



BLD Trenton



# Community News

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April 21, 2023

## This Sunday's Counsel

### THEME:

We have hope for eternal life when we recognize Christ's presence in the Holy Scriptures and the Eucharist.

### PROMISE:

- "You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever." (Ps 16:11)

### WORD:

Acts 2:14, 22-33/  
Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8,  
9-10, 11/ 1 Pt 1:  
17-21/ Lk 24:13-35

### ORDER:

- Listen to my words. (Acts 2: 14b)

### DIRECTIONS:

- Meet Jesus in the Scripture and in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist as often as possible.
- Be God's visible presence to break and share to help those in need.

## The Walk To Emmaus

### REFLECTION:

The two disciples going back to Emmaus were prevented from recognizing the "stranger" they were conversing with, perhaps because of their pre-occupation with their own disappointment and hopelessness. They were hoping that

Jesus would set Israel free, but their dreams, hope and expectations were shattered at the tragic death of their Master whom they trusted as their promised Messiah.

Jesus, the fulfillment of the prophecies of old, explained to the 'slow of heart' disciples the meaning of what referred to Him in all the Scriptures. Yet even that was not enough. The eyes of those two disciples were obstructed and, they were only able to clearly see when Jesus broke bread with them.

We have all travelled the road to Emmaus. In one way or another, at some point, we struggled with our faith, had our hopes crushed, frustrated, or beaten by events or faced an unbearable challenge in life. How often are we on that same road as the two Emmaus disciples, walking and talking with Christ, and not knowing Him until later?

The Emmaus story teaches us that the



Lord walks by our side as companion, comforter, and teacher. He is alive, present, and active in our life. He promised to us in Ps 16:11, "You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever". Yes, the greatest joy comes from being in Jesus' presence.

Do we know Jesus well for us to recognize him in an instant - how He looks, talks, and walks? Cleopas and the other Emmaus disciple recognized the Lord only when Jesus began revealing himself through the Scriptures and completed the revelation through the Eucharist.

Jesus tells us, "listen to my word", to immediately recognize him, as Peter proclaimed to the Jews in the First Reading. But we can recognize Christ's presence in the 'Good News' only if we know him. Therefore, we need to spend time reading the Bible to have a deep, intimate, loving, caring, long-term relationship with Jesus Christ. When we read the Scriptures, we meet and converse with Jesus.

Our BLD Community provides us the means to know Jesus intimately and feel his presence in so many ways. We study Scriptures in our teachings and retreats as part of

*Emmaus - See Page 2*

## Tending the Flock

### A Deeper And More Authentic Faith

The Risen Jesus makes himself our travelling companion as we go on our way, to rekindle the warmth of faith and hope in our hearts and to break the bread of eternal life. In the disciples' conversation with the unknown wayfarer the words the evangelist Luke puts in the mouth of one of them are striking: "We had hoped..." (Lk 24: 21). This verb in the past tense tells all: we believed, we followed, we hoped..., but now everything is over. Even Jesus of Nazareth, who had shown himself in his words and actions to be a powerful prophet, has failed, and we are left disappointed. This drama of the disciples of Emmaus appears like a reflection of the situation of many Christians of our time: it seems that the hope of faith has failed. Faith itself enters a crisis because of negative experiences that make us feel abandoned and betrayed even by the Lord. But this road to Emmaus on which we walk can become the way of a purification and maturation of our belief in God. Also today we can enter into dialogue with Jesus, listening to his Word. Today too he breaks bread for us and gives himself as our Bread. And so the meeting with the Risen Christ that is possible even today gives us a deeper and more authentic faith tempered, so to speak, by the fire of the Paschal Event; a faith that is robust because it is nourished not by human ideas but by the Word of God and by his Real Presence in the Eucharist.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Message, April 6, 2008

Bukas Loob Sa Diyos  
Diocese of Trenton  
proudly presents

*the*  
**Philippine Madrigal Singers**  
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Recognized by the UNESCO as Artists for Peace for "giving new life 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 2018, Composite International Festival of Music in Mexico and the European Grand Prix for Choral singing in 1997 and 2007.

**MAY 13, 2023 | SATURDAY | 7PM**  
CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE  
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: BLDTRENTON.MAD2023@GMAIL.COM | CONTACT: TM (609) 954-2300

### Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**. Donate link can be found at [www.bldtrenton.com](http://www.bldtrenton.com)

Or mail check to:  
BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1367  
Toms River, NJ 08754

### The Lord's Provision

**April 14, 2023**

Tithe :\$790.00  
Love Offering :\$242.00

*Thank you for your generosity!!!*

### 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

*Keep me, O God, for in you  
I take refuge.*

### Agents Of Mercy

Let us welcome the grace of Christ's Resurrection! Let us be renewed by God's mercy. Let us allow the power of His love to transform our lives. And let us become agents of this mercy so justice and peace can flourish in the world. Today, with the world torn always more by war, distancing itself from God, we have all the more need of the Father's mercy. Let us pray together.

Our hope is called Jesus. He is alive and evil has no more power over Him. Failure cannot prevent us from beginning again, and death becomes the passage to the beginning of a new life. The wounds of the risen Jesus are the signs of the Love that overcomes hatred, of the Pardon that disarms revenge, of the Life that conquers death.

*~ Pope Francis*

### God's Blessings

#### Birthday

Dulce Danieles	4/16	Marie Guanzon	4/21
Tony Riggio	4/16	Tony Manuel	4/23
Forting Yambao	4/17	Ren Raymundo	4/23
Malen Juarez	4/18	Jojo Legaspi	4/23
Eric Mecnas	4/18	Nonette Duarte	4/25
Isabel Briones	4/20	Rina Pascua	4/25
Cathy Talag	4/21	Eve Cabrera	4/27

#### Anniversary

Mike & Cher Chua	4/15
Art & Agnes Monta	4/15
Alfred & Aissa Panganiban	4/15
Vincent & Agnes Palecki	4/22
Ernest & Neri Roldan	4/23
Leo & Nonette Duarte	4/25
Rolly & Rina Pascua	4/26
Chris & Eve Cabrera	4/27
Adam & Margaret Tomczyk	4/27

### Last Week's Prophecies



• *My child, shalom, I have been generous with My mercy, now go and share My mercy with my faithful so that a multitude will proclaim Me as their Lord and God.*

• *Precious children, the man you called Jesus, has lived with you and He died for you. Now He has risen some 2000 years ago. He is My beloved Son. Listen to Him and believe. Believing while you are living. Live that you may love. Love that you may forgive. This is the key to eternal life that He promised.*

### Emmaus - Cont'd from Page 1

our formation program (CDFP), we learn more about Christ during our Friday P&Ws through prayers, songs, and Word Sharing Circles and, most importantly, the celebration of the Holy Mass. Let us all think about that. We have the resources available to us to know Jesus more and be able to recognize Him in the Eucharist, in other people, and in His creations.

**"Listen to my Word"** is to listen to Jesus, feel his presence, keep our faith and hope, even if we do not see him physically.

First, meet Jesus in the Scripture and in the Holy Eucharist.

The first part of Luke's gospel is the Liturgy of the Word where Jesus proclaims the word to the two despairing disciples, and they open their eyes to the meaning of the Scriptures. The *"breaking of the bread"* is the Liturgy of the Eucharist where Jesus takes bread, blesses it, breaks it and gives it to the disciples. In the breaking of the bread, the eyes of the disciples were opened, and they came to believe in Jesus' presence.

Do we recognize Jesus in the break-

ing of bread whenever the Holy Eucharist is celebrated? Cleopas and the other disciple are not alone in their predicament; we too are often blind to the events happening during the Mass.

The mysterious transformation of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ during the Mass should likewise change us to become His image and likeness. When we approach the altar to receive the consecrated bread, we see and receive Christ - Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.

Second, let us be God's visible presence to others.

The Eucharist reminds us that having received the Body of Christ, we must become the body of Christ. We should be directed to be God's visible presence, to break and share our bread to help those in need.

Mother Teresa wrote, *"I see Jesus in every human being. I say to myself; this is hungry Jesus; I must feed him. This is sick Jesus. This one has leprosy or gangrene; I must wash him and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus."*

Those words should be our motivation for being a disciple, for serving, for

practicing stewardship.

We are to become the Lord's hands that touch and care for the sick, we are to have his feet that walk to meet and befriend the lonely; we are to possess his understanding eyes that reveal compassion to the hurting and those lost in our midst; and we are to own his voice of power and righteousness to speak out for the marginalized in the cause of justice.

We are after all, as our Community vision states **"...a community of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about a world of justice, human development and true peace."**

May the Lord fill our hearts and set them on fire with the love of God so we can listen to our brothers and sisters without judgment. May our eyes be opened to a new way of seeing God in the Scriptures and may our heart recognize the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. May we embrace and frequently participate in the Holy Mass, to be strengthened in our faith, to strengthen our families and our church.

