



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME: Our hope of glory is in Jesus our King when we repent and make reparation for our sins.

PROMISE: "The Lord lifts up all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down." (Ps 145:14)

WORD: Wis 11:22-12:2/ Ps 145:1-2, 8-11,13,14/ 2Thes 1:11-2:2/ Lk 19:1-10

ORDER:

- "Repent." (Wis 11:22-23)
- "Seek Jesus." (Lk 19:3)

DIRECTIONS:

- Avail the sacrament of reconciliation.
- Perform corporal works of mercy.
- Meditate on the word of God and persevere in prayers.

Judging Is Not For Us

REFLECTION: Humility, the best way to show we Love God. "The Lord lifts up all who are falling & raises up all who are bowed." (Ps 145:14)

We always hear the word Humility. Our Lord Jesus is the perfect example and he embodied every sense of the word. The Son of Man became one of us and there is no greater love and no gravest humility than what He has done for us. This we always see & hear in all His teachings and parables.

Jesus Christ will always forgive us of our sins as sinful as we are. He'll always be ready to take us back, all we need to do is to repent and be on our righteous way to Him. Reparation needs to be done, not only material things but also for our offenses, specially when we hurt others because of our actions.

Judging is not for us, the Lord oftentimes teaches us not to judge. Jesus Christ is always compassionate, does not discriminate, is merciful towards us and, most of all, gives us endless chances to repent and drop our sinful ways, and does not think less of sinners. Recognizing our



sinfulness and responding to God's calling is the way to come back to Him! Be patient to one another & to reach out to all brothers & sister. Allow Jesus to enter our hearts always.

The Lord Jesus came not for the righteous but, more so, for the sinners who have lost their ways. Sometimes we forget that the righteous must go & reach out to the sinners and help them come back to Him. Like the many many examples of our Lord

going home with Zacchaeus who is a sinner, the Lord did not care what the other people might think or say. Reaching out to the sinner who have lost their way is what He needed us to do for each other in the community. He came for us sinners & died for us so we can be redeemed. Oftentimes we forget that we are so blessed to be in our community that we hear His words every Friday in addition to our Sunday Mass to reflect on His Gospel. Joining Him in His Kingdom is His ultimate Goal because He loves us so much. Trying our very best to follow His words & teaching is

Judging —See Page 2

Know Your Saints

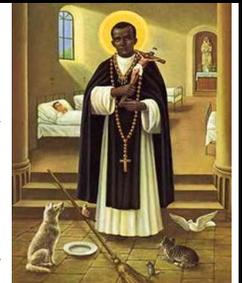
Saint Martin de Porres: Patron of Barbers

The illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman and a young freed black slave, Martin de Porres was born in 1579 in Lima, Peru. He grew up in poverty and spent much of his youth apprenticed to a barber and surgeon from whom he learned to care for the sick. He dreamed of traveling the world and doing great deeds but, instead, spent his life in his hometown of Lima working in hospitals and serving the poor in a day when medical care was often only available to the wealthy.

At age 11, he became a servant in a Dominican Priory. He was given the job of alms-seeker so he went out on the streets each day, begging more than \$2,000 a week from the rich to support the poor and sick. At 15, he became a lay Dominican and hoped to become a martyr in a far-off land. His superiors dropped the stipulation that "no black person may be received to the holy habit or profession of our Order" and Martin took vows as a Dominican brother in 1603. He founded an orphanage and helped care for the slaves brought in from Africa. He also started a hospital for cats, dogs and other small animals.

Martin lived in self-imposed austerity, never ate meat, fasted continuously, and spent much time in prayer and meditation with a great devotion to the Holy Eucharist. He never traveled the world, but he served God in many ways by serving ordinary people.

St. Martin de Porres died of fever in 1639 while serving in his hospital. He was venerated from the day of his death and many miraculous cures, including raising the dead were attributed to him. Canonized in 1962, he is the first American saint of African ancestry and is honored as patron of barbers.



Teaching Schedule

Nov 2 - SPE - BBS Approach to the Word of God
 Nov 9 - ME 19 - MGT
 Nov 16 - ME 20 - Charismata Pneumatika Diakonia
 Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Save the Date

Nov 3 : Community Retreat 1:00 - 3:30 PM
 Venue: St. Monica Church
 Jackson, NJ
 Dec 21 : Christmas Caroling 11 AM—4 PM
 Jan 10-12 : Singles Encounter
 Venue: America's Keswick
 Whiting, NJ
 Feb 5-12 : Medical Mission to the Philippines

The Lord's Provision October 25, 2019

Tithes: \$595.00
 Love Offering: \$243.00
*Thank you for your
 generosity!!*

Marshalls

Nov 1 — Roy Roldan
 Jojo Legaspi
 Nov 8 — Claro Gomez
 Pris Brendaia

God's Blessings

Birthday

| | | | |
|----------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Leo Lukban | 11/1 | Kristella DelaCruz | 11/4 |
| Edie Danieles | 11/2 | Drew Allen | 11/5 |
| Arnold Paderon | 11/2 | Butch Chioco | 11/5 |
| Francis Sunga | 11/2 | Jaime Pascua | 11/5 |
| George Bacus | 11/2 | Abbot Del Pilar | 11/5 |
| Jun Anito | 11/3 | Alfred Panganiban | 11/6 |
| Bert Panahon | 11/3 | Cora Velez | 11/6 |
| | | Kitti T. Young | 11/6 |

Anniversary

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Eric & Mae Alberto | 11/1 |
| Ron & Tina King | 11/2 |
| Michael & Rhea Bell | 11/3 |
| Francis & Bernadette Sunga | 11/4 |
| Tottie & Beth Felibrico | 11/5 |
| Totie & Nilda Araga | 11/5 |
| Jun & Rica Torralba | 11/6 |

*I will praise your name forever,
 my king and my God.*

Judging - Cont'd from Page 1

the way that we can have a deeper & meaningful relation with Him. That advantage is the sacrament of the Eucharist. Get the Sacrament of Reconciliation as often as we can.

As Christians our calling from God is to become like Jesus Christ and we all know that this is a gradual & a lifelong process. To be worthy of His calling is to do what is right. However, human as we are, we always stray from His path. We need to put the Lord's teaching into actions. Give back to the poor & the needy. Repent, pray continuously and stay away from committing the same sins over & over again.

Prayer:

Lord, help us to seek Jesus Christ in anything that we do and to acknowledge our sinfulness. Lord, send the Holy Spirit to guide us always, for us to always seek Him with the hope of joining Him in his Heavenly Kingdom. Humble us, oh Lord, and help us acknowledge our sinfulness. Enlighten our ways so we can recognize our sin & lead us to the path that you wanted us to be towards Your Kingdom.

Faith, Commitment, Outreach

*"Do not be afraid, Simon. From now on,
 you will be catching people."
 - Luke 5:10*

STRONGER in Faith, DEEPER in Commitment and WIDER in Outreach was the theme of the 4th Solo Parent Ministries East Coast Inter-District Conference held at the Holy Eucharist Church auditorium in Cherry Hill, NJ on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019. Hosted by BLD Camden District, over 160 SP Ministry members, District Stewards and Ministry Coordinators attended the gathering. Our own Cluster Shepherds Art and Agnes Monta welcomed our brothers and sisters from all the BLD districts - Trenton, Camden, Newark, NY Rockland, Rockville Long Island NY, Washington DC and Toronto, Canada.

Throughout the day, Msgr. Paul Schetelick, the conference Spiritual Director spoke on how to be stronger in our Faith, to deepen our Commitment and widen our outreach. FAITH can completely change our lives and take us from weak, fearful and defeated individuals to being strong, courageous and victorious. Everyone was encouraged to enter that spiritual dimension of our existence, to develop an intimate relationship with our Triune God. Through human labors of knowing, loving and serving God will the unseen divine become a tangible reality for us. Trusting in the promises of Jesus, we believe and witness to the power of His WORD for nothing is impossible with God.

"For God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." (2 Tim 1:7)



Group discussions followed each talk. Concerns and constraints were voiced and solutions offered. Transportation to the venue for attendance in ministry activities was a common problem together with work commitment issues and change in priorities. All in all we were asked to pray thru our struggles and let God be in charge. For honest service is of a total surrender, an action of humility and not of obligation.

A Life of Discipleship calls for persistence and perseverance, a deeper commitment of ourselves and of casting the net into the deep. Suggestions for improving outreach activities included creative follow up of inactive members, links via social media, parish support, extending invitations to members of other Christian denominations in encounters and of sharing resources between districts.

The day ended with each district presenting their journey in time. BLD Trenton was discerned to host the next SPM Inter-District Conference in 2021. The conference closed with a Eucharistic celebration. Having spent the day fed in body, soul and spirit, everyone left with brightly shining faces ready for work in God's vineyard and to GO FORTH.....



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME: Our hope of glory is in Jesus our King when we patiently endure our sufferings for the Kingdom.

PROMISE: "... the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one." (2 Thes 3:3)

WORD: 2 Mc 7:1-2, 9-14/ Ps 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15/ 2 Thes 2:16-3:5/ Lk 20:27-38

ORDER:
•"Direct your hearts to the love of God and to the endurance of Christ." (2 Thes 3:5)

DIRECTIONS:
•Be persistent in prayers and in reaching out to our brothers and sisters in the community.
•Find joy in service through your ministries and serving one another.
•Offer your trials and tribulations to the Lord.

Glorifying God In Our Suffering

REFLECTION: This Sunday's readings remind us of an important message: that there is heaven. Those who are loyal and steadfast in their faith despite difficulties are worthy of heaven. Our faith in God, in the resurrection, and our love for Jesus, help us to live with any pain. Jesus said in the Gospel, that those who are in heaven with Him "are like angels; and they are children of God because they are the ones who will rise." Looking forward to heaven strengthens us to endure present trials.



In the first reading, the widowed mother persevered with her sons in their persecution, and were sustained by their faith in the promise of eternal life. They are martyrs who chose death rather than betray God's Law and died hoping that the "King of the World" would raise them to live again forever.

In the Gospel, the Sadducees questioned the Resurrection. They mocked the faith hoping to trap Jesus but, instead, Jesus used the question to give His clearest teaching on resurrection. He explained that there's no marriage in heaven, and "that in the afterlife, it will be completely different to this life."

As the mother and the seven brothers suffered for the Old Law, we will have to suffer for our faith in the New Covenant. Yet Jesus will guard us in the shadow of His wing, keep us as the apple of His eye, as we sing the Psalm.

We too can glorify the Lord in our sufferings and in the daily sacrifices we make. We are called to go thru our daily death- death to sinfulness, pride, greed, arrogance, unforgiveness, unbelief, and unsurrender - and be courageous witnesses of Christ. Are we willing to die and patiently endure sufferings to gain eternal life? Romans 8:17 says, "And if we are children, then we are heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ, provided that we share his suffering, so as to share his glory." What is there to gain from suffering? First, suffering awakens us to the reality that we are all broken without Him. It encourages us to search for Him,

Suffering —See Page 2

Know Your Saints

Saint Mother Cabrini: Patron of Orphans

One of thirteen children, Frances Cabrini was born and raised on a farm in rural Italy in 1850. As a girl she dreamed of being a missionary in China. But because she was sickly and was even afflicted with smallpox, no one thought she would ever be strong enough to leave her home village.

Frances surprised everyone by becoming a nun and teaching at several orphanages. In 1880, she founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Nine years later, Pope Leo XIII took note of her excellent work and sent her to the United States to help the immigrants who had flocked to America's cities in search of freedom and wealth.

Frances Cabrini and six other nuns arrived in New York at a time when aid to the needy was the responsibility of religious and private groups. Within a few years they had founded 70 schools, hospitals and orphanages in the United States, Europe and South America. Their hard work and Christ-like example encouraged many others to become involved in helping the poor.

The future saint wrote, "We must pray without tiring, for the salvation of mankind does not depend on material success, nor on sciences that cloud the intellect. Neither does it depend on arms and human industries, but on Jesus alone."

Because she treated thousands of strangers as her own family, she also became known as Mother Cabrini. She died at the age of sixty-seven, as she was making Christmas presents for one of her orphanages. St. Mother Cabrini is the first U.S. citizen to be canonized and is honored as patron of orphans.





Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

Our hope of glory is in Jesus our King when we persevere in our faith.

PROMISE:

By your perseverance you will secure your lives." (Lk 21:19)

WORD:

Mal 3:19-20 / Ps 98:5-9 / 2 Thes 3:7-12 / Lk 21:5-19

ORDER:

- "Persevere in faith." (Lk 21:19)
- "Give testimony." (Lk 21:13)

DIRECTIONS:

- Fear not.
- Trust in God.
- Be "Christ-like" when serving others.
- Serve with joy.

Keeping Faith, Trusting God

REFLECTION: It is ominous to go through the passages of this Sunday's readings. Ultimately, the world will end and judgment day will come. But before this happens, our faith will be tested in fire. We will be persecuted and ultimately be asked: how much do we love our Lord Jesus Christ? How much are we willing to sacrifice our lives for His sake and in His name?



In so many ways, it already feels like our world is in the state that the gospel is describing. There are raging wars in many countries of the world, there are many acts of violence and terrorism all around us, we hear of mass shootings left and right, of discrimination and bigotry, and our country is divided in its leadership. The Catholic Church is being criticized and challenged at so many levels and prayer is no longer encouraged in classrooms. Even nature seems to be raging mad, with all the natural disasters that we hear of on a daily basis.

On a smaller scale, in the community that we live in, our faith is also being challenged. We are called to serve in our com-

munity, our parish, our place of work, and in our own homes. Let us ask ourselves these questions. Do we choose to give and offer our best, knowing that our actions reflect how much we love our Lord? When we are assigned a difficult task, do we set aside time so we can properly execute the task? Or do we just grumble and complain about it? When we have disagreements, are we able to listen calmly to another person's point of view? When we are hurt for any reason—when we have failed expectations, when our efforts are not acknowledged by others, and especially when we do not get our way—do we persevere in serving? Or do we leave our community? Or much worse, do we seek vengeance? Let not our pride lead us away from serving the Lord. Through the guidance of the Holy spirit, may we realize that service is meant to glorify the Lord and not ourselves.

The Lord asks us to be firm in our commitment to serve, no matter what obsta-

Trusting—See Page 2

Know Your Saints

Saint Cecilia: Patron of Musicians

Cecilia was the daughter of a wealthy family in second century Rome who forced her to marry Valerian, a pagan. Dutifully obeying her parents, she married him but, *"while the profane music at her wedding was heard, Cecilia was singing in her heart a hymn of love for Jesus, her true spouse."*

Cecilia told Valerian that she had an angel by her side and in order to see it, he must be baptized a Christian. Valerian agreed and coming back from his baptism ceremony, he saw his wife praying with an angel with flaming wings standing next to her. Valerian asked the angel a favor that his brother, Tiburtius, become a Christian too.

Soon after, Tiburtius was also baptized and along with Valerian and Cecilia, they gave their family fortune to help the poor of Rome and to aid the families of Christian martyred by the emperor. The two brothers devoted themselves to burying the Christian martyrs killed each day by the pagan authorities.

In 177 A.D., Valerian and Tiburtius were themselves arrested and killed for their faith. Thereafter, Cecilia was condemned to be suffocated by steam, but she survived and was then beheaded. She remained cheerful during her persecution and even managed to convert several of her captors to Christ. Miraculously, when her tomb was opened in 1599, her body was found to be incorrupt.

Much great music has been written celebrating St. Cecilia, including at least five complete Masses and works by renowned composers such as Friedrich Handel and Henry Purcell. Throughout the world, numerous musical societies performing religious music claim her as their patron and inspiration.



Teaching Schedule

Nov 16 - ME 20 - Charismata Pneumatika Diakonia
Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Save the Date

Nov 20 : Soup Kitchen Thanksgiving Lunch
Venue: St. Peter's Church 11 AM—1 PM
Freehold, NJ

Dec 21 : Christmas Caroling 11 AM—4 PM

Jan 10-12 : Singles Encounter
Venue: America's Keswick
Whiting, NJ

Feb 5-12 : Medical Mission to the Philippines

Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Blessed Mother's visit - Tess Corso 732-604-1914
For Prayer Service - Morris Teves 732-597-2016

Trusting - Cont'd from Page 1

cles we encounter along the way. Broken as we are, it would be Christ-like if we can extend help to others as they deal with their own brokenness. In both small and big ways, the Lord asks us to be a good witness to others. If we could only learn to humble ourselves and serve with joy in our hearts, the Lord will surely be pleased with us.

For our brothers and sisters who have become spiritually dry, not only should we pray for them, but we should encourage them to join us in prayer. Prayer is our weapon in our spiritual life that helps us to prepare for the unpredictable sad events that may befall us. When we go to praise and worship together, it is possible to feel that synergy with the community. As a group, we can grow stronger in faith as we witness one another's testimony of God's love. The familiar adage "the family that prays together, stays together" is true. As a family of prayer, we encourage one another to continue to trust in God's plan for us.

The gospel is explicit in saying that it is possible for our loved ones, even our own parents, to betray us. Yet, we are reminded that our God is the one constant being who will love us, no matter what. God's love is the one true love that is forever reliable, loyal, and trustworthy. His love will protect us from all adversaries and will never fail nor abandon us. We need not fear, we just have to trust that God's plan is best for us.

If we put God above all else, and persevere in following His teachings, then he will see us through all the deepest sorrows in our lives. Christ will equip us with the wisdom to handle all the challenges that we will face. When we fiercely defend our faith despite oppressions, the Lord will protect us. Our lives will be secured. We will emerge victorious in Christ's love.

God's Blessings

Birthday

| | | | |
|---------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| Beth Zarraga | 11/15 | Rolfe Retuya | 11/19 |
| Celia Carillo | 11/16 | Michael Bell | 11/20 |
| Yoyoy Quiapo | 11/19 | Dave Smith | 11/21 |

Anniversary

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Brooksie & Ruby Brooks | 11/19 |
| Mike & Rouinna Crocco | 11/20 |

Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors & Proclaimers

Edward Keith Rodriguez, Ellen
Epino, Ash Young

Marshalls

Nov 15 - Yoyoy Quiapo
Joel Bermudo

Nov 22 - Arnold Paderon
Art Butulan

The Lord's Provision

November 8, 2019

Tithes: \$190.00
Love Offering: \$535.00

*Thank you for your
generosity!!*



Shake-Up

How would you respond if someone prophesied that your home, land, or place of worship would be destroyed? Jesus foretold many signs that would shake peoples and nations. The signs which God uses are meant to point us to a higher spiritual truth and reality of his kingdom which does not perish or fade away, but endures for all eternity. God works through many events and signs to purify and renew us in hope and to help us set our hearts more firmly on him and him alone.

Sometimes we don't recognize the moral crisis and spiritual conflict of the age in which we live, until something "shakes us up" to the reality of this present condition. God reminds us that a future judgment and outcome awaits every individual who has lived on this earth. The reward

for doing what is right and pleasing to God and the penalty for sinful rebellion and rejection of God are not always experienced in this present life - but they are sure to come in the day of final judgment.

The Lord Jesus tells us that there will be trials, suffering, and persecution in this present age until he comes again at the end of the world. God intends our anticipation of his final judgment to be a powerful deterrent to unfaithfulness and wrongdoing. God extends grace and mercy to all who will heed his call and his warning. Do not pass up, even for one day, God's invitation of grace and mercy to seek first his kingdom of righteousness and peace. This day may be your only chance before that final day comes.

Adapted from dailyscripture.servantsoftheword.org



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

Our hope of glory is in Jesus our King when we believe in the promise of eternal life.

PROMISE:

"...you will be with me in Paradise." (Lk 23:43)

WORD:

2 Sm 5:1-3/ Ps 122:1-4/ Col 1:12-20/ Lk 23:35-43

ORDER:

- "You shall shepherd my people." (2 Sm 5:2)
- "Give thanks to the Fathers." (Col 1:12)

DIRECTIONS:

- Practice and observe fraternal corrections.
- Avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and receive the Holy Eucharist often.

Meek And Humble King

REFLECTION: The Solemnity of Christ the King is a celebration of the Kingship of our Lord expressed in humble service to and compassion for others. It was promulgated by Pope Pius XI in 1925 when man's thinking and way of life was such that God did not exist. Proclaiming Christ's royalty over the entire universe was and continues to be the antidote to secularism, a direct denial of Christ's kingship. This makes it all the more relevant in our world of materialism today.

Today's feast day is a good reminder for all of us to see Jesus our King in others. As we reflect on His kingship, an important question to ask is – have we grown in our faith? Jesus Christ did not come to this world and die for nothing. As children of God, we are created to grow in imitation of His Son, Jesus. Jesus showed us the way, the truth and the life. Until we fully comprehend and realize the meaning of our salvation, there is much more we need to do so that our Christian faith may fully mature to a faith that is borne out of love for our sovereign Christ.

Most of the people who saw Jesus on the cross at that time would not have recognized Him as a king. They jeered at Him and challenged Him to save Himself if indeed He were king of the Jews. Sadly, the same is true today. There are times when



we have trouble recognizing Jesus among our own family members, circle of friends, members of community, in the sick and elderly, among the poor and marginalized, and in random people around us with broken dreams. They are pining for our love and we need to respond with eyes of faith that can see Jesus our King in each one.

King David was favored by God with all attributes of a good king. Among his remarkable traits was being the protector of Israel who provided the people with security, peace and freedom from fear. Hence, they anointed him king of Israel. As prophesied in Scriptures, there would come from David's generation a descendant who will be anointed as the Messiah. The Jews were expecting someone like King David who possessed all the qualities

King — See Page 2

Know Your Saints

Saint Catherine Laboure: Patron of Seniors

Catherine Laboure was the ninth of eleven children and grew up on a farm in early 1800s France. When she was nine years old, her mother died and she began to seek solace in her heavenly mother, the Blessed Virgin.

While visiting a hospital run by the Sisters of Charity, Catherine received a vision of St. Vincent de Paul who told her that God wanted her to work with the sick. Believing this was indeed the will of God, she joined the Sisters of Charity.

In 1830, Catherine was kneeling in the convent chapel when she saw the Blessed Virgin Mary appear in all her glory. Mary pointed to the altar and told her this was the source of all consolation for humankind. When Mary appeared again to her a few months later, she told Catherine to have a special medal made that would spread devotion to the mother of God. The medal was to have the image of Our Lady and the word, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee" on one side. The other side was to bear an image of the hearts of Jesus and Mary. The Blessed Virgin told the future saint that wearers of the medal would receive great graces.

The Archbishop of Paris gave permission to create the medal in 1832 and the first medals made became very popular. Many miracles of grace, health, peace and prosperity occurred to those who wore it. Before long people started calling it the "Miraculous Medal".

St. Catherine Laboure spent the rest of her life caring for the elderly in her town, thus she is called patron of seniors. She died on December 31, 1876 and her feast day is observed on November 28.



Teaching Schedule

Dec 8 - ME 19 - Advanced Intercession and
Spiritual Warfare

Save the Date

Dec 21 : Christmas Caroling 11 AM—4 PM
Jan 10-12 : Singles Encounter
 Venue: America's Keswick
 Whiting, NJ
Feb 5-12 : Medical Mission to the Philippines

God's Blessings

Birthday

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| Adrienne Alquiros | 11/22 | Jeff Sarmiento | 11/23 |
| Clemen Durante | 11/23 | Marilyn-Roy | 11/24 |
| Judy Guerrero | 11/23 | Allan Pontipiedra | 11/28 |
| Vincent Palecki | 11/23 | Marissa Orienza | 11/28 |

Anniversary

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Bert & Phoebe Panahaon | 11/25 |
| Lenny & Brenda Palao | 11/26 |
| Mike & Anne Belonia | 11/27 |
| Romy & Clemen Durante | 11/28 |

Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors & Proclaimers

Carl & Mina Duque, Toti & Inna
Lukban, Ceasar & Agnes Morte,
Gene & Leleng del Carmen

Marshalls

Nov 22 - Arnold Paderon
Art Butulan
Nov 29 - Nestor Conde

The Lord's Provision November 15, 2019

Tithes: \$1,035.00
Love Offering: \$314.00

*Thank you for your
generosity!!*

Kitchen Kids

On November 17, I was given the opportunity to participate in the soup kitchen in Asbury Park, held by our BLD Trenton Youth Ministry. Throughout, it was a fulfilling experience to help others as Jesus has taught and pushed us to do.

The soup kitchen was an opportunity for teenagers like me to serve for the Lord as a part of the soup kitchen was either serving others or singing praise music to our audience. And in return for our service, the residents that we served were welcoming of us, full of spirit and respect. Truly, our time was not wasted in this act of good; it was paid back to us, from whom we served and from the Lord in our hearts.



"Well done, my good and faithful servant..."
 - Mt 25:23

*Thank you for
your service,
Kuya Popong.*

Adolfo Arias
1956—2019

King - Cont'd from Page 1

of an earthly king. But instead, Jesus was lowly and humble. He was not what they expected of a king, yet He was more than an earthly king. Aptly described in the 2nd reading by St. Paul, Christ was not only anointed with oil, but with the Holy Spirit and with power. *"He is the image of the invisible God...all things were created through him and for him."* (Col 1:16b). He is indeed the Sovereign King.

To the unbelievers at the crucifixion scene, it appeared to them that Jesus succumbed to defeat since He

did not defend Himself, but remained meek and humble to the end. They were blinded from understanding the meaning of the cross, that Jesus' death becomes His victory, not for Himself but victory over sin and death. To the "good" thief who believed in the kingship of Jesus and in His Kingdom, Jesus gave him eternity itself.

As true disciples of Christ, we have the duty to know Jesus in a deeper way, have a relationship with Him and honor Him as Lord and King who is sovereign over our life. Just as Jesus granted eternal life to the criminal on the cross because of

his faith, so also us, that by the sacrificial act of Jesus on the cross, He saved us and restored our spiritual inheritance. When we live our faith and walk the path of righteousness, we can claim Christ's promise, just as he assured the good thief on the cross: *"... you will be with me in Paradise,"* (Lk 23:43).

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, help us to learn your ways, to be humble and poor in spirit, that in our weakness we will know You fully and find strength in You as our Sovereign King.

Adapted from www.bldworld.com



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

There is joy and hope in our lives when we grow in holiness.

PROMISE:

"...those you love you prosper." (Ps 122:6)

WORD:

Is 2:1-5/ Ps 122:1-9/ Rom 13:11-14/ Mt 24:37-44

ORDER:

• "Make your hearts firm...the coming of the Lord is at hand." (Ja 5:8b)

DIRECTIONS:

- Avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and receive the Holy Eucharist regularly.
- This Advent and Christmas season, be charitable to the poor and share your blessings with poor families.

Time For The New You

REFLECTION: Are you ready for a new beginning in your life? Are you ready to move forward into the blessings God has for you? In order for you to do this, you have to be willing to let go of your old ways. The things that are behind you are not as important as what lies ahead of you. It's time to get ready for the "new!" The letter of St. Paul to the Romans in the 2nd reading says: "cast off the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light," (Rom 13:12).

Advent is the best time to look at the quality of our life – our personal life, our dealings with others, our commitment to our family and spouse, and at the great issues concerning community. How preoccupied are we with our daily lives that we hardly think about God or the future? Advent is the perfect time to renew ourselves in grace – a time to get a new, wider vision; a fresher outlook, and rise up with a new attitude. Instead of settling where you are, pick yourself up and move forward. Instead of allowing unpleasant things that happened in the past hold you back, why not let go and take a step of faith into the new?

Start the practice of gathering the family together in prayer, revive old friendships, restore broken connections and try to heal some family disagreement. We can



fill that empty space in our hearts with Jesus, as we cling to His faithful promises. Let us not allow ourselves to be so absorbed in the noise and challenges of life, we no longer have any space for God in our lives. Just as there is no limit to the mercy that God can pour out, there is no limit to what we can do, especially this Advent. The transforming power of the Christmas mystery is found not in the changes that happen on the outside but in the transformation within us.

"Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake!" (Mt 24:42). God's word resounds in a special way to bring us into deeper

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"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, whose love endures forever."

– 1 Chronicles 16:34

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we are gathered with friends and family to celebrate Thanksgiving Day, let us take a moment to reflect upon what we are especially grateful for in our lives. First and foremost is the boundless love of our Almighty God that He pours upon us. We just need to take the time and look around to realize how much he has provided for us including the earth and the beauty of nature that surrounds us.

May the Sacred reading and other spiritual aid around us inspire us to grow in faith and to have a solid commitment to discipleship.

Although, we are mourning the untimely passing of our brother Popong, it should not stop us from worshipping and praising Him to the highest heavens. When tragedy strikes, the more we have to raise our hands in Thanksgiving because He has given us immeasurable hope for a brighter tomorrow.

Together with all the District Council of Stewards, we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your steadfast service to God and to our beloved BLD Trenton.

Happy Thanksgiving to all and God bless,

Art & Agnes Monta
BLD Trenton Cluster District Shepherds

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Teaching Schedule

Dec 8 - ME 19 - Advanced Intercession and Spiritual Warfare

Save the Date

Dec 21 : Christmas Caroling 11 AM—4 PM
Jan 10-12 : Singles Encounter
 Venue: America's Keswick Whiting, NJ
Feb 5-12 : Medical Mission to the Philippines

God's Blessings

Birthday

| | | | |
|----------------|-------|-----------------|------|
| Raul Caragay | 11/30 | Clarissa Gomez | 12/3 |
| Yoly Japitana | 11/30 | Helen Hernandez | 12/3 |
| Andy Mantes | 11/30 | Rica Torralba | 12/3 |
| Agnes Raymundo | 12/2 | Jun Torralba | 12/3 |

Anniversary

Manny & Florence Acosta 11/29
 Mike & Argie Salada 12/5

Marshalls

Nov 29 - Nestor Conde
Dec 6 - Jeff Sarmiento
 Alfred Panganiban

The Lord's Provision November 22, 2019

Tithes: \$1,092.00
Love Offering: \$318.00

Thank you for your generosity!!

Merry Christmas
Eat & DRINK
Be & MERRY

**PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
 BLD TRENTON ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY
 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019**

Mass will be celebrated at 6pm sharp at
 Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine Church Hall
 61 Georgia Road, Freehold NJ

Chinese Auction by FRC Christmas presentations by Ministries
 Love offering of desserts will be greatly appreciated. More details to follow

Sponsored with LOVE by ME19 with SP 1-2

Please join us for a
Christmas Chinese Auction
 Friday, December 13, 2019
 At Saint Robert Bellarmine
 Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine
 @ BLD Christmas Party

Donations are Welcome
 By Fundraising Committee
 Chet Conde 732-609-3648
 Juan Zulueta 848-333-1233

Memorial Mass

Join Popong's family on Saturday,
 December 7, 2019 , 10:00 AM at
 co-Cathedral of St. Robert
 Bellarmine, Freehold, NJ

Advent Must-Do

Happy New Year! This Sunday is the first day of the Church's year and the beginning of the Advent season. *"This holy season teaches us that Christ's coming was not only for the benefit of His contemporaries; His power has still to be communicated to us all"* (from a pastoral letter by St. Charles Borromeo). The purpose of Advent is to prepare us for a deep, personal, life-changing, world-shaking encounter with Christ this Christmas season.

The Holy Spirit has taught the Church that to prepare for Christ, we must:

- Pray the Mass with so much love that Mass becomes the center of our lives. Thus, we have the word, "Christ-Mass."
- Be immersed in repentance and express this by Advent Confession(s) (see Lk 3:3ff).
- Abide in God's Word (Jn 8:31) and share His Word. This is the origin of Christmas cards.
- Do penance, especially fasting. This is the connotation of the Advent color, purple.
- Do good deeds, especially almsgiving. This is the origin of Christmas gift-giving.

Christ is coming in a new way this Christmas. Get ready this Advent.

Adapted from www.presentationministries.com

"Well done, my good and faithful servant..."
 - Mt 25:23

*Thank you for your service,
 Kuya Popong.*

Adolfo Arias
 1956—2019

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reflections on Christ, the Holy Spirit and God the Father. Be attentive to the inner promptings of the heart, the gentle pressures that move us to perform a good deed. Advent is a time to open ourselves more and more to the action of God in our lives. God is always present, trying to turn us little by little into loving persons. Let us remain spiritually awake at all times because His second coming can happen at any time. The best way to prepare for the future is to live the present moment as best we can. God is especially pre-

sent whenever we reach out to others in love and whenever we make a gesture of genuine love, only then we can experience God.

The spiritual countdown to Christmas begins when the Church calls us to a period of deep reflection and spiritual preparation for the birth of Jesus. Christmas brings to mind powerful memories, feelings and hope in all of us. It speaks of yearnings within every person for home, family, and friendship. Year after year, we look to Christmas to fulfill those desires of peace, joy, love and prosperity. As our promise this week says: *"...those who love you*

prosper." (Ps 122:6).

Prayer:

Our all-powerful God, thank You for Your word this first Sunday of Advent. Am I really prepared for a new beginning? Give us the wisdom to realize the importance of living a good and holy life now, so that when we do meet You we will do so with confidence, courage and strength. Increase our will for doing good that You may find in us an eager welcome when You call us to Your side in Your second coming. Amen.

Adapted from www.bldworld.com