

## This Sunday's Counsel

**THEME:** We possess the heart and character of Christ when we bear our cross, like Mary.

**PROMISE:** "...the gracious care of the Lord ( b e ) i s o u r s ... " ( P s 90:17)

**WORD:** Wis 9:13-18/ Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17/ Phil 9-10, 12-17/ Lk 14:25-33

### ORDER:

- "...Come after me...be my disciple." (Lk 14:27b)

### DIRECTIONS:

- Be a good steward and do the work of God with a humble heart.
- Soak yourself in prayer when you ask the Father for your needs.



**BLD Trenton**



# Community News

Volume 19, Issue 36

<http://bldtrenton.com>

September 6, 2019

## The Cost Of Discipleship

**REFLECTION:** Following Jesus is not an easy task. One has to have a deep love and personal relationship with Him to even consider being His disciple.

The central message of this Sunday's Readings is the cost of discipleship.

Our 1st Reading from the Book of Wisdom underscores the difference between the true wisdom of God and human wisdom, which is fallible and prone to error, because despite the spiritual nature of the soul, the human body is corruptible, faint-hearted, and weak.

In his book, *Footprints on the Mountain*, Roland Faley describes true wisdom as that which "*enables the person to be guided by the interests of the soul rather than those of the body.*" Because it comes from God, God's word in the Bible reveals to us the truth about who Jesus is, instructing us how to follow Him and live our lives according to His image and likeness, that we may acquire His heart and character.

To be a true Christian disciple is to acquire Christ's heart and character. This is not an easy task. It requires dedication and total commitment to allow Jesus to take precedence and priority over all other considerations and decisions, regardless of personal cost. Yes, it demands dying to self, to one's pride, to personal interests, goals and possessions, a detach-



ment from earthly things, and a readiness to surrender oneself when the call of the hour is a choice between human priorities and God's will.

God loves each one of us dearly, and he is not telling us to dishonor our parents. But He is telling us that our allegiance is first and foremost to Him, and all other human concerns, including our responsibility to our families, are subordinate or secondary considerations. He is not even asking us to make a drastic change, but to carefully weigh our options and grow in our love for Him as we entrust our choices in life to Him as we follow Him in faith.

The Psalm reminds us of the temporary nature of our days on earth, that we are mere transients in this world, and that time is of the essence in living out

*Discipleship—See Page 2*

## Know Your Saints

### Saint Monica: Patron of Wives and Widows

Monica was born to Christian parents in fourth century North Africa. She was given to marriage to a pagan husband who often criticized her because of her charity and piety. She served her husband with humility for many years and prayed for him to accept Christianity. On his deathbed, he finally asked to be baptized and enjoy the grace of God.

If converting her husband was hard, Monica had an even more difficult time trying to bring her son Augustine to God. She prayed often and persistently but with little apparent success. Many priests even told her his conversion would not be possible and that Augustine's soul was too far from God. But Monica replied, "*Nothing is far from God.*"

Monica never stopped praying. She followed Augustine to Rome and then to Milan, always trying to convince him to see the error of his ways. She also performed many charitable works for the poor and joined a convent to strengthen her own faith while seeking to convert her son.

She also received the counsel of St. Ambrose, who was able to win Augustine's heart to Christ. Augustine became a bishop and a saint. Monica had prayed for his conversion for seventeen years, saying "*it is not possible that the son of so many tears should perish.*"

Monica died in the year 387 and is regarded as patron saint of married women.



## Teaching Schedule

**Sep 7** - SPE - New Creation Realities/ Prayer  
**Sep 14** - ME 19 - Handling Conflict/ Repairing Wrongdoing/ Fraternal Correction  
**Sep 21** - ME 20 - Charismata/ Pneumatika/ Diakonia/ Fruits of the Holy Spirit

## Save the Date

**Sep 15** : Final Plenary  
 Venue : Saint Monica Church  
 Jackson, NJ  
**Oct 13-14** : Aspirant Retreat  
 Venue : Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth  
 Wernersville, PA  
**Jan 10-12** : Singles Encounter  
 Venue : America's Keswick  
 Whiting, NJ

## The Lord's Provision August 30, 2019

**Tithes: \$680.00**  
**Love Offering: \$279.00**

*Thank you for your  
generosity!!*

## Marshalls

**Sep 6** - Leo Duarte  
 Pris Brenda  
**Sep 13** - Keith Rodriguez  
 Roland Mansing

## Bishop's Anniversary Blessing 2019

*Couples celebrating their 1st, 25th or 50th (and up)  
 Catholic wedding anniversary during the 2019  
 calendar year. YOU ARE INVITED!!!*

Monmouth/Ocean counties: **October 6, 2019 3 PM**  
 co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine, Freehold  
Mercer/Burlington counties: **October 20, 2019 3 PM**  
 Cathedral of St. Mary, Trenton

### Please contact:

Nes & Cecille Vasquez 908-578-9138  
 Eugene & Malou Yosuco 732-500-5161

## Discipleship - Cont'd from Page 1

our Christian faith and giving witness to the love of Christ in the way we relate to others especially the poor and the needy.

To live a life with the heart and character of Christ and to follow him as His disciple may indeed be difficult to achieve. But the Lord gives us the grace and virtue to be one, and He gives this promise to anyone who chooses to be His follower: "...the gracious care of the Lord (be) is ours..." (Ps 90:17).

### Prayer:

Abba Father, cause Your Holy Spirit to teach us to count our days aright, so that we may gain wisdom, knowledge and understanding on how to carry our crosses and be Your true disciples. Fill us with Your love so that we may daily sing of Your joy and glory. Likewise, we pray that you prosper the work of our hands. This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

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

## God's Blessings

### Birthday

Sette Lemon	9/6	Manny Palacios	9/10
Nestor Conde	9/7	Jean DeJean	9/11
Raquel Arriola	9/8	Baby Inid	9/11
Aaron Cruz	9/9	Mike Salada	9/12

### Anniversary

David & Liberty Baliscao 9/8

## Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Blessed Mother's visit - Tess Corso 732-604-1914  
 For Prayer Service - Morris Teves 732-597-2016

## Summer Fun 2019

### Fun in the Sand

Saturday, September 7, 2019  
 11 AM—3 PM

Skateplex at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park  
 Atlantic Ave cor. Ocean Ave N, Long Branch, NJ

### Fun on the Tennis Courts

Saturday, September 14, 2019

8:30 AM—11:30 AM

Wayside Park  
 Green Grove Rd, Wayside, NJ

### Fun in the Golf Course

Sunday, September 15, 2019

9 AM—12:30 PM

Twinbrook Golf Center  
 1251 Jumping Brook Rd, Tinton Falls, NJ

*For details, contact Mike and Beth Z. @ 732-558-2935*

*In every age, O Lord,  
 You have been our refuge.*

## Grateful To Serve

*A member of ME #20 reflects on their sponsorship of the marriage encounter weekend held recently at Murray Grove Center, Lanoka Harbor, NJ on August 10-11, 2019.*

As a member of the sponsoring class, we knew that it's going to be a tough task to make sure everything works out as planned. But with God guiding us as well as help and encouragement from the community, we felt that serving while making sure that things flow as it should be was very re-

warding. We felt His presence in what we do that made it worthwhile and grateful to serve for His Glory. We are humbled by the cooperation and attention that ME21 candidates put into the retreat and we pray that their spiritual journey continue to strengthen them as it did for us. All for His glory.





## This Sunday's *Counsel*

**THEME:** We possess the heart and character of Christ when we are merciful, compassionate and forgiving.

**PROMISE:** "...there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents..." (Lk 15:7)

**WORD:** Ex 32:7-11,13-14/ Ps 51:3-4,12-13,17,19/ 1Tim 1:12-17/ Lk 15:1-32

### ORDER:

- "...Go after the lost ones and rejoice with me when they are found..." (Lk 15:4 & 6)

### DIRECTIONS:

- Reach out to your brothers and sisters.
- Remain reconciled and in solidarity with members of the community.



*BLD Trenton*



# Community News

Volume 19, Issue 37

<http://bldtrenton.com>

September 13, 2019

## Mercy, Compassion, Forgiveness

**REFLECTION:** Our theme summed up very well what the Lord wants to say to us in this Sunday's readings. *"We possess the heart and character of Christ when we are merciful, compassionate and forgiving."* When we have Christ's heart and character, we are then created in his image and likeness. This is the closest that we can be "in the person of Christ".



In the three readings we saw how God gave his mercy, compassion and forgiveness abundantly and without any precondition. God did not wait for the sinners to repent first before giving his own forgiveness. He did not wait for the Israelites, in the First Reading, to come back to Him before He relented in the punishment He had threatened them. In the Second Reading, Paul, the foremost of sinners becomes the foremost example of Christ's mercy. In the gospel, the story of "search, found and celebration" aptly depict an image of our heavenly Father welcoming us with open arms.

We are all offered compassion and forgiveness by God, but sadly not all embrace it. In the Order, Jesus is calling us

to be united with Him, be in His person, as the power of His mercy is what will bring the lost ones back to Him. Our Direction, which is to reach out and remain reconciled, is an encouragement for us to be humble and initiate reconciliation. Just like the prodigal son, his father's love could not have reached him without his humility to admit his faults and repentance, without his determination to

make the long journey back home. He realized in his heart that he did something atrocious to his father. But he's brave and humble enough to recognize and admit it.

If we do not embrace the compassion and forgiveness offered by God, we also cannot be compassionate and forgiving to others. The more it will make reconciliation difficult and solidarity with our brothers and sisters becomes unattainable. Anger, resentment, envy and other negative feelings are what will fill our heart and will fail us to see the celebration for the finding of the lost just like the elder son in the parable of prodigal son.

Let us ask the Lord for the grace to repent, to seek forgiveness and to grant forgiveness.

## Know Your Saints

### Saint Robert Bellarmine: Patron of Catechists

Robert Bellarmine was born in 1542 in Italy. As a boy, he often spent time repeating the sermons he heard to his brothers and sisters. He also enjoyed explaining catechism lessons to neighborhood children.

At age eighteen, he joined the Society of Jesus and taught Greek, Hebrew and theology at Louvain University. He wrote many books and spoke out against the heresies of the day that were causing disbelief and even war throughout Europe. He believed very deeply in education for all people.

He was an open-minded scholar who promoted knowledge as the best way to find God. He defended Galileo for his unpopular views on science. He also taught that the authority of kings to rule is given by God to the people, who should give power only to rulers who are morally fit.

Robert Bellarmine was the head of the Vatican library. He was made a Cardinal by Pope Clement VIII and some years later was himself nominated to be Pope. Yet he refused to live in luxury and gave all his money to the poor. One time, he sold his expensive tapestries to clothe the poor. After all, he said, *"the walls won't catch cold."* Later he wrote, *"Charity is that with which no man is lost, and without which no man is saved."*

St. Robert Bellarmine died in 1621 and has been declared a Doctor of the Church. He is the patron saint of church lawyers and catechists.



## Teaching Schedule

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Wrongdoing/ Fraternal Correction  
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Diakonia/ Fruits of the Holy Spirit

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Venue : Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth  
Wernersville, PA  
**Jan 10-12** : Singles Encounter  
Venue : America's Keswick  
Whiting, NJ

## The Lord's Provision September 6, 2019

**Tithes: \$355.00**  
**Love Offering: \$282.00**

*Thank you for your  
generosity!!*

## Marshalls

**Sep 13** - Keith Rodriguez  
Roland Mansing  
**Sep 20** - Ed Bautista  
Cesar Angeles

## Bishop's Anniversary Blessing 2019

*Couples celebrating their 1st, 25th or 50th (and up)  
Catholic wedding anniversary during the 2019  
calendar year. **YOU ARE INVITED!!!***

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Cathedral of St. Mary, Trenton

### Please contact:

Nes & Cecille Vasquez 908-578-9138  
Eugene & Malou Yosuco 732-500-5161

## God's Blessings Birthday

Elena Madarang	9/13	Archie Arigorat	9/16
Pearl Labitoria	9/13	Alan San Rafael	9/18
Derek Dela Cruz	9/15	Bong Saria	9/19
Lalaine Academia	9/16	Jessica Matthews	9/19
Cesar Agustin	9/16	TJ San Miguel	9/19
Arlene Roldan		9/19	

## Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors & Proclaimers

Carmen, Nestor & Cecille Vasquez, Gene & Leleng del  
Carmen, Toy & Malen Juarez

## Summer Fun 2019

### Fun in the Sand

Saturday, September 7, 2019  
11 AM—3 PM

Skateplex at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park  
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## Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Blessed Mother's visit - Tess Corso 732-604-1914  
For Prayer Service - Morris Teves 732-597-2016

## Fully Restored

What is the main point or focus of the parable of the prodigal son? Is it the contrast between an obedient and a disobedient son? Or is it a contrast between the warm reception given by a generous and forgiving father and the cold and aloof reception given by the eldest son who wanted to have nothing to do with his rebellious brother? Jesus contrasts the father's merciful love with the eldest son's harsh rejection of his errant brother and his refusal to join his father in welcoming his brother.

While the errant son had wasted his father's money, his father, nonetheless, maintained unbroken love for his son. The son, while he was away, learned a lot about himself. And he realized that his father had given him love which he had not returned. He had yet to learn about the depth of his father's love for him. His deep humiliation at finding himself obliged to feed on the husks of pigs and his reflection on all he had lost, led to his repentance and decision to declare himself guilty before his father. While he hoped for reconciliation with his father, he could not have imagined a full restoration

of relationship. The father did not need to speak words of forgiveness to his son - his actions spoke more loudly and clearly! The beautiful robe, the ring, and the festive banquet symbolize the new life - pure, worthy, and joyful - of each and every person who returns to the merciful embrace of the waiting Father in heaven.

The prodigal could not return to the garden of innocence, but he was welcomed and reinstated as a beloved son. The errant son's dramatic change from grief and guilt to forgiveness and restoration express in picture-language the resurrection from the dead and a rebirth to new abundant life with God the Father through his beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Adapted from [dailyscripture.servantsoftheword.org](http://dailyscripture.servantsoftheword.org)*



## This Sunday's *Counsel*

**THEME:** We possess the heart and character of Christ when we are trustworthy stewards of God's resources.

**PROMISE:** "He raises up the lowly from the dust...to seat them with princes..." (Ps 113:7)

**WORD:** Am 8:4-7/ Ps 113:1-2, 4-8/ 1Tim 2:1-8/ Lk 16:1-13

### ORDER:

- "Praise the Lord that lifts up the poor." (Ps 113:7)
- "Prepare a full account of your stewardship..." (Lk 16:2)

### DIRECTIONS:

- Use your gifts to build the church.
- Seek and reconcile with the Lord.



*BLD Trenton*



# Community News

Volume 19, Issue 38

<http://bldtrenton.com>

September 20, 2019

## Generosity Versus Greed

**REFLECTION:** In this age when people seem stuck in their desire to make out a living and provide a comfortable life for their family, there is a tendency to push God aside. Worship of God has not only become mechanical but it has been turned into an obligation that people need to go through and that's it. And there are those who think they can buy their way to salvation by picking up the tab whenever the church needs a new roof or a new coat of paint. They are the ones who will rise to the occasion whenever the church or community needs funds for a certain project or program. And of course there are also those whose giving is motivated by their desire to control or manipulate their parish, community or ministry for that matter.

Money can be used for selfish purposes or it can be used to make life easier for others. As God has been merciful to us during the times when we are in need, so we too are being asked to follow the shrewd steward who used his position to make friends whom he expect will help him at some future time. Generous giving is related to alms-giving and those to whom we give become our friends and they will ultimately see Christ through us. In time, as St. Ambrose has said, our generosity will lead us to eternity.



The opposite of generosity is greed or the excessive desire for wealth and power. And greed doesn't only refer to the accumulation of material possessions but also to the insatiable desire for power and position. Generosity nurtures the soul while greed blocks the flow of grace in a person.

The parable teaches us the need to manage the resources that God has entrusted to us. Once again, we are faced with the reality that we have been put in charge of things that are not ours. While these resources have their present-day use and after-life benefit, still we cannot take these resources with us when we finally meet our Maker. In other words, we are merely stewards and our place in heaven will largely depend on how wise we manage these resources that were lent

*Generosity—See Page 2*

## Know Your Saints

### Saint Padre Pio: Patron of the Unborn

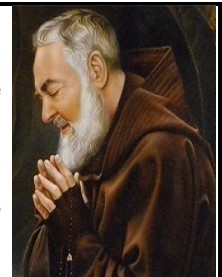
Saint Pio was born Francesco Forgione in 1887 at Pietrelcina, Italy. When he was just five years old, he began to see heavenly visions and decided he would devote his life to serving God. At the age of 15, he entered the novitiate of the Capuchin Friars and was ordained a priest at the age of 22.

Shortly after becoming a priest, he was visited by Jesus and Mary and was given the Stigmata, the wounds of Christ. At first Padre Pio asked God to take away this gift because he feared it would draw attention to himself and he would rather suffer in secret. But the Stigmata stayed with him for the rest of his life, reminding the world of Christ's Passion and victory over sin and death.

In 1956, he founded the Home for the Relief of Suffering, a teaching hospital that serves 60,000 people a year and offers instruction in Christian medical practice. He also started prayer groups to pray for peace that continue today with over 400,000 members worldwide.

Padre Pio believed in five rules for spiritual growth: weekly confession, daily communion, spiritual reading, meditation and examination of conscience. He said, "Every Holy Mass, heard with devotion, produces in our souls marvelous effects, abundant spiritual and material graces which we, ourselves, do not know."

St. Pio died in 1968, just a few hours after saying his final Mass. Canonized in 2002, he is honored as patron saint of unborn children.



## Teaching Schedule

**Sep 21** - ME 20 - Introduction to Intercession and Commitment

## Save the Date

**Oct 13-14** : Aspirant Retreat  
 Venue : Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth  
 Wernersville, PA

**Nov 3** : Community Retreat 1:00 - 3:30 PM  
 Venue : St. Monica Church  
 Jackson, NJ

**Jan 10-12** : Singles Encounter  
 Venue : America's Keswick  
 Whiting, NJ

## The Lord's Provision September 13, 2019

**Tithes: \$240.00**  
**Love Offering: \$340.00**

*Thank you for your generosity!!*

## Marshalls

**Sep 20** - Ed Bautista  
 Cesar Angeles

**Sep 27** - Jeff Sarmiento  
 Gil Ocena

## Bishop's Anniversary Blessing 2019

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 Catholic wedding anniversary during the 2019  
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## Generosity - Cont'd from Page 1

to us. These resources include our talent, skills, positions, the gift and fruits of the Holy Spirit and as we go through life we need to constantly account for our actions and be an exemplar for honesty and integrity even on small matters.

Jesus demands that we choose between God and mammon because we cannot dwell in God and immerse ourselves in the cares of this world. And there shouldn't be any doubt or vacillation in the way we make our choice. To take the side of God assures us of our eternal inheritance in heaven. To remain in the world would lead us to the fiery furnace where there will be gnashing and grinding of teeth. God's promise to us this week says: *"He raises up the lowly from the dust...to seat them with princes..."* (Ps 113:7).

There is only one Master and that is God the Father who created us, Jesus Christ who redeemed us and freed us from slavery to sinful desires and, the Holy Spirit who sanctifies the work of our hands.

### Prayer:

Lord, take us away from our comfort zones and allow us to reach out to our less privileged brothers and sisters to share our lives with them. Amen.

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

## God's Blessings

### Birthday

Jan Fune	9/20	Leleng Del Carmen	9/24
Det Quiapo	9/20	Mary Mainque	9/24
Caryn Monta	9/21	Vic Mabunay	9/24
Cesar Angeles	9/22	Delia Cuasay	9/25
Jaye Jacinto	9/22	Adam Tomczyk	9/25
Sylvia Lingat	9/23	Chat Conde	9/26

Mildred Lumapas 9/26

### Anniversary

Yoyoy & Det Quiapo	9/20
Edd & Marilyn Roy	9/23
Melo & Linda Mabutas	9/24
Butch & Gel Chioco	9/26

## Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors & Proclaimers

Carl & Mina Duque, Evelyn/Kathy,  
 German & Letty Butay, Leo & Nonette Duarte

## Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Blessed Mother's visit - Tess Corso 732-604-1914  
 For Prayer Service - Morris Teves 732-597-2016

## Grace and Peace

*"Prayer of this kind is good, and God our Savior is  
 pleased with it, for He wants all men to be saved."  
 —1 Timothy 2:3-4*

Jesus died on the cross so that all would be saved from sin, death, and damnation. We are saved by His grace, which we must decide to accept by faith (Eph 2:8) and live in love with all our hearts (see Lk 10:27). The decisions to accept God's saving graces are the most important decisions of our lives.



However, these decisions are extremely difficult to make, for we are strongly pressured by the world, the flesh, and the devil to choose pride, pleasure, and selfishness rather than God's grace and love. However, the Lord calls us to *"lead undisturbed and tranquil lives in perfect piety and dignity"* (1Tm 2:2). In this context, we are much more likely to repeatedly choose grace and thereby salvation.

Consequently, we must make it a priority to pray for everyone, particularly for godly leaders who will set up a society of peace, tranquility, and respect for human rights (see 1Tm 2:1ff). We must then submit ourselves to the godly authority of pastors, government leaders, husbands, parents, employers, etc.

Our culture of death sets us up to reject grace after grace by making bad decision after bad decision. However, a civilization of love in which we live "undisturbed and tranquil" lives brings out the best in us as we decide again and again to live in grace. Grace and peace to you (Phil 1:2).

*Adapted from [www.presentationministries.com](http://www.presentationministries.com)*



## This Sunday's Counsel

**THEME:** We possess the heart and character of Christ when we reach out and share our blessings with the poor.

**PROMISE:** "Blessed is he who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets captives free." (Ps 146:7)

**WORD:** Am 6:1, 4-7/ Ps 146:7-10/ 1Tim 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31

### ORDER:

- "...keep the commandments without stain or reproach..." (1Tim 6:14)
- "...pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience and gentleness." (1Tim 6:11)

### DIRECTIONS:

- Be generous with your time, talent and treasure or resources.



BLD Trenton



# Community News

Volume 19, Issue 39

<http://bldtrenton.com>

September 27, 2019

## Serving When It Hurts

*"There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table."*

- Lk 16: 19-21

**REFLECTION:** Having joined this community many years ago and being a permanent volunteer for the Missionaries of the Poor, I have been very fortunate in having met and gotten to know people whose lives did not really pan out the way they wanted to, the Lazaruses of this world. Serving a Thanksgiving meal a few years ago, I noticed Charles sitting and eating by himself as none of the other homeless persons wanted to sit with him because of his smell. That made me all the more determined to sit right beside him and we had a conversation on a variety of topics. After serving and cleaning up the dining hall, I put on my parka to go home and ran to my car as it was raining really hard and freezing. As I was turning around, I noticed Charles walking towards the clubhouse without anything to protect him from the cold rain. For some reason, my immediate response was to jump out of the car and put my parka over his shoulders and cover his soaking head. All I could say to him was to stay



dry and keep warm. Driving back home brought me to tears as I could not explain how I felt in my heart, that connection and happiness of having the opportunity of treating this person with

respect and dignity. Driving to work one morning, I noticed another homeless person I got to know while serving with the Missionaries of the Poor. I noticed Richard as he was always in a black suit, white shirt, a tie and logging along his enormous luggage. I pulled over and, after learning where he was headed, I immediately asked him to get into the car and brought him to a relative who wanted to help him get back on his feet.

Leon was another homeless person whom all the other volunteers passed on to transport because he soiled himself that morning due to food poisoning. I got him into my car and brought him back to

*Serving—See Page 2*

## Know Your Saints

### Saint Therese of Lisieux: Patron of Aviators

Therese Martin was born to a pious family and grew up in France in the 1870s. The youngest of nine children, she was a quiet but strong-willed girl. Early on she felt sure Jesus wanted her to spend her life loving him.

When she was only ten years old, Therese became very ill with fever that people thought she was dying. One night in her bedroom, while praying to a statue of the Virgin Mary she saw her smile and the fever left instantly. From that day on, this future saint knew the power of prayer.

Therese entered the convent at fifteen and became a Carmelite nun in the town of Lisieux. She said her mission was to make God loved on earth. She found ways to live a simple life and become a Little Flower of Jesus. She kept a journal in which she wrote about the power of prayer and about finding heaven's beauty in the simple things around us. After she died, the journal was published as a book called *The Story of the Soul*. It has inspired millions of readers to seek God through prayer.

Though she was still very young, Therese became sick with tuberculosis and her lungs began to fail but she would hide her pain with a smile. As she lay dying at the age of 24, she told her friends and family: "After my death, I will let fall a shower of roses. I will spend my heaven doing good upon earth." Many people believe that after you pray to St. Therese and you hear the word "rose" or smell roses, she has heard your prayer and is working her miracle in heaven.

The feast day of St. Therese is October 1. She is the patron saint of aviators and foreign missions.



## Save the Date

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 Eugene & Malou Yosuiico 732-500-5161

### Serving - Cont'd from Page 1

the homeless shelter in Freehold. After that trip, we sat on the curb and I listened to all his complaints about the shelter knowing I really could not do anything except to hear him out and showing him empathy, acknowledging his problems.

We all face these situations and decisions each day of our lives but in most cases we turn a blind eye. Sadly, we come up with excuses or reasons not to help. It would have been easy for me to drive away and not give away my parka and not get drenched in cold rain. It would have been easy to drive past Richard - I needed to get to work on time—and pretend I didn't see him. I could have easily refused to transport Leon and sit with him with all my selfish excuses. We all need to recognize that giving money and our material excesses is not enough. Being in this community and serving has taught me that serving and giving should not be done from our excesses. To truly give and serve has to hurt, because that's when you know it really means something. We serve even when it is inconvenient, we cannot only serve when we have nothing to do in our spare time. We all need to change our hearts to be active members of this community serving each other with love and dignity. We cannot pick and choose when and how we want to serve, it cannot be limited to things we enjoy doing, it should include things we're not comfortable with. Our service should never be limited to people we know and like. The true test of our servant hearts is serving the stranger and more importantly people we do not get along with.

*"And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me,'" (Mt 25:40). Let us not squander the opportunities presented to us each day to follow the example of our Lord. Let us not find ourselves on the other side of the great chasm, asking Lazarus for help. These are clear warnings to the complacent and indifferent, so heed these warnings before it is too late.*

## God's Blessings

### Birthday

Josieliza Rivera	9/26	Bert Velez	9/28
Tony Bartocillo	9/28	Bong Dizon	9/29
Daday Young	9/28	Kimberly Ciocon	9/30
Kris Taguiam	9/28	Mimi Caragay	10/1
Chito Ciocon	10/3		

### Anniversary

John & Weng Alberto	9/27
Leo & Norms Llave	9/29
Toti & Inna Lukban	9/29
Tony & Arlene Riggio	10/3

### Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors & Proclaimers

Ellen Epino & Bingkay Marcelo, Wendell & Mildred Lumapas, Manny & Evelyn Palacios, Gene & Leleng del Carmen

### The Lord's Provision September 20, 2019

Tithes: \$980.00  
 Love Offering: \$234.00

*Thank you for your  
 generosity!!*

### Marshalls

Sep 27 – Jeff Sarmiento  
 Gil Ocena



## Hardened Hearts

People can become so complacent, hard, and insensitive that they don't even notice beggars at their doors (Lk 16:20). Beggars may be laying there on the ground and covered with sores, but still they're not noticed (Lk 16:20). Beggars may only be asking for the garbage which has fallen from our tables, but still we refuse to acknowledge these people as human beings (Lk 16:21). Even dogs may be more sensitive to beggars than we are (Lk 16:21).

How can a human being become less sensitive than a dog? How can we refuse even to give our garbage to the poor? How can we deny the personhood of the poor, refugees, and babies in the womb? The rich man in today's Gospel reading became hard and insensitive through the influence of money, clothes, and food (Lk 16:19). The complacent and insensitive people of Amos' time hardened their hearts by living lives focused on creature-comforts, pleasure-seeking, and selfishness. Furniture, food, music, drinks, and cosmetics were their downfall (Am 6:4-6).

If our lifestyle has become a death-style, if selfishness is destroying our sensitivity to others' needs, what can we do? Even if someone would be raised from the dead, we are too hardened for that to affect us (Lk 16:31). Hearing "Moses and the prophets" (Lk 16:31), that is, the Bible, is our best chance for coming back to life out of the death of selfishness and sensuality. Then we can care and love again, and recognize people as images of God. Read, hear, pray, and live God's word "for dear life."



*Adapted from [www.presentationministries.com](http://www.presentationministries.com)*