



**Celebrating  
10 years!**

## Summer Missions Report 2025

We seek to help young people establish and build a relationship with Christ through prayer, catechesis, the sacraments, and works of mercy. This report gives an overview of the Summer along with some things to consider as we prepare for next year.



# Totus Tuus

Totus Tuus, a Latin phrase meaning "totally yours," was the motto of St. Pope John Paul II. 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. Through the teams' example of joy and service, the youth see that these men and women are ON FIRE with the Catholic faith and long for the same thing in their lives. This summer, we focused on the 7 Sacraments and the Joyful Mysteries with the grade school students. The junior high and high school students spent time building relationships through sharing of meals, games, testimonies, and prayer.

## The Team

- Hunter Haselhorst - Albert, FHSU
- Jorge Hinojosa - Garden City, KU
- Jonathan Nguyen - Garden City, GCCC
- Joseph Kiley - Pratt, Newman
- Laken Rudolph - FHSU
- Pablo Aguilar - Garden City, GCCC
- Tanith Elliott - Enterprise, KSU
- Jazmin Aguilar - Garden City, FHSU



“Working with the kids was a lot of fun! It was amazing to see so many kids open their hearts to Jesus. I couldn't have found a better way to spend my summer!” - Pablo



## Parishes Served

St. Anthony, Hanston 24  
St. Joseph, Ashland 30  
St. Mary, Garden City 172  
Prince of Peace, Great Bend 52  
St. Patrick, Plains 36  
St. Joseph, Scott City 49  
St. Joseph, Ellinwood 25  
COLG, Dodge City 165  
St. John the Evangelist, Hoisington 57  
St. John the Baptist, Spearville 62  
Sacred Heart, Pratt 42  
MQoP, Ulysses 79  
**Total: 793 children and youth**



# Camp Cristo Rey

Camp Cristo Rey is a camp for middle schoolers (5th-8th grade) to discover more deeply the call of faith, and how to live it out. Our patron, St. José Sánchez del Río, boldly and bravely defended our common Catholic faith and at such a young age! We will learn how to do the same thing in our day, in our communities, and in our unique situations.



## The Team

- Esteban Quezada, Tuscan
- Timothy Biggs, Topeka
- Caleb Metzen, Garden City
- Hope White, Hanover
- Jazmin Aguilar, Garden City
- Hunter Haselhorst, Albert



**Youth from 15 of our 48 parishes participated in camp from all 3 deaneries. We even had some youth visit from other dioceses!**

## **Location, Dates - Attendees**

Camp Aldrich, June 9th-12th - **33**

Dodge City, June 13th - **16**



# Prayer & Action

Area high school youth and their parents are invited to a summer mission trip! Prayer and Action offers a rich experience of the Christian lifestyle where a relationship with God overflows as service to others. They paint houses, pull weeds, and if the weather gets in the way, they visit the homebound.

## The Team

- Esteban Quezada, Tucson
- Caleb Metzen, Garden City
- Jazmin Aguilar, Garden City
- Hunter Haselhorst, Albert
- Timothy Biggs, Topeka
- Hope White, Hanover



"I am grateful for the "front row seat" that God has granted me to watch His providence in motion. There is a budding culture of young people in our diocese who are intentional about their faith and the friendships that have developed at things like Prayer and Action. In June I witnessed the program be mentioned *by name* in a best-man speech." - Gentry H.



Week 1: Larned  
Week 2: Scott City

5 of 48 parishes  
participated

High School Students: 42  
Adult Chaperones: 8  
Homeowners Helped: 12  
Priests Involved: 6  
Community Contacts: 2  
Team Members: 6

The mission begins on Sunday night, followed by 4 full days of weaving together prayer, work, and community; ending on Friday at noon. The students sleep at the parish, take turns cooking and cleaning for each other. A rich immersion in the Christian lifestyle, for only \$100.

# Father/Son Fishing Event



In an attempt to bring fathers, sons, and priests together for a time of leisure and vocational discernment, we hosted our third Father/Son Fishing Event! It was a beautiful evening and the type of occasion that we hope other parishes will replicate.

Deacon Eric Frieb delivered a short talk to the boys and their fathers, reminding them of the importance of prayer and perseverance in virtue. It was a gift to have his example as one who had just recently been ordained.



We took a break from fishing to listen to Deacon Eric, pray the meal prayer, and an extra Hail Mary for an increase in vocations. This “extra Hail Mary request” from Bishop John is not just a plea for more priests, but a call for all people in our diocese to grow in understanding and promotion of vocational discernment.

Let us pray that our young people would begin to ask God what He wants them to be and do.

Thank you to the Prayer and Action team for serving the meal, Fr. Ted Stoecklein and Deacon Carson Haupt for attending, and Dave Snapp for granting us access to the pond!

Summer Missionaries: 3

Fathers/Sons: 23

Priests/Deacons/Seminarians: 5

# The Gathering on Gary

At the end of each summer we invite the current missionaries, former missionaries, seminarians, and other disciples from around the diocese to celebrate together! It is aimed at building a stronger Catholic culture that is centered on Christ and experienced in community.

## The Time and Place

- For the last eight years, this event has been hosted at the Heimerman home on the final Friday of the Summer Missions schedule.



"I am going to try really hard to make it back to the Gathering this year. I want to see the Heimerman kids, and I want to see my friends." - Tam Nguyen.

This quote was a highlight of my summer. Of course, I'm glad the former missionaries like my kiddos, but the fact that they have made genuine friends while serving the Lord together...that's the fruit that makes it worth it!



Lay Adults: 30  
Priests: 6  
Seminarians: 6  
Children: 36

A big thanks to Fr. Jacob Schneider for cooking the ribs and to Fr. Ted Stoecklein for including this event as part of the Seminarian Renewal Days.

# NEXT STEPS

## TOTUS TUUS

Participation in Totus Tuus remained relatively steady this year, despite serving in 2 fewer locations. While it is unfortunate that we cannot serve all the locations that request to host, the team generally stayed well rested and were better able to serve the students. We faced an unusually high turnover of missionaries in the late Spring/early Summer which makes it difficult for our parishes to plan host families. However, God provided! By the end of July, we had two full teams who had great chemistry and I believe served our diocese well.

1. We will explore adding in spiritual directors for the teams to help them root their work in God's Divine Will.
2. We are considering training another team to serve half of a summer in order to serve more locations. in June.

## CAMP CRISTO REY

Participation was steady this year and included many youth who attended last year. We continue to learn from prior years to improve upon the ministry provided at both the 1-day and the overnight camps. Camp Cristo Rey will continue to be offered in both capacities in 2026.

1. Camp team will likely be trained alongside Totus Tuus to tie a common theological theme across our Summer ministries.
2. To support the domestic church, resources for families will be provided before, during, and after camp.
3. Explore and research options for future of camps to assist with transportation.

## PRAYER & ACTION

Thanks be to God, we had an amazing two weeks! I've heard parents tell me that the best part of their kids' summer is Prayer and Action. And yet, we can't seem to get more than a handful of parishes involved. Increased parish involvement is high on my list for next year.

At only \$100 per attendee, the diocese offers this enriching experience for significantly less (in time, planning, and money) than what a major conference out of state requires.

1. Possibly moving the two weeks to the end of July. Considering Larned, Scott City, and Garden City as locations.

## FATHER/SON FISHING EVENT

After hosting this event three times I am convinced that it is worth repeating. It serves the attendees in the moment, but also provides a model for families and other parishes to replicate on their own.

1. We will plan to host it on May 29th or June 26th, 2026 and probably at the same location.

Thank you to all of the priests who celebrated the sacraments for us this summer. As the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith, it is of highest importance that our ministry be rooted in the sacramental life of the Church. We are grateful for your “yes” to the priesthood and trust that it will bear fruit in the lives of those who attended Summer Missions.

# Thank You!

Thank you to the many DREs, parents, youth ministers, and volunteers who made this summer possible. Many of you prepared meals, provided spaces, transported students, and more! We are so glad to partner with you in this mission to bring young people closer to Jesus!



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