

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

Our life in Christ is fruitful when we let God's word enrich our hearts.

PROMISE:

"...the one who hears the word and understands it...bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirty-fold." (Mt 13: 23)

WORD:

Is 55: 10-11/ Ps 65: 10, 11, 12-13, 14/
Rom 8: 18-23/ Mt 13: 1-23

ORDER:

- *Whoever has ears ought to hear.* (Mt 13: 5)

DIRECTIONS:

- Know the Word of God by heart through regular Scripture readings.
- Prayerfully reflect on His Word and testify on how our hearts have been nourished and transformed.
- Actively participate in the Word Sharing Circle.
- Bring the Word of God to others through participation in mission activities and ministry works.



BLD Trenton



Community News

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Called To Bear Fruit

REFLECTION:

In St. Matthew's account of the Parable of the Sower, God reveals his other true nature: generosity and benevolence. His generosity is boundless and covers all his people, whether they obey his Word or accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. He knows that, sooner or later, the heart that refused, rejected or abandoned Him will ultimately change, turn away from sin and return to Him once they open, read, reflect and understand what he has written, because his Word *"...is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart."* (Heb 4: 12).

Jesus' teaching in our gospel readings compares the condition of the human heart to the different kinds of soil especially how it accepts His Word and how it responds. Like fertile soil, He reminds us how we



should allow His Word to grow, enrich our lives and the lives of others. It tells us how we should live our faith and how we should act according to His teachings and the church. Simply said, our words and actions should not only be pleasing to our God but must also be the true reflection of who He is. As followers of Christ, we are called to be true witnesses of the Gospel, proclaiming and acting on the message that the Lord wants to convey to our brothers and sisters, inside and outside

of the community. Indeed, we are called to bear fruit in His vineyard by bringing more families and friends back to the faith, to the church and our community. Then, we can truly say: God's word *"...shall not return to Him void but shall do His will, achieving the end for which He sent it."*

As disciples and members of His covenant community, the Lord reminds us to remain faithful to the covenant and

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Tending the Flock

Fair-Weather Christianity

Let us look, as from a broader perspective, at what it means to be on the road. In a way, every road is hardened and foolish on account of the fact that it lies beneath everyone's feet. No kind of seed finds there enough depth of soil for a covering. Instead, it lies on the surface and is ready to be snatched up by the birds that come by. Therefore those who have in themselves a mind hardened and, as it were, packed tight do not receive the divine seed but become a well-trodden way for the unclean spirits. These are what is here meant by *'the birds of the heaven'*. But *'heaven'* we understand to mean this air, in which the spirits of wickedness move about, by whom, again, the good seed is snatched up and destroyed. Then what are those upon the rock? They are those people who do not take much care of the faith they have in themselves. They have not set their minds to understand the touchstone of the mystery [of being united with Christ]. The reverence these people have toward God is shallow and rootless. It is in times of ease and fair weather that they practice Christianity, when it involves none of the painful trials of winter. They will not preserve their faith in this way, if in times of tumultuous persecution their soul is not prepared for the struggle.

~ Clement of Alexandria, 150-215 A.D.



BUKAS LOOB SA DIWOS (OPEN IN SPIRIT TO GOD)

INVITES YOU TO A...

Youth Encounter Weekend

OPEN TO YOUTH AGES 14-18 (YE18)

JULY 21-23, 2023

LOCATION: JOHN PAUL II YOUTH RETREAT CENTER,
499 BELGROVE DRIVE, KEARNY

PLEASE CONTACT MILDRED/WENDELL LUMAPAS
AT 702-686-7384



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

July 7, 2023

Tithe :\$490.00
Love Offering :\$262.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Diane Gomez	7/14	Camille Colon	7/17
Patricia Gomez	7/14	James Nagbe	7/17
Darryl Margallo	7/14	Marlene Legaspi	7/17
Tess Corso	7/15	Jay Talag	7/18
Jerry Ramos	7/16	Vinnie Warnock	7/18
Lilia Calves	7/17	Aurie Apostol	7/19
Aris Mejares	7/19		

Anniversary

Rey & Baby Inid	7/14
Rene & Grace Gallofin	7/17
Tony & Tess Corso	7/18
Jojo & Vicma Cac	7/19

Discernment



Discernment is demanding but indispensable for living. It requires that I know myself, that I know what is good for me here and now. Above all, it requires a filial relationship with God. God is Father and He does not leave us alone, He is always willing to advise us, to encourage us, to welcome us. But He never imposes His will. Why? Because He wants to be loved and not feared. And also, God wants children, not slaves: free children. And love can only be lived in freedom. To learn to live, one must learn to love, and for this it is necessary to discern: what can I do now, faced with this alternative? Let it be a sign of greater love, of greater maturity in love. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to guide us! Let us invoke Him every day, especially when we have choices to make.

~ Pope Francis

BLD Olympics 2023 Community Day

Please come and Join Us for an All Day of
Fun, Food, and Games!!!

August 12, 10:30 AM to 5 PM

Veterans Park

489 Forest Hills Parkway

Bayville NJ 08721

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pledges we have signed before Him. He blessed us with eyes to see the worth of every person and the ears to listen attentively to their concerns. Let us therefore continue to nourish these gifts by daily reading of the Holy Bible, regular attendance to the praise and worship, teachings and reunions. Our heart should be like fertile soil so that the seed of love, obedience and service to God and others especially the poor, shall grow spritely and sparingly. And with seeds of faith deeply rooted in our hearts, it may be shaken but strong enough to withstand the temptation to place worldly things and ambitions over and above our Creator and Giver of Life.

We all know that our lives are temporary in this world. This is not the home that God has prepared for us. Let us therefore not waste time by living away from the grace of God. We are defined by how well we live moment to moment by the grace of God, which is abundant and overflowing. We are blessed to have a community that is helping us in our spiritual growth and journey. Yes, we are not

perfect but by His grace we continue to look upon Him for mercy and grace although we do not see Him. And we continue to listen to Him although we do not hear Him speak.

The Word of God is alive, and we should welcome it with open heart and mind. We may not be able to understand His message especially when we face the difficulties of this passing world. But we should look beyond these difficulties and consider it the test of time as what St. Paul has said "...the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compares with the glory to be revealed for us."

While suffering is part of our spiritual journey, God reminds us that we are not alone in this walk. Scriptures tells us that He is carrying us through during these difficult times. He is no longer physically present, but we can feel His loving presence when we lift every pain and burden in prayer. The holy inspiration of His Spirit is guiding and encouraging each one of us, to look up to heaven in prayer, to open the Bible and read, reflect on His Word during these difficult times. God's spirit gives us hope

that behind the suffering is a revelation of the great and unconditional love of God for us. Yes, He loves you and me, yesterday, today and forevermore!

So, let us open our hearts wide to allow the Word of God to work and live in us. His Word will enrich our relationship with our Lord and Savior. It will prepare, equip and encourage us to grow faithfully in our walk with the Lord and be bold to testify to the great things He has done in our lives.

Brothers and sisters, the Lord is challenging each one of us to instill in our hearts the discipline to read and reflect upon His Living Word and meditate on His message daily to nourish and grow stronger our faith. And by our faith we proclaim that Jesus is the way of life! The only way to the father! And through him the passing of this world comes true. ... as Jesus promised "the one who hears the word and understand it...bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirty fold". (Mt 13: 23)