

## Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) Overview

Answering the Church's call for a New Evangelization, FOCUS is a Catholic apostolate whose mission is to share the hope and joy of the Gospel. FOCUS was founded in 1998 at Benedictine College by Curtis Martin. Since then the organization has grown from two missionaries on one campus to more than 860 missionaries serving full time at 216 locations: 193 college campuses, including eight international campuses and 10 Digital Outreach campuses, and 23 parishes (<https://focusoncampus.org/find-my-campus>). By 2027, FOCUS expects to have more than 1,000 missionaries serving in more than 250 locations around the world.

FOCUS sends teams of missionaries (four on average) to encounter people in friendship, inviting them into a personal relationship with Christ and accompanying them as they pursue lives of virtue and excellence. Through Bible studies, outreach events, mission trips and discipleship, missionaries inspire and build up others in the faith, sending them out to live out lifelong Catholic mission wherever they are. FOCUS missionaries make a two-year commitment to the mission and raise their own salaries, relying on support from generous benefactors.

### Why college campuses and parishes?

FOCUS believes it is important to evangelize college students because many fall away from the faith during the college years. Therefore, the college campus is a significant leverage point as students go out into the world. Rooted in sacred Scripture and sacred tradition, FOCUS was born out of a passion and zeal to share how a relationship with Jesus Christ and the Catholic faith can transform the world. Beginning with our nation's future leaders, FOCUS sends teams of young, trained missionaries to campus to reach students with the Gospel.

Parish Outreach takes FOCUS' model of spiritual multiplication from the campus to the parish. Experienced campus missionaries transition to the parish mission field and offer their evangelization skills and training to teach parishioners how to pray, evangelize and make disciples of others.

America's 17,000 Catholic parishes have a critically important role to play in the New Evangelization. Parishes are the arms of the Church where people are loved and cared for, where the lost are found and where people can encounter Christ in prayer and in the sacraments. But they are in need of renewal.

In partnership with the college chaplain/parish pastor and ministry staff, FOCUS missionaries host outreach events, lead weekly Bible studies and offer one-on-one mentoring with student/parish leaders. Missionaries welcome individuals from all walks of life and religious backgrounds to FOCUS events. Through the missionaries' personal investment and dedication, FOCUS helps to build a joyful, Christ-centered community and support network on each campus where we have a presence.

### Mission Statement

To know Christ Jesus and fulfill His Great Commission.

### The Main Thing

Launching Students into Lifelong Catholic Mission. Inviting college students into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church, inspiring and equipping them for a lifetime of Christ-centered evangelization, discipleship and friendship in which they lead others to do the same.

The "win, build, send" model of FOCUS is outlined by Curtis Martin and Dr. Edward Sri in the book "Foundations for Discipleship," which details the approach to evangelization modeled for us by Jesus in the Gospels and rooted in Catholic magisterial teaching.

### FOCUS Digital Outreach

[Digital Outreach](#) missionaries typically provide Bible study resources, discipleship and mentoring to students on non-FOCUS campuses. In mid-March 2020, following the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, FOCUS made an organization-wide transition from in-person Bible studies and discipleship to digital outreach through online platforms. FOCUS' Digital Outreach hosted multiple training sessions to equip on-campus missionaries to continue conducting Bible studies, discipleship and meetings with students through video chats and other virtual venues.

### **Additional Outreach Programs**

FOCUS has programs that work with athletes ([Varsity Catholic](#)) and Greek life ([FOCUS Greek](#)). FOCUS facilitates numerous global trips with [FOCUS Missions](#), one of the largest Catholic mission programs in the world. [FOCUS 153](#) seeks to equip every aspect of our apostolate to effectively reach all ethnic and racial demographics on campus and beyond. [FOCUS Alumni Relations](#) equips, encourages and inspires alumni to be agents of the New Evangelization. [The Love Life initiative](#) bolsters pro-life and purity efforts on college campuses while strengthening marriage and family formation and support. [The Beauty Initiative within FOCUS](#) encourages creativity in all its forms.