



## TEC Congress 2011



### New Orleans

July 15-17, 2011

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again, Rejoice!" Phil 5:5

## Congress Details!

### Rise, Renew, Rejoice!

Go to the **2011 TEC Congress page** on the TEC Conference Web site to download the brochure/registration form: [www.TECConference.org](http://www.TECConference.org)

**Date:**

July 15-17, 2011

**Registration & Deposit Deadline:**

July 1, 2011

**Cost:**

\$160 Total for double occupancy room  
\$180 Total for single occupancy room  
*more details included on brochure*

A \$50 non-refundable deposit is due with registration. Program, meals and lodging are included in the registration price.

## Reflections on the Beginnings of TEC as a Conference.....

By Greg Schwietz



Greg Schwietz

I recall being relatively new to TEC, about one year, and being invited to attend a national gathering of TEC centers. The time was Memorial Day Weekend, 1978. Location was a college campus in the Belleville, Illinois

Diocese, just outside of St. Louis. It was there that I met Sr. Mary Neurohr, a sister of the Most Precious Blood of Ruma, Ill., and a leader of Belleville Illinois TEC, and other leaders from TEC centers from around the country.

As luck would have it, I happened to be in on the early discussions about organizing a national TEC Conference, and the need to formalize these summer gatherings for the purpose of learning from each other, both formally through training and informally through friendship. Over that year, many discussions were held. The following Memorial Day weekend, we enjoyed the hospitality of the Grand Rapids Michigan TEC center, with a conference held at Aquinas College. It was there that we formalized the conference in its structure and wrote its bylaws and constitution. We were now the National TEC Conference, with Sr. Mary Neurohr as our first executive director, based out of an office located in the basement of Chancery of the Diocese of Belleville. Our first Episcopal (bishop) advisor was Bishop Maurice Dingman of Des Moines. I was chosen as the first president of the new fledgling organization, and together we sailed off into uncharted seas.

Two difficulties faced us immediately: finances and awareness of TEC around

the country. With the establishment of a new national organization and office, we had to fund the operation very quickly. I think our first year's budget was something around \$12,000. Quite a sum, considering that we were starting from scratch. We had to establish a dues benchmark that charged our new member TEC centers a base, yearly dues amount. We also had to establish a per TEC'er/TEC'ite attendee fee, so that larger clubs who could contribute more, would.

Secondly, we had to begin our promotion of Serra to Dioceses around the country. In those days, ( I feel like I am saying that a lot in this piece...In those days...) there was a relatively small and young national youth ministry program. In many dioceses across the country, TEC became and WAS THE youth ministry program for a while. Of course, many people were initially interested in this new retreat dynamic called TEC. ("Dynamic" because many of us at the time thought it was just a dynamic, not realizing the incredible spiritual and psychological depth that was the part and partial of this weekend. We later found this to be a mis-conception. ) So, Sr. Mary Neurohr would find herself traveling to many places around the country, promoting TEC to youth ministry organization, NFCYM, and attending outside ministry activities like one called the SPERO Training weekends. It was there that we acquired our next group of national TEC leaders.

Speaking at the Grand Rapids, Mich. TEC summer conference were two soon to be TEC executive leaders, Fr. Mike Carroll, diocesan priest from Green Bay TEC and Sr. Sue Torgerson, CSJ, from the Chicago TEC. *Continued on pg. 2*

## TEC Family Happenings! Are you involved yet?

### Reflections Upon the Beginnings of TEC as a National Conference, Con't .....By Greg Schwietz

*Continued from pg. 1*

Fr. Carroll was introducing eager attendees to the writings of Robert Greenleaf concerning Servant Leadership. Sr. Sue had become a regular attendee at TEC conferences and was deeply involved in TEC activities in the Chicago and Joliet Archdiocese. Upon invitation, they enthusiastically agreed to help us steer the TEC Movement.

Rounding up the executive committee was Mr. Francis Schaefer as treasurer. Francis Schaefer, now-deceased, was a friend of Sr. Mary Neurohr. Francis Schaefer was an early supporter of Sr. Mary's involvement with TEC in the local Belleville diocese, and was a long time member of the Serra Club of Belleville. He was also familiar with the Serra international organization's leaders in Chicago, as they were with him. He and Sr. Mary submitted for a grant to assist for that first year's budget and were successful in obtaining, through the graciousness of the Serra Foundation, a \$5,000 unrestricted grant for operating expenses. Serra International as an organization of 17,000 members worldwide, has as its mission to promote vocations to the priesthood and vowed religious life. Serra saw the important link of TEC's unique gift of lighting a fire of faith in young people's lives, and increasing the probability of a young person listening for the call of God's will for them to serve his people in his Church. TEC also provides a strong peer support group to assist young people in their discernment. I know of a number of priests in my own diocese who heard their calling as a result of a TEC weekend and being part of a TEC community.

The next year, Memorial Day weekend in 1980, the newly formed National TEC Conference held its annual convention in Denver at Regis College. In preparation for that convention, we decided to obtain as many TEC manuals from the various TEC centers as we could do an evaluation of the variety of TEC around the country. TEC, in its early incarnation, was a gift from God for his young people as He inspired Fr. Matt Fedewa of the Battle Creek Diocese. It was Fr. Matt's inspiration and training that provided the background to wed group dynamics with the gospel message of the Pascal Mystery, resulting in a transformational retreat weekend. It was Sr. Concetta (Dorothy Gereke) who organized nearly 200 TEC retreats over a four year period in Battle Creek. However, as Fr. Fedewa reflects, he had no idea it would spread as it did, since in his mind he was really designing it with only the students of the local diocese in mind. Early on, many seekers traveled to Battle

Creek from outside the diocesan boundaries, and TEC as a retreat movement became viral, before anyone knew what "going viral" meant.

During this period of organic growth, many TEC centers were started by other clubs in the same manner. For example, Dubuque sent some early enthusiastic youth directors to Battle Creek to see what the fuss was all about. Fired up, TEC was quickly started in Dubuque and word got out. So then, Dubuque started Des Moines. After some years, Des Moines started Omaha. Again, after more years, Omaha started Wichita and others, etc. In the process, without the strong guide of a national hand, TEC evolved much like what happens when a message is passed on from one person to another. After a while the current version doesn't look anything like the original. Well, I must confess, many of us didn't know that that was such a bad thing, but we didn't really know what made TEC a TEC. We had lost contact with the original, founding diocese as TEC had burnt out all its leaders within a four year period. Fr. Matt and Sr. Concetta both felt their work was done, and had moved on in their life.

In what became a very pivotal discussion over that weekend in Denver, Fr. Brown and I revealed the potential that we were faced with -- a complete dissolution of the identifying characteristics of TEC. It was from that first convention that a Manuals Committee was formed. From that moment forward, TEC grew up, attempting to discover what makes TEC unique and what makes TEC better. That moment lead to the re-acquaintance of Dorothy Gereke and of Fr. Matt Fedewa with his unknown child that had grown up, one called the national TEC Conference. But that is a subject of a future article.

Sr. Mary Neurohr served as executive director for approximately five years, after which time the conference headquarters briefly moved to a Chicago suburb and then on to Omaha, where it resided with Sr. Joy Connealy, ND, serving as executive director for 10 years.

Greg Schwietz



## TEC Family Happenings! Are you involved yet?

### Reunion/Hoot Announcement Message

Our TEC center here in (insert your own community name here) is just a small part of where TEC's roots started. The TEC Conference is an international office that reaches out to our local TEC centers in the a few of the following ways:

- Promoting TEC as well as proper training and development of leaders in our TEC centers.
- Assisting in the guidance of opening new TEC centers as well as the unfortunate closure of TEC centers.
- Awareness of various workshops around the country in our local TEC regions.
- The annual TEC Congress gathering that helps us in developing leaders and sustaining the vision and mission of TEC in our TEC centers as well as sharing new ideas.

The next TEC Congress is July 15-17 in New Orleans, La. Please register for the upcoming Congress as this is a vital tool in helping our TEC centers grow strong and solid.

For more information, get in touch with your lay center contact who is in charge of promoting the TEC Conference and the TEC Congress in our local TEC center. Thank you.

**Peter Burkel**

TEC Conference Development  
Ministry Team, Anchor Hope TEC,  
Green Bay, Wis.

### 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 adult candidates (those over age 24) that participated on that weekend. This information helps us keep track of how many people TEC serves each year.  
E-mail stats to: [office@TECconference.org](mailto:office@TECconference.org)

### Spirit of TEC Awards

Don't forget to send your nominations in for the **2011 Spirit of TEC Awards**.

Nomination forms went out via e-mail to all community contacts and spiritual directors.

**Forms and photos are due back to the TEC Conference office by April 15.**

If you have any questions, please contact us!

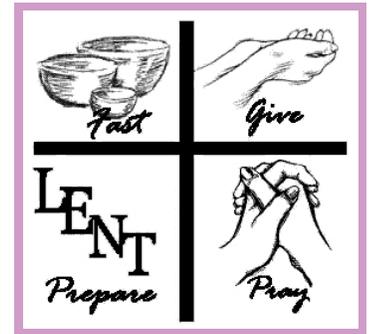
### TEC Manual License Renewals

We still have a number of outstanding 2010 TEC manual license agreements. Please sign these and return them to the TEC Conference office. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Thank you! [office@TECconference.org](mailto:office@TECconference.org)



### Greeting And Blessings To You and Yours!



I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join in our Lenten/Spring appeal.

I encourage you to be "almsgivers" by setting aside \$2 a day during these 40 days of Lent. The Conference is only able to carry on because of your faithful gifts of time, talent and almsgiving over the past 45 years of TEC. Please visit our website ([www.TECconference.org](http://www.TECconference.org)) to look over the letter and brochure for this appeal. It would be wonderful to have many new supporters joining our previous benefactors who received this appeal by mail and assist in reaching our goal of \$3,500 and better yet exceeding our goal.

One of our reflections that we ask in the letter is "What more can I do to assist the local TEC community and the larger TEC community?". Please take a moment and answer that now and more importantly take action!

We are so very grateful for your gifts of time, talent and almsgiving for the TEC Movement!

*"But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you."*

- Matthew 6: 3-4

Peace always,

*Mary O'Brien*

# TEC Family Happenings! Are you involved yet?

## TEC Conference Workshops

To have your community take part in a workshop, please contact Ron Reiter at the TEC Conference office:  
Phone: 636-933-9233 - E-mail: [office@TECConference.org](mailto:office@TECConference.org)



**Communities of Faith & Follow-Through:** Empowers TEC leaders to become reflective and discerning, not just doing leaders; calls them to deeper conversion, thus building or strengthening TEC centers; moves TEC leaders and communities toward more effective ministry with the Church's young people; shares a vision for Post-TEC weekend follow-through; and fosters a collaborative relationship within and between diocese and TEC centers which are necessary to further the TEC Movement.



**Renewing the Vision of TEC:** Shares a renewed vision of TEC's spiritual processes outlined in the manual; invites deeper conversion, thus building/strengthening TEC communities; rekindles a deeper sense of commitment to Christ as a community of disciples; and fosters collaborative relationships within and between diocese and TEC centers which are necessary to further the TEC Movement.



**Spiritual Directors:** Promotes a deeper understanding of theological process of the TEC Movement through Scripture, Eucharist, doctrine and witness; explores the various roles of the TEC spiritual director, including: discernment and formation of TEC teams; mentor and spiritual leader for both adults and young people; and liaison to the bishop, clergy and religious within the diocese; and network and share ideas with other TEC spiritual directors.



**Team Formation:** Reinforces the central spirituality of the weekend, Paschal Mystery Spirituality; strengthens team preparation; increases awareness of the importance of the TEC community in giving weekends; assists in unifying and preparing a team in giving a TEC weekend; and improves in discerning the gifts of members of the TEC community for the good of all.

## 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.



**Sisters of Bon Secours**  
Contact: Sr. Pat Dowling, CBS - 1525 Marriottsville Rd.,  
Marriottsville, Md. 21104 - Phone: (877) 742-0277  
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Web site: [www.bonsecoursvocations.org](http://www.bonsecoursvocations.org)



**Sisters of St. Benedict**  
Contact: Sr. Anne DeMers, OSB - St. Benedict Monastery  
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**Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, Br. John O'Hara, SA**  
Graymoor, Box 300, Garrison, N.Y. 10524  
Web site: [www.atonementfriars.org](http://www.atonementfriars.org)  
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**Home Mission Sisters of America, Inc. (Glenmary Sisters)**  
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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  
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Web site: [www.daughters-of-charity.com/](http://www.daughters-of-charity.com/)



**Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana**  
Contact: Sr. Michelle Sinkhorn or Sr. Agnes Marie Dauby  
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 Fathers and Brothers**  
Contact: Deacon Steven DeMartino  
PO Box 305, Maryknoll, NY 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  
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