

ACTS

**ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC
TERTIARY STUDENTS**

AFRICAN CHURCH POLICY

IMCS SOUTH AFRICA

International Movement of Catholic Students

1. Preamble

We, the Association of Catholic Tertiary Students, are committed in playing a major role in the development of the local Church in Africa. As Youth, we shall be the Church of tomorrow and it is up to us to contribute towards the building up of that Church.

2. Contextual Situation

The Church is called to respond to the signs of the times and to become the Kingdom of God on earth. For a long time the Church in Africa has not been of Africa but rather of a foreign culture. With the full appreciation of the Gospel and Eucharist, we as the youth now wish to conceptualise our experience of God. It is a certain pleasure to experience our common Saviour within our diversity. The Church calls us to be come new men and new women who have a vision for the Church in Africa. This vision should be community based and Christ-centred.

1. Our Vision of the Church in Africa

- a. ACTS aspires to create an inclusive Church - free from all prejudices - where everyone in Africa feels comfortable to worship together.
- b. The Church should be constructed on human relationships and rooted in the deep christian history where our actions within these relationships are guided by love and compassion.
- c. The Church should reflect the realities of the people in Africa and should continue to discern and react to the signs of the times.
- d. As Youth we are called to be agents of ensuring people are brought together

4. Mission of the Church in Africa

- 1 As a diverse people, we are all brought together at Holy Mass as one people worshipping one God. Through this communion with each other, we should be brought together. The liturgy is an important aspect of this but it should not end there. The charismatic nature of the African Liturgy should not cloud our focus while at Mass, and at all times the mystery of the Real Presence of God in the Blessed Sacrament should be the reason why we gather and celebrate.
- 2 We should engage ourselves in dialogue on what we mean when we say we want to build an African Church. How does one build? What is African? Who is the Church?
- 3 Through the transition from a Modern to a Post-Modern age, we must ensure we have a common mindset and understanding of what we are about. Our life experiences should be shared so that we can collectively

- learn from each other. This will help create communities among us.
- 4 We must acknowledge the differences and rifts that exist between us and in ourselves and through Christian reflection and Gospel values, work towards resolving these issues by asking what would Jesus do?
 - 5 We recognise that to maintain a relationship with God and other people, one needs to know oneself. We commit ourselves to a journey of self-discovery, self-acceptance and self-possession so that we can deepen and extend our relationship with our peers and God.
 - 6 The Chaplains are our link to the Church and as such their role can never be underestimated nor undermined.

The challenge remains that we must continually ask ourselves if our actions are guided by the Holy Spirit.