

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We are the salt and light of the earth when we do acts of mercy with love.

PROMISE:

"Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer, you shall cry for help, and he will say: Here I am!" (Is 58: 9)

WORD:

Is 58: 7-10/ Ps 112: 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/ 1 Cor 2: 1-5/ Mt 5: 13-16

ORDERS:

- *You are the salt of the earth.* (Mt 5: 13)
- *Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.* (Mt 5: 16)

DIRECTIONS:

- Preserve our "saltiness" by prayer, study of the Word, and availing of the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist.
- Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless, clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own.
- Faithfully support our mission activities.
- Let your faith rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.



BLD Trenton



Community News

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Be Salt And Light To Others

REFLECTION:

In this Sunday's readings, our Lord directly instructs us, His disciples, to be salt of the earth and to be light to the world. How are we to accomplish this? The Lord is asking us to do this through concrete actions, not merely through prayers but through works. He states in the Gospel: *"Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Heavenly Father"* (Mt 5:16).

The first reading from Isaiah, in a very detailed way, tells what kind of good works will please and give glory to our Lord. We are to share our bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless, clothe the naked and not turn our back on our own.

Corporal and spiritual works of mercy is clearly being asked of us by our Lord. One of the ways to answer the Lord's challenge is by making an effort to actively



participate in our BLD community's mission activities such as Gawad Kalinga events, Medical Mission or soup kitchen volunteer assignments.

Aside from helping those with physical and material needs, we are also asked to *"not turn our back on our own"*. The Lord asks us to be salt and light to our own immediate families and members of our BLD family, specially when they need encouragement or need empowerment and need reminding that they have spiritual gifts that they can share within the family and

with our community.

When we come before others as we do our Lord's work, we may feel hesitant because we have our imperfections and weaknesses; we may feel inadequate. However, the second reading from St. Paul states *"Let your faith rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God."* If we go forth with faith and the conviction that we are doing what the Lord desires of

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Tending the Flock

Give A New Taste To The World

Salt, in the cultures of the Middle East, calls to mind several values such as the Covenant, solidarity, life and wisdom. Light is the first work of God the Creator and is a source of life; the word of God is compared to light, as the Psalmist proclaims: *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"* (Ps 119[118]:105).

And, again in today's Liturgy, the Prophet Isaiah says: *"If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday"* (Is 58:10).

Wisdom sums up in itself the beneficial effects of salt and light: in fact, disciples of the Lord are called to give a new "taste" to the world and to keep it from corruption with the wisdom of God, which shines out in its full splendor on the Face of the Son because he is *"the true light that enlightens every man"* (Jn 1:9).

United to him, in the darkness of indifference and selfishness, Christians can diffuse the light of God's love, true wisdom that gives meaning to human life and action.

~ Pope Benedict XVI
Angelus Message, February 6, 2011



BLD TRENTON

COMMUNITY LENTEN RETREAT

St Mary, Mother of God
Church

39 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: cordier@oponline.net, sm-dagani@gmail.com, mpadron2@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 27, 2023

Tithe : \$855.00
Love Offering : \$190.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Linda Sypher	2/3	Gene Del Carmen	2/5
Jivenchy Gerges	2/3	Olivia Cuasay	2/7
Vicma Cac	2/4	Miguel Briones	2/8
Toy Juarez	2/8		

Anniversary

Allan & Elma Pontipiedra	2/5
Jose & Nancy Alvarenga	2/8

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

*Let your light shine
for me in the darkness, O God.*

Light Of Truth

The Lord has already called his disciples the "salt of the earth" because they seasoned with divine wisdom the hearts of the human race which had been made tasteless by the devil. Now he also calls them the "light of the world." For, illumined by his very own self who is the true and eternal light, they too become light within the darkness. For since he himself is the *sun of righteousness*, he rightly also calls his disciples "light of the world." Through them, as if through shining rays, he poured the light of his knowledge on the entire world. For by showing the light of truth, the Lord's disciples made the darkness of error flee from people's hearts.

~ St. Chromatius of Aquileia,
Tractate on Matthew 19.1.1-2

Self-Sharing



Spiritual accompaniment, if it is docile to the Holy Spirit, helps to unmask misunderstandings, even grave ones, in our consideration of ourselves and our relationship with the Lord. The Gospel presents various examples of clarifying and liberating conversations with Jesus. Think, for example, of those with the Samaritan woman, which we read and read, and there is always this wisdom and tenderness of Jesus; think of the one with Zacchaeus, think of the sinful woman, think of Nicodemus, and the disciples of Emmaus: the Lord's way of approaching. The people who had a true encounter with Jesus were not afraid to open their hearts, to present their own vulnerability, their own inadequacy, their own fragility. In this way, their self-sharing becomes an experience of salvation, of forgiveness freely received.

The voice of the Lord can always be recognized; it has a unique style it is a voice that pacifies, encourages and reassures in difficulties. The Gospel reminds us of this continually: "Do not be afraid" (Lk 1: 30), how beautiful is the Angel's word to Mary! "Do not be afraid", "Do not be afraid", it is the style of the Lord, "Do not be afraid". "Do not be afraid!" the Lord repeats to us today too, "Do not be afraid": if we trust in his word, we will play the game of life well, and we will be able to help others. As the Psalm says, his Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (cf. 119, 105).

~ Pope Francis

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us, then those we serve will be illumined by the light and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Our Lord assures us too in the first reading that when we call on Him for help, "He will say: Here I Am!" (Is 58: 9). What a loving and compassionate Lord we have. He always reassures us that He is there for us. When we lean on Him for strength, courage and direction rather than our own efforts, it His power that will shine forth.

In the Gospel of Matthew, our Lord heeds us to preserve our "saltiness". He explained to His disciples, when salt loses its taste, it is no longer good for anything. Actions we can take to comply with our Lord's warning are to commit to daily prayers and study of the

Word and regularly avail of the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.

In conclusion, we offer this prayer. *Lord Jesus, You ask me to render works of mercy and be salt and light to those around me. Putting this into practice is a challenge because oftentimes I am only concerned with myself.*

Fill my heart and mind with your truth and light. Free me from the blindness of self-centeredness that I may see Your ways and understand Your will for my life. Give me the grace to offer to You my whole self regularly during my prayer time, worship and service to our community mission work, all for Your greater glory, that I may radiate Your light to others in word and deed...Amen



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