



Savior Pastoral Center

DEAR TEC FAMILY

By Ronald Reiter, TEC Conference Executive Director.....

May the Spirit of Christ, principal agent of change and renewal in the Church, be ever present in our TEC Family as we enter into this new year of 2010. May we be impacted individually and collectively as a community as the Holy Spirit continues to point to new life in Christ.

What are your plans or New Year's resolutions for 2010? What is God's plan or vision for your TEC Community? How are you going to bring God's plans into a reality for 2010?

In the last year plus, I have been fortunate enough to have been involved in five different workshops, four Communities of Faith & Follow-Through (CF&F) and one Team Formation workshop impacting nine different TEC communities across the country. Both workshops are based on four very important Church documents the Bishops have made available to us for spiritual formation and training of adult and young adult leaders. Please check these out.

- "Renewing the Vision" of Youth Ministry - A Framework of Catholic Youth Ministry - NCCB 1997
- "Sons and Daughters of the Light" pastoral plan for young adults - NCCB 1997
- "Our Hearts are Burning within Us" pastoral plan for adult formation - NCCB 1997
- "Go and Make Disciples" - a national plan and strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States - NCCB 2002

The nine TEC communities (Teca, Hills Area, Atlanta, Palm Beach, Miami, Grand Island, Wichita, Dodge City, and St William's TEC) impacted by these workshops have experienced the following results.

- A clearer understanding of the TEC processes
- Increase in adult and young adult involvement in their TEC communities
- A greater appreciation of the intergenerational nature of TEC and the melding of the gifts of all for the greater good
- A greater understanding and desire to collaborate with other youth ministry efforts in a diocese
- Personal and communal growth in living Paschal Mystery spirituality
- Creation of a core team to lead the local TEC community

- Improved collaboration between the lay and spiritual directors of the TEC community
- A recognition of the importance for visioning for the future of the local TEC community

The list goes on and on. Why wouldn't a TEC community want all of the above to happen to them if they had a chance?

In 2009, catechetical leaders in the United States celebrated the 10th anniversary of the document "Our Hearts are Burning Within Us." The document states that adult Catholics must become men and women of prayer if they are to address the widespread spiritual hunger that characterizes society today. The message shared on a TEC weekend gives us the source to fill that spiritual hunger and directs us toward a new commitment of service to God's people.

How can we capture that new hunger ourselves, before we share it with others? What steps of renewal must we immerse ourselves in so we can become active disciples for the Lord?

We are called to a new Pentecost in this time in the Church, and certainly in our lives, and the life of the TEC community we have committed ourselves to.

Thank you for your continued service to the TEC Movement, and the young people we serve. May the Lord bless us with a new year of renewal for our TEC Family in 2010.

2010 TEC Congress "Sowing the Fields" Kansas City, Kan., July 23-25, 2010

Please mark your calendars and make plans to join your TEC Family members at the 2010 TEC Congress. This gathering will take place at the Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City, Kan. Plans are already taking shape and more information will be available in the next few months on the TEC Conference Web site:

www.TECConference.org

Spiritual Directors Workshop June 21-24, 2010

L aSalle Retreat center in Wildwood, Mo., is the site for the next Spiritual Directors workshop, June 21-24, 2010. Mark your calendars now! Price is set at \$275 and new material will be presented. To download a brochure, please go to the TEC Conference Web site:

www.TECConference.org

BEST PRACTICES!

There are several ideas that are now available on the TEC Conference Web site. **More to come!**

www.TECConference.org
click on the **Best Practices** link to be directed to these ideas!

Those centers that are **affiliated with the TEC Conference** can call or e-mail the TEC Conference for the username and password.

If you have an **idea, practice, form, schedule** or **other items** of general interest, you are invited to send it to:

bestpractices@TECConference.org

TEC Family Happenings! Are you involved yet?

HAPPY NEW YEARBY MARY O'BRIEN, DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

Happy New Year and may our Lord bless you and yours in 2010 and always! We are most grateful for all you do in the name of TEC.

Last month in our *Communicator* my closing paragraph was an invitation of a monetary gift to the Conference: *So I ask and hope you support the Conference by giving a monetary Christmas gift in honor of so many that have kept TEC alive, or for someone you know who doesn't really need anything, or as a memorial or just because you love TEC! If each of you who receives the Communicator would give \$25 or \$50, our goal of \$25,000 would be achieved before we are able to say a very blessed and Happy New Year to you and yours in 2010!*

I still encourage and invite you to help us reach our Annual Harvest and budget goal. During the last five years the Conference has maintained a very meager annual budget of \$152,000. I know that I am not Rick Warren (author of *Purpose Driven Life*) who asked his parishioners for \$900,000 and received \$2.5 million, however, I am

confident to say thousands of lives are touched yearly though the TEC weekends.

So I too urgently ask you to do the same as those faithful parishioners of Saddleback Church and make this a banner fiscal year, ending March 31st for the TEC Conference. Please help us reach our goals and assist us in "Sowing the Fields."

Annual Harvest 09/10 to date: \$22,131.17
Annual Harvest 09/10 Budget: \$25,000.00
111 donors out of **2,800** receiving the appeal.
3/4 of our budget year has passed and we are at **\$99,280.14** - our goal is \$152,509

The Parable of the Sower: "But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold." Matt. 13:8

We are most grateful for the gifts we have received! Thank you! Mary O'Brien

NEW LIFE TEC CELEBRATED 5 YEARS!



Did you know? New Life TEC in the diocese of Gaylord, Mich., celebrated their five year anniversary in 2009! Thanks so much to Val Porter for her years of service. We welcome Sean McNeil as the new contact for New Life TEC. Their next TEC weekend is scheduled for March 12, 2010.

Pictured at left are the participants of New Life TEC #6, March 2009. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Michelle Spegel who recently was taken from the New Life TEC community.

REMINDERS: SPIRIT OF TEC AWARDS AND 2010 DIRECTORY.....

Don't forget to get your nominations in for the **2010 Spirit of TEC Awards**. Nomination forms went out via e-mail to all community contacts and spiritual directors. Forms and photos are due back to the TEC Conference office by April 15. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the TEC Conference office. We are happy to help!

The 2010 TEC Conference directory was e-mailed last week. If you community changes contacts or adds or changes TEC Weekend dates, please let us know! To see the listing of 2010 TEC weekends, go to the TEC Conference Web site:

www.tecconference.org/Upcoming_Weekends.html

HIDDEN GAME.....

In the January issue of the *Stay Connected* we've hidden a word and it's scrambled! Look for the highlighted letters throughout this newsletter and arrange these letters to make the word we are looking for. If you are the second person to reply to Mary O'Brien at: obrien2176@aol.com with the correct word, you

will win a prize and get your name published in the next edition of the *Stay Connected*. November's winner was **Julie Wildey of Next Generation TEC**. Congratulations, Julie.

Thanks to all who played, but didn't win...*this time!*

TEC Conference Workshops

To find out how your community can take part in a workshop, contact the TEC Conference office:

Phone: 636-933-9233
E-mail: office@TECConference.org



"We hosted a Communities of Faith and Follow-through (CF&F) workshop in Oct. 2006. The workshop centers around one question: "What can we do to make our TEC community a vibrant part of the Body of Christ?" We walked away full of enthusiasm about what Sunflower TEC could be. Now, those seeds have really begun to blossom."

~ John Livingston, TEC Coordinator
Sunflower TEC, Kansas City, Kan.



"The Team Formation Workshop was so helpful to me! I went in with an open mind and came away full of new ideas and great ways to build up and keep the TEC Community alive!"

~ Katelin Phillips, Teca TEC



"Participating in the Communities of Faith & Follow-Through workshop has strengthened our Dodge City TEC Center. For example, CF&F gave our community a clearer vision and purpose which helped us take a solid look at where we are. The workshop also helped us identify the steps needed to build a stronger TEC ministry in our diocese."

~ Steven Polley, Diocesan Director
Dodge City, Kan. Youth & Young Adult Min.