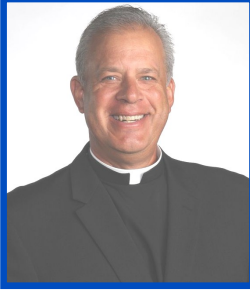


## FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE



This July we will be offering a wonderful summer camp for your youth. Totus Tuus, “totally yours”, is offered to deepen and celebrate our children’s life and friendship with the Lord. Here is information about the camp in July:

*Totus Tuus is a summer, week-long Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through evangelization, catechesis, apologetics, Christian witness, the sacraments, Marian devotion and Eucharistic worship for students entering grades one through 12. We strive to help young people understand their faith through catechesis, so they may live in today’s world through a “parish mission” for the young students of the parish, all with a strong emphasis on fun.*

*Totus Tuus is concerned not only with teaching the faith, but also igniting the hearts of its team members and young people. Totus Tuus seeks to assist and supplement the work of parents and parishes toward a deeper understanding of their faith and the Person of Christ.*

*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.*

### **Totus Tuus – Totally Yours**

*Totus Tuus, a Latin phrase meaning totally yours, is the shortened version of St. John Paul II’s motto, “Totus Tuus ergo sum et omnia mea tua sunt.” Originally 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 during this summer mission work.*

*Totus Tuus calls upon college students and seminarians from Chicago and across the United States to carry out its mission. These missionaries are hired for their love of the faith, energy, enthusiasm, ability to work as a team, commitment to spiritual growth and desire to work with youth. Those hired are extensively trained, put on teams of four (two men and two women) and sent out to a different parish every week for six weeks. Within the parish, they conduct a week-long “parish mission”, teaching and inspiring the parish’s youth.*

*In these teams, Christ’s love is made manifest. The love shared by these team members is the example of authentic Christian living, and their lives for the summer are centered on prayer and the sacraments. It is through this supernatural life that they work to serve and be a witness. **“Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses”** (Evangelii Nuntiandi, 41). Youth see these teachers are joyful and on fire with the Catholic faith, and they long for the same thing in their lives.*

*The daily schedule for Totus Tuus teachers revolves around Mass, Sacrament and prayer – a summer entrusted fully to the Lord, and a heart devoted to youth and parishes of the Archdiocese of Chicago.*

*Totus Tuus teachers will lead young people to Jesus for a week; however, Mary will lead them to Jesus for a lifetime. Mary is a living catechism, and the mother and model of catechists. Therefore, Totus Tuus promotes Marian devotion. By meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, we come to see how Mary always leads us to her Son.*

*Finally, Totus Tuus demonstrates one can be a faithful Catholic and still have fun. Morning pump up skits, along with songs, recesses, games and a water fight in the parishes are all manifestations of fun built into the program.*

Please see the following page for more program information and how to register the young people in your family for Totus Tuus at St. Mary’s!

May God bless us as we walk with Jesus in newness of life,

*Fr. Mike Nacius*