



TEC Congress
2011



New Orleans

July 15-17, 2011

"Rejoice in the Lord always.
I say it again,
Rejoice!"
Phil 5:5

Congress Details!

Rise, Renew, Rejoice!

Go to the **2011 TEC Congress page** on the TEC Conference Web site to download the brochure/registration form:
www.TECConference.org

Date:

July 15-17, 2011

Registration & Deposit Deadline:

July 1, 2011

Cost:

\$160 Total for double occupancy room
\$180 Total for single occupancy room
more details included on brochure

A \$50 non-refundable deposit is due with registration. Program, meals and lodging are included in the registration price.

Dear TEC Family..... by Ronald Reiter

A Happy New Year to everyone! As we celebrate the **45th anniversary of the TEC Movement and the 30th anniversary of the TEC Conference**, we become aware of the great gift we have been given and the awareness of our responsibility, through Christ's invitation, to use this gift as effectively as we can for the good of the youth and young adults we serve.

Recently, I was looking at an article titled, "Will making a retreat make a difference?" written by a Sister Katherine Doyle. She asked some basic questions that the young people who are our targeted audience are invited to reflect upon. Here are some of the questions: Do you ever want some time away from all the pressure? Do you feel a need to back off and think about what's going on in your life? Are there decisions that weigh heavy on your mind?

Retreats can certainly give them the time to answer these and other questions. As you all know TEC is more than a retreat, it is a movement of spirituality inviting all who participate in one to living a new life of faith centered on Paschal Mystery spirituality. It opens a rich panorama of God's presence and a greater awareness of the source of our strength for the journey that lies ahead, our 4th day.

In my day to day conversations with the TEC communities and my own personal journey, I've become aware of the great challenges that are a part of this ministry and the need for us to reflect on those same questions for our own personal journey and that of our TEC community. We have so much to do and so little time to do it in that our own personal "care and

feeding" is placed on the back burner or never even addressed.

Some TEC communities have a retreat in early January to prepare for the coming year, some have connected with the TEC Conference to schedule a full or partial workshop to assist them in the challenges they are experiencing, and some have nothing going or planned as far as I'm aware of. In 2011, what choice will you make as one who is called into the faith life of another through the TEC encounter?

We are celebrating two anniversaries simultaneously and the Lord is present with us, congratulating us, encouraging us, and inviting us into a greater relationship and dependence on him so the ministry of TEC will bear much fruit in the lives of the young people we serve.

In recent conversations with Bishop Callahan, our Episcopal Moderator, we have talked about developing a plan for required training of the new leaders, lay and spiritual, in our TEC communities, both on core teams and directing teams on TEC weekends. We have also talked about the proper use of the TEC Manual and the flow of the weekend. These issues and others will be addressed in various ways over the course of this year.

Finally, as a TEC Family you are invited to share your gifts and experience GOD'S love, in a special way, by attending the TEC Congress in New Orleans, La., July 15-17. See you there!

Yours in Christ,

Ronald Reiter

Spirit of TEC Awards

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, please feel free to contact us.

CF&F - Austin, Texas

The Communities of Faith and Follow-Through Workshop will help participants reflect on the theology behind TEC and the important role the adult faith community has in the Movement. Go to the TEC Conference Web site to download the brochure/registration form:

[www.TECConference.org/
Faith_Follow_Through.html](http://www.TECConference.org/Faith_Follow_Through.html)

Date: March 4-6, 2011

Location: Austin, Texas - St. Thomas More - Upper Room, Education Building

Cost: \$75 - **Registration Deadline:** Feb. 25, 2011
more details included on brochure

TEC Family Happenings! Are you involved yet?

My Bolivia Trip - Part IV by Sr. Lucille Flores



Sharing personal gifts

Continued from the November 2010 issue of the *Stay Connected*.

And I saw my first iguana! As I stood on the veranda, I noticed something green amid the green, moving. Lord, deliver me! It was this three to four-foot long creature crawling along, stopping when he sensed me. Since I was at quite a distance, I decided to converse with him. I made a hissing noise at which he straightened up, and stared right up at me. I was extremely glad I was where I was and he was where he was.

Our TEC participants consisted of two priests, two seminarians, three adults, and thirty young adults. Again I was impressed with the young people. They were very serious about their faith, eager to share, to pray and to learn. Our role was to retrain TEC leaders where TEC had existed, and to train new leaders to promote TEC in the diocese. These young people were truly ready!

All was well with me until the second day when I began to experience difficulties. My big concern was what would happen if I got worse. No transportation. Far from town.

I became more than ever convinced that there is a God who loves me and takes care of me, for in the middle of one of our sessions, one of the fellows says, "Oh, look, here comes the bishop!"

When he came in to visit with the young people, he asked me how I was doing. My response was that I had been fine until the morning. He asked if I wanted to return with him. I asked for time to think about it, after which I consulted with my companions and a nurse who was part of the group. It was unanimously decided that I should return with Bishop Cassidy.

Rather than having me return to the Pastoral Center where I would be alone, he took me to the Maryknoll convent, where a sister had just returned. What a step in time back to when I entered! A huge dormitory divided by curtains into six "bedrooms" with a bed and a washstand. Updated though, I had a fan!

Sister Ann, who had been a nurse, was wonderful. Again I had to see the doctor, who again ordered intravenous, more antibiotics, continue the bland diet and rest. I have never slept so much in my entire life!

The following evening I had a joyful reunion with my companions who also stayed at Maryknoll. We then returned to La Paz the next day, where we had one last TEC training for three adults and four youth. This was an abridged version of one evening and a day, adapted for those who could not participate in the full three days.

On July 8, we left Maria Reina for the airport at four o'clock in the morning for our return home. I look back with much gratitude for this extraordinary experience with its numerous pluses and minuses. And...is that not life?



Rise, Renew, Rejoice in Giving!

Open your hearts to the love God instills in them. God loves you tenderly. What he gives you is not to be kept under lock and key, but to be shared. The more you save the less you will be able to give. The less you have, the more you will now have to share. Let us ask God, when it comes to ask God for something, to help us to be generous.

I would like to ask each of you as you prepare your taxes to look at your monetary gifts to the TEC Conference in 2010. Was there a gift? If not, would you consider starting the 2011 off with a monetary donation to help us reach our budget goal before our fiscal year ends March 31st?

Received - \$100,795
Goal - \$152,690

Along with the TEC council, ministry teams, Ron, Fr. Jim and Bridget, we take this time to thank everyone who generously shared a monetary gift in 2010.

We extend to all a tremendous thank you! The TEC communities and the TEC Conference stay alive by your gifts of time, talent and treasure.

Christ's peace and mine,

Mary O'Brien

TEC Family Happenings! Are you involved yet?

TEC Conference Workshops

To have your community take part in a workshop, please contact Ron Reiter at the TEC Conference office:
Phone: 636-933-9233 - E-mail: office@TECConference.org



Communities of Faith & Follow-Through: Empowers TEC leaders to become reflective and discerning, not just doing leaders; calls them to deeper conversion, thus building or strengthening TEC centers; moves TEC leaders and communities toward more effective ministry with the Church's young people; shares a vision for Post-TEC weekend follow-through; and fosters a collaborative relationship within and between diocese and TEC centers which are necessary to further the TEC Movement.



Renewing the Vision of TEC: Shares a renewed vision of TEC's spiritual processes outlined in the manual; invites deeper conversion, thus building/strengthening TEC communities; rekindles a deeper sense of commitment to Christ as a community of disciples; and fosters collaborative relationships within and between diocese and TEC centers which are necessary to further the TEC Movement.




Spiritual Directors: Promotes a deeper understanding of theological process of the TEC Movement through Scripture, Eucharist, doctrine and witness; explores the various roles of the TEC spiritual director, including: discernment and formation of TEC teams; mentor and spiritual leader for both adults and young people; and liaison to the bishop, clergy and religious within the diocese; and network and share ideas with other TEC spiritual directors.




Team Formation: Reinforces the central spirituality of the weekend, Paschal Mystery Spirituality; strengthens team preparation; increases awareness of the importance of the TEC community in giving weekends; assists in unifying and preparing a team in giving a TEC weekend; and improves in discerning the gifts of members of the TEC community for the good of all.

TEC Conference Partners in Ministry

These religious communities have joined our **Partners in Ministry** program and offer continual prayer support for the TEC Movement. Please contact us to have your religious community featured here and on the TEC Conference.



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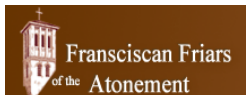
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