



WELCOME TO LOYOLA!

Before you begin *Acts of Faith* by Eboo Patel, we wanted to let you know a little about the book and how the First-Year Text will be integrated into your first year at Loyola.

SUMMER READING

Reading *Acts of Faith* is your first official assignment at Loyola. This is required reading for all incoming students and serves as a way to connect you with your classmates as you begin your Loyola Experience.

The First-Year Text is an opportunity to take responsibility for your own learning—one of the keys to success at Loyola. Make sure you read *Acts of Faith* before August 21 and arrive on campus prepared to discuss its story. At the New Student Convocation, you'll hear your first academic lecture at Loyola as well as participate in a faculty-student discussion afterwards, which both focus heavily on *Acts of Faith*.

One of the foundations of a Loyola education is knowledge coupled with reflection and action. You will have many opportunities throughout the year to talk about and examine the issues and themes presented in *Acts of Faith*, and discover ways to put your beliefs, skills, and values into action in our Loyola community and beyond.

Learn more about the First-Year Text at LUC.edu/fye.

READING TIPS

- Don't skip the introduction or afterword—these sections will enrich the story.
- Practice active reading—read with a pen in hand and write thoughts or questions as you read.
- Talk about the book with others—doing so will help you see how the themes are present in your own life.
- Keep your book with you—read when you can: on the train, on the couch, or at the beach.

"The first-year text is a taste of what Loyola stands for and it allows you to engage with the Loyola mission when you first step foot on campus."

-Kate McFeeley, Class of 2017

"The best part about reading the first-year text was having a common talking point with other students when we first moved in."

-Kelsey Cheng, Class of 2017



Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives



MORE ON THE FIRST-YEAR TEXT ACTS OF FAITH

Why does Loyola require me to read a book over the summer?

Regardless of the school, family, or neighborhood you hail from, coming to Loyola will be a significant transition. Reading *Acts of Faith* over the summer will aid you in that transition by:

- Helping you better understand the values that characterize the Loyola Experience
- Keeping your reading and analytical skills sharp
- Providing you with a common touchstone, shared with every other incoming Rambler
- Initiating a year-long conversation about the book's themes of inclusion and pluralism

Why did Loyola pick *this* book?

Each incoming class reads a book that in some way reflects the values of Loyola. *Acts of Faith* was selected by a committee of students, faculty, and staff for its readability and themes, including:

- Diversity and pluralism
- Mind- and heart-expanding opportunities in college
- Faith development
- Multicultural and multifaith relationships
- Finding your purpose if life

How will *Acts of Faith* be integrated into my first year at Loyola?

You will find the book used in many places throughout your first year:

- New Student Convocation and faculty-led discussion groups on August 21
- The First-Year Essay Contest (submit an essay by September 16 for a chance to win a scholarship for spring semester books)
- First-year courses such as:
 - UCWR 110: College Writing Seminar
 - UNIV 101: First Year Seminar
 - UNIV 102: Loyola Seminar
 - UCLR 100: Interpreting Literature
- Communities in Conversation events (lectures, films, panels, and service events throughout the year) all based on the themes from *Acts of Faith*
- Classroom and informal discussions with friends, faculty, and staff

“WE HAVE TO
SAVE EACH
OTHER. IT’S
THE ONLY
WAY TO SAVE
OURSELVES.”

-Eboo Patel, from *Acts of Faith*