

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We imitate and witness the life of Christ the King by honoring and serving Him in humility.

PROMISE:

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted." (Mt 23: 12)

WORD:

Mal 1: 14b-2: 2b, 8-10/ Ps 131: 1, 2, 3/ 1 Thes 2: 7b-9, 13/ Mt 23: 1-12

ORDER:

- *Stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.* (Mt 25: 13)



Send your prayer requests to:

[https://
www.bldtrenton.com/
intercessory](https://www.bldtrenton.com/intercessory)



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 23, Issue 43

<http://bldtrenton.com>

November 3, 2023

Imitate The Servant King

REFLECTION:

"The greatest among you must be your servant," (Mt 23: 11). This is the benchmark which our Lord Jesus has set for all of us, especially for those who are called to leadership, in rendering service to others. Our theme for this week captures the true essence of serving – We imitate and witness the life of Christ the King by honoring and serving Him in humility. Like Jesus, leading is serving because He came to serve and not to be served.

Following the leadership example of Jesus means that those who are in authority should lead in humility, obedience and commitment, rather than being immersed in self-entitlement, self-empowerment and selfish interest. In the first reading, God showed His displeasure to the priests because their position has made them contemptible, serving for their vain glory, away from the path of faith which no longer gives glory and honor to Him. *"You have turned aside from the way, and have caused many to falter...you do not keep my ways, but*



show partiality in your decisions," (Mal 1: 8-9).

The gospel presents to us a vivid contrast between the arrogant and self-important behavior of the religious leaders and the humble attitude of Jesus. He warns us about hypocrisy and conceit as He had rebuked

them. *"The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat...do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example,"* (Mt 23: 2-3). Leaders are expected to lead by example, not to consider themselves as the center of authority and honor. Jesus emphasizes that service is about purity of intention, consistent with living a holy life, respecting others and doing the right thing for God's glory.

Jesus lived among us to show us the way of total love and service. He did not come to impose Himself on us, though He is God, but showed us the example of a gentle, loving and compassionate Servant King. He chose lowly and humble people like Peter and gave him the authority of His Church. Together with other apostles, they were giv-

Servant King - See

Solo Parent Encounter Weekend



"Though the mountains leave their place and the hills be shaken, My love shall never leave you nor my covenant of peace be shaken, says the Lord, who has mercy on you." Isaiah 54:10

BLD - BUKAS LOOB SA DIYOS
(OPEN IN SPIRIT TO GOD)
DIOCESE OF TRENTON

Mature Singles
Unmarried Guardians
Separated Divorced
Married to physically Handicapped Spouse
Widows & Widowers

ALL ARE WELCOME!



SOLO PARENT ENCOUNTER
WEEKEND

November 11 & 12, 2023 at 7am
St Veronica Church
4219 US 9 Howell Township NJ 07731

Contacts: SP Ministry
Joel/Estela Bermudez 732.766.0988
projoe1223@gmail.com

Michelle Tecarro 732.456.0285
Evelyn Balondo 646.3463989

Tending the Flock

Our One True Teacher

Thinking of teachers who oppress the freedom of others in the name of authority, St. Bonaventure points out who the authentic teacher is, affirming that, *"No one can teach or practise, or reach knowable truths unless the Son of God is present"* (Sermo I de Tempore, Dom. XXII post Pentecosten, Opera omnia, IX, Quaracchi, 1901, 442). *"Jesus sits on the cathedra of Moses... as the greater Moses, who broadens the Covenant to include all nations"* (cf. Jesus of Nazareth, Doubleday, New York, 2007, p. 66). He is our true and only Teacher! We are, therefore, called to follow the Son of God, the Word Incarnate, who expresses the truth of his teaching through his faithfulness to the will of the Father, through the gift of himself. Bl. Antonio Rosmini writes:

Teacher — See Page 2

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 27, 2023

Tithe :\$520.00
Love Offering :\$335.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Vange Hermesen	10/23	Butch Chioco	11/5
Alex Morte	10/25	Abbot Del Pilar	11/5
Jun Anito	11/3	Jaime Pascua	11/5
Bert Panahon	11/3	Alfred Panganiban	11/6
Kristella Delacruz	11/4	Cora Velez	11/6
Grace Morales	11/5	Kitti T-Young	11/6
Drew Allen	11/5	Jennie De La Pena	11/8

Anniversary

Michael & Rhea Bell	11/3
Francis & Bernadette Sunga	11/4
Tottie & Beth Felibrico	11/5
Totie & Nilda Araga	11/5
Jun & Rica Torralba	11/6

Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407
For Prayer Service - Mary Anne Arias 732-688-3962

*Let me find my peace in you, O Lord;
like a weaned child on its mother's lap,
still and quiet my soul.*

Teacher - Cont'd from Page 1

"The first teacher trains all the other teachers, as he also trains the same disciples themselves, because they exist only in virtue of that first tacit, but very powerful Magisterium" (Idea della Sapienza, 82, in: Introduzione alla filosofia, vol. II, Rome, 1934, 143). Jesus also firmly condemns vanity and observes that "*deeds to be seen by men*" (Mt 23:5), places them at the mercy of human approval, undermining the values that found the authenticity of the person.

Dear friends, the Lord Jesus presented himself to the world as a servant, completely stripping himself and lowering himself to give on the Cross the most eloquent lesson of humility and love. His example gives rise to a proposal of life: "*He who is greatest among you shall be your servant*" (Mt 23: 11). We invoke the intercession of Mary Most Holy and we ask especially for those in Christian communities, who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they may always witness by their works to the truths that they communicate by their words.

~ Pope Benedict XVI
Angelus Message, October 30, 2011

Mother, Look At Us

This is a dark hour, Mother. In this dark hour, we look to you, and in the light of your countenance we entrust ourselves and our problems to your maternal Heart, which knows our anxieties and fears. How great was your concern when there was no place for Jesus at the inn!



Now, Mother, once more take the initiative for us, in these times rent by conflicts and laid waste by the fire of arms. Turn your eyes of mercy towards our human family, which has strayed from the path of peace, preferred Cain to Abel and lost the ability to see each other as brothers and sisters dwelling in a common home.

~ Pope Francis

Servant King - Cont'd from Page 1

en the mission to lead the people of God with wisdom and to witness to all what Jesus showed them, pleasing to God. "*...the Kingdom of God is ... a matter of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit; whoever serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by others*" (Rom 14: 17-18).

Leaders in ministry today should have and live a faith-filled attitude whose character is likened to that of Jesus Christ. "*Have among yourselves the same attitude that is in Christ Jesus...He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave...*" (Phil 2: 5, 7). Their person, their words, actions,

treatment of others and inspiring leadership lead people nearer to God. They are called to keep the vision of God's kingdom ever alive. Leadership in the Church will be truly life-giving when it internally reflects a service modeled after the Good Shepherd who serves out of love to His flock.

It is clear that Jesus rejects leaders who are prone to focus on themselves, who think only about themselves and to exalt themselves, boasting on their achievements and spirituality. It has always been said that those who seek prestige will find shame, and those who seek humility will find honor.

The Lord tells us that in all that

we do, we do it for the greater glory of God. For this, He gives us this assurance, "*Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted,*" (Mt 23: 12).

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for helping us understand the true meaning of humility. That we are always to be who we are, as You know us. Teach us to always be humble as You are humble, to rely on Your strength and not on ours. You, who trustingly use us despite our weaknesses. Help us live in harmony with others and not to be self-centered in our relationships. Make us be a servant like You. Amen.

Adapted from www.bldworld.org