



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 14 Issue 14

Bulletin Edition

Apr. 11, 2008

Thank You LORD for LSS #30

"I saw the Lord ever before me, with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has exulted; my flesh, too, will dwell in hope, because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence." (Acts 2:25-28)

The BLD community had been blessed once again during this past Life Spirit Seminar #30 weekend. Among those who graduated are the 34 singles who participated in the LSS. Congratulations to the new LSS#30 graduates - Alexis Abrenica, Denise Aliparo, Antoinette Anderson, John Cancio, Christel Arribe, John Pio Balingit, Darleen Calotes, Carl Caparros, Emmanuel De Vera, Rashed Espejon, Sheilla Espina, Gretel Espina, Robert Estor, Wilson Guinto, Nicole Grabowski, Stephanie Ikalina, Andrew Jaico, Bernadette Laroza, Minerva Layug, Ma Soraya Manuel, Christian Masisado, Jennifer Ompod, David Pavick, Elizabeth Perez, Sanjay Pradhanang, Jhoanne Rama, Lisa Ramirez, Ansel Reyes, Francis Samonte, James Sabale, Eduardo Solis, Danny Tabao, Lisa Tacbad, and Bryant Yap; ME 30: Teddy & Sharon Arceo, Elmer & Weng Agapito, Jaime & Ana Bustos, Zita & Mon Lopez, Cy & Mavil Loreto, Gerry & Ellen Mendoza, Rey & Del Munsod, Danny & Me-Anne Sta Ana, Choy & Connie Rama, Frank & Tess Mercado, Cookie & Tess Montemayor, Ron & Dina Pangilinan; Solo Parents: Peter Caffrey, Ignatius Isekenegbe, Beth Padua, Arturo Acosta, and Florida Ang.

LSS #30 Spiritual Director Fr. Paul Lehman, LSS Sharers were: Gerry & Gigi Cabunag, Rene & Sally Castaneda, Ollie & Annie Felibrico, Maris Manansala, Sam & Rory Olaso, Reuben & Cherry Vibar served as witness to God's love and forgiveness.

LSS #29 sponsoring class and auxies consisted of ME, SPE & SE graduates who served **wholeheartedly**.

How powerful the Holy Spirit works within the BLD community! During the baptism, most candidates received the gift of tongues, some received the gift of wisdom and knowledge, discernment, healing, interpretation of tongues, and yet others had a vision of Christ Crucified.

God continues to work through us as we allow Him to, and surrender ourselves fully to His Divine will.

COUNSELS

"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

Word: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23:13a, 5-6;
1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

Theme: God's Word is our gate to abundant life.


Order: Repent and be baptized, everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.

Reflection:

The BLD Life in the Spirit Seminar No. 30 has just concluded a week ago. Surely, the euphoria of the weekend is still there, but are the graduates now ready to join-in in the continuing "post-graduate" life as Catholic Christians?

On the Sundays of Easter, the liturgy offers instructions for the newly baptized. Of course, all of us are "enrolled" in that course along with them. Our "curriculum" comes from the First Letter of Peter, the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospels. They all spell out how a community rooted in Christ witnesses in the world, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

This Sunday's readings remind us of the Jesus we follow. The Acts of the Apostles on the first Pentecost calls listeners to conversion. The second reading, perhaps drawn from an early baptismal instruction to Christian converts who were Roman slaves, presents Jesus as the Suffering Servant, a subject we hear in Holy Week. The instruction steers the newly baptized to identify with and follow Christ as the "Good Shepherd". In John's Gospel, Jesus said that his sheep would hear his voice and follow him.

Now, imagine a crowded sheepfold, noisy with milling flocks and the conflicting voices of shepherds calling their sheep. In our world today, there are a lot of voices out there, beckoning, presenting themselves as authoritative and worthy of a devoted following. There is so much noise and commotion. It's a marketplace full of claims and advertisements - (page 4) 

God's Promise for the Week

"Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture." (John 10:9)

Nourishing My Soul



My deadline for this article is fast approaching and I still cannot find the right words to describe how my soul is nourished until one day at work it finally hit me that EVERYTHING we

do either nourishes our souls or makes it weak. The choices we make everyday either fills it with love and joy or weakens it with anger and thoughtlessness. We grow when we stay open to love from all sources. God's love flows through our life. It is not limited to just a few special relationships but is there to be enjoyed in many ways.

The way we think, feel, say and do will always nourish our soul. I find that the small details of my life nourishes my soul – the smiles and laughter that I share with my children discussing how school was, what transpired at work, the outing they did with friends, reminiscing the past, talking about the present and planning about the future, a beautiful day, a smile from a stranger, an act of kindness, a hug from a loved one – all these and more enrich our days, nourish our soul and spirit.

When I get upset, stressed or down, I simply turn to God and listen. Once I feel calm and relaxed and don't have to push those thoughts away, I know that I am finished and ready to face my life once again. Jesus is always with me and he helps and heals me. I will rejoice in the Lord and appreciate all the blessings and graces He has bestowed on my family and me. The powerful force within me is always at work. Life is full of challenges, setbacks, hassles and obstacles and the only thing we can control is how we choose to let these things affect us.

The generosity of a well-fed soul moves people to spread love and good tidings to others and reflect on all the things that we should be grateful for. It helps us to overcome our fears and doubts. It guides us to people and opportunities that lead us to find peace, love and prosperity. Wonders never cease. Miracles big or small abound.

Sharing the burden of grief on the loss of a loved one has been an education for my heart and soul. I find that if they are discovering a reason to go on living, then they are rich in soul and so am I. It provides richness and meaning to my life.

My soul really has to do with a sense of the heart being touched by my feelings. It has to do with my journey of life. We must never tire of allowing the wonder of life to feed and nourish us. God's kingdom unfolds around our life.

*Make the Covenant News
a part of your covenant life.*

He Lives!



On Easter Sunday I woke up with a song running through my head. In itself, that would not be very unusual because my husband and I sing in our church choir, and we had just sung for the Easter Vigil and for all the services of

Holy Week. There had been lots of new music to learn, but the song in my head was not a new one. In fact, it was one I had learned when I sang in a children's choir more than 50 years ago. I remembered all the words:

I serve a risen Savior. He's in the world today.

I know that He is living whatever men may say.

He lives. He lives. Christ Jesus lives today.

He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.

He lives. He lives. Salvation to impart.

You ask me how I know he lives, He lives within my heart.

Jesus in me. The song says it so well. Wishing I could go back to sleep, I thought about the women who taught me that song and about all the Sunday school teachers I'd known and the pastors and the choir directors and the youth-group leaders. Along with my parents, they were able to share their faith with me because they carried Jesus in their hearts. They understood what Jesus taught in John 6:29; "Jesus ... said to them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent.'"

Their belief in the risen Christ was a powerful force in their lives and it led them to serve His church.

I am a convert to the Catholic Church. Recently, I had a long talk with a good friend who belongs to the denomination that I grew up in. She surprised me by saying, "We don't pray for the dead." I had never really thought about it before. Does that mean that all those wonderful people I had known in my childhood, the ones who had prayed for me and taught me to love Jesus and to sing His praises, had no one praying for them now?

That question had a strong emotional impact on me as I prepared for Easter Mass. After all, Jesus lives in me in much the same way that He lived in them. It's the Communion of Saints and it bridges the gap between time and eternity. At Mass when I thought of how our celebration was a sharing in the glorious eternal banquet of Heaven, how Christ was present with all His angels and saints, I prayed that all those who had taught me to seek Him with my whole heart would be blessed with the fullness of peace and joy in His Presence forever. And I thanked Him for their witness. To God be the Glory. Alleluia.

St. John Baptist de la Salle

(1651-1719)



Complete dedication to what he saw as God's will for him dominated the life of John Baptist de la Salle. In 1950, Pope Pius XII named him patron of schoolteachers for his efforts in upgrading school instruction. As a young seventeenth-century Frenchman, John had everything going for him:

scholarly bent, good looks, noble family background, money, refined upbringing. At the early age of 11, he received the tonsure and started preparation for the priesthood, to which he was ordained at 27. He seemed assured then of a life of dignified ease and a high position in the Church.

But God had other plans for John, which were gradually revealed to him in the next several years. During a chance meeting with M. Nyel of Raven, he became interested in the creation of schools for poor boys in Raven, where he was stationed. Though the work was extremely distasteful to him at first, he became more involved in working with the deprived youths.

Once convinced that this was his divinely appointed mission, John threw himself wholeheartedly into the work, left home and family, abandoned his position as canon at Rheims, gave away his fortune and reduced himself to the level of the poor to whom he devoted his entire life.

The remainder of his life was closely entwined with the community of religious men he founded, the Brothers of the Christian School (Christian Brothers, or De La Salle Brothers). This community grew rapidly and was successful in educating boys of poor families using methods designed by John, preparing teachers in the first training college for teachers and also setting up homes and schools for young delinquents of wealthy families. The motivating element in all these endeavors was the desire to become a good Christian.

Yet even in his success, John did not escape experiencing many trials: heartrending disappointment and defections among his disciples, bitter opposition from the secular schoolmasters who resented his new and fruitful methods and persistent opposition from the Jansenists of his time, whose heretical doctrines John resisted vehemently all his life.

Afflicted with asthma and rheumatism in his last years, he died on Good Friday at 68 and was canonized in 1900.

Complete dedication to one's calling by God, whatever it may be, is a rare quality. Jesus asks us to *"love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength"* (Mk 12:30b). Paul gives similar advice: *"Whatever you do, do from the heart..."* (Col 3:23).

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION

Nursing home visit is scheduled every **2nd Sat.** of the month, Hamilton Plaza Nursing Home, Passaic, NJ - **Volunteers are needed.** Please contact Nong & Tricia Bustos (732) 591-1340.

WORD

Share your walk, faith, transformation in the Lord with the community through an article (450 words max). Email to word@bldnewark.com.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Abraham & Sarah

May 03, 1pm @ Living Waters Theatre, Lancaster, PA

A Journey of Love, Sight & Sound

Payments due on April 4.

Ticket + bus fare: Adults \$63.00 Teen (13-18) \$46.00
Child (3-12) \$42.00

For tickets only: Adults \$33.00 Teen (13-18) \$16.00
Child (3-12) \$12.00

Seating arrangements based on date payment is received

For details, please call Frank or Malou Venadas - 973-562-0055 or send email to bobbitski@hotmail.com.

TEACHINGS

Apr 09 St. Mary's 7-10 pm

and 16 Advanced TDP

Teachers, all district disciples and members

Apr 18 After Worship

Teaching
Encounter With Jesus
New Creation Realities

Youth, John 6, Mark 10
Singles
Solo Parents

Apr 19 St. Mary's 1-6 pm

Healing & Deliverance
Christian Maturity Program
Covenantal Leadership

LSS 27
LSS 29
Covenanted members and all district disciples

Apr 20 Healing damaged emotion Rockland District - 2pm

Apr 25 After Worship

Teaching
Formation

Golden Years
Intercessory/Service

May 3 St. Mary's 1-6 pm

Prayer Leadership
Encounter with Jesus
Growth in Prayer
New Creation Realities
Circle Shepherds Training

LSS 28
LSS 29
LSS 30
Post-Covenantal

Traveling Catholics

For nationwide listing of Catholic Churches and Mass times, visit www.masstimes.org.

Counsels *(cont. from page 1)*

political messiahs, gurus of different types, interpreters of the stars, Bible experts, and last but not least, the advocates of errant lifestyles. There is, in deed, so much noise!

We, surely, are blessed to belong to the sheepfold of Christ – his Church – the Catholic Church. We are blessed to have the Son of God as our Shepherd, who came among us in order to lead us to heaven. We are blessed that despite so much noise, the voice of Christ speaking to us can still be heard.

“When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.” John 10:4-5.

“How could Christ’s voice be heard amidst all the distractions?” Certainly, what Jesus says consists of nothing but words of love, for he himself is the Father’s Word of Love. He is the Word of Life begotten by the Father in the Spirit of Love, the Holy Spirit, who is the bond of their union and the expression of their devotion to one another.

When Jesus speaks, it is Love who speaks. When another speaks not in the name of Jesus but rather in his own name, it is the love of self that speaks, not the Love of God. The sheep know the voice of Jesus, for he is the Love of God in person who came into the world so that all might have life and have it more abundantly.

Jesus came to earth bringing with him the faithful love, which is the family life of God in the blessedness of a Trinitarian life. He wants his Church to be a family - a reflection of the Trinity in which a spirit of unselfish love prevails, where mutual care, nourishment, and protection are the manifest gift of the Spirit of Love.

“For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.” 1 Peter 2:25

Yes, after the Life in the Spirit Seminar, we have all felt that we have returned to the sheepfold of Christ. Yet it does not stop there. Transformation is an ongoing process and we have to undergo trials along the way. But in the midst of obstacles, challenges, and adversities, we find happiness in knowing that we have a Shepherd who is sincerely interested in the true welfare of his flock.

So let’s listen to the “Good Shepherd” and become familiar with his voice in our hearts. Let’s listen carefully and discern, for there are many voices out there claiming to be the shepherd. Let’s not be afraid of his call. It may seem that his way confines or locks us into a certain path or moral behavior. But know that by trusting the Good Shepherd, we will certainly reach the pasture of eternal bliss.

Directions:

1. Be patient when you suffer for doing what is good.
2. When insulted, return no insult; when you suffer embrace it with joy.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Apr 11-13 Aspirants Retreat**
Apr 12 Nursing Home Visitation - 10:30-11:30am
 Hamilton Nursing Home, Passaic, NJ
 Mark 10 Ministry
- Apr 12 Disciples Assembly - St. Mary’s 1-6pm**
 Committed & Covenanted
- Apr 12 Community Building - St. Mary’s 1-6pm**
 Special teaching by Epie Ocampo
- Apr 12 Holy Spirit Breakfast**
 Our Lady of Liberia School Auditorium
 5808 Kennedy Blvd., W. New York, NJ
 Mass celebrated before breakfast
 Contact: Angel/Aida Calilap (973)284-1853 or
 Sal/Marie Russo (973) 338-1050
- Apr 15 Fr. Fernando Suarez-Healing Mass 6:30pm**
 St. Mary’s Church, Rahway
Please reserve seats thru your assigned Ministry/Class
- Apr 25-27 ME #2 BLD Charlotte, NC**
 The Oratory, South Carolina.
 Contact Henry & Aida Koryan (973) 709-1387
- May 30- Jun 1 ME#31 - Mary Immaculate Center**
 300 Cherryville Road Northampton, PA 18067
 Contact: Norie/Miriam Abes (973) 960-3711
 and Gary/Mil Camacho MLA (732) 821-450.
Application forms available at
www.bldnewark.com.
- May 30- Jun 1 SE #20 - Graymoor Spiritual Center**
 Garrison, NY, Contact: Glenn Canlas
invazian21@yahoo.com
- Jun 27-29 SPE#10 - Xavier Center, 23 Covenant Road,**
 Covenant Station, NJ 07961- 0211
 Contact Vic/Dee Lim (973) 865-4203 (c) or
 (973) 226-2306 (h)
- Jul 11-13 Family Encounter #15**
 Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA
 Contacts: Gene/Bing Ymbong (732) 254-7743
 or Manny/Nette Manguiat (201) 955-0439
Application forms available at
www.bldnewark.com.

THE LORD’S PROVISIONS

Week Ending Apr. 4, 2008

Tithes, Love Offering, **\$4,150**
 Mission & Fast for the Poor

Thank you for your continued generosity.

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 our website at www.bldnewark.com