



BLD Trenton



# Community News

Volume 23, Issue 33

<http://bldtrenton.com>

August 25, 2023

## This Sunday's Counsel

### THEME:

Our faith in Jesus remains strong when we submit to the authority of His Church.

### PROMISE:

*"...upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the nether-world shall not prevail against it." (Mt 16:18)*

### WORD:

Is 22: 19-23/ Ps 138: 1-2, 2-3, 6, 8/  
Rom 11: 33-36/ Mt 16: 13-20

### ORDER:

- *Build my church.* (Is 16: 18b)

### DIRECTIONS:

- Seek, know, follow and love God with all your heart, with all your mind and with all your soul.
- Believe in Him and His disciples He anointed to build and continue His kingdom here on earth.
- In all circumstances, acknowledge that He is the true authority in our lives.

## No Qualifications Needed

### REFLECTION:

*"But who do you say that I am?"* (Mt 16:15). If we were asked this same question by the Lord today, how would we reply? Hindsight should give us 20/20 vision. Our faith's more than 2,000 years of history should give us the perfect vision to answer as Peter did, without any hesitation, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God,"* (Mt 16:16).

How could a simple fisherman with no education, like Peter, come up with a reply that is full of wisdom and insight well before he experienced Jesus' death and glorious resurrection? Surely, he must have been inspired from above, as Jesus himself confirms: *"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father,"* (Mt 16:17).

This is the message of today's gospel. God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies those who are called. God does not choose leaders based on what they have to offer but on the inadequacies that could serve to deepen their faith and intensify their reli-



ance on Him. The qualifications people use in making choices have absolutely no bearing on His choice.

*"People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart,"* (1 Sam 16:7).

This gospel certainly changes the way we look at

leaders who serve in our Community. Despite their many imperfections, the Lord has chosen them to lead His flock, for reasons known only to Him, and probably for the same reasons He chose Peter to lead the entire Roman Catholic Church, knowing full well that Peter would soon deny Him three times. *"...you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church,"* (Mt 16:18).

So the next time you receive an assignment from the Community, before you quickly decline the offer because you feel you don't have the skills or qualifications for the job, think again. The next time you are asked to head a project, and before you beg off for whatever reason, read today's gospel. We are to humbly accept what role we are given despite our sense of unworthiness, doubts, or unpreparedness. When He

*No Qualifications - See Page 2*

## Tending the Flock

## He Is Both God And Man

Did the Lord not know what people called him? But by questioning he brought forth the conviction of the apostle Peter and left for us in the future a strong affirmation of faith. For the Lord questioned not only Peter but all the apostles when he said, *"Who do you say that I am?"* Yet one on behalf of all answered the King, who is in due time to judge the whole world. He is God, both God and man. How miserable does this make those who are false teachers and strangers now, and to be judged in eternity. If Christ is the Son of God, by all means he is also God. If he is not God, he is not the Son of God. But since he himself is the Son, and as the Son takes up all things from the Father, let us hold this same one inseparably in our heart because there is no one who escapes his hand.

*~ Epiphanius the Latin, 315-403 A.D.*

## Solo Parent Encounter Weekend

Mature Singles  
Unmarried Guardians  
Separated Divorced  
Married to physically Handicapped Spouse  
Widows & Widowers  
**ARE ALL WELCOME!**



*"Though the mountains leave their place and the hills be shaken, My love shall never leave you nor my covenant of peace be shaken, says the Lord, who has mercy on you"*



BLD - BUKAS LOOB SA DIYOS  
(OPEN IN SPIRIT TO GOD)  
DIOCESE OF TRENTON



SOLO PARENT ENCOUNTER  
WEEKEND

November 11 & 12, 2023 at 7am  
St Veronica Church  
4219 US 9 Howell Township NJ 07731

Contacts: SP Ministry  
Joel/Estela Bermudo 732.766.0988  
[projoe223@gmail.com](mailto:projoe223@gmail.com)

Michelle Tecarro 732.456.0285  
Evelyn Balondo 646.3463989

### 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

**August 18, 2023**

Tithe : \$485.00  
Love Offering : \$178.00

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

### God's Blessings

#### Birthday

Louie Hombrebueno	8/25	Jean Catarata	8/29
Maria Desiree Azarco	8/27	Marichille Jamolod	8/29
Ernesto Kho	8/28	Fr. Gerry Paderon	8/29
Karen Lukban	8/28	Mark Senter	8/29
Paul Alimario	8/28	Mark Hernandez	8/30
Kaynan Delacruz	8/28	Manny Acosta	8/31

#### Anniversary

Andy & Grace Mantes	8/28
Pris & Nin Brendia	8/29
Carl & Mina Duque	8/29

### 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

### Jesus' Light

How do I react when I am afraid, in difficulties? Do I go ahead alone, with my own strength, or do I call on the Lord with trust? And what is my faith like? Do I believe that Christ is stronger than the adversarial waves and winds? But above all: Am I sailing with him? Do I welcome him? Do I make room for him in the boat of my life – never alone, always with Jesus? Do I hand the helm over to Jesus? In the dark crossings, may Mary, the mother of Jesus, Star of the Sea, help us to seek the light of Jesus.

~ Pope Francis

### Last Week's Prophecies

- *Your faith is very strong but you have to deal with your unforgiveness. You need to run to our eternal Father for mercy and to ask for help.*
- *My healing mercy is freely given to each one of you. It is boundless and most of all, it does not qualify of who you are or what you have done. All you need to do is ask over and over again, in prayer, and it will be given to you.*
- *Spiritual healing is made possible through your unwavering faith in Me and your persistent prayer.*

### No Qualifications - Cont'd from Page 1

appoints us, the Lord secures our place in everything that we do. *"I will fix him like a peg in a sure spot, to be a place of honor for his family,"* (Is 22:23). It is our duty therefore to humbly accept the calling, thereby proclaiming Jesus as the Son of God.

Assignments of leadership received in Community may overwhelm us at the onset. Our next emergence process will identify new BLD Community leaders to take on the various positions of leadership. It is a good time in our faith journey for those who are called to emulate Peter's staunch faith. As qualified nominators in the emergence process, let us ask ourselves this question: could Peter, an unschooled and simple fisherman, have made it to the list of BLD nominees and emerged as one of the new leaders in 2024?

The Lord is indeed full of surprises when He chooses people who may escape our attention, but whom he calls for His divine work. Perhaps we would not even choose the kind of people the Lord selected as His twelve apostles.

They were ordinary fishermen, tax collectors and even sinners, who were least likely candidates for any leadership role. But these simple uneducated folk turned out to be the Lord's instruments in spreading the gospel and building his church throughout the world. They are likewise responsible for having written the several books of the bible that declare the truth of God's word today, yesterday and forever. Let us pause for a moment and quietly reflect on this.

Proclaiming Jesus as the Son of the living God is not easy. It is a personal commitment, a way of life that defines who we are and how we relate to Jesus. It is not a sporadic act that comes and goes but a belief that has to be lived on a day-to-day basis, 24/7. But no matter how difficult it is to be a proclaimer of the Word and builder of God's kingdom and Church, it comes with a reward that is all worth it, *"...upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it,"* (Mt 16:18b).

Adapted from [www.bldworld.org](http://www.bldworld.org)



Bukas Loob Sa Diyos  
Diocese of Trenton

*invites you to*

### "Life In The Spirit Seminar"

October 27-29, 2023

St. Veronica Church, Howell New Jersey

FREE REGISTRATION

For all inquiries and registration,  
Contact: Toy and Malen Juarez (609-954-2300) | Bong and Faye Dizon (732-604-7690)  
Email: [bldtrenton.lss@gmail.com](mailto:bldtrenton.lss@gmail.com)

*"Behold,  
I make all  
things new."*

*Come... Holy Spirit... Come...*

*Do not forsake the  
work of your hands,  
O Lord.*

### BLD TRENTON JOHN 6 CROSSING

Registration is Open  
for Children ages  
11 -15 years old

Date: September 29th - October 1st, 2023  
Place: Saint John Paul II Youth Retreat Center  
499 Belgrove Dr. Kearny, NJ 07032  
Registration Fee: \$150.00 per person.  
(Fee includes meals for the entire weekend.)

For inquiries and slot reservations, please contact  
David/Liberty Baliscao or Arnold/ Malou Paderon  
email address: [Dbaliscao@yahoo.com](mailto:Dbaliscao@yahoo.com)  
[mpaderon12@gmail.com](mailto:mpaderon12@gmail.com)