



2007 TEC Congress

6/11/2007 - 19:42 PST

“MARY: GUIDE TO PERFECT DISCIPLESHIP,” THEME OF 2ND ANNUAL TEC CONGRESS, JULY 13-15, 2007

Congress unites members of international TEC ministry; features special delegate session and presentations by diocesan and TEC leaders

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO, JUNE 11, 2007 - The TEC Conference, in partnership with River of Life TEC, is holding its 2007 Congress at Notre Dame High School in Cape Girardeau, Mo., July 13-15. Focusing on “Mary Guide to Perfect Discipleship,” the three-day event will examine what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in the TEC ministry.

Each year, the Congress provides a time of prayer and partnership for members of TEC’s 67 faith communities, active in 60 dioceses throughout North America and Europe. Participants will join together for Mass, round-table discussions, presentations and a collaborative delegate session.

“This Congress will help our TEC family seek God’s will for the Movement with ‘one heart and one mind,’ mirroring the early community of Christ’s disciples,” said TEC Conference Director Ron Reiter. “It will give us an opportunity to network, share ideas, pray for each other and create a strong bond among our family of faith.”

Seven witness speakers will address topics designed to help TEC leaders more effectively minister and mentor to Catholic young people. The presentations are:

- Prayer: The Foundation of Discipleship — Sr. Jacque Schroeder OSF, Peoria, Ill., TEC Conference spiritual director
- TEC: Building a Community of Disciples — Kevin Fuller, Grand Island, Neb., diocesan director of youth ministry; and Rev. Mr. Bob Sondag, Peoria TEC spiritual director
- Mary & John: Inviting Young People into Discipleship — Kathy Casey, Caledonia, Mich., TEC region 8 coordinator; and Melissa Karrar, Lake Odessa, Mich., TEC Michigan state representative
- Building Relationships Within the Larger Church — Brad Colvis, Peoria, Ill., diocesan associate director of the office of evangelization
- Mary’s Life of Discipleship: From Her Yes to Pentecost — Janet Drey, Des Moines, Iowa, TEC Conference spirituality committee

Tom Schumer, a long-time member of Cape Girardeau’s River of Life TEC, volunteered to chair the 2007 Congress Committee after members from his center attended last year’s gathering in Owensboro, Ky. “God has blessed me

by his many invitations to be involved with TEC over the last 15 years. Being the Congress chairperson has also been a gift. I strongly believe that this ministry is the work of the Holy Spirit. At the Congress, like-minded adults will gather to pray, network and discern God's will for TEC," explained Schumer, a husband and father of four.

Two such adults are Billy and Sara O'Regan of New Orleans TEC, who also attended the 2006 Congress. "What we found there was a family, overflowing encouragement and a wealth of exciting ideas. Coming on the heels of Hurricane Katrina, the experience of being embraced (figuratively and actually) by so many new friends was comforting at a time when comfort was lacking. We are looking forward to reconnecting with this same family in Cape Girardeau and pray that an even greater number than last year will gather in the same spirit," O'Regan said.

According to Schumer, the theme for the 2007 Congress was inspired by the Holy Spirit and much prayer. "When our local River of Life community was asked to submit a proposal for hosting the Congress, I was inspired to suggest a theme around Mary's discipleship. The resulting program is proof yet again that the Spirit is our Advocate. I strongly encourage anyone who is undecided about attending to follow the example of our Blessed Mother: say, 'yes,' and come enjoy the fruits of the Spirit!" he added.

In addition, the Congress theme reflects the role of Mary in the wider TEC Movement. As the TEC Conference Manual states, "The presence of Mary in our faith life parallels her presence in the life of Jesus, her Son... Her presence is felt, as in Christ's life, in each of TEC's decisive moments through her discreet, fruitful and always maternal silence. She is our quiet and reassuring companion in our journey to the heart of Christ," (2004 2nd Edition, Section X, pg. 24-26.)

Other highlights of the 2007 TEC Congress include:

- Welcome by the Cape Girardeau diocese office of youth ministry
- Mass and Eucharistic adoration
- Special delegate session with TEC Conference leadership
- Awards ceremony, formal dinner and auction

The program fee is \$65 per participant, with extra cost for lodging. To register, contact Schumer at (573) 334-0948 or tjschumer@hotmail.com by June 25. Additional information, lodging details and directions are also available online at: www.TECConference.org/2007Congress.htm.

TEC—an acronym for Teens, Troops, Twenties, To and Together Encounter Christ—is a Catholic movement of spirituality for older adolescents and young adults founded in Battle Creek, Mich. in 1965. Focusing on the Paschal Mystery, TEC helps 8,000 young people each year deepen their relationship with Christ and discern their vocation within the larger Church. TEC is affiliated with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry; National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association; and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops through its Episcopal Moderator Most Rev. Roger L. Schwietz, OMI, Anchorage, Alaska.

###

Contact: TEC Conference

<http://www.teconference.org/2007Congress.htm> MO, US

Mary Lovee Varni - Administrative Assistant, 636 - 9339233

Keywords: TEC