



February 2015 NEWSLETTER

SAINT OF THE MONTH: BLESSED TERESA BRACCO

DEAR CHALLENGE CLUB LEADERS,

We are beginning Lent today and it is a wonderful time for the girls in Challenge to have experiences that will help shape their spiritual lives. You will find some suggestions and resources of how to offer the girls these opportunities to grow in their faith and love this Lent. You will also find updated information about our 18 Challenge camp locations across the US and Canada in Summer 2015. Hopefully some of the girls in your groups can attend. On a national level, we are working to get then material for the new school year ready and our new website. Thank you for the best practices that many of you have been sending in.

Nadine McMillan
Challenge National Director

Teresa Bracco was born on February 1924 in a small village in Italy. Her parents were humble and devoutly Catholic farmers. From an early age she showed her great love for God, particularly a love of the Eucharist and a tender devotion to the Virgin Mary. After a long day of tiring work, her father would lead the family in reciting the Rosary. Teresa learned to pray by following her parents' example. The formation she received at home was strengthened by the catechesis given by an exceptional parish priest, who gave her many religious books to read. At school, Teresa's teachers marveled at her exemplary conduct. As a young girl and throughout her adolescence she was often found in church in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. She would wake up early in the morning and walk over a mile to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion. With no sons to help on the farm, Teresa's parents depended on their daughters to do much of the work. Teresa was remarkable for never getting tired of doing her chores. One of her most striking virtues, however, was her modesty in speech and dress. She would not participate in any conversation that was inappropriate. She was known to be quite beautiful but never tried to draw attention to herself. Many said, "She was different from the other girls". At the age of nine, she saw a picture of Dominic Savio, with the caption: "Death rather than sin". She exclaimed: "That goes for me!" When she was 19, her father died, leaving the farm and all the work to Teresa and her mother. It was a time of unrest at the end of WWII. Guerrilla warfare intensified in the region near her home. The mountains and woods gave hiding places for those fighting or avoiding authorities. One day a fierce clash occurred between the resistance and German troops. The soldiers burned farms, looted homes and terrorized the people. They seized three girls, one of whom was Teresa. She resisted and was killed in 1944 when she was only 20 years old. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1998.

YOU CAT # OF THE MONTH:

#1: FOR WHAT PURPOSE ARE WE HERE ON EARTH?

We are here on earth in order to know and to love God, to do good according to his will, and to go someday to heaven. To be a human being means to come from God and to go to God.

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH:

Courage

As a Christian virtue, courage and fortitude are strongly linked to hope and faith. We believe in the love that God has for us. The gift of fortitude can allow us to do unimaginably great things. This type of strength and courage comes from a deep faith in God.

"WE CANNOT BE TEPID DISCIPLES. THE CHURCH NEEDS OUR COURAGE IN ORDER TO GIVE WITNESS TO TRUTH." - Pope Francis

"I HOLD UP THIS YOUNG WOMAN SO THAT WE MAY LEARN FROM HER CLEAR FAITH, WITNESSED TO IN DAILY COMMITMENT, MORAL CONSISTENCY WITHOUT COMPROMISES AND THE COURAGE OF SACRIFICING EVEN LIFE IF NECESSARY, IN ORDER NOT TO BETRAY THE VALUES THAT GIVE LIFE MEANING."

-ST JOHN PAUL II ABOUT TERESA



FEBRUARY FAQs

ANSWERS TO A FEW QUESTIONS WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM CLUB LEADERS THIS MONTH

1- WHAT CHANGES ARE YOU PLANNING ON MAKING TO THE CHALLENGE MATERIALS FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR? We have started working on the new materials for the 2015-16 school year. Our curriculum will be updated and improved as we do each year. The team leader guidebooks will have new content and new service projects. As always our member kits will have a new look and feel with new content in the calendar and prayer book. Our club leader kits will also have some major changes with a new book series as well as new promo items.

2- WHAT DO YOU HAVE THAT CAN HELP ME WITH TEAM LEADER TRAINING? We have two main resources for team leader training: (a) The Team Leader Training Guidebook that came in your Club Leader Kit and (b) the online training series of 6 videos for team leaders that can be found on the Challenge website. Webinars, presentations and videos from past years can be found archived on the Challenge Club Leader Resource center but they are a bit outdated and the most recent video series offers the best training material. We are working on a new training series for the next school year. In my experience, make the team leader training a practical time where they can learn from more experienced team leaders about how to actually plan their meetings.

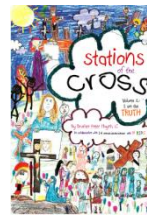
OF CATHOLIC INTEREST: LENT

MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS

Pope Francis sends a message to all Catholics with his suggestions of how to live Lent. He encourages us all to be merciful, attentive and generous – to have a firm heart! You can read [the entire message here](#), and it can be summed up in three words: pray, fast and give.

RESOURCES FROM USCCB

Every year the USCCB puts out a number of great Catholic resources for living lent. The website includes a downloadable Lenten calendar with ideas and reflections for each day. [Check it out here.](#)



STATION OF THE CROSS FOR KIDS

You can download a series of 3 booklets - Stations of the Cross for kids – written by kids. Each booklet is about 36 pages, and it teaches kids how to pray the Stations of the Cross. Each station has a picture, reflection and prayer to Jesus. Great idea for the girls to do with younger siblings or even at their parish or school. Download the 3 books here: [Book 1](#), [Book 2](#) and [Book 3](#).

BEST PRACTICE: CHALLENGE BATON ROUGE MAKING A PRO LIFE IMPACT



The Challenge girls in Baton Rouge, Louisiana worked hard to fill baby bottles with loose change for the Women's New Life Center. The girls raised the money and a representative from the center came and spoke to the girls at our club meeting about the center. They were all excited to learn that when a mom leaves with an ultrasound picture of her baby, some diapers and wipes, a blanket and an outfit for her baby, she is smiling and proud that she has a new life inside of her. The girls had a "Baby Shower" for the center, bringing gifts of clothes, blankets, diapers, wipes and many other baby items. In addition, the girls turned in their baby bottles with a total of \$720.00!

CLUB LEADER *Monthly* Poll

Each month we will ask one question to all the club leaders and present the results of the poll the following month. It is anonymous and only one question!

JANUARY POLL RESULTS: WHICH TAGLINE OR MOTTO DO YOU PREFER FOR CHALLENGE?

60%

**SAID FRIENDSHIP,
FAITH & SERVICE**

FEBRUARY POLL: WHAT KIND OF BEST PRACTICES ARE YOU MOST INTERESTED IN SEEING ON THE NEW CHALLENGE WEBSITE?

- 1) SERVICE PROJECTS
- 2) TEAM LEADER TRAINING BEST PRACTICES
- 3) HOW TO FORM A VOLUNTEER TEAM

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VLMDDG7>



CHALLENGE SUMMER CAMP INSPIRE



INSPIRE
Challenge
Summer Camp 2015

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE
18 Challenge Camps
THIS SUMMER ACROSS THE
US & CANADA!

The 2015 Challenge Summer Camp theme is **INSPIRE**. Every day we will try to help the campers find their inspiration and be an inspiration! At camp they will have the opportunity to participate in activities to strengthen their bonds of friendship! They will enjoy prayer and spiritual growth through participation in Mass and Confession. Sports, games, workshops, team dynamics, exciting night activities, swimming and fun in the sun, are typical Challenge camp activities. To find out what activities are offered at specific camps, visit the local camp websites or download the local camp flyer.

visit our Camp Headquarters

To download camp flyers, registration forms and visit specific camp websites.

www.challengeclubs.com/girls/events

18 Camps Across the US & Canada

Michigan
 Michigan Challenge Inspire Camp
 Queen of Family – Oxford, MI
 June 24th - 30th, 2015
 Contact: Yvonne Fontaine
 yfontaine@regnumchristi.net
 www.queenofthefamily.org

North Carolina
 He Knows My Name Camp
 Hobbs Farm – Milton, NC
 Session 1: June 22nd - 28th, 2015
 Session 2: July 6th - 12th, 2015
 Contact: Dominique Shaban
 dshaban@qaloo.ca
 *Affiliated camp with specific theme.

Ontario
 Camp Camino
 Laxar & Ontario, Canada
 August 1st - 7th, 2015
 Contact: Heidi Krol
 michaelkrol@explorac.com
 *Affiliated camp with specific theme.

Wisconsin
 Chicagoland Challenge Camp
 Sky Lodge – Montello, WI
 July 5th - 10th, 2015
 Contact: Saira Herboth
 ecyls.chicagoland@gmail.com
 www.rccchicago.org

Texas
 Challenge Dallas Camp
 Briarwood Center, Argyle, TX
 June 14th - 20th, 2015
 Contact: Veronique Chevrier
 vchevrier@missionnetwork.com
 www.thechallenge.org

Livingston, TX
 Challenge Houston Inspire Camp
 Camp Cho Yeh
 June 28th - July 4th, 2015
 Contact: Carrie Fran
 CarrieFran@gmail.com

Washington DC
 Pure Fashion Camp DC
 Dates TBD
 Contact: Elsa Hoffman
 elhoffmann@purefashion.us
 *Affiliated camp with specific theme.

ORDERING MATERIALS & SHIPPING TIMES

At this time of the year, we tend to get low in stock and we have sold out of most t-shirt sizes. If you need to place a large order of an out of stock size, please contact customer service. When you place an order, please expect 48 hour processing time and 3-5 days shipping depending on how far you live from PA. We are now shipping with FedEx and USPS.

CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS!

National Director: Nadine McMillan nmcmillan@missionnetwork.com

Customer Support: Anna Kulway customerservice@missionnetwork.com

 **1-855-556 6872**

