



October

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OCTOBER 2024

PETERSTOWN TEC

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DEACON DAN

Bailey Mekley is our Leader for the next Girl's TEC #228 to be held October 26-28th. Bailey has put together a great team and they have already had three team meetings. We are really looking forward to this next girl's weekend. Please encourage any young women you know to sign up for this weekend, we need candidates.

Fr. Greg Nelson, the Pastor of Holy Cross of Mendota, of Sts. Peter and Paul of Peterstown, and St. Theresa of Earlville will be our Weekend Spiritual Advisor. This will be Father's first TEC at Peterstown and we are excited to have him with us.

Our Assistant Spiritual Directors for this weekend are Jyll Pozzi and Rachael Sherman who will be assisting our team in many capacities, along with our kitchen and wheat teams.

Please pray to the Holy Spirit to be with us and guide us throughout this whole weekend because we can't have a Blessed weekend without Him.

I encourage you to come to Peterstown for this next girl's TEC and support this program anyway that you can: help out in the kitchen, bake some cookies, attend the Hoot Mass Sunday at 5:30 pm, and the Hoot following Mass. Most of all, pray for candidates, for our leader, her team, and the overall success of this TEC program.

Catholics dedicate the month of October to the Holy Rosary and the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Rosary is a contemplative prayer that involves meditating on the life of Jesus Christ through the eyes of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

According to an account by fifteenth-century Dominican, Alan de la Roch, Mary appeared to St. Dominic in 1206 after he had been praying and doing severe penances because of his lack of success in combating the Albigensian heresy.

Mary praised him for his valiant fight against the heretics and then gave him the Rosary as a mighty weapon, explained its uses and efficacy, and told him to preach it to others. "Since the prayers of the Rosary come from such excellent sources — from Our Lord Himself, from inspired Scripture, and from the Church — it is not surprising that the Rosary is so dear to our Blessed Mother and so powerful with heaven.

God Bless,
Deacon Dan O'Connor

St. Louis de Montfort said: "The Rosary is the most powerful weapon to touch the Heart of Jesus, Our Redeemer, who so loves His Mother."

LAY DIRECTOR

If you get frustrated like I do when unexpected things happen that delay your plans for the day, I hope you find this article helpful. 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. I bet most of us have experienced this.

A train passes through a small town, blocking several roads and putting traffic at a standstill. This is incredibly inconvenient when you were already running five minutes late. Sometimes you could backtrack and take an alternative route, but most of the time you have no choice but to wait. And wait. And wait. It's one of the most annoying things ever.

Not once have I ever seen anyone take a photo of the train.

Things work differently in Yellowstone National Park. People get super excited about traffic stoppages. You might even say they hope for them. When any sort of wildlife — from bison to bears to elk — blocks the road, cameras come out quickly to document the occasion. We want to capture the moment so we can carry it with us and show it to others.

This is not a moment of annoyance, it's a moment of awe.

Both of these scenarios, fundamentally, are disruptions of forward progress. How then can we explain the difference in our reactions? Could it be that the only difference is our perception of the circumstance?

Isn't it possible to see both instances as an invitation to slow down? To be present? To notice and maybe even be amazed at something that would otherwise pass us by?

What would happen if we looked at ALL the roadblocks in our life as an encounter with the divine?

Is that obstacle in your path right now an annoyance? Or an opportunity?

Maybe the traffic jam just saved you from a fatal accident that would have happened five minutes down the road.

Maybe the impossibly long red light is an invitation to enjoy a few minutes of silence, a break from rushing around, a chance to say a quick prayer for someone who needs it. Maybe instead of allowing frustration to mount, and if we practiced being present, an insight into a problem we've been struggling with will materialize.

Maybe the illness is a chance to slow down.

Maybe the delay is a chance to evaluate if you want to continue on this path.

Maybe the storm that just leveled your life is the beginning of a blessing you never saw coming.

Maybe it's just a train. Maybe it's an encounter with God.

Maybe we just need to change the way we see it.

Yours in Christ,
Kim Santman

TEC #228

The team for TEC #228 is complete, and their first team meeting was on Tuesday, September 23.

The Lay Leader is Bailey Mekley, and her two assistants are Toni Edgcomb and Brianna Legner.

The Spiritual Director is Deacon Dan O'Connor, and the weekend's Spiritual Advisor is Father Greg Nelson from Holy Cross parish in Mendota, as well as Sts. Peter and Paul at Peterstown and St. Theresa in Earlville.

The Assistant Spiritual Directors are Jyll Pozzi and Rachael Sherman, who will be shadowing as her first time in the role.

Other team members include Addy Allensworth, Izzy Brown, Lena Brown, Sophia Brown, Chris Klein, Madison Magee, Jason & Jonda Maus, Lucy Maus, Kara Miars, Ava Mueller, and Valeria Villagomez.

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

KITCHEN NEWS

Thessalonians 5:18: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

I am very honored to be a part of this wonderful community of giving people. I have been in the restaurant industry since the age of 15, which means I have roughly 40 years of experience. I have managed several restaurants, including the Prime Quarter, private golf courses, country clubs, and catering businesses. I made my first TEC when I was 16 TEC #49. I am the proud daughter of Joanne Brown, whom most of you remember. Recently my son Hunter made TEC #226. He was the first "Brown" grandchild to make one. When I spoke to Jill, I asked her what she needed help with, and her response was, "You can take over the kitchen." This only made sense to me. I felt like I was at home here, after spending much of my youth being a part of this beautiful TEC family. I feel like my mom's with me when I'm here and that gives me comfort. I have PEACE in my heart and that is what my mom gave to me. I wanted to be more involved, so here I am. I was taught the importance of giving back and being grateful for everything you have. I believe my mom is smiling down on our extended TEC family. Thank you for allowing me to bring this love back into my life.

In advance, I would like to thank all of the volunteers and families that donate food, money, prayers and so much more. This would not be possible without all of you.

If you need to get in touch with me please feel free to email me at bsavage1968@gmail.com, call or text me at 815-234-1654.

Again, thank you for welcoming me back into this incredible TEC family.

Have a Blessed day,
Brenda Savage

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 228 the weekend of October 25 – 28 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 Aaron Schmidt at (815) 503-3035 for more info and to volunteer.

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 Lena Brown, Carol McLachlan, Greg Ose-land, and Kim and Robin Santman. We all spread out and got the Peterstown Hilton in shape for this year's TEC weekends!

Therese & TEC: Our Patron Saint's Little Way

October 1 was the feast day for the patron saint of TEC-- St. Therese of Lisieux. Please join us in asking for her intercession for the vitality of the TEC movement and for blessings on all those who serve TEC.

Therese was chosen as the patron saint based off of four tenets of her life that form parallels with TEC and its mission: Encounter, Wheat, Youth, and Going Forth. To learn more about how her life aligns with TEC, check out this past blog written by Erica Tran at TEC Conference.

Oct 1, 2019



SAINT THERESE CONTINUED-

Catholics around the world are likely familiar with St. Therese of Lisieux, whom Pope Pius X called “the greatest saint of modern times.” My own devotion to Therese began when I was just seven years old and saw her holy card for the first time. In the image, she was holding a bouquet of flowers, and that was really all it took to pique my childlike interest.

Indeed, “childlike” is a favorable word to describe Therese and her sainthood: despite being an old soul who often felt out of place in the world around her, she thought of herself as a child before God, fully reliant on him, desperate for his love and affection, and longing to be carried in his arms. Her path to sainthood, which she believed could be achieved by anyone and everyone, became known as the “little way.” Therese’s attempts to become closer to Christ never took the form of grand gestures or enormous sacrifices; rather, she took small steps and made whatever small sacrifices she was capable of performing, abandoning herself and relying on God.

The TEC Conference recognized the parallels between Therese’s life and what we hope to bring to the lives of youth and young adults experiencing TEC, adopting Therese as the patron saint of the TEC movement. These reasons are detailed on our website, and I invite you to read over them here and reflect on how we can continue to bring Therese’s mission to fruition in our own ministry:

ENCOUNTER

A central tenet of TEC is a personal encounter with Christ and authentic encounters with others. Therese’s mission was to enter into and bring others to the heart of Christ. Both TEC and Therese share the goal of bringing those on our path to God.

WHEAT

Like the grain of wheat that must die to produce fruit, we “die to self” on TEC and make sacrifices of wheat throughout the weekend and beyond. Therese’s “little way” explains that everything, even the smallest daily tasks, can be sacrifices when done with great love.

YOUTH

The young adults who experience TEC are around the same age as Therese was at the time of her major writings and death. Having joined God at the age of 24, Therese remains young despite the passing of time, acting as a relevant role model to all. Her words and example are a gift directly to her contemporaries.

GOING FORTH

After a TEC weekend, we are encouraged to go forth and share the encounter that we just experienced with those in our lives. Therese sought to share her own love of God with all and believed everyone could attain holiness and sainthood. She continues to share God’s love with her “shower of roses” from heaven.

Anyone can follow Therese’s little way and reach the heart of Christ—a goal that the TEC movement hopes to help all accomplish. Let us all strive to imitate her and move closer to our Lord.

The “little way” speaks to me on a deeply personal level: what can I, simple and small, do to choose Christ? What little things can I do to get closer to him? Therese had the heart of a servant, as do all who work TEC weekends to show others Christ, and we all know that sometimes the smallest moments can make the biggest differences. Through TEC, people commit to growing closer to Christ, and so we ask Therese to intercede for our movement and all who are touched by it.

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.

Tuesday, October 15th –
Peterstown TEC Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.

October 26th-28th –
Girls TEC #228 Weekend

Sunday, November 10th –
Follow-up 4:00 p.m. (NEW TIME this year)

Thursday, November 14th –
Core Team Meeting 6:30 p.m.

December 7th - 9th –
Boys TEC #229 Weekend

March 1st – 3rd –
Boys TEC #230 Weekend

April 5th - 7th –
Girls TEC #231 Weekend

KEEP PRAYING: CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU

Pray for the team of TEC#228 as they prepare for the girl's TEC weekend October 26-28.

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**

