

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We follow Jesus as the way to the Father when we believe that He is the way, the truth and the life.

PROMISE:

"I go and prepare a place for you... so that where I am, you also may be." (Jn 14: 3)

WORD:

Acts 6: 1-7/ Ps 33: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19/ 1 Pt 2: 4-9/ Jn 14: 1-12

ORDER:

- *Have faith in God.* (Jn 14: 1)

DIRECTIONS:

- Pray fervently and dwell in His Word daily that you will be guided in everything you do.
- Put the faith in action by doing spiritual works of mercy.
- Witness the faith and evangelize more people by conducting LSS and encounters in parishes and out-reaches.



BLD Trenton



Community News

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May 5, 2023

The Path To Eternal Life

REFLECTION:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me." (Jn 14:1)

In this Sunday's gospel verse, Jesus assures & comforts His disciples as he bid farewell to them. He knew that the day of his crucifixion was coming and that He would soon return to His Father in Heaven. He was trying to prepare His disciples for the time when He would no longer be with them. The disciples should not worry on where to go or what to do because Jesus already have a place for them. What Jesus is telling the disciples or us is to follow him, to trust and have faith in Him.

As our theme for the week says: We follow Jesus as the way to the father, when we believe that He is the way, the truth and the life. Jesus wanted his disciples to know that He and the Father were one, and that if they put their trust in God and in Him, they would one day join Him in Heaven. He reminds us also that we too



are journeying towards the Father.

The gospel reading tells us that the disciples were so confused, and had fears and uncertainties, that they did not understand what Jesus is trying to tell them. Like

the apostles Thomas and Philip, they had questions and were seeking for answers. Their questions actually gave birth to the affirmation of the identity of Jesus that later became a great theological pillar for the church, a comeback to the heretics who question the divinity of Jesus. So Jesus did not just reveal himself in both responses as the only way to the Father, the divine truth and only source of life. Jesus equally affirms His identity with the Father when he said *"I am in the Father and the Father is in me"*.

Life can sometimes be confusing and sometimes we feel that we don't have direction. We get hopeless sometimes that we don't know where to turn or what path to take. It seems that every path we take is a dead end. When this happens, all we

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Tending the Flock

Faith In Jesus Is Doing His Works Everyday

The Gospel of this Sunday, the Fifth of Easter, proposes a twofold commandment of faith: to believe in God and to believe in Jesus. In fact, the Lord said to his disciples: *"Believe in God, believe also in me"* (Jn 14:1). They are not two separate acts but one single act of faith, full adherence to salvation wrought by God the Father through his Only-begotten Son.

The New Testament puts an end to the Father's invisibility. God has shown his face, as Jesus' answer to the Apostle Philip confirms: *"He who has seen me has seen the Father"* (Jn 14:9). With his Incarnation, death and Resurrection, the Son of God has freed us from the slavery of sin to give us the freedom of the children of God and he has shown us the face of God, which is love: God can be seen, he is visible in Christ.

St. Teresa of Avila wrote: *"the last thing we should do is to withdraw from our greatest good and blessing, which is the most sacred humanity of Our Lord Jesus Christ"* (cf. The Interior Castle, 6, ch. 7). Therefore, only by believing in Christ, by remaining united to him, may the disciples, among whom we too are, continue their permanent action in history: *"Truly, truly, I say to you,"* says the Lord, *"he who believes in me will also do the works that I do"* (Jn 14:12).

Faith in Jesus entails following him daily, in the simple actions that make up our day.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Message, May 22, 2011

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

April 28, 2023

Tithe :\$490.00
Love Offering :\$281.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Luz Bunoan	5/6	Glenn Ramos	5/9
Tina King	5/9	Sheryll Dela Cruz	5/10
George Pe	5/9	RJ Gallofin	5/11

Anniversary

Erwin & Grace Bustamante 5/9

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

*Be merciful to me, O Lord,
as I put my hope in you to deliver me
from famine and death.*

Bukas Loob Sa Diyos
Diocese of Trenton
proudly presents

the
Philippine Madrigal Singers
Mark Anthony A. Carpio, choirmaster



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

Last Week's Prophecies

- *My child, I am the Gatekeeper, but before you enter My Heavenly Kingdom, I will nourish you with the Eucharist and I will wipe away your iniquities with My Precious Blood.*



- *You are all my under-shepherds to take care, to guide, protect and serve those whom I placed in your lives especially the least among you, the marginalized and the lost that they may feel My love, My embrace and My desire to be with My Father in heaven.*



The Door

"I am the door; if anyone enters through me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture" (Jn 10:9). Let us listen to those words again: *"he will go in and out"*. On the one hand, Jesus is the wide open door that enables us to enter into the Father's fellowship and experience his mercy. Yet, as we all know, open doors are not only for entering, but also for leaving. After bringing us back into God's embrace and into the fold of the Church, Jesus is the door that leads us back into the world. He urges us to go forth to encounter our brothers and sisters. Let us never forget that all of us, without exception, are called to this; we are called to step out of our comfort zones and find the courage to reach out to all those peripheries that need the light of the Gospel.

~ Pope Francis

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have to remember is that Jesus said, *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"* (Jn 14:6). If we keep our eyes on Jesus and follow his teaching, we will find path to our goal, we will have a direction in life, leading us to eternal life in Heaven with him. We can only come to God through Jesus. Jesus is the only way to God and salvation, and also the destination with God.

The theme for this week also reminds us Jesus' *"way of the cross"*, his passion and death that destroyed the veil that separates us from the Father. It was through Jesus death that God granted us salvation. For we believe in the truth that He teaches us in the scriptures about believing.

"Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do..." (Jn 14:12). This verse tells us about

faith. Believing without proof. Believing and obeying what Jesus commands and teaches that He is the way, the truth and the life. That Jesus is the only way to the Father. If we don't have that faith, it is impossible for us to please God.

In our BLD community, this faith must be expressed through actions of love like Jesus. We are not in this community to be served but to serve our ministries, community, parish churches and mission. Good works will manifest for use in service to others. As BLD members, we continue God's mission by preaching his love and salvation throughout the world.

Jesus will lead us exactly where we need to go if we follow, trust & believe in Him. We just have to open our eyes and hearts to the will of God!



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



An Invitation

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND
JUNE 9 - 11, 2023

Ave Maria Retreat House
The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa
654 Ferry Road Doylestown, PA 18901

Free Registration
Meals and Accommodation To be Provided

For all inquiries:
German/Letty Butay (732) 887-5298 or lbutay@yahoo.com
Nestor/Cecilia Vasquez (908) 578-9138 | Toy/Malen Juarez (609) 954-2300