarian is not able to assist in the parish in order to "earn" his room and board.

Collegiate Seminarians

- A. The Diocese is not liable for any obligations, financial or otherwise, incurred by the collegiate seminarian (hereafter to be referred to as seminarian) prior to his becoming a seminarian. But, upon request, assistance in meeting these obligations will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- B. The Diocese will make a total payment of \$9400 annually towards tuition and room & board. This \$9400 will be split \$4700 per semester. This payment is to cover roughly 25% of tuition and room and board. This amount will be evaluated every two years. Those currently in seminary will receive a monthly stipend throughout the academic school year at a rate set by the Office of Vocations.
- C. Seminarians who need financial assistance are to make a serious effort to obtain low interest government loans, scholarships, grants, and work-study benefits at their college or university. After a seminarian has exhausted all other reasonable possibilities for financial assistance, he may inquire about loan options from the Diocese.
- J. A seminarian may borrow up to a maximum of \$1,500.00 annually for personal expenses at a rate of 1% over prime rate, simple interest inceptive at the date of the note. He is expected to repay this loan whether he is ordained to the priesthood or not. This transaction will be carried out by a promissory note. Upon ordination or termination of studies, the seminarian will agree in writing to a set monthly payment, but in all cases the entire loan must be paid off within seven (7) years from ordination or discontinuance of studies. The Diocese of Crookston Accounting and Finance Office will bill the student

for this amount. Accounts delinquent by more than 60 days will be referred to the Bishop for action.

- D. Each seminarian is encouraged very strongly to obtain summer employment, provided he is not assigned to ministry.
- E. The seminarian who wishes to attend summer school must seek the permission of the Bishop and then negotiate the related expenses with the Director of Vocations in consultation with the Finance Officer.
- F. Seminarians may receive health and dental coverage through the Diocese, but they will be responsible for their own premiums. If they are unable to pay the premiums, they may borrow money from the Diocese in accordance with the norms of this policy.
- G. Costs for transportation to and from college are the responsibility of the seminarian. The Diocese will pay a travel allowance for a one-way trip to college in the fall and a one-way trip home in the spring. The amount of this allowance is set by the Office of Vocations
- H. Seminarians working in the Diocese for a parish or any agency of the Diocese, or the Diocese itself, are to be paid as follows:
 - 1. The Diocese is to pay the seminarian a monthly stipend set by the Office of Vocations
 - 2. The parish or the diocese, as the case may be, is
 - a) to pay the seminarian the diocesan mileage rate for use of his car in parish work,
 - b) to provide for room and board for the seminarian.