



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We obey God's commandment of love when we wholeheartedly serve, not counting the cost.

PROMISE:

"If he gives his life as an offering...the will of the Lord shall be accomplished through him." (Is 52:10b)

WORD:

Is 53:10-11/ Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22/ Heb 4:14-16/ Mk 10:35-45

ORDER:

- *Serve and give your life as a ransom for many.* (Mk 10:45b)

DIRECTIONS:

- Serve with humility, anonymity and sacrifice.
- Total surrender and trust in the Lord.
- Give generously and serve joyfully.



Serve With Self-Sacrificing Love

REFLECTION:

As I was reading the Gospel, I had a feeling of awkwardness. It felt even more awkward if you consider that the scene immediately before this reading was the description of Jesus giving His third prediction of the Passion, *"Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and hand him over to the Gentiles who will mock him, spit upon him, scourge him, and put him to death, but after three days he will rise."* Then out of left field, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus and said to him, *"Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."* He replied, *"What do you wish me to do for you?"* They answered him, *"Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left."* Whenever we tell Jesus what He can do for us, that is not a good sign! This scene reeks of the two disciples' ambition. Jesus must be thinking, I'm in trouble now. I will soon be handing my Ministry to these two power hungry disciples. Naturally, the rest of His disciples became indignant. Jesus calms this jealousy-filled scene by essentially stating, *"be careful what you wish for". "Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism*



with which I am baptized?" This is a metaphor for the acceptance of the destiny or fate assigned by God, which in Jesus' case, involves making amends on behalf of our sins. His baptism is to be his crucifixion and death for the salvation of the human

race. Therefore, the request of James and John for a share in the glory means sharing in Jesus' sufferings. That is exactly what Jesus is asking of us as His modern-day disciples. This message comes in a timely manner for us ME-21 as we are presently in the Service Ministry. Our Ministry teaches us the Christian virtues of humility and obedience. As Christians, we cannot accept the footsteps of Jesus, of a life of self-sacrifice, unless we are first humble and obedient to the will of our Lord. It is natural for us as hu-

Self-Sacrificing- See Page 2



Smallness

Do we recognize ourselves as small before God? Let's think about it, it will help us... In prosperity, in wellbeing, we have the illusion of being self-sufficient, that we are enough, that we do not need God. Brothers and sisters, this is a deception, because each one of us is a person in need, a little one. We must seek out our smallness and recognize it. And there, we will find Jesus.

If we think about it, we grow not so much on the basis of our successes and the things we have, but above all in difficult and fragile moments. There, in our need, we mature; there we open our hearts to God, to others, to the meaning of life... When we feel small in the face of a problem, small in front of a cross, an illness, when we experience fatigue and loneliness, let us not get discouraged... because with God weakness is not an obstacle but an opportunity.

~ Pope Francis

Last Week's Prophecy

My true followers are always aware and always remember their neighbors who are hurting, wanting, in pain or persecuted, and willingly share their abundance with them.

Lord, let your kindness be upon us, as we place our trust in you.



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

October 8, 2021

Tithes : \$535.00
Love Offer : \$ 25.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Neri Roldan	10/15	Sionee Abalos	10/18
Gerard DelaFuente	10/15	Marsha Supapo	10/19
Julie Saria	10/15	Kimberly Estomo	10/20
Weddy Balmaceda	10/18	Ruby Woodard	10/21
Beth Felibrico	10/18	Daniel Catarata	10/21
Jomar Janolo	10/18	Maz Gennity	10/21

Anniversary

Ricky & Rissa Gomez	10/15
Marlon & Sionee Abalos	10/18
Arwin & Sona David	10/18

Me For You

Jesus says, "The Son of man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." It is as if he were saying, "I willed not even to stop at death but even in death gave my life as a ransom. For whom? For enemies. For you. If you are abused, my life is given for you. It is for you. Me for you." So you need not be too picky if you suffer the loss of your honor. No matter how much it is lowered, you will not be descending as far as your Lord descended. And yet the deep descent of one has become the ascent of all. His glory shines forth from these very depths. For before he was made man, he was known among the angels only. But after he was made man and was crucified, so far from lessening that glory, he acquired further glory besides, even that from his personal knowledge of the world.

~ John Chrysostom, 344-407 AD

MY ME 1 CLASS

Here is our story, how ME 1 came to be.

*At a retreat house in October 2001
10 couples, two widows and a priest
Were invited to gather as one
Why we were there we had no clue
We wondered what we were expected to do.*

*The welcome songs and warm smiles
We didn't quite understand
Was that a trick to keep us there
To hold us captive and
Grin and bear.*

Endearing qualities of our spouses we had to say

*'Twas at times corny
But the game we had to play,
'Twas a good device to break the ice
And we were in for a big surprise
Couldn't believe what they were sharing
To all of us they did not even know
We wondered why, with eyes askew
They bared their souls for all to view.*

*But then we learned it was the goal
To look into our marriage as a whole
How much impact it had, I couldn't say
But when the Song of Ruth began to play
The tears couldn't be kept at bay.*

*Soon after, we got the gist
Wiped the tears away and settled in
Finally saw the wisdom of it all*

And realized the ME was the answer to God's call.

*When the weekend came to a close
Tho' tired, we felt revitalized
With renewed enthusiasm we promised
To live a God centered life
And with more vigor
Our prayer lives revive.*

*We've gone thru milestones together
Thru laughter and tears, joy and sorrows
With our class shepherds, Chito and Aileen
We were guided and overcame the fear of tomorrow.*

*We involved our children
And they soon realized
That friendship and support of each other
Have bonded the ME 1 class together for life.
Aaah, twenty years...Who would have thought
we'd still be here*

*Only with God's grace and faith,
We've made it this long...*

*And so as the ME1 class marches onward
We raise our hands in praise to God
And bow our heads in adoration
Promise Him total devotion.*

To God be the Glory!!!

Note: The above poem is a tribute to Marriage Encounter #1 as it celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. Originally written by a faithful disciple of this ME class ten years ago, it has been updated to mark their inspiring milestone.