



Dead Theologians Society

Chapter Tips

From Eddie Cotter, Jr., National Director

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Parental Involvement and Support in DTS

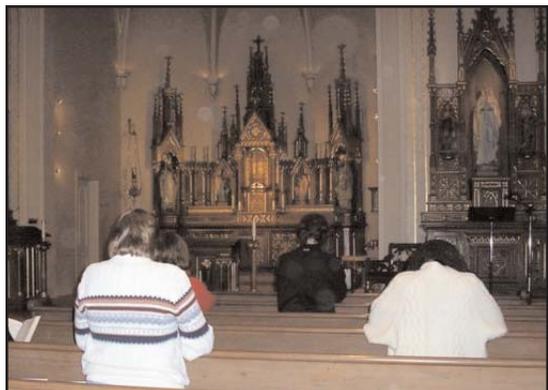
One of the many strengths of DTS is the involvement and support of parents. It is involvement that supports the teens and helps the adults grow in holiness as well. At the chapter that I help run in Wisconsin, we have a wonderful group of parents that are really doing it right, and their prayer and hospitality has played a major role in the success of the chapter. Here's a structure that you may wish to incorporate in your DTS chapter.

Before the Meeting.

Parents help set up the social area, put out some light snacks and drinks, have an appropriate CD playing (Christian pop music), etc. and generally provide a friendly, welcoming atmosphere. There's no need to do "ice-breakers" though. The atmosphere & snacks generally take care of it. This usually happens from about 7:00pm - 7:30pm.

During the Meeting.

Parents pray for their teens, the presenters and for a successful meeting. This is usually done in the church before the Blessed Sacrament. This prayer time is a most important part of the evening. Chapters must never ban nor make parents of the youth membership feel unwelcome at DTS meetings. Should parents of participating teens wish to attend, they should be sensitive to the needs of the teens. It is highly advisable to have



Parents praying during a DTS meeting.

suitable seating for parents of teens, but preferential seating should be given to the youth participants. Keeping in mind that DTS is an apostolate for teens and young adults, parents/adults should refrain from active participation during DTS meetings, allowing the designated adult leadership to facilitate. Parents should reserve questions and comments for an appropriate time prior to or after the conclusion of the meeting. At our chapter, we usually have one or two parents who are invited to attend the meeting with the teens during this time. The parents take turns from week to week. This is a great way to keep them "in the loop" and they get the chance to grow in holiness as well through the examples of the Saints. This happens from 7:30-8:30pm.

Post Meeting.

Parents provide food after the meeting. Menu items that work well include pizza, deli, Sloppy Joes, nachos, subs, etc. Parents should take turns providing the food. This can be paid for either by the parish budget, fund raisers, sponsors, or often the parents themselves pay for the food. If many parents are involved it doesn't break the bank for anyone. Right before we leave the DTS meeting for the post meeting social, we all say grace together. Teens are reminded to be sure to thank the parents for their prayers and hospitality.

Eddie Cotter, Jr., National Director

