Dear TECites, friends and families,

Robin and I love to sit by a fire pit and watch the bright flames dance and feel its warmth. To keep that fire burning, it’s best to keep the logs close together so that they can feed off each other’s heat. Each log burns stronger and longer than if it were separated from the others. So it is with us. To keep the fire of our faith burning, it is important that we have strong Christian friendships. We need brothers and sisters who are also seeking Christ, to walk with us on our journey and help us grow in our relationship with Christ.

This doesn’t just mean having friends who happen to be Catholic. We need close friends with whom we can rise above the trivial and talk about things that really matter – God, prayer, overcoming struggles in our life. We need brothers and sisters who can encourage us in our faith journey, hold us accountable and keep us on track.

Where can we find these Christian friends? TEC of course! Each time we come back to be involved in another TEC weekend, we may meet another new friend to help each other on our faith journey. Come to the follow-up on the Sunday after a TEC weekend. It’s not just for the teens making their first TEC weekend. All TECites are welcome to come and encourage each other to grow closer to Christ.

When one of the logs in the fire rolls away from the others, its flame won’t burn as brightly and will soon extinguish. The same thing can happen to us without true Christian friends. Authentic Christian friendships are vital for our walk with the Lord. They help us grow as disciples, navigate the challenging times in our lives and keep our focus on God. Strong Christian friendships help stoke the fire of our Christian faith and keep it burning brightly. LET IT SHINE!

Kim Santman, Assistant Spiritual Director
“Our God is an awesome God” in everything He does!

It is amazing how he weaves our lives together in such a way on TEC Weekends and then how we “Go Forth” perhaps having our lives come together again in the future. Some make new friends, see old friends, work side by side as brothers and sisters in Christ. Even outside the TEC program some maintain these friendships. Others come to Peterstown as a teen candidate or an adult on a team for the first time and that may be the only time they are a part of a TEC weekend. They still are a part of our Peterstown TEC family. It is fun to see TECites living out their 4th day throughout the area.

My first TEC weekend was TEC #103 as a part of the “married couples” talk. Not growing up in this area it has been difficult for me to figure out who is related to whom. Of course we are all brothers and sisters in Christ at Peterstown and wherever our journey takes us. That journey may take our teen TECites away to college, stay in our area for work or attend IVCC. Sometimes after college TECites come back and help the TEC program in many ways as adults and remain active as much as possible while starting a career and a possible family of their own.

Over the past couple of months our TEC family has had 5 TECites (that I am aware of) pass from this life to the next to be with our Heavenly Father. Beverly Gualandri, Debra Funfsinn, Desiree (Jordan) Griffith, Fr. Ron Dodd, and Catherine (Katie) Sondgeroth. I am sure many of you in our TEC Community have wonderful memories of these fantastic TECites as they may have helped you become closer to Christ through them, on a TEC Weekend. They have all participated in the TEC Program at different levels of involvement. Beverly, along with her husband Clyde, were on several TEC weekends. Their children and grandchildren have been on TEC weekends as candidates, team members, helping in the kitchen, on TEC Council, and even Lay Leader on a weekend.

Janel Sons, Beverly and Clyde’s daughter, was the Leader on TEC #110. Other members on the TEC team were Debra Funfsinn and Katie Sondgeroth. Deb Funfsinn served on TEC #210 this past fall as the musician. She then was the musician at the Hoot Mass this past December for TEC #212. Beverly and Clyde’s granddaughter Maggie Sons (Janel’s daughter) was a candidate on TEC #212. Beverly passed away in late January and Deb was to be the musician for Beverly’s funeral. The morning of the funeral Deb wasn’t feeling well and couldn’t play guitar for the Mass. God called Deb home that weekend too.
Desiree (Jordan) Griffith passed away on Feb. 7th. She was a candidate on TEC #182. I am sure some of you have kept up with her since then. I do know she was married this past summer and had some health issues when she passed.

Fr. Ron Dodd passed away February 12th. Father served on several TEC teams at Peterstown as the Spiritual Leader on TEC Weekends while being assigned to parishes in Ottawa, Streator, and Odell.

Catherine (Katie) Sondgeroth was a teen team member on TEC #110 and has been a part of other TEC teams since. I remember her being bubbly, positive, with great leadership qualities. Her smile was so infectious you couldn’t help but smile back at her. She let her light shine for everyone! I last saw her at the HOOT a year ago when her brother was the Lay Leader for TEC #208.

Earlier in my article I mentioned that Peterstown TECites embark on their 4th day journey in many places. They spread the love Christ has for them, to others they meet.

They LET THEIR LIGHTS SHINE!

The thread that God weaves through our lives has a purpose. Sometimes we think we understand God’s reasoning or purpose but most of the time we really are clueless. We do look forward to reuniting with all of our brothers and sisters in Christ some day when all will be revealed.

Lead Us Lord

WELCOME NEW TECITES 213

The Peterstown TEC Community whole heartily welcomes the following TECites to the TEC family! Thank you for coming for a TEC Weekend! Please pray about coming back for a TEC weekend by submitting a TEC Team application!

Aaron Brandner, Ben Cyr, Mason DeFore, Ashton Dewey, Nicholas Lough, Peter Sampson, Thomas Stamberger, Logan Ulrich, Josh Wiley, and Jacob Williams.
THANK YOU FOR THE WHEAT

Thank you to TECites from TEC #212 for helping to clean up after TEC #213! Brian and Rachael Sherman, Emily Santman, Kim Santman and Don McLachlan subbing for his wife Carol. It took us a bit longer to clean since there were not very many. Please consider coming to do some extra WHEAT and offer it up for our TEC team and candidates any Monday after a TEC weekend. The parishioners of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish expect us to leave this facility as clean as we found it prior to the TEC weekend. We need volunteers to help put it back in order after the TEC Weekend. The next clean up date will be Monday, April 1st at 4:30 p.m.

KITCHEN NEWS

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

This was on our Ash Wednesday bulletin. A new favorite for me. What is your treasure? Where is it? During this Lenten season, take time to figure out what your treasure is and where you can find it.

One of my treasures is being a member of the TEC community. I can always find what I need to fill me up here. With the stress of everyday life, I know that when I feel empty, I can always get filled up here at Peterstown.

I want to thank everyone who donated items for the last TEC:
Heartland Meats - Ground Beef
The Brown Family and Kunkel Family - Eggs
Spring Valley Supermarket - Bread
Mendota Knights of Columbus - Grilled Pork Chops
Everyone who donated their time and talents.

If you are looking for treasures, you can find them in the TEC kitchen! You can help feed #214 and have a bunch of fun in the mean time!! Call me, text me, and we can put you to work! We always need cookies or snacks. Bring your cookies out Saturday morning and they will be put to good use. We always appreciate donations of any sort. We are also needing servers for Sunday night. Dudes need to call me!!

Loaves and fishes,
Jill
TEC Encounter 2019 is scheduled for JULY 12-14 at St. John’s University in Collegeville, Minnesota. The theme is “Called by Christ, Affirmed in Love, Sent to Serve”! TECites attending need to be at least 18 years of age. Early Bird pricing is available thru March 31st. You may register online and access information about TEC Encounter 2019 by going to the website:

http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07efxf8bx310e5b50&llr=gyrmm6rab

If you are interested in attending please contact Robin Santman by text or call 815-915-5395, or Brenda Barnickel, or any TEC Core team or Council member. We hope to have a group from Peterstown to attend and ride share.

During TEC Encounter the “TEC family gathers for 3 days each year so that our call to encounter Christ may deepen. Come to strengthen your spiritual life, widen your circle of friends, and to gather resources for your TEC Community!”

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 process

*An opportunity to gather and share resources

*Personal spiritual renewal
Peterstown TEC is a little late at presenting the 2018 SPIRIT OF TEC AWARD for the 2018 TEC Season. The Spirit of TEC Award recognizes active TECites in our TEC community or regional area. The recipients for 2018 are Cheri and Charlie Judd.

TECites given this award:
- Lives out the Paschal Mystery in his or her life;
- Has contributed to TEC in a significant way on a local or regional area;
- Is committed to serving the Church and its youth and young adults;
- Generously shows his or her love, faith, and enthusiasm with others.

This award was established in 1990.

The individuals receiving this award first has their certificate displayed nationally at TEC Encounter which meets on a weekend in the summer before being awarded locally in the area TEC Community.
The current Girls TEC #214 Team have been meeting the past couple of Wednesday evenings in preparation for the upcoming Girls TEC Weekend March 30-April 1st.
Kris Klieber is the Lay Leader. Her Assistant Leaders are Lori McConville and Linda Kelsey.
The Spiritual Leader is Fr. Corey Krengiel.

Other team members include: Sr. Ana Pia Cordua, Kim Santman, Jyll Pozzi, Steve Harmon, Anna Bokus, Alyssa Brooke, Madison Brown, Mary Therese Heitmann, Tom Heitmann, Dria Kuntz, Maria Orozco, Katlyn Plankenhorn, Sophia Suarez, Danielle Wall, Megan Wiesbrock, and Lexi Wittenauer.

Please keep these team members and the candidates that will be with us on the weekend in your daily prayers.

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| Wednesday, March 20th-
TEC Council meeting 6:00 p.m.
TEC Candidate applications due to Rhonda Bezely
(online, text a picture of the app, scan and email, or snail mail) |
| Friday, March 29th-
Girls TEC Team #214 arrives at TEC Center 7:00 p.m. |
| Saturday, March 30 - April 1st-
Girls TEC #214 Weekend |
| Sunday, April 7th-
Follow up in Lounge 5:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, April 24th-
TEC Council Meeting and potluck 6:00 p.m. |
Pray for the team of TEC#214 as they prepare for the girl’s TEC weekend to be held March 30-April 1.

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.