



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 15 Issue 46

Bulletin Edition

Nov. 20, 2009

NEWS

You Are My Inheritance O Lord

HALLELUJAH!! Once again the Graces of our Lord God Almighty flowed abundantly over Marriage Encounter # 34. It was indeed a Spirit-filled encounter that was held at the Radisson Carteret Hotel from November 13 to 15, 2009. The Spiritual directors Fr. Paul Lehman and Fr. Dave Sison; Presentors- Boyie & Stella Huelgas, Nong & Tricia Bustos selflessly shared their lives and how the victory of living with Jesus Christ in the center of their lives enabled them to strengthen their marriage.

The members of ME # 34 were visibly touched, opened up during the sharing session, and responded with a resounding yes when asked if they were willing to sponsor ME # 35. It was evident that the message of love, trust, good communication and placing Christ in the center of their marriage was received with open hearts by the ME # 34 graduates: Arned/Marienne Arnan, Keith/Kathy Davis, Willy & Amor Ferrer, Louis & Kles Hernandez, Juan & Mary Ann Lomibao*, Earl & Florence Manguiat, Melchor & Anjou Martinez*, Michael & Ana Moore, Diego & Arlene Mora, Paul & Caroline Okereke, Mario & Carmen Olazo*, Robert & Emily Padoginog, Barry & Tawnie Scymanski, Willy & Mary Sumandal, and Mateo & Precy Yap*. (* Coordinators).

The sponsoring class, auxies, prayer warriors, and members of the Praise Ministry all worked tirelessly & gave freely of their time, talent and treasure to give glory to God. Certainly, the Lord answered our prayers for the success of the weekend. Father of all that is good, keep us faithful in serving you, for to serve you is our lasting joy. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever.

"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! ...When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you." (Jer 29: 11-12)

All praise and Glory be unto Him!

COUNSELS

Solemnity Of Christ The King

WORD: Dn 7:13-14; Ps 93:1-2,5; Rev 1:5-8; Jn 18:33b-37

THEME: We have the righteousness of Christ when we testify to the truth of His kingship.

ORDER: **"Be a faithful witness like Jesus Christ."**
(Rev 1:5)

REFLECTION:

This Sunday, we are celebrating the Solemnity of Christ the King and we are encouraged to contemplate Christ in His glorified state as King of all creation...**"the first born of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth... the Alpha and the Omega...the One Who is and Who was and Who is to come."** (Rev 1:5-7). This feast also reminds us that as members of Christ's body...we have a supernatural destiny to a Kingdom that "is not of this world" as Jesus said to Pilate: **"My kingdom does not belong to this world...as it is, my kingdom is not here."** (Jn 18:36).

Jesus came to reveal God's love for humanity. He came in a mysterious manner from the beginning of His earthly life until He rose again in glory...Scripture verses in the Old and New Testament says that: **"The Son of Man coming amid the clouds was presented to God and received dominion, glory and kingship (Dn 7:13) ... every eye will see Him even those who pierced Him."** (Rev 1:7) However, Jesus was not recognized and received as the King that He was His kingship was rejected and mocked. People of old were looking for a person of royalty, pomp and glory for their Messiah. Jesus, the "lowly carpenter from Nazareth" was not the person they were looking for. They failed to see the kingly power in all the work that He has done before their very eyes. They did not understand that Jesus' kingdom is not about prestige, earthly power and authority, but it is a kingdom of humble service and obedience to the Voice of God. There were kings and earthly royalty during

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"Your decrees are worthy of trust indeed; holiness befits Your house." (Ps 93:5)

Good Morning God

I have been a covenant disciple for almost six years now and I still struggle in being faithful with my desire to spend the first few minutes of my waking time with the Lord. I know the importance of daily prayer in my Christian walk. Just as a child needs food to grow physically, so I need food to grow spiritually. I can miss a meal and not feel any ill effects, but if I don't eat for a week I will begin to weaken physically. So it is in my spiritual life. If Jesus was so dependent upon His fellowship in prayer alone with His Father, how much more should I spend time alone with God. **"Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed."** (Mark 1:3-5)

Christian life can be compared to a soldier in battle. He is out on the front lines but is connected with his commanding officer by radio. He calls and tells of the conditions and problems he is facing. His commanding officer, who from his vantage point can see the entire battle area, gives him instructions. Similarly, the Christian shares his joys and sorrows, his victories and defeats, and his needs as God instructs and guides him through His Word. My Heavenly Father directs me in the daily challenges in my life. He knows the steps I should take. I must take time to be still, listen to Him and seek for guidance, wisdom and strength.

Why do I struggle in my prayer time? It is because I do not make prayer my top priority. Time for God is more important, and yet, I choose to sleep longer or do house chores or other tasks. I pray the rosary on my way to work and remember Him throughout my day but I yearn to make devotion time a part of my everyday life. I know that He will refresh my soul and give me the peace I need to continue to be a true and faithful disciple. I have experienced the results and fruits of starting my day with my Lord. I have been able to commune with Him first thing in the early morning and have experienced its value. But this accomplishment only happens for a few days and again I fall back to laziness and forgetting my desire to be a better disciple.

My failing though should not dampen my spirit or stop me from trying again, for I know that God is patient and will be there waiting for me. I must persevere, try again, until early devotional time becomes a habit and a part of my daily ritual. I cannot wait for the day, that I can truly say that, first thing each day, I am able to be still and be with the Lord for the first thirty minutes of the morning and say "Good morning God".

"To you I pray, O Lord: at dawn you will hear my cry; at dawn I will plead before you and wait." (Psalm 4:4)

What Do You Want Me To Do For You?

Who can withstand the pain of persecution, job loss, being uprooted from their comfort zone, deception, drugs, loss of possessions, infidelity, financial tragedy, if not for the surpassing power of God? How can one have survived the pain of being denied of a loved one when she has given her all? **"I kept faith, even when I said I am greatly afflicted."** (Psalm 116:10)

The past three years have been to say the least, rough. The future overwhelms me with fear. **"Let my prayer come before you; rescue me according to your promise."** (Psalm 119:170)

One Sunday morning, above all the anguish, I was faced with a situation showing the helplessness of my son. Deep in my heart were worry, care and hurt. My son was denied of what is so precious to him, not only for a day, but for weeks and months. This caused me so much pain, that I spent hours of prayers for my son and the people who have done this to him. **"O God, whom I praise, do not be silent ...In return for my love they slander me even though I prayed for them."** (Psalm 109:1-5).

Like Mary who grieved as she met her son carrying His cross on His way to Calvary, my heart was pierced with pain for my son. I could have exercised my position to get what my son deserved but the word in Psalm 119:11 sustained me, **"In my heart I treasure your promise, that I may not sin against you."** My unwavering faith kept me strong as I prayed unceasingly. In Luke 18:35-43 Jesus asked, **"What do you want me to do for You?"** Like the blind beggar by the roadside, I cried loud and asked God to bring back everything into order: my life, my family, my children and my grandchild. I prayed that people may open their eyes and see what is right, good, and fair.

Everyday I feel I have nothing, I carry nothing, but my *expectant faith* that God will grant my prayer and put things right with my son and the lives of people who are dear to me. This unwavering faith carried me through when I went to the courthouse to support my son in connection with his right and his child. Through the intercession of friends, far and near, God is true to His promise. He responded to our call. My son's desire and prayers were granted.

Glory and praise to you, Oh God of justice, for You never forsake your people! I asked, and I was given more. I bow in reverence for You are a faithful and Answering GOD, Amen!

I thank the Lord for His faithfulness. And I know this is just a beginning. The restoration is not yet finish. I keep my bended knees on the ground giving the Lord the worship and praises due to His greatness to me, for I need to give Him His worship, FOR HE IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL.

Counsel (from page 1)

Jesus' time on earth. But He gave no opposition to those in authority. In fact, when He was asked if paying census tax to Caesar was lawful or not, He said: **"Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."** (Mk 12:17) Jesus spoke with such authority that people including Pilate were confounded by the way He answered something they had never heard before. His authority was more profound than any earthly power. They wondered: **"By what authority did He do all the things He had done...and who gave Him this authority?"** (Mt 21:23) It was only the good thief who recognized Jesus' kingly glory when he said: **"Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."** (Lk 23:42). Would we have recognized Jesus Christ the King when He was being scourged and crucified? Who do we say Jesus is to us? Is He truly the King of our lives?

Each one of us is called to participate in the building of the kingdom of God...and we are to complete the work that God in Christ has begun in us. We are to participate in the restoration of a new kingdom that is full of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, love and peace. We are called to bring to fulfillment the kingdom of God on earth. However, in order to accomplish this kingly mission, Christ must reign in our minds, in our wills and in our actions. We are admonished to serve in love and service for the glory of God and not for our own glory.

In our community, some of us are discerned and anointed to take on leadership responsibilities to accomplish the community's mission and vision while the rest of us are to support the smooth flow and success of planned activities. Whether we are the servant leaders or members of the support group we are reminded to always emulate the humility and servant-hood of Jesus. We are encouraged to lead our lives as renewed disciples and to live out the teachings that we have learned especially on "dying to self", humility, service, obedience and respect for authority.

All His earthly life, Jesus was an example of humility and obedience to the Father, an example of love and peace, of compassion and mercy. He is a Master meek and humble of heart who announced salvation to the poor and desires for us to serve as He served. He said to the apostles in Lk 22:27: **"I am among you as the one who serves."**...and He also said in Mk 11:44-45: **"the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve."**

Father God Almighty, in Your compassionate love for us You have sent Your Only Begotten Son to save us from eternal damnation. Help us to love Jesus as King of our life. Let Your Holy Spirit enlighten and guide us. Lead us to Jesus' path of righteousness. Keep us safe within the sheep-fold of the Good Shepherd. Help us to be good witnesses and emulate Jesus' humility and obedience, patience and understanding in the discharge of our responsibilities within the community, in our homes and workplaces. **Continued →**

My Walk With God Before And After SPE

When I was asked to write a short reflection on my spiritual transformation before and after the Solo Parents Encounter weekend, I felt hesitant for several reasons and writing is one of my weakness. After some soul searching and questioning, praying for guidance, the Lord opened my eyes. John 14:20-21 **"on that day you will realize that I am in My Father, and you are in Me and I am in you. Whoever has My commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves Me. He who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love him and show Myself to him."**

When I joined the Solo Parent Encounter three years ago, I was a widow for 18 years in the Philippines. My daughter was only two years old and life was a struggle to say the least. Through prayers, hard work and perseverance, I was able to put myself to school through scholarship and graduated with a Masters Degree in Religious Education through American Jesuit Priest Scholarship.

As I struggled to give myself and my daughter a good home and a better life, I also desired to use the spiritual gifts that the Lord has abundantly given me. The answer came, when A Religious Visa was granted and gave me an opportunity to work as a Director of Religious Education in the U.S. I thought this is the answer to all my problems. However, the job opportunity was not what I envisioned it to be. I was discouraged and losing faith. I prayed for guidance and the answer came when a friend asked me to join the Solo Parent Encounter sponsored by BLD Newark. There, I found a new spiritual experience, how to unmask my feelings. Though my experience is on religious education, I found the encounter to be especially rewarding, the support and prayers of the community that helped me when I lost my job. Through God's mercy, I am again gainfully employed.

Lord Jesus, in prayer, I bring to You my emptiness. Your unending love and provision, You satisfied my needs. **"He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him."** (Psalm 91:15)



Christ The King

Help us to be still and listen to Your sweet small Voice. Grant us the wisdom to know Your Kingdom revealed in Jesus. Let this kingdom reign and rule in our lives! Amen.

DIRECTIONS

Testify to the truth and listen to His Voice.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVANGELIZATION SERVICES

BIBLE STUDY - Conducted by Fr. Dennis Kaelin
St. Mary's & St. Mark's Parish
St. Mary's School, Rm 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 - **ME 24 (Nov. 28)**
Tony/Linda Avisado, Benru/Elsa Etcubanas 908-687-1945

Medical Mission

February 22-25, 2010 - **Mauban, Quezon**
Mosty & Ling Garcia 908-222-0550 mtg7lra@aol.com

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

SAVE THE DATE

Disciples Assembly

Please reserve **Jan. 9, 2010** for our next Disciples
Assembly. All committed and covenanted disciples are
highly encouraged to attend. There will be no teachings,
or any reunions/parties to conflict with this date RSVP
to secretariat for valid excuses.

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SE 23 - Nov 20-22

Graymoor Retreat Center, Garrison, NY
Contacts: Carlos/Fe Masisado masisadoc@yahoo.com,
Manny/Arlene Mangalonzo arlenemanny@gmail.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

Nov 20 Teaching - **Mark 10, John 6, Youth**

Nov 21 Washing of the Feet & Agony in the Garden –
LSS 31 & 32

Dec 04 CDFP Overview/Intro to the Word – **ME 34**

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

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING NOV. 13, 2009

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,589	183,075
Expenses	7,250	190,338
Surplus & (Deficit)	(3,661)	(7,263)

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Ondoy Disaster Relief Fund	11,697.00
Dinner Dance Net Income	10,903.93

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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. MARY'S ROOF REPAIRS

Help St. Mary's & St. Mark's with its roof repairs by going
through the parish website when you do your Christmas
shopping and other purchases at amazon.com.
Visit www.stmarystmarkparish.com.
Click on link or go to gift shop page.

A Day Of Reflection for Married Couples

Holy Family Church, Nov. 21 – 9-4:30pm

Rev. John F. Gordon – Retreat Director
Fee: 95/couple (in advance)–lunch included
Pre-registration required – space is limited
Further info contact: 973-497-4323

St. Antoninus Christ the King Sunday

Praying for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit
Nov. 22 - 10am Mass, Fr. Bill Halbing, Celebrant
337 So. Orange Ave., Newark, NJ 07103
Contacts: George/MaryAnn McGehrin 201-933-5983 or
Eileen O'Hara 973- 623-0258

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

Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"