



Community News

This Sunday's *Counsel*

THEME:

We are redeemed towards a new life when we are humble and obedient to God's will.

PROMISE:

"The Lord God is my help...I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame." (Is 50:7)

WORD:

Is 50:4-7/ Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24/ Phil 2:6-11/ Lk 22:14-23:56

ORDERS:

- *My will be done.* (Lk 22:42)
- *Pray that you may not undergo the test.* (Lk 22:40)
- *Let the greatest among you be as the youngest and the leader as the servant.* (Lk 22:26)

DIRECTIONS:

- Faithfully obey His commandments.
- Pray consistently that He will open our hearts so we may have the strength to humbly accept His will in our life.
- Renew our commitment and actively participate and volunteer in our community's evangelization, service and mission activities.

Reminder Of Selfless Love

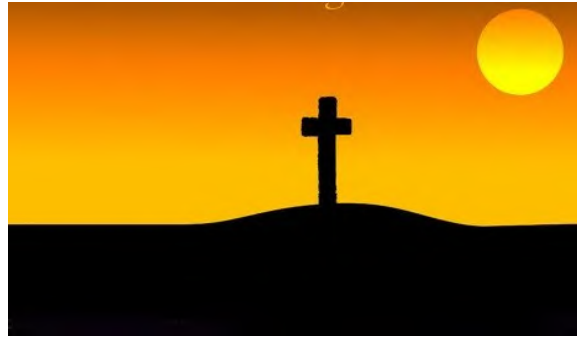
REFLECTION:

We often ask this question or pray this prayer, "Lord, how can I be humble and obedient?" We struggle when we are faced with the answer: through trials and challenges. And then

we remember, the One who is both humble and obedient, Jesus Christ.

Our first reading shows that Jesus is both God and man in one person. He declares truths that gave comfort to the broken and contrite heart, to those weary of sin, and those harassed with afflictions. And with the Holy Spirit, he spoke with courage relying on the help and guidance of God to pray, to preach the gospel, and to receive and obey the will of the Father. God, the Father justified the Son when he accepted the satisfaction he accomplished on the cross, his ultimate sacrifice for the sin of man, for all our sins. Christ speaks on behalf of all believers. He is our friend who we can trust. He is our advocate to the Father, our example of a prayer warrior.

As Pope Francis wrote in his daily meditation entitled "Witnesses to Obedience," *"The Cross can not be separated*



from the life of a Christian. The life of a Christian is not a social status; it is not just a way of living a spirituality that makes us good, which makes us a little better. This is not enough. A Christian's life is a witness to obedience."

This is our focus as followers of Christ - the love, sacrifice and obedience of Jesus Christ on the cross. The cross is not only a symbol of obedience but is an illustration of love. The Father showed his love for us by sending his son, his only son, from heaven to earth as a replacement for unworthy sinners like us. Jesus' love for the Father caused him to submit and obey his will. Jesus' love for us caused him to sacrifice and die on our behalf. The cross is our reminder - of love, obedience, of selflessness.

"In this, is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins." (1 Jn 4:10) We see such acts of self-denying love as nothing and no one else can ever do. Let us pray and ask God to open our hearts to His will and to give us strength to humbly accept His will in our lives.

Reminder - See Page 2

Not My Will But Yours

How do you think you would feel and react to if you know beforehand that your days are numbered, and no one in the world seems to care?

The gospel story of the "Agony in the Garden" has once again reminded me of the struggle that Jesus Christ had to go through at that moment in time, knowing full well of what awaits Him. I can only imagine how He is overwhelmed with grief and sorrow with the realization that in order to save mankind, He will have to suffer excruciating pains and had to die on the cross. He must have been stricken with loneliness and the feeling of being alone, not able to receive emotional and spiritual support from people He holds dear. The same strong emotions that we as human beings have all experience at various times in our lives. Feelings that if you are not strong enough can break you.

Jesus is in such agony that He even prayed three times to let this suffering pass Him by. Despite that though, He did not allow this immense feeling to dictate His action but rather, ends all His prayers with these simple words - *"Not as I will but as You will"*. By doing so, He showed us how we should endure our own pain

Not My Will - See Page 2

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

April 2, 2022

Tithe : \$ 730.00
Love Offer : \$ 300.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Ellen San Rafael	4/8	Therese Lumapas	4/10
Agnes Morte	4/8	Christian Dizon	4/11
Fr. Jason Yvans	4/8	JP Edralin	4/11
Arlene Riggio	4/9	Lota Salomia	4/12
Lito Fune	4/9	Mon Miranda	4/13
Eric Bustamante	4/10	Cesar Morte	4/13

Anniversary

Lito & Sylvia Lingat 4/8
Fr. Pete Literal (ordination) 4/13

*O Lord, be not far from me,
O my help, hasten to aid me.*

Reminder - Cont'd from Page 1

Let us not forget that Jesus did the ultimate sacrifice for our sins whenever we are going through difficult time. If we are being hurt because of our faith, let us take heed, and be reminded that Jesus Christ went through the same pain. Hold tight to the promises from His Word whenever we are weakened by the challenges in our Ministry or other things in our life. Let us spend time in prayer and meditate on the Word of God as Jesus has modeled, knowing that He who promised is faithful.

Let us demonstrate that same love, sacrifice and commitment that Jesus showed on the cross by actively participating in our community's evangeli-

zation, service and mission activities. Our actions speak louder than our words. Whatever comes our way, we do not lose our heart. We are brothers and sisters, we are family in this community. In Jesus Christ, our love for one another as shown through our prayers, support and encouragement are the pillars, the foundation of all we do. Our Lord Jesus Christ is our strength, our refuge, our Savior, our defender who gave his all for this same love. Together, whatever the odds, let us stand firm in Christ's love and obedience. In full confidence, *we can say, "The Lord God is my help...I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame." (Is 50:7)*

Not My Will - Cont'd from Page 1

and suffering - by surrendering them to God and accepting His will. He set a good example for us to follow. That while we cannot avoid pain and suffering in this world, we should not let it control us and let it dictate how we should act. He thought us how to cope with it and trust that God will not allow us to have challenges that we cannot overcome.

We all have experienced pain and suffering in one way or another. Unfortunately, it is something inevitable and cannot be avoided as it is part of our imperfect world. It could be caused by the loss of a loved one, a failing health condition, losing a job, a failed project, bad breakup, divorce, an undesirable neighbor,

being discriminated and so on and so forth.

I for one have experienced pain and suffering even at an early age when I lost both my parents. Growing up with no parents is not easy and there were emotional struggles that I had to endure growing up. It was not apparent then but looking back now, I come to realize that the pain and suffering that I had experienced then have also helped me become the better person that I am today. What I went through made me become more mature in terms of thinking and action even at an early age, more focused in life and defining at the onset what and where I want to be later in life. It made me put

high value on education, my family and my faith. It made me more sympathetic to the situation of others. It helped me turn to prayer to bring me comfort and peace of mind. I did not recognize it right away but somehow, something positive came out from that experience. It brought about a source of spiritual growth for myself and somehow brought me closer to God.

I hope and pray that God will continue to give me the courage to always surrender myself to His will and the strength to look at suffering as a blessing. To carry on clinging to His promise that He will always be with me wherever I go and in whatever I do (Joshua 1:9). Amen.

BLD - Bukas Loob Sa Diyos
(Open In Spirit To God)
A Catholic Charismatic Covenant Community
Diocese of Trenton

What is God's plan in our married life?

An Invitation to a
MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER
WEEKEND

Ave Maria Retreat House
The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa
654 Ferry Road Doylestown, PA 18901

May 20-22, 2022
Registration starts at 8pm Friday
Deadline of Application: May 1, 2022

Contact:
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Ed/Olyn Baulista 732 233 9611
ed.olin1211@verizon.net



The Filipino Clergy in the Diocese of Trenton and the Filipino Communities are inviting everyone to celebrate our Filipino Catholic Faith

500 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

Mass at the:
CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. ROBERT BELLARMINI
61 Georgia Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022 - 10:30 AM

Reception to follow in the:
CO-CATHEDRAL'S DENTICI HALL

For more information, please contact the following priest liaisons:
Fr. Mark Nillo, 732-788-1747, Coordinator
Fr. F.J. Alindogan, 732-725-9377
Fr. Joe Noche, 732-309-0878
Fr. Ariel Robles, 732-500-4956
Fr. Gene Daputo, 848-448-5187

For monetary donations, please contact the following finance committees:
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