



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 15 Issue 38

Bulletin Edition

Sept. 25, 2009

NEWS

DLC, DCS & DSL Day of Recollection

“Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom we belong, whose people we are, God's well-tended flock. Enter the temple gates with praise, its courts with thanksgiving. Give thanks to God, bless his name; good indeed is the LORD, Whose love endures forever, whose faithfulness lasts through every age.” (Ps100:3-5)

The DLC, DCS & DSL day of recollection was held at St. Mark's parish on Saturday, September 19, 2009. Fr. Paul Lehman's talk and homily during the Eucharistic Celebration once again inspired the members with his exhortation and encouragement to those who tend their flock through the ME classes or Ministries.

We are being reminded of the key points in tending the flock: obedience and humility. Each apostolate had a group sharing of personal reflections regarding their response to God's call and their individual views of acting upon the call and accountability of their flock.

DLC meeting also followed which included Financial and Administrative matters.

BLD's Annual Dinner Dance

Oct.17, 2009 6:30-11:30 pm

Veterans Memorial Hall, 600 Washington Ave., Manville NJ

Contacts: Joe/Trudy Aboyme 908-252-0904

Aboymejoe@yahoo.com; gaboyme@somerset-healthcare.com,

Dondon/Hermie Tenchavez 732-321-7627

Proceeds will benefit BLD Mission activities.

To advertise on the souvenir journal, please email

fundraising@bldnewark.com or visit www.bldnewark.com.

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

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

COUNSELS

Submitting to God's Perfect Will

WORD: Nm 11:25-29; Ps 19:8, 10, 12-14; Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

ORDER: 1. *“Do not cause one of these little ones who believe in me to sin.” (Mk 9:42a)*
2. *“Remove anything that will cause you to sin.” (Mk 9:43.48)*

THEME: We are open to the Father's will when we break the strongholds that separate us from Him and from one another

REFLECTION:

Mark's Gospel has a strong sense of urgency because Jesus proclaims the Gospel and the arrival of the kingdom of God on earth (Mk1:14). Mark wrote the Gospel to urge the Christian community in Rome to believe in the Gospel as their salvation depended on their faith.

This Sunday's readings convey the same urgent message today. Jesus urges His followers to avoid sin at all cost. Sin is against the Father's will and separates us from God and from one another. The same sins committed repeatedly becomes a vice and creates strongholds in our lives that block the Lord's blessings and make it very difficult for us to live according to the Gospel.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' disciples forbade someone from driving out demons in His name because he did not belong to their group. Jesus rebuked his disciples for their exclusivity (Mk 9:38-40). Similarly in the first reading, Moses rebuked his aide Joshua for his intolerance for wanting Moses to stop two men in camp from prophesying because they were not anointed with the seventy elders. (Num 11:29). Do we become jealous when other people are doing just as good or better? In community, do we feel that the good that others do steals the thunder from us thus diverting the spotlight away from our good works?

St. Paul says: *“Love is... not jealous... but rejoices with the truth,”* (1 Cor 13:4, 6). Instead of *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

“Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will surely not lose his reward.” (Mk 9: 41)

Unity In The Spirit

Have you ever had a disagreement with your spouse, your parents, your brother or sister, your officemate, or even your best friend? Do you often find yourself expressing a different opinion or viewpoint concerning your parish or your community? Or have you ever wondered why there are thousands of Christian denominations, each one claiming to espouse the true faith?

St. Paul also realized the enormous challenge that the early Christian communities in Asia Minor (not only in Ephesus) faced. They too were beset by resource constraints, in-fighting and disagreements among members. His exhortation to the Ephesians covered the “seven unities” of church, Spirit, hope; one Lord, faith, and baptism; and the one God. He wrote: ***“I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all”*** (Eph 4:1-6).

Why must we strive for unity within Christ’s church? The answer is obvious - because the Church is the means for mission in the world. We can draw a similar parallel to our community. In the BLD community, we have many programs that the Lord uses in order to evangelize and transform His people. Our encounters, seminars, retreats, teachings, and outreach programs all contribute to changing and renewing people’s lives. However, we can neither do everything nor serve everyone. If we are to continue to become fruitful instruments of the Lord, we must all learn to move as one, as a unified team.

This then is our challenge - to strive ***“to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”*** There is nothing that the enemy wants more than to divide us and create chaos among us so that we become confused, frustrated, and distracted. Through humility, gentleness, patience, and love we will be able to overcome the devil’s divisive tactics and remain focused on our unified mission and vision. Let us welcome the many excellent ideas and the various ways of following the Lord’s Will for us while issues are up for discussion. But once a consensual decision has been made, let us all unite behind it and support it. Let us not get distracted by our diversity. Instead, let us use it to further bond with one another into a single cohesive force, much like the model presented to us by the Blessed Trinity.

Father, make us one. Amen!

Hearing God’s Word

Have you ever asked God if He listens to you? Wondered if He hears your prayer? Most everyone has. But do we expect Him to hear us if we do not pay attention to what He has said, what He is saying, read the Bible, or say a prayer?

Can one hear if there is a lot of noise? Unlikely. The same is true when we try to listen to God’s voice. It can get drowned out by the bedlam of life. So to hear Him, it seems that among the prerequisites is to set aside time and focus our attention on Him: *to seek the stillness* (hesychia, in Greek, which means to quiet disorderly interior passions and ultimately overcome any and all distractions that sap alertness to the presence of God.) We have to tune in, heed His word, and act upon it.

In the parable of the weeds, Jesus admonished, ***“Just as weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ...Whoever has ears ought to hear.”*** (Mt 13:40, 43b) In Luke 8:21, ***“He said to them in reply, ‘My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it.’”***

Yes I have ears, but do I hear? And more importantly, does my heart hear? Do I act? If I ever think that I’ve done enough for God, then I’m really in trouble - for there is always more praise to declare, more help to offer others, more contrition for things done/not done, more opportunities to be MAD – to Make A Difference.

How I long to be the good seed; but as with any seed, I’d need sunshine, water and nourishment. I’d need to heed God’s Word. For needed nurturing never really ends and vigilance to His Word, along with effort, not only can, but must, continue.

Dear Lord, I am fearful of turning into that weed that’s to be consumed by fire because how easy it is to tune You out, to take things for granted. Please forgive me for the many times I know that I did not, and do not choose You. There are many times (and there will be plenty more) when I know I can help my neighbor, I can give alms, I can refrain from criticizing (but do so anyway), times when I can make a phone call, I can reach out... but I choose to keep to myself. Please do not tire of sending moments that give me a chance to listen to and choose You, and I will try to hear and act upon Your Word.

Then, Brother/Sister, find, that as you set aside some time and attention to focus on the Lord, you will rediscover everyday the many things He already does for you, the blessings He grants you. Realize that He does indeed hear and answer your prayers.

St. Matthew

St. Matthew the Apostle was a man who showed the world through his life the power of Christ's call and conversion. St. Matthew is most famously known as the tax collector that Jesus had chosen to be one of his twelve Apostles. He was a Jewish tax collector who worked for the Roman empire. Because of his job, St. Matthew was hated by all Jews and Pharisees, because tax collectors were seen as workers of the Roman enemy, and were infamous for cheating people and profiting the extra money for themselves. They were seen as sinners in society. All tax collectors were not allowed to mix with other Jews, even to eat or pray. So how could it be, that a man that was marked as a sinner and was known for his greed and dishonest ways could somehow become a disciple and follower of Christ?

One day while St. Matthew was working at his desk in Capernaum, Jesus came to him and said, "Follow me." St. Matthew then got up and left everything to follow our Lord. One of the most famous moments that involved St. Matthew, was the feast that he threw for Jesus and his disciples. It was here that Jesus sat down with Matthew and other tax collectors to eat. No one could understand why Jesus had chosen to sit and eat with them. Even the Pharisees questioned why He had done so, but it was then that Jesus said, ***"I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*** (Mt 9:13b)

Through St. Matthew's life, we see Christ's compassion, mission, and forgiveness as well as the power of transformation. St. Matthew went from being one of the most hated sinners to becoming a man who lived and worked so closely with our Lord. It is through his life, that we see the power of God's love and calling, and how we too, can be transformed and renewed as disciples and followers of Christ.

St. Matthew also wrote the first Gospel, which he did to convince the Jews that their Messiah had come through Jesus. He also was a big evangelist, who continued His mission after Jesus' death. There is still some uncertainty about St. Matthew's death, but what is greater to remember is the life that he lived that was full of love and service to our Lord. His name means "Gift of God", and truly St. Matthew was a gift to our faith as he has given us so much through his life and writings. He is also the patron saint of bankers. We can honor and celebrate the life of St. Matthew the Apostle on his feast day, September 21.

Counsel (from page 1)

rejoicing we exclude others and stifle their gifts when we become jealous or envious. This causes separation from God and disunity and division among one another. We judge our brethren in community and try to become mind readers. Our community members have a lot to offer with their different gifts and natural talents that are needed in building the kingdom of God. We should exhort everyone to use their gifts for building the community in the spirit of collaboration.

We can overcome envy and jealousy with the love of God that has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us through baptism. (Rom 5:5). Love purifies our hearts and makes us more charitable towards others.

Jesus uses images on bodily maiming as He encourages His followers to use drastic measures to avoid sin and its harmful consequences. We need to preserve our souls at the expense of parts of our bodies. We do not have to be maimed or blinded literally to avoid hell. Cutting off bodily parts that cause us to sin means avoiding places and situations that could tempt us to sin. We can resist temptation only with the help of the Holy Spirit and with prayer and immersion in and adherence to the Word of God through Scripture. We need to submit to God's will and obey and worship God who is our supreme goal in life that is worth the sacrifice of our bodies so that we can join the Holy Trinity for all eternity.

Jesus also warns that Gehenna or hell awaits whoever causes scandal to the little ones. "Scandal is an attitude or behavior which leads another to do evil. ... He damages virtue and integrity; he may even draw his brother into spiritual death." (CCC 2284) Persons with pastoral authority (parents, teachers and priests) should take care not to set bad examples that might lead the young in faith under their pastoral care to sin and thereby weaken their faith, hope or charity.

Finally, in the second reading St. James warns against the unjust rich who hoard wealth only for their pleasure and are unwilling to share generously with the poor or the needy. Here, the sin of greed tremendously separates us from our heavenly Father and directly opposes His will. We should store up eternal treasures in heaven and not corruptible, perishable earthly ones.

The Lord shows us the way and tells us that openness and submission to the will of the Father will break down these strongholds that separate us from Him. ***"The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul; the decree of the Lord is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple."*** (Ps 19:8). The law in this and every instance is the Lord's perfect will. The Lord promised that whoever does work in His Name will be rewarded. ***"For whoever is not against us is for us. Anyone who gives you a cup of water*** *Continued on page 4*

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Aspirants Retreat - Oct. 09-11

Radisson Carteret, 30 Minue St., Carteret, NJ

Contacts: Jovy/Emily Lucero 732-207-9422 jovluc@aol.com,
Ed/Eydie Unay 973-222-1342 esunayvmd4@cs.com

John 6 Crossing Retreat - Oct. 23-24

St. Mary's Connell Hall

Contacts: Boyet/Zita Cruz, Gene/Ruby Ymbong, Ernest/Nellie
Sun. Applications available @ www.bldnewark.com

ME 34 - Nov 13-15

Radisson Carteret, 30 Minue St., Carteret, NJ

Contacts: Nong/Tricia Bustos 732-591-1340
Gary & Mil Camacho 732-821-4507

SE 23 - Nov 20-22

Graymoor Retreat Center, Garrison, NY

Contacts: Carlos/Fe Masisado masisadoc@yahoo.com,
Manny/Arlene Mangalanzo arlenemanny@gmail.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

- Oct 16** Christian Maturity Program I - **Singles**
Teaching - **Mark 10, John 6, Youth**
- Oct 17** Christian Maturity Program - **LSS 31**
Encounter with Jesus - **LSS 32**
Growth in Prayer & New Creation Realities - **LSS 33**
- Oct 23** Encounter with Jesus - **Solo Parents**
Teaching - **Intercessory & Service, Golden Years**
- Oct 30** Intro to Intercession - **LSS 33**
MGT • Charismata - **LSS 31**

Note: Teachings on Fri: after worship, Sat: 1-6pm at St. Mary's

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING SEPT. 18, 2009

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,613	142,379
Expenses	993	156,300
Surplus/(Deficit)	2,620	(13,921)

Financial details are available to all members through treasury@bldnewark.com

Thank you for your continued support!

Counsel (from page 3)

Water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward." (Mk 9:40-41). Lastly, the Lord promised whoever obeys his commandments will be rewarded. *"The fear of the Lord is pure... The statutes of the Lord are true, all of them just;... By them your servant is instructed; obeying them brings much reward."* (Ps 19:10,12)

DIRECTIONS:

- * Do not stifle the work of the Holy Spirit in you and in others.
- * Store treasures in heaven, not earthly ones.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Life Issues Seminar 2009

October 3, 2009, Saturday 11am-5pm

A Call to Action: Overcoming the Culture of Death
Queen of Peace Church, North Arlington, NJ
Speakers: Damon Owens & Robert George
General Admission - \$10, Students - \$5.00
Deadline for registration - Sept. 25
Contact: Frank/Malou Venadas (973) 562-0055.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVANGELIZATION SERVICES

BIBLE STUDY

Conducted by Fr. Dennis Kaelin

St. Mary's/St. Mark's Parish

St. Mary's School, Room 104, Every Friday from 7:30-8pm

Everyone is welcome. Know God better through His Word.

For information on St. Mary's and St. Mark's visit their newly
designed website: www.stmarystmarkparish.com

ISAIAH 58

Sagip Ka Eskuela Program (Save a School Child)

Bring your old or unused School Supplies

St. Mary's Church (Fellowship Area)

Contacts: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908-810-1231

Rubenluz@verizon.net, Cezar/Pinky Calingo - 908-230-
3660 Gene/Bing Ymbong - 908-406-6955

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8 p.m. and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 p.m.** After 10:45 p.m., parents will be responsible for their children's safety.

We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter.

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

Mosty/Ling Garcia 908-222-0550 mtg7lra@aol.com

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay Street, Newark NJ

Every 4th Sat. of the month

Medical Mission

February 22-25, 2010 - **Mauban, Quezon**

Mosty/Ling Garcia 908-222-0550 mtg7lra@aol.com

PRaise

To view Arch. Lagdameo's Eucharistic Celebration video, please visit: www.youtube.com/BLDPraise or
www.youtube.com/ArchbishopLagdameo

SECRETARIAT

For replacement IDs and database updates, monthly picture-taking and updates will take place **every 4th Friday** at the Auditorium

WORD

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

Make the Covenant News a part of your covenant life.