



A C T S

Association of Catholic Tertiary Students

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International Movement of Catholic Students, IMCS South Africa.

PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE OFFICE OF

ACADEMICS

EXECUTING OFFICER:

ANATHI MBALULA

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**Southern African Catholic
Bishops' Conference**

1. Description

This is one of the house keeping portfolios, which aims to serve and facilitate the interaction between all levels of education. But mostly focuses on the sharing of information between tertiary and secondary level students.

2. Aims and objectives:

Aims:

- Promote academic excellence to all tertiary students.
- Create awareness to high school students and parish youth about the existence of ACTS in tertiary institution.
- Coordinate career guidance to the youth of the local Church through various campaigns.

Role:

- Recruitment of members to join ACTS.
- Facilitate the sharing of study material amongst tertiary students.
- Facilitate the 'Adopt a parish' campaign.
- Create and monitor the mentorship program- all 1st years (Catholic students) must be assigned to a mentor (an ACTS member) for guidance and motivation.
- Plan and execute career awareness and study guidance/ advice to high school students.
- Devise a planner which will involve ACTS in the youth structure within the diocese thus contributing to the development of the youth of the local Church.

3. Proposed year activity or action for provinces and branches + methodologies: Try to address these aspects: (Who? What? How? When? Where? Why?)

Plan of action:

The year is divided into 4 terms, this means objectives will be carried out on a quarterly basis.

1st term:

Orientation week (branch)

This is an objective achievable at branch level. It is to recruit New/1st year members. Each branch executive committee to set up a stall with their banner visible, acts gear on. Be creative, give out tokens (rosary, wristbands etc). Formulate database of all acts new and old members. The data base will be used for sharing of information, notifications etc. Orientation being a recruitment period we advise that all branches try to send out at least 4 members to surroundings colleges and technikons, to create awareness about ACTS.

Mentorship (branch)

Assign mentors to 1st year students. As mentors try to get, especially, the 2nd years to share info with your 1st years. Suggest or try to implement study groups for students that are doing the same course.

Visitation (branch)

Set an appointment with a parish within your circumference by contacting the priest and the youth leader to ask for a slot to address the youth after mass or any suitable time that will be of convenience to both parties. This is also the parish you will adopt, meaning you will visit regularly, for Mass and maybe when they have a youth events etc. Invite a maximum of 10 youth members to a provincial event (preferably a lifestyle event) and plan/prepare a career guidance or expo session for them.

2nd term:**Career Expo (Provincial)**

In or at a provincial event (preferably at a lifestyle event) have a career expo session just to advertise your professions. Advise young tertiary students on which subjects and personality traits they should focus on in order to flourish in their tertiary studies pursuing their careers.

Exam Mass (provincial/branch)

Have the mass dedicated towards the upcoming exams. And try implementing exam prayer evenings once a week, this is at branch level.

Visitation (branch)

Visit the parish you have adopted and preferably/possible another parish to help address the youth; making them aware of applications for varsity and bursaries, also provide advice and study methods for upcoming exams. This can be carried out by 3 executives of a branch, thus making it possible to visit many more parishes. This must be done as soon as application forms are made available to the public for the preceding year.

3rd term:**Visitation (branch)**

Address youth; follow up whether they have applied for varsity and just advertise ACTS, or make them aware that Acts is at all varsities.

Mentoring

Study methods to varsity and just giving support to 1st year students towards and during their first exams.

4th term:

Exam Mass (Branch)

Have the mass dedicated towards the exams.

Notes:

Database to be used to share info in branches. Media and Pub officer working with the Academics officer are to collect info like available past papers of tuts, tests and exams or links thereof and share with other students. Drop box being an ideal medium of sharing information will be created where all members will have access.

Mentoring to continue throughout the year not only in terms where highlighted.

Visitations can be carried out by a max of 4 members of a branch this increases the number of parishes that you will be able to visit.

Invite a max of 10 youth members from as many parishes as you can to provincial events; so they can be exposed to a holistic lifestyle of a tertiary student.

Bookstore: 2nd years could possibly sell their books to 1st years at a low price if they do not want to donate it to them. Branch executives to collect old books from all members and make them available to new members.

In the 2nd term for both the career expo and visitation make available application forms for matric (grade 12) students. Use drop box to share application forms of all universities, colleges, etc in South Africa. All in all make available all application form to tertiary institutions in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th terms.