



Guidelines for the “Adopt-A-Seminarian” Apostolate
of the St. Teresa of Jesus of the Andes Secular Carmelite Community
Danvers, MA



The community apostolate of prayer for seminarians would be mainly one of a spiritual nature involving intercessory prayer on our community’s part for the seminarians studying in the Archdiocese of Boston. Each member of the St. Teresa of Jesus of the Andes OCDS Community would commit to praying daily for the seminarians; however, members who are interested in being involved on a more personal basis could volunteer to being assigned one or two seminarians to pray for by name. Each seminarian would be given the name and contact information of his assigned Secular Carmelite intercessor praying for him, along with a possible photo of the community member. Prayer suggestions include:

- Mass
- Rosary
- Fasting
- Novena
- Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Spiritual Bouquet
- Mass enrollment
- Daily offering
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Offering of sufferings
- Whatever else the Lord inspires

Community members should also write the seminarian at various times throughout the year, assuring him of the constancy of their prayers and helping to maintain a personal contact, if this is amenable to both the Carmelite and the seminarian involved. Special occasions of remembrance might include Christmas, Easter, Feast Days, birthday, Patron Saint Day, etc.

It is important to remember that the seminarian’s main objective during his priestly formation is to devote his full attention to the preparation for the priesthood that his studies and spiritual development afford him. Therefore, in no way is this apostolate to be considered similar to a “pen pal” arrangement in nature. As Carmelites, we offer our intercessory prayer freely and with no expectation of recompense in kind. If the seminarian chooses to become more involved on a personal basis with his Carmelite Prayer Intercessor, that would be of his own prerogative. But as a rule, this apostolate of prayer is to be considered as pure gift on the part of our community towards the future priests of our archdiocese.

Should a seminarian leave the seminary, it would be expected that the Vocations Office would notify the President of our community who would, in turn, notify the appropriate Secular Carmelite of the change in the seminarian’s status.

Approved March 11, 2007 by:

Rev. Dan Hennessey, Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Boston
Cardinal Séan O’Malley, Archbishop of Boston