



# Stay Connected

March 2007

An online newsletter for the worldwide TEC Family

## In Mary's Footsteps: Living Out Discipleship in the TEC Family

Dear TEC Family,

*"Mary is our quiet and reassuring companion in our journey to the heart of Christ...the perfect example of what it means to be a disciple," (TEC © Manual, Section X, pg. 26).*

**L**ately I've been thinking of, listening to and talking a lot to Mary, our Mother. **As I suspect you know already, our Congress this summer will be focusing on the gift of Mary in our lives—as our Guide to Perfect Discipleship.** So I've been wondering—is there any such thing as "perfect discipleship?" Is that even possible?



That depends, of course, on how one defines "perfect." I think we often misunderstand the concept when applying it to ourselves as human beings. For example, a chair finds its perfection in how comfortably it "sits" a person and how it fits with the décor of the room. A "perfect" chair for someone who is 4'8" tall would not sit a person 6'4" very well.

**Perfection as applied to objects reflects a fixed reality—a "done deal." However, we all know that "God isn't finished with me (any of us) yet."** None of us are static, and so we can't be judged on any particular state of being at any one time.

Perfection for us who would be disciples of Jesus consists in our willingness to GROW everyday and change daily as we seek that total and on-going conversion of heart. **What better guide to such growth than our Mother?** Who understands more than mothers the nature of growth? Do you seek to be a perfect disciple of Jesus? Don't worry. If you are asking, seeking, and knocking on the door, you qualify as

perfect." Just don't ever stop! You are not—and must never be—a "static reality."

I'm looking forward to meeting many of you at the Congress this summer. In the meanwhile, may you live, grow, and delight in the perfection of God's love for you—and continue to seek out the ways He will show you each day to mature in His love! Blessings, peace, and prayers!

**In Jesus and Mary, a fellow disciple on the journey,**

**Sr. Jacquie Schroeder, OSF  
TEC Conference Spiritual Director**

### New Disciples on their Journey of Faith



The team and candidates of Anchor of Hope TEC #240, held in January 2007 in the diocese of Green Bay, Wis.

## 2007 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 him or her for the **2007 Spirit of TEC Award**. Each recipient will be recognized on a special display at the 2007 Congress, receive an award certificate from the TEC Conference and have their names published in the Fall 2007 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 is May 15.**

## TEC Family Reminders...

### **2007 TEC CONGRESS DELEGATES**

Remember to contact the Conference by June 22 with the names of the two Congress delegates representing your community at [office@TECConference.org](mailto:office@TECConference.org) or (636) 933-9233. While there can only be two delegates, we invite as many members of your TEC to attend as possible to pray and partner with the larger TEC Family.

### **JOIN TEC FAMILY ADORATION:**

Has your community joined this Eucharistic Adoration prayer campaign yet? For more information, check out: [www.TECConference.org/TECFamilyAdoration.htm](http://www.TECConference.org/TECFamilyAdoration.htm)

## 40 Ways to Do Wheat

*"My whole strength lies in prayer and sacrifice, these are my invincible arms. They can move hearts far better than words, I know it by experience."*

~**St. Therese of Lisieux, Patron Saint of TEC**

9. Spend time each day of the weekend in prayer.
10. Write a wheat letter.
11. Give up TV.
12. Offer to babysit for a couple serving on a TEC team.
13. Do yard work for a neighbor.
14. Pray the Way of the Cross.
15. Seek out a lonely person.
16. Take the stairs.
17. Visit the Blessed Sacrament.
18. Travel 200 miles to a reunion.
19. Do schoolwork or housework without complaint.
20. Read the Bible for 30 minutes each day of the TEC.
21. Limit time on the internet.
22. Go for a rosary walk.
23. Listen to a friend or loved one.
24. Visit an elderly relative or neighbor.
25. Write an overdue thank you letter.



## TEC Family Gatherings...

### **Communities of Faith & Follow-Through**



**May 4-6, 2007**  
**Magnificat Center of the Holy Spirit**  
**Ponchatoula, La.**  
Contact: [Billy O'Regan](mailto:BillyO'Regan)  
(504) 231-8123  
[billyoregan@yahoo.com](mailto:billyoregan@yahoo.com)

**June 1-3**  
**Central Minnesota**  
**TEC Center**  
**Little Falls, Minn.**  
Contact: [Fr. Ken Opat](mailto:Fr. Ken Opat)  
(320) 532-4455  
[ken.opat@cmtec.org](mailto:ken.opat@cmtec.org)

**June 8-10**  
**St. Francis Borgia**  
**Regional High School**  
**Washington, Mo.**  
Contact: [Teresa Huxel](mailto:Teresa Huxel)  
(636) 584-0370  
[tmhuxel@yahoo.com](mailto:tmhuxel@yahoo.com)

### **Spiritual Directors Workshop**



**June 25-28**  
**LaSalle Retreat Center**  
**Wildwood, Mo.**  
Contact: [TEC Conference](mailto:TECConference)  
(636) 933-9233 or  
[office@TECConference.org](mailto:office@TECConference.org)

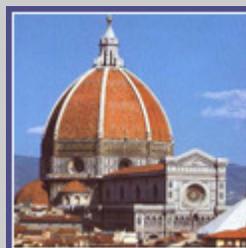
Team includes:  
**Most Rev. Roger L. Schwietz, OMI & Most. Rev. Blase Cupich**

### **2007 TEC Congress:** **Mary: Our Guide to Perfect Discipleship**

**July 13-15**  
**Notre Dame High School**  
**Cape Girardeau, Mo.**  
Contact: [Tom Schumer](mailto:Tom Schumer)  
(573) 334-0948 or  
[tjschumer@hotmail.com](mailto:tjschumer@hotmail.com)

**Register by: June 30**  
**Download a brochure at:**  
[www.TECConference.org/2007Congress.htm](http://www.TECConference.org/2007Congress.htm)

### **2007 TEC Rome Pilgrimage**



**Nov. 11-20**  
Contact: [Catholic Trips](mailto:Catholic Trips)  
(877) GOD-TRIP  
[www.catholictrips.com/itin/ct\\_italy\\_1107.php](http://www.catholictrips.com/itin/ct_italy_1107.php)  
**Spiritual Director:**  
**Rev. Joe Dondanville**