



Rocky Mountain TEC

The Fourth Day Newsletter

July 2009

RM TEC #123 is coming July 24th -26th!!!!

Mark your calendars and come out in support of TEC 123!

Kick-off: Thursday night, July 23, 2009 – 7:00pm at **St. Thomas More in the Catacombs!!!**
Hoot: Saturday night, July 25, 2009. Please arrive no later than 6:45pm, the Hoot begins at 7:00pm.
Signs will be posted!

Asking someone to go on a TEC retreat

Do you remember that one TEC retreat that changed your whole relationship with God? As you left on Sunday you were so on fire and so ready to start recruiting everyone you ever knew come on this retreat and have a similar experience.

Only when you started talking to people and trying to get them to go on the next TEC retreat you felt like you were trying to physically pull the mountain to Mohammed.

They couldn't go this time, or they didn't think it was for them, even though they didn't know anything about TEC.

We have all been there and we know it's difficult to get people to go on these retreats. So here are a few tips for encouraging someone to come on the retreat.

- **First and foremost in all things PRAY!!!** It is God who calls people to TEC. We are just the radio station he is using at the time.
- **Listen to your person you are recruiting.** They may have legitimate reasons for not making the retreat, family commitments, work, and vacations. If you are really listening to them you will soon be able to determine the legitimate reasons for not going from normal apprehension.
- **Be prepared.** The person you are recruiting may be apprehensive and give you a reason they can't come, such as "I can't afford it". Try to know as much about the program as you can so you can help answer their questions. (i.e. "TEC has scholarships!")
- **Be persistent.** If a person says, "No," listen to their reasons. If it is apprehension, address their concerns in a kind and knowledgeable fashion. If they have a legitimate reason for not coming then make a note and invite them to attend when the next weekend comes around. You may have to invite someone 10 times to get them on once, but as we all know persistence eventually pays off.
- **Happy recruiting!!**

Team for TEC 123

Lay Director : Sean Roe
Asst Lay Dir. : Tim McCann
Spiritual Dir. : Fr. Marlon Rodrigues
Asst SD: Dcn. Steve Stemper
Music Dir.: Lisa Venette

Resources

Debbie Dudenhoefer
Lacy Rogers
Rebecca Lindner
Ryan White
Celina Pinedo
Amy Shinnors
Sandy White
Nancy Elzas
Jeanne Rogers
Cecilia Wilson
Bobby Rogers
Eileen Lindner
Steve Shinnors

Wheaties

Mary Ann Mahoney
Sarah Shinnors
Kate Biernat
Noelle Elzas
Joe Knickerbocker
Cindy Shinnors
Jesus Valdez
Megan Weber
Hannah Sheehan

**Come and support TEC 123 at the Kick-off,
Hoot, and write wheat letters!!!!**

*Unless a
grain of
wheat
falls to
the ground
and
dies...*



WHEAT LETTERS

We need your wheat letters by midnight, Wednesday, July 22nd!!

We need general letters that will be read aloud as well as individual wheat letters!

Email to: wheat@rockymountaintec.net

Mail them to:

Carol Engler/Kim Kendrick
16363 E. Fremont Ave #823
Aurora, CO 80016

Or bring them to the kickoff.

What do you put in the letter?

Ideas for individual letters:

- Provide encouragement
- Include your favorite scripture
- Let them know how you are sacrificing for them (your wheat)
- Share how TEC has helped you in your faith walk
- If this is their first TEC don't ruin any surprises!!!

Ideas for community letters:

- Pick a day and stick to the theme (Die, Rise, Go)
- Encourage the candidates and ask them to rely on the team
- Share scriptures
- Sign off with your full name and the TEC weekends you have attended.
- Keep the letter short and to the point. Remember several letters will be read at one time.
- Try to write/print clearly so it can be easily read.

TEC Core Team

The TEC Core Team is responsible for serving the TEC community and planning events. If you have any ideas or requests for something that we should try and do better, please feel free to contact us. We thank you for the opportunity to serve our great community.

coreteam@rockymountaintec.net

Angie McCann Sean Roe
Bernadette Herrera Angie Ibsen
Ed Herrera Al Zuber
Tim McCann

A blessing and a smile...

It is June 12, 2009. A year ago tomorrow I began an adventure. The road had three surgeries mapped out over the course of the coming year—all to be completed before May of 2009. The journey did not go as planned-- there were things along the way I was not expecting. Today, one surgery is yet to come. I had hoped to be done by my graduation, but that is not what God had planned. That is not what was, and is, best for me. Through all this, I was greeted along the way with love, prayers, and support from the TEC community. A year ago today, this love was showered down upon me as a group of us went to dinner and then visited Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament at St. Thomas More. Prayers were said over me and for me leading up to surgery, during surgery, and through recovery. Support was shown through e-mails, cards, flowers, phone calls, and visits. And for all this, I am incredibly grateful.

The two surgeries were life altering—I learned a lot about pain and suffering, prayer and trust. I learned most about love and the power of prayer. I truly believe I would not have recovered as quickly if I hadn't known so many people loved me and were praying for me. I know recovery would have taken longer if I had not had so many prayers said for me, and if I had not trusted God to heal me.

So what I'm trying to say is thank you. Thank you to those who were such shining examples of God's love to me over the last year. It has changed my life, and I'm sure many others. Thank you for being part of my TEC family. Thank you for your love, friendship, and prayers. Know I am eternally grateful for all of you. Know I am praying for you as well.

Celina Pinedo - RM TEC 116, 117, 119, 123

Couldn't attend TEC 123?

Well mark your Calendars now for TECs 124, 125, and 126!!!

TEC 124 – Fall 2009

Team Selection – August 27, 2009
1st Team Meeting – Sept 12th – 9am–3pm
2nd Team Meeting – Sept 26th – 9am–12pm
3rd Team Meeting – Oct 10th – 9am–3pm
Kick-off – October 22nd – 7pm
Weekend – October 23-25, 2009

TEC 125 – Spring 2010

(Tentative dates)

Team Selection – January 21, 2010
1st Team Meeting – Feb 6th – 9am–3pm
2nd Team Meeting – Feb 20th – 9am–12pm
3rd Team Meeting – March 6th – 9am–3pm
Kick-off – March 18th – 7pm
Weekend – March 19-21, 2010

TEC 126 – Summer 2010

(Tentative dates)

Team Selection – May 27, 2010
1st Team Meeting – June 12th – 9am–3pm
2nd Team Meeting – June 26th – 9am–12pm
3rd Team Meeting – July 10th – 9am–3pm
Kick-off – July 22nd – 7pm
Weekend – July 23-25, 2010

Remember life gets busy quickly, so make your plans now!!!

Letter from the Lay Director of TEC 122:

Many people have asked me why I go on so many TEC weekends. The answer is simple – I experience God every time I attend a TEC retreat. Why wouldn't I want to attend every one? Many of you reading this letter may not know who I am. In fact, if your last TEC was prior to Summer 2005, then there is a good chance that we have never met. My first TEC was RM TEC # 112 with Ron and Lori Garofalo. TEC 122 was my eighth Rocky Mountain TEC – you do the math. During that time, I have been a member of Watermelon Felons, Ligers 4 the Lord, Extreme Green Smurfs, Rockin Crazy Master J's, Out of Sync, PB&J2, and the Wheat team (twice). Throughout that time, God never ceased to amaze me.

I was honored to have the opportunity to be the Lay Director for RM TEC 122. Even more so, I was privileged to have a wonderful team and blessed to have 24 amazing candidates. The retreat almost never happened. We had to cancel the Kickoff and delay the beginning of the weekend due to a blizzard. Once we got started, though, TEC 122 was the same and different than all previous TECs. Together we laughed, cried – not me, of course, since I am allergic to crying (and vegetables) – prayed, and worshipped. We encountered Jesus and literally were touched by Him at the Hoot.

We also learned together. We were taught that God has a GOOD sense of humor and He likes to see us laugh! We found out that "Do Work Son" has multiple meanings. We realized that a priest can drop S-Bombs at a Christian retreat and gets loads of laughs. Team members learned that you are not supposed to call Wheaties by their first name. Candidates found out exactly how hard the Wheat Team and Kitchen Crew work to serve them. All together, we determined that, if a long line of people are holding hands and the first person touches a doorknob and gets shocked, the electric shock will travel down the ENTIRE line. If that were it, TEC # 122 would have been a good weekend. Because God showed up, though, and taught us that prayer really works, His forgiveness is always available through the Sacrament of Confession, and Agape love is amazing and unconditional, TEC 122 was a rousing success.

Have you encountered God lately? Do you need to? I know one place where you can find Him. Maybe it's time to come back to a TEC weekend. You can come to the Hoot, work in the kitchen, or – even better – commit yourself to an entire weekend. I know what a sacrifice it is to give up three Saturdays for team meetings (plus more for Wheat team) and then a Thursday night through Sunday night for the retreat, but I also know that God is good! If you are willing to serve Him, He will provide for you. He will open up your schedule to make everything happen and provide you the grace to accomplish all of your other "to do's" in less time. I also know that you already know this, but it never hurts to be reminded.

As we Go Forth, TEC 122 will always hold a special place in our hearts. The team and I cannot take any credit for that, nor do we want it. Our job was simply to get out of the way and let God work. I never doubted that God would show up for TEC 122 just like He did on my previous seven weekends. Today, I can say with certainty that He will also show up to RM TEC 123. The question is – will you?

God Bless,
John Wirtz

Welcome TEC #122

John Wirtz
Bernadette Herrera
Fr. John-Gregory
Cieutat
Dcn. Paul Zajac
Pete Fuller
Kendra Gonzalez
Meghan Ford
Chad Hadlock
Andrea Klava
Rachael Knox
Jean Finegan
Joe Knickerbocker
Phoenix Avila
Kate Biernat
Whitney Lyle
Jesus Valdez
Peter Wojda
Chris Huyer
Cassie Pippin
Maria Del Real
AnnaMarie
D'innocenzo



Isabella Kenny
Bill Pardy
Austin Piña
Angie McCann
Sarah Patzner
Kristen Kramer
Alison Smyth
Daniel Palmer
Ryan Boh
Gabriella Derobles
Adam Pardy
Noelle Elzas
Lisa Finley
Arlexis Gallegos
David Hall
Alek Nyman
Lacy Rogers
Brenda Pardy
Arnie Dowd
Patrick Finegan
Angie Ibsen
Rebecca Linder
Devin McDaniel
Pam Zajac

Discipleship of Love

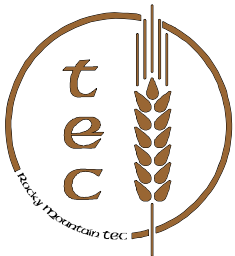
Tim McCann

We hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. (2 Cor 4:7-11)

In our universal call to holiness, we can find great days and great rewards, and we can also find difficult days and tremendous challenges. Why do we face these difficulties when we are following Christ? If we are doing His work, then why does it frequently seem so hard? The challenges of life are part of our process of growth towards the ideals that we are striving for. Not unlike a butterfly escaping its cocoon, we are constantly growing and stretching to become more perfect in Christ. If the butterfly has its tiny home opened for it without the struggle, its wings will never be strong enough to fly. It is the process of pushing and fighting its way out that strengthens it and gives it the tools necessary to do what it needs to in the future. All along our life journey, we will struggle for we are not perfect. We are but jars of clay holding our eternal souls – but there is room for more, much more. We were created for more than just life and death – we were created to bring and share love one another.

To love is to risk, and for many that risk is limited by our fears – fears of rejection, fears of failure, and sometimes even the fear of success. Our call to be disciples of Christ, means that we have to trust and believe even if goes against what we think and know. Like Peter facing Jesus walking on the water, we are given a choice. *Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."* (Matthew 14:28) To that point, Jesus had never even suggested that as an option, but that didn't stop Peter from wanting to be with Jesus. It was only then that Jesus instructed Peter to join Him and Peter did the unthinkable – he stepped out of the boat and walked on water.

To step out into the world and to walk with Christ takes amazing courage. The world will want to challenge us, torment us, and change us. It will want to hurt us and make us cry, to make us feel alone, and to try and put fear into our hearts. Our saving grace is that we – the earthen vessels – are given a great treasure to carry within us - He who is love. Our response to His call to join Him takes courage at first. There will be problems along the way – that is guaranteed, but we are never alone. In fact, He has a plan for each one of us and while we may not understand the challenges we face we can be assured that like that butterfly, we will be able to do amazing things because of His love for us and because of our love for Him as shown when we dare to take that first step and choose to be disciples of love.



Rocky Mountain TEC
c/o the Youth Center
St. Thomas More
8035 S. Quebec Street
Centennial, CO 80112

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED