

ACC announces a *Leadership Development Boot Camp*. Learn nonviolent action for Church reform.

FIRE UP THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Do you feel called to lead change efforts in the Church?

Do you have enough proof that the strategy to change the church by appealing to bishops has failed?

Are you ready to support the Baptized in your town, city, state, or region, to take up their power and change the institutional Church?

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT BOOT CAMPS

Join us in a weekend of learning, praying, and action planning to create change *by* the Baptized *for* and *with* the Baptized.

Feb. 14-16, 2014 Danville, CA (Bay Area)

Mar. 14-16, 2014 Chicago, IL

May 2-4, 2014 Tampa, FL

June 13-15, 2014 Long Branch, NJ

Changing ourselves to change the Church

Pray for Francis as he works to create change at the top.

Partner with Francis -- act locally.

"I hope ... that the church takes to the streets, that we defend ourselves from comfort, that we defend ourselves from clericalism." –Pope Francis

"I want a mess. We knew that in Rio there would be great disorder, but I want trouble in the dioceses!" –Pope Francis



Cost: \$375. (includes lodging & meals)

To register/get more info, go to:

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

Or, contact Sheila Peiffer:

sheilapeiffer.acc@gmail.com

518-334-6076

AMERICAN CATHOLIC COUNCIL

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 resource support.



FIRING UP THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Changing Ourselves to change the church

The Present Situation

“Many dedicated, creative reform and renewal groups have grown out of U.S. Catholicism. Some have been working to achieve their goals for over forty years. [They] have held conferences, published newsletters, worked with the press, reached out to Church leaders, and engaged in a myriad of other reform activities. It seems safe to say, however, that none can claim to have achieved their main goals. Church reformers appear to be up against a brick wall.” -Richard Taylor, *Love in Action: A Direct Action Handbook for Catholics Using Gospel Nonviolence to Reform and Renew the Church*.

That was written in 2007. In 2013, everything changed and nothing changed. Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected. As Pope Francis, he is now one of the most popular leaders on the planet. His vision for the church, his lifestyle and way of being, his treating others as Jesus would has given us new hope. Yet, many popes before him spoke of how hard it was to change the system. He will face enormous resistance from those who want to maintain the status quo. His ideas are already threatening. He needs our prayers; he needs us!

At the same time, we need to act. From our own places around the world, we, the Baptized, will take up the power and responsibility given at Baptism. We will see ourselves as the Church, honor our consciences, and engage one another in dialogue about the future of the church we love. And wherever the Baptized meet resistance to our being in dialogue, we will manage that resistance and create the conditions for dialogue.

Description of the Program

FRIDAY NIGHT

- Learning to build action-oriented community
- Sharing our individual experiences of oppression by those who hold power
- Responding to oppression: the challenges of self-liberation for Catholics
- Experiencing dialogue, a way of being in a relational community;

SATURDAY

- Identifying power structures and systems in the Church and how they work
- Using proven models to create grassroots social change (Gandhi style)
- Managing fear and handling anger (ours and others')
- Handling common scenarios (case studies)
- Eucharist

SUNDAY

- Planning actions; feedback; revising action plans
- Sending forth

Objectives

Participants will leave the program ready to:

- ⇒ Teach others about power dynamics in the Church and the power given to all at Baptism;
- ⇒ Use proven methods for social change and follow conscience to shift those power dynamics;
- ⇒ Facilitate dialogue among the Baptized where we can stand our own ground and be open to the Other;
- ⇒ Use storytelling and other tools for adult learning, community building, and nonviolent action;
- ⇒ 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, dialogue. 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)