



TOTUS TUUS

ARCHDIOCESE *of* MILWAUKEE

2022 Parish Guide

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Getting Started

The Office of Evangelization & Catechesis is committed to bringing young people closer to Christ through the sacraments, prayer, and fun. In this guide, you will find helpful information about hosting Totus Tuus at your parish and the planning needed to make it thrive. If you have questions that cannot be answered from this



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

What is Totus Tuus?

Totus Tuus is a Catholic summer program for youth 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 1st-12th grade youth, Totus Tuus assists parents and parishes to proclaim Christ to their children and form them as disciples through the Sacramental life of the Church.

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

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 is the most important person involved in Totus Tuus. The success of a Totus Tuus parish program depends on them. We cannot thank them enough for their investment in the young people of our Archdiocese!

Each parish should assign a Parish Coordinator, who will communicate with the Diocesan Coordinator and Team Leader, 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.** This role is typically filled by the parish Director of Religious Education (or equivalent). In many parishes, a different person is assigned to be on site during the Middle/High School Program (typically, the parish youth leader).

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

Dear 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 tell us the involvement of priests was among the most meaningful aspects of the summer. Your witness and engagement are crucial for our youth as they grow, learn, and discern God's plan for their lives. 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.

Nevertheless, there are particular times where your involvement is needed for Totus Tuus:

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

Mass: Monday – Friday at 11:30 a.m.

Adoration and **Confession** for evening program: Tuesday from 7:45-9:00 p.m.

Church tour for 1st & 2nd grade: Wednesday from about 1:50-2:30 p.m.

We also encourage you to be present if your parish hosts a Family Potluck to kick off Totus Tuus on Sunday evening or the Family Night on Wednesday.

Program Fees

To host a Totus Tuus team at your parish, **the program fee is \$1750**, 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. 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 charging for the day program and keeping the teen program at a low cost. You may also wish to set a family maximum to keep Totus Tuus affordable for larger families. For reference, if you charged \$30/child and \$10/teen, a program with 50 children and 15 teens (very attainable at most parishes) would generate \$1650, almost the full cost of 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!

T-Shirts

T-shirts will be available for purchase before the summer begins for an additional cost (around \$8 each). You may wish to have families choose to purchase them or purchase them for everyone involved. Many parishes at least like to purchase shirts for their volunteers as a thank you. Remember to account for this as you budget and set fees.

Registration/Deposit/Next Steps

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 and a deposit of \$500. Please make checks payable to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, c/o Office of Evangelization & Catechesis. Please include “Totus Tuus 2022” in the memo line.

Once the parish request window closes on **October 22**, we will assign dates to all parishes who send in deposits. After that, remaining weeks will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. After the New Year, Totus Tuus parishes will have access to promotional materials and more planning resources to use throughout the winter and spring.

The Team

Each Totus Tuus team ideally 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 founded upon a structured prayer life.

Team Arrival/Setup

Throughout the winter and spring, planning and questions about hosting Totus Tuus can be directed to the Diocesan Coordinator. Most details for your week will be confirmed in May before the summer begins. Early in the week before the team arrives, the Team Leader will email the Parish Coordinator to set up a phone call to cover details for the coming week.

The team arrives on the Saturday afternoon/evening prior to the week you host. The team will be prepared to speak at all weekend Masses to publicize Totus Tuus one last time and introduce themselves to the entire parish. Often, this brief presentation will help bring in more youth to participate in the week's program. If you serve multiple parishes, the team *may* be able to split to cover Masses at the same time. (Subject to their ability to drive and proximity of churches).

The Parish Coordinator and Pastor (if possible) should plan to meet with the team in person to discuss final details and tour the facilities. This meeting can take place either after Saturday Masses or immediately after Sunday Masses conclude (see page 10 for specifics on what space the team will need during the week). Some parishes decide to give a building key to the team given the demands of their schedule. If your parish prefers not to do this, plan to tell the Team Leader who will have access to facility keys during the week.

Host Families (subject to change pending pandemic conditions)

Parishes are expected to arrange sleeping arrangements and 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 (depending on the team's schedule). 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. Particular meal needs may change slightly based on the team's schedule for the week and assignment before/after your week. Once the team is hired, you will be notified of any dietary needs of the team; outside of those needs, the team is grateful to eat anything provided to them.

- **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 best.
- **Saturday Dinner & Sunday Lunch** can be with the host home families or the Parish Coordinator. The Parish Coordinator should plan a meal to accompany the initial planning meeting (either Saturday dinner or Sunday lunch after Masses). No matter what the plans include, please do not plan any social/visiting time for the team on Saturday afternoon through Sunday dinner – the team has this blocked off as personal time and team recreation to recharge and prepare for the coming week.
- **Lunch for Monday through Friday** should be provided by the parish or a volunteer at the same time as the children eat lunch (usually 12 p.m.). The meal can be either buffet style or prepackaged, but should be ready to eat when lunch begins (the team will not have time to heat up or prepare lunch due to their full schedule).
- **Dinner on Sunday through Thursday** should be provided at 5:15 p.m. 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 5:15 p.m.** 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. If a potluck is organized one evening, the team will plan to eat there and not need to be hosted for dinner.



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 for Totus Tuus. The teaching cycle is divided the *Catechism* into a 6-year rotation, complemented by a 4-year rotation of the Rosary. This year’s topics are **bolded** below:

Year One: The Mystery of Salvation

Year Two: The Apostles’ Creed

Year Three: The Sacraments

Year Four: The Commandments

Year Five: The Beatitudes & Virtues

Year Six: Prayer & the Our Father

The Joyful Mysteries

The Luminous Mysteries

The Sorrowful Mysteries

The Glorious Mysteries



Daily Schedule

The following is a typical schedule for use during the week of Totus Tuus. In general, we ask parishes to follow this schedule as much as possible; particular schedule needs (i.e. different Mass time) should be communicated to the Diocesan Coordinator well in advance of Totus Tuus. (Note: slight changes made be made to accommodate programming changes)

TEAM

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

GRADE SCHOOL PROGRAM (1st-6th grade)

9:00-9:30 a.m.	Opening Prayer, Songs, & Skits
9:30-9:55 a.m.	Class Period #1
9:55-10:10 a.m.	Restroom/Snack Break
10:10-10:35 a.m.	Class Period #2
10:35-10:50 a.m.	Music Preparation for Mass
10:50-11:05 a.m.	Restroom Break
11:05-11:25 a.m.	Mass Preparation/Individual Classes to Confession
11:30 a.m.	Mass
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Lunch & Recess
1:00-1:15 p.m.	Water Break/Decade of the Rosary
1:15-1:40 p.m.	Class Period #3
1:40-1:55 p.m.	Man Camp/Lady Camp
1:55-2:20 p.m.	Bathroom/Snack/Skit Break
2:20-2:45 p.m.	Class Period #4
2:45-3:00 p.m.	Review, Closing Prayer, & Dismissal

TEAM

3:15 p.m.	Team Prayer, Work, & Community Time
5:15 p.m.	Dinner

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM (7th-12th grade)

6:30 p.m.	Team Arrives to Prepare
7:00-7:25 p.m.	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 Grade School Program is designed for children concluding Kindergarten through 5th grade the previous school year. The Grade School Program begins on Monday and concludes on Friday.

Facilities

The team needs **one large hall or room for their large group space** (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 team will also need **four classrooms to use throughout the week**. Typically, the children are split into three class groups (K/1st grade, 2nd/3rd grade, 4th/5th grade). The team will use one of the rooms as a “team space” to prepare and meet throughout the week.

Each classroom must have a **chalkboard or a dry-erase board**. For the K/1st 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 can help set up rooms on Saturday/Sunday.

It is also very important that the **church be available for Mass and confession every day**. On Wednesday afternoon, the team will also need access to the sacristy for a church tour. It is ideal if your parish priest is available to lead the tour, but the team can also prepare to lead it.

Lunch/Snacks/Recess

Totus Tuus infuses catechetical instruction with authenticity and fun, balancing time inside and outside of a “classroom setting.” The schedule includes 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 the best time for this snack break.

Plan to provide drinks and snacks throughout the week. Water is a necessity, but we also encourage other drinks such as lemonade or Kool-Aid. Please also plan to provide snacks (crackers, fruit, veggies, granola bars, trail mix). 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.

Drinks should be set out at lunch (12:00 p.m.), after recess (1:00 p.m.) and during snack break (9:55 a.m. OR 1:55 p.m. – set out snacks here as well). Volunteers should have snacks and drinks ready five minutes before each break.

Volunteers should facilitate lunch time and clean-up. Please do not depend on the team to facilitate parts of lunch – dependent on their other tasks, they will prioritize eating lunch with the children to continue building relationships. They will also play with (not facilitate) them at recess.

Mass & Confession

It is in the sacraments, especially in the Eucharist, that 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 children. We strive to help them 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 11:30 a.m. We also suggest that opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation be made available every day before Mass, beginning at 11:00 a.m.** 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.

Friday Afternoon

On Fridays, the usual schedule is followed until lunch, when it is modified to allow for “fun time” in the afternoon. Some parishes 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. A printed reminder will also be sent home. Friday ends with song and prayer before 3:00 p.m.



Middle/High School Program

Totus Tuus also offers an evening “Teen Program” for middle and high school youth. Middle school youth are those finishing 6th-8th grade, and high school youth are those finishing grades 9-12. **The teen program runs from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday.**

The Teen Program includes games, activities, witness talks, small group discussion, and prayer. The team prioritizes making all teens feel welcome as they dig into the topics presented. 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.

Facilities

Similar to the Grade School Program, the team needs **one large hall or room** for their large group time. 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. Use of a **gym or large field** allows for the most freedom for games and activities.

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 (if numbers permit, small groups are split between middle and high school and between genders). It is ideal for the church to be available at the end of the evening for Night Prayer.

Supplies

Like the Grade School program, snacks and drinks should be provided each evening for small group discussion time (snacks might not be eaten on Tuesdays). Teens can be asked to bring a snack to contribute or the parish may choose to provide them. It is also helpful to have pens, Bibles, and a whiteboard available for the team to use.

Adoration & Confession

On Tuesday evening, teens have the opportunity to adore Our Lord during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. During the same time, teens are invited to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A priest will need to be available at **7:45 p.m. for Exposition and from 8:00-9:00 p.m. for Confessions**. If your parish has many teens involved in the program, the pastor may find it helpful to invite a fellow priest to assist (we plan for 1 priest for every 10-12 teens).

Thursday Evening Fun

On the last evening of the teen program, parishes are invited to do something special to close out the week. This can be done either on the parish grounds, at a nearby park, or a parishioner's backyard. Many parishes opt to have a bonfire and s'mores with Question & Answer time. Other parishes go bowling or some other fun activity in the community. You are free to plan this as a parish or lean on the team for guidance and expertise. If you choose to do an activity offsite, the parish is responsible for distributing and collecting the necessary waivers from families.

Family Program

Totus Tuus Milwaukee is planning to offer parishes the option for a Family Program on Wednesday evening of their week. This would include a parish-wide potluck dinner (planned by the parish) and an inspiring talk from Archdiocesan staff for adults and teens. During this time, the team will engage children with more fun and games (whether they have attended the Grade School Program or not). This is an opportunity to show parents and adults of the parish the spirit of Totus Tuus and make it a parish-wide event. More details will be available during the winter & spring. Your parish may also choose not to utilize this option and instead include an extra evening of the Teen Program.

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 Totus Tuus 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.** Parishes must have adequate supervision (1 adult per 8 children) for Totus Tuus to happen. Often, parents have younger children at home, making it difficult to volunteer. We recommend engaging adults who could babysit other younger children while other parents help volunteer with Totus Tuus. Find volunteers early in your planning!

For the Middle/High School program, it is helpful to have at least four other adults who can participate in 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.
- 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) volunteers should accompany the child to his/her destination.
- Volunteers should not be alone with youth in the bathroom, but instead wait in the hall for them. If it is necessary to go into the bathroom with a child, two volunteers must be present.
- Classroom volunteers who are being disruptive will be asked to report to the Parish Coordinator.
- The Team Leader will meet with volunteers on Monday morning at 8:40 a.m. to explain their responsibilities. The Parish Coordinator is welcome to attend this meeting.

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 all parishioners. You can host this any evening of the week, but times that work well tend to be after Saturday evening Mass, after Sunday morning Mass (donuts), or Sunday evening. No meal plans will be needed for the team when the potluck takes place. You can also build this into the Family Evening on Wednesday.

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 parents to meet and get to know the team, 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.

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 do not have children participating.

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 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.