



# Stay Connected

December 2007

An online newsletter for the worldwide TEC Family



## Welcoming Jesus



### Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus!

***“It is only the Child lying in the manger who possesses the true secret of life. For this reason He asks us to welcome Him, to make room for Him within us, in our hearts, in our homes, in our cities and in our societies. The words of John’s prologue echo in our minds and hearts: ‘To all who received Him... He gave power to become children of God’ ” (1:12).***

***~ Pope Benedict XVI***

**H**ave you heard the great news? We have all been invited and drawn into an immense enterprise! What is God up to? **Daily, I trust, we continue to grow in our understanding of the Paschal Mystery story unfolding in us through our TEC Encounter experiences of Good Friday, Easter and Pentecost.** But, might we also consider how the mystery begins to unfold in such utter simplicity within the Christmas story?

*“Consider how the Paschal mystery begins to unfold in such utter simplicity within the Christmas story. The coming of Jesus bids us to recognize that every moment of every day is charged with the invitation to welcome Jesus. Many years ago, I realized that God is worth the whole of my life for all of my life. What gift have you been given to share that is fit for a King?”*

The picture included in this reflection caught my eye because the light reflected on the faces surrounding the Christ Child emanate (not surprisingly) from Him – the Light of the World. At a certain moment in time “when the night was half-spent, the Almighty Word leapt down to earth.” Then for the next 93 percent of His life, **Jesus spent His days fulfilling His Father’s will simply by doing the ordinary stuff of life:** beginning by being cared for, learning and growing, reaching out and building loving, openhanded relationships with all whom the Father sent.

The coming of Jesus, celebrated at Christmas, bids us to recognize the reality that, through the ordinary “stuff of life,” **every moment of everyday, every experience (pleasant or painful) is charged with the invitation to welcome Jesus.** We thereby welcome and act in response to Our Father’s will with our own conscious and purposeful **“be it done to me as you say.”**

This daily welcoming, observed through the gift of self to God and to others, is the secret of life: the gift of the Father, the Paschal Mystery unfolding in utter simplicity, the power received to become children of God. Many years ago, I realized that God is worth the whole of my life for all of my life. Like the little drummer boy, what gift have you been given to share that is fit for a King? As Pope Benedict said, **“God’s sign is the baby in need of help and in poverty...God’s sign is simplicity...God made Himself small so that we could understand Him, welcome Him, and love Him... Christmas has become the feast of gifts in imitation of God who has given Himself to us.”**



***In Our Lord Jesus,***

*Sr. Jacque*

***Sr. Jacque Schroeder, OSF, TEC Conference Spiritual Director***

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## *Workshops and Congress Call TEC Communities into Deeper Discipleship*

"The Renewing the Vision of TEC (RTV) Workshop gave us a fresh understanding of how the Paschal Mystery is constantly taking shape in our own lives. It's amazing what is now emerging!"

~ **Deacon Bob Sondag,**

Spiritual Director, Peoria, Ill. TEC  
Visit online at: [www.peoriatec.org](http://www.peoriatec.org)

"The message of the workshop is so simple: God's family is not just a weekend thing - it's a community, and the most important part of that community is the prayers and support we give each other. We came away full of enthusiasm about what Sunflower TEC could be. Those seeds have begun to blossom."

~ **John Livingston,**

TEC Coordinator, Kansas City, Kan. Archdiocese  
[http://true64.youthsite.org/index.cfm?PAGE\\_ID=110&EXPAND=110](http://true64.youthsite.org/index.cfm?PAGE_ID=110&EXPAND=110)

"I highly recommend that each TEC center send representatives to the Congress. It has helped Grand Island TEC tremendously. We have met with centers from across the country; sharing both our strengths and weaknesses with them and in turn, learned from their experiences."

~ **Kevin Fuller,**

director of youth ministry, Grand Island, Neb. Diocese  
[www.gidiocese.org/youth/content/tec.php](http://www.gidiocese.org/youth/content/tec.php)

## *Have You Adored Him Lately?*

In preparation for the Birth of Jesus, have you considered joining the **TEC Family Adoration** prayer campaign? For more information about how to get involved, visit online at: [www.TECConference.org/TECFamilyAdoration.htm](http://www.TECConference.org/TECFamilyAdoration.htm)

## *Insights from Our Patron Saint*



*"True charity consists in bearing with all the defects of our neighbor, in not being surprised at his failings, and in being edified by his least virtues; Charity must not remain shut up in the depths of the heart."*

*St. Therese, pray for your TEC Family!*

## *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

### TEC: Past, Present & Future DVD

This all-new, four-segment DVD produced by Paul Sasso provides a dynamic look at TEC's history; present endeavors and future goals. Other features includes an eight-minute segment perfect for development and recruitment purposes; and material from the previously produced TEC Recruitment and Founders videos; cost: \$15.00 per DVD.

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

## *TEC Family Happenings...*

### Communities of Faith & Follow-Through



Feb. 22-24, 2008  
**Blessed Sacrament Parish**  
Rapid City, S.D.

Contact: Gloria Maher at  
(701) 522-3244 ~  
[glordan@sdplainswb.com](mailto:glordan@sdplainswb.com)

### *2008 TEC Congress*



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

Contact: Congress Chair  
David Walker at:  
(316) 269-3928  
or [walker@cdowk.org](mailto:walker@cdowk.org)  
[www.TECConference.org/2008Congress.htm](http://www.TECConference.org/2008Congress.htm)

*A Prayer of Wheat*