



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOOB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION BLD NEWARK'S 17th ANNIVERSARY

"But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance." (Luke 8:15)

August 21, 2009 was a memorable and joyous occasion, commemorating BLD Newark's 17th year anniversary. The Mass was celebrated by our Spiritual Director, Fr. Paul Lehman, and was con-celebrated by Father Robert Lamirez, Father Dennis Kaelin, and Father Chris Panlilio, assisted by Deacon Ed Olegario, Deacon Bong David and Deacon Serge Bernatchez.

Special blessing and anointing followed after the mass for:

- 1) Service Ministry Coordinators, Rudy and Rita Santos.
- 2) LSS #33 Seminar Team which includes Over-all LSS Seminar Coordinators: Rollie & Adel Camposagrado; Shepherd Coordinators: Class Shepherds Gerry & Gigi Cabunag (ME 33); Ed & Nanie de los Reyes (SPE 16); Carlos & Fe Masisado (SE 22). Action Team Coordinators: Mario & Cecile Salonga to be assisted by Ditto Fernando & Alyssa Sta. Ana (SM); Piety Team coordinators: Nick Feliciano & Libby Gutierrez (SPM).
- 3) All DLC members were also called to receive the blessing from Fr. Paul and of the community as they begin to tend the flock entrusted to them.

We praise and thank God for the 3 couples Andy & Bel Escano (ME 1-BLD Hong Kong), Jay & Salou Sobrepena (ME 138-BLD Manila), Roger & Irma Santiago (ME 6 -Hong Kong) who, along with a visiting priest from Manila, Fr. Larry Tan, started BLD as a community of faith and all those who have responded to God's call all these years.

As servant-hearted disciples we are inspired by our Community Covenant: "We believe that membership in the Spiritual Community of Bukas-Loob sa Diyos requires a total commitment of ourselves to the person of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. It means union of mind and heart and spirit with other Christian couples and their families, in obedience to God the Father and at the direction of the Holy Spirit. It means the operative beliefs that living in Jesus Christ is the essence of salvation, and that full Christian maturity develops only from true discipleship with Jesus Christ and love for others."

COUNSELS

RELIGION OF THE HEART

WORD: Dt 4: 1-2, 6-8; Ps 15: 2-5; Jas 1: 17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

ORDER: *"Be doers of the Word and not hearers only."* (Jas 1:22)

THEME: Jesus leads us to eternal life when we honor Him with our hearts and act on His word.

REFLECTION: Adherence to His laws and faithful compliance thereof are what our Lord wants us to do in our readings. In the first reading from the book of Deuteronomy, Moses enjoins his people to hear the statute of God and observe them carefully, without adding to or subtracting from it. In Psalm 15, David proclaims that *"one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord."* In this passage, in order to be considered a person who *"does justice and walks blamelessly,"* one must be honest or truthful and must speak ill of no one. He should not harm or shame anyone and he must honor those who fear the Lord. He carries a pure heart that seeks out the good of others. It goes without saying that to obey God's statutes is to walk blamelessly and do justice. The second reading directs us to *"humbly welcome the word,"* and *"be doers of the word and not hearers only."* It declares that if we are mere hearers of the word, we are just deluding or deceiving ourselves. This reading also speaks of pure and undefiled religion - one that cares for "orphans and widows in their affliction." Otherwise stated, it is a religion of the heart, one that espouses care, compassion and love for all our afflicted brothers and sisters. It is not divisive, not selfish nor selective. It is a religion that bonds everyone in Christ's love. In the Gospel, Jesus lashes out harsh words to the Pharisees who accuse His disciples of infringing upon an old tradition of hand-washing before meals. He calls these Pharisees hypocrites. The Pharisees became pre-occupied with so many rituals to make themselves look pure or holy but Jesus knew that their hearts remained vile. Bible scholars

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Promise of the Week

"Whoever walks blamelessly and does justice ...shall never be disturbed." (Ps 15:2, 5b)

Counsels from page 1

state that the Pharisees created 650 or so particularizations or additions to the 10 commandments. These included self purification rituals, cleansing of jugs, cups, kettles and even beds. The Pharisees treated these traditions and precepts as doctrines and they resented anyone who did not follow them. The Pharisees focused more on these rituals than on the real reasons for doing them. They were blinded from God's basic tenet for them to love one another. Jesus told them that they were worshipping God in vain. He reminded them of Isaiah's prophesy for them: ***"This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts."*** (Mk 7:6-7). Because the Pharisees were so engrossed with self purification ceremonies, Jesus expounded to them that what really defiles or makes one impure, is the evil thought that dwells inside one's heart. He said: ***"From within people, from their hearts come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly."*** (Mk 7:20). If we allow any of these evil thoughts to remain in our hearts, then no matter how many pious acts and purification rituals we may do, we will remain defiled, impure and unworthy to worship God. We thus need to empty our hearts of all evil thoughts and fill it with Christ's love. Only then can we truly worship the Lord.

"Be doers of the word, not hearers only." (Jas 1:22). We hear God's word whenever we attend mass or read the Bible. Some of us have read our Bibles from cover to cover. Some of us have Bibles full of marginal annotations and markings with multi-colored highlights indicating how much we studied the scriptures. Some of us even teach the Bible. This is all commendable and impressive but, if we do not follow God's commandments, then we are a failure in God's eyes. The greatest commandment of God is the commandment to love. Our vast knowledge of God's word is futile if we are unable to love our brothers and sisters. More often than not, this fundamental command can be quite challenging when we deal with persons who seem unlovable. This may happen in any place where we have someone who constantly ruins our day, or someone who caused us grief, anger or frustration. **True Christian love means loving the unlovable and forgiving the unforgivable.** Jesus forgave everyone who caused all His suffering in Calvary. Jesus loves us despite all our sins. As followers of Jesus, we are to emulate Him and aspire to have a forgiving and loving heart like His. This is a tall order. But this is the true test of our discipleship.

DIRECTIONS:

- 1) Read and understand our BLD Statutes and Policies
- 2) Encourage our members to support all our community's mission endeavors.

MAKE COVENANT NEWS A PART OF YOUR COVENANT LIFE

Visit our website at www.bldnewark.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BASIC PRAYER COUNSELING SEMINAR

Sept. 12, 7:30am-7pm | Sept. 13, 7:30am-6 PM

RAMADA LIMITED

2989 Hamilton Blvd, South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Registration fee is \$40 to cover food, snacks and booklet handouts. Please contact: Pastoral@BLDnewark.com

LSS #33 - Oct 2-4

St. Mary's Auditorium, Rahway

Contact: Rollic/Adel Camposagrado

John 6 Crossing #10 - Oct 24-25

St. Mary's Church, Rahway

Contacts: Boyet/Zita Cruz, Gene/Ruby Ymbong,
Ernest/Nellie Sun

TEACHING MINISTRY

August 28 – Friday (after worship)

Intercessory Immersion Teaching

ME 30 & Solo Parents

August 29 – Saturday 1-5pm (St. Mary's)

Allan Cruz' Body Talk Retreat

For Audiences: 13 years and up, Singles and Adults

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reasons to Believe - Dr. Scott Hahn Conference

Sept. 12 - Kellenbergh H.S. Auditorium

Admission - \$15 advance | \$20 at the door

Contact: Toti Conforti (516) 385-8963 toticon@aol.com

DCS-DLS Recollection - by Fr. Paul Lehman

Sept. 19 - St. Mark's

One heart, one mind, one body of loving service in His Vineyard

Life Issues Seminar 2009

Oct. 3 - Queen of Peace Church, North Arlington, NJ

For general admission - \$10, Students - \$5

Contact: Frank/Malou Venadas 973-562-0055

Traveling Catholics

For nationwide listing of Catholic Churches & Mass times, go to www.masstimes.org

LORD'S PROVISIONS

For Week Ending Aug. 21, 2009

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,968	126,819
Expenses	1,309	134,460
Surplus/(Deficit)	2,659	(7,641)

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

Thank you for your continued support!