



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We embrace Christ's work of redemption by believing in Him, and living His truth.

PROMISE:

"...everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." (Jn 3: 15)

WORD:

2 Chr 36: 14-16, 19-23/ Ps 137: 1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/ Eph 2: 4-10/ Jn 3: 14-21

ORDER:

- *Whoever serves me must follow me...* (Jn 12: 26)

DIRECTIONS:

- Strengthen your intimacy with God by loving, caring, helping and giving alms to the needy.
- Make a simple act of kindness to make a difference in the life of a sister or brother.
- Imitate Christ by denying yourself, taking up your cross and following His ways.

Guided By Christ's Light

REFLECTION:

What does it mean to believe in Jesus Christ and what is His truth? Faith in Christ means believing that He is a living example of the way of life that pleases God, and that the goal of true Christians is to grow into His likeness (cf. Eph 4:11-16). Christ Himself is the Truth. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me," (Jn 14:6). Our attitude towards truth determines the outcome of our lives. If we don't love truth and resist it, we resist salvation. But if we do love truth we embrace salvation and we receive the reward: the crown of life. Jesus is the Word of God who became flesh who dwells among us (Jn 1:14). God's word is true, so truth is the life of Jesus which is to be manifested in us (cf. 2 Cor 4:10). Truth is the light that shines into our lives and reveals what we are really like by nature. It reveals the way that we must walk on in order to be transformed into the image of Christ (cf. Rom 8:29).



The first step towards the truth of Christ is when we acknowledge that we are sinners in need of forgiveness, atonement and justification. As the light of Jesus shines into our life we are caused to repent of our sins. Then He

shows us that even though we are forgiven, because of our sinful nature, we need to acknowledge that we are powerless to overcome sinful temptations. As we humbly acknowledge our helplessness, the Holy Spirit may come to fill us, enlighten us, lead us and give us the strength and power to keep all that God commands us. We are enabled to give up our own will and do God's will instead. In other words, we can overcome sin when we submit to the power of Jesus by His Spirit – "And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life," (1 Jn 5:20).

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Tending the Flack

When Good Works Begin

On our way towards Easter we have reached the Fourth Sunday of Lent. It is a journey with Jesus through the "wilderness", that is, a time in which to listen more attentively to God's voice and also to unmask the temptations that speak within us. The Cross is silhouetted against the horizon of this wilderness. Jesus knows that it is the culmination of his mission: in fact the Cross of Christ is the apex of love which gives us salvation. Christ himself says so in today's Gospel: just "as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life" (Jn 3:14-15).

St. Augustine comments: "So far, then, as it lies with the physician, he has come to heal the sick. He that will not observe the orders of the physician destroys himself. He has come a Saviour to the world... You will not be saved by him; you shall be judged of yourself". (On the Gospel of John 12, 12: PL 35, 1190). Therefore, if the merciful love of God — who went so far as to give his only Son to redeem our life — is infinite, we have a great responsi-

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 **BUKAS LOOB SA DIYOS**
(OPEN IN SPIRIT TO GOD)
DIOCESE OF TRENTON



An Invitation

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND
JUNE 7-9, 2024

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

Free Registration
Meals and Accommodation To be Provided

For all inquiries:
German/Letty Butay (732) 887-5298 or lbutay@yahoo.com
Nestor/Cecile Vasquez (908) 578-9138 | Toy/Malen Jarez (609) 954-2300

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

March 1, 2024

Tithe :\$325.00
Love Offering :\$213.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

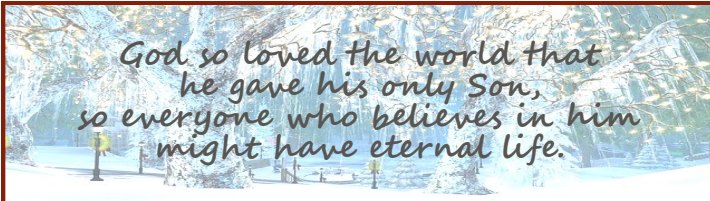
Edgar Arabit	3/8	Melo Mabutas	3/10
Gil Ocena	3/8	Argie Pe	3/13
Elma Pontipiedra	3/10	Lieza Subang	3/13
Ed Bautista	3/14		

Anniversary

Dino & Joise Rivera	3/8
Cesar & Rosalie Angeles	3/10
Nestor & Chat Conde	3/13

Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407
For Prayer Service - Mary Anne Arias 732-688-3962



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bility: each one of us, in fact, must recognize that he is sick in order to be healed. Each one must confess his sin so that God's forgiveness, already granted on the Cross, may have an effect in his heart and in his life.

St. Augustine writes further: "God accuses your sins: and if you also accuse them, you are united to God.... When your own deeds will begin to displease you, from that time your good works begin, as you find fault with your evil works. The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works" (ibid., 13: PL 35, 1191).

Sometimes men and women prefer the darkness to the light because they are attached to their sins. Nevertheless it is only by opening oneself to the light and only by sincerely confessing one's sins to God that one finds true peace and true joy. It is therefore important to receive the Sacrament of Penance regularly, especially during Lent, in order to receive the Lord's forgiveness and to intensify our process of conversion.

*~ Pope Benedict XVI
Angelus Message
March 18, 2012*

Concrete Love



"If a brother or sister goes about naked and lacking daily food, and one of you says to him or her, 'Go in peace, be warm and filled', but does not give him or her what is necessary for the body, what good is it?" (James 2: 15-16). This is what the apostle James says. Love needs concreteness, love needs presence, encounter, needs time and space given: it cannot be reduced to beautiful words, to images on a screen, to selfies of a moment or to hurried messages. These are useful instruments that can help, but they are not enough in love, they cannot replace concrete presence.

Let us ask ourselves today: Do I know how to listen to people, am I available to their good requests, or do I make excuses, put things off, hide behind abstract and useless words?

~ Pope Francis

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There is no greater blessing than to constantly walk in the truth. It is a process with the help of the Holy Spirit where we constantly develop and progress in our sanctification and transformation into the image of Christ. As we walk in the path of holiness, we will be set free from sin, from its power and consequences (cf Jn 8:32). The Spirit of Truth will guide us in this process. The more willing and obedient we are and quicker to acknowledge the truth, the quicker our progress will be. Loving the truth transforms us in Christ – "All of us, gazing with unveiled face on the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, as from the Lord who is the Spirit," (2 Cor 3:18). When we judge ourselves and put to death

whatever the deceptions we may have about ourselves, by faith, we are transformed into the image of the glory of Jesus Christ.

Believing in Jesus and in His truth leads us to spiritual transformation. As the promise this week says, "...everyone who believes in him may have eternal life," (Jn 3:15).

There is this man who graduated from a premier Catholic school, yet he considered himself an atheist and did not live up to his marriage vows. A friend was able to convince him to attend a Marriage Encounter and Life in the Spirit Seminar that led to his conversion and transformation. He accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. The couple has now dedicated themselves as "workers in the vineyard" serving in the community as

ministry coordinators. To the new-found life of believing in Jesus and living in His truth, it is no longer he who lives, but Christ who lives in him. There is peace in his life, founded on strength, and this peace is but a shadow of peace to come in the eternal life which Christ promises.

Prayer:

My Sovereign Lord, thank you for all the grace and blessings You bestow upon us. Grant me the power to be pure, peaceful, loving, considerate, merciful, and sincere. Come into my heart, into my soul and into my life. Let each and every step I take be a step closer to You so I can be transformed into Your image. Amen.



Adapted from www.bldworld.org