



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We obey God's commandment of love when we persevere in our faith.

PROMISE:

"I will console and guide them, I will lead them...so that none shall stumble." (Jer 31:9a)

WORD:

Jer 31:7-9/ Ps 126:1-6/ Heb 5:1-6/ Mk 10:46-52

ORDER:

- *Go your way; your faith has saved you.* (Mk 10:52a)
- *Take courage; get up.* (Mk 10:49b)

DIRECTIONS:

- Persevere in your faith by following Jesus and serving Him.
- Seek and desire Jesus in your life.
- Increase your faith through prayer and reading of the Scriptures.

Healing Our Blindness

REFLECTION: Narrated in the gospels of Mark (10:46-52), Matthew (9:27-31) and Luke (18:35-43), the story of the healing of the blind man, Bartimaeus, is of significant inspiration. The story manifests that Jesus is acknowledged as the Messiah because of the many miracles He has done.



When Jesus passed by, the blind man cried out in desperation, but with a vague cry for mercy, *"Son of David, have mercy on me!"* (Mk 10:48b). In reality, the blind man wanted something more specific than mercy. As Jesus called him, Bartimaeus threw his cloak aside signifying that he wanted to present himself openly, body and soul, in complete surrender to Jesus with an expectant faith that he will be healed from his blindness. When asked by Jesus what he wanted, he specifically answered he wanted to be cured of his blindness. After receiving his sight, he became a follower of Jesus.

Sinfulness is our spiritual blindness which we "cry out" to God for healing. He gives mercy to those who recognize their need for his forgiveness and healing.

However, God wants to strengthen us from our weaknesses by changing and transforming our lives, and faith is the key to this transformation. Faith is the foundation of our relationship with the Lord. We must be able to walk by faith and not by sight.

Faith opens the way for us to see the love of God and to experience his healing presence in our lives. Faith is a gift freely given by God to help us know Him personally, to understand His truth, and to experience His unconditional love. For faith to be effective it must be accompanied with trust and obedience – an active submission to God and a willingness to do whatever He commands. Jesus wants us to live in the confident expectation that He will fulfill His promises and bring us into the fullness of His kingdom, a kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Like any other virtue, we need to develop a strong and persevering faith. To possess true faith, we should read and

Blindness- See Page 2

Tending the Flock

All Hail, O Light!

The commandment of the Lord shines clearly, enlightening the eyes. Receive Christ, receive power to see, receive your light, that you may plainly recognize both God and man. More delightful than gold and precious stones, more desirable than honey and the honeycomb is the Word that has enlightened us (Ps 19:10). How could he not be desirable, who illumined minds buried in darkness, and endowed with clear vision *'the light-bearing eyes'* of the soul? ... Sing his praises, then, Lord, and make known to me your Father, who is God. Your Word will save me, your song instruct me. I have gone astray in my search for God; but now that you light my path, Lord, I find God through you, and receive the Father from you, I become co-heir with you, since you were not ashamed to own me as your brother. Let us, then, shake off forgetfulness of truth, shake off the mist of ignorance and darkness that dims our eyes, and contemplate the true God, after first raising this song of praise to him: *'All hail, O light!'* For upon us buried in darkness, imprisoned in the shadow of death, a heavenly light has shone, a light of a clarity surpassing the sun's, and of a sweetness exceeding any this earthly life can offer.

~ Clement of Alexandria, 150-215 A.D.

Last Week's Prophecy

I called you to this community to evangelize. This mission demands suffering, lots of sacrifices, even drink from My cup of bitterness. Be ready then to be always the servant of all.



Paypal Monthly Totals

June 2021	\$174.24
July 2021	\$145.20
August 2021	\$168.83
September 2021	\$388.10

The Lord's Provision

October 15, 2021
 Tithes : \$2,160.00
 Love Offer : \$ 60.00
Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Angelique Gumabon	10/22	Mike Chua	10/24
Sonny Adame	10/23	Raffy Perez	10/24
Mae Alberto	10/23	Romy Durante	10/26
Vange Hermsen	10/23	Jedy Bustamante	10/27
Kate Ilagan	10/23	Eugene Yosuido	10/28

Anniversary

Morris & Emma Teves	10/23
Paul & Vange Hermsen	10/24
Janis & Arlene Carvajal	10/25
Bobby & Kate Ilagan	10/26
Robert & Agnes Raymundo	10/26
Raffy & Jo Perez	10/27
Elner & Marichille Jamolod	10/28

I am filled with joy, Lord, for you have done great things for me.

Blindness - Cont'd from Page 1

ponder on God's words, have a regular prayer time and seek to recognize God's commandments in all the people, events, and things that we encounter every day. It is also the kind of faith which can sustain a heart of reverence for and submission to God in every challenging situation, whether encounter-

ing illness and disasters, hardships and persecution, setbacks and failures. We must be able to seek the truth, understand God's will, decide according to His words, and continue to be devoted to Him.

If we persevere in our faith, we will be able to stay on the path leading us to the kingdom of God,

living a strong relationship with Him and loving others out of the abundance of love we have received from Him. This is God's promise to those who possess a persevering faith in Him: *"I will console and guide them, I will lead them... so that none shall stumble."* (Jer 31:9a)

Adapted from www.bldworld.org



Closeness

Do not forget that you have been *"taken from the flock"*, not as a member of an elite that has studied, that has many qualifications and who must be a bishop. No, by the flock. Please, do not forget these four forms of closeness: closeness to God in prayer, closeness to bishops in the episcopal body, closeness to priests, and closeness to the flock. May the Lord let you grow on this path of closeness, so that you will better imitate the Lord, because he has always been and is near to us, and with his closeness that is compassionate and tender he leads us forward. And may Our Lady keep you.

~ Pope Francis

2021 Anniversary Blessing Mass

Eleven members of BLD-Trenton, led by Mission Apostolate/Diocesan Ministry, cheerfully served at the 2021 Anniversary Blessing Mass last Sunday, the 10th of October at St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral, Freehold. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop David M.



O'Connell and celebrated by several other priests including our very own Spiritual Director Fr. Mark Nillo. The bishop warmly inspired everyone's hearts, intermittently injecting humor in his homily from the start with a song from Foreigner saying *"I wanna know what love is?"*. Then, he affirmed *"Certainly you showed me!"*. Truly, the almost

packed church, with lovely couples celebrating together their 1st, 25th, 50th & plus years, and even 70 years of togetherness, was such an inspiring sight of witnessing the credible steadfast love of one another reflecting God's love. The bishop beautifully correlated the Scripture message of the day that



speaks of the rich man's quest of belonging to the Kingdom of God which, each married couple fulfills for each other, for the community and graciously to God .

Bishop O'Connell encouraged the couples to use the Mass as a time to pray for one another, their spouses and young people who are preparing to enter marriage that they may have the *"courage, commitment and fidelity that they have had in their married*

life." Now, feeling grateful & blessed for the opportunity to serve, I gained an awesome and better understanding of the significance & meaning of my parents' celebration of their Golden wedding anniversary fifteen years ago. I pray then, to strive to be a true witness of God's limitless love beyond my own future Golden wedding anniversary.

