

Catholic Action, mature lay people with a project for parishes and the different areas of daily life, an association which wants "to be mission" with other people and for other people.

**It is a challenge for Catholic Action's ecclesial maternity: to accept everyone and to accompany them on their life's journey with the crosses they bear. (...) You should be a place of encounter for other institutional charisms and movements present in the Church, without any fear of losing your identity.**

It is essential to renew and modernize the commitment of Catholic Action to evangelization. The aim must be to reach everyone, everywhere, on all occasions, and in every existential periphery, in reality and not just in principle. (...) Pass on the joy of your faith, the joy you feel when evangelizing, in season and out of season.

Pope Francis, 27 April 2017



**Do you have any other question?**  
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## 5 What does it offer?

Catholic Action is a "particular form of lay ministry" (Paul VI, 25 April 1977). It offers an organic proposal of associated apostolate in all parishes so that the lay people's evangelising action can be more effective and is carried out in an atmosphere of communion and apostolic passion. It offers the parishes formative itineraries that bring together the Word of God, the contents of the Catechism, the Teaching of the Church and life itself, trying to unite faith with the life of the laity.

**May all your initiatives, plans and projects be a missionary experience, directed to evangelization and not to self-preservation. Your relationship to the diocese and the parish should find concrete expression in the streets of your cities, towns and neighbourhoods. As in the past hundred and fifty years, continue to feel a great sense of responsibility for sowing the good seed of the Gospel in the life of the world, through your charitable work, through your involvement in political life – but please, politics in the noblest sense of the world, politics with a capital P! But also through your strong commitment to education and your engagement in the cultural sphere.**

Pope Francis, 30 April 2017



## 6 How is it organised?

In CA lay people are organised in parish groups where they share their faith, review life and are urged and helped to be salt in the world. Through its different itineraries, children, youth and adults are trained to be witnesses of God's love. All this is based on a methodology that requires lay people's formation and inner conversion and encourages them to engage themselves in transforming social reality. Parish spaces where:

**Faith itself in the crucified and risen Jesus is renewed, where the most profound questions and daily concerns are shared, where deeper discernment about our experiences and life itself is undertaken in the light of the Gospel, for the purpose of directing individual and social decisions towards the good and beautiful.**

*Evangelii Gaudium, 77*

**Being "immersed" in people, sharing their lives and coming to know their interests and their desires, their deepest longings and their hurts, but also what it is they need from us.**

Pope Francis, 27 April 2017

# Catholic Action

**questions and answers**  
TO KNOW IT BETTER

**International Forum of Catholic Action**  
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[www.catholicactionforum.org](http://www.catholicactionforum.org)





## 1 What is Catholic Action?

It is a lay association created by the same Church to evangelize people and realities in which the parishes are rooted. In close union with the Bishop of each diocese.

It offers an experience of life and faith, lived both individually and as a community, through a formation attentive to lay-people's life, enlightened by the Gospel and oriented to mission, with full co-responsibility.

Catholic Action's charism is the charism of the Church herself, profoundly incarnate in the here and now of every diocesan Church, as she attentively contemplates and discerns the life of her people and seeks new ways to evangelize and carry out her mission, beginning with the different parish situations.

Pope Francis, 27 April 2017



## 2 What is its mission?

A school of missionary disciples, which encourages the laypeople to "go out" to evangelize individually, incarnated in the ordinary reality, and helps to outline common paths of action for the mission.

Lay people who pay attention to the needs and urgencies of our world, willing to commit themselves to change for the construction of the civilization of love.

For Catholic Action, mission is not one task among others: it is the task. The charism of Catholic Action is to advance the Church's pastoral activity. Unless mission is its distinctive strength, Catholic Action will lose its true nature and its reason for existing.

Historically, the mission of Catholic Action has been to form lay people to assume their specific responsibility in the world. Today, in effect, it is the formation of missionary disciples.

Pope Francis, 27 April 2017



## 3 Where?

Catholic Action lives in the diocese and in the parish and is organised on a national and international level.

From the parish, taking the diocesan pastoral plans as its guidelines, CA works for the growth of the diocesan lay people, with attitude of service. CA is faithful to its true nature when it puts itself at the service of the parish where it lives.

Catholic Action dwells where the Church is. There each CA member is called to witness his belonging to the diocesan Church.

The mission of the universal Church is renewed in each particular Church in its own particular way. So too, Catholic Action takes on true vigour by responding to, and making its own, the pastoral outreach of each diocesan Church, through concrete forms of participation that start from the parishes.

Catholic Action must take up the overall mission of the Church, with a sense of generous membership in the diocesan Church, starting with the parish.

Pope Francis, 27 April 2017



## 4 Who is part of it?

Catholic Action is for everyone, for children, youth and adults, for families, for laypeople of our parishes and dioceses in collaboration with priest assistants.

Catholic Action cannot stand apart from people; it comes from the people and needs to remain with the people. You have to make Catholic Action more "popular", that is, people-oriented. This is not a matter of image, but of authenticity and charism. Nor is it demagoguery; it is to follow in the footsteps of the Master, who never found anything repugnant.

All Catholic Action members are missionaries in action. Children evangelize children, young people other young people, adults other adults, and so on. No one shows the joy of the life of faith more effectively than a peer.

Pope Francis, 27 April 2017