

## How to apply for a Visa to come to the SEDOS Residential Seminar?

Dear,

Every year there is some confusion concerning how to apply for a Visa to come to the Seminar. I also went to the Vatican in the time if there is something we can do from the side of Sedos, but it seems we only can issue an **invitation letter from the part of SEDOS**, one that you can show to the Embassy that there will be indeed this seminar and that the person will indeed participate. Our letter is thus an extra document that can be of use for Visa application, but is not an essential letter.

The more important letter is a letter that is issued by the General Secretary every time the Congregation invite someone to come over from abroad for a meeting to Rome.

The **invitation letter from the part of the Congregation** concerns a letter in which you state:

- Info on the person (birth, vows, ministry)
- The reason why he/she is coming to Rome
- Info on the travel and the period the period he/she will stay in Rome
- The kind of visa you are asking for (depends on the country)
- That you will take care of the person concerning his travel of coming and going, and while he is in the country for his food, lodging, any medical expenses if needed.

This means thus that you will be in charge of the person so that if the person gets sick or otherwise the Congregation will be engaged for the finances, and you take the full responsibility for the person (*prise en charge*, in French).

You understand that this is beyond the responsibility of SEDOS.

Lastly, you will need also a certificate-stamp from the Vatican Secretary of State as shown in the *sample*.

Other requirements for a Visa differs from country to country, and from person to person because of the country of origin. Mostly they ask for a copy of the flight tickets.

Much success,

Fr. Peter Baekelmans, cism  
Director of Sedos