

FOCUS

Vision for Life

FY 09 ANNUAL REPORT

FOCUS MISSION

**TO KNOW CHRIST JESUS, AND
FULFILL HIS GREAT COMMISSION,
BY FIRST LIVING AND THEN
COMMUNICATING THE FULLNESS
OF LIFE WITHIN THE FAMILY
OF GOD, THE CHURCH.**

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We believe they are made for more

SPRING 2009

DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST,

When I stop to reflect on the current challenges and, in many ways, downright despair that is prevalent throughout the nation, my thoughts turn to what good can be made of it all. Indeed, I can't help but recognize the tremendous door of opportunity that has opened before us. In dire times, perhaps more than ever, people are open to the grace and mercy of God because they have become acutely aware of their need—both economic and spiritual. At FOCUS, we seek to take advantage of times like these to remind others of their deepest and truest need: the love of God revealed in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

While the past year has not been without its trials, I can say FOCUS has expanded to 12 new campuses, fostered 36 more Vocations to the priesthood and religious life and now have 215 missionaries in the field. They have brought a bold and confident response to the thousands of college students searching for something more.



Motivated by love, our missionaries have hosted large group outreaches, led thousands of students in Bible study, been visible in the Pro-Life cause and have been personal mentors to countless individuals. Thank you for supporting these disciples as they continue to reach students who will become our future leaders, empowered with the love of Christ.

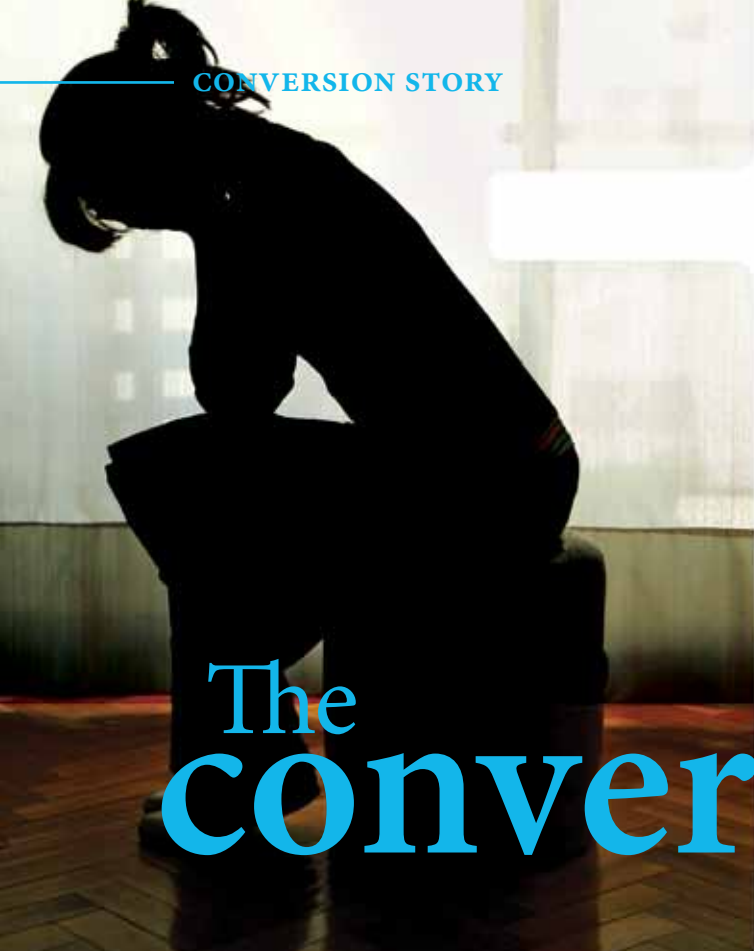
In my interactions with donors over the past few months, many have asked me for resources to aid their own spiritual growth and answer questions pertaining to our faith. We recognize that while you help us serve college students, you have spiritual needs as well. To that end, I invite you to please send me an email at cmartin@focusonline.org because I would like to send you our eNewsletter, *The Call*, to encourage you in your desire to strengthen your faith.

We currently have invitations to send missionaries to some highly regarded colleges and universities next year. It is our goal to reach 100 campuses in the next six years. That is still just a fraction of the nearly 3,000 college and university campuses in the United States. The mission field is indeed plentiful! Each year, almost three million families send their children off to college; many pray that they will not lose their faith. Even more students have no idea that they are loved by God and are made for more than what the world is offering them. We want to be there to reach them all.

You are in my daily prayers with great thanksgiving and hope.

Sincerely in Christ,

Curtis Martin



The conversion of one

Sarah's Story

Sarah Stewart, 26, has come a long way in a few short years. At 22, she was living the typical college

lifestyle—late nights, parties, intimate encounters with strangers and little, if any, consideration given to matters of eternal importance on a daily basis. Raised Catholic and catechized at home, Sarah was well-versed in the basics of the faith, but found she was unprepared to defend it against the full frontal assault that is the atmosphere of the modern secular university.

From the day she set foot on campus as an eighteen-year old freshman, she became acutely aware of the disparity in competing world views, finding herself at odds with the majority of the student body. Her determination to remain

a virgin—in spite of the presence of a serious boyfriend—had already made for one awkward exchange with her new roommate. “It was as if we were raised on two different planets,” Sarah explained, “We had two completely opposing ideas of what was normal, of what was reality.”

Regardless, Sarah was determined to have a “normal” college experience, and participated as fully as she thought her Christianity would permit. She attended keg parties at fraternity

...living the typical college lifestyle — late nights, parties, intimate encounters with strangers, and little, if any, consideration given to matters of eternal importance...

houses along with hordes of other freshmen women, vying for position on the dance floor while fighting off unwanted advances from drunken frat brothers. She developed a taste for light beer and jungle juice, a pungent concoction comprised largely of fruit punch and 100 proof grain alcohol. And all the while she continued attending Mass on Sundays, trekking off campus to the University parish to fulfill her Sunday obligation.

I started attending FOCUS events on Friday nights when I would normally be out partying. It was a little strange at first, because I didn't really believe that people could have fun in that kind of setting. I began to develop real relationships...

After a few semesters of living this double life, Sarah was exhausted. Around the same time she stopped attending Mass, she started experimenting with marijuana and drinking on weeknights as well as weekends. She rationalized her behavior by comparing her lifestyle with those of her dorm mates thinking that at least she wasn't promiscuous. After all, she still believed in God—even if she didn't know Him.

“I was so desperate for something—anything—to fill this gaping wound inside of me. At that point, I would have accepted anything that promised happiness. I no longer knew what it meant to be truly happy.”

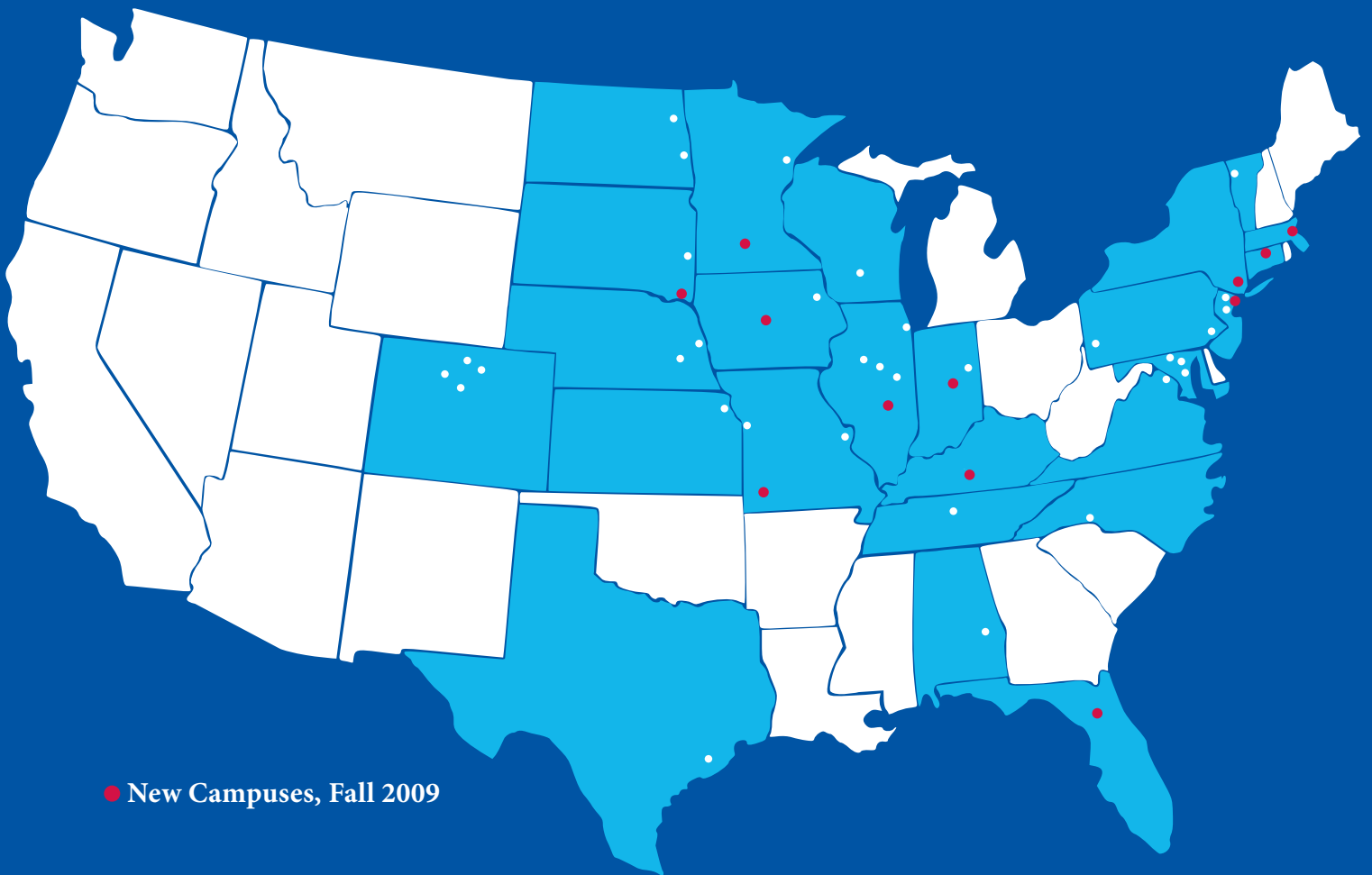
But she knew someone who did. More specifically, a group of young women who met weekly for Bible study and fellowship, radiating a serenity and a joy that both attracted and repulsed her. She had dropped in on a couple of meetings in the past year, but was always hesitant to commit to regular attendance. She liked the girls and deeply respected the study's leader, Maddie, a third-year FOCUS missionary, but she would often leave the dorm room where the girls gathered, feeling ill at ease. She knew that the life she was living was incompatible with the faith she—and they—professed. But to admit this would mean making a radical change, and she wasn't ready for that.

Early one morning late in the spring of her senior year, Sarah was leaving her boyfriend's house when she bumped into Maddie, whom she hadn't seen since her last appearance at Bible study more than a year prior. “I was ashamed,” explained Sarah. “I thought she could read my heart, thought she must be wondering what I was doing leaving my boyfriend's house at 7:00 a.m. I hadn't been to Bible study in a long time, and I had rejected all of her subsequent invitations to get together. I knew our lives were on different tracks.”

Those differences were about to become more apparent. After the two girls had hugged, Sarah noticed the young man who was accompanying Maddie. He smiled and extended his hand in greeting. Maddie spoke before he could, saying, “It's so good to see you. Sarah, you'll never believe this, but we just got engaged! We found a great priest to do Pre-Cana with. He's really into Theology of the Body.”

Sarah was stunned, not by the news of the





● New Campuses, Fall 2009

FOCUS CAMPUSES

Alabama

Auburn University, Auburn

Colorado

Colorado School of Mines, Golden
Colorado State University, Fort Collins
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Denver, Denver
University of Northern Colorado, Greeley

Connecticut

● **University of Connecticut, Storrs**

Florida

● **University of Florida, Gainesville**

Illinois

● **Eastern Illinois University, Charleston**
Bradley University, Peoria
Illinois State University, Normal
Illinois Wesleyan University,
Bloomington
University of Illinois, Chicago
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Western Illinois University, Macomb

Iowa

● **Drake University**
Loras College, Dubuque

Indiana

● **Indiana University Purdue
University—Indianapolis**
Ball State University, Muncie

Kansas

Benedictine College, Atchison

Kentucky

● **University of Kentucky, Lexington**

Massachusetts

● **Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Cambridge**

Maryland

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

FOCUS CAMPUSES (CONT.)

Minnesota

University of Minnesota, Duluth

● **Minnesota State University, Mankato**

Missouri

● **Missouri State University, Springfield**

University of Missouri, Kansas City

Washington University, St. Louis

Nebraska

Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln

University of Nebraska, Lincoln

FOCUS Outreach to Athletes—Varsity
Catholic at UNL

University of Nebraska, Omaha

New Jersey

● **Montclair State University**

Ramapo College of New Jersey, Mahwah

Seton Hall University, South Orange

FOCUS Outreach to Athletes—Varsity
Catholic at Seton Hall

New York

● **New York University**

North Carolina

Belmont Abbey College, Belmont

North Dakota

North Dakota State University, Fargo

University of North Dakota, Grand Forks

Pennsylvania

Temple University, Philadelphia

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh

South Dakota

● **University of South Dakota, Vermillion**

South Dakota State University, Brookings

Tennessee

Vanderbilt University, Nashville

Texas

University of St. Thomas, Houston

Vermont

University of Vermont, Burlington

Virginia

George Mason University, Fairfax

Wisconsin

University of Wisconsin, Madison

**SAMPLE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR A FOUR MISSIONARY TEAM
FISCAL YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 2009**

REVENUES	ANNUAL BUDGET
Staff Support	\$140,000
Campus Support	\$10,000
Campus Fee	\$50,000
FOCUS National Contribution	\$50,000
Total Revenues	\$250,000
EXPENSES	
Payroll Related Expenses	
Campus Staff Salaries	\$119,000
Moving Expense	\$2,500
Health Benefits	\$18,000
Payroll Tax Expense	\$9,500
Retirement Expense	\$1,000
Training Per Campus Team	\$14,000
Workers' Comp. Benefits	\$1,200
Campus Rental	\$15,000
Total Payroll Related Expenses	\$180,200
Program Related Expenses	
Administrative (5%)	\$12,500
Fundraising Expense (8%)	\$20,000
Materials Cost (1%)	\$2,500
Curriculum and Material Development (3%)	\$7,500
Personnel and Operational Management (3%)	\$7,500
Total Program Related Expenses	\$50,000
Operating Expenses	
Campus Ministry Expenses	\$5,000
Conference Expenses	\$4,000
Insurance	\$1,200
Lodging	\$1,300
Meals and Entertainment	\$1,500
Office Expenses	\$1,000
Telephone Expense	\$500
Technology Costs	\$1,500
Travel and Mileage	\$3,800
Total Operating Expenses	\$19,800
Total Expenses	\$250,000
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$0

Adam's Story

A BEGINNING

During his years as an underclassman at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, Adam was

in the thick of student life. Aside from concentration on his studies, his main focus and love in life was baseball. He was surrounded by a community of teammates who understood the struggle and triumph that came along with being a student-athlete and who looked to baseball as their predominant purpose and motivation.

Having been raised in a faithful Catholic household, Adam continued to attend Sunday Mass. However, as the year passed, he began to feel anxious. "At that time I didn't realize it was God pushing me in the right direction," he recalled.

"I wasn't happy with where I was, and I was only spending an hour each week with God. My life was disordered." Adam recognized that his relationship with God was deteriorating. After careful thought and prayer, he made the decision to quit baseball and readjust his life's focus.

A TURN

Around the same time, a FOCUS missionary on the Loras campus had been paying Adam regular visits hoping to open the door to a weekly Bible

I wasn't happy with where I was, and I was only spending an hour each week with God. My life was disordered.



Brought to his
vocation

study and Christian fellowship. With some apprehension, Adam decided to step out of his comfort zone and join a FOCUS study. Like many college students, he found it difficult to make that step because of other influences. “In my college life, I was not always surrounded by people who upheld any sort of holiness, so I thought I was as holy as it got. I went to the first FOCUS study and was blown away with how little I knew about the Bible. I didn’t know the depth of what was truly there.”

Adam continued his reluctance to participate any further in the ministry at his parish but was continually encouraged to pursue his faith by FOCUS staff on campus. After attending the FOCUS National Conference, Adam awoke to the extent of God’s love. His time spent there was a crucial experience in faith, when he realized the immense value of fellowship in his relationship with Jesus Christ.

Adam’s hesitance to engage in faith-centered opportunities dissipated. With a life based increasingly upon prayer, he soon felt called to live evangelization through missionary life on college campuses. Trusting completely in God’s will, he joined FOCUS staff and found himself surrounded by countless men and women who, like him, were faithfully striving toward a more intimate friendship with Christ.

A CALL TO MORE

In the middle of his third year as a missionary, Adam felt God calling him to earnestly discern the vocation He had planned for him. The formation that he had received from growing up in a faithful

household and living a sacramental lifestyle serving on FOCUS staff had always helped Adam come to a prayerful decision with reasonable clarity. However, this decision would not come without its challenges.

In the middle of Adam’s discernment, an unexpected opportunity reemerged in his life. Although he felt he had made the right decision by quitting baseball after his sophomore year of college, he had an undeniable desire to follow his longtime dream of playing professionally. To everyone around him, it was apparent that Adam was an extremely talented athlete and having found encouragement from his friends and family, he decided he would get back into training and chase his dream. However, this decision meant putting his vocational discernment on hold and he found himself standing at a fork in his life’s path. “For months, I had felt that I needed to head in the direction of the seminary, but it’s amazing

After attending the FOCUS National Conference, Adam awoke to the extent of God’s love. His time spent there was a crucial experience in faith, when he realized the immense value of fellowship in his relationship with Jesus Christ.

how many opportunities open up when you are in discernment,” Adam said. “You see yourself heading in one direction and the devil tries to scare you away. I just continued to pray, ‘One of these options is going to give me the greatest joy. Please help me to know what it is.’”

Finally, in the midst of a summit gathering with team directors from other FOCUS campuses, Adam felt God speak plainly to him: “You know what you need to do. You know where you need to go’ and I felt this joy and zeal about going to seminary and eventually becoming a priest!” With that,

**I felt this joy and zeal about going to seminary and eventually becoming a priest!
I realized that dreams are good but baseball was not the dream God intended for me to follow.**

he felt at peace with the path laid out before him. “I realized that dreams are good but baseball was not the dream God intended for me to follow.”

A FAMILIAR PEACE

Having made the decision to join Maryland’s Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in the Fall of 2009, Adam asserts that he is gratified with the vision of the path that God has laid out for him. “My vocational director says that God works in a similar way throughout your entire life. I always knew very intensely that I had a great peace about becoming a FOCUS missionary and I always knew that God was going to give me peace in His will for my life. At this point, I just feel joyful. As I’ve come to grasp the decision I’ve made to enter seminary, it continues to give me ever-greater peace.”



As a FOCUS missionary, Adam lived life completely dependent upon the generosity of donors as his source of livelihood. When asked how this would help him as a priest he replied, “I have learned as a missionary that nothing material is going to satisfy you.”

“There is a difference between happiness and joy. Material things can make you happy, but they cannot give you joy. Where I find my joy is God. Nothing else can satisfy. Only He can fill.”

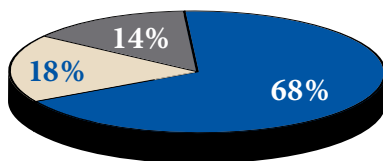
FOCUS has fostered over 220 vocations to the priesthood and religious life over the last 11 years.

	FISCAL YEAR ENDING			
	5/31/09	5/31/08	5/30/07	5/31/06
Revenues	\$9,863,239	\$10,087,751	\$6,003,617	\$5,765,702
Operating Change in Net Assets	-\$680,924	\$1,690,093	\$30,631	\$597,235
Non-operating Change in Net Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Change in Net Assets	-\$680,924	\$1,690,093	\$30,631	\$597,235
Fundraising Expenses	\$971,121	\$999,299	\$972,835	\$602,006
General and Administrative Expenses	\$571,217	\$313,208	\$276,795	\$219,317
Fundraising as a % of Total Expenses	9%	12%	16%	12%
General and Administrative as a % of Total Expenses	5%	4%	5%	4%
Average Size of Gift Received	\$120	\$124	\$124	\$116
Most Frequent Contribution	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$30

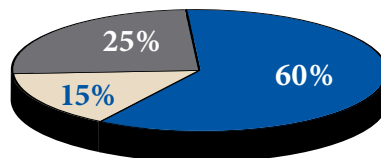
	CALENDAR YEAR		
	2009	2008	2007
Average Married Missionary Monthly Compensation	\$3,726	\$2,627	\$2,680
Average Single Missionary Monthly Compensation	\$1,725	\$1,657	\$1,734

SOURCES OF CASH RECEIVED

FISCAL YEAR ENDING 5/31/09



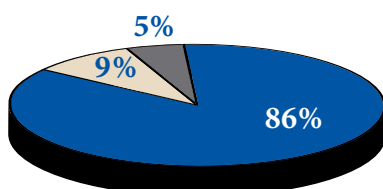
FISCAL YEAR ENDING 5/31/08



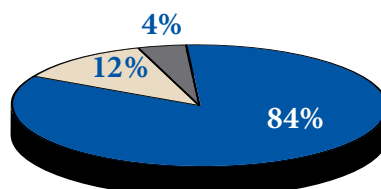
- Support Team Contributions
- Campus Fees
- Other General Support

OPERATING EXPENSES

FISCAL YEAR ENDING 5/31/09



FISCAL YEAR ENDING 5/31/08



- Program Services
- Fundraising Expenses
- Administrative Expenses

**Audited Financials available upon request*

Without the prayers and gifts of many financial supporters across the country, it would not be possible for FOCUS to continue reaching more campuses and students for Christ and the Catholic Church. Below we would especially like to recognize those who have made gifts designated to the FOCUS Fund, which enables us to train and support our missionaries and to expand to new campuses. We are also grateful for the financial partners who designate gifts to specific missionary support funds, but who cannot be listed below because the great number of these Mission Partners.

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

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FOCUS NEW STAFF TRAINING: WHERE IT ALL BEGINS

For a few moments the crowd stands in reverent silence, many with heads bowed and hands folded, and then a single voice rings out, “Salve Regina!”

The sun-filled chapel echoes with the swell of more than 200 voices as they seamlessly respond with, “Mater miserecordiae.”

Mass has just ended at FOCUS New Staff Training and the missionaries join in singing the “Salve Regina” before kneeling down to make a prayer of thanksgiving. This scene will be repeated every day for the next five weeks, as FOCUS comes together to train another class of missionaries to fulfill the Great Commission.



New Staff Training brings together first- and second-year FOCUS missionaries (along with a handful of helpful veteran staff) to learn the fundamentals of evangelization and catechesis, stretch themselves in both personal and professional growth and continue to form a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, fellowship and the Sacraments.

Daily Mass isn't the first time the missionaries step into the chapel each day. Every morning begins with an hour of

Eucharistic Adoration starting promptly at 8:00 a.m., a habit the missionaries will carry into their lives on campus.

First-year missionary, Marnee Peterson, thinks this has been her favorite part of New Staff Training. “Praying before the Blessed Sacrament each day is like having a light shining into all the corners of your life,” she said.

Confession is available during the Holy Hour, as well as in the afternoon, with a daily Rosary also fitting into the schedule.

After prayer, the day is full of lectures and practical classes, ranging from the study of Salvation History to a workshop on how to give one's personal testimony at any time, in any situation—even in an elevator!

But some of the most important lessons are learned outside of the classroom. Each week, the missionaries have a chance to expand their comfort zones by practicing evangelization on campus. This can vary from starting up discussions with students on the quad about faith, sharing the Gospel as they go door-to-door asking for food for a soup kitchen, or even inviting others to join in a group prayer before playing a game of pick-up basketball.

Peterson said she was anxious during her first evangelization experience on campus, but after a few discussions she saw how a simple invitation to speak about faith can profoundly impact a person. “I was really nervous, but it makes me feel like I have the best job in the world. I get to talk to people about things that really matter!” she said. “I feel equipped to share my faith with the people I will meet on campus.”

For Peterson and the rest of the missionaries of FOCUS—the largest Catholic, collegiate outreach program in the country—the journey to bring college students to Christ begins at this moment, at New Staff Training.

STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

MONICA GUTIERREZ

Monica, a senior at the United States Naval Academy, has been involved with FOCUS since her freshman year. Monica's faithfulness and dedication to the mission and values of FOCUS make her stand out as an exemplary student leader. In the midst of the uniquely structured and time-constrained schedule of the Naval Academy, Monica has selflessly and joyfully given of herself to serve the women in her Bible study and discipleship chain.

Monica's faith has inspired her peers to spend a semester exploring the Theology of the Body, to receive the sacrament of reconciliation and to frequent daily Mass and Adoration. As a student leader she sets an example that attracts new potential disciples and spurs other student leaders to become more deeply committed to spiritual multiplication. Through all of the great success that has come from Monica's work with FOCUS, she displays a rare humility, recognizing and acknowledging her role as a simple instrument of God.

The FOCUS missionaries and students who have been blessed to work with Monica often see in her the authentic joy for which every Catholic strives. Through her encounter with the Lord in prayer and the sacraments, Monica exemplifies the spirit that Pope Paul VI ascribed to the church when he said that "evangelizing is...her deepest identity." Through the witness and investment of her life, Monica has inspired those around her to more fully embrace this identity.

THOMAS GALLAGHER

Thomas understands and is extremely passionate about the FOCUS vision. This passion is manifested in his evangelization efforts on the campus of George Mason University (GMU) where he makes himself readily available to many of his peers to share how Christ has worked in his life and to encourage his colleagues in their lives of prayer. He has dedicated his life and much of his time to facilitating bible study, discipleship, joining the team at all hours and serving as the president of the Core Team to plan and execute Outbreaks.

Thomas has truly allowed his faith and relationship with Christ to penetrate all aspects of his life and heart. He has lived in community with the FOCUS men at GMU this past year and has desired to continue to learn and be encouraged in his life of virtue. He is truly an inspiration to the team and to the rest of the Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM) community.

Thomas' impact on campus has been a real blessing and gift to the FOCUS staff, CCM and the GMU community at large.. He has humbled and inspired others in their own faith as he so freely and willingly shares how Jesus Christ has penetrated his heart. Thomas' heroic generosity and the way he sacrifices his time to spread the Gospel and serve the CCM is remarkable. His courage and willingness to take the major step of applying for and subsequently accepting the Lord's calling to be a priest for Jesus Christ comes as no surprise. He is entering seminary for the Arlington Diocese with a co-sponsorship with the Military Archdiocese.



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