

**This Sunday's
Counsel**

THEME:

We are the reflection of God's love when we obey His commandments.

PROMISE:

"The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul...giving wisdom to the simple." (Ps 19:8a)

WORD:

Ex 20:1-17/ Ps 19:8-11/ 1 Cor 1:22-25/ Jn 2:13-25

ORDER:

- *Love me and keep my commandments.* (Ex 20:6)
- Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace. (Jn 2:16)

DIRECTIONS:

- Be faithful in following God's commandments.
- Respect the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- Avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Find joy in serving the Lord.



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 21, Issue 9

<http://bldtrenton.com>

March 5, 2021

Cleansing The Heart

REFLECTION:

"Take these out of here and stop making my father's house a market place." (Jn 2:16).

Jesus was actually talking to the people who's selling doves in the church. Jesus was angry to those people. Reflecting to this verse, how would you react if someone you love is turning your house a market place? How would you keep your house clean? In our spiritual journey especially this season of Lent, Jesus is referring to the cleansing and purification of our souls from our sins making our hearts the temple of the Holy Spirit. How do we cleanse our hearts?

"Take these out of here." So what are these that he wants us to remove? Let's examine ourselves. Is the Lord the center of our hearts? Or is our heart distracted by too many idols or worldly attachment? Or is there any unforgiveness? Do we serve so people can see us as righteous? Or do you serve because you want to serve God? Do we attend Praise & Worship because we want to be seen by people as diligent or, again, righteous in the eyes of others? Do we attend masses because we want to



serve Him truly? We need to reflect on what really brings us to the house of God. Is it our own self-interest? Or God's interest in us?

The command of the Lord is clear. *"Love me... and keep my commandments"*

(Ex 20:6). Cleansing of our hearts is to follow His commandments. To obey is to love other people. Through observance of the commandment, we will be constantly cleansing the temple of the Holy Spirit within us. The commandment is not to make our lives harder but rather to put structure and to draw us closer to God and to guide us in our actions.

We show our love for God when we obey and accept His decrees. The commandments are not meant to enslave us but to provide lives to those who follow them. Obeying God is more precious than gold, sweeter than honey. To accept and obey our loving God means to undergo renewal of mind, and transformation of heart, to change and live in a manner that people may see goodness in us and that they may come to believe that God is love in us.

Cleansing - See Page 2

**Know
Your
Saints**

Saint John Baptist de LaSalle: Patron of Teachers

Born to a noble family in Rheims, France in 1651, John Baptist de LaSalle had to leave the seminary to take care of his brothers and sisters when his parents died. After they had grown, he returned to school and was ordained to the priesthood in 1678 and received a Doctorate in Theology two years later.



This future saint believed that all children, not only the rich, must receive quality education. He knew that ignorance was a breeding ground for evil thoughts and deeds and realized that a good Christian education depended upon having good teachers. Moved by the plight of the poor, he determined to put his own talents and advanced education at the service of the children who were often left to themselves and badly brought up. Towards this end, he founded a community of lay religious teachers called the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in 1680 to provide teachers for the poor. The Christian Brothers were the first Catholic religious teaching order that did not include any priests.

De LaSalle began the first normal school for training lay teachers and created new ways of teaching. His network of schools was the first to divide students into classes according to their stage of mental abilities, introduced the blackboard and integrated religious instructions with secular subjects to include ethics, literature, physics, philosophy and mathematics. He saw the school as a community of faith and the teachers as 'ambassadors of Christ' and 'ministers of grace'. Today, about 6,000 Christian Brothers and 75,000 lay and religious colleagues teach 900,000 students in over 1,000 educational institutions in 84 countries.

St. John Baptist de LaSalle died on Good Friday 1683. He is venerated as the Patron Saint of teachers.

Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**. Donate link can be found at www.bldtrenton.com
 Or mail check to:
 BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.
 P.O. Box 1367
 Toms River, NJ 08754

The Lord's Provision

**February 26,
2021**

Mail-in: \$ 880.00
 Paypal : \$ —

*Thank you for
your generosity!!!*

God's Blessings

Birthday

Rolly Salomia	3/6	Gil Ocena	3/8
Rey Inid	3/7	Elma Pontipiedra	3/10
Edgar Arabit	3/8	Melo Mabutas	3/10

Anniversary

Dino & Josie Rivera	3/8
Cesar & Rosalie Angeles	3/10

Community Prayer Time

Every Friday, starting at exactly 8:30 pm, all members are urged to pray together as one community the following:
Prayer to Take Authority

Holy Rosary

Prayer: Oratio Imperata against the spread of coronavirus

"Merciful and compassionate Father, we come to you in our need to seek your protection against the Covid-19 virus that has disturbed and even claimed lives.

We ask you now to look upon us with love and by your healing hand, dispel the fear of sickness and death, restore our hope, and strengthen our faith.

We pray that you guide the people tasked to find cures for this disease and to stem its transmission.

We thank you for the vaccines developed made possible by your guiding hands. Bless our efforts to use these vaccines to end the pandemic.

We pray for our health workers that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion. Grant them health in mind and body, strength in their commitment, protection from the disease.

We pray for those afflicted. May they be restored to health. Protect those who care for them. Grant eternal rest to those who have died.

Give us the grace in these trying times to work for the good of all and to help those in need. May our concern and compassion for each other see us through this crisis and lead us to conversion and holiness.

Grant all these through our Lord Jesus Christ your son who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the holy spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

We fly to your protection, o holy Mother of God. Do not despise our petition in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin. Amen.

Our Lady, health of the sick, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

St. Raphael the Archangel, pray for us.

San Roque, pray for us.

San Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.

San Pedro Calungsod, pray for us.



Little Lamps

We must beware of spiritual laziness: we are fine, with our prayers and liturgies, and this is enough for us. No! ... praying never means avoiding the difficulties of life; the light of faith is not meant to provide beautiful spiritual feelings. No, this is not Jesus' message. We are called to experience the encounter with Christ so that, enlightened by His light, we might take it and make it shine everywhere. Igniting little lights in people's hearts; being little lamps of the Gospel that bear a bit of love and hope: this is the mission of a Christian. ~ **Pope Francis**

Community Prayer For the 2021 General Emergence

Almighty Father, source of all goodness and love, we praise and thank you for bringing us, BLD members, together in a community of love.

During this period of discernment for our next community and district leaders, we place ourselves – the nominators, nominees and all those participating in the BLD General Emergence, under the light and power of the Holy Spirit.

Together with our global community brothers and sisters, we especially pray for our Community Spiritual Director, Bishop Reynaldo G. Evangelista, District Spiritual Directors, Council of Servant Leaders, Cluster Shepherds, District Council of Stewards and Emergence Overseers (CCEO & DCEO), that they may be guided by Your wisdom in all the decisions they make and carry out their functions with humility and dedication.

We commit to be attentive to Your voice by immersing ourselves daily in Your word, praying and offering sacrifices, so that Your Will shall prevail in peace, love, and joy among us during this important process of discernment for the new leaders of the BLD Community.

Our Blessed Mother Mary, intercede for us that the Lord may instill in all of us a deep desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to yield to His word, to give freely of ourselves, and to serve one another with love as we seek His wisdom and truth in this process.

This we pray in the Most Holy Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Cleansing - Cont'd from Page 1

The season of lent is always a good opportunity for us to exercise our virtues and practice self-discipline. In our journey with the Lord, it is very important to constantly pray and communicate with Him. Stay with the Lord. Fasting and abstinence are some of the most common practices towards achieving

this goal. Basically, it is the practice of self-denial that will help us. Soak ourselves with His words, and be sensitive to His promptings. The Lord welcomes you back when you return to Him. Be more prayerful. Ask for wisdom, guidance and leading. Ask for the grace to obey Him. Let us allow God to help us experience freedom and enjoy the deep

covenant relationship with Him. Let us remain humble and obedient to His precepts for we are assured of His promise that the law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul, giving wisdom to the simple.

The Lord manifests in your actions. The Lord reflects on you, letting others see Jesus in you. We are the reflection of God's love.



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We are the reflection of God's love when we believe in Jesus and live in His truth.

PROMISE:

"Whoever believes in him will not be condemned." (Jn 3:18a)

WORD:

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/ Ps 137:1-6/ Eph 2:4-10/ Jn 3:14-21

ORDER:

- *Believe in him.* (Jn 3:15)
- *Lift up the Son of Man.* (Jn 3:14)

DIRECTIONS:

- Be a good witness for the Lord.
- Faithfully attend Praise and Worship and Eucharistic Celebration.
- Enrich your prayer life and daily reading of the Scriptures.



Walk In His Truth

REFLECTION:

What does it mean to believe in Jesus Christ and what is His truth? Faith in Christ means believing that He is a living example of the way of life that pleases God, and that the goal of true Christians is to grow into His likeness (cf. Eph 4:11-16). Christ himself is the Truth. He said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me,"* (Jn 14:6). Our attitude towards truth determines the outcome of our lives. If we don't love truth and resist it, we resist salvation. But if we do love truth we embrace salvation and we receive the reward: the crown of life. Jesus is the Word of God made flesh who dwells among us (Jn 1:14). God's word is true, so truth is the life of Jesus which is to be manifested in us (cf. 2 Cor 4:10). Truth is the light that shines into our lives and reveals what we are really like by nature. It reveals the way that we must walk on in order to be transformed into the image of Christ (cf. Rom 8:29).



The first step towards the truth of Christ is when we acknowledge that we are sinners in need of forgiveness, atone-

ment and justification. As the light of Jesus shines into our life we are caused to repent of our sins. Then He shows us that because of our sinful nature, we need to acknowledge that we are powerless to overcome sinful temptations. As we humbly acknowledge

our helplessness, the Holy Spirit may come to fill us, enlighten us, lead us and give us the strength and power to keep all that God commands us. We are enabled to give up our own will and do God's will instead. In other words, we can overcome sin when we submit to the power of Jesus by His Spirit – *"And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life,"* (1 Jn 5:20).

There is no greater blessing than to constantly walk in the truth. It is a process with the help of the Holy Spirit where we constantly develop and progress in our sanctification and transformation into the image of Christ. As we walk in the path of holiness, we will be set free from sin, from

Truth - See Page 2

How do we know, beyond a doubt, that God truly loves us and wants us to be united with him forever? *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life"* (Jn 3:16). God proved his love for us by giving us the best he had to offer - his only begotten Son who freely gave himself as an offering to God for our sake and as the atoning sacrifice for our sin and the sin of the world.

The Proof of God's Love

This passage tells us of the great breadth and width of God's love. Not an excluding love for just a few or for a single nation, but a redemptive love that embraces the whole world, and a personal love for each and every individual whom God has created. God is a loving Father who cannot rest until his wandering children have returned home to him. Saint Augustine says, *"God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us to love."* God gives us the freedom to choose whom and what we will love.

Jesus shows us the paradox of love and judgment. We can love the darkness of sin and unbelief or we can love the light of God's truth, beauty, and goodness. If our love is guided by what is true, and good and beautiful then we will choose for God and love him above all else. What we love shows what we prefer. Do you love God above all else? Do you give him first place in your life, in your thoughts, decisions and actions?



Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**. Donate link can be found at www.bldtrenton.com

Or mail check to:
BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 1367
Toms River, NJ 08754

The Lord's Provision

March 5, 2021

Mail-in: \$ —
Paypal : \$145.80

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Argie Pe	3/13	Paolo DelValle	3/17
Lieza Subang	3/13	Rosalinda Mirandilla	3/17
Ed Bautista	3/14	Amanda Roche	3/17
Bobby Ilagan	3/15	Jerry Baguio	3/17
Edwin Orienza	3/15	Ron King	3/18
Joy Pagente	3/15	Lucy Mecnas	3/18
Chiclette Fajardo	3/16	Dan Wong	3/18

Anniversary

Nestor & Chat Conde	3/13
Gabs & Aileen Lagunilla	3/15

Community Prayer Time

Every Friday, starting at exactly 8:30 pm, all members are urged to pray together as one community the following:

Prayer to Take Authority

Holy Rosary

Prayer: Oratio Imperata against the spread of coronavirus

"Merciful and compassionate Father, we come to you in our need to seek your protection against the Covid-19 virus that has disturbed and even claimed lives.

We ask you now to look upon us with love and by your healing hand, dispel the fear of sickness and death, restore our hope, and strengthen our faith.

We pray that you guide the people tasked to find cures for this disease and to stem its transmission.

We thank you for the vaccines developed made possible by your guiding hands. Bless our efforts to use these vaccines to end the pandemic.

We pray for our health workers that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion. Grant them health in mind and body, strength in their commitment, protection from the disease.

We pray for those afflicted. May they be restored to health. Protect those who care for them. Grant eternal rest to those who have died.

Give us the grace in these trying times to work for the good of all and to help those in need. May our concern and compassion for each other see us through this crisis and lead us to conversion and holiness.

Grant all these through our Lord Jesus Christ your son who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the holy spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

We fly to your protection, O holy Mother of God. Do not despise our petition in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin. Amen.

Our Lady, health of the sick, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

St. Raphael the Archangel, pray for us.

San Roque, pray for us.

San Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.

San Pedro Calungsod, pray for us.

Truth - Cont'd from Page 1

its power and consequences (cf Jn 8:32). The Spirit of Truth will guide us in this process. The more willing and obedient we are and quick to acknowledge the truth, the quicker our progress will be. Loving the truth trans-

forms us in Christ. When we judge ourselves and put to death whatever the deceptions we may have about ourselves, by faith, we are transformed into the image of the glory of Jesus Christ.

Adapted from www.bldworld.org

Dreams

Dear friends, this is the time to restore not just buildings but also the bonds of community that unite communities and families, the young and the old together... When the old and the young come together, what happens? The old dream dreams, they dream of a future for the young. And the young can take those dreams and prophecy, make them reality. When old and young come together, we preserve and pass on the gifts that God gives. We look upon our children, knowing that they will inherit not only a land, a culture and a tradition, but also the living fruits of faith that are God's blessings upon this land.

~ Pope Francis

Community Prayer For the 2021 General Emergence

Almighty Father, source of all goodness and love, we praise and thank you for bringing us, BLD members, together in a community of love.

During this period of discernment for our next community and district leaders, we place ourselves – the nominators, nominees and all those participating in the BLD General Emergence, under the light and power of the Holy Spirit.

Together with our global community brothers and sisters, we especially pray for our Community Spiritual Director, Bishop Reynaldo G. Evangelista, District Spiritual Directors, Council of Servant Leaders, Cluster Shepherds, District Council of Stewards and Emergence Overseers (CCEO & DCEO), that they may be guided by Your wisdom in all the decisions they make and carry out their functions with humility and dedication.

We commit to be attentive to Your voice by immersing ourselves daily in Your word, praying and offering sacrifices, so that Your Will shall prevail in peace, love, and joy among us during this important process of discernment for the new leaders of the BLD Community.

Our Blessed Mother Mary, intercede for us that the Lord may instill in all of us a deep desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to yield to His word, to give freely of ourselves, and to serve one another with love as we seek His wisdom and truth in this process.

This we pray in the Most Holy Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Let my tongue be silenced,
if I ever forget you!*



This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We are the reflection of God's love when we serve Jesus and bear much fruit.

PROMISE:

"Whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it in for eternal life." (Jn 12:25b)

WORD:

Jer 31:31-34/ Ps 51:3-4, 12-15/ Heb 5:7-9/ Jn 12:20-33

ORDER:

- *Whoever serves me must follow me.* (Jn 12:26a)

DIRECTIONS:

- Transform your life through prayer, fasting and penance.
- Give of yourself and do works of mercy.



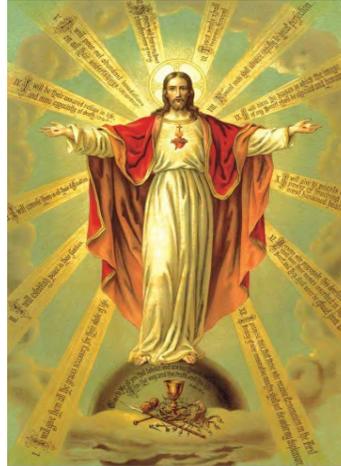
Self-Sacrificing Love

REFLECTION: This coming Sunday is the fifth and last Sunday of Lent and we come closer to the heart and meaning of the gospel - that Jesus must suffer and die for new life to happen. We, Christians, must be willing to follow Jesus in his sacrifice because as he said in Jn 12:26, "...where I am, there also will my servant be".

Commitment, obedience, suffering, and sacrifice are what we are called to do during this Lent season. There are three messages expressed in the theme, **We are the reflection of God's love when we serve Jesus and bear much fruit**, namely: God's love, Serve Jesus, Bear much fruit.

God's love

As believers we should imitate the character of God, His love. He loves sinners and people who are unworthy of his love. In the First Reading, our forefathers broke their covenant with God, yet He is still firmly committed to restore that broken relationship and make a new covenant with his people where he will write the law



upon their hearts. He will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more. Intimate union with God occurs as we cooperate with God's grace. But we only grow spiritually when we open our hearts to God and develop a personal relationship with him.

During this Lent, let us *"transform our lives through prayer, fasting and penance"*. Let us reflect God's love in us

by glorifying him in our lives.

Serve Jesus

Jesus learned obedience from what he suffered. Through obedience, Jesus revealed his glory as God's servant. In Mk 10:45, it says *"For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many"*.

To follow Jesus is to live a life where we are always looking for ways to meet the needs of others, like our BLD Community, through our talents, gifts, and abilities. We put others first, thinking not about ourselves and our own desires, but also about what others lack that we can provide.

Self-Sacrificing - See Page 2

Patient Witness



We can ask ourselves: how do we react to situations that are not right? In the face of adversity, there are always two temptations. The first is flight: we can run away, turn our backs, trying to keep aloof from it all. The second is to react with anger, with a show of force... Jesus, on the other hand, changed history. How? With the humble power of love, with His patient witness. This is what we are called to do; and this is how God fulfills His promises... God's promises guarantee unrivalled joy and never disappoint. But how are they fulfilled? Through our weaknesses. God makes blessed those who travel the path of their inner poverty to the very end.

~ **Pope Francis**

Tending the Flock

Love Your Equals

Although gold is a creature of God, still God did not make it according to his own image, but you he did. Therefore, he put the gold beneath you. This kind of love should be despised. Those things are to be acquired for their usefulness, but we should not cling to them with the bond of love as if with glue. Do not make for yourself members over which, when they have begun to be cut away, you will grieve and be afflicted. What then? Rise from that love with which you love things that are lower than you, and begin to love your equals, that is, things that are what you are... The Lord himself has told us in the Gospel and clearly showed us in what order we may have true love and charity. For he spoke in this way, *"You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, and with your whole soul and with your whole strength. And your neighbor as yourself"* (Luke 10:27). Therefore, first love God and then yourself. After these, love your neighbor as yourself.

~ **Caesarius of Arles (470-543 AD)**

Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**. Donate link can be found at www.bldtrenton.com

Or mail check to:
BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 1367
Toms River, NJ 08754

The Lord's Provision

March 12, 2021

Mail-in: \$ 400.00
Paypal : \$ 19.26

Thank you for your generosity!!!

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Community Prayer Time

Every Friday, starting at exactly 8:30 pm, all members are urged to pray together as one community the following:

Prayer to Take Authority

Holy Rosary

Prayer: Oratio Imperata against the spread of coronavirus

“Merciful and compassionate Father, we come to you in our need to seek your protection against the Covid-19 virus that has disturbed and even claimed lives.

We ask you now to look upon us with love and by your healing hand, dispel the fear of sickness and death, restore our hope, and strengthen our faith.

We pray that you guide the people tasked to find cures for this disease and to stem its transmission.

We thank you for the vaccines developed made possible by your guiding hands. Bless our efforts to use these vaccines to end the pandemic.

We pray for our health workers that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion. Grant them health in mind and body, strength in their commitment, protection from the disease.

We pray for those afflicted. May they be restored to health. Protect those who care for them. Grant eternal rest to those who have died.

Give us the grace in these trying times to work for the good of all and to help those in need. May our concern and compassion for each other see us through this crisis and lead us to conversion and holiness.

Grant all these through our Lord Jesus Christ your son who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the holy spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

We fly to your protection, o holy Mother of God. Do not despise our petition in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin. Amen.

Our Lady, health of the sick, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

St. Raphael the Archangel, pray for us.

San Roque, pray for us.

San Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.

San Pedro Calungsod, pray for us.

God's Blessings

Birthday

Trisha Arriola	3/20	Jun Fincalero	3/23
Bob Academia	3/22	Hannah Hernandez	3/23
Ryan Retirado	3/22	Ginelle Lamela	3/23

Fr. Pete Literal 3/25

Community Prayer For the 2021 General Emergence

Almighty Father, source of all goodness and love, we praise and thank you for bringing us, BLD members, together in a community of love.

During this period of discernment for our next community and district leaders, we place ourselves – the nominators, nominees and all those participating in the BLD General Emergence, under the light and power of the Holy Spirit.

Together with our global community brothers and sisters, we especially pray for our Community Spiritual Director, Bishop Reynaldo G. Evangelista, District Spiritual Directors, Council of Servant Leaders, Cluster Shepherds, District Council of Stewards and Emergence Overseers (CCEO & DCEO), that they may be guided by Your wisdom in all the decisions they make and carry out their functions with humility and dedication.

We commit to be attentive to Your voice by immersing ourselves daily in Your word, praying and offering sacrifices, so that Your Will shall prevail in peace, love, and joy among us during this important process of discernment for the new leaders of the BLD Community.

Our Blessed Mother Mary, intercede for us that the Lord may instill in all of us a deep desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to yield to His word, to give freely of ourselves, and to serve one another with love as we seek His wisdom and truth in this process.

This we pray in the Most Holy Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Self-Sacrificing - Cont'd from Page 1

Our service should be rooted in love for it to be meaningful and for us to discover joy in serving, and not out of sense of duty or obligation. Let our lives reflect God's love by serving others.

Bear much fruit

Jesus uses the analogy of a grain of wheat in the gospel to speak of life and death. Just as a grain of wheat must first die before it bears fruit, so too must Jesus die prior to his Resurrection, and so too must we die to sin and selfishness before we

bear godly fruit in our lives. Jesus gave up his life so that we might live a rich and fruitful life.

“Bear much fruit” involves suffering and sacrifice. Like Jesus, we must be willing to die to self so that God can bring new life not only to us but also to others. Like Jesus, our focus should not be on our will and our wants, but on serving those whom God is allowing us and calling us to serve. Like Jesus, we must spend time in prayer and all that He revealed through his Word and church and, in keeping our eyes focused on God.

Let us give true meaning to the

three pillars of lent namely, prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Let us be fruitful in **giving of ourselves and doing works of mercy**. We increase these virtues during Lent and, hopefully, we carry them over for the rest of our lives.

As members of the BLD Community our mission calls us to evangelize and build communities of faith, champion social issues and stewardship and actively participate in the life and mission of the church in accord with our God-given gifts.

Let's write upon our hearts Jesus' words in Jn 12:26, “Whoever serves me must follow me”.



This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We are the reflection of God's love when we share in the suffering of Christ.

PROMISE:

"The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced...I shall not be put to shame." (Is 50:7)

WORD:

Is 50:4-7/ Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24/
Phil 2:6-11/ Mk 14:1-15:47

ORDER:

- *Take it; this is my body.* (Mk 14:22)
- *Praise him, give glory to him, and revere him.* (Ps 22:24b)
- *Become obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.* (Phil 2:8)
- *Remain here and keep watch.* (Mk 14:34)

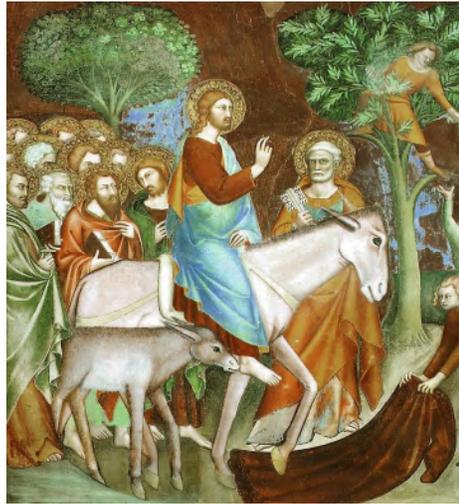
DIRECTIONS:

- Receive the Eucharist.
- Pray unceasingly, fast and give alms.
- Sacrifice your time, share your treasure and talent in service to others.

Suffering With Meaning

REFLECTION:

As we enter the Holy Week, we are reminded, through our theme this week, of the love of God in the sufferings of His Son, who gave His life to save us from spiritual death and restore us back to God as inheritors of His Kingdom. Jesus is the reflection of God's love manifested in His own passion and death. And, we are called to share in His suffering by offering to Him our struggles and by seeking His mercy. Embracing and reflecting on Christ's crucifixion allows us to be His instruments to bring souls back to him. St. Josemaria Escriva in his book, *The Forge*, says, "If you love the Lord, you will necessarily become aware of the blessed burden of souls that need to be brought to God." And in his letter to the Romans, St. Paul expresses, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news!" (Rom 10:15).



Are we willing to sacrifice and share in Jesus' suffering this Holy Week? We know that Jesus did not turn His back to those who beat Him, His cheek to those who insulted Him. He did not shield His face from their buffets and spitting. He was vulnerable, defenseless, and non-violent. But His help is from God and He was not

disgraced. Even in torture and death, Jesus remained steadfast and He trusted God. Are we ready and willing to accompany Jesus on His way to the cross? Can we be faithful to Him just as He was faithful and obedient to His Father?

As one Christian columnist puts it: Jesus made the problems of the world his own. He teaches us to trust not in our will but in the will of the One who

knows how to love and to save. He was willing to undergo what hatred and persecution meant, and embraced the most difficult part of our human experiences. He embraced all these to make us realize that He will journey with us and not abandon us, He will help us, not by removing all the pains of life, but by assuming all these pains in Himself. He did this to manifest to us that in our pains, we are not alone, we are not abandoned.

Holy Week is important to us who follow Jesus because we believe that by His love, He changed the world and the history of our lives. In our world today, we need love most of all but only true love. Jesus can make a difference and can bring change to us.

Suffering - See Page 2

Tending the Flock

Poverty Requires A Pure Heart

A person can be materially poor yet his heart can be full of greed for wealth and for the power that derives from it. The very fact that he lives with envy and covetousness shows that, in his heart, he is one of the rich. He wants to reverse the division of goods so that he himself can take over the situation that was previously theirs.

The poverty that Jesus means - that the prophets mean - presupposes above all inner freedom from the greed for possession and the mania for power. This is a greater reality than merely a different distribution of possessions, which would still be in the material domain and thereby make hearts even harder. It is first and foremost a matter of purification of heart, through which one recognizes possession as responsibility, as a duty towards others, placing oneself under God's gaze and letting oneself be guided by Christ, who from being rich became poor for our sake (cf. II Cor 8: 9).

Inner freedom is the prerequisite for overcoming the corruption and greed that devastate the world today. This freedom can only be found if God becomes our richness; it can only be found in the patience of daily sacrifices, in which, as it were, true freedom develops.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, April 9, 2006



Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Blessed Mother's visit -Tess Corso 732-604-1914
For Prayer Service - Morris Teves 732-597-2016

Community Prayer Time

Every Friday, starting at exactly 8:30 pm, all members are urged to pray together as one community the following:

Prayer to Take Authority

Holy Rosary

Prayer: Oratio Imperata against the spread of coronavirus

"Merciful and compassionate Father, we come to you in our need to seek your protection against the Covid-19 virus that has disturbed and even claimed lives.

We ask you now to look upon us with love and by your healing hand, dispel the fear of sickness and death, restore our hope, and strengthen our faith.

We pray that you guide the people tasked to find cures for this disease and to stem its transmission.

We thank you for the vaccines developed made possible by your guiding hands. Bless our efforts to use these vaccines to end the pandemic.

We pray for our health workers that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion. Grant them health in mind and body, strength in their commitment, protection from the disease.

We pray for those afflicted. May they be restored to health. Protect those who care for them. Grant eternal rest to those who have died.

Give us the grace in these trying times to work for the good of all and to help those in need. May our concern and compassion for each other see us through this crisis and lead us to conversion and holiness.

Grant all these through our Lord Jesus Christ your son who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the holy spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

We fly to your protection, o holy Mother of God. Do not despise our petition in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin. Amen.

Our Lady, health of the sick, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

St. Raphael the Archangel, pray for us.

San Roque, pray for us.

San Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.

San Pedro Calungsod, pray for us.

The Lord's Provision

March 19, 2021

Mail-in: \$ 250.00
Paypal : \$ 97.20

Thank you for your generosity!!!

Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**. Donate link can be found at www.bldtrenton.com

Or mail check to:
BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 1367
Toms River, NJ 08754

God's Blessings

Birthday

Janette Alberto	3/26	Nin Brendia	3/30
Alex Santos	3/26	Jamie Fune	3/30
Emma Teves	3/26	Jho-Jho Alabastro	3/30
Ling Navarro	3/27	Gay Anito	3/31
Maria San Rafael	3/28	Elora Kho	3/31
Pris Brendia	3/29	Walter Cintron	4/1
Allan Diaz	4/1		

Anniversary

Fr. Vic Coronado (ordination) 3/27

Community Prayer For the 2021 General Emergence

Almighty Father, source of all goodness and love, we praise and thank you for bringing us, BLD members, together in a community of love.

During this period of discernment for our next community and district leaders, we place ourselves – the nominators, nominees and all those participating in the BLD General Emergence, under the light and power of the Holy Spirit.

Together with our global community brothers and sisters, we especially pray for our Community Spiritual Director, Bishop Reynaldo G. Evangelista, District Spiritual Directors, Council of Servant Leaders, Cluster Shepherds, District Council of Stewards and Emergence Overseers (CCEO & DCEO), that they may be guided by Your wisdom in all the decisions they make and carry out their functions with humility and dedication.

We commit to be attentive to Your voice by immersing ourselves daily in Your word, praying and offering sacrifices, so that Your Will shall prevail in peace, love, and joy among us during this important process of discernment for the new leaders of the BLD Community.

Our Blessed Mother Mary, intercede for us that the Lord may instill in all of us a deep desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to yield to His word, to give freely of ourselves, and to serve one another with love as we seek His wisdom and truth in this process.

This we pray in the Most Holy Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Suffering - Cont'd from Page 1

Suffering is an integral part of our life. But there is meaning when we share in the suffering of others so that they may be freed from their own difficulties through our own sacrifices, prayers and charitable actions. In this very abnormal and trying time, what can you do to help a family in need? Many people have lost their means of livelihood and

are in the brink of desperation and depression. What can you do to alleviate their suffering?

Through His ultimate suffering, Jesus can address all our longings and hardships. These are moments in our lives as Christians when we need desperately to cry out – *"My God, why have you forsaken me,"* (Mk 1:34b). As we go through difficult times, let us meditate on the cross and reflect on what it means to

strengthen and deepen our declaration of faith that Jesus, in His obedient suffering and death, revealed Himself to us as the expression of God's love to man. And while we are there, let us be assured with this Holy Week promise, *"The Lord God is my help therefore I am not disgraced...I shall not be put to shame."* (Is 50:7)

Adapted from www.bldworld.org