



BLD Trenton



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We are the salt and light of the earth when we show unconditional love and kindness to everyone.

PROMISE:

"He redeems your life...crowns you with kindness and compassion." (Ps 103: 4)

WORD:

Lv 19: 1-2, 17-19/ Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13/ 1 Cor 3: 16-23/ Mt 5: 38-48

ORDERS:

- *Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy.* (Lv 19: 2)
- *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* (Lv 19: 18)

DIRECTIONS:

- Follow God's commandments with all your heart and mind.
- Let the fruits of the Holy Spirit manifest in your words and deeds.
- Avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis.

Volume 23, Issue 7

<http://bldtrenton.com>

February 17, 2023

Loving The Enemy

REFLECTION:

God's words in Leviticus – *"Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy"* (Lv 19:2) exhorts us to imitate our Lord God rather than the ways of the world.

Though we are still in the world, we should not conform to the standards of this world, but rather let God's power transform us inwardly by earnestly following His commandments and responding to the call to be pure and holy that will benefit our spiritual life.

Jesus appears to constantly shock his disciples because of his radical instructions and commands. In the gospel, he enjoins his disciples to love their enemies and pray for those who persecute them. Even the earlier commandment to love one's neighbor as oneself has always been a challenge to those who are at odds with other people, including their relatives and friends.

The commandment of Jesus to love one's enemies is startling because people have the tendency to cling to their grudges and resentments. Emotional as we are, we know that we cannot do this by our efforts alone.



With God's goodness and grace we can, and we should allow the Lord to work on us. Jesus is inculcating in us that the proper response in our relationship with others should be taken from the nature of our discipleship, not from the wrong done to us.

There is an old adage which says, *"To love a friend is earthly, to love an enemy, divine."* True, because loving an enemy is a command which human nature cannot fulfill without divine grace.

This is what makes a true Christian distinct, our awareness of divine grace, that is, to treat others not as they deserve, but as God wishes them to be treated, with loving-kindness and mercy. God's love embraces both the unjust as well as the just, the saint and sinner alike, *"... for He makes His sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust,"* (Mt.5:45). God seeks our highest good and teaches us to seek the greatest good in others, even those who hate and abuse us. Our love for others, even those who are ungrateful and selfish towards us, must be marked by the

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Tending the Flock


Love Makes Every Difficulty Easy

How can we imitate Jesus? He said: *"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in Heaven"* (Mt 5:44-45). Anyone who welcomes the Lord into his life and loves him with all his heart is capable of a new beginning. He succeeds in doing God's will: to bring about a new form of existence enlivened by love and destined for eternity.

The Apostle Paul added: *"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"* (I Cor 3:16). If we are truly aware of this reality and our life is profoundly shaped by it, then our witness becomes clear, eloquent and effective. A medieval author wrote: *"When the whole of man's being is, so to speak, mingled with God's love, the splendor of his soul is also reflected in his external aspect"* (John Climacus, The Ladder of Divine Ascent, XXX: PG 88, 1157 B), in the totality of life.


"Love is an excellent thing," we read in the book the Imitation of Christ. *"It makes every difficulty easy, and bears all wrongs with equanimity.... Love tends upward; it will not be held down by anything low... love is born of God and cannot rest except in God"* (III, V, 3).

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Message, February 20, 2011



BLD TRENTON

COMMUNITY LENTEN RETREAT



St Mary, Mother of God Church
39 Cherry Tree Farm Rd
Middletown, NJ 07728

Spiritual Director
Fr. Mark Nillo

February 25, 2023
11am - 3pm

General Assembly to follow after the Retreat

For further inquiries, pls email: coadit@diaphanie.net, sm-daguen.4@gmail.com, mpadren2@gmail.com

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 10, 2023

Tithe :\$500.00
Love Offering :\$154.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

| | | | |
|---------------------|------|------------------|------|
| Faye Juezan | 2/17 | Arwin David | 2/18 |
| Grace Mantes | 2/17 | Al Guerrero | 2/19 |
| Robin Rae Touchette | 2/17 | David Baliscao | 2/20 |
| Steph Antona | 2/17 | Lani Hombrebueno | 2/21 |
| Mike Agustin | 2/18 | John Alberto | 2/23 |
| Fred Poblete | 2/23 | | |

Anniversary

Toy & Malen Juarez 2/22

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

*Pardon me, Lord, of all my iniquities,
redeem my life and heal all my ills.*



Send your prayer requests to:

<https://www.bldtrenton.com/intercessory>

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same kindness and mercy which God has shown to us.

When we pray for those who do us ill, it will break the power of revenge and release the power of love to do good in the face of evil. How can we possibly love those who cause us harm and ill-will? With God all things are possible. He gives power and grace to those who believe and accept the gift of the Holy Spirit. His love conquers all, even our hurts, fears, prejudices and grief. Only the cross of Jesus Christ can free us from the tyranny of malice, hatred, revenge, and the "get-even" kind of "fairness" that tends to occupy our thoughts, and give us the courage to return evil with good. Such love and grace has the power to heal and to save us from self-destruction.

Perhaps it is not so much that we are asked to imitate God's compassion as to be a channel for it. May we be open and free in letting the image of God we were created from be seen and experienced by people around us. Only by receiving the Spirit that Jesus promises us will we be able to witness to his love and peace. God created man in His own image. He gave us His own nature, planting in us a tendency to be holy so we may desire to be with Him in heaven forever. The Father sent His Son to teach us the way to holiness. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to continue His work of guiding us to holiness. Our salvation then is the work of the three Persons of the Holy Trinity.

When will the measure be measured back to us? God's mercy and justice is constant and forever and will come as we deserve. It will be given with our awareness that what we are doing to love others regardless of the circumstances, is what God wants us to do. Then we create in our heart a sense of deep joy and peace, as we claim the promise: *"He redeems your life...crowns you with kindness and compassion."* (Ps 103:4).

Adapted from www.bldworld.org

Last Week's Prophecies



- *My children, you have been given purpose and mission. Follow my will in your daily lives here and now and you will be blessed eternally.*
- *My children learn from me. I am meek and humble of hearts. Submit your will to the will of the Father.*
- *My children continue to serve me, only in serving me that you will know me more and my rewards await you in my kingdom and the true peace in me.*
- *My children let me shine through you when you minister your brothers and sisters. Be merciful. Let my mercy and kindness overflow in your hearts,*

Forgiveness



Those who carry burdens need a caress for the past. So many times we hear, *"But I would need to heal my past...I need a caress for that past that weighs so heavily on me..."* He needs forgiveness. And those who believe in Jesus have just that to give to others: the power of forgiveness, which frees the soul from all debt. Brothers, sisters, do not forget: God forgets everything. How so? Yes, He forgets all our sins. That He forgets. That's why He has no memory. God forgives everything because He forgets our sins. We only have to draw near to the Lord and He forgives us everything. Jesus is waiting for us to forgive us, to restore us. And how often? Once? Twice? No. Always. *"But Father, I do the same things always..."* And He will always do His same thing! Forgiving you, embracing you. Please, let us not distrust this. This is the way to love the Lord. Those who carry burdens and need a caress for the past need forgiveness, and Jesus does that. And that's what Jesus gives: to free the soul from all debt.

~ Pope Francis

Bukas Loob Sa Diyos
Diocese of Trenton
proudly presents

the Philippine Madrigal Singers
Mark Anthony A. Carpio, choirmaster

Recognized by the UNESCO as Artists for Peace for "putting their time and influence to promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace." The Philippine Madrigal Singers is one of the most awarded choral groups in the world, having consistently won all the top prizes in most of the world's prestigious choral competitions including the Grand Prix in the 2016 Concorso Internazionale di Guido d'Arezzo and the European Grand Prix for Choral singing in 1997 and 2007.

MAY 13, 2023 | SATURDAY | 7PM
CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. ROBERT BELLARMIN
61 GEORGIA RD, FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$40 | VIP MEET AND GREET: \$75
Proceeds will benefit Bukas Loob Sa Diyos mission activities.

FOR TICKET RESERVATIONS AND INQUIRIES
EMAIL: BLDTRENTONMAD2023@GMAIL.COM | CONTACT: TM (609) 954-2300