

## This Sunday's Counsel

### THEME:

We are prepared for God's kingdom when we completely trust in His generosity.

### PROMISE:

*"The jar of flour shall not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry."* (1 Kgs 17: 14b)

### WORD:

1 Kgs 17: 10-16/  
Ps 146: 7, 8-9, 9-10/  
Heb 9: 24-28/  
Mk 12: 38-44

### ORDER:

- *Do not be afraid.* (1 Kgs 17: 13)

### DIRECTIONS:

- Trust in the Lord's providence.
- Be more giving and generous to our brothers and sisters.
- Give sacrificially out of love and the fullness of our hearts.
- Continue to share our time and talents to the community.



BLD Trenton



# Community News

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November 8, 2024

## Giving From Our Poverty

### REFLECTION:

Has anyone ever complimented you for being generous? If so, did it make you feel good about yourself? Did you say, "Yes, I'm a giver?" If you think it's that simple, you are not judging by God's standards. In Mark 12: 43-44, Jesus told His disciples, *"For they all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had her whole livelihood."*



Generosity does not come naturally; we are not born generous. It is a learned character trait that can be expressed in many ways. It involves giving others the things that are good for them, whether money, time, talent, attention, encouragement, or emotional support. But giving sometimes seems out of reach, even though we have the means. We are held back by fear, lack of trust in God's provisions, and distrust of others. Our mindset dictates that, if we give too much, we won't have enough for ourselves, family, pleasure, and comfort. Furthermore, we are too weighed down with financial worries to find ways to be generous. Likewise, we view

money and possessions as the solution to our problems and protection against the unforeseen. Despite our imperfections, God calls us to be generous as He is generous.

A gracious heart is an invaluable gift from God, one of the essential fruits of the Holy Spirit, designed to fulfill His divine

purpose. He wants us to be free from greed and materialism so we can bring change and hope to a hurting world. And giving is a way of keeping our hearts centered on what is important. As Christians, it is crucial to embody Christ's goodness because it reflects His nature, allowing us to demonstrate His love, compassion, and grace to the world.

The readings tonight remind us of the importance of faith, trust, and true sacrifice. The Old Testament and Gospel readings tell us of two poor widows who exemplified generosity, even in their desperation, by giving sacrificially and acting in faith and trust. These stories are an invitation to examine and ask ourselves these questions. Do we give everything over to God, not just financially but also

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## Christian Faith and Hope

Resurrection is not only the fact of rising after death, but is a new genre of life which we already experience now; it is the victory over nothing that we can already anticipate. Resurrection is the foundation of the faith and of Christian hope. Were there no reference to Paradise and to eternal life, Christianity would be reduced to ethics, to a philosophy of life. Instead, the message of Christian faith comes from heaven, it is revealed by God and goes beyond this world. Belief in resurrection is essential in order that our every act of Christian love not be ephemeral and an end in itself, but may become a seed destined to blossom in the garden of God, and to produce the fruit of eternal life

As the Apostle Paul says, the faith that truly unites us to Jesus is, *"faith working through love"* (Gal 5: 6). It is what is represented by the behavior of the wise maidens. Being wise and prudent means not waiting until the last moment to correspond to God's grace, but to do so actively and immediately, starting right now. *"I... yes, I will convert soon..."* *"Convert today! Change your life today!"* *"Yes, yes, tomorrow"*. And the same thing is said tomorrow, and so it never arrives. Today! If we want to be ready for the final encounter with the Lord, we must cooperate with him now and perform good deeds inspired by his love.

~ Pope Francis

## SINGLES ENCOUNTER RETREAT WEEKEND



This Encounter is a transformative weekend where you can dive into self-discovery and connect with others in a meaningful way.

Enjoy fun activities, great food, and the chance to build friendships while exploring your relationship with God.

This retreat is about strengthening your faith and reflecting on your journey to cultivate a sense of peace.

1/3/2025 - 1/5/2025

SCAN TO  
REGISTER



open to single individuals ages 19 and up

### Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**.  
Donate link can be found at  
[www.bldtrenton.com](http://www.bldtrenton.com)

Or mail check to:  
BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1367  
Toms River, NJ 08754

### The Lord's Provision

**November 1, 2024**

Tithes : \$550.00  
Love Offering : \$245.00

**Thank you for your generosity!!!**

### Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407  
For Prayer Service - Mary Anne Arias 732-688-3962

*The Lord loves the just,  
he gives food to the hungry;  
Praise the Lord, my soul!*

### Tending the Flock

## Faith Through Charity

... Scripture says that the objective state of need, in this case being a widow, does not suffice: God always asks for our free adherence to faith, that it is expressed in love for him and for our neighbor. No one is so poor that he cannot give something. And, in fact, both of these widows from today demonstrate their faith by carrying out an act of charity: one for the Prophet and the other by almsgiving. Thus they attest to the inseparable unity between faith and love, as between love of God and love of one's neighbor — as the Gospel of last Sunday reminded us. Pope St. Leo the Great,... affirmed this: *"On the scales of divine justice the quantity of gifts is not weighed, but the weight of hearts. The widow deposited in the Temple treasury two small coins and by doing so surpassed the gifts of all the rich. No gesture of goodness is meaningless before God, no mercy is left barren"* (Sermo de jejunio dec. mens., 90, 3).

*~ Pope Benedict XVI  
Angelus Message, November 11, 2012*

## God's Blessings

### Birthday

Jennie De La Pena 11/8 Argie Salada 11/12  
Emil Esmalla 11/11 Nora Dingerdisen 11/13  
Inna Lukban 11/14

### Anniversary

Jun & Rica Torralba 11/6  
Bill & Luz Bunoan 11/10

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

*An Invitation To*

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND  
MARCH 21 - 23, 2025**

Ave Maria Retreat House  
The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa  
654 Ferry Road Doylestown, PA 18001

Registration Fee: \$250.00 per couple  
for Meals and Accommodation  
Friday 6:30 pm - Sunday 4:00 pm

For registration and all inquiries, contact:  
Louie/Lani Hombrotao (732) 801 - 8740  
Dan/Jean Catarata (732) 267 - 3434 | Toy/Malen Juarez (609) 954-2300

**WELCOME TO MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

*Join us!*



**WHAT IS MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER?**  
An invaluable experience of renewing marriage relationship, enriching the process of communication between husband and wife and becoming fully aware of the living presence of God in marriage and family life. It guarantees to make 'good' marriages 'better' and the 'not-so-good' marriages 'good'!

**WHAT IS MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER FOR?**  
For any couple who wants to enrich their relationship whether they have been married for a short time, or for many years. This weekend is also for priests and religious who want to revitalize their relationship with the people of God and develop an even deeper appreciation for their own vocation.

**REGISTRATION**  
Open to couples married sacramentally in the Catholic or Tridentine Church.  
Submit registration form to:  
[BLDTrenton.ME24@gmail.com](mailto:BLDTrenton.ME24@gmail.com)



***Fresh Produce From God's Vineyard***  
Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS) Class # 24

### Giving - Cont'd from Page 1

our time? Do we accept Jesus' all-giving sacrifice in our daily lives and share His life with others?

In our community, we are all givers. But perhaps most of us, if not all, give from our surplus rather than our poverty. The poor widow set a very high standard of giving, one that is difficult for us to reach. We worry about letting go of our money because it represents our retirement and security. Therefore, we choose to give from our surplus. It is easy to give from a surplus, the money left after paying our monthly bills, money not needed to survive. It is simply leftovers! Jesus doesn't want our leftovers but wants us to trust Him and not be afraid to give sacrificially and cheerfully to His work.

We need to eliminate our attach-

ments to this world and our comfortable lives and share our time talents and resources instead where required.

Generosity may not come naturally, but it can be cultivated by getting over the idea that our money is ours and by exposing our hearts to the brokenness of humanity. When we see the plight of the needy our desire to help will be aroused. God needs us to be channels through which His blessings can flow to others. When we respond with love and compassion, we store treasures in heaven, one of the ways God prepares us for the kingdom.

Let us be reminded that our giving should not be seen, it should come from a pure heart, not expecting anything in return. By our own choice, we can be like the widow of Zarephath or

the poor widow who gave from her poverty. Their courage and generosity should inspire us to look at our priorities, Then we will hear compliments not coming from a man but this time ... from God.

Let us pray that God will help us overcome our fear of not having enough and grant us the courage to give sacrificially, for He promised that *"the jar of flour shall not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry"* (1 Kings 17: 14).

Finally, generosity is not just a simple gesture; it's a powerful act rooted in trust and obedience. It is a heartfelt expression of love and gratitude toward God, reflecting a deep connection to something greater than ourselves.

