

Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

Totus Tuus



Missionaries Guide

2020

MINISTRY DESCRIPTION

Totus Tuus is a fun and energetic parish based summer catechetical program, for both grade school age children and junior and senior high school youth. We gather qualified college students into teams of four in order to train them and send them out on the road to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in various parishes throughout the Pensacola-Tallahassee diocese. Their youthfulness, energy, and ability to witness to the Faith by daily living make our missionaries incredibly effective with children and young people.

The dates are May 24 to May 30 for training and June 8 to July 24 in the parishes with time off the week around the 4th of July. The team serves for a week in each parish by putting on two programs. The first runs Sunday through Thursday from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm for junior and senior high school youth. Our goal is to put them in contact with the Risen Lord so they can develop a deep, personal relationship with Him. To this end, we have a night of Adoration, opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, relevant and vibrant catechesis, talks on vocational discernment, and an entire week of fellowship with the team members.

The team also presents a grade school program (grades 1-6) that runs Monday - Friday from approximately 9:00 am - 2:30 pm. Our time is spent on catechetical instruction, songs, skits, games, daily Mass, the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, lunch, recess and more. The program ends with water activities on Friday afternoon in celebration of the week. The focus is on imparting an understanding and love of the Eucharist, devotion to Mary, effective catechesis, vocational awareness, and an all-around fun experience.

The team also strives to get to know each parish and its members. In order to do this, they stay with families of the parish, eat with different families throughout the week, and invite the entire parish to a "potluck" dinner on Wednesday night or whenever it might be happening..

Over the past two decades, Totus Tuus has succeeded in reaching out to youth all over the country in order to help them know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. In addition to this, we have tried to help local parishes by providing a fun and strong summer catechetical program. By God's grace, we look forward to continued growth in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee as we go into our 2nd year of Totus Tuus.

5 Pillars of Totus Tuus

1. The Eucharist
2. Marian Devotion
3. Catechetical Instruction
4. Vocational Discernment
5. Good-Hearted Fun

Our Motivation and Mission

Totus Tuus, Latin for "Totally Yours," was the papal motto of St. John Paul II. Taken from St. Louis de Montfort's great work, *True Devotion to Mary*, it represents our desire to give ourselves entirely to Jesus Christ through the hands of His Immaculate Mother. Totus Tuus, then, reminds us of her tremendous and difficult call to spend ourselves for Christ through the intercession of His Mother and to preach the gospel to all nations.

The challenge to be a Totus Tuus missionary is accepted with great joy. The team comes to know and love the vitality, faith, and courage of all the youth they encounter. The youth themselves are seeking not just role models, but heroes who are striving to live and proclaim, "Lord, I will be totally yours." Therefore, missionaries serve these youth and share with them the blessings that God has given them. They dedicate their entire summers to the Lord, leading all they encounter to Him.

5 Marks of Evangelization

1. Proclamation of the Gospel. . . to arouse the faith.
2. Apologetics. . . to examine 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.

Catechetical Instruction

Totus Tuus began in Wichita, Kansas, over twenty years ago and has since spread to many dioceses across the country, and now has its first Florida program in the Pensacola-Tallahassee diocese. With its curriculum on a six-year cycle, every year provides fresh, vibrant catechesis. As Catholics, an ordered and systematic initiation into the revelation of God himself is necessary for ongoing conversion. Stored in the depths of the Church's Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture, this revelation is constantly communicated from one generation to the next by a living, active faith.

The methodology, structure and content of Totus Tuus are concerned not only with teaching the faith but also with arousing it unceasingly with the help of grace, opening the heart to conversion, and encouraging total adherence to Jesus Christ on the part of those who are still on the threshold of faith.

The Team

Each Totus Tuus team consists of four members – two men and two women. The team will be chosen according to their strengths so as to complement each other and work well together. The missionaries adhere to a well-defined schedule, which has as its foundation and backbone a structured daily prayer life.

Training of Missionaries

The time of training at the beginning of the summer prepares the missionaries to be modern day evangelists. Each missionary is trained to articulate the information contained in the curriculum and all aspects of the parish catechetical program. Additional training includes instruction in the mission of Totus Tuus, prayer, Catholic doctrine, Christian relationships, and evangelization skills. Opportunities for prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, daily Mass, Confession, team recreation, and fellowship complete a well-rounded time of training.

On the Road

Upon completion of training, team will travel to parishes throughout the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee. As a part of Totus Tuus, missionaries will have the opportunity to teach all of the youth, ranging from first to twelfth grade. They will also assist in leading songs at daily Mass, praying with youth, performing skits, and filling a number of other roles 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 young adults that they teach, but also whomever God brings into their path.

Arrival/Preparation/Departure

The team arrives at a parish Saturday evening prior to the week of teaching. The team leader makes announcements after all of the Masses that weekend. The team then meets with the parish representative, tours the facilities, and sets up and prepares for the coming week on Sunday afternoon. After putting on the weeklong program, the team will take Friday evening and Saturday morning for rest, recreation, and personal time. The team is due to arrive at their next parish before the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening.

Stipend

Each missionary will receive a modest stipend of \$300 per week that they are in a parish for their work in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee this summer. It is a very small way for us to thank them for all of their time, effort, and prayer.

Other Information

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact, Sister Margaret Kuntz @kuntzm@ptdiocese.org. Thank you.

Daily Schedule of Each Team

Subject to adaptation in each parish.

6:30 Rise
7:00 Breakfast
7:30 Morning Prayer and Rosary
Grade School Day Program
8:30 Children begin to arrive
9:00 Icebreaker
9:15 Opening Prayer/Introduction
9:25 Class period #1
9:50 Snack/Game
10:10 Music preparation for Mass
10:20 Class period #2
10:45 Mass preparation/Confession
11:15 Mass
12:00 pm Lunch – Recess
1:00 Water Break
1:10 Class period #3
1:35 Skit
1:50 Class period #4
2:15 Gather, Review, and Closing prayer
2:30 Dismissal
2:30 Cleanup/Setup for next day/Team meeting
3:00 Team Recreation
5:00 Evening Prayer and Chaplet of Divine Mercy
5:30 Supper
Middle and High School Evening Program
6:30 Icebreaker/Game/Skit
6:45 Gather/Introduction
6:55 Talk
7:15 Break
7:30 Small Groups
8:00 Regroup. Reflect/Song
8:15 Night Prayer
8:30 Dismissal

The schedule of our missionaries is quite rigorous and demands all of the energy they can muster. This is deliberate so as to provide an intense giving of oneself in service to Jesus Christ and the spreading of his Gospel. It is when we are weak that we are strong, for the Lord's grace makes up for all that is lacking in us. In other words, it is meant to challenge and stretch our missionaries so as to form them in selfless generosity, so that they might truly say with St. John Paul II, in imitation of Mary's "yes" at the Annunciation, "Totus Tuus!"