



Gregory A. Shemitz



## Fellowship of Catholic University Students

**Our Stony Brook University Catholic Campus Ministry is on fire with Catholic evangelization through the dedication of our Catholic priest chaplain Fr. Lachlan Cameron, four Fellowship of Catholic University Student missionaries, and a diverse and talented group of undergraduate and graduate students.**

**BISHOP JOHN O. BARRES**  
is the fifth bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre. Follow him on Twitter, @BishopBarres



I had the opportunity to go to a FOCUS Leadership Summit in Phoenix, Arizona, from December 30, 2019 to January 3, 2020, with 8,000 college students, Father Lachlan Cameron, Father Sean Magaldi, our vocation director, Father Chris Sullivan, our four dedicated lay campus ministers and students from universities across Long Island.

The Masses were packed and inspirational. Students were adoring the Blessed Sacrament in silence and reverence throughout the day and they took the time to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation throughout the week.

Keynote speakers such as Father Michael Schmitz, Emily Wilson, Dr. Ted Sri, Dr. Jonathan Reyes and Dr. Helen Alvaré spoke on a wide range of topics from Catholic spiritual life and evangelization to being a Catholic in the global public square. There were "Impact Sessions" in the morning on focused formational topics.

We had nearly 30 students from Stony Brook University, Hofstra University, Adelphi University, and LIU Post who were joined by their lay campus chaplains.

So often we hear about "the nones" — college students and young adults who claim they have no religious affiliation. And yet, in Phoenix, we saw so many university students from so many campuses around the country being on fire with the Catholic faith and being strongly formed with the Scriptures, the fundamentals of Catholic spiritual life, theology and evangelization.

These were a diverse, wide range of students with a wide range of educational and emerging career paths opening their presents and futures to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

As a 59-year-old Catholic bishop there to support the college students and to understand FOCUS more deeply, I found that their dedication

and love for their faith evangelized every bishop participant who was present.

Father Cameron and I met with all the Long Island students and it was clear that the FOCUS Conference gave them an even greater opportunity to strengthen their relationships in the Catholic faith and to pray and strategize how best to evangelize their campuses in the Spring semester of 2020.

Our hope is to continue to expand our engagement with FOCUS to perhaps some other campuses on Long Island and to build the opportunities through the Catholic Community Foundation of Long Island.

Perhaps you have a son or daughter, a niece or nephew, a friend from the neighborhood who might be interested. †