



This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

Our hope of eternal life is strengthened when we obey the Father's will as we endure our sufferings.

PROMISE:

"...From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power..." (Mt 26:64)

WORD:

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

ORDER:

- "Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test." (Mt 26:41)

DIRECTIONS:

- Meditate and reflect on how your sufferings will lead you to victory in Christ.
- Be steadfast in prayer, remain faithful and humble, and obey God's word.

Shaken But Hopeful

REFLECTION: Palm Sunday marks the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, an event initially received with much jubilation, because people were looking forward to the coming of the Messiah, a King who would deliver them from slavery and poverty, and rule over them. They lined the streets waving palm leaves, shouting out as they welcomed Jesus - "Hosanna, Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord." Yet, in less than a week's time, this same crowd of people would be crying out for his blood, shouting - "Crucify him, crucify him."

The whole world today is experiencing a passion of its own because of Covid-19. Now a pandemic, this deadly disease has taken us by surprise and shaken the whole world. Extreme measures have been taken to combat the disease, including locking down of cities and even of whole nations, halting everything to arrest the proliferation of the deadly virus, an enemy we do not see, but whose devastating effect is visible globally.

Amidst all this hysteria, for those of us who believe in the Risen Christ, we know that God is speaking to us through these events; not to scare us but, like a Good Shepherd tending his flock, to beckon us to come back to Him. Espe-



cially, to those of us who are lost to the world, Covid-19 forces us to stay put in our homes and pray sincerely from the heart, and to worship God in Spirit and in Truth.

"Then Jesus said to them, 'This night all of you will have your faith in me shaken, for it is written: I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed,'" (Mt 26:31). Jesus was speaking about his passion and death, the dispersal of his followers, betrayal by a friend, and his disciples' denial of him. Was His not a more painful experience than what we are experiencing now? He continues in verse 32: "But after I have been raised up, I shall go before you to

Shaken - See Page 2

Tending the Flock

Confession Without The Confessor

In this day and age where quarantines and lockdowns have become commonplace around the world because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the faithful are finding it impossible to receive the Sacraments, like that of Confession. So what to do when you can't go out to a priest especially in this season of Lent? Pope Francis has the answer.

Reflecting on the parable of the Prodigal Son in one of his masses at Casa Marta recently, the Pontiff exhorted everyone to 'return to your Father', taking the first step by seeking His forgiveness even in the absence of a priest. He said:

"I know that many of you go to Confession for Easter to meet with God again. However, many will say to me today: "But, Father, where can I find a priest, a confessor, because one can't leave home? And I want to make peace with the Lord, I want Him to embrace me, that my Papa embrace me . . . What can I do if I can't find priests?" Do what the Catechism says; it's very clear: if you don't find a priest to hear your Confession, talk with God, He is your Father, and tell Him the truth "Lord, I've done this, and that, and that . . . I'm sorry," and ask Him for forgiveness with all your heart, with the Act of Contrition and promise Him: "Afterwards I will go to Confession, but forgive me now." And you will return to God's grace immediately. As the Catechism teaches, you yourself can approach God's forgiveness without having a priest at hand. Think: it's the moment! And this is the right moment, the opportune moment. An Act of Contrition well made, and so our soul will become white as snow. It would be good if today this "return" resounded in our ears, "return to your Papa, return to your Father." He is waiting for you and He will celebrate you."



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Community Prayer Time

Every Friday, starting at exactly 8:30 pm, all members are urged to pray together as one community the following:

Prayer to Take Authority

Holy Rosary

Prayer: Oratio Imperata against the spread of coronavirus.

“God Our Father, we come to you in our need, to ask your protection against the 2019 N-coronavirus, that has claimed the lives and affected many.

We pray for your grace, for the people tasked with studying the nature and cause of this virus and its disease and of stemming the tide of its transmission. Guide the hands and minds of medical experts that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion, and of those governments and private agencies that must find a cure and solution to this epidemic.

We pray for those afflicted, may they be restored to health soon.

Grant us the grace to work for the good of all and to help those in need. Grant this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

*Mary, help of all Christians, pray for us.
St. Raphael the Archangel, pray for us.
St. Rock, pray for us.
St. Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.
St. Pedro Calungsod, pray for us.”*



God's Blessings

Birthday

Elvie Atienza	4/3	Agnes Monta	4/7
Jasmin Zulueta	4/3	Margaret Tomczyk	4/7
DV DelValle	4/4	Ellen San Rafael	4/8
Mike Zarraga	4/4	Agnes Morte	4/8
Ringo Odon	4/4	Fr. Jason Yvans	4/8
Jim McCracken	4/5	Arlene Riggio	4/9
Lito Fune	4/9		

Anniversary

Lito & Sylvia Lingat 4/8



By Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary dated March 20, 2020, the gift of special Indulgences is granted to the faithful suffering from COVID-19 disease, commonly known as Coronavirus, as well as to health care workers, family members and

all those who in any capacity, including through prayer, care for them.

“The *Plenary Indulgence* is granted to the faithful suffering from Coronavirus, who are subject to quarantine by order of the health authority in hospitals or in their own homes if, with a spirit detached from any sin, they unite spiritually through the media to the celebration of Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, to the pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion, or if at least they will recite the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their brothers and sisters, with the will to fulfil the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy Father's intentions), as soon as possible.

“Health care workers, family members and all those who, following the example of the Good Samaritan, exposing themselves to the risk of contagion, care for the sick of Coronavirus according to the words of the divine Redeemer: “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends” (*Jn 15: 13*), will obtain the same gift of the *Plenary Indulgence* under the same conditions.

“This Apostolic Penitentiary also willingly grants a *Plenary Indulgence* under the same conditions on the occasion of the current world epidemic, also to those faithful who offer a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, or Eucharistic adoration, or reading the Holy Scriptures for at least half an hour, or the recitation of the Holy Rosary, or the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross, or the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, to implore from Almighty God the end of the epidemic, relief for those who are afflicted and eternal salvation for those whom the Lord has called to Himself.”

Shaken - Cont'd from Page 1

Galilee.” This is a message of hope, a call to trust God and exercise our faith in Him who is our Savior and Deliverer. The suffering and death of Jesus have a deeper meaning and purpose, and that is to save us, His people, from condemnation.

When we empty ourselves in union with Jesus and look to the welfare of others more than our own, when we die to self, to our pride and possessions, when we forgive and make peace, collaborate, cooperate, and share our talents and resources

with one another, Jesus' sufferings become redemptive victory. For those of us who believe and follow, this is a good way to understand, and view our own sufferings. God is sovereign. Covid-19 confronts us with the way we respond to this call to love God above all else, and to love our fellowmen as ourselves. We are forced to assess our priorities in life, our faith and trust in Him.

“Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak,” (Mt.26:41).

Let us be reminded that the

palm branches blessed on Palm Sunday symbolize that Christ is King of our families and of our hearts. Jesus Christ is the only answer to our quest for true happiness and meaning, despite the many challenges we face today. Let us be reminded that our jobs and businesses, our finances, our homes, and material needs are temporary and that we hope to spend eternity with Christ. Only as we prioritize Him as King of our lives can we find true peace in our complex world.

Adapted from www.bldworld.org



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

Our hope of eternal life is strengthened when we bear witness to the resurrection of Jesus.

PROMISE:

"When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory." (Col 3:4)

WORD:

Acts 10:34, 37-43/
Ps 118:1, 2, 16-17,
22-23/ Col 3:1-4/ Jn
20:1-9

ORDER:

- *"Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test." (Mt 26:41)*

DIRECTIONS:

- Meditate and reflect on how your sufferings will lead you to victory in Christ.
- Be steadfast in prayer, remain faithful and humble, and obey God's word.

Volume 20, Issue 15

<http://bldtrenton.com>

April 10, 2020

Our Risen Way Of Life

REFLECTION:

Easter Sunday is the celebration of Christ's resurrection, His victory over sin and death for us. This glorious event is the realization of the very core of our Christian faith which St. Paul wrote to the Corin-



thians, *"unless Christ rose from the dead, our faith is in vain,"* (1 Cor 15:17). Christ's resurrection is the fulfillment of our redemption from sin to a new life, the promise of our own resurrection and assurance of our eternal inheritance. It is the foundation of hope which makes our faith in the Risen Lord alive and powerful.

As followers of Christ, our greatest benefit in His resurrection is the knowledge, belief, and hope that one day, we will rise from death and live with the Risen Christ forever in His heavenly Kingdom. The lives of the early disciples of our Lord gave testimony to this. Their discovery of the empty tomb and the subsequent physical appearances of Jesus

gave way to a radical change in their lives. They were transformed from people who feared for their lives, disillusioned and discouraged followers, to being bold and courageous apostles who would witness to

Jesus to people *"to the ends of the world."* They were persecuted for their faith and most were martyred by unbelievers. Yet, they bore their sufferings and endured their pains patiently in the hope that they will be raised in glory.

We may not have been present on the first Easter morning and experienced the joy of the Risen Christ, but we are believers in the Resurrection. Through the Holy Spirit given to us at baptism and with our renewed Christian faith, we are no lesser witnesses to the life and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Our salvation gives us new life of victory over sin and leads us to overcome all forms of difficulties, be it temptations, persecutions, ca-

Risen- See Page 2

Tending the Flock

We Are An Easter People

Faith is our source of joy. We believe in a God who created us so that we might enjoy human happiness - in some measure on earth, in its fullness in heaven. We are meant to have our human joys: the joy of living, the joy of love and friendship, the joy of work well done. We who are



Christians have a further cause for joy: like Jesus, we know that we are loved by God our Father. This love transforms our lives and fills us with joy. It makes us see that Jesus did not come to lay burdens upon us. He came to teach us what it means to be fully happy and fully human. Therefore, we discover joy when we discover truth - the truth about God our Father, the truth about Jesus our Savior, the truth about the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts.

We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own pain to the glory of the Resurrection. And we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery - the mystery of his Death and Resurrection. *"We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!"* We are not looking for a shallow joy but rather a joy that comes from faith, that grows through unselfish love, that respects the *"fundamental duty of love of neighbor, without which it would be unbecoming to speak of Joy"*. We realize that joy is demanding; it demands unselfishness; it demands a readiness to say with Mary: *"Be it done unto me according to thy word"*.

- St. Pope John Paul II

Excerpt from Angelus Message, November 30, 1986

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Community Prayer Time

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Prayer to Take Authority

Holy Rosary

Prayer: Oratio Imperata against the spread of coronavirus.

“God Our Father, we come to you in our need, to ask your protection against the 2019 N-coronavirus, that has claimed the lives and affected many.

We pray for your grace, for the people tasked with studying the nature and cause of this virus and its disease and of stemming the tide of its transmission. Guide the hands and minds of medical experts that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion, and of those governments and private agencies that must find a cure and solution to this epidemic.

We pray for those afflicted, may they be restored to health soon.

Grant us the grace to work for the good of all and to help those in need. Grant this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

*Mary, help of all Christians, pray for us.
St. Raphael the Archangel, pray for us.
St. Rock, pray for us.
St. Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.
St. Pedro Calungsod, pray for us.”*



God's Blessings

Birthday

Eric Bustamante	4/10	Cesar Morte	4/13
Lota Salomia	4/12	Dulce Danieles	4/16
Mon Miranda	4/13	Tony Riggio	4/16

Anniversary

Fr. Pete Literal (ordination)	4/13
Mike & Cher Chua	4/15
Art & Agnes Monta	4/15
Alfred & Aissa Panganiban	4/15

Evil's Expiry Date

Excerpt from the Easter Message of Cardinal Charles Maung Bo, Archbishop of Yangon, Myanmar and President, Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences

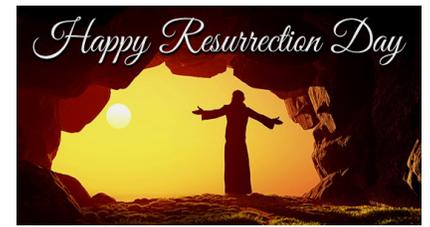
COVID-19 is virtually the Way of the Cross for humanity. Thousands have been crucified to a cruel death by a viral organism that cannot be seen by eyes. Thousands have been walking an excruciating Way of the Cross in many countries. We pray that thousands afflicted and walking in their way of the Cross, be strengthened by the faith that the Cross ends in Resurrection.

The most painful reality has been that churches are closed. Pope Francis once said the Church should be like a “field hospital”, available where human brokenness and the wounded need the healing touch of Mother Church. Yet the places where we sought God, where we shed our silent tears of brokenness and sought human fellowship are now closed. The Vatican remains closed. In many countries, the Sacrament of Communion, the Eucharist, is stopped. What wars and perse-

cutions could not do, the invisible virus achieved without much ado.

This is painful. This is a long “Holy Saturday”, when the Church waits amidst all signs of death. “Holy Saturday” when the Church “abstains from the celebration of the Eucharist” meditating on the passion of the Lord and awaiting his resurrection.

We, Catholics and all humanity, wait with hope that this Holy Saturday will end with a victorious Easter. All long dark nights end with the dawn. Evil has an expiry date. Good has none. The Church is God’s hope-generating agency. So with joy and hope say: “Alleluia! Jesus is risen.”



Risen - Cont'd from Page 1

lamities or personal struggles. It does not matter what trials beset us, we can rise above them because we are assured of our triumphs in crisis through the love of Christ.

We are the Easter people. Easter becomes our way of life, a life live in the Risen Savior in our church and community through which He continues His redemptive mission. In this age, there is an increasing number of people who believe that nothing lies beyond the grave and are anxious about dying. These are

the people we need to bear witness to in the hope of resurrection, by word and deed, giving them comfort in their anxieties about the chaotic world and seeming hopelessness of living and dying. We can be instruments of peace and reconciliation where there are division and disunity. Our testimonies can become bridges in their defeat to success, in their despair to hope, and in their sadness to joy.

Today’s Covid-19 pandemic calls us to see Jesus in the sufferings of our neighbors, and to start caring and praying for each other. It has

challenged us to rise above every experience of separation, loss and sadness. And with our eyes of faith, we will see the Light of the Risen Christ overcoming darkness. We may be enduring many struggles, pains and illnesses today, but in the hope of life to come, we will no longer suffer but rather rejoice in our perfect bodies in heaven. Because God has given us this promise, “When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory,” (Col 3:4).

Adapted from www.bldworld.org

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

Our hope for eternal life is strengthened when we open our hearts to the immense mercy of God.

PROMISE:

"I was hard pressed and falling, but the Lord helped me." (Ps 118:13)

WORD:

Acts 2:42-47/ Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/ 1 Pt 1:3-9/ Jn 20:19-31

ORDER:

- "Attain the goal of your faith." (1 Pt 1:9)

DIRECTIONS:

- Pray the scriptures— "Lectio Divina".
- Be reconciled with the Lord through receiving the sacrament of reconciliation and the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 20, Issue 16

<http://bldtrenton.com>

April 17, 2020

Keep Breaking Bread

REFLECTION:

We are not alone...our Lord has given us various avenues to reach out to one another in this time of crisis. While we are prevented to conduct our praise and worship and be physically present in our Eucharistic celebration, God has seen it through that there are other ways of reaching out to him. We heard it from the first reading...they *"devoted themselves to breaking of bread and to the prayers....every day they continue to breaking bread in their homes."* This is a beautiful example to follow during this time of 'social distancing'. There is nothing holding us back from doing the same. We can continue breaking bread with one another by communicating how we care for each other...on how we find time to reach out to our brother and sister...on how we open a loving dialogue on Christ presence in our lives...amidst the challenges and difficulties that is presented especially during this period of time. And most im-



portantly a simple, sincere and honest prayer, reaching out for God's mercy and compassion, especially when our faith is put under duress.

As St. Peter said, *"although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet be-*

lieve in him, you rejoice with indescribable and glorious joy, as you 'attain the goal of your faith' the salvation of your souls."

We must continue to persevere in our faith. These difficulties and challenges that we are confronting now are a passing one. For God will never abandon us. We might have other goals in life, but if we focus on our main goal...that is to live a life that God has planned for us...God in his mercy, compassion and 'love everlasting' will never leave us in spite of the 'mini' goals that distract us from him. The onus is on us. We have to live a life of righteousness...we have to live a prayerful life to know him more. Our

Breaking- See Page 2

Know Your Saints

Saint Faustina: Secretary of God's Mercy

Born to a poor family in 1905 Poland, Helena Kowalska, later known as Sister Faustina, first felt the calling to religious life while attending the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament when she was only seven years old. Her parents opposed her desire to enter the convent and she ended up working as a housekeeper when she was sixteen. While at a dance with her sister, Faustina saw a vision of the suffering Jesus who instructed her to leave for Warsaw immediately and join a convent.

Faustina approached many different convents but was turned away every time until the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy took her in on condition that she could pay for her religious habit. To save money she worked as a housemaid and made deposits to the convent throughout the year. In 1926, at the age of 20, she finally received her habit and took the religious name Sister Maria Faustina of the Blessed Sacrament. She took her first religious vows as a nun in 1928 and was assigned to the humblest tasks in the convent, in the kitchen or the garden, having had only three years of education.

On February 22, 1931, Faustina was visited by Jesus who presented himself as the 'King of Divine Mercy' wearing a white garment with red and pale rays coming from his heart. Jesus told her: *"Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: 'Jesus, I trust in You'. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and then throughout the world. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish."* He also asked her to become the apostle and secretary of God's mercy.

St. Faustina recorded her conversations with Jesus and compiled them into notebooks that are known today as the Diary of Sister Faustina. She died on October 5, 1933 at the age of 33.



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The Lord's Provision
April 14, 2020

Mail-in Tithes:
\$3,100.00

Thank you
for your generosity!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Forting Yambao	4/17	Marie Guanzon	4/21
Malen Juarez	4/18	Tony Manuel	4/23
Eric Mecenas	4/18	Ren Raymundo	4/23
Cathy Talag	4/21	Jojo Legaspi	4/23

Anniversary

Vincent & Agnes Palecki	4/22
Ernest & Neri Roldan	4/23



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The Sunday after Easter, the Octave Day of Easter, is celebrated as the Feast of the Divine Mercy. Named as Divine Mercy Sunday by Pope John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000, it is associated with special promises from Jesus and indulgences by the Church. The Lord expressed His will with regard to this feast in his first revelation to St. Faustina.

As recorded in the Diary of Sister Faustina, Jesus said:

"My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach My Mercy. The will go to Confession receive Holy Communion shall obtain remission of sins and On that day all flood gates which graces opened. Let no draw near to Me, its sins be as mercy is so great mind, be it of angel, will be f a t h o m i t



the Fount of soul that sion and Communion plete forgiveness. the divine t h r o u g h flow are soul fear to even though scarlet. My t h a t n o man or of a b l e t o throughout

all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy." (Entry 699)

Breaking - Cont'd from Page 1

faith teaches that He is always present in our lives. And He will manifest in us in so many ways... through our praying the scriptures, by prayerfully reading and meditating on His words, intently and truly listening on his message.

We may find encouragement in the gospel we proclaimed tonight regarding the transformation of the hearts of the early disciples...from

the fear of the Jews looking and wanting to kill them...to courage after Jesus appears before them. We too are fearful of the contamination of the dreaded Covid-19 and the possible death. But in faith we believe that God's power and his unconditional love for us will overpower this fear and he will prevail. We are his adopted children and Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Surely, the pandemic will come to an end. In the meantime, let us

storm the heaven with prayers, praying and interceding for one another unceasingly while asking the lord persistently.

As we break bread spiritually, let us build our faith on God's omnipresence...let God's divine power carry us through...let us call on Him with faith and trust on his mercy, compassion...and promise "i was hard pressed and was falling but the lord helped me." (Ps 118:13)



This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

Our hope for eternal life is strengthened when we allow the presence of Jesus to reign in our daily life.

PROMISE:

"You will show me the path to life...abounding joy in your presence." (Ps 16:11)

WORD:

Acts 2:14, 22-33/ Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11/ 1 Pt 1:17-21/ Lk 24:13-35

ORDER:

- "Believe." (1 Pt 1:11)

DIRECTIONS:

- Conduct yourselves with utmost reverence to God.
- Be a good witness of God's love to others.
- Listen to God's words through prayers and reading the Scriptures.
- Partake in the breaking of the bread by attending the Holy Mass and receiving the Holy Eucharist.

Walking With Jesus

REFLECTION: The episode on the road to Emmaus is a fitting example of generosity. The two disciples did something that could be missed easily. They offer hospitality to Jesus which at that time was a complete stranger to them. "Stay with us, it is almost evening and the day is now almost over," they invited Jesus.

This is a great reminder of seeking opportunities to show hospitality and genuine kindness to our brothers and sisters. It is amazing when we follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit to serve others. God often uses the experience to teach something about ourselves too. Offering genuine service to others make us more like Jesus, as we proactively look for ways to humble ourselves for the betterment of others.

A couple of weeks ago my wife, was notified that her unit is now a designated COVID 19 unit. We were filled with trepidation, human as we are; fear and anxiety set in. Our first thought at that moment was the level of exposure will exponentially increase working with COVID patients. Our emotional feelings were in a roller coaster. There was fragmentation in our hearts as we asked for guidance from the Holy Spirit. Like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus who were blinded by their beliefs that



the Messiah the Old Testament promised is going to be a military and political Messiah, we, too, were blinded by selfish motives, the safety of our family, to be in our comfort zone. However, our servant's heart prevailed and accepted the challenge with humility and the desire to give comfort to others. In this day and age, Jesus continues to talk to us in person through the Holy Scriptures reminding us of His presence. This brings us to our theme for the week; Our hope for eternal life is strengthened when we allow the presence of Jesus to reign in our daily life. Unless we listen intently to Jesus and allow His presence to reign in our life, we can never comprehend who he is and what he has done to regain our heavenly inheritance. Like the two disci-

Walking See Page 2

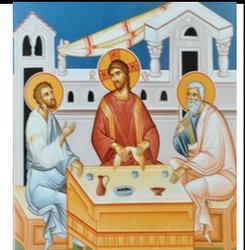
Tending the Flock

Emmaus Is Every Christian's Road

"The locality of Emmaus has not been identified with certainty...It allows us to think that Emmaus actually represents every place: the road that leads there is the road every Christian, every person, takes. The Risen Jesus makes himself our travelling companion as we go on our way, to rekindle the warmth of faith and hope in our hearts and to break the bread of eternal life...This drama of the disciples of Emmaus appears like a reflection of the situation of many Christians of our time: it seems that the hope of faith has failed. Faith itself enters a crisis because of negative experiences that make us feel abandoned and betrayed even by the Lord. But this road to Emmaus on which we walk can become the way of a purification and maturation of our belief in God. Also today we can enter into dialogue with Jesus, listening to his Word. Today too he breaks bread for us and gives himself as our Bread...

"This marvelous Gospel text already contains the structure of Holy Mass: in the first part, listening to the Word through the Sacred Scriptures; in the second part, the Eucharistic liturgy and communion with Christ present in the Sacrament of his Body and his Blood. In nourishing herself at this two-fold table, the Church is constantly built up and renewed from day to day in faith, hope and charity. Through the intercession of Mary Most Holy, let us pray that in reliving the experience of the disciples of Emmaus every Christian and every community may rediscover the grace of the transforming encounter with the Risen Lord."

- Pope Benedict XVI, Regina Caeli Prayer, April 6, 2008



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God's Blessings

Birthday

Nonette Duarte	4/25	Olyn Bautista	4/29
Rina Pascua	4/25	Maria Diaz	4/30
Eve Cabrera	4/27	Toti Lukban	4/30

Anniversary

Leo & Nonette Duarte	4/25
Rolly & Rina Pascua	4/26
Chris & Eve Cabrera	4/27
Adam & Margaret Tomczyk	4/27
Alvin & Helen Hernandez	4/28
Amor & Yoly Japitana	4/28
Lino & Yoly Alcasid	4/29



Community Prayer Time

Every Friday, starting at exactly 8:30 pm, all members are urged to pray together as one community the following:

Prayer to Take Authority

Holy Rosary

Prayer: Oratio Imperata against the spread of coronavirus.

"God Our Father, we come to you in our need, to ask your protection against the 2019 N-coronavirus, that has claimed the lives and affected many.

We pray for your grace, for the people tasked with studying the nature and cause of this virus and its disease and of stemming the tide of its transmission. Guide the hands and minds of medical experts that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion, and of those governments and private agencies that must find a cure and solution to this epidemic.

We pray for those afflicted, may they be restored to health soon.

Grant us the grace to work for the good of all and to help those in need.

Grant this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

Mary, help of all Christians, pray for us.

St. Raphael the Archangel, pray for us.

St. Rock, pray for us.

St. Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.

St. Pedro Calungsod, pray for us."

Unperceiving

Jesus chided the disciples on the road to Emmaus for their slowness of heart to believe what the Scriptures had said concerning the Messiah. They did not recognize the risen Jesus until he had broken bread with them. Do you recognize the Lord in his word and in the breaking of the bread?

St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD) reflects on the dimness of their perception:

"They were so disturbed when they saw him hanging on the cross that they forgot his teaching, did not look for his resurrection, and failed to keep his promises in mind" (Sermon 235.1).

"Their eyes were obstructed, that they should not recognize him until the breaking of the bread. And thus, in accordance with the state of their minds, which was still ignorant of the truth - that the Christ would die and rise again, their eyes were similarly hindered. It was not that the truth himself was misleading them, but rather that they were themselves unable to perceive the truth." (From The Harmony of the Gospels, 3.25.72)

How often do we fail to recognize the Lord when he speaks to our hearts and opens his mind to us? The Risen Lord is ever ready to speak his word to us and to give us understanding of his ways. Do you listen attentively to the Word of God and allow his word to change and transform you?

Adapted from www.dailyscripture.servantsoftheword.org

Walking - Cont'd from Page 1

ples we are all on an Emmaus journey. We may be puzzled by the darkness that presently engulfed us, we may be deeply disturbed by what's happening in our community and around the world due to COVID 19. We may feel helpless and hopeless but our consolation is the belief that the Lord journeys with us in situations we fear most because it is also where God is mysteriously but powerfully at work in us and through us.

During our LWG, Fr. Gerry Paderon shared the liturgical context of the gospel reading. In the road to Emmaus Jesus reaffirmed the breaking of bread as the way to the bread of life. This proves that Jesus instituted the Eucharist and the priesthood. It also proves

that the Eucharist truly is the body and blood of Jesus. The scripture says the moment Jesus said the blessing, the disciples' eyes were opened. As we break bread, the Holy Spirit gives us the grace to see things with the eyes of faith. Sad to say that because of the suspension of public masses and Holy communion we are deprived of receiving the Holy Eucharist. But we can still receive graces through spiritual communion if we fervently continue our prayer to be united with Christ. Let us make the present health crisis the channel to reach out to our merciful Lord. To understand and love him more. For it is when we do so that our hearts will be burning as we share the Word of God, and reap the Promise, "You will show me the path to life...abounding joy in your presence," (Ps 16:11).