



# Teaching Team Information Packet



# TOTUS TUUS

# TEACHER APPLICATION INFORMATION

## WHAT IS TOTUS TUUS?

Totus Tuus is a Catholic summer catechetical program dedicated to building a joyful and enthusiastic faith in youth and their families through God's word, Christian witness, and Eucharistic worship. The aim of Totus Tuus is to put youth and young adults not only in touch with, but also in intimate communion with Jesus Christ. To this end, the program emphasizes devotion and love for our Lord in the Eucharist and Mary our Mother and also fosters an openness to vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

The Totus Tuus program began in Wichita, Kansas and has spread to dozens of other dioceses across the United States and Canada over the last three decades. To date Totus Tuus has reached 200,000 or more young people throughout the United States. The Office of Vocations of the Diocese of Portland began sponsoring Totus Tuus in Maine in the summer of 2018 with one teaching team that taught over 400 young people in six parishes and has since expanded to two teaching teams and ten parishes across the State of Maine!

## OUR MOTIVATION

Totus Tuus is Latin for "Totally Yours" and the motto of Pope 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. St. John Paul II's motto "Totus Tuus" 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 Totus Tuus is accepted with great joy! Teaching teams come to know and love the vitality, faith, and courage of so many children and youth they encounter. Children and youth are seeking not just role models, but heroes who are striving to live and proclaim, "Lord, I will be totally yours." It is a joy and honor to be a member of a Totus Tuus teaching team that can teach and witness to them the blessings that God has given them.

## APPLICATION QUALIFICATIONS JOB DESCRIPTION

Experience working with youth is helpful but not required.

### The applicant must be:

- A high school graduate
- A practicing Catholic
- Confirmed

### The applicant should have:

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

### The teacher must be willing to:

- Strive for a stronger prayer life
- Learn and experience the faith
- Work with a team
- Respect team dynamics
- Teach children
- Spend oneself in rigorous travel schedule

## **THE TEACHING TEAM**

The primary leaders and presenters of the Totus Tuus program are a team of college students and a seminarian who travel to different parish sites over the summer in order to teach and witness to the truth and joy of the Catholic faith. Each Totus Tuus Teaching Team consists of four members: two men and two women. The teachers are chosen based upon their desire to teach the faith, love of children, energy and enthusiasm, and for their individual leadership abilities. In order to run a week of Totus Tuus Summer Program smoothly, the teachers adhere to a well-defined schedule which has a structured prayer life as its foundation and backbone.

## **TRAINING PROGRAM**

Teaching Team members' commitment to Totus Tuus begins with a training program. First, there is an eight-to-ten-day training with other dioceses across New England, where each teacher is prepared to work as a modern-day evangelist. During training, team members take courses with Totus Tuus teams from across New England on how to articulate the information contained in the curriculum and all aspects of the parish catechetical program. Additional aspects of the training include instruction in the mission of Totus Tuus, prayer, Catholic doctrine, Christian relationships, and evangelization skills. Another crucial part of the training program is focused on more hands on and practical teaching skills. New team members watch past Totus Tuus teachers in action. The goal of this final stage is to ensure that team members do not enter their first parish having no idea what to expect. Focus is on different teaching methods, interacting one-on-one with the children, parents, and teachers and learning to teach classes yourself.

Training is not all work. Days also include individual and/or community prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, daily Mass, Confession, and team recreation and fellowship. Team members learn to pray together, resolve conflict and work together. This period is the highlight of the summer for many team members because of the opportunity to spend time with other Catholic college students from the region who are also dedicated to serving Christ.

## **ON THE ROAD**

Each teaching team travels to five parishes throughout the Diocese of Portland over the course of two months during the summer. There will be two breaks for the teaching teams in the program. After the first two weeks, teams take 2 non-consecutive weeks off in July when the seminarians go on retreat. The first week of August wraps up the summer, with a final retreat with both teams and Fr. Brad Morin on the last day. This leaves the rest of August for each teaching team to relax!

Over the course of the summer, teaching team members have the opportunity to teach many children and young people, ranging in age from first to twelfth grade. They also assist in leading songs, prayers, meditations, giving talks to parishioners, and many other tasks that should arise. The work of the Totus Tuus team does not end in the classroom. While on the road, a Totus Tuus team is not only evangelizing children and young adults, but also priests, religious sisters, families, waiters, gas station attendants and everyone else whom God brings into their lives.

## THE TOTUS TUUS TEACHING CURRICULUM

The Sacred Scriptures and the Catechism of the Catholic Church provide the foundation of the catechetical instruction of the Totus Tuus summer program. Totus Tuus has divided the four pillars of the Catechism into a six-year teaching cycle:

- Year One: The Mystery of Salvation
- Year Two: The Apostle's Creed
- Year Three: The Sacraments
- Year Four: The Commandments
- Year Five: The Virtues and Beatitudes
- Year Six: Prayer and the Our Father

To complement this six-year cycle, Totus Tuus follows a four-year cycle dedicated to the mysteries of the Rosary: Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious.

The **Grade School Program** (grades 1-8) is designed for Catholic children going into first through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Teachers teach four grade school classes each day, help with Mass preparations, teach liturgical songs and responses, lead games, icebreakers, skits and monitor recess. The week concludes with a water fight and other fun Friday afternoon activities.

The Totus Tuus **High School Program** includes instruction, small group discussions, quiet meditation, prayer, and fellowship. The evenings are like a "parish mission" for high school students. On Tuesday evening, the youth experience adoration during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Concluding the week, the team spends Thursday night doing something fun and social with the students, such as ultimate Frisbee, etc.

## HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION

During the week when they are in a parish, the team will stay with host families to get to know the families of the parish. Housing of team members occurs from their arrival Saturday afternoon/evening until their departure the following Friday. Each team will provide their own transportation through the generosity of one of the team members whose mileage will be reimbursed by the diocese.

## MEALS

All the team's meals will be provided while the team is in the parish:

- A light breakfast is provided by the host family at 7:30 a.m.
- Lunch is provided by a parish family or by some other means determined by the parish coordinator at 12:00 p.m.
- The team goes out to dinner. Saturday night dinner is with the parish staff. Sunday, Monday, and Thursday, dinner is provided at 5:00 p.m. by parish families who have volunteered to host the team for supper. Tuesday evening the team eats at a local restaurant arranged by the parish and has some time off together. Wednesday evening the team helps to host a parish supper for all Totus Tuus participants and families.
- A teacher with significant dietary restrictions may find their dietary needs to be incompatible with a summer that includes so little control over diet. Please let the interview team know if you have a concern.
- Teachers may sometimes have to pay for meals on Friday night and/or Saturday afternoon.

# TOTUS TUUS CALENDAR

June 5-14	Totus Tuus Training: Anna Maria College, Paxton, MA
June 15-20	Totus Tuus Week 1: St. Mary of the Visitation Parish, Houlton
June 22-27	Totus Tuus Week 2: Parish Camp, Livermore, (for Jay & Farmington parishes)
June 29-July 3	Totus Tuus Week 3: Prince of Peace Parish, Lewiston
July 6-11	Totus Tuus Week 4: St. John Paul II Parish, Scarborough
July 13-18	Totus Tuus Week 5: St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Westbrook Program will be held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Windham
July 20-25	Totus Tuus Week 6: All Saints Parish, Brunswick
July 27-August 1	Totus Tuus Week 7: Christian Life Center, Frenchville

# Daily Schedule

## Team Morning Preparation

7:00	Rise
7:30	Breakfast
8:00	Morning Prayer & Rosary

## Grade School Program

9:00	Introduction
9:15	Icebreaker
9:25	Class period #1
9:50	Snack/Game
10:10	Music Preparation for Mass
10:20	Class period #2
10:45	Mass preparation/Confessions
11:15	Mass
12:00	LUNCH – RECESS
1:00	Water Break
1:10	Class period #3
1:35	Skit
1:50	Class Period #4
2:15	Gather, Review, & Closing prayer Dismissal

## Team Afternoon Preparation

2:30	Cleanup / Setup for next day / Team meeting
3:00	Evening Prayer & Chaplet of Divine Mercy
3:30	Team Recreation
5:30	Supper

## High School Program

6:30	Introduction / Review
6:45	Session #1
7:30	Break
7:45	Session #2
8:15	Night Prayer
8:30	Dismissal

Our schedule is quite rigorous and demands all the energy a person can muster. This is deliberate 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 teachers to form them in selfless generosity, so that they might truly say as did our Holy Father John Paul II, in imitation of Mary's "yes" at the Annunciation, "Totus Tuus!"

## SALARY

Each team member will receive \$3,450.00 for the summer. Remember that team members also receive a significant income in the form of room and board, which is provided free of charge by parishes.

### **Totus Tuus "COVENANT"**

I promise that I will serve the Lord this summer by being a member of the Totus Tuus summer catechetical program, and I will fulfill this covenant by adhering to the following conditions:

1. Being present at training...
2. Fulfilling my teaching commitment...
3. Commitment to daily prayer (Divine Office) and active discernment of one's vocation.
4. Team activities (end of summer retreat)
5. Parish Activities (parish presentations of program)
6. Signing and adhering to the Diocesan Code of Conduct
7. Read, study, and prepare the information provided in the teacher's packet.

*"Do not be afraid of Christ! Trust Him completely!  
He alone 'has the words of eternal life.' Christ never lets us down!"*

-St. John Paul II

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING ON A TOTUS TUUS TEAM?**

For an application form, Visit our Web Site at:  
**[www.portlanddiocese.net/totus-tuus](http://www.portlanddiocese.net/totus-tuus)**

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Any questions, please call Linda Freese in the Office of  
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Sponsored in the Diocese of Portland by:

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