



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

Volume 22, Issue 6

<http://bldtrenton.com>

February 11, 2022

THEME:

We lovingly respond to Christ's calling when we are kind-hearted to others.

PROMISE:

"Behold, your reward will be great in heaven." (Lk 6:23)

WORD:

Jer 17:5-8/ Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6/ 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/ Lk 6:17, 20-26



Being Truly Blessed

REFLECTION:

The readings of this Sunday highlight the meaning of how to be blessed in life. In the gospel of Luke, Jesus begins his sermon on the Beatitudes by saying, *"Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours,"* (Lk 6: 20). This may sound ironic because being poor is not literally a blessing. Yet, it is the grace of God that can turn a negative situation to something positive and beneficial. True blessedness comes from seeking the presence of the Lord in one's situation and trusting in Him, while embracing one's situation. Those whose ultimate trust is in Jesus and in the divine promises of God will experience fullness of life, perhaps not necessarily in this life, but definitely in the age to come.



In the Beatitudes, Jesus warns those who are uncaring, those who are affluent

but are unkind to the poor, those who are lukewarm to those who are suffering. Thus, our theme for this week calls us to be kind-hearted to others. In the First Reading and Psalms, to be blessed is like a tree planted near running water that is able to produce good fruit even in drought or in the driest season. In the Second Reading, St. Paul exhorts us that being

blessed is having faith in Christ's resurrection, that as we were dead from sin, we have been raised in Christ. Thus, apart from the Lord, we cannot experience true blessedness and goodness.

As Christian disciples, we have a calling or a vocation to seek God and trust in Him. In Jeremiah, the Lord says, *"Cursed is the one who trusts in human beings, who seeks his strength in flesh...Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is in the*

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Tending the Flock

Divine Justice

Jesus, lifting up his eyes to his disciples, says: *"Blessed are you poor.... Blessed are you that hunger.... Blessed are you that weep.... Blessed are you when men hate you... when they cast out your name"* on account of me. Why does he proclaim them blessed? Because God's justice will ensure that they will be satisfied, gladdened, recompensed for every false accusation in a word, because from this moment he will welcome them into his Kingdom. The Beatitudes are based on the fact that a divine justice exists, which exalts those who have been wrongly humbled and humbles those who have exalted themselves (cf. Lk 14: 11). In fact, the Evangelist Luke, after repeating four times *"blessed are you"*, adds four admonitions: *"Woe to you that are rich.... Woe to you that are full now.... Woe to you that laugh now"* and: *"Woe to you, when all men speak well of you"*, because as Jesus affirms, the circumstances will be reversed; the last will be first, and the first will be last (cf. Lk 13: 30).

This justice and this Beatitude are realized in the "Kingdom of Heaven", or the "Kingdom of God", which will be fulfilled at the end of times but which is already present in history. Wherever the poor are comforted and admitted to the banquet of life, there God's justice is already manifest. This is the work that the Lord's disciples are called to carry out also in today's society. I am thinking of the Hostel run by the Roman Caritas at Termini Station, which I visited this morning. I warmly encourage all who work in that praiseworthy institution and those who, in every part of the world, volunteer themselves generously to similar works of justice and of love.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Message, February 14, 2010

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

February 4, 2022

Tithes : \$1060.00
 Love Offer : \$10.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

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



Miracles

Even when we fully rely on the intercession of a saint, or even more so that of the Virgin Mary, our trust only has value in relation to Christ. As if the path toward this saint or toward Our Lady does not end there, no. It goes there, but in relationship with Christ. Christ is the bond that unites us to him and to each other, and which has a specific name: this bond that unites us all, between ourselves and us with Christ, is the "communion of saints." It is not the saints who work miracles, no!... The saints do not work miracles, but only the grace of God that acts through them. Miracles are done by God, by the grace of God acting through a holy person, a righteous person.

~ Pope Francis

God's Blessings

Birthday

Edna Perez	2/10	Gerald Mirandilla	2/12
Dette Santos	2/10	Nino Fajardo	2/13
Claro Gomez	2/11	Faye Juezan	2/17
Emily Ho	2/11	Grace Mantes	2/17
Christopher Biala	2/12	Robin Rae Touchette	2/17
Carl Caparros	2/12	Steph Antona	2/17
Nancy Alvarenga		2/10	

Anniversary

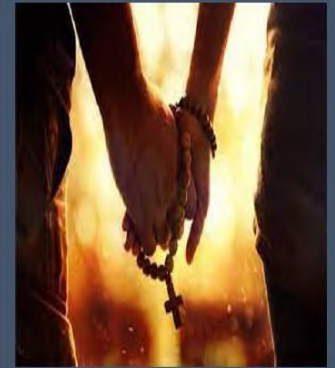
Jose and Nancy Alvarenga 2/8



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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Lord." (Jer 17:5a, 7). By our calling, we desire to be with the Lord who supplies the grace for us to follow that desire. This is true blessedness, a calling and gift from God. And as with all of God's gifts, we must put this gift to practice in our daily life. An unused gift is no gift at all if it does not enrich the life of the receiver, nor please God who is the Giver of all good gifts. So, how do we use the gift of blessedness? Jesus teaches us the way of the Beatitudes. With hope in the Lord, we are to accept the circumstance we face or situation we are in, and seek to bring God's goodness by being kind-hearted to

others. By living our life doing good to others, we will be able to sink our roots into the life-giving water and enable us to endure the barren and dry moments of our life. And though we may experience being poor, going hungry, being oppressed or hated, God's enduring grace will turn all these into blessing and joy. Let us be encouraged by God's promise, "Behold, your reward will be great in heaven," (Lk 6: 23). Being blessed comes when we remain focused on the Lord and hope in Him, despite the difficulties we encounter. Then we will receive our ultimate recompense – to be with God forever.

Adapted from www.bldworld.org

FOR WHOEVER WISHES TO SAVE HIS LIFE WILL LOSE IT. BUT WHOEVER LOSES HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE WILL FIND IT

Matthew 16:25

DAY OF RETREAT
02.26.2022

Saturday | 10AM | Queenship of Mary Church
 16 Dey Road | Plainsboro, New Jersey

The General Assembly will immediately follow after the retreat from 1:30-3:30pm. Please inform your ministry coordinators and/or your ME class shepherds to confirm your attendance

Spiritual Directors: Fr. Gerry Paderon
 Contact Persons: M. Arias, C/B Velez, AM Paderon
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