

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We have hope for eternal life when we unite our suffering with the sacrifice of Christ.

PROMISE:

"The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced...I shall not be put to shame." (Is 50:7)

WORD:

Is 50: 4-7/ Ps 22: 8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24/ Phil 2: 6-11/ Mt 26: 14-27: 66

ORDERS:

- *Take and eat; this is my body...drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. (Mt 26: 26b-28)*

DIRECTIONS:

- Immerse ourselves in the word of God, prayer, regularly receiving the sacraments, practicing fasting, and giving to charity.
- Gain a deeper understanding of the mystery of suffering and turn to God for guidance and strength.
- Follow the example of Jesus in alleviating the suffering of others by ministering to the sick, consoling the afflicted, forgiving sinners, and welcoming the rejected.



BLD Trenton



Community News

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March 31, 2023

The Mystery Of Suffering

REFLECTION:

As followers of Christ, we are called to live a life of obedience to the gospel, which includes focusing on what is above and not on earthly things. Our ultimate goal is to seek Christ who is seated at the right hand of God. By following his teachings and example, we can experience the promise of eternal life and the peace and joy that comes with it.

Palm Sunday serves as a reminder of the Passion of Christ, highlighting the expectancy for the eternal life that comes from uniting our suffering with the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Through his life and Passion, we can gain a deeper understanding of the mystery of suffering and turn to God for guidance and strength.

Suffering is an experience that cannot be avoided, and it cannot be rushed through. It is only by allowing oneself to go through the process that one can move on. To do this, we must let God help us by drawing close to him, grieve alongside with Him, allow



church family for support, use suffering for growth, give us hope of heaven, and use our pain to help others. By turning to God and to one another, we, in our suffering can find comfort and healing.

In the face of suffering, questions may arise about the role of God and why he exists. However, dwell-

ing on these questions can prevent us from taking action to overcome and end suffering. Instead, we should trust in a compassionate God and follow the example of Jesus by actively alleviating the suffering of others. This includes ministering to the sick, consoling the afflicted, forgiving sinners, and welcoming the rejected. Here in our community, we encourage one another, share the love and peace of Christ through our pastoral work, our encouraging words, our good deeds, and prayers.

Redemptive suffering, according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, means that *"by his passion and death on the cross Christ has given a new meaning to suffering."* Suffering *"can henceforth configure us*

Suffering - See Page 2

Tending the Flock

The New And Living Temple

The Evangelists tell us that in Jesus' trial false witnesses were produced who asserted that Jesus had said: *"I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days"* (Mt 26: 61). In front of Christ hanging on the Cross some people, taunting him, referred to these same words: *"You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself!"* (Mt 27: 40)... Jesus had been referring to the Temple of his Body (cf. 2: 21ff.). It is not Jesus who destroys the temple; it is left to destruction by the attitude of those who transformed it from being a place for the encounter of all peoples with God into a *'den of robbers'*, a haven for their dealings. But as always, beginning with Adam's fall, human failure becomes the opportunity for us to be even more committed to love of God. The time of the temple built of stone, the time of animal sacrifices, is now passed: the fact that the Lord now expels the merchants does not only prevent an abuse but points to God's new way of acting. The new Temple is formed: Jesus Christ himself, in whom God's love descends upon human beings. He, by his life, is the new and living Temple. He who passed through the Cross and was raised is the living space of spirit and life in which the correct form of worship is made. Thus, the purification of the temple, as the culmination of Jesus' solemn entry into Jerusalem, is at the same time the sign of the impending ruin of the edifice and the promise of the new Temple; a promise of the kingdom of reconciliation and

Temple - See Page 2

Last Week's Prophecy



- *Remove your stony hearts and replace them with hearts of flesh so that on your final day on earth you will resurrect*

with Me and join Me in the eternal happiness of My kingdom forever and ever.

- *Believe in all the things I have told you. Act upon them fully, faithfully and unconditionally so that My death on the Cross will not go in vain.*

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

March 24, 2023

Tithe :\$695.00
Love Offering :\$278.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Gay Anito	3/31	Elvie Atienza	4/3
Elora Kho	3/31	Jasmin Zulueta	4/3
Walter Cintron	4/1	DV DelValle	4/4
Allan Diaz	4/1	Mike Zarraga	4/4
Rene Odon	4/2	Ringo Odon	4/4
Jim McCracken	4/5		

I will proclaim your name to my brethren, in the midst of the assembly I will praise you, my king.

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

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

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



An Invitation

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND
APRIL 14-16, 2023**

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

Cost per couple: \$300
(Meals and Accommodation)

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

Witness

It is necessary to remember that witness also includes professed faith, that is, convinced and manifest adherence to God the Father and Son and Holy Spirit, who created us out of love, and redeemed us. A faith that transforms us, that transforms our relationships, the criteria and the values that determine our choices. Witness, therefore, cannot be separated from consistency between what one believes and what one proclaims, and what one lives. One is not credible just by stating a doctrine or an ideology, no. A person is credible if there is harmony between what he or she believes and lives.

~ Pope Francis

Suffering - Cont'd from Page 1

to him and unite us with his redemptive Passion," it says in paragraph 1505. By focusing on serving others, we, who are experiencing pain can become more empathetic and sensitive to the pain of others. This idea is supported by 2 Corinthians 1: 3-4, which says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement, who encourages us in our every affliction, so that we may be able to encourage those who are in any affliction with the encouragement with which we ourselves are encouraged by God". We, who have experienced a certain type of pain, are often better equipped to help others who are going through a similar experience, such as a parent who has lost a child helping another grieving parent. Redemptive suffering is a way to use personal pain for a greater purpose and to help others.

As believers, we should not tire of proclaiming the message of our obedience to and oneness with Jesus Christ, our true hope and faith. We should immerse ourselves in the word of God, in prayer, in

regularly receiving sacraments, in practicing fasting, and in giving to charity. By doing so, we can live out our eternal hope and encourage others to follow the commands that God has put in our hearts.

We rejoice because Christ has overcome death and tribulation, and our lives are nourished by the victory that Jesus has accomplished on the cross for each one of us. This accomplishment is made evident by the victorious lives we lead resulting in lives of joy, peace, and love for others.

The message is clear - our eternal hope lies in a life of following Jesus Christ. He is our 'Living Hope' and our path to salvation. By focusing on what is above and not on what is on earth, we can seek Christ who is seated at the right hand of God and experience the promise of eternal life and the peace and joy that comes with it. Jesus Christ is our example of the poured-out wine and the broken bread. This sacrificial love was done on our behalf for the forgiveness of our sins so that we may have eternal life. We need this love. We need the Lord.

Temple - Cont'd from Page 1

love which, in communion with Christ, is established beyond any boundary.

St. Matthew, whose Gospel we are hearing this year, mentions... "And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them". In addition, Matthew tells us that children cried out in the temple the acclamation of the pilgrims at the city gates: "Hosanna to the Son of David" (Mt 21: 14ff.). Jesus counters the animal trade and fiscal affairs with his healing goodness. This is the temple's true purification. He does not come as a destroyer; he does not come with the revolutionary's sword. He comes with the gift of healing. He dedicates himself to those who, because of their ailments, were driven to the end of their life and to the margins of society.

~ Pope Benedict XVI,
Homily, March 16, 2008