

PROGRAM FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION:

SEMINARIAN SUMMER ASSIGNMENT  
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte  
Charlotte, North Carolina

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**PURPOSE**

The Seminarian Summer Assignment Program is an important part of the formation of future priests for the Diocese of Charlotte. Through their summer placements, seminarians participate as closely as possible in the life and ministry of our priests. The assignments also afford our priests the opportunity to get to know, work with, and be a part of the formation of seminarians who will one day join them in priestly ministry. In addition, the visible presence of seminarians in the parish promotes the growth of vocations. Consequently, the assignments are not meant primarily as summer employment or assistance, but rather experiences geared to the formation of future priests. "The field education program should provide diocesan seminarians with a broad exposure to supervised pastoral service, with primary emphasis on parish ministry."<sup>1</sup> Thus the purpose of this program is:

- I. to provide the opportunity for seminarians to experience and participate in parish ministry;*
- II. to develop a life of prayer in the context of parish life;*
- III. to give the seminarian an opportunity to learn from the priests with whom he will be living in a manner akin to apprenticeship*
- IV. to familiarize seminarians with the various parishes and vicariates within the Diocese of Charlotte;*
- V. to provide an atmosphere in which a seminarian can put into action in real situations the academic experience of the seminary;*
- VI. to provide an experience of rectory living.*

**LITURGICAL MINISTRIES**

Those who are ordained Deacons and those who have received the ministries of Lector and Acolyte are to exercise these roles in accordance with the norms of Church law. In addition, non-ordained seminarians who have not received these ministries are to be deputed to act as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion during the length of their assignment in the parish

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<sup>1</sup> Program of Priestly Formation No 433

to which they are assigned. This. deputation does not extend beyond the assignment in time or in place.

## **EVALUATIONS**

An evaluation form will be sent to the supervisor from the Vocations Office. The supervisor should meet with the seminarian to discuss the evaluation and both should sign it.

## **FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

A living allowance of \$1500.00 should be paid to the seminarian for a ten-week summer assignment. It is not necessary for the parish to complete any payroll, personnel, or tax forms in connection with this payment. Also, no tax withholding or reporting is necessary. Please contact Bill Weldon in the Diocesan Finance Office at 704.370.3313 with any questions.

## **ABSENCE FROM THE PARISH**

Days off - The seminarian is to have one day off each week. There is no vacation time during the assignment. If the seminarian must be away from the parish for an extended period of time, he must receive permission from his pastor before making arrangements. The Office of Vocations should be informed of such absences. Any changes to the dates or other conditions of the program are to be approved by the Office of Vocations.

Summer gathering: - In general, the summer gathering for the seminarians will take place before the assignment. Seminarians are required to attend.

## **SUGGESTED MINISTERIAL EXPERIENCES**

Serve at Mass

Act as an Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist and Lector

Act as a sacristan for Mass

Bring Holy Communion to the sick

Attend and/or conduct wakes

Participate in parish ministry to the poor

Participate in the planning of parish liturgies

Participate in pre-Baptismal classes

Assist in the training of altar-servers

Encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Become involved in the parish ministry to the youth

Supervise or coordinate some special activity

Visit nursing homes and hospitals

Become acquainted with religious education programs

Teach a Bible study class / Summer Religious Education

Become aware of various commissions and committees in the parish

Assume some responsibility for the church property (become aware that ministry may involve tasks such as cleaning, painting, setting up chairs and tables, turning lights on and off, and locking/unlocking doors)