



The Piatt Press

Association of Catholic Tech Students Newsletter

Christ-Centered, Student-Led



This past year has been a time for growth, learning, and new beginnings. The 2022-2023 school year saw the exodus of the Franciscan ministry in our parish as we welcomed Fr. Kevin Mues as pastor and campus minister. Pictured above are the ACTS

members of this school year as they gathered for the first student mass of the quarter. These members have spent their time at the student center getting to know one another and working together to always make the center a welcoming place for all.

Christ Centered – Student Led

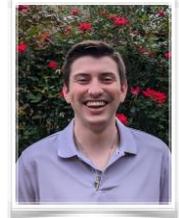
The Association of Catholic Tech Students has always held being “Christ centered and student led” to the core of the organization. This principle has never been more present and applicable. Students lead busy schedules going from classes, to projects, to homework. This is understood in the implementation of committees. Students individually and in pairs lead committees for specific activities including socials, outreach, guys’ group, girls’ group, publicity, impACTS, hospitality, faith formation, grounds, music, and intramurals. The socials committee oversees planning and hosting all of our Saturday social events. These include tailgates in the fall, holiday parties, and any other Saturday event. Outreach is a newly formed committee having had just started Fall quarter 2022. This committee began as a bible study held in the center which quickly grew into an outreach into Greek life and other large campus organizations. Guys and Girls Group are two separate gender exclusive events designed to build community in a faith based and supportive environment. Some of their events have included barbeques on the patio, baking cookies, vocational talks, and much more. The publicity committee runs the ACTS social media channels and sends out weekly events. This role is crucial for making sure that word is spread about our events. ImpACTS is a social justice focused committee that participates in on-campus evangelization and serving the community. Hospitality committee plans and cooks for the hospitality Sunday dinners after the first student mass of the month. They also celebrate the birthdays of ACTS members every month and work to keep the student center a welcoming place. The main task of Faith

Formation is to ensure that all the necessary mass parts have been scheduled and confirmed. On top of this, responsibilities include giving talks on faith-based topics and leading the quarterly finals novena. The grounds committee takes care of maintenance around the center, from watering plants to changing light bulbs they ensure the center stays in good form. The music committee practices and performs at the student masses twice a week. This year the committee has started a new praise and worship event in the chapel. Lastly, there is the intramurals committee. They are in charge of forming teams for the school’s intramural tournaments and fostering a good spirit of teamwork between the members. Thank you to everyone who serves, or has served, on one of these committees. Your work is invaluable to the organization.



ACTS EXECUTIVE TEAM – LEADERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Association of Catholic Tech Students is lead by a group of students who are carefully discerned and voted upon. Leading this group is the Executive team. This team is comprised of President: Thomas Hertel, Vice-President: Ethan Dowell, Secretary: Evan Simon, Chaplain: Nicholas Winkelmann, and Treasurer: Joseph Curtin. As a team, they provide the bridge between ACTS and other organization such as LCCCS, UCM, and the parish at St. Thomas Aquinas. Along with this, they keep up finances and host fundraisers as well as keep all the members up to date on events that are happening within and outside of the organization. This team works tirelessly to ensure that the members of ACTS have the best possible experience during their time here.



ACTS members meet up before the start of classes! Several students who got on campus early decided to meet up with one another to talk about their summer activities and have some fun.



Seven ACTS members spent the first week of their summer helping some of the St. Thomas Aquinas parishioners during the 'Reaching Ruston +' mission trip. From digging ditches to lawn work, these students were hard at work.

TAILGATES WITH ACTS

The mission statement of ACTS states that we seek to “encourage the development of well-rounded Catholics”. Hence, our Catholicism is not stored in our church building. Our faith permeates all aspects of our lives. Weekly social events are essential to our evangelization efforts and ACTS sponsors larger events once or twice a quarter. During the fall, the socials focus on tailgates and all things bulldog. ACTS hosts a tailgate for every home game with food, games, and good fun. This culminates to the homecoming tailgate, in which alumni from all over come back and watch the game with the current members. There is also a special Alumni Spaghetti Dinner following the days activities.



EVENTS WITH ACTS



ACTS MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Association of Catholic Tech Students of Louisiana Tech University, encourage the development of well-rounded Catholics through the sharing of the joy we have found in Christ and the sacraments, evangelizing our campus and community, and by being examples of Christian unity, and loving service.



ACTSTIVITIES



Girls Group

The young women of ACTS meet up every other Wednesday for events and devotionals.



Guys Group

ACTS guys are making great use of our outdoor facilities for guys' nights.



Hospitality

Cooking and serving a meal after the first Mass of the month is quite the feat. It was accomplished this year due to the help of some very kind volunteers.



ImpACTS

ACTS participated in campus outreach by hosting booths throughout the quarter and talking with students as they stopped by.

BEING CATHOLIC AT TECH AND BEYOND

ACTS ON CAMPUS

ACTS participated in the Organizational Browse at the start of the school year. This was a chance to meet new students and invite everyone to the center and inform the student body of our presence on campus.



DOLLAR LUNCH SPIRIT

The dollar lunches provided by the church give all students the chance to enjoy a home cooked meal provided by the faithful cooks and servers. This year their generosity has grown, and parishioners have volunteered to provide meals for ACTS meetings.



SPRING RETREAT

The theme of this year's retreat was "Joy", the first tenet of ACTS mission statement. Fifteen ACTS members dedicated their time to planning this wonderful retreat, headed by Nicholas Winkelmann and Ethan Dowell. The retreat was a wonderful experience for all who attended.



BIBLE STUDIES

Traditionally ACTS has held one bible study a week. This year, a group of students began hosting their own bible study at 6:30 am for those with busy evenings. This group has now grown and evolved into the new ACTS Outreach team.



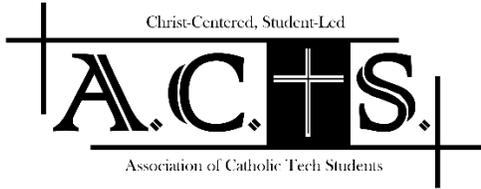
PANCAKE DINNER

Every quarter the hospitality committee puts on the ACTS Pancake Dinner. This event is one of the special finals week events that are focused on giving students a break from studying to relax and have some fun. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the fall quarter dinner.



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Greetings from the pastor!

Hello,

My name is Fr. Kevin Mues and I am the new pastor at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church as well as the Campus Minister here at Louisiana Tech. I have been here in the wonderful city of Ruston since June of last year. Before coming here to St. Thomas and ACTS, I served as the parochial vicar at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Shreveport Louisiana. This is my first term as pastor and I have been loving all the joys and challenges of serving this new community.

One of the advantages of coming here to ACTS and serving this community of students was the leadership already put in place through the hard work of Brother Mike during his eleven years of ministry here. I was grateful to join a group of students who were already striving and seeking to evangelize the L.A. Tech community and working to bring about the kingdom of God. It is great for me to know that there are Catholics here at Tech who are excited about the mysteries of the faith, the call to serve, and the call to holiness that they have been given.

Campus ministry has been a passion in my life for many years. It was through my experience of the campus ministry at ULM's CCM that I was fully initiated into the Church and found my vocation. My time spent in college ministry led me to exactly where I am today as a priest of the Diocese of Shreveport so I know how life changing time in a community of faith like the one here at Tech can be.

Everyone knows that ACTS is an active community and when I got here it felt good to know I was joining a mission that was already in progress with students who were already active and engaged. I look forward to guiding this great group of young adults for the years to come, as I learn and grow through my service to them.

BEING CATHOLIC
at Louisiana Tech University

Association of Catholic Tech



The E. Donn Piatt Student Center is open for all students to enjoy. Students particularly enjoy the comfortable couches in the T.V. corner.



You may use the enclosed envelope to make your donation to ACTS and the E. Donn Piatt Catholic Student Center, or visit our website, stac-acts.com to make a donation online.

