



New Evangelization from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

New Evangelization

"It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade."

Mk 4: 31-32

What is the New Evangelization?

The New Evangelization calls each of us to deepen our faith, believe in the Gospel message and go forth to proclaim the Gospel. The focus of the New Evangelization calls all Catholics to be evangelized and then go forth to evangelize. In a special way, the New Evangelization is focused on "re-proposing" the Gospel to those who have experienced a crisis of faith. Pope Benedict XVI called for the re-proposing of the Gospel "to those regions awaiting the first evangelization and to those regions where the roots of Christianity are deep but who have experienced a serious crisis of faith due to secularization." (See footnote below.) The New Evangelization invites each Catholic to renew their relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church.

Why do we need the New Evangelization?

The New Evangelization offers hope. Jesus grants all people rest and comfort from the world's burdens (Mt. 11:28) by offering us the hope of salvation and eternal life. Through the "re-proposing" of the Gospel, the Church seeks to comfort all those who are burdened. The New Evangelization offers the gifts of faith, hope, love and new life in Christ.

The New Evangelization in the United States

The Church in the United States can be likened to the mustard seed. The Church has been present in the Americas since the first missionaries arrived in the 15th century. Over the past five centuries, the Church's foundation has sprung up and taken root in the U.S., spreading her branches and offering shade to the weary. This can be seen simply by looking at the work of Catholic Charities on behalf of the poor, the network of Catholic schools offering education to millions, and the commitment of U.S. Catholics to the Church's social justice teachings. However, there is still work to do.

The 2008 Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) study "**Sacraments Today: Belief and Practice Among U.S. Catholics...**" provides a glimpse into the beliefs, practices and attitudes of U.S. Catholics. According to the study, only 23% of U.S. Catholics regularly attend Mass once a week, while 77% self-identify as proud to be Catholic. These statistics point to the need for the New Evangelization.

To read Pope Benedict's XVI article on New Evangelization, click the link below and scroll down to first bullet point "Porta Fidei."

<http://usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/index.cfm>

Celebrating the year of faith.....by Ron Reiter

Dear TEC Family,

The New Evangelization calls each of us to deepen our faith. We have been gifted with that invitation before, haven't we? The invitation on the TEC weekend, for each of us, is to go out and live the 4th day as a Disciple for the Lord. The gift of the TEC Encounter is an evangelization experience calling for a response from each of us. How can we incorporate this into the beautiful Lenten season that has begun?

Archbishop Schwietz has said that TEC is the best tool of Evangelization in any diocese when it is working effectively and the leaders are formed well that guide the Community. I believe, in this Year of Faith from October 11, 2012 until November 24, 2013, the Holy Spirit is inviting us to connect to a rich and golden opportunity to renew the TEC Movement, both as individual TEC Communities and the TEC Movement as a whole.

The opening day, October 11, 2012 is the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. That council gave us some resources from which we drew from to allow the Spirit to begin to form the TEC Encounter experience. Please take time to read Pope Benedict's Apostolic Letter on Evangelization. Can this be an opportunity to renew our TEC Communities? In this document are some very important comments, suggestions, and questions that we need to take to prayer for guidance.

We cannot accept that salt should become tasteless or the light become hidden (MT. 5:13-16). We must rediscover a taste for feeding ourselves on the word of God, faithfully handed down by the Church, and on the bread of life, offered as sustenance for his disciples, JN. 6:51.

Plans are being made to incorporate the New Evangelization apostolic letter and the Year of Faith into the TEC Congress gathering in August in the diocese of New Ulm. By the way, TEC's first weekend was October 9, 10 and 11, 1965. That encounter weekend was supported through some of the new documents that came out of Vatican II. How can we as a TEC Family tap into this resource of new life and energy prepared for us by the Holy Spirit? Please share any suggestions or plans that your TEC Community may develop so we can make them available to the entire TEC Family.

Have a very blessed Lenten Season!

The TEC Conference is moving. Please keep us in prayer as this process unfolds. More details will be coming.

Riverbend TEC Gala Event

In planning for the 2012 TEC Congress, "Tending the Vine," to be held in St. Peter MN August 3, 4, and 5, the core team for the Congress discussed the need to do some fundraising. During those discussions, it became evident that we didn't want to just raise money to host the Congress, but rather, we wanted to create an ongoing source of money for the program. Over the years, Riverbend has been self-sustaining, but often, perhaps like many of you, we've been operating too close to the red. To be good stewards of the TEC Movement in the New Ulm Diocese, we realized the need to also tend to the financial aspects of the retreat (even though it's not nearly as fun) and strive to help keep it self-sustaining.

Out of our planning for the 2012 TEC Congress, the idea for a Stewardship Gala was conceived. Our plan is that it becomes an annual event – not just to raise money for TEC, but to also provide an opportunity for fellowship, fun, and recognition of the people who have given of their talent, their time, and their treasure to TEC over the past year, with the Spirit of TEC and Light of Christ awards.

The following is an excerpt from the Welcoming Ceremony given by Jerry Langworthy; our first ever "Riverbend TEC Stewardship Gala" chair!

"I could make some guesses as to why some of you are here tonight. They are probably reasons very similar to why TECites go on a TEC weekend. Maybe someone 'encouraged' you to attend, or simply invited you to come with them. Maybe you just heard about it and thought it would be cool and you wanted to be here. But just like on TEC, it is the Holy Spirit that has brought us together for this event. And I think many of you are here for the same reason that I am here: TEC has affected our lives. It has helped change and shape our hearts. It has shown us miracles of faith, hope, healing, and love. Our encounters with Jesus through the Paschal Mystery have strengthened us, called us to serve and minister to others, and to support one another as a community."

"As you may know by now, Riverbend TEC has accepted an invitation to host the 2012 TEC Congress. 'Tending the Vine.' It will be held this August in St. Peter. People from the TEC community around the world will gather together to pray, educate, train, and network. It is an honor for us to be hosting this event this coming August. Over the years as I have attended TEC Convention and Congress events, I have learned about the joys and struggles of other TEC communities, and am proud of our Riverbend TEC program, whose strength is largely due to Fr. Denny's continued presence as our Coordinator and Spiritual Director for the last 30+ years.

We are celebrating 35 years of ministering to the youth and adults of the Diocese of New Ulm tonight! Almost 7400 people have made TEC in our Diocese. There aren't enough words to express the gratitude that we have for all you have done. Fr. Denny ~ Thank you."

The evening included a photo booth to take pictures of everyone in their formal attire, an awards ceremony, a delicious meal, a dance, and appropriately: a roast of Fr. Denny! It was a fabulous evening and people are already asking about next year's Gala! The inspiration of course, came from our planning of the 2012 Congress, which we know as we continue our planning, will be just as wonderful of an event because it will include all of you-our extended TEC family!

Peace and Blessings,
Lori Mathiowetz
"Tending the Vine" co-chair



Riverbend TEC
invites you to
"Tending the Vine"

TEC Congress 2012
August 3-5, 2012

Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter MN

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The TEC Conference invites each of its faith communities to pray together before the Blessed Sacrament one day each month as part of "TEC Family adoration." TEC Family adoration can easily fit into an existing Eucharistic adoration time at a local parish or with a religious community.



Our end goal is to have at least one TEC community praying before the Blessed Sacrament each day of the month. We would ask that each TEC community let the Conference know

when they are praying so we can inform other groups who may want to join them in prayer. For more information:

www.TECConference.org/Adoration.html

Please remember to pray for the following intentions:

- The TEC Movement in the U.S. and abroad.
- The teams and candidates of upcoming weekends locally and around the world.
- That the Holy Spirit will continue to use TEC to further the Kingdom of God on earth.
- The financial stability of the TEC Conference.

SPIRIT OF TEC AWARDS

Reminder: Please turn in your 2012 Spirit of TEC Award nomination forms to the TEC Conference office by March 15, 2012.

office@teconference.org

TEC WEBINARS

We invite you to go to the TEC Conference website and view the webinars.

www.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.

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