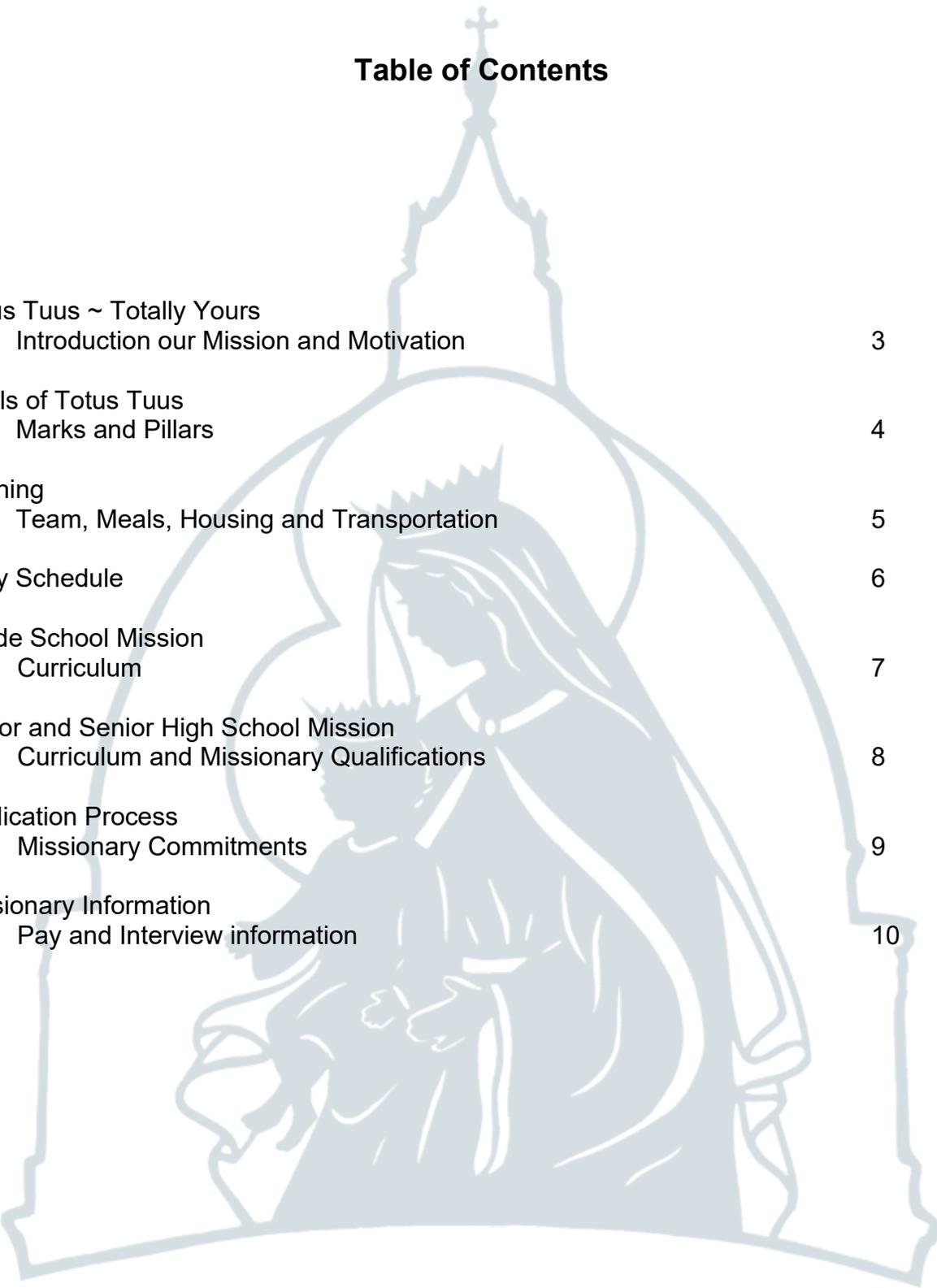


Summer Catechetical Mission  
2026 Missionary Information

Diocese of Gary  
Catechesis and Faith Formation

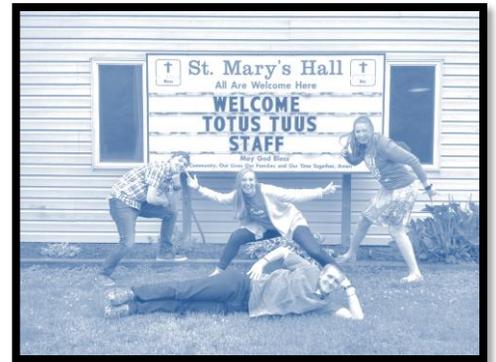
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# Introduction

Totus Tuus is a weeklong parish-based Catholic summer “mission” for youth entering 1st-12th grade. The mission is dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through catechetical instruction, Christian witness, vocational discernment, Marian devotion, and Eucharistic worship. Totus Tuus is led by a team of young adults who are trained and commissioned to serve the youth of the diocese throughout the summer.

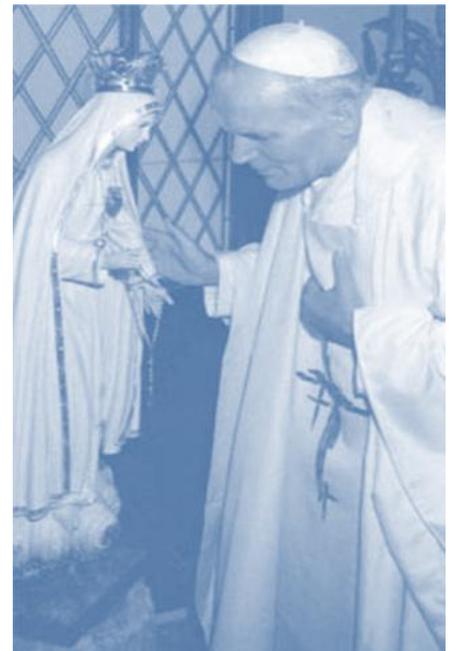


## *Mission*

The mission of Totus Tuus is to inspire young people to have a true longing for holiness, a deep desire for daily conversion, and a total openness to their vocation. Participants see this mission accomplished by being challenged to give themselves entirely to Christ through Mary and by strengthening their prayer lives in imitation of her.

## *The Motivation of Totus Tuus*

Totus Tuus is Latin for “Totally Yours” and was the motto of Pope John Paul II. By these words, Pope John Paul II reminds us of Mary’s total gift of herself to God. The phrase “Totus Tuus” represents our desire, like Mary’s, to give ourselves entirely to Jesus Christ. Mary’s “Yes!” at the Annunciation and her total sacrifice and service to the Body of Christ exemplify this commitment. “Totus Tuus,” then, reminds us of the tremendous and sometimes difficult call to give ourselves to Christ by preaching the Gospel to all those we meet.



This challenge to be “Totus Tuus” is accepted with great joy by the young adults who serve as missionaries on the team! These young adults come to know and love the vitality, faith, and courage of all the young people they encounter. Youth are seeking not just role models, but **heroes** who are striving to live and proclaim, “Lord, I will be totally yours.” With joy and honor, Totus Tuus serves these youth and shares with them the blessings that God has given them. Therefore, the team dedicates their summer entirely to the young people they serve.

# Goals of Totus Tuus

## *To provide solid catechetical instruction*

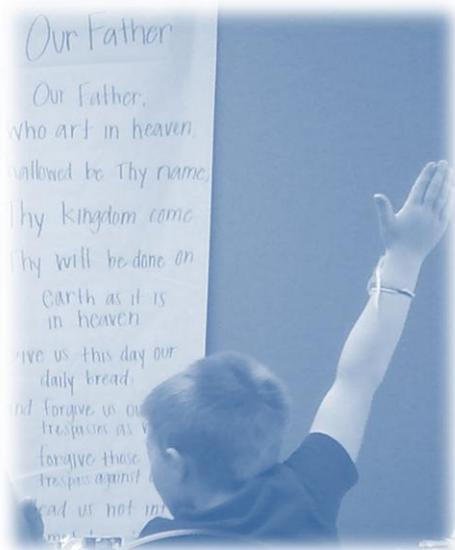
The foundation of Totus Tuus is authentic catechesis. The catechesis provided by Totus Tuus is rooted in an orderly and systematic explanation of God’s revelation of himself through the person of Jesus Christ. This revelation, stored in the depths of Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture, is constantly handed on from one generation to the next.

## *To help young people develop their relationship with Jesus Christ*

An intimate friendship with Jesus is essential so that he may lead young people to the love of the Father (cf. John 14:6-7). To accomplish this goal, the Totus Tuus Parish Mission emphasizes devotion and love for our Lord in the Eucharist and for Mary, our Mother.

## *To foster openness to vocations*

Openness to our vocational call is accomplished by placing special emphasis on the importance and necessity of living a Christian life. One of the mission philosophies of Totus Tuus is that vocations, callings from God, can only be heard and responded to if one is living an authentic Christian life. The missionaries for Totus Tuus model this lifestyle by promising to be open to God’s will for them and to actively discern God’s call in their lives. Because missionaries are striving to live an authentic Christian life and are actively discerning their vocation, they can better help young people do the same.



## Five Marks of Totus Tuus

1. Proclamation of the Gospel to arouse the faith.
2. Explanation and examination the reasons for our beliefs.
3. Christian Witness and experience of Christian living.
4. Celebration of the Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist and Confession.
5. Active witness of the missionary nature of the Church.

## Five Pillars of Totus Tuus

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

# Training

A commitment to *Totus Tuus* begins with training. At the beginning of the summer, there is a training camp where the missionaries form a community with one another while they become prepared to work as a modern-day evangelist. Each Missionary is trained to articulate the information contained in the 2026 curriculum and all aspects of the parish catechetical mission. Additional training includes instruction in the mission of *Totus Tuus*, prayer, Catholic doctrine, Christian relationships, and evangelization skills. Opportunity for individual and/or community prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, daily Mass, Confession, team recreation, and fellowship completes a well-rounded week of training.



## The Team

Each *Totus Tuus* team consists of four members: two men and two women. The teams will be chosen during training week 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 prayer life.

## Meals

All of the team's meals will be provided while the team is in the parish. The host family provides breakfast. The parish provides lunch. Families in the parish will invite the team over for dinner in the evening. This allows for more families to be involved in the hosting of the team and provides an excellent opportunity for the team to interact with families of the parish. Missionaries will sometimes have to pay for meals on Friday night and Saturday afternoon.

## Housing and Transportation

During the week, the team will stay at host family houses to better know the families of the parish. The host families often treat the missionaries as though they were part of their own family. Housing of team members occurs from their arrival Saturday afternoon/evening until their departure the following Saturday. Each team will provide their own transportation through the generosity of one of the team members whose mileage will be reimbursed by the Diocese of Gary.



# Daily Schedule

## ***Team***

6:30 Rise  
7:00 Breakfast  
7:30 Morning Prayer & Rosary

## ***Grade School Mission***

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  
2:30 Dismissal

## ***Team***

2:30 Clean-Up / Set-up for Next Day/ Team Meeting  
3:00 Prayer & Chaplet of Divine Mercy  
3:30 Team Recreation  
5:30 Dinner

## ***Junior & High School Mission***

7:30 p.m. Introduction/Review  
7:40 p.m. Session #1  
8:25 p.m. Break  
8:35 p.m. Session #2  
9:20 p.m. Night Prayer  
9:30 p.m. Dismissal

## ***Team***

9:45 Return to Host Family



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 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!"

# Grade School Mission

The Grade school mission that *Totus Tuus* provides is designed for children going into first through sixth grades in the 2026-2027 school year. The missionaries lead the day by teaching four scheduled classes, helping with Mass preparations, teaching liturgical songs and responses, participating in games, icebreakers, skits, leading songs, participating in recess, teaching and leading prayer and countless other things that arise. The week finishes on Friday afternoon with a water fight and other fun activities.

## 2026 Grade School Curriculum

(subject to revision and specification)

Theme: The 10 Commandments

Mysteries: Luminous Mysteries

Monday

- Session #1 The Baptism of Jesus
- Session #2 From the Beginning
- Session #3 The Fall
- Session #4 Freedom in Christ

Tuesday

- Session #1 The Miracle at the Wedding at Cana
- Session #2 Keep My Commandments
- Session #3 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment: Love of God
- Session #4 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment: The Lord's Name

Wednesday

- Session #1 The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
- Session #2 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment: Keep Holy the Lord's Day
- Session #3 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment: Honor your Father and Mother
- Session #4 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment: You Shall Not Kill

Thursday

- Session #1 The Transfiguration
- Session #2 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Commandment: You Shall Not Commit Adultery,  
Nor Covet Your Neighbor's Wife
- Session #3 7<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment: You Shall Not Steal,  
Nor Shall You Covet Your Neighbor's Goods
- Session #4 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment: You Shall Not Bear False Witness

Friday

- Session #1 The Institution of the Holy Eucharist
- Session #2 Our Mission to Serve: Stewardship and Vocations



## Totus Tuus Junior and Senior High School Mission

*Totus Tuus* offers evening instruction for junior and senior high school youth (grades 7-12). The *Totus Tuus* High School Mission includes instruction, small group discussions, quiet meditation, prayer, and fellowship. The team teaches in such a way as to continually offer a dialogue - in which each person feels respected in his or her most basic dignity.



### 2026 JH/HS Curriculum

#### Sunday

From the Beginning

#### Monday

Fall / Freedom in Christ

#### Tuesday

1-3 Commandments: Love of God/  
Adoration and Confession

#### Wednesday

4-10 Commandments: Love of Neighbor /  
Apologetics Q/A

#### Thursday

Social Night

The evening mission runs from 7:30 pm-9:30 pm Sunday through Thursday. On Tuesday evening, the youth experience adoring Christ face to face during exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. During the same time, each youth is afforded the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance. Concluding the week, the team will spend Thursday night in fellowship with the youth which may include laser tag, bowling, ultimate Frisbee, etc.

### Missionary Qualifications

Being a *Totus Tuus* missionary is an awesome opportunity and privilege with great responsibilities. Our missionaries are chosen from among the most faithful, energetic, creative and truly zealous Catholic college students and seminarians from around the nation. To be considered for a position on our staff the applicant must have the following qualifications and desires.

## Application Process

1. Read this information packet carefully.
2. Read and complete the enclosed application. Send application and referrals to *Totus Tuus* on or before the deadline of **February 1, 2026**. (*Applications might be accepted after this date but it is advised to send it in before*)
3. Send the referral form to a reference. Referrals are due at the same time as applications.
4. An applicant must be interviewed. If you cannot make it to an interview, then you will be interviewed over the phone.
5. *Totus Tuus* will respond (by phone, letter, or person) by **March 1, 2026**.
6. If accepted, you will be sent a missionary's packet. The packet will cover such questions as where and when to show up, what to bring, what to study, etc.
7. Upon acceptance you will be asked to sign the *Totus Tuus* "Covenant", whereupon you agree to fully commit your summer to God and His children.

## Totus Tuus —Covenant

The missionary hired by *Totus Tuus* of Gary promises that he/she will serve the Lord and those to whom he/she is sent in the summer of 2026 and will commit to the following:

1. Being present at training, May 28-June 6, 2026 (see calendar of events below)
2. Mission commitment, June 6-July 25, 2026 (see calendar of events below)
3. Commitment to daily schedule of prayer and an active discernment of their vocation
4. Team Activities
5. Parish Activities (*Totus Tuus* summer catechetical mission)
6. Signing and adhering to the *Totus Tuus* conduct policy
7. Read, study, and prepare the information provided in the missionary's packet

## Calendar of Events - Missionary Commitments (*The Calendar of Events are subject to change*)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Place</b>
May 28-June 6	Missionary Training	Valparaiso, IN
June 6-12	Mission	In Parish
June 13-19	Mission	In Parish
June 20-26	Mission	In Parish
June 27-July 4	<b>Break</b>	
July 5-10	Mission	In Parish
June 11-17	Mission	In Parish
July 18-24	Mission	In Parish
July 24-25	End of Summer Retreat	TBA

## **On the Road**

Upon completion of training, your team will travel to six parishes throughout the Diocese of Gary. There is a vacation during the July 4th week. We will have a concluding gathering on July 24-25.

As a part of *Totus Tuus*, you will have the opportunity to teach many youth, ranging from first to twelfth grade. You are constantly presented with opportunities to turn the hearts of the youth and adults you encounter towards the Lord who loves them perfectly and unconditionally. You will also assist in leading songs at Mass, and a number of other duties 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 to the children and young adults that they teach, but also to whomever God brings into their path.

## **Arrival/Preparation/Departure**

The team arrives at a parish Saturday evening prior to the mission week. A team member will be speaking at all of the Masses that weekend. The team will meet with a parish representative, tour the facilities, set up and prepare for the coming week on Sunday afternoon. After putting on the parish mission, the team will have some free time Friday evening and Saturday morning for team recreation and personal time. The teams are due to arrive at their next parish before the anticipatory Mass on Saturday evening.

## **Pay**

Each team member will have their room and board provided and will receive a \$3200 stipend. There are very few personal expenses for the missionaries during the summer.

## **Other Information**

If you have any questions about our mission, please feel free to call Sean Martin at 219-769-9292 or [smartin@dcgary.org](mailto:smartin@dcgary.org).

## **Interviews**

Interviews will take place in Merrillville, Indiana or via phone or video chat. Dates and times will be set up on an individual basis after receiving your application.

## **Totus Tuus of Gary Contact Information**

### **Catechesis and Faith Formation**

**Sean Martin**

**9292 Broadway**

**Merrillville, IN 46410**

**712-233-7561**

**[smartin@dcgary.org](mailto:smartin@dcgary.org)**





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