



Archdiocese of St. Louis

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Thank you for your interest in hosting Totus Tuus at your parish. Over the past 8 years we have seen tremendous growth in the participation of parishes and youth in the program. In 2017, we started with just 7 parishes and this past summer we served 22! With this incredible growth there has been the necessity to increase the number of missionary teams (which are comprised of male and female college students) to serve parishes requesting the program. Each time we have added a team to serve more parishes it has come after careful deliberation to ensure the consistency of training, implementation of catechesis, and sustainability of the program. These past few summers have presented increased difficulty recruiting college students to be Totus Tuus missionaries. Fortunately, due to the dynamism of our missionaries and alumni staff, each parish has been provided with the full Totus Tuus experience. However, it is important for our mission and service to the teams and parishes that each parish receive the number of missionaries prescribed in the "Parish Coordinator Guide".

As we look ahead to the 2025 summer, these goals and challenges will affect the number of parishes we will be able to serve. It is the OYM's general practice to serve returning parishes first and then, if open weeks to host become available, offer registration to new parishes.

This year we are planning on 3 teams. We are also working to think of creative ways to serve every returning parish that is interested. This might mean asking parishes with typically smaller attendance numbers to co-host with a neighboring parish as some have already done. We will send you regular updates and we encourage you to consider inviting and recommending young adults you know to consider applying to be a summer missionary. The power of personal invitation has been a strong indicator of new missionaries every year. Who do you know that the Lord might be calling to give everything (Totus Tuus) next summer?!

Expecting to completely fill the schedule with returning parishes, the OYM will add new parishes to a "**waitlist registration**" on a first come first serve basis for available weeks. Parishes will be notified if a week becomes available and have a chance to accept or decline.

If there is enough response from college students in the fall/winter to indicate the opportunity to grow to more missionary teams, then there is the likelihood that new parishes requesting Totus Tuus will have a week available to them.

We understand the difficulty this presents as you desire to offer formative experiences for your youth during the summer. It is our effort to bring Totus Tuus across the Archdiocese but in a manner that provides the prescribed experience to all those involved. Please pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on college students to answer "yes" to the call of missionary discipleship through Totus Tuus.

Sincerely,

Jaclyn Laffleur
Coordinator of Youth Ministry