



Community News

Volume 22, Issue 12

<http://bldtrenton.com>

March 25, 2022

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

Our faith in Jesus, God's chosen Son, allows us to be reconciled with God and receive His graces.

PROMISE:

"You are with me always everything I have is yours." (Lk 15:31)

WORD:

Jos 5:9a, 10-12/
Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/
2 Cor 5:17-21/
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

ORDERS:

- Be reconciled with God. (2 Cor 5:20)
- Be ambassadors for Christ. (2 Cor 5:20b)

DIRECTIONS:

- Repent and be contrite.
- Forgive as God forgives.
- Do restitution by being ministers of reconciliation.
- Be in communion with your brothers and sisters.

Breakup And Restoration

REFLECTION:

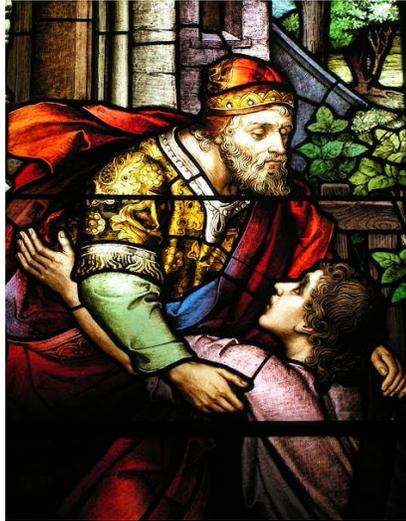
"Return to me with all your heart , with fasting , with weeping and with mourning ; and rend your heart and not your garments." (Jl 2 : 12- 13)

God's grace and mercy can be heard in this divine appeal . God has relentlessly pursued us, extending many opportunities to be reconciled to Him through His prophets, His people and through His Son Jesus. Today this appeal continues . Brother and sisters, let us not procrastinate in responding to this call, let us repent and be reconciled to God. Now is the acceptable time.

We are on the 4th week of our Lenten journey and all the readings speak of reconciliation. Reconciliation means to "change", to move from a place of separation to a place of healing, forgiveness and reunion. It involves change in the relationship between God and man or man and man.

Why do we need to be reconciled to God and man? Because it is God's command , second, our eternal destiny depends on it and third , in reconciliation there is rejoicing.

So what causes a break in relationship? People sin against each other, or think



they have been sinned against ...therefore conflict is born. When we are hurt we tend to build a barrier, shut lines of communication and sometimes this can cause unforgiveness.

Forgiveness which precedes reconciliation opens the door towards restoration of relationship, hence, Jesus commands us to forgive not 7 times but 77 times. (Mt 18:22) Jesus is teaching us to be merciful as He is merciful.

The Gospel in Luke 15:11- 32 is about the Parable of the Prodigal Son illustrating God's extravagance in His love and mercy . The parable talks of the two sons , how they differ in character and in sin, but God loves them both and invited them to the feast of forgiveness.

We can probably see ourselves acting in similar ways like the 2 sons before our LSS. The Prodigal Son is a picture of one who rebels, letting the priorities of the world come before God, squandering his inheritance on worldly pleasures. Hitting rock bottom he came to his sense , returned to his father confessing "*I have sinned against You and against heaven.*" To his surprise , the father welcomed him with open arms and a feast . Reconciliation

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Tending the Flock

A Father Full Of Mercy

On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, the Gospel of the father and the two sons better known as the Parable of the "Prodigal Son" (Lk 15:11-32) is proclaimed. This passage of St. Luke constitutes one of the peaks of spirituality and literature of all time. Indeed, what would our culture, art and more generally our civilization be without this revelation of a God the Father so full of mercy? It never fails to move us and every time we hear or read it, it can suggest to us ever new meanings. Above all, this Gospel text has the power of speaking to us of God, of enabling us to know his Face and, better still, his Heart. After Jesus has told us of the merciful Father, things are no longer as they were before. We now know God; he is our Father who out of love created us to be free and endowed us with a conscience, who suffers when we get lost and rejoices when we return. For this reason, our relationship with him is built up through events, just as it happens for every child with his parents: at first he depends on them, then he asserts his autonomy; and, in the end if he develops well he reaches a mature relationship based on gratitude and authentic love.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Message, March 14, 2010

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



BLD Trenton

Washing of the Feet Agony in the Garden Retreat

Saturday - April 2, 2022
 9:30am to 6:00pm

St. Dorothea's Church (Meeting Room)
 240 Broad Street Eatontown, NJ 07724

Spiritual Director - Fr. Tito Ignacio

Contacts:
 Coasa/Agnes Monte
 Jeff/Gina Siermento

*I will bless the Lord at all times,
 his praise shall be ever
 in my mouth.*



Be Amazed

In this Lenten time, after the labors of each day, it will do us good not to switch off the light in the room without placing ourselves in the light of God. To pray a little before sleeping. Let's give the Lord the chance to surprise us and to reawaken our hearts. We can do this, for instance, by opening the Gospel and letting ourselves be amazed by the Word of God, because the Scripture enlightens our steps and inflames the heart. Or we can look at the crucified Jesus and wonder at the boundless love of God, who never tires of us and has the power to transfigure our days, to give them a new meaning, a new, unexpected light.

~ Pope Francis

God's Blessings

Birthday

Fr. Pete Literal	3/25	Pris Brendaia	3/29
Janette Alberto	3/26	Nin Brendaia	3/30
Alex Santos	3/26	Jamie Fune	3/30
Emma Teves	3/26	Jho-Jho Alabastro	3/30
Ling Navarro	3/27	Gay Anito	3/31
Maria San Rafael	3/28	Elora Kho	3/31

Anniversary

Fr. Vic Coronado (ordination) 3/27

The Filipino Clergy in the Diocese of Trenton and the Filipino Communities are inviting everyone to celebrate our Filipino Catholic Faith

500 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

Mass at the:
CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. ROBERT BELLARMIN
 61 Georgia Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022 • 10:30 AM

Reception to follow in the:
CO-CATHEDRAL'S DENTICI HALL

1521 - 2021
 gifted to give

For more information, please contact the following priest liaisons:
 Fr. Mark Nillo, 732-788-1747, Coordinator
 Fr. PJ Alindogan, 732-725-5977
 Fr. Joe Noche, 732-309-0878
 Fr. Ariel Robies, 732-500-4956
 Fr. Gene Daguplo, 848-448-5187

For monetary donations, please contact the following finance committee:
 Mercer Co: Marie Lavents, 609-643-3180
 Ocean Co: Art & Agnes Monta, 732-600-6110
 Burlington Co: Adelina and Troy Beauvais, 609-668-8664
 Monmouth Co: Noel & Arlene Cabrera, 908-770-1981

500YOC FCDTNJ Diocese of Trenton
 Philip Reyes, official photographer

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has taken place.

The older son, on the other hand, was self-righteous, lacking in love and compassion. He was jealous, bitter and resentful of his brother's return. He perceived his father's pardoning of his brother as an act of betrayal. Jealousy and anger consumed him that he was not able to experience joy and was unable to forgive. Self-righteousness is damaging to our relationship with others and our ability to collaborate. In any setting, especially in our community, we can hurt others by our behavior. We can repel members because we consistently believe we are right, criticizing their faults and failings. The people we hurt can become unforgiving, resentful and bitter and as a consequence leave the community.

Unforgiveness closes our hearts to healing and to God's grace. (Sir 28: 2-4) clearly tells us *"Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Should a man nourish anger against his fellows and expect healing from the Lord? Should a man refuse mercy to his fellows, yet seek pardon for his own sins?"*

Reconciliation is a difficult process and God understands this. He has called us to sacrifice our pride in order to model His message of reconciliation and be His ambassadors to others. We are exhorted to live peaceably with all. When this fails, He calls us to love unselfishly, from a heart that has been reconciled to God. We have to remember that we are new creations, with new affec-

tions and behavior, and that we were first loved when we were sinners. If we believe and remain in Him we will be comforted by His promise, that *"My son, you are here with me always, everything I have is yours."* (Lk 15 : 31)

Today, we need to see this parable in terms of the Sacrament of Penance. This is another opportunity to return to God. Let us make a good confession before Easter even if it has been a long time. It is a gift of grace to repent, be forgiven and be reconciled to God. After the absolution, God puts the finest robe on us, puts a ring on our finger and a sandal on our feet. Our identity as son or daughter is restored. Heaven rejoices when one soul returns to Him. Let that soul be YOU!