

How to Sponsor a Priest for Graduate Studies

The *Collegium Canisianum* accepts priests from all over the world who are sent by their bishops and superiors to Innsbruck for post-graduate studies in philosophy and theology. Within the context of these advanced study programs (Masters, Licentiate, Doctorate) the Canisianum focuses on fostering and further deepening the academic and spiritual path in life that these priests have already embarked upon.

Each year six to eight students begin their doctoral studies in Innsbruck. Many of them are preparing themselves for later work in the area of priestly formation. Depending on the degree earned they will return to their countries and teach theology, assume positions of pastoral leadership in a diocese, or engage in spiritual direction and seminary administration.

The Canisianum on its own cannot fully finance room, board, and tuition for students from dioceses and religious orders that have very little means. We depend on charities, sponsors, donations, and patrons (long-term sponsors for the duration of a stay). We invite, therefore, parishes, religious orders, and individuals to take on either a full or a partial patronage, and/or to support the Canisianum through mass stipends. Particularly valuable for our students is a parish that takes on a patronage and pursues an active relationship with one of our students. A full patronage would support the Canisianum with € 7.500,00 per year. That would cover just about half the costs of room and board, tuition, health insurance, out of pocket health costs, a modest amount of spending money, visas, textbooks etc. We would ask the donors to transfer the agreed upon amounts to the Canisianum's account according to the respective arrangement. All financial support that comes to us either monthly, or at other agreed upon intervals, or settlements of one lump sum is used for the good of the entire household of the Canisianum. At the end of the academic year we will publish an account of how each individual deposited amount was used. The difference between the total cost of the year and the amount of the sponsorship or patronage will be borne by the Canisianum.

Normally a patronage lasts as long as a student is studying at the Canisianum. In our experience, we have found that it is not possible for our foreign students to finish their degrees within the prescribed minimum time periods, i.e., two years for a Licentiate and three years for a Doctorate. A student studying for the Licentiate, including one year of language instruction, will take at least three and a half years to complete the degree. A student pursuing a Doctorate will need at least four and a half years. An extension of time to complete a degree will be granted only in special cases and subject to the agreement with the supporting patrons. A patronage ends if a student leaves the Canisianum before completion of the degree. It is always gratifying when at the completion of a patronage the financial support continues and carries over to a new student. However, the assumption of a shorter patronage of a limited time, or a partial sponsorship, is also an option.

It is particularly gratifying when the priests take up contact with sponsors or parishes that are their patrons. They can function in their capacity as pastoral caregivers on a monthly basis and spend time there during vacations. However, within the scope of the Canisianum/parish patronage relationship they should not be doing any fundraising for themselves or their home dioceses.

From the students of various dioceses and religious orders and from the Canisianum itself we extend a heartfelt thanks to all those who support our graduate studies program through any financial assistance.

In prayer and in the spirit of *cor unum et anima una*,

Fr. Andreas Schermann, SJ
Rector

Excerpt from the 2016 STUDENT HANDBOOK

PROVIDING PASTORAL SERVICES

64. Engaging in pastoral services in a foreign culture deserves particular attention. The first training in practicing liturgical services in the German language will be within the residential life of the Canisianum. Further opportunities to help plan liturgies and give witness to the Global Church will present themselves within religious orders, selected patron parishes and in other parishes connected to the Canisianum. Because studies are a priority long-term engagements in parishes or dioceses must be arranged with the Rector.

65. Longer pastoral engagements within restricted time frames outside the Diocese of Innsbruck during Christmas and Easter breaks and in summer vacations are possible. During the academic year helping out should be restricted to Saturday afternoons and Sundays, and then only once a month. Longer pastoral service in summer vacations must be discussed with the Rector, in consonance with academic progress, fitted into the semester schedule of the Canisianum, and be consistent with the requirements of the local diocese. Pastoral engagements in patronage parishes of the Canisianum always take precedence over any other pastoral obligations.

FURTHER GUIDELINES

ROOM AND BOARD COSTS, STIPENDS, ANNUAL ACCOUNTING

66. Costs of room and board will be recalculated annually on the basis of our account balances and the advice of the business administrators. These costs will be published for the donors and the students and their home institutions.

67. The administration of the Canisianum with the support of its donors will make every effort to cover the cost of living, student fees, and incidentals according to a student's need. Along with the admissions application requests for assistance can be forwarded to the Rector by the responsible bishops and superiors. Each is asked to assess to what extent they themselves will participate in these costs.

68. An annual accounting of all the expenditures will be reported by the Canisianum to the students, their home dioceses or religious superiors, and to the donors of the funds. Upon request students provide a written report of progress in their studies twice a year.