



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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Father Suarez Comes to Newark, NJ

A special healing mass was sponsored by BLD-Newark on Friday, August 1, 2008 when Fr. Fernando Suarez came to the Basilica Cathedral of Sacred Heart in Newark, NJ. The healing mass started right after a brief rosary. The Basilica was packed with a massive crowd. More than one thousand people showed up. Father Suarez, known to many as “the Healer,” touched so many people. He quoted, “I am only an instrument of the Lord. It is He who heals.” Many people were waiting in the Basilica forming two lines to meet him at the altar. While others waited, volunteers shared testimonials of how Father Suarez made a great impact on their lives. As people encountered him, some were slain by the healing power of the Holy Spirit. Catchers were there to grab them as they fell down. It was a wonderful experience and you had to be there to receive God’s many blessings.

I can truly say that I had a wonderful experience meeting Father Suarez. As I was waiting by the altar, he touched my head and I felt the Holy Spirit slowly transferring into my body, mind, and soul. It was a tingling feeling on my left side of the heart and as I got slain, I completely surrendered my fears, worries, aches, and pain on my head, tensions on my shoulders, lower back pain, and down to my feet. I was in complete awe when I woke up. I felt that I was in a good place and realized how God was there to lift up my heavy burdens. As I knelt down to praise God, I thanked Him on how He can use someone like Father Suarez to recreate me and mend what was broken. God does forgive those who ask to be forgiven. If you have faith in Him, then He will give you His many wonderful blessings.

The healing ministry of Father Suarez is just the beginning. I believe that God will continue to use him in many ways to heal people all over the world and in churches where he will help seek the love of God in their lives. Thousands of people have been healed by the hands of Father Suarez. I have seen the disabled walk and many illnesses cured. These are some powerful healings on the spot, as well as minor ones like back pains, shoulder pains, and headaches. Father Suarez is a man of deep prayer and a genuine person. He has been called by God to minister as a priest with the gift of healing. Like a true disciple, he did not let down people who came to him and opened up to him.

COUNSELS

Take Courage, it is I; DO NOT BE AFRAID

Word: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Ps 85:9-14; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33

Theme: We participate in God’s miracles when we find Jesus in the storms of life and exhort others to do so.


Order: “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.” Mt 14:27b

Reflection:

Does the Lord seem distant when trials or adversity comes our way? Do we look for the Lord’s presence when we encounter difficulty or challenges? The Gospel for this Sunday is full of profound meaning. It concerns the most important virtue of Christian life, faith in Jesus Christ.

It was at Jesus’ initiative that the disciples sailed across the lake, only to find themselves in a life-threatening storm. Although they were experienced fishermen, they feared for their lives. While Jesus was not with them in the boat, He, nonetheless watched for them in prayer. When He perceived their trouble, He came to them on the sea and startled them with His sudden appearance. “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.” And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus; but when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me.” Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” Mt 14:27-31

Peter certainly had faith, as he later magnificently showed—he became the ‘rock’ of our Church - but at that moment his faith was not yet solid. When the wind began to blow more strongly Peter began to sink, because he had doubted. It was not the wind that made Peter

(continued on page 2) 

God’s Promise for the Week

“The Lord himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase.” (Ps 85:13)

Counsels (continued from page 1)

sink into the lake but the insufficiency of his faith. Peter's faith had lacked one essential element - complete abandonment to Christ - total trust in Him at the moment of great trial; he lacked unreserved hope in Him. Faith and hope, together with love, constitute the foundation of the Christian life, the cornerstone of which is Jesus Christ.

Christ freed Peter from the fear, which had seized him on the stormy lake. At the same token, Christ enables us too to overcome the difficult moments in our life, if with faith and hope we turn to Him and ask His help. Christ never lets us down! Strong faith frees man from fear and gives him the spiritual strength to resist all life's storms. It is a virtue so needed today, from which is born limitless hope. Faith in Christ enables us to conquer everything that is weak and sinful; and at the same time leads to victory over evil. Do not be afraid of Christ! Trust him completely! He alone "has words of eternal life". He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

It is true that the world can be frightening; we are fearful of the economy; gas prices going up and everything follows. People are losing their jobs and their homes. We are fearful for our health as we hear all kinds of sickness that our loved ones are having. However, if we live by faith and hope, we shall have in us the power of the Holy Spirit to face the dangers and uncertainties of this world.

Let us look once more to the Lake of Gennesaret on which Peter's boat is sailing. The lake symbolizes the image of the modern world in which we are living and in which the Church is carrying out her mission. This world is a challenge for us, just as the lake was a challenge for Peter. Like Peter, as soon as we stare at the difficulties of our life, we lose courage. We do not see the Lord any more who is close to us. A great deal of failure in the Christian life is lack of faith. "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Mt 14:31) We have to look higher, up to the Lord, beyond the big waves. Otherwise fear cripples us as it crippled Peter. But at least Peter had faith left in him to shout "Lord, save me." (Mt 14:30) Peter never really failed. He always was ruled by his heart. He always at the moment of failure clutched at Christ. From the example of Peter, we learn how important our personal bond is with Christ in our spiritual life - this bond has to be constantly renewed and deepened. How? Above all by prayer. My dear brothers and sisters, pray and learn to pray, read and meditate on the Word of God, let us strengthen our bond with Jesus Christ in the Sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist. Let us all be focused in our mission; be pro-active in our ministries and apostolate and remember the covenant that we have entered with our Lord through this community. Let us fix our eyes upon Jesus.

When Jesus took Peter by his hand and both went into the boat, the winds calmed down and there was serenity and peace. When Christ is in the boat of our life, in the ship of our community and we see His presence and believe in Him, every thing will be well.

Directions:

- 1 Find a quiet time everyday to listen to the Lord
- 2 Persevere in your faith and trust in the Lord's perfect plan in your life.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Aug 09 Community Family Fun Day 8:30am-6pm**
Johnson Park, Piscataway, NJ
Eucharistic Celebration @ 11:30 am
- Aug 15 Community Worship - St. Mary's Auditorium**
Aug 23 Soup Kitchen
Mother Teresa Missionaries of Charity
60 Jay Street, Newark, NJ 07103
ME 27 will serve
Ency/Babie Alberto 973-584-0370

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit - Hamilton Plaza
56 Hamilton Avenue, Passaic, NJ 07055
Every 2nd Saturday of the month. Volunteers are needed
Nong & Tricia Bustos - 732-591-1340

nongb601@aol.com, teres202@aol.com

Resurrection Parish - 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.

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

(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

Bethlehem Golf Club, Bethlehem, PA

Contact: Carlito & Arlene Claricia 732-546-6442

Ed & Grace Badiola 908-313-5522

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Week Ending Aug 1, 2008

Collections at the Basilica Mass & Fr. Suarez Healing Service totaled: **\$9,866.00**. After paying expenses, we will be sharing equally with Fr. Suarez' community.