

Frequently Asked Questions about ACC Leadership Development Weekends

1. Why are you offering Leadership Training to the Baptized?

Canon Law #212, paragraph 3, expresses the right and duty of all the faithful to express their opinion on matters concerning the Church specifically because of the “knowledge and competence” which they possess – but often Catholics are unaware of this “right and duty” and also unsure of the means to exercise this right. The American Catholic Council’s inaugural gathering in Detroit in 2011 affirmed the “Catholic Bill of Rights and Responsibilities” ([link](#)). Now, we want to help all the Baptized apply their skills appropriately to address dysfunction in the institution that can benefit from the participation of all the faithful, not just the clerics. Vatican II affirmed the value of “full, conscious and active participation” not only in the liturgy, but in all aspects of Church life. We plan to make this a reality by providing basic leadership education and training.

2. Why now?

The ACC has been working toward this logical “next step” from the CBRR (Catholic Bill of Rights & Responsibilities) since 2011. In a synchronicity that must be led by the Spirit, we are also experiencing a new papal direction through Pope Francis. Throughout the world, the People of God are feeling encouraged and energized to renew the institutional Church through their gifts and graces.

3. What do you hope to gain?

We hope that the Spirit calls the Baptized to actualize their gifts to work toward institutional reform by developing common language, common skills and common understanding of change. The Leadership Development Training will provide validation, motivation and education to create communal procedures and goals for the kind of transformation that Catholics long for and can achieve by working together.

4. Is a weekend really necessary?

Yes! Because we are building relationships and sharing experiences along with the more traditional “learning”. This community building takes a little time. Attendees are expected to participate fully from beginning to end. Our goal is to:

- Recognize regional leaders;
- Offer a common understanding of the Church’s institutional structure and systems;
- Offer reform options matched to the change target;
- Empower regional leadership to act in concert with national, regional & local priorities;

5. What does the \$375 fee include?

The fee is all-inclusive (program, materials, two nights lodging, and meals from Friday dinner through Sunday brunch) at each of the four retreat centers. Commuter Rates (including meals) are available, but commuters would be expected to participate fully in all sessions.

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