

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We have hope for eternal life when we follow the guidance of Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

PROMISE:

"I am the gate. Whoever enters through it will be saved..." (Jn 10: 9a)

WORD:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41/ Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b, 4, 5, 6/ 1 Pt 2: 20b-25/ Jn 10: 1-10

ORDER:

- *Hear His voice.* (Jn 10: 3)

DIRECTIONS:

- Be prayerful and immerse on the Word of God.
- Be obedient to God's call.
- Shepherd one another observing the spiritual works of mercy.
- Participate in Word Sharing Circle.



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 23, Issue 16

<http://bldtrenton.com>

April 28, 2023

Jesus Christ, The Gate

REFLECTION:

The 4th Sunday of Easter is known as the Good Shepherd Sunday. Another title is given to Jesus Christ and that is the Gate. He is the Door that leads us to salvation. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life and it is only through Him that we attain the fullness of life; the only path to go to the Father. He desires for us to inherit the kingdom but we must hear His voice and follow Him. *"The sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them..."* (cf. Jn 10:3-5). We will follow the voice that is familiar to us, the voice that we are accustomed to hearing. Jesus speaks to us in different ways and we must diligently listen to His voice. We need to practice listening instead of our mind wandering somewhere else. Our sheep pen is full of distractions, temptations and struggles that take away our mind from Christ.



"Be still and know that I am God," (Ps 46:10). When we are silent we concentrate on Jesus' voice through those vibrant narratives of the gospel, the parables and the sacred scriptures which is living and effective. Participating in Lectio Divina helps us to get to know Christ. In our community, we hold Word Sharing Circle regularly which provides us an opportunity to reflect on His word and to apply His message in our daily life. Jesus speaks to us through the magisterium

which gives us spiritual lessons; Jesus speaks to us through the different sacraments especially the Holy Eucharist that makes His presence felt profoundly; the sacrament of reconciliation that heals our brokenness and brings us spiritual healing. At times, our God uses people around us as His messengers. We need to converse with Jesus through prayers and we cannot over-emphasize to set aside time to make prayers a regular part of our lives. The Holy

The Gate - See Page 2

Tending the Flock

Listen and Follow

The Liturgy of the Fourth Sunday of Easter presents to us one of the most beautiful images that has portrayed the Lord Jesus since the earliest centuries of the Church: the Good Shepherd. The Gospel of St. John, in chapter 10, describes the special features of the relationship between Christ the Good Shepherd and his flock, a relationship so close that no one will ever be able to snatch sheep from his hand. Indeed, the sheep are united to him by a bond of love and of reciprocal knowledge, which guarantees to them the immeasurable gift of eternal life.

At the same time, the flock's attitude to the Good Shepherd, Christ, is presented by the Evangelist with two specific verbs: *"to listen"* and *"to follow"*. These terms suggest the fundamental characteristics of those who live out the following of the Lord.

First of all by listening to his word, from which faith is born and by which it is nurtured. Only those who are attentive to the Lord's voice can assess in their own conscience the right decisions for acting in accordance with God. Thus the following of Jesus derives from listening: we act as disciples only after hearing and inwardly accepting the Master's teachings in order to put them into practice every day.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Message, May 15, 2011

Bukas Loob Sa Diyos
Diocese of Trenton

proudly presents

the.
Philippine
Madrigal Singers

Mark Anthony A. Carpio, choirmaster



Recognized by the UNESCO as Artists for Peace for "putting their fame and influence to promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace". The Philippine Madrigal Singers is one of the most awarded choral groups in the world, having consistently won all the top prizes in most of the world's prestigious choral competitions including the Grand Prix in the 2018 Concorso Internazionale di Guido d'Arezzo and the European Grand Prix for Choral singing in 1997 and 2007.

MAY 13, 2023 | SATURDAY | 7 PM

CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. ROBERT BELLARMINI
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.MADZ2023@GMAIL.COM | CONTACT: TM (609) 954-2300

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

April 21, 2023

Tithe : \$765.00

Love Offering : \$271.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

Last Week's Prophecies

- *My children, I am always with you. In your pain, I give you strength. In your joy, it comes from Me. In your peace, it's because of Me. Everything that happens in your life, I am there. Don't ever forget that, My children.*



- *My children, forgiveness I ask of you, forgiveness I ask of you. Mercy I ask of you, mercy I ask of you. Listen to My words and you will learn to forgive. Seek My heart and you will find mercy.*
- *My child, after you have recognized Me through the Scriptures and the Eucharist, you must then walk the long road to Jerusalem which involves obedience, sacrifice, and self-denial.*
- *Let your hearts burn within you as you read My word, internalize it, speak it, but most importantly proclaim it.*
- *My resurrection opened the gates of heaven for you. Just do your part with faith and good actions. You are with Me at the Eucharist, when you feed the hungry, when you go to the sick. You see Me everyday in your life in your children, in your spouse. You have to have much love to go to heaven where I will be waiting for you with My mother.*
- *My children, there will be no easter without the cross. I feel your pain and struggles. I am with you every step of the way. I promise you your easter.*

The Gate - Cont'd from Page 1

Spirit prompts our conscience as a way of guiding our actions. Jesus talks about forgiveness, unconditional love, self-giving, mercy, sacrifice and faithfulness.

In return, we speak to Him when we counsel the doubtful, instructing the ignorant who our God is. We become the bearers of the Good News. As children of God, we admonish the sinners and we try our best to bring them into conversion into a new life as he enters the gate. Jesus wants us to reach out to those who are sorrowful, to forgive those who have injured us and to bear with one another.

The Good Shepherd promises to lead his people to safety and warns us to be cautious about who we follow. We need to be careful of those around

us who could be thieves and robbers of our souls. Listening and following Christ entails some suffering and sacrifices as shepherds lay their lives for their lambs. We are strengthened for this task through the baptism and the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. And we can always find comfort in our Good Shepherd who suffered for us.

All of us are called to be shepherds and gates through conversion like what St. Peter says in the first reading "*Repent and be baptized.*" The invitation of the Good Shepherd is to join Him in his mission for others to walk through the gate that stands open before us. Jesus is risen and He came so that we might have life and have it more abundantly (Jn 10:10).



God's Blessings

Birthday

Olyn Bautista	4/29	Toti Lukban	4/30
Maria Diaz	4/30	Mense Miranda	5/1
German Butay	5/2		

Anniversary

Alvin & Helen Hernandez	4/28
Amor & Yoly Japitana	4/28
Lino & Yoly Alcasid	4/29

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

*Guide me, O God, in right paths;
that even when I walk in dark valleys
I fear no evil for you are at my side,
my Lord, my Good Shepherd.*

Tell Jesus



It is important to reread our history together with Jesus: the story of our life, of a certain period, of our days, with its disappointments and hopes. Besides, we too, like the disciples can find ourselves lost in the face of these events, alone and uncertain, with many questions and worries, disappointments, many things. Today's Gospel invites us to tell Jesus everything, sincerely, without being afraid of disturbing him: he listens; without fear of saying the wrong thing, without shame at our struggle to understand. The Lord is happy whenever we open ourselves to him; only in this way can he take us by the hand, accompany us and make our hearts burn again (cf. Lk 24:13-35).

~ Pope Francis



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



An Invitation

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND
JUNE 9 - 11, 2023

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

Free Registration
Meals and Accommodation To be Provided

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