



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

Jesus our Savior is revealed when we are one in spirit in doing God's work.

PROMISE:

"The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul...giving wisdom to the simple." (Ps 19:8)

WORD:

Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/
Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/ 1
Cor 12:12-30/ Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-12

ORDERS:

- Proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind...let the oppressed go free. (Lk 4:18b)

DIRECTIONS:

- Read and meditate in God's Word daily.
- Go to Confession and frequently receive Holy Communion.
- Encourage and build each other to be one body in Christ.
- Witness God's Word to others and bring His works to life through our deeds and words.

One In The Spirit

REFLECTION:

"Jesus our Savior is revealed when we are one spirit in doing God's work."

This Sunday's Readings remind us that whatever work we do we should work heartily, for we work not for men, but we serve God through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus brings glad tidings to the poor, sets the captives free, gives sight to the blind and frees the oppressed. We see in the Gospel the 'Living Word', Jesus, in action. The Gospel is a living Word, and its proclamation should not leave us unmoved. It has the power to change, transform, free, and heal those who believe.

To be worthy bearers of the Good News and do God's work, our words and actions must be good news to the disadvantaged. And it is good news to the poor when Christ is present in us. We need to be blessed and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in our actions.



Spiritual Renewal

Directions:

- Read and meditate on God's Word daily.
- Go to Confession and frequently receive Holy Communion.

In the first reading, we saw how Ezra led the assembly in a long proclamation of God's

Word, from daybreak till midday. This ceremony was a covenant renewal after they returned from exile. People were weeping as they were moved listening to the word of God.

As faithful Christians, we have to renew spiritually and re-dedicate ourselves to the Lord. Our BLD Community provides us the means for our spiritual renewal and to continually be enriched by God's Word. First Friday Holy Mass nourishes us with the Body and Blood of Christ. The BLD formation program is more than just requirements to become a covenanted member. Teachings and retreats, when taken to heart, will mold us in the image and likeness of Christ so

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Tending the Flock

Carpe Diem of Salvation

That day Jesus stood up to read and found a passage from the Prophet Isaiah that begins this way: *"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted"* (61:1-2). Origen's comment was: *"It is no coincidence that he opened the scroll and found the chapter of the reading that prophesies about him, this, too, was the work of God's providence"* (Homilies on the Gospel of Luke, 32, 3). In fact when the reading was over in a silence charged with attention, Jesus said, *"Today this scripture has [now] been fulfilled in your hearing"* (Lk 4:21). St Cyril of Alexandria says that *"today"*, placed between the first and the final coming of Christ, is related to the believer's ability to listen and to repent (cf. PG 69, 1241). But in an even more radical sense, Jesus himself is *"the today"* of salvation in history, because he brings to completion the work of redemption. The word *"today"*, very dear to St Luke (cf. 19:9, 23:43), brings us back to the Christological title preferred by the Evangelist himself, namely: *"Saviour"* (sōtēr). Already in the infancy narratives, it is present in the words of the Angel to the shepherds: *"For to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord"* (Lk 2:11).

Dear friends, this Gospel passage also challenges us *"today"*. First of all, it makes us think about how we live Sunday, a day of rest and a day for the family. Above all, it is the day to devote to the Lord, by participating in the Eucharist, in which we are nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ and by his life-giving Word.

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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

Missing the news lately?

Please update your e-mail information with the Secretariat to receive community news and other correspondence. Contact them at bldtrenton.secretariat@gmail.com

God's Blessings

Birthday

Jing Nieveras	1/21	Patrick Calugay	1/25
Rissa Gomez	1/24	Grace Padolina	1/25
Aileen Ciocon	1/25	Jillian Zulueta	1/26
Yna Tresvalles	1/27		

Anniversary

Roy & Arlene Roldan	1/21
Jun & Gay Anito	1/22
Gerald & Rosalinda Mirandilla	1/26

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

Let the words of my mouth
and the thought of my heart find
favor before you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.



Dignity

How many people go knocking on the doors of factories, of businesses [asking]: "Is there anything to do?" — "No, there isn't, there isn't. Lack of work! [I think] of those who feel wounded in their dignity because they cannot find this work... What gives dignity is not bringing bread home... What gives you dignity is earning bread — and if we do not give our people, our men and women, the ability to earn bread, there is a social injustice in that place, in that nation, in that continent. Leaders must give everyone the possibility of earning bread, because this ability to earn gives them dignity. Work is an anointing of dignity. And this is important.

~ Pope Francis

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Second, in our diversified and distracted time, this Gospel passage invites us to ask ourselves whether we are able to listen. Before we can speak of God and with God we must listen to him, and the liturgy of the Church is the "school" of this listening to the Lord who speaks to us. Finally, he tells us that every moment can be the propitious "day" for our conversion. Every day (kathemeran) can become the today of our salvation, because salvation is a story that is ongoing for the Church and for every disciple of Christ. This is the Christian meaning of "carpe diem": seize the day in which God is calling you to give you salvation!

~ Pope Benedict XVI,
Angelus Message, January 27, 2013

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we, too, can bring glad tidings to the poor. Friday praise and worship helps shape us to have the character of Jesus.

Unity

Direction:

- Encourage and build each other to be one body in Christ.

From renewal is derived what it means to be with Christ – unity. In the second Reading, Paul is preaching unity of the church. As we are all members of the church and, therefore, as one in the Body of Christ, we should love one another and work together. Mutual respect, compassion and forgiveness should characterize our relationship within the community.

We should always be reminded and, again, take to heart our commitment pledge "We shall remain reconciled and in solidarity with the other disciples of the Community". Our spiritual renewal will be for

nothing if we are not united with our brothers and sisters. Whether individually or as a community, if one is hurting, we cannot genuinely bring the good news and do God's work heartily. As Paul said in 1Cor 12:26, "if one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it".

Witnessing

Direction:

- Witness God's Word to others and bring His works to life through our deeds and words.

Yes, we must be bold in proclaiming our faith, but at the same time our actions should reflect that faith. The Catechism of the Catholic Church 2008 says that "good works are done to glorify God and are done in honor of him."

We have to do more than just attending teachings, retreats and Friday worships. Jesus, during His public ministry, teaches and feeds. Share our time, talent, and treasure

to witness God's great love for us. Let us offer our services without being approached for it. We should go out and bring glad tidings through mission works. We all have a lot to offer to those who are poor materially and in spirit. Witnessing has to go beyond words.

In his homily, Pope Francis reminded Catholics that "The Lord always wants us to move forward, forward, forward....not to take refuge in a quiet life or in cozy structures, we can ask the Holy Spirit to give us all this Apostolic fervor and give us the grace to be a nuisance when things are too quiet in the Church, and the grace to go out to the edges of existence."

Brothers and sisters, let us ask the Holy Spirit for the grace of apostolic zeal, after all, "We are a community of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about a world of justice, human development and true peace".