



This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

Life in Christ assures us of our heavenly inheritance when we embrace His discipline and strive to be righteous.

PROMISE:

"I know their works and their thoughts, and I come to gather nations... they shall come to see My glory." (Is 66:18)

WORD:

Is 66:18-21/ Ps 117:1-2/
Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/ Lk 13:22-30

ORDERS:

- *Strive to enter through the narrow gate.* (Lk 13:24)
- *Endure your trials as "discipline".* (Heb 12:7)

DIRECTIONS:

- Humbly submit to the Father's will by being obedient to His commandments.
- Have a daily communion with God through prayers and meditation of the Word.
- Embrace your sufferings as blessings from the Lord.
- Do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him.

Behind The Narrow Gate

REFLECTION:

We are all God's children and it is His will to give what is rightfully ours, His heavenly inheritance. God invites all of us to claim this heavenly inheritance but the Gospel today reminds us that we cannot take this invitation for granted. Many may want to claim the heavenly inheritance but may not be strong enough to achieve them because there is no focus and there is no desire. We have to desire God's salvation for us.



heavenly inheritance is only possible if we intentionally seek out the will of God and respond genuinely to Him.

We have to remember that God, in his love for us, will never abandon us. He provides us many things that we can do to align our actions today to enter the narrow gate of eternity. In our community alone, we always talk about it almost every week when we

reflect in our LWG (Living Word Group).

This week, from our directions, we are called to humbly submit to Father's will by being obedient to the commandments He gave us. As humans, our natural inclination is to go the other way and not follow Him simply accepting that we are weak. So in our weakness, we are also directed to have a daily communion with God through our prayers and meditation of the word. When we pay close attention to the directions given to us week after week, we might observe that these directions usually talk about the pillars of Christian-

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Tending the Flock

Our Passport To Eternal Life

Once again, as on recent Sundays, the Gospel invites us to think about the future which awaits us and for which we must prepare during our earthly pilgrimage.

Salvation, which Jesus brought with his death and Resurrection, is universal. He is the One Redeemer and invites everyone to the banquet of immortal life; but on one and the same condition: that of striving to follow and imitate him, taking up one's cross as he did, and devoting one's life to serving the brethren. This condition for entering heavenly life is consequently one and universal.

In the Gospel, Jesus recalls further that it is not on the basis of presumed privileges that we will be judged but according to our actions. The *"workers of iniquity"* will find themselves shut out, whereas all who have done good and sought justice at the cost of sacrifices will be welcomed.

Thus, it will not suffice to declare that we are *"friends"* of Christ, boasting of false merits: *"We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets"* (Lk 13: 26).

True friendship with Jesus is expressed in the way of life: it is expressed with goodness of heart, with humil-

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Toms River, NJ 08754

The Lord's Provision

August 12, 2022

Tithe : \$530.00
Love Offer : \$295.00
Commu Day: \$1,266.50

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Malou Paderon	8/19	Koy Torralba	8/20
Manny Rodriguez	8/19	Dada Alberto	8/21
Gel Chioco	8/20	Jannahlyn Mijares	8/22
Rouinna Crocco	8/20	Louie Hombrebueno	8/25

Anniversary

Harvey & Criselda Gabriel	8/22
Dave & Nanette Smith	8/24

*You are steadfast
in your kindness toward me,
and your fidelity, O Lord,
endures forever.*

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

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ity, meekness and mercy, love for justice and truth, a sincere and honest commitment to peace and reconciliation.

We might say that this is the "identity card" that qualifies us as his real "friends"; this is the "passport" that will give us access to eternal life.

Dear brothers and sisters, if we too want to pass through the narrow door, we must work to be little, that is, humble of heart like Jesus, like Mary his Mother and our Mother. She was the first, following her Son, to take the way of the Cross and she was taken up to Heaven in glory, an event we commemorated a few days ago. The Christian people invoke her as *Ianua Caeli*, Gate of Heaven. Let us ask her to guide us in our daily decisions on the road that leads to the "gate of Heaven".

*~ Pope Benedict XVI
Angelus Message, August 26, 2007*

Fun in the Sand

Fund-Raising for GK Medical Mission

Come and Enjoy !!!

September 10, 2022, Saturday @ 11 A.M.
Skateplex, Seven Presidents Park
Long Branch, NJ

Contact Persons:

Mike Zarraga @ 732-558-2935
Nes & Cecile Vasquez @ 908-578-9138

*"Let us not grow weary in doing good,
for in due season we will reap the harvest
if we do not give up." (Gal 6:9)*

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ity, the pillars of our faith. It talks about prayer, reading the Bible, availing of the Sacraments, serving others and our neighbor. We may realize that most of these are repetitive and we would wonder why.

Some things need to be done multiple times because we are just sometimes proud or stubborn to follow. It is like when parents tried to discipline us by slapping us or by yelling at us many times when we didn't make our bed or didn't go to church, for example. Disciplines are undeniably painful and hard to follow but need to be done not to discourage us but for us to learn, for us to be trained and for our disobedience to be corrected. If you are parent, you understand that you are merely doing these disciplines because you love your children.

In our lives, we are also being disciplined when we face trials. On the surface, most trials appear as obstacles that prevent us from seeing God. When afflicted, many of us probably would think that we are being punished and may react by questioning and blaming God. Some would run away from church or any faith community. It is disheartening to see that even in our community, some brothers or sisters choose to leave when hurt.

The Lord says, "Endure your trials as discipline." Today, we are also called to embrace trials as blessings treating them as disciplines from the Lord. Easier to say than to grasp but when we look back at the trials in our lives, we know that God is in control. God allows these trials to happen so that we

can strengthen our faith in Him, so that we build our character to resist temptations, so that we can be trained to be more giving, more patient, more humble and so that our hearts can be transformed.

Therefore, we should not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by Him. The key for our trials to turn into blessing is to embrace them by surrendering and seeking God amidst them. After all, He is God who reminds us that He is the Father who loves us his children and who only desires what is best for us.

In the end, if we strive, God the Father will be there to lovingly open that narrow gate for us where behind it awaits the heavenly inheritance He prepared for us to claim.