

## §400 Seminary Expense Policy

*Men who are accepted for seminary formation receive assistance from the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois during their studies according to the following norms. This policy binds from its date of promulgation and does not have retroactive effect.*

### §401 Formation in theology and pre-theology

**§401.1. Policy** The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois shall cover the following seminarian expenses:

- Tuition, Room and Board;
- \$200 (\$500 for deacons) monthly stipend;
  - Monthly stipend is not given when a parish or other office/institution is providing a stipend;
- Course required books;
- Diocesan Employee Healthcare (Medical, Dental, Vision);
- Any other expenses approved by the Director for Seminarians and confirmed by the Vicar General.

**§401.2. Policy** In the event that an ordained priest has his previous academic loans reimbursed by the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, the priest and the Diocese shall enter into a written agreement for these loan repayments which shall cease if the priest leaves the active ministry before the loan has been paid in full.

**Procedure:** Those who come into formation with loans from previous academic pursuits may request, upon ordination to the priesthood, that the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois reimburse monthly payments of those loans to those who are responsible for loan repayment based on the financial need of the seminarian and the financial condition of the diocese in the judgment of the Diocesan Bishop.

### §402 Formation in college

**§402.1. Policy** The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois shall cover the following seminarian expenses:

- Room and Board (tuition is not paid by the Diocese);
- \$200 monthly stipend;
- Diocesan Employee Healthcare (Medical, Dental, Vision);
- Any other expenses approved by the Director of Seminarians and confirmed by the Vicar General.

**Procedure:** The monthly stipend is not given for the months of June and July unless assigned to duties by the Director of Seminarians. Unless involved in the *Totus Tuus* program, college seminarians are encouraged to find secular employment during the summer break to help defray the schooling costs that they are responsible for paying.

**§402.2. Policy** For men in college seminary formation, upon priestly ordination, the new priest shall enter into a written agreement with the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois reimbursing him, in monthly installments, for the cost of tuition incurred while he was in college formation. Should he leave the active ministry, the Diocese shall consider the agreement null and void. Should he return to active ministry, the Diocese shall resume the payments.

**§402.3. Policy** The seminarian shall maintain an accurate record of tuition costs incurred for college seminary formation as well as a record of tuition assistance received, and shall provide that record after ordination for the signing of the agreement.

**§402.4. Policy** It shall be the priest's responsibility to request reimbursement.

**Procedure:** College seminarians are encouraged to apply for federal aid (FAFSA) to help to defer tuition costs through grants and to receive subsidized tuition loans if necessary.

**§402.5. Policy** If a college seminarian is in need of further assistance, and approaches the Director for Seminarians, any such assistance requires the approval of the Diocesan Bishop. Proof of need must be provided if requested.

### **§403 Communication of the Policy**

**§403.1. Policy** This policy shall be communicated to prospective seminarians by the Director of Vocations.