

# ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TERTIARY STUDENTS



**FOURTEENTH ACTS ANNUAL  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT  
PALLOTTI FARM RETREAT CENTRE  
QUEENSTOWN EASTERN CAPE  
JULY 2007**

**“Encouraging interpersonal relationships with God  
to empower ourselves to take ownership of ACTS ”**

**IMCS**

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**International Movement of Catholic Students**

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**FOURTEENTH ACTS ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
PALLOTI FARM QUEESTOWN JULY 2007**

**“Encouraging interpersonal relationships with God to empower ourselves to  
take ownership of ACTS ”**

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	
	02 July	03 July	04 July	05 July	
07h30 – 08h00		Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	
08h00-09h00		<b>Breakfast</b>			
09h00-10h00		<b>*March in Queenstown</b> <b>Opening Mass: Bishop Lenhof</b> <b>*NEC Welcome</b> <b>*National Chaplain’s Address</b> <b>*Greetings</b> 1 IMCS Pan Africa 2 Botswana 3 NMCS Zimbabwe	<b>Study Session 2:</b> <b>taking ownership</b> <b>of our sexuality:</b> <b>Fr Charles Ryan</b>  <b>Provincial Reports</b>	<b>Exposure Visit</b>	
10h00-11h00					
11h00-11h30					
11h30-12h00					
12h00-12h30					
12h30-14h30					
		<b>Lunch and Free Time</b>			
14h30-16h00	<b>Arrival</b> <b>&amp;</b> <b>Registrations</b>	<u><b>Branch Reports</b></u> <b>*Walk About</b> <b>Study session 1: Reflection –</b> <b>taking ownership of our</b> <b>situation: Fr. Clement</b> <b>Discussion: taking ownership</b> <b>of ACTS</b>	<b>Study session 3:</b> <b>Taking ownership</b> <b>of Prayer as</b> <b>Africans: Fr Victor</b> <b>Phalana</b>	<u><b>Statutory Session</b></u> <u><b>National Reports</b></u>  <b>*NEC Report</b> <b>*Financial Report</b>	
16h00-17h00					
17h00-18h30					<b>Provincial Reports</b>
18h30-20h00		<b>Supper</b>			
20h00-21h00	<b>Icebreakers</b> <b>&amp;</b> <b>Ground rules</b> <b>Expectations</b>	<b>Taize Prayer</b>	<b>Cell Groups</b>		
21h00-21h30		<b>Cell Group</b>	<b>Vigil</b> <b>Confession</b>	<b>and</b> <b>Talent Show</b>	

**FOURTEENTH ACTS ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
PALLOTTI FARM, QUEENSTOWN  
JULY 2007**

**FOREWORD**

The Fourteenth ACTS Annual National Conference was held at the Pallotti Farm, Queenstown in July 2007 with the theme "Encouraging interpersonal relationships with God to empower ourselves to take ownership of ACTS".

This Report contains a record of the proceedings of the Conference and, hopefully, the information can be used for the benefit of the local Branches. The structure is based on the reports of IMCS Africa and includes the following:

- Opening Session
- Spiritual Sessions
- Exposure Visit
- Statutory Session
- Study Session

The Study Session dealt with the spirituality of ownership and included three interesting Sessions:

- Reflection: Taking Ownership of our Situation
- Taking Ownership of our Sexuality
- Taking Ownership of Prayer as Africans.

ACTS is, at present, in the process of developing a policy around the issue of evangelisation. Hopefully, this process will assist the local Branches to reach out to the Catholic students around the country.

In conclusion, one must not forget that the social sessions and the development of many relationships are not recorded in this Report but play a vital role in developing the Movement as a family!

Ms Lebogang Masha  
ACTS General Secretary

## **GROUND RULES**

- Mutual respect
- Medium of communication should be English
- Punctuality
- Full / maximum participation
- Full co – operation
- Keep the bathrooms clean
- Bonding
- Raise hand before you speak
- Restrict movement in/ out of sessions
- Cell Phones should be switched of in conference venue
- Cleanliness and personal hygiene should be kept at all times
- Noise should be avoided when the speaker is on the floor
- Respect other people's property
- Be appropriately dressed

## **EXPECTATIONS**

- Good food
- Start and end everyday with prayer
- To grow from this conference and to be spiritually revived, and to learn from each other
- Nothing but what Pallotti Farm has to offer
- Have fun and enjoy ourselves
- Acquire good leadership and interpersonal skills

# **SUMMARY REPORT**

## **DAY 1 Monday 2 July 2007**

The day started with members arriving in drips and drops from various corners of the country. Registrations commenced on time as stipulated on the conference programme. The National President introduced all members of the NEC present; this was followed by introductions of individuals, then delegates came up with expectations and ground rules.

## **Day 2: Tuesday 3 July 2007**

The day started with morning prayer followed by a march to the Cathedral in Queenstown during which the opening Mass was celebrated with Bishop Lenhof. The National President made the opening speech and the invited guests presented greetings from their countries, Botswana and Zambia. Thereafter the National Chaplain presented his opening address in which he highlighted the significance of the Conference as the way in which young people of South Africa could meet and attempt to respond to the signs of the times. The first Study Session was conducted by Fr Clement Senekane in which the Pastoral Cycle was presented, followed by a discussion on taking ownership of ACTS. The day concluded with Taize prayer in the chapel.

## **Day 3: Wednesday 4 July 2007**

The day started with morning prayer, followed by the second talk within the Study Session given by Fr Charles Ryan on "Taking Ownership of our Sexuality". It was a day filled with clarity on sexual misunderstandings. It was here that we were given clarity on the requirements that have to be met before a person can commit a sin. These are things of great matter, being full consent and knowledge of what you are doing. This Session was followed by Provincial Reports that gave everybody present a reflection on what has been happening in our individual provinces. Fr. Victor Phalana lightened up the evening with a talk on taking ownership of prayer as Africans. He explained how we as Africans pray, why we as Africans pray and the importance of prayer to Africans, thus it was very informative. The day ended with a vigil, confession and a healing Mass.

## **Day 4: Thursday 5 July 2007**

Morning prayer began the day, after which we went on an exposure visit to a church on the outskirts of Queenstown, surrounded by hills. The area was once a farm with a nursing home which was then converted to a community with a church built in the shape and design of the hills.

The NEC Report was presented, according to the members present it was a well presented Report and mistakes of the previous year were taken into consideration. The audited Financial Report was presented and the out-going Treasurer was congratulated. A talent show ended the day.

**Day 5: Friday 6 July 2007**

The day began with a morning prayer that was followed by breakfast. The policy formulation on the "African Church and Evangelisation" opened the Study Session for the day. Groups presented what they think is the way forward in view of the forthcoming SACBC Pastoral Forum. A chaplains' forum was opened for questioning the chaplains on their role in the Church, and clarity on their thinking about current issues. The NEC elections were the highlight of the day in which a President, General Secretary, Treasurer and a Media and Publicity officer were elected as the NEC for 2007/8. This process went through smoothly with limited obstacles and those elected were inducted during an Induction Mass that subsequently followed. The day was concluded by a celebration in the form of party.

**Day 6: Saturday 7 July 2007**

The last day of the conference has always been marked by sadness and emotion as it parts people who have bonded and shared their thoughts and views for a week. Despite the element of sadness that was written all over delegates' faces, the spirit of unity and brotherhood/sisterhood prevailed as members departed to their respective homes and/or campuses. Another end to a great week in ACTS' calendar.

## OPENING SESSION

The Fourteenth ACTS National Conference commenced with a March from the Centre of Queenstown along the Main Road to the Cathedral. During the Opening Mass which was celebrated by Bishop Lenhof. At the end of the celebration, the following addresses were given:

- The National President, Ms Evelyn Badasu
- The invited guests presented greetings from their countries:
  - Botswana
  - Zambia
- IMCS Africa – absent due to difficulties in Zimbabwe
- The National Chaplain

Fr Michael Hagan welcomed the delegates, including the Chaplains, to the National Conference. In his address he highlighted the significance of the Conference as the way in which young people of South Africa could meet and attempt to respond to the signs of the times.

### ACTS National President's Welcome

We, as the ACTS National Executive Committee, would like to welcome all members present, the chaplains and the bishop and, most particularly, visitors from Botswana and Zambia. It is our hope and understanding that the week will be a platform for learning and our development as leaders of tomorrow, hence we are all invited to be vigilant and to be keepers of each other.

Since we are still discerning the signs of the times, we saw it as a need and necessity to take ownership of ACTS, to empower and have a Godly experience and therefore came up with the following as the conference theme: ***“Encouraging interpersonal relationships with God to empower ourselves to take ownership of ACTS ”***

It is evident from our mission and vision statement that we need spiritual development, and, therefore, we believe that such development could be achieved by interpersonal relationships with God. You may ask how does one develop interpersonal relationships with God? These could be achieved by trusting in God completely, believing that he is the truth, the way and the light and the beginning and the end of everything, and believing that God has a plan and purpose for each one of us.

Included in the programme is a vigil and spiritual input in which ACTS is attempting to further respond to the signs of times; in other words, the experience of God in an African context. This seems to link with the mission and vision statement developed by the current NEC where evangelisation of



the Catholics on campus is a current challenge, hence we encourage everybody present, all Branches and Provinces, to take ownership of leading ACTS to a brighter future.

Ephesians 4: 14 states that God wants us to grow up like Christ in everything that we do, and we, as the current NEC, believe that we have grown in similar directions. As human beings, though, we ask all of you present that where we might have gone wrong in leading you, you will pardon us.

We also encourage you to trust God completely by having faith and belief that he knows what is best for our lives and that we should surrender our whole being to him to be for righteous purposes.

May you all have a blessed and fulfilled Conference.

Thank you

Evelyn Badasu  
ACTS National President 2006/07

## SPIRITUAL SESSIONS

During the course of the Fourteenth ACTS National Conference the following Spiritual Sessions were included:

- Daily **Morning Prayer** (conducted by the students)
- Daily **Mass**:
  - Tuesday - Opening Mass celebrated by Bishop Lenhof
  - Wednesday – Mass Celebrated by Fr Max Jacobs with sermon by Fr Sibusiso Sithathu
  - Thursday – Mass celebrated by Fr Victor Phalana
  - Friday – Closing Mass celebrated by Fr Pat Towe with sermon by Fr Michael Hagan
- **Prayer Service** (conducted by the students)
- **Night Vigil with individual confessions** (The Night Vigil with confession was a new feature of this Conference and is a replacement of the morning Retreat)
- **Chaplains' Forum**

## EXPOSURE VISIT

A new feature of the Fourteenth ACTS National Conference was the inclusion of an Exposure Visit. The aim of the Exposure Visit is to give the delegates an opportunity to see something of the community where the Conference is being held.

This Exposure Visit took the delegates firstly to McKay's Nek, a church outside Queenstown which is built in the traditional Xhosa style. It gave the students the opportunity to experience inculturation of the Gospel at first hand. Added to this, we were able to see the work of the Missionaries within the parish of McKay's Nek and, also, the experience of the consequences of the Homeland System within the former Ciskei. It was most interesting to listen to the experiences of the newly ordained local Xhosa speaking parish priest which included hearing about the family of Mr Chris Hani.

Secondly, the students were able to see a water irrigation system which was built in the days of apartheid and since then has been left abandoned. And finally, the students were able to spend some time in the centre of Queenstown where they could do some shopping!

## STATUARY SESSION

- **ACTS NEC Report 2007 / 2008**
- **Minutes of the Election**
- **Provincial Reports**

# **STATUARY SESSION ACTS NEC REPORT 2006/2007**

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# STATE OF THE ORGANISATION

## National Executive Committee

National Patron	Bishop Z P Mvemve
National Chaplain	Fr M Hagan
National President	Ms E Badasu
National General Secretary	Mr S Matsena
National Treasurer	Ms. G Seboko
National Media and Publicity Officer	Mr S Dzebu
KZN NEC member	Ms Z Ndebele
Eastern Cape NEC member	Mr T Chisanga
Western Cape NEC member	Ms M Matsolo
Gauteng NEC member	Mr V Dlamini
Free State NEC member	Mr S Matsena

At the first NEC meeting at Cape Town a letter of resignation was read from the then elected National Secretary General, Mr T Ntsabiseng, this meant that a new Secretary had to be appointed and led to the immediate appointment of Mr S Matsena as the new Secretary General and, concurrently, the Free State Provincial NEC member.

## National Chaplaincy

With regard to the National Chaplain, Fr Michael Hagan who is based in Cape Town, is currently holding this position. There have been processes of appointing a new National Chaplain, a person was appointed by the Southern African Bishops Conference but, due to unforeseen circumstances, the appointed person could not assume duties. This means that the processes of appointing a new National Chaplain are still open.

## The Presidency

Under the leadership of our National President, Ms Evelyn Badasu, who brought a lot of experience from the previous NEC, ACTS continued to be efficient with regular communication between NEC members, always sparking debates around issues that needed our immediate attention. The President being a women amongst a few who managed to head the national team, has set the tone that, as a community, we should never undermine the capabilities of a person just because of gender. Hard work was the order of the day from our President throughout her term of leadership. Through her portfolio as President, she strengthened the critical importance of her previous portfolio of Gender and Human Rights, emphasising that gender does not matter when fulfilling a role in society.

## The Secretariat

For some this portfolio is regarded as the “Engine” of the Association. It is for this reason that most of our branches received numerous communiqués from

the National Office about critical and informative issues. This was to ensure that the body functions properly without any hindrances whatsoever. The responsibility lay in the hands of Mr Sello Matsena with the assistance of the Administrator, Mr Matanganyi, based at the National Office in Cape Town. Even though some problems were experienced by some of the Branches regarding receipt of faxes, to most of the Branches the messages were conveyed without difficulties. The outstanding work is evident through the very same report before you compiled by the Office of the Secretary.

### **Financial**

Dealing with public resources has never been easy as there will continue to be remarks made, whether good or bad, and one has to continuously be willing to improve. Since her election into office, Ms Gomolemo Seboko has been making sure that the Association does not exceed its financial capacity, as you can see reflected on the Financial Statements presented before you. Those of you who were present at her election during the Mafikeng Conference last year, can attest that indeed the Association had great trust in her as it took us more than four hours to finally convince her to take up the post. For that we really appreciate her work and contribution as her term comes to an end this week. The challenge will be left to those of us who will remain within the current Conference and beyond. The following can be highlighted:

- Funding has increased during the current term of office.
- ACTS National was able to obtain a computer from the SACBC AIDS office.

### **Media and publicity**

This office was set up to make sure that all publicity matters are executed and explored further, These include issues such as the website, ACTS INFO and the ACTIONS Magazine. During the course of the year the following were published:

- 2 copies of ACTS INFO
- 1 edition of ACTIONS
- Copies of IMCS magazine have been made available
- For the first time all delegates at the Conference received copies of the Leadership and Training Conference
- Stickers have been printed (updated)
- CD's of the National Conference and Leadership Training were made available
- Added to this, beanies, scarves, bags, caps and hats were produced.

### **Spiritual and Liturgy**

A number of spiritually fulfilling events have already being witnessed during our National events; hence the National Spiritual and Liturgy Officer Ms Z Ndebele urges delegates present here today to forward articles to her Office during this Conference in order for her to complete the edition of ACTS Spiritual which should be available at the end of this gathering. To mention some of the achievement the following should be acknowledged:

- 1 ACTS Spiritual produced
- Updated Hymnal

The issue of the hymnal was not delegated for the present NEC - it has always been pending but it has now been accomplished.

Featured in this year will be a vigil, spiritual input, confessions and a healing service. This change is as a result of the Mafikeng Conference experience of a vigil by Fr Victor Phalana. It is suggested that this be evaluated at the end of the Conference, for example: vigils becoming a feature of ACTS as an expression of the African Church.

### **Gender and Human Rights**

As outlined in the ACTS National Documents, ACTS is non-sexist. Gender, ethnicity, nationality and language do not matter when you are a member of this community of friends. The office of Gender and Human Rights, under the care of Mr T Chisanga, recently developed a document which is set to spark debates on issues that are current in society such as the Gay and Lesbians Bill endorsed recently by Parliament. How does this affect the teachings of the Church and what is the response of young Catholics to this Bill? It was evident during the National Leadership and Training Conference where ACTS saw a great representation of gender at the Conference that this was because of the emphasis made by the Gender Office. Not knowing if gender is balanced at this sitting, I am sure some Offices will receive "lashing" for not emphasising gender on communiqués sent out for the National Conference. Maybe this should be considered thoroughly during the policy formulation session of the conference.

*(The document is available to delegates upon request)*

### **Alumni**

The developments with regard to this portfolio have been slow because some Branches did not establish this portfolio as resolved in the resolution of the 2005/2006 National Conference. Some Provinces have gone an extra mile by inviting alumni to most of their functions and meetings where they (alumni) showed much interest in being resources for the Association, rather than being considered as mainly financial resources. To those Branches where nothing has been done, you are therefore encouraged to commence with establishing a database of alumni at Branch level and eventually a National Database.

## **MANDATES FROM THE PREVIOUS NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

As outlined in the previous NEC report, the incoming NEC was tasked with the following:

### **\*Website launch:**

The challenge of the website has now been solved, ACTS org.za is now linked with the SACBC and will function as part of the SACBC website.

### **\*World Youth Day Cross and Icon Hosting**

The NEC has achieved this with merit as outlined within this Conference Report.



### **\*University of Stellenbosch Participation in ACTS activities**

It was at the first NEC meeting that the NEC mandated the Western Cape Coordinator, Ms M Matsolo, together with the National Chaplain Fr Mike, to take up this matter, it with great pleasure we announce to you that the mission has been accomplished. Mr S Dzebu can bear witness to this wonderful news as he was also part of the delegation to Stellenbosch University, now part of the family once again. It is unfortunate that due to some of their plans they could not attend this National Conference but will be with us at the Leadership and Training Conference some time in December 2007.

### **\*Launch of UNIVEN and UNIWEST Potchefstroom**

The desired progress has been made with the University of Venda, whereby the NEC, in ensuring the launch of this Branch before the end of the year, tasked the National President to facilitate the processes. In accordance with the President's Report the Branch was set to attend this current Conference and be to be launched later in the year in accordance with regulations set out in the National Constitution. Due to unforeseen circumstances they could not attend the National Conference. With regard to Potchefstroom there has been some development made, whereby the National Chaplain has made attempts to meet with the priest in charge but, to date, no meeting has materialised.

### **\*Active participation of all Catholic students in ACTS activities**

This is well encapsulated within the Mission and Vision Statement. To a certain extent some Branches are coming up with portfolios such as International Relations Officer. A lot is still to be done

## **PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Mission and Vision statement**

The Mission and Vision Statement formulated at the first NEC meeting read thus:

Having discerned the signs of the times within the context of the current South African youth environment, ACTS sees the way forward as:

- Developing a sustainable faith, through prayer and understanding of our identity as youth from all nationalities.
- Attaining a spiritual maturity by encouraging interpersonal relationship with God and within our small communities.

This Mission and Vision Statement was developed in response to the current situation in our various universities whereby most members seem not to be spiritually fulfilled or developed, therefore calling for evangelisation within our universities.

It must be stated that, to some extent, ACTS has made a great impact within the SACBC AIDS Office through the issue of conscience being seen as a sign of the times regarding HIV/AIDS prevention which is raised at most of our gatherings. The SACBC AIDS Office has taken it a step further and are now themselves conducting workshops and seminars around this concept of "Conscience"

### **Leadership and Training Conference**

The 2006/07 Leadership Conference was held at Johannesburg Koinonia Conference Centre during December 4 – 8, 2006 with the theme “ “

Even though not all branches attended this Conference, the objectives were attained through NEC members presenting modules on leadership and the ABCD Lifestyle workshop. Once again the delegates visited the Mother Teresa Hospice, thus highlighting the realities of some of the issues the ACTS community seeks to address, such as sustainable development and combating HIV/AIDS. Various speakers made presentations on subjects contained in the programme and some of the Provinces came up with strategies to further implement the kind of training received during the National Leadership Conference

### **World Youth Day Cross and Icon of Our Lady**

At the beginning of January 2007, Southern Africa hosted the pilgrimage of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon of Our Lady. Eventually ACTS managed to host this spiritually uplifting event at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Pretoria/Tshwane on January 31, 2007. The event was marked as a success because it was organised in a very short time while most of the universities were not opened, so only a few universities were represented. The invitation was further extended to Catholic schools around Tshwane. The Association hereby thanks all bishops, chaplains, schools and the alumni who came in numbers to support us.

### **Tinned Food and Clothes Collection**

This year was no different to other years as most of our Branches were continuously engaged in the programme by collecting items to help those who are not as fortunate as we are. The Projects Office earlier sent out a communiqué to remind our Branches to exceed expectation by ensuring that all Branches take up this project seriously. It was further recommended at the Third NEC Meeting that Branches should not only wait for the month of May/letter to commence with the project but keep it ongoing. It must be acknowledged that some of our Branches have adopted homes and public sectors to do community service and, for this, the NEC thanks you for your unselfish love. To those who have not taken this up we encourage you to get involved within your communities.

### **ABCD Lifestyle Campaign Rallies**

The month of May was set aside for the Annual Youth Rallies which were held around the country with the aim of promoting the ABCD Lifestyle Campaign. Though some of the Provinces were unable host these events up to date, there has been an indication that they will do so in the next semester. It was at such platforms that ACTS communities could interact with the diocesan youth by inviting them to our Rallies and sharing vital information about the Association. Although there have been funds available to fund ABCD Lifestyle Youth Rallies, the obstacle has been and is still a fact that some Provinces have not accounted for funds remitted previously. Delegate from Provinces should take note of this factor.

### **National Visits**

This exercise serves as an opportunity to interact with ACTS members at grass-roots level. This year was not different as most of our NEC members undertook journeys to various corners of the country to visit Branches in order

to share experiences and offer advice where necessary. All Provinces were visited but, due to lack of time, some Branches could not be visited individually.

## **RELATIONS**

### **1 Within ACTS**

As already indicated in the National Visits Report, ACTS has once again accomplished its commitment to become a community of friends as there was regular communication between members. Though some might have experienced difficulties with regard to lack of information as result of unforeseen circumstances, our ACTS community has been striving to reach out to its members.

### **2 Within the Church**

Our National Chaplain has been our main link with the SACBC and a result our relations became stronger. Some of the Branches are actively involved with the Diocesan Youth Structures wherein they offer their skills and expertise, further contributing towards youth development. ACTS will be represented at Pastoral Forum of the SACBC to be held in August 2007 in Durban.

### **3 IMCS Africa**

Once again relations with our Regional counterparts have improved enormously. At this Conference we are expecting delegates from Botswana, Zimbabwe and our Regional Coordinator from Zambia. South Africa is a member of the Pan African Council and, furthermore, the ABCD Lifestyle Campaign has been chosen as part of the orientation programme for Africa.

### **4 National Youth Commission**

As per a recommendation made by the previous NEC, the Secretariat and the Alumni Officer paid the NYC a visit in order to obtain reasons why we have not been invited to the activities of the above mentioned body throughout the year. It was explained to us that we are responsible for updating our information regularly and for this reason we were given a form to fill in and forward back to Tshwane for registration. To a certain extent the Association was not happy with the fact that we have been removed from the system because we have not updated our records, because this requirement was fulfilled by the previous NEC. Honestly, nothing concerning the objectives of the Association have changed so there was no need for the NYC to erase our name from their system. The issue has been taken care of by the Secretariat. One has to note that ACTS, in the previous years, had participated actively in the first Youth Parliament of 1997 and the formulation of National Youth Policy 2000.

### **5 South African Youth Council**

A civil body, this appears not to be fully functional, all phone calls to the office have been left unanswered. Like the NYC neither information nor invitations have been received. The presence of the SAYC is of concern to ACTS because ACTS was very much part of its initial formation.

## **REPRESENTATIONS**

During our term of office, ACTS was invited to the following events, which took place as outlined below:

### **1 The Ninth Pan-African Assembly**

The above gathering took place in Rwanda from October 1 - 14 2006, where twenty-one African countries were represented. The National President, Ms E Badasu, represented IMCS SA (ACTS). The theme of this Assdembly was "Eradicating Poverty in Africa", hence we are called upon to make a difference. It during a Statutory Session of the Assembly that two Regional Co-ordinators were elected from Ghana and Rwanda respectively.

### **2 Pontifical Council for the Laity Ninth International Youth Forum**

The above gathering took place in Rome, Italy from March 26 to April 1, 2006, with more than 150 countries taking part. The ACTS Secretary General, Mr S Matsena, represented South Africa. The theme of the International Youth Forum was "Witnessing Christ in the Workplace". The conference focussed on the effect of work on young people particularly Catholics; as most of us present here today are aware there is a high rate of unemployment currently experienced by the young people in our country of South Africa. Furthermore the issue of "Ubuntu" was looked into in the sense that a presentation was made on the effectiveness of Catholics in the Trade Unions, how does this benefit the people and respond to the social teachings of the Church. The issue was mainly on work as a vocation. To our amazement, as African delegates at the conference, our situation was completely different to those delegates based in European Countries, who perceive work as a vocation whereas Africans observe work as merely an obligation which leads to survival and recognition in society. A brief report is available upon request from the Secretariat.

### **PARTNERSHIPS**

The NEC had managed to maintain good relations with several important structures such as:

MISSIO  
SACBC AIDS OFFICE  
SACBC YOUTH OFFICE  
SIYABHABHA TRUST

Currently ACTS is looking at the possibilities of establishing a partnership with Family Health International. This is all thanks to our hard working National Chaplain, Fr Mike Hagan.

### **REFLECTIONS**

It has been a term filled with work. As you all know, it is never easy to serve the public, but with the help of God the 2006/2007 NEC worked tirelessly to ensure that you, our loyal members, were kept abreast with the activities of ACTS nationwide. The challenge is left for the incoming NEC to strive to fulfill the set objectives from this current Conference.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ACTS attending World Youth Day in Sydney Australia

- ACTS being part of developing Diocesan Youth Structures.
- Evangelisation of Catholic Students on campus
- Strengthening the provincial structures, for example the launch of Venda in order to establish ACTS Limpopo Province.
- Encouraging active usage of the website
- Encouraging local Branches to develop partnerships with Siyabhabha Trust, SACBC AIDS Office, to fund your initiatives.
- Branches/Provinces adopting vigils and retreats
- Community service should be encouraged, such as adopting a home.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The 2006/2007 NEC would like to thank all of our Branches and Provinces for granting us an opportunity to serve you, it has never been easy but with the help of God all things became possible. To our National Chaplain, Fr Michael Hagan we thank for all the hard work and dedication you gave towards building and developing the Association.

Thank you

Compiled on behalf of the NEC by:

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Sello Jimmy Matsena  
ACTS National Secretary General

# STATUARY SESSION MINUTES OF THE ELECTION

## ***FRIDAY: 6 JULY 2007***

Opening prayer: Fr Patrick Towe  
Electoral Officer: Fr Michael Hagan  
Election committee: ACTS Chaplains, Mr Valentine Dlamini, Ms Evelyn Badasu and Representative from Botswana

Role call: 20 affiliated campuses present

ACTS TUT Soshanguve campus forfeited their voting rights due to non-payment of affiliation fees.

Resolution 1: The dissolution of the NEC of 2006 -2007.

Proposed: ACTS VUT  
Seconded: ACTS UWC

*Resolution passed unanimously*

Resolution 2: Vote of Thanks

Proposed: ACTS CPUT congratulated and thanked the outgoing NEC for their commitment and dedication during their term of office.

The Electoral Officer started the proceedings by calling on all the nominees to leave the election venue, so as to begin the manifesto process. The following portfolios were open for election:

- Media and Publicity Officer
- National Treasurer
- National General Secretary
- National President

### ***Nominees:***

#### **MEDIA OFFICER**

Donald: Nominated by Majozi who also motivated his nomination.  
Sifiso: Nominated by Khumalo who also motivated his nomination.  
Vincent: Nominated by Tshepo who also motivated his nomination.

#### **NATIONAL TREASURER**

Toka: Nominated by Gomolemo who also motivated his nomination.

#### **GENERAL SECRETARY**

Lebogang: Nominated by Khopotso who also motivated his nomination.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Sello: Nominated by Thabo who also motivated his nomination.

**ELECTION RESULTS:**

MEDIA OFFICER: Sifiso  
TREASURER: Toka  
GENERAL SECRETARY: Lebogang  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT: Sello

Members congratulated the newly elected National Executive Committee.

Fr Michael Hagan gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the National Executive Committee accompanied by his best wishes for the new NEC.

Resolution 3: Closure

It was Proposed that the Session should come to a close.

The Session was finally blessed by the singing of the South African National Anthem.

## **STATUARY SESSION PROVINCIAL REPORTS**

- **Limpopo and North West**
- **Western Province**
- **Gauteng Province**
- **Kwa-Zulu Natal Province**
- **Free State Province**



## **LIMPOPO AND NORTH WEST**

Northwest is still to have its Aids Rally. There is a communication break-down between the Executive Committee members and the general members at large and, as a result, planning and running activities is difficult. There are no leadership qualities to lead the people, although the Chairperson is hard working and seems to know the right people to talk to.

To my knowledge, the Chairperson was resigning but I have not been informed whether he actually did so or not. Northwest ACTS does not have a priest, members do not recognize the existence of their chaplain and have no idea who their bishop is.

The tinned food collection is still an on-going process, hence there is a door-to-door donation. In a nutshell, ACTS Northwest is on the verge of crumbling, hence we pray for God's intervention.

Limpopo is still to have its ACTS Rally due to lack of funds. We had a communication break-down between the Executive Committee for sometime and this led to the resignation of the Secretary. The tinned food collection is in good hands. ACTS Limpopo does not have a chaplain so they have Mass at the parish church which is about 15 minutes walk from residences.

Even though there is a large group that goes to church everyday, cell group meetings consist of less than ten people, but we still meet and pray so, therefore, growing stronger in faith. There is hope with ACTS Limpopo and with just a little push to the right side all could be well.

Venda has grown in members and in spirit too, so this is the right time to launch them and that could be done at anytime from now.

Evelyn Badasu

## WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

It is a crucial time for the Province to look back and see what it is that they managed to achieve and what they failed to achieve as their programme of action.

### Composition of the PEC

The PEC comprises of **four** branches, namely, UWC, CPUT, SUN and UCT. Each University has two members representing the branch in the PEC, which normally are the Branch Chairperson and any other person from the Committee.

Branch name	Branch representatives	Portfolio
UWC	1. Matjala Matsolo 2. Gino Lekhelebane 3. Gubevu Maduna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provincial coordinator</li><li>• Chairperson</li><li>• ABCD life style officer</li></ul>
CPUT	1. Nombulelo Mpangiso 2. Francisco Motsomane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chairperson</li><li>•</li></ul>
UCT	1. Gomolemo Seboko 2. Shingi 3. Thami Khumalo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NEC treasurer</li><li>• Chairperson</li><li>• Deputy Chairperson</li></ul>
SUN	1. Cole Conway 2. Fiona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chairperson</li><li>• Liturgy Officer</li></ul>

The Province is very delighted to tell ACTS members that it managed to bring back one Branch that was “lost”, namely Stellenbosch University. Members of the Committee and the congregation are very much willing to be part of ACTS National and willing to take part with other Branches in all ACTS activities. We are hoping to see them at the next Leadership Conference in December. They could not attend this June Conference because on their POA they already had an activity lined up which they could not postpone, as there are a number of stakeholders involved.

### Plan of Action

The Province does not have its own plan of action, but it adopts Branches’ POA and comes up with programmes for the Branch. It is not everything that comes from Branches that goes to make the Provincial POA. Besides National projects, we also have activities that bring us together and these activities rotate annually from one Branch to another. There are also activities that each Branch hosts annually inviting other Branches to attend.

### Activities

1. **Leadership conference** – of the three Branches we had existing last year, only two Branches were represented at the Leadership Conference.
2. **Orientation week** – Each Branch is expected to be as creative as possible, to see to it that the first year students get information about

ACTS and that all necessary details are taken down from the new members.

3. **Tinned-food Collection** – Normally, as the Province, we ask each Branch to collect tinned-food and clothes, and then arrange a date in May as required, to bring everything together at one Mass, and then take it to the bishop. The bishop then decides on the place to receive the collected food and clothing. Due to different academic calendars, we could not bring together our collected tinned-food. We have now planned to have it immediately when we come from the holidays, after our Meeting which will be at UCT on the 5 August 2007. We are positive that this will turn out well and that a large amount of food and clothing will be collected because Branches have got enough time to advertise and prepare for it.

4. **Youth Rally** – This is also a National project and it was expected to take place in May. Preparations and planning were done, but due to lack of funding it did not take place and so it has been scheduled to happen in the second semester on the 25 August 2007. We are positive that things will go according to plan, as there is a backup plan if the first one fails.

5. **High School Campaign** – We have already started with this campaign. We wrote letters to the Principals of the Catholic Schools nearby and we were supposed to visit the learners in the coming semester to explain further about ACTS and what to expect when they get to Universities next year. Our main target is on Grade 12 and some Grade 11 learners that may be interested. We are not sure how the situation will turn out as schools have lost much of their time during the strike. But we are still hoping for the best.

6. **National conference** – The same thing has happened as that of Leadership Conference. I am not in a position to respond on behalf of UCT. As for SUN, I refer you to the notes on the composition of the Province.

7. **Soccer tournament** – We have a soccer tournament that runs every year that is played by Branches and the Seminarians. The tournament has brought much bonding between the players, spectators and the Branches as well. Like most of the activities, only UWC and CPUT represented the Province and the Seminarians won the tournament.

8. **ACTS Week** - UWC and CPUT had a joint plan. The week was blessed with successes. Among other activities I would like to highlight and appreciate the healing service by Fr Victor Phalana. All ACTS, as well as Catholic and non-Catholic students from both institutions with some members of UCT congregation gathered and the service was good.

9. **The National Visits** – Everything went well in all the three Branches except for UCT. There was misunderstanding between the students and the NEC members, together with the chaplain and the National chaplain.

### **Achievements**

We managed to bring back one of our branches that was lost, Stellenbosch University. All our branches managed to gain their yearly budget from their different SCRs.

### **Challenges**

1. **Communication** – it was very difficult for me to communicate with some Branches as it was one-sided. Some Branches decided to communicate their issues with the National President.
2. **Lack of commitment** – sometimes people would not come for meetings, the reasons given being, I forgot, I got the message late or no reason at all.

### **Recommendations**

1. The elected person should be one who has love and who is passionate about ACTS.
2. The incoming coordinator should work hard to keep SUN on board.

### **Conclusion**

Regardless of the challenges, it has been very wonderful to serve as a coordinator of the Province, especially with the support from my chaplain, my Branch, other Branches and the NEC as a whole. May the Lord bless ACTS Western Cape and Nationally.

Compiled on behalf of the BEC

.....  
Matjala Matsolo  
ACTS Western Cape  
Provincial NEC

## GAUTENG PROVINCE

The following document is a true reflection of activities that are surrounding the Association of Catholic Tertiary Students, Gauteng Province, for the year 2006/7 and the activities are summarised as follows.

### SEPTEMBER 2006

#### AGM, CONCERT, REVIVAL

An AGM took place during September at Vaal University of Technology and the following people formed part of the new Provincial Committee for the year 2006/2007

Valentine Dlamini	Provincial Co-Ordinator	TUT Sosha
Samantha De Oliveira	Dep.Co-Ordinator	WITS
Khumutso Mogoane	General Secretary	UJ
Mathabo	Treasurer	UP
Yaw Asuma Yeboah	Alumni	WITS
Lebogang Masha	Project	TUT Rand
Lorraine Seabelo	Project	VUT
Ebetsamang Thupane	ABCD Lifestyle Campaign	TUT Rand
Nyiko Ngubeni	ABCD Lifetsyle Campaign	UJ
Lesly	ABCD Lifestyle Campaign	TUT Sosha
Rosuma Nikhungoni	Media and Publicity	VUT
Alice Ovendale	Media and Publicity	UJ

And I must say they have led the Province with dedication. The only Branch, which was not represented, was TUT GA-RANKUWA and it is still not part of us.

#### CONCERT AND REVIVAL

After the AGM we, as the Province, hosted the annual concert and revival and it was a wonderful event.

### DECEMBER 2006

#### LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING CONFERENCE

The national leadership conference took place at Koinonia JHB and not all Branches attended, but the Province was represented.

### JANUARY 2007

#### WORLD YOUTH CROSS DAY

We were so fortunate, as ACTS, to host this event and it took place in Pretoria (our Province) at the Sacred Heart Cathedral. Though it was difficult to get people to attend the events as the Universities were on holiday, however, a

few people came and all campuses in Gauteng were represented by at least two or three people.

FEBRUARY 2007

OPENING MASS

The province was supposed to have their opening Mass at Soshanguve but due to unavoidable reasons, the event was postponed. But every Branch hosted their own Opening Mass and the Bishop was invited to some Branches.

MAY 2007

TINNED-FOOD COLLECTION

Every Branch did their own tinned-food collection and it was a success, however, there are some Branches that are still busy with their tinned-food collection.

NATIONAL VISIT

Delegates from the NEC, General Secretary, Sell Matsena from Free State, and National Treasurer, Gomolemo Seboko from Western Cape, visited just to check the progress of the Branches. The visit went very well.

ABCD RALLY

The Province held its Annual Rally at Vaal University of Technology and we marched through the streets of Vaal to the local Parish of St Francis where we had Mass. The workshop on the ABCD Lifestyle Campaign followed and a motivational speaker so the day was very fruitful.

EVENTS STILL TO DO AS A PROVINCE

High School Campaign  
Sports Day  
Revival, AGM and Concert  
Alumni Day

ACHIEVEMENTS

We managed to bring back one Branch to be part of the ACTS Family, the University of Johannesburg. They were no longer with us for years and we thank God that they are back now.

RECOMMENDATION

- The incoming Co-Ordinator should make sure he/she keeps the family together and TUT Ga Rankuwa to be part of it.
- To have a Provincial bank account.
- That all Branches are present at Conferences and Provincial events.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All ACTS Branch's members  
The Chaplains  
The Bishop  
The PEC

Compiled on behalf of the PEC (Gauteng) by  
VALENTINE DLAMINI  
PROVINCIAL CO-ORDINATOR

## KWAZULU NATAL PROVINCE

Since the beginning of the journey on September 23, 2006 in the position of NEC Provincial Member, the experience has been both awe inspiring and heartening, yielding a gracious community of young Catholics, who strive to serve Him who sacrificed everything for the human race, and who never weary in suggesting food for thought for the coming year. Appendix 1 has details of the Committee Members of the Office.

On the brim of the inauguration, the Portfolio was already working to present the Province at one of the first of the four Meetings the NEC hosted annually in Cape Town. On September 5 - 8, 2006 the National structure had the first meeting and issues discussed were:

- a) The decline of Catholics attending Mass
- b) The launching of Branches throughout South Africa
- c) The National Leadership Conference held in December 2006, at Koinonia
- d) The Vision and Mission Statement.

As that was to tire the mind, it was rather an infinite urge to serve the Church with even more determination and innovative methods to bring the love of God into action.

The first Meeting, which was the handover Meeting, was held at the University of Zululand. Present at the Meeting were members of the out-going PEC which included the Co-ordinator, Secretary General, Liturgy Officer, and the Chairperson of the University of Zululand. Respective portfolios were handed over. The Treasurer and the Alumni Officer who were not present on the date of hand-over made private arrangements to meet and do the hand-over. A plan of action was drawn up and this is to be found in Appendix 2.

On the 7 October 2006 our new Chaplain, Father Peter Lafferty, took the initiative of hosting the ACTS Leadership Programme. The plan achieved the motivation of the respective Branches in time management and planning ahead. It encouraged team spirit, that students should take ownership of their own structures and that this should not be the chaplain's duty.

On 16 November 2006, the Cathedral Bishop's meeting was held at St Peters. Two delegates from the PEC were present. The report from the meeting contained two highlights:

- 1 the lack of communication between the P.E.C and the Bishop's Council.
2. The involvement of Bishops in the P.E.C activities.

On the 17 February 2007 the executive was to host the first meeting in the University of KwaZulu Natal Westville Campus. But because it was the first week of term and the Chaplain was not aware of the meeting, at the last minute the Office called for the meeting to be postponed to the following weekend.



The following week was the 24 February 2007 and the meeting was held at the proposed venue. In the Chaplain's absence the meeting took place and it was successful. An Induction Mass was the highlight of the day.

The structure hosted its first event of the year on March 10, 2007. It was at Mangosuthu Technikon. Fr P Lafferty and Fr Mbuyisa graced us with a heart warming Mass. Certificates were awarded to the out-going Committee. Though attendance was compromised the event did prove to stand the test of time. Indeed it was a success.

On the 24 March we had our Second PEC meeting in UKZN Edgewood Campus. The matter discussed was the Provincial Fun Day, to be held in Howard College on 21 April. On 20 April the Office unfortunately received notification of devastating news from the Howard Organizing Committee that the event was postponed until further notification.

National visits took place on the 4/5 May. Fr Hagan and Ms Matsolo, with warm hearts embraced us with the visit. The journey started on the outskirts of the Province in the University of Zululand, then on to Mangosuthu Technikon ending at the UKZN Howard College (where the Medical School, Howard College and Westville were present). The following day Ms Matsolo set her feet on the road to Medical School where Edgewood, Pietermaritzburg Campus and DUT congregated for their National Visit. During the visit, these were the fundamental issues discussed:

- The progress of A.C.T.S in the province;
- Issues affecting the students and their response to the mission statement;
- The National projects of tin collection and high school visits.

Branch Reports were then made (Appendix 3).

The Third Meeting was on 5 April in Medical School. The subject was the ABCD Lifestyle Campaign.

On May 12 the ABCD Campaign took place in UKZN Westville Campus. Due to unforeseen circumstances of financial crisis, the Campus which was elected to host the event gave the privilege to the Westville Campus. On the day six Campuses were present, excluding UKZN Medical School and DUT (Pietermaritzburg Campuses). The day was divided into three sessions:

- A. Holy Mass by Fr Lafferty
- B. Presentation of ABCD Lifestyle Campaign
- C. Discussion around the topics discussed and completion of the Questionnaire.

High School Visits:

The campaign is scheduled for the month of August. Learners are invited to make an appointment with one of the students in varsity who is willing to join the campaign. They will spend a weekend in varsity or technikon and share a Sunday service with the tertiary students. This initiative was made during the youth conference, held May 12. The emphasis to the youth was on the life of a tertiary student, precautions and measures that ought to be taken in order to be a successful student.

### Tinned-Food Collection Campaign:

Till now three Campuses have reported that they have made much progress in collecting the tins and clothes for the month of May. Up to now plus/minus 50 cans have been collected and further proceedings will take place when Campuses re open.

On the 24 May the last Bishops' Meeting for the semester took place, with Sr Lucas chairing the Committee. Concern was raised, directed at the PEC, in regard to the cancellation of events and relevant advice was given. The relationship between the PEC and the Bishops is growing stronger and stronger. For instance, Bishop Barry Wood was admitted to hospital and ACTS visited him, hoping that our prayers contributed to his life in such a way that he is reported to have experienced a tremendous recovery. The bonds that exist and the relationships made will take ACTS to new heights. Great levels of enthusiasm were noted and this is proven by the presence of our students (15) who have attended this Conference. We look forward to a God filled experience with our Bishops' Council in the next semester and in the future.

Our ACTS DUT Branch, an effervescent Branch that had quite a number of challenges in the past that led them into not being a recognized structure in the vicinity of the Campus, has now been fully awakened and dusted up by our vibrant and active members who are in our midst today. The outstanding factor is that they are not yet launched, and we hope that this will take place in a not too distant future.

### Challenges

- 1) The Provincial Chaplain for ACTS was not known until March this year so communication with the Bishops' Council was rather compromised.
- 2) Financial problems from the SRC facing most Branches have led structures into difficulty in functioning, thus not being able to fully fulfil their duties.
- 3) The attendance of the students to Branch and Provincial activities is declining enormously and this demotivates students who are currently affiliated to the structure.
- 4) The moving of Committee Members to charismatic churches is further devastating the current Committee and members.
- 5) Attendance of PEC Members to all meetings is poor, individuals do not report absences or give apologies.
- 6) When a member has declined or when there are problems in activity planning, the relevant personnel are not notified.
- 7) At the University of Zululand, the Governance Office has endorsed the merging of all Christian societies.

### Recommendations

- Each Branch-Liaison Officer with the Chaplain should decide on as many as possible fundraising strategies in the first sitting of their new term of office.
- Motivate the congregation members to take part in the Provincial activities. The PEC should visit all the Branches, to make the congregation aware of the existing PEC Members,

- There should be one central source of communication which could be essentially the Provincial website where all the events and the Provincial information can be found.

With gratitude I say this

Sirach 10:26-28

“When you do your work, don’t make a show of your skills, don’t try to put on an act when you’re in trouble. It is better to work and have more than you need than to go out boasting but hungry.

My son, keep your self-respect, but remain modest. Value yourself at your true worth

My son , keep your self respect, but remain modest”

To each and every one who has knelt for prayer, to each and everyone who has had a moment of silence contemplating the needs of this structure, to each and every dedicated member, keep firm, hold still, mkhulu umvuzo wakho ezulwini.

Glory and honour be to Him who is seated on the throne.

## **FREE STATE PROVINCE**

### **WORLD YOUTH DAY CROSS**

ACTS Free State managed to host the World Youth Day Cross in collaboration with the Archdiocesan youth at the Sacred Heart Cathedral during the month of January, even though most of our members were not all back on campus; members of the PEC went out of the way to ensure that the event was a success. This event led to the Province organising transport for more than 60 people attending the ACTS National World Youth Day Farewell Celebration held in Tshwane. The presence of ACTS Free State made an enormous contribution towards the success of the event.

### **ORIENTATION**

As a Province we managed to utilise the registration period to attract new students to join ACTS. This was done through exhibitions at allocated stands at the student centres. This has led to the ACTS Free State growth in numbers.

### **PROJECTS**

#### **ABCD LIFESTYLE CAMPAIGN**

The Province undertook a campaign whereby members of the Committee visited hostels to conduct workshops in an attempt to publicise the campaign and encourage healthy living amongst students (RALLY).

#### **TINNED-FOOD COLLECTION**

The project has been ongoing whereby instead of having a particular month as project month, we rather select a specific Sunday, for example, we will have people coming up during the Offertory of the Mass with clothes, tins and other donations instead of having the traditional money collections. Currently ACTS Free State has adopted a home in Botshabelo and also have a partnership with Bartamea School for the Blind and Deaf.

#### **FUNDRAISING**

This has been a success. Members of the Committee came up with creative ideas to fundraise, amongst many we include ways such as raffles, cake sales and car wash, this has led to us managing to attend all activities of ACTS National. For example, our attendance at this Conference was all because of our fundraising which went to such an extent that, with the assistance of our Chaplain, we were subsidised with more than 70 percent.

#### **SPIRITUAL AND LITURGY**

##### **MASS CELEBRATIONS**

All Branches have mass every Sunday and also on weekdays depending on their schedules. With the exception of Qwaqwa Campus, problems are still encountered with regard to the availability of a full time chaplain. The level of participation by members is gradually improving.

## PRAISE AND WORSHIP

On a number of occasions ACTS has been invited to take part in the interdenominational service held by Campus Ministry at all Campuses, it must be stated that through our participation ACTS received great recognition.

## CELL GROUPS

This has been presented as a challenge as set out in the Vision and Mission Statement of ACTS. There has been a great consistency in UFS Branch whereby all cell groups are functional but the progress with regard to CUT has been at snail's pace due to size and members not being interested.

## MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

Our Chaplains facilitate training sessions whereby members are trained to become Ministers of Communion. They now help with the distribution of Holy Communion and conducting the service when the priest is not available. This year we have received one adult member into the church through the RCIA.

## EXAM MASS

There has been, to date, one exam Mass held on Campus during the month of May in preparation for the mid-year exams. Plans are underway to have our next Mass in the second semester.

## REVIVAL

This was held at the Qwaqwa campus at the end of 2006, the theme was "Proudly Catholic". About eighty people were present at the event. This opportunity was used to conduct the first PEC meeting in which we attempted to assist the Branch where they were lacking.

## RETREAT

The Annual Retreat was held at Brandfort during the month of March coordinated by Fr Tshidiso

## YOUTH RALLY (ABCD)

On the weekend of the 5 May 2007 ACTS Free State hosted a Youth Rally with the motto "Be Faithful, Be Free", Motivational speakers, good artists, were invited and discussions and debates were the order of the day. Members of ACTS gave a presentation of the ABCD Lifestyle Campaign focusing on Women Empowerment. The day concluded with a spiritual reviving Mass celebrated by Fr Thabo Lenyatsa with Fr Sakhi Mofokeng from Bethlehem in the presence of most of the Archdiocesan Priests, The attendance was in the range of 300-350 youth.

## FUTURE PROJECTS AND EVENTS

Annual Sports Day  
Cultural Mass  
High School Visits  
AGM

## CHALLENGES

Qwaqwa being fully involved in all activities of ACTS.  
Lack of consistency by Committee and general members.  
Funding from SRC.

Active participation by general members

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank our former chaplain, Fr Tshidiso Moleko, for his hard work and input in building ACTS .The Archdiocesan Youth Chaplain, Fr Thabo Lenyatsa and our loving Fr Pat Towe and we welcome Fr Michael Thoabala in to our family as our new assistant chaplain and also those who helped in whichever way in the activities of ACTS.

Thank you and God bless.

**STUDY SESSION**  
**“THE SPIRITUALITY OF OWNERSHIP”**

- **Session 1: “Reflection: Taking Ownership of our Situation”**
  
- **Session 2: “Taking ownership of our sexuality”**
  
- **Session 3: “Taking ownership of prayer as Africans”**

## **Session 1: “Reflection: taking ownership of our situation – The Pastoral Cycle”**

*By: Fr Clement Senekane from Lumko*

### **Introduction of the Session:**

#### **The session includes three parts, namely:**

- Locating reflection within the identity of ACTS
- The Pastoral Cycle as a means of reflection
- Implementation within ACTS itself

#### **Locating reflection within the identity of ACTS**

Faith community,  
Academic.

Signs of the times

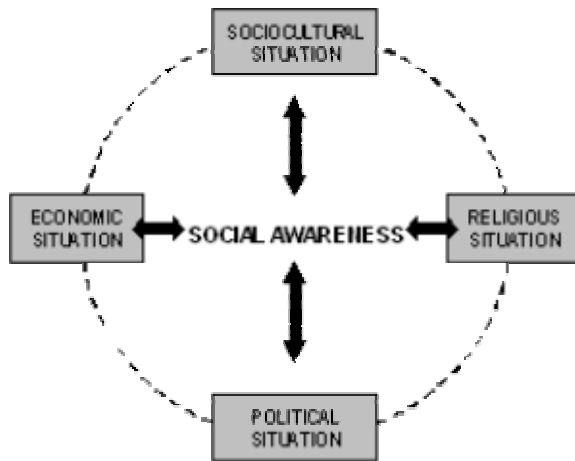
- Pregnancy
- Politics
- Financial exclusions

#### **Methodology of the discernment of the Signs of the Times**

*By Fr Clement Senekane*

The youth of the Church do not exist or live in isolation from their socio-cultural, economic, political and religious environment or contexts. They are part and parcel of the society in which they live. Thus they cannot and should not close in on themselves being unconcerned about what goes on in the wider community around them. For our youth to genuinely live out their Christian calling, they have to be inserted into, and engage the society in which they are and are part of. They therefore have to become socially aware and interested in the socio-cultural, socio-economic and socio-political situations of their environment - village, town, city or country (and the world at large) just as they are or are expected to be interested in religious matters or situations. Thus they are expected to be in the position to reflect on and respond adequately to issues, challenges and/or problems of their life situations from the perspective of faith as Christians and specifically as Catholics. These four situations of life are not independent of each other. Rather they are interconnected, interrelated and interdependent as illustrated below.



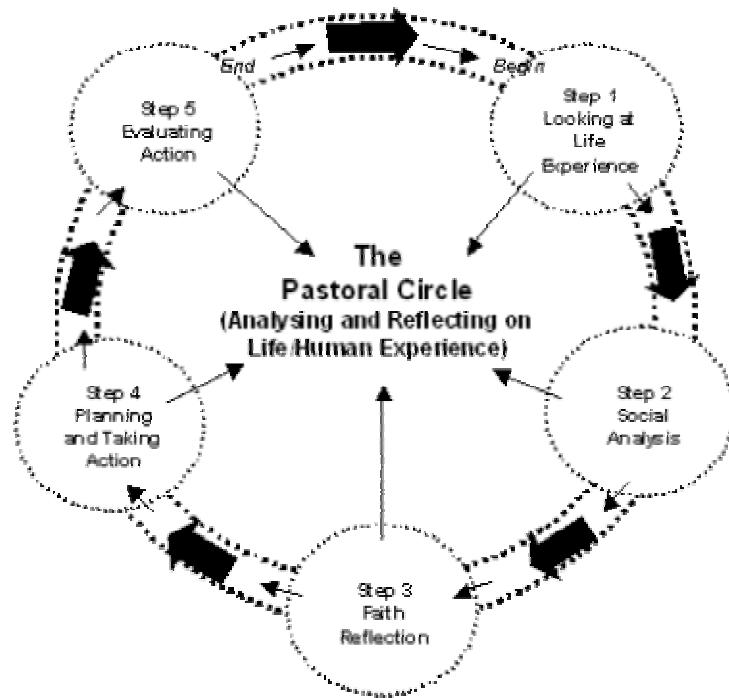


But the question is how can they (the youth) do such analysis of their concrete life situations and respond adequately to the challenges that face them? And how are you chaplains assisting them or can / should assist them in their efforts?

To be in a position to reflect on and go through a process of systematic analysis of their concrete life situations in an integrated and consistent manner, I think the youth could be introduced to the concept and practice of the Pastoral Cycle. This is a method that would help them respond skilfully and effectively to issues, challenges and/or problems of life in accordance with God's Word and in light of their faith.

The Pastoral Cycle is a process of five steps of insertion, analysis, reflection, planning and taking action, and evaluating the action taken as illustrated below.

As can be seen in the illustration, at the heart of the process of the five steps (of the Pastoral Cycle) is the concrete life/human experience, which is the, centre, the point of reference or the starting point of what takes place in the process - thus the arrows from each step pointing towards the centre. It is the concrete human experience that forms the basis of the reflection and analysis hence the first step (as explained below) is that of insertion into the situation/experience.



### 1. *Looking at Life Experience*

This is not looking at life experience in a superficial way (merely as an outsider) but rather insertion (being able to enter) of the community into the concrete/particular human situation or experience that is the focus or purpose for reflection and discussion. It involves:

- Asking the question: What is going on?
- Identifying the issues; i.e., clearly seeing what the issues are.
- Researching the issues; i.e., investigating the issues and gathering as much information as possible about them.

### 2. *Social Analysis*

Having been inserted into the situation and asking the relevant questions, plus gathering enough information on the situation, the community now begins to look critically at the issues by:

- Analyzing them to understand why they exist and understand their root causes and
- Asking the questions: Why is this happening? What or who is responsible for its happening?

### 3. *Faith Reflection*

The community engaged in this process of the pastoral cycle is a community or person of faith. That is, what has brought and holds them together (as a community) is their faith in the Risen Lord. Thus their looking at, and analysis of the human experience is from the perspective of their faith (looking at what the Scriptures and (Social) Teachings of the Church say about the issues) and

- Asking the questions: Lord what do you say about the issues? How would you want us to respond as a faith community so that whatever action/s we take portray us as your witnesses?

#### 4. *Planning and Taking Action*

Having listened to the Lord in prayer for guidance as to *what* and *how* he would want them to respond to the issues as his witnesses, the members of the community now proceed to plan how exactly they would act. They decide on specific actions needed to reach their objective (all in the light of the message of Christ). In planning they are guided by questions such as:

- Where have we come from? (What is the situation we have been examining?)
- Where are we right now? (Having analyzed the situation and reflected on it in the light of faith, how do we now see the situation?)
- Where do we want to be at? (In the light of our faith, based on Scripture and the Church's teachings what are we being called to do in response to the situation to bring about transformative change?)
- How are we going to get there? (What specific actions/steps should we take in order to bring about the transformative change?)

#### 5. *Evaluating the Action*

It is not enough to plan and take action. Also important and necessary in the pastoral cycle is evaluation of whatever actions/steps have been taken to effect the transformative change. This would entail:

- Assessing the success and/or failure (the outcomes) of the action taken and learning from them (especially for the purpose of avoiding mistakes in the future).

The evaluation does not end the process but leads back to further insertion, analysis etc. In this sense, the process is not a circular but a spiral one.

## Session 2: “Taking ownership of our sexuality” – Fr Charles Ryan

*Talk given at the 14<sup>th</sup> ACTS Annual National Conference 2007 which was based on a lecture delivered at the Annual Conference of the Catholic Theological Society of South Africa, in St Augustine College, Johannesburg, September 2005*

### Introduction

Human sexuality receives endless coverage in the popular media and in theological dissertations. In the mass media one has the impression that sexuality is something that exists merely as a casual source of pleasure and entertainment. On the other hand, Catholic hierarchical and theological statements sometimes give the idea that sexuality is a dangerous phenomenon that can be indulged in only under the most stringently controlled circumstances. Confronted with these two apparently irreconcilable views, I have attempted to summarise what might be a balanced approach to sexuality for Christians under nineteen headings or ‘theses’.

1 **Conscience has always been the ultimate source of morality for individuals.**

In spite of the fact that at various stages in the history of Christianity there have arisen strongly authoritarian and controlling leaderships, it can not be denied that an individual can be guilty of a sin only when he or she freely and knowingly performs an action that is seriously offensive to God or neighbour. The fact that civil and Church laws may sometimes attach a penalty to an action which does not have all those traits does not take from the reality that sin always requires full knowledge and consent.

2 **The autonomy of the individual conscience is the consequence of the freedom of each person, created in the ‘image and likeness of God’.** It is therefore not something that is based on a particular theological or philosophical system, and is not open to disputation. The autonomy of Conscience was clearly stated in the Vatican II document ‘*Church in the Modern World*’ but does not depend on that or any other document for its validity.

3 **The autonomy of Conscience (and the responsibility to act according to it) does not change even if it is ‘erroneous’.** At any given time one has one set of moral principles and one body of information. With the exception of what might be called ‘contrived error’ (which is not really error, but malice) someone has no other reference point for moral action than the principles and data available at that time. It would, in fact, be immoral not to act according to those principles and information. There is no reputable theologian that could deny this.

- 4 **In the domain of human sexuality the possibility of erroneous conscience is greater than in other areas ... given the enormous emotional influences that come to bear even in very wise individuals and cultures when clarifying teachings about sexuality.** This does not change the reality of the individual's autonomy. Nor does it change the fact that erroneous actions can frequently be extremely harmful. All of this highlights the importance of an enlightened teaching about sexuality.
- 5 **From the beginning, the teaching role of the Church has been fulfilled by example, motivation and reason. In recent history this teaching of the Church has been compromised, abandoned and challenged.** While Christ's 'methodology' was clearly based on example, witness and the highest motivation of love, the History of Christianity is replete with eras when the Church thought fit to use force and constraint in bringing about conformity with its teaching. The Church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century may not have the problems of the Crusades and the Inquisition, but it is still grappling with the problems of discarding its authoritarian image and methods.
- 6 **Judging is expressly excluded from the Church's mission.** The instruction "Judge not so that you may not be judged" is clear and repeated in the New Testament. In spite of that recurring instruction from Christ, the Church can hardly be seen other than as a judgmental one. The distinction between the 'internal forum' (of conscience) and the 'external forum' (of external actions) has not always been respected, so that the popular notion of the Church and its ministers being a sort of 'moral police force' is widespread even in our time.
- 7 **In the past, and to a great extent today, the judgmental image of the Church persists.** This is a clear denial of the real mission of the Church, which is to make present in each culture and age the compassionate Christ. There have been and still are obvious exceptions, but one cannot escape from the fact that the Church is frequently seen as more interested in imposing rigid morality than ministering a compassionate and forgiving Christ.
- 8 **The judgmental image of the Church damages or destroys its ability to teach effectively.** The duty of the Church to "go ... teach" is binding in moral as well as dogmatic matters. However that teaching role cannot be adequately fulfilled if it is hampered by credibility issues. The well-documented crisis that arose when Pope Paul VI published '*Humanae Vitae*' (1968), forbidding the use of artificial contraceptives, is taken by many as the beginning of the modern-day credibility crisis in the Church in our time.

- 9 **The teaching of the Church on many moral issues has changed. The possibility of further change (including about sexuality) can not be excluded.** Clear cases of reversal of moral teaching have emerged ... on slavery, on usury, on capital punishment, on political structures etc. Even on matters of sexuality and marriage, the Church has changed its doctrine about the ends of marriage, and a more enlightened knowledge of biology has changed the attitude to masturbation. The perception that sexuality is 'sacred moral ground' might therefore not be quite accurate.
- 10 **The general belief that moral teaching about sexuality is of 'divine origin' may not be valid.** The ongoing debate about homosexual activity being explicitly condemned by Scriptures is an example where certain theologians believe that the Scriptures are being misinterpreted to serve a particular agenda. The regulation of Marriage by the Code of Canon Law, including certain cases where a valid marriage may be annulled, reflects a changing tradition about marriage in Christianity and can not always be seen as 'revealed'.
- 11 **Teaching based on fear does not work, and is probably counterproductive.** The practice of discouraging unacceptable sexual practices by installing fear (of Hell, of being barred from Sacraments, of 'detection, conception and infection') appears not to have worked, and certainly does not work at present. This attitude does not encourage the process of maturing in young people, and fosters a careless attitude towards authentic teaching about sexuality, which is what the Church should be engaged in. (One is slightly encouraged by the recent announcement of the establishment of a 'Christian Institute of Sexuality' in Nairobi, staffed by medical practitioners as well as theologians.)
- 12 **For there to be sin (serious subjective guilt) there must be grave matter, full knowledge, full consent.** This is not a construct of some theologian, but a direct consequence of the doctrine of humanity's dignity, arising from rationality and freedom. Thus, if anything hampers the acquiring of full knowledge by an individual, it also destroys the possibility of grave sin in that matter. Likewise, anything that interferes with an individual's freedom (e.g. intoxication, fear, external force, anger etc.) also renders grave sin impossible. In a recent discussion on this subject a number of Catholics asked me: "Why does the Church not teach us about such things?"
- 13 **In spite of the history of casuistry it is conscience that decides if matter is grave or not.** The possibility that the conclusion of a person of good will may not conform to the Church's authoritative teaching, even in matters of sexuality, must be accepted. This is more likely to happen where the level

of education of lay members of the Church is now much higher than is any previous era of the Church's life.

- 14 **Assuming that there is 'objective rightness' in moral matters, it is difficult for there to be 'full knowledge' in the pervasive counter-witness of the modern permissive global village.** In many instances the Church's teaching role in matters related to sexuality has been confined to frequently incompetent homilies and judgmental statements from authorities, while the mass media have access to the most advanced technologies and competence in promoting its permissive and promiscuous doctrines. This highlights the urgent need for the Church to re-assess its methods of teaching, and the need to provide emotional support for young people who are being bombarded with negative messages.
- 15 **In immature people, especially in sexual matters, the possibility of full consent is diminished or destroyed.** In the last century many studies have been done to illustrate the manner in which people grow in moral awareness. The names of Jean Piaget and Lawrence Kohlberg come to mind, but similar conclusions to theirs have been reached in other disciplines than psychology. The emerging conviction is that young people are unable to act on the basis of moral principles, but act on the basis of the accepted norms of peers and role models. The accepted norms are frequently alien to those of Christianity.
- 16 **Psychosexual and moral immaturity are extremely common, to the extent that some say that maturity is the exception rather than the rule.** Some studies have put the percentage of adults that are immature as high as 90%. The consequence is that all youths and many adults are determined in their moral behaviour, not by internally owned principles, but by the accepted norms of the society to which they belong. In a sexually permissive society like the present one, the consequences are enormous. To combat this situation which is clearly destructive of family life and society in general, the Church (and, indeed, society) must set in place processes to foster growth in maturity. Those processes can never be authoritarian. Likewise support structures must be set in place to provide nurturing environments for those who are still at the maturing stage.
- 17 **The 'traditional' view that all 'unacceptable' behaviour in matters of sexuality is objectively grave, is being challenged theologically and is gradually disappearing.** The origins of this '*semper grave*' principle are obscure, but whereas it was an accepted principle in the Moral Theology Manuals of the early twentieth century, it is difficult to find it being proposed in modern theology.

- 18 **The past tendency of the Church to legislate rather than foster growth and maturity is not the result of ‘malice and stupidity’ but of an exaggerated paternal / maternal awareness of human weakness, especially in sexual matters.** It is similar to what can happen in families. Parents are sometimes hesitant to allow their older children the freedom to exercise their maturity, not because they do not wish their children to be happy, but because of an exaggerated fear that they will hurt themselves or others. In practice, while teaching the doctrine of freedom of conscience, the Church has frequently failed to grant the liberty to exercise conscience.
- 19 **The Church’s traditional role of ‘imposing moral standards’ in the external forum (especially where there would appear to be departures from moral norms) is legitimate, but can contribute to its judgmental image and consequent lack of credibility.** The practice of refusing sacraments (especially the Eucharist) to unmarried mothers, statements about not ordaining men with homosexual tendencies, disciplining parents for the ‘misbehaviour’ of their children who are of age, are examples of where such ‘standards’ are imposed. As mentioned, this can give a negative image of the Church and, therefore, should be used sparingly. The secular media were amused recently when the Church was reported to be ‘re-instating’ Judas Iscariot. However, if this action is a sign that the Church is realising that judging is not part of its duties, it might well be a progressive step.



### **Session 3: “Taking Ownership of Prayer as Africans” – Fr Victor Phalana**

SPIRITUALITY is the encounter with God in real life and action. It is a never-ending interpersonal process that enables a person to perceive, interpret, and interact with all reality in a realistic and reverential way. (Dominic Maruca, Human Development, spring 1981,p.19)

Spirituality is the style of a person’s response to the grace of Christ before the challenge of everyday life, in a given historical and cultural environment. (The Desert and City, Gannon and Taub, p.10).

Spirituality is a prayer elevated to a lifestyle. (Doris Donnelly from Princeton Theological)

Spirituality is the way a person understands his/her ethically and religiously committed existence and the way he/she acts and reacts habitually to this understanding. (Sir Jeremy Mall)

I personally see spirituality as a process of growing and maturing in the divine. It has to do with living the experience and the presence of the divine in one’s daily life. It is actually the encounter with God in real life and action. It is the mode of living, a way of living our Christian life in African traditional values, and it includes the religious experience of the one who encounters the divine.

Spirituality is a technique or ability to cultivate awareness of the presence of the divine and to deepen that awareness. It involves communicating with the divine, being able to contact, listen and report to the divine.

AFRICA is not a homogeneous society. It embodies different cultures, perspectives and languages. It still has strong traditional culture, but now it has an urban-subculture, an “educated sub- culture” and many other sub-cultures, it has been affected by colonialism and some of the world religions like Islam and Christianity. This makes it difficult to speak about, and to do justice to this issue, we must talk about the spirituality of African Christianity. What we have to do, is to try and identify common African values which have survived the colonial onslaught. Enculturation has to do with the incorporation of the Christian message in the culture and situation in which African people live. African spirituality takes into consideration the African experience of life and of the divine. We reflect on how Africans experience God, how they understand God, how they respond to God and how they live their experience in their daily lives. Our focus will be on how African Christians live their Christian faith and African values, and how they apply and communicate this experience to the world.

# **POLICY FORMULATION**

## **AFRICAN SPIRITUALITY**

### **HOW DO WE PRAY AS AFRICANS?**

Africans pray differently as informed by different tribes.

Interceding through ancestors

Through animal sacrifices

Singing and dancing, with our whole bodies (praise and worship)

Combining the Gospel with our traditional African method.

Giving is most important for Africans to worship. Youth becomes dormant in churches because of, for example, councils which restrict the youth by not giving them a say about how to worship.

Belief in someone who can explain Jesus and the saints for Christians.

## **EVANGELISE**

### **MARKETING**

Visibility

Target groups

ACTS logo

No more whispering

Database of membership (find out why they left)

Emphasis on Mass (creativity, for example the rosary; and enjoyment, for example, student newspaper)

### **OWNERSHIP**

Practise what we preach

Live faith at all times

### **CULTURAL TOLERANCE**

Respect for other languages

### **LAZINESS**

Take ownership, example collection

We are the Church not simply the priests

### **EDUCATION**

Taking individual initiative and learning about our faith

Sharing this knowledge with the community

### **COMMITTEE**

Importance of Spiritual Officer

### **UNITY**

Recognize when people are not in church

## **HAVE I HAD A GOD EXPERIENCE?**

Meditation: picturing God's presence  
Through relief of emotional distress  
God's presence in the might of nature  
God works through our fellow human beings  
Reflecting over my life objectively  
Primarily through prayer  
God has the master plan

## **CELL GROUPS**

### **CELL GROUP 1**

- Katlego Motlhatlego
- Katlego Nthabu
- Tebogo Mathibedi
- Dineo Ramachakela
- Beata Campbel
- Tshidi Tshola
- Tankiso Tau
- Koali Mathibedi
- Lorraine Seabelo
- Mohapi Phosholi
- Khomotso Mogoane
- Zanywe Thena
- Nhlanhla Khumalo
- Sifiso Mathebula
- Phumzile Gazo

### **CELL GROUP 2**

- Toka Leuta
- Keke Matsoabudi
- Buyiswa Bhungani
- Mosa Lesitha
- Nduduzo Jali
- Sazile Gasi
- Mpho Ngwetsana
- Tsaone Kgakantsi
- Sister Boitumelo Wadikgosi
- Mabene Tsotako
- Matshediso Tshoeu

### **CELL GROUP 3**

- Kele Mosoeu
- Vincent Seboko
- Nthuseng Marake
- Xolisile Luthuli
- Thamsanqa Hlongwa
- Majosi Matlhape
- Zinhle Mntunjwa
- Dineo Nkholise
- Thomas Chisanga
- Bingo Sefoli
- Mpumi Khumalo

#### **GROUP 4**

- Thabo Pitse
- Patrick T Peni
- Sabelo Mthembu
- Dominic Kwena
- Palesa Modise
- Lesego Seeco
- Donald Nkgadima
- Tshepo Peni
- Matjala Matsolo
- Benny Fokasi
- Gino Lekhelebane

#### **GROUP 5**

- Lebogang Masha
- Lebohang Mthembu
- Masamuele Dieta
- Nombulelo Mpangiso
- Benunu Mokoe
- James Baleni
- Marcia Dlamini
- Adrian Abrahams
- Gubevu Maduna
- Cladius Masarurwa Ticharwa
- Gift Kwazi



**4<sup>TH</sup> ACTS ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**JULY 2 – 7, 2007**  
**QUEENSTOWN: PALLOTTI FARM**

*“Encouraging interpersonal relationships with God to empower ourselves to take ownership of ACTS”*

**DAILY EVALUATION**  
**WEDNESDAY JULY 5 2007**

**CELL GROUP 5**

Please, in your CELL GROUP take a moment to reflect on the activities that took place today and try to evaluate it.

1. Morning Prayer

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2. Study Session One: Exposure Visits

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3. Reports

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4. Mass

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