



BLD Trenton



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We are the salt and light of the earth when we obey and teach God's commandments and walk in His ways.

PROMISE:

"...keep the commandments, they will save you; if you trust in God, you too will live." (Sir 15: 15)

WORD:

Sir 15: 15-20/ Ps 119: 1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34/ 1 Cor 2: 6-10/ Mt 5: 17-37



Send your prayer
requests to:

[https://
www.bldtrenton.com/
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<http://bldtrenton.com>

February 10, 2023

A Covenant Of Love

REFLECTION:

The theme for the sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time is – We are the salt and the light of the earth when we obey and teach God's commandments and walk in His ways. God gave us His commandments as our guide that will lead us to His kingdom because He loves us unconditionally. His commands are specific to make it easy for us to understand. We have to make sure that we know all of them by heart and more importantly follow them in everything we think, say and do. The Lord will surely be delighted when we strive to remain faithful and obedient to the law that He has crafted for us. By obeying His commands we are directed to walk in His pathways.

In the Gospel, Jesus said that He has come not to abolish the law but to fulfill it. He came to establish a new covenant. It is not a list of do's and don'ts, but a call to "holiness that surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees." The new covenant spells



out the relationship of God and His people bound by love. In Jeremiah 31: 33 - 34, He said, *"This is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord. I will place my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have need to teach their friends and kinsmen how to know the Lord. All, from the least to the greatest, shall know me, says the Lord, for I will forgive their evil-doing and remember their sin no more."*

This is a more inspiring and compassionate covenant that the Lord has offered to us compared to the original Mosaic Law. The covenant of love is simplified into the greatest commandments: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself."* Since these commandments have been etched in our hearts, the Spirit of the Lord provides the guidance we need as we apply them in our

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Tending the Flock

Love Is The Fulfilling Of The Law

And addressing his disciples, he adds: *"unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven"* (Mt 5:17,20). But what do this "fullness" of Christ's Law and this "superior" justice that he demands consist in?

Jesus explains it with a series of antitheses between the old commandments and his new way of propounding them. He begins each time: *"You have heard that it was said to the men of old..."*, and then he asserts: *"but I say to you"....* For example, *"You have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'you shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment'. But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment"* (Mt 5:21-22).

And he does this six times. This manner of speaking made a great impression on the people, who were shocked, because those words: *"I say to you"* were equivalent to claiming the actual authority of God, the source of the Law. The newness of Jesus consists essentially in the fact that he himself "fulfils" the commandments with the love of God, with the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells within him. And we, through faith in Christ, can open ourselves to the action of the Holy Spirit who makes us capable of living divine love.

So it is that every precept becomes true as a requirement of love, and all join in a single commandment: love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. *"Love is the fulfilling of the Law"*, St. Paul writes (Rom 13:10).

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Message, February 13, 2011

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 3, 2023

Tithe :\$310.00
Love Offering :\$189.00

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

*Instruct me, O Lord,
in the way of your statutes,
that I may exactly observe them.*



Looking Forward



Brother and sisters, let us feed our expectation for Heaven, let us exercise the desire for paradise. Today it does us good to ask ourselves if our desires have anything to do with Heaven. Because we risk continuously aspiring to passing things, of confusing desires with needs, of putting expectations of the world before expectation of God. But losing sight of what matters to follow the wind would be the greatest mistake in life. Let us look upwards, because we are on a journey toward the Height, whereas the things from down here will not go up there: the best careers, the greatest achievements, the most prestigious titles and awards, accumulated wealth, earthly earnings — all will vanish in an instant, everything. And every expectation placed in those things will be disappointed. And yet, how much time, how much effort and energy do we spend worrying and feeling sad because of these things, letting the tension towards home fade, losing sight of the meaning of the way, of the goal of the journey, the infinite towards which we go, the joy for which we breathe! Let us ask ourselves: do I live out what I say in the Creed, *"I look forward"* — that is — *"to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come"*? And how do I wait? Am I capable of going to the essential or am I distracted by so many superfluous things? Do I cultivate hope or go on complaining, because I give too much value to many things that don't matter and that will pass?

~ Pope Francis

God's Blessings

Birthday

Nancy Alvarenga	2/10	Emily Ho	2/11
Edna Perez	2/10	Christopher Biala	2/12
Dette Santos	2/10	Carl Caparros	2/12
Claro Gomez	2/11	Gerald Mirandilla	2/12
Nino Fajardo	2/13		

Anniversary

Allan & Elma Pontipiedra	2/5
Domenick & Carmela Palumbo	2/15

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daily lives. We are nourished as we strive to follow these commands allowing us to grow spiritually more and more.

We are led to our internal transformation, making it possible for us to keep the law and live righteously. We become living witnesses of God's love and inspiration to others. As salt of the earth, we share the spiritual blessings we receive allowing them to experience the joy of living a life spiced by the grace of God. As light of the world, we shed light to people living in darkness and draw them to be followers of Christ. In this way, we are able to exercise our duty to build the Church as one body of Christ and help in the mission of teaching the commandments, spreading the Good News of salvation and to bring people closer to God. When we continue to fulfill our covenant with the Lord, we are assured of this promise: *"...keep the commandments, they will save you; if you trust in God, you too shall live."* (Sir 15:15).

Prayer:

Lord, we thank you for the Covenant of love You gave us. We pray for Your guidance to love You with all our heart, soul, mind and strength each day of our life, and to love our neighbor. Guard us against anything that may compete for Your love and affection. Protect us from trials that may cause us to disobey your commandment and grant us the strength to overcome them. Remind us and help us whenever we are failing in following Your commands. In Jesus' name we pray...Amen.

Adapted from www.bldworld.org



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



An Invitation

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND
APRIL 14-16, 2023

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

Cost per couple: \$300
(Meals and Accommodation)

For all inquiries:
German/Letty Butay (732) 887-5298 or lbutay@yahoo.com
Nestor/Cecile Vasquez (908) 578-9138 | Toy/Malen Juarez (609) 954-2300



BLD TRENTON

COMMUNITY LENTEN RETREAT

St Mary, Mother of God
Church

19 Cherry Tree Farm Rd
Middletown, NJ 07728

Spiritual Director

Fr. Mark Nillo

February 25, 2023
11am - 3pm

General Assembly to follow after the Retreat

For further logistics, pls email: corabert@optonline.net, sinokugan.8@gmail.com, mpadern12@gmail.com