



Savior Pastoral Center



DIE, RISE & GO WITH ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX

By Mary Lovee Varni, Spirit of St. Louis TEC

It's a miracle that we even know about Therese Martin. She only had the equivalent of an eighth grade education; entered a cloistered French convent at 15; and died of tuberculosis less than a decade later still within its walls. And yet, her journal became an international Catholic best seller and Pope Pius XI named her "the greatest saint of modern times" at her canonization Mass in 1925, only 28 years after her death.

In addition, Pope John Paul II honored her as a Doctor of the Church in 1997. Therese is only the third woman to receive this distinction in the 2000-plus year history of the Church. I think Therese would be surprised by her popularity. As she once wrote, "In comparing myself with the saints, I have ever felt that I am as removed from them as a grain of sand is from the mountain."

And yet, Therese didn't let her littleness stop her from trusting in God, the one responsible for her miraculous popularity and influence today. She also didn't use it as an excuse not to become the person Christ called her to be. Instead, Therese developed a simple, yet profound way to follow God: the Little Way.

What is the Little Way and how does it impact the TEC Family? Basically, Therese's spirituality is doing little things with love for others and God (a.k.a. wheat!). Here are some ways we can practice wheat Therese's way:

Pre-TEC - Pray for the candidates and team. Therese had a heart for the missions even

though she never left her Lisieux convent. Even if you can't be on a TEC weekend, pray for both the TEC "missionaries" and the young people.

Die Day - Go to Eucharistic Adoration or offer a hidden sacrifice for one specific person on the weekend. For example, in Therese's "The Story of a Soul," she relates how she took on the chores that were disliked the most. It wasn't something that came naturally either. This is the same girl who used to expect her older sister to make her bed!

Rise Day - Give up time with your friends or family at the Hoot Reunion to make a new candidate or a visitor feel welcome. "We feel drawn to one person and may be attempted to avoid another," Therese wrote. "Well, our Lord tells me that this last...person is the one I must love and pray for."

Go Day
Spread Therese's Little Way among the candidates to prepare them to be missionaries to their peers, families, co-workers and friends. Provide them with a prayer card or medal in their take-home packets or find a way to get copies of Therese's autobiography donated.

Post-TEC
Hold a Therese faith formation night as a way to follow-up with the candidates and observers. Watch the 2004 movie about her life, "Story of a Soul" or plan a TEC pilgrimage to her national shrine in Darien, Ill.

Best Practices!

By Deacon Dick Venezia

Call them TECers, TECees or TECites. Whatever the name, the game's the same. Whenever TEC folks get together at regional or national gatherings, they always enjoy sharing good ideas--and it is never truer than at a TEC Congress.

One of the best ideas that came out of the 2007 Congress was to find a way to create a national forum for sharing all of these good ideas. Thus, the "Best Practices" page on the Web site was launched.

Endless questions, endless answers. How do you do this? How do you handle that? What do you do for icebreakers? What do you do at your

Hoots? How do you stage the Stations of the Cross? How do you select a team? The questions surrounding TEC retreats are endless, and so are the answers.

Several ideas are now available on the "Best Practices" page of the TEC Web site. From the homepage, teconference.org, click on the "Best Practices" link on the left-hand side to find: Boiler plate forms for downloading and editing; ideas for recruiting; meeting formats; material for exit packets; a short video clip of a Stations of the Cross production...and more!

Ready to check it out? And add to it?

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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

CF&F Workshop Nov. 28-29, 2009



COMMUNITIES OF FAITH & FOLLOW- THROUGH

Nov. 28-29, 2009
ST. WILLIAM'S TEC
TEWKSBURY, MASS.

Cost: \$85 (includes program, meals & lodging)

Registration Deadline:
Nov. 20, 2009

Questions?

Contact Jeff Tucceri
(978) 866-3508

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

TEC Family Happenings! Are you involved yet?

Best Practices!

Continued.....

- ☑ Centers affiliated with the Conference have been or will be given a username and password so that they are able to access these ideas. Meanwhile, centers not affiliated are invited to become current so that they, too, can benefit from this resource.
- ☑ The "Best Practices" concept will be immensely more useful and successful if many TEC communities submit their ideas and practices for publication on teconference.org. Credit will be given to TEC centers that submit items for publication, but it may be necessary to edit or even deny a submission if there is any conflict with the official TEC Manual.
- ☑ If you have an idea, a practice, a form, a schedule, or anything else of general interest, we encourage you to send it to us at:
bestpractices@teconference.org.

- ☑ We would welcome icebreaker and fundraising ideas. We would like to post a protocol for baking the Eucharistic bread. We would like to create a list of good ideas for the Agape Dinner.

One of the needs that is consistently expressed by TEC centers is that of building a strong faith community --- a community of disciples. Perhaps you have concrete examples of community-building experiences or formats. There are many, many "Best Practices" that can be shared.

Thank you in advance for assisting us and each other in this most worthwhile effort. Sharing your good ideas with the entire TEC family will help all of us in our ministry to lead others closer to Christ.

TEC AND THE CONNECTION TO DEVELOPMENT

By Mary O'Brien.....

Forty four years ago this month, TEC was started. Please take a moment to offer a prayer for Fr. Matt Fedewa, Dorothy Gereke and all the others who are/were a part of the vision for the youth and young adults to have a means to encounter Christ.

This anniversary date caused me to reflect on the connection between TEC and the ministry of development. What does the word development mean to you? Does it mean, "Oh here they come again for money?" Sometimes I hope so! The TEC Conference is dependent upon your gifts.

The word development has several meanings of which these three are the ones I chose to reflect on....growth, expansion and change.

- Do you believe *growth* is what Fr. Matt and Dorothy observed in all the youth they served over those weekends 44 years ago?

- For over 44 years, do we recognize the many ways TEC assists in the *expansion* of the "bigger" Church. At the end of the weekend, do we invite the TECites to "go forth and serve the Lord?"
- In the TEC weekend, we name it "*Metanoia*, a *change* of Heart."

Within the ministry of development and our asking for a monetary gift, I see these three words in a couple of sentences: The *growth* of the TEC Conference depends upon each of you and your monetary gift(s). You are the instrument in the *expansion* of the TEC Movement and the *change* in awareness throughout the bigger Church. Let's not keep TEC "the best kept secret within the Church."

Our Annual Harvest goal is \$25,000! If you have given, thank you. If not, we hope you are still praying about making a gift to this appeal. To date we have raised: **\$5,781.56**

HIDDEN GAME

10-23-09 - We have a winner! Sara O'Regan of TEC New Orleans is October's winner. Congrats, Sara and thanks for playing!

On Oct. 7, we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. In recognition of this day, we've hidden the word "Rosary" in this October issue of the *Stay Connected*. If you are the seventh person to reply to Mary O'Brien at: obrien2176@aol.com with

the correct location, you will win a prize and get your name published in the next edition of the *Stay Connected*. September's winner was Sr. Linda Jansen of Spirit of St. Louis TEC. Congratulations, Sr. Linda! Thanks to all who played, but didn't win...**this time!**

Spiritual Directors Workshop June 21-24, 2010

LaSalle Retreat center in Wildwood, Mo., is the site for the next Spiritual Directors workshop, June 21-24, 2010. Mark your calendars now! To download a brochure, please go to the TEC Conference Web site at: www.TECConference.org

Pray With The TEC Family

TEC Communities participating in Eucharistic Adoration:

Northwest TEC
Spirit of St. Louis TEC
Peoria TEC
Belleville TEC
Miami TEC
Anchor of Hope

For more information, check out:
www.TECConference.org/Adoration.html



Catholic Trips To Sponsor Cruise

Catholic Trips is sponsoring a seven-day Caribbean cruise Jan. 10-16, 2010 on the Carnival Freedom. The TEC Conference will receive \$25 for each registration. For more information, please contact Bridget Dempsey at [Catholic Trips: 877-463-8747](tel:877-463-8747)

All prices are per person
based on double occupancy:

Inside Cabin: \$595
Oceanview: \$795
Balcony: \$895