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The Shining Son

THE SHINING SON

APRIL 2012

Eggs Show New Life at Easter

By: Deacon Vince Slomian
that we will rise from the dead at some future date.

But . . . our happiness can be even greater when we realize that we can rise from the grave: TODAY.

There are many kinds of tombs and many kind of resurrections.

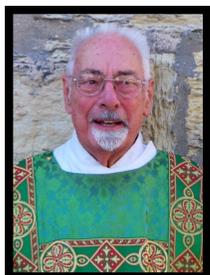
Every one of us can rise from a tomb: TODAY, because every one of us can rise to a better and higher life: TODAY!

Keep Your Light Shining!

Have a Blessed summer, and KEEP COMING BACK!

Dear TECites,
We just finished another wonderful TEC season.

Everyone can feel real proud that each weekend was almost filled to capacity.



It was through your hard work in

recruiting and doing WHEAT that made each weekend possible.

TEC 179 was in the midst of Lent which made it more spiritual, being that we just experienced another Paschal Mystery during the Triduum.

One of the interesting customs of the Orthodox Church is at the end of services on Easter Sunday when eggs are blessed and distributed to everyone in Church to show that all share in the blessings of this great feast.

The members then greet one another and

crack their eggs together.

When one egg cracks, the owner cries: "Christ is Risen!" The other person answers: "Truly He is Risen!"

Cracking of the egg represents the breaking open of the grave of Christ.

The egg shows new life. Inside the egg is the material which will make a tiny, new chicken. That new life comes forth when the chick breaks out of the egg.

Christ's coming forth from the grave is something like that. Christ was really dead before He came to life again.

The egg seems dead before it brings forth life.

The egg reminds us of the tomb in which Jesus was buried. The chick breaking forth from the egg reminds us of Jesus breaking forth from the tomb.

We are all happy at Easter because Jesus rose from the dead and because He promised



“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

— John 3:16

Pass It On . . . A Note From Brenda

By: Brenda Barnickel, Lay Director

“Pass It On” is a simple phrase that describes what I have been doing with the love in my heart ever since my first encounter with Christ on TEC 24 over 30 years ago.

The theme of that weekend was “The Love in your Heart wasn’t put there to stay; Love isn’t Love ‘til you give it away.”

What an impact that weekend had on my faith, and it has grown by leaps and bounds through my TEC journey. Let me share a few of the highlights.

My early years consisted of being an excited resource/table leader on TEC 25, an assistant leader on TEC 39, leader of TEC 49, rounding it out with being musician on TEC 50 and 62.

I then concentrated on raising my two sons, farming with my husband, working part-time jobs and staying involved with TEC by writing wheat letters and helping out in the kitchen.

Forty TECs later I

was musician on TEC 102. (Truly a God-incidence and a story in itself.)

Then I was very excited to be a Wheatie on TEC 107.

The Wheat Team portion of the program started at Peterstown with TEC 100, which became an ideal way for me to be involved without putting too much strain on my family life.

TEC 110 started my journey as being an assistant to the current Wheat Team Chairman, followed by taking over as Wheat Team Chairman on TEC 115. My time as TEC Council (Board) Chairman coincided.

Through the next 40 TECs God used me as his instrument in developing our Wheat Team program. It was during that part of the journey where I introduced closing out the variety show part of the Hoot with the singing of “Pass It On.”

It touches my heart to have seen it grow into a tradition looked forward to by many a TECites every TEC weekend.

The next phase of my journey started when I became Lay Director the summer before TEC 155. We held a Renewing the Vision workshop that summer to introduce and implement changes to the weekend program required through the revised National Manual.

It took a couple of TEC seasons to get comfortable, and I’m sure there are many “seasoned” TECites who remember the challenge of that journey.

Again, my faith grew by being one of God’s instruments working through this time beside Deacon Vince.

During my 5 years as Lay Director, we developed the Spiritual Core Team; helped host the TEC Congress in Peoria the summer of 2009; held our 35th Anniversary Open House to kick off our 35th TEC Season last summer; worked with the parish and Cursillo Program to renovate the

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What If ???

What if Christ had come down from the cross?
All the teaching, the miracles, the love would be lost.

If he had called on the angels to pull out the nails,
Would all the world be condemned to hell?
The prophecies, the hope, the tears that were cried,
Would have all become a terrible lie.

No sins could be forgiven,
no peace in our hearts,
No healings, no prayers answered,
no new life could start.

Hatred, greed, and selfishness would rule,
The example of goodness would be for the fools.

No one to turn to for comfort or love,

For these can't exist without God from above.
No way to atone for the sins of our life,
Even blood of animals would not be enough sacrifice.

If he had prayed only "Let this cup pass from me"
And followed man's will,
not God's, where would we be?

But Jesus did not come down from that cross.
He suffered and died so we would not be lost.
He followed the will from God up above
He died on that cross to show us His love.
The one perfect man, no reason to die,
He ascended to Heaven to prepare a place for you and I.

God loved us so much, He gave his only son,
It's up to us to have faith and accept what was done.
Salvation is a gift from God for the lost,
Just think how the world would be different
If Christ had come down from cross.

~ Lynn Owen

Keep Us Updated

Did you know that the TEC Program is charged a fee for non-deliverable newsletters or for the forwarding of some newsletters to new addresses?

Therefore, it is very important to have correct addresses on file to keep costs reduced.

If you plan to move or have had a change of address, please send it to newsletter@peterstowntec.com.

To reduce printing and mailing costs, the Peterstown TEC Community is sending the majority of our publications electronically.

Other TEC notifications are also sent out through Email.

Therefore, it is very important that we have updated email addresses. Please send your updated Email addresses to Brenda Barnickel at laydirector@peterstowntec.com or to Kim Souba, Newsletter and Website Chairman at newsletter@peterstowntec.com.

Saving money on newsletters will allow the TEC Community to use the funds for the "Good of the Program."

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:

+ **April 10:** Spiritual

Core Team Meeting 6:30p.m.

+ **April 18:** Council Meeting Potluck 6p.m.

+ **May 8:** Spiritual Core Team Meeting 6:30p.m.

+ **May 19:** Deaconate Ordination

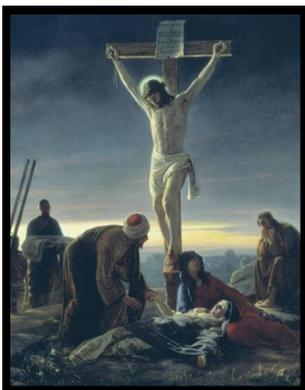
+ **May 20:** Transitional Deaconate Ordination

+ **June 12:** Spiritual Core Team Meeting 6:30p.m

+ **July:** TEC Reboost (TBA)

+ **July 10:** Spiritual Core Team Meeting 6:30p.m.

+ **Aug. 14:** Spiritual Core Team Meeting 6:30p.m.



Thank you

Dear TEC Family,

It is with deepest admiration and humility that we write this letter of appreciation for all of your support during the loss of our son, Captain Thomas J. Heitmann. We are grateful for all of the prayers, cards, and expressions of kindness. Thank you to the TEC Council which, on behalf of the TEC program, has given a generous donation to the Class of 2002 Cpt. Thomas Heitmann Memorial project.

Your caring has helped to soften the blow of our loss. Thank you sincerely for sharing our sorrow. Your kindness is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered.

We know that Thomas would have been honored and humbled by the outpouring support that everyone has bestowed on him and his family.

We are eternally grateful.

Captain Thomas J. Heitmann died doing what he loved best and honored the sacrifice which is a gift to all-- freedom.

May God bless each of you

Our deepest thanks,

Thomas F. and Mary T. Heitmann and Family

Welcome TECites of TEC 179



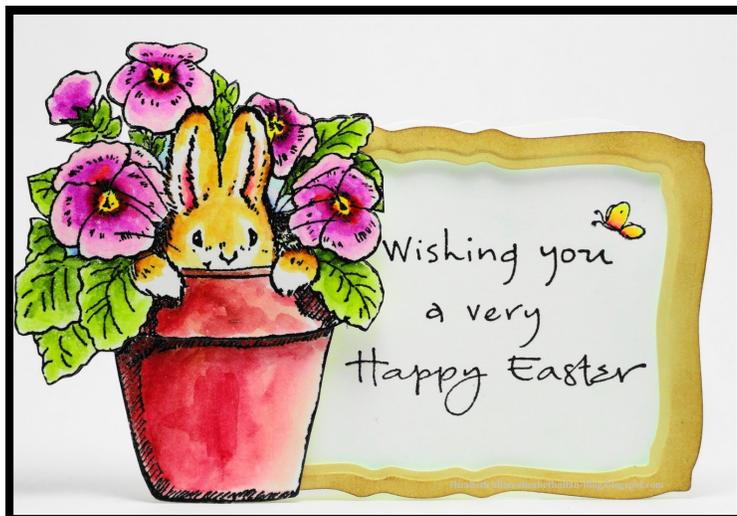
On behalf of the TEC Community, we would like to welcome the new TECites of TEC 179.

The weekend was held March 24-26 under the direction of Kim Goodbred as Leader and Abbi Bosnich and Brittany Pettit as

Assistant Leaders. New TECites include: Samantha Ansteth, Rachel Barr, Rachel Bezely, Morgan Bosnich, Andrea Burkart, Sami Certain, Paige Cisneros, Sabrina Cisneros, Danielle Claggett, Allison Cook,

Heather DeLong, Sarah Doughty, Anna Kasproicz, Ashley Keegan, Justice Monjaraz, Karla Quezada, Alysia Scott, Kerri Smith, Meredith Stamberger, Claudia Szczepaniak, Rachel Vaessen and Lynn Perez.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 ★ **Lost** ★
 ★ **-N-** ★
 ★ **Found** ★
 ★
 ★ Calling all Lost ★
 ★ and Found ★
 ★ seekers . . . If you ★
 ★ have lost anything ★
 ★ while at the TEC ★
 ★ Center (clothes, ★
 ★ towels, cookie ★
 ★ containers, etc.) ★
 ★ please contact ★
 ★ Brenda at laydirec- ★
 ★ tor@peterstowntec. ★
 ★ com or at ★
 ★ 815-538-2091. ★
 ★ Any items not ★
 ★ claimed over the ★
 ★ summer will be ★
 ★ donated to Good ★
 ★ Will. ★
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**The TEC Council
 wishes you a very
 happy and joyous
 Easter Season!
 Remember Christ
 rose for you so that
 you could Go 4th
 with the Spirit!**

“Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow Me, I will bring you home. I love you and you are MINE!”

— Chorus from
You Are Mine
by David Haas

New Lay Director Named

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gym kitchen; the “Sprucing Up the Hilton” project started with the renovation of the lounge and meeting room/bedroom; the stain glass windows were redone in the chapel; developed our TEChnology through our website, newsletter, email, Facebook, flash drives and power point; created the TEC Reboost Follow-Up Program; and had some of the largest attended TEC weekends in quite some time. My faith grew and grew.

After another 25 TECs, it’s now time to “pass on” the position

of Lay Director to another faithful servant, Karen Mecagni.

As Deacon Vince said at the last Hoot, when he made the formal announcement, I’m not “retiring,” I’m just taking a well deserved break.

My faith journey is now leading me to be an assistant spiritual director “in training” and co-chairman of TEC Reboost.

It will be awhile before I am actually “on” a TEC weekend, but I’ll continue to be God’s instrument in a variety of TEC ways.

God has plans for me.

I just turned 50

years young, celebrated 10 years working full-time at First State Bank, will be celebrating my 30th wedding anniversary this summer, and we’re anticipating news of our first grandchild (God-willing) within this next year.

I’m looking forward to spending more quality time at home with family, most of all, my husband.

Above all, the biggest highlight has been, and will continue to be, watching the teens grow in their faith, mature, come back, get involved, and help others experience an encounter.

Seeing another generation experience the never changing love of Jesus has been “priceless.”

I’m so honored to join the group of past lay directors.

I thank everyone for their love, support and WHEAT! I’ll “keep coming back” and will always “pass it on.” I encourage you to do the same.

~ Love, Prayers, & Smiles, Brenda



Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

TECites to be Ordained

The TEC Community has a lot to be thankful for and celebrate.

Next month, the joy and graces will be abundantly flowing as we rejoice with Dennis Gillan, who will be ordained as a permanent deacon and with Jacob Rose and Scott Potthoff as they are ordained transitional deacons, the step just before ordination to the priesthood.

Dennis will be ordained on May 19 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria, while Jacob and Scott will be ordained on May 20.

The following is a reflection by Jacob that was in a recent edition of The Catholic Post. It is reprinted here with Jacob's permission.

In terms of seminary life, I guess you could call me a lifer. From the time I was six or seven years old, the priests my family had contact with were always mysteriously appealing.

I don't remember the priesthood being particularly pressed or encouraged while I was growing up, but with the

regular interactions

between my family and our parish priests, the priests at Saint Bede Academy where

my siblings and I went to high

school, and the priests acquainted with my parents through Teens Encounter Christ (TEC), a priestly

vocation was never ruled out for me.

Even among my extended family, I don't remember the priesthood being pushed directly, but I remember hearing about my grandparents' relatives who had answered the call to the priesthood.

As I was open to a priestly vocation early on, in short time I started to think that my dreams and plans were where I would find happiness and contentment.

For a high school student, I had a decent paying and fun job with a mobile disc jockey service where I could choose my own hours; and, I started to spend a lot of time assisting



WSOG, 88.1FM, the Catholic radio station in Spring Valley.

With these two jobs, I thought that I could establish my dream career and have everything I wanted.

Meanwhile, I took every opportunity I could to tell the Lord that this was the plan that would last.

In hindsight, now I realize how blind I was.

Unfortunately, I was in a severe car accident in high school; where I likely should not have survived, I walked away with only minor physical injuries.

Still being alive after shearing off a telephone pole and rolling my car about three times changed my outlook quite a lot, most particularly in my

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Hindsight: ‘God Has Other Plans’

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personal prayer and my relationship with our blessed Lord.

Happily, my pastor at the time, Monsignor James Kruse, was able to see that I was trying to trick myself and God, so with a friendly but forceful invitation that I couldn't ignore, he signed me up for our diocesan discernment retreat, Emmaus Days.

At Emmaus Days, I found the seminarians were normal guys and actually guys that I looked up to. They were happy and filled with a joy I wanted, but wouldn't find in my own

plan.

However, I wasn't convinced that going to the seminary was for me.

It was not until Bishop Jenky likened the seminary to a swimming pool that I was able to give the Lord more control.

He said, going to the seminary is like visiting a swimming pool — you don't know the temperature of the water until you get into the water and there is always the ladder to get out of the pool if you're not comfortable.

I thought the ladder option sounded fair, so I told the Lord I would give him three years in

the seminary before returning to what I had planned.

Again, in hindsight, I see how blind I was: God has other plans.

I entered the seminary right out of high school and spent four years in college seminary at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Winona, Minnesota.

For the last three years, I've been at Mount Saint Mary's in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Now my excitement is growing more and more as I about a month from being ordained a transitional deacon, with one more year left of seminary until priestly

ordination.

I've always liked central Illinois, but now I could never imagine leaving.

Through my time spent around the diocese and getting to know many of the priests and parishes of the Diocese, I've come to understand the Diocese of Peoria as the home I love.

I look forward to the day when I can stay in the Diocese serving in a parish and celebrating the sacraments.

Please continue to pray for the seminarians, and know of our gratitude and prayers for all your support. God love you.



“It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching.”

~St. Francis of Assisi

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Fundraiser Set for Cpt. Heitmann

The St. Bede Academy Class of 2002 will be hosting a fundraiser in memory of Captain Thomas Heitmann, who was killed Sept. 19, 2011 in a helicopter training exercise at Camp Pendleton in San Diego, Calif.

Proceeds from the fundraiser, which will be held Saturday, April 21 at Storage's Bar and Grill (3 3rd St. in

LaSalle, IL), will be used to purchase and dedicate a new scoreboard at the Academy's football field.

The event will run from noon until 2a.m. with food, live entertainment, and gift raffles. Cost is \$10 per ticket

and may be purchased in advanced or at the door.

People of all ages are invited to attend; however, those under 21 will not be allowed after 9p.m.

While a student at St. Bede, Thomas, a decorated Marine, was

involved in football and track, being inducted with his team into the Academy's Hall of Fame and named the 2002 News Tribune Boys Track and Field Athlete of the Year, respectively. He also attended Holy Cross Grade School in Mendota.

For more information contact Courtney Elizabeth Lijewski on Facebook or by phone at: 815-343-4690.

