



# Community News

## This Sunday's Counsel

### THEME:

Our life is transformed when we fix our eyes on Jesus and live by the Spirit.

### PROMISE:

"You will show me the path to life, fullness of joys in your presence the delights at your right hand forever." (Ps. 16:11)

### WORD:

1 Kgs 19:16B, 19-21/ Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/ Gal 5:1, 13-18/ Lk 9:51-62

### ORDERS:

- "Stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery" (Gal 5:1)
- "Follow me." (Lk 9:59)
- "Live by the spirit." (Gal 5:16)
- "Go and proclaim the kingdom of God." (Lk 9:60B)

### DIRECTIONS:

- Avoid occasions of sin.
- Be obedient to God by loving your neighbor as yourself.
- Spend time in discernment while waiting on the Lord and invoking the Holy Spirit.
- Develop strong Christian values.

## The Cost of Discipleship

### REFLECTION:

The readings for this Sunday mainly tells us about the call of discipleship and its cost. All of us baptized in Christ receive a call to follow our Lord Jesus. BLD's goal is to raise disciples for



Christ. We aimed for all our members to get to know Christ, to love him with our whole being and to follow Him.

St Luke presented to us 3 different scenarios that hinder the answer to the call of discipleship. If we are to put Jesus first, other things can't take first place anymore. Our family, even our own life, is less important than that of the Lord Jesus (Luke 14:26-27; 14:33). The three people who volunteer to become disciples on this journey to Jerusalem show that they do not understand the demands Jesus will make of them. Neither care of self, care for the dead, nor care of one's family can come before the demands of discipleship. Jesus reminds the first volunteer, who would go wherever Jesus goes, that animals in the wild have more

security than do Jesus and his followers. The second, who wants to bury a parent, is reminded that the demands of proclaiming the Kingdom of God take precedence.

And the third, who wants to say farewell to his family, is reminded that once you put your hand to the plow you cannot look back or the furrow will be crooked.

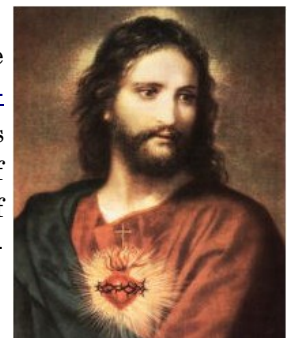
Jesus said to the third would be disciple that "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God." One has to look ahead and to keep your eyes on your goal. Compared to driving, you want to look at the wide windshield instead of looking through the narrow rearview mirror all the time because if you do, you lose sight of where you are heading. You will lose directions.

The letter of St Paul to the Philippians says "It is not that I have already taken hold of it or have already attained per-

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## Solemnity of the Sacred Heart

The Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist is usually celebrated on June 24, but this year (2022) has the rare coincidence of the [Nativity of St. John the Baptist](#) and the **Solemnity of the Sacred Heart** falling on the same day. [The Holy See](#) has determined the Sacred Heart should be celebrated on June 24, 2022, and the Nativity of St. John the Baptist celebrated on the 23rd, unless St. John the Baptist is the patron of the diocese, nation, city, or religious community, in which case it is the feast of the Sacred Heart that would be transferred to the 23rd.



**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**

**June 17, 2022**

Tithe : \$ 665.00  
Love Offer : \$ 229.00

*Thank you for your generosity!!!*

**God's Blessings**

**Birthday**

Janis Carvajal	6/24	Ariel Mazo	6/26
Arlene Carvajal	6/24	Tina Quiambao	6/26
Keith Rodriguez	6/25	Estela Bermudo	6/28
Kimberly Quiambao	6/25	Ashley Valeriano	6/29
Elizabeth Cintron	6/26		

**Anniversary**

Ernie & Nelia Doropan	6/24
Alex & Dete Santos	6/24
Archie & Kagot Arigorat	6/25
Popong & Mary Anne Aria	6/26
Patrick & Glenda Calugay	6/28
Andre & Andrea Apostol	6/29

**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

**Please be reminded to always wear your ID's during worship, teachings and other BLD activities.**

**Gift of God - Cont'd from Page 1**

fect maturity,\* but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may possess it, since I have indeed been taken possession of by Christ [Jesus]. Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus. The name of BLD which means open in the spirit to God is so relevant and very fitting for our vision. Once you open your heart to God, He will be faithful to guide you and sanctify you so that you can continue to follow Him. There are times we fall and backslide but we do not have to stay fallen. The Holy Spirit will sanctify us to help us to get up and be back on track. Christ sets us free so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery. This freedom is for a purpose. It liberates us from the things that enslave us and prevent us to commit our lives to Christ. This freedom binds us to Christ. It is a freedom that permits us to surrender all to Jesus Christ, our Savior. The yokes of slavery are the things that hold us back, those negative feelings we carry in our hearts such as our pride, hatred, our unforgiveness, our bitterness, our addictions or our attachments to material things that perish. Jesus says that His yoke is easy and his burden light. Turn your eyes upon Jesus to acquire the same values he models to us. His transforming power will change us and we become His new creation.

Ask for the grace of God to be transformed. Avoid the occasions of sins. If you are a gambler, you won't frequent the casinos, if you're alcoholic, you should not go to the bar, if you hold grudges, liberate yourselves and forgive those who have offended you. Likewise, if you have hurt people, swallow your pride and admit your misgivings by asking for forgiveness. Despite the difficulties we experience along the way, we have to keep moving on. Elisha demonstrated a total commitment to his call. The slaughtering of his oxen, the kissing of his father, and the bidding of farewell to his men, were symbolic gestures that he had freely accepted his call. It was a sign of total submission to the will of God over his own will. Although we are professed Christians, our "oxen" are still hidden somewhere in the fabrics of our life. They represent old habits and mundane things that we are still strongly attached to. We must "slaughter" them as a sign of our total commitment to Jesus Christ or, our attention will remain divided because: "You cannot serve God and Marmon at the same time" (Lk 16:13).

Another characteristic of disciples is their love for one another (John 13:35) and their bearing spiritual fruit (John 15:8). This behavior reflects Jesus' own examples. Jesus says, "If you're going to follow me, you must love your enemies. You must do good to those who hate you

and you must care for them." To serve one another through love. To be like Jesus Christ, we have to spend time with Him to know Him and to be like Him. Jesus says "Take my yoke and learn from me." We have to commit ourselves to do what He taught us; to cut away the unnecessary burdens in our lives, to seek first the kingdom of God. Our goal is to be able to say that I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. (Gal 2:20)

As disciples of Christ, we should aim to raise more disciples as we spread the gospel and to observe holiness in everyday situation. We are tasked to spread the truth to our brethren. In any setting, there are opportunities to serve our Lord. We serve the Lord being loving parents/ children, siblings, being responsible workers, being caring friends, being compassionate neighbors to those who are in needs. Being members of this community, we have different ministries you are called to serve wholeheartedly with your strongest commitment barring all obstacles. Grab the opportunity to put your hand on the plow and look forward. At the end you can ( 2 Tom 4:7) "I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. We resolve to love our Lord with all our heart, with all our mind and with all our soul. And then it will a second nature to us to follow Him.