



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 21, Issue 1

<http://bldtrenton.com>

January 8, 2021

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We have hope in our faith journey when we work for peace and justice.

PROMISE:

"Upon whom I put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations." (Is 42 1b)

WORD:

Is 42:1-4, 6-7/ Ps 29:1-4, 9-10/ Acts 10:34-38/ Mk 1:7-11

ORDER:

- *Open the eyes of the blind...bring out prisoners from confinement.* (Mk 1:3b)

DIRECTIONS:

- Do good deeds and be the light to others who are in darkness.
- Bring peace and justice to the world.
- Spread the Good News of salvation.
- Do corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Give Light To The Nation

REFLECTION: In the sacrament of Baptism we are called to the Temple of the Holy Spirit. Jesus presented Himself in the Jordan River to be baptized though He himself has no original sin. In baptism we receive the sanctifying grace from the Holy Spirit and rejoice in the cleansing of our souls from the stain of original sin. When we were baptized we became the children of God. We became His faithful disciples with the mission of spreading the Good News and to bring others to God. As children of God we became the light of the nation that despite the sufferings we are facing we persevere and never lose hope to be an inspiration to others. We imitate Jesus and live like Jesus as we share the love and compassion to our brothers and sisters who are in darkness. We continue to serve one another and do good deeds in spite of our limita-



tions.

Through baptism we are participating in the building of the Kingdom of God. Baptism initiates us into the Christian Life. We bring the gospel to our brothers and sisters when follow our God's commandments and being true God's witnesses. The journey of being a true disciple is so challenging that sometimes one is put in doubt, but surrendering to the wisdom of the sacrament of baptism will always bring us back to God's holy kingdom. We need to work together for the salvation of our nation. As brothers and sisters in Christ we give light to the nation when we reconcile with one another despite of our differences. We give justice to the nation when we open the eyes of the blind and bring out the prisoners from confinement. As true followers of Jesus we be-

Light - See Page 2

Tending the Flack

Reborn Through Baptism

Believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, makes it possible to be "born from above", that is, from God, who is Love (cf. Jn 3:3).

Moreover, let us bear in mind once again that no individual makes him or herself a human being. We are born without doing anything ourselves, the passivity of being born precedes the activity of what we ourselves do. It is also the same at the level of being Christian: no one can become Christian solely by one's own will, being Christian is also a gift that comes before our own action: we must be reborn in a new birth. St. John says: *"to all who received him... he gave power to become children of God"* (Jn 1:12).

This is the meaning of the Sacrament of Baptism. Baptism is this new birth that precedes our own action. With our faith we can go to meet Christ, but he alone can make us Christian and give to our will and to this desire of ours the response, dignity and power to become children of God, which we ourselves do not possess.

Dear friends, this Sunday of the Baptism of the Lord brings Christmas Time to an end. Let us give thanks to God for this great mystery which is a source of regeneration for the Church and for the whole world. God made himself the Son of Man so that man might become a son of God. Let us therefore renew our joy in being children, as men and women and as Christians; born and reborn to a new divine existence. Born from the love of a father and a mother and reborn from the love of God through Baptism.

Let us ask the Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ and of all who believe in him, to help us to live truly as children of God, not in words, or not only in words, but with deeds. St. John writes further: *"this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us"* (1 Jn 3:23).

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Message, January 8, 2012



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

The Lord's Provision

January 4, 2021

Mail-in: \$1,140.00
Paypal : \$ 257.67

Thank you for your generosity!!!

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

"God Our Father, we come to you in our need, to ask your protection against the 2019 N-coronavirus, that has claimed the lives and affected many.

We pray for your grace, for the people tasked with studying the nature and cause of this virus and its disease and of stemming the tide of its transmission. Guide the hands and minds of medical experts that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion, and of those governments and private agencies that must find a cure and solution to this epidemic.

We pray for those afflicted, may they be restored to health soon.

Grant us the grace to work for the good of all and to help those in need. Grant this 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.

Mary, help of all Christians, pray for us.

St. Raphael the Archangel, pray for us.

St. Rock, pray for us.

St. Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.

St. Pedro Calungsod, pray for us."

WRITERS NEEDED

Please contribute to our Community News. We welcome spiritual articles, testimonies, and reflections of 300 words or less. Submit your manuscripts by e-mail to bldword@gmail.com

God's Blessings

Birthday

Emmanuett Nagbe	1/1	Woody Woodard	1/7
Grace Bustamante	1/3	William Colon	1/10
Malou Yosucio	1/4	Jose Alvarenga	1/10
Patrick Mazo	1/5	Jeric Balmaceda	1/11
Eppie Rebong	1/5	Gening Mabutas	1/11
Jay Mijares	1/6	Rosalie Angeles	1/14
Carmela Palumbo	1/6	Yoly Crisol	1/14
Dino Rivers	1/14		

Anniversary

Joel & Estela Bermudo	1/1
Vic & Lucy Mabunay	1/2
Jay & Tet Edralin	1/4
Rene & Edna Perez	1/4
Manny & Jocelyn Rodriguez	1/5
Leo & Nona Alquiros	1/8
Wendell & Mildred Lumapas	1/8
Epo & Joy Pagente	1/8

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

*The Lord will bless
his people with peace.*



Prayer knows how to calm restlessness. But we are restless, we always want things before asking for them, and we want them right away. This restlessness harms us. And prayer knows how to calm restlessness, knows how to transform it into availability. When we are restless, I pray and prayer opens my heart and makes me open to God's will... If in prayer we understand that each day given by God is a call, our hearts will then widen and we will accept everything. We will learn how to say: "What You want, Lord. Promise me only that You will be present every step of my way." This is what's important: to ask the Lord to be present in every step of our way: that He not leave us alone, that He not abandon us in temptation, that He not abandon us in the bad moments. ~ **Pope Francis**

Light - Cont'd from Page 1

come the light to our brothers and sisters who are in distress by being forgiving, loving and generous.

We have hope in our faith journey when we work for peace and justice. True peace goes hand in hand with justice. When we are united, where everyone and everything is in the right relationship with one another, we have peace and justice for all. We need to achieve real peace when we grow and prosper in an environment of harmony. We have to be at peace with our in-

ner self to be at peace with our brothers and sisters. By realizing this, we can be at peace with the Lord.

We are all children of God, we have justice and peace when we listen to the voice of our brothers and sisters who are abused and persecuted. We have justice when we are vigilant with our brothers and sisters who are being oppressed by the politically motivated society. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are responsible to respect each one's integrity. In the eyes of God every one must be equal before the law.

We must have the strength and courage as we face challenges to bring justice to the nation. In baptism we are all called to holiness. To be baptized with the Holy Spirit is to have the heart of Jesus. We should always remember and live up to our baptismal promises. Through the working of the Holy Spirit we serve as the light of our nation and become instrument of transformation. We should strive to achieve peace and justice because as God promised: "Upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nation." (Is 42:1b)



BLD Trenton



This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We have hope in our faith journey when we listen to Jesus and remain in Him.

PROMISE:

"...whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with Him." (1 Cor 6:17)

WORD:

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/ Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10/ 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/ Jn 1:35-42

ORDER:

- Come, and you will see. (Jn 1:39a)
- Listen and respond to the Lord's call. (1 Sm 3:10d)

DIRECTIONS:

- Always speak with Him in prayer and in the Eucharist.
- Love God above all things and strive to do His will.
- Meditate on the word of the Lord.
- Be obedient, humbly commit and surrender to our Lord.

Community News

Volume 21, Issue 2

<http://bldtrenton.com>

January 15, 2021

One Body United In Christ

REFLECTION: In the first reading, we are to listen, respond and remain to our calling just like Samuel. We are to demonstrate our obedience and to follow our Lord. Although Eli, in our reading, must have felt disgraced because God chose Samuel, but it also shows his humility and submission to God when he directed Samuel to follow the call.

In the Gospel, our Lord proved his wholehearted submission and obedience to the Father. He is The Lamb of God, The Sacrificial Lamb who offered Himself to the authority of God the Father because He loved Him. Andrew, with another disciple and Peter started to follow and remained with Jesus. We are expected, just like them, to a consistent and generous response as good followers. We are called to be obedient and to humbly submit with all our mind, heart, and soul. Our thankfulness and gratefulness to His calling to us as disciples produce humility and strength to persist in our service.

In the second reading, St. Paul says that "whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him." We are one body, united in Christ. In our community, we mentor and support one another

but sometimes, or a lot of times, because of our unbelief, hurt or unresponsiveness to our call, we tend not to stay or remain faithful to our calling. We then need to ask for his mercy. We

pray for the Lord to increase our discernment and understanding of our calling. We remember those who journeyed with us. We are thankful to them who persistently cared for us, prayed for us and never gave up on us.

Brothers and Sisters, our unity and our community is our greatest honor to God. In times of trials and challenges, during this uncertainty, we remind one another that our Lord reveals himself to those who listen and obey. Let us ask the Lord to mute all distractions and bless us with sensitive listening ears espe-



United - See Page 2

Know Your Saints

Saint Agnes: Patron of Engaged Couples

Born to Roman nobility in AD 291, Agnes was raised in an early Christian family and suffered martyrdom at the young age of thirteen during the period of Christian persecution by Emperor Diocletian.

A beautiful and wealthy young girl, Agnes had suitors of high rank but they were all slighted by her resolute devotion to religious purity. She said, "Christ made my soul beautiful with the jewels of grace and virtue. I belong to Him whom the angels serve." She refused to marry, declaring that to do so would be an insult to her heavenly Spouse. Her suitors revealed to the authorities her Christianity, which was then condemned as a cult.

Agnes was ordered to be sacrificed to pagan gods and lose her virginity by rape but all the men who were going to violate her were immediately struck blind. As she was led to the altar in a temple to Minerva, she made the Sign of the Cross. She was threatened, then tortured, when she refused to turn against God. She was led out and bound to a stake, but the bundle of wood would not burn, or the flames parted away from her. The officer in charge of the troops then drew his sword and beheaded her.

Agnes was buried beside the Via Nomentana in Rome. Veneration of her as a saint began as early as the time of St. Ambrose. Constantina, the daughter of Emperor Constantine I, was said to have been cured of leprosy after praying at Agnes' tomb. Along with other saints, St. Agnes is mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer or Canon of the Mass. It is customary that on her feast day two lambs are blessed at her church in Rome and shorn on Holy Thursday. Their wool is then woven into the *palliums* (bands of white wool) which the pope confers on archbishops as symbol of their jurisdiction and union with him.

St. Agnes is honored as the patron saint of the Girl Scouts, virgins, rape victims and engaged couples. Her feast day falls on the 21st of January.



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January 8, 2021

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Paypal : \$ 67.86

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Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

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For Prayer Service - Morris Teves 732-597-2016

Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.

Community Prayer Time

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Prayer to Take Authority

Holy Rosary

Prayer: Oratio Imperata against the spread of coronavirus

"God Our Father, we come to you in our need, to ask your protection against the 2019 N-coronavirus, that has claimed the lives and affected many.

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We pray for those afflicted, may they be restored to health soon.

Grant us the grace to work for the good of all and to help those in need. Grant this 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.

Mary, help of all Christians, pray for us.

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St. Pedro Calungsod, pray for us."

United - Cont'd from Page 1

cially to his quiet and soft whispers. We mentor and support one another to listen and to obey God's call, thus we all should do our best to assist the next generation. Preparing them, assisting them, praying for them. We need to be a good model to fol-

low one another and to the next generation. We can only do this by prayers and by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit. We ask, "Lord, use us, inspire us with your Word, increase our zeal to go on according to Your purpose."

God's Blessings

Birthday

Dino Rivera	1/14	Patricia DeJean	1/18
Lilia Mejares	1/16	Ino Dominguez	1/20
Alyzza Gumabon	1/17	Fe Odon	1/20
Nanette Smith	1/17	Jing Nieveras	1/21

Anniversary

Boloy & Haydee Maramara	1/6
Ogie & Aida Odejar	1/7
Raul & Mimi Caragay	1/18
Manny & Em Ho	1/18
Eugene & Malou Yosuco	1/20
Toto & Sette Lemon	1/20
Roy & Arlene Roldan	1/21

Community Prayer for 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.



To worship the Lord, we first have to "lift up our eyes". In other words, not to let ourselves be imprisoned by those imaginary spectres that stifle hope, not to make our problems and difficulties the centre of our lives. This does not mean denying reality, or deluding ourselves into thinking that all is well. On the contrary, it is a matter of viewing problems and anxieties in a new way, knowing that the Lord is aware of our troubles, attentive to our prayers and not indifferent to the tears we shed... When we lift up our eyes to God, life's problems do not go away, no; instead we feel certain that the Lord grants us the strength to deal with them.

~ Pope Francis

This Sunday's *Counsel*

THEME:

We have hope in our faith journey when we abandon worldly attachments and follow Jesus.

PROMISE:

"...Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Mk 1:17)

WORD:

Jon 3:1-5, 10/ Ps 25:4-9/ 1 Cor 7:29-31/ Mk 1:14-20

ORDER:

- Repent and believe in the gospel. (Mk 1:15b)
- Proclaim the gospel of God. (Mk 1:17b)
- Come after me. (Mk 1:17)

DIRECTIONS:

- Avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Soak ourselves and meditate on the Word of God.
- Actively participate in community activities, mission works and aspire to be good witnesses.
- Be bold in sharing the good news by inviting new members to the community.



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 21, Issue 3

<http://bldtrenton.com>

January 22, 2021

Now Is The Time To Act

REFLECTION: This week's readings relate to the end results of how we respond to God's order and invitation. In the first reading, God sent Jonah to Nineveh to have them repent, *"Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed."* The Assyrians were Israel's enemies and Jonah wanted them destroyed, so instead of going east by land to Nineveh he went west by sea to Tarshish.

Because of his disobedience he has placed the lives of the sailors in danger when God placed Jonah in the middle of a storm. The storm was calmed when the sailors tossed Jonah into the sea. This shows us that any decision we make when it relates to God, not only affects us, but also the people around us. Jonah was swallowed by a big fish and after three days was spit out by the shores of Nineveh. This was the beginning of his transformation and conversion. He began his journey which normally would have taken him three days because of the enormity of the city; however, with God's help, he was able to accomplish his mission in one day. When God saw that



the people of Nineveh repented from their evil ways, He relented from destroying them.

God calls us daily to accomplish His work here on earth. It is up to us how we respond to that call. What is it in Sunday's Gospel that he is calling us to do? Jesus is proclaiming His inaugural address in three parts. First, *"This is the time of fulfillment."*

Secondly, *"The kingdom of God is at hand"*. And finally, *"Repent, and believe in the gospel."* He then calls out to the four fishermen to help Him fulfill His mission, *"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."* Jesus has just announced two important facts, one is *"The time is fulfilled"*. Jesus is stating an urgency which is echoed by St Paul in the second reading, *"brothers and sisters, the time is running out"* and *"For the world in its present form is passing away."* The time of waiting is over. The time to act is now. Surely, after what we have all experienced in 2020, we must all be feeling that the time to respond to the call is now. All of our worldly outlook and rela-

Time - See Page 2

Tending the Flock

A Disciple Is Not A Passive Observer

Being disciples of Christ is not a private matter. On the contrary, the gift of faith must be shared with others. For this reason the same Apostle (St. Paul) writes: *"If I preach the Gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it!"* (1 Cor 9:16). Moreover, do not forget that faith is strengthened

and grows precisely when it is given to others.

Proclaiming Christ means above all giving witness to him with one's life. It is the simplest form of preaching the Gospel and, at the same time, the most effective way available to you. It consists in showing the visible presence of Christ in one's own life by a daily commitment and by making every concrete decision in conformity with the Gospel. Today the world especially needs believable witnesses.

Therefore, testify to your faith through your involvement in the world. A disciple of Christ is never a passive and indifferent observer of what is taking place. On the contrary, he feels responsible for transforming social, political, economic and cultural reality.

You must have the courage to speak about Christ in your families and in places where you study, work or recreate, inspired with the same fervor the Apostles had when they said: *"We cannot help speaking of what we have heard and seen"* (Acts 4:20). Do not be afraid of presenting Christ to someone who does not yet know him. Christ is the true answer, the most complete answer to all the questions which concern the human person and his destiny. Without Christ the human person remains an unsolvable riddle. Therefore, have the courage to present Christ!



~ St. Pope John Paul II, Message for the VII World Youth Day, 1991

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St. Rock, pray for us.

St. Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.

St. Pedro Calungsod, pray for us."

God's Blessings

Birthday

Rissa Gomez	1/24	Jillian Zulueta	1/26
Aileen Ciocon	1/25	Yna Tresvalles	1/27
Patrick Calugay	1/25	Weng Alberto	1/28
Grace Padolina	1/25	Gina Sarmiento	1/28
Bernadette Sunga	1/28		

Anniversary

Jun & Gay Anito	1/22
Gerald & Rosalinda Mirandilla	1/26
Dan & Jean Catarata	1/28

Community Prayer for General Emergence

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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.

Time - Cont'd from Page 1

tionships must be reprimanded. The second important fact is, *"The kingdom of God is at hand."* Jesus' presence means that God's kingdom is here and now. Jesus then instructs us on how we are to respond to this new reality. We must respond by *"Repenting", "Believing", "Following", and "Fishing"*.

The common thread that Jonah, Simon, Andrew, James, John and all of us is that we have all heard the call of today's Promise, *"Come*

after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Some of us have responded immediately just like the four apostles, but for most of us, we responded with hesitancy, just like Jonah. However, regardless of our timeliness in response, our Lord has given us this mission. We are to announce with urgency that the Kingdom is here now and we must renounce everything that keeps us from God which is what this week's theme states: *"We have hope in our faith*

journey when we abandon worldly attachments and follow Jesus." When we follow this theme in our daily lives, we soon realize that the tragedy in our lives is not that we did not accomplish success, fame, power, or riches, but that we did not follow God's calling. Our job as created beings are to discern God's purpose for us and then to do it! Jesus always calls each of us by name. He is calling us to follow Him in ordinary circumstances, in our home, our families, our job, our school, and through BLD.



We cannot let our weariness, our falls and our failings discourage us. Instead, by humbly acknowledging them, we should make them opportunities to progress towards the Lord Jesus. Life is not about showing off our abilities, but a journey towards the One who loves us. We are not to show off our virtues in every step of our life; rather, with humility we should journey towards the Lord. By keeping our gaze fixed on the Lord, we will find the strength needed to persevere with renewed joy.

~ Pope Francis

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We have hope in our faith journey when we witness to God's authority in our life.

PROMISE:

"...I will raise up for them a prophet...and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him." (Dt 18:18)

WORD:

Dt 18:15-20/ Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/ 1 Cor 7:32-35/ Mk 1:21-28

ORDER:

- *Tell them all that I command.* (Dt 18:18b)
- *Hear His voice, harden not your hearts.* (Ps 95:8)

DIRECTIONS:

- Listen to the Word of God and live it.
- Live a life in complete surrender and trusting His authority.



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 21, Issue 4

<http://bldtrenton.com>

January 29, 2021

Surrender To Jesus

REFLECTION: The Book of Deuteronomy reminds us to listen to the Word of God and the consequences of not doing so. Although God has warned us of the consequences of not listening and following His decrees, we believe that He is loving, merciful and compassionate. We believe that He is forgiving and filled with understanding of our failures and weaknesses. He will give us not only a second chance but many opportunities to change our ways, our actions and our thoughts that contradict with His Word, His teachings and our Catholic faith.

Most often we are like the chosen people of God. Instead of gratefulness for His abundant grace and generosity, we complain whenever we are confronted with problems and blame Him for our predicament or question the doctrine of our Catholic faith. There are those who profess they know God and teach others about Him, yet their practice of the virtues behind the name of Jesus is still wanting. There are believers too, who, for whatever reason, still refuse to obey His command or take a firm and definitive stand defending the sanctity of life, among others. Obedience to the Word of God is absolute, unconditional and should never be compromised by a disciple or follower of Christ. We are called to proclaim boldly our faith that Jesus is



Lord and the Word. Whatever He commands, we have no other choice but obey without hesitation. *"I am telling you this for your own benefit, not*

to impose restraint upon you, but for the sake of propriety and adherence to the Lord without distractions." (1 Cor 7:35)

St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians reminds us that our lives are not solely our own to live and enjoy but also for the Lord who made us. We share our joy and prosperity, our struggle and challenges, not only with our spouses and families but also with our Creator and Lord so that through our words and actions His name may be glorified. Like the unmarried man and woman, we are called not to be anxious of the things of the world but focus more on the things of God. And as a Christian community, we should not allow ourselves to be consumed by the

Surrender - See Page 2

Community Prayer For the 2021 General Emergence

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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.

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

January 22, 2021

Mail-in: \$ 300.00
Paypal : \$ 77.64

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Manny Ho	1/31	Mike Crocco	2/2
Rene Gallofin	2/1	Linda Sypher	2/3
Brenda Palao	2/1	Jivenchy Gerges	2/3
Vicma Cac	2/4		

Anniversary

Al & Judy Guerrero	1/30
Woody & Ruby Woodarad	2/2
Mike and Beth Zarraga	2/3

*If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.*

Surrender - Cont'd from Page 1

'noise' of the world, social media, and others that is constantly being trafficked in our lives. Instead, we are encouraged to filter that 'noise' by our faith and in confidence place our hope in the Lord Jesus; for He is the only One having authority to reign over our lives and the power to change us so that we may conform to the goodness and righteousness of God. We are challenged to live the Word of God, to listen attentively and act on it, fully and completely. Our daily prayer and reflection of His Word will nourish our knowledge of him and flourish our personal relationship with our Lord and Savior.

The pandemic has brought the world to its knees. We realize how vulnerable we are, that we may perish at any time when tested positive without even seeing or confronting our enemy or bidding goodbye to our loved ones. For which reason, some of us may have asked, "Is God still in control of the situation? Will there be an end to the pandemic?" Undeniably, our faith wavers. Our belief that God is in control of all things possible and impossible falters. But being true and faithful disciples and followers of Christ, we believe that the darkness we are facing will definitely come to pass. It is just a distraction in our faith journey but would bring us closer to our Creator and Lord while we seek guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. On bended knees, it brings

us back to the altar of God, in prayer and intercession. Our faith helps us overcome fear and insecurities, believing that God is the only one clothed with authority to command "stop and end the pandemic" in His time, not ours. We believe that the Word of Jesus overwhelms every struggle that may come our way and "He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." (Mk 1:27b)

Our faith journey continues to grow and evolve as we steadfastly surrender to the authority of Jesus and live a life worthy of Him. By His grace, we can change our lives worthy to be called not only His followers but Disciples of Christ. There will be struggles and challenges along the way. But we will be victorious in the Name of Jesus, strengthened and encouraged by the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians: "Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from His mighty power. Put on the armor of God that you may be able to stand the tactics of the devil." (Ep 6:10-11)

As children of God and members of the BLD Community, we are called to testify to our faith hoping that the unbelievers may come to believe that Jesus is truly the Holy One and bring back those who have left the faith. Truly, Jesus is the Living God and we are the living witnesses of His love, mercy and forgiveness to others after we submit our lives to His authority as Lord and Savior.

Divisions



Unity is above all a gift, it is a grace to be requested through prayer. Each one of us needs it. In fact, we know that we are incapable of preserving unity even within ourselves... The root of so many divisions that surround us — between people, in families, in society, between nations and even between believers — it is inside us... Therefore, the solution to these divisions is not to oppose someone, because discord generates more discord. The true remedy begins by asking God for peace, reconciliation, unity. ~ **Pope Francis**

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

"God Our Father, we come to you in our need, to ask your protection against the 2019 N-coronavirus, that has claimed the lives and affected many.

We pray for your grace, for the people tasked with studying the nature and cause of this virus and its disease and of stemming the tide of its transmission. Guide the hands and minds of medical experts that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion, and of those governments and private agencies that must find a cure and solution to this epidemic.

We pray for those afflicted, may they be restored to health soon.

Grant us the grace to work for the good of all and to help those in need. Grant this 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.

*Mary, help of all Christians, pray for us.
St. Raphael the Archangel, pray for us.
St. Rock, pray for us.
St. Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.
St. Pedro Calungsod, pray for us."*