

THIS SUNDAY'S COUNSEL

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

THEME:

We are purified to be holy when we do acts of charity

PROMISE:

"Behold, your reward will be great in heaven..." (Lk 6:23)

WORD:

Jer 17:5-8/ Ps 1:1-4, 6/ 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/ Lk 6:17, 20-26

ORDER:

1. *"Trust in the Lord...hope in the Lord"* (Jer 17:7)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Live a life of beatitudes trusting in God's goodness and believing in God's promise of eternal life.
2. Express God's love through our pure charitable actions of kindness, mercy and compassion.

PSALM:

The "Beatitudes" lie at the core of Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom of God that would lead us to a state of happiness or blessedness. In St. Luke's account of the "Sermon on the Plain," Jesus addresses His disciples with some practical ways in which they can live out their belief through the Beatitudes. Yet, His teaching can be viewed as contradictory. He says that the ones who are poor, hungry, weeping and hated remain to be blessed, while those who experience the pleasures of this life will find sufferings in the next life. Having a worldly mind set is not the way of the Beatitudes. This paradoxical teaching of Jesus may have been puzzling to His disciples, but Jesus merely speaks of what it means to be holy or blessed.

Our theme this week tells us that we are purified to be holy when we do acts of charity. If our true purpose then is to be holy, what may hinder us from achieving this goal? God desires for us to be purified and to be holy like Him. And as His disciples, doing acts of charity is the action we should take, like feeding the hungry, comforting those who are grieving, visiting and praying for the sick, among many other acts of mercy. As human beings, oftentimes we seek satisfaction in possessions and positions of honor, and to treasure these and put more of our energy into them. We give little time or thought to loving God and neighbor. But, what we may not be fully conscious about is that seeking worldly wealth is a temporary thing and does not fill us completely, leaving us to desire for more. Seeking earthly pursuits may even cause restlessness. As St. Augustine reminds us, "Our hearts are restless, O God, until they rest in You."

All the Sunday readings make us realize that we have a calling, a vocation to seek God where He implants in our very being a desire to be with Him, our Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit forever. He supplies the grace we need to follow that desire. This is true blessedness. It is God's gift to us, as well as with all of His spiritual gifts. We must be willing to practice or use those gifts in our daily living. For an unused gift is no gift at all, and does not enrich us nor please the Giver of all good gifts.

We have to let Jesus' Beatitudes take root in our hearts so we can put it into action in our lives by living the way that points to our ultimate end which is to be with God forever. We should live blessed lives where we accept the circumstances and situations we are in, seeking to bring God's goodness into them, not only for ourselves but also for others. By doing so, we reap God's promise. *"Behold, your reward will be great in heaven..."* (Lk 6:23). Putting our hope and trust in the Lord rewards us with blessedness as described in the 1st reading, *"He is like a tree planted beside the waters....It fears not the heat when it comes; its leaves stay green; in the year of drought it shows no distress, but still bears fruit,"* (Jer 17: 8).

Prayer

Father God, thank you for pouring into our heart a desire to be with You, for providing the grace we need to journey in the pathway to holiness. We ask for Your forgiveness when we lose sight of our calling and ignore Your command to be loving to all people around us. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may Your love be the driving force in our life and be the help to inspire others to seek You until our hearts rest in You. Amen.

The personal question/action for today:

What is the driving force in my life? Do I seek the blessedness that GOD offers me, or do I seek merely earthly pleasures? How much do I identify with the poor, the hungry, the weeping? Am I aware of my ultimate destiny and what I must do to be sure that I am heading in that direction? What am I doing to help others along the way so that they may also reach the place of resting with GOD for all eternity?

Volume 25, Issue 7

Bukas Loob Sa Diyos

February 14, 2025

Diocese of Trenton

Community News



<http://bldtrenton.com>

"And now these three remain: Faith, Hope and Love, but the greatest of these is LOVE" 1 Corinthians 13:13



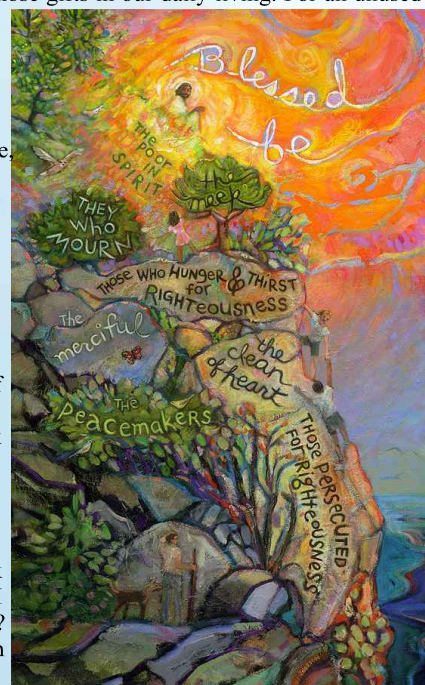
The love of God purifies us to a life of holiness

Charity is the highest form of love because it signifies the unique love that God gives to us; Love that is selfless and sacrificial. And for us to do an act of charity is to first and foremost love Jesus the way He loves us – by loving and giving ourselves to others.

Think about the poor widow who offered two copper coins. Her donation was financially insignificant compared to others, and yet Christ noted that her spirit surpassed most others because she gave despite having so little. Her giving was sacrificial. How many strive to give in a sacrificial manner, giving in a way where it's a challenge? Specially here in our community, giving our time, our talent, our treasure, and a part of ourselves when it's quite inconvenient?

Love until we are suffering. Love until we emptied ourselves. Love until we reach the point where we say – I am nothing, I have nothing. That there is only one thing left to do but – to rely on God, to trust in the Lord, to hope in the Lord and to claim His Promise that "... our reward will be great in heaven".

Blessed are they who hope in the Lord



The Lord's Provision

February 7, 2025

TITHE: \$321.00
LOVE OFFERING: \$490.00



Thank you for
your generosity

Online Giving

You can now send your
Tithes and Love Offerings via
Paypal. Donate link can be
found at www.bldrenton.com

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

God's Blessings

Annivesary

"So they are no longer two, but
one flesh. Therefore what God
has joined together, let no one
separate." Matthew 19:6

Birthday

"Before I formed you in the womb I
knew you, and before you were born I
consecrated you" Jeremiah 1:5

Domenick & Carmela Palumbo
George & Ester Pangan

Feb 15
Feb 16

Faye Juezan
Grace Mantes
Robin Rae Touchette
Steph Antona
Mike Agustin
Arwin David
Al Guerrero
David Baliscao

Feb 17
Feb 17
Feb 17
Feb 17
Feb 18
Feb 18
Feb 19
Feb 20

Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's Visit
For Prayer Service

Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407
Mary Anne Arias 732-688-3962

Send Prayer Request To:

www.bldtrenton.com/intercessory

**In Christ Jesus,
we welcome you all to join us every Friday**

Healing Mass

1st Friday of the month at 8:15 p.m.

Praise and Worship

2nd, 3rd, 4th (& 5th) Friday of the month at 8:15 p.m.

Did you know?



"Faced with the paradox of the Beatitudes, disciples allow themselves to be challenged, aware that it is not God who must enter into our mindset, but we into his. This requires a journey, sometimes wearisome, but always accompanied by joy. Because the disciple of Jesus is joyful, with the joy that comes from Jesus. Because, let us remember, the first word Jesus says is: blessed, hence the name of the Beatitudes. This is the synonym of being disciples of Jesus."

Pope Francis

HIS WORD. YOUR JOURNEY. TOGETHER.

"God does not reason with calculations and tables; he loves us as one who is enamoured: not to the minimum, but to the maximum! He does not say, 'I love you up to a certain point'. No, true love is never up to a certain point, and is never satisfied; love always goes beyond, it cannot do otherwise. The Lord showed us this by giving his life on the cross and forgiving his murderers (cf. Lk 23:34). And he entrusted to us the commandment most dear to him: that we love one another like he loved us (cf. Jn 15:12)."

The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The phrase "poor in spirit" refers to a spiritual condition of poverty. It describes a person who recognizes his or her need for God. "The kingdom of heaven" refers to people who acknowledge God as King. One poor in spirit knows he or she is spiritually bankrupt apart from Jesus Christ.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Those who mourn" speaks of those who express deep sorrow over sin and repent from their sins. The freedom found in forgiveness of sin and the joy of eternal salvation is the comfort of those who repent.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Like "the poor," "the meek" are those who submit to God's authority and make him Lord. Revelation 21:7 says God's children will "inherit all things." The meek are also imitators of Jesus Christ, who exemplified gentleness and self-control.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Hunger" and "thirst" speak of deep need and driving passion. This "righteousness" refers to Jesus Christ. To "be filled" is the satisfaction of our soul's desire.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

We reap what we sow. Those who demonstrate mercy will receive mercy. Likewise, those who have receive great mercy will show great mercy. We show mercy through forgiveness, kindness, and compassion toward others.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

The "pure in heart" are those cleansed from within. Being "pure in heart" is not exhibiting an outward righteousness men can see but inward holiness that only God sees. The Bible says in Hebrews 12:14 that without holiness, no one will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

The Bible says we have peace with God through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Reconciliation through Christ brings restored fellowship (peace) with God. 2 Corinthians 5:19-20 says God entrusts us with this same message of reconciliation to take to others.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Just as Jesus faced persecution, so will his followers. Those who endure by faith rather than hide their faith to avoid persecution are genuine followers of Christ.

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity
and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you, our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen





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

An Invitation To

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND
MARCH 21 - 23, 2025**

Ave Maria Retreat House
The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa
654 Ferry Road Doylestown, PA 18001

Registration Fee: \$250.00 per couple
for Meals and Accommodation
Friday 5:30 pm - Sunday 4:00 pm

For registration and all inquiries, contact:
Luis/Lani Hombrebueno (732) 931 - 8742
Dian/Jean Catarata (732) 297 - 3434 | Toy/Melvin Juarez (609) 954-2300

WELCOME
MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER
Join us!

WHAT IS MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER?
An incredible experience of renewing marriage relationship, enriching the process of communication between husband and wife and becoming fully aware of the living presence of God in marriage and family life. It guarantees to make "good" marriages "better" and the "not-so-good" marriages "good".

WHAT IS MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER FOR?
For any couple who wants to enrich their relationship whether they have been married for a short time, or for many years. This weekend is also for priests and religious who want to revitalize their relationship with the people of God and develop an even deeper appreciation for their own vocation.

REGISTRATION
Open to couples married sacramentally in the Catholic or Protestant Church.
Submit registration form to:
BLOTrunton.ME24@gmail.com

1. February 15 th – Lenten Retreat by Fr PJ followed by General Assembly at St Veronica Parish Hall (10AM – 3PM)
2. March 1st- Witness Development Workshop at St Veronica Parish Hall (10AM – 4PM)
3. Marriage Encounter 24 - March 21-23 at the Ave Maria Retreat House. The deadline for submitting registration form is March 7 th . Aggressively follow up your potential candidates. Minimum of 6 couples are required to go forward with the Encounter.

Contact persons:
Hombrebueno and Juarez

**Bukas Loob sa Diyos
(OPEN IN SPIRIT TO GOD)**

Community Lenten Retreat

*"Healing
and
Reconciliation"*

FEBRUARY 15, 2025 | SATURDAY | 10 AM - 3 PM
St. Veronica Parish Hall, Howell NJ

Spiritual Director: Fr. PJ Alindogan

General Assembly to follow after the Retreat