

A Prayer of Wheat: Preview of the 2008 Congress *Wichita TEC Community to Host Third Annual TEC Congress, Aug. 1-3, 2008*



The Diocese of Wichita TEC Center invites you to mark your calendars now for the 2008 TEC Congress, scheduled Aug. 1-3 at the beautiful Spiritual Life Center in Wichita. **The theme of the Congress will be "A Prayer of Wheat."** In 2007, we focused on "Mary: Our Guide to Perfect Discipleship," and were told that following Mary's yes to discipleship means allowing God to work through us. **In 2008, we will examine Jesus' words in Matthew 16:24: "Whoever wishes to come after me, must deny himself."** That denial of self is the first step to encountering Christ through discipleship. Continuing to deny self (wheat) is how we enable others to encounter Christ.

The Spiritual Life Center (www.slwichita.org), which will serve as the site for the TEC Congress sessions, meals and lodging, is a retreat center owned and operated by our diocese. The mission of the center is to welcome their guests in a true spirit of hospitality. The staff and volunteers seek to see the face of Christ in everyone and welcome them as they would Jesus Himself. **The center will offer a setting very conducive to prayer, especially in the "Chapel of Mary, The First Disciple."**

Plans are well underway and the excitement is building here in Wichita TEC. Subcommittees are being formed under the umbrella of the 2008 TEC Congress Hosting Ministry. **Taking a clue from a statement made in Cape**

Girardeau, we are approaching the 2008 Congress hosting as a ministry, not a committee. This approach will allow us to follow the TEC model of "It's a movement, not an event" as we host the Congress.

We have a year to plan and that means we have a year to minister to and invigorate our local TEC community. We have a year to build a momentum that we want to carry on long after the 2008 Congress is behind us. For example, Wichita TEC is reconnecting with past community members who may have been out of the loop for awhile and inviting them to offer up wheat and to help on a subcommittee. We are already in the process of rebuilding our adult faith community and this is one more building block towards that goal. **Our main purpose is not to host the 2008 Congress and hope that in the process our family of faith is strengthened. Our goal is to strengthen our community and in the process host the Congress.**

We invite you to start making plans now to attend the 2008 TEC Congress in Wichita, Kan. The city of itself has over 300,000 people and is located on I-35, 50 miles north of the Oklahoma border and 30 miles from Wellington, the Wheat Capital of the World. The city is three hours from Kansas City; 5½ from Omaha; and seven from Saint Louis. Mid Continent Airport (www.flywichita.com) sits on the west side of town and is served by nine major airlines. If you are a baseball fan, you may want to plan on staying a few extra days as Wichita is home of the National Baseball Congress Tournament (www.nbcbaseball.com) held the first two weeks of August.

Beyond the travel plans, please start offering wheat and Masses for your TEC community and the success of the 2008 Congress. See you next August!

~ By David Walker
Diocesan Program Coordinator, Wichita, Kan.

Start Sowing Your Wheat

Goal: 1,000 Masses for the TEC Congress

"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit" (John 12:24).

As we spend the next 12 months reflecting on the theme "A Prayer of Wheat," we ask that you begin doing wheat for the TEC Conference, your local TEC community and the 2008 Congress. **We are inviting individuals and TEC communities to have Masses said every month** for the TEC Movement and on Aug. 1-3, 2008 for the TEC Congress, its participants and their TEC communities. The more we sow, the more bountiful the harvest. Let's overflow the elevators with wheat. .

Consider the possibilities: If people from 10 parishes in each of the 67 TEC centers have Masses said that would be 670 Masses a month. Perhaps a few months down the road, 50% of those people will have convincingly shared the idea with others. **We very easily could have 1,000 Masses being said next Aug. 1-3 while the Congress is being held. What a bountiful harvest that would be!**