



Stay Connected

January 2008

An online newsletter for the worldwide TEC Family

Prayer, Community & Ministry: God's Plan for Discipleship

Dear TEC Family,

May our gracious and loving God bring us to a deeper understanding of our call to discipleship as members of the evangelizing and ministering TEC community. Through any encounter-- our invitation to a deeper relationship with our Creator--we are introduced or reintroduced to the word discipleship. Discipleship and discipline go hand-in-hand. **Once we have said, "yes, I want to follow Jesus," the question is, "what disciplines do I need to follow that will help me remain faithful to my choice?" If we want to be disciples of Jesus, we have to live a disciplined life.**

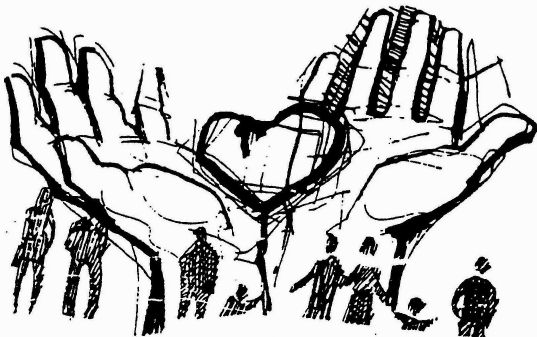
By discipline I don't mean control as a parent wants over a son or daughter in laying down certain rules for them to follow. Rather, God wants an opportunity in our spiritual life to connect with us as this definition of discipline reveals: "the effort to create or allow some space in your life for God to act." **Discipline means preventing everything in your life from being filled up, thus intentionally creating space for God** in which something can happen that you hadn't planned on.

I believe there are three disciplines necessary for us to remain faithful, so we not only become Jesus' disciples, but remain so. These disciplines are contained in Luke 6:12-19, which we are probably already familiar with, but we may be surprised that it also speaks to us about discipline. This Scripture passage moves us from night to morning to afternoon. Jesus spent the night in prayer, in solitude with God. In the morning, He gathered His disciples around Him, selected His apostles and formed community. In the afternoon, Christ went out and preached the Word and healed the sick with His apostles. **Notice the order—from prayer to community to ministry; the night is for solitude; the morning for community; the afternoon for ministry.**

So often in ministry, I have wanted to do it by myself, and then if it didn't work out, I would seek others to help me. Then, if others couldn't help or weren't available, then maybe I'd start praying. But, the order Jesus reveals to us in the passage from Luke is exactly the reverse. It begins by being with God in solitude (prayer); then creates fellowship, a community of people with whom the mission is being lived; and finally the community goes out and ministers to God's people.

As we approach the 2008 Lenten season, maybe we can look at these three disciplines of solitude, community and ministry and intentionally incorporate them into our daily lives.

This will allow us to create space in which God can act and speak to us. You and I are called to these disciplines if we want to be living disciples. I think of the song, "I Can Only Imagine," which is about what heaven will be like. Put that song into the present and the possibilities that lie before us as disciples in tune with the Lord's will are limitless.



In Christ,

Ronald Reiter

TEC Conference Executive Director

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Riverbend TEC Supporting Conference Mission through Annual Harvest Appeal

Jerry Langworthy recently invited his fellow members of Riverbend TEC to raise \$10,000 for the TEC Conference's 2007-2008 Annual Harvest Appeal. As a past council member of Riverbend, which serves Catholic youth and young adults of the New Ulm, Minn. Diocese, Jerry knows first-hand the positive impact TEC has on the lives of young people.

"There are at least 5,000 individuals who have made TEC in our diocese during the past 30 years. I put forth a challenge to our entire community asking for at least 100 of them to join me in supporting the Annual Harvest with a pledge of \$91.25 each," he said. "I will provide the remaining \$875 to bring us to a total of \$10,000." The amount he is asking for comes out to be just 25 cents per day for one year. "This is a small sacrifice compared to the gift we have received in the Paschal Mystery," Jerry added.

For those interested in emulating Jerry's efforts in their own TEC communities or for more information, can contact him at 952-835-9887 or jerrylangworthy@hotmail.com. Annual Harvest donations can be made online by going to the main page of www.TECConference.org and using the secure PayPal link. Or, they can be mailed to:

TEC Conference

114 S. 2nd St.

Festus, Mo. 63028

If mailing, please mark "AH Invitation" and what TEC center you are from on the envelope.

2008 TEC Congress



A Prayer of Wheat

Start Sowing Your Wheat:

1,000 Masses Needed for the TEC Congress

As we spend the next eight months reflecting on the theme "A Prayer of Wheat," we ask that you begin doing wheat for the TEC Conference, your local TEC community and the 2008 Congress. **We are also inviting individuals and TEC communities to have Masses said every month for the Congress, to be held Aug. 1-3 at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita, Kan.**

Let's overflow the elevators with wheat. Consider the possibilities: If people from 10 parishes in each of the 67 TEC centers have Masses said that would be 670 Masses a month. Perhaps a few months down the road, 50% of those people will have convincingly shared the idea with others. **We very easily could have 1,000 Masses being said by**

August. What a bountiful harvest that would be! Please contact Congress Co-Chair David Walker if a Mass is being said with the Congress intention at: 316-269-3928 or walker@cdowk.org.

David is also asking for three TEC communities willing to help coordinate the icebreakers at the Congress. If your community is interested, please contact him as soon as possible.

New TEC DVDs

2007 Spiritual Directors Workshop Series

- Role of the TEC Spiritual Director (\$70, two-disc set);
 - Paschal Mystery Spirituality (\$35, one disc);
 - Spiritual Processes of TEC (\$70, two-discs); and
 - TEC & Youth/Young Adult Ministry (\$70, two-discs).
- Series price: \$200 (or \$100 if your center was represented)*

2007 Congress Series:

"Mary: Our Guide to Perfect Discipleship"

- Retreat Experience (on Mary's example of prayer & discipleship);
 - Forming an Adult Faith Community and TEC Community of Disciples; and
 - TEC: Building Partnerships in the Larger Church.
- Series price is \$65, or \$25 for individual segments*

To pre-order, contact the TEC Conference at (636) 933-9233, office@TECConference.org or visit online at: www.TECConference.org/GiftShop.htm

TEC Family Happenings...

Communities of Faith & Follow-Through



**Feb. 22-24, 2008
Blessed Sacrament
Parish
Rapid City, S.D.**

Contact: Gloria Maher at
(701) 522-3244 ~
glordan@sdplainswb.com

Go to: www.TECConference.org/Cff.htm