

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ of the Divine Mercy Area Faith Community,

My name is Terez Kramer, and my family and I are parishioners at St. Mary's Church in Sleepy Eye. For at least the next two years, I am blessed to be serving as a full-time campus missionary in Germany with the *Fellowship of Catholic University Students* (FOCUS Missions), and I have been given the joyful opportunity to share a bit about our mission with you.

The Need: 85% of Catholics who leave the Church do so in the first two years of their time in college. For better or for worse, all college students have the chance to either take ownership of their faith, or to walk away from it. Tragically, some students may never even be given the opportunity to hear and respond to God's message of love. This is a generation in crisis – a crisis of identity, purpose, and belief.

We Respond... In spite of these harsh realities, we stand before a tremendous door of opportunity. College is the time when young adults are searching for truth; truth to questions like, "Who am I?" and "What is my purpose in life?". It is here where we meet them.

As FOCUS missionaries, we are trained to minister to college-aged students all over the US and Europe through authentic relationships, discipleship, bible-studies, and close work with Catholic Student Centers. The Lord's call for the next generation of souls is great, and we *can* and *do* reach them. With Him working through us, we offer hope, direction, and purpose, and ultimately point them to the answer they are searching for: the Love of Jesus Christ and His Church.

...But We Cannot Respond Alone: Christ says to the apostles - His first missionaries - when He sends them out to preach the Gospel, "Go, and take nothing with you for the journey" (Luke 9:3). In this way, He entrusts the mission of the Gospel not only to the apostles, but also to those who accompany them and provide for them on their journey. It is only because of these partners along the way that the apostles are able to focus all their attention, with complete surrender, on Christ's mission. Likewise, we missionaries need partners that accompany us on our mission. We need people with hearts and zeal for building His Kingdom. We need you.

With this in mind I would like to invite you, firstly, to pray for us (especially me and my team!) that we may truly give of ourselves to the students the Lord is calling us into relationship with. Secondly, I would like to invite you to listen to the Lord's voice in prayer about this mission for souls that I have shared with you. If it is something that speaks to your heart by the Lord's invitation, I would be honored to meet personally with you to further discuss our mission, our financial goals, and how the Lord is changing lives through our ministry.

I thank you for your openness to His Will and Call!

In His Name,

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Pictured above is my Team, serving at the University of Passau in Germany.