



Stay Connected

March 2008

An online newsletter for the worldwide TEC Family

Our Lenten Journey: From Death to Resurrection

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It's past midnight and I find myself still reflecting, pondering, considering, contemplating and wondering about what to write in this article that should have been completed last week. So I decided to just admit that I'm stuck. And suddenly, by the grace of God, the realization dawns (once again) regarding the futility of putting thoughts on paper before I acknowledge with the Lord where I am interiorly. You see, I've been avoiding it. So here's the thing...

Lent has not gone as I'd hoped it would. And so I must die to myself in ways not of my own choosing. My efforts to do penance, to be more conformed to the heart and mind of the Lord, have failed miserably. When Lent began I had high hopes of maintaining the prayer, fasting and almsgiving that mark our process of *metanoia*. But life – and much personal weakness – continually got in the way. It's like the prayer I read earlier today:

Lord, I sometimes wander away from you, not because I am deliberately turning my back on you, but because of the fickleness of my mind. I weaken in my intention to give my whole self to you. I fall back into thinking of myself as my own master. When I wander from you, my life becomes a burden, and within me I find nothing but darkness, fear and anxiety. So I come back to you and confess that I have sinned. Forgive me, Lord. Amen.

"Lent has not gone as I'd hoped it would. And, so I must die to myself in ways not of my own choosing. When Lent began I had high hopes of maintaining the prayer, fasting and almsgiving that mark our process of metanoia. But, living our life in Christ is not so much about what we do, but about what Christ does: in us, through us, with us."

You see, I keep missing the point or forgetting it time and again. It's always far more simple than my convoluted brain tries to make it. For those of us who are privileged to carry the Paschal Mystery in our hearts, minds, souls and bodies, **living our life in Christ is not so much about what we do, but about what Christ does:** in us, through us, with us. Trying to be our own master will always end up burdensome, filled with darkness, fear and anxiety as well as loneliness.

So how has your Lent gone? Has it been about what Christ is doing in, through and with you? Is it all about His mercy and grace? Has the light of Christ so burned within you that you have begun to glow in the darkness of the world with His burning love? Jesus, as we well know, is the only One Who saves. He is also the One who transforms us interiorly as we open our hearts - and indeed our entire being - to Him. Contrary to the pattern of thinking that we often fall into, **it is not our prayer, fasting and alms that bring us to metanoia. It is Jesus' transforming grace that leads us into deeper, deliriously joyful, prayerfulness, hunger for holiness and generosity.**

Lent is over this week, the Paschal Mystery celebration begins and we are reminded that if we have died with Christ, we will also rise with Him. And, perhaps as you read this, it is already Easter. No matter because *everyday is a good day to die to self. Ahhh...metanoia!*



Blessings and peace to you each day in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Master!

Sr. Jacques
TEC Conference Spiritual Director

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TEC Family Reminders

PRAY WITH THE TEC FAMILY:

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



JOIN TEC FAMILY IN LOURDES, FRANCE FOR 2009 PILGRIMAGE:

Right off the plane from Rome in November 2007, join the TEC Family for our next faith journey to Lourdes, France where the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Bernadette in the mid-1800's. We'll once again be traveling with Jim West from Catholic Trips. Check out the TEC Conference Web site: www.TECConference.org in the coming months for more details.

TEC COMMUNITIES NEEDED FOR NEW COMMUNICATOR FEATURE

2008 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 **2008 Spirit of TEC Award**. Each recipient will be recognized on a special display at the 2008 Congress, receive an award certificate from the TEC Conference and have their names published in the Summer 2008 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. Nomination forms went out electronically to community contacts in early March.

DEADLINE IS MAY 15!

New TEC DVDs

2007 Spiritual Directors Workshop Series

- Role of the TEC Spiritual Director (\$70, two-disc set);
- Paschal Mystery Spirituality (\$35, one disc);
- Spiritual Processes of TEC (\$70, two-discs); and
- TEC & Youth/Young Adult Ministry (\$70, two-discs).
Series price: \$200 (or \$100 if your center was represented)

2007 Congress Series:

"Mary: Our Guide to Perfect Discipleship"

- Retreat Experience (on Mary's example of prayer & discipleship);
- Forming an Adult Faith Community and TEC Community of Disciples; and
- TEC: Building Partnerships in the Larger Church.
Series price is \$65, or \$25 for individual segments

Both series should be ready in late spring.

To pre-order, contact the TEC Conference at (636) 933-9233, office@TECConference.org or visit online at: www.TECConference.org/GiftShop.htm

In each *TEC Communicator* issue, we would like to spotlight a different community. New Orleans TEC has already signed up! Will you be next?

Has attending a Conference workshop or Congress renewed your center? Is there a strong follow-through program happening locally? Please share this information for the good of the greater TEC Family by contacting us at 636-933-9233 or office@TECConference.org.



TEC Family Happenings...

2008 TEC Congress



A Prayer of Wheat

Aug. 1-3, 2008
Spiritual Life Center
Wichita, Kan.

Contact:
Congress Co-Chair
David Walker at:
(316) 269-3928
or walker@cdowk.org

www.TECConference.org/2008Congress.htm

Communities of Faith & Follow-Through



May 2-4, 2008
Spaulding Renewal
Center
Diocese of Peoria, Ill.

Contact:
Penny Wolf
(217) 489-2311
onecentwolf@yahoo.com

Aug. 15-17, 2008,
Location TBD
Diocese of Owensboro, Ky.

Contact:
TEC Conference
(636) 933-9233 or
office@TECConference.org

www.TECConference.org/Cff.htm