



The Fourth Day Newsletter

July 2011

RM TEC #129 is coming July 22nd - 24th!!!!

Mark your calendars and come out in support of TEC 129!

Kick-off: Thursday night, July 21, 2011 – 7:00pm at **St. Thomas More in the Catacombs!!!**
Hoot: Saturday night, July 23, 2011. Please arrive no later than 6:45pm; the Hoot begins at 7:00pm.
Signs will be posted!

TEC Conference is coming to Colorado!!

Communities of Faith and Follow-Through Workshop
August 12-14, 2011
St. Thomas More Catacombs

Have you ever wanted to get a better understanding of the parts that go into putting on a TEC retreat?

Are you interested in getting to know the great people in our community better and help make it stronger?

Well, now is your chance! The TEC Conference which leads and coordinates TEC communities all over the world is coming to Denver this August. They are providing training for our current and future leaders focusing on the core elements of TEC and ideas on how to grow our TEC community stronger.

This training will follow a similar format of a TEC retreat but it will start on Friday evening and go until Sunday afternoon. Because of added costs for the trainers and supplies from the TEC Conference, the cost for this training will be \$100.00. Scholarships are available.

Although the format is similar to a TEC retreat don't make the mistake of thinking this will be a similar experience as a TEC retreat. This weekend is all about training the current and new leaders of RM-TEC. We will have time for fellowship and prayer over the weekend, but a good part of the time will conferences and training sessions. If you are looking for a TEC retreat experience this weekend may not be what you are looking for, but if you feel God is calling you to a deeper involvement in the Rocky Mountain TEC community then this weekend can be your first step.

If you can not attend, but can pray for us or simply help in the kitchen for some part of the weekend, please let us know.

For more information email the RM-TEC Core Team
coreteam@rockymountaintec.net

Team for TEC 129

Lay Director:	Ed Contreras
Asst. LD:	Mary Tschumper
Asst. LD:	Mary Ann Mahoney
Spiritual Dir:	Fr. Rick Nakvasil
Asst. SD:	Dcn. Steve Stemper
Music Dir:	Ed Herrera
Wheat Dir:	Eileen Lindner
Wheat Dir:	Pat Nixon

Resources

Josh Altonji
Tessa Contreras
Michele Corey
Maddy Dockery-Fuhrmann
Patrick Finegan
Megan Finegan
Cory Fuller
Bernadette Herrera
Chris Huyer
Rebecca Lindner
Amanda Mortus
Katie Ploch
Roman Samuels
Andrea Shatto

Wheat

Josiah Contreras
Sarah Contreras
Megan Fuller
Katie Leeper
Elizabeth Perille
Amy Shinnors
Rachel Stemper

**Come and support TEC 129 at the Kick-off,
Hoot, and write wheat letters!!!!**

TEC Mystery Unfolding

August 5, 2011

7:00 – 9:00PM

St. Thomas More – Catacombs

The TEC Core Team and Board hold a monthly prayer and Fellowship event where the Greater Community can reconnect with old friends and help build the future of TEC.

They are held every first Friday of the month at 7pm.

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:

Tim & Angie McCann
1247 Spring Creek Ct
Longmont, CO 80504

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
Bernadette Herrera
Ed Herrera

Sean Roe
Angie Ibsen
Tim McCann

Who Is Your Service Provider?

I lost my cell phone for five hours not too long ago. I was in quite a panic. Everything I knew from Matthew 6:25-34 went right out the window. How can I heed "do not be anxious" when my email, Facebook, summer school contacts, and even the majority of my family are only accessible in my phone!?!?! It was Saturday and I was determined I could make it until Monday to get a new phone. Somehow the two days of a phoneless life were unimaginable and very stressful. I found my phone, in a place I had already looked three times, thanks to prayers to St. Anthony and my mom.

Once my "normal" life was restored, I had this realization... I was completely stressed about the idea of life without my phone after only five hours. How often do I go without consciously thinking of, talking to or praying to Jesus? I can speed through a day and be crazy busy and not have a coherent thought about Jesus, but I barely made it through five hours without a phone. What if I relied on Jesus as much as I relied on my phone? What if I talked to Him as often as I talked to other friends? What if I couldn't go one hour without communicating with Him? Imagine what my life would be like!

Since this realization, I have made a conscious effort to talk to and pray to Jesus every time I use my phone. I have definitely had some good God time under this new plan. Who is your service provider? AT&T, T-Mobile... or is Jesus your service provider, the one who supplies all you need to survive and thrive in this world?

Mary Ann Mahoney

Couldn't attend TEC 129?

Well mark your Calendars now for TECs 130, 131, 132 and 133!!!

TEC 130 – Fall 2011

(Tentative dates)

Team Selection – August 23, 2011

- 1st Team Meeting – Sept 10, 2011 – 9am–3pm
- 2nd Team Meeting – Sept 24, 2011 – 9am–12pm
- 3rd Team Meeting – Oct 15, 2011 – 9am–3pm
- Kick-off – Oct 20, 2011 – 7pm
- Weekend – Oct 21-23, 2011

TEC 131 – Spring 2012

(Tentative dates)

Team Selection – Jan 17, 2012

- 1st Team Meeting – Feb 11, 2012 – 9am–3pm
- 2nd Team Meeting – Feb 25, 2012 – 9am–12pm
- 3rd Team Meeting – March 10, 2012 – 9am–3pm
- Kick-off – March 22, 2012 – 7pm
- Weekend – March 23-25, 2012

TEC 132 – Summer 2012

(Tentative dates)

Team Selection – May 22, 2012

- 1st Team Meeting – June 16, 2012 – 9am–3pm
- 2nd Team Meeting – June 30, 2012 – 9am–12pm
- 3rd Team Meeting – July 14, 2012 – 9am–3pm
- Kick-off – July 26, 2012 – 7pm
- Weekend – July 27-29, 2012

TEC 133 – Fall 2012

(Tentative dates)

Team Selection – Aug 14, 2012

- 1st Team Meeting – Sept 15, 2012 – 9am–3pm
- 2nd Team Meeting – Sept 29, 2012 – 9am–12pm
- 3rd Team Meeting – Oct 13, 2012 – 9am–3pm
- Kick-off – Oct 25, 2012 – 7pm
- Weekend – Oct 26-28, 2012

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

Letter from the Director of TEC 128

Dear TEC 128,

Thank you for saying YES to being a part of our weekend! It would truly have been a loss if one of you had not been present for that experience... As we move through our Fourth days, continuing our journeys, living out the Paschal Mystery, we encounter many highs and lows. I know for me, the lessons of late, have been all about letting go.... This is not my favorite lesson, but one I apparently need to learn over and over again. It is difficult in those moments to trust in God, and know that He is here and that He has an amazing plan for us. It is sometimes difficult to see, but looking back, God has been at work in those "low times". I am learning, slowly but surely, how to look and listen for that plan unfolding. Our daily deaths and resurrections provide us with wonderful opportunities to learn and grow. They open up new worlds of possibility for us to become the people God has created us to be. It is sometimes difficult, sometimes joyful, sometimes frightening, sometimes just "pphhhtttt" (thanks Father Matt) but always an adventure and an opportunity. Our faith is formed and nurtured in community. Without community we, poor little humans that we are, tend to flounder, or struggle - and some of us become excellent strugglers!- but is that who we are called to be? Jesus hung on the cross so that I would have the freedom to become who His Father created me to be, which, I'm pretty sure is not an excellent struggler.....

As I continue to move through the journey of my life, I am reminded how much we need each other, how much we need to be in community with one another, and how Christ is present within our community. This is where he is ALIVE! We cannot have an unreasonable faith alone, (and God, I believe, is not about reasons and excuses) we cannot truly know God outside of community - after all, he gave us Himself (as the Trinity) as a model. I want to challenge you to live unreasonably and be BIG in your faith! Hold me accountable for the same....

Thank you, each of you for sharing the gifts that you are with us! I have learned much from each of you. I have many wonderful memories of the weekend - from the "wet sloppy kisses" and the dance blessing, to the vulnerability of your sharing and your wisdom. Thank you for the blessings you have been!

I am looking forward to seeing you at the kickoff and hoot as well as at the other summer events! Show up! Our community needs you! Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers!

I love you,

Ange

Welcome TEC #128

Angie Ibsen
Arnie Dowd
Julie Gallegos
Fr. Matt Book
Mary Ann Mahoney
Adam Parody
Tim McCann
Amanda Mortus

Hannah Anderson
Martha Aragon
Joseph Baroz
Kim Baroz
Dani Buckley
Blair Burton
Victoria Chavez
Matt Deanda
Katie Dickens
Kristen Embrey
Joel Ewan
Sarah Gambell
Kendra Gonzalez
Katlin Gray
Daniel Herrera
Chelsea Jaramillo
Abbie Jaramillo



Melissa Kozer
Eileen Lindner
George Linehan
Connie Medina
Aaron Moss
Ruth Munoz
Pat Nixon
Carlos Perez
Elizabeth Perille
Cassie Pippin
Santana Quintana
Shannon Rice
Sara Roach
Lauren Sanders
Steve Sanders
Bonnie Schaff
Alvin Schaff
Kayla Schaff
Andrea Shatto
Mariah Silva
Michael Torres
Julie Trujillo
Lisa Valdez
Emily Valdez
Sr. Caritas Wendt

Proverbs 13:3 – He who guards his mouth protects his life; to open wide one's lips brings downfall.

I wish I had read this proverb before I opened my mouth on Christmas day a few years ago. I was hanging out with my family and we were discussing the pains in our everyday lives. Well I hate to clean, absolutely hate it!! So I started thinking to myself while the conversation was going on that I should look into getting a maid, because I should really start paying someone to clean for me. But maids are a bit out of my price range so then I thought I wish I had someone who wouldn't let me get so complacent and might even help me to clean, and that again triggered my latent desire to be married. It was another benefit I saw to being married, having someone to inspire and help you on a day to day basis.

Now I had even more thoughts around the concept than even the paragraph before holds, but in essence I had a whole train of thought around the concept, but what did I say when it was my turn to speak in the conversation? I believe the sentence was "I really need to either get a maid, or "I need to get a wife." The sheer brilliance in distilling my thoughts down to a single coherent sentence almost had me being proud of myself for half a second, until I caught the eye of all my sister's-in-law and my actual sister. They all said about the same thing in response, "Oh really!", but the looks on their faces said, "Think really hard about the next words that come out of your mouth because they could easily become your last."

I then spent the next 20 minutes apologizing and trying to explain, but did neither truly successfully. They eventually accepted my apology and explanation, but I still don't think they fully believed me, but they were willing to let me off the hook. As time passed and I thought more and more about that incident I started to get a bit frustrated. I was frustrated because after I had made the statement all the women in the room assumed they knew what I was thinking, and granted I put my foot in my mouth, but at the same time I had put a lot of effort into my actual thoughts and plans, and the assumptions being made were false. I started to pray about it, because when I get frustrated it's always helpful to take it to God. God always gives me clarity, although the clarity usually makes me wince. You see as I took my frustration to Him, the Father reminded me of the reading in Isaiah 55: 6 – 11. I encourage you to read the whole passage, but essentially it's the passage that reads, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts nor are your ways my ways."

Wow here I am lamenting being misunderstood by my family, and God is chastising me because I do the same thing to Him. He will ask me to do something or send me down a certain path, and what do I do question every little nuance and unknown. Sometimes I even get deep into the "It's not fair!!" mindset and I start actively resisting God's call, all because I don't understand. That was a great wake up call for me because I had to make a decision at that point, "Do I trust God, or not." If I trust Him then I don't need to know all the reasons He asks me to do something or go somewhere. If I don't trust Him, then all the knowledge in the world won't help.

I wish I could say that my newfound understanding makes following God's will much easier, but I still haven't quite gotten it down yet. But I am a little more careful about the questions I ask when God calls, and when I think I have a brilliant idea.

Peace. Oh and if anyone can tell me what treats athlete's mouth the best, I'd really appreciate it!!

Sean Roe

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 Go Day 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. Whether you are praying for a friend or a family member or even just someone that you just met, remember that God calls each person to come on the TEC retreat that they are supposed to be on. Sometimes the answer can be 'No' or it could simply be 'Not yet'. And while praying for their choice and to remove their obstacles, pray for patience and understanding for yourself. It can be hard waiting for God's Time to arrive when He isn't using your clock.
- **Listen to your person you are recruiting.** They may have legitimate reasons for not making the retreat like 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. Always remember to listen not only with your ears, but with your heart.
- **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 TEC program as you can so you can help answer their questions. (i.e. "TEC has scholarships!") It's always hard to explain things without revealing too much, but the best way may involve opening up about your TEC experience and sharing the results of your encounter with Christ.
- **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 or 100 times to get them to say 'Yes' once, but as we all know persistence eventually pays off.
- **Be a sign of Christ's love.** Discipleship does not involve coercion or blackmail or trickery. We are to be known by being a sign of Christ's love for one another. Now this doesn't mean that you can't ask people to do something that they might not otherwise consider, but be prepared to walk with them on their journey. Give them love, wheat, and support and help them see Christ in you while you help them see Christ in themselves. Your example in action may be the invitation that their eyes need to go with what their lips hear.
- **Happy recruiting!!**

Many Hands

Tim McCann

Important - Please Read!!!

If you've ever looked around at a TEC weekend, you might wonder how something like this ever gets done. There's a team that needs selecting and preparing. There are binders and copies to make and supplies to purchase. There are applications to respond to and food to purchase and prepare. There are Evites to send and even newsletters like this to prepare. There is prayer, wheat, and sacrifice. The beauty and challenge of it all is that no one person could do all of this. Not even a small Core Team or Board can do all of this. It takes a TEC Community to make all of this happen. It takes each of you to contribute something to make TEC weekends a success, and in spite of it all each of our hands together can not do what God can do on a weekend. He can change a heart, like He changed yours. He can save a soul, like He saved yours. And yet He did all of this through the gifts of our works.

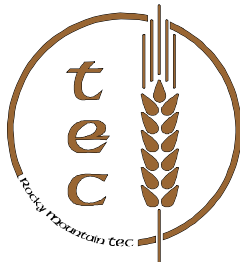
I have always been amazed at the generosity, kindness, and agape love that exists within a TEC community. There are so many people who come in amazed at the love that exists only to find out that they too have this ability to give within themselves when they try. Love a little and great love comes back to you. Love a lot and it will change your view of the world forever. I know this from personal experience. On my first TEC weekend over 25 years ago, I came into the TEC community extremely shy and by Go Day I dared to love with Agape just a little – to trust and hope – and God's love filled me up. I applied for team the next week and dared to love a lot. I got way more than I bargained for. I dared to love people – complete strangers – not for who they were to me but because I had love to give – because of something inside of me called agape that needed to be given. I was forever changed and I am sure many of you have been too. I was 16 at the time and saw that my imperfect gifts of agape love could be made perfect by God for the people who needed it. At some levels it appeared to be miraculous. Over the years of my involvement with TEC, I have seen great love and sacrifice and I have felt great peace and forgiveness, but I have never done any of it alone. The community I live within is critical because without it I can not give that agape love and I can not receive that agape love either.

For years now, our TEC community has worked with a small nucleus of people who have loved and served this community. For some, it is an extension of their ministerial work, for others it has been like a second job, and for others it has been an outward sign of the inward reality of their love for God. (And for all of us, I am sure it is all of this and more.) So far this year, we have tried growing our adult faith community even more through the Mystery Unfolding events each first Friday of the month. They have been fun and prayerful, and I hope you can join us at our next one. We have held a leadership discernment workshop trying to open doors and ideas for leaders in the next few years. And now we are announcing that the TEC Conference will be here in Denver holding a training workshop for our TEC community and other community centers that are nearby.

This training workshop is an essential step necessary for our community to grow. Some things can get done if a few of us do a lot of work, but what can happen if many of us pitch in? Right now there are over 60 things that have to be done to maintain our TEC community. For even 10 or 12 people, there is a lot of work. But what happens if 20 or 30 had the same work? The work would not be so difficult and more importantly, the community would be much stronger. If you think that you are simply a drummer boy with nothing to bring, please reconsider. You are capable of great signs of God's love. I ask you to look on page 1 for the major announcement and prayerfully consider if God is calling you to become more involved in the TEC community. Some of you will be able to participate and others will not. If you can not attend the training, it will not mean that you can not help, but if you can then you will be more prepared for the work ahead. If you can not attend, but can help with a meal or two it would be greatly appreciated.

There is much to do. We have so much in the planning – a summer picnic (around August with details at the Hoot), a trip to the San Luis Valley area, more Mystery Unfolding events, a Christmas party, and potentially more – all we need is your help and your willingness to say 'Yes' to small things so together we can do big things. This TEC community is made of many hands and if we work together and with God's love in our hearts we can be that outward sign of God's love for all who encounter our community.

May God bless you and keep you safe and fully in His love.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED