

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

Our faith in the resurrection of Christ brings us to shepherd His people with self-giving sacrifice.

PROMISE:

"...they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd." (Jn 10: 16b)

WORD:

Acts 4: 8-12/ Ps 118: 1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29/ 1 Jn 3: 1-2/ Jn 10: 11-18

ORDERS:

- Hear My voice.
- Be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

DIRECTIONS:

- Follow Jesus, know Him, and love Him.
- Acknowledge and believe that He is our Good Shepherd, Protector, Refuge and the Guardian of our souls.
- Be an instrument of love, peace and unity, shepherding one another and caring for each other like Jesus did.
- Lead others to Jesus and draw them closer to Him by actively engaging in Encounters, Mission Work, Praise and Worship, and receiving the Sacraments.



BLD Trenton



Community News

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Lead, Guide, Protect

REFLECTION:

On the fourth Sunday of Easter, also known as the Good Shepherd Sunday, Jesus declares: *"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father. Because of this, I give my life for my sheep,"* (Jn 10: 14-15). To this day, Jesus remains the one true and divine Shepherd of mankind. And He wants to share this mission with His chosen disciples. In the shepherds He sends us, He gives us visible and continuing signs of His love and care for His people.

In the readings, Jesus exemplifies the true shepherd, showing us how a good shepherd should take care of his flock. The true (and good) shepherd knows his flock, loves and protects, guides and leads them to good pasture and fresh waters. The good shepherd does not mislead, or mistreat his flock. When we joined BLD, we made our choice to follow the Good Shepherd. Given the freedom to make our personal choice, our presence here proves that we opted to follow the Good Shepherd through this community and its under-shepherds. But how well are we doing



in responding to our Lord's call?

To be true to our calling, we should seriously consider this week's theme – Our faith in the resurrection of Christ brings us to shepherd His people with self-giving sacrifice. Like Jesus we need to die to ourselves, to our selfish desires and self-indulgence, and devote more time and attention to helping meet the needs of people under our care. To lead, guide, and protect our loved ones and those entrusted to our care is not a matter of personal choice or option, but a commitment and responsibility.

Though we ourselves may be struggling, Jesus expects us to be like Him in shepherding the flock entrusted to our care, be it only our immediate family members, or members of our community. If we want to reap God's promises to us, we have to follow His ways; there is no other way.

When we face our Good Shepherd and Divine Judge at the end of time, our eternal happiness will depend largely on how much we gave of ourselves, and how we have loved and served our brothers during our lifetime. Our God will judge us on our sincerity, and

Lead - See Page 2

Tending the Flock

Disciples Listen And Follow

The Gospel of St. John, in chapter 10, describes the special features of the relationship between Christ the Good Shepherd and his flock, a relationship so close that no one will ever be able to snatch sheep from his hand. Indeed, the sheep are united to him by a bond of love and of reciprocal knowledge, which guarantees to them the immeasurable gift of eternal life.

At the same time, the flock's attitude to the Good Shepherd, Christ, is presented by the Evangelist with two specific verbs: *"to listen"* and *"to follow"*. These terms suggest the fundamental characteristics of those who live out the following of the Lord.

First of all by listening to his word, from which faith is born and by which it is nurtured. Only those who are attentive to the Lord's voice can assess in their own conscience the right decisions for acting in accordance with God. Thus the following of Jesus derives from listening: we act as disciples only after hearing and inwardly accepting the Master's teachings in order to put them into practice every day.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Regina Caeli, May 15, 2011



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



An Invitation

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND
JUNE 7-9, 2024**

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

**Free Registration
Meals and Accommodation To be Provided**

For all inquiries:
German/Letty Butay (732) 867-5298 or lbutay@yahoo.com
Nestor/Cecile Vasquez (908) 578-9138 | Toy/Malen Juarez (609) 954-2300

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

April 12, 2024

Tithe :\$695.00
Love Offering :\$212.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Isabel Briones	4/20	Jojo Legaspi	4/23
Romy dela Cruz	4/21	Tony Manuel	4/23
Marie Guanzon	4/21	Ren Raymundo	4/23
Cathy Talag	4/21	Nonette Duarte	4/25
Rina Pascua	4/25		

Anniversary

Vincent & Agnes Palecki	4/22
Ernest & Neri Roldan	4/23
Leo & Nonette Duarte	4/25

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

*I will give thanks to you, my Lord, for you have answered me;
Your kindness, O God, endures forever.*

Last Week's Prophecies

- My children, seek My Name, and you will see Me, your God. Speak My Word and you will find My way, your salvation. Follow Me and blessings will come upon you for you are My children. I will never abandon you.
- My children, do not worry, just trust in Me. And I will give you the grace you need to repent and be converted, to follow My commandments, and to witness to the ends of the world.
- Keep the faith and believe but more importantly, ACT on your belief.
- My child, I am the light of the world. When you are blinded by the storms in your life, turn your sight towards the light at the seashore and I will guide you to still waters.



Led By The Spirit

Jesus invites us to come out of the tomb of our fears. Listen closely: come out of the tombs of our fears, since our fears are like tombs, they bury us. He knows that fear is always lurking at the door of our heart, and we need to hear repeated "do not be afraid, fear not, do not be afraid."

Being a Christian is not only obeying the Commandments: we need to do that, this is true; but if you stop there, you are not a good Christian. Being a good Christian means letting the Spirit enter within you and lead you, lead you where He wants. In our Christian life very often we stop, like Nicodemus, before that "therefore". We do not know what step to take, we do not know how to do it, and we do not have the trust in God to make this step and let the Spirit enter. Being born again means letting the Spirit enter into us, so that I am led by the Spirit, not by myself, free, with this freedom of the Spirit, and you never know where it will end.

~ Pope Francis



Lead - Cont'd from Page 1

by the love and service we have given to His flock and by the kind of life we lived. We are saved by grace through Christ's great sacrifice on the cross. But we can lose this grace by our hardness of heart in dealing with the people around us, especially the last, the least and the lost. We will be held to account for our failure to respond to His call to righteousness and holiness.

And just as there are false prophets, there also exist false shepherds who may simply be going through the motion, appearing to serve God, but are really ravenous wolves interested only in lording over their lambs. These

false shepherds are unable to forego personal comfort and convenience. They are the ones of whom the Lord says, "I myself will tend my sheep ... I myself will give them rest ... I will shepherd them in judgment," (Ez 34:11-16).

Properly shepherded, lambs will know the mercy and compassion of Jesus and be led to the pasture of eternal life, where there will be no more pain, no more tears, no more hunger, and no more thirst. For as the Lord promised, "... they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd," (Jn10: 16b).

Prayer:

Father, your Son, Jesus, is both the Good Shepherd and Sacrificial Lamb. He gave His life to redeem His flock and give them fullness of life. Grant that as I offer myself to shepherd those you place under my care, I may have the courage and strength to stand by my lambs, especially in troubled moments when they are under attack by Satan and his minions. Give me faith enough to move the mountains in their lives that my lambs may see that You are indeed in me, and I am in You, and that You have empowered me as faithful worker in Your vineyard. Amen.

Adapted from www.bldworld.org