



# Riverbend Ripples

Greetings fellow Ripples Readers.

Like the weather that was changing the week of Thanksgiving, so is the TEC program. As we experience transition in our diocese, many of our churches, and even in the universal Church, there is no surprise that we are experiencing a transition with TEC. For many years we have been graced by Fr. Denny Labat leading our program at the helm. With his help and the help of so many of you, our Lord has touched hundreds and thousands of lives with His Spirit. And for these last couple of years, I have been blessed to be a part of the spiritual leadership of TEC. As the Spiritual Director, not only did I have some huge shoes to fill with Fr. Denny, but I was also fortunate to have him help me wear those shoes. Fr. Andy Michels (our Assistant Spiritual Director) was also a blessing to work with as we together carried out the spiritual component of the program. Despite all the help of these two wonderful priests, our previous coordinators, our new ones, I needed to step away from the Spiritual Direction position.

I have been blessed with six parishes that I have been pastor of and a school. Although one of them, St. John in Morton closed this past June 30th, the plan for three of the five parishes is to merge or close by June 30, 2020. Because of my busy schedule currently and going into the future planning, I have chosen to step down. I already got off of the College of Consultors, Priest Council, Diocesan Pastoral Council, and Committee on Parishes. Now, don't get me wrong, it was a blessing to be on these councils and committees, including the TEC Council, but I need to make sure I am available for my flock.

Speaking of flock, my hope is that the TEC program continues to be used as a program that offers an opportunity for our Lord's flock to experience an encounter with Him. So often I think we worry or work at trying to get people to come back and work

TEC and feel that the success of TEC is based on those that return for reunions and/or work the next one(s). However, that should never be the purpose of TEC. The TEC weekend should be about giving people, both the TECites and the team members, an opportunity to encounter our Lord, a weekend to grow in love of Him and His Church, and the desire to go forth and serve Him. As I mentioned earlier, hundreds and thousands have come through the program. The success of TEC is not about returners, it is about how the fire of faith has been passed on and continues to grow – take for example the number of priests and religious that came out of the program, the number of directors of religious education and catechists and teachers, the numbers of faith-filled parents, husbands and wives and single people. That is where the success of TEC lies... in the Church. Therefore, as we move forward, let's pray for the success of TEC, not the numbers who attend or return, but the how the Spirit is working in us all. Together, like a field of wheat, we will endure anything – while in Christ, welcoming everything!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Tony Hesse

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## Upcoming Events for Riverbend TEC

### January 2020

5	<i>RB 273 Planning Meeting</i>	<i>New Ulm</i>
18-20	<i>RB 273</i>	<i>New Ulm</i>
19	<i>RB 273 Reunion</i>	<i>New Ulm</i>

### February 2020

2	<i>RB 273 Small Reunion</i>	<i>New Ulm</i>
21	<i>Riverbend TEC Gala</i>	<i>Max's @ Olivia</i>

### Reunion Schedule:

*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 Director greeting
6:15 pm	in Gym for Reunion
8:30 pm	TECite Chapel Visit

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

### 2019-2020 TEC Council

*Fr. George Schmit - SD*  
*Fr. Andy Michels - ASD*  
*Fr. Dennis Labat - Emeritus*  
*Joe Neumann*  
*Alex Rohlik*  
*Catie Loken*  
*Peggy Lenz - Technology*  
*Elaine Kahle - Communications*  
*Pat Verly - Logistics*  
*Barb Verly - Logistics*  
*Pam Loken*  
*Michael Koester*  
*Melissa Neumann*  
*Vicky Rasmussen*

*Keep the Council in your prayers!*

**RB TEC 273 Conference Room Team**

LD - Brett Mathiowetz [Signs]  
 ALD - Melissa Neumann [Faith Journey]  
 SD - Fr Jeff Horejsi [Metanoia]  
 ASD - Ronda Mathiowetz [Paschal Mystery]  
 AT - Tracy Felder [Discipleship]  
 AT - Brian Mathiowetz [Church People of God]  
 AT - Bruce Johnson [Christian Life]  
 AT - Denise Johnson [ God Community of Love]  
 R - Alyssa DeBill [Growth and Ideals]  
 R - Angie Knapp  
 R - Alice Fasnacht [Young Christian as Disciple]  
 R - Tyler Donnay  
 R - Norb Kramer  
 MD - Rich Rohlik  
 M - Sydnee Heggstad  
 M - Michael Koester  
 GD - Stephanie Joyce  
 G - Vicky Rasmussen  
 G - Micheal Knapp  
 RD - Rose Heimerl  
 ARD - Anne Richardson  
 RM - Elaine Kahle

**RB TEC 273 Wheat Team**

WD - Art Rohlik  
 AWD - AJ Hoffman  
 WSD - Jim Rice  
 AWSO - Joe Neumann  
 C - Amy Foster  
 AC - Marie Rice  
 W - Robin Kerns  
 W - Amy Lager  
 W - Victoria Coudron  
 W - Tamara Hellendrung  
 W - Jami D'Ambrosio  
 W - George Essen  
 W - Nathan Brueske  
 W - Dave Grams  
 W - Todd Vogl  
 W - Roxanne Felder  
 W - Leigha Bruns  
 W - Cheryl Suttan  
 W - Pam Loken  
 W - Nichole Felder  
 W - Jerry Langworthy  
 W - Christine Koester  
 W - Kristin Adams

*Have you kept your VIRTUS training up to date? 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.*

**RB TEC 273 TECites - as of December 15th**

Sarah Denn	Cleveland MN	Adult
Danielle Langworthy	Henderson MN	Young Adult
Grace Geis	Winona, MN	Young Adult
Tyler Bruns	Winsted MN	Adult
Mary Jacques	Waverly, MN	Adult

## **Riverbend TEC Perpetual, Intercessory Prayer Ministry Team being Formed**

Riverbend TEC has formed 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](mailto: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

### **Current members of the Perpetual Intercessory Prayer Ministry Team are:**

*Maggie Bennett, Larry Bennett, PJ Bock, Karen Brandl, Nathan Brueske, Marcie Cowan, Deb Dack, Theresa DeBaere, Patti Eiden, George Essen, Tracy Felder, Sarah Finnegan, Dave Grams, Mary Grams, Tom Green, JoAnn Green, Robin Hauger, Rose Heimerl, Kevin Higgins, Mary Higgins, AJ Hoffman, Betty Johnson, Denise Johnson, Elaine Kahle, Denise Kalkoff, Tony Kielkucki, Lavon Kielkucki, Norb Kramer, Michelle Kramer, Fr. Denny Labat, Jerry Langworthy, Paul Lanoue, Ruth Lanoue, Peggy Lenz, Catie Loken, Pam Loken, Geri Lyle, Karen Maiers, Ronda Mathiowetz, Brain Mathiowetz, Brett Mathiowetz, MaryLou Mathiowetz, John Meisen, Ann Meisen, Sarah Mohs, Christina Moore, Bob Murphy, Marsha Murphy, Melissa Neumann, Joe Neumann, Jan Noyes, Jan O'Neill, JP O'Neill, Steve Prokosch, Audrey Prokosch, Vicky Rasmussen, Erin Reinhart, Bryan Reising, Linda Reising, Jim Rice, Anne Richardson, Robert Ries, Marge Rognli, Art Rohlik, Dawn Rohlik, Alex Rohlik, Pat Schommer, Julie Schwamberger, Kelli Sloom, Amy Sondag, Eric Soupier, Anne Soupier, Glen Soupier, Cheryl Sutton, Holly Thooft Toft, Barb Verly, Pat Verly, Pauline Vogl, Rhonda Wiering, Ron Wiering, Devonna Zeug, John Zwach*

# ~~ 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](http://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 :

\_\_\_\_\_

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



## Riverbend TEC Enrichment Day: A Fourth & Forth Day of Learning and Growth



On October 5, a cold, dreary Saturday, the Riverbend TEC family gathered at St. Aloysius in Olivia, MN for a day of faith, hope, love, growth, and prayer.

Joining our Riverbend TEC family for the day was: Billy O'Regan, the TEC Conference Executive Director, who traveled from New Orleans, LA, and Deacon Kevin Fuller, the TEC Conference Assistant Director, who traveled from Omaha, NE.

In the morning, we prayed and engaged in table discussion, a format anyone who has made a weekend will recognize! We reflected on the TEC weekend and what makes it such an amazing experience, including friends, family, unconditional love, the opportunity to share God's love with others, and an encounter with Christ. We shared how the experience of dying, rising, and going forth has helped us all grow in faith.

As we prayed together, and each person shared what TEC meant to us, we began to detect a thread emerging from our prayers and discussion. We discovered what most TEC family members know instinctively but may not have ever said out loud before: what makes a TEC center successful is people's ability to connect with other TEC family members. That happens at each Reunion. But... if a TEC center has not had a weekend for a while, people miss their friends and fellow TEC family members.

### **What keeps a TEC center active, alive, engaged and going is an active Fourth Day.**

After lunch, we moved into a more formalized presentation by Billy and Kevin breaking down the format of a TEC weekend event by event. WHAT should we be doing? WHO should be doing it? WHERE should this piece of the weekend take place—the church or the conference room? WHY do we do what we do? HOW do all these pieces fit together to give the TECite the experience we all hope they have?

Even those of us who have multiple weekends worth of service to TEC hopefully found at least a nugget or two of wisdom, especially under the guidance of Billy and Kevin, with their robust theological and Catholic youth service backgrounds.

As we love to do on a TEC weekend, we completed the day by attending mass at St. Aloysius. First, we got fed by Christ in the Eucharist. And then we were fed in another, literal way as we sat down to eat supper at Max's Grill before heading home, pleasantly tired and richly rewarded.

# **A Reflection on Being a Leader**

**By: Brett Mathiowetz**

Throughout our lives, we get exposed to lots of different groups, whether it be family, friends, classes, associations, companies...you get the point. We end up in these groups for many reasons, but much of it boils down to a simple desire that we all share: to belong. We want to feel accepted and loved. Once we join these groups, we learn about each other and the gifts that each person has. We look for ways to contribute using our own gifts—to feel like we are a greater part of this community. Based on gifts, some are called to take on different roles within a community. I most often receive the call to lead.

I made TEC at the age of 16. I was picked on almost mercilessly as a child. I had a very small group of friends, and life always seemed like it had it out for me. Since my parents were leaders in our local TEC community, making a TEC weekend was a huge uplift for me. I met an amazing group of people who helped me discover the real me. I grew tremendously in three days and discovered not only a healthier relationship with myself, but also with God and the Holy Trinity. This was something deeply personal and incredibly healing. I came back a changed person. It was a beautiful experience.

As I spent more times on weekends, I discovered all the things I could offer the people around me. I then helped them see the gifts they had to offer as well. It was the epitome of paying-it-forward. We were building each other up into the people that we were called to be. Then, I heard a call...

Our Diocesan Director of Youth Ministry at the time invited me to a leadership camp. I said yes. Shortly after, an invitation to attend a Diocesan Youth Council discernment process followed. I said yes. I then spent two years serving the youth of our diocese with some incredible people. I learned a lot about being a leader, but I wasn't completely convinced I was one...yet.

I continued working TEC weekends, giving meditations, directing music, and being an assistant director. All of a sudden, I was being asked to lead an entire weekend. Then it began to sink in: I'm being called to lead. Directing led to being a part of our TEC Council, and then eventually led me to the TEC Conference Leadership Council and the core Leadership Team. It has been an incredible ride that I am humbled and honored to have been called to. I continue to say yes.

This has been a journey that has taken place over 15 years, and it has not always been easy. The biggest challenge I faced was saying yes even when I wanted to say no. I didn't do that alone. I have and continue to spend lots of time in prayer—discerning a call and deciding whether to say yes or not. I have had some of my best prayerful moments in discernment. It's a cornerstone of my decision-making.

Often times for me another real challenge to saying yes lies in whether or not I deem myself “worthy” of leading. I am human. I am flawed. I make bad choices. I don't live up to expectations and then I feel like maybe I shouldn't be a leader. The most important thing I have learned about leading is that leading is not about me. It's about what I can unlock in other people. That is what effective leadership looks like. I can be as flawed as anyone else so long as I help those around me to be a better version of their self.

So how do I do that? Pay attention. See what others bring to the table and AFFIRM them. Tell them that you appreciate what they have to offer and how valuable it is. This is a cornerstone of our TEC weekend. It is a part of recognizing the Holy Spirit working in others and helping others to hear their call. This whole concept is born from a very simple word that we use every day: love. To be leaders in our communities, all we have to do is to love. It's the example that God showed us by sending his Son. It's the example that Christ showed us by the way He lived and died for us. It's the leadership that God calls each of us to. We all can do it in our own way. All we have to do is say yes, and I believe that it's worth saying yes.

**Riverbend TEC website information:**

*After opening the updated TEC website [www.riverbendtec.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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

Join us for  
Fellowship  
Food  
& Fun  
Silent & Live Auction Items

# Gala

You are cordially invited to attend  
the Riverbend TEC Gala

on

Friday

February 21, 2020

at

Max's Grill in Olivia

with the evening beginning at

5:30 p.m.

the meal served at 6:30 p.m.

Meal Choices

are:

Walleye

Prime Rib

Chicken Breast

each w/ vegetable & potato

Tickets  
\$25.00

includes meal &  
1 beverage ticket

**Make your commitment now! Dig out your calendar, look ahead to the month of February,  
and reserve the 21st now so you can attend the next Riverbend TEC Gala.**

*It will be a night of delicious food, laughter, and the fellowship of friends and family.*

*We'll pray, we'll sing, we'll renew bonds of community.*

**Tickets are still JUST 25.00 ~ and you can pay at the door.**

To reserve your seats now, send an email [[jerrylangworthy@hotmail.com](mailto:jerrylangworthy@hotmail.com)],

text [612.850.3302], or private message [via FB] to Jerry Langworthy

*Include: number of guests, each guests name, and each guests choice of entree (Walleye, Prime Rib, or Chicken).*

## 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!*



Members of our Riverbend TEC Council recently met and took the time to pose for a photo.

Present were (front row left to right) Fr George Schmit - our new SD, Fr Andy Michels - ASD, Fr Dennis Labat - Coordinator Emeritus, and Pam Loken.

(back row left to right) Catie Loken, Micheal Koester, Peggy Lenz - Technology, Barb Verly - Logistics, Pat Verly - Logistics, Joe Neumann, Melissa Neumann, Elaine Kahle - Communications, and Vicky Rasmussen.

Absent: Alex Rohlik

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riverbendtec](http://www.cafepress.com/riverbendtec)

Check out our  
Facebook group,  
[www.facebook.com/  
groups/2204607343](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2204607343)

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**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](mailto:jerrylangworthy@hotmail.com)*