



# AACT



All Ages Catholic  
Teaching



# and



# You



Dear Friends and Parishioners of St. Luke,

You may have heard about **AACT** (*All Ages Catholic Teaching*) here at St. Luke. It is a great opportunity for all of us, as Catholics, to continue to learn and live our faith. We have been greatly impressed by what **AACT** offers and the success it has had in parishes across the country. It is a new way to recapture the traditional values that people feel have been slipping away in the Church.

The Catholic Church is heir to a treasury of wisdom, knowledge, values, traditions, customs and experiences which we cannot withhold from the world nor fail to pass on to the next generation within our community. **AACT** will help us do this. Be a part of it. Take the place that was given to you in Baptism. Open your mind and heart to God's call. You have been given a gift for which you are responsible. Be a good steward of your faith.

The contents of this brief booklet may help you understand some of the practical aspects of **AACT**.

May God continue the good growth he has begun in us.

The **AACT** Core Team

Father Joseph A. Fata  
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Gary Winslow

*Over the centuries, there has been a vast treasury of experiences and events which show God's faithfulness to his people....and people's response to God's tremendous love.*



**WHAT IS AACT?**  
*(All Ages Catholic Teaching)*

- ....a Catholic response to the (sometimes unrecognized) need for all people to learn and live their faith.
- ....an innovative approach to faith formation that enables the parish to become a community of learning.
- ....it creates life-long faith formation that is centered in the EVENTS of Church life.
- ....it promotes participation in Church life.

**WHO IS IT FOR?**

....for people of all ages and generations (women, men, children, youth, adults).





## WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

...because contemporary experience shows that in spite of Catholic Schools, CCD, and Adult Ed, good Catholic people still suffer from lack of knowledge.

...because there is lack of vocations, lack of attendance, lack of commitment.

...because we want to renew the Church.

...because we want something better for ourselves and our children.

...because we know we have a great Catholic treasury of faith and Tradition that remains untapped.

...because we have something to offer the world that it desperately needs.

...because there is a gap between Catholic belief and Catholic practice.

## WHOSE IDEA IS THIS AND WHY IS ST. LUKE DOING IT?



...At a Diocesan sponsored presentation attended by all members of the Pastoral Staff, Parish Staff, School Administration and parish representatives, it became overwhelmingly obvious that **AACT** will offer what we need as Catholics.

## ARE WE ALONE IN THIS?



...No. Many parishes across the country are finding great success with this format of faith formation.

...so far, 13 parishes in the Diocese of Youngstown are committed to a process like this.

...Some of our neighbors are also using *some form of intergenerational gatherings as their main source of faith formation.*

**WHY THIS APPROACH AS  
OPPOSED TO THE  
CUSTOMARY CLASSROOM  
APPROACH?**



....The traditional way the Church community has passed on the faith has been in the context of family, community and the worshipping parish. (Parents and grandparents passed it on!)

....The classroom model has only been a more recent effort within our memory.

....Children need to know that learning and living their faith is different than math and science.

....Our faith is not simply about what you know, it's about WHO YOU ARE.

**HAS THIS  
REPLACED  
CCD?**

....Yes, it has replaced CCD as we know it.



**WILL THIS  
REPLACE YOUTH  
MINISTRY?**

....It will replace the educational component of youth ministry, but the social and service aspects of youth ministry will continue.



...*AACT* will be one way adults will continue to learn about their faith, but there will still be special opportunities for adult faith formation.

**WILL THIS  
REPLACE  
ADULT  
RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION?**

**WILL *AACT* REPLACE  
RCIA (Christian Initiation)?**

....No. Christian Initiation remains a foundational element in the Church and in Parish Life.



**DO CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
STUDENTS HAVE TO  
PARTICIPATE IN *AACT*?**

....Yes. Because *AACT* is a special and specific way for families and people of all ages to come together to EXPERIENCE their FAITH.

**WILL CATHOLIC  
SCHOOL STUDENTS  
STILL HAVE RELIGION  
CLASSES?**



...Yes. The main purpose for Catholic School remains the opportunity for young people to have in depth study of their faith.

**WILL CHILDREN LEARN THE  
BASICS?**



....As designed, *AACT* will insure that children will not only learn the basics, but will integrate them into their lives because of community and family involvement.

**DOES *AACT*  
PROVIDE  
SACRAMENTAL  
PREPARATION?**



....*AACT* will help everyone appreciate the Sacraments. However, as always, there will be special preparation for adults and children preparing for specific Sacraments.

**WHEN DOES ALL  
THIS HAPPEN?**



Our first gathering is on Sunday, September 12, beginning with a light meal at 12:15. Watch for further information!

