

This Sunday's *Counsel*

THEME: We have unwavering faith when we bear our share of hardship for the Gospel.

PROMISE: *"For the vision has its time...it will surely come, it will not be late."* (Hab 2:3)

WORD: Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4/ Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/ 2 Tim 1:6-8, 13-14/ Lk 17:5-10

ORDER:

- *"Take as your norm...the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus."* (2 Tim 1:13)

DIRECTIONS:

- Be the light of Christ in your circle of influence and inspire others of God's faithfulness to His word.
- Be persistent in serving the Lord in the tasks/ assignments given to you.



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 19, Issue 40

<http://bldtrenton.com>

October 4, 2019

Unwavering Faith

REFLECTION: Jesus gave this command: *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation"* (Mk 16:15). This great commission from the Lord to evangelize is certainly not easy to do. As we go out to preach the gospel and testify to Christ, we will face resistance, cynicism, and indifference even within our family circles. But with unwavering faith and persistence, ultimately, we can lead our brethren to have a personal relationship with Christ. While our ultimate goal is eternal life in the Heaven, even here on earth we can experience love, joy and peace that only come from our Lord Jesus Christ.

But how does one possess such unwavering faith? The words of Jesus illustrates this: *"Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done,"* (Mt 21:21). Unwavering faith, therefore, means to have perfect confidence, no doubt or confusion, focused and steadfast in belief. It is the kind of faith that cannot be weakened by anything. It cannot be shaken or destroyed by any problems and negative situations.

From the second reading, St. Paul advises Timothy referring to the Holy Spirit:



"Stir into flame the gift of God...for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather of power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord; but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God," (2 Tim 1:6-8). We can apply this in our lives so that we will be able to bear witness to the gospel in our evangelization work and mission without hesitation or fear.

Empowered in our baptism, we need to depend on the power of the Holy Spirit so that we will be able to stand firm in our love for God and for our brothers and sisters. We ought to rely on God to remain strong and determined to grow in spiritual maturity, to do what is right, to make the right decisions. As people gifted by the

Unwavering—See Page 2

Know Your Saints

Saint Francis: Patron of Ecologists

Francis was a wealthy young man in the Italian town of Assisi who loved gaiety and pleasure. He took great delight in fine clothes and lively frolics and even fought frequent battles as a soldier in the local militia.

Despite his youthful sprees and carefree behavior, Francis still felt much sympathy for the poor. Even in the midst of his lavish parties, he often gave money to the needy and to charity. In a pilgrimage to Rome he visited the tomb of St. Peter and saw that hardly any pilgrims had left money at the shrine. Francis offered his entire purse of gold and then exchanged his clothes with those of a tattered beggar. He stood for the rest of the day fasting among the swarm of beggars in front of the tomb.

While praying and gazing at the crucifix in a neglected field-chapel, Francis heard Christ say: *"Francis, go out and build up my house, for it is nearly falling down."* Believing it was God Himself who spoke to him, Francis sold all his belongings and rebuilt his local church with his own hands but he soon realized that his call was not just to rebuild one church but to rebuild the entire Catholic Church on a foundation of merciful works. He believed this could be done by following the Gospel and by showing honor, respect and love to every person he met, beggar or king.

Francis started the order of Franciscan brothers and nuns to carry out his mission of helping the poor. A legend says that he was able to talk to animals and be understood by them. No wonder then that he is favored as patron of ecologists.



Teaching Schedule

Oct 12 - Corporate Worship and Prayer Leadership

Save the Date

Oct 13-14 : Aspirant Retreat
 Venue : Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth
 Wernersville, PA
Nov 3 : Community Retreat 1:00 - 3:30 PM
 Venue : St. Monica Church
 Jackson, NJ
Jan 10-12 : Singles Encounter
 Venue : America's Keswick
 Whiting, NJ

Bishop's Anniversary Blessing 2019

*Couples celebrating their 1st, 25th or 50th (and up)
 Catholic wedding anniversary during the 2019
 calendar year. YOU ARE INVITED!!!*

Monmouth/Ocean counties: **October 6, 2019 3 PM**
 co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine, Freehold
Mercer/Burlington counties: **October 20, 2019 3 PM**
 Cathedral of St. Mary, Trenton

Please contact:

Nes & Cecille Vasquez 908-578-9138
 Eugene & Malou Yosuco 732-500-5161

Mountain Remover



What did Jesus mean when he said to his disciples that our *faith can move trees and mountains* as well (see Matthew 17:20; Mark 11:23)? The term "mountain remover" was used for someone who could solve great problems and difficulties. Don't we often encounter challenges and difficulties which seem beyond our power to handle? What appears impossible to human power is possible to those who believe in God's power. Faith is a gift freely given by God to help us know God personally, to understand his truth, and to live in the power of his love. God expects more from us than we can simply do by ourselves. That is why Jesus gives us the gift and power of the Holy Spirit who helps us to grow strong in faith, persevere in hope, and endure in love.

Faith in God is the key for removing obstacles and difficulties which keep us from doing his will. We belong to God and our lives are no longer our own. Our joy and privilege is to follow the Lord Jesus and to serve in the power of his love and goodness. The Lord Jesus is ever ready to work in and through us by his Spirit for his glory. For our faith to be effective it must be linked with trust and with obedience - an active submission to God and a willingness to do whatever he commands. Do you trust in the grace and strength which God freely gives to help us resist temptation and to overcome obstacles in doing his will?

Adapted from dailyscripture.servantsoftheword.org

God's Blessings

Birthday

Jan Bacus 10/4 Lito Lingat 10/8
 Brooksie Brooks 10/4 Ian Reyes 10/9
 Eric Tan 10/10

Anniversary

Tony & Lolit Manuel 10/5
 Ash & Kitti Young 10/6
 Ceasar & Agnes 10/9
 Arman & Elvie Atienza 10/10

Marshalls

Oct 4 - Dan Wong
 Alan Pontipiedra
Oct 11 - Manny Palacios
 Al Guerrero

The Lord's Provision September 27, 2019

Tithes: \$485.00
 Love Offering: \$267.00

*Thank you for your
 generosity!!*



Unwavering - Cont'd from Page 1

Holy Spirit and strengthened by the love of Christ, we possess the fruit of self-control to guard our feelings, our speech and actions.

Some examples of unwavering faith in community: In initiating a scholarship program for indigent children, one community leader placed his complete faith in the Lord confident such a daunting project will prosper despite some misgivings by others. True enough, starting with limited resources, the scholarship program has prospered for some 9 years now with hundreds of poor children being provided with means to attend school. The program also gave rise to a holistic approach wherein many family members are being evangelized resulting in the formation of outreach prayer groups.

Another couple who were called by the Lord to take on higher responsibility, has been serving the community in various capacities with deep faith and dedication, in gratitude to God for countless blessings of prosperity and opportunities. They are enjoying peace, love and joy in their family and have been sharing their blessings to other couples and families as well.

We should not hesitate in proclaiming and living in God's word, but remain strong in our faith in Christ and in His message of love. God will see us through difficult times and this is what we believe in because of our unwavering faith in His love for us. Finally, our trust in the Lord brings us hope in knowing there will be a realization of the purpose for which we are called in serving God. He has given us this promise: "For the vision has its time...it will surely come, it will not be late," (Hab 2:3).

Adapted from www.bldworld.com

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME: We have unwavering faith when we are grateful for God's kindness.

PROMISE: "...live with Him... He remains faithful." (2 Tim 2:11-13)

WORD: 2Kgs 5:14-17/ Ps 98:1-4/ 2Tim 2:8-13/ Lk 17:11-19

ORDER:

- "Give thanks to God." (Lk 17:18)
- "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you." (Lk 17:19)

DIRECTIONS:

- Serve the Community; serve the Church.
- Persevere in prayers, reflect on the Word of God.
- Regularly receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and of the Holy Eucharist.



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 19, Issue 41

<http://bldtrenton.com>

October 11, 2019

Gratefulness Is A Choice

REFLECTION: Separated from God, we were dead from our own sins and the sin of Adam and Eve. But God loved us first while we were sinners and so unworthy saved us by the blood of his cross. Our own healing and restoration back to God is the very essence of our thankfulness and gratefulness of God's kindness.

In our first reading, Naaman went down and plunged into the Jordan seven times at the word of Elisha, the man of God, and his flesh became again like the flesh of a little child and he was clean of his leprosy.

Besides giving thanks and gifts Naaman declares: *"I will no longer offer holocaust or sacrifice to any other god except to the Lord."* Gratefulness to God leads to an inner transformation.

Our Gospel speaks of the Ten Lepers begging for healing but Jesus tells them to go show yourselves to the priests. Why not go to the river Jordan or go to your family? A similar verse is in Matthew 8: 4: *"...go show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses prescribed."* You could just imagine the priest spreading the ten lepers unto their different ministries like we have here in BLD.

A pattern is emerging here - to be grateful. Jesus wants us to give back to God and the Church. Gratefulness and



thankfulness to God do not just end with words but lead to action. Today the priest would recommend works of mercy, almsgiving and prayer. In our case, we serve the BLD community through our time, talents, and love offerings.

But what if God does not heal us or doesn't answer our prayers? Can we still be thankful and grateful? That is our challenge as Christians.

We thank God because he is God and worthy of praise and thanksgiving, not because our life is falling apart. Secondly, the second reading says *"if we persevere we shall also reign with him, if we have died with him we shall also live with*

Gratefulness — See Page 2

Know Your Saints

Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque: Patron of Polio Victims

Born in France in 1647, Margaret Mary Alacoque was bedridden for five years because of a crippling disease until she was healed by a vision of the Blessed Virgin. This healing prompted her to offer her life to God as a nun.

She received a special vision of Jesus wherein He said: *"Through you, my divine Heart wishes to spread its love everywhere on earth."* Jesus instructed her to maintain a special devotion to His Sacred Heart and to those who followed these instructions He gave Twelve Promises of His blessing, mercy, consolation and guidance.

The Promises include all the graces necessary for a pure state of life, peace in the family, consolation in all troubles, a refuge during life and at the hour death, abundant blessings on all undertakings, infinite mercy for sinners. The most important promise was the last: final repentance for those who shall receive Communion on the First Friday of nine consecutive months. *"They shall not die under My displeasure,"* said Jesus to the future saint, *"nor without receiving their Sacraments; my heart shall be their assured refuge at the last hour."*

Slowly, the news of this vision spread across Europe that it is now one of the most popular devotions in the Catholic Church. Wrote Margaret Mary Alacoque, *"The Sacred Heart of Jesus is an inexhaustible fountain, and its sole desire is to pour itself out into the hearts of the humble so as to free them and prepare them to lead lives according to His good pleasure."*

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque died in 1690 and is honored as patron of polio victims.



Teaching Schedule

- Oct 12 - Corporate Worship and Prayer Leadership
 Oct 19 - Christian Love and Christian Faith

Save the Date

- Oct 13-14: Aspirant Retreat (By invitation only)
 Venue: Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth
 Wernersville, PA
 Nov 3 : Community Retreat 1:00 - 3:30 PM
 Venue: St. Monica Church
 Jackson, NJ
 Jan 10-12: Singles Encounter
 Venue: America's Keswick
 Whiting, NJ

Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors & Proclaimers

Chalie & Carmen, Carl & Mina Duque, Gloria Oquendo,
 Kathy Iglesia, Alfred & Aissa Panganiban

Marshalls

- Oct 11- Manny Palacios
 Al Guerrero
 Oct 18- Edgar Arabit
 Dave Smith

The Lord's Provision October 4, 2019

Tithes: \$505.00
 Love Offering: \$227.00
Thank you for your generosity!!

Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands.

Bishop's Anniversary Blessing

Seven members of BLD Trenton were invited as ushers in the annual Bishop's Anniversary Blessing on October 6, 2019, held at the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine in Freehold, officiated by Bishop David O'Connell, Diocese of Trenton..

The Anniversary Blessing was attended by all couples who registered from both Monmouth and Ocean counties celebrating their 1st, 25th, 50th and beyond wedding anniversaries. Of note, the largest number of 300 couples, were those celebrating their golden anniversary, one of whom were Bert & Cora Velez of ME 16,

The ceremony started with a Holy Mass by Bishop O'Connell assisted by several priest & deacons, including Fr. Sam Siriani, pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine. The mass was followed by the bishop's blessing and individual couple blessing by the other priests. Acknowledgement & deep appreciation was extended to the bishop, priests, deacons, choir for the beautiful music, celebrants & their families, with special mention for the BLD ushers for their help. A light reception followed after the mass at the Dentici Hall.



God's Blessings

Birthday

Cher Chua	10/12	Ayana Perez	10/14
Clint Oquendo	10/18	Edd Roy	10/14
Evelyn Palacios	10/18	Neri Roldan	10/15
Rene Perez	10/13	Gerard DelaFuente	10/15
Julie Saria	10/15		

Anniversary

Leo & Carmela Toledo	10/11
Jim & Irma McCracken	10/14
Ricky & Rissa Gomez	10/15

YOU ARE INVITED...
GRAND REUNION ME #21
 WHEN: Oct 12, 2019 at 12-4pm
 WHERE: Trinity Hall
 St. Robert Bellarmine Church
 61 Georgia Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

IS LOVE FREE

Gratefulness - Cont'd from Page 1

him", which is our promise: "...live with him...he remains faithful," (2Tim 2: 11-13). Our faith is made perfect through trials.

We may feel depressed but we can still choose to thank God. We have learned in our encounters that love is not a feeling but a choice. The 1st order is: "give thanks to God." (Lk 17: 18b).

So the next time you feel ungrateful, thank God. Just say praise and thank you Jesus and grace will be released. You're not denying the facts but rather embracing your pain and suffering.

I know it's easier said than done but that's where our unwavering faith comes in. The 2nd order is to "Stand up and go; your faith has save you" (Lk 17: 19). Like the Ten lepers before they got healed they need to make that first step of faith when Jesus says "go show yourselves to the priest". Not knowing what that meant.

"This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself." (2Tim 2: 11-13)

That's more than enough reason to be thankful. He remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself. That means God sees himself in us!

"If we died with him we shall also live with him". That's our Baptism, we are baptized unto His death so that we may rise with Christ. We thank our parents for that, for handing down the faith. We serve the risen Lord, thank God for that.

We attend mass to give thanks to God. The Eucharist means thanksgiving because Jesus continues to offer himself today as the everlasting covenant.

The Pilgrims left England because of religious persecution for which we celebrate Thanksgiving Day. We thank God for the freedom we have in this country and many other countless blessings we take for granted.



BLD Trenton



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME: We have unwavering faith when we meditate on God's word and persevere in prayer.

PROMISE: "The Lord will guard your coming and going both now and forever". (Ps 121:8)

WORD: Ex 17:8-13/
Ps 121:1-8/2Tim
3:14-4:2/ Lk 18:1-8

ORDER:

- "Pray always without becoming weary." (Lk 18:1)
- "Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed." (2Tim 3:14)

DIRECTIONS:

- Believe and have faith that the Lord will answer your prayers in His time.
- Read and meditate on the Word of God.
- Be a good witness to your brothers and sisters.

Volume 19, Issue 42

<http://bldtrenton.com>

October 18, 2019

Persistence In Prayer

REFLECTION: In the gospel reading this Sunday, the 29th Sunday of ordinary time, Jesus commands his disciples and us to pray always without becoming weary (Lk 18:1). The Lord Christ Jesus tells a simple story that is designed to teach us the importance of remaining persistent in prayer through the parable of the persistent widow.

In this parable, we see an unrighteous judge who did not fear God nor has any respect for human beings. We also see a widow who was being mistreated and was seeking protection from the judge but he refused to do anything. The widow could have given up, the odds was not in her favor. She had no money, with no one to counsel her moves, and was trying to take on a corrupt power structure. But she kept coming at him until finally she wore him down. So here we have a defenseless, poor widow who was able to persuade a godless but powerful judge to succumb to her request only by pure persistence.

To my mind the purpose of this par-



able is to encourage Christians for a meaningful prayer life and persevere in our faith. Sad to say that some of us don't take it seriously as we should. We allow ourselves to be caught up in many things that we forget the most important thing to do which is to pray. Our duties and responsibilities towards our children, our spouse, and jobs are never an excuse to neglect prayer. It is necessary for us to set a time for prayer, but we always find an excuse.

Prayer is more than an obligation it is also an opportunity, an opportunity to get in touch with our heavenly father. It is a nourishment of the spirit. Without prayer we are prone to commit sin because we don't have the strength to resist temptations. The Lord commanded us to pray. Therefore, it goes without saying that it is disobedience to skip daily prayer more so if we wasted our time with unnecessary things in life. When we read the words of

Persistence—See Page 2

Know Your Saints

Saint Anthony Claret: Patron of Weavers

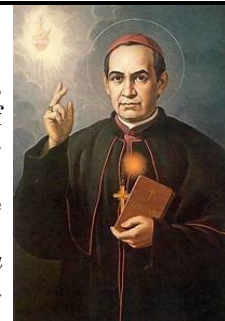
The son of a Spanish weaver, Anthony wished to be a priest, but obeyed his father instead, who installed him in the family textile business. But the call of Christ was too great and Anthony, who at the young age of five was already concerned about his soul being fit for heaven, was ordained a priest at twenty-eight.

In 1849, he founded the Congregation of Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, an order known as Claretian Missionaries.

Anthony read the *Lives of Saints* and was inspired by their example. "I used to feel such a burning desire within me that I could not sit still," he wrote. "I had to get up and run from one place to another, preaching continually. I thought of the words of St. Augustine, 'Will you not be like these men and women and work as they did at saving souls?'"

He was named Archbishop of Cuba and helped establish hospitals, orphanages, homes for the elderly, trade schools and banks for the poor. Often, he rode on horseback throughout the island to say Mass, and it was said that the rosary was never out of his hands. He also had the gift of prophecy and performed many miracles. He was reported to have preached 10,000 sermons and published 200 works. He was credited for spreading devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In 1857, Anthony returned to Spain and continued to work on behalf of the poor, even declaring that no one, no matter how poor, was to be turned away from the Catholic hospital in Madrid.

St. Anthony Claret died in 1870 at the age of 63. He is honored as patron of weavers and the Catholic press.



Save the Date

- Oct 26** : Diocese of Trenton Charismatic Rally
Venue: St. Mary Mother of God Church
Middletown, NJ
- Oct 30** : Soup Kitchen 11:00 AM—1:00 PM
Venue: St. Peter's Church
Freehold, NJ
- Nov 3** : Community Retreat 1:00 - 3:30 PM
Venue: St. Monica Church
Jackson, NJ
- Dec 21** : Christmas Caroling 11 AM—4 PM
- Jan 10-12**: Singles Encounter
Venue: America's Keswick
Whiting, NJ
- Feb 5-12** : Medical Mission to the Philippines

Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors & Proclaimers

Evelyn Balondo & Cecille Sanchez, Bert & Cora Velez,
Nestor & Cecille Vasquez, Ash & Kitty Young

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

Prayer Revolution



"As long as Moses kept his hands raised up, Israel had the better of the fight, but when he let his hands rest, Amalek had the better of the fight."
—Exodus 17:11

Moses at first prayed intermittently while Joshua fought a battle. Moses learned from experience that he needed to pray continually during the time of the battle. Moses had no thought of praying always during daily life; he was just learning to

pray always during a battle.

Well over a thousand years later, Jesus spoke of *"the necessity of praying always and not losing heart"* (Lk 18:1). No one had ever said such things about prayer. Jesus revolutionized the meaning, practice, and power of prayer by baptizing us in the Holy Spirit (see Mk 1:8). The Spirit *"helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought"* (Rm 8:26). Praying in the Spirit, we can pray:

- always (1 Thes 5:17),
- to our Father as the Spirit cries out in our hearts "Abba" ("Father") (Gal 4:6),
- for our enemies (Mt 5:44),
- in other languages (see 1 Cor 12:10),
- with the angels and saints at the throne of God (see Rv 5:8),
- with the power to "renew the face of the earth" (Ps 104:30),
- and fast so as to drive out demons (Mt 17:21, NAB).

Are you praying B.C. or A.D.? Are you praying before Pentecost or after Pentecost? Are you praying always in

Adapted from www.presentationministries.com

God's Blessings

Birthday

Weddy Balmaceda	10/18	Daniel Catarata	10/21
Beth Felibrico	10/18	Maz Gennity	10/21
Jomar Janolo	10/18	Sonny Adame	10/23
Sionee Abalos	10/18	Maé Alberto	10/23
Marsha Supapo	10/19	Kate Ilagan	10/23
Kimberly Estomo	10/20	Mike Chua	10/24
Ruby Woodard	10/21	Raffy Perez	10/24

Anniversary

Marlon & Sionee Abalos	10/18
Arwin & Sona David	10/18
Morris & Emma Teves	10/23
Paul & Vange Hermesen	10/24

The Lord's Provision October 11, 2019

Tithes: \$480.00
Love Offering: \$259.00

Thank you for your generosity!!

Marshalls

Oct 18—Edgar Arabit
Dave Smith
Oct 25—Eugene Yosuiico
Toti Araga



Persistence - Cont'd from Page 1

the Scripture, we ask God to speak to us. He provides the wisdom we need to live lives that bring glory to Him, lives that are consistent with standards of grace and holiness. If we ignore the importance of this discipline and if we disobey what He teaches, chances are He will not answer our prayer. Daily prayer is the best way to commune with God on a spiritual level. To have a meaningful prayer life we have to set our priorities.

The problem is not that we have so many things to do, the real problem is we don't give time for prayer. There are ways where we can improve our prayer life and make it more attune to the will of God. One is to put order in our daily life, we have to make a schedule so we have an idea how to spend our day and make prayer a part of that day. Secondly, we have to cut-off everything that is useless. We spend many ours in front of the television watching a movie or game yet we don't have 10 minutes for prayer. The reality is we lost a lot of time every day on useless things. Lastly, we have to be faithful to our commitment, we have to be faithful to the order and schedule that we have put in our life. We have to be faithful in what to do and what to avoid. Brothers and sisters, let us make prayer a priority for real.

This Sunday's *Counsel*

THEME: We have unwavering faith when we humbly acknowledge our sinfulness and depend on God's mercy.

PROMISE: *"The Lord is close to the broken hearted; and those who are crushed in spirit He saves".* (Ps 34:19)

WORD: Sir 35:12-14, 16-18/ Ps 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23/ 2Tim 4:6-8, 16-18/ Lk 18:9-14

ORDER:

- *"H u m b l e yourself."* (Lk 18:14b)
- *"Give glory to the Lord."* (Ps 34:3b)

DIRECTIONS:

- Acknowledge that we are all sinners.
- Approach God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- H u m b l y recognize His mercy and forgiveness.



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 19, Issue 43

<http://bldtrenton.com>

October 25, 2019

Bow Down In Humility

REFLECTION: The posture of bowing down seems to be universal but may have different meanings. For Filipinos, we have "pagmamano" which involves bowing down as a sign of honoring the elders. For Japanese or Koreans, it may mean an apology, a thank you or a greeting. However, one interesting definition says "bow down" means to show weakness by agreeing to the demands or following the orders of someone or something.

It may sound like bowing down shows weakness but if you are a believer, to bow down before someone could indicate a sign of honor and respect, acknowledging the greatness of the one before whom you bow. It is a sign of submission to the one who is bigger and superior than all of us.

The posture of the praying tax collector in this Sunday's Gospel spoke of his unworthiness before God. He couldn't even lift his eyes to heaven, the burden of his guilt and shame weighed heavily upon him, and the load he carried had become unbearable. The tax collector bowed down in humility because he has faith in a merciful God who is ready to forgive his sins. He believed of a God who is ready to listen to his plea as a sinner.

To believe in someone we do not see yet bow down to and follow - this is the beauty of our faith as believers. The call



for all of us in this month's theme is to have unwavering faith. However, it is undeniable that for many of us there are still challenges in achieving this.

No matter how many times we've gone to church, how long we've been in our community, there are moments when doubts in a loving merciful God set in and why is that? As we examine ourselves, we ask, "Why do some of us still doubt?" Are we becoming like the Pharisee in the parable who thought more of himself as above others?

We have to bow down before God when we start to see ourselves acting or thinking like the Pharisee. Here in our community or even outside, some of us may think that our ways are better than others'. Instead of lovingly encouraging oth-

Humility—See Page 2

Know Your Saints

Saint Paul of the Cross: Passionist

Born in Italy in 1694, Paul of the Cross lived at a time when many regarded Jesus as a great moral teacher but no more. After a brief time as a soldier, he turned to solitary prayer, developing a devotion to Christ's passion. Paul saw in the Lord's passion a demonstration of God's love for all people. That devotion nurtured his compassion and supported a preaching ministry that touched the hearts of many listeners. He was known as one of the most popular preachers of his day, both for his words and for his generous acts of mercy.

With his younger brother John, Paul founded an order of monks called the Congregation of the Passion whose members combined devotion to Christ's passion with preaching to the poor, and rigorous penances. Known as the Passionists, they add a fourth vow to the traditional three of poverty, chastity, and obedience, to spread the memory of Christ's passion among the faithful. He wrote, *"The world lives unmindful of the sufferings of Jesus which are the miracle of miracles of the love of God. We must arouse the world from its slumber."*

Because of this special devotion to Our Lord, Paul became known as "Paul of the Cross." He traveled for more than forty years preaching and helping people wherever he went. He was a speaker of such fervency and power that even hardened soldiers and bandits were seen weeping at his words.

St. Paul of the Cross died in 1775 as the Passion was being read to him. Passionists around the world continue to bear witness to his credo, *"Live in such a way that all may know that you bear outwardly as well as inwardly the image of Christ crucified, the model of all gentleness and mercy."*



Save the Date

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 Venue: St. Mary Mother of God Church
 Middletown, NJ

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Nov 3 : Community Retreat 1:00 - 3:30 PM
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Dec 21 : Christmas Caroling 11 AM—4 PM

Jan 10-12: Singles Encounter
 Venue: America's Keswick
 Whiting, NJ

Feb 5-12 : Medical Mission to the Philippines

Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors & Proclaimers

Duartes, Dave & Libay Baliscao, Ricky & Rissa Gomez,
 Mon & Mense Miranda

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

Being Lowly

Clouds can be a sign of God's presence or, figuratively speaking, a barrier preventing us from "getting through" to God. Clouds present no problem to the prayer of the lowly, for their prayer pierces the clouds.

We can surmise that the prayer of many people is not "getting through" to God, for many people pray infrequently. If they were "getting through," they probably would be encouraged to pray always (see Lk 18:1). Who wants to keep calling a phone number when you seldom "get through"? Many of us must not be lowly, or we would be "getting through" and praying more.

Signs of not being lowly are:

- not forgiving (see Mt 6:15),
- not going to Confession often,
- not submitting to the authority of the Lord through the Church (see Heb 13:17),
- focusing on ourselves (see Lk 18:11-12),
- comparing ourselves with others (see Lk 18:11),
- not washing others' feet through service (see Jn 13:14-15), and
- trying to live the "high life" of affluence and comfort.

Jesus is lowly — from the stable at Bethlehem to the cross on Calvary to appearing as bread and wine in the Eucharist. Be like the lowly Jesus, and your prayer will pierce the clouds.

Adapted from www.presentationministries.com

God's Blessings

Birthday

Vange Hermesen	10/23	Jaine Buenafe	10/29
Romy Durante	10/26	Harvey Gabriel	10/29
Jedy Bustamante	10/27	Glenda Calugay	10/30
Eugene Yosucio	10/28	Malu DelaCruz	10/31
Marlon Abalos	10/31		

Anniversary

Janis & Arlene Carvajal	10/25
Bobby & Kate Ilagan	10/26
Robert & Agnes Raymundo	10/26
Raffy & Jo Perez	10/27
Elner & Marichille Jamolod	10/28
Manny & Evelyn Palacios	10/31

The Lord's Provision October 18, 2019

Tithes: \$620.00
Love Offering: \$162.00

*Thank you for your
 generosity!!*

Marshalls

Oct 25—Eugene Yosucio
 Toti Araga

Nov 1—Roy Roldan
 Jojo Legaspi

Humility - Cont'd from Page 1

ers, some of us may have tendencies to judge them, especially if we think we know how things should be done.

We also have to bow down when we start to feel pride—believing that we can do things on our own. After overcoming life's struggles, we sometimes think we triumphed over our battles using our own strength when in reality, it is God's loving mercy that helped us defeat them.

With our ego, some of us may boast of our achievements or talents thinking that it may portray us as being strong. We rely on our strength as we refuse to ask for other's help thinking that we might just get frustrated if what they accomplish does not meet our standards. We may also rely on our strength that we forget to call God in our need for help. We then end up grumbling and then start to lose heart in doing things.

We have to bow down when we start to question God's healing power. We have to bow down when we start to get angry, when we start to get greedy. We have to bow down when we start to yield to our weaknesses, when there is unforgiveness in our heart. We have to bow down when we start to question our faith.

Yes, there are so many reasons we have to bow down. The moment we begin to live in a way where we feel like we are no longer dependent on God and start doing things on our own, we have to pause because this means that we are already starting to separate ourselves from God. And we don't want that to happen.

The tax collector recognizes his sinfulness and seeks the only thing that brings himself and God together. He bowed down, cried from his heart *"Have mercy on me,"* and we know from the end of the parable that God heard his prayer for mercy and answered it.

So, like the tax collector, let's be honest and be sincere when we bow down in humility before God. He will hear us. He will save us. He will complete us. He will exalt us.