



## Savior Pastoral Center



## TEC IS VERY MUCH ALIVE!

By Fr. James Brown, OAR.....

**T**EC, like the life of grace of Christ on which it is built, is very much alive. It is a movement that, like a clear mountain stream flowing through the lives of many youth and young adult Catholics, and their adult mentors, touches and transforms their minds and hearts. Its effect is gauged by the degree to which it initiates discipleship. Its product is **Christhood, a living friendship with Christ as our brother.** It ever enriches and invigorates our vocation—to walk in companionship with Jesus. TEC is truly a living movement.

A very good opportunity to check the state of its health was offered by the recent TEC Congress. The persons who were privileged to attend the Congress were very much a cross section of TEC leadership and of persons giving their lives to promoting TEC.

Our evaluation is based on what we heard and observed there and on the written evaluations of those who attended as well. The very theme of the Congress placed emphasis on the right focal points. The response of those attending reflects well the overall message. One said: "I felt the weekend was very uplifting, insightful, and spirit lead! I feel rejuvenated to return to my TEC community and not only plant more seeds

but do a better job in tending the seeds already planted." Another said: "It reinforced that our lifelong faith journey is not something we do when we have extra time available," "TEC teaches us to be engaged in Paschal Mystery living every day of our lives." These same responses are echoed among many others who were there.

The focus of the TEC Movement is therefore right on target—our **relationship with the Lord.** I found the leaders whom I met consciously and intentionally engaged in living within a loving and committed relationship with Christ—and in their love relationship with Him—their love for one another. The living out of this love is being done in their practical down-to-earth daily lives. TEC is not designed as a one-stand uplifting thrill. It aims at establishing a Christ-centered relationship that will become a permanent pattern in our lives. The degree to which that becomes true is the hallmark of success in the movement. Brian and Brett Mathiowetz's witness is a good example of this truth. The role of the adult mentors is to foster, facilitate and strengthen **Christhood** in themselves and in the youth and young adults with whom they share life.

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## TEC Celebrates 44 Years!

By Dorothy Gereke .....

*"Give thanks to the Lord, proclaim his greatness, and tell the nations what he has done. Sing praise to the Lord; tell the wonderful things he has done. Be glad that we belong to him; let the hearts that seek him rejoice."*

*Ps. 105:1-3*

This is the 44<sup>th</sup> year of TEC and the tiny seeds, planted in Battle Creek, Mich. in 1965, have flourished and produced amazingly bountiful fruits in many parts of the world. God's plan, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, has called youth and young adults through TEC as laborers into the field to feed the hungry. Only God could foresee the outcome to date and what lies in TEC's the future! This year, I have had the honor and privilege of serving on our Parish Koinonia, TEC for teen boys in Bloomington, Ill. and young adult TEC in Miami, Fla.

It is to God's glory that we add to this all the 30<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and other anniversaries celebrated in 2009 by various TEC communities. We are grateful for the start of TEC in Nicaragua, for the work of translating the Manual into Spanish, as well as, all the faithful laborers in the many TEC centers that are part of the TEC Movement.

At my age of 85, it does not seem possible that TEC has been in existence for over half of my lifetime and that God gives me the grace to be part of the harvest and seeds for the future.

The Lord has blessed Fr Matt Fedewa and myself to be a part of the 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of TEC, and God willing, to be a part of the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to be celebrated at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual TEC Congress in Kansas City, July

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## 2010 TEC Congress "Sowing the Fields"

Kansas City, Kan.,  
July 23-25, 2010

Please **mark your calendars** and make plans to join your **TEC Family** members at the **2010 TEC Congress.** This gathering will take place at the **Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City, Kan.** Plans are already taking shape and more information will be available in the next few months on the TEC Conference Web site: [www.TECConference.org](http://www.TECConference.org)



## Catholic Trips To Sponsor Cruise

Catholic Trips is sponsoring a seven-day Caribbean cruise Jan. 10-16, 2010 on the Carnival Freedom. The TEC Conference will receive \$25 for each registration. For more information, please contact Bridget Dempsey at [Catholic Trips](http://CatholicTrips.com): 877-463-8747

All prices are per person  
based on double occupancy:

**Inside Cabin: \$595**  
**Oceanview: \$795**  
**Balcony: \$895**

## TEC Family Happenings! Are you involved yet?

### TEC is Very Much Alive!

Fr. James Brown, OAR (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1) .....

In their self-evaluation, the participants expressed two concerns for their local communities back home: (1) keeping the adult faith community current and vital and (2) the follow-up portion of the movement.

One participant said: "It is always good to have reinforcement letting us know that we are not alone in our walks and share similar struggles and triumphs." One of the greatest challenges is to keep the adult faith community current and vital. Routine and attrition are the problems. When some adults have presided over the TEC process many times they come to know the schedule well but lose their personal zest for the task. Instead of experiencing each encounter as a fresh and unique experience they view it as routine and thus fail to breathe enthusiastic life into it. When this happens it is time to schedule one of the workshops offered by the TEC Conference to recharge their spiritual batteries. The best way to recruit new adults is through the enthusiasm of the current leaders. As one participant said: "Follow-up for leaders! This ongoing education at the local level is so very important."

The second reason it is important to schedule a workshop by the TEC Conference is that new adults are constantly coming into the community. While the original group may have been adequately trained on the essentials of the TEC process, the newcomers are often integrated into their role with only casual insights shared. As a result what they perceive as a solid guideline is

in reality a watered down version. Although they have good will they see only the surface of the spiritual process. The local community would be wise to sponsor a TEC Conference workshop for them. TEC is too precious to be allowed to go unfocused.

"The concept of abundance is a challenge to be more aware of God's grace in my life and in our community. Our community can improve how we tend the seeds planted in the candidates' spiritual life." Follow-up was the concern of the greatest number of participants. We would suggest two things. First, have your local TEC leaders copy the section of the TEC Manual on Follow-up (Pages IX-23-48) and dialogue through the design for the follow-up presented there. (Many leaders talk about it but never actually read the material.) Then, brainstorm around these principals as to how your community can bring them to life among the youth "in whom you have planted seeds of Christhood." Second, establish an ongoing team of adults and youth to plan monthly gatherings. The setting should resemble that of the TEC weekend. The above section on Follow-up suggests a large variety of subjects that could be presented and discussed. Think about all the topics that entered into the chats that Jesus had with his disciples when they were alone together. Try to gather your youth around Jesus and talk about what matters in their lives. PEACE!

### Spiritual Directors Workshop - June 21-24, 2010



LaSalle Retreat center in Wildwood, Mo., is the site for the next Spiritual Directors workshop, June 21-24, 2010. Mark your calendars now!

To download a brochure, please go to the TEC Conference Web site at: [www.TECConference.org](http://www.TECConference.org)

**Who Should Attend?** Bishops, priests, religious, deacons and laity serving as TEC spiritual directors and Lay leaders who want to learn more about the spiritual processes of the TEC Movement.

**Workshop Goals:** To promote a deeper understanding of the theological processes of the TEC Movement through scripture, liturgy, doctrine and witness; to network and share ideas with other spiritual directors; to explore the various roles of the TEC Spiritual Director, including:

- Discernment and formation of the TEC teams;
- Presider of liturgy and/or prayer services;
- Mentor and spiritual leader for both adults and young people;
- Liaison to the Bishop and other clergy within the diocese

### Spiritual Directors Workshop Schedule

#### Monday, June 21

- 4:00 Welcome & Intro
- Dinner
- Qualities of a Spiritual Dir.

#### Tuesday, June 22

- Breakfast
- Paschal Mystery Spirituality
- Lunch
- Presenting Paschal Mystery Spirituality to Youth
- TEC Spiritual Processes - Day 1
- Liturgy
- Dinner
- Wrap up of unfinished presentations/ free time

#### Wednesday, June 23

- Breakfast
- God, A Community of Love
- Covenant Rite
- Lunch
- TEC Spiritual Processes - Days 2 & 3
- Liturgy
- Dinner
- Spiritual Dir. - Job Description
- TEC as an Evangelizing Community

#### Thursday, June 24

- Liturgy
- Breakfast
- Community of Disciples
- TEC & Youth Ministry
- TEC Follow-up
- Q & A Period
- Lunch & Departure

*"The Spiritual Director...must be a friend, mentor, and spiritual guide to the TEC community, both with the adults and the youth...and one who lives very close to God." ~TEC Conference Manual (Section VI, page 3)*



## Pray With The TEC Family

The newest community to join **Eucharistic Adoration** is **Anchor of Hope TEC**, Green Bay, Wis. Will your community be next?

For more information, check out:

[www.TECConference.org/Adoration.html](http://www.TECConference.org/Adoration.html)

## TEC Weekend Statistics

Please send us your **TEC weekend statistics!** We are looking for the number of **candidates: youth and young adult** (those between the ages of 17-24) and **adult** (those over age 24) that participated on the weekend. This information helps us give accurate information to bishops and diocesan directors upon their request. **Thank you!**

## 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.

Have you misplaced your copy? **No problem.**

E-mail us at:

[office@TECconference.org](mailto:office@TECconference.org) and we will send it to you.

## TEC Celebrates 44 Years!

By Dorothy Gereke (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

23-25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 as we continue "Sowing the Fields" for the Glory of God. We invite and challenge everyone to share thoughts and ideas of how we can live out our 4<sup>th</sup> day commitment with our families, peers, parish ministries, TEC teams, etc. We are called to

spread the Good News by inviting others to share the TEC experience. Christ is counting on us to: "GO SOW SEEDS IN ALL THE FIELDS OF THE EARTH AND TELL THE WONDERFUL THINGS THAT HE HAS DONE!"

## ST. THERESE FEAST DAY - OCTOBER 1

Society of the Little Flower

Therese Martin was born to Louis Martin and Zelie Guerin on January 2, 1873. At the age of 15, she entered the Carmelite convent at Lisieux, France. With the religious name of Sr. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, she lived a hidden life of prayer. She was gifted with great intimacy with God. Through sickness and darkness, she remained faithful, rooted in God's powerful love. She died on September 30, 1897, at the age of 24.

The world came to know her through her autobiography, "The Story of A Soul." She described her life as "a little way of spiritual childhood." She lived each day with unshakable confidence in God's love. What matters in life is "not great deeds, but great love."

The inspiration of her life and her powerful presence from heaven touched so many people so quickly that she was solemnly canonized on May 17, 1925 by Pope Pius XI. Had she lived, she would have only been 52 years old at the time of her canonization. In 1997, St. Therese was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope John Paul II.

"My mission - to make God loved - will begin after my death," she said. "I will spend my heaven doing good on earth. I will let fall a shower of roses." Countless lives have been touched by her intercession, and millions have imitated her "little way." She has been acclaimed the "greatest saint of modern times." Everywhere in the world, her roses continue to fall.

## DEVELOPMENT

By Mary O'Brien

Happy Autumn everyone! We are in the midst of our Annual Harvest appeal "Sowing the Fields." I hope that as you receive your appeal letter/brochure that you will take our gift request to prayer. We certainly need the support of each of you to reach our goal of \$25,000. So far we have received \$882.00 - thank you!

We are most grateful for your past and future support. If we are able to assist you in any way, please get in touch with the office or me.

You may also support our workshops' wish list: a CD player, a large Bible and a portable Bible stand just to name a few this month. More to come in future issues.

May God bless your own "sowing the fields" of family and friends!

Take good care,

Mary O'Brien (MOB)

## HIDDEN GAME 9/28/09 -we have a winner for Sept.! Thanks to all who played! Congratulations, Sr. Linda Jansen of Spirit of St. Louis TEC

Can you find the word "heavenly" in this issue of the *Stay Connected*. If so and you are the seventh person to reply to Mary O'Brien at: [obrien2176@aol.com](mailto:obrien2176@aol.com) with the correct answer, you will win a prize

and get your name published in the next edition of the *Stay Connected*. Our July winner was **Pat Counselman of North Coast Spirit TEC**. Congratulations, Pat! Thanks to all who played, but didn't win...**this time!**