

FOCUS National Events

Since the inaugural FOCUS conference held in 1999, where 25 students came together to pray, deepen their Catholic faith and learn how to share it with others, FOCUS projects that more than 100,000 people will attend a national FOCUS conference in the next five years, facilitating a deeper encounter with Christ and increased zeal for evangelization for attendees.

SEEK

SEEK is a one-of-a-kind event that offers attendees an opportunity to personally grow in their faith or to encounter Jesus Christ for the first time.

[SEEK23: Answer the Call](#) will take place January 2 – 6, 2023, at St. Louis, Missouri. SEEK23 will unite thousands across the country to encounter the heart of the Gospel and share it with others. Similar to past events, SEEK23 will offer opportunities for prayer and the sacraments, sessions and keynotes with Catholic speakers, discussion and fellowship, and evening entertainment. Several of the speakers include Fr. Mike Schmitz, Fr. Josh Johnson, Dr. Scott Hahn, Emily Wilson, Sr. Bethany Madonna, SV, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, Paul J. Kim, Jason Evert, Chika Anyanwu and Curtis Martin. SEEK welcomes attendees from college campuses and parishes alike with tracks involving living out the Gospel either on campus, in the parish or in ministry. [The SEEK Podcast](#), which began before SEEK22, is a place of community, collaboration and inspiration, created to invite and encourage attendees to go deeper into a relationship with Jesus before and after the event. More information can be found at seek.focus.org.

Past SEEK Events

[SEEK22: Seek and you will find](#), hosted February 4 - 6, 2022, brought together more than 23,600 people from 20 countries to encounter Christ during the hybrid, immersive broadcast. Clergy, parishioners, college students and benefactors explored the Gospel and the call to missionary discipleship in local and regional gatherings. Nearly 12,000 students participated in campus gatherings, including larger regional events in Dallas, Texas and Knoxville, Tennessee, which each had more than 1,000 participants. Parishioners from more than 1,600 parishes also signed up, and more than 25 bishops participated in regional events. Keynote speakers included Msgr. James Shea, Fr. Josh Johnson, Fr. Mike Schmitz, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, Sr. Bethany Madonna, S.V., Tina Augustine, Hilary Draftz, Jason Evert, Curtis Martin and Dr. Edward Sri.

Quotes from SEEK22 Attendees:

"SEEK22 encouraged me to be bolder in how I live the faith and encourage others to get to Heaven." (Abby Merkel, University of California - Santa Barbara student)

"SEEK cut through obstacles that prevented students from encountering the Father's love. It set the stage for students to address questions that otherwise would be lost in the busyness of our college campus." (Andy Meza, Texas State University student)

"Having SEEK here at the parish was a wonderful experience. Having parishioners and college students all gathered together praying and talking about faith was amazing. Seeing the excitement about our Catholic faith was inspiring to me and many others." (Fr. James S. Barkett, pastor of St. Mary of Sorrows in Fairfax, Virginia)

"SEEK22 was a terrific experience and helped build up a sense of community in the parish we've been trying to rebuild and restore since the [COVID-19] shutdown." (Ted Spinelli, executive director of discipleship and evangelization at Sacred Heart of Jesus, Diocese of Arlington)

The SEEK22 press release can be found online: [SEEK22 Encourages 22,000+ to Know Christ and Fulfill His Great Commission](#). Recap videos are on YouTube at [SEEK22 Day 1](#) and [SEEK22 Day 2](#).