

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We follow Jesus as the way to the Father when we love Him by keeping His commandments.

PROMISE:

"Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father and I will love him and reveal myself to him." (Jn 14: 21b)

WORD:

Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17/
Ps 66: 1-3, 4-5, 6-7,
16, 20/ 1 Pt 3: 15-
18/ Jn 14: 15-21

ORDERS:

- *Keep my commandments.* (Jn 14: 15)
- *Receive the Holy Spirit.* (Acts 8: 15)

DIRECTIONS:

- Get educated and be obedient to all Catholic church teachings and particularly, in current social issues.
- Be a spiritual advocate and counselor to our brothers and sisters against the detractors of our Catholic faith.



BLD Trenton



Community News

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May 12, 2023

A Deeper Communion

REFLECTION:

Our theme for the 6th Sunday of Easter tells us that the way to the Father is to love Jesus by keeping and obeying His commandments. We are encouraged to love Him deeply and to obey Him more faithfully by relying upon His power in our lives. The deeper our intimacy with Jesus, the greater will be His impact on our lives and our ability to spread His word. An intimate relationship with Jesus leads to a devoted and joyful obedience.



In our Sunday Gospel reading, Jesus revealed biblical principles to guide His disciples towards deeper communion of life and love with him. These principles are timely guides for us in the BLD Community as we chart our way forward from internal and external difficulties, past and present, that beset us, towards our vision of building a more vibrant, enduring BLD communion and an abundantly fruitful global mission empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The first principle is articulated in the introduction to our worship theme: Obedience and love go together; obedience is a proof of love, a fruit and effect of love. We glean this from the statement of Jesus, *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments,"* (Jn 14:15)

wherein the Lord unequivocally predicates our obedience to our love for Him, for His commandment is the commandment of love for God, others and self.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that *"to obey in faith is to submit freely to the word that has been heard, because its truth is guaranteed by God, who is Truth itself"* (CCC144). *"By faith, man completely submits his intellect and his will to God. With his whole being man gives his assent to God the revealer"* (CCC143). Obedience is not a limitation of freedom, but by our obedience to God, we become sharers in the redemptive grace won by Christ, bringing us to the freedom as sons and daughters of God who partake

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Tending the Flock

Make Profound Joy Flower

With the strength of the Holy Spirit, Philip and the other disciples accomplished in the villages of Palestine what Jesus had done: They preached the Good News and worked miraculous signs. It was the Lord who acted through them. As Jesus proclaimed the coming of the Kingdom of God, so the disciples proclaimed the Risen Jesus, professing that he is the Christ, the Son of God, baptizing in his name and driving out every illness of body and spirit.

"There was much joy in that city". Reading this passage, one thinks spontaneously of the healing power of the Gospel, which throughout the centuries has "watered" so many populations, like a beneficent river. Several great men and women saints brought hope and peace to entire cities — we think of Charles Borromeo in Milan at the time of the plague, of Bl. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and of so many missionaries, whose names are known by God, who have given their lives to bring the proclamation of Christ and make profound joy flower among men. While the powers of this world sought to conquer new territories for political and economic interests, Christ's messengers went everywhere with

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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 time and influence to promote cultural diversity, enriched 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 Santa Cecilia in Rome and the European Grand Prix for Choral singing in 1997 and 2007.

MAY 13, 2023 | SATURDAY | 7PM

CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE
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.MAD2023@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

May 5, 2023

Tithe :\$390.00
Love Offering :\$203.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Tottie Felibrico 5/12 Ester Tambor 5/13
Manny Crisol 5/13 Mary Gay Reodica 5/16

Irma McCracken 5/18

Anniversary

Jeff & Gina Sarmiento 5/13
Edgar & Sherry Arabit 5/15
Forting & Libring Yambao 5/16

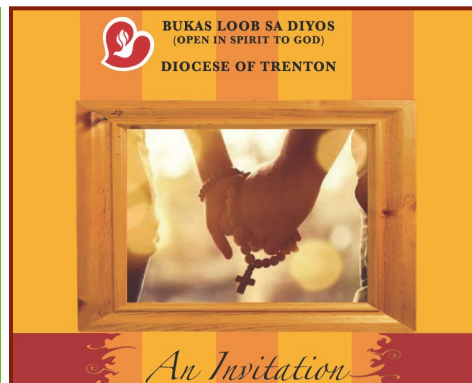
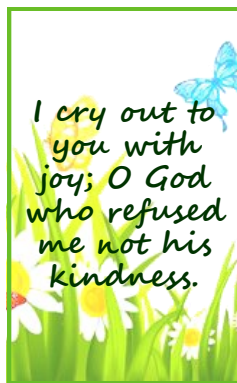
Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407
For Prayer Service - Bert & Cora Velez 732-688-1541

The Compass

Like the apostle Thomas wonder: how can we get there, what is the way? At times, especially when there are major problems to face and there is the sensation that evil is stronger, we ask ourselves: what should I do, what path should I follow? Let us listen to Jesus' answer: *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life"* (Jn 14:6). Jesus himself is the way to follow to live in truth and to have life in abundance. He is the way and therefore faith in him is not a "package of ideas" in which to believe, but rather a road to be travelled, a journey to undertake, a path with him. It is following Jesus, because he is the way that leads to unfailing happiness. Following Jesus and imitating him, especially with deeds of closeness and mercy towards others. This is the compass for reaching Heaven: loving Jesus, the way, becoming signs of his love on earth.

~ Pope Francis



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the aim of bringing Christ to men and men to Christ, knowing that he alone can give true freedom and eternal life. Today too the Church's vocation is evangelization: whether it be to populations which have not yet been "irrigated" by the living water of the Gospel, or to those that, though having ancient Christian roots, are in need of new nourishment to bear new fruit and rediscover the beauty and joy of the faith.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, *Angelus Message, May 29, 2011*

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

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in His divine life.

Regarding obedience to our leaders, our obedience to leadership is founded on our love of God, by whose authority leaders are chosen and given the responsibility and accountability to watch over the Lord's flock. We obey our leaders, because together with them, we have been entrusted with and participate in the work of the Lord (cf. Heb 13:17).

The second biblical principle is: Love supports obedience; in turn, obedience begets love. Jesus promised, *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you...."* (Jn 14:16-17). The Holy Spirit

it, God's gift of love, is our Comforter, Teacher and Defender. The Holy Spirit will teach and remind us of the sacrificial love of Christ and empower us to respond to that pure and unconditional love by loving and being present to one another, just as Christ loved His Church and His disciples. Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit to be the energy and staying power in our life of faith.

The third biblical principle is: Through our obedience, God fortifies our communion and mission with His presence and empowerment. Jesus promised: *"I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you,"* (Jn 14:18). Jesus keeps this promise of eternal life to us in the Holy Eucharist where He comes to us in His risen presence to be our strength and continuing spiritual sustenance. In the

Eucharist, Jesus is present to us no matter what situation or circumstance we may face. *"The world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live,"* (Jn 14:19). The Lord promises that those who love and obey Him will have a clean heart and they are blessed for they will see God (cf. Mt 5:8). Moreover, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, those who love and obey Him will live in newness of life (cf. Rom 6:4). By our love and obedience, the world will see God's living presence in our community.

To faithfully obey the Lord's commandments, we need to commit ourselves to knowing Jesus more, to following His teachings, thus allowing the Holy Spirit to transform us into Christ's likeness.

Adapted from www.bldworld.org