

About Mission Teams

How are directors selected for ACTS Mission Retreats?

First there are some pre-requisites that must be met by the potential Mission Retreat Director of a First retreat at a new mission parish:

- A potential director must have first served on a Mission Retreat Team so that they understand how mission retreats differ from regular parish ACTS retreats.
- They must have served as a Director, Co-Director or Spiritual Companion on a Parish or Mission Retreat.
- The potential director must have his/her Pastor's permission to minister outside of his/her parish.
- They must be a Catholic registered at his/her parish and be in good standing with the Parish and its Core Team. (Evidenced by the Pastor's signature above)
- They must have a comprehensive understanding of the purpose of ACTS and the reasons for the ACTS Mission.
- They must have demonstrated fidelity to the ACTS Mission model and adhered to its directives.
- They must have the ability and willingness to defend ACTS Mission's positions against attacks from those wishing to deviate from its processes (Essentials of the Weekend)
- Must provide proof of having satisfied the Archdiocese's safe environment requirements, including the background check. (Can be completed prior to start of team formation.)
- Must have attended a Leadership Workshop within the past 3 years. (Can be completed as soon as possible after signing the Director's YES Agreement.)

Mission Director Selection Process:

If you are interested and feel called by the Holy Spirit to become a Director for a Mission Retreat, the first step in the process is to make sure you meet the pre-requisites for serving as a mission retreat director.

The second step is to complete the "Self-Nomination Form (on the St. Louis ACTS website) and return it to Lois Kruessel (ACTS Missions St. Louis Chapter), 4560 Emerald View Court, Eureka, MO 63025 or by e-mail: **nonie.kruessel@gmail.com** or to **stlouisacts@stlouisacts.com**.

6-9 Months prior to a new parish's first Mission Retreat, Chapter Members will review the Self Nomination Forms. Each Chapter Member will then nominate two individuals whose names will be placed in the Holy Bowl. Names will be drawn and the order recorded.

The Mission Director Trainer will begin making calls to those whose names were drawn asking if they are available to serve as the director on the specific retreat. Calls will continue to be made until someone agrees to accept the privilege and responsibility.

The Mission Director Trainer will then meet with the new Director, ask him/her to sign the Director's YES Agreement, check to make sure the other pre-requisites have been (or will be) met, and provide training and advice.

For a SECOND Mission Retreat:

The Director of the first Mission Team will submit the names of six (6) first Mission Team Members as possible Directors for the second mission team.

The names will be placed in the “Holy Bowl” and drawn and recorded in the order drawn. When the Mission Director Trainer contacts each person, the Mission Director Trainer will explain all of the pre-requisites noted above.

If someone agrees to serve as Director (and meets or agrees to meet) the pre-requisites, the Mission Director Trainer will meet with the new Director of the Second Mission Retreat and ask him/her to sign the Director’s YES Agreement. Training and advice will be provided by the Mission Director Trainer.

How are ACTS Mission Teams Selected?

The First Mission Retreat Director selects some team members by prayerful discernment, including co-director, spiritual companion and possibly the music leader, head angel/or steward. Seed team members from the new mission parish will also be on team. The director will send out an email to the Greater ACTS community to recruit other interested ACTS Members for the team Holy Bowl.

The Second Mission Retreat Director is encouraged to discern and select two co-directors, one a seed team member from the mission parish and a more experienced team member from the first team. Seed team members from the Mission parish are invited to serve on the Second mission team as well as any seed team members from the Mission Parish who could not be on the first team. The mission parish retreatants who just made the first retreat are also invited until roughly two-thirds of the team roster is filled. Finally, team members from other parishes who served on the first retreat are invited to complete the team. If more team members are needed, the director will send out an e-mail to the Greater ACTS community to recruit team members to fill out the team.

How can I serve on a Mission Team if I have never done so before?

Missioning is a different environment and much more challenging than a parish Retreat. It is a teaching and mentoring environment at all levels; consequently, more experience is necessary. On the initial women’s or men’s Mission Retreat, it is strongly recommended that all potential Team members (other than seed team members) have served on a parish or mission team and have proven to be faithful to the ACTS Missions process. If a potential team member belongs to a parish which does not have ACTS and, therefore, has not had the opportunity to serve on a parish team, the Mission Team Director has the option of allowing this person to join the Mission Team. Team members must also provide proof of having attended the Archdiocese’s required safe environment training, including the background check (training can be completed prior to start of team formation.)

After the director has followed the guidelines stated above (How are Mission Teams Selected), the director will send out an email to the Greater ACTS community to recruit interested ACTS members for the Team Holy Bowl. You should respond to the e-mail sent by the director and express your desire to be a Mission Team Member. Things that you will probably need to include in your response: What parish you are a member of; when you attend your ACTS Retreat and brief resume' of your ACTS experience including what Service or Ministry you have served on or been the leader of. Names will be placed in the Team Holy Bowl and the Holy Bowl Rule will be followed.