

## **FOCUS National Events**

FOCUS alternates years with hosting its national events: SEEK and SLS. SEEK2019, held in January 2019, had nearly 17,000 participants, many of them college students, come together in Indianapolis, IN. SLS18 was held in Chicago on January 2 – 6, 2018, bringing together more than 8,000 participants.

FOCUS events have welcomed approximately 94,000 overall attendees for all conferences since the inaugural National Conference held in 1999, where 25 students came together to pray, deepen their Catholic faith and learn how to share Christ with others.

### **SEEK**

SEEK is a five-day event where people gather to ask the big questions about life, love and true happiness. SEEK offers attendees an opportunity to personally grow in their faith or to encounter Jesus Christ for the first time.

SEEK2019 was held in Indianapolis, January 3 – 7, 2019. College students from across the country were challenged and inspired through the Collegiate Track by nationally recognized speakers who discussed hot topics relevant to young adults on campus. Chaplains and campus ministers participated in the Campus Ministry Track to receive insight and encouragement for creating dynamic and fruitful college campus ministries. The Lifelong Mission Track helped FOCUS alumni, parishioners and benefactors who desired the vision, training and resources to be missionary disciples in families, parishes and careers.

SEEK2019 included daily opportunities for Mass, adoration, confession, reflection and discernment. Keynote speakers included Sr. Bethany Madonna, S.V., Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, Fr. Mike Schmitz, Leah Darrow, Jason Evert, Jennifer Fulwiler, Dr. Scott Hahn, Curtis Martin, Dr. Edward Sri and Chris Stefanick. Many other world-renowned Catholic speakers shared perspectives on current faith issues, including experts such Fr. Philip Bochanski, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, Lisa Brenninkmeyer, Crystalina Evert, Matt Fradd, Stephanie Gray, Trent Horn, Paul J. Kim, Dr. Jonathan Reyes, Lila Rose, Sarah Swafford, Brandon Vogt, George Weigel and Emily Wilson.

Most participants at SEEK events attended daily Mass with more than 400 priests concelebrating. During the powerful Saturday evening of Eucharistic adoration, thousands went to confession, some for the first time in years, experiencing God's healing power of forgiveness.

A recap of SEEK2019 can be found here: [SEEK2019 Recap Video](#).

The SEEK2019 press release can be found online at [SEEK2019 Inspires Desire to Encounter Something More](#).

### **SLS**

SLS is a leadership event for any Catholic who wants to learn how to live as a true missionary disciple and help bring their friends, families, campuses, workplaces, parishes and communities into a deeper relationship with Christ. SLS utilizes dynamic training and revolutionary peer-to-peer learning techniques to equip student leaders, launching them into mission back on campus.

SLS18 attendees included students, staff, missionaries, chaplains, seminarians, alumni, benefactors and Catholic lay persons. SLS18 also included a Lifelong Mission Track for post-college attendees to learn how to deepen their own faith and share it at their parish, at work and with friends and family.

Jim Caviezel, who played the role of Jesus in “The Passion of the Christ,” was a surprise guest during the Wednesday evening keynote. Caviezel, who stars in the 2018 film “Paul, Apostle of Christ,” encouraged attendees to be warriors animated by faith. The video of his speech has been viewed more than a million times: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9z-dMQjRBE>.

Catholic News Agency journalist Joe Slama attended SLS18 and shared his experience: [FOCUS trains record-breaking crowd to evangelize at leadership summit](#).

SLS20 will be taking place Dec. 30, 2019 – Jan. 3, 2020 in Phoenix, Arizona. Thousands of attendees will come together with FOCUS leaders and other catechetical and evangelization experts from across the country to delve deep into the vision of missionary discipleship and receive the practical tools and tips for making missionary disciples on campuses, in families, at parishes and in communities. More information can be found at [sls20.org](http://sls20.org).