

ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TERTIARY STUDENTS



SIXTEENTH ACTS ANNUAL NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING CONFERENCE

*“Encourage and facilitate an environment, which builds committed; young Catholic leaders
who take ownership of their faith (Church) and their lives”*

**KOINONIA JOHANNESBURG
DECEMBER 2009**

IMCS

INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF CATHOLIC STUDENTS

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ACTS MOVEMENT OF LIFE PRAYER

*God our Father for all time and for all people
we thank you for sending us your Son,
our Brother and Lord, Jesus Christ.
We pray that we can follow his example
as a young man when he walked the earth.*

*Give us the grace to know you more and
more, and as youth grant us the energy and
desire to serve you more closely.*

Open our eyes to see you in all things.

Renew our faith Lord, and refresh it.

*We are conscious of the burdens in our lives.
Let us unite our suffering with yours Lord, and
give us the strength to do your will.*

*Through the sacraments of your Church may we
become new children of God.*

*What we are is your gift to us,
what we become is
our gift to you,*

*Help us as ACTS to spread your teaching
to a new generation of young people who
will in the future be the leaders of the
African Church.*

*As we continue to fight against poverty and AIDS, and seek to
empower those who have in the past not
been given opportunities, may we never lose
sight of your Gospel.*

*We ask all of this through the intercession
of Mary, the Patroness of South Africa, our
Mother and Queen, and all Saints, Angels
and Ancestors.*

Amen

FOREWORD

The Sixteenth ACTS National Leadership and Training Conference opened on a high note; the response from the branches was phenomenal, 51 leaders were present at the Conference which was held at Koinonia, Johannesburg. The theme of the Conference was:

“Encourage and facilitate an environment, which builds committed; young Catholic leaders who take ownership of their faith (Church) and their lives”.

ACTS National General Secretary opened the conference on Monday 30 November 2009 in the absence of the National President. The Mission and Vision Statement of the 2009/2010 NEC was presented to the delegates.

This report contains the following activities, which were presented to the delegates:

1. Modality and Methodology of ACTS
2. HIV/ AIDS prevention: “ ABCD Lifestyle Campaign”
3. Leadership skills training and Team building
4. The Formation of the Personality
5. Community outreach
6. Policy development; developing a policy for evangelisation

The delegates, in the evaluation, described the Conference as being informative and uplifting spiritually. A community outreach project was run during the Conference, the delegates visited the Mother Theresa Home in Yeoville and interacted with the children as well as people infected with HIV/AIDS and other related diseases.

The Conference ended up on a social note with the delegates interacting and playing games over drinks and snacks before departing.

We would like to sincerely thank all the branches for sending their leadership to the Conference. We would also like to thank Sister Jackie and her staff for their hospitality.

Mr Shaka James Dzebu
ACTS National Secretary General
2009/2010

**16th ACTS ANNUAL LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING CONFERENCE
KOINONIA CONFERENCE CENTRE JOHANNESBURG 30 November – 4 December 2009**

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
07H15		Morning Prayer	Holy Mass	Holy Mass	Breakfast
08H00		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
09H00		<u>1st Session:</u> Modality / spirituality/methodology of ACTS	<u>1st Session:</u> “Leadership Training”	<u>1st Session:</u> Hospice Visit	D E P A R T U R E
10H30-11H00		Morning Tea			
		<u>2nd Session:</u> AIDS Prevention “ABCD Lifestyle Campaign”	<u>2nd Session:</u> “Leadership Training” and	<u>2nd Session:</u> “Policy Development – Evangelisation/ Healing”	
12H30		Lunch and free time			
14H30		<u>3rd Session:</u> AIDS Prevention “ABCD Lifestyle Campaign”	<u>3rd Session:</u> “Leadership Training”	<u>3rd Session:</u> “Policy Development – Evangelisation / Healing”	
16H00- 16H30		Afternoon Tea			
16H00	ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION	<u>4th Session:</u> AIDS Prevention “ABCD Lifestyle Campaign”	<u>4th Session:</u> “Leadership Training”	<u>4th Session:</u> Group Discussion	
18H30	Supper	Supper	Supper		
20H00	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	
20H30	<u>1st Session</u> Ice Breakers & “Address by the ACTS National President”	<u>5th Session:</u> Confession and Mass	<u>5th Session:</u> Cell Groups	<u>5th Session:</u> Cell Groups	
21H00	<u>2nd Session</u> Cell Groups Expectations	<u>6th Session:</u> Cell Groups	<u>6th Session:</u> Vigil Prayer	<u>6th Session:</u> Relaxation	

GROUND RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

Ground Rules

- ✓ Minimal Movement During Sessions
- ✓ Attendance of all sessions
- ✓ Punctuality
- ✓ Mutual Respect
- ✓ Maximum Participation
- ✓ Tidiness
- ✓ No Sleeping during sessions
- ✓ Cell phones off during sessions
- ✓ Medium of expression in English
- ✓ Clean Language
- ✓ K.I.S.S.
- ✓ Have Fun
- ✓ Be on time for meals.

Expectations

- ✓ More information on ACTS as well as the history of the organisation
- ✓ Socialisation and networking
- ✓ Share ideas on how to improve the ACTS branch
- ✓ Spiritual growth
- ✓ Learn how to handle youth challenges
- ✓ Have fun
- ✓ Implement what was learnt at branch level.
- ✓ Awesome company.
- ✓ Learn more about the "ABCD lifestyle campaign"
- ✓ What is expected of ACTS leaders in 2010
- ✓ Good communication
- ✓ Make new friends.
- ✓ Learn about evangelisation
- ✓ Maximum participation.

REPORT SUMMARY

Day One – Monday 30 November 2009:

The ACTS Annual Leadership and Training Conference started off in a lively manner with delegates arriving at the station from 06h00. The ACTS National Projects Officer and the ACTS National Alumni Officer were responsible for fetching delegates from the station to Koinonia. Registration started at 16h00 and ended after 19h00, delegates were allocated into cell groups during this time.

The icebreaker session commenced after registration and immediately after the icebreaker session the ACTS National General Secretary gave the Presidential address on behalf of the ACTS National President. The ACTS National Treasurer facilitated the opening session of the Conference, which included icebreakers, and a session where delegates decided on their ground rules and also laid out their expectations of the Conference.

Day Two – Tuesday 1 December 2009:

The day started with Morning Prayer at 07h15 whereby we were reminded that God knew us before we were born and He is using us to talk to other people.

After breakfast, we gathered for the first session of the day at 09h00 where the theme was Modality, Spirituality / Methodology of ACTS presented by Fr Michael Hagan. One of the things that was emphasised during the session was that apart from being leaders in our respective ACTS branches, we should be willing to listen to God and continually ask ourselves what God is saying to us. This was a very informative session especially for our Christian life as Catholics - ACTS students; after that we had the morning tea at 10h30.

The second session resumed at 11h00. Delegates were divided into two groups and asked to demonstrate “The future of South Africa without prevention” . Discussions took place on “Why has HIV / AIDS spread so drastically in South Africa?” The delegates were separated into their cell groups and outlined the causes for the spread of AIDS in South Africa.

The delegates were divided into two groups according to their gender, the males were asked to tackle the issue concerning the effect of alcohol and drugs on one’s sexual behavior, whereas the females discussed how to create a woman who has the capacity to say NO.

A series of presentations followed after the discussions, this included: women’s empowerment, alcohol and drug abuse as well as HIV and AIDS testing. The ACTS National Treasurer and ACTS National General Secretary facilitated all the sessions of the day. After the “ABCD Lifestyle Campaign” presentations, the delegation attended Mass and confessions where they even filled out the “ABCD Lifestyle Campaign” survey. The day was concluded with cell groups gathering to fill out daily evaluation forms.

Day Three – Wednesday 2 December 2009

The day started with Mass at 07h15, the homily was directed to leaders, advising them to be servant leaders to fellow students in their branches. As Jesus did to his disciples, the President and the General Secretary washed delegates' hands as a symbol of service leadership.

In session one, Fr Michael Hagan spoke to the delegates on the Formation of Spirituality, this session was a fruitful and productive session and it sparked debates as well as raising a lot of questions from the delegates.

Sessions two, three, and four were dedicated to Leadership Skills and Training. The first presentation, by Mr Pitso Mashangwane, led to an interactive session on role clarity. The presenter touched on the role of leaders in ACTS and also allowed the delegates to have an input on the presentation. This session was fruitful since difficulties being experienced at branch level were discussed among the delegates and possible solutions were shared.

Session five commenced after supper and delegates gathered in their cell groups to evaluate the day

As part of Youth Evangelization, a night vigil was organized. This vigil included testimonies from the delegates who shared their experiences and, as a result, a lot of wounds were healed. Delegates were asked to put in writing issues that were burdens in their lives, after a blessing from Fr Michael. These papers were burnt as a sign of them being taken away from delegate's lives.

Day Four – Thursday 3 December 2009

After a fruitful, reviving night the delegation attended Mass at 07h15 and this was followed by breakfast before leaving for the Outreach Program at the Mother Theresa Hospice in Yeoville.

Upon arrival, the delegates were divided into their respective cell groups and different cell groups visited different sections of the Hospice. After interacting with the patients at the Hospice, the delegates blessed the patients with some songs and followed these by a prayer for the patients and the staff at Mother Theresa's Hospice.

Sr Vincenza addressed the delegates and encouraged them to keep visiting the Hospice since this gave hope to sick and hopeless individuals. The delegates then returned to Koinonia and continued with their planned sessions.

Session Two followed after the Hospice visit. The day was reserved for Policy Development and this included development of an evangelization model

Day Five – Friday 4 December 2009

Departure

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the Sixteenth ACTS National Annual Leadership and Training Conference held from 30 November to 4 December 2009. As ACTS National General Secretary I am presenting this "State of the Nation Address" on behalf of the ACTS National President, Mr Moses Mkhabela, because he is still writing his exams and will only arrive tomorrow afternoon. Each one of you is welcome in a very special way and let us hope that this time will be your time of God's Grace, a time of friendship and a time of sharing.

The ACTS National Annual Leadership and Training Conference aims to train the leadership of all the ACTS branches. It is hoped that we will be empowered and together get to know more about the history of ACTS and the National Policies which are contained in the National Documents. Whilst ACTS is a student organisation, each branch of ACTS is called to be *a community of friends in Christ*. Let us hope that this Conference will give us the opportunity to encounter Christ anew.

This Address gives me the opportunity to introduce the ACTS NEC for 2009/2010:

The newly elected ACTS NEC met for the first time on 4 October 2009 and this gave us the opportunity to use the Pastoral Cycle to discern the signs of the times in our context as Catholic Students. Out of this reflection we developed the following Mission and Vision statement for the forthcoming year:

Vision and Mission Statement for the year 2009/2010

Having discerned the signs of the times within the context of the South African Youth, ACTS sees the way forward to addressing lack of commitment, lack of knowledge about our faith and the loss of 'our' Catholic identity as:

- Evangelisation by taking ownership of our Church
- Developing a new consciousness with regard to student poverty, which will lead to the initiation of an alternative economic policy based on the Gospel

This Vision and Mission Statement is, on the one hand, a continuation of the previous year, for example, youth evangelisation, but on the other hand highlights new aspects such as the question of an alternative economic policy based on the Gospel, and that of the question of commitment. Commitment and the lack of commitment are seen in regard to faith, but not when it comes to face book, MXIT and electronic networks.

This Leadership and Training Conference gives us the opportunity to unpack especially the issue of youth evangelisation, and hopefully we will be able to

develop a youth evangelisation policy similar to the HIV / AIDS policy that we have in place.

The NEC would also like to announce that ACTS finally has an active, informative website, www.actsnational.org.za. Though the site is still under development a lot of information can be accessed from it, this includes our National Documents, Conference Reports, Financial details and all correspondence as related to various important documents.

Having realized that our generation is a *cyber* generation, the site is linked to the SACBC website. We can also announce that an ACTS blog is being developed and will be attached to the ACTS website. This will allow members to communicate with each other and hold discussions on the site. We hope that in the near future we will be able to advertise our site on face book and other social networks in order to make our site well known. Please make a habit of visiting the site and making suggestions to the Webmaster and our ACTS Media and Publicity Officer so as to develop our site. The various ACTS Branches websites will also be linked to the ACTS website.

During this Conference we will continue our efforts to strive for positive lifestyles; starting tomorrow by re-visiting the “ABCD Lifestyle Campaign”. This will include an approach towards AIDS prevention and a look at the spirituality / methodology of ACTS. On Wednesday, we will be improving our leadership skills through a series of team-building activities. The week will be concluded on Thursday with a visit to the Mother Theresa Hospice in Yeoville, followed by a forum on youth evangelisation development policy. On the day of parting – Friday – we would like to wish everyone a safe trip home, and a marvellous festive season. Until we meet again in our respective campuses, may the Almighty Bless you all.

Shaka James Dzebu

ACTS National General Secretary on behalf of the ACTS National President

ACTS NATIONAL VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT 2009/10

Having discerned the signs of the times within the context of the South African Youth, ACTS sees the way forward to addressing lack of commitment, lack of knowledge about our faith and the loss of 'our' Catholic identity as:

- Evangelisation by taking ownership of our Church
- Developing a new consciousness with regard to student poverty, which will lead to the initiation of an alternative economic policy based on the Gospel

MODALITY / SPIRITUALITY / METHODOLOGY OF ACTS

By Fr Michael Hagan

Biblical Text: 1 Samuel 3

God called Samuel three times. As a young boy Samuel had no idea of who was talking but thought it was Eli. After a while, Eli realised that it was God calling Samuel and advised Samuel to respond to the call of the Lord by saying, 'speak Lord, your servant is listening'.

As leaders we have been called by God just like Samuel and our main mandate or duty is to answer God's call and be servant leaders to our branches.

1. INTRODUCTION

Every organization, if it is relevant, is involved continually in *programme development*. This means that ACTS, at all levels, is also involved in the development of relevant programmes. The process of developing relevant programmes includes two main elements, namely: *modality / methodology and content*.

2. FROM WHERE?

The question then arises as to where a Christian organization gets its methodology. For us as Catholics we look at Holy Scripture and the tradition of the Church, aiming to initiate relevant programmes whilst answering the question of what Jesus would say to a particular situation, e.g. what would Jesus say to the HIV / AIDS pandemic? How would Jesus respond?

3. BIBLICAL TEXT

If we look at Holy Scripture, we soon see that our God is a *living god*. Our God is the God of *life* and this living God is speaking to us continually. God is knocking at our door all the time, but the questions are, are we able to heed and are we able to respond?

4. RESPONDING TO THE 'SIGNS OF THE TIMES'

So when we talk about *methodology*, we are talking about finding ways of understanding what the Living God is saying to us, to ACTS. No one knows *what* the Living God is saying to ACTS, but collectively, not as a democracy, we can try to discern, to reflect on what God is saying to the Catholic student community.

Theologically, we say that through reflection, we *discern the "signs of the times"*. This discernment is only possible in the presence of the Holy Spirit with people who are open and who want to respond by changing the world.

The identification of the signs of the times is one of the key issues of *leadership* and so being able to respond to these life issues by developing a *movement of life*, e.g. the response to apartheid, the response to ecological issues; the response to the abuse of women.

5. MODALITY

ACTS as a student-faith community, together with the Chaplaincy, are collected and called to this process of reflection through the discernment of the signs of the times. It is important to realise that the role of the Chaplains is to *listen* rather than to impose possible suggestions as to what the youth / students should think about happenings in the global context.

Out of this process of discernment relevant action and programmes should emerge, rather than simply taking programmes from prepared books.

6. SPIRITUALITY

The modality of chaplains and students discerning the signs of the time is a structure, but also this includes spirituality. A spirituality which celebrates and gives form to Catholic Youth Spirituality.

Spirituality is a holy space that allows young Catholics, as Africans, to live and express their Catholic Heritage.

7. METHODOLOGY

- Insertion
- Analysis
- Reflection
- Planning / action

Socio-cultural Political Religious Evaluation Economics

HIV / AIDS PREVENTION

“ABCD LIFESTYLE CAMPAIGN”

ACTS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING CONFERENCE

'ABCD LIFESTYLE CAMPAIGN'

TRAINING YOUTH TRAINERS TO BE TRAINERS OF THE YOUTH

A. INTRODUCTION

- Introduction to the training Programme- Prevention/ Caring: 'The ABCD Lifestyle Campaign' as an example of prevention
- Actual Statistics – UNAIDS
- Role Play: 'Dramatize *The Future of South Africa without prevention*
- Are we living the 'ABCD Lifestyle' ourselves?
- Discussion: Why has HIV/AIDS spread so rapidly within Southern Africa as compared to other parts of the world?

B. CHANGING BEHAVIOURS?

- Is Behavioural Change Possible?
- What does Jesus say about changing our lifestyle – John 10:10

C. HOW TO CHANGE BEHAVIOURS?

- Philosophy of 'Eyethu - Ours' Taking ownership!!!!
- Taking ownership of our own personality- developing your Identity: Dealing with the capacity of making conscious choices.
- Intercourse and outer-course - The relationship between intimacy and being physical.
- The empowerment of young women to stand up for their rights.
- Alcohol and substance abuse especially dagga.
- Testing and knowing one's status- a challenge for the leaders of the Church

D. FUTURE ACTION

- Discussion: what can you do in your branches / dioceses?
- Who is taking ownership of this programme?
- Discussion: what is the role of support groups and are they really available?
- Confession and Mass

**ACTS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING CONFERENCE
DECEMBER 2009**

“ABCD LIFESTYLE CAMPAIGN” - SURVEY MEASURING IMPACT

This survey is strictly confidential. Please answer as honestly as possible so that this can be a fruitful exercise.

Male	X	Female	X	<i>Please indicate gender</i>								
✓ In what year did you first hear or learn about the “ABCD Lifestyle Campaign?”				01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
✓ Have you attended Education for Life ?				NO				YES				
✓ With how many people have you slept with in the past year?				0	1	2	3	4	more			
✓ How many times have you had unprotected sex in the past year?				0	1	2	3	4	more			
✓ On average, how many sex partners do you have at one time?				0	1	2	3	4				
✓ Have you ever had unprotected or unplanned sex whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs?				NO				YES				
✓ Have you ever taken an HIV test?				NO				YES				
✓ Have you had an intimate non-sexual relationship?				NO				YES				
✓ Has your awareness of the “ABCD Lifestyle Campaign” led to behavioural change?				NO				YES				
○ If yes, how ?												

The Second Session resumed at 11h00. Delegates were divided into two groups and asked to demonstrate **“The future of South Africa without prevention.”**

Discussions on “why HIV/AIDS spread so drastically in South Africa?” followed. The delegates were separated into their cell groups and outlined the following causes for the spread of AIDS in South Africa:

- ✓ Poverty
- ✓ Ignorance
- ✓ Media influence
- ✓ Child molestation
- ✓ Insufficient education
- ✓ Lack of communication between parents and children
- ✓ Human trafficking and prostitution
- ✓ Substance abuse
- ✓ Peer pressure
- ✓ Low self-esteem
- ✓ Sexual abuse of women
- ✓ Lack of commitment from government
- ✓ Stereo types
- ✓ Culture of polygamy
- ✓ Religious beliefs (poor Christian values)
- ✓ Lack of ownership of one’s life
- ✓ Negative attitude towards preventative contraceptives
- ✓ Misunderstanding of the concept of “love”.

The delegation had a walk-about where cell groups had to explain some of the issues mentioned on their posters.

WOMAN EMPOWERMENT

By Ms Siphindile Shoba

What makes a woman, a woman?

Ms Siphindile asked all delegates to name a woman who has done something commendable in their lives.

After that she read out a poem:

Our deepest fear

By Marianne Williamson

*We are all meant to shine as children do
we were born to manifest the glory of God,
that is within us.*

*It is not just in some of us, it is in everyone
and as we let our own light shine
we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same
as we are liberated from our own fear .*

*Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.
It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us*

*We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented fabulous?
Actually who are you not to be?
You are a child of God.*

*Your playing small does not serve the world
there is nothing enlightening about shrinking
so that other people won' t feel insecure around you.*

Our presence automatically liberates others.

Statistics reveal that over 30% of women in Africa do not have access to political and economic opportunities in their countries. In a few countries, including South Africa, over 40% of women are in governmental positions. 80% of refugees in Africa are women and children, more than half a million of women in Africa die in pregnancy and labour every year, that is equivalent to one death every minute. In many parts of Africa maternal mortality rates are one in sixteen.

Why should women be empowered?

THE EFFECT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS ON ONE'S SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

Group Discussion

Male's response

- ✓ When drunk: The likeliness of condoms bursting is high because of improper usage and the state of mind does not allow them to take precautionary measures.
- ✓ Hallucinations: under the influence of alcohol and drugs, what one sees is not what it is.
- ✓ Sheer laziness while drunk; the thought of breaking to fetch a condom is said to kill the moment.
- ✓ Dagga does not have an effect on sexual behaviour but when combined with alcohol it makes one extremely sexually active increasing the chances of contracting AIDS.
- ✓ In most cases alcohol and drugs are used as excuses when one has indulged in unsafe sex.
- ✓ In some cases, especially when under the influence of alcohol and drugs, and sometimes when sober, women do not insist or force their male partners to use protection.
- ✓ Do ladies use female condoms?
- ✓ Unreliability of condoms.
- ✓ "The Curse of the Condom." In most cases when a male carries a condom around it is believed that they will not get sex.
- ✓ Usually the first thing one thinks of is the fear of having babies instead of AIDS
- ✓ Fear of Parents
- ✓ Fear of knowing ones status.
- ✓ Do It Yourself, anonymously agreed as the safest method of sexual satisfaction.

HIV AND AIDS TESTING

By Pitso Mashangwane

Testing triggers factors such as:

1. Anxiety
2. Fear
3. Responsibility
4. Lifestyles changes

In light of the lifestyle of the youth of South Africa in this day and age, one may be lured to believe that "life is not fair". However it leaves us with the question of "why". I urge all gathered here to review your lives, have a self-introspection and ask yourself , Why is my life like this? Why am I here? What role do I play in the lives of others? Do I own my faith? The answer lies with you.

Be faithful "to yourself, your body, your friends and your community"

Remember " God has chosen to make known among the gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27)

Life is like a journey through the night, no one knows what lies ahead or its predictions until you reach your destination. No one can change yesterday because it is gone and far from one's sight; tomorrow is near, though you can't predict the unforeseen that it may present you with; however today is now and today determines your tomorrow. Be faithful, cherish life and live not to regret it.

Delegates who have been tested for HIV and AIDS had a chance to share their thoughts and experience with others and to encourage fellow delegates to test for AIDS.

After supper, delegates gathered in the Chapel for Mass and Confession

LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING COURSE

- ❖ **The Formation of the Personality**
- ❖ **Role Clarity**
- ❖ **Communication**
- ❖ **Conflict Management**
- ❖ **Teamwork**
- ❖ **Leadership**

THE FORMATION OF THE PERSONALITY (Summary)

By Fr Michael Hagan

The formation of spirituality and the steps involved in this formation are:

- ✓ Self confusion
- ✓ Self discovery
- ✓ Self acceptance
- ✓ Self possession

The task of all young people is to answer the question of identity, “*who am I, what is important to me?*” “*Was it worth it?*” The formation of personality tries to answer the question of identity. Young people should ask themselves what their image of God is, and how they experience God as young people. Our image of God should revolve around God’s love. We should accept the fact that God loves us unconditionally and we should also be careful not to use God’s unconditional love as an excuse for sin. Young people are encouraged to look and analyze their sexual development phases: auto erotic, developmental homosexuality, and heterosexual relationships.

Young people should be encouraged to get into the habit of journalising truthfully and honestly their experiences and history, including what was enjoyed and what was not enjoyed as well as their burdens. They should spend time in silent reflection on their experiences, since it is impossible to have an in-depth reflection without silence.

A God experience can be a spiritual, physical, emotional and holistic process and it starts with wonderment or amazement.

ROLE CLARITY

By Pitso Mashangwane

Role clarity is a model or process which individuals in organisations utilise in order to achieve a mutual agreement and to operationalize their strategy in regard to the responsibility of respective portfolio tasks. In order for role clarity to be achieved the following should be attained:

Clear understanding of the portfolio held.

Contribution made

Spirit of team work to effectively achieve our goals

Trustworthiness, accountability and perseverance, etc.

Role clarity focused on the portfolio outlines, goals set, organisational expectations and the role the individual plays in effectively attaining sustainable goals. It guarantees a more focused, accountable and effective form of team management.

It comprises four components as follows:

1. LEADER'S UNDERSTANDING
2. OTHER'S UNDERSTANDING ROLE CLARITY TEAM UNDERSTANDING
3. REALITY (HOW THE ROLE IS ENACTED)
4. GOAL SETTING

A GOAL is a concise statement containing a measurable result to be achieved in a given period of time. Goals assist people in knowing what to focus on, what to improve on and where to allocate time, effort and resources. Goal setting serves as a powerful tool to enable you to think about your ideal future, and tasks at hand, encouraging informed decisions from the entire team. It assists you to precisely understand the way forward as part of your plan of action. Goal setting helps in identifying mistakes within the organisation and distractions that might disturb the objectives of the organisation and the tasks at hand. It enhances growth and development.

Methods and ways of setting goals:

creating a bigger picture of what are your aims

focussing on sustainable goals

prioritising

having a clear view and understanding of the tasks

having faith and dedication

faceing the outcomes

It is important to set realistic goals, goals that you can achieve. Have a SMART GOAL

S---for specific output

M---for measurable (quantifiable)

A---for attainable

R---for realistic

T---for time (bounded)

Task: take a pen and write down your goals.

COMMUNICATION

By: Siphindile Shoba

Communication is a two-way process, it entails a mutual understanding between two parties. It is the transfer of information between a sender (the one who has a message to convey) and a recipient (the one who is to receive the message).

Communication skills are required in all aspects of our lives, in our relationships with friends, parents, colleagues and all people with whom we interact.

The method of approach to communicate with anybody is the **CLEAR** method.

C – Clarity (clarify the purpose of the interaction)

L – Listen to and share information

E – Explore alternatives (usually there is more than one method of approach to any situation)

A – Agree on something and act

R – Review and close the discussion

This method is extremely effective in chairing a meeting.

Effective communication

An effective communicator is one who:

- ◆ Encourages and listens
- ◆ Identifies the problem
- ◆ Co-operates in the finding of solutions
- ◆ Seeks to understand first than to be understood
- ◆ Enhances the self-esteem of others

Ineffective communication

An ineffective communicator is one who:

- ◆ Classifies people according to stereotypes
- ◆ Dominates the discussion and seldom listens
- ◆ Discourages the ideas of others and favours their own
- ◆ Reduces the self-esteem of others
- ◆ Is impatient
- ◆ Has a self-centred manner of approach.
- ◆ Directs conversations in the way that suits them

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

By: Archford Sakonda

Definition of conflict

Conflict is a struggle or fight between groups and individuals resulting from behaviours or actions by groups or persons purposely designed to inhibit the attainment of goals by another person or group. Conflicts are inevitable and present in all groups and organizations.

There are various effects of conflicts to the organization or individuals, some conflicts are destructive and some are constructive:

Destructive conflicts need to be eliminated because they can cripple the functioning of the organization or group. These may be as a result of poor communication, a lack of openness and trust between people, and the failure of leaders to be responsive to the needs and views of their subordinates.

Constructive conflict is a conflict which is beneficial to the organization. Constructive conflict involves a search for a more effective solution, coupled with necessary innovations. The different views that are expressed during the conflict situation are not perceived as threats. Instead, these views are regarded as additional information needed to obtain the best solution. By taking different views into account, the conflict promotes cooperation between members of the group and eliminates group pressure.

Types of conflict

1) Interpersonal conflicts

These point to the existence of simultaneous, opposing and conflicting thoughts, feelings and activities within an individual.

2) Interpersonal conflict

This refers to the existence of simultaneous, opposing and conflicting thoughts, feelings and activities between persons in the same environment or organization.

3) Conflict between individuals and groups

This refers to the conflict between individuals and groups.

4) Group conflict

This is the conflict between individuals within the same group or organization.

5) Conflict between organization and groups

These are conflicts between two organizations with different views, norms and values.

Causes of conflict

1) Identical objectives

This occurs when two people or groups have similar goals. When the other party achieves those goals there will be conflict from the other group.

2) Competition for resources

This is a result of competition for scarce resources; for example, competition for workforce - when each manager has a group of ten employees, the other manager will demand another employee thus causing conflict over the number employees.

3) Personal differences

There are unique personalities among individuals. Different views cause conflict among people

4) Different perceptions

There are individual perceptions, memories and opinions in the way individuals perceive things.

Communication problems

Failure of communication inhibits the attainment of goals. The failure occurs when the message is not understood by the receiver correctly.

Uncertainty about responsibilities

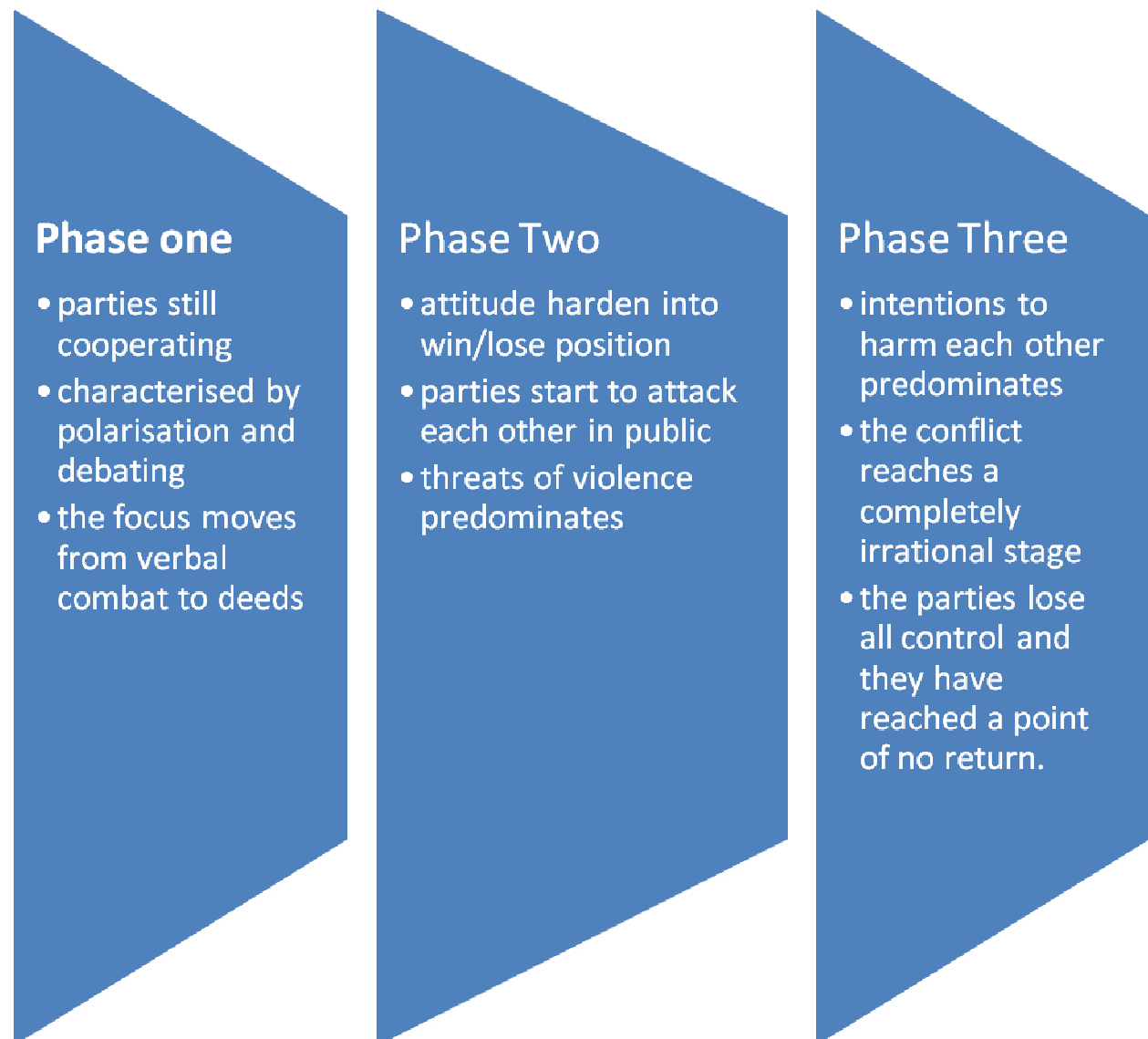
Conflict can arise if detailed job description has not been compiled. If this is the case, the jobholder will not know precisely what activities they are responsible for. The lack of guidelines will result in differences between employees regarding precisely what their responsibilities and duties entail, and who should perform which task.

Conflict is solved when the conflicting parties come to an agreement or by forgiving one another and finding ways to resolve their differences.

Escalation of conflict

When conflict is not dealt with appropriately and timeously, it might grow in intensity and size. Conflict escalates in phases, each separated by thresholds or “points of no return”.

Phases of conflict escalation.



Phase one ⇨ Phase Two ⇨ Phase Three

Handling and managing conflict

Competition

Parties can solve conflicts by persisting in the conflict until one party's goals are achieved at the expense of those of the other. One party wins the other loses

.

Accommodation

Giving in or acting in a self-sacrificing manner to resolve the conflict. This is a lose-win strategy. Often, this strategy of appeasement is done to cut losses or in an effort to save the relationship between the conflicting parties.

Compromise

Each party must give up something. This is a lose-lose strategy. The compromise can take place through bargaining and discussions.

Collaboration

The parties try to cooperate and reach a mutually beneficial solution. This is a win-win strategy. The conflicting parties discuss their problems face-to-face to identify the problem and solve it through open discussion.

Avoidance

This strategy aims to suppress the conflict, not allowing it to come into the open or by simply withdrawing from the situation. This strategy does not solve the differences between the conflicting parties and the differences continue to exist and affect their abilities to work together.

The key to successful conflict resolution is to maintain a broad perspective, trying to find a workable solution and considering the potential side effect, such as disgruntled losers, that may result from the resolution processes. Internal formal structures are used to handle conflicts in organizations. These include the establishment of organizational or group forums and the use of grievance and disciplinary procedures.

TEAMWORK

By: Baptista Maimé and Mushoni Bulagi

Teamwork is a joint action by two or more people, in which each person contributes with different skills, and expresses his or her individual interests and opinions to the unity and efficiency of the group in order to achieve common goals. This does not mean that the individual is no longer important; however, it does mean that effective and efficient teamwork goes beyond individual accomplishments. The most effective teamwork is produced when all the individuals involved harmonize their contributions and work towards a common goal. *Teamwork* is an old old wooden ship - - In order for teamwork to succeed one must be a team player. A team player is one who subordinates personal aspirations and works in a coordinated effort with other members of a group, or team, in striving for a common goal. Businesses and other organizations often make the effort of coordinating team-building events in an attempt to get people to work as a team rather than as individuals. The forming-storming-norming-performing model takes the team through four stages of team development and maps quite well on to many project management life cycle models, such as initiation - definition - planning - realization.

As teams grow larger, the skills and methods that people require will grow as more ideas are expressed freely. Managers must use these to create or maintain a spirit of teamwork change.

Steps for Team Building

Executives, managers and organization staff members universally explore ways to improve business results and profitability. Many view team-based, horizontal, organization structures as the best design for involving all employees in creating business success.

No matter what you call your team-based improvement effort: continuous improvement, total quality, lean manufacturing or self-directed work teams, you are striving to improve results for customers. Few organizations, however, are totally pleased with the results that their team improvement efforts produce. If your team improvement efforts are not living up to your expectations, this self-diagnosing checklist may tell you why. Successful team building, that creates effective, focused work teams, requires attention to each of the following.:

Clear Expectations

Has executive leadership clearly communicated its expectations for the team's performance and expected outcomes? Do team members understand why the team was created? Is the organization demonstrating constancy of purpose in supporting the team with resources of people, time and money? Does the work of the team receive sufficient emphasis as a priority in terms of the time, discussion, attention and interest directed its way by executive leaders?

Read more about Clear Performance Expectations.

Context

Do team members understand why they are participating on the team? Do they understand how the strategy of using teams will help the organization attain its communicated business goals? Can team members define their team's importance to the accomplishment of corporate goals? Does the team understand where its work fits

in the total context of the organization's goals, principles, vision and values? Read more about Team Culture and Context.

Commitment

Do team members want to participate on the team? Do team members feel the team mission is important? Are members committed to accomplishing the team mission and expected outcomes? Do team members perceive their service as valuable to the organization and to their own careers? Do team members anticipate recognition for their contributions? Do team members expect their skills to grow and develop on the team? Are team members excited and challenged by the team opportunity? Read more about Commitment in Team Building.

How to create effective teams, teamwork, and team building is a challenge in every organization. Work environments tend to foster rugged individuals working on personal goals for personal gain. Typically, reward, recognition, and pay systems single out the achievements of individual employees.

Appraisal, performance management, and goal setting systems most frequently focus on individual goals and progress, not on team building. Promotions and additional authority are also bestowed on individuals. Given these factors, is it any wonder that teams and teamwork face an uphill battle in most organizations?

Here is the information you need to develop teamwork and effective work teams in your organization. Use this information for team building.

Teams

Employee involvement, teams, and employee empowerment enable people to make decisions about their work. This employee involvement, team building approach, and employee empowerment increases loyalty and fosters ownership. These resources tell you how to achieve team building and effectively involve people.

Employee Empowerment: How to Empower Employees

Employee empowerment is a strategy and philosophy that enables employees to make decisions about their jobs. Employee empowerment helps employees to own their work and take responsibility for their results. Employee empowerment helps employees serve customers at the level of the organization where customer interface exists.

Employee Involvement: Involve Employees in Decision Making

Employee involvement is creating an environment in which people have an impact on decisions and actions that affect their jobs. Employee involvement is not the goal nor is it a tool, as practiced in many organizations. Employee involvement is a management and leadership philosophy about how people are enabled to contribute to continuous improvement and the ongoing success of their organization.

Team Building Creates Successful Teams

People in every workplace talk about team building, working as a team, and my team, but few understand how to create the experience of team building or how to develop an effective team. Many view teams as the best organization design for involving all employees in creating business success and profitability. Learn how team building helps enable the success of work teams and teamwork.

Teams and Team Building Resources

Find recommended reading to help you create effective work teams, successful teamwork, and team building ideas and activities.

Meeting Management for Team Meetings

Ineffective team meetings use critical resources, sap organizational energy and movement, and affect employee morale. Find out how to make your team meetings work for you.

Team Energizers, Icebreakers, and Team Building Activities

Icebreakers, energizers, and activities heighten the effectiveness of training and team building sessions when targeted to the training, speaking, or facilitation topic and the needs of the learners or participants.

Team Building Holidays

Find ideas for successful teams, effective team work, and team building around holiday ideas and themes.

Positive Work Relationships Contribute to Effective Teams

Want to work more effectively with people at work? Whether your relationship is with your team, supervisor, manager, customer or co-worker, you want to make your interpersonal relationships positive, supportive, clear, and empowering.

I trust these resources will help you create successful and effective teams and teamwork.

BIBLICAL VIEW

Unite in Jesus In Him we live, we walk, have our whole being.

Communicate the Vision

Encourage and facilitate an environment which builds “*committed*”, young Catholic leaders who *take ownership* of their faith (Church) and their lives.

Proverbs 29:8: “Where there is no Vision the People Perish...”

Habakkuk 2:2 “...Write the Vision, and make it plain upon tables...”

Matthew 9:36 10:1-8 “...And as ye go, preach, saying, The Kingdom of heaven is at hand”

Unite in Word, Prayer and Fellowship

Acts 2:42-47 “And they continued steadfastly in the apostle’s doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking bread, and in prayers”

1 Timothy 2:8 ...”lifting up holly hands without anger and quarrel”

Ephesians 4:1-6

Philippians 2:13-15

Understand the importance of others and their different characters

- Exodus 18:13-27 "...thou art not able to perform it thyself alone."
- Matthew 9:36 10:1-8

Fight the fear factor

- Numbers 13:26 "...We are well able to overcome it"
- Deuteronomy 1:9-15 "... I am not able to bear you myself alone"
- Fear is the enemy of love and faith.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

IDENTIFIED SIGNS OF THE TIMES:

YOUTH EVANGELISATION

YOUTH EVANGELISATION

NIGHT VIGIL: STUDENTS GIVING TESTIMONY TO THEIR GOD ENCOUNTERS

By: Baptiste Maime

The vigil started with praise songs, which let us into the Word. The reading of the Word was taken from Matthew 11:4-6: "Jesus replied, go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me". This was followed by a meditation on the Word. During meditation the Healing Statement from the Pope was read, reflecting John 10:10, "the thief comes in order to steal and destroy, but I have come that you may have life, and life in abundance". The students kept silence, reflecting on their lives.

Many students gave very touching testimonies, a few of these were as follows:

Moses Mkhabela,

"When I look at what the Lord has done for me, it makes me remember that a few years back I wanted to quit Church. Many painful reasons like loosing a brother left me with unanswered questions about God. "Every time when Sunday came something kept on pulling me to Church, my friend would come to my place and force me to go with him", now I realise when I look at all that God has done for me, that leaving was a wrong decision."

Indeed it was, because Moses is NEC President now.

Baptista Maime

"I remember about six years back when I encountered Christ in a significant way in my life, I met a lady who invited me to Bible study, I think It was simple for me to follow because I was interested in her, but when I got there something wonderful caught my heart, to see young people like me so much fixed on Christ Touching each others lives like that, really convinced me also. It took me some two weeks then I decided I have to seek after this God. It has been so wonderful to me in the Lord since then, and I even forgot about my interests in the lady - surprisingly we became like a brother and sister up until today."

Munene Tlowana

I remember the beginning of this year, there were some disturbances in my family. Some family members threatened me that I would not make it in my studies because of someone who was bewitching us. They said I would not pass even a single subject, but with God's grace, I passed my subjects in the first semester, I only failed one and am waiting on some results now.

Buyisiwe Cele

“In all bad experiences I have learned that there is always something good that comes out of them, God has always turned all my bad experiences into good”. Buyisiwe pointed out that at times we think we are the only ones who go through hard times “ I remember a certain time when I met a certain lady who told me that in her family they were all raped, but to my surprise, she told me that they all going on with life as if nothing had happened, God has helped them to get over it”. She concluded, “I thanked God because I was going through a tough time that I never thought I would get over”

Intercessions

The testimonies were followed by the Intercessions,

Individual Blessings

Father Michael Hagan and Father Patrick Towe officiated with the Blessings.

Burning our Burdens

Then the Students were given some papers on which to write down their burdens and then thee papers were all burned.

The vigil was a great experience and an encounter with Christ on its own. It ended with many praise songs.

YOUTH EVANGELISATION: OUTREACH – COMMUNITY PROJECTS

By Tshepo Oliphant

A visit to the local Mother Teresa Hospice was organized for the morning part of the day. For most of the delegates, different feelings were stirring inside of them as they did not know what to expect, as well as the sensitivity of the matter, but we all boarded the buses nonetheless.

We arrived at the Hospice, this was a small, well kept and neat place, with beautiful pictures of St Mother Teresa, and wonderful quotes on the walls here and there. It was clear to us that the Hospice was under the influence and teachings of Mother Teresa and the Catholic Church. Most of us were inspired by just that, as each of us made links to the humble and tremendous work and teachings of Mother Teresa.

We divided ourselves into groups and visited different sections of the Hospice where we spent a reasonable amount of time in our demarcated spots. Those who were in the children's area recall playing with the children, singing and just engaging with them. It was so touching to see the kids getting attached and not wanting to let go when our time was up.

The experience with the children actually made us think of how each one of us can lend a helping hand in structures such as Hospices. A simple visit once in a while, a donation of clothes or even unwanted toys from our homes could go a meaningful way in touching the lives of the little ones.

Those who visited the adult wards can recall the state of being empathetic and putting ourselves into their shoes. One is so quick to judge from the outside and come to a conclusion. But once you engage with people in dialogue, and actually listen to their stories, that makes way for us to react differently and direct their situations to ourselves. This is one lesson most of us took away from that small experience. The ability to listen, place yourself in someone else's shoes and then think of the ways in which you can assist that person.

We were then blessed by the Sister, who briefly addressed us, and re-emphasized our goal as the Catholic Youth and reminded us of the power that is held within the Rosary. She painted a meaningful picture of the Rosary. How the cross can be viewed as a weapon, a gun and the beads as bullets and how we can use the gun, together with the bullets to combat the situations we are faced with in our daily lives. Those of us who did not have Rosaries will surely leave Koinonia having bought one! She was kind enough to give us medals, as well as bookmarks of Mother Teresa.

The morning was emotional, self-reflectory and challenging, all in one. We are faced with a major task when we head back to our respective communities. Hospices and Homes are all around, not just the Hospice by Koinonia. Each one must then look within themselves, and ask how they can contribute and help in such structures, by being the "Serving Leader" with Mother Teresa as an inspiration. The Catholic Church is a powerful Church and that power should be captured and released in places that are in need, and it all begins with small Acts of Random Kindness (ARK), discovering and uncovering the Mother Teresa in all of us.

The Hospice visit was indeed a worthy experience, and we do hope that other Christians will experience this, be touched and be motivated to serve and expand the Kingdom of God.

ACTS NATIONAL PROPOSED YOUTH EVANGELISATION POLICY

(Draft)

How do the youth encounter Jesus Christ?

Most youth come to university with no God experience, they are baptised and unevangelised, catechised and not evangelised. We need to come up with a general policy for National Conference. At branch level there is a need for branches to take the hand outs back and discuss them with the chaplain.

It is the interior change that will affect the conscience

Insert the pope's message

Insert parts of the journey

Evangelisation has 3 parts:

Encounter

Relationship

Message

Policy needs to be drawn up with the following:

How do you see the need in your branch?

How do we get the youth to encounter, relate and receive the message?

In cell groups discussion was held and the following arose:

How do you see the need in your branch?

Change from within – change ourselves

Pray continually

Understanding faith

Changing ourselves

Most SA students find bible sharing boring

Outreach to people of other faiths

Sundays and weekdays to be linked

Communication

Amongst

Tell people about ACTS

Priests

Not passionate

No relationship between people and priest

Learn to convey message

Community

Active community

Community of friends (one family)

Relationship

Diverse community

Music

Some leave and some stay

Is vital

Good music and dancing

Faith – rituals
Mass too rigid
Cannot pray as Catholics
Say prayers
Do not feel what we are doing
ACTS
Commitment needed
Understanding needed
Why do we belong?
What do we want to do?
Serving God

How do we get the youth to encounter, relate and receive the message?

Individual / personal decision
Retreats / vigils
Prayers together
Testimony / Giving witness
Outside of Mass
Relating culture and faith
Cultural Masses
Share cultures
Provincial retreats
Need to develop emotional dimension of our celebration
Experiencing true love
Friendship
Relationship
Good publication
Be strong personalities
Giving witness to Christ
Discover
Develop
Discuss
Learn from each other as students
Making the LORD in a real way
Need to reflect
Praying as a group
Need to learn to base Catholic faith on the bible
Say prayers but what do they mean
Introduce: ABCD Lifestyle:
To the parishes
Catholic faith not related to life
Catholics need to be excited about their faith
Be a good example (no contradiction)
Living Liturgy
Priests:
Not example to others
Scandals affect faith
Be able to say GOD LOVES ME
Pray as if you are talking to God as a friend.

Fr. Michael Hagan then went through the topics brought up.
There was a general discussion facilitated by the ACTS National President:

Find yourself in Christ first before getting to others

Were the questions set with Catholics in mind? NO- generally

Catechism is re procedure then understandability and needs to be changed as time goes by. The teachings are in the mind and not in the heart.

Overhaul it? – NO make it flexible!

Real life issues to young ones – Warn them

Warning to father to priest – we are being indoctrinated and not evangelised that's where guidance is needed. Put catechetical into a modern form

Learn things just to know than and will not evangelise us.

Review about knowing how to use to use it?

Lack of understanding teachings- spoon-fed and not actually understanding. Train youth to take catechism in order to change view.

Fr. Michael Hagan made a summary and put it up for all to see:

Looking back: catechism gives knowledge of our faith for which we are thankful.

However, catechism did not give us a CHRIST ENCOUNTER.

At university we realise that:

- we do not UNDERSTAND our faith;

- we find it difficult to relate our life issues to our knowledge of the catechism

At university we are now challenged, especially by other Christians, to make our faith and Church credible and relevant.

As a way forward: we see the need to nurture CHRIST ENCOUNTERS which will help us to experience our Catholic faith fully and thus find solutions to our problems as Catholics.

Comments:

Make it exciting

Will the congregation have the right platform to bring this up with a priest

Be open with the priest

Transference of faith 70% priest/teacher

Open communication with congregation for their opinion

Does the church really help us? If ye believe then you will spread the word.

Understanding is key

Is the theology of Catholicism too rich?

When a person says born again – so are we too through baptism

Age at which people undergo catechism too young to fully understand- just clear to move on. Clarification needed

Can't expect only priests to do the job, it comes down to us also being involved.

From group with ethical / racial problems bring this to them and remind of the propaganda of apartheid.

Knowledge is power without it we are nothing.

Community also affects how you understand. Draw the line and don't get stuck in a rut of repeating everything and not realising the true meaning.

Everything happens for a reason

Don't compare who we are. Embrace it. Catholics have it all. Go crazy and also have quiet times. Everything has a time and place. Not about Church being dogmatic. It's about us participating. God does have time.

ACTS should not operate alone but it should create a youthful upbeat nature, respect of other people and communities as well as their beliefs. A vital. Image OF God in the Church is also an important factor. As youth we should get to a stage where we realise who we are as Catholics.

Don't face things indirectly, youth are too ignorant. Turn your nose up to issues that don't agree with you. We do not protect our own faith and as a result we become our own enemies. We should get to sort our problems out first then deal with outside issues. We tend to be lazy to think but very quick to analyse, in most cases analysis is done without understanding. If you can, call yourselves Catholic.

Do priests train to preach?

Depends on faculties, some have homiletics

People

Bible

Priest

An individual should make his / her own decision to be part of the Church.

Something missing, something in excess; is the Holy Spirit still in our Church, has it disappeared? No passion in Christ.

We need to be passionate about our Church and Christ. We should get to understand the basics of Catholic culture such as the order of the Mass.

Those with no pride to preach Catholicism should be born, live and die as Catholics

Discipline- when we leave this setting will we be able to live in the way that we are meant to?

Reading the Bible literally vs liberally, how should we read and reflect on the bible.

Jerome Bible commentary- by Raymond Brown

Bible study is needed to push the point through.

Catholics are not as much as thought, as people coming to Church not properly involved and ready.

The best way to evangelise- You know it now so pass it on now.

ACTS Cross

The need to have an ACTS Cross to help with evangelisation, the cross should be huge and heavy so as to replicate the weight that Jesus had to carry. For example ; the World Youth Cross.

GROUP 1

1. MORNING PRAYER

It was spiritually fulfilling
It was well prepared and organised
Time keeping was good

2. SESSION: MODALITY/SPIRITUALITY/METHODOLOGY

Well explained and defined as far as the origins, model, method, and spiritual being of ACTS.

3. ABCD LIFESTYLE PRESENTATIONS

They were relevant, up to standard and informative.

4. Confession and Mass

Mass and Homily were reviving

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The conference was well organised

GROUP 2

1. MORNING PRAYER

Well-organised, short, singing was poor.

2. SESSION: MODALITY/SPIRITUALITY/METHODOLOGY

Fantastic, life changing inspiring, allows one to reflect on oneself's life.

3. ABCD LIFESTYLE PRESENTATIONS

Good participation,
Unleashed creativity
Life changing
Deep intellectual discussion

4. CONFESSIONS AND MASS

Confession was transforming and quick
Singing was perfect.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Paste Fr Pat's Homily on the website
Have one choir leading the singing not different people.

Day was long but informative and life changing.
Content made us aware of issues we weren't aware of in life
Supper is too early.

GROUP 3

1. MORNING PRAYER

It was relevant, well organised especially the reading was appropriate for the purpose of the conference.

2. SESSION: MODALITY/SPIRITUALITY/METHODOLOGY

It was informative, interesting and eye opening.

3. ABCD LIFESTYLE PRESENTATIONS

Participation from most members was not good, only a few people were participating.

4. CONFESSIONS AND MASS

Turning point for many of us.
Brought us closer to God
Beautiful, powerful, vibrant Mass

5. RECOMMOMENDATION

We eat too much; please space meal times more evenly.
Improve our singing.
Some sessions were cut short.
We ask for a bash on Thursday night.

GROUP 4

1. MORNING PRAYER

Well organised

2. SESSION: MODALITY/SPIRITUALITY/METHODOLOGY

Good presentation
Clear and understandable.
Mind opening and informative.

3. ABCD LIFESTYLE PRESENTATIONS

Well organised and Interactive.
Good and easy to understand
Informative.

4 .CONFESSIONS AND MASS

Uplifting

5. RECOMMOMENDATIONS

Too much time reserved for dining.

Facilitators were brilliant.

Facilitators should indulge more with us to increase participation levels.

GROUP 5

1. MASS

Early Mass was hard to attend because of the night vigil the pevious night. The night vigil was awesome and very reviving, the singing was also perfect.

2. POLICY DEVELOPMENT – YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Encouraging to those of us who want to see Catholicism grow. Eye opening ; now we know why some people don't commit to their faith and why others are committed. It was good to voice out our concerns and we hope that our Church leaders will address these concerns.

3. ALUMNI FUNDING PROJECT

Great idea

4. GENERAL COMMENTS

Hospice visit touching, we had great fun with the children. We witnessed the results of this epidemic

5. OVERALL CONFERENCE COMMENTS

Fun, interesting, everyone spoke straight, well-organised good food. Conference was very informative, great participation from delegation. We made good friends. We grew personally and spiritually, we learnt a lot about being Catholic and also on leadership.

WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2009

DAILY EVALUATION

GROUP 1

1. MASS

Mass was well prepared and spiritually uplifting as well as enjoyable.
Liturgy was lively.

2. THE FORMATION OF SPIRITUALITY (FR M HAGAN)

Too many aspects arose from the discussion and could not be covered since there wasn't enough time therefore the presentation-lacked clarity. Please allocate more time for this session in future.

3. LEADERSHIP TRAINING MODULES

Every speech was well organised and they actually improved their time management since they went straight to the point with issues.

4. GENERAL COMMENTS

Punctuality of meals especially supper
Mass time too short
Please keep time as outlined on timetable
Formatting of national documents should be improved.

GROUP 2

1. MASS

Mass was well prepared and spiritually uplifting as well as enjoyable.
Liturgy was lively.
Music more improved compared to yesterday.
Went over time and the whole days' schedule was distorted

2. THE FORMATION OF SPIRITUALITY (FR M HAGAN)

Informative and relevant to the theme of the conference.

3. LEADERSHIP TRAINING MODULES

Time cut short during discussions, which could have benefited delegates.
Participation was great.
We got to learn how to deal with challenges we are facing at branch level

4. GENERAL COMMENTS

Time management was weak.
Speakers don't keep up the energy through the presentation; they start off on a high note then drop to a monotonous speech.

Group 3

1. MASS

Powerful, enjoyable and uplifting.

2. THE FORMATION OF SPIRITUALITY (FR M HAGAN)

Informative

3. LEADERSHIP TRAINING MODULES

Informative, encouraging, people received ideas on how to deal with problems in their branches.

4. GENERAL COMMENTS

Participation gradually improving
Presenters were well prepared, big-ups Bapista.

Group 4

1. MASS

Mass was well prepared.

2. THE FORMATION OF SPIRITUALITY (FR M HAGAN)

Very informative, challenging and enjoyable.

3. LEADERSHIP TRAINING MODULES

- ✓ Conflict management: Lecture –like presentation, not very interactive, relatively informative.
- ✓ Communication: Ended up Focusing on one point (face book) facilitator lost control of session.
- ✓ Leadership: Wasn't comprehensively given
- ✓ Team work: For future reference, he should be more interactive.

4. GENERAL COMMENTS

The day was good, progressive, fruitful please note that human mind can only hold concentration for an hour, shorter sessions with breaks in between.

Group 5

1. MASS

Mass was well prepared and spiritually uplifting
Good singing
Liturgy was lively.

2. THE FORMATION OF SPIRITUALITY (FR M HAGAN)

Informative
Fruitful
Inspiring.

3. LEADERSHIP TRAINING MODULES

Fun- activities were relevant to the topics being discussed.
Role clarity wasn't outlined properly.
Interactive session
Sparked debate.

4. GENERAL COMMENTS

We are having fun.

THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER 2008

GROUP 1

1. MASS

The Mass was well organised and it was spiritually fulfilling. The scripture and sermon touched us deeply as we were reminded again that God is a God of love.

2. SESSION: HOSPICE VISIT

We had a lot of fun with the children and the visit was very touching.

3. POLICY DEVELOPMENT EVANGELISATION/HEALING

It was very thought provoking and it was an eye-opener.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Experts could be brought in on some of the issues i.e. Economic Policy.

GROUP 2

1. MASS

The preparations of the group responsible for mass preparation was excellent..

2.SESSION: HOSPICE VISIT

It was touching, moving and very sad. It was quite an experience.

3.POLICY DEVELOPMENT EVANGELISATION/HEALING

The policy development has quite a challenging part as it evoked very sensitive and crucial current South African issues which are mostly based on economic development.

4.RECOMMENDATIONS

Time - management.

GROUP 3

1. MASS

The readers were disorganised but the singing was good.

2. SESSION: HOSPICE VISIT

It was a moving experience and we had a lot of fun.

3. POLICY DEVELOPMENT EVANGELISATION/HEALING

The main emphasis was on Policy development and we did not gain a lot on evangelisation / healing. The debate however was fruitful and interesting.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

We should organise readers prior to the Mass and the discussions on No.3 should be discussed more at the National Conference next year.

GROUP 4

1. MASS

The sermon on God's love was interesting.

2. SESSION: HOSPICE VISIT

Pre-counselling of the group was not offered in preparation for the visit. The visit itself was enjoyed but no feedback was required of us either.

3. POLICY DEVELOPMENT EVANGELISATION/HEALING

The ACTS structure was well explained and it was very helpful and informative.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Pre and post discussion should be done for a visit like the one today.

CELL GROUP DUTIES

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Morning prayer Group 1	Holy Mass Group 5	Holy Mass Group 3
Confession and Mass Group 4		Hospice Group 2

SEVENTEENTH ACTS ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Proposed dates:

28th June 2010 - 03 July 2010

Durban was supposed to host the National Conference but due to the World Cup it was impossible to find a venue in Durban, as a result Lydenburg or Mafikeng will host the conference.

Proposed themes

Formation of personality

Youth Evangelisation

Sexuality- Masturbation
 Homosexuality
 Economic policy

**SIXTEENTH ACTS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING
CONFERENCE
30 NOVEMBER -04 DECEMBER 2009
KOINONIA JOHANNESBURG**

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