

# WITNESS CORNER ~ STEPHEN GARDNER

October, 2022

Shortly after participating in Men's Cursillo #62, new Cursillista, Stephen Gardner, embarked on a different way of life he was used to living in Florida. Before his recent graduation from Florida State University, Stephen was heavily involved with the Catholic Student Union. This experience prepared him to discern God's will for his life to become a missionary in the SPO (Saint Paul's Outreach) program at Ohio State University. Their mission is to build Catholic missional community, transforming a generation, on campus and beyond. He is one of 780 leaders being formed and dedicated to building transformational communities on campuses across the country. His latest adventures are highlighted in his newsletter. If you want to learn more about SPO, visit <https://www.spo.org/>.

**OHIO STATE UPDATE**  
Saint Paul's Outreach Mission Update

**WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OHIO?**  
The Lord works strongly through SPO's mission of relational evangelization by calling people into this community, one that is thriving and exciting, and into a relationship with Jesus himself.

**FACTS ABOUT SPO IN OHIO STATE**

- There are 8 Men's and Women's houses with roughly 40 students total in the houses.
- This year's annual Men's Hog Roast had roughly 600 people in attendance with a 210 lb hog.
- SPO has been at OSU since 2003.

**HOUSEHOLD**  
I am living in a house with 9 other men! We are praying together, eating together and spending time goofing off together. Household is a great place to raise men up. Our house, to the right, is cleverly named Antioch, a place where the disciples were first called Christians.

**MEN'S NIGHT**

- This year my biggest role is leading Men's Nights. During these nights we talk about what it means to be a man through the model of Jesus Christ. Pray for my co lead, Alex, and I as we go through the year.
- The picture in the bottom right is our first men's night with nearly 90 men in attendance, standing room only.
- Below is this year's Hog Roast. It was a huge success with nearly 600 people in attendance.

**A LOOK INTO OHIO LIFE**  
Our kickoff household retreat had the 3 mens houses go to Red River Gorge in Kentucky. We were a mob where ever we went, pictured below is all 29 of us getting ready to go on a hike. Every hike began with prayer and an exhortation from a student on why we are hiking and its importance to build brotherhood moving into the school year.

**MY ROLE/OUTREACH**  
This year I am helping run events to meet new people, leading a house of ten men, and going out on mission on campus as much as possible to bring people to Christ!

**FALL OUTREACH AND EVENTS**  
Coming from FSU and going to OSU, gamedays are HUGE! I am excited for game days as they are a great environment to meet new students. I haven't converted to a full buckeye yet! Maybe soon!! Go BUCKS!

**PRAYER INTENTIONS**

- For our Men's nights, grace to Lead/Emcee well
- For the conversion of Max, sophomore at OSU.
- For a good team dynamic and to be led by the HS.

**GLORY STORY**  
God is working all around. one night, we walked one of our friends home at 2:30 in the morning, and we ran into Kaden on the street, who is trying to become Catholic. He came to his second Mass a week ago with me! Pray for his deeper conversion.

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