



Community News

Volume 22, Issue 4

<http://bldtrenton.com>

January 28, 2022

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

Jesus our Savior is revealed when we accept and stand up for Him.

PROMISE:

"They will fight against you, but not prevail over you, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord." (Jer 1:19)

WORD:

Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/ Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17/ 1 Cor 12:31-13:13/ Lk 4:21-30

ORDERS:

- Gird your loin, stand up and tell them what I command. (Jer 1:17)
- Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gift. (1 Cor 12:31)

DIRECTIONS:

- Boldly proclaim that Jesus is our Lord and Savior.
- Study, pray and meditate on the Word of God.
- Be a strong witness to the transforming power of God.
- Invoke the Holy Spirit to grant us His spiritual gifts.

Love Is Truth-Telling

REFLECTION:

"I have confidence in you and I pray for you. Have the courage to swim against the tide." This message from Pope Francis is quite contrary to the prevailing wisdom in our society: *"In polite conversation, never bring up politics or religion."* That's the advice most of us are given and we try our best to live up to this mantra.

The prophets of the Old and New Testaments show us that sometimes love demands that we speak of the truth that people don't want to hear. Jeremiah was thrown into a cistern; Jesus was run out of Nazareth. The prophet's responsibility is to speak God's word as clearly and convincingly as possible. This shows us that God's messengers cannot expect honor, respect, and popularity. But people have a right to the truth, whether they end up heeding the truth or not. Sometimes, the truth makes people uncomfortable which leads to rejection of the messenger of the truth like Jesus Christ when he spoke to the



Jewish people in Nazareth, his own native place.

In the second reading, St Paul describes to us the true meaning of love. God is love, and love is more concerned about the welfare of others than with one's own image. In tonight's gospel, we see the painful truth of what happens when we share our faith with those who knew us before we be-

came alive in faith before our renewal. Like Jesus, we are rejected, misunderstood, and disbelieved by people who don't understand why we changed. We sound like fanatics to them and they use this as an excuse to remain uninfluenced by our testimony how Christ has showed us the Way.

Are we timid sharing our faith? When we are outside our homes, do we declare our faith through prayers and deeds? How many of you say the prayer before meals when you are in a restaurant or when dining with other people? Do we try to hide as we do the sign of the cross?

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Tending the Flock

Not Seeking Consensus

St. Mark reported what many were saying: *"Where did this man get all this? What is the wisdom given to him?"* (6:2). On the other hand, however, his fellow villagers

knew him too well: *"He is one like us"*, they say, *"His claim can only be a presumption* (cf. The Infancy Narratives, English edition, p. 3). *"Is not this Joseph's son?"* (Lk 4:22), as if to say *"what can a carpenter from Nazareth aspire to?"*

Well-acquainted with this imperviousness which confirms the proverb: *"no prophet is acceptable in his own country"*, to the people in the synagogue Jesus addressed words that resonate like a provocation. He cited two miracles wrought by the great prophets Elijah and Elisha for men who were not Israelites in order to demonstrate that faith is sometimes stronger outside Israel. At this point there was a unanimous reaction. All the people got to their feet and drove him away; and they even tried to push him off a precipice. However, passing through the midst of the angry mob with su-

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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 Director: Fr. Gerry Padron
Contact Persons: M. Arias, CB Veloz, AM Padron
BLD Trenton
www.bldtrenton.org

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

Missing the news lately?

Please update your e-mail information with the Secretariat to receive community news and other correspondence. Contact them at bldtrenton.secretariat@gmail.com

God's Blessings

Birthday

Weng Alberto	1/28	René Gallofin	2/1
Gina Sarmiento	1/28	Brenda Palao	2/1
Bernadette Sunga	1/28	Mike Crocco	2/2
Manny Ho	1/31	Linda Sypher	2/3
Jivenchy Gerges		2/3	

Anniversary

Dan & Jean Catarata	1/28
Al & Judy Guerrero	1/30
Woody & Ruby Woodarad	2/2
Mike and Beth Zarraga	2/3

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



Today

The Word of God is always **"today."** It begins with a "today": when you read the Word of God, a "today" begins in your soul, if you understand it well... It is not like ancient history, no: today. Today, it speaks to your heart

~ Pope Francis

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preme calmness he went away. At this point it comes naturally to wonder: why ever did Jesus want to stir up this antagonism? At the outset the people admired him and he might perhaps have been able to obtain a certain consensus.... But this is exactly the point: Jesus did not come to seek the agreement of men and women but rather — as he was to say to Pilate in the end — *"to bear witness to the truth"* (Jn 18:37). The true prophet does not obey others as he does God, and puts himself at the service of the truth, ready to pay in person. It is true that Jesus was a prophet of love, but love has a truth of its own. Indeed, love and truth are two names of the same reality, two names of God.

~ Pope Benedict XVI
Angelus Message
February 3, 2013



Truth-Telling - Cont'd from Page 1

Are you ready to defend the Catholic doctrines such as the veneration of our Blessed Mother, the infant baptism, the practice of fasting and abstinence, the Holy Trinity and so on. One thing we owe to BLD is our hunger for the word of God. Our eyes were opened to read the bible and appreciate the power of His Word.

People don't want to be challenged especially when it means giving up what's familiar and comfortable. However, this is not a reason for us to keep silent. We have been called by Christ to share the good news about Him. Through baptism and confirmation, we are anointed to be prophets like Jeremiah. One of the themes of Pope Francis at World Youth Day 2013 was to *"shake things up."* The word that God commands us to share is sometimes comforting, sometimes disturbing. We must get over our fear of offending people and love them enough to tell them the truth.

We cannot be complacent but rather be steadfast. We must make

it known that conversion is important or else we are sinning against Jesus and against those who need to learn more about Him. Our biggest challenge as true followers of Jesus Christ is to defend our faith and our belief that He is our Savior and our Lord. But we cannot defend our faith if we don't have a great knowledge of Christ. Our formation program is instrumental for all the members to grow in faith. The call to Christian discipleship is a call that requires courage. Our role is to pick up our cross and persevere to live the way Christ lives, to be ambassadors for Christ and to bring the light of Christ to others. God has a plan for everyone. Remember, he knew us even before we were born. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are given different gifts to build up the body of Christ. The same way to build this covenant community. When you are called to testify or to share how Jesus became victorious in your life, be bold to declare it. Our encounters use this tool to touch and inspire people. There

are many external obstacles that we might encounter when we serve our community, but perhaps one difficulty is within ourselves, when we are afraid to leave our comfort zone, change our priorities and attachments. We cannot be like a clashing cymbal or a resounding gong. Actions are louder than words. How far are we willing to feed the hungry, to give shelter to the homeless, to care for the sick or to forgive those who hurt us? Christ calls us to give until it hurts; to die to ourselves. This is the real essence of love, the greatest spiritual gift. Jesus says to gird up our loins to stand up and tell them what I command you. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He continues to sustain us, give us strength and encouragement. Jesus, being our shield and our refuge promised that *"They will fight against you, but not prevail over you, for I am with you to deliver you,"* (Jer 2:19). Yes, brothers and sisters, our omnipotent Father will always be with us.