

Dead Theologians Society

Systematic Catechesis through the Lives of the Saints - YouCat Edition

YEAR 2 (Semesters 3 & 4)

Saint Tarcisius.....	The Liturgy and Sacraments.....	YC 166-178 & 193
Saint Gregory the Great.....	Celebrating the Mass	YC 179-192 & 213-215
Blessed Francis Xavier.....	Baptism.....	YC 194-202
Saint José Sanchez del Rio.....	Confirmation.....	YC 203-207
Saint Clare of Assisi.....	Eucharist.....	YC 208-212 & 216-223
Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska.....	Confession.....	YC 224-239
Saint Aloysius Gonzaga.....	Anointing of the Sick.....	YC 240-247
Saint John Vianney.....	Holy Orders.....	YC 248-259
Servant of God Elizabeth Leseur.....	Holy Matrimony.....	YC 260-271
Our Lady of Fatima.....	Other Liturgical Celebrations.....	YC 272-278
Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati.....	Happiness.....	YC 279-285
Saint Agatha.....	Freedom and Conscience.....	YC 286-298
Saint Catherine of Siena.....	Cardinal Virtues.....	YC 299-304
Saint Teresa of Calcutta.....	Theological Virtues.....	YC 305-309
Saint John Paul II.....	Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit	YC 310-311
Saint Thais.....	Sin.....	YC 312-320
Saint Benedict of Nursia.....	Community.....	YC 321-332
Saint Telemachus.....	The Law.....	YC 333-336 & 348-351
Saint Margaret Mary Alagoque.....	Salvation and Holiness.....	YC 337-342
Saint Philip Neri.....	The Church's Role in Salvation.....	YC 343-347

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Official Meeting Format

Suggested time 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Social Gathering - 30 minutes

The gathering time should take place approximately a half hour prior to the meeting and should be in a separate place but in close walking proximity to the meeting space. Have a variety of light snacks, i.e. crisps, candy, juice, etc. This is first and foremost a time for the teens to introduce themselves to visitors or new members and generally just to socialize a bit together. This is a very important time and will make *'shifting gears'* and the transition to the quiet prayer time of the meeting go more smoothly. This is also a good time for the associate youth ministers/DTS facilitators to form positive relationships with the youth. At the designated time the associate youth ministers/DTS facilitators will lead the youth to the meeting space.

Transition to Meeting Space

The actual meeting space should use effective candlelight or artificial candlelight if possible. Be sure candles are safely set and conform to all fire codes and that there are items such as a fire extinguisher in working order, bucket of sand, fire blanket, etc. nearby. The meeting space should have icons, statues, a crucifix and/or other devotional objects to help set the mood and be conducive to prayer. Arrange seating for conduciveness to prayer as well. The facilitators should be seated at the front facing the youth participants. Seating can also be arranged in a circular or semi-circular pattern. Have Gregorian chant or similar effective music playing on a proper device as the members enter the room. A remote control is helpful in regulating the music.

Opening Prayer

This is a short opening prayer led by the facilitator. It is a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to help put all participants in a proper frame of mind, heart and disposition to receive what is being taught and learned for the evening.

Introducing the Saint - 20 minutes

During this time the profile of the Saint for the meeting is introduced to the participants. It is important that the facilitator do his/her best to extrapolate the most teen and young adult relevant aspects of the Saint's life. If at all possible, actual quotes or writings of the Saint should be read and then certain aspects can be discussed how it relates to us today. **A large number of Saint Profiles compiled for DTS meeting are available on the DTS website for current chapters. Chapters are given a login and password to access this information. In addition, all Chapters are given twenty Saint Profiles per year for four years which follow a Systematic Catechesis.**

Question and Answer - 15 minutes

Here is a great time to answer any questions the young people may have about what they'd just heard or about anything relating to their faith. It is important that if a question is asked and the youth minister/facilitator doesn't know the answer, that he/she should admit as much and commit to finding the answer for the next meeting.

Intercessory Prayer - 10 minutes

This is a great time for the prayer community to grow. The facilitator tells the youth that they are free to mention a specific prayer request, or they may simply state "for a private intention" or leave their prayer intentions in the silence of their hearts. Deceased members of DTS should especially be remembered during this time.

The facilitator starts this segment and after sufficient time, concludes the segment with a short closing prayer. **A sample is included in the DTS Manual.**

Mystery and Decade of Holy Rosary - 15 minutes

The facilitator explains one mystery of the rosary then leads the group in praying one decade. The facilitator recites the first part of the prayer and the group, recites the second half in unison.

ST. GERTRUDE PRAYER FOR ALL SOULS

Praying for the Poor Souls is a special charism of the Dead Theologians Society. The facilitator prays a line and the group repeats the line in unison.

ENROLLMENT IN BROWN SCAPULAR AND OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP

The official enrollment is conducted by the Priest. This can take place at each meeting or once per month, based on the availability of the priest. At this time the official DTS hoodies can be given to the new members. It is recommended that a young person attend either a minimum of three meetings in succession or a total of five meetings during the year before receiving their hoodies, rosary, scapular and membership card.

BLESSING OF MEDALS, HOLY CARDS

The blessing of holy medals or holy cards is done by the Priest or Deacon. They should be distributed by one of the associate youth ministers/DTS facilitators, or a member as the youth leave the meeting. If a priest is not in attendance, it is recommended the facilitator make arrangements to have medals, cards blessed at a convenient time prior to the meeting.

DIVINE PRAISES

This prayer should be lead by the Priest or Deacon if they are in attendance. If not, then the facilitator shall lead by reciting a line, with the group then repeating it in unison. The facilitator then mentions the meeting is concluded and the music is then brought to a higher volume as the group is led back to the social area.

If food is being served following the meeting, this is a good time for the entire group to say a blessing together before departing to eat.

RETURN TO SOCIAL AREA

The group should exit with the same reverence as when they entered. The associate youth ministers/DTS facilitators can stay in the meeting area until all the participants have departed. This is also a good time for Confessions if the priest is available.

Social with Food - 30 minutes

Here the youth are fed something more substantial than a snack. Pizza, sandwiches, pasta, salad, deli, etc. It is advisable to have a parent support group, or church group, i.e. Knight of Columbus, Knights of Columbanus, AOH, take turns providing this for the youth. It is a great way to support the youth and the DTS apostolate as well as a means of exposure for the groups. The young people are free to stay or leave as they wish to respect curfew, homework, etc.

A more detailed description of the meeting, including all prayers used during a DTS meeting and additional information is included in the official DTS Manual which is given to each chapter leader.



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Through the Saints of Yesterday,
the Dead Theologians Society inspires
the youth of Today, to become the
Saints of Tomorrow.