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**Dead Theologians Society – Our Lady of Lourdes Chapter**

**Chapter Information**

**What is the Dead Theologians Society?**

The Dead Theologians Society is a Catholic apostolate for high school age teens and college age young adults. Through the Saints of yesterday, the Dead Theologians Society inspires the youth of today to become the saints of tomorrow. A special charism of the Dead Theologians Society is to pray for the release of the Souls in Purgatory. Its motto is, “Dead to the World, alive in Christ!” This is inspired by Romans 6:11 where St. Paul tells us to be dead to sin but alive in Christ Jesus.

**How is this Accomplished?**

Society members meet at their parishes to learn the lives of the Saints (who are only dead by the world’s standards and are certainly alive with Jesus in Heaven!), their heroic virtue and listen to their inspirational writings. Using the interesting and engaging DTS format and through the examples of the Saints, young people are catechized and develop positive role models at a time when they are truly needed. In addition, members make use of time honored Catholic prayers, devotions and sacramentals such as Eucharistic Adoration, the Rosary, the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and more.

**Who can join Dead Theologian Society, and how does membership work?**

Every chapter is composed slightly differently. The OLL chapter of the Dead Theologians Society is open to youth who meet the following criteria:

* Students in 11th or 12th grade
* Students who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, or those currently enrolled in a Confirmation program
* Students willing and able to engage in the meditative study of the lives of the saints.

DTS is for youth who are already active in their faith and well versed in the basic teachings of the Catholic Church. The Dead Theologians Society is for youth who want to dig deeper. DTS is open to anyone interested but, at the same time, is not intended for everyone, so students are invited to spend some time discerning if membership in DTS is indeed something they wish to pursue.

The OLL chapter is a regional chapter, open to not only to OLL youth but to also youth from surrounding Richmond parishes (St. Ann’s, St. Michael’s, St. Bridget’s, etc.)

The Dead Theologians Society has a small group format, and membership for the OLL chapter is capped at 12 members. All interested and eligible youth are welcome to apply until membership reaches its 12 member cap – in which case new members will be accepted only when current members graduate and rotate out.

All DTS members are accepted on a preliminary basis. Once a preliminary member has successfully attended three meetings, they will be invited to be inducted as a full member. At the time of induction a member will receive their Dead Theologians sweatshirt and sacramentals – an olive wood rosary and the brown scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

**When does the OLL Chapter of the Dead Theologians Society Meet?**

The OLL Chapter of the Dead Theologians Society normally meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month from 7:00-8:30, occasionally shifted to accommodate holidays. Additionally, there are sometimes additional, optional activities scheduled for our chapter in accordance with liturgically important events (penance service in Advent, stations of the cross in Lent, etc.) Chapter members will be provided with a full schedule at the start of each semester.

**How do I apply?**

Please complete the application form (the last page of this document)and return to Steven Cottam, Youth Minister at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, via email at scottam@ollrichva.org or via traditional mail to – Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Attn: Youth Ministry, 8200 Woodman Rd., Richmond, VA 23228.

Upon receiving your application, Mr. Cottam will be in touch concerning acceptance into the program. Applications will generally be accepted on a first come first serve basis, with a preference given to regional diversity (that is, that all interested nearby parishes are able to send at least one representative).

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**Application for Membership**

**Name of Applicant:**

**Phone #: E-mail Address:**

**Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s):**

**Phone #: E-mail Address:**

**Grade (for 2016-2017):**

**Parish:**

**Sweatshirt Size (in adult sizes):**

**Why do you want to join the Dead Theologians Society? What do you hope to get out of this experience?**

**Please tell us about one saint that inspires you, and why specifically you find this saint to be inspirational?**