



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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## Those Who Fear the Lord, He Rescues

It had been an unforgettable event for 46 teen-agers who attended BLD-Newark's Youth Encounter No 15 the week-end from 27-29 June 2008 held at the St Francis Retreat House in Easton, PA. The Lord did not disappoint these kids and He was there and rescued them from the world. The whole week-end was spirit-filled that these kids bonded with their 'adoptive siblings' in their respective groups. The YE15 Class is composed of the following : Russell Aala, Yana Abad, Kriss Abarabar, Salami Aglibut, Amanda Anderson, Coleen Atienza, Spencer Bautista, Gordon Bautista, Alex Bolinas, John Cam, Gene Celestino, Gene Dacula, Fritz Dacula\*, Sasa Dueno, Rommel Espina, Glyndyll Fabe, Erika Flores, Allen Garcia\*, Anthony Guinto, Michelle Guzman, Nicole Halasan, Victor Ikwuegbu, Ding Jose, Trixie Jose, Del Jurlano\*, Angie Larobis\*, Mae Lim, Carlo Loreto, Camille Loreto\*, Marko Luardo, Francis Muyalde\*, Jerald Oca, Izzy Pastor, Mikko Pepino\*, Mari Peralta, Jessica Rementilla, Justin Reyes, Matt Reyes\*, Kobi Rigor, Ron Salamat, Trina Salonga, Matt SanAgustin\*, Chris Tarectecan, Andrew Trinidad, Ralphie Trivilegio, and Kristine Villanueva. Tasked to shepherd the kids are Fidel and Leggie Lim and their young counterparts, Chris Trinidad and Joreen Baquilod. The week-end was filled with God-centered music, group activities, prayers and teachings. In Luke 18:16, Jesus told the community of believers to 'let the children come to me'. And BLD Newark has remained true to this order by Jesus.


To the YE15 class, the whole Community is laying out the red carpet in welcome and is greeting all of you with 'Ah-woo, Ah-woo, Ah-woo'!

\* Coordinators

## SPE #10 totals forty-one members!

The LORD had invited them and they came, full of curiosity. What is behind the door?

They knocked, and the door opened for them.

With open arms Jesus ushered them to their new path of holiness. With them are the workers of His shelter, full of humility, love & compassion, ready to serve & sing for them. When the banquet was finished, all was full of grace & trust in Jesus. It is their new beginning. The start of their journey to His Holy Mountain in search of His living water. (continued on pg 2) 

## COUNSELS

### The Yoke of Freedom

**Word:** Zec 9:9-10; Ps 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14;  
Rom 8:9, 11-13; Mt 11:25-30


**Theme:** In the meekness and humility of Jesus, we shall hear the Word of God and bear fruit. [Sense of Communion]

**Order:** *"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart."* (Mt 11:28)

#### Reflection:

This Friday we celebrate our country's Independence Day. This day, also known as the 4th of July, commemorates the adoption of the United States Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain.

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution addresses the rights of freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly and freedom of petition. This reminds us of our constant individual and collective struggle to achieve freedom. Even after we have achieved freedom, how do we actually experience freedom?

Yokes are usually placed on the necks of at least two oxen. A more experienced ox will be able to guide and lead the less experienced one. Yokes are also placed on captives and slaves signifying their submission, surrender and servitude. Jesus denounced the scribes and Pharisees and their laws saying, *"They tie up heavy burdens [hard to carry] and lay them on people's shoulders."* (Mt 23:4) Jesus instead offers us His yoke. To be able to accept His yoke, we need to imitate Him in meekness and humility and to be childlike in faith and obedience to Him. *"For although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike."* (Mt 11:25b) (continued on page 3) 

### God's Promise for the Week

*"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."* (Mt 11:28)

## I desire mercy, not Sacrifice

As I endeavor to bring the Word of God to His people, is my heart focused only on the acceptable, the righteous, the good and the holy? Do I evangelize only those who agree with me; those who are subservient to me; have I excluded the sinful, the broken, the unlovable and the outcasts from my priority list?

When Jesus said “*Go and learn the meaning of the words ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners,’*” what did He really have in mind?

This is a wake up call for me if I aspire to be called God’s selfless servant. Jesus tells me clearly that He came not for the righteous but for sinners. He wants mercy and love from me, not sacrifice, implying He wants me to be kind and merciful, not judgmental and condescending in my attitude, because the work of transformation is His and not mine. All I am expected to do is to open the hearts of people to God; and then allow God to do His work on them. If I restrict and seemingly choose who will comprise God’s Church, I am going against the very reason Jesus came into this world.

When I turn my back on broken, sinful men, I am no different from the critics of Jesus who accused Him of eating with sinners. When I shut the door of fruitfulness on those whom I have judged, then I am not showing, nor am I sharing Christ’s love! I have failed in my work for the Lord!

It is not that the Lord does not want my sacrifice, and in this case, He may have been referring to ritual purity and other Jewish observances at the time. He may simply want me to ignore appearances and seek reality; avoid formalities and seek substance, to be faithful and avoid hypocrisy.

Today are we truly working at “giving up all” to follow Christ? How much of our lives are empty tradition or hollow ritual? He stresses that every sacrifice, in order to be perfect, must come from a heart which overflows only with the love of God, something akin to Christ’s dying on the cross. We cannot out-do Jesus, as His is the only true and perfect sacrifice!

Let us remember that the true value of mercy in the eyes of God is greater than the value of the most precious thing we can place before Him on His altar.

## Appointment of Interim DCS for BLD Allentown DIP

It is with great joy that we share with you the good news regarding the appointment of servant-leaders for the BLD Allentown DIP, as embodied in Community Bulletin CSL Circular No. 06-2008-047. The following couples:

- JR & Judy Garcia - Evangelization
- Tony & Linda Avisado - Management
- Dan & Nelda Dwyer – Pastoral

shall constitute the Interim District Council of Stewards (IDCS) of BLD Allentown.”

We praise and thank the Lord for building up these servants to work in the Allentown vineyard! Let us pray for them and their work in community that they may bear good fruits that will last.

## Let Justice Prevail: In Ourselves & In Our Community

In this reading, the prophet Amos speaks to Israel about “justice” in conduct and in practice. Scholars agree that chapter 5 in particular addresses two things: an unjust and corrupt legal system, and superficial worship.

In verses 14-15, Amos warns, “Seek good and not evil, that you may live. Then truly will the Lord, the God of hosts, be with you as you claim! Hate evil and love good, and let justice prevail at the gate...” Every court in the world strives to pursue the ideal known as “justice.” If we try to define justice, the words “equality” and “fairness” come to mind. When thinking of God’s justice, “fairness” is not far off. Justice is “the moral virtue that consists in the constant and firm will to give one’s due to God and to neighbor.” (CCC 1807) With this definition from the Catechism of the Catholic Church in mind, “fairness” manifests itself in giving what is due to God and to our brethren. Justice is not about judgment, it is about action.

For to God, justice is closely linked with love. Therefore, we should not seek retribution as in the Mosaic law. We are not to be the ones who will judge. God alone can do that. Rather, we must act *justly*: to “let justice prevail,” (Amos 5:15) we must order ourselves towards what is good. We must be a people of love. When wronged, we must “turn the other cheek.” When we see a person in need, we must be the Good Samaritan.

In terms of community life within BLD, we must practice forgiveness, fraternal correction, and always support each other with love. We must encourage each other to grow in faith and in love. We must show our love for all of creation by being good stewards of the earth, by loving all our brethren, and by serving them. Doing this shows that we “hate evil and love good.”

Finally, we must do so humbly. In verses 21-24, Amos addresses the superficial worship of the Israelites. Amos 5:21 states that God “spurns our feasts and our offerings” that are made without good conduct. God sees through superficial acts. As worshippers of the Almighty God, we must worship in spirit and *in truth*, meaning that there is substance behind our profession that God is truly the Lord over every aspect of our lives.

When our life and actions manifest our love for God, for each other, and for creation, we “let justice prevail.” And the promise is this: the Lord will be among us, and His presence will make us shine as a community of love, justice and peace.

## SPE #10

The new SPE#10 members are: Ine Abogado, Nora Adame, Ester Arana, Juvy Atacador, Sue Balajadia, Vising Baron, Wilma Borja, Peter Caffrey, Susan Calimos, Liz Carpio, Carlota Casals, Maribel Claudio, Ofelia Cruz, Nene Dacula, Portia De Jesus, Pamela Cruz, Rosalie dela Rosa, Cecil Florentino, Isabelita Glorioso, Becky Hacia, Cecilia Hernandez, Carmen Katz, Fr. Joseph Kim, Irene Limcuando, Terry Madrigal, Crescencia Manaois, Belen Manuel, Terry Marinas, Winnie Mortel, Magelene Nweke, Margarita Ocasio, Ginny Ogborne, Strajin Pasula, Linda Pedutem, Lea Samson, Rose Sia, Rosie Silva, Auring Sumo, Cecil Varanauska, Carmelita Perez, Sue Wurzler.

The LORD has really blessed them! His will was done!



## Counsels *(continued from page 1)*

St. Paul wrote, *“For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery. For you were called for freedom, brothers. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”* (Gal 5:1, 13-14) *“Bear one another’s burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.”* (Gal 6:2)

Jesus offers us to exchange the yoke of slavery with His yoke of freedom. Yielding to the desires of the flesh does not constitute freedom, but chains us to the bondage of sin. Jesus reveals to us that to experience freedom, in humility and obedience we need to follow Him. We need to fulfill His commandments, to love God and to love one another.

Oftentimes we would hear “this is a free country and we can do as we please”. We often forget that the laws of nature, moral laws, civil laws and divine laws bind our freedom. We may say, “I am as free as a bird”, but try flapping your arms and see if you experience airlift. Moral laws are written in our hearts to preserve each person’s dignity. Civil laws are generally written to protect the rights of most of the people. Certain times, civil laws may violate moral laws and divine laws. Divine laws are the commandments handed to us, to build God’s Kingdom. Freedom does not come from violating these laws, but comes from understanding and living these laws. We experience true freedom when we live a righteous life.

Our journey with Jesus begins with faith not with wisdom. Do we believe because we understand? Or do we understand because we believe? The attitudes of our hearts bring about our openness to listen and hear the Word of God. The depth of our faith leads to His revelation. His revelation compels us to trust Him and walk in step with Him. Hope in everlasting life lights up our path. In love, as we imitate and follow Christ, our entire being will radiate His image and likeness.

To put on the yoke of Christ is to be in Holy Communion with Christ, for us to abide in Him and for Him to abide in us. In the Church, as the Body of Christ, we all participate with one another in Holy Communion. This is a call to each of us to take on the yoke of Christ and to take each other’s yoke, to carry each other’s burden and to love God and to love one another.

### **Directions:**

- √ Be meek, humble and compassionate toward all—your family, those in your workplace and in our community.
- √ Learn from Jesus by reading the Scriptures daily; lift up all who are falling, by the ministry of the Word that gives life.



## Fr. Paul Speaks

I thought for my sharing this month I should encourage you to look carefully into the writings of St. Paul. Our holy father, Pope Benedict, announced that the church would celebrate the bimillennium of the birth of St. Paul, beginning on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, June 29th, and concluding on that feast day in 2009. When Pope Benedict announced this Pauline jubilee year, he stressed the fact that St. Paul “lived and worked for Christ, for him he suffered and died. How timely his example is today!” Paul’s writings are a living witness to Jesus as our savior. They can supply the material necessary for a deepening Christian life of prayer. We can use his writings for our prayer time, in our “lectio divina”, just as we use the rest of Scripture for reflection and prayer.

His very failures can be an encouragement to us who seem to fail so often. His tireless four journeys evangelizing the then-known world is an encouragement to us to also to evangelize even against what sometimes seems to be insurmountable obstacles. There is actually more witnessing and information about the details of our Christian faith (not necessarily on the historical life of Jesus) than we could find in the four gospels. Paul identifies himself as an apostle, because he experienced Jesus in his risen body when Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus. St. Peter himself laid down the conditions for apostleship after the death of Judas, when he insisted on the experience of Jesus as risen as a condition for the person replacing Judas who betrayed the Lord. The earliest inspired New Testament scripture is St. Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians, written before even the earliest gospel of St. Mark. On most Sundays a reading from the works of

St. Paul as the second proclamation for that day is used in the Sunday liturgy.

Some of my favorite Pauline passages: *“You have received the Spirit of sonship: When we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’”* (Rom 8:15): *“We do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.”* (Rom 8:6) *“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”* (Gal 5:22): *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”* (2 Tim 7). *“Have no anxiety about any thing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God.”* (Phil 4:8): *“When I am weak, then I am strong.”* (2 Cor 12:16): *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God.”* (Eph 2:8)

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION

#### Nursing Home Visit – Hamilton Plaza

56 Hamilton Avenue, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month. Volunteers are needed

Nong & Tricia Bustos – 732-591-1340

[nongb601@aol.com](mailto:nongb601@aol.com), [teres202@aol.com](mailto:teres202@aol.com)

#### Healing Ministry – St. Bridget Church

372 Montgomery St Jersey City, NJ 07302

**Healing Prayer Service** every Monday at 8:00pm

**Healing Prayer Service with Eucharistic Celebration**

Every first Monday of the month at 8:00 pm

**2000 Hail Marys Devotion w/ Eucharistic Celebration**

Every last Sat. of the month starts at 8:30am except Dec.

### WORD

Share your walk/faith/transformation in the Lord with the community through an article (450 words max.). Send to [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com).

## TEACHINGS

#### Jul 18 After Worship

Teaching Youth, John 6, Mark 10

Gifts & Fruits of the Holy Spirit Singles

Growth in Prayer Solo Parents

#### Jul 19 St. Mary's 1-6 pm

Apologetics LSS 25

Shepherds Training 2 LSS 26 & 27

Christian Maturity Program 2 LSS 28

Gifts & Fruits of the Holy Spirit LSS 29

#### Jul 25 After Worship

Formation Teaching Intercessory & Service

Teaching Golden Years

## THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

**Week Ending June 27, 2008**

Tithes, Love Offering,  
Mission & Fast for the Poor **\$2,980**  
**Thank you for your continued generosity.**

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### Jul 11-13 Family Encounter #15

Malvern Retreat House

315 S. Warren Ave., Malvern, PA 19355

Contacts: Gene/Bing Ymbong (732) 254-7743

or Manny/Nette Manguiat (201) 955-0439

Application available at [www.bldnewark.com](http://www.bldnewark.com).

#### Jul 26 Soup Kitchen

Mother Teresa Missionaries of Charity

60 Jay Street, Newark, NJ 07103

ME 22 will serve

Louie & Choly Relucio 201-483-8715

Nick & Lita Centeno 973-857-9315

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sept. 20 (Save the date)**

**"In The Beginning"**

1pm show - Millennium Theatre

Sight & Sound Theatres, Lancaster, PA

A spectacular staging of the biblical account of creation. Be there as the Garden of Eden appears before you.

Experience God's pleasure at his most awesome creation, Adam and Eve, and the complete beauty of their unbroken relationship with God. *In the Beginning* promises an experience beyond your imagination.

Contact: Frank/Malou Venadas: [fvenadas@hotmail.com](mailto:fvenadas@hotmail.com)

(973) 562-0055 \* *Payment deadline: 08/08/08*

Tickets & bus fare: a-\$85.00, b-\$59.00, c-\$47.00

Tickets only: a-\$54.00, b-\$28.00, c-\$16.00

a=adults, b=ages 13-18, c=ages 12 below

**Oct 11 (Save the date)**

**Annual BLD–Newark Golf Outing**

Venue & other details to follow. Contact: ME 24

May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week.

### Traveling Catholics

For nationwide listing of Catholic Churches and Mass times, visit [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org).

Covenant News is also available on our website at [www.bldnewark.com](http://www.bldnewark.com)

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