

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We lovingly respond to Christ's calling when we are merciful and forgiving to those who have wronged us.

PROMISE:

"He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills." (Ps 103:3)

WORD:

1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/ Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13/ 1 Cor 15:45-49, 16-20/ Lk 6:27-38

ORDERS:

- Love one another as I have loved you. (Jn 13:34)
- Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. (Lk 6:36)
- Forgive and you will be forgiven. (Lk 6:37b)

DIRECTIONS:

- Show the love of God through forgiveness.
- Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.
- Read and reflect on the Word of God and persevere in prayer.
- Avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Love and Duty

And it is only by the observance of the first and greatest commandment that we can keep the second. The more we love God, the more we shall love man; the less we love God, the less we shall, in the true sense of the word, love man. Our love will become capricious, fitful, and unreliable—not charity, but passion. If you feel that your love for your fellow-man is dying out in the fumes of selfishness, there is but one way to revive it: strive for, pray for, the love of God. As the heart turns toward its source, it will be quickened and expanded. There is no true, no lasting spirit of charity apart from the practice of religion. Therefore, we cannot keep those commandments which teach us our duty to men unless we are keeping those which teach us our duty to God.

~ Fr. Basil W. Maturin
Excerpt from Christian Self Mastery



BLD Trenton



Community News

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February 18, 2022

Forgiving And Loving

REFLECTION:

This Sunday's Gospel shows us the area where we all struggle - genuinely forgiving and loving those who have wronged us.

"...love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you..."

It is something that goes against the grain, and you will hear people say 'it doesn't make sense' or people ask 'are you crazy?'. But the key lesson here is that Jesus teaches us to understand that reciprocity is not a kingdom behavior. It is not the way of heaven. Mercy is. Forgiveness is. Love is. He does not deny us the right to give good for good but denies us special credit for doing so. As Christ's disciples, we are to give good whether we have received good or bad.

"for if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? ...if you do



good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you?"

So, how are we going to be merciful? How

are we going to face this daunting task of loving our enemies? How are we going to forgive those who wronged us? Jesus had all the answers because he did. He is the one who gave freely and did good to all, healing and helping, asking for nothing in return. He is the one who, when he was struck on one cheek, did not retaliate but turned the other cheek. He loved his enemies, blessed those who cursed him, and prayed for those who mistreat him. Jesus would not have set such a high standard if he did not think it were possible for us to do it. Believe that with God, all things are possible.

"be merciful, just as your father is

Forgiving - See Page 2



BLD - BUKAS LOOB SA DIYOS
(Open In Spirit To God)
A Catholic Charismatic Covenant Community
Diocese Of Trenton

What is God's plan in our married life?

An Invitation to a

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Ave Maria Retreat House
The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa
654 Ferry Road Doylestown, PA 18901



May 20-22, 2022

Registration starts at 8pm Friday

Deadline of Application: May 1, 2022

Contact:
German/Letty Butay 723 8875298
lbutay@yahoo.com

Ed/Olyn Bautista 732 233 9611
ed.olyb1211@verizon.net

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

February 11, 2022

Tithes : \$505.00
Love Offer : \$ 65.00

*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 - Bert & Cora Velez 732-688-1541

*As far as the east is from the west,
put my transgressions away,
O kind and merciful God.*

Tending the Flock

Love Your Enemies

Love is commanded when it is said, '*Love your enemies*' so that the saying which was uttered already before the church may be fulfilled: '*Set in order love in me*' (Song of Solomon 2:4). For love is set in order when the precepts of love are formed. See how it began from the heights and cast the law underneath the backs of the Gospel's blessing. The law commands the revenge of punishment (see Exodus 21:23-36). The gospel bestows love for hostility, benevolence for hatred, prayer for curses, help for the persecuted, patience for the hungry and grace of reward. How much more perfect the athlete who does not feel injury!

~ Ambrose of Milan, 339-397 A.D.

God's Blessings

Birthday

2/18	John Alberto	2/23
2/18	Fred Poblete	2/23
2/19	Jackie DelValle	2/24
2/20	Josie Rodriguez	2/24
2/21	John Young	2/24

Anniversary

Toy & Malen Juarez 2/22

FOR WHOEVER WISHES TO SAVE HIS
LIFE WILL LOSE IT,
BUT WHOEVER LOSES HIS LIFE
FOR MY SAKE
WILL FIND IT

Matthew 16:25

DAY OF RETREAT

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Saturday | 10AM | Queenship of Mary Church
16 Dey Road | Plainsboro, New Jersey
The General Assembly will immediately follow after the retreat from
1:30-3:30pm. Please inform your ministry coordinators and/or your
ME class shepherds to confirm your attendance

Spiritual Director: Fr. Gerry Paderon
Contact Persons: M. Arias, C/B Velez, AM Paderon
BLD Trenton
www.bldtrenton.org

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merciful."

When somebody wrongs us, consider that when we sin, we deserve punishment, we have debt that we could not pay and Jesus went to the cross in our place to take our punishment. He offers us mercy--and grace--and forgiveness. And that's exactly what Jesus is asking us to do, to offer the same mercy, the same grace, the same forgiveness.

"... love one another as i have loved you."

Let us remember that god loves those who hurt us as much as he loves us. Just because they wronged us, did not diminish their worth in God's eyes. They are valuable children of God too, no matter what they did to us. We are all children of God. If God loves them, we should love them too.

**"...not according to our sins does he deal with us nor does he re-
quite us according to our
crimes."**

Each one of us, we are much more than the worst things that we have ever done. That deep down in each one's heart, there is goodness that is worth dying for, that is worth saving. That's what Jesus saw from us on the cross. And that's when Jesus prayed, *'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.'* So, we too, need to look to those who wronged us in the eyes of Jesus.

Promise: "he pardons all your iniquities and heals all your ills..."

Let go and let God. Forgiven and healed. Letting go needs us to make a decision to give up the right to seek justice and get even. And let-

ting God needs us to make a decision to release that person to God, release ourselves to God, release the situation to God. And then make a decision to bless and pray for that person and for yourself. Because there is something divine that happens when you begin to bless and pray for people. God changes us inside. God heals us inside.

Truly, forgiveness and loving those who have wronged us is not an easy thing to do. We need to enter God's mercy and grace over and over again. We have to let Jesus Christ live in us to know his heart and know his ways, and seek the divine power of the Holy Spirit, that is, to be open in spirit to God, for that will enable us to love and forgive others with the pure love and mercy of Christ.