



*Doing Good Deeds for  
Jesus*

# IMPORTANT UPDATE

## PETERSTOWN TEC

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST-

#### \*IMPORTANT UPDATE

#### \*FATHER GIFFORD

#### \* DEACON DAN

#### \* LEAD ME LORD

#### \* KITCHEN NEWS

#### \*NEWTECITES

#### \* 2020 TEC ENCOUNTER

#### \* THANK YOU

#### \* DATES TO RE- MEMBER

#### \* PRAYER REQUEST

Dear TECites:

It is with the deep sorrow, but out of concern for the health of all, that we have decided that the Girls TEC #218 has been cancelled. This decision is in light of the temporary suspension of all Masses, other public worship and various Church activities, under the direction of our Bishop, who is acting in unison with other bishops, as well public officials, out of concern for the need to break the cycle of transmission of the Coronavirus.

<https://cdop.org/2020/03/suspension-of-all-public-masses/>

Further, in consultation with Fr. Pilon, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul, Peterstown, and Holy Cross, Mendota, it was agreed that the Peterstown center should be closed down now in keeping with Diocesan policy & for everyone's health. This requires the cancellation of all team meetings.

Therefore, the upcoming meetings & TEC #218 weekend, April 4-6, are cancelled.

Let us remember to pray for one another, especially those most vulnerable or isolated, and remain connected as a TEC community in every way that we can, especially using our phones and online media. Also, please take note of the fact that Fr. Gifford and many other priests, in our area and beyond, are making Masses and various other resources available online, in which you can share.

God Bless,

Deacon Dan O'Connor/Spiritual Director  
Fr. Gifford/Spiritual Advisor

## FATHER GIFFORD

Happy 4th Day!

As we enter the Season of Lent, let us take a moment to consider how living our 4th Day - being open to how God wants to sow the seeds of what was begun with our TEC experience, beyond the three days of the retreat itself - teaches us to enter into the rhythm of the Church Year, especially in this holy season. For those of us who were raised Catholic, in a sense, we learned very early on about “doing wheat” by learning to “give something up” for Lent. And our experience of this might be very different from person to person. Maybe some of us, with the help of good parents, teachers, pastors and others, learned the significance, importance and value of these little sacrifices early on. Perhaps it was well instilled in us how very much Christ gave up for us, how very little we tend to give in reality, and how easily we take the gifts given to us for granted. Thus, we may be readily motivated to respond in humbled gratitude to Jesus and express our love for Him in return, by being generous with how we will be willing to sacrifice, as we recommit ourselves, at least once a year during Lent, to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. By the fact that the response Jesus asks for includes almsgiving, we can see that part of our grateful response to Jesus includes, not only “paying Him back” (as if we could ever really sufficiently do that), but also “paying it forward.” Maybe for others of us, though, we either never fully understood the meaning of these sacrifices or lost sight of that meaning over time and they might have started to feel less like a response of love which we were personally motivated to make and more of an obligation imposed upon us, by the time we reached our teenage years. Then, one day, we went on this retreat. And midday through the first day, they revealed to us that a whole community of people, maybe some family and friends and probably countless others we had never met, had been offering sacrifices for us. We learned that the term for this was “wheat,” based on the analogy that Jesus used (John 12) of a grain of wheat falling to the ground and dying so that it bears much fruit. Thus, we begin to see that Jesus Himself is the inspiration and motivation for these sacrifices. The love of the community for us is an expression of and even a participation in, Jesus’s love for us. We are so loved. And we came to know this more deeply by the sacrifices that were made for us. Thus, we desire to respond in humbled gratitude, by paying it forward with sacrifices of wheat offered for those who will have this revelation on future TEC weekends (even if we, very sadly, at the present moment, will have to wait a little longer for another one to occur). Lent can help us appreciate the beauty of doing wheat. And doing wheat can help us experience the beauty of Lent. This is especially true because we learned about wheat in the talk about the Paschal Mystery. We learned that we die with Christ, not only out of gratitude and love, but also so that we may receive the greater gift He wants to give us: the Resurrection. We are to rise in Him, live in Him, and go forward in Him each day, walking in the newness of a life that has deeper meaning, illuminated by the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. So, this Lent, let us be generous in what we seek to give to Christ, in order that we may celebrate His Resurrection with even deeper joy come Easter. Likewise, may we also be generous in the wheat we offer for all future TEC weekends, so that we may share in the joy of the Resurrection together with them, on Rise Day, at the Hoot, and in their Fourth Day.

God bless you all.  
Father Gifford

# DEACON DAN

The Boys #217 TEC weekend was February 22-24 & the weekend went really well. We had 8 candidates & one new team member from the Rockford Diocese – Deacon George Schramm. Thanks to Kim Santman for stepping in & fulfilling my role for the weekend.

Thank you to Zack Van Keulen for being our Leader and his assistants and team for all of your hard work & service you did during the weekend.

**We are in the 2nd week of Lent & I want to share a Fruitful Lenten Prayer with you.**

My precious and crucified Lord, I offer You this Lent.

I offer it to You with total abandonment and trust.

I offer You my prayers, sacrifices and my very life this day.

Do with me, Lord, as You will.

I pray that this Lent will be fruitful.

I know You have much to say to me and much to do in my life.

May this Lent be a time through which Your mercy is poured in abundance into my soul, and into the souls of all Your faithful.

Dearest Lord help me to especially see my sin, this Lent.

Humble me so that I may see clearly.

Give me courage and strength to confess my sins, and to turn from them with all my heart.

Enlighten me with Your Holy Word, dear Lord.

Help me to come to know You and to deepen the gift of faith in my life.

Show me the plan You have for me, and place my feet upon the path You have chosen.

My suffering Lord, I thank You for the fullness of Your perfect Sacrifice.

I thank You for holding nothing back, giving Your life to the last drop of blood.

May I offer You my very life as a sacrifice, trusting in Your mercy with every offering.

Keep me faithful to my Lenten promises, and bring forth new life through these sacrifices of love.

Strengthen my prayer and make me holy.

Help me to turn to You, each day, seeking Your sacred and pierced Heart.

Amen

God Bless,  
Dcn. Dan O'Connor

“Unless there is a Good Friday in your life, there can be no Easter Sunday.”

Venerable -- Fulton Sheen

## LEAD ME LORD

ROBIN SANTMAN

“Jesus says that if we follow him, the cross, pain, will find us. That message is chronically misunderstood. Maybe we would understand it better if Jesus would have worded it this way: The more sensitive you become, the more pain will seep into your life. We catch the connection then. The sensitive person suffers more deeply, just as they also drink in more deeply the joys and beauties of life. Pain enters them more deeply for the same reasons that meaning does. They’re open to it. The calloused (by definition) are spared of both, deep pain and deep joy.”

-Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI-

From “The Witness” Archdiocese of Dubuque

9/8/19

Have you noticed as you have been on a TEC Team or have come as a candidate for a TEC weekend how some Reflections, given by an adult or teen speaker seem to “speak” to our hearts? We open our hearts to try and understand what they have felt by what they have said. We become sensitive to their joy and sorrows as their Reflection unfolds. Think about the tears that flow on a TEC weekend and also think of the moments of great joy that happen on a TEC weekend. Christ is using those speakers to get us to become more open to other’s needs, their pains, their joys; our own pains, our own joys, and living out the Paschal Mystery every day of our life here on earth. We carry our cross or sometime other’s crosses causing pain, loss, grief. We also are joyful when good things happen to ourselves and others. Be that sensitive person through the pain, through the joy, living and loving deeply.

Lead us Lord

## KITCHEN NEWS

Stay awake and keep watch, for the Lord provides. And provide He does. We are thankful for all our helpers. Washing dishes, doing laundry, setting tables, flipping pancakes, cracking eggs, cooking up bacon, sausage, making toast, and everything in between. We could not do it without you all. It takes many parts to make a TEC weekend successful, and I’ve never seen an unsuccessful weekend yet. The Lord provides. We particularly want to thank our community for the many donations:

Water Store - water, ice and jugs

Brown family - eggs and ground beef

Sondgeroth family - ground beef.

SV Supermarket- Italian bread

Mendota Knights of Columbus- pork chops

Stay shining my friends!

Jill Ross

TEC Kitchen chair

## WELCOME NEW TECITES

The Peterstown Community welcomed 8 teen TECites and an adult team member to the TEC family this past February 22nd-24th.

New TECites include: Estevan Alfaro, William Daugherty, Logan Flanagan, Dominick Osborn, Joseph Rios, Jacob Shiraz, Joseph Shepard, Jakob Stoddard, and new team member Deacon George Schramm.

We pray that you keep shining HIS light brightly as you “go forth” and that you “keep coming back”!

# TEC ENCOUNTER 2020

The Theme this year is **PLANT-CULTIVATE-NURTURE**

Scheduled for July 10-12, 2020  
Savior Pastoral Center  
Kansas City, Kansas

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

Attendees need to be 18 years of age. Registration for TEC Encounter 2020 may be found at the website [teconference.org](http://teconference.org). If you register before March 31st, you will receive a free TEC Encounter t-shirt! Peterstown TEC would like to take a car or two of TECites for this amazing experience! Please pray about coming along.

## THANK YOU FOR SAYING YES

There was to be one more upcoming TEC Weekend this TEC Season but unfortunately after the first two team meetings Peterstown TEC needed to adhere to what Bishop Jenky, Fr. Pilon, Fr. Gifford, and all the public healthcare officials need us to do and that is to cancel TEC #218.

I do want to acknowledge and thank the TECites who stepped up to be on the TEC #218 Team. We all pray you will "keep coming back" in safer times.

Linda Kelsey was to be the Lay Leader with Lauren Maggi and Rachael Sherman as Assistant Lay Leaders. The Weekend Spiritual Advisor was to be Fr. Tom Otto. Jyll Pozzi and Steve Harmon were to be Assistant TEC Directors. Sister Ana Pia Cordua along with Jenny Alvarado, Madison Brown, Hannah Henderson, Allie Hernandez, Lori Janko-Wilke, Dria Kuntz, Christine Migliorini, Katherine Monier, Ellyn Nowakowski, Linda Reviglio, Pete Reviglio, and Libby Wittenauer made up the rest of the team.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday April 12th- Easter Sunday

July 10-12, 2020- TEC Encounter 2020

Please watch for future Peterstown TEC announcements in your email and on the Peterstown TEC Facebook page.

Peterstown TEC Program  
1307 Henry St.  
Peru, Il 61354

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

## **KEEP PRAYING: CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU**

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**