

## FOCUS Overview

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

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

Since 1998, the organization has grown from two missionaries on one campus to more than 980 missionaries serving full time at 234 locations: 193 college campuses, including nine international campuses, nine Digital Outreach campuses, and 23 parishes (<https://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 a lifelong Catholic mission wherever they are.

Everyone is looking for a place that brings purpose and hope to their lives. At FOCUS, we invite these seekers to something more through transformation in Christ. FOCUS is a global Catholic outreach organization where people become leaders on college campuses and in their parishes by inspiring and guiding others on a faith journey through small group Bible studies, mentorships, and events.

### Why college campuses and parishes?

FOCUS believes it is important to evangelize college students, as well as in parishes and to people of all ages because we all have moments in life where we can fall away from our faith. Many young people stray from their faith during their college years, therefore the college campus is a significant leverage point to reach students before they go out into the world.

At the parish level, FOCUS takes its model of spiritual multiplication from the campus to the parish and transitions experienced campus missionaries to the parish mission field and offers their evangelization skills and training to teach parishioners how to pray, evangelize and make disciples of others.

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. By introducing parishes and leaders to Missionary Discipleship, FOCUS works with Church leaders to offer renewed hope to communities and individuals across the country.

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 campuses and parishes to reach those who need it most with the Gospel.

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.

### **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.