

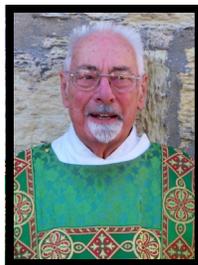
The Shining Son

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- DEACON VINCE'S MESSAGE
- TEC TURNS 35
- PASS IT ON
- KIM SANTMAN
- KEEP US UPDATED
- IMPORTANT DATES
- TEC 174
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Experience Paschal Mystery

By: Deacon Vince Slomian



Dear TEC Family,
We have just concluded another wonderful TEC season at the Peterstown Hilton.

We are going to celebrate out 35th Anniversary as we started here in 1976. WOW!!!

It has been an outstanding 35 years.

Thinking back to the early days of TEC, we have grown spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and

physically.

I know all our hearts have been open more to the loving of our God, Jesus. Our hearts have changed and all for the good.

Even our building has changed over the years and it is so much more appealing and comforting.

It's taken all of you to help in that change, not only in the building, but also in the changing of the lives of many teenagers and adults.

On TEC 174, we saw the lives of 24 young ladies change. We need to continue our prayers that they will keep their "Light Shin-

ing" for everyone to see.

We are approaching the most holy days of the year with Holy Week upon us, when we can experience the Paschal Mystery with our family and church community.

We have all experienced the Paschal Mystery on our TEC weekends, but this Easter we can sing "Alleluia! Christ Is Here!"

The Core Team of Peterstown TEC has been meeting once a month to continue to grow in their knowledge of the TEC Program.

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Peterstown TEC Turns 35

For 35 years, thousands of teens and young adults have encountered Christ through the Paschal Mystery at the Peterstown Hilton.

In celebration of the three and a half decades of lives changing, the TEC Community will host an open house and cookout for the TEC Community as well as the public on Sun-

day, August 21, from 1-5p.m.

Activities, tours, and applications will be available for all those who are interested learning more the TEC Community.

In conjunction with the upcoming anniversary, the history of the Peterstown TEC Program is reprinted in this month's



edition of The Shining Son.

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Pass It On . . . A Note From Brenda

By: Brenda Barnickel, Lay Director



Love, desire, affection, fondness, enthusiasm, strong emotion or feelings are just a few words connected to PASSION. Everyone has a passion in life.

A passion for a person or a pet, a passion to do well in attaining a goal, a passion for music, a passion for a certain kind of food, a passion for a good book or movie, a passion for a sport or a hobby, a passion for knowledge, a passion for

a job, a passion for TEC.... to name just a few.

During this season of Lent maybe you have given up a passion, which has become a true and prayerful sacrifice. Or maybe you have let a passion die, only to hope that it will regain the fire that it once had.

Prayer and endurance will strengthen your faith.

The passion will come back. In some cases, maybe it will take a little longer than the 40 days of Lent. But don't give up!

The sufferings of

Christ from the Last Supper to his death on the cross, is the ultimate PASSION (Isaiah 53). And is our focus during this season.

Remember one must die in order to rise.

My prayer for each one of you is to truly appreciate your passions, whatever they may be.

But most of all, live the Paschal Mystery day to day, be the best Christ-like example, and continue to do WHEAT at and away from the TEC Center.

Make it your PASSION to Pass It On!

Meet Kim Santman

In the December 2010 edition of *The Shining Son*, we introduced one of our many Assistant Spiritual Directors for the Peters-town TEC Program.

This month, we would like to introduce you to another: Kim Santman.

Kim, who is married to Robin, has been involved in the TEC program since TEC 76.

Kim first became involved in the TEC Program when Sister Suz-

anne Stahl asked him to help her play guitar at a TEC Mass. Shortly following, he was invited to be on TEC 76.

Though hesitate to say yes, he was reminded through Morning Prayer at his job (St. Margaret's Hospital) to share his gifts with others.

He continues to be involved in the program because it helps him grow in his own faith and he is continually inspired by the faith

growth of others.

"TEC has helped me to be more comfortable in sharing my faith with others," Kim says. "I've become more involved in my parish as a Eucharistic Minister and by playing guitar and singing at Saturday afternoon Masses."

Kim says that he has many memories of who have impressed him with the strength of their faith, but his favorite

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'Armed Crosses'

From page 1

Last year, a member brought this article, which we thought was very interesting and wanted to share with the whole TEC family again as we shared it with the newsletter last year.

"The Armed Crosses"

"The *sign of the cross* is the most terrible weapon against the Devil.

Thus, the Church wishes not only that we should have it continually in front of our minds to recall just what our souls are worth and what they cost Jesus Christ, but also that we should make it at every juncture ourselves: when we go to bed, when we awaken during the night, when we get up, when we begin any action, and, and

above all, when we are tempted.

We can say that a Christian who makes the Sign of the Cross with genuine religious sentiments, that is to say, when fully aware of the action which he is performing, makes all **Hell** tremble.

When we make the Sign of the Cross, we must make it not by habit but with respect, with attention and thinking of what we are doing.

Ah, dear Lord, with what devout awe we should be filled when we make the Sign of the Cross upon ourselves and recall that we are pronouncing all that we hold holy and most sacred in our religion!"

His Love and Peace,
Deacon Vince

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 lay-director@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:

+ **May 1:** TEC Reboost 6-

8p.m.

+ **May 3:** Council Meeting 6p.m. (Potluck) *Note date change*

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

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

+ **July 10:** TEC Reboost 6-

8p.m.

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

+ **Aug. 9:** Spiritual Core Team Meeting 6:30p.m.

+ **Aug. 21:** 1 to 5 pm - 35th Anniversary/Open House to kick off the new TEC season

PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

TEC like a ‘Hot fudge sundae’

From page 1

When Sts. Peter and Paul Parish closed its school in 1975, the Catholic education that took place within its walls did not cease but was reborn with new teachers, students, and a different way to learn about the faith.

The school, which had served seven generations of parish elementary students, reopened in November 1976 as a diocesan Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) center.

Peterstown is often described as “not a place but a state of mind” by the TEC program’s participants and supporters, which included the late Father Paul Hettinger.

Father Paul was known as the mayor and only resident of Peterstown until his death in April 2003.

Visitors will find only the church, the TEC center, a cemetery, and few



houses.

However, those involved in Peterstown TEC say it’s not what they see but what they *feel* that makes the program and community

unique.

Peterstown is “kind of like a hot fudge sundae -- rich with knowledge, warm and inviting with new people, and lots of hugs . . . (and) sweet with lots of great memories that a special treat should have,” said Sarah Motter, a teacher at Holy Cross School in Mendota who has been involved with TEC for many years.

Motter doesn’t remember the old Sts. Peter and Paul School but has heard many stories from her parents and other family members who attended there.

She once told The Catholic Post she believes “what makes Peterstown so cool is that it once was a school and it has some history to it.”

She feels the building “has the school feeling to it, which creates an environment for learning and change” and allows “teens the opportunity to see the beauty of the earth . . . and to be thank-



ful for the things God has given” without being distracted by loud vehicles, sirens, and other city noises.

Following the school’s

donation to the TEC program, the transformation of the building took place with the help of the late Ben Funfsinn, Bob Applington, and many teen volunteers.

The first spiritual director was Father Placid Hatfield, OSB. He was preceded by Father Philip Davey, OSB.

Ginny Funfsinn of Mendota became the first lay director for the teen and young adult program. Further assistance came from Gary and Kathy Parmalee, Joanne Brown-Oberheide and Betty Wenzel.

“Back then, people in the area were not familiar with TEC and we had to work very hard to publicize it,” said Ginny Funfsinn, a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, which is now served by Father Fredi Gomez and Father Gary Blake. “But we had a fairly good response.”

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Meet the Newest TECites of TEC 174

On behalf of the entire TEC Community, we would like to welcome the newest TECites of TEC 174.

The weekend was held April 2-4, under the direction of Leader Aubrie Wall and Assistant Leaders Rhonda Bezely and Karen Goy.

New TECites include: Jolissa Antolik, Haley Booker, Jayde Brejc, Bianca Bugarin, Mia Carretto, Jade Coughlin, Elisabeth Escatel, Lexi Faber, Jackseena Gonzalez, Kaitlyn Gorman, Katie Gregorich, Amber Grubbs, Mary Grusk, Erica Hornung, Katee Johnson, Erika Mandujano, Julia Massino, Kelci McConville, Peri McConville, Kailyn Miller,



Victoria Moreland, Elizabeth Rice, Shelby Straughn, Kelsie Wujek, and Cindi Loebach.

Christ is Counting on YOU!

Asst. Director Receives More Than He Gives



Robin and Kim Santman

From page 2

memory of TEC was “a weekend when my younger son was a candidate and my older son was on a team, and we got to encounter Christ together.”

Kim, his wife Robin, as well as their four children, have all made a TEC weekend. He stays involved with TEC because “I’ve seen the positive impact TEC has made in others’ lives, and I want to do whatever I can to

continue the program,” Kim notes. “Every weekend I find that I receive so much more than I can ever give to the program.”

He adds that being an assistant spiritual director means “helping in many ways, from helping set up for Mass and various other paraliturgies, to explaining the portions of the weekend and helping the rest of the team develop in their roles, to sharing my faith with everyone else on the weekend.”

TEC Congress 2011



*“Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again, Rejoice!”
Phil 5:5*

Each year TECites from around the world gather for fellowship and to renew their spirits.

This year, the annual TEC Congress will be held at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans July 15-17.

Registration and deposit are due on July 1. Cost is \$160 for double

occupancy and \$180 for single occupancy.

A \$50 nonrefundable deposit is due with registration.

Program, meals, and lodging are included in the registration price

A letter or email confirming receipt of registration will be sent within two weeks of receipt of

your registration form and deposit.

For more information, contact Brenda Barnickel.



TEC CONFERENCE

Jesus vs. Satan

Jesus and Satan were having an ongoing argument about who was better on his computer.

They had been going at it for days, and God (the Father) was tired of hearing all of the bickering.

Finally God said, “Cool it. I am going to set up a test that will run two hours and I will judge who does the better job.”

So down Satan and Jesus sat at the keyboards and typed away.

They moused. They did spreadsheets. They wrote reports. They sent faxes. They sent e-mail. They sent out e-mail with attachments.

They downloaded. They did some genealogy reports. They made

cards. They did every known job.

But ten minutes before their time was up, lightning suddenly flashed across the sky, thunder rolled, the rain poured and, of course, the electricity went off.

Satan stared at his blank screen and screamed every curse word known in the underworld.

Jesus just sighed.

The electricity finally flickered back on, and each of them restarted their computers.

Satan started searching frantically, screaming “It’s gone! It’s all gone! I lost everything when the power

went out!”

Meanwhile, Jesus quietly started printing out all of his files from the past two hours. Satan observed this and became irritated.

“Wait! He cheated, how did he do it?”

God shrugged and said, “Jesus saves.”



Youth Seek to Learn About Jesus

From page 4

That “good response” was still present 20 years later when the community constructed new bathrooms and shower rooms, with most of the labor donated by Sts. Peter and Paul parishioners and T E C i t e s .

“Many dedicated teens and adults making TEC here willingly continue to work with the parishioners, (by) contributing their time, skills, and funds to maintain and do improvements to the school building and parish center -- named the Father Paul Hettinger Parish Center -- that is home to the Peterstown TEC community,” said Gloria Stremmlau, a parishioner of Sts. Peter and Paul and former lay director.

The first TEC weekend held in the former school hosted 21 girls from around the area. The first boys’ TEC retreat attracted 16 boys.

Deacon Vince Slomian of Holy Cross Parish in Mendota became the third and present spiritual director for the TEC program in 1980. He told The Post he continues to stay involved with the program because of the t e e n s .

“The TEC program has made me realize that our youth of today are very interesting. They want to learn more about Jesus and His teachings,” he said. “The teens need people that are close to God to be their men-

tors,” he added.

“We have to listen to their needs and their wants. We must continually steer them in the direction of the F a t h e r . ”

Dave Pakula of Van Orin served as lay director from 1981 to 1985 when Stremmlau and Mark and Deb Wujek of Troy Grove were named co-lay directors.

They were later succeeded

“The TEC Program has made me realize that our youth of today are very interesting. They want to learn more about Jesus and His teaching.”

— Deacon Vince Slomian

in 1993 by Janet and Dennis Jones of Mendota and Rose and Gary Rose of LaMoille. In 2007, Brenda Barnickel of Mendota became the current l a y d i r e c t o r .

Rose Rose, a graduate of Sts. Peter and Paul School, told The Post that she thinks it is “really awesome to see and know that the building is being utilized to help people have a faith journey . ”

“I feel really blessed to be involved in a program like TEC and see the growth that comes from it,” Rose said, adding she finds it “humbling” to see the seed of faith planted in the teens and adults who go through the p r o g r a m .

Drawing participants from a 40- to 45-mile radius of rural communities and a vari-

ety of schools is unique for a TEC center, according to Pakula, known as “Pak” to those involved in the Peters-t o w n p r o g r a m .

He believes that the closeness found in the rural country atmosphere is also what makes the community so special.

“Our uniqueness lies in the fact that we bring in so many people from so many places and we give them a

chance to get to know one another through Christ,” Pakula said.

“We have just two sleeping rooms,” he said, adding “when you’re sleeping in a room with 15 to 25 other people, you get to know them quite well.”

Rose believes many teens have a need to participate in activities that help their spiritual life grow.

“They need a balance between their extracurricular activities and continued faith journey,” she told The Post. “They are so busy with work, school, and sporting activities . ”

Stremmlau applauds the program for being an “excellent evangelization” tool for both teens and a d u l t s .

TEC enhances the Peoria diocese because it is “open to teens and active adult Christians of all faiths, which accounts for the growth and success that TEC continues to have in the number of religious vocations and converts coming from the TEC family,” Stremmlau said.

Like You

*Lord help me to be in Your holy will;
Tell me what to do today;
Lead me in Your righteousness;
Make me more like You, I pray.
Guard me against this corrupting world,
Its perverted priorities, temptations, too.
Direct my mind toward Your commands,
So I can focus my life on You.
Fill my heart with Your light and love,
So I can assist those I see in need;
With You as my role model, let me be
Like You in thought and word and deed.*

— Author Unknown



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TEC Celebrates
35th Anniversary