



Rocky Mountain TEC

The Fourth Day Newsletter

October 2011

RM TEC #130 is coming October 21st - 23rd!!!!

Mark your calendars and come out in support of TEC 130!

Kick-off: Thursday night, October 20, 2011 – 7:00pm at **St. Thomas More in the Catacombs!!!**
Hoot: Saturday night, October 22, 2011. Please arrive no later than 6:45pm; the Hoot begins at 7:00pm.
Signs will be posted!

WHEAT LETTERS

We need your wheat letters by midnight, Wednesday, October 19th!

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

Email to: wheat@rockymountaintec.net

Mail them to:

Carole Engler & Kimmy Kendrick
3256 S. Heather Garden Way
Aurora, CO 80014

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.

Team for TEC 130

Lay Director: Kelley Contreras
Asst. LD: Monica Anthony
Asst. LD: Steve Shinnars
Spiritual Dir: Fr. Israel Gonsalves
Asst. SD: Dcn. Matt Archer
Music Dir: Denise Parrish
Wheat Dir: Jim Anthony
Wheat Dir: Cindy Shinnars

Resources

Josiah Contreras
Megan Finegan
Megan Fuller
Kimberly Kendrick
Katie Kumnick
Pati Morel
Sarah Morel
Mark Morel
Brandon Nye
Adam Pardy
Katie Ploch
Alvin Schaff
Gabiella Yates
Kim Zuber

Wheat

Dani Buckley
Matt Deanda
Catherine Dockery
Brandon Hoffey
Melissa Kozar
Daniele Lea
Andrea Shatto

**Come and support TEC 130 at the Kick-off,
Hoot, and write wheat letters!!!!**

TEC Mystery Unfolding

November 4, 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. Please come and join us.

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

Letter from the Director of TEC 129

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the name of the Most High! I pray you are all doing well, and aware of the tremendous love God has for each and every one of you!

This summer has been a whirlwind of activity for me, even more so than normal! As many of you know, my life is not the standard "work 9 to 5, weekends off". Kelley and I are blest, and yes, kinda crazy, with the lifestyle of musicians, parents, teachers, A/V tech, and yes, Youth Ministers. But I wouldn't trade it for the world! TEC 129 was the perfect set up for my adventures this summer, which included World Youth Day. I am so thankful to be a part of TEC 129!

It was an incredible weekend for me! Yes, I dedicated myself to prayer and Wheat for several months before the weekend, and I know my fellow directors did the same. And yet, why was I so surprised when the Holy Spirit was so present all weekend long? I believe not one person went away from the weekend untouched by God's love and presence, and for this I am so grateful!

I do love working on a TEC, not only to reconnect with old friends, but also to make new ones! To the team of TEC 129, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving so much of your love, time, talent, and who you are to the candidates! This would include the kitchen team, who always provided yummy meals and great service!

And as for you former candidates, you were the true blessing to all of us! It is a joy and delight to see you all accept God's love, and to become part of our TEC community!

This past August I celebrated my 30th year as part of the TEC Community, and my relationship with the Creator! Recently, a member of the community, Jim Nolan, went home to be with his Maker. He suffered for 15 years with cancer, but every time I saw him he always had a hug and smile for me. It is sad that he no longer walks the planet, but of course now he has no pain or sorrow.

At the reception after the funeral, I was blessed to visit with so many older TECites – people who were my mentors when I began my spiritual life through TEC. Most of them have gone on to other ministries, but they still have fond memories of TEC. Like myself, many of them began their walk with Jesus because of TEC.

I mention this to illustrate once again, how important community is, and your presence in it! You never know what kind of impact your words, a smile, a hug, will have on the world! Please continue to be a part of this awesome community! I know I will!

I encourage all of you to pray and do Wheat for the next TEC weekend, # 130! Woot! I hear a beautiful and amazing person is directing it, a person who has tremendous love for young people and I know God will use her in an awesome way! Please remember to come to the Kickoff and show your support to the team, and of course the Hoot! Former candidates, do you remember how powerful the Hoot was? Wouldn't you want to spread the love to all the candidates on 130? I know I'll be there!

May the blessings of the Most High be with you all!

I love you!

Ed Contreras

Welcome TEC #129



Ed Contreras
Mary Tschumper
Mary Ann Mahoney
Fr. Rick Nakvasil
Dcn. Steve Stemper
Ed Herrera
Eileen Lindner
Pat Nixon

Josh Altonji
Luke Ammerman
Joshua Anthony
Halle Brake
Taylor Brake
Andrew Castillo
Tessa Contreras
Josiah Contreras
Sarah Contreras
Michele Corey
Emily Davies
Kristi Davies
Catherine Dockery
Maddy Dockery-Fuhrmann
Marie Dreher
Patrick Finegan
Megan Finegan
Cory Fuller
Megan Fuller
Mariel Goffredi

Tyler Grubb
Shannon Hegemann
Bernadette Herrera
Brandon HOFFEY
Chris Huyer
Megan Kearney
Keke Kosse
Katie Kumnick
Daniele Lea
Katie Leeper
Ryan Lindner
Rebecca Lindner
Adam Lynch
Patrice Mondragon
Amanda Mortus
Elizabeth Perille
Katie Ploch
Charlie Romero
Ann Romero
Roman Samuels
Cindy Sena
Andrea Shatto
Amy Shinnars
Julia Shorma
Rachel Stemper
Keihan Swantek
Rachel Wandrey
Bella Whitten
Brian Zuber

Finding a Place

Sarah Morel

June 24, 2011 was the day I had been waiting for my entire life: it was my wedding day. The 15 months since my fiancé and I had gotten engaged had felt like one long Die Day. All I could think about was how much I was looking forward to getting married, to the point that I took some things about that engagement time for granted. Well, my wedding day was wonderful, as wonderful as I had always dreamed it would be, and my new husband and I had a few relaxing days in Glenwood Springs.

But then we got an email from the music ministry leader at St. John the Evangelist, where we had been directing the choir for the last year. She said that some things had changed while we were on our honeymoon, and she wanted us to call her. She probably assumed we wouldn't be checking emails until we got home from our honeymoon. If only we had. Upon talking to her, we discovered that the 5:00 pm Sunday night mass that we directed was being cancelled, starting in August. We were heartbroken, and extremely upset and angry at the pastor for doing so without even asking us or giving us any warning. We ended up leaving Glenwood Springs a day early, the end of our honeymoon ruined. Well, long story short, the whole affair ended up being very messy, and we had a falling out with the pastor at St. John's. We tried to fit our choir into another mass at St. John's, but to no avail. It just wasn't the same, and essentially our choir was destroyed.

I don't take disappointment very well. One of the first things I did, beyond becoming angry at our pastor, was become angry at God. Why had He allowed this to happen? Why had He given us this opportunity to direct a choir and to guide youth toward Him, only to take it away a mere year later? I didn't understand. I wasn't willing to accept that the mass could be over. We tried to change our pastor's mind, which in the end led to the falling out. And instead of asking God for help in dealing with our displacement, I pushed Him away. Instead of dealing with the issue, I suppressed it, which only made it worse to deal with later on.

After a long process of finally asking God for help and discerning, my husband and I have come to the conclusion that we are now being called somewhere else, somewhere other than St. John's. But being displaced from a church that we have called home for the last year and a half, which we went to when we also lost a home at our college church, is still very difficult to deal with. Our situation reminds me a lot of the story of Job in the Bible. In order to prove to Satan that His people could remain faithful to Him in times of trouble, God uses Job to do so. God allows Job's livelihood, everything he knows and loves, to be taken away. Job does not understand why God lets it happen to him. Job believes himself to be faithful and upright, so why did God take his life away? Job wishes to question God's motives. But then God himself steps in and says that Job cannot possibly know what God knows or what are His plans. Essentially, even though Job does not have all the answers, he must still trust in God's plan.

I have also come to the conclusion through this whole ordeal that what church you go to is not what matters. The church is not just a building or a single congregation. We did what we could at St. John's, and even if we felt like it wasn't enough, God must have bigger plans than what we can understand. And being uprooted from a church also reminds us not to become too complacent, that this world is not our true home. Instead, we must die to ourselves and trust that God's plan is bigger than our own, even if we cannot see what it is right now. I know that the times in my life when I have surrendered to God and trusted Him, I have been able to glimpse pieces of His plan. With time, I may yet understand why He is asking us to leave St. John's, but for now, I am simply called to surrender to Him and to recognize that it is not one particular place or one particular church that is most important, but it is about serving the Body of Christ wherever I am led.

Inviting Someone To 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.

TEC Core Team – coreteam@rockymountaintec.net

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.

Tim & Angie McCann

Sean Roe

Ed & Bernadette Herrera

Ange Ibsen

Important Upcoming TEC Dates – Mark Your Calendars Now

Couldn't attend TEC 130?

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

TEC 131 – Spring 2012

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

(*New* 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 19, 2012 – 7pm
Weekend – July 20-22, 2012

TEC 133 – Fall 2012

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 plans now!!!

TEC Calendar

Community of Faith & Follow-Through

Following up on our TEC Conference training, we need to grow our TEC community from being centered on retreats to growing to a true faith community. If you attended the training or not, you are invited to come and explore the depths and meanings behind the different parts of the TEC program and how it's goal is to strengthen your personal spiritual life.

Saturday, November 12, 2011

St. Thomas More Catacombs – 9am to 12pm

TEC Christmas Party

Come celebrate the Christmas holiday with your TEC family.

Invite friends and family to join you and us.

Music, food, and fellowship.

Saturday, December 10, 2011

St. Thomas More Catacombs – 6pm to 9pm

TEC Leadership Training

Leaders, save the date! We will be having training for those interested in leadership roles for 2012 and 2013.

If you are interested in being a leader in TEC, please join us in answering this call.

Saturday, January 21, 2012

Spirit of Christ – 9am to 3pm



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED