## This Sunday's <u>Counsel</u>

### THEME:

Disciples of Christ are empowered when they perform mission work.

#### **PROMISE:**

"...rejoice because your names are written in heaven." (Lk1 0:20b)

**WORD:** Is 66:10 -14/ Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20/ Gal 6:14-18/ Lk 10:1-12, 17-20

#### **ORDER:**

• "Go on your way" (Luke 10:3

### **DIRECTIONS:**

- Serve with love, joy and humility.
- Participate in both mission and corporal works of mercy.

### Volume 19, Issue 27

http://bldtrenton.com

**BLD** Trenton

July 5, 2019

## Saying Yes To Jesus

**REFLECTION**: "Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves." (Lk 10:3)

Did we really hear Him? Did we really understand our Lord's command? I hope so, because we are His disciples and it is a must for us to follow Him. We have felt His love and seen His power. We have embraced His mercy and He chose us to be

a part of His divine plan which is to build His Church. If you did not hear Him, then bend your knees, open your hearts and pray. For you are here

your hearts and pray. For you are here because He loves you and He wants to use you for His Father's glory.

Do not be afraid. He will not leave us alone. He gave the early disciples His Holy Spirit to enlighten, strengthen and, most of all, empower them to be like Him. Let us follow them, then, and build God's kingdom here on earth. Let us surrender everything and listen to His voice saying, "Go on your way...the harvest is abundant but the laborers are few."

All He is asking from us is our big YES and our total TRUST in His divine providence. He will equip and train us, just like what we had in our CDFP where we learned how to be a true disciple of Christ.



He will then breathe on us His Holy Spirit to show us the way to LOVE, to SERVE, to FOLLOW, to UNITE, to FOR-GIVE and to PRAY, which will build His Church and bring more people closer to Him.

By ourselves it is impossible but together with our LORD Jesus Christ, we can do it. As a community of broken people we have our weaknesses, our differences or ugli-

ness but with His grace and our love for one another we will survive. We will help each other, accept each other, carry each other if we must so that we will have that oneness, that unity that is needed to move forward and be the light to this world, the example that our Lord wants us to be.

Yes, it will not be easy. But through our past experiences, we have seen the hand of God. In retreats and encounters, He reveals Himself and performs big and small miracles. He provides...He softens harden hearts and brings couples closer to each other and even raise the dead and the faith of some very lost souls. He is worthy to be praised! He is truly great and marvelous! He is the God who is always present in our lives.

Saying Yes —See Page 2

# Tending

the Flock

### Ecumenism

The movement to restore full unity among the different groups of Christians in the world is what ecumenism is all about. Pope Benedict XVI recognized its importance in an address to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on January 27, 2012.

According to the Pope the division among Christians "openly contradicts the will of Christ, scandalizes the world, and damages that most

holy cause, the preaching of the Gospel to every creature" (Decree on Ecumenism, <u>Unitatis Redintegratio</u>, n. 1). "Unity is therefore not only the fruit of faith but also a means and as it were a presupposition for proclaiming the faith ever more credibly to those who do not yet know the Saviour. Jesus prayed: 'that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me' (Jn 17:21)."

But while noting the many good fruit yielded by ecumenical dialogue, the Pontiff warned against the risks of indifferentism (the idea that it does not matter what religion a person professes in order to be saved). "This indifferentism is caused by the increasingly widespread opinion that truth is not accessible to man; hence it is necessary to limit oneself to finding rules for a praxis that can better the world. And like this, faith becomes substituted by a moralism without deep foundations."

Teaching ScheduleJul 20- ME 20 - Luke/JohnJul 21- ME 19 - Christian Giving/SufferingAug 10- Shepherds Training 2	God's Diessings Birthday Fr. Paul Lehman Ruby Brooks 7/6 Sandy Aparicio 7/10
Save the Date   Jul 5-7 : Family Encounter   Venue : Executive Suites   Carteret, NJ July 26-28   July 26-28 : Youth Encounter   Venue : Executive Suites   Carteret, NJ July 26-28   July 26-28 : Youth Encounter   Venue : Executive Suites   Carteret, NJ Aug 10-11   Aug 10-11 : Marriage Encounter   Venue : Murray Grove Center   Lanoka Harbor, NJ NJ	Leo Duarte 7/8 Jing Bongalo 7/10 Adam Felibrico 7/8 Msgr. Paul Schetelick 7/10 Biboy Llave 7/8 Lanie Fincalero 7/11 Anniversary Edwin & Marissa Orienza 7/5 Nestor & Ester Tambor 7/6 Ross & Jaye Jacinto 7/7 Aris & Lilia Mejares 7/11
<mark>Rosarv Leaders, Praver Warriors &amp; Proclaimers</mark> Ernesto & Elora Kho	What is God's plan in our married life? An Invitation to a
Marshalls Jul 5 - Cesar Angeles & Jomar Janolo Jul 12 - German Butay & Roland Mansing	Marriage Encounter Weekend August 10-11, 2019
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Saying Yes - Cont'd from Page 1

We have to follow our God with our whole heart and soul. Saying YES to Him and His command must also come with saying NO to things that hinder us from being close to Him. Let us ask for His grace to change for the better and do the best we can to not sin against Him. We pray, Lord, that you will guide us to a deeper commitment and faithfulness to our personal prayer life. It is in knowing you alone and reflecting on everything that you have done for us that we will become a true

disciple worthy of being your servant, ready to go out to all the world and proclaim that you are our Lord and Savior. We can only share you to others if we have you alive in our own lives.

Finally, Lord, we lift up our eyes to you that we might see the world around us, especially in our homes as you see it. Help us to feel the pain, joys and sorrows of everyone around us and help us to reach out, lend them our hands, share our blessings and lead them closer to you. Help us to follow and obey Your command.

## **Preaching By Example**

The gospel of Luke tells us how the Lord sent out 72 disciples in pairs to preach the Good News with instruction that, upon entering a house to greet the people with "Peace to this household," (Lk 10:5). The greeting of peace is not just an ordinary greeting, but a sharing of God's gift of peace, joy, and well-being. Those who accept it receive salvation from Christ and the gift of peace – the fullness of life in harmony with God and with one another, and mercy for "the kingdom of God is at hand".

As disciples of Christ, we too are being sent out to the various places Jesus wants us to visit. He gives us similar instructions – what to say, what to do. He cautions us to travel light, unburdened by unnecessary clutter and attachments, and not to be overly concerned with our physical comfort. Our priorities must be the things of God. Our mission is to preach His kingdom with love and service, assured that as we do, He will provide all our needs, protect and sustain us along the way.

To remain focused on our mission, the Lord calls us to simplify our lives not only materially, but also spiritually. We are advised to depend solely on God's grace to provide for our mission and to help us overcome difficulties we may encounter along the way. Like lambs, we are to remain simple, gentle and docile, not overbearing or threatening to those who do not respond positively to our mission. The way forward is through gentleness, caring and quiet, steady work and good example.

The moment we profess being Christians, our behavior should speak for us. It becomes our witness. If we practice what we preach, if we are honest, dependable, generous, even-tempered, understanding, ever ready to lend a hand, and faithful to our word, those we preach to will have reason to believe that, indeed, God's kingdom is not far from them.

As missionaries of the Lord, we are effective and successful only when we rely on His goodness and power. Then, fulfillment and joy will fill our hearts, "...rejoice because your names are written in heaven," (Lk10:20b).

Adapted from <u>www.bldworld.org</u>

## This Sunday's **Counsel**

**THEME:** Disciples of Christ are empowered when they show mercy and compassion.

**PROMISE:** "The Lord hears the poor, and his own who are in bonds, he spurns not." (Ps 69:34)

WORD: Dt 30:10-14/Ps 69:14, 17, 30-31, 34, 36-37/ Col 1:15-20/ Lk 10:25-37

#### **ORDER:**

- "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27)
- "Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live." (Psalm 69)

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

- Reach out to members who are in need.
- Be merciful and compassionate.
- Be vigilant with your prayer life.



earth and not too complicated to under-

The Rule of Life is part of a solemn fare-

well speech attributed to Moses at the end

of his life. The Chosen People led by Moses

are about to cross the river Jordan to the

promised land. Moses is calling Israel to

repentance and conversion. He reiterates

Lord, the only way for Israel to secure its

future in the Promised Land. The law of

God that commands us to love him and our

neighbors is not up in the sky or across the

sea. It is neither inaccessible nor remote,

but very near. It is inscribed in our con-

science and etched deeply in our hearts.

The second reading from Paul's letter

the Colossians is all about Jesus. The sec-

ond reading lies in between the old testa-

ment reading and the gospel. All of the old

testament stories described in the bible led

up to the time of Christ and all of the new

testament readings flow from him. The life

the need for obedience to the law of the

stand, if we simply listen to our heart.

**REFLECTION:** This

Sunday's readings fit

together well because

they have one common

theme of mercy and com-

passion. The first read-

ing is about our need to

love God first and above

everyone else in our lives. Our relationship

with God is down to

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## **Mercy and Compassion**



of Jesus is at the very center of the bible. "All things were created through him and for him," (Col 1:16). Christ is the image of the invisible God. By his paschal mystery, he reveals the fullness of God's love for us and becomes the perfect image of the Fa-

ther's compassionate love. Through his sacrificial death that has brought redemption and peace to all creation, Christ manifests the absolute and uncompromising love of God for all.

This leads us to our theme today. As Christian disciples, we are called to be deeply involved in the work of creation and redemption. We do this by following the demands of covenant love: "You shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." We, like Jesus, need to be living images of God's compassionate love for all. One way to reflect the goodness of God is to treat with sensitivity and concern the poor and needy, the weak and vulnerable among us.

In Netflix there is a movie titled, "Good Sam" in which the secular definition of a Good Samaritan is a person who does good

Mercy -See Page 2



### Saint Kateri Tekakwitha: Patron of Exiles

Kateri was the daughter of a Mohawk warrior and an Algonquin mother. She grew up near Auriesville, New York in the late 1600s and was raised by her uncle after her parents died of smallpox when she was four years old. Her Indian name means "she puts things in order" and at an early age, she decided to put God first in her life.

When Kateri was eleven, she heard a group of Jesuit missionaries talk about Jesus. She wanted to know more about a God who loved people instead of punishing them. She was baptized when she was twenty and lived a life dedicated to prayer and providing care for the sick



and the aged. She took a vow of chastity, pledging to marry only Jesus Christ, a decision that was very unpopular within her tribe and sparked rumors of sorcery. To avoid persecution, she traveled to a native Christian community south of Montreal.

According to legend, Kateri was very devout and would put thorns on her sleeping mat. She often fasted and when she would eat, she would taint her food to diminish its flavor. On at least one occasion, she burned herself. Such self-mortification was common among the Mohawk.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha was very sickly and passed away on April 17, 1680, just five years after her conversion to Catholicism. She was canonized in 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI. She is the first native American saint.

Teaching ScheduleJul 20- ME 20- Luke/JohnJul 21- ME 19- Christian Giving/SufferingAug 4- SPE 1- Christian Parenting 2 Four Basic TruthsAug 10- Shepherds Training 2	<b>God's Dressings</b> Birthday Aissa Panganiban 7/13 Jerry Ramos 7/16 Diane Gomez 7/14 Lilia Calves 7/17 Patricia Gomez 7/14 Camille Colon 7/17 Darryl Margallo 7/14 James Nagbe 7/17
Save the Date   July 26-28 : Youth Encounter   Venue : Executive Suites   Carteret, NJ   Aug 10-11 : Marriage Encounter   Venue : Murray Grove Center   Lanoka Harbor, NJ	Tess Corso 7/15 Marlene Legaspi 7/17 Jay Talag 7/18 Anniversary Charlie & Nora Dingerdissen 7/12 Rey & Baby Inid 7/14 Rene & Grace Gallofin 7/17 Tony & Tess Corso 7/18
<u>Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors &amp; Proclaimers</u> Dave & Liberty Baliscao	What is God's plan in our married life? An Invitation to a
Marshalls Jul 12 - German Butay & Roland Mansing Jul 19 - Wendell Lumapas & Eric Tan	Marriage Encounter Weekend
<u>The Lord's Provision</u> July 5, 2019 Tithes: \$490.00 Love Offering: \$185.00 Thank You For Your Generosity	August 10-11, 2019 Murray Grove Retreat & Renewal Center 431 Route 9 at Church Lane Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734

Mercy - Cont'd from Page 1

deeds without expecting anything in return. However, as a Christian disciple, our desire for inheriting eternal life is not merely a matter of intellectual knowledge or the ability to verbalize the twofold love command, but to translate it into action through the love of Jesus as concretely expressed in service and compassionate acts to our brothers and sisters in need. The parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us that the concept of "neighbor" is not a matter of blood relatives, nationality, or common religious beliefs. There is no theoretical definition of neighbor or practical limits to those whom we could consider a neighbor. Our "neighbor" is the one to whom we draw near because he or she is in need of our help and evokes our compassion. Furthermore, Luke's parable helps us to focus on the figure of Christ, who is both the Good Samaritan and our neighbor. In short, the story of the Good Samaritan is about encounters. relationships, and human connections. It is about Jesus' love.

## How Should I Love My Neighbor?

If God is all-loving and compassionate, then why is there so much suffering and evil in this world? Many agnostics refuse to believe in God because of this seemingly imponderable problem. If God is love then evil and suffering must be eliminated in all its forms. What is God's answer to this human dilemma? Jesus' parable about a highway robbery gives us a helpful hint. Jesus told this dramatic story in response to a devout Jew who wanted to understand how to apply God's great commandment of love to his everyday life circumstances. In so many words this religious-minded Jew said: "I want to love God as best as I can and I want to love my neighbor as well. But how do I know that I am fulfilling my duty to love my neighbor as myself?"

For the Jewish believer the law of love was plain and simple: "treat your neighbor as you would treat yourself." He understood "neighbor" to mean one's fellow Jew who belonged to the same covenant which God made with the people of Israel. Jesus challenged him to see that God's view of neighbor went far beyond his narrow definition.

What does Jesus' story tell us about true love for one's neighbor? First, we must be willing to help even if others brought trouble on themselves through their own fault or negligence. Second, our love and concern to help others in need must be practical. Good intentions and showing pity, or empathizing with others, are not enough. And lastly, our love for others must be as wide and as inclusive as God's love. God excludes no one from his care and concern. God's love is unconditional. So we must be ready to do good to others for their sake, just as God is good to us.

Jesus not only taught God's way of love, but he showed how far God was willing to go to share in our suffering and to restore us to wholeness of life and happiness. Jesus overcame sin, suffering, and death through his victory on the cross. His death brought us freedom from slavery to sin and the promise of everlasting life with God. He willingly shared in our suffering to bring us to the source of true healing and freedom from sin and oppression. True compassion not only identifies and empathizes with the one who is in pain, but takes that pain on oneself in order to bring freedom and restoration.

Adapted from www. <u>dailyscripture.servantsoftheword.org</u>

## This Sunday's Counsel

**THEME:** Disciples of Christ are empowered when they reflect on God's word and serve others.

**PROMISE:** "One who walks blamelessly and does justice, who thinks the truth in his heart...shall never be disturbed." (Ps. 15:2, 5b)

WORD: Gn 18:1-10/ Ps 15:2-5/ Col 1:24-28/ Lk 10:38-42

#### **ORDER:**

- "Choose the better part." (Luke 10:42)
- "Bring to completion the word of God." (Col 1:25)
- Fill up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ." (Col 1:24)

### **DIRECTIONS:**

- Reflect on the word of God.
- Actively participate in Word Sharing Circle.
- Persevere in service to others.

### Volume 19, Issue 29

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**God Comes Knocking** 

**REFLECTION**: In the first reading from Genesis, God visits Abraham though Abraham did not know it. Abraham said, "Let water be brought that you may bathe your feet. Rest yourselves. Let me bring you food that you may refresh yourselves." Abraham graciously of-

fered hospitality. And God said, "Very well, do as you have said.'

Like Abraham, still unfamiliar with God's ways, we too may not know when God comes to our door. Even then, like Abraham, in our hearts, we are guided by an instinct for hospitality, to answer another man's need, to graciously be who we are in our house, and still be true to our self that in turn is formed and shaped by God. In short, whoever comes to our door, whether he is family, friend, stranger or God, hospitality means to be gracious and welcoming. Hospitality is to love God, neighbor and ourselves. If only we remember that everyone we meet is the temple of the Holy Spirit like ourselves, then shall we know that God is always in our presence. It is not too far off to imagine that we are always possibly addressing the



awesome presence of God in every person we meet.

July 19, 2019

In the Gospel according to Luke Jesus is welcomed into Martha's house. In Mary's and Martha's different responses to the presence of Jesus, as when God calls on us, we must always choose the better part and it

will not be taken from us. That revelation from Jesus is beautiful. He welcomes our gracious hospitality though he never lets on when he might come to visit with us.

### THERE IS NEED OF ONLY ONE THING

As Christian disciples, we must always be ready to actively, cheerfully and willingly respond to God's presence in our lives. Let us rejoice in God's blessings. Trust and persevere when God gives us his trials. Active Christians are forever young because of God's response to the reason for our hope in him under test and because of our own response to the muck and mire of our daily circumstances with which God tries the resolve of our faith and trust.

God Knocking -See Page 2



The Holy Rosary

The Rosary is a powerful prayer meditating on the events surrounding the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. When Mary appeared to the children of Fatima in 1917, she revealed herself as "Our Lady of the Rosary" and insisted on the praying of the Rosary. But the Rosary prayer had already existed for centuries, prayed by the saints daily and recommended by the popes.



The use of beads in prayers like the Rosary may have begun as a practice by the laity to imitate the Christian monasticism of the Liturgy of the Hours, during the course of which the monks prayed the 150 Psalms daily. In 1569, Dominican Pope Pius V established by papal bull the devotion to the rosary in the Catholic Church. St. Peter Canisius, a Doctor of the Church, who is credited with adding to the Hail Mary the sentence "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners", was an ardent advocate of the rosary and promoted it as the best way to repair the damage done to the Church by the Reformation.

St. Louis de Montfort compared the Rosary to the composite nature of a human person. Like the human person, the Rosary has both soul and body. The body of the Rosary is made up of the vocal prayers while the soul is the contemplation of the mysteries of the Rosary. If prayed and contemplated, the Rosary is a prayer of monumental importance and strength.

Teaching ScheduleJul 20- ME 20Luke/JohnJul 21- ME 19Christian Giving/SufferingAug 4- SPE 1- Christian Parenting 2 Four Basic TruthsAug 10- Shepherds Training 2	God's Diessings Birthday Aurie Apostol 7/19 Marc Mance 7/22 Aris Mejares 7/19 Grace Palencia 7/23 Serg Wong 7/19 Boylly Arriola 7/24 Morris Teves 7/22 Florence Acosta 7/25
Save the DateJuly 26-28 : Youth EncounterVenue : Executive SuitesCarteret, NJAug 10-11 : Marriage EncounterVenue : Murray Grove CenterLanoka Harbor, NJ	AnniversaryJojo & Viema Cac7/19Morris & Emma Teves7/22Drin & Sandy Aparicio7/24Cesar & Luz Agustin7/24Bill & Lilia Calves7/24Eddie & Josie Rodriguez7/24
Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors & Proclaimers   Alyssa & Allyana Panganiban, Carl & Mina Duque, Morris & Emma Teves, Gil & Annaliza Ocena   Marshalls   Jul 19 -   Wendell Lumapas & Eric Tan   Jul 26 -   Eric Bustamante & Yoyoy Quiapo	What is God's plan in our married life? An Invitation to a Marriage Encounter Weekend August 10-11, 2019
<u>The Lord's Provision</u> July 12, 2019 Tithes: \$470.00 Love Offering: \$227.00 Thank You For Your Generosity!	Murray Grove Retreat & Renewal Center 431 Route 9 at Church Lane Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734
*	Like Martha and Mary
BLO Trenton Community Day "Pista sa SNayon" Aug 3, 2019 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM Veteran's Park 489 Forest Hills Parkway Bayville, NJ 08721 Plenty of FOOD GAMES & PRIZES!!!	"Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed Him to her home. She had a sister named Mary." —Lk 10:38-39 Some people say they are like Martha; others say they are like Mary. However, the Lord is not calling us to be Martha <u>or</u> Mary, but Martha <u>and</u> Mary. We should imitate Abraham, Sarah, and Martha by making great sacrifices in offering hospitality. Prior to our high-tech times, a family began preparing a meal by picking out a steer and working with flour ( <u>Gn 18:6-7</u> ). No freezer, microwaves, or packaged foods! To offer hospitality was a monumental, sacrifi- cial task. We can understand why Martha complained about being left alone to do such daunting household tasks ( <u>Lk 10:40</u> ). We also need to imitate Mary by sitting at the Lord's feet and listening to His words ( <u>Lk 10:39</u> ). This

of the spirit, there is need of only one thing: God. In the realm of the body, we do have many competing needs. Even God would admit that. Yet, at all times, as God himself proclaims, *"There is need of only one thing?"* What would it be in our circumstances?

Adapted from www. presentationministries.com

concern to achieve your salvation" (<u>Phil 2:12</u>). Only those who are like both Martha and Mary are like Je-

sus. Be like Jesus.



**THEME:** Disciples of Christ are empowered when they persistently intercede for others.

PROMISE: "For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." (Lk 11:10)

WORD: Gn 18:20-32/ Ps 138:1-3, 6-8/ Col 2:12-14/ Lk 11:1-13

**ORDER:** 

• "Come and see the works of God..." (Ps 66:5)

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

- Be a living witness of God's transforming love and power by the way you think, speak and act.
- Show your concern for others through caring words and generosity.

## Gracious Giver

**REFLECTION:** What can we expect from God, especially when we recognize that he doesn't owe us anything and that we don't deserve his grace and favor? Jesus used an illustration from the hospitality customs of his time to show how God is always

ready to treat us with the best he has to offer. The rule of hospitality in biblical times required that every guest, whether stranger or friend, be warmly welcomed, refreshed (which often involved the washing of feet), and fed with the best food and drink available. It didn't matter what time of the day or night the guests might show up, it was your duty to stop what you were doing so you could give the guests the best care and shelter you could provide. If there wasn't adequate sleeping accommodation for both your guests and your family, the family slept outside under the stars. When guests showed up in a village, the whole community could be prevailed upon to provide whatever was needed.

Jesus' parable of the importunate and bothersome neighbor shows a worst case scenario of what might happen when an



unexpected guest shows up in the middle of the night! The family awakens, unbolts the locked door to receive the guest, then washes the guest's feet, and the wife begins to prepare a meal. When the wife discovers that she has no bread to set be-

fore the guest, she prevails on her husband to go and get bread from a nearby family, who by now is also asleep with their door bolted shut. In a small village it would be easy for the wife to know who had baked bread that day. Bread was essential for a meal because it served as a utensil for dipping and eating from the common dishes. Asking for bread from one's neighbor was both a common occurrence and an expected favor. To refuse to give bread would bring shame because it was a sign of inhospitality.

If a neighbor can be imposed upon and coerced into giving bread in the middle of the night, will not God, our heavenly Father and provider, also treat us with kind and generous care no matter how troubling or inconvenient the circumstances

Gracious Giver — See Page 2



### Saint Ignatius: Patron of Soldiers

Ignatius of Loyola served in the royal Spanish Army during the early 1500s. He was wounded in battle and at the door of death dreamed St. Peter touched him and healed his wounds. He woke up healed, left the hospital but did not return to the army. Instead, he gave up service to the King of Spain to be a soldier for Christ.



In 1534, Ignatius founded the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits), a religious order devoted to the service of the Church and the salvation of souls. He imposed strict, almost military rule on his order. The Jesuit order grew and soon found its niche in education. Before Ignatius died in 1556, his order established 35 schools and boasted 1,000 members. The order was responsible for much of the work of stopping the spread of the Protestant Reformation. The Society advocated the use of reason to persuade others and combat heresy. St. Ignatius advised his followers: "Do not let any occasion of gaining merit pass without taking care to draw some spiritual profit from it; as, for example, from a sharp word which someone may say to you; from an act of obedience imposed against your will; from an opportunity which may occur to humble yourself, or to practice charity, sweetness and patience."

Ignatius' passed away on July 31, 1556, at the age of 64. He was beatified by Pope Paul V on July 27, 1609 and canonized on March 12, 1622. His feast day is July 31. He is the patron saint of soldiers and educators.



Gracious Giver - Cont'd from Page 1

might appear? Jesus states emphatically, How much more will the heavenly Father give! St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD) reminds us that "God, who does not sleep and who awakens us from sleep that we may ask, gives much more graciously." The Lord Jesus assures us that we can bring our needs to our heavenly Father who is always ready to give not only what we need, but more than we can ask. God gives the best he has. He freely pours out the blessing of his Holy Spirit upon us so that we may be filled with the abundance of his provision. Do you approach your heavenly Father with confidence in his mercy and kindness towards you?

However, we must persist (see Lk 11:8), not to win God over to our desires but to let ourselves be broken of our selfishness and rebellion. The Holy Spirit "helps us in our weakness" in prayer (Rm 8:26). In the Spirit (see Lk 11:13), we persist in prayer until we let God knock down the sand-castles of our desires.

and correcting our desires. Prayer concerns crucifying

Prayer is laboring (see Gal 4:19) and struggling not to

means that the Lord frequently tells us "no" in praver

This is so frustrating that we feel like quitting.

our "flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal 5:24).

get what we want from God but to give up what we

want so as to obtain the desires of His heart. This

because our desires are out of order.

Adapted from dailyscripture.servantsoftheword.org

Adapted from www. presentationministries.com