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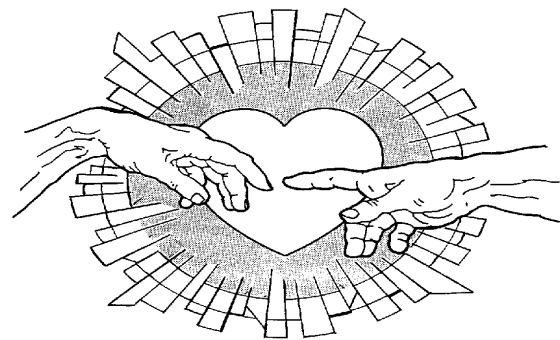
Visit [www.TECConference.org](http://www.TECConference.org) for more details!

## Welcome two new TEC Communities TEC of Central Texas and LOU TEC

TEC of Central Texas support community has been TEC New Orleans. Their first TEC weekend will be March 16-18, 2012. They hosted a CF & F in March of 2011.

LOU TEC support community has been SWITEC.

They will be having a CF & F workshop on January 6-8, 2012. Cost for registration, supplies and meals is \$100.00. Contact person for registrations only: Dr. Carole Goodwin (cgoodwin@archlou.org) 502-448-8581, Ext. 1332 Location will be at the Flaget Center. Contact Donna McHugh at 502-448-8581, Ext. 1313



# Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

## In This Issue:

### Season of Change By...Fr. Dave Timmerman

It is indeed a season of change in our Catholic church. The new translation of the Roman Missal has everyone talking. There is great anticipation and hesitation as we become comfortable with our new words and music. But why are people so surprised anyway. Change has been a part of our human make-up; we are born into a world of change. Every year we all grow and mature in some way. The world of nature changes right before our very eyes with the seasons and in our church calendar we even have the season of Advent to prepare us for the greatest change of all, the coming of God into our human life. The Lord comes to open our eyes to the possibilities that come with the embrace of faith and the rejection of worldly ways. When we believe in the presence of God as our partner on this faith journey we should not fear change but embrace it and revel in it. Even though we see so much bad news in our world we still have the goodness of God right by our side to offer balance to our existence. In this Advent season let us face the changes in the liturgy with an upbeat spirit and an open mind. Then take a good long look in the manger and see the hope that we carry into these changing times, our New-born King: Christ the Son Of God. Happy Holidays

### 2012 TEC Congress

The snow is falling (at least in some places), and that can only mean one thing.....it's time to start thinking about next Summer and TEC Congress! Riverbend TEC in Minnesota will be hosting the Congress August 3-5 in St. Peter, MN and we want you to be there! Our theme is "Tending the Vine" and we have a great weekend planned for all. Look for registration to be available soon into the new year.

We are also very excited to be offering the first ever youth track to be offered at a TEC Congress. If in the past you thought the Congress was only for seasoned leaders in your TEC Community, think again! This youth track will be a TAP (TEC Ambassador Program) retreat. The TAP retreat, which has been endorsed by the TEC Conference, is a retreat program designed to support, train, and encourage participants to share their TEC experience with others and invite them into our community. Adults interested in the TAP program are welcome to participate as well. We can all safely say that the success of our TEC programs ride on relational ministry and word of mouth evangelization. So please encourage your youth and young adults to attend this year's Congress. There will be something for everyone!



Riverbend TEC  
 invites you to  
 "Tending the Vine"

TEC Congress 2012  
 August 3-5, 2012

Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter MN



Season of Change by Fr. Dave Timmerman.....1  
 2012 Tec Congress.....1  
 From Expectation to Empowerment by Ronald Reiter.....2  
 Santa Claus & Gramma by Anonymous ..... 3  
 Bloomington Normal celebrates 30 years..... 4  
 Spirit of St. Louis celebrates 5 years.....5  
 News from Peterstown TEC ..... 6  
 News from Riverbend TEC.....6  
 Upcoming Workshop .....6  
 TEC Reminders.....7  
 Partners In Ministry ..... 7  
 TEC Anniversaries.....7  
 Welcome two new TEC Communities.....8

## TEC Conference Leadership



### TEC Movement Founders:

Fr. Matthew Fedewa, Michigan +  
Dorothy Gereke, Florida

### Episcopal Moderator:

Bishop William Patrick Callahan, OFM Conv,  
Wisconsin +

### Episcopal Moderator Emeritus:

Archbishop Roger L. Schwietz OMI, Alaska +

### Bishops Committee

Archbishop Alexander Brunett (retired)  
(Seattle, Wash.)

Archbishop Emeritus Elden F. Curtiss (Omaha, Neb.)

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory (Atlanta, Ga.)

Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl (Washington, D.C.)

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley (Oklahoma City, Okla.)

Bishop Ronald W. Gainer (Lexington, Ky.)

Bishop Emeritus Victor Balke (Crookston, Minn.)

### Leadership Team \*

#### Region Coordinators:

Billy O'Regan, Louisiana, Region 5 +

Penny Wolf, Illinois, Region 7 +

Jim Rice, Minnesota, Region 8 # \*\*

David Walker, Wichita, Region 9 \*

John Pavik, Oregon, Region 12

Deacon Dick Venezia, Florida, Region 14 \*\*

#### State Representatives:

Chris LaRosa, Louisiana

Judy Fillback, Wisconsin \*

Cathy Robertson, Wisconsin

Lori Mathiowetz, Minnesota

Debbie DeBruyne, Canada #

Dorothy Gereke, Florida

Sarah Funke, Kansas

Steve Maxwell, Missouri

Rudy Schlosser, Georgia ~

The following names are those not already listed.

#### # Communications Ministry Team

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Lisa Cusumano, Missouri

Flo Kizza, Florida

Mary Lovee Varni, Missouri

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Mary O'Brien, Iowa

Gary Przygoda, Missouri \$

Sharrie Cinnamon, Kentucky

#### \$ Finance Ministry Team

Brian Mathiowetz, Minnesota\*

Linda Allen, Iowa

Jerry Navarra, Nebraska

#### + Spirituality Ministry Team

Sr. Joy Connealy, ND, Nebraska

Sr. Jacque Schroeder, OSF, Illinois

Dennis Kurtz, Minnesota

Deacon Bob Sondag, Illinois

Penny Wolf, Illinois

Fr. Dave Timmerman, Wisconsin

#### TEC Conference Staff:

Ronald Reiter, Executive Director \* ~ \$ #

Fr. James Brown, OAR, Spiritual Director +

Leisa Triplett, Admin. & Communications Assist.

## From Expectation to Empowerment

By.....Ronald Reiter

Dear TEC Family,

The Advent season is upon us filled with scripture characters preparing us for the greatest gift to come on Christmas day, Jesus our Savior. This gift is for each of us personally and for our TEC Community to live a life of holiness as His Disciple.

An unorthodox prophet who doesn't come from the religious establishment and attracts crowds in the desert, not the temple, a homeowner, a Roman centurion, a paralytic, a shepherd, a son who rethinks his original "no" to his father, an unwed mother, her puzzled fiancé, her older pregnant relative, and two babies are the cast of characters that we meet each week preparing the way for us during this Advent season. They are ordinary folk just like us. How did they respond? How will we respond to this great invitation?

We are invited to live a life of holiness daily and we are promised his grace to accomplish that sanctity in a rich variety of forms. Jesus' saving power cannot be outdone.

In some of the daily themes of the ADVENT season we are given insights for our personal life of holiness, but also insights for strengthening our local TEC Community.

Let's explore some of those themes:

The call of a friend – Romans 10:9-18 and Luke 10:21-24

A firm foundation – Isaiah 26:1-6 and Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Seeing our blindness – Isaiah 29: 17-24 and Matthew 9:27-31

The untried path – Isaiah 35: 1-10 and Luke 5:17-26

Spirituality 101 – Isaiah 48:17-19 and Matthew 11:16-19

Hidden in plain sight – Sirach 48: 1-4, 9-11 and Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

Living fearlessly – Zechariah 2:14-17 and Luke 1:26-38

The miracle in the mess – Genesis 49:2, 8-10 and Matthew 1:1-17

A most unexpected sign – Isaiah 7:10-14 and Luke 1:26-38

Called by Name – Malachai 3:1-4 and Luke 1:57-66

May your Christmas celebration of new awareness, insights and new life through the child Jesus, empower you to a new level of holiness and discipleship in the New Year of 2012. Let your light shine for all to see!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of the TEC Family around the world.

In Christ,

Ronald Reiter



## Reminders

### Spirit of TEC Awards

Start thinking about your Spirit of TEC recipient's. Please submit the information to the TEC Conference between January 15, 2012 thru March 15, 2012.

### Directory Update & 2012 Weekends

If you haven't already done so, please submit your new contact information AND your 2012 weekend dates to the TEC Conference as soon as possible for the new 2012 directory.

### Webinar

Keep checking the TEC Conference website for updated Webinar information. New webinars coming in January 2012 .

## TEC Center Anniversaries

The following TEC Centers will celebrate anniversaries in 2012.  
**Congratulations and blessings for many years to come!**

**10 years:** Last Frontier

**15 years:** Pathways

**25 years:** Houma-Thibodaux

**35 years:** Heartland, Mid-America,  
Riverbend, Rocky Mountain, Sleeping Giant

**40 years:** River of Life

Are your dates correct? If not, please let us know.  
Are you celebrating your anniversary? If so, the TEC Conference would like to join YOU in celebrating.  
Please let us know.

## Partners In Ministry

These religious communities have joined our **Partners in Ministry** program and offer continual prayer support for the TEC Movement.



### Sisters of Bon Secours

Contact: Sr. Pat Dowling, CBS - 1525 Marriottsville Rd.,  
Marriottsville, Md. 21104 - Phone: (877) 742-0277  
e-mail: [pat\\_dowling@bshsi.org](mailto:pat_dowling@bshsi.org)



### Sisters of St. Benedict

Contact: Sr. Anne DeMers, OSB - St. Benedict Monastery  
620 Summit Ave., Crookston, Minn. 56716  
Phone: (218) 281-3441 e-mail: [ademers@msb.net](mailto:ademers@msb.net)  
Web site: [www.msb.net](http://www.msb.net)



### Redemptoristine Nuns

For more information contact:  
phone: 636-464-1093  
e-mail: [rednun@redemptoristinenuns.org](mailto:rednun@redemptoristinenuns.org)  
Web site: [www.redemptoristinenuns.org](http://www.redemptoristinenuns.org)



### Divine Word Missionaries

### Divine Word Missionaries

Mr. Len Uhal - PO Box 380  
Epworth, Iowa 52045  
Phone: 800-553-3321 e-mail: [svdvocations@dwci.edu](mailto:svdvocations@dwci.edu)  
Web site: [www.svdvocations.org](http://www.svdvocations.org)



### Franciscan Friars of the Atonement

Fr. Dennis Polanco, SA.  
& Br. John O'Hara, SA. - Graymoor, Box 300, Garrison,  
N.Y. 10524 Web site: [www.AtonementFriars.org](http://www.AtonementFriars.org)  
Phone: 1-800-338-2620 ext. 2126  
e-mail: [vocdirector@AtonementFriars.org](mailto:vocdirector@AtonementFriars.org)



### Edmund Rice Christian Brothers

Br. James McDonald, C.F.C.  
10001 S. Pulaski Road, Room 111, Chicago, Ill. 60655  
Phone: 773-429-4496 - e-mail: [bromaccfc@yahoo.com](mailto:bromaccfc@yahoo.com)  
Web site: [www.erbrothers.org](http://www.erbrothers.org)



### Home Mission Sisters of America, Inc. (Glenmary Sisters)

Mrs. Barbara O'Nan  
PO Box 22264 - Owensboro, Ky. 42304  
Phone: 800-301-2689 - e-mail: [Barbara@glenmarysisters.org](mailto:Barbara@glenmarysisters.org)  
Web site: [www.glenmarysisters.org](http://www.glenmarysisters.org)



### Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul

Contact: Sr. Theresa Sullivan, D.C. - 9400 New Harmony  
Road, Evansville, Ind. 47720 - Phone: (812) 963-7556  
e-mail: [daughtersofcharityvocations@gmail.com](mailto:daughtersofcharityvocations@gmail.com)  
Web site: [www.daughters-of-charity.com/](http://www.daughters-of-charity.com/)



### SISTERS OF ST. BENEDICT OF FERDINAND, INDIANA

Contact: Sr. Michelle Sinkhorn, OSB  
802 E. 10th St., Ferdinand, Ind. 47532  
Phone: (812) 367-1411 - e-mail: [vocation@thedome.org](mailto:vocation@thedome.org)  
Web site: [www.thedome.org](http://www.thedome.org)



### MARYKNOLL

### Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers

Contact: Deacon Steven DeMartino  
PO Box 305, Maryknoll, N.Y. 10545-0305  
Phone: (914) 941-7536 (2449) or (888) 627-9566  
Web site: [www.maryknollsociety.org](http://www.maryknollsociety.org)



### Dominican Sisters of Springfield

Contact: Sr. Teresa Marron  
1237 West Monroe, Springfield, IL 62704  
Phone: 708.207.1874 - E-mail: [srteresa@spdom.org](mailto:srteresa@spdom.org)  
Web site: [www.springfieldop.org](http://www.springfieldop.org)



## News from Peterstown TEC



Left to right; Scott Potthoff, Tom Otto, Bishop Mitchell Rosanski, Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore, Jeremy Freehill, Jacob Rose and Msgr. Stephen Rohlfs, Rector of St. Mary's of the Mount Seminary.

On the day of their candidacy to the transitional diaconate, which took place at St. Mary's of the Mount Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD on November 11, 2011.

All are from the Diocese of Peoria. Scott Potthoff and Jacob Rose are from the Peterstown TEC community and Jeremy Freehill is from the Peoria TEC community.

The projected date for ordination to the transitional diaconate is May 20, 2012 and May 25, 2013 for ordination to the priesthood.

## Upcoming Workshop

### C F & F - Communities of Faith & Follow-Through

Louisville, Kentucky  
January 6th-8th, 2012

Cost for registration, supplies & meals is \$100.

Contact person for registrations only is Dr. Carole Goodwin (cgoodwin@archlou.org)  
502-448-8581, Ext. 1313



## News from Riverbend TEC

Riverbend TEC will be having a banquet on Friday, February 10th, 2012 in New Ulm, MN. The "1st Annual Riverbend TEC Stewardship Gala" will be an opportunity for fellowship, fundraising, and to acknowledge members of our community via the Spirit of TEC and the Light of Christ awards we're presenting for 2012. We'll be auctioning off our Coordinator, Fr. Denny Labat. It'll be a wonderful evening of memories and laughter! And as our state rep, Lori Mathiowetz, would say... it's going to be like Prom, but for TEC! If you'd like to attend, tickets are available thru the end of January. Contact jerrylangworthy@hotmail.com.

## Santa Claus and Gramma

By.....Anonymous

I remember my first Christmas adventure with Grandma. I was just a kid. I remember tearing across town on my bike to visit her on the day my big sister dropped the bomb: "There is no Santa Claus," she jeered. "Even dummies know that!"

My Grandma was not the gushy kind, never had been. I fled to her that day because I knew she would be straight with me. I knew Grandma always told the truth, and I knew that the truth always went down a whole lot easier when swallowed with one of her "world-famous" cinnamon buns. I knew they were world-famous, because Grandma said so. It had to be true. Grandma was home, and the buns were still warm. Between bites, I told her everything. She was ready for me. "No Santa Claus?" she snorted.... "Ridiculous! Don't believe it. That rumor has been going around for years, and it makes me mad, plain mad!! Now, put on your coat, and let's go." "Go? Go where, Grandma?" I asked. I hadn't even finished my second world-famous cinnamon bun. "Where" turned out to be Kerby's General Store, the one store in town that had a little bit of just about everything. As we walked through its doors, Grandma handed me ten dollars. That was a bundle in those days. "Take this money," she said, "and buy something for someone who needs it. I'll wait for you in the car." Then she turned and walked out of Kerby's.

I was only eight years old. I'd often gone shopping with my mother, but never had I shopped for anything all by myself. The store seemed big and crowded, full of people scrambling to finish their Christmas shopping. For a few moments I just stood there, confused, clutching that ten-dollar bill, wondering what to buy, and who on earth to buy it for. I thought of everybody I knew: my family, my friends, my neighbors, the kids at school, the people who went to my church. I was just about thought out, when I suddenly thought of Bobby Decker. He was a kid with bad breath and messy hair, and he sat right behind me in Mrs. Pollock's grade-two class. Bobby Decker didn't have a coat. I knew that because he never went out to recess during the winter. His mother always wrote a note, telling the teacher that he had a cough, but we kids knew that Bobby Decker didn't have a cough; he didn't have a good coat. I fingered the ten-dollar bill with growing excitement. I would buy Bobby Decker a coat!

I settled on a red corduroy one that had a hood to it. It looked real warm, and he would like that. "Is this a Christmas present for someone?" the lady behind the counter asked kindly, as I laid my ten dollars down. "Yes, ma'am," I replied shyly. "It's for Bobby." The nice lady smiled at me, as I told her about how Bobby really needed a good winter coat. I didn't get any change, but she put the coat in a bag, smiled again, and wished me a Merry Christmas.

That evening, Grandma helped me wrap the coat (a little tag fell out of the coat, and Grandma tucked it in her Bible) in Christmas paper and ribbons and wrote, "To Bobby, From Santa Claus" on it. Grandma said that Santa always insisted on secrecy. Then she drove me over to Bobby Decker's house, explaining as we went that I was now and forever officially, one of Santa's helpers. Grandma parked down the street from Bobby's house, and she and I crept noiselessly and hid in the bushes by his front walk. Then Grandma gave me a nudge. "All right, Santa Claus," she whispered, "get going." I took a deep breath, dashed for his front door, threw the present down on his step, pounded his door and flew back to the safety of the bushes and Grandma. Together we waited breathlessly in the darkness for the front door to open. Finally it did, and there stood Bobby.

Fifty years haven't dimmed the thrill of those moments spent shivering, beside my Grandma, in Bobby Decker's bushes. That night, I realized that those awful rumors about Santa Claus were just what Grandma said they were -- ridiculous. Santa was alive and well, we were on his team.

I still have the Bible, with the coat tag tucked inside: \$19.95.

**May you always have LOVE to share, HEALTH to spare and FRIENDS that care.....And may you always believe in the magic of Santa Claus!**





## Bloomington-Normal TEC — Celebrates 30 years.

### TEC 1



### A Brief history of Bloomington/Normal Illinois TEC - By Roy Waltrip

Bloomington/Normal's first TEC was Feb. 27-Mar. 1, 1981. The lay director was basically responsible for the whole show. There was minimal participation by clergy, simply due to lack of their time, so we counted directly on the Lord to guide us and keep us out of trouble. Team meetings were held in the kitchen of the old convent next to Holy Trinity. The chapel was in the convent basement, where the floor was partially covered with carpet samples & we sat on rickety folding chairs. Most of the para-liturgies were conducted in the conference room. The environment was less than ideal, but Christ was definitely among us.

The girls and boys had separate weekends. Leaders served after being on only one TEC. Some adult assistants served without having had prior TEC experience, yet we usually had full weekends, sometimes with waiting lists; we knew that Christ was definitely among us. Teams were selected by the Leader. It was not unheard of to call one hundred people to get a team together. There was no wheat team.

There was a period around TEC 13 or 14 when the numbers of candidates fell off. One weekend had to be cancelled due to an insufficient number of candidates. I'm sure we were thinking that maybe we were looking at the end of Bloomington-Normal TEC, but Christ was definitely among us, and He let us know who was in charge. We were flying by the seat of our pants in those days. It was fun, scary, inspiring, frustrating, fulfilling and required many hours of hard work. The payoff came when we watched many of those kids grow up to become mature, responsible, faith-filled followers of Christ who serve Him in ways that I believe please Him greatly.

Our first co-ed TEC was TEC 29 in Nov. 1989 and we had co-ed TECs for approximately eight years. TEC is always about CHANGE and we adapted quickly to a co-ed format, but we also adapted quickly back to single sex weekends.

Sr. Jacque Schroeder became our Diocesan Spiritual Director in the late 1980's and deepened our spirituality tremendously. She helped us establish wheat teams, developed the Wisdom school to provide assistant spiritual directors for the clergy, and helped us focus on the core teaching of the Paschal Mystery. Sr. Jacque Schroeder left to serve on an American Indian reservation in South Dakota in the mid 1990's for about 7 years and our communities' leaders followed the guidelines that she modeled for us. In the early 2000's, Sr. Jacque returned to the Diocese and our community changed to follow the TEC Conference manual which had been revised, updated, and improved.

Further growth was attained by leaders attending Renewing The Vision of TEC workshop in Peoria, a Spiritual Directors' workshop and Community of Faith & Follow Through workshops. Our TEC founders, Fr. Matt Fedewa and Dorothy Gereke, have visited our community several times over the years (Dorothy most recently with Mary O'Brien in 2009) and blessed us with their wisdom, experience, and great love for spreading the Good News to our youth.

When the old convent was razed, our TEC weekends were held in the old Central Catholic High School and the Holy Trinity Parish Center until the new CCHS was built. We are about CHANGE and we are on a journey literally and figuratively. The new CCHS has been nice and St. Patrick of Merna is a great place for our formation meetings. God is good!

Our TEC board is evolving into a Core Group format. Our Wheat team has changed from 1 or 2 adult coordinators into a Wheat Council of 8 adults who share responsibilities, rotate duties, and focus on what is really important to grow spiritually with our 12 teen Wheaties. Our kitchen team is also evolving into a Kitchen Council of adult couples and teen/young adult coordinator-leaders. We have a spiritual core team of approximately 6 lay adults who help the spiritual directors for the presenting, wheat, and kitchen teams. We have 3 permanent deacons who rotate as spiritual directors and serve as overall guides for our TEC community. We are blessed with 45 adult volunteers who compose the current TEC Board and Councils.

A supporter and spiritual guide for our community since 1990 has been Msgr. Jerry Ward who has constantly given of his time, wisdom, and spirituality to celebrate Masses, offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and to minister to all of our teens and adults. "Faith Forward" is our ongoing Community Follow-Through and meets weekly when presenting and wheat team formation is not happening and to give our teens and young adults a place and time to meet to grow in faith and to support each other. They have done several community service projects and had many fun and serious faith-building activities.

We have several young men from our TEC family in the seminary preparing for the priesthood. We have at least one young woman from our TEC community that is following a call to religious life. TEC experiences have helped inspire a number of men to answer the call of the permanent diaconate in our Peoria Diocese. We have several young men and women who are studying theology in college and want to teach the faith in some way in the future.

One of our goals for the immediate future is to pack the Wheat Chapel with prayer warriors throughout our TEC weekends and to tap into the tremendous TEC community support to keep changing and growing in our service to the Lord. Our teens are tremendous and have so many gifts to offer. We want to provide them opportunities to grow in faith in Jesus Christ and to guide them in how they can share the Good News of the Gospel.

(The early history was shared by Jim and Sharon McNamara, who came in at TEC 4 and was early leaders in the formation of Bloomington/Normal TEC.) (The history from TEC 29 on was provided by Deacon John Leonard, who has been involved for the past almost 25 years, with a majority of that time as the B/N TEC Community's Spiritual Director.)



Msgr. Jerry Ward & Dcn. John Leonard

## Spirit of St. Louis TEC— celebrates 5 years.



The Spirit of St. Louis TEC community celebrated their 5th anniversary with Mass, good food and camaraderie.