

## Why do we even bother??

Ever wonder why we make all the effort to have Search Weekends? It takes a lot of work. We have to arrange time away from school and work and life as we know it! We have to come up with the cash to pay our way to the weekend (even if it IS such a deal!!). We live in fear to see if Colleen will surprise us with an unplanned assignment when we show up on the weekend! We are all exhausted on the following Monday morning, with homework undone.

Amy Dyrness, a fellow Searcher, provided us the WHY this past Sunday when she made a presentation at the Masses here in Valley City.

Amy was gracious enough to allow me to copy the opening of her presentation and to share it with all of us.....

“My name is Amy Dyrness and I am full-time missionary for FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students. FOCUS takes college graduates like myself, trains us, and puts us right back on a college campus to work with the students. I currently work on the campus of Minnesota State University in Mankato, MN...**and every day I see a way of life that is forming our culture.....a way of life where instability is too common, sobriety is almost non-existent, and chastity is a concept that has become lost. Students on college campuses are surrounded by relativism and addiction...we live in a culture that demands instant fixes and instant answers. Many of the Church’s teachings are looked upon as out of date and as a hindrance to what we think is best for us.**

Ephesians 5 says: *“Watch carefully how you live, not as foolish persons, but as wise.....do not continue in ignorance, but try to understand what is the Will of the Lord”*

Every day over 200 FOCUS missionaries around the nation work along side thousands of college students. We teach these students that **there is meaning and purpose to their lives**. We tell them the story of a loving Heavenly Father who desires for them to be truly happy. And we show them how to **establish a deep and lasting relationship with Jesus in the Catholic Church that will enable them to change the culture.**”

That is why we bother, to bring about change. To provide an environment where Jesus Christ can be talked about, encountered, and become truly present.

Our culture, our society **IS** truly changing. It has always been changing, that is the purpose of life, to grow and to change that which needs to be changed.

Unfortunately many of the changes taking place are not healthy changes. We have become the frog in the

kettle of water on a slow heat. We will pay the consequence if we do not awaken and do what we can do to bring the awareness of Gods Love for each of us by living our lives as we know God is calling us to live them.

That is why we bother..... because God is calling each of us to do what we can, with the gifts HE has given us, to make His Presence known in our world TODAY.  
+peace --- tom

(December 2009 Searcher Newsletter)