

# Tips for Students

## SOME IDEAS FOR GETTING STARTED

- Hold an interest meeting
- Make an announcement at a local Catholic parish
- Reach out to your fellow students after Mass at a local parish.
- Enlist the support of the pastor of a local parish
- Collaborate with other campuses and their Catholic student groups.
- Find a Catholic faculty member who is able to connect with students, help with logistics, and advise the student group.

## HOW DO WE GET RECOGNIZED ON CAMPUS?

- Use campus media! Advertise in the school paper or television station.
- Get flyers up! Announce events on flyers – dorms and campus bathrooms are great spots for flyers.
- Talk to RAs who may be able to help you get the Catholic group's name out to their residents.
- Set up an information booth in a university center or student union. Include pictures
- Create an email list serve for all interested students.

## HOW DO WE GET PROGRAMS STARTED?

- Invite students from different clubs or activities that seem to have interest or experience in a certain event to help lead it.
- Provide food! If you have food, students will come!
- Personally invite people to participate.

## HOW DO WE FUNDRAISE AS STUDENTS?

- Find out if your school gives money to student organizations.

- Request money from the student government.
- Ask Alumni for donations.
- Ask a local parish if you can speak at Mass about your interest in starting a Catholic student group.

## HOW DO WE ATTRACT STUDENTS?

- Empower students to lead! Students love to go to events that are led by other students.
- Invite faculty and staff of the University or college to attend a joint student/faculty event. Many students will feel drawn by seeing these professionals at the events.
- Work with a local parish to attempt to get Mass said on campus.

# Resources

## Student Leaders Handbook

(order through CCMA)

## Empowered by the Spirit

**Condensed Version** (order through CCMA)

## USCCB

(United States Catholic Conference of Bishops)  
find your diocesan web site and the Director of Campus Ministry assigned.

<http://www.usccb.org/dioceses.htm>

## CCMA (Catholic Campus Ministry Association)

Toll Free: (888) 714-6631

[www.ccmanet.org](http://www.ccmanet.org)

## NADDCM (National Association of Diocesan

Directors of Campus Ministry)

[www.NADDCM.org](http://www.NADDCM.org)

## NCSC (National Catholic Student Coalition)

Phone: (302) 463-5538

[www.catholicstudent.org](http://www.catholicstudent.org)

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# No Campus Ministry??

This brochure is written for Catholic college students, faculty, parents, alumni or friends wishing to initiate Catholic Campus Ministry at a college or university that does not currently have a formal Catholic Campus ministry presence.

It is important to recognize that any such effort to start campus ministry should take place with the knowledge, support and counsel of the local diocese. A general outline of the process includes:

## Working with the Diocese

Contact the local Diocesan Director of Campus Ministry to find out the official status of campus ministry at the college or university and to seek their initial support for exploring the establishment of organized outreach to Catholic students.

## Working with the Campus

Students and faculty interested at beginning formal outreach to Catholic students should take the necessary steps to establish a formal Catholic student organization that is part of the organizational structure of the college or university.

## Working with Local Communities

Once a formal Catholic student organization is established on the campus, it is vital to build relationships with the local Church, campus and civic communities so that the outreach to Catholics can continue to grow and develop.

## Working with the Diocese

**Call your Diocese** and ask for the Diocesan Director of Campus Ministry or the person in the diocese who is responsible for colleges and universities... Sometimes this person will also be responsible for Youth and/or Young Adult Ministry. This step is very important because the Diocesan Director can:

1. Inform you of current plans for Campus Ministry at your institution or in the diocese.
2. Provide you with support needed to find or develop a volunteer or faculty member to assist with Campus Ministry.
3. Provide support needed for a student led Campus Ministry program
4. Help you make connections with the local church for future Campus Ministry development
5. Advocate for paid, professional campus ministry in your diocese or at your college and/or university



**Maintain communication** with the Diocesan Director or liaison and let them know you what to be connected to the diocese so that you can be aware of current developments, training opportunities, and programs offered to young adults. Let them know your group can be included in diocesan planning and will send representatives.

**Plan with your Diocesan Director** to ensure possible future paid professional campus ministry. The diocesan director or liaison will have the “pulse” of the diocese and can help you with timing and the type of proposals that are considered sound and desirable by the diocese as a whole. Your ongoing planning with help you and other students successfully petition the bishops for campus ministry funding in the future.



## Working with the Campus: Establishing an Officially Recognized Student Organization

After contacting the local diocese, the next important step is the establishment of a Catholic Student Organization that is officially part of and recognized by the college or university. This step is essential because it provides the new outreach effort access to facilities, services, publicity outlets and financial resources from the college or university.

To become an officially recognized campus organization, it is necessary to identify a group of students interested the Catholic Student Organization. Further, it is advisable to seek a faculty, staff or administration member who is interested in serving as the organization’s moderator. The students and moderator will need to research and follow their campus’ policies and procedures for establishing new organizations. This information can usually be found in the student services or student affairs office.

Sometimes students may already know of an active Catholic faculty, staff or administration member who would serve as an effective moderator; however, it is not always apparent who the Catholic faculty, staff and administrators are on a campus. If this is the case, the closest Catholic parish is usually a good starting point. A meeting with the pastor to explain your organization’s purposes and goals will likely yield names of potential candidates. It is even possible that an employee of the college or university may be a permanent deacon at the parish. A moderator who is also a permanent deacon possesses special training, formation and diocesan resources that can prove helpful as the new organization develops and expands.



## Working with Local Communities

Service opportunities are an important component of Campus Ministry and often the first place where students become involved. Make sure you are making connections with the Catholic service providers near your college or university. This will strengthen your relationship with the local church so look for partners at:

- Parish Soup Kitchens
- St. Vincent DePaul Society
- Catholic Charities
- Urban Catholic Schools