

Annual Report
June 2023 — May 2024

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Mission Statement

TO KNOW CHRIST JESUS AND FULFILL HIS GREAT COMMISSION.



For 26 years, we have been relentless about our mission. Together, with our incredible partners and heroic supporters, we are helping to win this generation for Christ, build them up in the faith and send them out to make disciples of all nations. In this annual report, we look back over the year and celebrate God's goodness and faithfulness. We invite you to join us as we seek to answer God's call and renew our passion for this mission of evangelization.

FOCUS at a Glance

The Little Way of Evangelization:

Personally encountering individuals to Win, Build and Send them into peer evangelization.

win

Building authentic friendships that foster an encounter with Jesus Christ, which draws people into a covenantal relationship with God.

build

Forming people with the hearts, minds and habits of joyful, disciplined followers of Jesus.

send

Inviting people to imitate Jesus and to be Spirit-filled evangelists by going on to win, build and send others.



The Impact of FOCUS

"I have been blessed to be part of multiple FOCUS Bible studies since my freshman year at Penn, and I have actively participated in the FOCUS discipleship program since my sophomore year. The most important impact of FOCUS on my life has been the opportunity it provided to deepen my relationships with fellow Catholic students on campus. Discovering a sense of belonging can be a significant challenge when relocating, and I found my place unequivocally in the weekly Bible studies and small groups organized by the FOCUS missionaries. In just an hour a week, I was able to have transformative experiences where I humbly learned from the wisdom of others and heard how Jesus was communicating with us through our shared engagement with God's Word. I always knew the missionaries were praying for me and the other guys on campus, and I truly felt its effects, witnessing my own spiritual growth and the transformative journeys of the young men around me. It was incredibly encouraging to see other guys reshaping their lives, making choices big and small, to deepen their relationship with Jesus."

— Joseph Wilbur, student at the University of Pennsylvania



Programs

Through the faithfulness of God and the incredible FOCUS community, each year, we witness lives being transformed by Christ. FOCUS programs on and off campus — and in all corners of the world — are united in this one mission: to know Christ Jesus and fulfill His Great Commission, sharing the love and hope of the Gospel with a world that desperately needs it.

On Campus

Digital Outreach

In the Parish

Missions Trips

Summer Projects

FOCUS Greek & Varsity Catholic

SEEK National Conferences

Letter from Our Founder



Curtis Martin
Founder & CEO

My brothers and sisters,

You are part of our family. In this season of Eucharistic revival, the importance of fostering communion — with each other, our Father and the world — has never been more apparent.

The devil rejoices with every snide remark, harmful assumption and cold silence that drives us apart. At every turn, he attempts to convince us that we are alone in fighting our battles. This could not be further from the truth.

Thanks be to God, you have the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit working for your every good — leading you and guiding this strong community of faith. Your missionary efforts unite with students, parishioners and benefactors just like you across the country who are striving for holiness, leading Bible studies and investing in the faith of others.

Your faithfulness to Christ and this mission is magnificent, and we are incredibly grateful for the fruits you have inspired in the lives of others. The pages of this report capture only a sliver of the immense mosaic of transformation happening in the Church through your generous support.

Your heart for building up the Body of Christ invites others into spiritual accompaniment, discipleship with Christ and lifelong fruitfulness in the Church. Thank you.

We pray that the Holy Spirit continues to work through all of us — through your prayerful generosity and our efforts on the ground — to usher the Church into a new era of evangelization.

Go set the world on fire!

Curtis A. Martin
Founder & CEO

You are part of our family.

Reaching Across the Globe

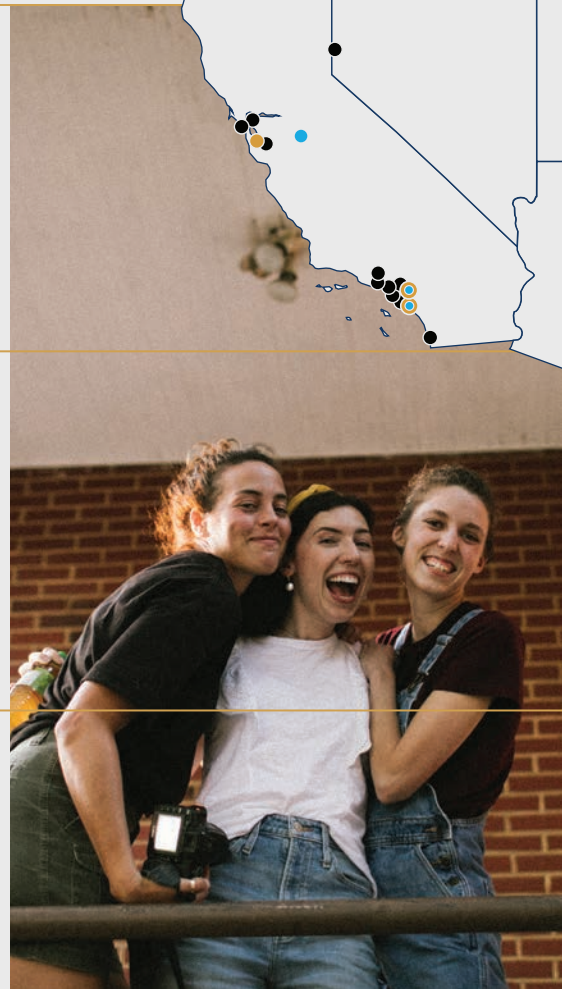
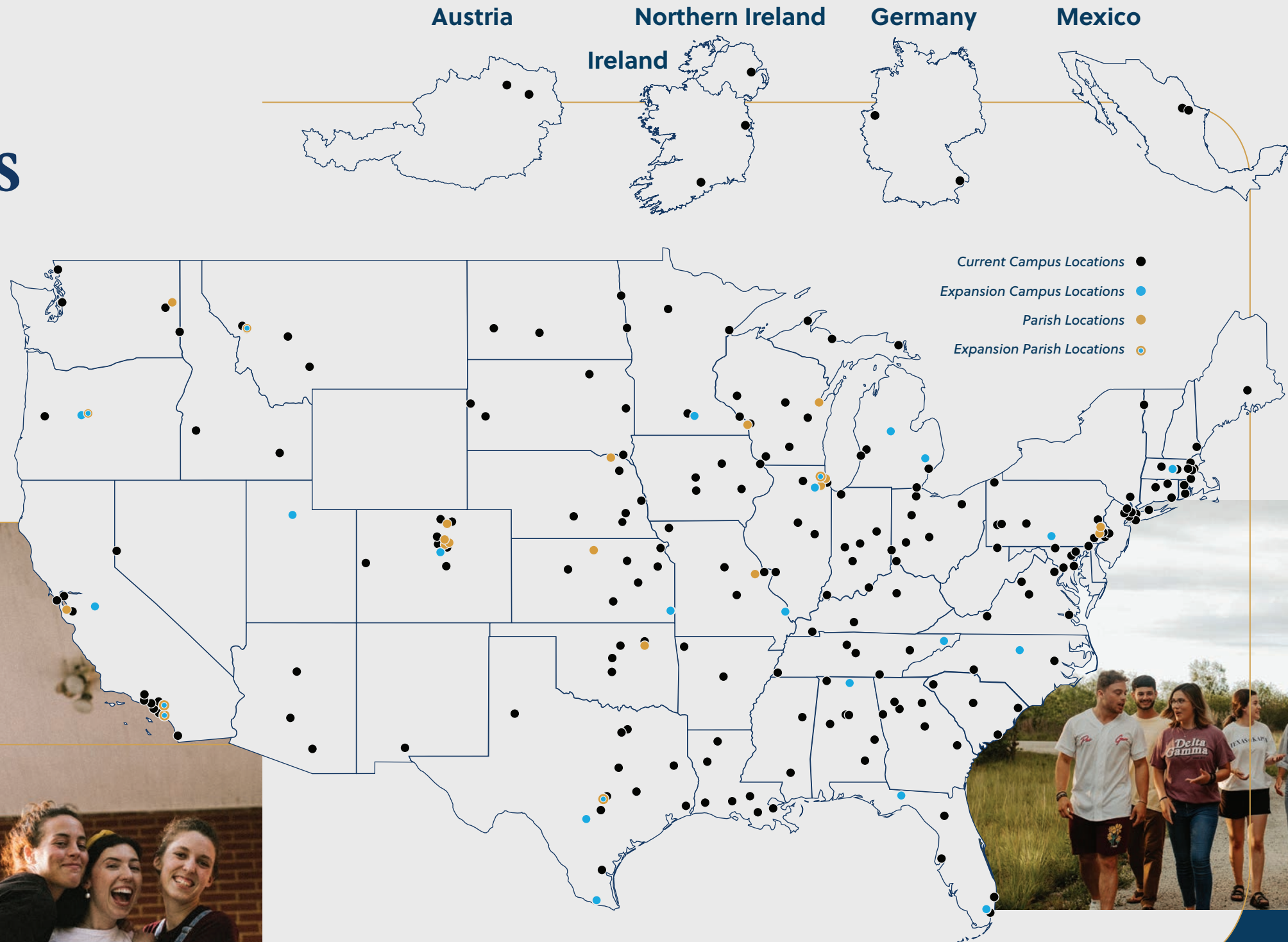
All over the world, people are hungry for the hope found in Jesus and the truth of the Gospel. FOCUS missionaries are inviting students and parish members into a deeper relationship with Christ and shining the light of truth on more than 250 locations.

Academic Year 2024 - 2025

255 Locations

210 U.S. Campuses

9 International Campuses



God's Work in the World

"I cannot overstate the influence that FOCUS missionaries have had on the UCC campus. Last year, I only knew one other Catholic student at the university. The FOCUS missionaries created a fellowship for students wholly dedicated to the love of Christ. The various faith programs that the FOCUS missionaries coordinate (e.g., Bible studies, discipleship and Exodus 90) have truly strengthened my faith by deepening my knowledge of Scripture and the Church. I went from only knowing one other Catholic student on campus to being surrounded almost on a daily basis by people bearing witness to Jesus Christ, many of whom I would now call friends. It would genuinely be difficult not to be influenced by the passion and zeal of the FOCUS missionaries for the Gospel."

— Amergín, student at University College Cork

Who are our missionaries?

God calls people from all walks of life to follow Jesus and share the hope of the Gospel with others. Our missionaries come from many different backgrounds and bring their unique experience to the world, following the call of God to share His message with others.

Academic Year 2024 — 2025

1,048

Missionaries

533

Women

515

Men



The Wisdom of Jesus Guides Us

An interview with Nick Richter, Team Director and sixth-year missionary at Texas A&M University (a FOCUS campus since 2014)

"This role has taught me about the balance between strategy and relationships in ministry — striving for excellence and efficiency in our systems and processes (the science of discipleship) while holding in tension the uniqueness of each person and their own path to conversion (the art of discipleship). Balancing the science and art of discipleship has made us constantly look toward Jesus and His example in the ways that He loved others, lived mission and taught His followers to do the same.

"As a missionary in general, we often face what my team likes to call 'invitation fatigue,' and that is only amplified at a place like Texas A&M with over 900 students involved. The challenge [we face] is learning how our team of seven full-time missionaries can love, serve, and support all of

these students and invite them into the normal FOCUS activities. We have incredible, bought-in student leaders who make [outreach] possible.

"Over the past several years, the FOCUS team at Texas A&M has emphasized reaching out — going to all corners of campus to invite more students into the joyful community of St. Mary's. We work primarily with affinity groups, which for us means students involved in the Corps of Cadets (ROTC), fraternities and sororities, and D-1 athletes. We have seen incredible fruit in these outreach efforts and now have many student disciples leading Bible studies in these realms! These students do not naturally come around the Catholic center. Through engaging them with FOCUS, we have seen the cultures of their organizations change from being opposed to the Gospel to welcoming Christ into their communities and relationships."

Saying Yes to the Call

An interview with Cecilia Minchow, second-year missionary at New Mexico State University (an expansion campus in FY24)

"Being sent to an expansion campus for my first year meant that as missionaries, we truly had the opportunity to open our hands in surrender and allow the Lord to build what He desired on our campus. There were no expectations or numbers [around student involvement] to meet; we simply had to say yes authentically, and He would do the rest.

"Once we arrived on campus, we could see the Lord had been working there to prepare a place for us long before our arrival. We were excited to partner with the ministry team to build traction for small group ministry and Bible Study. The need and the desire were there, and the students wanted to be seen, known and loved so deeply."

Cecilia and her fellow missionaries saw significant growth in students pursuing their faith in one short year. Initially starting the year without any student connections, Cecilia alone ended the year with nearly 20 girls in her Bible study and a dozen receiving formation through mentorship. The campus ministry became a thriving environment for spiritual growth. Students were regularly attending Bible studies, and several student leaders had already stepped forward and invited their peers closer to Christ, following the example of their missionaries.

On Campus



Academic Year
2024 — 2025

210

U.S. Campuses

9

International Campuses

19

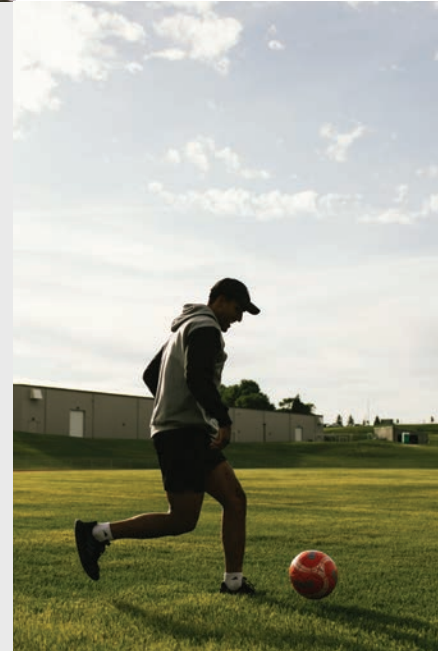
Fall 2024 Expansion
Campuses

Serving under the leadership of campus chaplains and ministries, FOCUS helps nurture a community of students and missionaries that values each person who enters the campus center doors, seeing their individual potential of who God has called them to be.

Choosing to be Set Apart

“Coming into college, I easily got caught up in a secular worldview, and I knew I wanted more than what the party scene had to offer. I experienced the drastic difference between things like Bible study and discipleship, which left me feeling loved and whole, versus things like partying and falling into sin, which left me feeling emptier. Throughout my first years of college, I was involved in Bible study and discipleship, and I was on the Broncho Catholic leadership team. I encountered students whose happiness didn’t come from how others perceived them, their achievements or their popularity. Instead, they appeared to be on fire for Jesus. I am so thankful I have met so many great Catholic college students during my first few years of college because it has helped me grow a personal relationship with Jesus. Through their investment, the FOCUS missionaries have helped me to be open to discerning religious life. I have been inspired to continue to grow my relationship with God, myself and others as I continue to be open to God’s calling.”

— Macy, student at the University of Central Oklahoma



Digital Outreach



Academic Year
2023 — 2024

7

Digital Campus Locations
Served by a Full Team

90

Campuses Impacted by
Digital Campus Missionaries

FOCUS’ Digital Outreach missionaries are committed to reaching students who are on campuses that do not have a FOCUS team. This past year, they served more than 90 campuses, encouraging them in the faith and mentoring them as they engaged with the community around them.

Finding the Fullness of the Faith

“My school is a quaint private liberal arts school ... a few exits from James Madison University [where FOCUS serves]. In the Bridgewater area, I found a great group of individuals who were devoted to Jesus Christ; however, they were missing the fullness of the faith. I began to jump on each opportunity that would bring me closer to Christ. This included attending early morning Bible studies, worship and other events [at JMU]. I also accepted the higher call to be mentored. A few months into mentorship, Caroline (my mentor) mentioned SEEK. Little did she know that I had been looking for an opportunity where I could be immersed in my faith. I placed my trust in the Lord by taking a leap of faith and traveling with JMU, not knowing anyone as I was the only Bridgewater student attending. To keep it brief, SEEK flipped my life upside down and turned it around. My encounter with Jesus at SEEK altered my life in pursuit of developing an honest and faithful relationship with God the Father.”

— Maureen, student in the Archdiocese of Richmond, Virginia



FOCUS Missions

FOCUS Missions exists to spread the Gospel and serve those in need, physically and spiritually. Thanks to God's providence and the heroic generosity of our community and supporters, last year, the Lord called more than 1,800 people to all corners of the globe to answer the call to serve Christ in the poor.

Academic Year 2023 — 2024

105

Mission Trips

More than

1,800

Mission Trip Participants

21

Countries Served

Serving the Community

"For three nights in a row in Belize, we went to people's houses and did Bible studies with them. These Bible studies were amazing and allowed us to come to know the community better. At each of the Bible studies there was a community member who radiated faith in God. I was blown away by the faith of these individuals, and I remember leaving these Bible studies thinking about my own faith. These people ... inspired me to give even more of myself to Christ. Even though we only met for a short time, I'm striving to be more like them, have childlike faith and give all that I have to God."

— *Pepper Markovich, student at Texas Tech University who participated in a FOCUS mission trip to Belize*

"I'm striving to be more like them, have childlike faith and give all that I have to God."



Summer Projects



Academic Year
2023 — 2024

324
Student Participants

8
Locations

10
Weeks of Formation

Summer Projects provides a world-class summer work experience rooted in fellowship and formation. We are committed to developing this program to provide life-changing experiences for our participants. This past year, more than 320 students from campuses across the country participated.

Healing and Joy

"Summer Projects has allowed me to understand the beauty and gentleness of my femininity. Rather than just focusing on being the strong, independent woman the world tells me to be, I have focused on learning how to embrace fully receiving God's love as his daughter. [This mentality] has really helped me learn how to grow and maintain love rather than just burning out and having to reset every couple of days.

"I have already said yes to helping my home parish with Bible studies for youth ministry, but Summer Projects has made me so excited to get started. I am grateful for all the healing and joys that have helped my heart. I cannot wait to lead the next generation of saints."

— Ava Neugebauer, Summer Projects participant



FOCUS Parish



Academic Year
2023 — 2024

29
Parishes Served Fall 2024

67
Priests Served

2,403
Parishioners in Small Groups

Through parish outreach, diocesan outreach and priest accompaniment, the Lifelong Mission team strives to transform the culture so that every person can encounter the love of Jesus Christ. All parishes served by FOCUS missionaries are building discipleship groups, launching small groups and actively participating in the Little Way of Evangelization.

Finding the Fullness of the Faith

"For years, I existed without a direction, a purpose, hope or much faith to speak of. I went to Mass, but I wasn't really there. Ben's arrival at my parish changed that. Because of him, I have found hope, purpose, friends and a faith I want to continue nurturing and spreading to others. I can confidently say that without missionary Ben Pluta, I [likely] wouldn't be here (at the parish) at all. Since his arrival, our parish has thrived, and our community has become stronger than it has been for years. I have taken a more active role at St. Agnes with working maintenance, setting up for events and holy days and welcoming people to Mass on Sundays."

— Ryan Fischer, parishioner at St. Agnes Parish in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia



Alumni



Academic Year
2024 — 2025

More than

76,000

missionary & student alumni

More than

17,000

trained for post-graduate evangelization

In 2024, the FOCUS Alumni team supported our alumni through Lifelong U, an online formation community for student and missionary alumni. With Lifelong U, thousands of FOCUS alumni receive ongoing formation from FOCUS and support from each other as they build Catholic culture in their families, parishes, workplaces and communities.

Alumni Leading the Way

Jenny Witt serves as director of evangelization at St. Philomena Catholic Church in Peoria, Illinois. This year, the FOCUS Alumni team challenged alumni to invite their parishes to participate in the National Eucharistic Revival locally leading up to the conference in Indianapolis.

“We put on two children’s holy hours, and we [hosted a] three-day parish mission on the Eucharist. Our first children’s holy hour was close to 75 people, and we did it on the feast of the Holy Family around the crib of Jesus, singing Christmas carols. The second time, we had 130 people! We had five FOCUS alumni working on it, and it was such a joy.”



SEEK

Follow Me

You're bringing light to the Church. At the start of 2024, more than 24,000 people gathered at the America's Center in St. Louis, Missouri, for SEEK24. For five days, people of all levels of faith explored the big questions about life, happiness and salvation. In addition to fellowship, daily Mass, adoration and talks given by more than 50 world-class speakers, SEEK also featured a documentary detailing the life of Servant of God Michelle Duppong, a former FOCUS missionary whose cause for canonization was officially opened with the start of a diocesan investigation in 2022.

1998

24

Students at First-Ever FOCUS Event

2024

24,000

Attendees at SEEK24



Patron Saint of SEEK25, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, to be canonized a saint in the summer of 2025

God Has More in Store for Me

"I didn't believe one's life could change in just a week, but the Lord proved me wrong at SEEK24. Once we flew into St. Louis and checked in, I was nervous about attending the first Mass of the conference. Filled with awe by the thousands of reverent young adults celebrating Mass, my fear quickly turned into excitement for what was to come. Throughout the week, I grew in my prayer and sacramental life, heard and learned from engaging Catholic speakers and made some of my closest friends today. It was life-altering to witness that I was not alone in striving for holiness with my one true God. Returning from SEEK, the Lord quickly showed me that He had even more in store for me. FOCUS helped me become more active in my faith, helping me to encounter Jesus' love like never before. Now, filled with so much joy and love, I pray that others may experience this encounter for SEEK25, and I hope to bring many with me next year."

– Alejandro, student at California State University, Long Beach



TO THE HEIGHTS

Jan 1-5, 2026

seek.focus.org

The Joy of Faith

Your joyful witness invites many others to join in this great mission.

Annie McBournie remembers encountering FOCUS with her family in the first few years of mission in Colorado.

"It was hard not to want to get involved," she shares. Her family echoed her enthusiasm and very quickly began supporting the organization, helping FOCUS reach its first milestone of 100 campuses.

"It is a complicated world, to say the least, so it is comforting to know FOCUS is grounding young people in their faith to help them navigate and embrace their relationship with Jesus," she says. **"It gives us great hope for the Church and the future happiness of our young people."**

Today, Annie and her husband, Dean, personally support a handful of missionaries and the wider FOCUS mission. They couldn't be happier with their involvement in making "disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19), whether it be attending events like SEEK, receiving monthly updates from their missionaries or living mission at their parish in Denver alongside FOCUS missionaries.

"Faith and happiness are contagious! When you read the stories and attend events and gatherings of FOCUS, it's impossible not to want to go deeper into your relationship with Christ," Annie confirms.

In a turn of events that revealed God's providential wisdom, Dean found the spiritual accompaniment he was looking for to grow in his faith right when FOCUS began sending parish missionaries to St. Vincent de Paul parish in Denver.

Parish missionary Seth Monholand promptly started a Bible study for fathers at the parish, and Dean eagerly joined.

"Seth ... has been an integral part of what I describe as my second conversion. He has helped me explore my desire to be a disciple of Christ, more than just a churchgoer, but a passionate follower of Jesus!" Dean shares.

"I am so blessed to be a fisher of men, thanks in large part to the FOCUS mission." says Dean.

Thank you for sending missionaries and inviting students, parishioners and other benefactors just like you to join in this mission for Christ.

"I have been a humble witness to the power of this organization in my own life, and I pray that everyone could experience the benefit of it as much as I have," Dean testifies.

Dean and Annie with their children



"What better way to seal your legacy than to support the future of our young and faithful people. There are so many wonderful and meaningful places to send your money, but not many of them offer a lasting impact on individual lives as well as the community at large. A gift to FOCUS is a gift to the future of the Church, and we can't think of a better effort to support." — Dean and Annie McBournie

Because You Gave, We Can Give Back

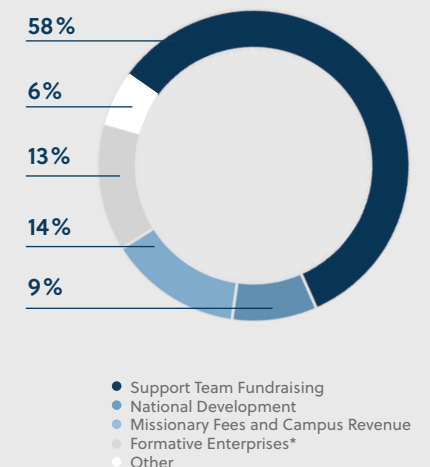


FOCUS benefactors make it possible for the message of the Gospel to be shared around the world. We are so grateful for your generosity and partnership:

- In prayer, for students and missionaries on campus.
- By joining an individual missionary's work.
- By giving to FOCUS national initiatives.
- In funding mission trips and national events.
- By naming FOCUS as a beneficiary in estate planning.

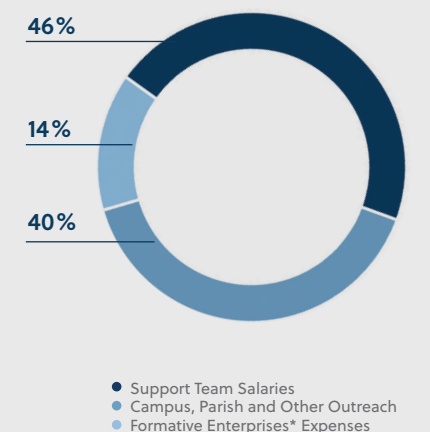
What We Received | Fiscal Year 2023 — 2024

Support Team Fundraising	\$67,419,000
National Development	\$10,179,000
Missionary Fees and Campus Revenue	\$15,970,000
Formative Enterprises*	\$15,301,000
Other	\$6,380,000
Total Revenue	\$115,249,000



How We Used It | Fiscal Year 2023 — 2024

Support Team Salaries	\$53,499,000
Campus, Parish and Other Outreach	\$46,825,000
Formative Enterprises* Expenses	\$16,828,000
Total Expenses	\$117,152,000



**Note: Formative Enterprises includes Conferences, Mission Trips, Retreats and Summer Projects.*

FOCUS Leadership

Curtis Martin
Founder & CEO

Dr. Edward Sri
Senior Vice President of Apostolic Outreach

Sarah Akers
Vice President of Human Resources

Thomas Bruner
Vice President of Formative Enterprises

Fr. Kevin Dyer, S.J.
Vice President of Collegiate Outreach, Senior National Chaplain

Rob Hudson
Vice President of Apostolic Outreach

Antoine Kazzi
Vice President of Legal and Europe, Senior Advisor to the CEO

Tyler Kolden
Vice President of Information Technology

Drew Marsh
Vice President of Finance

Brian McAdam
Vice President of Apostolic Outreach Operations and Formation

Eileen Piper
Vice President of Lifelong Mission

Josh Santo
Vice President of Alumni Relations

John Zimmer
Vice President of Apostolic Development

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Joe Williams, III

Meet our leaders: www.focus.org/about/leadership

A Family on Mission



John Zimmer
Vice President of
Apostolic Development

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, patron saint of FOCUS, once wrote, “God cannot inspire unrealizable desires.” For Thérèse, her desire was to become a saint by following her “little way.” For John Zimmer, FOCUS’ vice president of Apostolic Outreach, his desire was to start a Catholic ministry — one that would have a lasting impact.

John discovered this desire in 1998 after marrying his college sweetheart, Barbara. The thought actually came to him while they were on their honeymoon. John conceived an idea to launch an evangelization ministry — something similar to Campus Crusade for Christ, but fully Catholic. John and Barbara both had a deep love for Jesus and the Church, and they shared a desperate desire to invite others into the Faith. The problem? Neither of them knew where to begin.

“Neither of us had any ministry experience,” John recalls. “We had never even attended Bible studies, much less been involved in any leadership.”

But God did not place that desire on John’s heart for nothing. A few weeks after their honeymoon, John got a call from his mother, Sharon, who told him some updates about his sister Ann. Ann, then a sophomore at the University of Northern Colorado, had recently gotten involved with something called “FOCUS.”

“I’m not sure how to describe FOCUS, John,” his mom had told him on the phone. “I guess you could say it’s like a Catholic version of Campus Crusade for Christ.”

Three months later, John and Barbara had moved to Colorado to become FOCUS missionaries. They served together at the University of Northern Colorado for three years, leading Bible studies and accompanying college students along the way to deeper faith. John also helped launch FOCUS at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Four of the men he worked with later became priests for the Archdiocese of Denver, including two who served as FOCUS missionaries before entering seminary.

“I had very little idea what I was doing as a missionary,” John says. “I simply made myself available to the students, shared my love for Jesus with them, and got out of the way so God could do His work.”

Pope St. Paul VI wrote, “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.” Seeing someone live out his or her faith in a genuine, authentic way — especially in the ordinary, everyday moments — can have a lasting impact on another person’s own faith journey and relationship with Christ. More than once, John has seen how being a “living witness” of missionary discipleship has deeply impacted others.

“It is entering into others’ lives and welcoming them into ours that makes the deepest impact on people,” says John. “I am profoundly impacted by those who live a deeply Christian life. I learn through sharing that life with them — and I’ve watched the same thing happen in those I have been privileged to help form through my own witness.”

Being a family on mission made a distinct difference during their time on campus and beyond. For John and Barbara, their experience with FOCUS has been a family affair from the very beginning, and their involvement has also impacted generations of other family members. John’s (now late) mother, Sharon, and father, Gene, have been supporting FOCUS financially from very early on and have built an incredible legacy. Siblings of both John and Barbara served as missionaries and supporters of FOCUS, and nieces and nephews have likewise been impacted by FOCUS at one point or another.

Perhaps one of the most beautiful outcomes of being a family on mission was when John and Barbara’s oldest son, Zach, decided to become a FOCUS missionary himself. Zach was born while John and Barbara were serving on campus.

“In some ways, it was a challenging experience,” says John, thinking back to that time. “Serving as a missionary is hard work, involving long hours, rejection from students, challenges with your teammates and not feeling properly equipped. But for that reason, it was also beautiful since it was preparing Zach for a life of generosity. It has been amazing to watch Zach grow as a missionary.”

Two other Zimmer children have followed Zach’s lead. Julianna met her husband while serving in Ireland, and Joseph spent six months doing missionary work immediately after high school.

Looking back, the most important lesson from John and Barbara’s time with FOCUS is that when we follow Jesus’ lead and truly answer His call to make disciples of all nations, it can change families, parishes, communities and the world. As a family, that is what the Zimmers have desired — and what they have seen firsthand through FOCUS.

“We simply follow the method taught to the disciples by Jesus Christ himself. Jesus poured himself into twelve men, and those men changed the world,” says John. “It doesn’t matter whether you are a FOCUS missionary, a priest, an accountant or a stay-at-home parent; we are all called to be a witness to the Gospel, and when we say yes to Jesus, He will work through us.”

“The world is hungry for the Gospel, and it’s a joy to share it!”



When we follow Jesus' lead ... it can change families.



A Vision to Match God's Greatness



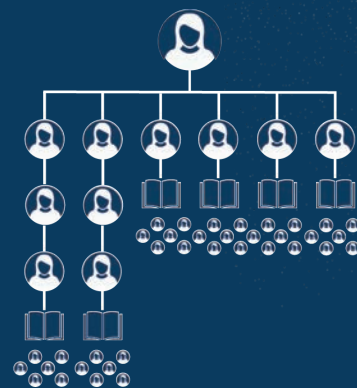
Fr. Kevin Dyer, S.J.
Vice President of Collegiate Outreach:
Senior National Chaplain

Friends,

By God's grace, countless lives were transformed through friendship with Jesus Christ last year.

In powerful ways, the Holy Spirit was at work in the hearts of young people, drawing them to the Church. Chaplains whom we serve reported conversions and returns to the faith in unprecedented numbers. Our missionaries experienced a renewed zeal in the hearts of the students in their Bible studies.

As we prepare for the coming year, we continue to be united under this vision: to raise a generation of evangelists who, in turn, will raise the next generation. On a growing number of campuses, a missionary works with a student who is working with another student, who in turn is working with another student — four "generations" deep.



“I believe that at this moment in history, He is calling us to be bold and unafraid.”

God has blessed your support of this mission in a powerful way, and I want to thank you sincerely. You helped us provide the quality formation for our missionaries who labored faithfully throughout the year. You pray and intercede for each of them as they embrace an often difficult mission. Please join us in thanking God for all student leaders who have joined us on mission.

Thanks to God's merciful initiative and your abundant generosity, we will encounter many more souls at 19 new campus locations, three new digital locations and six new parish locations this year.

You know our mission is primarily the work of God, and we are grateful to cooperate in any way He calls. I believe that at this moment in history, He is calling us to be bold and unafraid. The phrase that remains in my heart is this: Allow God to do great things.

In Christ,

Fr. Kevin Dyer, S.J.

Vice President of Collegiate Outreach
Senior National Chaplain

