

## This Sunday's Counsel

### THEME:

We respond to live according to God's Holy Will by glorifying our One True God.

### PROMISE:

*"I am the Lord and there is no other...It is I who arm you."* (Is 45: 5)

### WORD:

Is 45: 1, 4-6/ Ps 96: 1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10/ 1 Thes 1: 1-5b/ Mt 22: 15-21

### ORDER:

- Give the Lord glory and honor. (Ps 96: 7b))

### DIRECTIONS:

- Make God our priority by following His commandments.
- Faithfully attend Eucharistic celebrations and our Praise and Worship.
- Exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit by serving others.



BLD Trenton



# Community News

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October 20, 2023

## Be On The Lookout For Traps

### REFLECTION:

In this Sunday's gospel, three points stand out to me: the first is the word "entrapped", the second is the antagonist in the passage, the Roman emperor at that time named Caesar, whose image is encrypted into the coin that is used for paying tax, and the third, of course, is our one true God, who is the heart of the gospel and whose image is stamped on each and every one of us.

"Entrap" is a biblical metaphor for temptation and sin. A trap is something that stops you, catches you, steals your mobility and purpose, and peace of mind, and delivers you into someone else's control. In the worst-case scenarios, the victim experiences pain and injury, ongoing captivity, and even death. Needless to say, a trap is a wickedly dangerous thing that is to be avoided at all costs.

And yes, there's always that matter of bait. The bait is critical to the success of the trap. And for each of us, there are different kinds of bait that most teasingly tempt us: matters of pride, immorality, en-



vy, appetite, anger, sloth, lack of forgiveness, lack of gratitude, and various combinations of these, which are collectively known as the seven deadly sins.

All bait, however, has this in common: it is never worth it. Bait is always a lie, a false advertisement, a coy

that promises pleasure but delivers only disaster. In our daily conversations today and the current dynamics of the world we live in, we keep running into the minefield of traps in front of us that do not even glorify God. From the spectrum of politics to religious conversations to family and its basic values and traditions, it feels hard to talk about it without some partisan issue coming up. For those of us who want to avoid conflict, it can feel like navigating an impossible maze. And for those of us who want to fight for what we believe is right, the fight is always at our fingertips, never giving us rest. But in essence, these are traps.

How about that tantalizing social media post from one of your friends that tempts you to make senseless comments, that com-

*Traps - See Page 2*



Bukas Loob Sa Diyos  
Diocese of Trenton  
invites you to

## "Life In The Spirit Seminar"

October 27-29, 2023

St. Veronica Church, Howell New Jersey

FREE REGISTRATION

For all inquiries and registration,

Contact: Toy and Malen Juarez (609-954-2300) | Bong and Faye Dizon (732-604-7690)

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*"Behold,  
I make all  
things new."*



*Come...Holy Spirit...Come...*



## Facilitator

Marian devotion has a privileged place. Mary is an advocate, but these days the word advocate is too functional. It is better to say that she is a "facilitator". Mary is a facilitator when conflicts and problems arise, such as the lack of wine at the wedding. She helps us to "untie the knots" that can be created in us and between us. In other words, Mary also paves the way for friendship between peoples, inviting us to turn our gaze to the origin and goal of our existence, which is Jesus Christ, and encourages us to follow His example, walking the paths of peace, kindness, listening and patient and trusting dialogue.

*~ Pope Francis*

### Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**.  
Donate link can be found at [www.bldtrenton.com](http://www.bldtrenton.com)

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

### The Lord's Provision

**October 13, 2023**

Tithe : \$725.00  
Love Offering : \$270.00

**Thank you for your generosity!!!**

## Staying The Course

Being in the Aspirants' Retreat was an eye-opener, as retreats usually are for me. On the first night of the retreat, I was surprised by the tears in my eyes as I knelt close to the Monstrance. I came to realize how much I miss the presence of the Lord in my life. It dawned on me how my mindless living got in the way of my relationship with God. I have forgotten to prioritize Him in my life.

Over the course of the retreat's activities and talks, one was made to reflect on what discipleship is about, what it will cost the disciple, and how discipleship is tested. Discipleship calls for a total surrender of all aspects of one's life to the Lord—be it work or livelihood, hobbies, or relationship(s). A disciple *"cannot serve both God and Mammon"* (Mt 6: 24). Is discipleship for me? The path is not easy, but the blessings are abundant, so the witnesses say. Just like the life of Jesus Christ as simplified in the Stations of the Cross, discipleship calls for whole-hearted obedience, humility, love for the Lord, and perseverance. Really, I find it hard to portray discipleship in any other way without being hackneyed; thus, I came to conclude that the way to do it is to live it.

To the readers of this piece, I cannot claim to have reached maturity in the faith, for the struggle remains, *'but I continue my pursuit in the hope that I may possess it'* (Phil 3: 12), learning only from my past and forging ahead towards the goal, Jesus Christ. When I joined the BLD community, I never envisioned myself staying this long, but retreats like this made me stay the course! Come join me in the search for Truth.

## God's Blessings

### Birthday

Kimberly Estomo	10/20	Sonny Adame	10/23
Ruby Woodard	10/21	Mae Alberto	10/23
DJ Catarata	10/21	Mike Chua	10/24
Maz Gennity	10/21	Raffy Perez	10/24
Romy Durante	10/26		

### Anniversary

Morris & Emma Teves	10/20
Paul & Vange Hermesen	10/24
Janis & Arlene Carvajal	10/25
Robert & Agnes Raymundo	10/26

### 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

*I give you, Lord, the glory  
due your name; for you are great  
and highly to be praised.*

### Solo Parent Encounter Weekend



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

BLD - BUKAN LOOB SA DITO  
(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

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[projel23@gmail.com](mailto:projel23@gmail.com)

Michelle Tecarro 732.456.0285  
Evelyn Balondo 646.3463989

### Traps - Cont'd from Page 1

ment made in passing by your spouse or any family member, your neighbors, fellow BLD members, or co-workers that you can't wait to bring up and confront, that non-verbal body language of a person that tempts you to make unhelpful judgments that do not even help you and the world to be a better place, the enticement to compare yourself to others, the resentment and unforgiving heart, and even that imaginary argument that you play in your head that makes you feel that buzz of righteous anger? These are traps. This results in nothing but destruction and broken relationships. They appeal to our selfishness, offering us victory and giving us the power of anger, and yet when it's all done, you feel worse and you entice the others into the trap, and no one grows.

And what is at stake when we face a trap?

Just like Jesus, what is at stake is loyalty. Will you be loyal first and foremost to the convictions, the way of being, and the way of loving that has been shown to us in Jesus or will you give identity, your loyalty, and influence over our behavioral response to some person, cultural or societal norm. Remember, our following Jesus should drive us to hold cultural, societal, political, and ethical convictions because first and foremost, we belong to him and his kingdom whose image is stamped on us.

As believers and followers of Jesus Christ, we travel on a trial-heavy road. Therefore, we must diligently be on the lookout for ensnaring temptations and make sure we are doing everything the Lord has taught us about how-to walk-through life

through his grace such as:

- Make God our priority by following his commandments;
- Faithfully attend Eucharistic celebrations and our Praise and Worship;
- Offer everything you do, say, and think for God's greater glory.

I am sure that there are other ways to glorify God in our life including reading the bible which is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

We are told to walk in faith, in love, and in the spirit. We are commanded to put on the armor of God and be ready for the battle. Though traps are all around us, we do not have to be the devil's prey. With the light of the scriptures, the protective providence of the Father, and the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, we can walk with God in liberty and peace.