

## ACTS Mission

ACTS is a parish centered program to evangelize a parish community. The ultimate goal of the ACTS program is to propagate the ACTS ministry using the time-tested ACTS retreat format.

The retreats are patterned after the description of the early church in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2: 42-47).

*<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

The members strive to assist the parish family to attain a deeper relationship with our Lord and with fellow parishioners through:

- *Adoration:* The call, acceptance and response to God.
- *Community:* Love and caring for each other as members of the body of Christ.
- *Theology:* Study of our faith through scripture.
- *Service:* To God, each other and our parish family.

### Why an ACTS Retreat is for you:

- Get away for the weekend with a bunch of guys.
- Good food, all meals included.
- Each retreatant gets their own room.
- Lift your Spirit! Reinvigorate your faith!
- A weekend free from the distractions of the modern world. The retreat house is set back in the woods allowing everyone to focus on what's important.
- The retreat is an interactive environment designed to help men understand the importance of God, family and community in their lives.
- Cleanse your soul, as much or as little as you want.
- Come home refreshed, probably with a different way to look at your life.
- Join a community of over 300 men that have attended an ACTS retreat and, as a result of the retreat, have become better fathers, sons, husbands and parishioners.

## Frequently Asked Questions

What is the retreat format?

An ACTS retreat is a three-day, three-night Catholic lay retreat. The retreat begins on a Thursday evening as retreatants gather at the sponsoring parish for a short send-off ceremony. You are then transported to Our Lady Of Calvary Retreat Center in Farmington CT for the rest of the weekend. The retreat ends Sunday as the retreatants return to the sponsoring parish for a welcome Mass celebrated with the parish community followed by a simple reception.

What is the purpose of an ACTS retreat?

The ACTS Retreat is designed to help the retreatants enter into a new or deeper relationship with our Lord and fellow parishioners. This is accomplished through Adoration and daily prayer, the call to Community in one's parish as a member of the Body of Christ, and Theology in encouraging the study of scripture and our Catholic Faith. All of these which emphasize and encourage the virtue of Service to our Lord, our parish and one another.

What is the goal of an ACTS retreat?

A parish ACTS retreat strives to emphasize "community and pastoral care" within a parish. The weekend allows the retreatants to experience God's love and joy. They return to their parish with a deeper love for each other and a desire to become more involved in their parish community.

Who can attend an ACTS retreat?

While ACTS is a Catholic retreat, it is open to anyone who is interested in developing a closer relationship with our Lord and learning more about the Roman Catholic faith.

*"ACTS is a powerful experience that opens up men's hearts to the grace of God; man to man." -  
- Fr Mauricio Galvis, PV*