

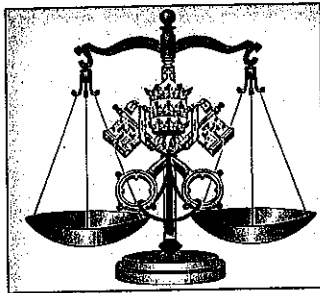
Marian Rosary Candlelight Procession

Sunday, May 2, 2021 at 7:30 PM

St. Mary's Church, Sleepy Eye

**The procession will begin
at the Schoenstatt Shrine
and end at St. Mary's Church, where
there will be an 1/2 hour of Eucharistic
Adoration along with Marian hymns
and Benediction.**

**A shuttle from St. Mary's Church north
parking lot to Schoenstatt will be
available from 6:45pm to 7:20pm to allow
participants to park at St. Mary's where
the procession will end.**



by Fr. Mark Steffl, STL, JCL

The important Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation both require a sponsor. In the case of Baptism, these are commonly called "godparents."

Historically and theologically speaking, the reason for a godparent or sponsor is to assist the person receiving Baptism or Confirmation through example, encouragement, and prayer. The individual or individuals who are acting as "sponsors" are called upon to show a loving example of the practice of the Catholic faith to the one who is receiving the Sacrament of Baptism or Confirmation. In addition, the sponsor assumes a moral responsibility to assist the parents of the individual (in the case of a child) in imparting the Catholic faith.

In establishing criteria for a sponsor, whether for Baptism

Ask a Canon Lawyer

This month's question:

What is required to be a godparent/ sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation?

or Confirmation, the Church is very specific in requirements (found in canon 874 of the Code of Canon Law). The requirements established are:

- The sponsor must be appointed by the person, (or by the person's parents in the case of a minor) and have the intention of fulfilling this life-long role,
- The sponsor must be at least sixteen years of age,
- The sponsor must be Confirmed and have received the Holy Eucharist and must practice the Catholic faith,
- The sponsor must not be subject to any canonical (ecclesiastical) penalties such as excommunication,
- The sponsor must not be the mother or father of the individual.

In the case of Baptism, only one "sponsor" or "godparent" is required. If there are two, as is common culturally in the United States, they should mirror the child's parents in gender: one "godfather" and one "godmother." Since it is common to have two sponsors at baptism, at least one

must meet the requirements that the Church establishes for the purpose of being recorded in the baptismal register of a parish as a "godparent." If there is a second person designated who does not meet the criteria established, he or she is referred to as a "Christian witness" in the baptismal register (it would still be appropriate to refer to that individual as a godfather or godmother).

In some cultures, it is common to have more than one "set" of godparents. In this case, only one set of godparents, meeting the established criteria is recorded in the baptismal register as the "official" godparents.

At Confirmation, a sponsor must meet the same criteria. Theologically speaking, Baptism and Confirmation are two sacraments sharing a close relationship, so much so that Church Law says in canon 893 that "it is desirable that the sponsor [for Confirmation] be the one who undertook this role at baptism." But "desirable" does

not mean essential, and very often this is simply not possible or advantageous depending on circumstances (and in reality is a rather rare occurrence).

Many parishes, emphasizing the role of sponsor, provide a sacramental preparation class not only to parents but also to godparents. Parish priests will often require a letter of suitability to be a baptismal sponsor from the parish priest of the sponsor if the priest does not know the individual personally, to make sure the individual is indeed suitable to take on this role.

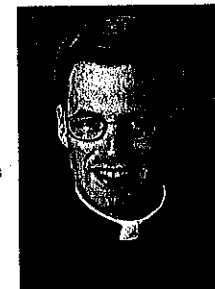
In Confirmation preparation, it is very common in parish programs to involve the chosen Confirmation sponsor in the preparation of the individual preparing for Confirmation. This emphasizes that the role of a sponsor is not merely an honorary or symbolic role but a serious one of taking on a duty towards another in the Church – of helping to form the individual in the specifics of living the Catholic faith.

All of these requirements are not

to "make things difficult" but to provide every opportunity and advantage to those who are receiving the Sacrament of Baptism or Confirmation in growing in the Catholic faith through the witness, encouragement, and prayers of the one/ones who are chosen as sponsor/sponsors for these "milestone" sacraments in the life of an individual.

NEXT COLUMN: Why would a baptized non-Catholic married to another baptized non-Catholic need to get an annulment through a diocesan Tribunal?

Do you have a question regarding canon law that you would like to see answered here? E-mail *The Prairie Catholic* at cclancy@dnu.org. In the subject area indicate "Ask a canon lawyer."



Editor's note: Fr. Mark Steffl serves as the Diocese of New Ulm's canon lawyer and is the judicial vicar of the diocesan Office of the Tribunal.

WHAT IS TOTUS TUUS?

Totus Tuus is Latin for "Totally Yours" and is the motto for Pope St. John Paul II. The phrase is taken from St. Louis de Montfort's great work, *True Devotion to Mary*, and it represents our desire to give ourselves entirely to Jesus Christ through the hands of his Immaculate Mother.

A team of four young adults from our very own diocese tour the Diocese throughout the summer, evangelizing all those they encounter. They do this primarily by catechizing youth in grades 1-6 during the day, and by spending quality time in the evening with those in grades 7-12. The whole parish, however, is blessed by the missionary efforts of the Totus Tuus team: parents see their children grow in love for Jesus and his Church, host families witness true models of the Faith, priests are assisted in their ministry and are able to offer the Sacraments to the youngest of their flock, and the youth are given the opportunity to participate in a fun, informative, and inspiring summer program at their own parish!

The daytime program is for those going into grades 1-6, and consists of games, catechesis, songs, Holy Mass, and an exciting end-of-the-week water fight! This program runs from 9 AM-2:30 PM, Monday-Friday (or Monday-Thursday, check local dates).

The evening program is for those going into grades 7-12, and consists of social time, small group discussion, games, Eucharistic adoration, Confession, and great talks by the Totus Tuus team members. This program runs from 7:30 PM-9:30 PM, Sunday-Thursday (or Sunday-Wednesday, check local dates).

For questions or more information, contact:

Daniel Davis
(260) 222-4315
mr.davis@sesmschool.com

Totus Tuus

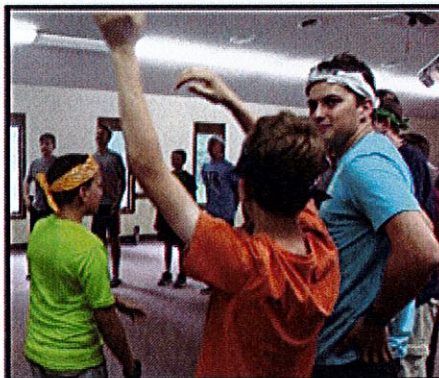
SUMMER PROGRAM

GRADES 1-6

June 7 - 10

9 AM - 2:30 PM

Games, learning, skits,
daily Mass, and fun!



GRADES 7-12

June 6 - 9

7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Social time, talks, games,
and adoration!

PARISH POTLUCK will be held at 6 PM on
Wednesday, **June 9** at
St. Mary's Social Hall



PARISH PROGRAM INFORMATION

- To be kept for your information -

Cost: \$20

Registration and payment is due: May 14, 2021

The grades 1-6 program starts at 9 AM on June 7, 2021 and ends at 2:30 PM on June 10, 2021

The grades 7-12 program starts at 7:30 PM on June 6, 2021 and ends at 9:30 on June 9, 2021

The location Totus Tuus will be held at is: St. Mary's School for Grades 1-6; St. Mary's Social Room for Grades 7-12

For questions (or in case of emergency), contact: Daniel Davis, (260) 222-4315

Additional notes: Grades 1-6, please bring a bag lunch daily!

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YOUTH REGISTRATION FORM

- To be turned in along with payment -

Please return this form (and payment) to: St. Mary's School or your parish office

Parent's Name: _____ Home phone: _____

Email address: _____ Home parish: _____

Emergency contacts

1. _____
name relationship to child phone #

2. _____
name relationship to child phone #

Participating children

Child's name: _____ DOB: _____ Grade (in Fall): _____

Child's name: _____ DOB: _____ Grade (in Fall): _____

Child's name: _____ DOB: _____ Grade (in Fall): _____

Child's name: _____ DOB: _____ Grade (in Fall): _____

Any allergies or conditions we should be aware of? _____

Permission form

I, _____ grant permission for the above stated child(ren) to participate in Totus Tuus and I warrant that my child(ren) is(are) in good health. In consideration of my child(ren)'s participation, I agree to indemnify Divine Mercy AFC and the Diocese of New Ulm from any claims or lawsuits brought against Divine Mercy AFC /Diocese of New Ulm by myself, my child(ren), or others, that arises out of any behavior by my child at Totus Tuus. I also agree to pay reasonable attorney's fees or expenses incurred by Divine Mercy AFC and the Diocese of New Ulm in defense of such a claim/suit. As parent or guardian, I agree to all of the above-stated considerations and conditions.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Volunteer Info.

(check if interested)

____ Housing the team

____ Kitchen help

____ Day program assistant (HS-age or older and VIRTUS trained if over 18)