



THE SHINING SON

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November 2023

PETERSTOWN TEC

Deacon Dan

SPECIAL POINTS

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Last April 15-17, we had our Girl's TEC #224 weekend with seven candidates. Rachael Sherman was our leader and Fr. Carlson was our Priest for this weekend. I want to thank everyone who helped to make this weekend a wonderful success. Our TEC community wants to welcome our new candidates to our community.

We did not have a Boy's TEC weekend because we could not find a leader. We are planning on our next Boys weekend for March 2-4, 2024. Please encourage some young men to sign up for this March TEC weekend.

December 2-4 we will be having the Girl's TEC #225 weekend. Our leader is Madison Brown and we are looking forward to working with her and her team. We have already had two team meetings.

We need your help to encourage some girls to come as candidates for this weekend. We are excited to continue to build our program back up after COVID.

I encourage you to come to Peterstown for the next Girl's weekend and support this program anyway that you can: help out in the kitchen, bake some cookies, attend Mass and the Hoot. Most of all, pray to the Holy Spirit for candidates, for our leader, her team and overall success of this TEC program.

God Bless,
Deacon Dan O'Connor

"The month of November each year is dedicated to commemorating those who have died and departed to their heavenly home. Let us dedicate ourselves to praying for the souls of all our departed loved ones as well as those who have no one to pray for them on earth." -- Anointing Fire Catholic Ministries

Lay Director

Sometimes I get bogged down with all the negative things going on in the world. I found this article helpful, and I hope you do as well. It's written by TECite Jason Kotecki. His first TEC at Peterstown was #91, he met his wife through TEC, and he is now an accomplished artist, cartoonist, and motivational speaker. He spoke at our 40th anniversary celebration in 2016.

In other news: The world is a dumpster fire. 

When we left for a recent trip to Hawaii, I made the decision to unplug. I'd monitor my business email every other day or so, but detach completely from following the news and my social media feeds. It was awesome. I felt present. My heartbeat slowed and my anxiety melted. It was so glorious, that I maintained the distance even after returning home.

I don't need to plug-in in order to "stay informed" that the world is a dumpster fire. Just this week, we've got war, natural disasters, scary economic news, the death of a celebrity, and at least one senseless act of violence we will fight over the correct solution to. The thing is, that true sentence I just wrote was true ten years ago in the same way it was true two thousand years ago and will be true two decades from now. (Or until the world actually ends, whichever comes first.)

We need to understand that regularly following "the news" is like injecting pure poison into our veins. Whether it's broadcast news, your favorite newspaper, or your carefully curated feed of trusted sources, it's a rerun of the same show over and over again. The quickest way to clicks, ratings, and revenue is by feeding on your fear and fury (while making it seem like they're doing you a service).

War. Natural Disasters. Scary economic news. The death of a celebrity. Senseless acts of violence. Outrage!

If you are always paying attention to the news, the world is a sad, scary, corrupt, dangerous, unredeemable place. Of course, in many ways, it is. But when I was in Hawaii, I paid attention to the powerful blue waves and the warm sun on my skin. The patient and daring surfers. The pink and purple flowers. The lush green mountains. The delicious fresh pineapple and smoky kalua pork. The happy smiles of my children. And the aspirational conversations I had with my wife.

Yet, somehow, I was not oblivious to the fact that there were wars raging, natural disasters, scary economic news, the death of a celebrity, and senseless acts of outrage. Spend any significant time "unplugged" and you'll see for yourself: The real news finds you.

So, the first step is not to be alarmed that the world is a dumpster fire, but to understand that the world has always been a dumpster fire, a grand battle of good versus evil. Recency bias would have us believe it's never been this bad, but trust anyone who's a hundred years old, it's been worse.

The second step is to acknowledge that although it is, in fact, your job to do SOMETHING about it, it's not your job to do EVERYTHING. And the only way to have a chance of doing ANYTHING worthwhile is to filter out the negative and pay attention to the good.

That will give you a good attitude, a clear mind, and a deep well of hope and energy from which to draw as you do your small part to extinguish the dumpster fire in your corner of the world.

Pay attention to what you're paying attention to.

Lay Director- continued

One way of paying attention to the good is to stay involved with TEC. There are so many ways for you to get involved. The most important is prayer. Pray for the team of TEC 225. You'll see their names later in the newsletter. Invite someone to make a TEC. Pray for the candidates that will be coming in December. I know of three so far. Pray for the other young ladies that God is calling to be part of the weekend, that they say "yes" to the call. Pray for everyone else involved in the weekend: the wheat team, kitchen help, priests helping with reconciliation and the Hoot Mass. In addition to prayer, come and help. We can always use more cookies. It's fun spending time together in the kitchen preparing and serving meals. Come to the Hoot Mass Sunday at 5:30 to pray and celebrate Mass as a group. Come to the Hoot to show the candidates how many people want to show support and love for them. Don't forget to write some wheat notes. You can write to the team as they are preparing for the weekend. You can also write a general wheat note to the entire team and candidates to be read during the weekend. Or write a paschal mystery wheat note to an individual for them to read on Saturday after the Paschal Mystery reflection. Or write a note to an individual to include in their packet of letters that they receive before leaving for home. It's even easier now, because you can submit a wheat note online, at www.peterstowntec.com. Also on the website are applications to be on a presenting team or a wheat team in the future. As Deacon Vince always said, "KEEP COMING BACK!"

Yours in Christ,
Kim Santman

TEC TEAM #225

The team for TEC #225 is complete, and their first team meeting was on November 1.

The Lay Leader is Madison Brown, and her two assistants are Dria Kuntz and Bailey Mekley.

The Spiritual Director is Deacon Dan O'Connor, and the weekend's Spiritual Advisor is Father Scott Potthoff from Nativity of Our Lord parish in Spring Valley.

The Assistant Spiritual Directors are Jim Hoscheid, Jyll Pozzi and David Kasprovicz who will be shadowing as his first time in the role.

Other team members include Esmeralda Avila, Izzy Brown, Sophia Brown, Carly Burke, Sister Claire Key, Ella Martin, Cara Motter, Susan Real, Hannah Taliani, and Valeria Villagomez.

Please keep the team in your prayers as they prepare their reflections and hold their team meetings this month.

HEART FULL OF WHEAT

Is your heart FULL?

Is it being called to do some WHEAT?

Do you want to experience another level of TEC or do a Wheat Team again?

Want to step it up and be a leader or assistant leader?

Do you want to see our TEC program grow stronger in numbers?

If you answered yes to any of those questions, then reach out and volunteer to do some WHEAT for TEC 225 the first weekend of December as a member of the Wheat Team. I know you really want to pass it on!! Jesus is counting on you!

There are only two team meetings, and the weekend starts on Friday night with a couple of hours of prep work. Saturday and Sunday are full days, and Monday wraps up around 3 pm. Friday and Monday could be optional depending on school or work. Flexibility may also play a part.

Call Brenda Barnickel at (815) 973-6606. I'd love to hear my phone ring!! Really, I would!! Let's chat about what your heart can do!

We are also in need of a Wheat Team Chairman or Co-Chairman. I'd love to train and prepare you for doing a great behind the scenes job!

MEET OUR SPIRITUAL CORE TEAM

The Peterstown TEC Spiritual Core Team represents the heart and soul of TEC, with the Paschal Mystery as its model. Its mission is to listen, discern, and meet the needs of our youth and entire TEC movement by being a prayerful example of commitment, continuity, and leadership. This team, which is made of the Program's Lay Director, Spiritual Director, and Assistant Spiritual Directors, guides the community, provides continuing formation on TEC related issues, and encourages continued involvement in the TEC experience and its follow-up.



They are (left to right): Brenda Vaessen, Michael Vaessen, Carol McLachlan, David Kasprowicz, Tom Heitmann, Jyll Pozzi, Deacon Dan O'Connor, Jim Hoscheid, Mary Kunkel, and Kim Santman. Not pictured are Brenda Barnickel, Phil Grant, Steve Kunkel, and Kris Klieber.

THANK YOU CLEAN UP CREW

Thank you to all of the TECites who came out to Peterstown to help with the annual fall clean-up this past October 28th!

Thank you to Megan Cain, David Kasprowicz, Don & Carol McLachlan, and Kim and Robin Santman.

We all spread out and got the Peterstown Hilton in shape for this year's TEC weekends!

KITCHEN NEWS

We look forward to another successful TEC season here at Peterstown. To help make it the best possible experience for our team and candidates, we need your help and support. We need your prayers, wheat letters, wheat team members, kitchen help, and donations.

Here is a "Christmas List" of items you could consider for the TEC Center:

Paper products; paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, napkins

Gift cards; Sullivans, Walmart, HyVee

Contact myself or anyone on the board for more information.

All shifts are open for kitchen help. No experience required! There's plenty to do and we all have fun doing it! Come when you can and leave when you have to!

Blessings to you all!

Jill Ross

Kitchen Lady

815.866.6889

Rossranch92@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES

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.

Tuesday, November 14th –

Core Team Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Monday, November 20th-

Peterstown TEC Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Girl's TEC team meeting 7:00 p.m.

December 2nd-4th-

Girls TEC #225 Weekend

Sunday, December 10th -

Follow up 5:30 p.m.

March 2nd-4th-

Boys TEC #226 Weekend

April 13th-15th-

Girls TEC #227 Weekend

KEEP PRAYING: CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU

Pray for the team of TEC #225 as they prepare for the girl's weekend to be held December 2nd-4th.

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>.

