

APOSTOLIC FORMATION

The main objective of apostolic formation for students is to foster solidarity with the material, human and spiritual needs of others and to develop a responsible Christian leadership that puts the gifts and talents one has received at the service of others.

A Heart in Solidarity with Others

First, each student must develop a charitable heart, a heart that “sees where love is needed and acts accordingly”¹ with the needy, so that they desire to do something for others and transform the world in which they live, starting with the concrete needs of their local environment.

An Apostolic Heart

Christians are called to be apostles, not merely to do apostolate, so it is very important that each student develop the heart of a zealous apostle, aware of their personal mission. Apostolic techniques and methodologies will only be effective with this foundation in place.

Love for Christ will lead students to identify themselves with him and his burning love for humanity. It is from here that students will feel impelled by the urgency to ardently and tirelessly announce and extend the Kingdom by all possible means, good and lawful, until Christ reigns in the hearts of all men and societies.

Preparation for Apostolic action

The apostolic formation must ensure the acquisition of tools and skills necessary for effective apostolic action, so that fruitful and important objectives are achieved.

It is important that students know the art and techniques of programming, in the long, medium and short term, establishing objectives and priorities. Likewise, students must learn to exercise the leadership skills needed to implement concrete actions of support, solidarity and Christian charity, such as effective communication skills and the ability to work in team.

¹ Encyclical Deus Caritas Est, 31b

BRINGING APOSTOLIC FORMATION INTO THE CLASSROOM



1. *Reflect and be inspired*

The first step is for the students to conduct research on the needs of the world around them, to look at the main problems at the global, national and community level.

Some questions that they could ask themselves:

- What are the needs that concern me at a global level?
- What are the needs that concern me at a national level?
- What are the needs that concern me in the community that surrounds me?
- What exercises a positive change in people?
- If I could change something in my environment, what would it be?
- What I recognize as a need, is it a manifestation or the root of the problem?
- What is my passion?

2. *Identify a need and get informed*



Once a specific need has been identified, the students will:

- Proceed to identify what the root cause of the problem is.
- Research if there are any initiatives already in place to attack this problem. What is being done, and how it is being done?
- Research on people that have been able to make a difference in the area of concern.
- Determine if they would like to insert themselves into an initiative that is already in place or if they would like to start a new initiative.
- Explain how they will proceed to make a difference.

3. Be a leader and get others involved



This is the moment that the students present their initiatives to the class.

- The objective is to choose the projects that are closer to the heart of the students and to create teams that will commit to take on the specific projects.
- The number of teams or projects to take on will depend on the magnitude of the project(s), the number of students involved, the time available to work on the project, the age of the students, etc.



4. Choose a path of action

Each team:

- Will define the objective and scope of their project.
- Will answer the following questions: What will be done? How will it be done? When will it be done? Where will it be done? What resources will be needed?
- Will organize themselves into committees to be more efficient.
- Will determine the timeline for the project.
- Will determine which other members of the community they would like to involve in their project (teachers, staff, family, or friends).



5. Develop each committee's plan and set them in motion

- Each committee will develop their specific plan and trajectory to accomplish their specific goals.
- They will delegate responsibilities and create their calendar.



6. Monitor progress

It is very important for the teachers to define how they are going to monitor the progress of each team, to make sure that the apostolic projects come to fruition.



7. Communicate to inspire others

As apostles, we are called to inspire others by our good deeds, therefore, it is important that a concrete program of communication to the school community and to the wider community be put in place.