



be soldiers

— Pope Saint John Paul II to
Curtis Martin upon the founding of the
Fellowship of Catholic University Students, 1997

Since we started our journey 17 years ago, the Lord has continued to make FOCUS' mission on college campuses more clear. It is our responsibility as Catholics of the New Evangelization to share the Good News of Jesus Christ's salvation to the ends of the earth. For the Catholic Church to thrive, it is imperative to raise up those who can bring lost and lukewarm souls into the fullness of the faith. The world needs Catholics who are both faithful and fruitful.

We know what we are up against. There are about 100 million people in the United States today who have been Catholics, but only about 15 million Catholics attend Mass faithfully every Sunday. Of that number, only one million consider themselves to be "missionary disciples" — believers whose faith in Jesus is the central aspect of their lives — and only about 25 thousand of the missionary disciples would say they know how to teach others to become missionary disciples.

FOCUS exists to raise up missionary disciples, and we do this by reaching out to souls on campus, inviting students into a genuine relationship with Christ and teaching them how to evangelize others. But the place our missionaries

work isn't just a mission field: it's a battlefield. They are the ones to walk courageously into the darkness of the culture to share the light of Christ with the whole world; they are the ones who heroically share the Christian way of life and work resolutely to build up the Church. As of today, we have almost 500 active soldiers for Christ — and we're just getting started!

With hearts full of joy, we continue to look ahead in faith to what the Lord has in store for our apostolate. This year, FOCUS is sending missionaries to 113 college campuses across the U.S., including the United States Military Academy at West Point and two schools in Washington State, our first opportunity to serve in the Pacific Northwest. And we have even more to look forward to: We are already in discussion with more campuses, already hiring missionaries for next year, and already preparing for the next step our Lord has in mind for us.

As I think about the exciting path on which the Lord is taking us, I look back and see how greatly He has blessed us through the people whom our missionaries have had the chance to encounter and serve, especially our nation's bishops, our amazing campus chaplains, and our generous

benefactors. FOCUS would not exist if not for the prayers, encouragement, and sacrifices offered by so many of you. I give thanks to God that you have stepped out in faith with us to change the world for Christ.

We continue to put our trust in God, who never fails to provide for us in His bountiful generosity. As you read through the pages of this report, I encourage you to explore the good work our Lord is doing in the lives of so many college-aged students through this apostolate. It is my personal hope that you will celebrate with us for the ways He has revealed His mercy, love, and providence.

May God bless you abundantly, and we hope you will keep FOCUS in your prayers as we strive ever forward in the pursuit of the gospel.

Sincerely in Christ,



Curtis A. Martin, Founder & CEO



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Above: Curtis stands with the representatives from every campus, celebrating FOCUS' growth from one campus in 1998 to 100 campuses in 2015.

We have come so far from where we began. In 1997, Curtis was blessed with the opportunity to meet Pope John Paul II, sharing with the Pontiff his hope for FOCUS. Upon hearing Curtis' vision, His Holiness gave Curtis his mission orders:

“**be soldiers**”

Since then, FOCUS has battled on college campuses to win souls for Christ, one student at a time. *Come see our journey...*

a simple, vital question

why focus?

**craig
miller**



Ever since I joined the Fellowship of Catholic University Students in 2003, I have had so many wonderful opportunities to share the mission and vision of FOCUS with others across the nation. As I speak about the vision and practices of our organization, I'm often met with this question:

Why would recent college graduates choose to become FOCUS missionaries?

In Chapter 6 of John's Gospel, Jesus tells the crowds that unless they eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, they will not have life in them. When He says this,



many of His would-be disciples choose to follow Him no longer. Afterward, Jesus turns to the Twelve and asks: "Will you also go?"

It is Simon Peter who answers: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God" (John 6:66 – 68).

The nearly 500 young men and women who have chosen to be FOCUS missionaries for the 2015 – 2016 school year have encountered the truth as Peter did: God loves us. He who made the heavens, earth, and everything in between was willing to write Himself into history so He could rescue us from death and give us abundant life. That is why these faithful, courageous missionaries seek out the lost and lukewarm souls on our nation's campuses: so that all may know God and experience the unsurpassed joy of sharing our lives with Him eternally. There is nothing in the world more liberating, hopeful, and inspiring than welcoming Jesus Christ into everything we do and being transformed by His love within us — and we believe the whole world should know it.

Today, we are waging a cultural battle. Our society devalues life, neglects those in need, and has lost its sense of our human dignity. So many young people are entering the world

without knowing their true worth and purpose. Now more than ever we must share the message of Christian hope.

With great faith and with hearts burning with the desire to share the Good News, FOCUS sets off for college campuses to answer the call of evangelization:

**“Go, therefore,
and make
disciples
of all nations...”**

(Matthew 28:19)

Sincerely in Christ,

Craig Miller, President



the call of **1** discipleship

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

personal **2** investment

“So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.” (1 Thessalonians 2:8)

knowing **3** Christ Jesus

“And this is eternal life, that they know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.” (John 17:3)

our scriptural foundations

bearing fruit **4** in mission

“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.” (John 15:8)

spiritual **5** multiplication

“And what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:2)

our mission statement

To know Christ Jesus and to fulfill the Great Commission

now entering the field

This year we welcome nearly 500 missionaries who will be serving college students all across the nation. While they come from all walks of life, each of them is committed to reaching out to students with the hope and joy of Jesus Christ.



meet our missionaries

*Please join us in praying for our missionaries as they bear witness to Christ's love
and share their lives with students this year.*





**katie
o'donnell**

in pursuit of the call

the life of a missionary

For the 2015 – 2016 school year, FOCUS will send nearly 500 young men and women to serve as missionaries, typically in teams of four. Katie O'Donnell served as a FOCUS missionary for four years at Auburn University in Alabama, and now she serves as a Curriculum Specialist for FOCUS Equip. Here she shares her story of daily life as an on-campus missionary.



Growing up, Katie had heard of FOCUS through her parents, who were supporting a missionary. But her first true encounter with the organization was seeing the missionaries at a FOCUS conference. They were such joyful witnesses of Jesus Christ, and their witness inspired Katie to become a missionary at Auburn.

“If I’m going to stay close to my faith,” she thought, “then I need to stay close to FOCUS.”

Each day for missionaries is different, but no time is wasted in their effort to evangelize. During her first year as a missionary, Katie’s day started early with one-on-one mentoring in the Scriptures with a student. From there, her day would move into prayer and planning with her fellow missionaries in the morning; daily Mass and lunch with students at noon; multiple Bible studies in the early evening; and campus ministry social events at night.

Before beginning her Bible study one evening, Katie mentioned to her students that she was going to go to confession the following afternoon, if anyone wanted to join her. Then they discussed the story of the prodigal son, focusing primarily on the Father’s mercy and His generous love for His children.

Afterward, two of her students pulled Katie aside. The first told her she hadn’t been to Mass in years and she

struggled with feelings of guilt and judgment, but their discussion of God’s limitless love for the sinner was what she needed to hear. She was ready to return to Mass.

Still a little stunned, Katie turned to the other student, who asked if she could join Katie at confession.

“I actually haven’t been to confession in eight years,” she told Katie. “Could we meet beforehand so you can tell me how to do it?”

During moments like these, Katie was reminded that she is watching God’s grace unfold in these students’ lives. “I witnessed the true impact of God’s Word,” she said, reflecting on those encounters.

“All we have to do is step out and be willing to profess the Word, and He will act.”

FOCUS missionaries devote at least two years of their lives to living out the Great Commission in an intentional way. Considering the challenges and sacrifices — such as being willing to go anywhere in the country at a moment’s notice and fundraising their entire salary — the question remains: Why? Why would a young person choose to be a FOCUS missionary?

To that, Katie had a profound response: “The immediate answer would be something to the effect of, ‘Oh, we just have the desire to do something radical for Christ

and for the world, and we want to see lives changed.’

“But I really think it’s not at all about us. Our God acts first; He loves first. All we can do is respond. At the heart of the missionary calling is our Lord’s deep, deep desire to invite every human soul to share in His life. Whatever His reasons, He’s given us the opportunity to be a part of that invitation and the grace to respond with the entirety of our lives.”

(By Christina Gaines)



“At the heart of the missionary calling is our Lord’s deep, deep desire to invite every human soul to share in His life.”

— Katie O’Donnell

fr. peter
nassetta



marshals of the mission

campus chaplains

The relationship FOCUS has with chaplains across the country is at the forefront of the FOCUS mission. FOCUS strives to partner with chaplains and to follow their guidance in serving students and leading them into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Fr. Peter Nassetta, a twelve-year partner with FOCUS, is the campus chaplain and the Director of Campus Ministry for George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.



“I was consistently amazed by the college kids who gathered together seeking to live their Catholic faith boldly and to share in the New Evangelization.”

— Fr. Peter Nassetta

I first encountered FOCUS as a staff member at Marymount University in the late 1990s. I wasn't familiar with the apostolate, but I kept hearing about FOCUS because my father was getting letters in the mail, and he urged me to get it to my campus.

When I became the chaplain at George Mason University, FOCUS approached the diocese expressing interest in coming to our campus. The bishop forwarded the letter to me, and so our conversations about bringing missionaries to George Mason began.

After developing a relationship with some of the FOCUS senior staff, I attended a FOCUS event in Overland Park, Kansas. While there, I was consistently amazed by the college kids who gathered together seeking to live their Catholic faith boldly and to share in the New Evangelization. There was no doubt in my mind that I wanted to partner with

FOCUS. I was fired up.

Now I am celebrating my twelfth year as a campus chaplain with FOCUS. The number of students we reach continues to grow. I'll never forget our first “Welcome Luau” where the FOCUS missionaries and I worked together to get 25 students to come; now we are up to 1,200 students! Even now I am moved when I see the students who “get it” as they dive after the truth in college, those who continue to develop their lifelong relationship with Christ long after graduation.

Energy and zeal is what FOCUS brings to George Mason and to the New Evangelization. Enthusiasm for the Catholic faith is spreading like wildfire on campus, and I am blessed to be working in partnership with the FOCUS missionaries and our campus ministry as we continue to see what God has in store for this incredible movement.



“From day one, I knew that FOCUS had to be integral to the evangelization of the 5,000 Catholics at Eastern Washington University.”

— Fr. Paul Heric, chaplain
at Eastern Washington University
in Cheney, Washington



our national focus chaplains (from left to right)

Fr. Doug Grandon converted to the Catholic faith with his family in 2003. He transitioned from a Protestant missionary and pastor to an ordained married Catholic priest. We are blessed to have Fr. Doug and his son join our staff this year!

Fr. Jay Buhman is originally from the Lincoln, Nebraska, diocese and was ordained in 2004. He first became involved with FOCUS when he served as the University of Nebraska-Lincoln chaplain, where he called himself a “FOCUS groupie.”

Fr. Brendan Rolling is a Benedictine monk and part-time National Chaplain for FOCUS. He received his vocation at the 1993 World Youth Day in Denver. He is stationed in Atchison, Kansas on the campus of Benedictine College, FOCUS' first campus.

Fr. John Lager is a Capuchin friar. He has served as our FOCUS chaplain since 2013. He is grateful to have three more chaplains to help shepherd and care for our national and campus staff.

what moves you?

SEEK2015

From January 1 through 5, more than 7,300 college students gathered together at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee, for SEEK2015. They traveled hundreds of miles in pursuit of a simple, sincere desire: to seek Jesus Christ and encounter the beauty of the Catholic Church. These students now enrich their campus experience through Bible studies, one-on-one mentoring through the Scriptures, and even RCIA classes for those who have chosen to join the Catholic Church.

SEEK's lasting impact:



“SEEK prepared me for what it would be like when I got back: not only that it was going to be a fight, but that it was worth the fight. I know God is leading me to people who need to encounter Him.”

— Anna Lee, SEEK2013 attendee, now a first-year missionary at the University of Missouri

nearly
10,000
SEEK2015
attendees

5,800
confessions
heard at SEEK

+1,000
communicants
following
confession





**trey
chapa**

For some students, just getting to Nashville was half of the adventure. Elias (Trey) Chapa, missionary at the University of Texas-Tyler, shares how sophomore Juan Castaneda journeyed to SEEK and how Juan was moved in one prevailing way: closer to our Lord.

I met Juan last fall at Missouri State University the weekend before school started. Juan was a sophomore who had fallen away from his faith and had gotten sucked into the party lifestyle. We started hanging out regularly, and he would open up to me about his struggles. The more I met with Juan, the more I knew that if I got him to SEEK, he would experience Christ. Juan said he wanted to go, so we got a scholarship for him and got him signed up at the last minute.

Juan worked as a bouncer for a night club. Some nights he would work until 3 or 4 in the morning. As students left for Christmas break, I asked Juan if he was sure he'd meet up with us on January 1. Juan assured me that he would be there in the morning to catch the bus to Nashville.

The morning of our departure arrived. I got to the Catholic Center at 7 a.m.; our bus was leaving at 8. I called Juan, but he didn't answer. No big deal, I thought. Maybe he's taking a shower or something.

Fifteen minutes later, I gave Juan another call. Again, no answer. The buses arrived about 7:30, and I was starting to worry. We packed everyone on the bus; at that point I was calling Juan every few minutes, but he didn't arrive.

At 8:05, we left Springfield without Juan.

Though the first hour on the bus was absolute misery, I finally got a phone call from Juan. He'd taken a nap after working late on New Year's, but he'd accidentally put his phone on silent and slept through all of my calls and texts. I was overjoyed to hear from him...but I didn't know what to do. My teammate had the idea for Juan to drive to Sikeston, Missouri, where we were stopping for lunch and meet us there. The timing was tight — but I told Juan the plan, and ten minutes later he was on the road.

“The enemy pulled out all of the stops to keep Juan from going to SEEK, but Juan made it. And his life was changed forever.”

I wasn't sure if Juan would make it. None of the students knew who Juan was before SEEK, but everyone on our buses prayed for him all the way to Sikeston. Then, fifteen minutes after stopping for lunch, Juan pulled in! We packed his bag on the bus and shoved off for Nashville.

Those five days drew Juan closer to his faith than the last twenty years of his life had. He went to talks about the teachings of the Church and went to confession for the first time in eight years! He spent the entire four hours in adoration on Saturday and got to spend time with other Catholic students who could relate to him. Most importantly, he encountered Christ, truly alive, in the Eucharist.

Juan shared his testimony on the bus ride back, and it was beautiful. The enemy pulled out all of the stops to keep Juan from going to SEEK, but Juan made it. And his life was changed forever.



**rachel
barker**



Rachel Barker, a student from Georgia Tech, speaks about her experience with the Missionaries of Charity in Haiti and the deep thirst she felt to serve those whom she met.

On the front wall of the Sisters' chapel were the words "Mwen Soif," which means "I Thirst" in Haitian Creole. These words resonated with me all throughout my time in Haiti.

Haiti is filled with extreme poverty, and in the midst of the misery there is a deep thirst for relief. I saw this thirst in the faces of people desperate for food and drink. I heard it in the cries of the babies who wanted so badly to be held. I witnessed it in those suffering in the wound clinic, their bandages open and their infections exposed. Watching these people broke my heart, and it also reminded me of my own deep longings. I realized we all have a very real purpose burning inside us. Our thirst for love, healing, and forgiveness is something we all share as

"Beyond the tears in her eyes was a heroic strength I have never before witnessed."

we search for the peace only Christ can give.

The wound clinic in which I served was set up in an alley. The patients there had terrible infections eating their flesh. Though it was extremely difficult to witness, while we were there I wanted nothing more than to kneel before each person and clean his or her wounds.

One woman in particular who was in a lot of pain began to sing along when she heard people celebrating in the street. Beyond the tears in her eyes was a heroic strength I have never before witnessed. She helped me realize this strength is something that can only come from relying solely on Christ.

I cannot tell you how thankful I am to have served in Haiti on mission. I feel ready now to return to campus, where I can help serve in my own home the souls who are thirsting all around me.





thirst for mission

focus missions

◀ *On FOCUS mission trips, students leave the comfort of their homes and willingly open themselves up to encounter Jesus Christ through the poor. In witnessing extreme poverty, students who say “yes” to serve on mission trips experience the Lord’s loving presence in a vivid, hopeful way.*



“Encountering Christ in another human being vastly different from myself was the biggest grace and blessing received on the mission. It was truly a time of spiritual and personal growth.”

— Jared Ohm, student at Northwest Missouri State University, Honduras mission

768
mission trip participants

66
mission trips

28
different countries



jennifer
risper

running the race toward Christ

varsity catholic

Varsity Catholic was launched in 2007 to tackle the unique challenges and needs faced by student athletes. Many young athletes are faced with greater pressures and temptations than the average student, and Varsity Catholic helps to keep them centered on what truly matters.

Jennifer Risper played both collegiate and professional basketball, and she was brought back to the faith by one of her teammates. She is entering her third year with Varsity Catholic at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Kelly Dunn, one of Jen's discipleship students, is a freestyle swimmer and is entering her senior year at UNL. Jen shares her journey with Kelly's pursuit of the faith.

The number-one lesson I learned while playing sports is this: Sports are only a tool to love God and to love people — the two greatest commandments. When I arrived at UNL, I picked up where the previous Varsity Catholic missionary left off and began running the race for evangelization at Nebraska.

It was there I met Kelly, a girl from the swim team who was deciding whether to leave her Protestant upbringing for the fullness of the Catholic faith. I shared with her my own story: While I was playing basketball professionally in Europe, one of my teammates evangelized me and brought me back to the Church after fifteen years away.

Little did I know that Kelly herself had been praying to God about whether she should become Catholic. Kelly saw my



conversion story as the sign she was looking for, and after being completely moved by the Holy Spirit, she decided to enter into RCIA and asked me to be her sponsor. Since then, Kelly has been on fire, fully determined to live out her Catholic faith.

The Varsity Catholic mission is truly about teamwork. The work God was doing in Kelly didn't start with me — but I am glad I was a part of the team who helped bring her back to Jesus. Each of us is challenged by the Great Commission and inspired to not just pass the torch, but to courageously light up the path for others along the way. This journey is not unique to FOCUS missionaries; we are all called to evangelize and to love one another. We often say at Nebraska, "Let's run this race together toward Christ."

If I could sum up my experience on campus and what I hope my future will be, I would quote Saint Augustine: "To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek Him, the greatest adventure; to find Him, the greatest human achievement."

"I asked God to send me a sign that Catholicism was right for me; someone who could offer a more objective perspective and had gone through something similar. About a month later, He sent me Jen."

— Kelly Dunn, junior student athlete at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Lincoln, Nebraska



Pat Spethman is currently a full-time student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Pat is pursuing a degree in business while remaining focused on improving his faith at the Newman Center. Here, Pat talks about how an encounter with FOCUS missionaries inspired him to help other men connect with the faith.

When I chose to go to University of Nebraska-Lincoln and rush the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, one of the most challenging things I discovered about living out my faith was being outnumbered. The men I lived with didn't share my faith; when I would go to Mass, I wouldn't always say where I was going because I didn't know how to let people know what I was doing.

After meeting with a FOCUS missionary at UNL, I learned that the best way to bring people to the Church is by example. Not long after, I began to see my life as an opportunity to share the faith with my fraternity. I was intimidated by what my fellow brothers might think, but I was blessed with the courage to

"I began to see my life as an opportunity to share the faith with my fraternity."

start a Bible study with the help of another student.

The biggest changes I have noticed since authentically sharing my faith are the conversations I have with people. Many guys in my fraternity come up to me in private and ask about the faith, and I am moved to see the Holy Spirit at work in them. Although so many people need Jesus in their lives, I see firsthand that they often don't make time for Him. In reality, they need a relationship with Jesus now more than ever.

Today, I am motivated to connect men to God in a relatable way. A group inspired by men at Auburn, called "Fratty Fellowship," will be starting at UNL in the fall and will have spiritual guidance, talks on leadership, community volunteering, contests and other events for men to do outside of their fraternity. I believe creating a place for a faith-connected community within Greek society will help men grow in their faith, make new relationships, and experience peace in a whole new way.



**pat
spethman**

greek fire: focus & fraternity

focus greek



◀ *FOCUS Greek is specially intended to reach students in fraternities and sororities across the country. This FOCUS outreach serves to transform the Greek system on college campuses and build up a new generation of fraternity and sorority leaders committed to sharing the gospel message.*

Thanks to loyal friends, FOCUS will have teams on 113 campuses this academic year!

ALABAMA

Auburn University, Auburn
Troy University, Troy
University of Alabama, Birmingham
*University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
University of South Alabama, Mobile

ARIZONA

Arizona State University, Tempe
Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff

CALIFORNIA

California State University, Fullerton
San Diego State University, San Diego
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine
*University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Southern California, Los Angeles

COLORADO

Colorado School of Mines, Golden
Colorado State University, Ft. Collins
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Northern Colorado, Greeley

CONNECTICUT

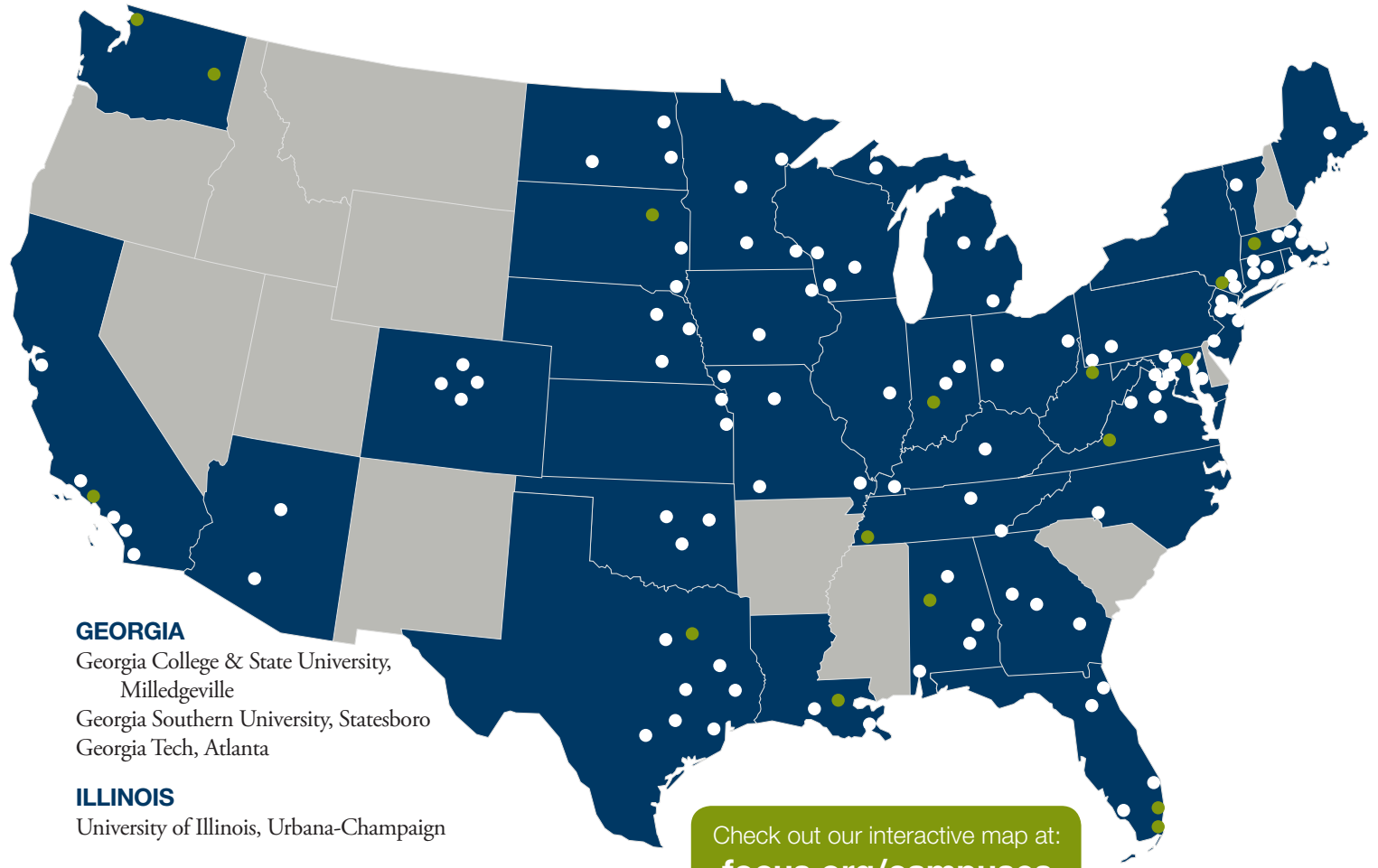
University of Connecticut, Storrs
U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London
Western Connecticut State University, Danbury

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

FLORIDA

Ave Maria University, Ave Maria
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton
*St. Thomas University, Miami Gardens
University of Florida, Gainesville
*University of Miami, Coral Gables
University of North Florida, Jacksonville



GEORGIA

Georgia College & State University, Milledgeville
Georgia Southern University, Statesboro
Georgia Tech, Atlanta

ILLINOIS

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

INDIANA

Ball State University, Muncie
*Depauw University, Greencastle
Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis

IOWA

Drake University, Des Moines
Loras College, Dubuque

KANSAS

Benedictine College, Atchison
University of Kansas, Lawrence

KENTUCKY

Murray State University, Murray
University of Kentucky, Lexington

LOUISIANA

*Nicholls State University, Thibodaux
Tulane University, New Orleans
University of Louisiana, Lafayette

MAINE

University of Maine, Orono

MARYLAND

Mount St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg
*Towson University, Towson
University of Maryland, College Park
United States Naval Academy, Annapolis

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston University, Boston
Harvard University, Boston
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge
*University of Massachusetts, Amherst

MICHIGAN

Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant
Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti
Michigan Technological University, Houghton

Check out our interactive map at:
focus.org/campuses

MINNESOTA

Minnesota State University, Mankato
St. John's University, Collegetown
University of Minnesota, Duluth
Winona State University, Winona

MISSOURI

Missouri State University, Springfield
Northwest Missouri State University,
Maryville
Southeast Missouri State University,
Cape Girardeau
University of Missouri, Columbia

NEBRASKA

University of Nebraska, Lincoln
University of Nebraska, Omaha
Wayne State College, Wayne

NEW JERSEY

Montclair State University, Montclair
Ramapo College, Mahwah
Seton Hall University, South Orange

NEW YORK

Columbia University, New York City
New York University, New York City
*U.S. Military Academy, West Point

NORTH CAROLINA

Belmont Abbey College, Belmont

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota State University, Fargo
University of Mary, Bismarck
University of North Dakota, Grand Forks

OHIO

Franciscan University, Steubenville
Wright State University, Dayton

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma State University, Stillwater
University of Oklahoma, Norman
University of Tulsa, Tulsa

PENNSYLVANIA

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh
Temple University, Philadelphia
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh

RHODE ISLAND

University of Rhode Island, Kingston

SOUTH DAKOTA

*Northern State University, Aberdeen
South Dakota State University, Brookings
University of South Dakota, Vermillion

TENNESSEE

*University of Memphis, Memphis
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Vanderbilt University, Nashville

TEXAS

Baylor University, Waco
*Southern Methodist University, Dallas
Stephen F. Austin State University,
Nacogdoches
Texas A&M University, College Station
Texas State University, San Marcos
University of North Texas, Denton
University of Texas, Austin
University of Texas-Tyler

VERMONT

University of Vermont, Burlington

VIRGINIA

George Mason University, Fairfax
James Madison University, Harrisonburg
University of Mary Washington,
Fredericksburg
University of Virginia, Charlottesville
*Virginia Tech, Blacksburg

WASHINGTON

*Eastern Washington University, Cheney
*Western Washington University, Bellingham



WEST VIRGINIA

*West Virginia University, Morgantown

WISCONSIN

University of Wisconsin, La Crosse
University of Wisconsin, Madison
University of Wisconsin, Platteville

*Denotes new campus for 2015–2016



Di-Skype-leship: FOCUS Digital Campus

FOCUS Digital Campus allows us to be present to students everywhere — even on campuses that don't have a mission team physically present. Digital Campus missionaries provide online coaching and training to encourage, hold accountable, and equip students with what they need to share the faith, using today's technology to evangelize the world for Jesus Christ.

In fiscal year 2015, the Digital Campus worked with students on 40 college campuses in 25 different states, equipping 47 student leaders — a 17.7% increase from fiscal year 2014.

2015 – 2016
campuses

campus map
where we serve

focus alumni

go forth

Each year, FOCUS welcomes new missionaries to the field — and says goodbye to those missionaries who are moving on to a new stage of life. This May, FOCUS launched “Go Forth,” the organization’s first-ever commissioning event honoring departing missionaries and encouraging them to continue carrying out lifelong Catholic mission. They were invited to Evergreen, Colorado, for a week of joyful, prayerful reflection on their time of service, including a special Mass celebrated by the Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila.



Departing missionaries Joe Richards and Kelsey Gaines talk about their experience at Go Forth and contemplate where the Lord is calling them next.

“As I see these alumni ready to go forth,” said Joe Richards, a new seminarian, “I know they are the ones that will be on the ground sharing life family to family, raising new disciples. That’s what gives me hope for my future parishes!” Go Forth featured various Catholic speakers who taught the attendees about carrying their missionary experiences forward into the new missionary fields at home, in the office, and at their local parish. In the middle of the week, a day-long retreat served as a great opportunity for missionaries to take a step back and reflect on how the Lord has led them the past few years. Overall, the event was a chance for the missionaries leaving the campus to give thanks, find healing and joyfully look ahead to the Lord’s next mission.

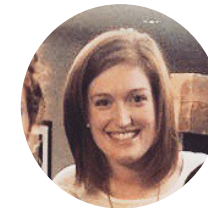
Kelsey Gaines, another Go Forth attendee, said, “While FOCUS has incredible formation and events, the best part has always been its people. I have been beyond blessed to be a part of this incredible apostolate and, more importantly, develop lifelong relationships with remarkable people.”

Like Joe, Kelsey found that Go Forth filled her with reassurance about her next steps. “After three years of life-giving service, I have felt the Lord calling me to the education field to teach the faith and to get involved

with parish life,” Kelsey added. “Go Forth solidified for me that FOCUS alumni will always be my anchor of support as I begin teaching freshman theology at John Carroll Catholic High School in Birmingham, Alabama.”

Following Go Forth, departing missionaries are now equipped to be leaders for the New Evangelization. While they may be leaving FOCUS, their work in leading souls to Christ isn’t over. As they walk along the new path the Lord sets them on, they will continue to reach out to others sharing the path with them, guiding them on the way to Christ’s Kingdom.

(By Christina Gaines)



**kelsey
gaines**



**joe
richards**

“As I see these alumni ready to go forth, I know they are the ones that will be on the ground sharing life family to family, raising new disciples. That’s what gives me hope for my future parishes!”

— Joe Richards

tara
elpers

focus alumni missionaries for life

FOCUS Alumni seeks to connect, inspire and equip our alumni with ongoing resources and experiences to help them flourish in lifelong Catholic mission, leading others to become missionary disciples of Jesus Christ and bearing fruit in their families, parishes and workplaces.



Tara Elpers, alumna FOCUS missionary and recruiter for Koch Industries, exemplifies FOCUS Alumni in action.

My story with FOCUS started at a bar...really. I was getting drinks with my friends, and while we were there the FOCUS missionaries at the University of Kansas joined our group. I was drawn to their realness and intentional conversation about the faith. They inspired me to share Jesus with those around me; a few months later, I filled out a FOCUS missionary application — and the rest is history.

It has been two years since I served on campus, and I currently work for Koch Industries. I discovered when I started that the skills I received from FOCUS were readily transferrable to my job. When I was a missionary, FOCUS taught me how to give and receive constructive feedback, how to communicate and have crucial conversations, how to lead, and how to map out objectives for my team — all which are essential to my work now as a recruiter.

FOCUS also helped me to see that I wasn't just entering a corporate office environment, but another mission field.

“Using all that FOCUS taught me, I was able to encourage my coworkers to go deeper into their relationship with Jesus.”

About six months after I started at Koch, a friend and I began a small group that met before work once a week. Together we discussed Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation, “The Joy of the Gospel.” Using all that FOCUS taught me, I was able to encourage my coworkers to go deeper into their relationship with Jesus. Encouraged by the words of the Holy Father, we talked about many aspects of living the faith: evangelization and being living witnesses in our office; how to help coworkers who are going through difficult situations like marriage trouble, a death in the family or a crisis of belief. The more we shared, the more doors started opening in conversations with our fellow employees.

I can see Jesus working in my coworkers' lives, and because of that I am motivated to continue to evangelize the secular world and help others do the same. This is why FOCUS is so important: It targets person-centered encounters with God, which are lived out beyond the college campus. There is a mission field everywhere we go: the grocery store, the office, our church groups, our neighborhoods. Every mission field needs missionaries, and FOCUS planted and nurtured that reality within me.

“There is a mission field everywhere we go: the grocery store, the office, our church groups, our neighborhoods. Every mission field needs missionaries, and FOCUS planted and nurtured that reality within me.”

—Tara Elpers



Through FOCUS, missionaries build essential skills for life:

- Leadership
- Team-building
- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Budgeting and financial skills
- Professionalism and etiquette
- Intellectual development
- Character formation
- Faith enrichment

fr. brian
lager

a journey of priestly vocation

religious vocation

Fr. Brian Lager, pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Edward, St. George, and St. Isidore parishes in Concordia, Belleville, Munden, and Cuba, Kansas, explores how his time as a missionary with FOCUS prompted and prepared him to enter the vocation of the priesthood.

My vocation began at kindergarten graduation. We were asked to draw a picture of what we wanted to be when we grew up. I drew a picture of a priest preaching at the ambo. However, I never gave the priesthood a serious chance until after college.

“Parishioners are in need of a relationship with Jesus Christ, and we need to inspire one another to introduce those we know to Christ.”

I encountered FOCUS at Benedictine College in the 2000 fall semester. I am a cradle Catholic, so when I saw that a FOCUS Bible study was being held on Wednesday nights, I signed up. However, this was the first time I had independence, so I often partied on the weekends and after football games throughout that first semester.

Things started to change when a FOCUS missionary began inviting me to different activities on the weekends — ice skating in Kansas City, playing cards or doing other things that were not the typical party scene. I learned how to have fun without drinking. I became engaged in conversations about what it meant to live an abundant Catholic life. Shortly after, I

was challenged to enter a deeper prayer life and courageous evangelization.

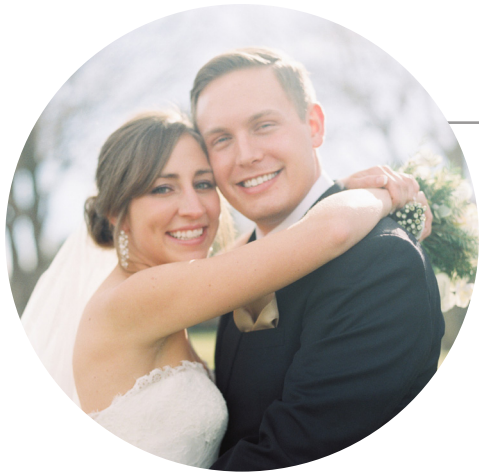
As I drew closer to the end of college, my FOCUS missionary encouraged me to apply for staff. I attended an interview weekend in Colorado Springs, and afterward I was sold. I became a FOCUS missionary.

After serving two years at University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Troy University, I heard the Lord’s call to the priesthood. Each day I spent praying in holy hour was crucial to my discernment. Once I turned in my application to enter seminary, I knew I had found my vocation.

Now as a priest, I am a firsthand witness to a stark reality: we don’t know how to form good relationships. Parishioners are in need of a relationship with Jesus Christ, and we need to inspire one another to introduce those we know to Christ.

In this regard, FOCUS has shaped my life immensely. Every decision and action is motivated by the efforts of evangelization taught to me during my six years with FOCUS. My heart was opened so that I could be transformed and ready to say “yes” when He called my name.





**craig
pytleski**

on mission in marriage

vocation of marriage

Craig Pytleski, alumnus FOCUS missionary, served for three years at George Mason University before he pursued marriage. He and his wife, Megan, currently live in Omaha, Nebraska. Craig shares how his service with FOCUS prepared him to practice discipleship through married life.

When I was a senior, I decided to serve as a missionary with FOCUS after graduation. The encouragement and guidance I received from the FOCUS missionaries as a student helped me begin my Christian journey of discipleship, and once I found the courage to say “yes” to Jesus, the trajectory of my life changed forever.

During my time as a missionary, I felt compelled to turn to married life in earnest. Thanks to guidance from my fellow missionaries, priests, my FOCUS training, and most of all prayer, the Lord helped me to determine my next steps, which led to finding my vocation in marriage with Megan.

Megan and I first became involved with FOCUS as undergraduate students through their national conferences, and on campus we were able to grow spiritually through Bible studies. Early on, we were still pursuing our individual goals and relationships with Jesus Christ. During my time as a missionary, Megan was pursuing a graduate degree—but the Lord had a unique calling for the two of us together.

Like married life, missionary life requires the attitude of a servant-leader. Being a team director showed me how to serve my team with humble sacrifice, which directly affected my marriage. I don’t know if Megan and I would be married today if I had not become serious about my prayer life—and on days when I am worn out, I receive the grace through prayer and the sacramental life to love and serve Megan as she needs.

In our marriage we disciple each other every day. “Have you prayed your rosary yet today?” “Did you go to Mass?” “We can do this; we just have to trust in Jesus.” The same encouragement and guidance I was able to receive as a student and to give as a missionary is something I implement in my marriage. Megan and I are committed to fostering our family and engaging in our community to build the kingdom.

“Jesus called us to marriage, but FOCUS prepared us for our ultimate ‘yes’ to the vocation.”

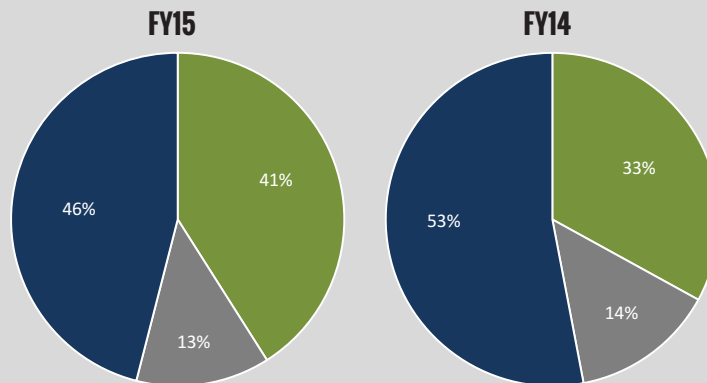
Jesus called us to marriage, but FOCUS prepared us for our ultimate “yes” to the vocation. Everything flows out from our marriage: love, spiritual direction and service. I look at Megan and see my teammate, my partner in this life who is called to sanctify me each day, and I her, so as to ensure that we bring ourselves and our friends and family to His kingdom.



fiscal year ending:	5/31/15	5/31/14
Campus Revenue	\$35,403,813	\$27,784,949
Conference Revenue	\$4,527,766	\$1,006,640
Missions Revenue	\$2,346,555	\$1,581,856
Total Revenue	\$42,278,134	\$30,373,445
Campus Expenses	\$30,791,868	\$26,101,463
Conference Expenses	\$4,609,825	\$955,118
Missions Expenses	\$1,743,918	\$1,289,061
Total Expenses	\$37,145,611	\$28,345,642
Total Change in Net Assets	\$5,132,523	\$2,027,803
Active Benefactors	68,294	60,934

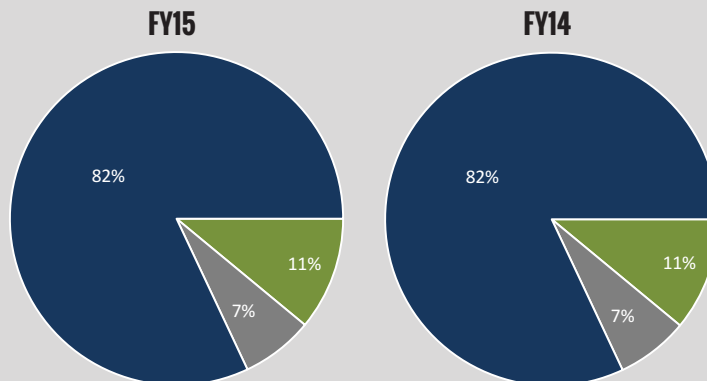
sources of cash received

- Support Team Contributions
- Other General Support
- Campus Support



operating expenses

- Program Services
- Fundraising Expenses
- Administrative Expenses



looking forward our investments

“E very one to whom much is given, of him much will be required...” (Luke 12:48).

Once again the Lord has truly blessed our efforts! This year we are reporting a record in our national fundraising: \$10.4 million, an increase of 49 percent over last year. We are tremendously grateful to those who faithfully help us to share Jesus Christ’s sacrificial love with students across the country, and we give thanks to God as we welcome new members into our FOCUS family.

We look with great joy at the journey FOCUS has travelled since our founding, and we look forward in great expectation as we continue to see all that God is doing. At the same time, we stand together at a crossroads. Though we have accomplished many wonderful goals through the Lord’s blessing, our battle has only begun: The battle rages in our culture, where sin and death are endorsed over truth and life, where the opponents of the Church continue to stockpile their war chests. The battle also rages behind the scenes as the great adversary of God seeks to corrupt and ruin souls with ruthless resolve. We need to be more than just willing to engage in this battle: We need to commit to it until the end, to reinforce our corps in the field and fortify the battleground to win souls for Christ.

The assets we have committed to reserve offer us stability, and yet we know what we have been given through God’s great blessing is meant to be deployed to sustain our work in the field. Now, more than ever, we must act — and for our actions to have impact, we must rely on prayer, build our teamwork, and harness the resources necessary to put our efforts into motion.

In the coming year, we are investing our resources in ways we believe will maximize our impact:



Campus Expansion:

113 campuses in 2015; looking to double our reach by 2021!



Missions:

More students than ever willing to encounter and serve Christ in the poor.



Supporting Life:

Sisters of Life and FOCUS expand our life-promoting initiatives for college students.

There is still a battle ahead of us.

We are resolute in our mission to redeem the soul of our culture. Continued support from faithful benefactors like you is what allows us to steadily and strategically optimize our resources to the missionaries who help change lives for the better, on campus and beyond.

Together we can invest in cultural restoration built on renewal, life and trust in God.



Presented by FOCUS

International Conference 2016:

Preparing for our third International Conference prior to World Youth Day 2016 in Poland.



Alumni:

Growing our resources to serve our 20,000+ FOCUS alumni through Bible studies, social media and much more.



Vocations:

547 vocations (decisions to pursue) since FOCUS' inception. Added 3 more National Chaplains this year.

sam and sally
lavergne



supporting focus, supporting hope

sacrificial giving

For more information on giving to FOCUS, please visit www.focus.org/give-now/ or call 303.962.5750.



Generous benefactors support FOCUS for many reasons. Sam and Sally LaVergne of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, have given to FOCUS since 2013. They have been married for 32 years and have four children. Here, they share why FOCUS gives them hope for the Church's future.

Sam and Sally didn't always know about FOCUS. The first time they heard about the organization was through a missionary who, at the time, was serving at the University of Texas, Austin. Both Sally and Sam were moved by his work on campus and began to support him, taking a closer look into what FOCUS was about. Then, at a Legatus Summit meeting, Sally and Sam met Curtis Martin, who shared with them the full vision of FOCUS.

"The more we learned, the more we thought that it was a fantastic organization," said Sally.

Sam and Sally both believe FOCUS is so important because, as their own children have gone into college, they recognize the real struggle that exists for students to keep the Catholic faith. At a time when young people are trying to bridge the gap between high school and their adult lives, FOCUS helps center students and prepares them to keep Jesus Christ as the purpose behind every decision they make beyond graduation. The Bible studies and missionary involvement empower young adults to keep and grow in their faith, inspiring them to become courageous leaders in the New Evangelization.

"The reason we choose to continue supporting FOCUS is because it is such an effective organization with proven results."

"The reason FOCUS works so well is the fact that all of the learning, outreach, and evangelization is done through their peers," said Sally. "I have never been disappointed in a missionary. Their faith is so deep-rooted. They're peaceful and hopeful — and that makes you feel the same way."

It is this sense of hope that inspires Sam and Sally to give. Giving regularly to the Church was something Sam grew up with, and he in turn shared that practice with Sally when they married. "Those earnings aren't yours to begin with," said Sally about tithing. "You have to give it away. It wasn't ever yours."

Seeing the successful structure of FOCUS at work and its great growth over so many campuses is what persuaded Sam and Sally to become supporters on a national level.

"The reason we choose to continue our support is because it is such an effective organization with proven results," said Sam. "We would like to help FOCUS continue its mission to multiply and to serve on a lot more campuses in the U.S."

Both Sam and Sally have great hopes for the future of the Catholic Church as a whole. They are thrilled to be a part of FOCUS' mission, and they intend to continue their involvement as FOCUS grows to new heights.

(By Christina Gaines)



J. Paul Breitbach and his wife, Frances, encountered FOCUS in 2007. They have been supporting FOCUS missionaries since 2009. Currently, Paul and Frances live in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

I grew up in a working-class Catholic family with 15 kids. My dad worked at the packing house, and my mom took in laundry. Every month, though, I remember my mom managed to send a couple of dollars to the foreign missions. Her giving always stuck with me — that there was a need to give back.

Right out of college, I went into public accounting with Price-Waterhouse and then went to work at Krispy Kreme. I was fortunate enough to accumulate some equity, so when the company went public, I had an increase in financial resources. I began thinking about how these resources were a gift from God; He was telling me to use that gift for His greater honor and glory.

I struggled with deciding how much to leave my family and how much my wife and I would need in our older years. I prayed a lot, asking for the Holy Spirit to guide me in these decisions. I wanted my giving to be meaningful, to go some-



where that's truly in line with my faith and where it can truly make a difference.

The future of the Church is dependent on young people understanding what it means to be Christian and how their Catholic faith can help sustain them in a very secular world. FOCUS provides this foundation for college students who desperately need to be educated not only in their faith, but in how they can live out that faith in a way that will influence other people.

Society concentrates on educating people to get the right kind of job, not on forming them into the right kind of person. For this reason, I'm very impressed with the FOCUS missionaries. The enthusiasm they have for what they're doing is contagious, and I believe they inspire a lot of college kids who are searching for more than what the secular world has to offer.

The more I learn about FOCUS and think about the vision behind it, the more I am convinced this is an organization that is going to do a lot of good—not only now, but for years to come. After I'm gone, I'd like to believe I'll make an impact through what I leave behind in my will. Making a commitment to FOCUS is in line with everything else I believe.



**j. paul
breitbach**

giving in line with my faith planned giving

For more information on giving to FOCUS through your will or a trust, please visit www.focus.org/give-now/planned-giving.html or contact Joshua Gideon at 303.551.7413.

“This is an opportunity to bring young people back into the fold with a zeal for being Catholic.”

— J. Paul Breitbach

why it's possible our benefactors

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The FOCUS Legacy Society recognizes individuals who have included FOCUS in their estate plan. FOCUS may benefit as a beneficiary of wills and trusts, gift annuities, life insurance, personal property, retirement plans and more. For more information, contact Joshua Gideon, Director of Planned Giving, at 303.551.7413 or email joshua.gideon@focus.org.

We regret any omissions or errors. Please notify us if you have designated FOCUS as a beneficiary or other planned gift. Anonymous gifts are treated confidentially.

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**thank you to
 all who make
 this possible!**





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Archbishop of Denver



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(1998 – 2001)
DIAC, NCCG

board of directors

“We are an active group, each of us deeply engaged in our work with FOCUS. We take our board roles very seriously.”

-Mark Collar,
Chairman of the Board

Committee Legend:

AC - Audit Committee
DIAC - Development and Institutional Advancement Committee
EC - Executive Committee
FC - Finance Committee
NCCG - Nomination, Compensation, Corporate Governance Committee

**denotes new fiscal year 2016 board member*

executive leadership team

meet our leaders >

Through prayerful decision-making and team-oriented collaboration, our FOCUS executive team members provide the strategic vision and day-to-day management for the organization as a whole.



▼
Curtis Martin is the founder and chief executive officer of FOCUS. Since founding FOCUS in 1998, Curtis has spearheaded this effort of the New Evangelization, which has now trained more than 20,000 young people to love and evangelize in their own communities. He is a well-known speaker and a frequent media guest on topics related to Catholic teaching. In 2011, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Curtis as a Consultant to the Pontifical Council of the New Evangelization. Curtis and his wife, Michaelann, live in Westminster, Colorado, with five of their nine children.

▼
Craig Miller is the president of FOCUS. In 2003, after a remarkably successful career in Silicon Valley that included leading sales and cooperative marketing for Cisco's global accounts, Craig accepted Curtis' invitation to help manage the operational needs created by FOCUS' growth. Since then, Craig has overseen all aspects of operations, administration, development and finance as FOCUS continues to grow from a presence on 15 college campuses in 2004 to serving on 113 campuses today. He lives in Genesee, Colorado, with his wife, Melissa, and four of their six children.

▼
Brenda Cannella is vice president of finance for FOCUS and also provides leadership for our events and service operations departments. Before she joined FOCUS in 2010, her past leadership roles in finance with Arthur Andersen LLP and Robert Half International gave her extensive accounting experience, which is invaluable to FOCUS' financial management. Pursuing her passion for the New Evangelization, Brenda volunteers both within her parish, where she serves as a member of the finance council, and beyond. Brenda and her husband, Troy, live in Erie, Colorado, with their five children.

▼
Joe Hensler joined the FOCUS leadership team in 2012 as vice president of collegiate outreach. Joe's wide range of experience in business, non-profit and religious communities, particularly his 19 years with Procter & Gamble, greatly benefits FOCUS. A native of St. Louis, Joe now resides in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, with his wife, Becky, and their five children.

▼
Fr. John Lager, O.F.M. Cap., has served FOCUS as the organization's national chaplain since 2013. Ordained in 1979, Fr. John has served the Capuchins as an associate pastor, a high school campus minister, and as the order's director of development and missionary activity. He has also served as the executive director of the Samaritan House of Denver, vocation director for the Capuchin Province of Mid-America, and is co-founder of Marked Men for Christ ministry.

▼
John Zimmer is vice president of apostolic development for FOCUS. Since joining FOCUS in 1999, he has served in a variety of roles, including serving as a campus missionary, directing the national apostolate and overseeing the training and formation of the missionary staff. John speaks and teaches throughout the country on leadership, evangelization and apologetics. John lives in Centennial, Colorado, with his wife Barbara and their seven children.



battlefield strategy

< facts in focus

the problem:
loss of faith
in college

Nearly
80%
Catholics who leave
the faith who do so
between the ages of
18 – 23*

54%
College students
who felt over-
whelming
anxiety**

46%
College students
who felt that
things were
hopeless**

8%
College students
who seriously
considered sui-
cide**

*Pew Forum on Religion and the Public Life and author Sherry Weddell
**American College Health Association, National College Health Assessment, Spring 2014

68,294
Current number of
FOCUS benefactors
(THANK YOU!)

there is more
work to be done:

the solution:
focus

17,530
The number of students
attending at least one
FOCUS Bible study
last year

3,422
Bible studies
across our 100
campuses

57%
Increase in
number of Bible
studies over the
prior year

250
FOCUS goal for number of
campuses by 2022

the fruit:
lifelong
Catholic mission

more than
20,000
The number of FOCUS
alumni since inception

>1:1
Ratio of alumni to 17,000+
U.S. parishes, according to
the USCCB statistics
in 2014

\$285,000
Average annual cost for FOCUS
missionary team on a campus



603 Park Point Dr.
Golden, CO 80401



☞ **There is a battle and a battle where salvation is at play, eternal salvation of us all.** ☞

— Pope Francis, October 11, 2013