



Greetings from our 2012 Spring Council Meeting

New Executive Director Selected for the TEC Conference!

The TEC Leadership Council is pleased to announce the Holy Spirit-guided transition to a new Executive Director. But before I explain the transition that is taking place, please join me in expressing our profound gratitude to Ron Reiter for his dedicated service, strong leadership, and deep commitment as he served us as Executive Director during the past seven years --- a time in which many non-profits have not survived. His Paschal Mystery spirituality and genuine love of TEC has been ever present in his role of leading the 50+ TEC Centers throughout the world. We were not actively looking for a new executive director but recognizing that Ron was in the twilight of his career we unanimously chose to take advantage of the hopefully long-term opportunity that presented itself. Ron will be sorely missed as Executive Director but we hope and pray that he continues to remain active in TEC for many years to come.

Leading the TEC Conference for the foreseeable future will be William D. (Billy) O'Regan IV. Billy has not only a law degree but he has a master's degree in Theology. He currently serves as Region Coordinator for his region which includes New Orleans, where he lives with his wife, Sara. Billy is the immediate past chair of the TEC Leadership Council and also chairs the Spirituality Ministry Team. We trust in God's call and loving hand in this transition and we all pray for Billy and his new ministry as our Executive Director.

March is quickly vanishing and it means our annual meeting of the TEC Leadership Council has come and gone. The TEC Movement survives by the Holy Spirit stirring passionate volunteers to give of their time, talent, and treasure. I wish to report to you that about a dozen very dedicated souls drove or flew to Festus, MO to gather and plan for the good of the TEC Movement. Since we only meet twice per year we had much to discuss and to decide. We are also coming to the realization that to best utilize the valuable time of our volunteers, we need to be as efficient as possible. That means that increasingly we will need to "stay connected" through electronic means. But, are we already sick of "old fashioned" e-mail? Are we getting too much? Perhaps. But to coordinate a large group of good national volunteers, we will have to commit to building and maintaining relationships electronically. So it is appropriate that this communication is called *Stay Connected*. We really want to involve decision makers from EVERY TEC Community in the world; we want to hear from all of you. We want to do what is best for the collective TEC Movement at all times.

So, we are providing minutes from our meeting to any who wants them. We hope you will respond with questions and ideas for future meetings. We REALLY hope you would volunteer to join us on the Council or as a member of any of our Ministry Teams (committees). We want to include input from every TEC center; we want to exclude no one. Guiding this tremendous GIFT of TEC is a big job. We may see a variety of paths ahead. We must meet, pray, discuss, discern, and choose a path. This is the role of the TEC Leadership Council. I have had the honor of being the Chairperson of this group for the past year and am humbled to serve in this capacity. However, I would rather see every TEC Community choose to share its voice in some way with us. I believe many voices are better than a few. Please accept our invitation to share yourself with the larger TEC Movement in person or in any other way you see fit.

Brian Mathiowetz
Chair of the TEC Conference
Leadership Council

Our most heartfelt thanks to:
Debbie DeBruyne, Judy
Fillback, Chris LaRosa and
Cathy Robertson for their many
years of devotion and time to
the TEC
Conference.



Brian Mathiowetz,
Cathy Robertson and Judy Fillback

Transforming the Focus from Weekend to Fourth Day:

How Wichita is Going Fourth

By....David Walker

Ten years ago Wichita TEC was a strong TEC community. We had more candidates applying than we had room for on a weekend and about twice as many people applying to serve on the team than we needed. There were regular gatherings of the TEC community outside of the weekend, but then, for various reasons, those gatherings stopped and we became weekend focused. Through the years we had dropped from having 36 candidates on a weekend to averaging 12-15 and we were scarcely receiving any team applications.

A new and revitalized TEC Core started holding quarterly gatherings for the TEC community. They consisted of a pot luck dinner, guest speaker and social/game time. Out of the discussions taking place at these gatherings we began to realize how the quality of our TEC weekend itself had also slipped over the last several years. Thanks in part to some of the Core team having attended a Communities of Faith & Follow-through workshop (CF&F) we knew that in order to strengthen our weekends we had to strengthen the Fourth Day and the TEC community's knowledge of TEC. What did we do?

Besides continuing the quarterly gathering we started *Raise Praise*, a two hour gathering before the Hoot for prayer, praise & worship and a meal. This started to increase attendance at our Hoots and invigorate our community. This invigoration led to more active recruiting and our candidate numbers started rising and once again we had more people applying to serve on the team than we could use. This excess of team applications led to the creation of another program, *Harvesters*. *Harvesters* started out as a way to involve those who applied, but were not selected to serve on the team. *Harvesters* would meet on the two Sundays prior to the weekend to pray for the weekend, write wheat letters and form community.

In January of 2012 we started a new program called *Grains of Wheat* that takes place twice a year. We gather on Friday from 7-10 pm for a dessert social. It is purely social/game time except for closing prayer. Those 21 and over are welcome to spend the night. Saturday is our education piece. We meet from 9 am – 3 pm. Members of our TEC community give talks over particular aspects of TEC and then we have small and large group discussions. Our first *Grains of Wheat* had the sub-topic *Preparing the Field* and was about what takes place prior to the weekend. It was a great learning/sharing experience. Fr. Lanzrath talked/challenged us about what wheat really is and what a wheat letter really should contain.

Following our first *Grains of Wheat* the TEC Core realized that we could and should be doing so much more with *Harvesters*. So additions were made to include pieces to educate about TEC and it is open to all members of the TEC community. The first Sunday that *Harvesters* gather we have a pot-luck, adoration, hear a meditation on Wheat, hear a talk about how to write wheat letters, we write wheat letters and sing praise and worship songs. At the second gathering we hear a meditation on living out the Paschal Mystery in the Fourth Day.

We have truly become focused on the Fourth Day of our TEC community and out of that our candidate numbers and team applications are back to where they were ten years ago and the quality of our weekends is MUCH improved. We have people who are driving 4 hours to be a part of *Harvesters* and our TEC community is anxious for the next *Grains of Wheat*.

In our case, and perhaps in that of many other communities, when numbers start falling you start focusing on the weekend itself. What we discovered was that when we started focusing on the Fourth Day of the TEC community, instead of the weekend, that's when the weekend started to recover.



Gustavus Adolphus College

2012 Congress - Mark your calendar! August 3-5, 2012



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.

2012 SPIRIT OF TEC AWARDS



Have you turned in your Spirit of TEC Awards to the TEC Conference?

office@teconference.org

CAREY TEC IS HAVING A MANUAL WORKSHOP APRIL 28, 2012 AND SPRINGFIELD TEC IS HAVING A CF & F WORKSHOP AUGUST 24-26, 2012

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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