

My T.E.C Experience

Hello, my name is Rachel LaSart. I live in Frazee and I am a confirmation student here at Sacred Heart. My favorite activities include smiling, playing guitar, singing in St. Cecilia's Youth Choir, watching movies, meeting new people, drinking coffee and going on retreats.

When Religious Education classes began this year, I was told that as part of my preparation for confirmation, I am required to attend a retreat. I knew this would not be too hard, considering how much I love retreats! I started looking at my options, and my parents strongly suggested that I go to a retreat called T.E.C. The name is an acronym for "Together Encounter Christ". I agreed to go, and the next thing I knew it was January 1st, 2016, and I was standing outside the Central Minnesota T.E.C Center. I was slightly nervous at first because I did not know what to expect, but I am so glad that I went because it was without a doubt the best retreat I have ever attended in my life.

T.E.C. had a lot of very fun elements including games, fellowship, music, and being silly.... There were also moments that were very solemn and prayerful. It was the perfect balance of prayer and play. There were talks given by various team members, and it was followed by small group discussion. I do not particularly like small groups, but at T.E.C. my small group was open and comfortable. I genuinely enjoyed it and gained a lot from our discussions.

Until T.E.C., I had never been on a retreat that was open to both youth and adults as retreatants. I think this added a wonderful dynamic to the weekend! Not only did the youth learn from the adults, but the adults seemed to learn a lot from the youth as well. In a world where adults so often say that the world is falling apart and seem to think my generation will never amount to much, it is *very* uplifting when an adult encourages a teenager and reminds her that her faith can move mountains.

It is one thing to attend a retreat and be told about God's love, it is quite another to attend a retreat and personally experience it. This is what made T.E.C. undeniably unique. I saw God's love in

everyone there, and it was mind-blowing. I was filled with a desire to share God's love with others, and my relationship with God has grown deeper.

It was also very special to attend this retreat with my confirmation sponsor and five girls from my confirmation class. I am so thankful that we were able to share that experience and I am still as inspired by their faith today as I was that weekend of our first T.E.C.

I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to Christian Mothers for paying the retreat fee. It means so much to me and the other youth to receive your generosity and support!

May God bless and keep you, may God's face shine on you, may God be kind to you and give you peace.

SACRED HEART CARES

SACRED HEART CARES is new to our parish. We are in the early stages of a new Hospitality Group, and it is very exciting news.

SACRED HEART CARES is looking to offer hospitality and support to people within our parish with newborns. Their intentions are to reach out to these families with food or meal donations during their first few days home from the hospital. How wonderful it would feel for a family with a newborn to receive this kind of hospitality? WOW!

Currently the group is led by Kathy Dretsch (218)234-7017 and Christine Daggett (218)849-7066.

Do you feel this is something you would like to be a part of? Do you enjoy cooking and or baking? Maybe you know of something else we could do to help out these families. If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," please call either Kathy or Christine at the numbers listed above.

Do you know of someone who will be having a child in the near future? Please let these ladies know so they can begin planning.

Who knows what this hospitality group will evolve into? The possibilities are endless.

Once they get some response from others who would be willing to help, a meeting will be held to become a more established group.

So far they have or are helping with two new members of our parish family.

Let us help this wonderful hospitality group grow and make a positive difference in the lives of our parish family.

Stay tuned.

Finance Updates

As of March 31, 2016 (end of the third quarter of our fiscal year)

Total Income and Expense

	2 nd Qtr	3 RD QTR	Difference
Income	\$168,765	\$224,520	\$55,755
Expense	<u>\$126,900</u>	<u>\$171,410</u>	\$44,510
Net	\$41,865	\$53,110	\$11,245

*Contributions received on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day were included in the January 3, 2016 contributions deposit.

Balance Sheet as of

	12/31/15	3/31/16	Difference
Building Fund	\$23,952	\$7522	(\$16,430)
Window Fund (Storm Window)	\$12,701	\$4,222	(\$8,479)
Window Restoration Fund (Stained Glass)	\$8,238	\$8,388	\$150
Building Loan balance	\$172,865	\$155,047	\$17,818

An advance payment of \$14,000 was made on the building loan. This resulted in a savings of approximately \$4,200 in interest costs and moved the last payment from February, 2026 to March, 2025.

Your monthly contributions to the building fund continue to make the monthly building loan payment.

The storm window replacement project is planned to be completed this spring. Material has been ordered and fabrication is in process. \$12,500 has been paid to the contractor for this final phase of the storm window project. We currently have about \$4200 in the window fund checking account and still need another \$6000 to \$7000 to pay off this project.

We have received contributions totaling \$76,650 of the estimated \$185,000 needed to restore the stained glass windows. \$68,262 of this has been designated for specific windows with the remaining \$8,388 to be used where needed.

As of March 31 we have

Sponsored Windows paid in full:	6
Sponsored Windows Committed	5
Windows Remaining	14

Five windows received a sponsor in the last three months. Now would be a good time to contact Tim Stenger 847-2912 or Tom Mickelson 346-3292 to get your window before they are all spoken for.

We had hoped that work would have started in January on some of these windows but is now slated to be started during the installation of the remaining storm windows. We are now expecting this to happen late spring or early summer.

A children's window contribution status board has been placed in the back of the church. This will be updated each month.