

October 2011



Stay Connected



Dear TEC Family,

Saturday, October 1st we celebrated the birthday of St. Therese, The Little Flower, the patron saint for the TEC Movement. Her life is an inspiration to us all. She died at the very young age of 24. She was declared a saint by Pope Pius XI on May 17, 1925. She was a Carmelite nun and that community has a rich tradition of over 800 years.

The TEC Movement has a rich history of forty-six years as a CHARISM of the Church. TEC is a gift from the Holy Spirit to transform lives through a three-day encounter of initiating or building upon a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, supported by an intergenerational community of believers that mentors the young people they serve.

In recent conversation with Fr. James Brown, OAR, the principle writer of the TEC Manual, he is focusing his efforts on the follow-through that is needed after the three-day encounter has ended to assist and mentor the young people with their journey of faith.

All of us as leaders have an initial Baptismal call to discipleship, being living witnesses of the gospel message. What are some of the significant ways your TEC community does follow-through after the TEC weekend? Please share that information with us. The TEC Conference staff would like to include your specific TEC community efforts in the area of follow-through in the monthly online newsletter, "Stay Connected" or in our three times a year "Communicator" issues that go out. We would like to call that section of either document; "Follow-Through – Building on the TEC Encounter Experience".

Please take time to share this information with your TEC family. This could be a great way to assist other TEC communities with new ideas and approaches in this area of follow-through.

We are celebrating the first TEC weekend this month that happened forty-six years ago in Battle Creek, MI. Just recently I was able to connect with Fr. Matthew Fedewa in De Witt, MI, and gain some insights for the future of the TEC Movement as we move toward celebrating 50 years in 2015. The site for the 50th Anniversary is the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Ill.

Please keep the TEC family in prayer as we continue to work at strengthening the Movement and developing a strong relationship with each TEC community.

In Christ,

Webinar Information

Webinar #3 is scheduled for Wednesday, October 19th at 6:30 pm CST. The topic is Board or Core Team and "School of Spirituality" - presenter Ron Reiter (Webinar will later be placed on website.)

Webinar #4 is scheduled for Monday, November 21st at 7:00 p.m. The topic is "Paschal Circle Prayer" - presenter Dorothy Gereke

Webinar #5 will cover the "Evangelizing and Ministering Community" - no date in December is set as of yet.

Webinar #6 will cover the Spiritual Director's role on a TEC weekend - no date in January is set as of yet.

TAP 4 TEC—You're Invited to Attend!



Dear Friends in TEC,

In the same manner in which Christ's Apostles went forth to spread the Good News, we too are empowered by the Holy Spirit as living witness to Christ so that others may come to know the Lord our God. Paraphrasing the Gospel of Matthew 5 –The Similes of Salt and Light - *we are filled with the Spirit of Christ for all to see and our light shall not be hidden.*

Realizing our love of Christ and His call to Discipleship, we go forth, representing a growing community of Christians who now reach out to others inviting them to come and encounter Christ for themselves in a new and perhaps a different way at TEC.

As His Disciples we go forth now as *Ambassadors*; not just followers of Christ but actively promoting and inviting young people to attend an upcoming TEC.

As a member of the Sunflower TEC Community and TAP Coordinator I stand with many of our adult leaders here who can attest to the fire through which we share and know the impact that TAP- The TEC Ambassador Program has had here in Kansas. Simply, Sunflower TEC is a growing community of Christian believers with Ambassadors at the very center of its success.

TAP co-author John Livingston and I have always felt that the TEC Ambassador Program is of benefit to all TEC communities that are seeking to grow and solidify the community as a whole. TAP is now offered through the TEC Conference and may be brought right into your TEC Center. Please call the TEC Conference office for more information.

This is the retreat in which TEC Ambassadors are born. Come see and experience a TAP Weekend for yourself and learn all you need to know about starting a TAP Ambassador Program in your TEC community.

Prairie Star Ranch is a beautiful facility with plenty of room for all and the original site of the very first TAP. There is not a fee to attend TAP, however a good will offering is always welcomed.

Come TAP 4 TEC!

Mike Needleman muzical3@aol.com or Cell: 816-522-3847

PS. JESUS LOVES YOU, GO TELL OTHERS!



**Congratulations to Sunflower TEC
celebrating 10 Years!!!**

Planning for the 2012 TEC Congress is well underway in the Riverbend TEC Community in Minnesota. This year's TEC Congress is themed "Tending the Vine" and will be based upon the scripture passage: "I am the vine, you are the branches." This verse in John's Gospel is rich with metaphor that is pertinent to our TEC communities. The metaphor of the vine is often a representation of Israel's covenant with God. Jesus tells us "my Father is the vine grower." It is God who prunes and tends to the vine. None of us as branches can claim as our own responsibility the job of pruning the vine; we must trust that God is always at work tending to the Body of Christ. The vine, of course, is Jesus, who asks us to: "abide in me, as I abide in you." This language of "abiding" implies a deep relationship of oneness in which we are "no longer servants but friends." Jesus now trusts us as His disciples, and invites us to "abide in his love." We as the branches are charged with the mission of bearing fruit. But we are told that we cannot do this alone. "The branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me." Discipleship isn't a private, individualistic endeavor, but is done as members of a community. Individual branches only prosper insofar as they recognize themselves as part of an organic unit. And of course this vine often looks like an intertwined, tangled mess! However, we know that it is God who assesses the fruitfulness of the vine and tends to the health of our community.

And so our TEC communities work in much the same way. Our individual TEC communities are engaged in the hard work of being on the front lines, planning TEC weekends and tending to new candidates within the context of the TEC weekend. On a regional level, we participate and learn about what is going on in TEC communities near us. Perhaps we glean insight or learn best practices when rubbing up against these other "branches" who are part of the vine in which we are entangled. And of course we all are members of the TEC Conference which serves to call our attention back to our common vision, and our participation in a "community of communities." The annual TEC Congress is an invitation to the realization of our connectedness to one another, a sharing of our gifts and challenges as branches, and a place to experience the constancy of presence Jesus offers us as our vine. We are never alone in our mission, we are always united with Him and being called back to the vine by our vine grower, who tends to us and, though often painful, even does a little pruning when necessary. We hope that the TEC Congress we have begun planning for all of you, our fellow branches, will facilitate a deeper experience of unity to Jesus, our vine, and will nourish your branch, that you might go home to your TEC communities with a renewed commitment to "abide in Him." May God bless you in all the work you do to bear fruit.

In Christ,
Lori Mathiowetz
2012 Congress co-chair

Check out our latest 2012 Congress video!
www.tecconference.org



Riverbend TEC
invites you to
"Tending the Vine"

TEC Congress 2012
August 3-5, 2012

Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter MN

Riverbend TEC Congress Core Team

Before the Congress



After the Congress



Top Row: From left to right: *Rachel Uher, Maria Rice, Jerry Langworthy*
Bottom Row: *Travis Thooft, Lori Mathiowetz (co-chairs)*

Upcoming Workshops

January 6-8, 2012 - CF&F
workshop in Archdiocese of Louisville, KY.
hosted by the new emerging
TEC Community in Louisville, KY.



2012 Directory

Our 2012 Directory will be coming out in January. The TEC Conference office will be contacting you for updated information. Thank you for your help!

TEC Newsletters

If any TEC community is publishing newsletters, please notify the TEC Conference office so we can be a part of a network for sharing articles. Please notify us who your editor is for your newsletter at office@teconference.org

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 website.



Sisters of Bon Secours
Contact: Sr. Pat Dowling, CBS - 1525 Marriottsville Rd.,
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