



NEW! TEAM FORMATION WORKSHOP

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

Download registration and brochure from the TEC Conference Web site!

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!

2009 HERITAGE & FRIEND OF TEC AWARDS

These winners will accept their awards at the 2009 TEC Congress!

Heritage Award

Jerry Langworthy - Riverbend TEC
Joanne Brown - Peterstown TEC
Fr. Ray Otto - posthumously

Friend of TEC Award

Gary Surdyke

Please join us in congratulating our 2009 award recipients!

TEC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL - by Steven Polley, TEC Leadership Council Chair



Through the voice and words of others, I began reflecting on my hopes, dreams and aspirations. I began to hear God's voice speaking to me. In a brief moment, I again felt God's loving embrace and began to see more clearly the love that God has for me and all people. I began to see myself and life in a whole new way. What I once thought was the real world no longer looked so real, but through this wonderful experience of TEC I was engulfed in a new reality. Surrounded by God's love and new friends found in this community, I came to recognize gifts I did not know I possessed. I found myself saying yes to God's call to live my baptism and to go forth as a disciple of Christ.

As I wrote the above paragraph I felt that I was writing about the multitude of young people and adults who have experienced TEC over the past 43 plus years. I felt that each individual if asked would be able to connect with each thought expressed. For we know full well, that TEC transforms hearts, minds and lives, and that as each person encounters Christ in some new and special way, their lives are changed forever.

But of course for most everyone who will read this column, you know that I am preaching to the choir. For I have shared nothing that you don't already know. After all if TEC had not touched your life in this way, you probably would not be reading this column.

For myself I have been privileged enough over the past three years to take this a little deeper. I have had the wonderful opportunity to serve the TEC Conference by serving on the leadership council. Not only has this been an honor, it also has been a learning experience that has helped me grow spirituality, and it has helped our local TEC center grow as well. Serving on the leadership council provided me an opportunity to be a voice for TEC.

The leadership council and the various regional and state reps, along with the members of different ministry teams are also a voice for you, the ones who work in the grass roots areas of the many TEC centers. And I feel that over these past three years we have heard you and have taken steps to help meet your needs. More can be done of course, and through continued prayer, collaboration and support great things will continue to happen.

I pray that my voice over these past three years has been a voice that has moved the TEC Movement forward. I believe that TEC across the board is being Spirit lead, and I pray that we on the council have remained open to the Spirit leading us. I thank you for your support of the Conference. I encourage you to continue your work as TEC moves forward, and know that my prayers are with you always.

Peace and Guidance be yours,

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.

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!**

HE HAS RISEN

Our Lenten appeal theme **"feed my sheep"** invited you to set aside \$1 for the 40 days of Lent. Some of you have already responded with gifts of \$40-\$100 and we are most grateful.

As of March 15, 2009, we have received \$4,376.00. We hope you will still help us reach our goal of \$6,600 by sending in your \$40. Alleluia! Alleluia!

TEC Family Happenings! Are you involved yet?

TEC & YOUNG ADULTS - by Fr. James Brown, OAR

These are just some observations with regards to young adults and TEC. The TEC Manual (X-45-48) gives a good overview of whom we are speaking about when we talk about young adults. This material was gathered from my 20 years of experience as Director of the Office of Young Adults. I was also one of the founding members of the National Association of Young Adult Ministry, and served on its board for more than 10 years. I refer to this background merely as a point of reference because there are many erroneous notions rife with regards to young adults.

I find them very easy to work with once you manage to make contact with them. Making contact is a major issue. They tend to be very busy. Casey, who used to work with me in this ministry, said it was like ministering in a bus depot—they are always going some place.

They have a tendency to be socially more mature. Their relationships tend to be much firmer than high school seniors. That is a great advantage for the TEC process. The dynamic of the TEC weekend tends to be carried out with greater depth. And the relations flowing from the TEC experience are generally more lasting.

In choosing the members of the team, therefore, one must choose persons who can interact with

their level of maturity and facilitate their involvement in the spiritual dialogue of the TEC weekend. The members of the team must be a bit more astute than when working with high school students. They must actually enjoy being with this age group and not feel intimidated by it.

I have given two workshops in the Atlanta center which is totally young adults. I have found that the TEC weekend does not have to be changed for them. The TEC process adapts itself to the new level called for by young adults quite naturally. Young adults, if anything, are hungry for spirituality more, seemingly, than teenagers. And their reaction to TEC is seemingly more lasting.

In recruiting young adults, it is very important that the first group have a very good TEC. If there is a good experience, word of mouth will sell TEC to the community. They are much more prone to share their convictions.

It is a mistake to shorten the TEC weekend to accommodate them. Care should be taken that at least the major thrusts of the weekend are done well. Any adjustments that may be called for must not be done arbitrarily by the individual centers. They must be carefully researched and approved by the Spirituality Committee of the TEC Conference.

AFFILIATION FEES TO INCREASE

Thank you for all your leadership in your local TEC community. On behalf of the staff, the Conference volunteer council and team members we are very grateful for your ministry of the TEC Movement and family. We trust you understand and realize the monetary affiliation responsibility from centers has not increased since 2003. Therefore we are announcing the 2009-2010 affiliation dues are increased to \$200.

The Conference continues to develop and increase the opportunities in which centers may use the resources offered, such as:

- **Spiritual Directors Workshop DVDs** - Set of 7

- **The TEC Congress** - a gathering of leaders to share and experience a renewing and refreshing time in fellowship to pray, share insights and experiences and reflect on the future of TEC
- **Stay Connected** - monthly electronic newsletter
- **TEC Conference Web site**, including Best Practices - a password protected area for affiliated communities
- **Link to nation-wide prayer support**
- **On-going formation and training workshops** for the community
- **A listening ear** on particular need, challenge or question

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

HIDDEN "TREE"!

The 24th of April is Arbor Day and we've hidden the word "TREE" in this issue of the *Stay Connected*. The 7th person to e-mail Mary O'Brien at obrien2176@aol.com with the correct location of the hidden "TREE" will receive a prize!

Good luck!

TEC IN NICARAGUA

photos courtesy of Bob Cinnamond

The **Renewing the Vision of TEC (RTV)** workshop was held in Siuna, Nicaragua, March 17-20, 2009. Would you believe some of the participants on this workshop walked 20 miles to attend! Team members included Fr. Wilberto Lanser, Fr. John Schmeidler and Sharrie Cinnamond. Bob Cinnamond served as wheat team.

