

POLICY No. 39
FINANCING THE COSTS OF STUDIES FOR SEMINARIANS

1. Term definitions

A seminarian: a person sponsored by the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie to study in preparation for eventual ordination to the priesthood. He is following the prescribed course of studies in a recognized house of formation, or is involved in a period of pastoral internship.

2. Intent of the directive

To provide for the payment of some expenses related to the selection and preparation of candidates to the priesthood for the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie.

3. Policy

- a. The selection of seminarians for the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie is the prerogative of the diocesan bishop. He may delegate part of this responsibility to other persons who assist in the discernment and formation process for possible candidates for the priesthood.
- b. Once a candidate has been approved for study in a recognized house of formation, the Diocese will pay for room and board. These costs will be deemed a scholarship and will require the release of a form T4A information slip indicating the amount of the scholarship. The seminarian is responsible for his tuition fee and personal expenses.
- c. A financial needs assessment will be filled out by the seminarian and given to the diocese. The seminarian must apply for OSAP, if help is needed, in paying for his education. The seminarian is asked to find summer employment and to use that money to further his education. Because the seminarians come from a wide range of backgrounds and ages, the needs assessment will assist the diocese in understanding their financial challenges.
- d. A seminarian who is assigned to a parish for the pastoral internship year will receive suitable remuneration following diocesan norms.
- e. The diocese will fund the tuition fees and books. The seminarian pays for room, activity fees and board. A loan request may be made if financial help is needed.
- f. Loans will be forgiven after 5 years of consecutive service following ordination as a priest for the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie.
- g. The diocese will pay a transitional deacon's health benefits to the Clergy Benefits Fund of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie. He should notify the office of the financial administrator of his status before thirty days have elapsed from the date of his ordination.

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