

## *Aid to the Church in Need*

### **GUIDELINES FOR THE AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

The budget which our Work is able to allocate for scholarships is limited and cannot meet all the requests which we receive. Therefore, we have had to set the following criteria for those hoping to receive a scholarship:

1. - AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED grants scholarships to priests, religious and lay-people who come from Eastern and Central Europe or from Developing Countries, enabling them to do specialized studies which cannot be pursued in their own countries or their continent.
2. - The request must be made by the bishop or by the superior and must reach our office by 28th FEBRUARY at the latest and before the student has left his/her own country to take up a course of study in Western Europe. In this request, the bishop or the superior must justify the need of the studies, specifying the future responsibilities the student will have on completion of his/her studies.
3. - The type of course to be studied must be in keeping with the pastoral character of our Work and with the future activities of the candidate. We do not promote studies which do not have an inherent pastoral goal. The only exceptions to this rule are refugee lay students. For the sisters: Our priority is the preparation of the sisters to the function of masters of novices who are responsible for the formation of future members of the congregation. Furthermore, we subsidize their preparation for the specialized apostolate through their studies in Western Europe, in case that such a formation is not possible in their own country.
4. - Lay students who are not refugees can obtain a scholarship only if they have been sent by their bishop to study in Europe with a view to taking up specific tasks within their own diocese.
5. - We do not grant scholarships to members of religious orders or to priests who are assigned to dioceses in Western Europe.
6. - We do not finance language courses.
7. - We can only take into consideration one application for scholarship per academic year from the same diocese or religious province. This is without any commitment on our part.
8. - The student must not be over the age of 40, one-year refresher courses in spirituality being the only exception.
9. - Travelling expenses must be borne wholly by the respective diocese or religious province.

10. - If the student is being subsidized by another organisation, he/she is requested to indicate this so that the granting of double subsidies can be avoided, since there are so many students who receive aid from no-one.

11. - The student is requested to indicate clearly the qualification he wishes to obtain (licence, doctorate etc.) as well as the number of terms (semesters) that he intends to study. An extension of the scholarship beyond the period originally stated can only be approved with sufficient reasons (e.g. as in the case of illness etc.). Should this be the case, we require a written justification, backed up by the bishop or the superior.

12. - It is very important to stress that the scholarships that our organisation can grant, are unlikely to cover the total cost of the studies. We are aware of the fact that this results in a great financial burden for the diocese or religious province concerned. Our organisation cannot grant higher scholarships, since it is trying to help as many students as possible, with the limited means available.

Scholarship Department