

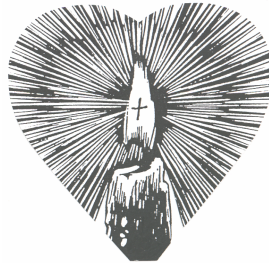


# Stay Connected

September 2007

An online newsletter for the worldwide TEC Family

## How TEC Can Answer God's Call to Deeper Discipleship



Dear TEC Family,

**“TEC** has a unique position in the Catholic Church: to help young people enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ,” shared Deacon Bob Sondag, spiritual director for Peoria, Ill. TEC, at the 2007 Congress. **“We have been charged with sharing the Paschal Mystery message with them.** That should be our main mission in TEC.”

Deacon Bob's words raise a few questions for us: How do we prepare ourselves to share this message with the youth and young adults we serve? How do we create an evangelizing and ministering community to support them? What steps must I--and the adult faith community--take to inflame us with the Holy Spirit? Whom can we turn to for support and resources?

**“The TEC Conference is committed to provide formation and education of adult leaders, quality resources and a network of support and communication.** The Conference remains committed to the development of TEC as an integral part of the vision of total youth and young adult ministry.” These are some of the words from the TEC Conference Mission Statement. Thus, our responsibility is to live out these words of support to the highest level. We must be present to the needs of our local communities and the young people they serve, while assisting with the ongoing faith journey of all involved. **How is this being accomplished? What resources are available?**

Please take time to look over the resource information in the pages that follow, showing what is available for all TEC communities. Besides the insights gained from the material presented, there is also the richness of the dialogue that happens between communities when they are gather together for prayer and formation.

This is exactly what the late Pope John Paul VI's “On

Evangelization in the Modern World” calls the entire Church--and therefore the TEC Family as a part of the Church--to do. **His document clearly states that the work of spreading the Gospel is the work of an adult Christian community** (see TEC Conference Manual Section 8, pg. 4 for more details).

Furthermore, the call to promote and support adult spiritual formation is also detailed in the 1999 U.S. Bishops pastoral plan, “Our Hearts were Burning within Us.” The plan out-

*“TEC has a unique position in the Catholic Church: to help young people enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ. We have been charged with sharing the Paschal Mystery message with them...How are we preparing ourselves to share this message with the youth and young adults we serve?”*

lines three goals:

- to invite and enable ongoing conversion;
- to promote and support active community membership;
- and to call and prepare adults to act as disciples in mission to the world.

The Holy Spirit continues to lead the TEC Movement as we journey forward. May the Spirit guide our TEC Family, as we accept the invitation to deeper discipleship God has placed before us in Jeremiah 29:11, **“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you.... plans to give you hope and a future.”** Thanks for your continuous prayers, leadership and support of the TEC Movement.

Yours in Christ,

*Ronald Reiter*  
TEC Conference Director

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## Resources & Tools for Discipleship

### 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).

*The series prices is \$200 (or \$100 if your center was represented at the workshop)*

#### 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.

*The series price is \$65, or \$25 for individual segments*

#### TEC: Past, Present & Future DVD

This all-new, four segment DVD produced by Paul Sasso provides a dynamic look at the TEC Movement's history; present endeavors and future goals. Other features includes an eight-minute segment perfect for development and recruitment purposes; and material from the previously produced TEC Recruitment and Founders videos; cost: \$15.00 per DVD.

### CHURCH DOCUMENTS

- "Go & Make Disciples: A National Plan & Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States;"
- "Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry;"
- "Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the U.S.;"
- "Sons and Daughters of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults;" and
- "On Evangelization & The Modern World" Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Paul VI promulgated on Dec. 8, 1975

### SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

- "Constitution on the Church (Apostolicam Actuositatem)"
- "Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes)"
- "Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity (Lumen Gentium)

### TEC MANUAL FAITH FORMATION PLAN

Sections 8 and 9 in the Manual are packed with rich faith formation resources for both team preparation and ongoing community-building in your TEC centers. For example, in the appendix of Section 8, there is an outline for a three-year study plan for building the TEC Community of Disciples (ref. 22-24).

### TO ORDER ANY OF THE ABOVE RESOURCES, OR FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit online at: [www.TECConference.org/GiftShop.htm](http://www.TECConference.org/GiftShop.htm) or contact (636) 933-9233 or [office@TECConference.org](mailto:office@TECConference.org).

### TEC Family Reminders...

#### JOIN TEC FAMILY ADORATION:

Has your community joined our Eucharistic Adoration prayer campaign yet? Pick a day or join one of the five TEC communities across the nation already adoring our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament:

- **Northwest:** first Wednesdays;
- **Spirit of St. Louis:** first Tuesdays & Thursdays;
- **Peoria:** first Wednesdays;
- **Miami:** fourth Saturdays; and
- **Western Kentucky:** second Mondays.

For more information, check out:

[www.TECConference.org/TECFamilyAdoration.htm](http://www.TECConference.org/TECFamilyAdoration.htm)

#### TEC OFFICE WISH LIST:

We invite you to prayerfully discern donating one of these much needed items (new or gently used) to the TEC Conference. Call (636) 933-9233 with any questions.

- LCD Projector
- Color Printer

### Insights from TEC Patron's Saint

***"True charity consists in bearing with all the defects of our neighbor, in not being surprised at his failings, and in being edified by his least virtues. I feel that when I am charitable, it is Jesus alone who acts in me. The more I am united to Him the more do I love all."***



To learn more about the Little Flower, visit TEC's webpage at:

[www.TECConference.org/Therese.htm](http://www.TECConference.org/Therese.htm)

***St. Therese of Lisieux, pray for your TEC Family!***

## Thoughts from the TEC Family...

### ON THE COMMUNITIES OF FAITH & FOLLOW-THROUGH WORKSHOP...

"The message of the workshop is so simple: God's family is not just a weekend thing - it's a community, and the most important part of that community is the prayers and support we give each other. **The CF&F deals with one question: 'What can we do to make our TEC community a vibrant part of the Body of Christ?'** We came away full of enthusiasm about what Sunflower TEC could be. Those seeds have begun to blossom."

~ John Livingston, TEC coordinator, Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kan.

### ON THE TEC CONGRESS...

"I had the opportunity to attend the 2007 TEC Congress, "Mary: Our Guide to Perfect Discipleship in Cape Girardeau, Mo. Agassiz Valley TEC has already ordered the DVDs of the Congress and I am really anxious for us to get them. That way, I'm not the only one who benefits from the Congress. **The presentations were wonderful and I am glad that we will be able to glean from them here and apply them in our TEC community.** It was also good to hear about what is happening in different centers around the country. We now know that we are not alone in our struggles."

~ Sr. Eileen Mohs, OSB, TEC manager, Agassiz Valley TEC, Crookston, Minn.

"I highly recommend that each TEC center send representatives to the Congress. **It has helped Grand Island TEC tremendously.** We have met with centers from across the country; sharing both our strengths and weaknesses with them and in turn, learned from their experiences. As a group, we listened to relevant national volunteers regarding topics that apply directly to TEC. We also had the opportunity to pray and celebrate together."

~ Kevin Fuller, director of youth ministry  
Diocese of Grand Island, Neb

### ON THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS WORKSHOP...

"The tools for discernment in selecting adult community members and mentors is gold."

~ Joanne Brown, Peterson TEC, Peoria, Ill.

"The insights into the spiritual processes of the TEC weekend were great."

~ Rev. Jason Gries, spiritual director,  
Southwestern Indiana TEC, Evansville, Ind.

### ON THE RENEWING THE VISION OF TEC WORKSHOP...

"The Renewing the Vision of TEC Workshop we held in September 2005 drew 25 TEC leaders from our diocese and across the region. Even though it meant investing a significant amount of time, the Agassiz Valley TEC Council and other youth and adult leaders were excited about implementing what we had learned and experienced. **We are now seeing the fruits of this renewal at our local level. Before, we struggled to reach 15-20 candidates each TEC weekend, now we are averaging 35.** That's a significant growth for us in just five years. We pray that each TEC community experiences the same blessings we have!

~ Ray Hollcraft, director of youth ministry,  
Diocese of Crookston, Minn.

## TEC Family Happenings...

### Communities of Faith & Follow-Through



**Oct. 5-7**  
**Camp Eppley, Bellevue,  
Neb.**

Contact: Dale Kreher  
(402) 932-0447 or  
kreherfamily@cox.net

**Oct. 26-28**  
**Holy Family Catholic**

**Church, Caledonia, Mich.**

Contact: Kathy Casey at (616) 891-0179

### TEC Conference Italy Pilgrimage



**Nov. 11-20**  
**Assisi, Florence, Rome,  
Siena & Vatican City**

Contact: Catholic Trips  
(877) GOD-TRIP

[www.TECConference.org/2007  
Pilgrimage.htm](http://www.TECConference.org/2007Pilgrimage.htm)

### 2008 TEC Congress: A Prayer of Wheat



**Aug. 1-3, 2008**  
**Spiritual Life Center**  
**Wichita, Kan.**

Contact: Congress Chair  
David Walker at: (316) 269-3928  
or walker@cdowk.org

[www.TECConference.org/2008  
Congress.htm](http://www.TECConference.org/2008Congress.htm)