

"Christ is Counting on You"

I'm sure that many of you reading this edition of the Riverbend Ripples will remember the moment when the Spiritual Director from your 1st TEC placed the TEC cross around your neck with the very words above and your response was, "and I on Him"! As I write these words on this Pentecost evening, I can only think about how Jesus was counting on the disciples when he said to them in Matthew 28:19-20: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." Jesus promised to be with the disciples always and in ALL WAYS and he sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost to fill them with his power and incredible love. It is this same Spirit that we received at our baptism and who is continually poured out on us through the sacraments and through experiences like TEC. Christ is counting on each one of us to continue sharing this mission of love each and everyday of our lives.

It is just one year ago when I stepped out in faith and a little trepidation to accept the role of Director of Communications for the Riverbend TEC program. I am so thankful for the help and support I have received from Peggy Lenz, Director of Technology, Pat and Barb Verly Directors of Logistics, the TEC Council, Eric Soupir, Jerry Langworthy, and also those that have offered help and given encouraging words during this past year. As we wrap up the liturgical season of Easter, I am reminded that the TEC story, the Paschal Mystery, is our eternal Easter story. We have been called and chosen by God to carry on his mission. God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called and that means all of us!!

So how can we and do we pass on the mission and the love of Christ through the TEC weekend? It happens through each person on the weekend, no matter what your role might be. The council is going to take time in the coming months to review all the roles of each team member and make sure that we are emphasizing the importance of really being present and attentive to each of our Tecites. We need to be authentic and genuine in what we say and really put our words into action. I've heard over and over again that teens, young adults and the young at heart are "longing to belong", but too often they are looking for love and attention in all the wrong places. As human beings, we all have a deep desire to love and to be loved and to experience joy and peace in life. We know that this can only truly happen when God is added to the equation. By allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us, we can help our Tecites find a place to belong in the Church and in their parish faith communities.

The creation of our Riverbend TEC Perpetual Intercessory Prayer Team is giving us a daily foundation in prayer for our program and our community. In addition to that, we have our 2-month praver commitment that all team members commit to for our team and Tecites. We would like to take this one step further and instead of just making a 2-month prayer commitment we want to make that a 2-month prayer AND CONTACT commitment. We can't spend 3 in depth days with our Tecites and then just send them on their way with a "good-bye and good luck", and "hope to see you at the small reunion". We need to be more intentional in our follow through by making a concerted effort to call them, text them, write them and reach out to them in any way that we can. We need to personally INVITE them to come to the small reunion and we need to be there, too! And we need to invite and encourage them to work on the next TEC. They need to feel NEEDED and to know, truly know, that they not only belong to the TEC family, but also to the family of Christ and their parish family. When people feel needed and feel that they belong, they will come back time and time again. I think we, as the TEC family, can do better in this area of follow through. May we always keep in mind that the Holy Spirit, the same Holy Spirit that came in power upon the disciples, has also been poured out abundantly on us. "Christ is counting on you!" I hope and pray you will respond to him by serving on a TEC weekend in the very near future.

Yours in Christ,

Elaine Kahle, Director of Communications

#### In This Issue:

Message from Elaine Letter from Bishop LeVoir New TEC Bibles !!! 2021 Calendar Perpetual Prayer Ministry Ministering to Youth by Michael Koester Prayer to Holy Spirit for Personal Change Spirit of TEC / Light of Christ nominations Congratulations to our new Priests 2021 TEC Dates/Locations

#### DIOCESE of NEW ULM

#### Office of the Bishop

#### Here is a letter of support from Bishop LeVoir.

June 5, 2020

Dear Members of TEC,

The times in which we are living are challenging indeed. Who would ever have thought that we would be struggling to overcome a pandemic? Also, racism has reared it's ugly head in a public way once again. These events remind us that the only response to these challenges is the person of Jesus Christ.

TEC is founded on a relationship with Jesus Christ. At its heart, our faith is not a set of rules, a system of thought, or an ethical manner of life. Our faith's foundation is Our Lord. "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes" (Mt 21:42). Over the years so many in the Diocese of New Ulm have had their faith strengthened by participation in TEC. I am so grateful for that.

It is now the time to live our faith ever more energetically. The Holy Eucharist gives us the grace we need to overcome our fears and to proclaim the Good News throughout the Diocese of New Ulm. It is Jesus Christ who can bring healing and hope to those who suffer from COVID-19 and to a world gripped in pandemic and its effects. It is Jesus Christ who can overcome all racism and bring true unity and peace to our country.

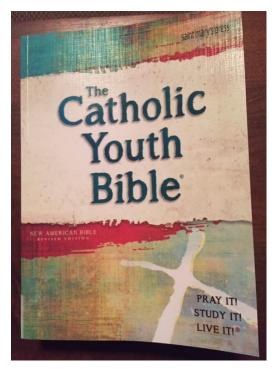
My prayer is that Catholics will live in real communion with one another and with Jesus Christ, and re-energized by the grace of the Eucharist, will evangelize more effectively their brothers and sisters. Effective evangelization will open the eyes of others to the saving power of Jesus Christ and to the ultimate response to the challenges that we face.

Please be assured of my prayers.

In Christ,

Most Reverend John M. LeVoir Bishop of New Ulm

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#### TEC has new Catholic Youth Bibles for 2021

After much discussion, the TEC Council voted earlier this year to search for a different version of the bible that we gift to participants on TEC weekends. The most recent bible we offered was a hard cover bible, which was very nice, but we had several people express their frustration that the print was just too small, which made it very hard to read. So the search began to find a different option, but still the New American Bible Revised Edition (NABRE) that we were currently using and the same translation.

We looked at several different options and after a few meetings of discussion, prayer and discernment, we decided to go with St. Mary's Press edition of the Catholic Youth Bible. We chose this bible for several reasons. One of the reasons was because it had bigger font than the previous bible we were using. Other features that we liked were the colorful, eye-catching cover, and the books of the bible tabs labeled on the edge of the pages. We also liked the summary and the "How is this relevant to my life today?" section at the beginning of each book of the bible. It seemed like more of a learning, welcoming bible to us, and it also has little articles like the "God and Technology" piece and hundreds

more interspersed throughout this

blessed book of sacred scripture which are very interesting to read and add a lot of insight.

We did discuss the fact that many of those making TEC these days have been adults and we wondered if they would be accepting of a "youth" bible. We all felt that no matter what the age, the "Searching for God", "Who is my Neighbor?", "Did you Know?" and "Catholic Connection" pieces would be valuable for everyone, and if they didn't want to read these pieces they wouldn't have to, but the scripture text is still the same as any other NABRE bible. We also felt that many of the adults making the TEC retreats have children or grandchildren and that maybe some of these side notes in the bible would provide good discussion topics for them.

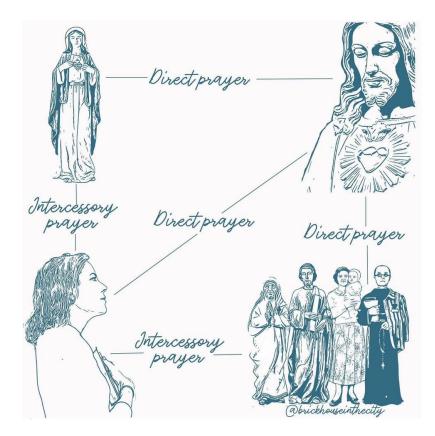


Lastly, we couldn't beat the price!! Some of the bibles we looked at were between \$20-\$30, but because we have connections through one of our TEC family members, we are able to get these beautiful bibles for just \$5.00



each!! We did have some of the hard cover bibles still in stock and they were donated to 3 of our TEC priests: Fr. Paul Timmerman, Fr. Brian Oestreich and Fr. Jeff Horjesi. They will be making use of these bibles in their parishes.

We hope and pray that these new bibles will encourage all TEC participants to break open the Word of God more often and really dive into the rich stories and history in both the Old and New Testament and continue their encounter of Jesus on a daily basis through scripture. We look forward to gifting many of these new bibles to all of our TECites in 2021 and beyond.



### **Reunion Schedule:**

3:30 pm	<b>Reunion team arrives</b>	
4:00 pm	Reunion-ites gather in gym	
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	<b>TECite Chapel Visit</b>	

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

#### **2020-2021 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 Barb Verly - Logistics Pam Loken Michael Koester Melissa Neumann Vicky Rasmussen

Keep the Council in your prayers!

## **TEC Encounter 2020**

Is going Virtual! Saturday, July 11th via Zoom



"By his cross we have been saved in order to embrace hope and let it strengthen and sustain all measures and all possible avenues for helping us protect ourselves and others. Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope."

Pope Francis during the Orbi et Urbi blessing on March 27th, 2020.

Watch Facebook for more details!

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## **Upcoming Events for Riverbend TEC**

January 202	21	
3	Planning Meeting RB 275 1-5pm	New Ulm, MN
16-18	<i>RB 275</i>	New Ulm, MN
17	Reunion	New Ulm, MN
31	Small Reunion 1-4pm	New Ulm, MN
February 20	21	
21	Planning Meeting RB 275 1-5pm	Marshall, MN
March 2021		
6-8	<i>RB</i> 276	Marshall, MN
7	Reunion	Marshall, MN
21	Small Reunion 1-4pm	Marshall, MN
June 2021		
13	Planning Meeting RB 277 1-5pm	Winsted, MN
26-28	<i>RB 277</i>	Winsted, MN
27	Reunion	Winsted, MN
July 2021		
11	Small Reunion 1-4pm	Winsted, MN

#### Is your VIRTUS training up to date?

Everyone discerning working on team in 2021 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.

Keep in mind that background checks need to be re-done every 7 years. So, don't be alarmed if paperwork shows up. Making sure we stay up to date with things like this means we'll always be ready to answer the call when Jesus asks us to serve.

## Thank You!

Everyone who participated in our 2020 Gala

You raised \$4,400.00 for Riverbend TEC.

Your generosity and dedication to TEC reflects an abundance of love for our community.

Thank You!

# <u>Riverbend TEC Perpetual,</u>

#### **Intercessory Prayer Ministry Team**

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 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.

### **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, Michael Koester. 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. Brian Mathiowetz, Brett Mathiowetz, MaryLou Mathiowetz, John Meisen, Ann Meisen, Sarah Mohs. Marie Molva. Christina Moore. Bob Murphy, Marsha Murphy, Melissa Neumann, Joe Neumann, Jan Noves, 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, Darlene Schorn, Julie Schwamberger, Kelli Sloot, Amy Sondag, Eric Soupir, Anne Soupir, Glen Soupir, Cheryl Sutton, Holly Thooft Toft, Barb Verly, Pat Verly, Pauline Vogl, Rhonda Wiering, Ron Wiering, Devonna Zeug, John Zach

Looking forward to hearing from many of you!

Yours in Christ,

Elaine Kahle, Director of Communications

#### A Reflection on Ministering to Youth:

Michael J. Koester, RB# 261

I remember one of my first "lock-in" experiences hosted by the youth group at my church. I remember drinking about a dozen cans of Dr. Pepper and eating about 20 pounds of cheesy popcorn. I remember playing the most intense game of midnight hide-and-seek, and I remember trying to stay awake all night only to fall asleep in a church pew around 3 a.m. If I think really hard, I also vaguely remember the short Bible study that started off the evening. Unfortunately, what I don't remember that night, or any other time, was an opportunity to discuss anything difficult that was going on in my life.

As a sophomore in high school, I had problems with friends, with bullying, problems with parents, and problems with school. No one really knew about any of this because I was too afraid to tell anyone. I couldn't tell my parents, because they were part of the problem and I couldn't tell my friends because I didn't want to feel judged. I was able to forget about that for a while by getting together and playing games all night with my friends at church. However, as fun as those nights were, they didn't solve any of my problems. Those nights weren't a retreat, they were an escape; a time to escape and even ignore everything bad in my life. That was the best I could do: ignore my problems.

When ministering to our youth, we have to start by knowing where they are coming from. What type of issues are modern teens going through? Do they have problems with their parents and families? With bullies, with friends, or with school? What entertains them? What types of social media apps are they using? What are their goals in life? As an adult, we might think some "suitable" goals would be growing in our faith, getting into a good college, and starting a family. As a teenager, they might have different goals like: passing Algebra 2, having more than 1,000 friends on Facebook, or becoming a trending YouTube star. Perhaps their worries might be even more serious: wondering if dad might come home soon, wondering if their homosexual friend will go to heaven, or wondering if they even want to wake up tomorrow and face the day.

It seems like every generation of adults has "known better" than the younger generation coming after; and likewise the younger generation assumes that the adults have "no idea what they are going through". Now, as much wisdom as the older generations possess, it cannot replace the personal experiences that our youth are facing today. In order for us to speak to them, we need to make them feel welcome in our midst and listen to them with our hearts. This listening has to be genuine. We have to invest compassionate and loving time in forming a relationship with them before throwing vague advice at them and expecting it to stick. We have to know where they are coming from in order to give them the advice they need. To paraphrase Maslow: "If the only tool you have is a hammer, it is tempting to treat every problem as if it were a nail."

That being said, there are common problems that many youth are facing today: frustrations arising out of family life, feelings of uselessness and loneliness, and uncertainty about self-identity. Even a child who comes from a "perfect" Catholic family and was raised in a Catholic school could have hidden scars that affect their outlook on life. Especially in cases where their struggles involve shame from a perpetual sin, it can be all too easy to be hypercritical. At times, some priests have responded to a teen's lifestyle of sin with nothing but judgement and a reinforcing of the commandments. However, we must first strive to enter into their perception of life and gently facilitate the process of reconciliation. Our youth aren't acting out because they are bored and just looking to get into trouble. They aren't bored - they are hurting. Every act of defiance or rebellion is a cry for help saying, "Somebody love me, somebody want me!" They feel abandoned, ashamed, and alone. If healing is to be accomplished, it must come from a place of love and accepting them for who they are.

Once we know where they are coming from and understand what is happening in their lives, we can begin to appreciate their gifts of time, service and love. They don't just want to be loved, they want to be needed. They want to belong. They are craving to be a part of something bigger. They can bring their gifts of new life to others. After all, they are the future of our Church - we have a duty to invest in them! When this integration occurs, especially in the form of retreats and youth programs, both the youth and the entire Church community are enriched. The more actively they participate in the community now, the more they will invest their time and talents in building up the Church in the future.

Our retreat experiences should not only be a time to "retreat" from the world, but also a time to work through the difficulties of our lives. They should be a safe place to recharge and confide in a loving and trusting family. Those making a TEC retreat should find a family where they are not only wanted but needed, and this church community should be a place of listening, healing, and agape love. This is the family I have been blessed to find in Riverbend TEC. This is the family that can nurture our youth to become the future of the Church.

## Prayer to the Holy Spirit for Personal Change

By: Joe LaScala

Holy Spirit, open my eyes.

Help me to see inside each individual the dignity given to them as each person is created in your image and likeness.
Give me eyes to see past differences in religion, ethnicity, orientation, or beliefs for St. Paul tells us we are different parts of the same body.

### Holy Spirit, open my ears.

*Help me* to hear the cries of the poor, the pleas of those in need, the calls for help of the oppressed, and the appeals for companionship of the lonely. *Give me* the ability to not let these yearnings be muted by the noise of the world.

### Holy Spirit, open my hands.

Give me wisdom to use my hands to help, heal and show compassion.
Give me the courage to use my hands for good,
even when it may be easier for me to act out of selfishness, greed, or anger.
Give me the strength to use my hands, especially when it's hard.

#### Holy Spirit, open my heart.

Soften my heart, so that even though I have been hurt in the past, I may act out of love. May every action that I perform, every word that I speak, and every moment of my life be guided by love.

#### Holy Spirit, come upon this earth.

Change our eyes, ears, hands and hearts so that your light may overcome the darkness. May hate be overcome by love, anxiety be overcome by trust and worry be overcome by hope. I entrust these prayers to you, our God who is love. Amen.

<b>Riverbend TEC website information:</b>	
After opening the 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!	<ul> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>You can now submit your letters from the website.</li> </ul>
<b>The Riverbend TEC Council</b> is the leadership organization for Riverbend TEC which meets the 2nd Thursday of the month from 6:30pm to 9:30pm at <u>St.</u> <u>Mary's Church in Bird Island</u> . 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.	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 Riverbend TEC weekends.
<b>Riverbend TEC T-Shirt WEBSITE</b> : 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. <u>www.cafepress.com/</u>	<b>FIAT</b> is a shorter follow-up retreat for those who have made TEC and are 18 and over. At this time, FIAT is not being offered.

The Spirit of TEC Award is presented to TECites, from our community, who are 25 and older, who embody the experience of the paschal mystery, have contributed in a significant way to TEC on the local or regional level, is committed to serving the Church and its youth, generously shares his/her love, faith, and enthusiasm with others, and is a symbol of the Spirit of TEC. If so, consider nominating them for the Spirit of TEC Award. Each recipient will be recognized on a special display at the TEC Encounter, receive an award certificate from the TEC Conference and have their names published in the TEC Conference newsletter, the Communicator. Each TEC community can select **up to three people** for this special recognition each year.

Please submit a nomination for a member of our Riverbend TEC community to our TEC Council to make the final recommendation. We would like to have your nominations for 2021 by December 31st. Please include the reasons for nominating them – their involvement in TEC, in their parish, in school/college, and in their community. Nominations can be emailed to Riverbend TEC [riverbendtec@gmail.com].

**Past Riverbend TEC - Spirit of TEC recipients:** Fr. Dennis Labat, Sid McGee, Curt Borchert, JoAnn Borchert, Fr. George Schmit, Bill Casey, Bishop Lucker, Fr. Eugene Hackert, Bill Morinville, Peggy Lenz, Sheila Morinville, Brian Mathiowetz, John Beech, Mary Beech, Patricia Casey, Patrick Casey, Ronda Mathiowetz, Betty Molva, Patti Cogley, Delores Guldan, Jerry Langworthy, Butch Bach, Judy Bach, Patricia Butson, Elaine Kahle, Sr. Monica Wagner, Dennis Whalton, Jim Colby, Tom Green, Paul Rennerfeldt, Fr. Dick Gross, Don Schmidt, Jean Schmidt, Marsha Murphy, Doris Petracek, Larry Loken, John Pavik, Catie Loken, Amber Wilfahrt, Jim Rice, Barb Verly, Pat Verly, Msgr. Bob Wyffels, Fr. Tony Hesse, Fr. Todd Petersen, Deb Dack, Dave Grams, Mary Pauluk, Perry PJ Bock, Ron Wiering, Rhonda Wiering, Fr. Jeff Horejsi, Art Rohlik, Dawn Rohlik, JoAnn Green, Norb Kramer, Michelle Kramer, Andrea Gibbs, Vicky Rasmussen, Rachael Uher, Alex Rohlik, Brett Mathiowetz, Lori Mathiowetz, Tracy Felder, Pam Loken, Marie Rice

**The Light of Christ award** is given to young adults from age 17-24 who have been involved in Riverbend TEC and who are actively living their faith in the Church beyond the TEC community. If the person who comes to mind is in this age range, you can nominate them for the Light of Christ award. Please include the reasons for nominating them – their involvement in TEC, in their parish, in school/college, and in their community. Please submit by December 31.

**Past Riverbend TEC - Light of Christ recipients**: Sam Cross, Justin Prokosch, Jocelyn Stage, Katie Jones, Grace Maiers, Liz Miller, Ann Goedtke, Ben Van Moer, John Verly, Nathan Hansen, Katie Prokosch, Shawn Polman, Laura Kuisle, Ellen Mathiowetz, Monica Reising, Samuel Goedtke, Nichole Felder

## Congratulations to our newly ordained Priests! Fr. John Hayes (RB 231) and Fr. Shawn Polman (RB228)

John's first assignment will be in Winsted serving the St. John Paul II AFC.



Shawn's first assignment will be at the Cathedral in New Ulm.

May the Holy Spirit bless your lives and your ministry. Thank you for answering Christ's call to serve.

Dear Gods I wanna take a minufe hot to ask for anything from Yan, but simply to say THANK YOU for all I have.

St. Therese of Lisieux, Patron Saint of TEC pray for the team and TECites of Riverbend # 275!

Shop online at: <u>www.cafepress.com/</u> <u>riverbendtec</u>

Check out our Facebook group, <u>www.facebook.com/</u> groups/2204607343

## **Riverbend TEC Schedule for 2021**

**TEC** Date

Location

275 January 16-18, 2021276 March 6-8, 2021

277 June 26-28, 2021

New Ulm, MN Marshall, MN Winsted, MN

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen. Team Applications need to be received <u>FIVE</u> 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