

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME: We are faithful to Christ's word when we seek His will and follow His command.

PROMISE:

"Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something." (Jn 21:6)

WORD: Acts 5:27-32, 40-41/ Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13/ Rv 5:11-14/ Jn 21:1-19

ORDER:

- *"We must obey God rather than men."* (Acts 5:29)
- *"Feed my lambs...tend my sheep...feed my sheep"*. Jn 21:15-17
- *"Follow me."* (Jn 21:19)

DIRECTIONS:

- Shepherd each other by looking out and helping each other.
- Study the word of God and proclaim the Good News.
- Avail the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist.
- Witness and perform corporal works of mercy.



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 19, Issue 18

<http://bldtrenton.com>

May 3, 2019

Called To Evangelize

REFLECTION:

Why is it so difficult to be a disciple of Jesus? This Sunday's readings shed light on what it takes to be His follower. In the first reading, the drastic change in Peter's attitude toward the



Sanhedrin becomes evident. Not too long ago before a servant-maid, he denied knowing Jesus three times for fear of being arrested like his Master. This time around, we see a totally different Peter, who fearlessly proclaims the divinity of Christ before the same men responsible for condemning and crucifying Jesus like a common criminal.

We are not unlike Peter who believes that Jesus is God and that our life here on earth is a passing journey towards heaven, which is our final destination. In order to attain eternal life, we obey the Lord's command to bring the Good News and proclaim the Kingdom of God to those who are in darkness. But what could set us apart from Peter is his total courage in defending his faith in Christ, regardless of the imminent risk and danger.

As followers of Jesus, we need to look into our hearts and see if we have the

same tenacity and obstinacy as Peter did. As we face contemporary moral issues such as birth control, same sex marriage, divorce and the like, do we have the courage to stand up to our faith and defend it?

There are countless martyrs who gave up their lives in defense of their faith and they too were ordinary men and women, no different from us. We are not being asked to die like the martyrs. What we are asked is to preach Jesus Christ by being living witnesses of His love and grace that we ourselves may have experienced.

Easter is a good time to renew our life and re-establish our purpose on earth and our reason for answering the call to evangelization. We are reminded to do what Peter was asked by the Lord, that is, *"feed my lambs, tend my sheep, and feed my sheep"* (cf. Jn 21:15-17). This is our theme for the week: We are faithful to Christ's word when we seek His will and follow His command. Like Peter, we are challenged by the Lord that if we truly love Him, we must care for His people. We should concretize our care for others by sincerely ad-

Evangelize — See Page 2

Tending the Flock

The Catholicity of Evangelization

Pope Paul VI, in his *Evangelii Nuntiandi* defined evangelization as "bringing the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new."

That Popes after him have all laid out their thoughts on and call for evangelization in various forms, shows just how important this matter is for the Church. After all, Jesus himself commanded: *"Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature,"* (Mk 16:15).

In *Redemptoris Missio*, Pope John II described a new evangelization that focuses on fallen-away Catholics— those "baptized but have lost a living sense of faith or even no longer consider themselves members of the Church, and live a life far removed from Christ and his Gospel."

Pope Benedict XVI, recognizing once-Christian nations that are "now put to a hard test as a result of a constant spreading of an indifference to religion, of secularism and atheism," instituted the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization.

For his part, Pope Francis, in his *Evangelii Gaudium*, added joy into the evangelization formula, stating: "an evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral!"



Teaching Schedule

May 5	- ME 18	- Advance Intercession and Spiritual Warfare
May 11	- ME 19	- Christian Discipline Christian Community
May 18	- ME 20	- Road to Emmaus Jesus in the Old Testament
Jun 8	- ME 18 - ME 19	- Shepherds Training 2 - Christian Service & Christian Discernment
Jun 22	- ME 20	- Making of the Gospels, Matthew & Mark

The Lord's Provision April 26, 2019

Tithes: \$570.00
Love Offering: \$224.10

*Thank You
For Your Generosity*

Marshalls

May 3 - Jeff Sarmiento
Jojo Cac

May 10- Morris Teves
Antonio Juarez

God's Blessings Birthday

Luz Bunoan	5/6	Tina King	5/9
Suki Wong	5/8	George Pe	5/9
Glenn Ramos		5/9	

Anniversary

Rey & Sylvia Duma	5/5
Erwin & Grace Bustamante	5/9

I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Save the Date

May 11	:	"Let's Bowl!" (4 PM -6 PM)
Venue	:	Playdrome, Toms River, NJ
May 24	:	24th NJ Catholic Youth Rally
Venue	:	Six Flags Great Adventure Jackson, NJ
Jun 29	:	"Summer to Remember" Fundraiser
Venue	:	Jumping Brook Country Club Neptune, NJ

Doubt and Faith

Excerpt from the book, *"Anna and the Exodus Moon & Other Stories"*
by: Gene P. Del Carmen

(Continued from previous issue)

I tended to a young male patient who was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital emergency room. This patient was about twenty years old and close to finishing a college engineering degree. He was playing basketball when he unexpectedly collapsed on the court. Young, healthy, smart, and then all of a sudden, dead. The doctor was in tears as he grappled to tell the distraught parents what happened to their son. The weeping parents could not believe it. They requested me to call their Catholic parish priest who, when he came, likewise struggled to give them answers. "Father, why did God take our son? He is all we have, Father. He is all we have! How can God be so cruel to us?" Shaking his head, the priest tearfully said, "I don't know," as he hugged them, making them aware that he, too, felt their pain. At those moments when we turn to our religious leaders for answers, they, too, could be seeking answers. This priest knew

that no amount of Bible verses or gentle, consoling words would make sense for the parents at that moment of anguish.

Reverend Welby mentioned Psalm 88 as his reference on his issues of doubt. I don't know enough of other faiths, but Christianity and Judaism allow their congregants some amount of tolerance to doubt. And yes, these examples and accounts of doubt are written in the Bible. You may find them in the books of Job, Habakkuk, Lamentations, and Psalms. I grew up in the Catholic faith, where the mere idea of doubting God is considered a sin. Sin that is so bad, we were afraid to confess it to the priest.

Reverend Justin Welby, in his utmost honesty, seems to have a candid personal relationship with God as he continues to question, to the point of challenging God whenever big tragedies happen. Surely, God can take our persistent, even ill-mannered kind of probing. If we listen closer, God might even clear some of those doubts and give us some definitive, conclusive answers. I must tell you the story of my good friends, Maryann and Albert (not their real names). For me, they are living an exemplary relationship with God.

(To be continued)

Evangelize - Continued from Page 1

dressing their needs and concerns, whether it be material, emotional or spiritual needs. We must remember to share our time, talent and treasure with others, to our Church and community so that in sharing and true caring, our love for the Lord is genuinely manifested. Now is a good time to probe our hearts and assess how well we have obeyed the Lord's command to care for His people.

Jesus taught the disciples

through Peter the art of catching people. It was not enough for the apostles to love Jesus who is all-powerful, all-merciful, all-good and all-loving. Loving Jesus meant loving the people He cared and died for, no matter what trials and obstacles come our way. Through this arduous journey of discipleship, whenever we get discouraged, the Lord promises, *"Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something,"* (Jn 21:6).

Prayer:

Lord, we confess that it is not

easy to be Your disciple. There are times when we get discouraged as we go about fulfilling our mission of proclaiming Your kingdom. But Your resurrection has given us hope and we know that as You commanded us to care for Your people, You are always with us. Give us the grace to fearlessly defend our faith and serve You by faithfully relying on Your word of Truth. Grant us fervor and fortitude to show love and compassion to Your people in the last, the least and the lost. In Your name, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Adapted from www.bldworld.org

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME: We are faithful to Christ's word when we serve in His vineyard and proclaim the Gospel to the lost.

PROMISE: "The Lamb...will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water." (Rev 7:17)

WORD: Acts 13:14, 43-52/ Ps 100:1-3, 5/ Rv 7:9, 14-17/ Jn 10:27-30

ORDER:

- "Be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth (Acts 13:47)
- "Know that the Lord is God." (Ps 100:3)
- "Hear my voice." (Jn 10:27)

DIRECTIONS:

- Read the Holy Scriptures daily..
- Lead a prayerful life to hear His voice.
- Avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Be a good witness.



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 19, Issue 19

<http://bldtrenton.com>

May 10, 2019

The Good Shepherd

REFLECTION: The Gospel and the second reading from the book of Revelation promise us of the Good Shepherd who will lead us to life giving waters. Our Good Shepherd, our Lord and Savior sacrificed His life on the cross for the redemption of our sins. We all should be grateful that our heavenly Father has provided us the Good Shepherd to lead the flock to His glory. We should also be grateful for the opportunity to bring the lost sheep of the flock back into the fold. Let us not ignore this responsibility to all our brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us not squander this opportunity to bring home the lost sheep. We are all called by our Good Shepherd to bring our lost brothers and sisters back into His Holy Body, the Church.

Most of us have heard the Shepherd's voice. We have heard His gentle voice in the many moments of our lives growing in His grace and learning His Word. In the stillness during our baptism in the Spirit at LSS, in the quiet of Adoration and prayers, we hear the Shepherd's voice; we clearly hear His calls and instructions. But why do we drown out

His voice with all our worldly distractions and misguided priorities? How often do we ignore these calls, His calls to do His works and to follow His will, instead of following our own voice and will. Why do we do these things, why do we ignore His callings and instructions? Is it our pride, our selfishness, our arrogance? Probably, all of the above.



Sheep are fairly intelligent creatures contrary to what most of us think of them. They know and follow the shepherd's voice because they know he leads them to greener pastures and water to sustain the flock. They know that following the shepherd, will keep them all safe and well fed, very much like here at BLD. Young lambs initially do not hear or recognize the shepherd's voice. Only through the flock do they learn to recognize and hear His voice. It is the sheep's responsibility to teach these lambs to hear and recognize the Shepherd's voice.

Most of us have been in this community for sometime now and can consider ourselves sheep. But why do we not act like sheep? Why do we not listen or follow our

Shepherd—See Page 2

FUN FACTS OF OUR FAITH

Flores de Mayo

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary is considered intrinsic to Christian worship. In the Philippines, among the different forms of this devotion is a flower festival called the *Flores de Mayo*. The Spanish missionaries brought it to the country after the dogma of the Immaculate Conception was established in 1854. Held every afternoon during the month of May, it consists of basic instruction on Catholic doctrines, novena prayers and offering of flowers before the image of the Virgin Mary accompanied by the singing of children. The festival is capped off by the *Santacruzán*, a religious-historical pageant that depicts the finding of the Holy Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ by Queen Helena, the mother of Constantine, the Roman emperor who ended the persecution of Christians. Queen Helena had made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in the year 326 to seek the Holy Cross which Constantine previously dreamed about.

The *Santacruzán* procession features beautiful women, called *Sagalas*, portraying biblical and historical characters. The *Reyna Elena* or *Emperatriz* is crowned and walks with a young boy as consort. They symbolize Queen Helena and Constantine.



Santacruzán
Saturday, May 18, 2019
@ 2 P.M.

Saint Luke's Church
Toms River, NJ

Experience this beautiful
Filipino tradition in honor
of the Blessed Mother

Presented by :
FCDC & FACES of
Ocean County

Teaching Schedule

May 11	- ME 19	- Christian Discipline Christian Community
May 18	- ME 20	- Road to Emmaus Jesus in the Old Testament
Jun 8	- ME 18 - ME 19	- Shepherds Training 2 - Christian Service & Christian Discernment
Jun 22	- ME 20	- Making of the Gospels, Matthew & Mark

God's Blessings

Birthday

Sheryll Dela Cruz	5/10	Manny Crisol	5/13
Tottie Felibrico	5/12	Ester Tambor	5/13
Nestor Tambor	5/12	Mary Gay Reodica	5/16

Anniversary

Jeff & Gina Sarmiento	5/13
Edgar & Sherry Arabit	5/15
Forting & Libring Yambao	5/16

Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors & Proclaimers

Eric & Anika Tan, Nestor & Chat Conde, Maryann Arias,
Manny & Evelyn Palacios, Al & Judy Guerrero

Marshalls

May 10	- Morris Teves Antonio Juarez
May 17	- Manny Rodriguez Gil Ocena

The Lord's Provision May 3, 2019

Tithes: \$345.00
Love Offering: \$332.10

*Thank You
For Your Generosity*

Save the Date

May 11	: "Let's Bowl!" (4 PM -6 PM)
Venue	: Playdrome, Toms River, NJ
May 24	: 24th NJ Catholic Youth Rally
Venue	: Six Flags Great Adventure Jackson, NJ
Jun 29	: "Summer to Remember"
Venue	: Jumping Brook Country Club Neptune, NJ

We are the sheep of His flock.

Doubt and Faith

Excerpt from the book, *"Anna and the Exodus Moon & Other Stories"*

by: Gene P. Del Carmen

(Continued from previous issue)

Maryann and Albert are a married couple in their early forties. Maryann is a registered nurse and studying for her master's degree in nursing. Albert is an accountant. Both are very smart, very energetic, and very devout members of their Baptist church. About two years ago, Albert was diagnosed with ALS, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease (named after the New York Yankees' first baseman), a disease that afflicts 350,000 people a year worldwide. With ALS, "nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control movement stop functioning. The condition leads to paralysis, and patients cannot breathe or swallow on their own."

Maryann was my assigned nurse when I was at the hospital in 2014. She was a caring, pleasant nurse; she even prayed for my quick recovery. We spoke of our families, and there was no mention of Albert's illness, so I presumed Albert was not yet sick at that time. Last year, I saw them both at a rehab clinic, and Albert was now in a wheelchair. I tried to reach out for a handshake with Albert, and he only smiled. That's when I learned that Albert had ALS. Last Christmas,

we Filipinos in this area set up a fundraiser for Albert.

I met Maryann again at a food store in May 2018. I expected her to be showing signs of stress from juggling hospital work, family life, grad school, and caring for her sick husband. It was at this chance meeting that I witnessed the genuine love they have for each other and the unyielding dedication they have for their God. She did not look tired, or worried, or burdened. She had an assured, radiating smile all through our conversation. "I draw strength and direction from God," she revealed to me. "We know that it is God's divine will that Albert got sick, and all of us in our family are now stronger and more faithful to God because of it." This is the statement that prompted me to write this essay. I know of other good friends who have questioned God due to some life tragedies, thinking that God has been unfair to them, and have eventually abandoned their faith.

Rabbi Harold S. Kushner wrote in his book . bad things happen. We find life's disasters upsetting not only because they are painful but because they are exceptional."22 He went on to say that most people wake up on most days feeling good, most illnesses are curable, most airplanes take off and land safely, and most of the time, when we send our children out to play, they come home safe. The accident, the robbery, the inoperable tumor are life shattering exceptions, but they are very rare exceptions.

(To be continued)

Shepherd - Continued from Page 1

Shepherd's call? You all have probably heard of the phrase, "It's like herding cats" from one of those Super Bowl commercials a few years ago. Yes, we all sometimes act like cats, oblivious of the Shepherd's calling and commands. Going through life doing our own thing, our own pursuits, our own

agenda. For us to be leading lambs and the lost to the flock, we all need to recommit our lives to His calling and will. We all need to be leading the lambs to the Good Shepherd and teaching them to hear His voice. We cannot be effective with leading them to the Shepherd if we ourselves are lost, not heeding His voice and calling. To lead the lost back into the flock, we all need to be

obedient and consistent in our lives that follow closely to our Good Shepherd. Yes, obedient and consistent, not only when it's convenient, not only when we feel like it. Being obedient and consistent is when we follow His will and calling even when it is inconvenient, when we sacrifice our lives to do His will. It is no longer I that lives, but Christ lives in me.



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME: We are faithful to Christ's word when we love one another as He has loved us.

PROMISE: "He will wipe every tear from their eyes...I make all things new." (Rv 21:4-5)

WORD: Acts 14:21-27/ Ps 145:8-13/ Rv 21:1-5/ Jn 13:31-33, 34-35

ORDER:

- "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." (Jn 13:34)
- "Persevere in faith." (Acts 14:22)

DIRECTIONS:

- Love unconditionally.
- Be kind, patient, gracious, merciful and slow to anger. Be good to all and compassionate to all His works.
- Be prayerful.
- Trust in God when facing difficulties.

Be More Like Jesus

REFLECTION: During the last supper, Jesus Christ said to his disciples: "I give you a new commandment: love one another, as I have loved you, so you also should love one another," (Jn 13:34). To love others the way Jesus loves us is more challenging because it means giving of ourselves which, by our own human nature, goes against common sense, especially the sacrificial love that Jesus had given us. Self-giving which is selfishness in reverse is quite a tough act to follow.

However, love is more than just a simple warm feeling. It is an emotion that

manifests itself in action. If you talk the talk you should also walk the walk, so to speak. As Matthew said, every idle word that men shall speak they shall give account in the day of judgment. Something we have to think about and follow sincerely. For Christ Jesus, love did not mean a sweet sentimental feeling; it meant action, putting your words into deeds.

But how can we love others the way Jesus loves us? We can do it in so many ways such as helping others when it's not

convenient, by giving when it hurts. The Catechism of the Catholic Church emphasized that "charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for His own sake, and our neighbors as ourselves for the love of God." Another way is by devoting energy for the welfare of others rather than our own. Paul and



Barnabas in spite of the dangers they faced travelling in hostile environment believed that they have the responsibility to encourage new believers no matter how dangerous, inconvenient or uncomfortable the task may seem. Did they do this for the

love of God? Of course! But they also did this for the love of God's children.

We too are called to practice love and share the gospel to the lost. We can't walk by on the other side of the road; we have to meet needs wherever and whenever we can. We are his disciples with difficult challenges. To know that we are true disciples of Christ we have to love others unconditionally but sometimes we lost the true meaning of how truly to be a disciple because of pride and selfish love. It is by

Like Jesus—See Page 2

Know Your Saints

Saint Isidore: Patron of Farmers

Born in Madrid, Spain in 1070, Isidore was a farm worker in the employ of a wealthy landowner for the greater part of his life until his death in 1130. He married a very religious woman named Maria Torribia (also known as Maria de la Cabeza) who also became a saint. They had one son who died unexpectedly as a child. Their grief inclined them to believe their son's death to be a sign from God and consequently, they vowed to live a life of perfect continence.

Isidore frequented Holy Mass every morning but often reported to work late. Late, though he was, his plowing was nevertheless accomplished by angels that resulted in three times more productivity. His coworkers and his boss witnessed such miraculous events and accorded Isidore with great respect.

St. Isidore was canonized in 1622 along with four very notable Spanish saints. The group, known as "the five saints", included St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Francis Xavier, St. Phillip Neri, and St. Isidore. His body has been found incorrupt. His memorial is celebrated on May 15th on the Roman Calendar. In 1947, he was proclaimed the patron of the National Rural Conference in the United States.



Teaching Schedule

May 18 - ME 20 - Road to Emmaus
 Jesus in the Old Testament
 Jun 8 - ME 18 - Shepherds Training 2
 - ME 19 - Christian Service &
 Christian Discernment
 Jun 22 - ME 20 - Making of the Gospels,
 Matthew & Mark

Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors & Proclaimers

Nestor & Cecille Vasquez, Nes & Es Tambor, Lino & Yoly Alcasid, Roy & Chinky Rubiato

**God's Blessings
 Birthday**

Irma McCracken	5/18	Tony Mendoza	5/22
Mina Duque	5/17	Andre Apostol	5/24
Charlie Dingerdisse	5/20	Mike Nieveras	5/24
Dennis Zulueta	5/21	Sylvia Duma	5/24

Anniversary

Ronald & Eppie Rebong	5/19
Boylly & Raquel Arriola	5/20
Jeric & Weddy Balmaceda	5/22
Tony & Connie Mendoza	5/22
Jojo & Marlene Legaspi	5/24

Save the Date

May 24 : 24th NJ Catholic Youth Rally
 Venue : Six Flags Great Adventure
 Jackson, NJ
 Jun 29 : "Summer to Remember"
 Venue : Jumping Brook Country Club
 Neptune, NJ
 Aug 10-11 : Marriage Encounter Weekend
 Venue : Murray Grove Center
 Lanoka Harbor, NJ

Marshalls

May 17 - Manny Rodriguez
 Gil Ocena
 May 26 - Popong Arias
 Antonio Juarez

**The Lord's Provision
 May 10, 2019**

Tithes: \$310.00
 Love Offering: \$188.00
**Thank You
 For Your Generosity**



Santacruzian
 Saturday, May 18, 2019
 @ 2 P.M.
 Saint Luke's Church
 Toms River, NJ
*Experience this beautiful
 Filipino tradition in honor
 of the Blessed Mother*
 Presented by :
 FCDC & FACES of
 Ocean County



Applebee's
**SHORT STACKS FOR A
 TALL CAUSE**
 You're invited to a Flipjack Fundraiser breakfast to support
BLD TRENTON SINGLES MINISTRY



APPLEBEE'S® LOCATION:
 Ocean County Mall, 1201 Hoopes
 Ave
 Toms River, New Jersey 08753
 TICKETS: \$10.00
 DATE & TIME:
 Saturday, June 8th, 2019
 8am-10am
 CONTACT: 8484480785
 eric1@arlene@gmail.com



BLD
 What is God's plan in our married life?
 An Invitation to a
**Marriage
 Encounter
 Weekend**
 August 10-11, 2019
 Murray Grove Retreat &
 Renewal Center
 431 Route 9 at Church Lane
 Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734

**PAMS-NJ Foundation
 Annual Monetary Awards**

Given to deserving Filipino-American high school students graduating in 2019 who excel in both academic & extra-curricular activities
 First Place: \$1,000.00
 Second Place: \$750.00
 Third Place: \$500.00

Submit an application with all supporting documents no later than June 20, 2019.
 Application forms are available from **Bert & Cora Velez (ME 16)** on Friday, May 17, 2019 after Praise & Worship.

Doubt and Faith

Excerpt from the book, "Anna and the Exodus Moon & Other Stories"

by: Gene P. Del Carmen

This series will resume next week.

Like Jesus - Continued from Page 1

our loving acts, the acts of service and sacrifice, acts that point to the love of God exemplified by the son that will make us worthy to be called a disciple. Jesus says our Christ-like love will show when we are His disciples/followers. In our BLD community do we see petty bickering, jealousy, or even division among members? Perhaps, but it's not for us to judge. If we wanted to call ourselves true followers or disciples of Christ maybe we should look ourselves in the mirror and do a self-examination. If I am created in the image of God, do I compliment it with my words and actions? Do I

unconditionally love my brothers and sisters in this community and others outside this covenant community? Am I kind, patient, gracious, merciful, and slow to anger? Am I prayerful? Do I trust God when facing difficulties? Do I remember what the Servant King said when I'm being asked to do needed services in the community without reservation? Brothers and sisters in Christ, if all our answers are a resounding yes, then maybe we can call ourselves a loving, obedient, dedicated, sincere and spirit-filled followers of Jesus. On judgment day we have His promise, He will wipe every tear from their eyes...make all things new. (Rv 21:4-5.)

This Sunday's
Counsel



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 19, Issue 21

<http://bldtrenton.com>

May 24, 2019

THEME: We are faithful to Christ's word when we share the peace of God.

PROMISE: *"The Advocate, the Holy Spirit...will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you."* (Jn 14:26)

WORD: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/ Ps 67:2, 3, 5, 6, 8/ Rv 21:10-14/ Jn 14:23-29

ORDER:

- "...keep my word." (Jn 14:23)
- "Do not let your heart be troubled or afraid." (Jn 14:27)
- "Rejoice that I am going to the Father." (Jn 14:28)

DIRECTIONS:

- Love the Lord and invoke the Holy Spirit in everything you do.
- Allow the gifts of the Holy Spirit to manifest in you and strive to bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Peace Through Faith

REFLECTION: The peace of God encompasses everything that Christ has taught us, it's not just a peaceful thought or feeling. Therefore the Holy Spirit, the "Advocate", was sent to teach and remind us in times of crises when we forget what Christ has taught us. "Rejoice that I am going to the Father". How ironic is that, Christ has to leave us in order to be us.



The peace of God is not just the absence of war, pain or suffering but it comes from knowing and trusting God; that in the end God will prevail. The Peace of God begins within ourselves; we cannot share something we don't have. It has nothing to do with how we feel or the surrounding circumstances. That is why it's the "peace" that the world cannot give and cannot understand.

Following Christ does not mean we'll get rid of our problems, but it allows us to deal with our problems a little better. Our Gospel says do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. The Bible mentions it 365 times one for each day of the year. The Bible is not simply saying do not fear but

rather to look past the fear and see the promise of God. It is okay to feel fear as long as we don't base our decisions out of fear. Jesus himself, fully human felt fear and sweat blood at the agony in the garden; but he chose love not fear. The Bible says love cast out all fear. So in our daily lives and in serving our community we base our decisions out of love and not out of fear.

Peace comes through faith in Jesus Christ and is also one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Like a tree it takes time to bear fruit, through several trials, triumphs and failures. Most Christians have no trouble relating "God the Father" and Jesus "God the Son". But have we established a personal relationship with the 3rd person of "The Trinity"? Something we are all guilty of. How can we have a personal relationship with a "bird"? Like a person he can give gifts as he chooses, like person we can sin against him. Our direction says to invoke the Holy Spirit in all our activities. He completes our relationship with the Triune God and puts our faith on fire and prevents us from becoming spiritually dry.

Tending the Flock

Purgatory

What happens to the souls of people who die in a state of grace but are not entirely free from venial sins, or have not fully paid the satisfaction due their transgressions? In *Spe Salvi*, his encyclical letter on Christian Hope, Pope Benedict XVI affirmed that God will purify them in what is called "Purgatory".

The concept of purgatory originates from the Jewish idea of an intermediate state between our death and resurrection. It involves purification and healing which mature the soul for communion with God. The Pontiff stated that "in order to be saved we personally have to pass through 'fire' so as to become fully open to receiving God and able to take our place at the table of the eternal marriage -feast."

The living can assist in this purification process through prayer (2 Macc 12:38-45). "The souls of the departed can "receive 'solace and refreshment' through the Eucharist, prayer, and almsgiving." The Pope recognized the basic Christian conviction that "love can reach into the afterlife, that reciprocal giving and receiving is possible, in which our affection for one another continues beyond the limits of death." Purgatory gives us the chance to love someone even beyond their grave.

As Pope Benedict XVI said, "it is never too late to touch the heart of another, nor is it ever in vain."



Teaching Schedule

Jun 8 - ME 18 - Shepherds Training 2
 - ME 19 - Christian Service & Christian Discernment
 Jun 22 - ME 20 - Making of the Gospels, Matthew & Mark

Save the Date

Jun 29 : "Summer to Remember"
 Venue : Jumping Brook Country Club Neptune, NJ
 Jul 5-7 : Family Encounter Executive Suites Carteret, NJ
 Aug 10-11 : Marriage Encounter Venue : Murray Grove Center Lanoka Harbor, NJ

God's Blessings Birthday

Grace Gallofin	5/25	Lolit Manuel	5/27
Wendell Lumapas	5/26	Jay Edralin	5/29
Linda Mabutas	5/27	Cita Villaluz	5/29

Renato Madarang 5/30

Anniversary

Bob & Lalaine Academia	5/25
Jojo & Ino Dominguez	5/25
Rene & Remy Odon	5/25
Eric & Dritz Mance	5/28
Gene & Leleng Del Carmen	5/29
Rizal & Linda Mijares	5/29
Fr. Paul Lehman	5/29
Mike & Jing Nieveras	5/29

Peace be with you.

The Lord's Provision

May 17, 2019

Tithes: \$265.00
 Love Offering: \$229.00

Thank You For Your Generosity

Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors & Proclaimers

David & Liberty Baliscao, Joel & Estela Bermudo, Bert & Cora Velez, Dan & Jean Catarata

Marshalls

May 24 - Popong Arias Antonio Juarez
 May 31 - Keith Rodriguez Dan Wong



Applebee's
SHORT STACKS FOR A TALL CAUSE

You're invited to a Flapjack Fundraiser breakfast to support BLD TRENTON SINGLES MINISTRY



APPLEBEE'S® LOCATION:
 Ocean County Mall, 1201 Hooper Ave
 Toms River, New Jersey 08753

TICKETS: \$10.00

DATE & TIME:
 Saturday, June 8th, 2019
 8am-10am

CONTACT: 8484480785
 eric10ariene@gmail.com



BLD
 Blessed Lives as One
 A Covenant Community
 Rehearsal of Heaven

What is God's plan in our married life?

An Invitation to a
Marriage Encounter Weekend

August 10-11, 2019
 Murray Grove Retreat & Renewal Center

431 Route 9 at Church Lane
 Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734

Doubt and Faith

Excerpt from the book, "Anna and the Exodus Moon & Other Stories"

by: Gene P. Del Carmen

(Continued from previous issue)

In the same book, Rabbi Kushner gave us a prayer written by a Jewish theologian. For me, this is the best prayer explanation of the unlimited, yet "limited," power of God.

"We cannot merely pray to You O God to end war, for You have made the world in a way that man must find his path to peace within himself and with his neighbor. We cannot merely pray to You O God to end starvation, for You have already given us the resources with which to feed the entire world, if we would only use them wisely. We

cannot merely pray to You O God to root out prejudice, for You have already given us the eyes with which to see the good in all men, if we would only use them rightly. We cannot merely pray to You O God to end despair, for You have already given us the power to clear slums and give hope, if we would only use our power justly. We cannot merely pray to You O God to end disease, for You have already given us great minds with which to search out cures and healing, if we would only use them constructively. Therefore we pray to You instead, O God, for strength, determination, and will-

power, to do, instead of just praying, to become, instead of merely to wish." Jack Riemer, Likrat Shabbat

Rabbi Kushner has had his share of personal tragedies. His fourteen-year-old son, Aaron, died of the "rapid aging" disease called progeria. Despite their lives' painful personal heartbreaks, both Rabbi Kushner and Reverend Welby continue to reflectively preach and write about God's goodness. I hope that with this report, I have done that too.

(To be continued)



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME: Our lives are transformed when we repent, forgive and preach in His Name.

PROMISE: "...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you..." (Acts 1:8a)

WORD: Acts 1:1-11/ Ps 47:2-3,6-9/ Eph 1:17-23/ Lk 24:46-53

ORDER:

- "Repent, forgive and preach in His name." (Lk 24:47)

DIRECTIONS:

- Reconcile with our brothers and sisters in Christ and avail the sacrament of reconciliation on a regular basis.
- Receive and celebrate the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist as often as possible.
- Be a good witness of our faith in God.
- Give praise and honor to God by attending praise and worship.

Awaiting The Holy Spirit

REFLECTION: Have you experienced being beside a loved one who's dying, listening to them as they utter their last words? Some of us whose loved ones already passed away could only hope that we were beside them to hear them before they drew their last breath.



In today's readings, before Jesus was taken up to heaven, He relayed his last instructions to his disciples. He told his disciples to continue his earthly ministry to repent, forgive and preach in his name. We know that goodbyes are hard but Jesus' instructions for the disciples must be harder knowing that he would no longer be on their side.

But Jesus also told the disciples, "And behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

The Ascension of the Lord tells us that as soon as Jesus ascended into heaven, and was seated at the right hand of the Father, the promise of the Holy Spirit became a reality for the disciples. The Holy Spirit became their source of Heavenly power for them to bear witness to him by their lives and to preach throughout the world.

With Jesus' promise and blessing, the

disciples became hopeful. Instead of being sad and discouraged, the disciples "returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and paid him homage and continually sang praises to him."

What does all of this mean for us today? This means that like the disciples, we as believers are called to praise Jesus for He did not really abandon us. He will be with us always through the promise of the Holy Spirit of God, who comes to live and to work through us. And that's just a great reason for rejoicing!

We believe that God's call to repent, forgive and preach in His Name becomes easier when we have this hopeful and grateful attitude in the power of the Holy Spirit and therefore, we must always believe and await in the spirit in praising. God's call to repent is sometimes difficult especially for those who are struggling with their faith. Some of us might feel ashamed because we keep on sinning. We might go to confession but there's a frustration that we say the same things over and over again. As a result, we may also feel unworthy in accepting ministry work. Some might feel ashamed to go to our Friday Praise and Worship or to attend a

Holy Spirit—See Page 2

FUN FACTS OF OUR FAITH

The Scapular Medal

Medals and scapulars are some of the many sacramentals in the Catholic Church. A sacramental is anything set apart or blessed by the church to excite good thoughts and to help devotion. Through the prayers of the church offered for those who make use of these sacramentals, they convey and obtain God's grace and blessings.



Scapulars and medals bearing images of saints have been part of Catholic devotion since the early Church. Laypeople have used small scapulars, like the brown scapular—two small squares of brown cloth, one worn on the chest and the other on the back, joined by strings or ribbons, as a way to share in the monastic life. In 1910, Pope St. Pius X introduced a Scapular Medal to substitute for any of the various scapulars. This medal has an image of Our Most Holy Redeemer, Jesus Christ, showing His Sacred Heart, and the obverse that of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary.

It is said that the Scapular Medal is, in a sense, our "Catholic Dog Tag." The Brown Scapular, revealed to St. Simon Stock in 1251, was a way for us, upon our death, to be identified as a child of God. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel said, "This will be the sign of the privilege that I have obtained for thee and for the children of Carmel; whoever dies clothed with this habit will be preserved from the eternal flames."

Teaching Schedule

TBD - ME 18 - Shepherds Training 2
 - ME 19 - Christian Service & Christian Discernment
 Jun 22 - ME 20 - Making of the Gospels, Matthew & Mark

Save the Date

Jun 29 : "Summer to Remember"
 Venue : Jumping Brook Country Club
 Neptune, NJ
 Jul 5-7 : Family Encounter
 Venue : Executive Suites
 Carteret, NJ
 Aug 10-11 : Marriage Encounter
 Venue : Murray Grove Center
 Lanoka Harbor, NJ

Marshalls

May 31 - Keith Rodriguez & Dan Wong
 Jun 7 - Roy Rubiato & George Pe

The Lord's Provision
 May 24, 2019

Tithes: \$255.00
 Love Offering:
 \$193.00

*Thank You
 For Your Generosity*

Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.



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APPLEBEE'S LOCATION:
 Ocean County Mall, 1201 Hoopes Ave.
 Toms River, New Jersey 08753

TICKETS: \$10.00

DATE & TIME:
 Saturday, June 29th, 2019
 8am-10am

CONTACT: 9484489785
 etic19@erlene@gmail.com

God's Blessings

Birthday

Rolly Pascua	5/31	Ernie Doropan	6/5
Art Monta	6/1	Ramon Cuasay	6/6
Connie Cipriaso	6/2	Fr. Tito Ignacio	6/6
Toto Lemon	6/2	Kevin Palencia	6/6
Lenny Palao	6/5	Ronald Rebong	6/6

Anniversary

Hector & Anna Zayas	6/2
Chito & Aileen Ciocon	6/3
Jomar & Teena Janolo	6/3
Eric & Arlene Tan	6/5

Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors & Proclaimers

Gianna Sarmiento & Elizabeth Paderon, Estela Bermudo, Manny & Evelyn Palacios, Toti & Inna Lukban, Leo & Nonette Duarte



BLD
 Bahay Laskal ng Diyos
 A Christal Community
 Affiliates of Trinity

What is God's plan in our married life?

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Holy Spirit - Continued from Page 1

mass.
 Some of us may fail to treat our brothers and sisters with respect and love, when we become all-knowing and proud. We should humble ourselves and acknowledge our mistakes. We can avail of the Sacrament of Confession and believe in its power to transform us.
 Through our praise and worship, we can also lift up to the Lord all our concerns, the guilt, the doubts and fears. If we are sincere in our intention to change, we believe that God's Spirit of wisdom will bring us humility to be repentant of our sins. God's call to forgive is another challenging message. Some of us might still have some baggage from our past that we still carry in our hearts, the unforgiveness that's blocking us to truly serve him.
 In our community, we might have hurts when harsh words are spoken or when disagreements happen as we constantly deal with our brothers and sisters during our

ministry work. Our tendency is to run away and stop attending the Praise and Worship because it sounds like the most convenient thing to do. If we still have those hurts today, we have to surrender everything to our ascended God, asking Him to open up our hearts and let that Spirit of Peace melt the pain.
 Lastly, Lord Jesus' call to preach in His name is a tough one. While the common notion of preaching is publicly speaking, which is tough in itself, the more challenging thought really is how we preach in Jesus' name by witnessing through our actions.
 Our attitude in life will reflect how much Jesus means to us. Our actions will speak how much He and His spirit has impacted our lives. We must therefore glorify God through our deeds.
 Some of us tend to forget to pray and praise God when everything goes smoothly when in fact, we should exalt him even more in thanksgiving for all the blessings

He has given us. We should remind ourselves of all the things that He has done in our lives, especially through this community. Through the Spirit, we can raise up to God how we can have the courage to share our blessings through evangelization. We have to ask God to guide us on how we can reach other people to invite them to join our community through our encounters.
 Foremost to our relationship with God is to love him. As we celebrate the Ascension, we should express our honor and adoration to God. We must continue to lift up our hands, sing hallelujah and praises for the more we do this, the more we know Him and the better we understand His ways and the Spirit that he promised.
 In the end, our goal is to follow His ways and what he commanded us, to change our ways and be transformed because after all, who wouldn't want to be with Him in the eternal Heavenly Kingdom that He prepared for us?