

RGV ACTS UPDATE

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Town Hall Brings Cores Together

The CDOB Chapter of ACTS Missions held a Core Town Hall on Saturday, January 22, 2011. All but three parishes with cores were represented.

Various topics of general import were discussed and questions addressed. Of most significance, was the emphasis on maintaining the integrity and simplicity of the retreat.

Fr. Vega reiterated that the Thursday night service should not be a dramatization. Rather, the service should lead participants to a deeper reflection of the example Christ gives us to trust and be obedient to God.

The Chapter reminded everyone that ACTS is a retreat, not a ministry and reiterated the need to encourage participants to become active in their parish ministries.

Priest Assembly Good Practice for Chapter

February 17, 2011 was an exciting day for Chapter members who attended the Priests' Assembly at the Bishop Marx Auditorium in San Juan, TX.

After a brief introduction by Fr. Vega, Chapter members presented a brief orientation about the Missioning Process for ACTS Retreats and informed priests of the upcoming Town Hall for Priests on March 19th.

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Many cores shared that increasing participation in parish ministries and faith building activities after the retreat poses a challenge. With Fr. Vega, Chapter is putting together a "Toolbox" with suggestions for parish based activities. This will be shared with priests at the Town Hall for Priests on March 19, 2011. Cores were encouraged to share ideas/successful programs from their own parishes for inclusion.



The presentation was briefly followed by questions and comments regarding the successes and challenges of the retreats. The conversations served as important reminders for everyone that we need to work together to address the needs of the parishes, encourage participation in lay ministries, and ensure the integrity of the retreat and all its elements is maintained.

Priest Town Hall March 19th!

The first Town Hall for Priests will be held March 19, 2011, at the Basilica Auditorium.

The meeting is organized to meet the needs of two groups, but priests may attend both sessions if they prefer.

Priests who are new to ACTS will meet from 8:00–10:00 AM.

Priests with established cores will meet from 10:00 AM to Noon.



Our Lady of San Juan Basilica

Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Cores are asked to encourage their priests' participation in this important event.

Strategic Planning Session a Success

The CDOB Chapter held a Strategic Planning session on February 12th. The session, facilitated by an independent social scientist, included among the activities a SWOT session. We were able to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the ACTS retreat movement and to determine actions necessary to address them within our diocese.

Everyone agreed that education is critical to the success of the movement.

"We need to work together to address the needs of the parishes."

We look forward to increasing the education program for priests, teams, directors, and cores.

We also share a concern of many priests regarding increased participation in parish ministries and activities. We anticipate engaging our priests in conversations that will encourage sharing of ideas and programs that help us meet that challenge.

We can't do this alone. The final strategic plan will require participation and support from many throughout the diocese.

Have you attended a leadership workshop and volunteered to help the Chapter? Your phone may be ringing soon!

Leadership Workshop Calendar 2011

Due to increased demand, ACTS Leadership Workshops will be held bi-monthly beginning in February 2011. All workshops will be held at the Basilica Auditorium. Online registration is encouraged at www.rgvacts.org. The \$20 fee for the full day event includes workshop materials, a light breakfast, and lunch. Registration may be paid online using Paypal or on site.

CALENDAR:

February 5—English

February 12—Spanish

April 1—English

April 9—Spanish

April 16—Teen Retreat Leadership Workshop (\$35 fee includes meals, workshop materials and manual)

Core Reminders

- Please send your retreat calendars to the Chapter at cdobchapter@rgvacts.org or directly to Maricela Garcia at marig64@yahoo.com for inclusion on the website calendar.
- Cores should also be including retreat dates on the ACTS Missions online calendar. Go to www.actsmissions.org for more information.
- Please share the Leadership Workshop Calendar with your directors when you conduct their orientation sessions to facilitate their planning.
- Please encourage directors to invite their teams to attend the Leadership Workshops as well.



Save the date!

June 4—English

June 11—Spanish

August 6—English

August 13—Spanish

October 1—English

October 8—Spanish

December 3—English

December 10—Spanish

Parish Roster

Parishes with Cores

- Holy Spirit, McAllen
- Immaculate Heart of Mary, Harlingen
- St. Theresa/Our Lady Queen of the Universe, San Benito
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help, McAllen
- Our Lady of Sorrows, McAllen
- Our Lady Star of the Sea, Port Isabel
- Sacred Heart, Edinburg
- St. Anne, Mother of Mary, Pharr
- St. Francis Xavier, La Feria
- St. John the Baptist, San Juan
- St. Joseph, Brownsville,
- St. Joseph the Worker, McAllen
- St. Jude Thaddeus/Sacred Heart, Pharr/Hidalgo

Please see *Parishes* on page 4

Parishes from page 3

- St. Matthew Deanery
- St. Paul, Mission
- St. Pius X, Weslaco
- San Martin de Porres, Weslaco

Parishes in the Missioning Process

- Christ the King, Brownsville,
- Immaculate Conception, Rio Grande City
- Our Lady of Refuge, Roma
- Our Lady Queen of Angels, La Joya
- Prince of Peace, Lyford
- Sacred Heart, Mercedes
- Saint Cecilia, Los Fresnos
- San Cristobal Magallanes & Friends, Mission
- San Martin de Porres, Alton
- St. Luke, Brownsville



Back Row: David Calvillo, Saint Joseph the Worker-McAllen, J. Humberto Rodriguez, Sacred Heart-Edinburg; Fr. Rafael Vega, Prince of Peace-Lyford; Lupe Barrientos, Queen of Peace-Harlingen; George Garcia, St. Theresa-San Benito; Paul Gonzalez, San Martin de Porres-Weslaco
 Front Row: Maricela Garcia, Holy Spirit-McAllen; Melissa Salazar, St. Paul-Mission; Cindy Garza, St. Pius X-Weslaco; Hilda Ledesma, St. Joseph-Brownsville; Consuelo Jones-Our Lady of Sorrows-McAllen

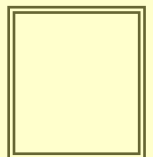
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