



European
Mission
Campus

From the Gospel to the
Acts of the Apostles

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

FROM THE GOSPEL TO ACTS

A Call to Equip the Next Generation of Missionaries

Dear partners in mission,

I arrived in Germany in 1999 as a young seminarian, fresh out of high school, with no idea what God had in store for me. More than 25 years later, after living and working across Europe, I've seen firsthand the profound challenges facing the Church. Through these experiences, I've come to recognize an extraordinary opportunity for renewal. The structures that once served our communities well, now struggle to meet the evolving needs of today's faithful. For years, I followed the familiar paths of Catholic education and youth work, but the Holy Spirit steadily built an undeniable conviction in me.

As I served in Ireland, Spain, Italy, Germany, Austria, and England, I met countless young adults drawn to full-time mission while maintaining their lay vocation. Their passion inspired me, but I didn't know how to help them. The path seemed impossible — until the Lord led me to Vienna in 2022. There, in prayer and discernment, the vision for the Mission Campus was born.

The European Mission Campus is our response to the Holy Spirit's prompting and the hunger for mission among young men and women across Europe. Many

feel called to address the continent's spiritual challenges but lack clear pathways to do so. That's why we've committed to equipping, accompanying, and supporting these young adults — helping them discover how their unique gifts can serve the Church and society.

Our vision goes beyond traditional frameworks. We want to build spaces for young people come alive in service, discover their true mission, and ignite transformation. This isn't meant to be just another program but a movement for the Church's future. The role of the laity isn't just important; it's essential. As *Lumen Gentium* reminds us, "The laity are called to make the Church present and operative in those places and circumstances where only through them can it become the salt of the earth" (*Lumen Gentium* 33). Now is the time to equip a generation to answer that call.

Our motto, "From the Gospel to Acts," reflects our belief that a new Pentecost — a modern Acts of the Apostles — can emerge through an intentional three-year journey with Christ.

Join us!

Mark Thelen, L.C.

Fr. Mark Thelen, L.C.





THE CHALLENGE

Europe's Crisis of Faith: Proclaiming Jesus Christ Anew

European missionaries once carried the Gospel to distant lands, and now Europe itself stands in need of a renewed missionary spirit. While the culture, society and institutions of an entire continent have been built on the teaching of Jesus Christ, this foundation is being undermined and rejected. Today's Church requires increased lay leadership in parishes, dioceses, and new initiatives. Holy Spirit seeks to revitalize entire societies and make authentic encounters with Christ possible for future generations.



Crisis of Faith

Europe is facing a profound crisis of faith. Secularism is rising.

Cultural norms are rapidly shifting. Christian identity is ever weaker. All of this demands a deeper, more intentional, and focused effort in evangelization to reconnect people with their faith.



Struggling Parishes

Dioceses and parishes across Europe are struggling with declining numbers of priests and religious, making it difficult to address pastoral needs. Local communities are often experiencing dwindling attendance, an aging population and limited resources.



Urgent Social Issues

The Church must actively respond to pressing social challenges, with a particular focus to engage youth and build thriving communities.

This includes addressing social exclusion, rising loneliness, mental health struggles, identity crises, loss of purpose, and the growing disconnection from the Church.

↓ 15,008 

less lay missionaries and catechists from 2021 to 2022
(Catholic Church Statistics 2024, Fides Agency)

"We must admit, though, that the call to review and renew our parishes has not yet sufficed to bring them nearer to people, to make them environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely mission-oriented".

Evangelium Gaudium 28

"Every human person is driven by their own nature to seek the truth, the meaning of things, and above all, the meaning of their own existence. And in seeking the truth, we encounter Christ, Truth and Life."

Faithful to the Missionary Mandate,
Spanish Episcopal Conference (2021-2025)

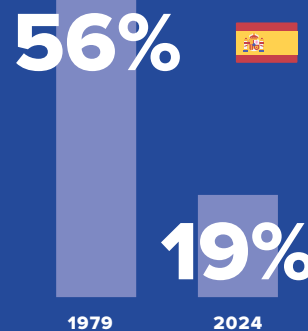
Young people also experience setbacks, disappointments and profoundly painful memories. Often they feel "the hurt of past failures, frustrated desires, experiences of discrimination and injustice, of feeling unloved and unaccepted".

Christus Vivit 83,
You are the "now" of God

94%



of Catholics in Austria are no longer practicing. This trend is worse in the cities and gets even worse when looking at the younger age groups. KMU 6 (Church Membership Survey 2023)



In Spain, only 19% of the population practiced Catholicism in 2024—a sharp decline from 56% in 1979 (The Times)



OUR VISION

Reviving Faith in Europe through Strong Christian Communities

Throughout history, faith has been rekindled and strengthened through the unwavering dedication of missionaries. Today, we are deeply convinced that the same spirit of mission can reignite faith across Europe.



Vibrant Communities:

We believe in the transformative power of vibrant Christian communities, harkening back to the early Church. These communities serve as beacons of faith, hope, and charity in a world that desperately needs them.



Encounter with Christ:

We believe that these vibrant communities arise from intentional and sustained encounters with Christ. They are empowered by the Holy Spirit to deeply impact individual lives and transform entire societies.



Lay Missionaries:

We believe that the Holy Spirit is calling passionate laypeople to commit their lives to full-time mission: in other words, men and women that within their lay vocation spend their working lives directly involved in evangelization and faith-based initiatives.



Universal Experience:

We believe the universal (“catholic”) experience is crucial today—faith communities and missionary movements worldwide must collaborate and learn from one another. Both Europe and America offer valuable insights for renewing Christianity in the West, and by working together, they can help rekindle faith.

OUR MISSION

Equipping Lay Missionaries for Europe

*Inspired by Christ's example of deeply investing in a small group of disciples, we seek to respond to the Holy Spirit's call by **equipping young adults for full-time mission through the European Mission Campus.***

- By fostering **prayer, formation, community, and hands-on mission experience**, we aim to empower these missionaries to share Christ's redeeming Gospel, preparing them for full-time mission in the Church in Europe.
- We will offer an array of mission experiences but place special emphasis on helping **young people** experience the living God and fostering the **renewal of parish communities**, which are crucial to the ongoing mission of the Church.
- Our Campus is committed to establishing strong transatlantic partnerships, equipping participants with the **tools and experiences necessary to evangelize** in contemporary Europe.
- This initiative is born out of the **Regnum Christi spiritual family** and closely connected to the **John Paul II Zentrum in Vienna**, rooted in a common spirituality and drawing from our shared experience of evangelization.



The European Mission Campus in Detail



Unique Value Proposition

- **Comprehensive 3-Year Program** – A full-time mission preparation program, comparable to a pastoral MBA.
- **Top-tier Education and Training** – Structured curriculum taught by internationally renowned experts, community leaders and mission specialists.
- **Practical Mission Work** – Direct involvement in local and international mission initiatives, with hands-on experience in diverse ministry contexts.
- **Community Living** – Living intentional Christian community to foster collaboration, accountability and deep spiritual growth.
- **Personal Growth and Discernment** – Focus on personal identity, spiritual maturity, and leadership development.



Target Audience

Young adults (22–30) from Europe and beyond who:

- Have completed a college degree and/or a discipleship program.
- Seek a transformative mission experience that deepens their faith.
- Are passionate about evangelization and service.
- Are discerning a call to full-time mission work within the Church or related initiatives.
- Aspire to make a lasting impact on the European Church.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Foundation

Based on John Paul II's anthropology, Vatican II's renewed understanding of the lay vocation to holiness and mission and incorporating many insights to better understand holiness as authentic fullness in Christ.

Core Framework

The main structure for our formation and experience is relationship-identity-mission. We believe it is important to first learn how to listen and receive in order to remain firmly rooted in who we are as created by God. Only then can we truly carry out a fruitful mission that effectively impacts our neighbor and our environment.

Prayer and Spiritual Growth

The foundation of everything is our relationship with God: Father, Son and Spirit. We want to provide space and guidance where this relationship can deepen and become the foundation for everything else.

3 Year Program

Christ accompanied his disciples over three years. He called them, lived with them, taught them, sent them out and corrected them. We want to do the same, building a solid foundation for fullness and fruitfulness in future mission.

Lived Community

Christ sent his apostles out two-by-two, and community is the basis for any fruitful mission or ministry. Learning how to build a successful community in life and mission is the first step. No missionary disciple will survive alone.

Comprehensive Formation

The program will cover theology, evangelization, pastoral care, and ministry management through lectures, case studies, and interactive learning formats.

Entrepreneurship and Ministry Innovation

Training in strategic planning, resource management, and innovation is essential. We aim to equip participants with skills to launch new ministries, revitalize existing ones, and develop sustainable mission initiatives.

Hands-on Experience

Engagement in local and international mission initiatives includes practical experience serving in churches, schools, universities, tours, pilgrimages, retreats and public spaces.

Mentorship and Accompaniment

Personalized guidance and mentorship will prepare participants for future leadership in the European Church.



TESTIMONIAL

God is personally calling me to intimacy with Him in daily life, which I live out concretely through Eucharistic adoration and quiet time with the Word of God.



Beyond that, I love proclaiming the Gospel in the streets and public places and praying for healing for people. This is what makes me come alive. This is what makes life worth living. There is no greater joy for me than witnessing people being transformed through an encounter with God's love—when they become lovers and followers of Jesus.

Mary says in Medjugorje that there are two groups of people: those who have not yet encountered God's love and those who have already experienced it.

My deep longing is to lead hundreds of thousands to Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit and to guide many into deeper discipleship—for example, through faith courses like Alpha or Life in the Spirit Seminars.





For several years now, I have been working as an engineer in a consulting firm. Since the Call to Mission Weekend, my mindset has shifted. I have begun to consider not just living out this calling alongside my job but stepping into it full-time. That's why I have taken a four-month leave this year to intentionally discern the path of becoming a full-time missionary.

David Benkner

Munich, Germany

Preliminary Program Structure



	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Theme	Relationship	Identity	Mission
 Core relationship	God Father <i>Mother Mary</i>	Jesus Christ <i>Saints</i>	Holy Spirit <i>Christian Brethren</i>
 Primary sources	Scripture	Saints and Church Fathers	Church Docs and Magisterium
 Core experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Regular prayer life (personal and community)- Desert days- Spiritual retreats- Life in community- Support raising- Monthly community outreach- International missions and pilgrimage	Previous plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2 month internship in groups of 2-3- Leadership in community and outreach	Previous plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Build out personal mission project- Mentor others
 Equipping Modules	Feature models such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sacramental Theology- Fruitfulness and Time- Prayer and Prophecy- Healthy Relationships- Healing and Providence- Mission Partner Development	Feature models such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Theology of the Body- Integral Wellness- Christian Worldview- Joy of the Christian Life- Sacraments of Initiation- Christian Authority- Leader- and Entrepreneurship	Feature models such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mission (Acts of the Apostles)- Psychology- Church Politics and Canon Law- Christian Unity- Service- Tools and Technology





Call to Mission Weekend

The Call to Mission Weekend is a transformative gathering that brings together young people from across Europe to explore their calling to full-time mission in the Church. During this immersive time of prayer and community, participants deepen their missionary identity and discern God's unique plan for their lives. The weekend provides opportunities to explore potential participation in the European Mission Campus while connecting with other mission-minded individuals. The inaugural event gathered over 30 missionaries from various countries including Austria, Germany, Spain, England, and Poland.



US Missions Horizon Trip

The Mission Horizons trip is a journey meant to inspire and show what's possible in ministry today. During this transformative week, participants witness firsthand how vibrant mission communities are igniting faith and transforming lives across America. Through encounters with vibrant initiatives such as Damascus, Encounter Ministries, Renewal Ministries, Acts XXIX and other partners, young adults experience innovative approaches to ministry. They also participate in powerful moments of formation and prayer, and gain fresh vision for what's possible in Europe on their own mission journey.



Financial Sustainability

Yearly projected operational costs

Main cost breakdown	6-8 participants	9-12 participants
	missionaries + staff	missionaries + staff
Housing and Utilities	67.200,00 EUR	68.800,00 EUR
Food and Living Costs	53.380,00 EUR	82.200,00 EUR
Transportation	30.380,00 EUR	30.328,80 EUR
Training and Development	90.600,00 EUR	116.800,00 EUR
Mission Promotion and Continuity	70.488,98 EUR	80.303,08 EUR
Missionary and Staff Compensation	206.412,00 EUR	325.464,00 EUR
YEARLY TOTAL	518.409,78 EUR	703.895,88 EUR

Short and mid-term financial needs



Initial Funding: Seeking angel investors to secure a venue, establish the campus, and support the 1st cohort of missionaries and staff.



Ongoing Support: Developing a committed community of mission partners to sustain growth through spiritual, practical, and financial contributions.



The European Mission Campus is designed to be financially sustainable through a mix of partnerships, donations and Mission Partner Development (MPD) - an approach in which missionaries create their own long-term financial base by building a network of partners who pray and give regularly for their work.

Why MPD?

- **As Jesus Did:** In Luke 8, we see that Jesus relied on the material generosity of others to meet His needs and those of His apostles.
- **Fosters Lasting Relationships:** MPD transforms supporters into true partners, fostering deep connections and community on mission that go beyond one-time donations.
- **Ensures Holistic Support:** Mission partners invest in more than just finances—they offer mentorship, prayer, and a shared sense of purpose.
- **Drives Sustainable Growth:** MPD equips missionaries to develop their own support networks, ensuring long-lasting sustainability for both the mission and the campus.



Transparency and Return on Investment

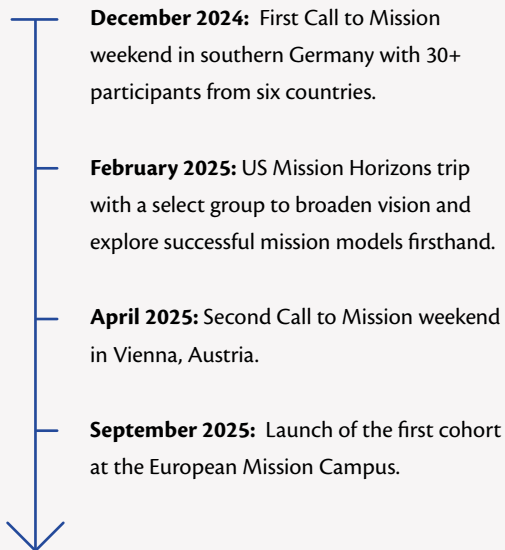
We are committed to the highest levels of transparency with our partners. We recognise that this is an extraordinary investment with no monetary return, but a profound return in building a world of faith, hope and love for future generations. To ensure accountability, we will provide regular, detailed updates on the results, outcomes and impact of the mission. This will include tracking key performance indicators such as:

- Number of young people involved
- Number of missionaries involved
- Number of local communities impacted
- Number of countries reached
- Engagement and growth of volunteers in mission initiatives
- Number, scope and type of initiatives sponsored or supported (e.g., retreats, schools, pilgrimages, etc.)
- Long-term impact on local communities
- Participant feedback and testimonies
- And sustainability and growth of the campus and its initiatives



Preparing for the launch of the European Mission Campus

Key dates



Immediate Priorities



Building Our Core Team: Recruiting passionate and capable individuals to carry the mission forward.



Establishing Our Campus: Advancing efforts to secure a location in or near Vienna and establish our mission base.



Raising Initial Resources: Engaging angel investors and partners to fund the startup phase, covering the operational needs, the first cohort program, and support for missionaries and staff.



Building Mission Partnerships: Collaborating with ministries, mission organizations, educational institutions and churches to provide formation and hands-on mission opportunities.



Our Team



Fr. Mark Thelen, LC

Direction and Vision



Daniel Rodriguez

Discernment and Recruiting



Anna Schinnerl

Prayer



Steven Lawson

Strategy



Stephanie Zankl

Communications



JJ Hussem

Program



Marta Brullet

Project Development



Cornelia Mrutzek

Communications



Maria Boeselager

Community



Emmanuel Flores

Web Coordinator

» We're currently looking
for help in fundraising
and operations.

OUR SPIRITUAL FAMILY



REGNUM CHRISTI



zentrum
JOHANNES
PAUL II.

WE ARE PROUD TO COLLABORATE WITH



DAMASCUS

REFORM

LONGBEARD



LIFE TEEN



MONK MANUAL



DIVINE
RENOVATION



RENEWAL
MINISTRIES



TESTIMONIAL

As a teenager, I misunderstood my inner pull toward the margins of society. I thought I simply didn't have enough passion to be happy among Christians, that I still needed the world. After many years of growing up, maturing and drawing closer to Christ's heart, I now know that the opposite is true. I am not "not good enough"—I am exactly right.



And my longing to be among non-Christians: my desire to engage with wounded and disillusioned people, is an opportunity to spread the light of the Church. It is a chance to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel and to lead people into the fellowship of the Bride of Christ.

Since realizing this, I have been constantly searching for ways to train this part of my calling—and for concrete opportunities to step into mission. But not mission at the other end of the world—mission in Europe. The European Mission Campus suddenly makes the impossible, possible. Suddenly, my vision of being a missionary in Germany or Austria is no longer an absurd idea but a tangible and achievable reality.

At a time when the established Church is reorganizing and seeking new paths, the Mission Campus is a place where people are prepared to proclaim Christ. It is a school that not only develops personalities but also trains the eye to see the needs of the Church and respond to them. A campus for people who burn for God—but also for the Church—because the Church in Europe will need a lot of mission.

Liesi Stolberg
Vienna, Austria





Please pray!

*Join us as we build missionary communities to renew
and reshape faith across the continent!*

*We would love to partner with you in any or all
of the following ways:*



Pray for Us

- » Lift up our Campus, students, and staff in prayer.
- » Ask the Lord of the harvest to send full-time missionaries to Europe.



Participate with Us

- » Join us on a Call to Mission Weekend or other event.
- » Join us in September as a missionary!



Support Us Financially

- » Contribute to scholarships and sponsorship opportunities for missionaries.
- » Help fund the Campus and our mission projects to make a lasting impact.



Partner with Us

- » Host missionaries for internships and collaborate on outreach projects.
- » Share your expertise and resources.
- » Introduce us to potential partners, communities, and supporters.




Get in touch

www.missioncampus.eu

info@missioncampus.eu | +43 670 184 9050

Follow us on Instagram @missioncampus_eu



“Therefore go and make
disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the
name of the Father and
of the Son and of the
Holy Spirit”

Matthew 28:19



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