



# Community News

## This Sunday's Counsel

### THEME:

Those who are faithful to Christ the King give generously without reservation.

### PROMISE:

*"The Lord keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets captives free."* (Ps 146:7)

### WORD:

1 Kgs 17:10-16/ Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10/ Heb 9:24-28/ Mk 12:38-44

### ORDER:

- *Secure justice for the oppressed.* (Ps 146:7a)
- *Give food to the hungry.* (Ps 146:7b)
- *Put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury.* (Mk 12:43)

### DIRECTIONS:

- Advocate for the vulnerable through prayers and offering other forms of support.
- Support our BLD Mission and parish activities in reaching out to the underserved.
- Be generous in giving your time, talent and treasure.

## Gifted To Give

### REFLECTION:

How generous are we with our God given gifts of time, talents and treasures?

Are we like the scribes in this Sunday's Gospel who are portrayed as show offs, self-centered, wearing flashy robes and always wanting to be in the limelight, self-righteous, fake, oppressive, indifferent and unconcerned or unfair towards the needs of others, taking advantage of the vulnerable, loving seats of honor in synagogues and public banquets, living in hypocrisy and insincerity, pretending to be one who is not, dishonest, posing burdens to others, and who donate to the treasury but only from the leftovers or surplus of their wealth?

If we answered Yes, we need to search our souls and refocus our behaviors towards our spiritual goal for eternal life in heaven because the Gospel ends with a warning of "severe condemnation," (Mk 13:40).

If we answered No, we would like to emulate the two widows' examples of complete trust in God's providence by



sincerely, generously and wholeheartedly offering their meager livelihood or poverty for a good cause, namely:

The first widow from the First Reading offered to Elijah the last of her livelihood - she offered the (only) last jar of flour and (only) last jug of oil to prepare for

their last meal. She, however, completely trusted Elijah and without saying trusted in God's providence. Having generously and wholeheartedly donated from her poverty, even without expecting any reward, *"she and her household had enough to eat for a long time...the jar of flour did not go empty nor the jug of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord spoken through Elijah."* (1Kgs 10:15-16)

The second widow from the Gospel donated humbly, generously and sincerely with an open heart the only two pennies which she had. She was barely unnoticed and unrecognized specially with her seemingly insignificant donation, unlike the scribes who were richly

*Gifted - See Page 2*

## More Precious Than Gold

Jesus taught his disciples a dramatic lesson in generous giving with love and devotion. Love doesn't calculate - it spends lavishly! Jesus drove this point home to his disciples while sitting in the temple and observing people offering their tithes. Jesus praised a poor widow who gave the smallest of coins in contrast with the rich who gave greater sums. How can someone in poverty give more than someone who has ample means? Jesus' answer is very simple - love is more precious than gold!

Jesus taught that real giving must come from the heart. A gift that is given with a grudge or for display loses most of its value. But a gift given out of love,

with a spirit of generosity and sacrifice, is invaluable. The amount or size of the gift doesn't matter as much as the cost to the giver. The poor widow could have kept one of her coins, but instead she recklessly gave away all she had! Jesus praised someone who gave barely a penny - how insignificant a sum - because it was everything she had, her whole living. What we have to offer may look very small and not worth much, but if we put all we have at the Lord's disposal, no matter how insignificant it may seem, then God can do with it and with us what is beyond our reckoning. Do you know the joy and freedom of giving liberally to God and to neighbor with gratitude and love?

### 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

**October 29, 2021**

Tithes : \$435.00  
Love Offer : \$ - - -

*Thank you for your generosity!!!*

## God's Blessings

### Birthday

Drew Allen	11/5	Alfred Panganiban	11/6
Butch Chioco	11/5	Cora Velez	11/6
Abbot Del Pilar	11/5	Kitti T. Young	11/6
Jaime Pascua	11/5	Jennie Dela Pena	11/8

### Anniversary

Tottie & Beth Felibrico	11/5
Totie & Nilda Araga	11/5
Jun & Rica Torralba	11/6
Bill & Luz Bunoan	11/10

*Bless the Lord, O my soul!*



## Ask Everything

God always listens to the cry of the poor...When we ask for God's grace, in our prayer do we also include our own history, our wounds, our humiliations, our broken dreams, our mistakes and our regrets? Do I take my story and life experience to Him? Or is it anemic, superficial, made up of rituals, without feeling and without heart? When faith is alive, prayer is heartfelt: it does not beg for spare change, it is not reduced to momentary needs. We must ask everything of Jesus, who can do everything. Do not forget this. We must ask everything of Jesus, with my insistence before Him. He cannot wait to pour out His grace and joy into our hearts; but unfortunately, it is we who keep our distance, through timidity, laziness or unbelief.

*~ Pope Francis*



## Last Week's Prophecies

*My child, My Body and My Blood which nourishes you on earth will be united as one with your body, mind, and spirit in My heavenly kingdom.*

*My heart bleeds as I see what is happening in the world today. Stop thinking too much about yourself. Rather, think about My love, my forgiveness, and think about other people around your life.*

*Open your hearts to the hopeless and the helpless. For the love I have given you is not for you to keep but to give.*

*I have loved you. I have forgiven you; return the same to your neighbor.*

### Gifted - Cont'd from Page 1

dressed and boastfully donating large amounts of money coming from their leftover riches. Nevertheless, Scripture teaches us that Jesus sees the pureness of the widow's heart. Jesus appreciates the sincerity and generosity of her seemingly insignificant small gift. As Scripture pointed out, Jesus told his disciples, "Amen I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they all contributed from the surplus of their wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood," (Mk 13:43-44).

We must be ever grateful to God the Father because He generously gave His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, whose generous self-offering sacrifice of His life, death, and resurrection has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life in heaven.

We must humble ourselves and pray that we may not be like the insincere and hypocrite scribes who love to show off and be in the limelight with their flashy robes reciting pretentious long rambling prayers and donating only from the surplus of their riches.

Instead, we pray for God's grace to rather help us emulate the two poor widows' modeling of unwavering faith and sincerity who, without reservations, unconditionally and wholeheartedly donated from their poverty. As the scripture story recounts, Jesus rewarded such pure hearts and generosities a hundred-fold far more beyond telling.

Let us continue to be genuine instruments of God's grace and gifts by faithfully and generously contributing our time (no matter how limited or seemingly insignificant or small), talents, treasures, and any form of service for our BLD Community. Persevere so that we will realize that we are never too poor to give nor too impoverished to help our BLD Community stay afloat especially during trying times. The challenge is for us to go out of our comfort zones in offering our love and service to others. Learn to let go or detach from our temporal and fleeting wealth. Try to not hold too tightly to our purses and wallets so that we can freely put into practice the blessings derived from Scripture's beatitudes. Continue to nourish and revitalize our faith through praise and worship, healing masses

and teachings; secure justice for the oppressed, the unborn, the least, lost, and forgotten; give food to the hungry by volunteering in soup kitchens; advocating for the vulnerable by joining our intercessory prayer and similar groups in our parishes; support our Gawad Kalinga activities in reaching out to the underserved.

Remember that we have been called by name and blessed by God to provide our humble service to others. Let the blessedness from the Scripture's beatitudes be our guide – become a living model as you share them wholeheartedly and generously without compulsion. Know that by doing so, we will be like our Lord Jesus – becoming more generous, merciful compassionate, and pure.

Let us not do things for the sake of conformity or appearance. The Lord demands honesty, sincerity and generosity (even when it hurts) as we continue to worship Him in spirit and in truth. Life is short. Death is certain. Spiritual life for eternity (our most important goal) is forever. As we search our souls for what matters most, we ask ourselves, are we on the right track?