

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

Jesus lights our path when we discern His call and faithfully follow Him.

PROMISE:

"Whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him." (1 Cor 6: 17)

WORD:

1 Sm 3: 3b-10, 19/
Ps 40: 2, 4, 7-8, 8-9,
10/ 1 Cor 6: 13c-
15a, 17-20/ Jn 1: 35
-42

ORDERS:

- *Come and you will see.* (Jn 1: 39)
- *Glorify God in your body.* (1 Cor 6: 20b)

DIRECTIONS:

- Be open and seek the call of God through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Spend quiet time daily to listen to the Lord by reading and meditating on His Word.
- Be cleansed regularly by the Sacrament of Reconciliation and be spiritually nourished by the Holy Eucharist.



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 24, Issue 2

<http://bldtrenton.com>

January 12, 2024

Listen And Respond

REFLECTION:

This week's readings create a rich description emphasizing the importance of discerning God's call, responding with a readiness to do His will, and recognizing the transformative power inherent in such responses. Whether it's Samuel in the temple, the psalmist expressing a profound desire for obedience, or the disciples following Jesus, the central point is the invitation to listen, respond, and, in doing so, experience a profound connection with the divine.

The promise from Corinthians reinforces the unity of spirit with the Lord, emphasizing the sacredness of our bodies and the need to live in accordance with God's will. It says that *"whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him."* We are one body, united in Christ.



Here in our community, we mentor and support one another. Our unity and our community is our greatest honor to God. Our services here are results of God working in us and our transformation. In here we remind one another that our Lord reveals himself to those who listen and obey. Let us ask the Lord to mute all distractions and bless us with sensitive listening ears especially to his quiet and soft whispers. We mentor and support one another to listen and to obey God's

call, thus we all should do our best to assist our brothers and sisters, and the next generation. Preparing them, assisting them, praying for them. We need to be a good model to follow one another and to the next generation. Let us pray for one another, most especially for our upcoming Emergence, we all ask for guidance and be open to willingly embrace God's call.

But sometimes, or a lot of times, be-

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Tending the Flock

Recognizing God's Voice

The theme of vocation stands out in the biblical Readings of this Sunday — the Second in Ordinary Time. In the Gospel there is call to the first disciples by Jesus; in the First Reading is the call of the Prophet Samuel. In the forefront of both these accounts is the importance of the figure who plays the role of mediator, helping people to recognize God's voice and to follow it.

In Samuel's case it was Eli, a priest of the Temple of Shiloh where the Ark of the Covenant had formerly been kept, before it was taken to Jerusalem. One night, while he was asleep, Samuel, who was still a boy and had lived ministering in the temple since infancy, heard his name called three times and ran to Eli. But it was not Eli who had called him. The third time Eli understood and said to Samuel: *"if he calls you, you shall say, 'speak Lord, for your servant hears'"* (1 Sam 3: 9). So it came to pass and from that time Samuel learned to recognize God's words and became his faithful prophet.

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Give Meaning To Time

Let us look at Him, let us wonder at His humility. Contemplating Jesus, staying before Him, adoring Him in the Eucharist: it is not wasting time, but giving meaning to time. To worship is not to waste time, but to give meaning to time. This is important, I repeat: to worship is not to waste time, but to give meaning to time; it is rediscovering the course of life in the simplicity of a silence that nourishes the heart.

And let us also find the time to watch children, like the Magi watch Jesus: the little ones who also speak to us of Jesus, with their trust, their immediacy, their wonder, their healthy curiosity, their ability to cry and laugh spontaneously, to dream. God is

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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 5, 2024

Tithe :\$515.00
Love Offering :\$169.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Cheryl Derecho	1/13	Dino Rivera	1/14
Anna Zayas	1/13	Alyzza Gumabon	1/17
Rosalie Angeles	1/14	Nanette Smith	1/17
Yoly Crisol	1/14	Patricia Dejean	1/18

Anniversary

Nestor & Cecile Vasquez	1/12
Raul & Mimi Caragay	1/18
Manny & Em Ho	1/18

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

*To do your will, O my God,
is my delight, and your law
is within my heart.*

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made like this: a Child, trusting, simple, a lover of life (cf. Wis 11:26), with our children; patiently, as grandparents know how to do! If we stay before the child Jesus and in the company of children, we will learn to be amazed and we will start out simpler and better, like the Magi. And we will know how to have new outlooks, creative outlooks on the problems of the world.

Let us ask ourselves, then: in these days, have we stopped to adore, have we made a little space for Jesus in silence, praying before the crib? Have we dedicated time to the children, to speaking and playing with them? And finally, are we able to see the problems of the world through the eyes of children? May Mary, Mother of God and ours, increase our love for the Child Jesus and for all children, especially those burdened by wars and injustice.

~ Pope Francis



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In the case of Jesus' disciples, the mediator is John the Baptist. John, in fact, had a vast circle of disciples among whom were also the two pairs of brothers, Simon and Andrew, and John and James, fishermen from Galilee. It was to two of them that the Baptist pointed out Jesus the day after his Baptism in the River Jordan. He pointed Jesus out to them saying: *"Behold, the Lamb of God"* (Jn 1: 36), which is equivalent to saying: *"Behold, the Messiah"*.

In the light of these two texts, I would like to stress the crucial role of the spiritual director in the journey of faith and, in particular, in the response to the vocation of special consecration for the service of God and of his People. The Christian faith already in itself implies proclamation and witness. Indeed, it consists in adherence to the Good News that Jesus of Nazareth has died and risen, that he is God. And so it is that the call to follow Jesus more closely, giving up the formation of a family of one's own so as to dedicate oneself to the great family of the Church, normally passes through the witness and introduction of an "elder brother", who is usually a priest. This is so but we should not forget the fundamental role of parents who, with their genuine and joyful faith and their conjugal love, show their children that it is beautiful and possible to build the whole of life on God's love.

*~ Pope Benedict XVI
Angelus Message, January 15, 2012*

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cause of our unbelief, hurt, feeling of inadequacy or unresponsiveness to our call, we tend not to stay or remain faithful to our calling. We then need to ask for his mercy. We pray for the Lord to increase our discernment and understanding of our calling. We can do this by prayers with daily reflection of the Word of God, by regularly attending daily Mass if we can, by receiving the Sacrament of confession regularly, and by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit.



SE #12

The Singles Ministry of our Community continues to grow, with a new batch of young adults joining the Singles Encounter #12 this past weekend at America's Keswick Retreat Center in Whiting. It was fun-filled and lively, yet the presence of the Holy Spirit could be felt throughout the event. Kudos to all participants and sponsors. To God be the glory!

