“SPIRITUS definitely gave me a foundation for my vocation. It taught me how to live in community, enter into prayer and share the love of the Gospel with others. I don’t know if I’d be in religious life without SPIRITUS.”
- Br. John Francis, Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (Teams 7 & 8)

“SPIRITUS helped me grow in my prayer life. They introduced me to Eucharistic Adoration and spiritual direction, which was very helpful for my discernment.”
- Sr. Madeline Marie, Little Sisters of the Poor (Team 7)

Making a Lasting Impact in the Diocese

By Eden Foord
SPIRITUS Founder/Director

When we started SPIRITUS in 2009, our goal was to ignite the faith of Catholic youth. We were very aware of the large number of Catholic youth leaving the faith and wanted to make a difference. We wanted to help the youth have life-changing encounters with our Lord on retreat so they would want to follow Him and embrace a life in the Church. We are achieving that goal each year, inspiring more than 60,000 youth since starting SPIRITUS.

Another great need is to form young adults for leadership in the Church and to prepare them to pursue priesthood or religious life. This is also a goal for SPIRITUS Ministries and one that is equally important as inspiring Catholic youth. Each year, we are achieving success in this area as well. Of the 110 missionaries that we formed, 73 worked in ministry after SPIRITUS and 24 pursued either priesthood or religious life. This concept of calling young adults into the mission of Jesus to inspire the youth is having a tremendous impact on the youth and the diocese.

One surprising aspect that we did not expect is the number of missionaries who choose to stay working in ministry in our diocese. So far, there have been 23 missionaries who have worked in ministry in the Diocese of Green Bay. Joe Hinshaw from Team 11 and 12 reports, “I chose to work in ministry in the diocese because I wanted to continue to lead young people to Jesus. I feel at home in this diocese after two years on SPIRITUS, especially because of the people in the area.” He adds, “SPIRITUS prepared me for my ministry job by helping me to become more of a leader through organizing and leading retreats, as well as by giving me direct experience of parish youth ministry through the youth ministry internship.”

Callie Kowalski from Team 4 states, “SPIRITUS gave me the opportunities to make connections with several pastors, parish staff members and diocesan employees who I served throughout the year. Being able to learn about the culture and evangelization efforts of the Diocese of Green Bay while putting on retreats for all grade levels inspired me to call this area home and to continue to spread the Gospel within the Green Bay area.”

Andy Chmura from Team 11 expresses that “SPIRITUS showed me the best way to evangelize youth. It taught us, as parish leaders, how to teach the message of Christ and mix it in activities, small groups and fun things that youth get excited about. There’s no question about it. SPIRITUS made me infinitely more prepared to work in ministry than I would have been without it.”

These are just a few SPIRITUS missionaries who came from outside the state, inspired thousands of youth, and were formed for leadership during their mission year and continue to have a lasting impact on the youth of the Diocese of Green Bay. You can be part of this effort to inspire our youth and form leaders for the Church by supporting SPIRITUS. Together, we will make a lasting impact in our diocese.

By Katherine Foord
SPIRITUS is a missionary formation experience which helps young men and women mature, grow in holiness and learn evangelization skills as disciples of Jesus. SPIRITUS is founded on a deep prayer life, including daily Mass, morning and evening Liturgy of the Hours, daily Eucharistic Adoration and Marian devotion. This makes SPIRITUS a great opportunity for men and women discerning religious vocations. The men live in a community with two priests and the women live in a separate community. Missionaries learn ministry and community living skills, develop a rich prayer life, grow as disciples of Jesus and continue to mature as leaders for the Church.

SPIRITUS Encourages Religious Vocations

21% of missionaries pursue priesthood or religious life after SPIRITUS!
By Caroline Partyka

The world has never been as connected as it is today. People are just a call, text or click away, yet they are feeling more and more alone. They are experiencing a lack of authenticity when it comes to relationships and a thirst to encounter something real, life-giving and free, but they don’t know how to find it. Students who come on a SPIRITUS retreat, however, are experiencing exactly what they are craving for but cannot name: an encounter with Jesus.

Every student who comes on a SPIRITUS retreat is unique — and so are their encounters with the Lord. Therefore, our retreats incorporate many different types of encounters to help reach students in a variety of ways. For example, some relate to the Lord and see Him in their lives through the missionaries’ witnessing. Hearing the testimony of how the Lord has worked through someone’s life — whether it was because of a great trial through which they struggled or simply an experience of Jesus making Himself known — not only gives students hope that the Lord will come into their lives, but also helps them see where He has already been.

Other students are affected by the dramas that are incorporated into every retreat. The dramas aim to address areas of students’ lives in which they might be struggling and to show them how the Lord can enter into those situations, bringing joy, healing and love. The visual component in the dramas enable students to actually see Jesus come to people and, in turn, it shows that Jesus will come to the students as well.

Guided meditations introduce students to a form of prayer that uses their imaginations to meet with Jesus. This provides a very personal experience for them.

Finally, on a SPIRITUS retreat, students can enter into those situations, bringing joy, healing and love. The visual component in the dramas enable students to actually see Jesus come to people and, in turn, it shows that Jesus will come to the students as well.

Students wrote on evaluations that “this retreat is life changing! My faith has grown so much. I 110% recommend it” and “(the missionaries) helped motivate me and gave me the courage to continue and not give up. I’m so thankful for this experience!”

Jesus is using these retreats to change lives, and it’s a continued blessing to see how students come in not knowing God or not expecting to get much out of their retreat only to come out a new person who understands that they are deeply known, loved and cherished by the Lord.

Jesus Needs YOU to Be His Witness!

By Katherine Foord

Before his Ascension, Jesus told His followers, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses…” We live in a time when we increasingly see or hear of Catholics walking away from the faith. Distractions and the challenges of being isolated or unable to attend Mass have resulted in individuals and families being pulled away from their church community. In addition, personal faith has declined to the point at which 69% of Catholics do not believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Pope Francis calls each disciple to announce Jesus with our life, with our witness and intercessory prayer with each student.

Jack Lawlis, dynamic speaker and former SPIRITUS missionary, is our Encountering Jesus witness trainer. To set up your witness training, contact Annette Hovie at (920) 722-8918, extension 0.

SPIRITUS POWER HOUR

We all face some degree of disillusion and fatigue resulting from the pandemic. Its toll on our youth is evident by the very heavy burdens being carried on their hearts. SPIRITUS ministries recognizes these challenges and is stepping up to help students in our community by offering opportunities to have powerful encounters with Jesus through a SPIRITUS Power Hour.

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Students Feedback

• The retreat was a life-changing surprise. It was eight beautiful hours in what feels like another world.
• The retreat was a great experience to encounter God.
• The retreat was the best experience EVER!
• If you want to encounter God, go on retreat with SPIRITUS.

Educator

• SPIRITUS is phenomenally amazing people whose presence, words and actions change and inspire our youth.
• The retreat was an excellent opportunity to encounter Christ in sacrament, prayer and each other.
• SPIRITUS was professional and I trusted how they spoke to the teens.
• The students will always remember this retreat because now they know Jesus more!
Missionaries for Our Youth

**SARA ENGLE - SERVANT LEADER**
I’m a cradle Catholic from Oregon. I am a professional musician, so making music is my favorite activity. I also love reading, writing, running, watching movies and socializing. I’m very excited to return to SPIRITUS and continue dedicating my life to helping people grow more intimately connected to Christ!

**KATIE KRANTZ - SERVANT LEADER**
I am so excited to be back serving the youth of the Church! Some of my favorite things, outside of the sacraments, include spending time with family, playing board games, skiing and snowboarding, and telling a good pun. I am so looking forward to being back spreading the true joy of Jesus this mission year!

**KRISTIN ABBATE - RETREAT TEAM**
I was born in Smithtown, NY. I have eight siblings and two loving parents. I love art, taking nature walks, reading and hula hooping. Three things I am looking forward to with being a part of SPIRITUS are growing in intimacy with God, learning more about myself and spreading God’s love to others.

**SCOTT COTTO - YOUTH MINISTRY INTERN**
This is my first year as a SPIRITUS missionary. I left my teaching job to try and discern the priesthood. I love to read and write. My favorite forms of prayer are the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Adoration. I look forward to being a youth ministry intern at St. Paul Parish in Combined Locks.

**ASHLEY MAUS - RETREAT TEAM**
I grew up on my family’s dairy farm in Minnesota where I could be found milking cows and driving tractors. My interactions at the Newman Center at South Dakota State University have inspired me to serve as a missionary with SPIRITUS. I look forward to a great year of experiencing God’s love and sharing it with others.

**CAMILA SALCEDO - YOUTH MINISTRY INTERN**
I grew up in Colombia and I attended Notre Dame University in Indiana! I’m pretty good at salsa dancing and other Latino dances, such as merengue and bachata. I’m very excited to work with young people and to be a youth ministry intern at St. Mary Parish in Appleton.

**ANDREW SHEPHERD - RETREAT TEAM**
I’m a lifelong denizen of the West Coast. I was born in San Francisco, was raised near Portland, Ore., and went to school at Thomas Aquinas College in Southern California. I love music and movies of all kinds. I just finished my master’s degree in Japanese at Portland State and want to start devoting my life to God!

**KRISSY JOHNSON - RETREAT TEAM**
I’m from Maine and I attended St. John’s College in Annapolis where I learned about the power of prayer and spread the message of Christ across the country. I’m very excited to serve as a part of SPIRITUS and to help others grow in their faith.

**MARK MCCAIN - RETREAT TEAM**
I’m from California and I studied music and philosophy at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. I’m very excited to be back in SPIRITUS and to continue to help others grow in their faith.

**LILY SMITH - RETREAT TEAM**
I’m a Wisconsin native and am zealous to speak of Christ wherever He will take me this year! Before SPIRITUS, I worked as a Totus Tuus teacher, restaurant manager and AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) employee. I’m excited to see all the ways God will love and provide for our missionaries and youth this year, and I am so happy to be a part of it.

**THE COMPASS**
www.spiritusministries.org

Join our mission to inspire Catholic youth and form leaders for the Church!
spiritusministries.org
A Light the fire of faith in young people. Help them find GOD through SPIRITUS.

The Catholic Foundation proudly supports youth ministry through the Advancing the Mission Evangelization Endowment and other funds.

Visit catholicfoundationgbo.org/legacy

For more information contact Josh Diedrich | 920-272-8197 | catholicfoundation@gbdioc.org

Sacred Heart Parish APPLETON
Sacred Heart is proud to support Spiritus. We would like to thank them for being part of our Fall Fellowship Day in October and supporting our Faith Formation program with programming for our youth.

FIAT PRAYER SOCIETY
Fostering Vocations Through Prayer

Join us in praying for more young people to hear and answer the call to priesthood or religious life!

Through the Fiat Prayer Society, our goal is to have more and more people assist in our vocation efforts through their prayers and sacrifices to help bring forth more “yeses.” By deciding to be a part of this society, there are no dues and no meetings, simply your promise to join our efforts in praying.

To join the society, learn about the prayer commitments, access additional resources, and more, please visit: gbvocations.org.

Thank you for your willingness to help in this important task. Please know we are praying for you as well!

The Office of Vocations

GBVOCATIONS.ORG

SPIRITUS

Thank you for inspiring our Catholic Youth in Northeast Wisconsin

Come to a Silent Weekend Preached Retreat
24/7 Online Registration

“We do not learn so much from conversation or argument as from humble recourse to God.”
- St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits

SPRITUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE MISSIONARIES OF TEAM 13 AND ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORT THEM.

Join the mission to inspire Catholic youth and form leaders for the Church.

spiritusministries.org

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JOHN XXIII
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Grace, changes everything!

Visit catholicfoundationgbo.org/legacy

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