



THE SHINING SON

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February 2020

PETERSTOWN TEC

FATHER GIFFORD

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Happy 4th Day, everyone.

You are not alone. This simplest of truths is a very important lesson that my TEC experience as a teenager helped me to learn. There are different ways that we can experience loneliness. This experience of feeling alone should not cause us to turn inward and resign ourselves to that awful feeling. Neither should it prompt us to desperately seek acceptance with our peers, regardless of how much we might compromise our faith and our values in the process. Rather, we can find that if we turn to Christ, and to the Body of Christ, the Church, we do belong. I know that sometimes we may have had experiences that cause us to think otherwise and to wonder if we really do belong in the Church. Or we might be influenced to doubt that we could belong, by the image of the Church that we find in the media or from other voices of those in our lives who have not embraced the Church. Perhaps some of us have been made to feel that we don't belong by others within the Church. If that is the case, I'm very sorry. If you ever feel that you would like someone to talk to about those experiences, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. But, that experience should not be how we identify the essence of the Church. I didn't always feel that I belonged in the Church or that I connected with my parish family. My experience in TEC was a new beginning for me to begin to consider that maybe the Church was more than I had yet realized. Part of this process took the form of my beginning to better understand the sacraments and various teachings of the Church. But, a very important part of it was simply allowing the TEC community to fill a very basic need in my life: I didn't have Catholic friends. This is so important. As disciples, we need the support, encouragement, inspiration and even challenge of one another to help us to stay on track and keep growing. I know I needed the support of my brothers and sisters in Christ to help me begin to grow into an authentic and intentional Catholic identity. But, striving to live a Catholic life can be a very lonely thing, without a support system to hold us up, hold us accountable, and help us keep moving forward. I couldn't explain why I wanted to "Keep Coming Back" after my first TEC weekend, because I was still quite skeptical that I belonged in the Catholic Church at that time. But, I wanted to belong and somehow had an inexplicable sense that I already did. I just didn't know my new friends, the members of my new family, very well yet. Nonetheless, they would be the ones who would help me most in the crucial years of growth that were ahead of me. It was time to start getting to know them. So, I kept coming back. And because I did, I found that I was not alone, but had a community of friends who wanted to help me become who God made me to be. And I'm still on that journey today.

What about you? You belong in this TEC family. Do you know the members of your new family, your new friends? They just may be the ones who will help you most in the crucial years ahead of you. Maybe it's time to start getting to know them better. You do belong here. So, keep coming back.

DEACON DAN

The Girls #216 TEC weekend was December 7-9 & the weekend went really well. We had 9 candidates & we are praying that our new TECites had a faith filled weekend and are carrying that into their Go Forth Day.

Thank you to Joanie Morse for being our Leader and to her assistants and team. You did a great job. All the reflections on the weekend were really good.

Zack Van Keulen is our leader for the upcoming Boys TEC #217 weekend, February 22 – 24. Zack has already started his team meetings. Please pray for his team.

We need your help to grow our TEC program, so please pray for candidates that are needed for this weekend.

The Season of Lent starts February 26, Ash Wednesday. This is a time to reflect prayerfully on the current state of our relationships with God, our family and the people around us. The season of Lent, during which we prepare to celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter, is a great opportunity to grow in our faith and grow closer to Jesus.

God Bless,
Dcn. Dan O'Connor

The Catechism tells us --- “By the solemn forty days of Lent, the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert.” (CCC – Paragraph 540)

WELCOME NEW TECITES

Peterstown TEC welcomes the 9 new TECites who came for the TEC #216 Weekend this past December: Daisy Arteaga, Janice Gonzalez, Olivia Lamis, Twila Martinson, Ella Massey, Madi Mikolasek, Sydney Miller, Katherine Monier, and Jaiden Trone.

In addition, there were two new team member candidates, Irene Milligan and Fr. Augustine Kassa OMA.

We pray that you “keep on shining” through all of your “go forth” days keeping Christ’s love alive in the world.

TEC TEAM 217

The current TEC #217 Team has been meeting on Wednesday evenings since Jan. 22nd to prepare for the upcoming boys' weekend February 22nd – 24th here at Peterstown. Zack Vankeulen is the Lay Leader with Butch Vankeulen and Paul Goetz as Assistant Lay Leaders.

The Weekend Spiritual Advisor is Fr. Ronald Margherio OSB. Kim Santman, Mary Kunkel, and Phil Grant are the Assistant TEC Directors. Other team members include; Amy Carboni, Jimmy Carboni, Mason DeFore, Ashton Dewey, Don Liesse, Aaron Schmidt, Deacon George Schramm, and Isaac Wujek.

Please keep these team members and the possible candidates that will be coming for the TEC Weekend in your daily prayers. Do some extra WHEAT for them by writing a WHEAT note for the team meetings the next couple of Wednesdays. Contact Jill Ross (815-866-6889) and offer to help her in the kitchen on the TEC weekend.

THANK YOU!

A large “shout out” of thanks to the TECites that helped clean up the TEC Center on Monday following the TEC #216 Weekend: Greg Oseland, Carol McLachlan, Colleen Harmon, and Kim Santman. The TEC Community relies on the members from the previous TEC to come do some extra WHEAT and help straighten up the place at the conclusion of the current TEC. We also ask any TECite that wants to come and help just show up about 4:30 on Monday of a TEC Weekend and we will have clean up done in about an hour with several volunteers.

NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN

Here we Go!

Shouting out to you all for help on next TEC! We need folks for all shifts. Please contact me at (815) 866-6889 or rossranch92@gmail.com. Be a light for all to see by sharing your Wheat for #217.

Stay shining!
Jill Ross

SPIRIT OF TEC AWARD

During the December 2019 TEC Weekend the Spirit of TEC Award was presented to Mary Therese Heitmann and Tom Heitmann from Mendota.



Mary Therese Heitmann and Tom Heitmann accept the "Spirit of TEC Award" from Deacon Dan O'Connor.

The Spirit of TEC Award recognizes active TECites in our own TEC Community or regional area. TECites given this award:

- Live out the Paschal Mystery in their lives;
- Have contributed to TEC in a significant way;
- Are committed to serving the church, it's youth, and young adults;
- Generously show their love, faith, and enthusiasm with others.

This award was established in 1990. This award is first displayed nationally at TEC Encounter in the summer before being awarded in the local TEC Community. Shortly before the Spirit of TEC Award was presented to Mary and Tom, they were helping with The Daughters of Divine Love Christmas fundraiser to help fund their Missionary work throughout the world. Earlier in the fall of 2019 Mary Therese Heitmann spent a couple weeks with the Sisters in Africa. Mary Therese is pictured above wearing traditional garments from the area of Africa she visited.

The Daughters of Divine Love Ministry accept donations to finance their missions to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, heal the sick, educate the needy, shelter the homeless, and bring light to those in darkness in many parts of the world. To learn more how you may help The Sisters of Divine Love you will find them at www.ddldev.org. Sister M. Victoria Oleka belongs to the order of The Sisters of Divine Love Ministry in Compton, Illinois, and has been a TEC Team member on Peterstown TEC #209 and TEC #210.

TEC Encounter 2020:

Plant - Cultivate - Nurture

July 10-12, 2020

Savior Pastoral Center

Kansas



City, KS

The TEC family gathers for 3 days each year so that our call to encounter Christ may deepen. Everyone who is interested in bettering their TEC community is invited to participate. At TEC Encounter, you will find:

- A deeper sense of community
- Networking opportunities with other members of the TEC family
- A greater knowledge of TEC's spiritual processes
- An opportunity to gather and share resources
- Personal spiritual renewal

Encounter 2020's keynote is **Sarah Jarzembowski**. Sarah has been working in pastoral ministry for close to 20 years. Her experience with TEC was instrumental in leading her to a life spent in ministry. She started out as a parish youth minister in the suburbs of Chicago before switching to college campus and young adult ministries in the Diocese of Joliet. TEC played a pivotal role in helping her decide her career. In 2013, Sarah and her husband moved to the DC area, where she worked in national retreat ministry and with the Catholic Apostolate Center, an evangelization outreach of the Pallottine Fathers and Brothers. She has spoken across the country at youth rallies, presented at young adult Theology-on-Tap nights, and offered workshops on health and spirituality for young Church professionals. Most recently, Sarah speaks on loneliness, ministry with young adults, and Pope Francis' recent apostolic exhortation *Christus Vivit*. When not talking about young adult ministry, Sarah and her husband enjoy exploring the National Park System and planning their next Disney get-away.

SWAG DAY



We would like to help bring more awareness to the TEC program and to have another reason to wear those TEC items we all have around. TEC Swag day is going to be celebrated every Friday. The whole TEC community is invited to wear their TEC items to school, work, to the game or while working out. If you have a dress code, it only means you need to be creative. Wear a hoodie or fleece to and from school or work. Throw in a TEC t-shirt to wear at the gym. Toss on your TEC cross, Christ is counting on you!

CLIP AND SAVE IMPORTANT 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.

February 22rd-24th-

Boys TEC #217 Weekend

Wednesday, February 26th-

Ash Wednesday

Sunday, March 1st-

Follow Up in Lounge 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4th-

First Girls' TEC #218 Team Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 25th-

TEC Council meeting 6:00 p.m.

Girls' TEC #218 4th Team meeting 7:00 p.m.

April 4th-6th-

Girls TEC #218 Weekend

Sunday, Apr. 12th-

Easter Sunday

April 19th-

Follow up in Lounge 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Apr. 29th-

TEC Council Meeting and potluck 6:00p.m.

Peterstown TEC Program
1307 Henry St.
Peru, IL 61354

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

KEEP PRAYING: CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU

Pray for the team of TEC#217 as they prepare for the boy's TEC weekend to be held February 22-24.

Pray for all TECites and their families who are suffering from illness, loss of jobs, and other stressors of life. May God grace them with his healing touch and give their caregivers strength and faith.

Remember all prayer requests may also be submitted on the Peterstown TEC website at <https://www.peterstowntec.com>.

**PRAYER
REQUESTS**

