

Missionary Information

Summer 2020



TOTUSTUUS

DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE



Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry - Diocese of Syracuse
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What is Totus Tuus?

Totus Tuus is a summer Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through evangelization, discipleship, Christian witness, and Eucharistic worship. Started in 1988 by Father Bernard Gorges in Wichita, Kansas, our week-long Parish Mission Program assists parents and parishes to evangelize and disciple their youth by supplementing the work they are already doing. The methodology, structure, content, and enthusiasm of Totus Tuus is not only concerned with teaching the faith, but also igniting the hearts of the team members and young people. The result has been the formation of young adults who continue to dedicate themselves to the Church's mission of evangelization.



We gather together college students and seminarians onto teams of four each to go out into parishes in order to teach the Catholic faith and inspire the youth. In addition to trying to communicate our faith and translate that into daily life, we strive to foster Christian vocations. It is our firm belief that vocations, callings from God, can only be heard and responded to if one is living a Christian life. We strive to foster this, first and foremost, in our young adult missionaries by providing them with an understanding of the faith, a strong prayer life, and an opportunity to witness to their faith. Because the young adult missionaries are striving to live an authentic Christian life and actively discerning their vocation, they can better help youth to do the same.

Our Motivation

Totus Tuus, a Latin phrase meaning "totally yours," was the motto of Pope John Paul II. Taken from St. Louis de Montfort's *True Devotion to Mary*, it signifies our desire to give ourselves entirely to Jesus Christ through Mary. It also expresses our effort to give our all to every young person we encounter. Through the teams' example of joy and service, the youth see that these men and women are ON FIRE with the Catholic faith and long for the same thing in their lives.

Our Method

Totus Tuus calls upon college-aged young adults and seminarians from the Diocese of Syracuse, and across the United States to carry this mission to every young person they encounter in the parish program. Students are hired for their energy, enthusiasm, love for the faith, commitment to spiritual growth, ability to work with a team, and desire to work with youth.

Totus Tuus missionaries are grouped into teams of four, each consisting of two men and two women, and are invited to a different parish every week for five weeks, where they conduct a week-long "parish mission," teaching and inspiring the parish's first through twelfth grade youth.

The Five Marks of Totus Tuus

1. Proclamation of the Gospel...to arouse faith
2. Explanation...examination of the reasons for our beliefs
3. Christian Witness...an experience of Christian living
4. Celebration of the Sacraments...especially Holy Eucharist and Confession
5. Active witness of the missionary nature of the Catholic Church

Totus Tuus joins the Church in her proclamation of the Gospel to arouse faith in the youth of the Diocese of Syracuse. Ready with "an explanation...for the reason for your hope" (1 Peter 3:15), Totus Tuus missionaries expound upon the reasons for our beliefs and share their personal testimonies with the young people.

Pope Paul VI wrote, "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses" (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 41). With this in mind, Totus Tuus team members are immersed in a life of prayer and give witness to the fruits of that experience of Christian living to the youth.

Additionally, the daily schedule of the Totus Tuus missionary revolves around the Mass, the Sacraments, and prayer. A summer given entirely to God and the young people of the Diocese of Syracuse would not be possible otherwise.

The Five Pillars of Totus Tuus

1. The Eucharist
2. Marian Devotion
3. Discipleship
4. Vocational Discernment
5. Fun

The Eucharist has pride of place in the Totus Tuus schedule, for both team members and participants. Prayer—the Liturgy of the Hours, the Rosary, the Angelus, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament—provides the structure, but the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the "source and summit" of the daily schedule.

Totus Tuus missionaries will lead the young people to Jesus for a week; however, Mary will lead them to Jesus for a lifetime. Therefore, Totus Tuus promotes Marian devotion. Meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, we come to see how Mary always leads us

to her Son. Praying with her and to her, we hear her say to us, “Do whatever He tells you” (John 2:5).

Authentic discipleship, rooted in an orderly and systematic explanation of God’s revelation of Himself through the person of Jesus Christ, provides the foundation of the program’s teaching.

Totus Tuus instructs young people in the basic tenets of the Catholic faith to cultivate both a firm intellectual grounding and a solid relationship with Jesus. All of our teaching aims to help young people grow in an understanding of, strengthen their faith in, and, most importantly, develop an intimate friendship with Jesus Christ.

Totus Tuus strives to foster Christian vocations by encouraging young people to begin discerning God’s call in their life to priesthood, religious life, single life, or married life.

Team members sign a “covenant” in which they commit to being open to and actively discerning God’s will for them. Because they are striving to live an authentic Christian life and are actively discerning their vocation, they can better help the youth to do the same.

Finally, Totus Tuus demonstrates that one can be a faithful Catholic and still have fun. Morning activities, silly skits and songs, recess, water games in the parishes, and all of the many enjoyable Totus Tuus activities, infuse the element of fun into the program.

The Team

Each Totus Tuus team consists of four members: two men and two women. The teams will be chosen during training week according to their strengths so as to compliment each other and work well together. The teachers adhere to a well-defined schedule, which has as its foundation and backbone in a structured prayer life.

Housing and Transportation

During the week the team will stay at host family houses so as to better get to know the families of the parish. The host families often treat the missionaries as though they were part of their own family. Housing of team members occurs from their arrival Saturday afternoon/evening until their departure the following Saturday. Each team will provide their own transportation.

Meals

Almost all of the team’s meals will be provided while the team is in the parish. The host family provides breakfast at 7:30 am. The parish provides lunch at 12:00 pm. Families in the parish who will invite the team to supper provide the evening meal at 5:00 pm. This allows for more families to be involved in the hosting of the team and provides an

excellent opportunity for the team to interact with families of the parish. Missionaries may sometimes have to pay for meals on Friday night and Saturday afternoon.

Training

A commitment to Totus Tuus begins with a 12-day training. During training, the missionary will be prepared to work as a modern day evangelist. Each missionary is trained to articulate the information contained in the curriculum and all aspects of the parish mission program. Daily lesson plans are provided to the teacher. Additional training includes instruction in the mission of Totus Tuus, prayer, Catholic doctrine, Christian relationships, and evangelization skills. Opportunity for individual and/or community prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, daily Mass, Confession, team recreation, and fellowship completes a well-rounded training schedule.

On the Road

Upon completion of the training week, your team will travel to parishes throughout the Diocese of Syracuse. As a part of Totus Tuus, you will have the opportunity to teach many youth, ranging from first to twelfth grade. You will also assist in leading songs, prayers, meditations, speeches at Mass to raise awareness and attendance, and a number of other duties that may arise. The duties of the Totus Tuus team do not end in the classroom. While on the road, a Totus Tuus team is not only evangelizing the children and youth they teach, but also whomever God brings them in contact with. While a commitment to Totus Tuus is nearly 24/7 during the summer, missionaries may be permitted time off to go home (if their home is nearby) from Friday evening to Saturday afternoon during the parish mission weeks.

Arrival / Preparation / Departure

Each week may look a little different for each team depending on the assignments for that week. For each parish assignment, the team has a parish coordinator (generally a parish staff member) that greets them, shows them around and gives them what they need for the mission. This meeting with the parish coordinator usually takes place on the Saturday the team arrives at the parish before Confessions begin.

Grade School Program (1st – 6th grade)

The Totus Tuus Grade School Program is *designed for children going into first through sixth grades* in the 2020-2021 school year. The Grade School Program (day program) runs Monday through Friday. The students are encouraged to be clear and consistent in their faith. They are shown how to view their Lord as a good Father. This personal relationship gives them the confidence to be Christ's witnesses in the world around them. Finally, Totus Tuus endeavors to show the youth that a humble and courageous

desire to know God must be based upon a steadfast and disciplined life of prayer combined with the reception of the sacraments.

The Totus Tuus program has divided the four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* into a six-year teaching cycle. To complement the Catechism cycle, Totus Tuus adds a four-year cycle dedicated to the mysteries of the Rosary.

Middle School and High School Program

While many summer programs limit themselves to the sixth grade and below, Totus Tuus offers instruction for youth at the Middle School and High School Program (night/evening program). We have found that college aged teachers can effectively impact this age group. The Totus Tuus evening program includes instruction, small group discussions, quiet meditation, prayer, and fellowship. The team teaches in such a way as to continually offer a dialogue—in which each person feels respected in his or her most basic dignity.

On Tuesday or Wednesday evening during the evening program, the youth experience Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. During the same time, each youth is afforded the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance. Concluding the week, the team will spend the last night in fellowship with the youth at the Thursday Evening Social which is a class time reserved for fun and fellowship.

Typical Daily Schedule

TEAM

6:30 a.m.	Rise
7:00 a.m.	Breakfast
7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer (Lauds), Rosary, and Silent/Meditative Prayer
8:30 a.m.	Check- in and greet the grade school children

1st - 6th GRADE PROGRAM

9:00 a.m.	INTRODUCTION
9:15 a.m.	Warm-up/Songs
9:30 a.m.	CLASS PERIOD #1
10:00 a.m.	Snack Break
10:15 a.m.	Music Prep for Mass
10:30 a.m.	CLASS PERIOD #2
11:00 a.m.	Mass prep/confessions
11:30 a.m.	MASS
12:15 p.m.	Lunch-Recess
1:15 p.m.	Cool Down-Water Break
1:30 p.m.	CLASS PERIOD #3
2:00 p.m.	Break
2:10 p.m.	CLASS PERIOD #4



2:40 p.m. Gather, Review and Closing Prayer
3:00 p.m. DISMISSAL

TEAM

3:15 p.m. Clean-up/Set-up for next day/Team Meeting
3:30 p.m. Evening Prayer (Vespers) and Chaplet of Divine Mercy
4:00 p.m. Team Recreation
5:00 p.m. Supper

MIDDLE (7th-8th) & HIGH (9th-12th) SCHOOL PROGRAM

may vary by parish

7:00 p.m. Check- in youth & Introduction/Review
7:30 p.m. SESSION #1
7:50 p.m. Small group
8:00 p.m. Snack/Break
8:15 p.m. SESSION #2
8:35 p.m. Small group
8:45 p.m. Night Prayer (Compline)
9:00 p.m. DISMISSAL

Missionary Qualifications

Working as a missionary on Totus Tuus is an awesome opportunity and privilege with great responsibilities. Our missionaries are chosen from among the most faithful, energetic, creative and Catholic college-aged young adults and seminarians from around the nation. To be considered for a position on our staff, the applicant must have the following qualifications and desires.

Applicant Qualifications

To apply the applicant must be:

- A high school graduate
- A practicing Catholic
- Confirmed

Additionally, the applicant needs to have:

- A working knowledge of the Catholic faith
- A desire to work with youth

Job Description

The missionary must be willing to:

- Learn and experience the faith
- Work with a team
- Respect team dynamics
- Strive for a stronger prayer life
- Teach children
- Travel
- Spend themselves in a rigorous schedule
- Make sacrifices
- Commit to growth in discipline and virtue
- Credentialed in Safe Environment (*credential course supplied during training*)

Application Process

1. Read this information packet carefully.
2. Read and complete the application (due February 1st). *Applications may be accepted after this date if there are team vacancies, but it is strongly advised to get them in before!*
3. An applicant must be interviewed. If you cannot make it to an interview, then you will be interviewed over the phone/video.
4. If accepted, you will be contacted to confirm and asked to fill out and sign new hire paperwork. We will then be in touch to provide you with all the information you will need to get ready for the summer.
5. Upon acceptance, you will be asked to sign the Totus Tuus "commitment", whereupon you agree to fully commit your summer to God and serving Him on the Totus Tuus Summer Mission Program.

Totus Tuus “Commitment”

The missionary hired by Totus Tuus of Syracuse promises that he/she will serve the Lord and those to whom he/she is sent in the summer and will commit to the following:

1. Be present at training
2. Commit to daily schedule of prayer and an active discernment of their vocation
3. Parish activities (Totus Tuus summer parish mission program)
4. Adhere to all Diocese of Syracuse conduct policies
5. Read, study, and prepare the information provided during training

Totus Tuus Missionary 2020 Calendar

Training Week	June 15 - June 26
Intern Week	June 27 - July 3
Holiday	July 4
Parish Week 1	July 5 - July 10
Parish Week 2	July 11 - July 17
Parish Week 3	July 18 - July 24
Parish Week 4	July 25 - July 31
End-of-Mission Retreat	August 1

Interviews

Face to face interviews are done if possible. Skype video interviews can be arranged. Dates and times will be set up on an individual basis after we receive your application.

Pay

Each team member will receive a stipend of \$2,500 for the summer (including room and board).

Other Information

If you have any questions about our program or application process, please feel free to contact Bob Walters at (315) 470 – 1427 or e-mail at oyyam@syrdio.org.