

ACTS *of the* ARCHDIOCESE

Throughout the fifty days of Easter, we are given the opportunity to walk with the Apostles and earliest Christians in their first steps of following the gospel message of the risen Christ. The First Reading at Mass almost every day of this Easter season is taken from the *Acts of the Apostles*, a book that shows the beginnings of what it meant to share and live out the words of Jesus. Those *Acts* provide us with some memorable stories of faith, but they're not just stories. They're an example of how we can and should express our own faith all these many years later.

This year, then, our hope is to not only read these *Acts* done by the Apostles but to perform our own "Acts" and to share them with others. Just like St. Luke did with the *Acts of the Apostles*, we want to compile our own set of Acts, not from ancient Palestine but from right here in the Archdiocese. To do this, we need your help. First, of course, your task is to find ways in which you can connect with God, serve others, or share your faith even in this unprecedented time of social distancing and separation. This might be challenging given the circumstance but so was the Apostles' task of spreading the gospel way back that first time around.

Some possibilities you might consider as your own "Acts" to share:

- Special moments of prayer you've taken on during your time in isolation
- Individual or group efforts you've created to offer people the chance to learn about God
- Virtual prayer groups or Christian communities you've been meeting with
- Practices or devotions your family has gotten into the habit of doing while together at home
- Service projects supporting medical professionals, the sick and homebound, or anyone you noticed that was in need
- Work you've done to help out your parish or pastor
- Simple moments you can share with others of ways God has somehow broken into the struggles of this time and inspired you with his love

These are some possibilities, or maybe your "Acts" are something entirely different. Whether they're big or small, we want to see them, we want to hear about them, and we want to share them with others. How will that take place? It will happen like this:

1. Do your Act

- You can film a short video, make an audio recording that describes your activity/story, or maybe take some great pictures that you accompany with a captivating description
- Whatever you submit, it should be able to stand on its own in showing your “Act” and how God was present within it

2. Send It In

- The format is for you to decide, but once you have your “Act” documented, you’ll submit it. When you have the files ready, you can upload them at the following website: cutt.ly/actsofthearchdiocese

3. Inspire Others

- Once you’ve shared your “Act” with us, we’ll know we have your permission to share them with others
- Throughout these Easter days of *Acts*, the Archdiocese of Hartford social media accounts will be sharing different submissions, which we hope will be inspiring to all of our followers and a great reminder that, even in this challenging time, there is still plenty of faith to be found and many *Acts of the Archdiocese* being done

It’s that simple: **Do your Act - Send It In - Inspire Others.**

Just as the *Acts of the Apostles* has inspired men and women for many hundreds of years, your “Acts”, these *Acts of the Archdiocese*, can inspire people too. So please, share your faith and your Acts with us. Help us to show that, even in the face of the coronavirus, Catholics throughout Connecticut are still letting their faith shine through. In the midst of the great trials of this moment in human history, we’re ready and excited to have you share your stories of incredible faith and of God’s unending love.

By uploading files to the AOHCT Cloud folder found at cutt.ly/actsofthearchdiocese, you are consenting to have your video, audio, images, and stories shared on Archdiocese of Hartford social media accounts. While we do not have the capacity to assist you in creating your “Acts”, if you do have any questions about this project, you can send them to the Archdiocesan Office of Communications: communications@aohct.org.

