



# Community News

Volume 21, Issue 26

<http://bldtrenton.com>

July 2, 2021

## This Sunday's Counsel

### THEME:

God's grace works in our life when we entrust our insufficiency to Christ.

### PROMISE:

*"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness."* (2 Cor 12:9)

### WORD:

Ez 2:2-5/ Ps 123:1-2, 2, 3-4/ 2 Cor 12:7-10/ Mk 6:1-6

### ORDER:

- *Boast most gladly your weaknesses in order that the power of Christ may dwell in you.* (2 Cor 12:9)
- *Fix your eyes on the Lord.* (Ps 123:1-2)

### DIRECTIONS:

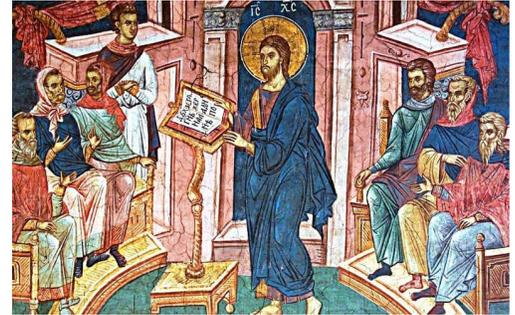
- Be humble in words and deeds.
- Acknowledge our sinfulness before God.
- Surrender all to God.

## A Thorn In The Flesh

**REFLECTION:** As present-day disciples we have a mission to boldly proclaim the Good News despite opposition, rejection, trials and lack of resources. St. Paul exhorts us to be faithful to God's calling despite hardships and to place our complete and strong faith in God. Going to mission is not easy and therefore, we need to trust God to strengthen us in facing the challenges along the way. Those who are called by God to be His servants have to overcome many obstacles including personal difficulties and external hindrances.

Jesus himself was not accepted as the Messiah in his hometown because they only knew Him as an ordinary person. Sometimes, people who are called to serve are not accepted because others think that they are not equipped to take on higher responsibilities.

God reaches out to us even when we go through a bad and undesirable experience. St. Paul himself struggled with what he called a "thorn in the flesh" – insults, hardships and persecutions in the course of his ministry. God answered his prayer to rid him of these sufferings, but not in the way he expected. Paul realized that God is powerfully present in the cir-



cumstances he was going through. In the same manner that when we struggle with something or someone, we will discover that such difficult experiences will open us up to God's presence. The very thing we see as of no value or bothersome can create a space for God to powerfully work in our lives. We begin to see that these trials are merely a test of our faith. Like Paul, we can accept the will of God and allow His strength to shine through our weakness, knowing that lack of faith prevents us from being open to the healing and salvation that the Lord brings into our life. Relying on God's call and trusting in the empowerment of His Spirit give us the strength, wisdom and guidance to pro-

*Thorn - See Page 2*

## Tending the Flock

## So Human Yet So Divine

His fellow citizens "were astonished" by his wisdom, and knowing him as "the son of Mary", as the carpenter who had lived in their midst, instead of welcoming him with faith were shocked and took offence (cf. Mk 6:2-3). This reaction is understandable because familiarity at the human level makes it difficult to go beyond this in order to be open to the divine dimension. That this son of a carpenter was the Son of God was hard for them to believe... Due to this spiritual closure Jesus "could do no mighty work there [Nazareth], except that he laid his hands upon a few sick people and healed them" (Mk 6:5). In fact Christ's miracles are not a display of power but signs of the love of God brought into being wherever it encounters reciprocated human faith.

The astonishment of Jesus' fellow townspeople is matched by his own surprise. In a certain sense he too is shocked! Although he knows that no prophet is well accepted in his homeland, the closed heart of his people was nevertheless obscure and impenetrable to him: how could they fail to recognize the light of the Truth? Why did they not open themselves to the goodness of God who deigned to share in our humanity? Effectively Jesus of Nazareth the man is the transparency of God, in him God dwells fully. And while we are constantly seeking other signs, other miracles, we do not realize that he is the true Sign, God made flesh, he is the greatest miracle in the world: the whole of God's love contained in a human heart, in a man's face.

The One who fully understood this reality was the Virgin Mary, who is blessed because she believed (cf. Lk 1:45). Mary was not shocked by her Son: her wonder for him was full of faith, full of love and joy, in seeing him so human and at the same time so divine. Let us therefore learn from her, our Mother in faith, to recognize in the humanity of Christ the perfect revelation of God.

*~ Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Message, July 8, 2012*

## The Lord's Provision

**June 25, 2021**

In-Person: \$405.00  
Paypal: \$ - -

*Thank you for your generosity!!!*

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BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1367  
Toms River, NJ 08754

## **Last Week's Prophecies**

1. "My child, healing is an energy that comes from me to you. You can only receive this healing through prayers and faith."
2. "Time changes. Situation changes. But my love never changes. I am still in control."
3. "Let the touch of God penetrate your body, soul, and spirit. Let it penetrate the deepest recesses of your soul; let it cut through every bone, every marrow, every sinew, every flesh, every hurt, every disappointment, every failure."

## **Trusting**

 Fear leads us to look at the difficulties, the awful problems and not to look at the Lord... How often we remain fixated on problems rather than going to the Lord and casting our concerns into him! How often we leave the Lord in a corner, at the bottom of the boat of life, to wake him only in a moment of need! Today, let us ask for the grace of a faith that never tires of seeking the Lord, of knocking at the door of his Heart. May the Virgin Mary, who in her life never stopped trusting in God, reawaken in us the basic need of entrusting ourselves to him each day.

~ **Pope Francis**

**Thorn - Cont'd from Page 1**

claim God's word faithfully and boldly.

Having a faith that is strong and steadfast anchored in the Lord gives us empowerment to share in the prophetic mission of Jesus. It is indeed a privilege to become instruments of faith in God's kingdom. Our prophetic role means that we must be willing to speak up for our belief and relationship with God in the name of Jesus. It means that we must continue to deepen this relationship through a discipline of daily prayer, living the word of God and other learning experiences that brings us spiritual growth. Further, we must share our loving relationship with Jesus with others –

family, friends, community brethren and even strangers. While we might meet opposition and ridicule, we know that we are strong in faith and we can overcome these obstacles.

And as we continue to proclaim the glory of God our Father, to testify to the love of Christ and the works of the Holy Spirit in our life, we can stand firm on our faith anchored on this promise from the Lord: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness," (2Cor 12:9a). Often, when we feel that life is a struggle, we know and believe that God touches our lives most powerfully and we are victorious over our troubles because of our trust in His grace.

## **God's Blessings**

### **Birthday**

Amor Japitana	7/2	Ruby Brooks	7/6
Linda Mijares	7/4	Leo Duarte	7/8
Fr. Paul Lehman	7/5	Adam Felibrico	7/8
		Biboy Llave	7/8

### **Anniversary**

Allan & Maria Diaz	7/2
Dennis & Jaine Buenafe	7/2
Dada & Janette Alberto	7/3
Edwin & Marissa Orienza	7/5
Nestor & Ester Tambor	7/6
Ross & Jaye Jacinto	7/7

*I lift up my eyes to you who are enthroned in heaven; O Lord, have mercy on me.*

## **Community Prayer Time**

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

*Prayer to Take Authority*

*Holy Rosary*

*Prayer: Oratio Imperata against the spread of Coronavirus*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*St. Joseph, pray for us.*

*St. Raphael the Archangel, pray for us.*

*San Roque, pray for us.*

*San Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.*

*San Pedro Calungsod, pray for us.*



# Community News

## This Sunday's Counsel

### THEME:

God's grace works in our life when we heed Christ's call to mission.

### PROMISE:

*"The Lord himself will give his benefits...and prepare the way of his steps."* (Ps 85:13a, 14b)

### WORD:

Am 7:12-15/ Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14/ Eph 1:3-14/ Mk 6:7-13

### ORDER:

- *Be holy and without blemish before God.* (Eph 1:4)
- *Believe in God and be sealed with the promise of the Holy Spirit.* (Eph 1:13a)
- *Go, prophesy to my people.* (Am 7:15)

### DIRECTIONS:

- Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist regularly.
- Study, meditate and proclaim the Good News.
- Serve in missions and do corporal acts of mercy.

## Created For God's Mission

**REFLECTION:** As Christians, we are in this world to continue the work that Christ started. We are to be messengers of God's love and instruments for the continuation of His mission here on earth. It is in this light that we are enjoined by our community theme to go to mission – God's grace works in our life when we heed Christ's call to mission. The call is from Jesus' Great Commissioning, *"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you,"* (Mat 28:19-20).



The Lord calls us to mission because that is His purpose in creating us. We are to be God's arms and legs in this world – the instruments for the concrete manifestation and reflection of His love to His people. *"He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to His own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began,"* (2 Tim 1:9). What then is our mission? It is our conscious response to God's invitation to step out and give of ourselves for love of God and neighbor, in service, prayer and sharing of whatever resources we may have for the benefit of others.

Seeking to know what God asks of us

is essential to our journey to holiness. The Lord wants us to fully embrace His mission for this will bring abundant fulfillment to our life. The struggle many people have is that they embark on self-centered endeavors, failing to commit their energies to the work of the Lord. We have to seek the mission God has given us because this is why we were created and it is the only way to gain true happiness. If we see our life as a mission and a way of building God's kingdom here on earth, our lives will be transformed in the light of His mercy and grace.

We have to be mindful that, as a disciple, it is our responsibility to lead ourselves and others to heaven. We have to love beyond measure, without expectation and limitation, those who need our love,

*Mission - See Page 2*

## Tending the Flock

## Christ Bestows Power For A Cause

The grace bestowed upon the holy apostles is worthy of all admiration. But the bountifulness of the Giver surpasses all praise and admiration. He gives them, as I said, his own glory. They receive authority over the evil spirits. They reduce to nothing the pride of the devil that was so highly exalted and arrogant. They render ineffectual the demon's wickedness. By the might and efficacy of the Holy Spirit, burning them as if they were on fire, they make the devil come forth with groans and weeping from those whom he had possessed...

He glorified his disciples, therefore, by giving them authority and power over the evil spirits and over sicknesses. Did he honor them without reason and make them famous without any logical cause? How can this be true? It was necessary, most necessary, that they should be able to work miracles, having been publicly appointed ministers of sacred proclamations. By means of their works, they then could convince men that they were the ministers of God and mediators of all beneath the heaven. The apostles then could invite them all to reconciliation and justification by faith and point out the way of salvation and of life that is this justification.



~ Cyril of Alexandria (376-444 AD), *Commentary on Luke, Homily 47*

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

## **God's Blessings**

### **Birthday**

Paul Hermsen	7/9	Lanie Fincalero	7/11
Sandy Aparicio	7/10	Aissa Panganiban	7/13
Jing Bongalo	7/10	Diane Gomez	7/14
Msgr. Paul Schetelick	7/10	Patricia Gomez	7/14
Carmela Toledo	7/10	Darryl Margallo	7/14
Tess Corso	7/15		

### **Anniversary**

Aris & Lilia Mejares	7/11
Charlie & Nora Dingerdissen	7/12
Rey & Baby Inid	7/14

## **Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?**

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407  
For Prayer Service—Bert & Cora Velez 732-688-1541



## **Welcoming**



Sister, brother, you are here, let Jesus look at and heal your heart. I too have to do this: let Jesus look at my heart and heal it.

And if you have already felt His tender gaze upon you, imitate Him, and do as He does. Look around: you will see that many people who live beside you feel wounded and alone; they need to feel loved: take the step. Jesus asks you for a gaze that does not stop at the outward appearance, but that goes to the heart: a gaze that is not judgmental, — let us stop judging others — Jesus asks us for a gaze that is non-judgmental, but rather welcoming. Let us open our hearts to welcome others. Because love alone heals life, love alone heals life.

~ **Pope Francis**

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## **Mission - Cont'd from Page 1**

especially those in prison, hospitals, rehabilitation centers and depressed areas. We need to help comfort the sick and the disowned and lonely elderly, who are longing for love and care.

We heard God's call to feed the sheep, clothe the naked, and shelter the homeless. We heard the call to tend to underprivileged people, to send the deprived to schools, and in sharing resources, like giving to community pantries to help alleviate the plight of the pandemic victims. But sometimes, despite being aware of all these, we still hesitate to go to mission fields and fail to extend help to our marginalized brothers and sisters. Our service is wanting of the zeal and sacrifice that is expected from us, totally forgetting the commitment and covenant we made to

serve God and our community. Many times we turn God down and consider serving Him as a burden and a disruption to our jobs and businesses. Should we continue with this attitude, we might become lukewarm and insensitive, and sooner or later, lose our faith.

Let us not grow weary of doing good works and in serving God, to store up treasures in heaven. Let our self-denial give benefit to those who need our charity. Heeding Christ's call to mission fulfills the Father's will, so that one day, we too may share in His glory. God will not forget our works and the love shown to Him by our service to His people, as He promised: *"The Lord Himself will give his benefits ... and prepare the way of his steps,"* (Ps 85:13a, 14).

Adapted from [www.bldworld.org](http://www.bldworld.org)



**THEME:**

God's grace works in our life when we compassionately care for our brethren.

**PROMISE:**

"I will appoint shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that...none will be missing." (Jer 23:4)

**WORD:**

Jer 23:1-6/ Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6/ Eph 2:13-18/ Mk 6:30-34

**ORDER:**

- *Shepherd my people.* (Jer: 23:2b)
- *Come away by yourself to a deserted place and rest a while.* (Mk 6:31)

**DIRECTIONS:**

- Follow Jesus' example of being a good shepherd.
- Reach out and support our brothers and sisters faithfully.
- Rest in God's presence through prayers and Scripture reading.

## Living Christ's Holy Compassion

**REFLECTION:**

Part of our community's vision and *charism* is that we are the Lord's undershepherds called to give freely and fully of ourselves to love and serve one another. We have a goal as believers to lift up one another and to lead people to the arms of Jesus, who is our greatest need. And we can do this by living the holy compassion of Jesus in the way we care for others. Being compassionate is easier said than done. But what is reassuring is there are ways to have a heart of compassion if we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us.

***It is not about us. It is about knowing Jesus, his heart and his compassion.***

It calls for us to have a deep concern for others, to being truly present to them, encouraging them, serving them and performing the acts of mercy and justice. It calls for self-sacrifice, to minister to the needs of others even if we are over-



whelmed. Many times, Jesus stopped what he was doing because someone's needs touched his heart and called forth his compassion. This is how God wants us to see the needs of the people in our lives. And only an ongoing relationship with God can turn our acts of caring into acts of holy compassion.

***It is not about us. It is about knowing others.***

*"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep..."*

Compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to share in brokenness and fear, to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely, to weep with those in tears. Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. Compassion means full immersion in the condition of our brothers and sisters.

*Compassion - See Page 2*

## Shepherd and Guardian of Our Souls

What does the image of a shepherd tell us about God's care for us? Shepherding was no easy calling. It required great skill and courage. Herds were often quite large, thousands or even ten thousands of sheep. The flocks spent a good part of the year in the open country. Watching over them required a great deal of attention and care.

The Old Testament often spoke of God as shepherd of his people, Israel. *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want* (Ps 23:1). *Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!* (Ps 80:1) *We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture* (Ps 100:3). The Messiah is also pictured as the shepherd of God's people: *He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms* (Is 40:11).

Jesus told his disciples that he was the Good Shepherd who was willing to lay down his life for his sheep (Mt 18:12, Lk 15:4, Jn 10). When he saw the multitude of people in need of protection and care, he was moved to respond with compassionate concern. His love was a personal love for each and every person who came to him in need.

Peter the apostle called Jesus the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls (1 Pt 2:25). Do you know the peace and security of a life freely submitted to Jesus, the Good Shepherd? In the person of the Lord Jesus we see the unceasing vigilance and patience of God's love. In our battle against sin and evil, Jesus is ever ready to give us help, strength, and refuge. Do you trust in his grace and help at all times?

Adapted from [www.dailyscripture.net](http://www.dailyscripture.net)

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 P.O. Box 1367  
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## God's Blessings

### Birthday

Jerry Ramos	7/16	Vinnie Warnock	7/18
Lilia Calves	7/17	Aurie Apostol	7/19
Camille Colon	7/17	Aris Mejares	7/19
James Nagbe	7/17	Serg Wong	7/19
Marlene Legaspi	7/17	Morris Teves	7/22
Jay Talag	7/18	Marc Mance	7/22

### Anniversary

Rene & Grace Gallofin	7/17
Tony & Tess Corso	7/18
Jojo & Vicma Cac	7/19
Morris & Emma Teves	7/22

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## Recognizing

There is a difference between knowing and recognizing. In essence, this difference makes us understand that we can know various things about a person, form an idea, rely on what others say about that person, we might perhaps meet that person every now and then in the neighborhood; but all that is not enough. This is a knowledge, I would say ordinary, superficial, that does not recognize the uniqueness of the person. We all run this risk: we think we know so much about a person, even worse, we use labels and close the person within our own prejudices.

~ Pope Francis



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### Compassion - Cont'd from Page 1

***It is not about us. It is the desire to serve. It is not about what we want. Nor is it about our works.***

In the gospel, we see that the success of the disciples in their ministry is not measured simply by how much they accomplish. True compassion is not primarily about what you give or what you do. It is about who you are in Jesus. And it is about Jesus' footprint in your heart and actions. It is about the desire to serve, seeking opportunities to serve and the humility to serve.

***It is not about us. Because we are insufficient. Because we cannot do it alone.***

In the gospel, when the apostles returned, Jesus did not say or ask anything. Instead, Jesus said, 'come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.' He knows. He knows the condition they

are in and knows what they need. Even without telling, he knows.

And for us, modern-day apostles following and doing his work, he knows. He knows because he is with us. He is present in any situation we are in. He knows when to invite us. He knows when we need rest.

Jesus is always calling us and he is with us every step of the way.

***It is not about us. Who is it about, then?***

It is not about us. God is telling us to look at his son, to fix our eyes on Jesus. And yet, when Jesus saw the vast crowd, seeing them without a shepherd, he was moved with pity, and tended to their needs. Jesus is telling us - it is not about me... it is about them... it is about them - those people who are lost, needy, suffering, sick, mourning and in the midst of difficulties.



# Community News

## This Sunday's Counsel

### THEME:

God's grace works in our life when we rely on His divine provision and generosity.

### PROMISE:

*"The eyes of all look hopefully to you...you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing."* (Ps 145:15b, 16a)

### WORD:

2 Kgs 4:42-44/ Ps 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18/ Eph 4:1-6/ Jn 6:1-15

### ORDER:

- *Live in a manner worthy of the call you have received.* (Eph 4:1)
- *Gather the fragments left over so that nothing will be wasted.* (Jn 6:12)
- *Give it the people to eat.* (2 Kgs 4:42b)

### DIRECTIONS:

- Serve the Lord with a humble and obedient heart.
- Spread the love of God through evangelization and mission works..
- Be good stewards of your gifts and resources.
- Call upon the Lord through prayers and readings of the Scriptures.

## Generous Sharers Of Blessings

### REFLECTION:

Feeding of five thousand from five loaves of barley bread and two fish is the miracle narrated in the gospel of John. It is humanly impossible but this is one occasion we witness the divinity of Jesus Christ who, through the power of His word, is able to multiply the bread and the fish to feed and satisfy the crowd of at least five thousand people. *"They all ate and were satisfied."* He was moved with compassion to care for the people. As a True Shepherd, he knows what we need. He feeds the crowd not only with material food but with everything they need to live a life united with Christ. The miraculous feeding is a sign that God fulfills His promise to give His people food in due season and satisfy their desire (see Psalm 81:17). He feeds us with both His word, and the Holy Eucharist.



God takes care of His people. This is the message coming across in today's readings. Jesus wants to see the reaction of His disciples Philip and Andrew when he asks them to get food for the hungry crowd. The disciples' response

showed how they miss recognizing Jesus as our Almighty God who can do what seems impossible. This is a very common occurrence in our daily life when we don't think first of divine intervention from above but rather limit our-

selves with our human wisdom. God can transform something little into something great. So, we must not doubt God. As Christ tells us: *"With God all things are possible"* (Mt 19: 26), and Paul affirms: *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"* (Phil 4: 13).

In our life, there are occasions when Christ calls us to step out of our comfort zone to do a task which we may perceive as too much for us to handle. We hesitate to take on assignments we are not familiar with which prevents us from getting involved or from serving. God calls the unqualified and he qualifies the called.

The boy in this gospel is another hero because he does not hesitate to offer what he has generously. St. Paul urges us to live in a manner worthy of

*Sharers - See Page 2*

## Tending the Flock

## God Enables Us

In rendering service to the grace of God, we are not only made subject to our King through obedience but are even joined to him through the will. If we are of one mind with him (willing what he wills, disapproving of what he disapproves), he himself will bring us victory in all our battles. He who has given the *'will'* will bestow also the ability. In this way can we *'cooperate'* with his works, speaking that prophetic utterance in the exultation of faith: *"The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defender of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid?"*



*~ Pope St. Leo the Great, 400-461 A.D.*

## Last Week's Prophecies

1. *Shepherd, first and foremost, your family as well as the lambs assigned to you by the community. Continue to ask for patience and understanding to bear one another, generosity to share the joys and sorrows, honesty to admit faults and correct them.*
2. *Listen to Me, hear Me my son, I am your true Shepherd. If you ever get lost, I am your true GPS, your Recalculator, and you will never get lost.*

### Online Giving

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

Send your prayer requests to:  
<https://www.bldtrenton.com/intercessory>



## God's Blessings

### Birthday

Grace Palencia	7/23	Florence Acosta	7/25
Boylly Arriola	7/24	MaryAnne Arias	7/26
Jojo Cac	7/29		

### Anniversary

Drin & Sandy Aparicio	7/24
Cesar & Luz Agustin	7/24
Bill & Lilia Calves	7/24
Eddie & Josie Rodriguez	7/24
Dennis & Jaine Buenafe	7/27
Borge & Jan Bacus	7/28

### Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407  
 For Prayer Service—Bert & Cora Velez 732-688-1541



## Take A Break

How many times this happens in the Church: we are busy, we run around, we think that everything depends on us and, in the end, we risk neglecting Jesus and we always make ourselves the centre... For it is not enough to “unplug” ourselves, we need to truly rest. And how do we do this? To do so, we must return to the heart of things: to stop, to remain in silence, to pray so as not to go from the frenzy of work to the frenzy of times of relaxation.

Let us beware, brothers and sisters, of efficiency, let us put a halt to the frantic running around dictated by our agendas. Let us learn how to take a break, to turn off the mobile phone, to contemplate nature, to regenerate ourselves in dialogue with God.

~ Pope Francis

### Sharers - Cont'd from Page 1

the call we received with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace. We are given many gifts but those gifts are meant to be shared with others. Sharing is an expression of Love. When we hear that we are created in the image and likeness of God (Gn 1:26), we are simply being told that God gave us a share of His being. When we hear that God loved the world so much that he gave his son for our salvation, we are being told that God shared that which is so precious with us. The kingdom of God is where we can be through an attitude of

sharing. Jesus shared the word of God, he shared bread and finally shared his life so that we can live not just now but forever. If Jesus Christ is a sharer of the things listed above and we are his followers, it follows then that we should be sharers of his word, sharers of his life, sharers of our blessings and material possessions.

Finally, through his generosity and compassion, Christ continues to work miracles in our midst. He continues to feed and nourish us physically and spiritually at every Eucharistic celebration. So, with the psalmist let us praise Christ: “You open wide your hand, O Lord, and grant our desires.”

## Community Prayer Time

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

*Prayer to Take Authority*

*Holy Rosary*

*Prayer: Oratio Imperata against the spread of Coronavirus*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*St. Joseph, pray for us.*

*St. Raphael the Archangel, pray for us.*

*San Roque, pray for us.*

*San Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.*

*San Pedro Calungsod, pray for us.*



This Sunday's Counsel

Community News

THEME:

We are nourished for eternal life when we live in God's righteousness.

PROMISE:

"I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me will never hunger and whoever believes in me will never thirst." (Jn 6:35)

WORD:

Ex 16:2-4, 12-15/ Ps 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54/ Eph 4:17, 20-24/ Jn 6:24-35

ORDER:

- Put away the old self of your former way of life...be renewed...and put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness. (Eph 4:22-24)
Work for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. (Jn 6:27a)

DIRECTIONS:

- Attend Holy Mass as frequently as possible and receive Holy Communion.
Spend more time reading and meditating on the Scriptures.
Love your neighbor through charity, compassion and forgiveness.

Pursuing God's Righteousness

REFLECTION: Righteousness is the condition of always being in right relationship with God. It is a gift that comes from the Lord to those who accept what Jesus has done for us.

In the First Reading, God had compassion on the Israelites despite their ungrateful and grumbling attitudes that show their lack of faith in God to provide for them. But, what's really sad is not their clamoring for food, which is understandable. What is sad is their preference for their former life of oppression in Egypt.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus challenged those who were looking for him, not to look for him just for bread and fish, but to accept him as the Bread of God in order that they would be able to do the work of God. The crowd was looking for physical bread but failed to recognize Christ - the spiritual Bread of life already present with them.

Just like the Israelites in the first reading and the crowd in the gospel, how many times have we failed to recognize Jesus because we are always asking Him to "give us this day our daily bread" instead of seeking the "bread of life"?

When we pay too much attention to material things, we might fail to pay heed to the spiritual ones or might



even forget the goodness of God. Our relationship with God must not be merely based on how much material things He is able to provide for us. We are counseled in Mt 4:4b that "One does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God".

Unfortunately, oftentimes we repeat what the Israelites did by murmuring against God. We proclaim "God is good" only when things are going well. However, when we are faced with difficulties, we forget all his goodness. Therefore, we must be led by the Holy Spirit and allow him to renew our minds. When this happens, we then have a better relationship with God.

This is the reason Paul declared in

Righteousness - See Page 2

Tending the Flock

God Our Landlord

Our wish, you see, is to attain to eternal life. We wish to reach the place where nobody dies, but if possible we do not want to get there via death. We would like to be whisked away there while we are still alive and see our bodies changed, while we are alive, into that spiritual form into which they are to be changed when we rise again. Who wouldn't like that? Isn't it what everybody wants? But while that is what you want, you are told, Quit. Remember what you have sung in the psalm: 'A lodger am I on earth.'

~ Augustine Of Hippo, 354-430 A.D.



Vocation

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells the Apostles, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (28:19-20). These words are also addressed to us today. They help us better understand that our vocation is to preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young, and to care for the little ones. Think about it: what is our vocation today, at our age? To preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young and to care for the little ones. Never forget this.

~ Pope Francis

# FUN IN THE... SAND



**SKATEPLEX at Seven Presidents  
Ocean Front Park  
Long Branch NJ  
September 11, 2021, Saturday,  
11:30 – 3:00 pm**

**TO BENEFIT the BLD TRENTON  
GAWAD KALINGA MISSION**

## Righteousness - Cont'd from Page 1

the second Reading that we must no longer live as the Gentiles do. *“Put away the old self of your former way of life....be renewed.... and put on the new self, created in God’s way in righteousness.”* (Eph 4:22-24).

We can only receive God’s promise if we see Him as He is – the Bread of Life. We can only receive Him as the Bread of Life if we allow the Gospel to change our hearts. It is through a changed heart that our actions change.

So, what are we to do then? We, individually and as a community, are given guidance in heeding God’s promptings in this Sunday’s “Directions”:

- When we attend the Holy Mass and receive communion, we assimilate into our very being all that he teaches, his vision, his values and his understanding of the meaning and purpose of life.
- When we spend more time reading and meditating on the Scriptures, we become one with Jesus. We experience true spiritual transformation. We become true witnesses for Christ’s good works, and it becomes easier for us to evangelize.
- When we practice charity, compassion, and forgiveness, we become His heart that beats with mercy, His eyes that see the needy, His tongue that

speaks His Words, and His feet and fingers that walk and carry His love.

The crowd in the gospel asked Jesus, *“What can we do to accomplish the works of God?”* As a Community, what can you and I do?

The answer to that question is embedded in our own BLD Vision & Mission *“We are a community of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about a world of justice, human development and true peace.”* Our Mission encourages us all, each one of us, to *“actively participate in the life and mission of the Church in accord with our God-given gifts”*. Let’s take our vision and mission to heart so that we will always be reminded of the meaning and purpose of why we are all here in this Community and why we do what we do.

We are tasked to *“Work for the food that endures for eternal life which the Son of Man will give us”* (Jn 6: 27a).

Let us pray for the grace to be righteous and holy in God’s ways, and for the faith to answer God’s call to accomplish His works. May we earnestly receive God’s life-giving Word and righteously receive the Bread of life that will satisfy our hunger and nourish us for eternal life.

## God’s Blessings

### Birthday

Domenick Palumbo	7/30	Krisnan Delacruz	8/2
Inday Jalamana	8/1	Dritz Mance	8/3
Art Butulan	8/1	Gina Ramos	8/3
Grace Antona	8/2	Eric Mance	8/4
Ruby Brooks	8/2		

### Anniversary

Herman & Letty Butay 8/1

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but by every word that comes forth  
from your mouth, O God.*

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