



# Community News

## This Sunday's Counsel

### THEME:

We serve God in love when we obey His commands.

### PROMISE:

*"Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something."* (Jn 2:6)

### WORD:

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41, / Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13/ Rev 5:11-14/ Jn 21:1-19

### ORDERS:

- We must obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:29)
- Feed my lamb, tend my sheep, feed my sheep. (Jn 21:15-17)
- Follow me. (Jn 21:19)

### DIRECTIONS:

- Submit ourselves to the Lord.
- Help nourish our brothers and sisters in Christ through faithful prayers, Sacraments, teachings and service.
- Be Christ-like.

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April 29, 2022

## Test Of One's Love

### REFLECTION:

The readings for the 3rd Sunday of Easter help us to reflect on how we can be faithful to God's commands. It is easy to follow the Lord when everything is going well in our lives, but when we experience trials or encounter difficulties, will we give in to despair or will we endure the hardship?



In the 1st reading, we clearly see how St. Peter rejoices in being able to give witness to Jesus even if it meant having to "suffer dishonor" for doing so. When he and the other apostles were asked to stop speaking in the name of Jesus, they replied, *"We must obey God rather than men,"* (Acts 5:29b). And in the Responsorial Psalm, we see the prayer of one who realizes that God protects the faithful in the face of one's enemies. In the Book of Revelation, John, the beloved of Jesus, was shown a glimpse of the joyful celebration of God's heavenly court, as a re-

ward for those who are true to the Master. And in the Gospel of John, the apostles rejoiced over their great catch when they followed the command of Jesus to cast their nets to the other side of the boat.

Being faithful in the name of Jesus may fill us with much joy, knowing we are in the eternal presence of God. But dedicating one's life to the Lord, obeying all His commands and serving Him requires humility, obedience, and selflessness. One may have to endure trials, suffering and oppression. In our spiritual journey, we experience a "roller-coaster" ride, in one moment we feel the excitement of service and prayers, yet in other moments we become overwhelmed with dryness and discouragement. Following Jesus is not always a high and uplifted feeling. Like Jesus, His hour of glory included the cross, and we, His Christian followers, cannot expect to arrive at the glory of

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### Tending the Flock

## Jesus' Sole Ask

Christ rose again in the flesh, and Peter rose in the spirit because, when Christ died in his passion, Peter died by his denial. Christ the Lord was raised from the dead, and out of his love he raised Peter. He questioned him about the love he was confessing and entrusted him with his sheep. After all, what benefit could Peter confer on Christ by the mere fact of his loving Christ? If Christ loves you, it is to your advantage, not Christ's. And if you love Christ, it is to your advantage, not Christ's. And yet Christ the Lord wanted to indicate how people ought to show that they love Christ. And he made it plain enough by entrusting him with his sheep. *'Do you love me?'* *'I do'* *'Feed my sheep.'* All this once, all this a second time, all this a third time. Peter made no other reply than that he loved him. The Lord asked no other question but whether he loved him. When Peter answered, our Lord did nothing else but entrust his sheep to him.

*~ Augustine of Hippo, 354-430 A.D., Sermon 229n*



## Imperfect

Dear brothers and sisters, it is better to have an imperfect but humble faith that always returns to Jesus, than a strong but presumptuous faith that makes us proud and arrogant. Woe to those, woe to them!

*~ Pope Francis*

Send your prayer requests to:

<https://www.bldtrenton.com/intercessory>



### Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**. Donate link can be found at [www.bldtrenton.com](http://www.bldtrenton.com)

Or mail check to:  
BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1367  
Toms River, NJ 08754

### The Lord's Provision

**April 22, 2022**

Tithe : \$ 650.00  
Love Offer : \$ 80.00  
GK : \$ 350.00

*Thank you for your generosity!!!*

### God's Blessings

#### Birthday

Olyn Bautista 4/29 Toti Lukban 4/30  
Maria Diaz 4/30 Mense Miranda 5/1  
Margaret Tomczyk 4/7

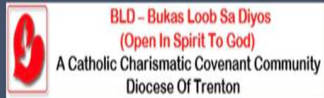
#### Anniversary

Lino & Yoly Alcasid 4/29

### 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

*I will sing praise to you, O Lord,  
and give thanks to your holy name,  
for your anger lasts but a moment,  
a lifetime, your good will.*



*What is God's plan in our married life?*



*An Invitation to a*

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND**

Ave Maria Retreat House  
The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa  
654 Ferry Road Doylestown, PA 18901

\$300/couple  
includes meals & accommodation

**May 20-22, 2022**

Registration starts at 8pm Friday

Deadline of Application: May 1, 2022

Contact:  
Germani Letty Bulay 732 887 5298  
lbulay@yahoo.com  
Ed/Olyn Bautista 732 233 9611  
ed.olyn1211@verizon.net

### Last Week's Prophecies

- *It was a difficult year for most of you. You are not the only one suffering for I suffer too and I feel the pain. You are part of me. I carried the cross of salvation and died for you. Do not be despondent. Be brave, strong and true. Trust me, have faith. In the end, My Sacred Heart will triumph And I will be there with my Mother waiting for you. Your reward will be great. This is my promise.*
- *My child, I am a God of Mercy. All I ask is that you approach Me with humility.*
- *My child, believe in the power of My saving grace.*
- *My beloved disciples, the promise of eternal life is yours. If only, you will truly believe and never doubt your faith.*

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eternal experience unless we carry our own cross and die to our old selves.

We see the experience of St. Peter whose responses to the person of Jesus were inconsistent, yet in the end he was martyred for Christ. He doubted Jesus when chosen to walk on water, and out of fear, he denied knowing Jesus when Jesus was arrested. Yet it was to Peter that the Spirit revealed who Jesus is – the Christ, Son of the Living God. He was one of the selected few to see the glory of Jesus in His transfiguration and among those upon whom the Holy Spirit descended on Pentecost. We may not become martyrs like Peter, but in spite of our imperfection and doubts, we can choose to follow Jesus, for He has the words of eternal life.

Jesus repeatedly asked Peter,

*“Do you love me?”* and he always answered, *“Yes Lord, you know that I love you.”* (cf. Jn 21:15-18). Yet, the test of loving Jesus is not merely in words, but in our commitment to follow and serve Him. When Jesus says, *“Follow me”* (Jn 21:19), it is an invitation to obey and serve Him with unwavering faith and unconditional love for God and others. We have to follow Him with a willingness to serve, feed and care for the flock entrusted to us. We are commissioned to bring more and more people to Christ, to God's kingdom. It is with deep faith that we listen to Jesus' words of assurance, *“Cast the net over the right side of the boat, and you will find something,”* (Jn 2:6). The miracle of catching a number of fish despite catching none earlier showed the disciples that when they followed Jesus' command, their ef-

forts became fruitful. As present-day disciples of Christ, all we need to do is be faithful to Jesus and believe that when we follow Him we will glorify His Father in heaven.

#### Prayer:

Heavenly Father, through Your goodness, You call us into a closer relationship with You. You invite us to give witness to that relationship by proclaiming Your Holy Name and in Your Son, Jesus. Help us to show our love for You even when we face difficulties, especially for being Your faithful disciples. For the times we have failed to love You and to tend to the needs of those You entrusted to us, we seek Your pardon and forgiveness. Grant us perseverance and strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit. We give You all honor, glory, and praise, God, forever and ever. Amen.

Adapted from [www.bldworld.org](http://www.bldworld.org)