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## Overview

Answering the Church's call for a New Evangelization, FOCUS is one of the leading global Catholic outreach organizations founded to spread the good news of Christ. FOCUS was founded in 1998 at Benedictine College by Curtis Martin.

Through bible studies, mentorships, conferences, mission trips, and partnerships with priests, bishops, and parishes, FOCUS missionaries walk alongside students and parishioners in their faith journey, inspiring and equipping them for a lifetime of Christ-centered evangelization and discipleship.

Since 1998, the organization has grown from two missionaries on one campus to more than 980 missionaries serving full time at 234 locations: 193 college campuses, including nine international campuses, nine Digital Outreach campuses, and 23 parishes ([https://assets.focus.org/resources/press-kit/FOCUS\\_MissionUpdate](https://assets.focus.org/resources/press-kit/FOCUS_MissionUpdate)). **By 2027, FOCUS expects to have more than 1,000 missionaries serving in more than 250 locations around the world**

## Conference

**About SEEK** – Since the inaugural FOCUS conference held in 1999, where 25 students came together to pray, deepen their Catholic faith and learn how to share it with others, FOCUS projects that more than 100,000 people will attend a national FOCUS conference in the next five years, facilitating a deeper encounter with Christ and increased zeal for evangelization for attendees.

**SEEK25** – will take place January 1 – 5, 2025, in Salt Lake City, Utah and January 2-5 in Washington D.C.. SEEK25 will unite thousands across the country to encounter the heart of the Gospel and share it with others. Similar to past events, SEEK25 will offer opportunities for prayer and the sacraments, sessions and keynotes with Catholic speakers, discussion and fellowship, and evening entertainment.

Past speakers have included Fr. Mike Schmitz, Emily Wilson and Jason Evert who have provided incredible insights for all to hear. SEEK welcomes attendees from all around the world, college campuses and parishes alike to take another step in living out the Gospel in parishes and on campuses. For more information check out our website:

<https://seek.focus.org/>

**SEEK24** – At the start of 2024 more than 23,000 people gathered in St. Louis, MO for SEEK, to encounter Jesus Christ through Mass, prayer, talks and fun. Check out our SEEK recap here: [SEEK24 | Can't Wait for Next Year \(youtube.com\)](#)

## Mission Trips

**About Missions** - FOCUS Missions began in one small, grassroots trip to Peru in 2004. A few FOCUS missionaries with a desire to serve the poor made the invitation to a few students. In the years since, FOCUS Missions has expanded to over 50 countries, sent over 1000 trips, and allowed thousands of people to serve. Today, our mission trips remain cultivated through personal relationships with local community leaders and apostolates, seeking to serve the authentic needs of the communities we visit.

FOCUS Missions is the largest short-term Catholic mission trip organization in the world. This year we will have had 41 mission trips planned to Baltimore, Belize, Brazil, Cincinnati, Utah, Costa Rica, Denver, Dominican Republic, Gallup, Guyana, Texas, Ireland, Medjugorje, Mexico, New York, Peru, Philly, Pittsburgh, Poland, Rome, San Francisco, and San Jose. In the first three weeks of spring break, FOCUS Missions will send over 1,020 people on missions. **In total, we will plan to send 1,265 people on 73 spring break mission trips to 12 different US cities and 19 different international locations.**

### Summer Projects

Summer Projects, where authentic community meets intensive formation in the faith. This 10-week formation and mentorship experience is designed to take your faith to a greater depth. Partnering mainly with the hospitality industry, Summer Projects aims to give its participants the lifelong mission experience of working a nine-to-five while striving to live as a disciple of Christ. Throughout the summer, students are accompanied by missionaries, formed by top speakers in the faith, and grow in your understanding of the “why” for what we believe in the Catholic faith. Learn more about it [here](#).

## Outreach

**About Campus** - Partnering with chaplains and campus ministers, FOCUS missionaries go out to colleges and universities to meet students where they are: in the dorms, on the field, at the student union and in every corner of campus. Through outreach events and one-on-one conversations, students make meaningful connections with members of Christ’s body — growing in friendships, sharing life and coming together in an authentic community.

Missionaries invest deeply in students’ lives and build them up in the knowledge and practice of the Catholic faith, sharing with them the joy of the gospel. By building students in faith, missionaries also raise up students to become leaders in evangelization, teaching them how to serve as missionary disciples and to lead others to Christ.

**About FOCUS Greek** - FOCUS Greek is an intentional outreach within FOCUS to fraternity and sorority students in Greek systems. Because of their roles as leaders, Greek students have a unique influence and ability to help others on the journey to Christ — both on campus and out in the world following graduation.

FOCUS Greek missionaries are on just over half of our FOCUS campuses. Our staff have a passion to reach out to Greek students — many of our missionaries were Greeks themselves. They are returning to campus to help change the Greek culture, challenging these student leaders to turn away from some of the darker influences on campus to answer a higher calling.

**About Varsity Catholic** – Developing the complete athlete, college athletes face unique challenges, a significant amount of pressure and great influence among their teams, their peers and the culture. Despite this, they are among the most underserved students on the college campus by Catholics. Varsity Catholic works to serve college athletes who are searching for Christ. The goal is to help them realize that their deepest identity is in Christ and the God who created them. Learn more about it [here](#).

**About Digital** - The Digital Outreach Team is made up of FOCUS missionaries who accompany, invest, and coach students on campuses without FOCUS missionaries present. Through digital discipleship groups and 1 on 1 accompaniment, the Digital Outreach Missionaries are here to walk with students as they continue to grow as a missionary disciple. FOCUS wants to support students as they deepen their intimacy with the Lord, and coach them as they go on missions on their campus in an effort to make known Christ Jesus. For more information email, [digital.outreach@focus.org](mailto:digital.outreach@focus.org).

**About Parish** - FOCUS missionaries have been serving pastors and hundreds of lay leaders across the country to help build a culture of missionary discipleship. And parishes are being transformed. Today FOCUS offers flexible support to help form missionary disciples in parishes—lay people who effectively spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in our communities and dioceses.

The vision is simple. It's not a program; it's Christ's model of face-to-face evangelization, and of building a community of disciples who are both faithful to the Church and equipped with the practical skills to share their faith with others. For more information about FOCUS parish, email [parishes@focus.org](mailto:parishes@focus.org).

**About Chaplains** – FOCUS' outreach is designed to coordinate with the chaplain's and campus minister's current campus programs. Our missionaries' goal is to meet students where they are on campus — in the dorms, on the sports fields, in the student union — and bring them into the life of the Catholic campus community. Campus ministers often work to meet the needs of the students who come through the doors of the Newman or Catholic Center.

In this way, we accomplish together the same goal of helping students encounter Jesus and the fullness of the Catholic faith. FOCUS also trains students to go out on campus to their peers, allowing the reach of the campus ministry to stretch even further across campus. For more information about our work with chaplains, email [chaplains@focus.org](mailto:chaplains@focus.org).

**About Retreats** – FOCUS retreats provide a space to encounter the three persons of the Trinity more deeply through prayer, sacraments, talks, and small groups. Whether you are questioning your faith or looking to take the next step in your relationship with God, in college or in a parish, we have a retreat for you. If you're interested in hosting a FOCUS Retreat, we offer coaching and accompaniment to local leaders to run retreats on college campuses and in parishes. Contact us to find out more here, [retreats@focus.org](mailto:retreats@focus.org).

**About FOCUS 153** – FOCUS 153 is an initiative within FOCUS that seeks to equip every aspect of our apostolate to effectively reach all ethnic and racial demographics on campus and beyond. Visit our page to learn more [here](#).

# Who We Are -

## Leadership

Get to know the team behind FOCUS, who make it possible for us to do such incredible work. All of these individuals are highly experienced and bring a wealth of knowledge with them:

<https://focus.org/about/leadership/focus-leadership/>