

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We are joint heirs with Jesus Christ when we live in God's righteousness and serve the needy.

PROMISE:

"The Lord keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets captives free." (Ps 146: 6-7)

WORD:

Zep 2: 3, 3: 12-13/ Ps 146: 6-7, 8-9, 9-10/ 1 Cor 1: 26-31/ Mt 5: 1-12a

ORDERS:

- *Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth, who have observed His law, seek justice, seek humility. (Zep 2: 3)*
- *Raise up those who were bowed down. (Ps 146: 8a)*
- *Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. (Mt 5: 12a)*

DIRECTIONS:

- Cultivate a repentant heart by reflecting and recognizing your sins and confessing them to God.
- Faithfully practice the spiritual and corporal acts of mercy.
- Imitate the ways of Christ by following the Beatitudes.
- Praise the goodness of God in all circumstances.



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Right With God

REFLECTION:

This week's theme says we are joint heirs with Jesus Christ when we live in God's righteousness and serve the needy. When we talk about righteousness, from the word itself, it talks about being right... but on what basis or standard?

One way to view righteousness is to live a life that is pleasing to God. Therefore, righteousness really means being right with God in two aspects. First, on the way we treat God and second, on the way we treat others.

On the way we treat God, it says "*Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth, who have observed His law, seek justice, seek humility.*" Observance of God's commandments is one of the ways we can pursue righteousness.

The danger however is that today we tend to redefine the commandments based on how we think we can easily fulfill them. Today's culture, for example promotes a different mentality that often overshadows how we view righteous living.



Nowadays, the message of "*getting ahead*" is being elevated. It is a message where people would think that in order to have happiness in life, it is just but right for people to desire for more money, to have more possessions and to have titles to gain better social status.

Similarly, today's world promotes "*pleasure-seeking*". With our inconsolable longings, we tend to satisfy our pleasures with things of this world - excessive food, grand vacations, impure materials, gambling or liquor - only to find that the longing remains.

Much of this mentality or message was also true during the time of Jesus Christ. That's why Jesus had to address them through the Beatitudes which can be understood as a framework on how we should live our lives.

In the Gospel reading, we can quickly note that the people whom Jesus calls "*blessed*" and "*happy*" are not the people considered blessed or happy in the eyes of the world - the poor in spirit, the meek, the per-

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Tending the Flock

The Beatitudes Mirror Christ's Life

The Beatitudes are a new programme of life, to free oneself from the false values of the world and to open oneself to the true goods, present and future. Indeed, when God comforts, he satisfies the hunger for righteousness, he wipes away the tears of those who mourn, which means that, as well as compensating each one in a practical way, he opens the Kingdom of Heaven. "*The Beatitudes are the transposition of the Cross and Resurrection into discipleship*" (ibid., p. 74). They mirror the life of the Son of God who let himself even be persecuted and despised until he was condemned to death so that salvation might be given to men and women.

The Gospel of the Beatitudes is commented on with the actual history of the Church, the history of Christian holiness, because, as St Paul writes, "*God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are*" (1 Cor 1:27-28).

For this reason the Church has no fear of poverty, contempt or persecution in a society which is often attracted by material well-being and worldly power. St. Augustine reminds us that "*it serves nothing to suffer these evils, but rather to bear them in the Name of Jesus, not only with a serene soul but also with joy*" (cf. De sermone Domini in monte, i, 5,13: ccl 35, 13).

~ Pope Benedict XVI
Angelus Message, January 30, 2011



BLD TRENTON

COMMUNITY LENTEN RETREAT



St Mary, Mother of God
Church

89 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 inquiries, pls email: cordact@oponline.net, um-hagen.4@gmail.com, mpdortant@gmail.com

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

January 20, 2023

Tithe :\$450.00
Love Offering :\$167.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Yna Tresvalles	1/27	Manny Ho	1/31
Weng Alberto	1/28	Rene Gallofin	2/1
Gina Sarmiento	1/28	Brenda Palao	2/1
Bernadette Sunga	1/28	Mike Crocco	2/2

Anniversary

Dan & Jean Catarata	1/28
Al & Judy Guerrero	1/30
Woody & Ruby Woodard	2/2

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

Mercy For Everyone

The Word of God is for everyone. The Gospel presents us with Jesus always on the move, on his way to others. On no occasion in his public life does he give us the idea that he is a stationary teacher, a professor seated on a chair; on the contrary, we see him as an itinerant, we see him as a pilgrim, travelling through towns and villages, encountering faces and their stories. His feet are those of the messenger announcing the good news of God's love (cf. Is 52:7-8). In Galilee of the Gentiles, on the sea route, beyond the Jordan, where Jesus preaches, there was – the text notes – a people plunged into darkness: foreigners, pagans, women and men from various regions and cultures (cf. Mt 4:15-16). Now they too can see the light. And so, Jesus enlarges the boundaries.

The Word of God, which heals and raises up, is not only destined for the righteous of Israel, but for all; he wants to reach those far away, he wants to heal the sick, he wants to save sinners, he wants to gather the lost sheep and lift up those whose hearts are weary and oppressed. In short, Jesus *'reaches out'* to tell us that God's mercy is for everyone. Let us not forget this: God's mercy is for everyone, for each one of us. Each person can say, *"God's mercy is for me"*.

~ Pope Francis



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/Cecille Vasquez (908) 578-9138 | Toy/Malen Juarez (609) 954-2300

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secuted, the peacemakers.

Blessed are the poor in spirit. Someone having poor in spirit refers to someone who is humble enough to acknowledge his nothingness before God, humble enough to recognize human's sinful nature, humble to recognize one's sins and confessing them before God. It is humility that is willing to submit to that awesome power who accepts and forgives. It is humility to bow down and praise the one who protects and cares.

Being poor in spirit is an essential trait then in order to follow God's righteousness in terms of how we develop our relationship with Him. Being in the community, we learn to humbly submit to God as we seek help from him to be able to accomplish all the things that we need to do to serve one another.

In addition to building our relationship with God, righteousness also calls us to be right with our relationship with others. As we acknowledge God

and establish our relationship with Him, we begin to see that living is not just about our needs but also and more importantly about responding to the needs of others. *"Raise up those were bowed down"*. As we respond to the needs of others, we can then imitate the ways of Christ by following the Beatitudes.

We should be helping those who mourn by giving them comforting words. We continue to be meek, helping others with quietness and full of trust in the Lord.

We are called to be merciful as we do spiritual and corporal acts of mercy. Through our Mission Apostolate, we are able to reach out to the needy by doing Medical mission to the Philip-pines.

We are also asked to continue to show peace and purity of heart even when it is challenging. How can we give peace if we ourselves struggle to find it in our lives? We may find ourselves getting impatient, helpless. We

may find ourselves being persecuted by those who disagree with what we are upholding.

Just like the commandments, the character traits defined in the Beatitudes may appear unattainable but if we want to be truly blessed in God's eyes, we have to persevere. The Beatitudes indeed require constant dying from oneself. It requires for us to go beyond our comfort zone and offer our service and sacrifices.

The state of blessedness flows only from the grace of God and therefore, the right to inherit the Kingdom of God also comes only from Him and not from our own effort.

God's grace always abounds, His Spirit will lead us, empower us and work through us.

We want to make things right in our lives. Let's continue to walk with Him, and imitate Him so ultimately, we will be led to the right path and reap the rewards in heaven.