

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We honor God's covenant of love confessing our sins and being spiritually cleansed.

PROMISE:

"Blessed is he whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered. (Ps 32: 1)

WORD:

Lv 13: 1-2, 44-46/
Ps 32: 1-2, 5, 11/ 1
Cor 10: 31- 11: 1/
Mk 1: 40-45

ORDER:

- *Be made clean.*
(Mk 1: 41)

DIRECTIONS:

- Pray for the grace to recognize our sinfulness against God and others.
- Frequently avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Take to heart the Word of God as we serve our community and the Church.



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 24, Issue 6

<http://bldtrenton.com>

February 9, 2024

Forgive And Be Free

REFLECTION:

Fullness of life is in Christ. He is the source of life, as He is the way and the truth. The life of Jesus is fullness of life itself as exemplified by His complete submission to the will of His Father. He was totally obedient to His mission to reconcile man back with God, forgiving the sins of those who sought physical healing during His earthly ministry. And He accomplished it on the cross when He uttered these words, *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing,"* (Lk 23:34), not only to those who crucified Him, but to all of mankind who has sinned and continues to sin against God.

Jesus is teaching us a life of forgiveness and compassion, a way of life that He demonstrated during his earthly ministry, and for us to imitate. He wants us to always be reconciled and be one with God as well as with each other. How can we resist such a compelling mandate of compassion and love from the One whose flesh we consume and blood we drink in the Eucharist? Ignoring the call of Jesus is like turning our backs from the message of perfect love shown on the cross as He went through suffering and death for all of us.

Oftentimes, we harbor resentment and



hold grudges against people who inflicted emotional pain on us, insulted our dignity, abused us, simply ignored us or did not show any care at all. And as we go through life carrying the burden of unforgiveness, we remain

stressed out and unhappy, while they, on the other hand, go on with their lives. Our Lord invites us to forgive so that our hearts will be set free from hatred and negativity and will now be open as channels of God's mercy towards us. In the Beatitudes we receive this assurance, *"Blessed are the merciful, they shall have mercy shown them,"* (Mt 5: 7). As the Holy Spirit ministers to us, our role is to forgive and gain our emotional freedom and stability and our right standing before God. God will not be forgiving to those hearts which remain hardened with unforgiveness. Unforgiveness hinders fellowship, intimacy

Forgive - See Page 2

Tending the Flock

God's Love Stronger Than All Illness

While Jesus was going about the villages of Galilee preaching, a leper came up and besought him: *"If you will, you can make me clean"*. Jesus did not shun contact with that man; on the contrary, impelled by deep participation in his condition, he stretched out his hand and touched the man — overcoming the legal prohibition — and said to him: *"I will; be clean"*.

That gesture and those words of Christ contain the whole history of salvation, they embody God's will to heal us, to purify us from the illness that disfigures us and ruins our relationships. In that contact between Jesus' hand and the leper, every barrier between God and human impurity, between the Sacred and its opposite, was pulled down. This was not of course in order to deny evil and its negative power, but to demonstrate that God's love is stronger than all illness, even in its most contagious and horrible form. Jesus took upon himself our infirmities, he made himself *"a leper"* so that we might be cleansed.

A splendid existential comment on this Gospel is the well known experience of St. Francis of Assisi, which he sums up at the beginning of his Testament:

God's Love — See Page 2



BUKAS LOOB SA DIYOS
(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 18001

Free Registration
Meals and Accommodation To be Provided

For all inquiries:
German/Letty Butay (732) 887-5298 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

February 2, 2024

Tithe :\$300.00
Love Offering :\$125.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Nancy Alvarenga	2/10	Em Ho	2/11
Edna Perez	2/10	Christopher Biala	2/12
Dette Santos	2/10	Carl Caparros	2/12
Claro Gomez	2/11	Gerald Mirandilla	2/12
Nino Fajardo		2/13	

Anniversary

Domenick & Carmela Palumbo 2/15

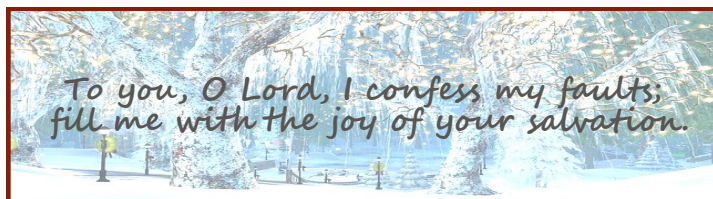
Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407
For Prayer Service - Mary Anne Arias 732-688-3962

Leprosy Of The Soul

And why did [Jesus] touch him, since the law forbade the touching of a leper? He touched him to show that *'all things are clean to the clean'* (Titus 1: 15). Because the filth that is in one person does not adhere to others, nor does external uncleanness defile the clean of heart. So he touches him in his untouchability, that he might instruct us in humility; that he might teach us that we should despise no one, or abhor them, or regard them as pitiable, because of some wound of their body or some blemish for which they might be called to render an account... So, stretching forth his hand to touch, the leprosy immediately departs. The hand of the Lord is found to have touched not a leper, but a body made clean! Let us consider here, beloved, if there be anyone here that has the taint of leprosy in his soul, or the contamination of guilt in his heart? If he has, instantly adoring God, let him say: *"Lord, if you will, you can make me clean."*

~ Origen of Alexandria (185-254 A.D.)



The Mission



In the king's command to his servants we find two words that express the heart of the mission: the verbs *"to go out"* and *"to invite"*. As for the first, we need to remember that the servants had previously been sent to deliver the king's invitation to the guests (cf. vv. 3-4). Mission, we see, is a tireless going out to all men and women, in order to invite them to encounter God and enter into communion with him. Tireless! God, great in love and rich in mercy, constantly sets out to encounter all men and women, and to call them to the happiness of his kingdom, even in the face of their indifference or refusal.

Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd and messenger of the Father, went out in search of the lost sheep of the people of Israel and desired to go even further, in order to reach even the most distant sheep (cf. Jn 10:16). Both before and after his resurrection, he told his disciples, *"Go!"*, thus involving them in his own mission (cf. Lk 10:3; Mk 16:15). The Church, for her part, in fidelity to the mission she has received from the Lord, will continue to go to the ends of the earth, to set out over and over again, without ever growing weary or losing heart in the face of difficulties and obstacles.

~ Pope Francis

God's Love - Cont'd from Page 1

"This is how the Lord gave me, Brother Francis, the power to do penance. When I was in sin the sight of lepers was too bitter for me. And the Lord himself led me among them, and I pitied and helped them. And when I left them I discovered that what had seemed bitter to me was changed into sweetness in my soul and body. And shortly afterward I rose and left the world" (FF, 110).

~ Pope Benedict XVI
Angelus Message, February 12, 2012

Forgive - Cont'd from Page 1

and communion with God. Like all of God's commandments, this is for our inner peace and healing of mind, body and spirit. On the other hand, forgiveness is a decision to be healed of our woundedness, regardless of the emotional scars that may remain in our being.

We cannot do everything for the glory of God if our hearts are unclean. Sin is like leprosy that covers us with guilt and removes us from being touched by God's grace. To be

spiritually cleansed, we need to ask the Lord to heal us of all our iniquities and to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Like the leper who was made clean, when we confess our sins to the priest, God's grace of forgiveness will be ours again and we receive this assurance, *"Blessed is he whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered."* (Ps 32: 1)

Prayer:

Lord God, I pray that I remain worthy of Your loving care and heal-

ing. *I come to You to receive your forgiveness for all my iniquities and disobedience. And, as I decide to forgive those who have hurt me, grant me the grace to triumph over my emotional pain, to be free from the enslavement of negative spirits, to replace hatred with joy and inner peace. Remove all arrogant feelings and the disappointment of other people's shortcomings and imperfection. Lord, fill the void that's left in my heart with Your love, grace and forgiveness. Amen.* 🙏

Adapted from www.bldworld.org