

END OF MISSION YEAR REPORT FOR THE

ARCHDIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY

2025 - 2026



TOGETHER IN MISSION

As we reflect on the mission year, I offer my heartfelt gratitude to Archbishop Shawn McKnight for his leadership and encouragement, and to everyone throughout the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas who has welcomed our missionaries into your schools, parishes, and communities.

At a time when so many young people are searching for truth, belonging, and hope, the Church's mission of education in the faith is more urgent than ever. Parents remain the primary educators of their children, supported by pastors, Catholic schools, parish leaders, catechists, and countless faithful men and women who labor to form the next generation in Christ. The Culture Project is grateful to contribute to this mission by having the second most important conversation, God's design for sexuality and relationships, with the middle school and high school students in the Archdiocese.

Every year, I am inspired by the witness of our missionaries because their work has a lasting impact far beyond a single presentation or school visit. Through intentional formation, authentic friendships, and joyful witness, they accompany students as they wrestle with some of life's most important questions: Who am I? What am I made for? How am I called to love? In a culture that often confuses identity, relationships, and happiness, our missionaries strive to point young people to the enduring truth of the Gospel and the beauty of God's plan for the human person.

During the 2025-2026 mission year, our Kansas City missionary team had 5,176 student encounters and 795 adult encounters through classroom presentations, lunch visits, retreats, question-and-answer sessions, and many other opportunities for personal encounter. Beyond these measurable moments, they became active members of the local Church - serving in parishes, participating in young adult communities, accompanying pro-life efforts, praying with and for the people they encountered, and embracing countless opportunities to be visible signs of Christ's love throughout the Archdiocese. Their faithful witness is a reminder that evangelization is ultimately about relationships and the transformative power of authentic Christian joy.

The Culture Project's mission has never been to replace the extraordinary work already taking place throughout the Archdiocese, but rather to strengthen it. We are honored to stand alongside pastors, principals, teachers, youth ministers, parents, and so many others who dedicate themselves to forming young people in the truth. Together, we are helping a generation discover not only what the Church teaches, but why those teachings lead to genuine freedom, authentic love, and abundant life in Christ.

Thank you for entrusting us with the privilege of serving alongside you. It is a blessing to participate together in the Church's mission of raising up young men and women who know they are beloved sons and daughters of God and who are equipped to renew the culture through the joyful witness of their lives.

Thank you for your partnership, your prayers, and your steadfast commitment to the young people of the Archdiocese. We look forward with hope to all that God will continue to accomplish through us together.

GREG SCHLEPPENBACH
CEO OF THE CULTURE PROJECT

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



FROM SEPTEMBER 2025 - JUNE 2026, THE KANSAS CITY TEAM HAD THE FOLLOWING IMPACT:

231

PRESENTATIONS

5,176

STUDENTS

795

ADULTS

7,443

TOTAL ENCOUNTERS

PRESENTATION BREAKDOWN

55 HUMAN DIGNITY TALKS

58 SEXUAL INTEGRITY TALKS

31 SOCIAL MEDIA TALKS

1 Q&A

3 PRO-LIFE TALKS

2 THEOLOGY OF DESIRE TALKS

5 THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

16 LUNCH VISITS

4 TABLING EVENTS

10 YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

6 PRO-LIFE PRAYER

40 OTHERS

AFTER THE PRESENTATIONS

95%

OF THE 261 STUDENTS WHO FILLED OUT OUR SURVEY SAID AFTER HEARING THE HUMAN DIGNITY PRESENTATION "I BELIEVE IN THE VALUE OF ALL HUMAN LIFE."

76%

OF THE 260 STUDENTS WHO FILLED OUT OUR SURVEY SAID AFTER HEARING THE HUMAN DIGNITY PRESENTATION "I WANT TO ADVOCATE FOR THE VULNERABLE / THOSE WHO ARE DEHUMANIZED."

80%

OF 41 STUDENTS WHO FILLED OUT OUR SURVEY SAID AFTER HEARING THE SEXUAL INTEGRITY PRESENTATION "I UNDERSTAND WHY SAVING SEX FOR MARRIAGE IS IMPORTANT."

91%

OF 345 STUDENTS WHO FILLED OUT OUR SURVEY SAID AFTER HEARING THE HUMAN DIGNITY, SEXUAL INTEGRITY, AND SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENTATION "I WANT TO STOP WATCHING PORN (OR, CONTINUE AVOIDING IT)."

THE IMPACT IN THE CLASSROOM

Chris's story is a powerful example of why your investment in bringing Culture Project missionaries to your diocese is so eternally significant.

CHRIS COCHRAN
MISSIONARY
*ARCHDIOCESE OF
KANSAS CITY, KS*



While giving a presentation on sexual integrity to a classroom of high school senior boys, Chris felt discouraged. Throughout the presentation, some students had their heads down asleep, others whispered and laughed, and many simply watched the clock, waiting for the bell to ring.

By the time the class ended, he wondered if anything he shared had truly made a difference.

As students began filing out of the classroom, one young man quietly approached him.

With hesitation, he began sharing about the struggles he had been carrying in silence. He admitted he had been battling lust and pornography for years. More than anything, he wanted to be free, but he felt trapped, ashamed, and unsure where to turn.

In that moment, what had seemed like a failed presentation suddenly became the reason God had sent Chris to that classroom.

Chris listened. He reminded the young man of his God-given dignity and goodness, assuring him that his struggles did not define him and that he was not alone. Together they prayed, and Chris connected him with practical resources, encouraging him to seek healing through confession and honest conversation with a trusted priest.

As they spoke, Chris watched hope begin to replace the shame that had weighed so heavily on the student's heart.

IN THE CLASSROOM CONTINUED...

Later, Chris reflected that this one conversation made every difficult classroom, every long day, and every sacrifice of mission work worthwhile.

This is the impact of your investment in reaching young people.

Because your Archdiocese chose to partner with The Culture Project, this young man encountered a young, relatable witness, who was willing to listen and remind him that true freedom is possible.

While many people would have looked at that classroom and seen distraction and disinterest, God saw one young man quietly crying out for help.

There are countless students just like him sitting in classrooms throughout your Archdiocese - young people wrestling with pornography, loneliness, abortion, broken relationships, and questions about their identity and worth. And because of your partnership, they are happening in your schools and parishes every single day with Culture Project missionaries.

Thank you for trusting us to serve the young people of your Archdiocese. Thank you for making these life-changing conversations which have eternal impact possible.



PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

HIGH SCHOOLS

Bishop Ward High School, Kansas City, KS
Hayden High School, Topeka, KS

49

4

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Ascension Catholic School, Overland Park, KS
Corpus Christi School, Lawrence, KS
Curé of Ars Catholic School, Leawood, KS
Holy Trinity Catholic School, Lenexa, KS
Holy Trinity School, Paola, KS
Most Pure Heart of Mary School, Topeka, KS
Nativity Parish School, Leawood, KS
Resurrection Catholic School, Kansas City, KS
Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic School, Shawnee, KS
Saints Peter and Paul School, Seneca, KS
St. Matthew School, Topeka, KS
St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School, Leawood, KS
St. Patrick School, Kansas City, KS
St. Paul Catholic School, Olathe, KS

10

1

2

1

2

7

4

1

10

2

3

7

18

1



Thank you so much for coming in to talk to us! I loved hearing you guys share about how each and every one of us have value and we are loved so much by God. The images about the baby growing in the womb at 25 weeks were really interesting.

Student at Sacred Heart of Jesus, Shawnee, KS



PARTICIPATING PARISHES



PARISHES

Blessed Sacrament Church, Kansas City, KS	3
Christ the King Church, Topeka, KS	3
Church of the Nativity, Leawood, KS	1
Corpus Christi Parish, Lawrence, KS	2
Holy Family Church, Kansas City, KS	1
Holy Spirit Church, Overland Park, KS	3
Queen of the Holy Rosary - Wea Church, Bucyrus, KS	1
Queen of the Holy Rosary Church, Overland Park, KS	3
Sacred Heart Church, Emporia, KS	2
Sacred Heart Church, Mound City, KS	5
Sacred Heart Church, Sabetha, KS	2
Sacred Heart Church, Shawnee, KS	11
St. Catherine Church, Emporia, KS	4
St. Francis de Sales Church, Lansing, KS	7
St. John the Baptist Church, Kansas City, KS	4
St. Joseph Church, Shawnee, KS	1
St. Michael the Archangel Church, Leawood, KS	1
St. Patrick Church, Kansas City, KS	1



Thank you for coming and presenting on these difficult, hot topics. I received great feedback from my volunteers on their presentation. The speakers did an amazing job of broaching the subject with kindness, empathy and understanding that made the topics approachable to listen to and not as likely to make someone against those views shut down right away.

Sacred Heart Church, Shawnee, KS



DIOCESAN ENGAGEMENT

While our missionaries challenge students in conventional settings such as schools, youth groups, and conferences through dynamic presentations, they also engage people in unconventional settings by evangelizing at universities, bars, local community events, and outside of businesses that violate human dignity.

IN THE 2025-2026 MISSION YEAR, TEAM KANSAS CITY LIVED OUT THE MISSION AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE:

A Simple House
 Benedictine College
 Coalition of Life Banquet at St. Michael the Archangel (Leawood, KS)
 Coffee Shop in Lenexa, Kansas
 Community of the Lamb Young Adult dinner
 Debra Niesen's Quarterly Pro-life group for the Archdiocese
 Diocese Pastoral Center
 Emporia State University
 Encounter 2026 Retreat
 Girls House (Holy Family Rectory) in Kansas City, KS
 Holy Trinity Parish Young Adult group
 Ignite for Life Rally (Topeka, KS)
 Kansas City Pregnancy Clinic
 Kansas State University (Manhattan, KS)
 Life and Hope banquet for KC/Olathe Pregnancy Centers
 Little Sisters of the Lamb (Kansas City, KS)
 Our Lady of Guadalupe / Boulevard Brewery
 Prairie Star Ranch
 Reach KCK Retreat
 Rural Catholic Youth Conference
 Saint's for Life Walk with Rosemary Maher
 St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
 Tuesdays at the Boulevard, City on a Hill (Kansas City, KS)
 Wyandotte County Pregnancy Resource Center



MISSIONARY DIOCESAN ENCOUNTER

Giving our first college talk, the Theology of Desire talk, at Kansas State University was such a joy! I had very fruitful conversations with students afterwards, and especially liked getting to speak with one female student about the gift of complementarity between men and women, and the ways we can teach and bring that back through the art of partner dance. She was very passionate about the theology of the body message and loved our work, and said she was inspired to keep our mission in mind for the future. It was such a blessing to have thoughtful conversations and to hear what students took from the messages of the talk.

KATIE MCCARRON
MISSIONARY

STUDENT FEEDBACK



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It helped me understand the dangers of porn, and how it is harmful to all of us by giving humans no dignity, and also we are all special because we were born which gives us a purpose.

St. Pius X School, Kansas City, MO

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Great job presenting to the class. I really enjoyed listening to you guys talk about how important we are in life. Thank you for this presentation!

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Shawnee, KS

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Most impactful presentation I've ever been to as a high schooler at youth group.

Sacred Heart Church, Shawnee, KS

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I believe that this had a positive impact on my life and I think you should keep doing this. I would also like to see you guys at our school again.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Shawnee, KS

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“

I thought Aaron did a really great job and had some great stories to help me understand what he was talking about.

Most Pure Heart of Mary, Topeka, KS

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MISSIONARY STUDENT ENCOUNTER

Our whole team was at Ascension Catholic School to give our human dignity presentation to the seventh and eighth graders. They proceeded to ask questions about abortion and the Church's stance on homosexuality. I spoke to a particular girl about the truth regarding people with LGBTQ+ experience and how they are so loved by God and the Church in the midst of their experiences. I explained that she should be there for a friend of hers with that experience, and to pray for them and accompany them in their journey towards God and understanding the truth. When I walked her and the other girls back to her class, I asked her if what I said was helpful and she said, "Definitely. Thank you so much for answering my question and wanting to talk about that. I sometimes just don't know what to do or say, but talking about it was helpful." The whole experience was so enjoyable for me. We spoke about Jesus, talked about some really hard questions, laughed together, and thought about ways to love others in our lives better. I really, really love my job.

AARON VRBKA
MISSIONARY



TEACHER FEEDBACK



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Aaron and Bayleigh provided good presentations and answered questions. We are blessed to have them present to us.

Holy Family Church, Kansas City, KS

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They did a great job engaging our students! They were excellent at public speaking/pacing. I also appreciated the way they didn't go into too much detail with the sexuality part as it was for 6th-8th graders.

Saints Peter and Paul School, Seneca, KS

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Well presented. Glad they shared their personal stories on how they became missionaries themselves. Very relatable and personal.

St. James Academy, Lenexa, KS

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