



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We lovingly respond to Christ's calling when we preach and witness to the gospel.

PROMISE:

"The Lord will complete what he has done for me; your kindness, O Lord, endures forever." (Ps 138:8)

WORD:

Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/ Ps 138:1-2, 2-3 4-5, 7-8/ 1 Cor 15:1-11/ Lk 5:1-11

ORDERS:

- *Gird your loin, stand up and tell them what I command.* (Jer 1:17)
- *Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gift.* (1 Cor 12:31)

DIRECTIONS:

- Boldly proclaim that Jesus is our Lord and Savior.
- Study, pray and meditate on the Word of God.
- Be a strong witness to the transforming power of God.
- Invoke the Holy Spirit to grant us His spiritual gifts.

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February 4, 2022

Responding To His Call

REFLECTION: The essence of being a Christian is our capacity to respond to Christ's calling. Each of us has a special call from God to carry out a specific mission. As Catholics, it is therefore imperative to know and understand our faith so that we may properly respond to that calling. However, in the world we live in, we face many distractions and challenges that our faith journey becomes difficult. Sometimes, we are not even aware of or even distinguish our calling, preventing us from giving our 'yes' to the work of the Lord.

But praise be to God for the new life He gave us through the baptism in the Spirit that gave us a new birth in Jesus Christ. It is in the light of Christ's saving grace that we see ourselves for who we are, our fallen nature, and our need for God's hand to pick us up from the rubbles of our sins, allowing us to respond to His call to love God and neighbor.

Jesus is telling us, *"My grace is sufficient for you,"* (2 Cor 12:9). Indeed, it is only by His grace that we find the courage to say 'yes' to our call. In this Sunday's readings, we see the grace of God at work in the lives of Isaiah, Paul, and



Simon Peter, who, despite their own unworthiness, experienced the glorious and majestic, powerful presence of God. Recognizing and accepting their own limitations and nothingness before God enabled God's grace to penetrate their beings so that they may give their unequivocal acceptance to their calling. Isaiah said, *"...woe is me, I am doomed, for I am a man of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts ...then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send?....Here I am, send me!"* (Is 6:5). Paul said, *"...as to one born abnormally, he appeared to me. For I am the least of the apostles, not fit to be*

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Tending the Flock

Fearless Heralds Of Salvation

The Liturgy on this Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time presents us with the subject of the divine call. In a majestic vision Isaiah finds himself in the presence of the thrice-blessed Lord and is overcome by great awe and a profound feeling of his unworthiness. But a seraph purifies his lips with a burning coal and wipes away his sin. Feeling ready to respond to God's call, he exclaims: *"Here I am, Lord. Command me!"* (cf. Is 6:1-2; 3-8). The same succession of sentiments is presented in the episode of the miraculous catch of which today's Gospel passage speaks. Asked by Jesus to cast their nets although they had caught nothing during the night, trusting in his word, Simon Peter and the other disciples obtain a superabundant catch. In the face of this miracle Simon Peter does not throw his arms around Jesus to express his joy at the unexpected catch. Rather, as the Evangelist Luke recounts, he falls to his knees saying, *"Depart from me, for I am a sinful man O Lord"*. Jesus, therefore, reassures him: *"Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men"* (cf. Lk 5:10); and leaving everything, he followed him.

Paul too, remembering that he had been a persecutor of the Church, professed himself unworthy to be called an apostle. Yet he recognized that the grace of God had worked wonders in him and, despite his limitations, God had entrusted him with the task and honor of preaching the Gospel (cf. 1 Cor 15:8-10). In these three experiences, we see how an authentic encounter with God brings the human being to recognize his poverty and inadequacy, his limitations and his sins. Yet in spite of this weakness the Lord, rich in mercy and forgiveness, transforms the life of human beings and calls them to follow him. The humility shown by Isaiah, Peter and Paul in-

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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

Missing the news lately?

Please update your e-mail information with the Secretariat to receive community news and other correspondence. Contact them at bldtrenton.secretariat@gmail.com

God's Blessings

Birthday

Vicma Cac	2/4	Olivia Cuasay	2/7
Gene Del Carmen	2/5	Miguel Briones	2/8
Toy Juarez	2/8		

Anniversary

Allan & Elma Pontipiedra (ME4) Feb 5



What is God's plan in our married life?



An Invitation to a MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

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

May 20-22, 2022

Registration starts at 8pm Friday

Deadline of Application: May 1, 2022

Contact:
German/Letty Butay 732 8875298
lbuly@yahoo.com
Ed/Olym Baulista 732 233 9611
ed.oly1211@verizon.net



FOR WHOEVER WISHES TO SAVE HIS LIFE WILL LOSE IT. BUT WHOEVER LOSES HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE

WILL FIND IT

Matthew 16:25

DAY OF RETREAT

02.26.2022

Saturday | 10AM | Queenship of Mary Church
16 Dey Road | Plainsboro, New Jersey
The General Assembly will immediately follow after the retreat from 1:30-3:30pm. Please inform your ministry coordinators and/or your ME class shepherds to confirm your attendance

Spiritual Director: Fr. Gerry Paderon
Contact Persons: M. Arias, CB Velez, AM Paderon
BLD Trenton
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vites all who have received the gift of a divine vocation not to focus on their own limitations but rather to keep their gaze fixed on the Lord and on his amazing mercy so that their hearts may be converted and that they may continue joyfully, "to leave everything" to him. Indeed, the Lord does not look at what is important to human beings. "The Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Sam 16:7) and makes human beings who are poor and weak but have faith in him fearless apostles and heralds of salvation.

~ Pope Benedict XVI,
Angelus Message
February 7, 2010

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called apostle because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am and his grace to me has not been ineffective...so we preach and so you believed." (1 Cor 15:8-11). Lastly, Peter declared: "Depart from me Lord for I am a sinful man.' For astonishment at the catch of the fish they have made seized him..." (Lk 5:8-9). But Jesus made clear his call to Peter as he said, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." (Lk 5:10).

Like these men, God continually calls us to accomplish His purpose – to draw people to His kingdom and hear the Good News of our salvation, for His greater honor and glory. This

is the call of Jesus, God's beloved Son who laid down His life for us in obedience to the will of the Father that we may be reconciled again with Him, our Almighty God and Creator.

Our theme for this week exhorts us to readily and lovingly respond to the calling of Christ to preach and witness to the gospel. It requires humility of heart to give testimony on how God's love transformed our life, how His forgiving grace brought us out of darkness to light, how we surrendered to God's renewing power as we recognized Him as our Lord and Savior,

But, why do we sometimes refuse

or hesitate to evangelize to others and testify to our own transformation? Perhaps we are swayed by fear, lack of trust, or even pride and insecurity. Sometimes, we may be stubborn or simply ignore God's voice. In this situation, we need to quiet down and discern what the Lord is asking us to do. Let us remember that God does not call the qualified but qualifies the one He calls. He only desires our willingness to answer His bidding. Like Peter, we need to trust Jesus when He tells us, "do not be afraid." We are assured of His promise, "The Lord will complete what he has done for me...your kindness endures forever," (Ps 138:7).

Adapted from www.bldworld.org