



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We have a loving relationship with God when we pray and proclaim His word.

PROMISE:

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.." (Ps 147:3)

WORD:

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/ Ps 147:1-6/ 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/ Mk 1:29-39

ORDER:

- *Preach the Gospel.* (1 Cor 9:16)

DIRECTIONS:

- Read and meditate on the Scriptures daily.
- Be willing to testify to the victory of the Lord.
- Intercede for one another in all circumstances.



Entrust Everything To God

REFLECTION: This Sunday's Gospel describes Jesus healing Peter's mother-in-law. Jesus' love made her grateful & joyful that she immediately got up & began to wait on them. God's love for us in Jesus is the Good News! Even though life can be very sad and painful sometimes, even though we get sick and suffer, even when we fear this pandemic, we believe that God is with us through it all. In any situations that we encounter, we know that God is with us. Just like with our current situation now because it is very trying and challenging, we must entrust everything to God. Some of our family and friends especially in our BLD community, are living witnesses of God's goodness. Some have unfortunately experienced the fear and the danger of contracting the corona virus, some have lost their jobs and are financially challenged, or may have experienced loss of their loved ones. Because of their faith & trust in God, they have been lifted and healed. God cares for each one of us, and knows the unique ways our hearts have been wounded by a painful experience. God heals. He loves us, He is ultimately in control of us and most of all, He is the greatest healer of all. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds (Ps 30:1).



In the reading of St. Paul to the Corinthians, he is telling us that we are sent by the Lord to preach God's message, to evangelize and to serve. We have to allow Jesus to mold

our hearts and minds into actions and words by proclaiming His words and His goodness to others. As BLD members we are expected to fulfill our role and our commitment for the community. We ought to proclaim God's goodness and show His victory to others. Moreover, we have an obligation to spread the good news. If not, then, *"Woe to me if I don't preach the gospel!"* (Cor 9:16)

The reading is teaching us to spend time with God, to serve others & to preach the gospel. We are reminded to have a constant communication with Him despite all the challenges we are facing. Jesus wants us to be closer to him. He wants us to be empowered with

Entrust - See Page 2

Tending the Flock

Become Springs of Living Water

Without the Lord's help, the yoke of sickness and suffering weighs down on us cruelly. By receiving the sacrament of the sick, we seek to carry no other yoke than that of Christ, strengthened through his promise to us that his yoke will be easy to carry and his burden light (cf. Mt 11:30). I invite those who are to receive the sacrament of the sick during this Mass to enter into a hope of this kind.

The Second Vatican Council presented Mary as the figure in whom the entire mystery of the Church is typified (cf. Lumen Gentium, 63-65). Her personal journey outlines the profile of the Church, which is called to be just as attentive to those who suffer as she herself was. I extend an affectionate greeting to those working in the areas of public health and nursing, as well as those who, in different ways, in hospitals and other institutions, are contributing to the care of the sick with competence and generosity. Equally, I should like to say to all the *hospitaliers*, the *brancardiers* and the carers... how much their service is appreciated. They are the arms of the servant Church. Finally, I wish to encourage those who, in the name of their faith, receive and visit the sick, especially in hospital infirmaries, in parishes or, as here, at shrines. May you always sense in this important and delicate mission the effective and fraternal support of your communities!

The service of charity that you offer is a Marian service. Mary entrusts her smile to you, so that you yourselves may become, in faithfulness to her son, springs of living water. Whatever you do, you do in the name of the Church, of which Mary is the purest image. May you carry her smile to everyone!

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Homily at Lourdes, France, September 15, 2008



Online Giving

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The Lord's Provision

**January 29,
2021**

Mail-in: \$ 200.00
 Paypal : \$ —

*Thank you for
your generosity!!!*

God's Blessings

Birthday

Gene Del Carmen	2/5	Edna Perez	2/10
Olivia Cuasay	2/7	Dette Santos	2/10
Miguel Briones	2/8	Claro Gomez	2/11
Toy Juarez	2/8	Emily Ho	2/11

Nancy Alvarenga 2/10

Anniversary

Allan & Elma Pontipiedra	2/5
Jose & Nancy Alvarenga	2/8

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 Prayer For the 2021 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 (CEO & 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.



Salvation...

is not automatic; salvation is a gift of love and as such, it is offered to human freedom. Always, when we speak of love, we speak of freedom: love without freedom is not love; it may be interest, it may be fear, many things, but love is always free, and being free it calls for a freely given response: it calls for our conversion. Thus, it means changing mentality — this is conversion, changing mentality — and changing life: no longer following the examples of the world but those of God, who is Jesus; following Jesus; “doing” as Jesus had done, and as Jesus taught us. It is a decisive change of view and attitude. ~ **Pope Francis**

Entrust - Cont'd from Page 1

his words to be able to spread the good news. With these, we can build a deeper and loving relationship with the Lord.

We may all have gone through a lot with this pandemic but God reassures us by conveying his message that through faith, trust, hope and love, we can get through it all. As Pope Francis said, “The word of God

is the antidote to our fear of having to face life. In speaking to us, the Lord reminds us that we are in his heart, that we are precious in his eyes, and that He holds us in the palm of his hand.”



Community News

This Sunday's
Counsel

Volume 21, Issue 6

<http://bldtrenton.com>

February 12, 2021

THEME:

We have a loving relationship with God when we humbly seek His forgiveness and mercy.

PROMISE:

"Blessed is he whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered." (Ps 32:1)

WORD:

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/ Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11/ 1 Cor 10:31-11:1/ Mk 1:40-45

ORDER:

- *Be made clean.* (Mk 1:41b)
- *Do everything for the glory of God.* (1 Cor 10:31)

DIRECTIONS:

- Acknowledge our sinfulness and humbly ask for forgiveness and mercy.
- Humbly serve one another for the glory of God.

Be Imitators Of Christ

REFLECTION: In this week's theme Jesus is teaching us a life of forgiveness and mercy. A way of life that he demonstrated during His earthly ministry, and for us to imitate as Paul encouraged the Corinthians and us, to be imitators of Christ. He always wants us to be reconciled and be one with God as well as with each other. It is a compelling mandate of love and compassion from the one whose flesh we consume and whose blood we drink in the Eucharist. Ignoring the call of Jesus is like turning our backs from the message of perfect love shown on the cross as he went through suffering and death for all of us.

Once in the Lord's presence the leper kneels down and begs for healing. The suffering man realizes who Jesus really is, not the prophet among many but the incarnation of the God of Israel. In our sickness, our weakness, our shame lots of us feel like this leper, we feel as though we are not just worthy. But whatever circumstances we are in we have come to Jesus in the attitude of prayer and worship.

In touching and healing the leper the action of Jesus imparts important lesson for us. It was an expression of His overwhelming desire, especially those who are sick, the sinners, the outcasts. That was His mission. God became man so



that He can touch us and be one with us, especially in our miseries and sufferings. What a loving gesture.

Jesus touched the leper to impart healing in a personal way. God deals each

one of us on a person-to-person basis. There is nothing impersonal with God. Jesus did this without regard of the risk of being contaminated because behind the horrible disfigurement of leprosy, he saw the priceless value of every human person.

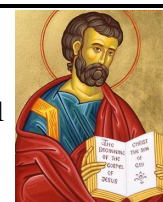
One of Mother Teresa's famous quotes was, *"I see Jesus in every human being. I say to myself this is hungry Jesus, I must feed him. This is sick Jesus. This one has leprosy or gangrene, I must wash him and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus."* Isn't that what every Christian should do? Care and share for the love of Jesus. It should be, right? Failure to do so is definitely a sin, a sin of omission. Like leprosy sin defiles and deforms our

Imitators - See Page 2

Know Your Saints

Saint Mark: Patron of Notaries

The first time Mark appears in the Bible is at the mention of a young man who ran away when Jesus was arrested. After Jesus' Resurrection, Mark conquered his fear and became a Christian in his home city of Jerusalem. He traveled as a missionary preaching the word of Christ with his cousin, St. Barnabas, and with St. Paul.



When Mark arrived in Rome, he was asked to set down the teachings of the first pope, St. Peter. His writings became the second Gospel of the New Testament, a book that records the life of Jesus as seen through the eyes of St. Peter.

In Mark's gospel there is a lot information about Jesus' ministry. Mark shows the human side of Jesus. He lets us see Jesus when he is angry, happy, sad and hopeful. He shows us many miracles of Jesus as he walked among the people of Israel, trying to fire their imagination with the wonders and possibilities of heaven; raising up Peter's mother-in-law, healing Jairus' daughter, curing a man with demons, calming the stormy waters of the sea, multiplying the loaves and fishes, healing a leper. He tells us that Jesus said, *"I tell you whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you receive it, and you will."*

Most importantly, the gospel of Mark shows how the terrible suffering of Jesus during his trial and crucifixion led to glory and salvation with the coming of God's kingdom.

St. Mark founded the first Christian church in Alexandria and spread Christianity throughout Egypt. He died a martyr in 68 A.D. and is today venerated as patron of notaries and lawyers.

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The Lord's Provision

**February 5,
2021**

Mail-in: \$ 280.00
 Paypal : \$ 284.86

*Thank you for
your generosity!!!*

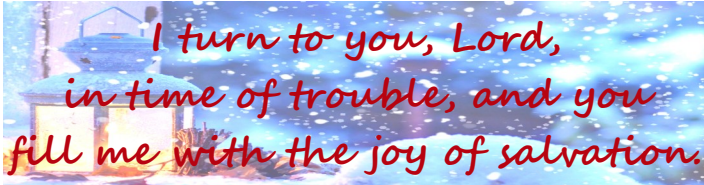
God's Blessings

Birthday

Gerald Mirandilla	2/12	Robin Rae Touchette	2/17
Nino Fajardo	2/13	Steph Antona	2/17
Faye Juezan	2/17	Mike Agustin	2/18
Grace Mantes	2/17	Arwin David	2/18

Anniversary

Domenick & Carmela Palumbo 2/15



*I turn to you, Lord,
in time of trouble, and you
fill me with the joy of salvation.*

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Imitators - Cont'd from Page 1

soul, and it separates us from God and from others. Like the leper we become an outcast. Basically, sin is rooted in selfishness. Selfishness is crossing our arms unmindful of the needs of others, unwilling to stretch and reach out to those in need.

As we make our journey through this last week in ordinary time we can adopt a few steps as the Lenten season begins to make us draw closer to God and establish a profound loving relationship. Start listening to Him, cultivate silence, we can't listen when we are filled with noise and distraction.

Seek humility, cultivate honesty, needless to say complete honesty is only possible if you're humble. Seek to be holy, be in the word and not of the world, pray and have spiritual conversation with Him, read the living word of God. Finally nothing is more powerful than the sacrament of penance and eucharist; he waits for us in the quiet of the tabernacle. If we are willing to give that kind of commitment, these steps will lead us to Him. As he has promised "Blessed is he whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered." (Ps 32:1)



This Sunday's
Counsel

Community News

Volume 21, Issue 7

<http://bldtrenton.com>

February 19, 2021

THEME:

We have a loving relationship with God when we repent and obey His commandment.

PROMISE:

"He guides the humble to justice, he teaches the humble his way." (Ps 25:9)

WORD:

Gn 9:8-15/ Ps 25:4-9/ 1 Pt 3:18-22/ Mk 1:12-15

ORDER:

- *Repent and believe in the gospel.* (Mk 1:15b)

DIRECTIONS:

- Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Be reconciled with one another.
- Read and study the word of God.
- Be a good Christian witness and practice the corporal works of mercy.

Repent And Obey

REFLECTION: The first Sunday of Lent marks the beginning of our 40-day journey through this season. How do we begin this journey? Two key words: *"repent and obey."*

Our community's formation program reminds us of the 5 "R's" to fulfill true repentance and reconciliation, namely: Recognition, Remorse, Repentance, Reparation, and Restitution. And the Lenten season is the best time to reflect and review how our lives have been in relation to God and our fellowmen.

True repentance is the product of a transformed heart – a new heart. It calls us to turn away from sin, and believe and obey the gospel, so that we may *"find favor with the Lord."* (Gen.6.8). Absence of true repentance is the beginning of death because it deprives us of a loving relationship with God. God will never inflict harm on us because God loves us. But the story of the great flood is a story of the consequences of sin. We can relate this story to the many instances or events in our lives when we are disobedient to the gospel. We experience drowning in our own miseries, despondency, destitution, discouragement, loneliness.

The 2nd reading also illustrates how deeply God loves us. He sends His Son Jesus, knowing that Jesus will be experiencing a violent death on the cross. In

turn, Jesus, *"Son though He was, was obedient unto death"*, laying down His life for us that we may ex-

perience fruitfulness and a loving relationship with God, with others and with ourselves. We have to understand that God gave us free will; the free will to either repent and obey Him, or totally disobey Him. This free will includes dominion over the earth and stewardship over His creation. And this stewardship determines our rise and fall; whether we will rise with Him in glory or fall from His grace because of our disobedience.

It is against this background that we reflect upon the gospel on the temptation of Jesus: *"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan,"* (Mk.1:12-13a). The desert symbolizes want, emptiness, and uncertainty, especially in this time of pandemic. Many of us are dismayed by the problems beset-



Repent - See Page 2

**Tending
the
Flock**

Eclipse of God Leads to Eclipse of Sin

In fact it is true: if God is eliminated from the world's horizon, one cannot speak of sin. As when the sun is hidden, shadows disappear. Shadows only appear if the sun is out; hence the eclipse of God necessarily entails the eclipse of sin. Therefore the sense of sin - which is different from the "sense of guilt" - is acquired by rediscovering the sense of God. This is expressed by the *Miserere* Psalm: *"Against you"*, David says, addressing God, *"against you only have I sinned"* (Ps 51(50):6).

In the face of moral evil God's attitude is to oppose sin and to save the sinner. God does not tolerate evil because he is Love, Justice and Fidelity; and for this very reason he does not desire the death of the sinner but wants the sinner to convert and to live. To save humanity God intervenes: we see him throughout the history of the Jewish people, beginning with the liberation from Egypt. God is determined to deliver his children from slavery in order to lead them to freedom. And the most serious and profound slavery is precisely that of sin.

For this reason God sent his Son into the world: to set men and women free from the domination of Satan, *"the origin and cause of every sin"*. God sent him in our mortal flesh so that he might become a victim of expiation, dying for us on the Cross. The Devil opposed this definitive and universal plan of salvation with all his might, as is shown in particular in the Gospel of the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness which is proclaimed every year on the First Sunday of Lent. In fact, entering this liturgical season means continuously taking Christ's side against sin, facing — both as individuals and as Church — the spiritual fight against the spirit of evil each time (Ash Wednesday, Opening Prayer).

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Message, March 13, 2011

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The Lord's Provision

**February 12,
2021**

Mail-in: \$ 920.00
 Paypal : \$ 43.41

*Thank you for
your generosity!!!*

God's Blessings

Birthday

Al Guerrero	2/19	Jackie Pascual	2/24
David Baliscao	2/20	Josie Rodriguez	2/24
John Alberto	2/23	John Young	2/24
Fred Poblete	2/23	Mabel Bartocillo	2/25

Dennis Buenafe 2/25

Anniversary

Toy & Malen Juarez 2/22

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This we pray in the Most Holy Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Gossip



What kills community life is gossip. Do not speak ill of others. *"It is not easy, Father, because sometimes it comes from the heart!"* Yes, it comes from the heart, it comes from envy, it comes from many capital sins that we have within. To flee. *"But tell me Father, is there not some medicine? Prayer, kindness...?"* Yes, there is a medicine which is very "homemade": bite your tongue. Before speaking ill of others, bite your tongue so that it will swell and fill up your mouth and you will be unable to speak badly. Please, flee from gossip which destroys a community!

~ Pope Francis

Repent - Cont'd from Page 1

tting us... locked up 24/7 in our homes, with dwindling finances, physical challenges and myriad inconveniences. The gospel demonstrates Jesus' resilience, as He focuses on His mission and obedience to the Father, overcoming all the

obstacles along His path.

St. Thomas Aquinas tells us that Christ willed to be tempted for four reasons: First, that He might strengthen us against temptation. Secondly, that we might be warned so that none, however holy, may think himself safe or free from temptation. As St. Hilary observed, it is

precisely those who have been sanctified who are assailed by the devil as Satan desires above all, to overcome the holy. Thirdly, to give us an example, so that He might teach us how to overcome the temptations of the devil. And fourthly, Christ wished to be tempted in order to fill us with confidence in his mercy.



Community News

This Sunday's
Counsel

Volume 21, Issue 8

<http://bldtrenton.com>

February 26, 2021

THEME:

We have a loving relationship with God when we listen and follow His voice to transform us.

PROMISE:

"I will bless you abundantly... because you obeyed my command."

(Gn 22:17a, 18b)

WORD:

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/ Ps 116:10, 15-19/ Rom 8:31b-34/ Mk 9:2-10

ORDER:

- Listen to him. (Mk 9:7b)

DIRECTIONS:

- Spend time in prayer.
- Reflect and meditate on God's word.
- Be a witness to the transforming power of God.

Becoming More Christ-Like

REFLECTION: The community word for the month is addressed to Christ's disciples. To be true disciples of Christ and have a deep and loving relationship with Him, we need to listen and follow Him and be transformed into His likeness. The order for the month "Listen to him" are the very words of God the Father during the Transfiguration. We have to listen to Christ to possess His heart and character—to be Christ-like.

The process of being Christ-like demands our willing cooperation with the Holy Spirit, who resides in our hearts, to overcome the pressures and trials of this present life. Becoming more Christ-like requires both divine power and the fulfillment of human responsibility. There are three things which contribute to being more Christ-like: our surrender to God, our freedom from sin, and our spiritual growth.

One, becoming more Christ-like is the result of surrender to God. Romans 12:1-2 says that worship involves a total self-dedication to God. We volunteer our bodies as "living sacrifices," and our minds are renewed and transformed. Jesus invites us to follow Him. He gave us His example of obedience (Jn 15:10), sacrificial love (Jn 15:12-13), and patient suffering (1 Pt 2:19-23). We also have the example of the apostles who modeled Christ (1Cor11:1). When Jesus said, "Follow me," Levi left his money tables immediately (Mk 2:14). Should we not freely



surrender all we have for the sake of following the Lord? As John the Baptist said, "He must become greater; I must become less," (Jn 3:30). So, we focus more and more on Jesus and His glory, losing ourselves to His will.

Two, becoming more Christ-like is the result of freedom from sin. Jesus lived a sinless life. The more we consider ourselves "dead to sin" (Rom 6:11) and living a life of purity, the more Christ-like we should be. As we offer ourselves to God, sin is no longer our master and we are more clearly identified with Christ (Rom 6:1-14). When it comes to restraining sin in our lives, we have divine help: the word of God (Ps 119:11), the intercession of Christ (Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25), and the power of the Spirit who indwells us (Rom 8:4; Gal 5:16).

Christ-like - See Page 2

Tending
the
Flock

The Father's Face Revealed

The Transfiguration is a revelation of the Person of Jesus, of his profound reality.

This event prepared the disciples for the Paschal Mystery of Jesus: to endure the terrible trial of the Passion and also to understand properly the luminous event of the Resurrection.

The narrative also speaks of Moses and Elijah who appear and talk with Jesus. Actually, this episode is related to another two divine revelations. Moses climbed Mount Sinai and there received God's revelation. He asked God to show him his glory but God answered Moses that he would not see his face but only his back (cf. Ex 33:18-23).

God made a similar revelation to Elijah on the mountain: a more intimate manifestation, not accompanied by a storm, an earthquake or by fire, but by a gentle breeze (cf. 1 Kings 19:11-13).

Unlike these two episodes, in the Transfiguration it is not Jesus who receives the revelation of God; rather, it is precisely in Jesus that God reveals himself and reveals his face to the Apostles. Thus, those who wish to know God must contemplate the face of Jesus, his face transfigured: Jesus is the perfect revelation of the Father's holiness and mercy.

God's will was fully revealed in the Person of Jesus. Anyone who wants to live in accordance with God's will must follow Jesus, listen to him and accept his words, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, acquire a deep knowledge of them...grow in the knowledge and love of Christ, both as individuals and as a parish community, encounter him in the Eucharist, in listening to his word, in prayer and in charity.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Excerpt from Homily, March 20, 2011

Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**. Donate link can be found at www.bldtrenton.com
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 BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.
 P.O. Box 1367
 Toms River, NJ 08754

The Lord's Provision

February 19, 2021

Mail-in: \$ 50.00
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Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Lani Hombrebueno	2/21	Nelia Doropan	2/27
Raquel Adame	2/26	Nona Alquiros	2/28
Roy Roldan	2/26	Drin Aparicio	3/2
Cecil Sanchez	2/26	Nilda Araga	3/3

Anniversary

Renato & Elena Madarang	3/1
Eric & Luz Mecnas	3/4

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 Prayer For the 2021 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.

Pray



Let us always pray for everything and for everyone, even for our enemies... Let us pray for our dear ones, but also for those we do not know... Let us pray above all for unhappy people, for those who weep in solitude and give up hope that there might still be someone who loves them... The Lord is — let us not forget — the Lord of compassion, of nearness, of tenderness: three words never to be forgotten. Because this is the Lord's style: compassion, nearness, tenderness. ~ **Pope Francis**

Christ-like - Cont'd from Page 1

Three, becoming more Christ-like is the result of Christian growth. When we grow in the Spirit, we become more Christ-like. "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," (2 Pt 3:18). As we become more obedient to the Lord and learn to walk in His ways our lives change. The biggest

change will take place in our hearts and the overflow will be new conduct (thoughts, words and actions) representative of that change. The change we seek is done from the inside out, through the power of the Holy Spirit. It isn't something we can conjure up on our own. "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for every-

one else," (1 Thes 3:12).

For listening to Christ, the promise is very heart-warming, "I will bless you abundantly...because you obeyed my command," (Gn 22:17a, 18b). By this, we will experience God's very best for us – peace and joy, power and victory in our life.

Adapted from www.bldworld.org