



We are a grassroots movement of faithful Catholics, grounded in prayer and informed by the proceedings of the inaugural convening of the American Catholic Council in Detroit, Michigan, on Pentecost Weekend in June 2011. We are dedicated to exercising our baptismal rights and responsibilities as full participants in the mission and governance of the Church, in order to make it more just, inclusive, collegial and compassionate. To that end, we provide action-oriented educational, communication and project resources.



Inaugural Convening of the ACC
Detroit 2011

Yes. I want to be part of this!

Name (please print)

Mailing Address

City, State ZIP

E-mail

Daytime Phone

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Flying in? Schedule a Ride!

One Person: \$25; Additional Traveler: \$11

Windy City Limo: 1-866-949-4639

HOTEL

Hyatt Regency Schaumburg

1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173

To secure ACC group rate (\$85 single or double) call 1-888-421-1442 before 9/25/13. Request ACC rate.

REGISTRATION & FEES

\$235 if postmarked by September 20th

\$255 if postmarked by October 15th

Send registration and check to:

ACC/Peiffer
40 Lincoln Ave,
Wallingford, CT 06492
518-334-6076

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER ONLINE GO TO

<http://americancatholiccouncil.org/leadership-development/>



AMERICAN CATHOLIC COUNCIL

Changing Ourselves to Change the Church

Leadership Development Weekend

Chicago
October 25-27, 2013

Future Sessions:
Northern California
February 14-16, 2014
New York
(Date to be confirmed)

www.americancatholiccouncil.org



CHANGING OURSELVES TO CHANGE THE INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH



*Roma locuta est;
causa finita est.*
Rome has spoken;
the matter is settled.

FOR DECADES WE HAVE EN-
DURED ABUSES OF POWER
FROM THE HIERARCHY MANI-
FEST IN THE SEX ABUSE SCAN-
DAL, FINANCIAL MALFEA-
SANCE, AND IN THE MONAR-
CHICAL INSTITUTIONAL

CHURCH WHERE EXCLU-
SION, RATHER THAN INCLU-
SION, DOMINATES THE
CLERICAL CULTURE.

**IN A WORD, WE HAVE
BEEN UNTHINKINGLY OBEDIENT!**

THERE ARE REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES TO BEING
BLINDLY OBEDIENT! THE ACC LEADERSHIP DE-
VELOPMENT WEEKEND WILL GIVE YOU TOOLS TO
INCREASE YOUR ABILITY TO DISCERN AND FOLLOW
YOUR CONSCIENCE AND TO FOSTER THIS SKILL IN
OTHERS. WE WILL EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR CREA-
TIVE, FAITHFUL DISENGAGEMENT WITH DYSFUNC-
TIONAL DICTATES AS WE BECOME EMPOWERED TO
**TRANSFORM THE POWER RELATIONSHIPS IN
THE CHURCH.**

“[Jesus said:] Again I say to you, that if two of those
among you have agreed on earth, about anything
whatsoever that they have requested, it shall be
done for them by my Father, who is in heaven. For
wherever two or three are gathered in my name,
there am I, in their midst.” Mt 18: 19-20

Description of the Program

A weekend of dialogue, reflection, study/knowledge shar-
ing, prayer, and action planning for leaders and those who
feel called to leadership in Church reform at the local, re-
gional, and national levels. A leader is one who influences
others (who may or may not occupy a leadership position).

FRIDAY NIGHT

Learning to build community; how adults learn
Our individual experiences of oppression;
How Catholics respond to oppression and the challeng-
es of self-liberation for Catholics.

SATURDAY

Proven models/theories for creating social change
Social Justice: scripture, our tradition, and successes;
Changing how power is distributed, decisions are made,
and the leadership model in the Church;
Eucharist.

SUNDAY

Action Planning, Feedback, and Revisions
Commissioning: “Go forth and teach all nations...”

Objectives

Participants will leave the program ready to:

- ⇒ Teach others about power dynamics in the Church and how to shift those using nonviolent action;
- ⇒ Share the core elements of a strategic analysis and an action plan for affecting change back home;
- ⇒ Use tools for adult learning, community building, and nonviolent direct action for change;
- ⇒ Be sustained by the strong collegial ties with other reformers and all the resources of ACC;
- ⇒ Do all of the above following the Gospel values of love of God and love of neighbor as yourself.

“Dialogue, Dialogue, Dialogue”

IN THE WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS

“When leaders in various fields ask me for advice, my response is always the same: dialogue, dialogue, dia-
logue. It is the only way for individuals, families and societies to grow, the only way for the life of peoples to progress, along with the culture of encounter, a culture in which all have something good to give and all can receive something good in return.



Others always have something to give me, if we know how to approach them in a spirit of openness and without prejudice. I call this attitude of openness and availability without prejudice, social humility, and it is this that favours dialogue. Only in this way can understanding grow between cultures and religions, mutual esteem without needless preconceptions, respectful of the rights of everyone. Today, either we stand together with the culture of dialogue and encounter, or we all lose, we all lose; from here we can take the right road that makes the journey fruitful and secure.”

<http://www.news.va/en/news/pope-francis-my-advice-is-always-dialogue-dialogue> (Image: L'Osservatore Romano)