

**ARCHDIOCESE** of **MILWAUKEE** 

# **2021 Parish Guide**

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# **Getting Started**

The Office of Evangelization is committed to bringing young people closer to Christ through the sacraments, prayer, and fun. In this guide, you will find helpful information about planning for Totus Tuus at your parish and what the team needs in order to thrive. If you have questions that cannot be answered from this document,



please contact the Diocesan Coordinator of Totus Tuus, Doug Ulaszek, at 414-758-2211 or <u>ulaszekd@archmil.org</u>. We will help you in any way we can!

#### What is Totus Tuus?

Totus Tuus is a summer Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness, Marian devotion, and Eucharistic worship. Through our week-long "parish mission" for a parish's 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth, Totus Tuus assists parents and parishes in the evangelization and catechesis of their youth.

The methodology, structure, content, and enthusiasm of Totus Tuus is concerned not only with teaching the faith, but also igniting the hearts of the team members and young people. The result has been the formation of youth and young adults who continue to dedicate themselves to the Church's mission of evangelization.

The mission of Totus Tuus is to inspire in young people a true longing for holiness, a deep desire for daily conversion and an openness to their vocation by constantly challenging them to give themselves entirely to Christ through Mary and by continually strengthening their prayer lives in imitation of Her.

## **Our Inspiration**

Totus Tuus, a Latin phrase meaning "totally yours," was the motto of Saint 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.

#### **Role of the Parish Coordinator**

The Parish Coordinator may be the most important person involved in Totus Tuus. The success of a Totus Tuus parish program depends on you! We cannot thank you enough for your investment in the young people of our archdiocese!

Each parish should assign a Parish Coordinator, who will communicate with the Diocesan Coordinator leading up to your week of Totus Tuus, coordinate logistics for the week, and serve as the main contact person during your week. **A Parish Coordinator must be on site during all parts of your Totus Tuus week.** In many parishes, a different person is assigned to be on site during the Middle/High School Program (typically, the Youth Minister).

While the team that visits your parish will have specific training in catechesis, classroom management, and teamwork, for many of these college-aged students, this is their first job. It will be a great learning experience for them, and your involvement will help them grow professionally and personally. They will look to you for help with logistics at your parish, challenging behavior from children, and scheduling issues that fall outside of their usual plan.

#### A Note for Father

Thank you for hosting Totus Tuus at your parish! We recognize the intense amount of time and resources this program requires. Time and time again, teams will tell us that the involvement of the priest was one of the most meaningful aspects of the summer. As these young people learn, grow, and discern your witness is invaluable. We understand that your schedule may not allow you to be present all the time, but we warmly invite you to be a part of Totus Tuus in any way that you can.

## Here are the times that the team will need your help for Sacramental purposes:

Confession for day program: Monday – Wednesday (Possibly Thurs.) at 11:00am

Mass: Monday - Friday at 11:30am

Adoration and Confession for evening program: Tuesday and/or Thursday evening

Church tour for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade: Wednesday from 2:10-2:40pm

Children's Adoration: Thursday from 1:40-2:40pm

We also encourage you to be present if your parish hosts a Family Potluck to kick off Totus Tuus on Sunday evening, as well as at the entirety of the Family Program on Wednesday evening.

# **Program Fees**

To host a Totus Tuus team at your parish, **the program fee is \$1500**, paid by the parish directly to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. While this is the only cost for the team, parishes are asked to take responsibility for hosting their team through the week – see "The Team" section for more details.

Each week can serve up to 90 youth (depending on social distancing capabilities in your space). In the experience of Totus Tuus across the country, this number tends to see a drastic drop in the quality of programming the team is able to provide. We understand that turning youth away is not desirable, but please do not "overload" your team.

## **Funding Tips**

The amount the parish charges for participating youth is entirely up to the parish. We suggest asking for \$20/child or \$50/family of three of more. At this rate, a parish with 50 youth in the Grade School Program and 25 teens in the Middle/High School Program would cover the cost for the team. We have also seen multiple parishes combine to host one week of Totus Tuus in order to reach full capacity for the week. Other parish organizations (Knights of Columbus, etc.) are also excellent places to seek help in bringing Totus Tuus to your parish. Don't be afraid to ask!

#### <u>T-Shirts</u>

The Office of Evangelization will provide Totus Tuus t-shirts for purchase. You can choose to have parents buy them individually or purchase them in bulk as part of your program. Please remember to include that when determining your budget and fees.

#### **Registration/Deposit**

The Parish Registration Form can be found on at the end of this packet. When you register, you will be asked to submit 3 choices of dates for Totus Tuus. Then, **please submit your signed form with a deposit of \$500** payable to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee (put "Totus Tuus" in the memo)

Once your payment is received, the Office of Evangelization with confirm your date via email. The remaining program fee will then be due the week after your program ends. When your date is secured, you will also receive access to waivers, checklists, and promotional materials to help plan a great week!

## **COVID-19 Procedures**

Despite the ongoing pandemic, we are confident that Totus Tuus can be implemented safely in parishes for Summer 2021. Because of the fluidity of the situation, we will not have policies in place until closer to the start of Totus Tuus. These policies may impact the Parish Coordinator duties (additional sanitation) as well as the number of youth allowed to participate (dependent upon your space's capacity accounting for social distancing).

# The Team

Each Totus Tuus team consists of two men and two women. The teachers are selected based on their commitment to the Catholic Faith, desire to teach the Faith, love of children, energy, enthusiasm, and leadership abilities. In order to operate a week of Totus Tuus successfully, the teachers adhere to a well-defined schedule, which has a structured prayer life as its foundation.

## Arrival/Setup

The Team Leader will call the Parish Coordinator the Wednesday prior to your week of Totus Tuus, between 3-5pm. If you do not hear from your team, please call the Diocesan Coordinator.

The team **arrives on the Saturday** afternoon or evening prior to the week of teaching. The team will be prepared to speak at all weekend Masses (please inform the team leader if you would like them to speak at Masses in your Wednesday phone call). **Speaking at Mass** is an excellent opportunity to publicize Totus Tuus one last time and introduce the team to the entire parish. Often, this brief presentation will help bring in more youth to participate in the week's program.

**The team should meet with the Parish Coordinator and Pastor** (if available) for a formal meeting and touring of the facilities on Saturday. The team will set up the facilities on Sunday afternoon (see page 10 for specifics on what space the team will need during the week). Due to the early morning and late night scheduling of events, some parishes have found it convenient to provide the team leader with a key to the facilities. If you choose not to do this, please make sure the Team Leader knows who will have facility keys for the week.

## Host Families (subject to change due to COVID-19 procedures)

Since the team is "out on the road" in this ministry, we ask that the parishes find host families to provide **sleeping arrangements** and a morning **continental breakfast** for the entire week. The team needs two "host homes," one for the men and one for the women. **Men and women must be housed separately**. It is easiest for the team and the parish if the host homes are close to each other and to the parish (the team will drive one vehicle), but the team will be grateful for any housing.

The interaction at host homes is valuable for both the team members and the families. However, because of the team's schedule, it is important to stress that the team may occasionally be late getting home due to team meetings. Also, team members may not always be present at the host families' homes in the afternoons due to planning and setup. The teams are asked to return to host homes by 11pm and practice courtesy as guests.

Housing of team members takes place from their arrival Saturday afternoon/evening until their departure the following Friday evening or Saturday morning. Each team will provide their own transportation to and from the parish. It is helpful to give the team driver a list of the names, addresses, phone numbers and directions to the homes for housing and evening meals.

# Meals

Please plan to provide all of the team's meals while the team is at your parish. Depending on the specifics of the week's schedule at your parish, the team may not require dinner at a host family's home every night.

- **Breakfast** should be provided every day by the host families at 7:00am. Breakfast does not need to be anything fancy or requiring effort. Cereal, fruit, granola bar or toast is sufficient.
- Lunch for Saturday (if the team has arrived) and Sunday can be at the host families' homes. Please ask the host families not to plan any activities for the team on Sunday after Mass and/or lunch. This is "team time" and needs to be protected. The teams follow a demanding schedule each week for eight weeks. Like all of us, they require "down time." Honoring God's commandment to keep holy the Sabbath, Sunday afternoon is their time for rest, recreation, and team fellowship, as well as time to prepare for the coming week.
- Lunch for Monday through Friday should be provided by the parish or a volunteer at 12pm. Volunteers assisting in the kitchen can prepare the lunch. Buffet style works best, and whoever is providing the meal may want to bring extra food for the volunteers, priest, etc.
- **Dinner on Saturday** should be scheduled for as early after Mass as possible. It is ideal if the Parish Coordinator hosts dinner on Saturday evening in order to get to know each other. If that is not possible, please make other arrangements.
- **Dinner on Sunday through Thursday** should be provided at 5:30pm. Please arrange for families in the parish to host the team for supper. This allows for more families to be involved and provides an excellent opportunity for the team to interact with families of the parish. A family may prepare and serve the meal, have food brought in, or take the team out to eat. The team will not need dinner on Thursday if their evening social with the middle and high school youth involves a meal. The need for dinner on Friday will be determined when the team leader calls the parish coordinator during the week before the program.

Since the team is on a tight schedule, **please do not schedule dinner any earlier or later than 5:30pm.** unless the team leader is notified. The team will need to leave the family's home by 6:30pm to return to the parish for the evening program. The team will not require a meal at the time the Parish Potluck is held. If a potluck is not held, please be sure that a family is lined up to host the meal for the team.



# **Curriculum & Methodology of Totus Tuus**

## **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: Participating in the Missionary Spirit of the Catholic Church

# The Five Pillars of Totus Tuus

- 1. The Eucharist
- 2. Marian Devotion
- 3. Catechetical Instruction
- 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).



An authentic **catechesis**, 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 the 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 be married, a priest, a religious or a consecrated single. Team members sign a "covenant" in which they promise to be open to and actively discern 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 "pump up," silly skits and songs, recess, and water fights in the parishes, infuse the element of fun in the program.

# The Faith & the Rosary

The Sacred Scriptures and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* provide the foundation of the catechetical instruction of the Totus Tuus summer catechetical program. Consequently, Totus Tuus has divided the four pillars of the *Catechism* into a six-year teaching cycle. To complement this six-year cycle, Totus Tuus also follows a four-year cycle dedicated to the mysteries of the Rosary.

Year One: The Mystery of Salvation Year Two: The Apostles' Creed Year Three: The Sacraments Year Four: The Commandments **Year Five: The Virtues – 2021** Year Six: Prayer and the Our Father **The Joyful Mysteries – 2021** The Luminous Mysteries The Sorrowful Mysteries The Glorious Mysteries





# **Daily Schedule**

The following is the usual schedule for use during the week of Totus Tuus. Some parishes adjust for a different Mass time (9am, Noon). This is not ideal, but isn't impossible. Please coordinate any schedule changes ahead of time with the diocesan coordinator.

#### TEAM

7:00am	Breakfast in host homes
8:00am	Arrive at Parish; Morning Prayer, Rosary, set-up

# GRADE SCHOOL PROGRAM (1st-6th grade)

9:00-9:20am	Opening Prayer, Songs, & Skits
9:20-10:00am	Class Period #1
10:00-10:15am	Restroom or Snack Break
10:15-10:45am	Class Period #2
10:45-11:05am	Music Preparation for Mass
11:05-11:25am	Mass Preparation/Individual Classes to Confession
11:30am	Mass
12:15-1:00pm	Lunch & Recess
12:15-1:00pm 1:00-1:15pm	Lunch & Recess Cool Down & Water Break
-	
1:00-1:15pm	Cool Down & Water Break
1:00-1:15pm 1:15-1:50pm	Cool Down & Water Break Class Period #3
1:00-1:15pm 1:15-1:50pm 1:50-2:10pm	Cool Down & Water Break Class Period #3 Restroom or Snack Break

#### TEAM

3:15pm	Clean-up, Set-up, Team Meeting
3:30pm	Evening Prayer and Chaplet of Divine Mercy
4:00pm	Team Recreation
5:30pm	Dinner

# MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)

6:30pm	Team Arrives to Prepare
7:00-7:25pm	Ice Breaker, Games
7:25-7:30pm	Welcome, Opening Prayer
7:30-8:00pm	Talk on Specific Topic
8:00-8:45pm	Small Groups (usually split by age)
8:45-9:00pm	Night Prayer
9:00pm	Dismissal

# Grade School Program

The Totus Tuus Grade School Program is designed for children entering first through sixth grades in the upcoming school year. The Grade School Program begins on Monday and concludes on Friday.

# **Facilities**

The team requests **one large hall or room for their main assemblies** (this same room can be used as a lunchroom, if necessary). It is helpful to provide a **microphone** for the team. All participants will begin in this room each morning and conclude here each afternoon.

The size of your group will determine how many classrooms are needed. Typically, the team will require **four classrooms to use throughout the week.** The team will use one of these as a "team space" for their supplies and afternoon meeting.

Each classroom should have **a chalkboard or a dry-erase board.** For the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom, it is ideal to have some empty space near the board for the children to gather on the floor, as well as tables set up with chairs for their activities. Team members will set up the rooms.

It is very important that the **church be available for Mass and confession every day.** Each class will spend time in Adoration on Thursday afternoon. If there is not an Adoration chapel, the team will take youth to the church. It is ideal for a priest to be available to expose the Blessed Sacrament. Father is invited to lead the kids in prayer and songs during their time in Adoration. If he is not available, the team will do so.

## Lunch/Snacks/Recess

Totus Tuus infuses catechetical instruction with authenticity and fun! We balance time inside and outside of a "classroom setting." Therefore, we have a short bathroom break in the morning, recess and "cool down" after lunch, and a snack break in the morning and/or afternoon. Please speak with your team about when the best time for a snack break would be.

We ask the parish to provide drinks throughout the day. Water is a necessity, but we also encourage other drinks such as lemonade or Kool-Aid. The children will need drinks set out for them three times during the day: at lunch (12:15pm), after recess (1:15pm) and during snack break (9:50pm OR 1:50pm). We ask that volunteers have the snacks and drinks ready five minutes before each break.

We also ask that the parish provide snacks (crackers, fruit, veggies, granola bars, trail mix) for the snack breaks. Often, parishes will ask each family to bring a snack on Monday to be shared throughout the week. Some parishes also choose to provide lunch for the children, especially on Friday afternoons (otherwise, children are asked to bring a sack lunch each day). The choice is yours, but please be clear so parents know what to expect. Recess follows lunch, and the team will participate with the children.

#### Mass & Confession

It is in the Sacraments, especially in the Eucharist, that Christ Jesus works most fully for the redemption and sanctification of all mankind. We realize that Totus Tuus asks a lot of our priests who are already very busy. For their presence and participation in the program we are extremely grateful.

We have found over the years that celebrating and participating in the sacraments on such an intimate level has a tremendous impact on the children. We strive to help the children participate fully and actively in the liturgy and consider this an integral part of our program. It is the responsibility of the **Parish Coordinator to arrange the liturgical and sacramental events with the priest.** 

Since the Eucharist is the source and the summit of the Christian life, **Totus Tuus encourages the daily celebration of Holy Mass at 11:30am**. We also suggest that opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation be made available every day before Mass, beginning at 11:00am. This schedule can be adapted to meet the needs and special circumstances of your parish. However, we encourage you to adapt your parish schedule as you are able for this one week. If you would like to discuss alternative schedules, please discuss ahead of time with the diocesan coordinator.

The oldest students will be invited to Confession on Monday and younger grades as the week progresses. If your parish has many young people involved in the program, the pastor may find it helpful to invite a fellow priest to assist.

The youth will participate at Mass by serving, bringing up the offertory gifts and proclaiming the readings and petitions. Totus Tuus team members will lead the children in a few songs during Mass; therefore, it is not necessary to ask the music director or choristers to be there.

The team will prepare the children for Mass and Confession, and they will practice the songs as well. The children will be expected to behave during Mass, as at all times during the week. Their Friday afternoon fun depends on it!

If a priest is unable to celebrate or secure a replacement for Mass at any point during the week, the team will take the children to the church to pray the Rosary, Mid-day Prayer, or the Stations of the Cross.

**Children's Adoration** will take place on Thursday afternoon. If your parish has a perpetual Adoration chapel, the children will be taken there; if not, the children will be taken to the Church during this time. This will be led by the team and involvement from the pastor is completely optional. It is suggested to give notice to the scheduled Adorers that the children will be in the Adoration chapel.

#### Friday Afternoon

On Fridays, the usual schedule is followed until lunch, when it is modified to allow for "fun time" in the afternoon. Students still bring their lunches or some parishes like to take this opportunity to have a cookout (usually hot dogs and chips) or order pizza. After lunch there are no formal classes.

Friday afternoon's festivities begin at 1:45pm and can be held in a nearby park, recreation area, or a large, open area on your church grounds (please keep in mind that water events held in a parking lot or another hard, paved surface, may increase the risk of children getting hurt). During this time there will be a water-balloon toss and a "water fight," for which students can bring water guns, squirt bottles, buckets, etc. The team will provide the water balloons. Around 2:40pm, the water fight ends and students help the team clean up the area.

Many parishes choose to do a "human sundae," but this is not required. You can substitute chocolate syrup with shaving cream for a less messy experience. The parish is asked to provide water hoses and wading pools or a stock tank, etc. Parishes may also choose to provide popsicles, ice cream, or other treats at the conclusion of Friday afternoon. Some parishes ask the local fire department to send a truck to join in the water fight. This adds a considerable amount of water (and fun) and is completely optional. **Parents should be warned that children will be wet and possibly dirty when they are picked up on Friday afternoon.** Please recommend that the students come wearing something that can get messy – they will not be allowed to change clothes. The team will talk to the children about Friday afternoon at the close of the day on Thursday, giving them the rules of the day, what to bring for the water games, and what to wear. The day is closed, as is every day, with song and prayer before 3pm.





# Middle/High School Program

Totus Tuus also offers an evening program for middle and high school youth. Middle school youth are those entering the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and high school youth are those entering grades 9-12 for the upcoming school year. **These grade levels meet Sunday through Thursday.** 

The Middle/High School Program comprises of instruction, small group discussions, prayer, and fellowship. The team teaches in such a way as to offer a dialogue in which each person feels respected in his or her most basic dignity. We have found that vibrant, faithful, college-aged teachers can effectively impact youth at this age for two main reasons: the close proximity of age, and the ability to establish mentor relationships, i.e. big brother or big sister.

# **Facilities**

Similar to the Grade School Program, the team needs **one large hall or room** for their main assemblies. If the group is large, it is helpful to provide a **microphone** for the team. If this is a smaller group, a youth room is fine.

The size of the group will also determine how much **small group space** is needed. Generally, the team will need four spaces available for use. The church also needs to be available for Adoration and Confessions one evening, preferably Wednesday. This is flexible based your priest's schedule.

# **Supplies**

It would be helpful to have the following supplies for the high school sessions: Bibles, rosaries, writing utensils. There is also time for snack each night. We ask the parish to supply the refreshments Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evenings. If desired, the teens may bring the snack each night.

## **Adoration & Confession**

On Tuesday and/or Thursday evening, the youth adore Christ face-to-face during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. During the same time, the youth are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, thus **confessors will be needed from 8:00-9:00pm.** If your parish has many young people involved in the program, the pastor may find it helpful to invite a fellow priest to assist. This evening may be moved to another day of the week, if necessary; please remember to adjust snacks and schedule the priest accordingly.

# Family Program

New to Totus Tuus Milwaukee this year is a **family program component**, which will give your participants' parents and other adults of the parish the opportunity to experience the mission of Totus Tuus in a tangible way. More details are forthcoming, but this new evening activity will include time for fellowship and shared dinner, age-specific talks and testimonies, and prayer. It will most likely take place on **Wednesday evening**.

# Parish Involvement & Safe Environment

The Parish Coordinator cannot possibly do everything by him- or herself. As such, we strongly recommend asking help from the parish to make this week a success!

*There should be at least two adults present in the building at all times* when the program is in session. One of these people must know the parish buildings and be able to make decisions on behalf of the parish. This is typically the Parish Coordinator.

Volunteers can assist the coordinator by setting up drinks and snacks, cleaning the kitchen, sweeping the floors after breaks and lunch, helping those who may become ill, and doing anything else the coordinator may ask. Older youth (middle and high school-aged) can also be asked to help with the Grade School Program. Please make sure to have enough adults present to satisfy proper supervision ratios throughout the programs.

Volunteers should also be utilized in the classrooms, as the Totus Tuus team will be unable to provide more than one team member in each classroom. For safe environment purposes, please have at least one volunteer in each classroom. Three volunteers per room would be ideal—one to stay in the classroom with the teacher; two to accompany kids together out of the classroom when necessary. For the Middle/High School program, it is helpful to have at least four other adults who can participate in the small groups (adults who serve in this capacity during the school year are ideal).

During training, team members will be given the following safe environment guidelines:

- If there is no window in the classroom door, the door must be open. If there is a window in the door, the window is not to be obstructed. Totus Tuus takes the safety of children seriously. Thank you for your assistance in this manner.
- *No child should ever leave a classroom unattended*. If a child has to leave in the middle of a class for any reason, at least one (preferably two) volunteer(s) should accompany the child(ren) to his/her destination.
- Volunteers should not be alone with youth in the bathroom, but should instead wait outside in the hall for them. If it is necessary to go into the bathroom with a child, there should be two volunteers present.
- Classroom volunteers who are being disruptive will be asked to report to the Parish Coordinator.
- The Team Leader will meet with classroom volunteers Monday morning at 8:40am to explain their responsibilities during the week. The Parish Coordinator is welcome to attend this meeting.

#### Safe Environment

*Volunteers over the age of 18 MUST be in conformity with Safe Environment policies for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.* It is the responsibility of the Parish Coordinator to make sure all volunteers have met these diocesan criteria.

## Parish Potluck Supper

The parish is encouraged to sponsor a potluck supper for the children, their families and all parishioners. You can host this any evening of the week, and usually works best after the Saturday evening Mass, after Sunday morning Mass (breakfast), or Sunday evening. No meal plans will be needed for the team when the potluck takes place.

We encourage this to be a parish-wide event. This gathering gives the team an opportunity to meet families and other parish members. It is also an excellent opportunity for the parents to meet and get to know the teachers, where they are from, etc. During the potluck, the team leader will be happy to introduce the team and explain a little about the history and mission of Totus Tuus.

Some parishes have adopted alternate means of having the parents and team meet. For example, one parish has "special lunches" for its grade school program. Parents and team members join the kids for a brown bag lunch at the parish; each grade, or cluster of grades, has its own special lunch on a different day, in a room separate from the rest of the grades. If you have an alternate plan that works well, please let your team leader know at the beginning of the week.

#### **Intercessors**

While the team is at your parish, and even before they arrive, we recommend recruiting intercessors to pray for and provide spiritual assistance to the team, the youth, the coordinators, the volunteers, and the pastor of your parish. This is a great way to involve parishioners who don't have school-aged children attending Totus Tuus.

Ask the regular Adorers, daily Mass-goers, members of the Altar Society, the Knights of Columbus, or the Rosary Guild – really, anyone you can think of – to commit to daily or weekly prayer for the team, the participants, and the program. They can pray in whatever way they like: offer Masses, Holy hours, Rosaries, Chaplets; intercede with petitionary prayer; recite the traditional memorized prayers; offer a day of fasting—the possibilities are as numerous as your parishioners!

## In Closing

Thank you so much for your interest in bringing Totus Tuus to your parish! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email our Diocesan Coordinator.