



Stay Connected

June 2007

An online newsletter for the worldwide TEC Family

Netherlands Volunteer Ilse Bergkamp Meets the TEC Family

By Ilse Bergkamp and TEC Conference Director Ronald Reiter

God's vision for TEC is greater than we could imagine. May the power of the Holy Spirit continue to bless the TEC Movement and clearly light our way on the journey. Last month, we talked about how the Lord was inviting all the entire TEC Family (now active in five countries) to a new awareness about the TEC ministry. Well, this month, the Lord continues to expand His vision for TEC and the partnerships that can be created. **I would like to introduce you to Ilse Bergkamp who has been working in the TEC office since June 5:**

"This weekend I went on a TEC workshop which gave me a clearer perspective on the Paschal Mystery: to die, rise and go with Jesus! I think TEC would be perfect for the young people in the Netherlands who are struggling."

"My name is Ilse and I'm visiting the beautiful city of St Louis for a three-month period. I am from the Netherlands, and every week or two I've been moving to a different host family and helping out at their workplaces and ministries. Luckily, I got to meet part of the TEC Family these past few weeks. Working at the TEC office with Ron and Mary has been a great experience. From the moment I

walked in the door, I felt welcome and part of the family. We start the day by praying together; something every Catholic workplace should do to keep in mind Whom you are doing it all for! I have to be honest, I'm not an office kind of girl, but with some religious music in the background, I'm unstoppable! I'm quickly becoming a paper-folding expert!

The reason I decided to come here was due to my country and my life there. Where I come from there is hardly anyone with a living faith beyond going to Church once in awhile like at Christmas. I wasn't very different from this myself these past few years. Although I was raised Catholic, faith wasn't my main priority anymore and I could definitely tell. I wasn't feeling good about myself, was insecure and even experienced depression. That's what made me decide to come to a place with more Catholic people to have the possibility to heal and restore my relationship with God. Through my brother-in-law, I ended up in St. Louis, which seemed to be the perfect environment for me. **From the moment I set foot in America, I felt better and my faith began to grow again. After a long and hard confession, I was clean and ready to get my faith in order. Through Mass, Eucharistic adoration, daily prayer and spending time with religious people, my faith grew and I was blessed in many different ways.** At this point, I can finally tell myself and others that I'm happy again.

This weekend, I got to go on a TEC workshop, which gave me a clearer perspective on all the things TEC does. **Central of course is the Paschal Mystery: to die, rise and go with Jesus. What a beautiful way of spending a weekend!**

First, you let go of things and areas which stand between you and God (die), then, you find out what your gifts and talents are and how beautiful God has made you (rise); and finally, you use these gifts in a society which can definitely use them! I think something like this would be perfect for the Netherlands, considering the lack of faith and all the young people who are struggling with themselves.

Besides the Paschal Mystery I got to meet some of the fantastic, hardworking people who give some of their spare (and full!) time to help youth get in touch with God. I had a great time getting to know them and sharing faith and ideas. It was a group from different TEC centers which made it very interesting for everyone attending. I am definitely inspired by this all and hope to go on a TEC weekend myself someday. I've had such a great time meeting the TEC Family. **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!**"

Thank you, Ilse, for your presence, your prayers for us, and your pitching in to help with the work each day in the TEC Conference office. May the Lord bless you for helping us broaden our vision for the future.

Finding A True Family of Faith in the TEC Movement



Pictured here are TEC Conference Volunteer Ilse Bergkamp (front row, third from left), participants and team of the tenth Communities of Faith & Follow-Through workshop, June 8-10, St. Francis Borgia Regional High School, Washington, Mo.

Gathering the TEC Family



The participants and team of the ninth CF&F workshop are pictured here. Thanks to Fr. Ken Opat, OSC and Central Minnesota TEC for hosting this event, June 1-3 in Little Falls, Minn.

TEC Family Reminders...

2007 TEC CONGRESS DELEGATES

Remember to contact the Conference by June 22 with the names of your community's two Congress delegates at office@TECConference.org or (636) 933-9233. While there can only be two delegates, we invite as many members of your TEC to attend as possible to pray and partner with the larger TEC Family.

SPIRIT OF TEC AWARD UPDATE

For 2007, 39 individuals representing 21 TEC communities were honored with Spirit of TEC Awards. Congratulations to all of our recipients. Since the awards are being presented at different times throughout the year, the press release will be sent out at different times for each center. If you haven't already done so, please contact the office with the timeframe in which your Spirit of TEC winners will be recognized. Also look for the special display featuring them at the 2007 Congress!

WORKSHOP PROJECTOR NEEDED

We invite you to prayerfully discern donating this much needed item to the TEC Conference to assist us in our faith formation workshops and annual Congress:

- LCD Projector (new or gently used)

Please contact the office for more details.

JOIN TEC FAMILY ADORATION:

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

Insights from TEC's Patron Saint



"There is no artist who does not like his work praised, and the Divine Artist of souls is pleased when we do not stop at the exterior, but penetrating even to the inmost sanctuary which He has chosen for His dwelling, we admire its beauty."

St. Therese of Lisieux, pray for your TEC Family!

TEC Family Gatherings...

Communities of Faith & Follow-Through



Aug. 10-11
Lumen Christi High School
Anchorage, Alaska
Contact: Theresa Lutes
(907) 646-3025
theresalutes@alaska.com

Oct. 5-7
Camp Eppley, Bellevue, Neb.
Contact: Greg Schwietz
(402) 493-8576 or imgregs@aol.com

Spiritual Directors Workshop



June 25-28
LaSalle Retreat Center,
Wildwood, Mo.

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

Team includes:

Episcopal Moderator Archbishop Roger Schwietz, OMI
TEC Founder Fr. Matthew Fedewa
TEC Manual Editor Fr. James Brown, OAR

2007 TEC Congress: Mary: Our Guide to Perfect Discipleship

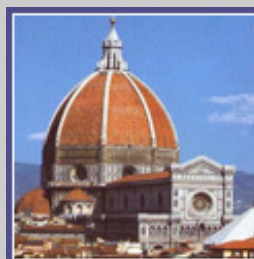


July 13-15
Notre Dame High School
Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Contact: Tom Schumer
(573) 334-0948 or
tjschumer@hotmail.com

Register by: Friday, June 30
Download a brochure at:
www.TECConference.org/2007Congress.htm

TEC Conference Italy Pilgrimage



Nov. 11-20
Assisi, Florence, Rome,
Siena & Vatican City

Contact: Catholic Trips
(877) GOD-TRIP
www.TECConference.org/2007Pilgrimage.htm