

Totus Tuus Summer Catechetical Program

Your next **FAITH**
ADVENTURE
awaits...



Diocese of Charlotte



WHAT IS TOTUS TUUS?

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 and seminarians into teams of five to train them and send them out on the road to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in various parishes throughout the Diocese of Charlotte. Their youthfulness, energy, and ability to witness to the Faith make our missionaries particularly effective with children and young people.

The team serves for a week in each parish by putting on two programs. The first runs Sunday through Thursday from 6:30 PM–8:45 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 9:00 AM–2:30 PM. Our time is spent on catechetical instruction, songs, 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 of course a 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.

Over the past two decades, TOTUS TUUS has succeeded in reaching out to youth all over the country to help them know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. In addition to this, we help local parishes by providing a fun and strong summer catechetical program. By God’s grace, we look forward to continuing this good work in the Diocese of Charlotte, and we invite you to consider being a part of this legacy!

The Five Pillars of Totus Tuus

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

OUR MOTIVATION & MISSION



TOTUS TUUS, Latin for “Totally Yours,” was the papal motto of our beloved 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 the 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 teams come 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.

THE 5 MARKS OF TOTUS TUUS

Totus Tuus joins the Church in her proclamation of the Gospel to arouse faith in the youth of the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. Ready with “an explanation...for the reason for your hope” (1 Peter 3:15), Totus Tuus catechists 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” (EN 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 catechist revolves around the Mass, the Sacraments, and prayer. A summer given entirely to God and the young people of the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte would not be possible otherwise.



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1. **Proclamation of the Gospel**
 2. **Apologetics**
 3. **Christian Witness**
 4. **Celebration of the Sacraments, esp. Eucharist and Confession**
 5. **Active Witness of the missionary nature of the Church**
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CATECHETICAL INSTRUCTION

TOTUS TUUS began in Wichita, Kansas over twenty years ago, has since spread to many dioceses across the country, and now in its second year in the Diocese of Charlotte. 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 five members – two to three men and two to three women. The teams will be chosen during the first week of training in accordance with individual and collective strengths. This is to better ensure that team members complement each other and can work well together. The missionaries adhere to a well-defined schedule, which has as its foundation and backbone a structured prayer life.

TRAINING OF MISSIONARIES

Our missionaries begin their summers with a two-week training at Belmont Abbey College with TOTUS TUUS missionaries from all over the country. Here, they are prepared to work as modern-day evangelists. Each missionary is trained to articulate the information contained in the curriculum and all aspects of the parish catechetical program. Daily lesson plans are provided to the missionary. 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 week of training.



ON THE ROAD

Upon completion of training, teams will travel to parishes throughout the Diocese of Charlotte. 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, 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 will make announcements after all of the Masses that weekend. The team will then meet with a parish representative, tour the facilities, and set up and prepare 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 teams are due to arrive at their next parish before the Vigil Mass on Saturday evenings.

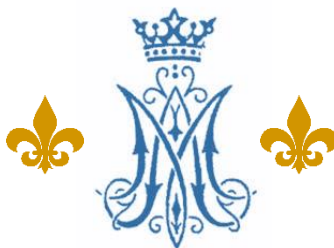
Cleanup / Setup for next day/ Team meeting Evening Prayer & Chaplet of Divine Mercy Team Recreation Supper

STIPEND & VALUABLE EXPERIENCE

Serving as a missionary for the Diocese of Charlotte is a **temporary commitment from May 28th – Aug 3rd** (approx. 2 months). While the work of a missionary is indeed rewarding in and of itself, **missionaries will receive a stipend** for all of their time, dedication, and work this summer!

Please note that serving as a Totus Tuus teacher (missionary) may be considered a paid internship, especially if you are an education or catechetics/theology major. If your area of study encourages or requires you to complete an internship, make sure to discuss this opportunity with your academic advisor today!

The **interpersonal and transferable skills** learned and practiced during the course of this program are invaluable not only for one's spiritual life and future Vocation, but also for one's future employment opportunities!



TEAM DAILY SCHEDULE

RISE & SHINE

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| 6:30 am | Rise |
| 7:00 am | Breakfast |
| 7:45 am | Morning Prayer & Rosary |

GRADE SCHOOL PROGRAM

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| 9:00 am | INTRODUCTION |
| 9:15 am | Warm-up/Songs |
| 9:30 am | CLASS PERIOD #1 |
| 10:00 am | Snack Break/Game |
| 10:15 am | Music Preparation for Mass |
| 10:30 am | CLASS PERIOD #2 |
| 11:00 am | Mass Preparation/Confessions |
| 11:30 am | MASS |
| 12:15 pm | LUNCH/RECESS |
| 1:00 pm | Cool Down/Water Break |
| 1:10 pm | CLASS PERIOD #3 |
| 1:40 pm | Skit Break |
| 1:50 pm | CLASS PERIOD #4 |
| 2:20 pm | Gather, Review, & Closing Prayer |
| 2:30 pm | DISMISSAL |



TEAM

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| 2:45 pm | Clean-up / Set-up for next day / Team Meeting |
| 3:15 pm | Holy Hour / Evening Prayer / Divine Mercy Chaplet |
| 4:15 pm | Team Recreation / Errands |
| 5:15 pm | Dinner |
| 6:00 pm | Return to Parish for Evening Program |

J.R. & S.R. HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

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| 6:30 pm | Welcome/Begin Program <i>-Most evenings include fellowship (games), snacks, a talk, and small group time.</i> <i>-Tuesday is Adoration and Confession night.</i> <i>-Thursday is an extended fellowship/social with Apologetic Q & A.</i> |
| 8:30 pm | Night Prayer |
| 8:45 pm | Depart |

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 our Holy Father John Paul II, in imitation of Mary's "yes" at the Annunciation, "TOTUS TUUS!"

SUMMER CALENDAR 2025

| Totus Tuus of Charlotte | |
|---|--------------------|
| • May 27 th – June 7 th | Team Training |
| • June 8 th – June 13 th | Parish #1 |
| • June 15 th – June 20 th | Parish #2 |
| • June 22 nd – June 27 th | Parish #3 |
| • June 28 th – July 2 nd | Mid-Summer Break |
| • July 3 rd – July 5 th | Mid-Summer Retreat |
| • July 6 th – July 11 th | Parish #4 |
| • July 13 th – July 18 th | Parish #5 |
| • July 20 th – July 25 th | Parish #6 |
| • July 27 th – Aug 1 st | Parish #7 |
| • Aug 2 nd | Departure |

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information and/or to apply, please contact [Mrs. Katie Matlak](#), the Totus Tuus Director for the Diocese of Charlotte.

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We look forward to the possibility of working with you this summer. Thank you for all that you do to further the Kingdom of God, and may God bless you!