



THEME: We live Christ's sacrificial love when we repent of our sins and commit to renew our life.

PROMISE: *"Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing."* (Ps 126:5)

WORD: Is 43:16-21/ Ps 126:1-6/ P126:1-6/ Phil 3:8-14/ Jn 8:1-11

ORDER: *"Think of what is above, not of what is on earth."* (Col 3:2)

DIRECTIONS:

- Go to confession and reconcile yourself with God and your neighbor.
- Share the love of Christ with your brethren, to comfort those who are broken, wounded and lost.

No One Is Blameless

REFLECTION:

In the Gospel story of the woman caught in adultery, the Lord teaches us perfectly by His actions how to have mercy and compassion for others and for own selves. He shows that there

is no room in a Christian's heart to be judgmental and condescending of others. The scribes and the Pharisees had already condemned the adulteress in their minds and based on the law of Moses, she should be stoned to death. They brought her to our Lord to see how He would deal with her.

If there was anyone who had the right to judge the woman, it should have been our Lord who was sinless and divine. The Lord was the only one who had the right to cast stones at the woman and yet He did not. He did not raise His voice but uttered, *"Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more"* (John 8:11). What is the Lord's message for us in this encounter?



He is gentle and comes to us not as a Judge but as a loving and forgiving Savior. He knows what is in our hearts. He sees our internal struggles and hurts. Maybe there have been people

that have "thrown rocks" at us or accused us. But that's not our Lord. He loves us and wants to empower us. He is inviting us to also be forgiving of those who have "cast stones" at us.

In the same way, He wants us not to be harsh to others or think lowly of those who we think are more sinful than us or not as righteous as we are. The Lord reminds us that nobody is perfect and that we all make mistakes. We are all sinners constantly in need of His forgiveness. He is ready to forgive us and transform us and heal us with His mercy specially through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Let us ask the Lord to grant us the

Blameless — See Page 2

Not My Will But Yours

In the Agony in the Garden seminar, we learned that before Jesus endured the physical suffering from the crucifixion, Jesus had to endure a more intense suffering from feelings of anguish and abandonment. Jesus who is sinless knows that He will have to bear mankind's past, present and future sins on the cross the next day (2Corinthians 5:21). Internally, Jesus felt extreme feelings of anguish and abandonment. Moreover, Jesus expects His Father will abandon Him the next day given that God the Father is infinitely pure and cannot tolerate to look upon the effects of sin (Habakkuk 1:13). At 3 o'clock on Good Friday, God the Father turned His face away from His only Son as all the sins of every human that lived, is living and that is yet to be born fell on Jesus. At that moment, Jesus cried out "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

As followers of Jesus, we too, at a lesser degree, must endure an Agony in the Garden and bear our crosses. And like Jesus too, we will experience a spiritual resurrection upon death. During times of abandonment and bouts of depression, anger, anxiety and betrayal, we as Christians need to suppress these feelings. God doesn't always show us His plans for us. But rather He wants us to rely on Him to do His will and not ours. He calls us to trust His divine providence in such a way that His will is what is best for us spiritually. And like Jesus too, we will need to pray "not my will, but thine be done".



Teaching Schedule

Apr 27 - ME 18 - Shepherds Training 2
 May 5 - ME 18 - Advance Intercession and Spiritual Warfare
 May 11 - ME 19 - Christian Discipline
 Christian Community
 May 18 - ME 20 - Road to Emmaus
 Jesus in the Old Testament

Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors & Proclaimers

YLSS Invocation Mass

Marshall Assignment

Apr 5 - Leo Duarte & Pris Brendaia
 Apr 12 - Tony Riggio & Art Butulan

The Lord's Provision Mar 29, 2019

Tithes: \$740.00
 Love Offering: \$262.00

Thank You
 For Your Generosity

*Restore our fortunes,
 O Lord.*

Blameless - continued from Page 1

grace to desire to go to Confession and seek His cleansing Love and mercy so we can be re-strengthened, re-energized and refocused in living out His will for us. May we respond to His invitation to spend time to pause and spend some quiet time with Him daily to focus on Him and understand His purpose for us and to discern how we have fallen short and have offended Him and our brothers and sisters and readily ask for His and their forgiveness.

He proclaimed that His Kingdom is at hand during His public ministry through His actions and teachings. This reading reveals His perfect example. Just as the adulterous woman had a profound life-changing experience with our Lord, may we also have transforming encounters with Him in our own spiritual journey that will bring us true joy and true peace by following His lead and direction.

God's Blessings

Birthday

Jim McCracken	4/5	Agnes Morte	4/8
Agnes Monta	4/7	Fr. Jason Yvans	4/8
Margaret Tomczyk	4/7	Arlene Riggio	4/9
Ellen San Rafael	4/8	Lito Fune	4/9

Anniversary

Lito & Sylvia Lingat 4/8

Save the Date

Apr 27-28 : Marriage Encounter # 21
 Venue : Executive Suites, Carteret, NJ
 Jun 29 : "Summer to Remember" Fundraiser
 Venue : Jumping Brook Country Club
 Neptune, NJ

Doubt and Faith

Excerpt from the book, "Anna and the Exodus Moon & Other Stories"
 by: Gene P. Del Carmen

(Continued from last week's issue)

On October 7, 1950, Mother Teresa received permission from the Holy See to start her own religious order, the Missionaries of Charity, whose primary task was to love and care for those persons nobody was willing to look after. Today, this religious order has spread all over the world, including the former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries. Mother Teresa had received 124 awards for her enduring humanitarian work, among them was the Philippines' prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for Peace and International Understanding in 1962.



On December 11, 1979, Mother Teresa was awarded the ultimate worldly accolade of all, the Nobel Peace Prize. Dressed humbly in her signature blue-bordered sari and sandals, despite below-zero temperatures in Oslo, she concluded her speech by suggesting, "The upcoming holidays should remind the world that radiating joy is real because Christ is everywhere, Christ is in our hearts, Christ is in the poor we meet, Christ is in the smile we give and the smile that we receive." Yet just three months before that, she wrote—and frustratingly assured—her confidant Reverend Van Der Peet, "Christ has a very special love for you." She continued, "But as for me, the silence and the emptiness is so great, that I look and do not see, listen and do not hear, the tongue moves in prayer but does not speak. I want you to pray for me that I let Him have a free hand."

After years of battling debilitating physical ailments, "the Saint of the Gutters" died on September 5, 1997, in Calcutta, five days after her friend Princess Diana died in a car crash in Paris. Her ever smiling face was on the front page of every newspaper worldwide. "The smile," she previously wrote, "is a mask, or a cloak that covered everything." Mother Teresa's crisis of faith never abated until her death, except for a five-week break in 1959, she told her confidant. Conscientious and cheery was how she always appeared in public, despite the burdens she lugged in her heart. Pope John Paul II, aware of the torment she endured, put Mother Teresa on the fast track to sainthood. Pope Francis officially cleared her for sainthood on December 17, 2015, and on September 4, 2016, she was officially canonized a saint. Just like Saint Peter and other saints who were physically tortured because of their faith, perhaps that doubtful, tormented kind of life for Mother Teresa was how an exemplary saint was meant to live.

(To be continued)



Community News

Volume 19, Issue 15

<http://bldtrenton.com>

April 12, 2019

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME: We live Christ's sacrificial love when we are obedient to the will of God.

PROMISE: "The Lord is my help...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/ Lk 22:14-23:56

ORDER:

- "Do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves." (Lk 23:18)
- "Pray that you may not undergo the test." (Lk 22:46)

DIRECTIONS:

- Empty yourselves.
- Repent for your sins.

A Ransom So Dear

REFLECTION:

"When the hour came, Jesus took his place at table with the apostles. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for, I tell you, I shall not eat it again until there is fulfillment in the kingdom of God," (Lk 22:14-16).

If given the chance to know when we are going to die, what would we do? Whom would you spend your time with? And what would you tell them? I assume you will be with those closest to your heart. Most likely you will share with them your deepest wishes - what you want them to know; what you want them to do; what you want them to become. I am sure Jesus felt the same way. He was human too like us, remember? So, what did Jesus do? He spent his last days with His chosen disciples, and on his last few hours decided to wash their feet. He said, "If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet,



you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do," (Jn 13:14-15). Washing each other's feet is Jesus' deepest wish for us to do. Washing

someone's feet is an act of humility and service. His WILL for us is to humble ourselves and to serve one another.

As we approach this coming Holy Week, let us reflect on: Are we truly serving others? Or are we just claiming we do but we are actually serving ourselves? If we have difficulty in fully serving others, most likely it is because we are not humble enough yet to accept that they are more important than ourselves. Let us pray for continuous conversion and transformation of our hearts so serving others becomes natural and easy for us to do. Let's do more for others for we are called to be obedient to the will of God.

Ransom — See Page 2

A Deeper Communion With God

A reflection by one of the participants to the Solo Parents Encounter # 3 held on March 23-24, 2019 at Days Inn, New Brunswick

Bring it on! Such was my silent battle cry in life. I have my education. I have a job. I travel. I am relatively healthy. I have made it this far alone. What else can I not do? I felt invincible until my job security was threatened. An unsettling feeling begins to creep in.

This unsettling feeling brought me to the Solo Parent Encounter SPE #3, wanting to find order to my troubled thoughts. It was an opportune moment to take a step back from a busy schedule to be able to look back, identify gaps, and come up with resolution(s). Amazingly, after only a few sharing, teaching, introspecting, and a lot of praying, my realization came fast. It came like a password that opened up a vaulted safe. The confusing bits and pieces of information that previously did not make any sense, all seem to come together to form an intelligible body of knowledge and understanding, revealing the cause of my turmoil, giving life to the verse "those who diligently seek me will find me" (Proverbs 8:17). It seems like a miracle.

Having such an AHA moment in the SPE#3 is both humbling and challenging. Humbling as I came face-to-face with my weakness—the gaps that I was looking for—my arrogance, my stubbornness, my pride. Never had it been so clear how such arrogance caused me to mindlessly disregard God's instructions, His warnings, His invitation to stay by His side. Challenging as I realized how



Communion — See Page 2

Teaching Schedule

Apr 27	- ME 18	-	Shepherds Training 2
May 5	- ME 18	-	Advance Intercession and Spiritual Warfare
May 11	- ME 19	-	Christian Discipline Christian Community
May 18	- ME 20	-	Road to Emmaus Jesus in the Old Testament

Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors & Proclaimers

Lilia & Jaja Senter, Popong & Maryann Arias, Manny & Evelyn Palacios, Andy & Grace Mantes

Marshall Assignment

Apr 12 - Tony Riggio & Art Butulan
Apr 19 - Keith Rodriguez & Roland Mansing

The Lord's Provision April 5, 2019
Tithes: \$405.00
Love Offering: \$302.00
Thank You For Your Generosity

REMINDER FOR PARENTS
Loitering in the parking lot and hallway is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED!**

God's Blessings

Birthday

Eric Bustamante	4/10	Dulce Danieles	4/16
Lota Salomia	4/12	Tony Riggio	4/16
Mon Miranda	4/13	Forting Yambao	4/17
Cesar Morte	4/13	Malen Juarez	4/18
Eric Mecenas	4/18		

Anniversary

Fr. Pete Literal (ordination)	4/13
Mike & Cher Chua	4/15
Art & Agnes Monta	4/15
Alfred & Aissa Panganiban	4/15

Save the Date

Apr 28 : SPE #3 Grand Reunion (2 PM - 6 PM)
Venue : St. Thomas Church Parish Center
Old Bridge, NJ

May 11 : "Let's Bowl!" (4 PM -6 PM)
Venue : Playdrome, Toms River, NJ

Jun 29 : "Summer to Remember" Fundraiser
Venue : Jumping Brook Country Club
Neptune, NJ

Ransom - Continued from Page 1

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done." And to strengthen him an angel from heaven appeared to him. He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground," (Lk 22:42-43).

Jesus anticipated the scourging will be painful; the insults will be humiliating; the crucifixion will be excruciating, but He remained obedient to the will of God. *"The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as ransom for many," (Mk 10:45).* Ransom is a term we use to release someone from some kind of bondage. Jesus is the ransom for us, and our bondage is our sins. The ransom price is His life. Our salvation is free, but not cheap. *"God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us," (Rm 5:8).* His death on the cross was rooted in sacrificial love. His WILL is for us to offer our entire life for others with love.

As we study the scriptures and life of Jesus Christ, it is getting clearer and obvious that our lives are really intertwined with each other. We are called to love one another, and to serve one another. If I don't love and serve you, I don't get saved. If you don't love and serve me and others, you don't get saved. Our personal salvation rests on our relationship with others. Did you ever consider your service to others as life-saving actions? Let's treat it with importance, with passion, with conviction, and with urgency! When we have difficulty in loving everyone, pray for conversion and transformation of heart so forgiveness will come and compassion prevails. Let's serve one another with love for we are called to be obedient to the will of God.

Communion - continued from Page 1

deeply rooted the habit of following my will instead of His will has become in my life. For me, the search for answers has not concluded during the weekend of March 23-24, but has opened a new search for a deeper communion with God.

In conclusion, allow me to express my gratitude to the BLD community who made possible this opportunity for personal and spiritual growth through the organization of the Solo Parent Encounter along with their fervent prayers and logistical support without which the retreat could not have been that successful. May our good Lord continue to guide and use the community for His greater glory.

Doubt and Faith

Excerpt from the book, *"Anna and the Exodus Moon & Other Stories"*
by: Gene P. Del Carmen

(This series will resume next week)





Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME: We live Christ's sacrificial love when we believe in the power of His resurrection.

PROMISE: "When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory." (Col 3:4)

WORD: Acts 10:34, 37-43/ Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/ Col 3:1-4/ Jn 20:1-9

ORDER:

- "Do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves." (Lk 23:18)
- "Pray that you may not undergo the test." (Lk 22:46)

DIRECTIONS:

- Empty yourselves.
- Repent for your sins.

Personal Resurrection

REFLECTION:

The First Reading – Acts of the Apostles, is crucial to our reflection of Easter Sunday. It is an account of events after Jesus' ascension to heaven and the Holy Spirit's descent upon the apostles. Peter relates how he and the other apostles were witnesses to the many miraculous events and how they were commissioned to preach to the people and testify that Jesus is the one appointed by God.

As disciples, that commissioning has been extended to us. We too are to testify to Christ's work, death and resurrection. We too need to help reconcile the world to God. Pope Francis reminds us that the Church's mission is to the poor; not only by ministering temporally to them through corporal works of mercy, but by evangelizing them in spirit as well. This means we need to be witnesses. But what does it mean to be a witness? A witness is one who was present when the event in question happened and who heard what was said. How can we be witnesses to an event today in which we were not physically pre-



sent? To be authentic witnesses to Christ today, we must have personally undergone our own resurrection experience – our own "passion, death and resurrection" and to testify how our lives have been renewed in our own

transformation.

Our personal resurrection may not be a one-time, big conversion event. Most of us experience a series of ups and downs, peaks and valleys of conversion. Our conversion may be a process rather than a single event.

How do we know if Christ is winning the battle in us? If we no longer hate as much, envy as much; if we get into less disagreements as we did the day before; if we dismiss lustful or unfaithful thoughts faster than we did yesterday; if we are more patient, kinder, humbler, more forgiving, more trusting; if we can honestly say that we have made continuous improvement in our behavior; if we can truly say that we are making progress in our spiritual life, praying more, listening

Resurrection—See Page 2

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Dear Brethren in Christ,

Christ is risen! This ancient greeting sums up our celebration of Christ's resurrection which is the foundation and cornerstone of our faith.

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it," (Psalm 118). This, then, is the Joyful Good News: Christ by his death and resurrection has conquered sin so we may live. In the spirit of thanksgiving, let us continuously praise our Heavenly Father for giving us His Son to open heaven's door to us. May we live as people deeply touched by the resurrection as we encounter our risen Lord on our journey of faith and pray that He may deeply transform us as He did for His Disciples. It is our hope that Jesus' resurrection leads us to be the best version of ourselves; committed to live out our Baptismal covenant. We become what St Augustine referred to as an "Easter People", a people transformed into disciples and stewards who commit to give their time, talent and treasure as great witnesses for our Risen Lord.

May the celebration of Easter grant us hope for an eternal life with Christ and may its joy remain in our hearts forever.

God bless us all.

Art and Agnes Monta

Teaching Schedule

Apr 27 - ME 18 - Shepherds Training 2
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 May 18 - ME 20 - Road to Emmaus
 Jesus in the Old Testament

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 Venue : Playdrome, Toms River, NJ
 Jun 29 : "Summer to Remember" Fundraiser
 Venue : Jumping Brook Country Club
 Neptune, NJ

God's Blessings

Birthday

Cathy Talag	4/21	Ren Raymundo	4/23
Marie Guanzon	4/21	Jojo Legaspi	4/23
Tony Manuel	4/23	Nonette Duarte	4/25
Rina Pascua	4/25		

Anniversary

Vincent & Agnes Palecki	4/22
Ernest & Neri Roldan	4/23
Leo & Nonette Duarte	4/25

The Lord's Provision April 12, 2019

Tithes: \$505.00

Love Offering: \$225.00

Thank You For Your Generosity

Doubt and Faith

Excerpt from the book, "Anna and the Exodus Moon & Other Stories"
 by: Gene P. Del Carmen

(Continued from previous issue)

"In God's time!" We hear Christians say those three words to comfort and console during periods of awaiting. When will my cancer clear? When will peace transpire? When will terrorism stop? "In God's time!" We don't know the answer, so we wishfully assume and assure others that God does. There is a religious man who would prefer not to be silent on his doubts, revealing his impatience at the unhurried responses from his God. His name is Welby.

The Right Reverend Justin Portal Welby is the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury, the most senior bishop of the Church of England and the symbolic head of the worldwide Anglican Communion. He was one of the three clergymen who officiated at the royal wedding of England's Prince Harry and the American Ms. Meghan Markle. His personal faith journey started as, and continues to be, remarkable. In 1974, when he was eighteen years old, Justin went with an Anglican missionary group to volunteer to teach at a boys' school in Kenya. At that time, he admitted to his friends that he felt he was an agnostic. It was his mother, Jane, who encouraged and funded his trip. There, he found him-



self having to cut down the rope on the neck of a fellow teenager who had hanged himself. Within days of the tragedy, the future leader of the Anglican Church admitted to a close friend how he had rediscovered faith

in God.

Justin Welby was born on January 6, 1956, in London, England. His parents, Gavin Welby and Jane Portal, were both alcoholics, and they divorced when Justin was only three years old. Jane Portal, until her marriage, worked as the personal secretary of Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Justin graduated with master's degrees in history and law. For eleven years, he worked as a financial executive in the petroleum industry. But despite his well-paying, secure job, he felt a strong call to serve his God. He took a theology degree at Saint John's College in Durham, which started his ascent into the Anglican Church hierarchy. On November 9, 2012, the Right Reverend Justin P. Welby was announced as the 105th Archbishop of the See of Canterbury, and on March 21, 2013, he was officially enthroned, responsible for overseeing eighty-five million church members in over 130 countries.

(To be continued)

Resurrection - Continued from Page 1

progress and we are empowered to do better.

Yet, there may be things that might hinder us from experiencing our own resurrection from old life to a renewed and fruitful life, especially for us who are members of community. For example, as long-time members, do we have the tendency to be a know-it-all person? If we are shepherds in the LSS, do we fail to bring our bibles and shepherd using God's word, or just talk about our own transformation experiences? When we teach, do we teach using the Holy Scripture as basis? When we testify or share, do we glorify ourselves and not God's victory in us? When we hold positions of authority, do we ascribe that authority to God or has power gone to our heads? Do we give more importance to being right and legalistic than being kind in dealing with rules?

Let us remember that by Christ's resurrection, Jesus has shown us that life is not just about struggles and confusion, and that we can find answers to troubling questions and act accordingly because Jesus has conquered sin and death. Human suffering offered in faith and love becomes the means by which we receive a new and glorified life. For this reason we can stand firm on this week's promise: "When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory," (Col 3:4).

Adapted from www.bldworld.org

**This Sunday's
Counsel**



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 19, Issue 17

<http://bldtrenton.com>

April 26, 2019

THEME: We live Christ's sacrificial love when we acknowledge Him as our Lord and Savior.

PROMISE:

"...believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name." (Jn 20:31)

WORD: Acts 5:12-16/ Ps 118:2-4,13-15,22-24/ Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/ Jn 20:19-31

ORDER:

- *"Do not be afraid."* (Rv 1:17)
- *Peace be with you."* (Jn 20:21)
- *"Receive the Holy Spirit."* (Jn 20:22)

DIRECTIONS:

- Be steadfast with your faith.
- Encourage people to attend encounters and retreats.
- Believe in the power of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Thomas In Each of Us

REFLECTION:

When the Missionaries of Charity, the religious order Mother Teresa founded, released the diary of St. Mother Teresa a few years ago, the world was surprised to read, that one of the demons that Mother Teresa had a fight with, was her painful doubts. She wasn't quite sure if the Lord was with her in her work or cared at all of what she was doing. This was the Mother Teresa that you and I knew, the one who was doing the kind of work that you and I, would not or could not do. A holy woman, who is now a saint, plagued with personal doubts about her relationship with God. St. John Paul II, Pope Francis, and many others we would never think of ever having doubts about their faith, had a battle with personal doubts about their relationship with God. So, reading the story of Thomas in the Gospel reminds us that we all walk through life with doubt on one hand, and faith on the other. We all go through life having some kind of a tug of war inside us between doubt and faith. Who wins depends entirely on who we allow to win.

Experts tell us that we acquire knowledge through 3 different ways, namely, through direct experience, through deduc-



tion or logic and, of course, from what others tell us. Experts say that we acquire 75% of what we know, by believing what others tell us. I know that there is a North Pole though I have not been there. I believe others. At

the grocery store, I have no way of investigating whether it is indeed 5 grams of fat on this jar or the cholesterol content is 2%. I take the word of the manufacturer. The scientists are right, we accept most of our knowledge on faith. However doubt is always lurking on the sidelines. We have doubts about our religion, about our faith. Do miracles really occur? Are angels real? Or even does God exist? Our emotions sometimes bring about our doubts. Where was God when our daughter and her friend were killed in a car accident? Or why did God allow my mother to suffer so much pain before she finally died?

In Thomas' case, his best friend, his mentor, the miracle worker who did nothing but good for others, the man he followed around for 3 years, who was innocent, was cruelly arrested, beaten, and horribly crucified. How could he believe in God anymore? To most of us, when we have those doubts, we find no answer.

Thomas — See Page 2

**FUN
FACTS
OF OUR
FAITH**

Plenary Indulgence on Divine Mercy Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday was declared by Pope John Paul II in the year 2000 at the canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska, the Polish nun whose private revelation became the basis for the devotions to the Divine Mercy. To ensure that the faithful would observe this day with intense devotion, the Church has decreed the granting of a plenary indulgence to those who, on the Second Sunday of Easter, in any church or chapel, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. "Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!").

A plenary or full indulgence is one granted to those who fulfill certain conditions established by the Church. These conditions are: sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intention of the Pope. In addition, all attachment to sin, even venial sin, must be absent. It results to the full remission or removal of the temporal punishment due to sacramentally forgiven sins. Consequently, the person becomes **as if just baptized** and would fly immediately to heaven if he died in that instant. Goodbye, purgatory!

Divine Mercy Sunday this year is on April 28.



Teaching Schedule

May 5 - ME 18 - Advance Intercession and Spiritual Warfare
 May 11 - ME 19 - Christian Discipline Christian Community
 May 18 - ME 20 - Road to Emmaus Jesus in the Old Testament
 Jun 8 - ME 18 - Shepherds Training 2

Save the Date

May 11 : "Let's Bowl!" (4 PM -6 PM)
 Venue : Playdrome, Toms River, NJ
 Jun 29 : "Summer to Remember" Fundraiser
 Venue : Jumping Brook Country Club Neptune, NJ

Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors & Proclaimers

Nestor & Cecille Vasquez, Ramon & Ludy Cuasay, Al & Judy Guerrero, Carl & Mina Duque

God's Blessings

Birthday

Eve Cabrera	4/27	Toti Lukban	4/30
Olyn Bautista	4/29	Mense Miranda	5/1
Maria Diaz	4/30	German Butay	5/2

Anniversary

Rolly & Rina Pascua	4/26
Adam & Margaret Tomczyk	4/27
Alvin & Helen Hernandez	4/28
Amor & Yoly Japitana	4/28
Lino & Yoly Alcasid	4/29

Marshalls

Apr 26 - Ed Bautista
 Elner Jamolod
 May 3 - Jeff Sarmiento
 Jojo Cac

The Lord's Provision

April 26, 2019

Tithes: \$\$\$

Love Offering: \$\$\$

Thank You

For Your Generosity

Doubt and Faith

Excerpt from the book, "Anna and the Exodus Moon & Other Stories"

by: Gene P. Del Carmen

(Continued from previous issue)

On November 13, 2014, Reverend Welby was interviewed by the BBC at Bristol Cathedral in front of hundreds of people. Lucy Tegg, the interviewer, asked him, "Do you ever doubt?"

He responded with warm openness, "Yes, I do, in lots of different ways, really!" He added, "There are moments, sure, where you think, 'Is there a God?' 'Where is God?'" He then searched for some biblical connection: "I love the Psalms; if you look at Psalm 88, that's full of doubt." Reverend Welby's candor only makes him more human. He may be the worldwide leader of the Anglican Church, but he knows anguish, rage, incomprehension, and the cold bareness of grief. His first-born child, Joanna, died in a car accident in 1983 when she was seven months old, a period he has described as "utter agony." As a teenager, he cared for an alcoholic father.

On November 13, 2017, three heavily armed gun-

men stormed the 1,500-seat Bataclan Concert Hall in Paris and started shooting into the crowd. Ninety people died. When reached by BBC, Archbishop Welby said he felt shock, horror, and profound sadness. "I was praying and saying, 'God, why, why is this happening? Where are you in all this? Yes, I doubt.'" Paris, he added, "was one of the happiest places we have lived, and to think of a place of such celebration of life seeing such suffering is utterly heartbreaking." Reverend Welby lived in Paris with his family when he worked in the petroleum industry. It was also in Paris where his young daughter died in a car accident.

Just like Mother Teresa, Reverend Welby admitted to bouts of depression. "Black dog" was what Winston Churchill called it—depressive episodes that come and go. "I have those moments, when objectively everything is fine, but you think you are beyond description, hopeless." That "black dog" type of depression could be quite common among the clergy. I witnessed this first hand five years ago when I was working as a chaplain for a hospital. A priest struggled with his words at a time when a parishioner couple needed him direly for consolation.

(To be continued)

Thomas - Continued from Page 1

What Thomas did was truly remarkable, he rejoined his community where his friends were. It was when he had rejoined his community that he was able to confess to his friend, "my Lord and my God". You see friends, no one can feel the presence of God all the time, but the community does. Jesus designed Christianity to be practiced in community. We are a gathering of Christians and we support each other as a faith community, we are the sum total of our individual selves. Our faith, our hope, and our love are incomplete alone. They are completed in community.

When we were new in the country, one of the places we visited was the Sequoia National Park in California. It's a place full of wonderment. There are Sequoia trees that are older than Christianity, still standing. Some of the oldest trees in the world can be found in that park. I noticed many remarkable things. For example, some of the roots of the tree grow above the ground. So I asked the ranger how can trees that have some roots grow above ground get to be so old. Oh, because they do not need to go deep because the roots are intertwined together. They hold together under the ground. Look up, he asked me, these trees can withstand the strongest winds a storm can have. What did I see when I looked up, the branches above are intertwined as well. It is only in retrospect that I can compare a faith community with the Sequoia tree. We have to allow our roots to intertwine, we have to hold on to each other to withstand the strongest storms that come our way. Our path, as a pilgrim in pain is the only way to go. Another remarkable thing that Thomas did was hang around people who believed. Tell me who your friends are and I'll tell you who you are. Thomas has a lot of company, people who are perplexed, but honorable people. I have no doubt in my mind. Thomas is our hero!