



Riverbend Ripples

Dear Family in Christ,

It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that I write this article for our summer issue of the Riverbend Ripples. Good things are happening in our TEC program! This issue of the Ripples is filled with exciting news, so please read carefully from cover to cover.

We had a successful TEC weekend in June with a team of 37 serving our 14 newest TECites and helping them to encounter the Lord's love and mercy during our 3-day journey. We have scheduled 2 TEC weekends for the 1st half of 2020 and are currently taking applications for directors and team members. If you have directed in the past, would you consider serving on team again and possibly mentoring someone who is new to leadership in the TEC program? It is important for us to continue to foster new leaders in our program at every level. Have you worked on team in several capacities and feel the Lord might be calling you to leadership? Call or email me and we can talk about pairing you up with an experienced leader that can support you in your leadership role.

You are all invited to join us for our Riverbend TEC Enrichment Day to be held in Olivia on Saturday, Oct. 5th. Come and enjoy a day of fellowship, fun, learning and prayer. We'll take time to build community, share our faith and have keynote addresses from two of our national TEC leaders. Look for details in this issue and submit your RSVP as soon as possible.

Would you consider joining our new perpetual, intercessory prayer ministry team? You can join the team by committing to pray our intercessory prayer for TEC a minimum of once per week. We can all be connected in Christ each and every day as we pray that God will continue to use our TEC program as His instrument to draw more people into deeper relationship with him and his church. Email me to get your name on the prayer team list.

Lastly, who do you know that deserves a TEC weekend? Do you have family, friends or co-workers that deserve a weekend away? The best way

you can invite and encourage people to attend is to share your story. Tell them how you encountered God's unconditional love during the weekend and how you felt his mercy in reconciliation. Maybe share how the mass came alive for you in a new way as you received Jesus in the Eucharist and felt his presence like never before. Let the joy and peace of the Holy Spirit radiate from your very being as you explain how you felt renewed in spirit and felt God calling you to a deeper relationship with him, where you belong. Don't be pushy. Don't say "You should go". Be gentle, share your story and invite. You could say something like, "I think you might really enjoy a weekend away", or, "This weekend really made a difference in my life." Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the words you need to reach out to 3 people in the next 3 months and give them an application for the January 2020 TEC weekend. As St. Augustine said, "Our hearts are restless, until they rest in you, Lord."

Hope to see many of you at the enrichment day in October.

May the peace and blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you and your families each and every day!

Yours in Christ,

Elaine Kahle

Riverbend TEC

Director of Communications

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Upcoming Events for Riverbend TEC

October 2019

5 | *Enrichment Day* | *Olivia, MN*

December 2019

14 | *Team Applications Due RB 273*

January 2020

5 | *RB 273 Planning Meeting* | *New Ulm*

18-20 | *RB 273* | *New Ulm*

19 | *RB 273 Reunion* | *New Ulm*

February 2020

2 | *RB 273 Small Reunion* | *New Ulm*

Reunion Schedule:

2019-2020 TEC Council

With RB 273 in January, we'll be returning to the original schedule for the Reunion.

3:30 pm Reunion team arrives
4:00 pm Reunion-ites gather/social
4:45 pm Go to Church for prayer
5:45 pm Announcements, etc
6:00 pm Lay Directors greeting
6:15 pm in Gym for Reunion
8:30 pm TECite Chapel Visit

Fr. Tony Hesse

Fr. Andy Michels

Fr. Dennis Labat

Joe Neumann

Alex Rohlik

Catie Loken

Taylor Welu

Peggy Lenz

Elaine Kahle

Pat Verly

Barb Verly

Thank you to Tracy, Justin, and Katie for your service as their terms wrap up!

While we used to have a Reunion Mass, we cannot always have a Priest available. The hour will be spent in prayer.

Keep the Council in your prayers!

A Reflection from our Administration Directors:

I have to confess that I agonized about saying "yes" to work as AWSO at the June TEC in Bird Island. It was in the midst of the highlight of my summer - getting our kids and 18 grandkids all together on the farm. I kept imagining ways that I could ask others to take this off my plate, and that this certainly was a reasonable excuse that all would agree trumps my serving. I felt confident that my husband would last minute be unable to attend due to the crazy spring and summer we are in the midst of - like no other in our lifetime! Lots of worrying and fretting and feeling sorry for myself...

I never made that call or pursued my getting off the hook. And the Lord blessed me richly! I was still able to have some glorious days with my military daughter and her 6 kids in KC as we all visited her nun sister, Little Sister Hallel! The week before TEC I took down 3 grandchildren, and met Maria there and since Nancy (who had lived in KC for 3 years) has now moved back to the Cities, we were given the gift of staying right there with Hallel and the sisters... making and eating meals with them, doing the dishes from heating the water first (the vow of poverty lived out in day to day ways) and wiping and putting away by many young hands. The prayer time was deep and many times in the presence of Jesus in adoration asking for blessings on our upcoming weekend. "My life is prayer and dishes." Hallel is known to say and we experienced it and it was great for our 2 days... I might get tired of the dishes, but never the prayer.

Maria now headed to Wisconsin to see her husband's parents as we were leaving for our TEC weekend, so we did not miss family time. Pat even made it, and he had always said in the midst of the craziness that "it is going to work and I will be able to go", and he was right! Sitting there in our peaceful prayerful Jesus-

filled chapel on the wheat team... looking around at the faces of those that I quickly learned to love, praying over speakers including our son, John, healed 10 years ago and now the new John, who found faith through brain cancer... Praying next to my husband of soon to be 41 years in a week, and listening to him share his LIGHT with tears in my eyes. So many times I was shown without a doubt that this was where I was called to be! Jesus came closer to me, and that is what I long for and live for!

Pat and I drove away from our weekend saying that we are more convinced than before our time spent on the prayer/servant/wheat team of RB 272... that TEC retreats allowing this closer walk and encounter with Jesus and His Bride, The Church, are needed and important to continue, and we are willing to say that shaky "yes" over and over to allow it to touch lives including our own! Jesus is in control and He does not let us down, but gives us rich overflowing gifts of His LIFE/LOVE/LIGHT! Jesus, we trust in you.

Bless-bless, Barb and Pat

It is that time again - annual VIRTUS training bulletins will be coming out. Everyone discerning working on team in 2020 should make sure their training is up to date. It only takes a few minutes; otherwise you may have to sit thru the class again. If you have any questions, contact Elaine.

Riverbend TEC Perpetual, Intercessory Prayer Ministry Team being Formed

Riverbend TEC is in the process of forming a Perpetual, Intercessory Prayer Ministry Team. You are invited to consider being a part of this team. The team will offer prayers for the TEC community on a regular basis. Our community does a great job in the area of prayer with our 2-month prayer commitments that are built into our TEC weekends and we have also been doing extra prayers immediately prior to and following the weekends with the Novenas. But what about the rest of the year? We all know and believe in the importance and power of prayer, so why not take advantage of all the willing prayer warriors we have within our TEC community to develop a Perpetual, Intercessory Prayer Ministry Team.

In this issue you will find a copy of the intercessory prayer. I invite you to pray the prayer for the next few days, and consider an invitation to be part of our prayer team.

If you feel called to be part of this team, I would ask that you would commit to praying this prayer a minimum of one time each week. You can pray it more often if you like, but we are asking for a minimum of once per week as your personal commitment to the Riverbend TEC program.

As much as I would love to assume that everyone reading the Ripples will automatically say "yes", I do ask that you email riverbendtec@gmail.com and confirm your interest in being part of this prayer ministry. Once we hear back from you, you will be added to an email group for the prayer team. We may reach out to you from time to time for special prayer requests. We hope to energize and support our program through the power of prayer.

Looking forward to hearing from many of you!

Yours in Christ,

Elaine Kahle, Director of Communications

Welcome to the Family! RB#272

Isabelle Ballalatak, Arlington

Lucy Ballalatak, Arlington

Allie Bjork, Lester Prairie

Jason Brandt, Sacred Heart

Shanna Daugherty, Buffalo

George Essen, Glencoe

Allie Evink, Willmar

Michael Flanagan, Mankato

Ellie Guggemos, Winsted

Jenna Heimerl, Lester Prairie

Molly Koralewski, Glencoe

Anna Mielke, Lester Prairie

Rene' Neumann, Winona

Emily Staska, Willmar

ANYONE that is interested in serving in leadership for the 2020 TEC weekends can fill out a leadership application on the TEC website.

Log into the '430 page' and click on the "TEC" tab and then on "leadership application" to apply.

You can also click on "TEC Rosters" and see who has applied to work and see if your application has been received.

~~ Riverbend TEC Interest Form ~~



“ I want to be involved! ”



Below are several ways for you to become more involved in the Riverbend TEC program. We need everyone's support and participation to be a strong, vibrant program within our church community to help evangelize the love of God to all people. Many people have encountered Christ in deep and personal ways during the TEC weekend. We want to continue to share our faith stories and invite others to join us as we share in Christ.

Name _____ Address _____

Cell Phone _____ Email Address _____

_____ **IT ALL STARTS WITH PRAYER !!** I would like to be a member of the Perpetual, Intercessory Prayer Ministry Team for RB TEC. I will commit to praying the intercessory prayer a minimum of once per week.

_____ I would like to serve on team or as a director for one of the 2020 TEC weekends. Please go to our website www.riverbendtec.org and click on the TEC tab and fill out either the team or leadership application and submit. **User Name** for TEC site is: **riverbend** **Password:** **wheat430**

_____ RB 273 January 18 - 20, 2020 in New Ulm _____ RB 274 June 27 - 29, 2020 in Marshall

_____ I would be willing to serve as a parish or area faith community representative for the Riverbend TEC program. I would be sure that notices of upcoming TECs get in our parish bulletin, be a contact person with our parish priest and DRE, have TEC applications on hand and try to get them in the back of church and be willing to have my name and number put in the bulletin as a local contact if people have questions. The parish/parishes I am able to be a representative for are :

_____ I would be interested in serving on the TEC Council. Please write below why you want to be on the council and what gifts, talents and skills you can bring to the table to help lead our TEC community in the next few years. The council is in need of youth from around the Diocese or people with a certain skill set.

~~ Need more space -- Please use the back or second attachment ~~

Who has been doing what recently?



Pictured above: the conference room and wheat team of RB 272...

Right: Jim and Marie Rice, receiving the 2019 Heritage Award... with Dcn Kevin Fuller, Kate Mapes, and Billy O'Regan

*Below: our attendee's at the 2019 TEC Encounter:
[front row] Elaine Kahle, Ronda Mathiowetz,
Monica Simmons, Marie Rice, Jim Rice, Vicky
Rasmussen, Catie Loken, Pam Loken, [back row]
Jerry Langworthy, Brian Mathiowetz, Brett
Mathiowetz, Peggy Lenz, and Fr. Denny Labat*



Notes From National TEC Encounter 2019

- ❖ We are in the same boat as many other centers. Participation is down---several communities are dormant. Many centers are doing 2-3 weekends per year.
- ❖ There is a National trend of disaffiliation with churches, retreats and organization across the board – not just TEC and the Catholic church—banks, churches, public schools, government, etc
- ❖ Disaffiliation happens over time—it is a process of stepping away and cutting ties. Young adults are now “personally constructing” their own religious identity--- “Catholic Adjacent” or Catholic-ish
- ❖ Average age of disengaging in the Catholic church is 13 yrs old
- ❖ There are more “nones” in the US than any other religious group (23% not affiliated with any religion)
- ❖ Most of these “nones” still believe in God or “a God”, but may not be the God we think it is...not the “bible” God, but maybe a higher power or an image made from their own thoughts—(self-constructed)
- ❖ The good news is: **OUR TEC PROGRAM IS NOT BROKEN!!!** We just need to adapt the way we approach it, market it and follow through with it. Build better/stronger relationships. “ Get to know our people better—pay attention--LISTEN
- ❖ The thing that has stayed the same since when TEC was created back in 1965 is that youth and all people have a longing to belong. They want to be known by name, feel important, needed and loved. Everyone wants to love and to be loved and be accepted for who they are. We need to do a better job of this. “River-bend TEC—a place you Belong” or “Longing to Belong? Come to TEC and find what’s missing in your life!”
- ❖ TEC is a means to an end, it is not the “end” in and of itself. The “end” goal is to help bring people to a deeper relationship with Christ and to build community and support each other on our journeys.
- ❖ 4 Main Points to keep in mind for the TEC weekend:
 - Create more time for listening—To Listen is to Heal (Better resource training?)
 - Invest more time in relationship building
 - Check our “presumptions” at the door. Be willing to adapt
 - **DON'T GIVE UP!! THE GOOD NEWS WE SHARE IS VITAL IN TODAY'S WORLD!!**
- ❖ How do we make TEC/church/God/faith attractive so that these “self-constructing” youth and young adults “choose” US? Make them feel “known.” People do not leave places where they feel known.
- ❖ **GET BACK TO THE BASICS:** Our founding idea and core principle is to create an environment of encounter. Follow the program, because the program is good. Adjust and expand our approach to foster a caring community where we accept people where they are at, **truly** listen to them and their needs, let them know that they are important and welcome at TEC and make them feel like they belong, because everyone “has a longing to belong” and we all “belong in Christ.

Riverbend TEC website information:

After opening the updated TEC website www.riverbendtec.org, go to the upper right corner and click "Sign In" to access the updated 430 page. We have new, easy to use online application forms now for applying for team! Everyone now uses the same username and password to log in.

**www.riverbendtec.org
username: riverbend
password: wheat430**

Find up to date news, applications, contacts, links, & information on Saints!

The Riverbend TEC Council is the leadership organization for Riverbend TEC which meets the 2nd Thursday of the month from 6:30pm to 9:30pm at St. Mary's Church in Bird Island. This group works at providing leadership training, evaluation, publishing a newsletter, updating the TEC weekend and being a resource for any TECite to contact with concerns or ideas.

Riverbend TEC T-Shirt WEBSITE: We have a storefront on CafePress. You'll find a wide variety of options, styles, sizes, and colors.

A part of every purchase made will go to Riverbend TEC. www.cafepress.com/riverbendtec.

Wheat Letters are a vital part of our weekend, building the faith community. Write a Die Day, Rise Day, or Go Day letter for the upcoming weekend.

You can also write Personal Die Day letters for any of the new TECites or Team Members participating on the weekend. Letters for Rise and Go Day should address the entire group.

You can now submit your letters from the website.

Safe Environment - Volunteers are to go to the VIRTUS website (www.virtus.com) to read an article and answer a simple question. Login with your name and password. If you have any trouble doing this, please send an email to Riverbend TEC at riverbendtec@gmail.com. **Please read the Safe Environment training article ASAP. It is required to work on team for a Riverbend TEC weekends.**

FIAT is a shorter follow-up retreat for those who have made TEC and are 18 and over. Check our website for more information.

Riverbend TEC

Enrichment Day

Saturday, October 5th

8:00 am to 4:30 pm

St. Aloysius Church, Jubilee Hall

Olivia, MN

Everyone Is Invited

~ Young

~ Older

~ New To TEC

~ Veterans

There is no cost for the day and everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Whether you are brand new to TEC and loved how you experienced Christ, or if you are a seasoned veteran in the TEC movement,

we invite all of you to come and be enriched and fed in the good news of our Lord.

Morning Refreshments & Lunch will be provided.

RSVP ~ rondamathiwetz@mathiwetzconst.com
or leave message @ 507-794-6545



Schedule for the Day

8:00
Register / Morning Refreshments
8:30
Opening Prayer
8:45
Ice Breakers / Mixers
9:00
What's new with Riverbend
(news from our Directors)
9:20 ~ Break
9:30 - 11:00
Keynote Speaker ~ Billy O'Regan
11:00 ~ Break
11:15
Q & A / Small group discussions
12:00 ~ Lunch
1:00 - 2:30
Keynote Speaker ~ Dcn Kevin Fuller
2:45
Q & A / Small group discussion
4:00
Closing Comments & Closing Prayer

Riverbend TEC Schedule for 2020

TEC	Date	Location
273	January 18-20	New Ulm, MN
274	June 27-29	Marshall, MN

*St. Therese of Lisieux,
Patron Saint of TEC
pray for the team
and TECites
of Riverbend # 273!*

Riverbend TEC Enrichment Day

Saturday October 5th

St. Aloysius Church, Olivia, MN

Registration, coffee/donuts @ 8:00am

Opening Prayer @ 8:30am

TEC Conference Executive Director Billy O'Regan and Associate Director Deacon Kevin Fuller will be with us that day sharing the heart of TEC and all that is going on throughout the country. There is no cost for the day and everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Whether you are brand new to TEC and loved how you experienced Christ, or if you are a seasoned veteran in the TEC movement, we invite all of you to come and be enriched and fed in the good news of our Lord. Lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP to: riverbendtec@gmail.com or rondamathiwetz@mathiwetzconst.com or by calling 507-794-6545.

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groups/2204607343](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2204607343)

**Team Applications
need to be received
FIVE weeks before the
TEC weekend.**

***You can now fill out
and send in your team
application ONLINE!***

*Submissions for the Ripples
are due 5 weeks before a
TEC weekend.
Email them to
jerrylangworthy@hotmail.com*