



This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We are redeemed towards a new life when we believe in the merciful love of Jesus.

PROMISE:

"...come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name." (Jn 20:31)

WORD:

Acts 5:12-16/ Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/ Rev 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/ Jn 20:19-31

ORDERS:

- *Do not be unbelieving, but believe.* (Jn 20:27)
- *Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.* (Jn 20:23)
- *Give thanks to the Lord.* (Ps 118:1)

DIRECTIONS:

- Know God through His Holy Scriptures and faithfully follow His Words.
- Avail of the sacrament of Penance.
- In everything, give thanks to God through prayers, praise and worship, service and good witnessing.

Doubting Yet Believing

REFLECTION:

Thomas answered and said to him, *"My Lord and my God!"* This is a profound, life-altering statement. Thomas was not with Peter, John and James during the Transfiguration, but this episode was his transformation event. His commitment to Jesus has forever been cemented.



This was his conversion experience.

Sunday's readings are all about the transformation from doubt to profound faith. Tonight's Theme is: We are redeemed towards a new life when we believe in the merciful love of Jesus. And tonight's Promise is: *"...come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name."* (Jn 20:31). The common word that binds the Theme and the Promise is "believe / belief". Let us therefore learn from St. Thomas how he transitioned from doubt to belief. In their darkest hour, the disciples were experiencing fear, despair, guilt, remorse, shame, and sadness. They hit rock-bottom in their existence. Howev-

er, Jesus was present to offer them comforting words, *"Peace be with you,"* and then one week later, only to Thomas, He added, *"Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."* This is when Thomas uttered the immortal

words, *"My Lord and my God!"* Then, as if Jesus was speaking to us, Jesus declares, *"Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."* Why did Jesus choose Thomas? Jesus invited Thomas to touch his wounds and see for himself. Jesus understands our battles with doubt and invites us to come near and believe. Like Thomas, many times we experience confusion and unbelief when we encounter problems and periods of turbulence. We are then eased and find comfort in God, who is full of mercy, compassion and love. God is the source of consolation, hope and strength. In the true spirit of Divine Mercy, instead of scolding and reprimanding the

Believing - See Page 2

Tending the Flack

The Divinity Of Christ

But when Jesus showed Thomas the very places where he had his doubts, Thomas exclaimed, *"My Lord and my God."* He touched his flesh, he proclaimed his divinity. What did he touch? The body of Christ. Was the body of Christ the divinity of Christ? The divinity of Christ was the Word; the humanity of Christ was soul and flesh. Thomas could not touch the soul, but he could perceive it, because the body that had been dead was moving about alive. But that Word is subject neither to change nor to contact, it neither regresses nor progresses, neither fails nor flourishes, because in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. That is what Thomas proclaimed. He touched the flesh, he invoked the Word, because the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

~ Augustine of Hippo, 354-430 A.D., Sermon 145A

*I was hard pressed
and was falling,
but you, O Lord,
helped me;
My strength and
my courage,
my savior
you have been.*

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 8, 2022

Tithe : \$ 445.00
Love Offer : \$ 45.00

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



What is God's plan in our married life?



An Invitation to a MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

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

May 20-22, 2022

Registration starts at 8pm Friday

Deadline of Application: May 1, 2022

Contact:

German/Letty Butay 732 8875298

lbutay@yahoo.com

Ed/Olyn Bautista 732 233 9611

ed.olyn1211@verizon.net

God's Blessings

Birthday

Tony Manuel	4/23	Nonette Duarte	4/25
Ren Raymundo	4/23	Rina Pascua	4/25
Jojo Legaspi	4/23	Eve Cabrera	4/27

Anniversary

Vincent & Agnes Palecki	4/22
Ernest & Neri Roldan	4/23
Leo & Nonette Duarte	4/25
Rolly & Rina Pascua	4/26
Chris & Eve Cabrera	4/27
Adam & Margaret Tomczyk	4/27
Alvin & Helen Hernandez	4/28
Amor & Yoly Japitana	4/28

The Filipino Clergy in the Diocese of Trenton and the Filipino Communities are inviting everyone to celebrate our Filipino Catholic Faith

500 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

Mass at the:
CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE
61 Georgia Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022 - 10:30 AM

Reception to follow in the:
CO-CATHEDRAL'S DENTICI HALL

1521 - 2021
gifted to give

For more information, please contact the following priest liaisons:
Fr. Mark Nillo, 732-788-1747, Coordinator
Fr. PJ Alindogan, 732-725-5977
Fr. Joe Noche, 732-309-0878
Fr. Ariel Robles, 732-500-4956
Fr. Gene Daguplo, 848-448-5187

For monetary donations, please contact the following finance committee:
Mercer Co: Marie Lavente, 609-643-3180
Burlington Co: Adelina and Troy Beauvais, 609-668-8664
Ocean Co: Art & Agnes Monta, 732-600-6110
Monmouth Co: Noel & Arlene Cabrera, 908-770-1981

500YOC FCDTNJ Diocese of Trenton Philip Reyes, official photographer

Believing - Cont'd from Page 1

disciples, Jesus offers words of consolation. "Peace be with you" is a greeting of acceptance and assurance that all is forgiven, and it is time to move on and go on with their mission. Because of Jesus' love and patience, Thomas' doubt and fears gradually gave way to commitment and courage. May we, too, become more understanding, more compassionate and more merciful towards others. Let us learn from Thomas how to have a relationship with God. There is nothing wrong with doubting and with questioning, as long as it leads to listening, to discerning, to believing, to trust, and finally to give our whole self and life to Him. Just like Jesus spoke to Thomas, God is speaking to us, telling us that we are special, that we are chosen. He is calling us to a deeper relationship, to be more open to what He desires to reveal to us. Next month, BLD

Trenton members are being called to deepen our relationship with Him by being active in all aspects of Marriage Encounter # 22. What better way to manifest our profession of faith by being active in its mission of spreading the message of love and mercy. What better way to share our transformation experience with Christians who have the same beliefs that we do, so that they too can dedicate their lives to Jesus. In Sunday's Reading from Acts of the Apostles, we see how the Apostles relentlessly carried out their mission of preaching and healing, and how day by day members were added to their community of believers. That is exactly the opportunity we are presented with in next month's Marriage Encounter, to be able to invite couples and families into our BLD community of believers.

To unite the message of tonight's

Theme and Promise, it is our belief that God's Divine Mercy is embodied in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Jesus wants us to know that his Church is founded on forgiveness and has a mission to bring about peace through forgiveness. Jesus not only forgave his disciples, but he also commissioned them to continue his mission of salvation and forgiveness of sins. It is reassuring to know that when we have accomplished our mission of salvation and forgiveness from the Book of Revelations, we are told "Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, the one who lives. Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. I hold the keys to death and the nether-world."