



REFLECTIONS ON LENT

by Ron Reiter, *TEC Executive Director*

Dear TEC Family, I have lived through many Lents in my 65 years of life that God has blessed me with. There have been times they have seemed a dismal failure in a matter of days into my commitment to fast and sacrifice.



Recently, my response to Lent has been different because of a presentation I heard about Lent and using a different approach to help focus on myself and relationships.

The speaker shared some examples and I would like to pass them along to our TEC family.

- **Cleaning out the garage, closet or a toy box.** While doing that, have a prayerful conversation with the Lord about cleaning up our own lives.
- **Find a comfortable chair or a quiet place inside or out with some prayer things there.** Make a date with God and go to this place often.
- **Use of family pictures or connecting with the family tree can give you the time to pray specifically for them,** their potential, their dreams and the challenges they are encountering. Also, with the family tree we can pray for those who passed on the faith to us.
- **Make today the off button day and spend time in silence listening to God's plan** instead of the TV, radio, computer, or cell phone. Just being with God is good enough.

I'm sure all of you can share many similar or better examples to deepen our Lenten experience. Before you know Holy Week will be here, and the celebration of the Holy Triduum will lead us to Easter Sunday and new life.

The use of ordinary things in our daily lives can help us rediscover our faith, and lead us as a family to join all Christians around the world on Easter Sunday in the life-giving prayer: **Alleluia! Jesus is risen!**

Have a blessed Lent and renewing Easter.

In Christ,

NEW TEAM FORMATION WORKSHOP TO BE PILOTED MAY 1-2, 2009 IN FAITH, S.D.

Team Formation is a workshop which will provide participants with an:

- Awareness of the components that make up team formation.
- Understanding the role the TEC community plays in supporting a TEC weekend.
- Opportunity to dialogue about team selection and its overall importance to a TEC weekend.
- Experience of community, a key element in team formation.

May 1, 2009

Friday, 2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. MT

May 2, 2009

Saturday, 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. MT

The workshop brochure will be available on the TEC Conference Web site in the very near future!

2009 TEC CONGRESS

July 24 - 26, 2009 - Spalding Pastoral Center, Peoria, Ill.
"A Plentiful Harvest in Christ"

2009 Congress activities include: Silent auction, witness speakers, small and large group dialogue, prayer, awards presentation, Mass at the Cathedral, an evening of fellowship and prayer on the Spirit of Peoria boat cruise, live auction and much more!

Mark your calendars for the 2010 Congress to be held in Kansas City, Kan. July 23-25!

PRAY WITH THE TEC FAMILY

Has your community joined this **Eucharistic Adoration** prayer campaign yet?

For more information, check out:

www.TECconference.org/Adoration.html



Happy St. Patrick's Day

TEC Family Happenings! Are you involved yet?

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT!

In each *TEC Communicator* issue, we would like to spotlight a different community. We have featured three previous communities. Will you be next? Now, it's your turn to get the word out about the great things happening in your community. **Share your history!** Please share this information for the good of the greater TEC Family by **Mar. 20, 2009** by contacting us at 636-933-9233 or office@TECConference.org.

2009 SPIRIT OF TEC AWARDS

Does someone in your local TEC Family:

- Live out the Paschal Mystery in his or her life?
- Contribute in a significant way to TEC on a local or regional level?
- Faithfully serve our Church's young people?
- Generously share his or her love, faith and enthusiasm with others?

If so, consider nominating them for the **2009 Spirit of TEC Award**. Each recipient will be recognized on a special display at the 2009 Congress, receive an award certificate from the TEC Conference and have his or her name published in the Summer 2009 edition of the *Communicator*. Each TEC community can select up to three people for this special recognition each year. Please only submit names to the TEC Conference through your local core team, council or board. Nomination forms will be going out electronically the second week in March. **Deadline for submitting nominations is May 15, 2009.**

TEC MANUAL LICENSE AGREEMENTS

Have you returned yours yet? If so, thank you! If not, please take time to fill these out and return them to us, along with the center evaluation. **Thank you!**

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE!

"Feed my sheep" John 21:17 is our theme for this year's Lenten appeal. Hopefully by now, most of you are setting aside \$1 each day so at the end of the 40 days you are able to send \$40 to assist the work of the Conference. Some of you have already responded with gifts of \$40-\$100 and we are **most grateful**.

**As of Mar. 12, 2009, we have received \$2,542.
Our goal is \$6,600.**

TEC WEEKEND STATISTICS

Please remember to send us the statistics from your TEC weekend! We are looking for the number of youth and young adult candidates (those between ages 17-24) and adults (those over age 24) that participated on the weekend. This information helps us keep track of how many people TEC serves each year. E-mail stats to: office@TECconference.org

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

Jan. 10: *Fort Lauderdale*

Jan. 11: *Key West Florida 8:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m.*

Jan. 12: *Fun Day At Sea*

Jan. 13: *Grand Cayman 7:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m.*

Jan. 14: *Ocho Rios, Jamaica 7:30 a.m. till 3:30 p.m.*

Jan. 15: *Fun Day At Sea*

Jan. 16: *Fort Lauderdale, Fla.*

All prices are per person based on double occupancy:
Inside Cabin: \$595 | Oceanview: \$795 | Balcony: \$895

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

The TEC Conference has forged a special partnership with certain religious communities -- one based upon prayer for one another and a deep mutual respect for one another's ministries. **Check out the TEC Conference Web site to learn more about our partners!**

- Divine Word Missionaries
- Franciscan Friars of the Atonement
- The Redemptoristine Nuns
- The Sisters of Bon Secours
- The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth
- The Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth
- The Sisters of St. Benedict
- The Society of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart
- The Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception

ANNIVERSARIES IN THE TEC FAMILY

The following TEC communities will be celebrating anniversaries this year. Please take a moment in prayer to thank them for their ministry to youth and young adults and to congratulate them for their longevity and continuing service!

Czech Republic - 15th

Hiawatha Valley - 30th

Lincoln - 15th

New Life - 5th

Northwest - 35th

Springfield - 35th

Wheeling - 40th

Wichita - 25th

HIDDEN SHAMROCK!



This month, we've hidden a shamrock in the *Stay Connected*. The 7th person to e-mail Mary O'Brien at obrien2176@aol.com with the correct location of the "hidden" shamrock will receive a prize! The shamrock looks just like this one, but may be a different size or color! We're sorry to say that we did not have a winner for our "hidden" heart contest last month!