



Dear Friends of GO,

Earlier this year, St. Pier Giorgio Frassati and St. Carlo Acutis were canonized. Both new saints passed on from this life at a young age – 24 and 15 respectively. At their canonization, Pope Leo remarked, "While still young, they said 'yes' to God and gave themselves to him completely, keeping nothing for themselves." In some way, this spirit is present in the story and experience of each Global Outreach student.

Each student says YES to

- *giving up their families, friends, and the comforts of home for a year*
- *trusting in God's plan and providence for them*
- *growing as servant leaders, building a civilization of love*
- *sharing their faith with those around them*
- *and making a difference, even as young people.*

It is your generosity that makes this possible each year. We ask for your continued support of Global Outreach, through prayer and a financial contribution to the Annual Appeal. Your gifts are truly instrumental to the journey these young men and women are preparing to make.

A student's 'yes' continues with detailed applications and thorough interviews with Global Outreach staff, the good news of being matched with an American host family, and preparing for summer camp. Last year's camp was held at the monastery in Vranov, Czech Republic where GO alumni, volunteers, and staff gathered to mentor the '25-26 students journeying to America from Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, and Hungary. Each day began with student-led morning prayer, the Rosary, and Mass celebrated by Fr. Kevin Ripley, GO Spiritual Director. The week was packed with presentations, guest speakers, team-building activities, service around the monastery, visits to nearby churches and cultural sites, and witness talks from the '24-25 GO class. Summer camp prepares new exchange students to walk with Jesus in the mission God has planned for them in America.

Included in this Annual Appeal mailing is a message from GO Board President, Lily Kirchner, a Summer Camp feature by Steve Pable, Director of Ministry and Mission for St. Mary Catholic Schools in Neenah, WI, a *Wish List* so you may designate your contribution to a specific part of the program's work, mailing list update options, and a *Save the Date* for Taste of Europe 2026.

With the help of our generous donors, Global Outreach welcomed 21 students for the class of '25-'26. They were placed with loving and faith-filled host families and receive ongoing support from GO staff. They also have opportunities for formation throughout the year to deepen their faith and strengthen the impact they have as servant leaders. To continue supporting our students for years to come, we ask you to prayerfully consider a financial contribution to the mission of Global Outreach. At the bottom of the "Wish List", you will find information on options available to you to make your donation.

Gratefully,

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GO Executive Director

Therese Vinz
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Fr. Kevin Ripley
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