

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We imitate and witness the life of Christ the King by living a righteous life and caring for the last, the least and the lost.

PROMISE:

"Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." (Mt 25: 34)

WORD:

Ez 34: 11-12, 15-17/ Ps 23: 1-2, 2-3, 5-6/ 1 Cor 15: 20-26, 28/ Mt 25: 31-46



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 23, Issue 46

<http://bldtrenton.com>

November 24, 2023

Merciful And Just

REFLECTION:

Viva Cristo Rey! The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus, King of the Universe (Christ the King) is the last Sunday of the liturgical year, the culmination of the Ordinary

Time leading to the Advent Season. In our reflection for this week, we are enjoined to ask ourselves, *'Is Jesus the King of my life?'* Our theme this week – We imitate and witness the life of Christ the King by living a righteous life and caring for the last, the least and the lost, guides us on how we should conduct our life in order that we may confidently declare that Jesus is truly the King of our lives.

In the 1st reading, we see our God in the image of a good and caring shepherd. As a good shepherd of the flock, he spends considerable time looking after his own sheep that strayed away and brings them back to the fold. From the Prophet Ezekiel, God tells us, *"I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered...The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back,*



the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal..." (Ez 34: 12b, 16a).

In the 2nd reading, in his letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul presents a powerful and awesome picture of Christ as Lord

and King, *"For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life... For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under His feet,"* (1 Cor 22a, 25). Christ represents life, life in all its fullness. And that is the life that He wants all of us to have. In other verses in Scriptures, Jesus declares that *"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick,"* (Lk 5:31-32), and *"the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve,"* (Mt 20: 28).

As Christ's followers, we are expected to go out of our way and reach out in love to those in need – the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the poor and naked, the sick and those in prison. They are the people who need to experience our love, they are the most in need of transformation that their lives may turn around for the better. We

Just - See Page 2

M Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we gather to celebrate Thanksgiving Day, let our hearts be filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude and joy for our blessings. Let us reflect on the goodness of God. This year has brought challenges but it has also shown us the strength of our faith. Let us give thanks for our families, friends and our faith community. Let us be mindful of those who are struggling and those who are in need and let us offer them our love, prayers and support.

In addition, we know that Thanksgiving is not just a "day," but it's a mindset! The Word of God is rich with scriptures on the importance of being thankful, giving thanks, and even entering into times of worship WITH thanksgiving! So let us "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name." Psalm 100:4

Happy Thanksgiving Day! God bless all of you,

E Art and Agnes, Cluster Shepherds,
together with the DCS

Tending
the
Flock

Everyone Will Be Exposed

"And he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats." So then, people on earth are intermingled, and not only intermingled in that the righteous live side by side with the wicked, but they are also indistinguishable. Between the righteous and the wicked there is no apparent difference. Even as in winter-time you cannot tell the healthy trees apart from the withered trees but in beautiful springtime you can tell the difference, so too each person according to his faith and his works will be exposed. The wicked will not

Exposed — See Page 2

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

November 17, 2023

Tithe :\$780.00
Love Offering :\$312.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Marilyn Roy	11/24	Anne Rhea Bell	11/30
Allan Pontipiedra	11/28	Raul Caragay	11/30
Marissa Orienza	11/28	Yoly Japitana	11/30
Andy Mantes	11/30		

Anniversary

Bert & Phoebe Panahaon	11/25
Lenny & Brenda Palao	11/26
Mike & Anne Belonia	11/27
Romy & Clemen Durante	11/28
Manny & Florence Acosta	11/29

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

*You, O Lord, are my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.*

Exposed - Cont'd from Page 1

have any leaves or show any fruit, but the righteous will be clothed with the leaves of eternal life and adorned with the fruit of glory. In this way they will be separated by the heavenly shepherd and Lord. The earthly shepherd separates animals by their type of body, whereas Christ separates people by their type of soul. The sheep signify righteous people by reason of their gentleness, because they harm no one, and by reason of their patience, because when they are harmed by others, they bear it without resistance. He refers to sinners as goats, however, because these vices characterize goats - capriciousness toward other animals, pride and belligerence.

~ *Fathers of the early Greek Church, Homily 54*



Inner Life

Wisdom means knowing how to make room for silence, so as to be capable of listening to ourselves and others. It means knowing how to give up some of the time passed in front of the telephone screen to look at the light in the eyes of others, in one's own heart, in God's gaze upon us. It means not falling into the trap of activism, but devoting time to the Lord, to listening to His Word.

It is the same for us: the inner life cannot be improvised, it is not a matter of a moment, of once in a while, of once and for all; the inner life must be prepared by dedicating a little time every day, with constancy, as one does for every important thing.

~ *Pope Francis*

Just - Cont'd from Page 1

are called to serve by loving those who are poor whether spiritually, morally, materially, or emotionally. In this way, we follow the example of Jesus that as His servants, we are to commit to serving our brothers and sisters with care and compassion, especially those who are furthest from Him and those who are not experiencing the abundance of His graces.

The Feast of Christ the King reminds us that everything will come to an end, the time when God will manifest His kingship. We are promised eternal life with God, but we are given free will to choose the righteous path. We can repent and believe in the Gospel, or we can go through life without acknowledging the lordship of Jesus. We can choose to enjoy all earthly cares unmindful of the divine instructions, but we should be mindful of what it would cost us. It is said that God who created us cannot save us without us. It is our personal choice to transform ourselves to a life worthy of God's presence in eternity.

St. Paul warns us about God's judgment - *"for we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil,"* (2 Cor 5:10).

The gospel is very clear that our actions towards the last, the least and the lost will be the basis of Christ's judgment, whether we have cared for them or ignored them. Jesus declares, *"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me,"* (Mt 25:40)... *"What you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me,"* (Mt 25:45).

As our Good Shepherd and Servant King, Jesus is merciful and compassionate. But He is also a just God. *"As for you my sheep, says the Lord God, I will judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats,"* (Ez 34:17). He cares for us while we journey through life. He accompanies us in our walk towards holiness and discipleship which we

experience in being in a community of faith (like BLD). Let us then honor Jesus as our Lord, Master and the King of our life, and no one else. Let us also not forget to lead our children, our young people to the flock of the King of love and peace.

When we live a righteous life and care for the last, the least and the lost as Jesus commands, we may be worthy to hear and receive this promise, *"Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world,"* (Mt 25:34).

Prayer:

Almighty God, our merciful Father, because of Your love for us, You sent Jesus to be the King of our life to save us and be united with You. As we journey in this earthly life, we humbly ask for Your grace, blessing, guidance and protection against the temptations of the world, and never allow us to be separated from Jesus, King of the universe and eternal love. Amen.

Adapted from www.bldworld.org