

Hello! My name is Stephanie. From August 2025 to May 2026, I served as a Catholic Missionary in the USA with the organisation, NET Ministries.

My spark for ministry was ignited during my time at university where I had a profound revelation of the Catholic faith; what once meant very little to me, soon became the centre of my life. After experiencing the love of God, I had a great desire to share the faith with others. So, I discerned and applied to NET Ministries to begin this mission.

Our primary mission was to travel to different schools and parishes in teams, carrying out retreats for young people aged 11-18. Each retreat focused on relational ministry; the importance of building relationships with the youth and being a witness to Christ. The retreats included talks, testimonies, small groups, games, faith based activities, and a guided prayer time. At every retreat the Holy Spirit was present and the Lord worked so powerfully!

In August, I flew to the NET headquarters in Minnesota and was joined with around 100 other young adults. We began intense spiritual and human formation for a month before being split into different teams and sent to various parts of the country.



I was part of Team 4! We travelled to the Eastern and Southern Regions of the USA. Throughout the 9 months, my team travelled to and through 23 states, carried out 126 retreats and ministered to over 6,000 youth. We travelled everywhere in our minibus with a trailer attached holding all our retreat supplies and individual suitcases.



Almost every night we slept in a different location, from host families, churches, convents, rectories, etc. It was an incredible experience meeting so many different people and hearing their beautiful testimonies/stories.

For all the retreats we conducted, it was such a joy to see the change in the students' hearts before and after the retreat. We witnessed many moments of conversion and revelation of the youth. In fact, many students who initially did not want to be on the retreat, later shared that they had profound encounters with God. Some students even returned for another retreat the next day!

We had one retreat in Michigan, a group of around 30 youths. They were pretty loud to begin with, had a lot of energy and spoke their minds. From the beginning they were curious about the Catholic faith, asking lots of questions. The retreat continued and we reached our time of prayer in the church. We guided the first half of prayer before having a time of Adoration where Jesus in the Eucharist was exposed on the altar. After some time, one of my teammates went to the front of the church and knelt before the Blessed Sacrament. A few minutes later, one of the youth followed and joined him. A few minutes later, another youth followed. Before you know it, there was a whole group of youth kneeling and sitting before Jesus. There was a peace and stillness in the church, so much so that I extended the prayer time. What was supposed to be an hour of prayer turned into an hour and a half. Some of the youth were not even in the faith, and for some of them, it was the first time they had experienced the presence of God.

This is just one story of the many that we witnessed. Sometimes the Lord allows us to be a witness to moments like this, to see His beauty and goodness, but many times there are moments that we will never know until Heaven.

Thank you!

I am forever grateful for this experience and it will forever remain a foundation for my faith. Thank you for being a part of this mission, for your prayers and generosity, and thank you for helping to reach out to all these young people.