Volume 26, Issue 19 **Bukas Loob Sa Diyos** May 8, 2026
Diocese of Trenton
Community News
http://bldtrenton.com

"And now these three remain: Faith, Hope and Love, but the greatest of these is LOVE" 1 Corinthians 13:13

THIS SUNDAY'S COUNSEL

Sixth Sunday of Easter

THEME:
We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to love Jesus by keeping His commandments.

PROMISE:
"Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him." (Jn 14:21)

WORD:
Acts 8:5-8,14-17/ Ps 66:1-7, 14, 20/ 1Pt 3:15-18 / Jn1 4:15-21

ORDER:
1. *"Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts."* (1 Peter 3:15)
2. *"Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope."* (1Peter 3:15)
3. *"Shout joyfully to God, all the earth, sing praise to the glory of his name; proclaim his glorious praise."* (Ps 66:2)

DIRECTIONS:
1. Enthusiastically proclaim how the Holy Spirit guides your path and daily walk with Christ.
2. Take to heart Jesus' Great Commission of making disciples of all nations.
3. Faith is not a private matter, share it.

KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS

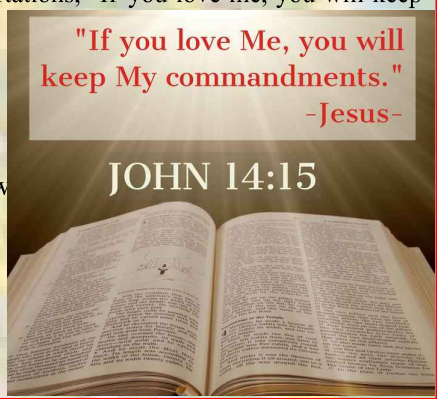
This Sunday we will be celebrating the Sixth Sunday of Easter in which we are invited to reflect on Jesus' promise to His disciples of the coming of the Holy Spirit after His departure. The readings focus on the continuation of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. His promise will serve as a bridge between the joy of Resurrection and the anticipation of Pentecost. In the 1st reading, Philip goes to Samaria and preaches the word of God to the people, performing many miraculous signs and healings, which resulted in many people believing and being baptized. Peter and John arrived in Samaria and prayed for the new believers, laying their hands on them, as they received the Holy Spirit. This was the very first documented sacrament of Confirmation. In the 2nd reading, Peter instructs the

PSALM: **Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

believers to always be ready to give a defense of their faith with gentleness and respect, even in the face of persecution. He then reminds them of the example of Christ, who suffered and died for our sins. Finally, in the Gospel, Jesus promises his disciples that if they love Him, they will keep His commandments. He will then ask the Father to send them the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to be with them.

"And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him." (Jn 14: 21). This is Jesus' Promise to us tonight and it is one of His last words to His disciples at the conclusion of the Last Supper Discourse. He promised the coming of the Advocate in His stead. Every word, every sentence He uttered was measured and deliberate because this was the legacy that He wanted to be remembered by. The love that He mentioned does not describe just any ordinary love, but translates from Greek as supreme love. The washing of the feet type of love. The sacrificial type of love. The dying on the cross type of love. That is what Jesus wanted His disciples to remember Him by. That is also the type of love that He wanted his disciples to show one another. That is what He is asking of us when He instructs us in the Theme: We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to love Jesus by keeping His commandments. What exactly is Jesus' commandment all about? Well, tonight, let us attempt to answer that question. Since the Gospel reading is about Jesus' impending departure from this world and how He will be remembered through the Advocate, the question I pose to you tonight is a correlation to the initial question of Jesus' commandment… when it is your turn to give your Farewell Discourse to your family and close friends, what is the legacy that you would like to leave? In other words, how would you like to be remembered in your eulogy?

In this week's Gospel. Jesus promises the coming of the Advocate after His departure. In the first part of the discourse, Jesus, felt his disciples' anxiety and fear over His impending suffering and death. He exhorted them to find comfort, firstly, through their faith in God. Secondly, He told them that He was going to his Father's House to prepare a place for each of them. Thirdly, He advised them not to be sad and to trust Him because "He is in the Father, and the Father is in Him, and they are in Him". Jesus and His Father are one. And finally, He encouraged them to believe in Him so that they would be able to do the same works that He did, and in fact, would be able to do "greater" works than Himself. He further exhortations, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." This commandment entails loving others by serving, sharing, forgiving, and caring as Jesus had shown them. Their love for one another must be such that others may come to know Jesus through their actions. Jesus tells His disciples, "You will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you." Jesus and His Father are One. Jesus' first words when He was found in the temple was, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And His last words spoken at the cross, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" This is what happens when we partake of the Eucharist. We are united in Christ. Our lives are blessed, broken, and shared. Let us prepare for Pentecost by abiding to the theme of keeping His commandments and by so doing, Jesus will love us and continue revealing Himself to us through the Holy Spirit.



The Lord's Provision

May 1, 2026

TITHES:	$ 605
LOVE OFFERING:	$ 643
PAYPAL OFFERING:	$ 172

Thank you for your generosity

Online Giving

You can now send your Tithes and Love Offerings via Paypal. Donate link can be found at www.bldrenton.com

Or mail check to:

BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 1367
Toms River, NJ 08754

God's Blessing's

Annivesary

"So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." Matthew 19:6

Erwin & Grace Bustamante	May 9
Jeff & Gina Sarmiento	May 13

Birthday

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you" Jeremiah 1:5

Tina King	May 9
George Pe	May 9
Glenn Ramos	May 9
Sheryll Dela Cruz	May 10
Letty Butay	May 12
Tottie Felibrico	May 12
Drei Pascual	May 12
Manny Crisol	May 13
Ester Tambor	May 13

Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's Visit	Tess Corso	732-604-1914
For Prayer Service	Mary Anne Arias	732-688-3962

Send Prayer Request To:

www.bldtrenton.com/intercessory

In Christ Jesus,
we welcome you all to join us every Friday

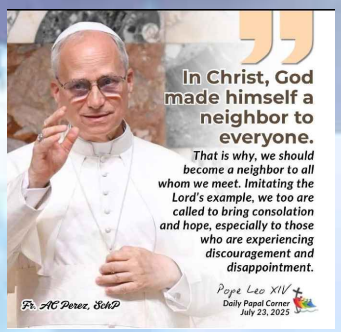
Healing Mass

1st Friday of the month at 8:15 p.m.

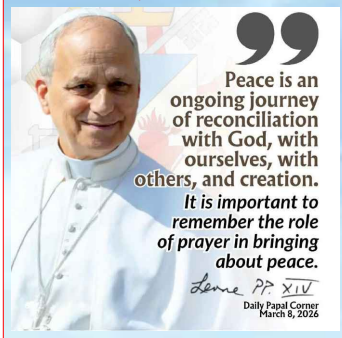
Praise and Worship

2nd, 3rd, 4th (& 5th) Friday of the month at 8:15 p.m.

"He passed through death to give us life and peace: 'I leave you peace; I give you my peace. Not as the world gives it, I give it to you'. The peace that Jesus gives us is not merely the silence of weapons, but the peace that touches and transforms the heart of each one of us!



HIS WORDS, YOUR JOURNEY TOGETHER



"On the eve of the Master's death, the Apostles, in their bewilderment and distress, wondered how they were to continue to bear witness to the kingdom of God. Jesus then spoke to them of the gift of the Holy Spirit. He made this wonderful promise: 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'"

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER 25 REFLECTION

I thank God for all your blessings that you bestow on my family and I. Thank you for guiding me and allowing me an opportunity to attend ME with my spouse.

The reconcile Mass on Saturday was so beautiful and moving. I asked for God help to show me how to forgive people. Fr. Dodong's homily where Jesus washes the "stinky" feet of the apostles. That we must follow Jesus' example and wash each other "stinky" not "manicured" feet. This image will forever be in my mind as I ask Jesus for His help to emulate Him.

A few other items from the weekend:

- That we must follow Jesus' teaching *"Love one another as I have loved you"* John 13:34
- To ask for forgiveness and to forgive; the part where we make the sign of the cross on our spouse's forehead and to ask for and to give forgiveness brough tears to my eyes.
- Love is a decision is such a powerful idea. As Fr. Dodong said, "bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh", to love and to hold.
- Awareness of God's presence and to put God as the center of our marriage.

Thanking God for Fr. Dodong Pandero's guidance and for his beautiful and memorable homilies, and for our presenters Eugene and Malou Yosuico, Ricky and Rissa Gomes for their gifts of time and personal stories. The sponsoring ME 24 class for all their support. The many uplifting songs from the music ministry and all the BLD members who were praying for us the whole weekend. What an incredible weekend full of love, learning and amazing sharing. My spouse summed up the experiences as "an amazing Marriage Renewal" and I whole heartly agreed. Thank you God and everyone.

May you be ever joyful, particularly as you realize the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life, bestowing upon you the gifts of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit touches our lives in ways which empower us to live out our faith. The gifting by the Spirit is obviously evident in the manner in which believers live their lives. One of the signs of the presence of the Spirit is the joy that a Christian has, even in the midst of trial and hardships. The Holy Spirit continues to inflame the hearts of those who seek the Spirit's presence. They are able to speak and act in a way that shows they are disciples of the Lord Jesus and shares in His mission and ministry.

The Church continues to grow. This is obvious from our readings today. It grows through the preaching of the Gospel, the persecution of believers, the coming of the Holy Spirit. Joyfully praise GOD that the GOoD News is announced and believers come into a closer relationship with GOD.

In the First Reading, as Philip evangelizes the people of Samaria, they come to believe. The constant enemies of the Jews accept the message of the Messiah – the Anointed One – the Christ. They are baptized by Philip after hearing the GOoD News. Peter and John travel to Samaria to continue the initiation of the Samaritans who have accepted the faith in Jesus. The two apostles lay hands upon the believers and pray, and the people are filled with the Holy Spirit. The number of believers continues to grow through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

As a response to the Acts of the Apostles we hear the psalm verse proclaim: "Let all the earth cry out to GOD with joy." As more and more people accept the message of Jesus and are filled with the Holy Spirit (Who gifts people with joy), there is reason to cry out with joy. Joy is a mark of believers.

In the Second Reading, Peter reminds the Christians (those who have been "anointed" with Chrism and are linked with the Christ), that they should live lives of joy even in the midst of trial and persecution. If they are called upon to suffer for being anointed by the Anointed One (Christ), then they should do so with a clear conscience, without bad mouthing their persecutors. For as Peter says, "it is better to suffer for doing GOoD, if that is what GOD wills, rather than for doing evil."

Jesus, in our Gospel, reminds His disciples that just as He has come to instruct and teach His followers, another "Paraclete" will come after He is gone. Paraclete means "advocate" or "instructor." Advocates had two roles in ancient times: first, to defend and help those who were facing trial; and second, to instruct their clients in the matters at hand. Jesus was the first Paraclete for His followers. The Holy Spirit is the "other" Paraclete Who will continue to defend, strengthen, help, and instruct those who have been marked by the Spirit.

Thus, it is that we focus on the way in which believers are welcomed into the community of faith and empowered to live their lives in a way that proclaims their role as sharers in the ministry of Jesus, the Prophet, the King, and the Priest. They are gifted and strengthened to give joyful witness to their faith through the continued presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Let us continue to pray, "Come, Holy Spirit. Come to al of us who are called to walk in the Way!"