

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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The Shining Son

THE SHINING SON

MAY 2012

TECites to Be Ordained

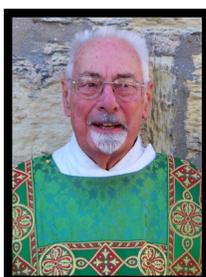
By: Deacon Vince Slomian

At our baptism, Jesus calls each and every one of us into a new life with him.

He not only commissions us to complete the work He began, but also empowers us to do so by personally praying over us.

“O Father most holy, protect them with your names.

Guard them from the evil one as you have sent me



into the world, so I have sent them into the world.”

The Good News is that the Father sent Jesus into the world, so Jesus sends us into the world.

We are to complete the work that Jesus began. We are to share with others the life of freedom and spiritual opportunity that Jesus shares with us.

We are called to different vocations: single life, married life, and religious life, and still others to ordination.

This month four of

our young men are taking another step forward and dedicate their life to the service of God through the Diaconate.

Dennis Gillan will be ordained as a permanent deacon, while Scott Pottoff and Jake Rose will be ordained as transitional deacons and Brother Michael O’Connor as a Dominican priest. *(See story on Scott below. Jake was featured in last month’s Shining Son.)*

Dennis has chosen to accept his call to holiness, first through marriage to Nanette and now to the Diaconate on May 19.

Scott and Jake will continue to serve in the deacon’s role another year before they are ordained to the priesthood.

We are all very proud of these TECites who are answering God’s call to serve Him and the Roman Catholic Church. It is our job now to do “wheat” for them so that they can faithfully live their life in “grace” as deacons of service.

Meet Scott Potthoff

Greetings to the whole Peterstown TEC family!

For those of you who don’t know me I grew up outside of Ladd, IL.

I come from a faithful Catholic family – going to Mass every Sunday and praying grace before meals – but we didn’t really talk much about our faith.

My parents expressed their faith through actions and in keeping my siblings and me involved with church functions and really formed us to live moral lives.

This was a good start to my Christian formation and eventually a basis for a vocation to the priesthood.

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Welcome New Lay Director

By: Karen Mecagni, Lay Director

This month, the Peterstown TEC Community welcomes new Lay Director, Karen Mecagni of Granville.

Karen, who lives in Granville with her husband, Steve, has been involved in the TEC Community since TEC 135.

Karen and Steve have three adult children: Angie, Neil, and Gina, whom have all been involved in the program.

A member of Sacred Heart Parish in Granville, Karen has been active as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, and has served the TEC

Community as a Council member holding the Liturgy and PR Chairman positions. She currently serves is an Assistant Spiritual Director.



Karen was also the Leader of TEC 159.

“TEC is my faith family,” Karen has said. “It’s where I Encounter Christ through all the people that come through the doors, especially the youth that are so eager to know and

love our Lord.”

Noting that she met some of her closest friends through TEC, Karen said, “(TEC) is where many friendships are born.”

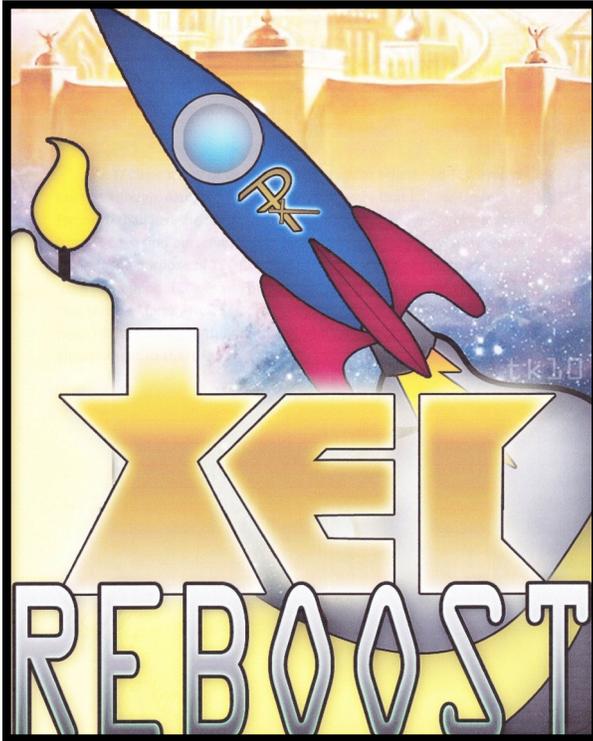
Karen may hold the title of “Lay Director” but she is the first to say that she is not alone in providing the leadership. There are other TECites who will be helping Karen perform the Lay Director tasks. They will be introduced in next month’s edition of the Shining Son.

“My hope, as Lay Director, is to serve Jesus through TEC, with humility and charity,” Karen added.



Karen Mecagni, center, is pictured here with her family (left to right) Gina, Steve, Angie, and Neil.

TEC Reboost Set July 28



Come re-ignite your light at the TEC Reboost summer get-together on Saturday, July 28, from 1-5p.m. at the TEC Center Gym.

All are welcome to come and go throughout the afternoon. There will be indoor and outdoor activities as well as snacks.

Most of all just hang out and catch up with your TEC Family!

The day will close with prayer around 4:30p.m. followed by clean-up. All are welcome to stay and attend the 5:30p.m. Parish

Mass.

For more information, contact TEC Reboost Co-Chairman Emma Grusk and Brenda Barnickel at reboost@peterstowntec.com.



Clip and Save

Important TEC Dates

Please make sure to mark your calendar so that you don't miss out on all the fun we have at the TEC Hilton, spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The following are the important dates:

- + **May 19:** Deaconate Ordination
- + **May 20:** Transitional Deaconate Ordination
- + **June 12:** Spiritual Core Team Meeting 6:30p.m.

- + **July 10:** Spiritual Core Team Meeting 6:30p.m.
- + **July 28:** TEC Reboost 1-5p.m.
- + **Aug. 14:** Spiritual Core Team Meeting 6:30p.m.

Pray! Pray! Pray!



*Hail Mary,
full of grace.
The Lord is
with thee.
Blessed are
you among
women,
and blessed
is the fruit of
thy womb,
Jesus.*

*Holy Mary,
Mother of
God,
pray for us
sinners,
now and at
the hour of
our death.
Amen.*

In the Mary, Mary Month of May

During the month of May, we celebrate many Catholic traditions and customs. May processions, the recitation of the rosary, Marian sodality celebrations and seeking the intercession of Mary on Mother's Day are all part of parish life.



Also during May, we celebrate the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin (May 31).

In your family, you may even plant a Mary garden. The tradition of linking Mary and the month of May dates back to medieval

times.

Throughout Christian history, devotion to Mary represents and manifests the Christian recognition of the intimacy of the bond between Mary and her son Jesus and her unique and determining role in the unfolding of God's plan.

We Catholics do not worship Mary, but we truly venerate her because she is Mother of Jesus, the Mother of God, the Mother of the Church, and our mother.

Gardens in full bloom in the month of May can remind us of the new creation of the world that came through Mary.

Mary's response to the Angel Gabriel, "*Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word*" (Luke 1:38), sets the stage for all the events that will follow: Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension; the

outpouring of the Holy Spirit; the establishment of his Church; and the ongoing work of redemption in which you and I are caught up today by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Mary's trust in God, her "yes" to following God's will, is something all of us should emulate.

As the new creation began to take form and as the beginnings of the kingdom of God began to be manifested in a way that would endure century after century, Mary was present.

As Blessed John Paul II, in *Redemptoris Mater* points out, "We see her in the midst of the Apostles in the Upper Room, 'prayerfully imploring the gift of the Spirit'" (LG, 8).

He also notes that, "at the first dawn of the Church, at the beginning of the long journey through faith which began at Pentecost in Jerusalem, Mary was with all of those who were the seed of the 'new Israel'" (27.1).

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TECite Shares Vocation

From page 1

The thought of the priesthood as a possibility for my life first came to me when I was serving at Mass in fourth grade.

I didn't really know what was going on completely, but I knew it was important.

I thought the priesthood was interesting, but nothing more, certainly not something I would want to give my life to.

However, thoughts about it kept coming and I felt I couldn't run from it, so I told my parish priest. He told me about Emmaus Days, a camp run by the Diocese of Peoria seminarians for boys and men of different ages.

I guess the three big take-aways from this experience were finding that God calls each and every person to holiness, to be a saint; that God reveals his plan for our holiness and happiness



Four seminarians from the Diocese of Peoria will be ordained Transitional Deacons May 20, 2012. From left: Scott Potthoff, Tom Otto, Jeremy Freehill, and Jake Rose. Scott and Jake are Peterstown TECites.

in prayer; and that seminarians and priests are normal guys who can be cool and still love Jesus.

By the time I hit high school, I knew a lot about God, a lot about Jesus, but I didn't *know* Him. Also, I was just sort of getting by with a moral life, and was willing to give in to temptation all too willingly.

Some of my friends had made a TEC and invited me to a weekend.

I was pretty prideful and thought I didn't need to go. But, I noticed a few of my friends were really changed by the weekend so I thought I

would give it a chance.

I made TEC 133 in March of 2003. I resisted the Lord's grace throughout the weekend, but loosened up through meeting guys there.

Although I didn't know it, through the weekend the Lord was opening pathways into my heart. I was definitely the type of TECite who was quiet about the experience after the weekend, and it really took some time for me to see what the Lord was doing in me.

Looking back, though, I see how TEC helped me to believe

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Be Honest: Follow What is Right

From page 5

more firmly that Jesus is real and he really wants to have a relationship with me.

This realization is absolutely foundational to a Christian life, and it certainly is for me now, and TEC opened me to it.

Another grace I realized was that I do want to be a serious disciple of Jesus Christ and that means that there are some things I have to do and there are some things I just can't do.

I had to be honest with myself and follow what I knew was right with an informed conscience because I knew it was Jesus speaking and I just couldn't say "no" to him

after meeting him for the first time as a young adult.

I had met Jesus earlier in my life, but this was really the moral conversion of my life.

It meant that I had to be honest with my words, with my actions, and especially with my relationships with girls.

"Do I mean what I'm saying with my words and actions right now?" was a question that I had to face.

My actions, my life, meant something and I didn't want it to be a lie. This eventually helped me understand my vocation, how God was (and still is) calling me to be a saint.

I had been putting great pressure on myself to "figure out" my life,

but May of my senior year I had to admit I did not know where God wanted me to go; I had no idea what I was doing with my life.

Believe it or not, that was a moment of great freedom and not fear because it meant that my life was not in my hands anymore, it was in the hands of my loving Father.

All I had to do was follow his call, whenever that would come.

At that point I was planning on going to Illinois Valley Community College for a year, but I made another Emmaus Days retreat that summer and felt the Lord calling me in the silence to spend not a lifetime, but a year, with him in

seminary for the Diocese of Peoria.

I answered, "Yeah, I can do that." So, the Lord has led me through many tests and adventures to this point, on the verge of giving myself to Jesus Christ and his Church for the rest of my life.

The Lord has been faithful and has brought me tremendous peace and true joy in these seven years of seminary.

Please pray for my classmates and me as we prepare to be ordained to the diaconate on May 20, and in our last year of preparation for the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Congratulations Graduates !!!

The TEC Council would like to congratulate all 2012 high school and college graduates. May God continue to bless you in all your endeavors!



YOU'RE INVITED

*Receive the Gospel of Christ,
Whose herald you have become.*

Believe what you read,

Teach what you believe,

And practice what you teach.

From the Rite of Ordination of a Deacon

Dennis will serve as Deacon of the Mass

And preach his first homily

on

Sunday, May 20th, 2012 at 10:30 AM

St. Anthony Catholic Church

510 Richard Mautino Drive

Spring Valley, IL 61362

Reception to follow in the Parish Hall

Peterstown TEC Program
504 W. Hopkins Ave.
Granville, IL 61326

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‘Every Day is Mother’s Day’

From page 4

As a mother, Mary brought Christ to the world. As our spiritual mother, she leads us to Jesus. And as the mother of the New Evangelization, she helps us as we lead others to know and love her Son.

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is the Mother of God because Jesus is God with us. Mary, the Mother of God, is also our mother because we

are caught up through the power of the Holy Spirit in adopted sonship with God. She is Mother of the Church, to whom we turn in intercession in asking to become more closely identified with her son – God’s Son – Our Lord and Savior.

This month can be an ideal time to reflect again on Blessed John Paul’s encyclical letter *Redemptoris Mater* and join the pope in wonder at the mystery

of a God who so loves us that he sent his Son to us so that we might share in his divine life.

“At the center of this mystery, in the midst of this wonderment of faith stands Mary” (*Redemptoris Mater*, 15).

In a special way, every day is Mother’s Day when we turn to Mary and deepen our love for Christ.

Mary, who held baby Jesus in the

man-
ger
and
who
prayed
for
him at
the



foot of the cross, shows us the way to her Son.

The following article was reprinted with permission from “Seek First the Kingdom” Blog, written by Cardinal Donald Wuerl on May 4, 2012.