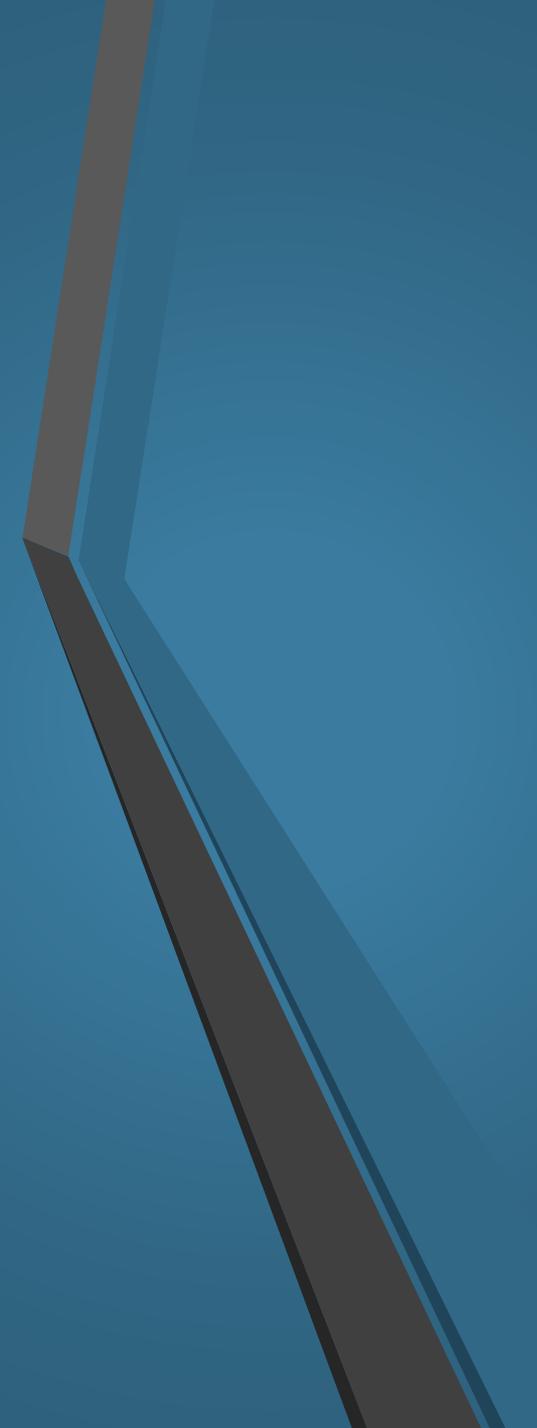


Newer Seminarian School

Seminarian Handbook



“His mere duty is not sufficient for a true priest. He needs something higher: sanctity. Jesus Christ requires a simple Christian life of the faithful but of the priest He asks a life of heroism. And, therefore, if Christian perfection is an ornament, a glory and a halo for any member of the faithful, for the priest it must be his normal way of life: a life of faith which helps him to discern the dark arms of the enemy, a life of hope which sustains and strengthens him in his daily struggles, a life of burning and inflaming charity, a life of angelic purity, of sacrifice, of a spirit of poverty, of meekness and of a patience which remains unmoved and unperturbed under the blows of the most atrocious injuries.”

Pope St. Pius X

Fraternity

As Presbyterorum Ordinis states,
"the function of the bishops'
ministry was handed over in a
subordinate degree to priests so
that they might be appointed in
the order of the priesthood and be
co-workers of the episcopal order
for the proper fulfillment of the
apostolic mission that had been
entrusted to it by Christ."



Human Formation

Human Formation

Presence at Diocesan Events

Building habits of faithful attendance to these events begins at a seminarian. Expected:

- Priesthood Ordination (including vespers the evening prior)
- Diaconate Ordination
- Advent Dinner with the bishop
- Seminarian Summer Retreat including JP II Classic
- Candidacy, Lector or Acolyte Installation (if held in the diocese)
- Priest day of recollection and Chrism Mass (if you are in Phx)

Encouraged:

- Andrew's dinners
- Seminarian Bowling
- Seminarian Golf Outing
- Seminarian Hiking/Camping trips
- Prayer at the abortion facilities on Christmas Eve and Good Friday



Human Formation

Connection with Home Parish

Seminarians are strongly encouraged to stay connected with their local home parish and their pastor.

Notify, in a timely manner, when they are going to be home to assist during seminary breaks.

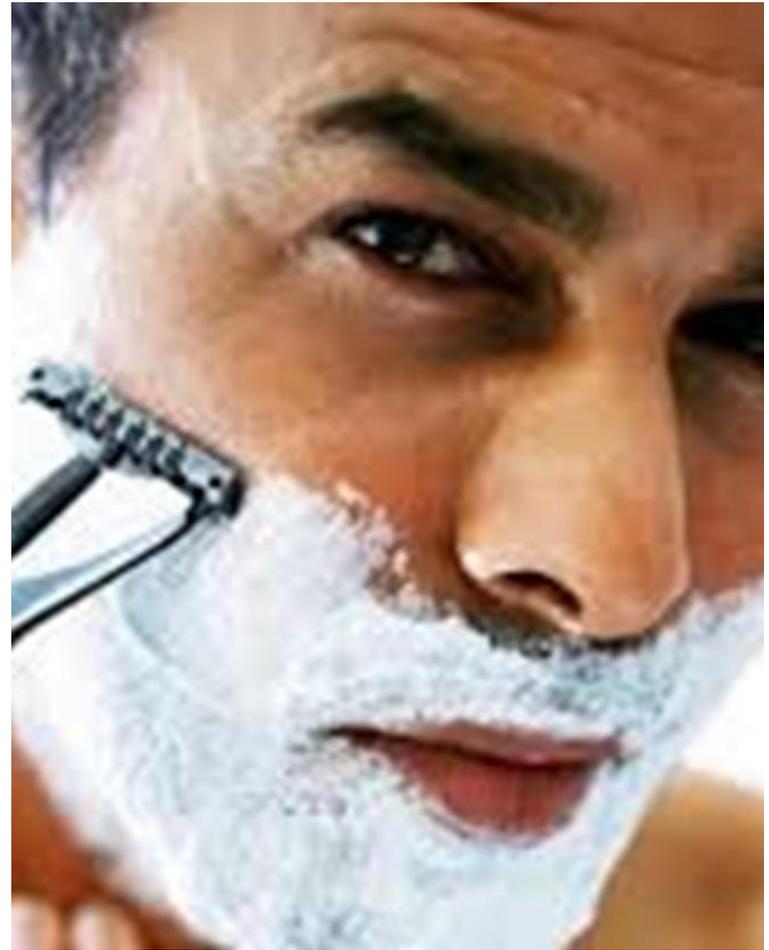
Visits to the parish school or any other school

Seminarians are to be careful to maintain appropriate boundaries with all parishioners.

Human Formation

Personal Appearance / Dress Code

- While at their respective seminaries or participating in any function or event in connection with their seminary, seminarians are to adhere to the dictates and dress code policies of that particular seminary.



What do I Wear?

Theologians and Pre-theologians, who have already been to seminary, are to wear clerical clothing while serving in their parish on pastoral assignments and functioning in pastoral/sacramental situations, (i.e. wear clerical clothing when assisting with hospital visits, prison ministry, home-bound visits, diocesan liturgies etc).

A seminarian is a pre-theologian or theologian upon entering either first theology or first pre-theology. That is, he has begun that academic year upon arrival at the seminary. This does not include the previous summer. Any policies that a given seminary has are to be followed at the seminary, but it should be remembered that those policies have no bearing on what a seminarian wears in the Diocese of Phoenix.

Human Formation

Collegians and those in the spirituality year are to dress up for any occasion where they are identifiable as a seminarian or functioning in a capacity where they are recognized as a seminarian. “Chapel attire” for such occasions is appropriate unless the occasion requires formal attire. As a general rule, if you are not sure what to wear, *dress up!*

Those who have not yet begun Theology or Pre-theology are not to wear clerics. They may vest in a cassock for serving in the liturgy only. Cassock and Surplice are to be worn together.

	Ministry Settings		Out and about	
	Clerics	Chapel Attire	Clerics	Chapel Attire
Collegians		X		X
College Seniors		X		X
SY		X		X
PT and Theologians	X			X
Deacons	X		X	

Simpler Guide

Physical Health

In order to develop and maintain healthy habits, seminarians should:

- Develop or follow a program of physical exercise.
- Give proper attention to diet, nutrition, weight, and hygiene.
- Be moderate in his consumption of food and temperate in his consumption of alcohol.

Seminarians should inform the Director of Vocations of any serious illness, admission to the hospital, or prolonged prescribed use of medications.



Human Formation



Human Formation

Parents...

Seminarian Finances

The approximate cost for each seminarian is approximately \$35,000-45,000 (tuition, room, board, medical, dental, stipends, summer classes/Immersion etc.)

\$600 Stipends are sent out in August, November, April and February (\$TBD)

It is not expected that this stipend should be enough to maintain large expenses such as those related to a home, world travel or even a car or cell phone plan. Such expenditures are to be weighed and incurred by the seminarian if he is able by way of his own savings, school loans (if available) or assistance from family.

It should be remembered that seminarians live as beneficiaries of the generosity of the faithful of the diocese through their support of the Charity and Development Appeal. A seminarian is to prudently consider his financial decisions to ensure that he can cover his costs.

Human Formation

Gratitude

Time can (and must) be set aside for thank you cards.

When the faithful share their time and resources to encourage seminarians they are conveying the great love they have for Christ and His priesthood. Even short notes of thanks and encouragement are well appreciated. If a group of people or an entire school class sends cards, individual responses are not necessary.

Finally, a sense of entitlement should always be avoided, and one should be careful to spend money proper to a man in formation for the priesthood who is to be an example of the life of service and stewardship that the priestly life is meant to be.

Use of \$ Proper to a Seminarian

Canon 282 “clerics are to foster simplicity of life and are to refrain from all things that have a semblance of vanity. Goods which they receive on the occasion of the exercise of an ecclesiastical office, and which are over and above what is necessary for their worthy upkeep and the fulfillment of all the duties of their state, they may well wish to use for the good of the Church and for charitable works.”

Health Benefits/ Insurance

Seminarians are eligible to participate in the diocesan health insurance PPO plan through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona. See Appendix A for plan details. Seminarians that are eligible for coverage through their parents are able to elect to opt out of the plan. Enrollment or opting out of the insurance program should happen within 31 days of acceptance as a seminarian of the diocese.

If at any time a seminarian loses coverage on his parents plan due to age or any other reason, he would have to notify the Office of Vocations as soon as possible since the paperwork needs to be completed within 31 days.

(Same for Dental)

Health Insurance Coverage

- On your parent's or the diocese?
- If coverage is lost through your parents, you have 30 from the date of that loss of coverage to get on the Diocesan plan.
 - Turning 26 this year?
 - If so, you would need to enroll within 30 days of your 26th birthday!



Dental Coverage

- DoP dental coverage is a plan that requires that you have dental work done *in Arizona*.
- Make plans to see your dentist during the summer and on Christmas break.
- Out of state work (crowns, fillings etc.) are very expensive and not covered by insurance!

Needed Documentation

—
*You received an email
this morning with
these forms to you
today!*

1. Seminarian Benefits Enrollment (whether you are or are not going to be on diocesan insurance, this needs to be completed)
2. Personal Data Sheet – For use of the by the Human Resources Office
3. Authorization for ACH Direct Deposit (to receive stipends.
4. Vocations Office Information Sheet

Mandatory Procedures Concerning Benefactors

In order to ensure that Knights of Columbus funds are being evenly distributed among seminarians, each seminarian is to report

- (1) the amount and
- (2) the name of the council.

This is to be done, along with writing a thank you note, *prior* to depositing or cashing the check. Checks should be deposited or cashed within a month for the sake of the benefactor.

The Knights of Columbus also report this information to the Vocations Office.

How to save money



DINNERS OUT



CLOTHING



CELL PHONE

- Serra Club gifts \$350 per semester
 - Shop Smart
 - Online or used
 - Or just borrow . You can always buy the book later if you think it is one that you want in your collection.

This is a gift!



Books



Requests for Funds

Taxes

- Each year, the seminarians will receive a letter that states the amount of benefits they have received from the diocese. This will include:
 - Tuition
 - Room and Board
 - Fees
 - Stipends
 - Travel
 - Medical

- According to the Internal Rev. Code 117, the benefits are treated as follows:

	TAX-FREE	TAXABLE
Tuition	X	
Fees	X	
Room and Board		X
Travel		X

Example

A seminarian, received the following benefits from the DOP in 2020:

Tuition	\$21,115✓
Room	5,335
Board	5,135
Stipend	2,700
Health Ins.	7,920
Travel (lang. sch.)	1,104

✓ - Tax Free

TAXABLE ITEMS

Room	5,335	
Board	5,135	
Stipend	2,700	
Health	7,920	
Travel	1,104	
Taxable Income	22,194	
Standard Deduction		(\$12,000)
Taxable income		\$10,194
Tax liability (10%)		\$1,019

Example Tax Calculation

Taxable Items		
Room	5,335	
Board	5,135	
Stipend	2,700	
Health		
Travel		
Taxable Income	13,170	
Standard Deduction		(\$12,000)
Taxable income		\$1,170
Tax liability (10%)		\$117

Example Tax Calculation

Intellectual Formation

- Summer School
 - Must be approved first
- Language Studies

3 factors:

1. attitude
2. length of immersion (10 weeks)
3. amount of prior study in Spanish (at least 2 semesters).

Other Areas of Note

Communication

All ministerial relationships, including those involving seminarians are based on respect and good communication.

Seminarians should remember that the Director of Vocations is the primary contact and liaison between themselves, the Bishop and other diocesan personnel.

If a seminarian receives a call or e-mail from the Director of Vocations, other chancery personnel or parish personnel, a prompt reply is courteous and expected.



Social Media...

Is this prudent?

Human Formation

Communication/Social Communication

Following the Social Media Guidelines of the diocese

“Diocesan personnel and volunteers may communicate with minors through parish, school and/or diocesan communications such as diocesan location websites, blogs, group social networking (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.), office phones, and email for the purpose of parish, school and/or diocesan programs. a. Parish, school and/or diocesan communications must be transparent, which may include public availability, parental access, or monitoring by supervisor(s).”

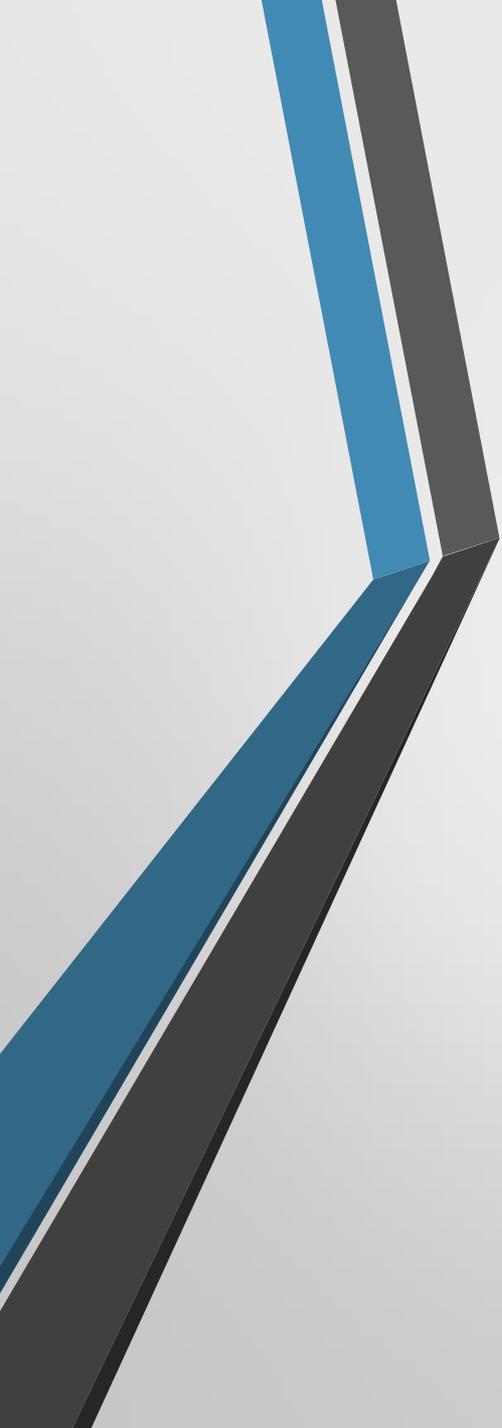
It may also be prudent to “cc” the child’s parents. Seminarians are encouraged to save copies of conversations whenever possible, especially those which concern the personal sharing of a teen.

“Diocesan personnel (and seminarians) and volunteers may **not** communicate with minors (those under 18 yrs old) through personal or private means including, but not limited to, websites, blogs, social networking, **texting, phone calls, instant messaging, emails, etc.**”



CovenantEyes™

Seminarian Handbook



Discernment

“We too, are under pressure from this “culture of the temporary”; and this is dangerous because one does not put one’s stakes on life once and for all. “a short time” and then I shall see; I become a seminarian in order to become a priest, but I don’t know how the story will end. This is not right with Jesus! I am not reproaching you, I reproach this culture of the temporary, which hits us all, since it does us no good: because it is very hard today to make a definitive decision. In my day it was easier, because the culture encouraged definitive decisions, whether for married life, consecrated life or priestly life. However, in this day and age it is far from easy to make a decision once and for all. We are victims of this culture of the temporary. “ Pope Francis



Consolation

when some interior movement in the soul is caused, through which the soul comes to be inflamed with love of its Creator... when it sheds tears that move to love of its Lord, whether out of sorrow for one's sins, or... connected with His service and praise.

Finally, I call consolation every increase of hope, faith and charity, and all interior joy which calls and attracts to heavenly things and to the salvation of one's soul, quieting it and giving it peace in its Creator and Lord.



Spiritual Desolation

darkness of soul, disturbance in it, movement to things low and earthly, the unquiet of different agitations and temptations, moving to want of confidence, without hope, without love, when one finds oneself all lazy, tepid, sad, and as if separated from his Creator and Lord. Because, as consolation is contrary to desolation, in the same way the thoughts which come from consolation are contrary to the thoughts which come from desolation.

Spiritual Desolation

– What do I
do?

Rule 5: In time of desolation never to make a change; but to be firm and constant in the resolutions and determination in which one was the day preceding such desolation, or in the determination in which he was in the preceding consolation...

Rule 6: insisting more on prayer, meditation, on much examination, and by giving ourselves more scope in some suitable way of doing penance.

Good Discernment

- Takes time (months and months)
- In the Light (SD, FD, DOV, Bp)
 - Spiritual Direction is NOT the only place for discernment to happen.
- Consulting with trusted people
- Is not in need of constant affirmation
- Considers the long term

Poor Discernment

- In the dark
 - (private life vs. secret life)
- Hasty
 - Adjustment time needed in seminary
- Psychological vs. Spiritual Reasons
- In the valley
- Discerns immediate consequences

Discerning out?



Leaving in the first year?



Leaving in the summer?

apart from SD and FD?



Leaving mid semester?

More often than not, it's a bad idea!

Leaving in mid-semester can be a misuse of effort academically and is certainly a burden on the diocese financially as funds are paid for tuition.

Vocation Promotion

The greatest promoter of vocations is the priest himself. This is certainly done by his joyful witness of fidelity to the call that Christ has given him. This work is also more than witness, it entails intentional work of inviting young people to consider God's call for them.

As Pope Benedict XVI said, "there is no room for complacency in this regard. God continues to call young people; it is up to all of us to encourage a generous and free response to that call." This attitude begins in seminary.

Contact Info

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