

# BEYOND SAINT JOHN XXIII

Discerning Christ's  
call to mission.

BY TORI GREEN

**T**his year, four graduating seniors are joining staff for Fellowship of Catholic University Students as on campus missionaries. Each are committing at least the next two years to serve students on other campuses across the nation, and helping bring them into a life-long relationship with Christ. Additionally, one recent graduate of the Masters of Science program, is pursuing his own Vocational discernment in his call to the priesthood.





**GARRETT  
COATNEY**

Prior to saying yes to FOCUS, Garrett pursued what he thought would make him happy in a career, including working for a prestigious research institute and as an engineer for a medical device company. "These experiences have driven home the fact that God never ceases to call us to His will; the more we shy away from it and follow our will, the stronger He calls us to His will."

While at CSU, Garrett was introduced to the joy of sharing faith with others and the blessing of doing so. He was also given the environment to pray about what his call to mission might mean. He is most excited about the training he will receive starting in June 2015, which not only better equips staff to reach students, but forms and draws them closer to Christ as well. "FOCUS affords the ability to impact people in a far greater, deeper and eternal way."



**KAYLA  
KESSLER**

Kayla got to know some FOCUS missionaries during her sophomore year. Once she learned they are normal people who weren't going to push her into anything she wasn't ready for, she let these spiritual role models love her where she was at.

Kayla encountered Christ and His Church through these women who planted the seeds for her own desire to fall deeper in love with the faith. Kayla led many Bible studies and this year acted as Ram Catholic's Student Advisory Board President and Development Intern.

Nearing graduation, Kayla was "in turmoil" over the decision between two goods: a job at a parish in Boulder or FOCUS. She is thankful for the guidance from Fr. Rocco who helped her realize God's love of her free will. "The Lord just wanted me to choose and know that He would bless my decision. Then, when I chose FOCUS, I found overwhelming joy." Kayla is excited for her chance to meet other students right where they're at, and run toward Christ with them, just like she experienced during her time at Ram Catholic.



Ryan Spor will be serving as a missionary at San Diego State University starting in the Fall of 2015.



**RYAN  
SPOR**

During adoration at the SEEK conference, Ryan finally felt free to do whatever God asked of him. That meant stepping out of his comfort zone, overcoming the pressure of his peers and becoming a FOCUS missionary. "I can't do it on my own, and now I'm convinced this [investing in and leading other students to Christ] is what I am supposed to be doing."

Ryan was involved in many Ram Catholic ministries, including Bible studies and the Student Advisory Board. He also was a member of Phi Kappa Theta fraternity, "a group of men who are all different, all real, and all striving for something more." Whether it is his fraternity brothers, or other students on campus, Ryan strives to help them encounter Christ and see God in each other. "All people have the same desire to be loved and appreciated and pursued."



Kayla Kessler will be serving as a missionary at UC Irvine starting in the Fall of 2015.





Pictured is Tim Shaffer giving a talk on a Ram Awakening retreat.



TIM  
SHAFFER



RYAN  
BAUER

Tim joined Ram Catholic early in his time at Colorado State University. As a transfer student, he longed to find community rooted in something authentic. This encounter with authentic community lead him to consider serving as a FOCUS missionary.

Tim says, "I've been blessed to know some incredible men in my time at CSU, and their leadership, humility, strength, love and support have all been critical." He also notes that the time he spent on mission and leading retreats lead to a desire to, "pursue a greater leadership role within the student community."

Discovering your immediate vocation can be difficult. However, Tim understands that we are all called to be missionaries. He also notes that, "By being in communion with Him, we'll gain a better understanding of what God desires for our lives, and ultimately, what we in fact deeply desire for ourselves as well."

Feeling the call to the priesthood etched on his heart, Ryan Bauer felt rushed to discern his call before his time at Colorado State ended in December. A few months after graduating however, Ryan realized he could afford to slow down and take the time to understand God's will in an authentic search.

Ryan says, "In terms of discernment, first and foremost, figure out what's in your heart." Originally, he felt discouraged after researching religious orders online and not feeling like he fit into any of the descriptions. He has learned to enter into knowing self through devoted prayer to determine what order God is calling him to.

One of the steps of his devoted prayer life started while at Colorado State. Ryan joined many other students who pledged their consecration to Jesus through Mary. Ryan said he didn't fully comprehend this commitment until he left CSU. Since, "Mary takes away anxieties and makes prayers pure," he has put the search for his vocation into the hands of Mary, trusting her to lift his burdens and allow him to know Jesus and know himself.

Since graduating, Ryan spent time living with the Miles Cristi order in Michigan, an order he was drawn to because of its outward understanding and reverence toward the mass. He also felt drawn toward the Franciscan emphasis on prayer to form apostolate. "I have so much on my platter, get busy, that I loose my prayer life." To continue discerning through prayer, Ryan did a pilgrimage throughout Italy with a Franciscan priest and is joining other Ram Catholic students to hike the Camino de Santiago (Way of Saint James) in June.

Ryan is grateful for the support and openness he received in his discernment while at Saint John XXIII. He found many resources and a community that lifted each other up to pursue the options in discovering a vocation.





# STAPLE OF PEACE

A student speaks on the impact perpetual adoration has had on the community.

In a discussion on overcoming challenges in our faith and growing in relationship with Christ this semester, fellow students and I all mentioned the same highlight, the addition of a Perpetual Adoration Chapel. Just in time for the Lenten season, Saint John XXIII completed the chapel so that students and parishioners could be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, and truly come to know Christ, 24/7.

This semester, my weekly holy hour in adoration, has been the one staple of peace in the craziness of life surrounding me. Intimately knowing Christ seems unimaginable without the accessibility of the sacraments, like they are offered at Saint John XXIII. So, I am moved with gratitude at the opportunity to just stop in on my way home or to have a place to pray when I need it most. Not everyone has the chance to be in God's living presence at two a.m., or any other time of day for that matter. This is why so many students dedicate time in their sched-

ules to spend with Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Then they too realize the gifts given in his continual presence and are seeking ways to build up his kingdom on campus.

These themes carried beyond my own experiences, and into those of many students at Colorado State:

*"The biggest thing I need is consistency and having the chapel here when things are crazy it is the consistency I've been looking for,"*

- Paris McManus, Sophomore

*"I have the chance to focus on Christ, to take time out of my busy schedule and just spend an hour and get to know him better,"*

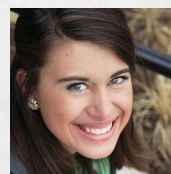
- Kelsey Pierson, Junior

Having a place to go and a job to keep watch over Christ pushed her to grow. Both students and parishioners of Saint John XXIII run this ministry. During the spring semester, fifty students committed to at least one hour

a week to spend in the chapel. This number doesn't take into account the many students who sign up weekly to fill the empty slots, or those that come to the chapel at additional times. Zachary Armstrong, Director of Youth Ministry and Perpetual Adoration said the students are always willing to take the hardest times. Fr. Rocco Porter echoed this statement, saying he knows he could call any of the students and ask them to take the hours in the middle of the night and they would be there.

*"Taking the two am hour allowed me to get outside my comfort zone and dedicate more time to the Lord because I'm not restricted to when I can spend time in his holy presence and can't take adoration for granted."*

- Brett Baeverstad, Senior



Written by:  
TORI  
GREEN



# FIT CATHOLIC

New Fitness classes help students encounter Christ through Body, Mind and Soul

This semester Ram Catholic launched its newest campus ministry, Fit Catholic, a series of fitness classes offering Colorado State students the opportunity to exercise for a purpose, and in a community of individuals who share their beliefs.

The idea for Fit Catholic was created by certified fitness trainer, Ian Davis, as his way to give back to the Church since joining two Easters ago. Davis said there is a societal dissonance in seeking fitness for vanity and seeking actual health in a way that gives glory to God. He hopes Fit Catholic will alleviate this disconnect.

"Being fit and healthy as it serves our real purpose, allows us to offer the greatest amount of ourselves to God and to the others around us," Davis said. "The vision of being fit and healthy

encompasses the whole person and how you present yourself when living for a purpose."

Fit Catholic complements the other ministries at Ram Catholic by bettering the body in the same way other programs better the mind and soul. Fitness in all three areas, body, mind and soul, allows students to truly encounter Christ.

This fall, Fit Catholic held two classes offering high intensity circuit workouts that could be easily modified to any skill level. Tracie Rohloff led the class for women and Ian Davis led the class for men. Each class began in prayer to create an environment focused on Christian life, where exercise is not an idol, but instead a means to a greater end.

"Tracie and I want to show students we are not exercising to inflate ourselves, but to be better people who ultimately help others," Davis said. "By thinking of someone in need and offering up our suffering throughout the workout for that person, the center is no longer on ourselves."

Sami Chase, a member of the CSU cheer team, started many of her Tuesdays by attending the women Fit Catholic class. "I hope that by growing in the community of students who attend Fit Catholic, I grow in inspiration and motivation so that I can encounter Christ in all the aspects of my daily life," Chase said.

The instructors hope to see Fit Catholic grow in future semesters with more classes, workshops and even forming exercise groups that use the CSU student rec center together.

Written by Tori Green



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