



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We obey God's commandment of love when we sincerely love our neighbor in word and in deed.

PROMISE:

"...that you may grow and prosper the more...to give you a land flowing with milk and honey." (Dt 6:3)

WORD:

Dt 6:2-6/ Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51/ Heb 7:23-28/ Mk 12:28b-34

ORDER:

- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. (Mk 12:30)
- You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Mk 12:31)

DIRECTIONS:

- Know God by praying and reflecting on the Scriptures.
- Honor God by faithfully receiving the Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Be a good witness of God's love by serving one another unconditionally.
- Always seek the goodness in others by seeing Jesus in everyone.

Love God And Our Neighbor

REFLECTION:

The teaching of Jesus in the Gospel this coming Sunday is not something new. The commandment of love of God is from the Book of Deuteronomy (6:5), while the second part which is love of neighbor is in the Book of Leviticus (19:18). However, what is new in the teaching of the Lord is that He combined the two commandments into one. For Jesus, the two are really one, that one cannot be authentic without the other. Love of God has to be given a definite form and expressed in our love of neighbors. And the love of neighbor is motivated and inspired by love of God. Love of God is the first. Jesus pointed this out very clearly. In fact, we have to dedicate our entire being of heart, mind, soul and strength to the Love of God.

The love of God is pointless without love of neighbor. St. John calls a person who says he loves God but hates his neighbor a liar. *"If a man says, I love God and hates his brother, he is a liar:*



for he that loves not his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" (1 Jn 4:20). The commandment of loving God is tied to love of neighbor and to love them equally and without distinction. Love of neighbor arises from and flows directly into love of God. To love our neighbor is the willingness to serve, the ability to understand and the readiness to forgive. The proof of our love of God is the way and manner we love our neighbor. As I mentioned earlier the CCC emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbor is inseparable. Thus, our theme for this week tells us: We

obey God's commandment of love when we sincerely love our neighbor in word and in deed.

The promise of this commandment is that you may grow and prosper the more, to give you a land flowing with milk and honey, sounds like eternal peace and happiness with the Creator in our true home. Loving others, then,

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Tending the Flock

Looking With God's Eyes

If the love of God has planted deep roots in a person, then he is able to love even those who do not deserve it, as God does us. Fathers and mothers do not love their children only when they deserve love; they always love them, though of course, they make them understand when they are wrong. We learn from God to seek only what is good and never what is evil. We learn to look at each other not only with our eyes, but with the eyes of God, which is the gaze of Jesus Christ. A gaze that begins in the heart and does not stop at the surface, that goes beyond appearances and manages to capture the deepest aspirations of the other: waiting to be heard, for caring attention, in a word: love. But the opposite is also true: that by opening myself to another, just as he or she is, by reaching out, by making myself available, I am also opening myself to know God, to feel that he is there and is good. Love of God and love of neighbor are inseparable and are mutually related. Jesus did not invent one or the other but revealed that they are essentially a single commandment and did so not only through the Word, but especially with his testimony: the person of Jesus and his whole Mystery embody the unity of love of God and neighbor, like the two arms of the Cross, vertical and horizontal. In the Eucharist he gives us this two-fold love, giving himself, because, nourished by this Bread, we love one another as he has loved us.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Message, November 4, 2012

Last Week's Prophecy



My child, your reward will be sweeter and greater when the service you provide is offered not only with generosity but more importantly with self sacrifice.

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

October 22, 2021

Tithes : \$505.00
Love Offer : \$ 50.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Jaine Buenafe	10/29	Edie Danieles	11/2
Harvey Gabriel	10/29	Arnold Paderon	11/2
Glenda Calugay	10/30	Francis Sunga	11/2
Malu Delacruz	10/31	George Bacus	11/2
Marlon Abalos	10/31	Jun Anito	11/3
Leo Lukban	11/1	Bert Panahon	11/3
Kristella Delacruz		11/4	

Anniversary

Manny & Evelyn Palacios	10/31
Eric & Mae Alberto	11/1
Ron & Tina King	11/2
Michael & Rhea Bell	11/3
Francis & Bernadette Sunga	11/4

I love you my God, my strength, my rock of refuge, my shield and salvation.

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is more than a suggestion. It is not given to us as an option. The heart and soul of the gospel of Jesus Christ is love—love of God and love of mankind. The commandment to love one another is a challenge to all of us. It is in learning to love both God and one another that should take the center place in our desires to follow Jesus. Those who would truly follow Christ must learn to love in the way the Sav-

ior intended us to love. He said, *"This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another"* (Jn 13:25). It is through learning to love others that we not only keep the commandment but build the foundation upon which obedience to every other of God's commandments is fundamentally rooted, and love is the cornerstone around which every other virtue in our lives is built.



Freedom

There is no freedom without love. The selfish freedom of doing what I want is not freedom, because it turns in on itself, it is not fruitful... Freedom increases with love. But beware: not with self-centered love, with the love of a soap opera, not with the passion that simply looks for what we want and like: not with that, but with the love we see in Christ, charity – this is the love that is truly free and freeing. It is the love that shines out in gratuitous service, modeled on that of Jesus, who washes the feet of His disciples and says: *"I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you"* (Jn 13:15). Serving one another.

~ Pope Francis

Twenty Years Later Reflections Of A Reluctant Disciple

Oct.12-14, 2001

Who would have guessed when we joined the ME Encounter 20 years ago that I would still be here? My initial reason was to get that weekend over with so we could go on with our lives. But, as God would have it, He has kept me here. There were times, I admit that I would have quit, but there was always a hesitation to pull the plug. God had put in place people and circumstances that have prevented me from totally turning my back and walking out. Yes, there were many reasons that would have caused me to leave this community but there were also many more compelling reasons that have caused me to stay.

I have met many people who I consider now my closest friends; people who have shared in my jubilation as well as in my desolation; on joyful occasions and in worrisome health situations. My prayer life and my relationship with people have improved exponentially. I kept an

open mind when I realized I was joining a charismatic community, which in the arrogance of my youth, was the target of my ridicule. God shook me up not in a violent way but gently through patience, peeling off every layer of my cynicism until my eyes were opened to the beauty of praise and worship, to the friendship and love of people I did not know. Gradually, I became one of them.

Our Class Shepherds, selfless mentors & now forever friends, were my first teachers in the community; guiding me without pressure and intimidation, holding my hands, till I was ready to be of service to Him, fully and willingly. I learned by their example and witness, how to shepherd not one but a whole group of individuals of different backgrounds & temperaments, to work together for the common good. This would be my model when given the opportunity to be a shepherd, many years later. And to them I am for-

ever grateful. Prayer and the Holy Spirit have been my constant resource in good times and most especially in bad.

Early in my life in this community I have often asked myself *"why am I here?"* I think now I know the answer. For the better part of 20 years, I was at peace; but even the difficult times have taught me great lessons in humility, patience, tolerance & sacrifice, made me strong and steadfast in my faith and are slowly transforming me to the person that God had planned for me. I am happy where I am at this point of my spiritual journey. My spouse & I have walked this walk together and we rely on each other for strength & reassure each other when either one of us falters. Where I would be in the next 5 years, 10 years or even next year, only God knows. But my prayer has been and is always to be wherever His Will leads me.

To God be the Glory!