Applicant Name:

Applicant High School:

Year of Graduation:

Cumulative GPA:

Date:

**Fr. Amando Llorente Scholarship**

Essays

**Mission of the ACU: Forming Professional Catholic Men as Leaders for the Propagation of the Faith.**

The ACU is a Marian Sodality that promotes a personal relationship with Christ and fosters devotion to the Virgin Mary. The ACU receives its direction from the Society of Jesus. Its members are male students and professionals who decide to live a Christian vocation following the spirituality that flows from the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Members acquire a solid formation on the Catholic Faith, are faithful to and defend the teachings of the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, and engage in apostolic action to evangelize and influence the world. The ACU plans and facilitates regular activities to create strong bonds amongst members and their families.

Explain how you currently express these views in your daily life and/or plan to do so during your college career and beyond.

**IMPORTANT ACU FACTS**

1. The ACU focuses on three equally important pillars that should be in equilibrium: prayer, formation and apostolate.
2. The ACU fills a need for high school, college students and professionals.
3. The ACU meets you where you are in life. For example, as a student it meets you on campus and the formation topics are made appropriate for students taking into account their needs and interests.
4. It provides a solid Catholic formation based on analytical reasoning.
5. It is a Marian Sodality with special devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.
6. Its strong spirituality is centered on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. This is a fundamental tenet of the ACU.
7. The ACU cultivates a supporting group with common ideals.
8. The ACU is not localized to a city but has national and international chapters. When one joins the ACU, one joins not only a particular chapter but also the entire sodality.
9. Membership is not limited by ethnicity or language.
10. The ACU fosters fellowship events shared across all chapters with spouses and families of ACU members. We focus on professionals and seek to have agrupados in leadership roles. We are all called to be Christian leaders of our faith.
11. We want to form men to be “servant leaders,” that lead by example, caring and nurturing others in their day-to-day lives as they live their faith.

List which of these facts about the ACU are important to you (and why) with some description of how you live these ideals.

**SPIRITUAL EXERCISES**

1. The Spiritual Exercises have been, are, and will be ESSENTIAL to the ACU.
2. Purpose of the Spiritual Exercises
   1. The foundation of a solid Christian life is built on three pillars: Spirituality, Formation and Apostolate.
      1. Spiritual Exercises are the most important component of the spiritual life of ACU members; they help agrupados develop a personal relationship with Jesus.
      2. Just as we do physical exercises to keep our body in shape, we need to do to Exercises to keep our spiritual life in shape.
   2. Purpose of the Spiritual Exercises
      1. Ignatius wrote that the purpose of the exercises is “the conquest of self and the regulation of one’s life in such a way that no decision is made under the influence of any inordinate attachment.”
      2. In other words:
         1. To understand one’s self clearly.
         2. To help us make clear, unbiased decisions.
         3. To ensure we don’t have any inordinate attachment in our lives.

WHAT TYPE OF SPIRITUAL RETREATS HAVE YOU DONE IN THE PAST? WHERE DID YOU ATTEND RETREAT(S)? WHAT WAS THIS EXPERIENCE LIKE FOR YOU?

**PILLAR OF FORMATION**

1. Background
   1. The foundation for a solid Christian life is based on three pillars: Spirituality, Formation and Apostolate.
   2. The mission of the ACU is “Forming Professional Catholic Men as Leaders for the Propagation of the Faith.”
   3. To be a Catholic leader one must have a sound formation in Catholic doctrine and related subjects.
   4. Spiritual, intellectual and apostolic to be able to share our faith with others.
   5. To mold and guide us toward a faith-based relationship with Jesus.
   6. To help us understand and discuss our faith in a more rational manner.
   7. To educate us on Catholic principles for situational ethics.
2. Related items
   1. The objectives for the formation for an ACU professional man are:
      1. Understand Christianity and Catholic teachings at “professional level.”
         1. The ACU formation is based on using logic and reasoning.
         2. The ACU members need to learn how to continue ongoing formation on their own as college educated men.
      2. Support the other “pillars” of the ACU man:
         1. Spirituality— Catholic formation should nurture spiritual life.
         2. Apostolate— “You can’t give what you don’t have.”
      3. Understand and be on the same wavelength (“be of one mind”) with the Universal Church. [In Spanish, “sentir con la iglesia.”]

Explain how you have developed your formation and plan to continue doing so in college. Also, share any important topics you have discovered about the Church and your faith and why you consider them impactful.

**PILLAR OF APOSTOLIC WORKS**

1. Background
   1. The foundation for a solid Christian life is based on three pillars: Spirituality, Formation and Apostolate.
   2. Apostolic outreach is essential to the life of the agrupado. The ACU encourages each agrupado to be a “leader for the propagation of the faith.”
   3. Our spiritual life and formation motivates us to reach out in service to others.
2. Related items
   1. The most important apostolate is the example as a role model:
      1. As a practicing Catholic at home, socially and at work: Living one’s faith/beliefs in one’s home, professional and social life.
      2. Being an example of an outstanding professional Catholic person.
   2. Apostolic activity as a professional man at the place of work:
      1. Strive to do the best possible job in one’s profession while living the values of the Catholic faith.
      2. Execute your daily duties with integrity and ethically.
   3. Apostolic activity in the Church and the ACU:
      1. One very important apostolate is to support the ACU as lay leaders in individual chapters (organize events, organize talks, etc.)
      2. Apostolate in support of Church ministries and activities.
      3. Corporal works of mercy

Please describe (briefly) any apostolic activities you may have participates in and how it has impacted you. Also share any plans you may have to be involved in apostolic works during college.

**ACU Motto and other ACU maxims**

1. The ACU Motto: Esto Vir
   1. Biblical reference: I King 2:2, where David says to Solomon “confortare, et estovir” (be brave and act as a man).
   2. Each agrupado is required to always act according to his consecration oath.
2. Magis (do more [for Christ]). ACU members strive to be the best person they can be at everything: family, profession, social life and apostolate.
3. Discernment is an essential part of the Christian life.
   1. Different stages in life require specific discernment of the choices available at the time:
   2. Methods for discernment:
      1. Spiritual Exercises and its methodology.
      2. Assistance of a Spiritual Director.
      3. Assistance of a very good and upstanding Catholic friend.
4. The ACU is characterized by a collection of individuals, most of whom have strong leadership traits. It is necessary that agrupados demonstrate respect and humility when processing different points of views. Agrupados should express their point of view honestly, without pretension and with respect toward others.

In relation to everything mentioned herein, please describe why the ACU should consider you for this scholarship.