



NEWS

GOD HAS THE POWER TO CHANGE!

Family Encounter #16, July 17-19, Malvern, PA

Thus boomed Fr. Pete Literal's voice – just one of many deep insights revealed by the Holy Spirit to everyone at FE 16 this past week-end.

Twelve families answered His call to stop everything else and instead invested time and effort in the dearest, most important people in their lives – each other. Sixty people, altogether, listened as God transformed and helped them remove the blocks in their relationships with the help of the Raagas and Calilap families' intimate sharing about their own journeys.

Sixty people, forever changed; twelve families, via introspection and communication, finding renewed love, unity, strength, family members, re-discovering both God and each other. Among the homesteads during the weekend were those of the families: Abad*, Bautista, Bayudan, Fabe, Felibrico, Furman, Ikalina*, McSpedon, Ortiz*, Pascoguin*, Talavera, and Tiu.

Four families had this to share:

"...Had a great time... felt that it was a good experience to help us grow closer as a family."

"We thank the Good Lord for giving us this opportunity to spend time together... brought us closer together, closer to God."

"FE Weekend was awesome! We grew and understood each other more... nice wholesome, prayerful, peaceful..."

"... Enriching and fruitful ... where young/old, sons/daughters, fathers and mothers find comfort, healing, joy, and peace from each other through Christ, the Son of God, our Redeemer."

It was indeed an encounter with the Holy Spirit, and offered up a "shift in the paradigm" of life and relationships. As Fr. Pete declared, yes, "there is a right way, and that is GOD'S WAY!!!"

Many thanks were proffered: to FE 15, Praise and Family Life Apostolate Ministries, auxies, BLD, and most overwhelmingly, to our God Almighty!

Praise and Thanks to You Lord!!! (*Coordinators)

COUNSELS

PEACE and UNITY

WORD: 2 Kings 4: 42-44; Ps 145: 10-11, 15-18; Eph 4: 1-6; John 6: 1-15

ORDER: Preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace (*Eph 4:3*)
Live in a manner worthy of the call you have received (*Eph 4:1*)

THEME: We partake in Christ's prophetic mission when we are united in the bond of peace under one Spirit.

REFLECTION:

This Sunday's Gospel is about the miracle of the multiplication of loaves and fish. It is the only miracle found in all four gospels pointing to its singular importance among the many miracles our Lord performed. In this story, we see a reference to the Eucharist and its meaning in the life of the people of God.

St. Paul in the second reading, exhorts all Christians in Ephesus and worldwide, then and now, 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...*" (Ep 4: 1-3), summarizing in a few words what it means to be a follower of Christ. It gives a list of virtues that Christians need to cultivate to live a life united with Christ and with one another within our community and in the Body of Christ.

So what are those virtues?

- Humility- Before the Christian era, humility was seen as a shameful, and menial quality in contrast to how Christians see it at the forefront of all virtues. Christian humility comes out of self-knowledge, in the realization and acceptance of our own

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Promise of the Week

"The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth." (Ps 145: 18)

HIS Life In Us



How do we let His life live in us despite the: challenges, struggles, disappointments and temptations we endure on a daily basis? 2 Cor 4: 7 says, *“But we hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us”*.

As Christians we are taught at a young age to live a Christ-like life with Christ-like values. Our decision in life focuses on whether it is acceptable to our families, our peers, our community but most of all to God. We begin to encounter various experiences that shake our fragile faith or trust in God like death of a loved one, challenges in marriages, unsuccessful relationships, disabilities, physical imperfections, financial hardships, or the lack of knowledge. Sometimes we begin to face temptations that tamper with our morality like fornication, sexual experimentations, or adultery. These events lead us to stray from the God we know to the god we think he should be. We become afflicted in many ways leading us to despair. He reminds us in 2 Cor 4:8-9, *“We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted but not abandoned; struck down but not destroyed...”*.

How is it possible for us to allow Jesus to live in us through these experiences we encounter? As we continue to gain more knowledge, yearning to deepen our relationship with the Father, we also face more challenges through that journey. Through our own heart's desires of being passionately in love with Him we will have the strength and courage to overcome hardships that come our way. A gradual process, a challenging obstacle, God continues to persevere in us. The journey of life is never a smooth road going through various phases of our lives, but it gets easier when we begin to decrease more of ourselves and increase Him in us. He assures us that when we receive the Eucharist, we are always carrying in us the body of Jesus so that His life may also manifest in us, *“... For we who live are constantly being given up to death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So, death is at work in us, but life in you”* 2 Cor 4:11.

Allowing Jesus to live in our lives is a personal choice. Taking my personal choice to walk with God, allowing Jesus to live in me gives me the comfort of knowing that *“Everything is for us, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the Glory of God”* 2 Cor 4:15.

THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVANTHOOD

In the secular world to be called a servant is not a compliment, it is degrading and humiliating. It usually means to be lower than others, a 2nd class citizen. It signifies to many a lower value or worth of the person. And it usually means that you are not a *“person of privilege”*, but that you are a lower being who serves a *“person of privilege”*.

But in God's Kingdom to be called His servant is the highest of privileges and the highest possible status, calling or role. When God calls you to be His servant, it is a privilege and honor that no one deserves, and yet God out of His grace and mercy gives. It is in praising God every day that we receive the great joy and privilege of knowing Him, and of being allowed to join Him in His Kingdom work. What an amazing journey it is to walk with the Living God, and to have a personal relationship with Him.

The greatest need in the world today is for the Church to follow the example of her Lord and Master and serve the nations of the world better than anyone else. The ultimate key to leadership is the full manifestation of servanthood. The words of the Lord Jesus could not be simpler: *“The greatest among you must be your servant.”* (Matthew 23:11).

True greatness comes through serving others. There is no greater task – those who serve best are those who are worthy to lead. True servants are not concerned about rank, privileges, titles, and benefits. A servant wants to give his life, meeting the needs of others and finds it as a privilege. If one can do that through a position of responsibility, then it should be accepted with an open heart. So if such position is taken away and given to someone else, that should not really matter either. Nothing should change in his heart in serving in God's vineyard. Titles and positions may be means to the end, but the goal of the any servant, be it a leader or a follower, is simply to serve by Christ's example.

“...Blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.” (Matthew 13:6-7).

Every Christian must follow Jesus Christ by becoming a servant to all. Let us put our faith into actions and accept the challenge of changing nations through Christian servanthood. We must set our hearts on serving people and nations in the Spirit and in truth. If we emphasize authority, then we will end up in tyranny but if we properly emphasize serving God and serving people with selfless act and love, then it is a blessing for we can see Christ in them and hear Christ speaking to our hearts, which truly is a great privilege.

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www.bldnewark.com**

Mary Magdalene

Before Mary Magdalene was a devoted follower of Jesus, she was a sinner. Identified as a prostitute in Christian tradition, she had been possessed by seven demons which Jesus cast from her (Luke 8:2). Mary began to follow Jesus after she was cured and *"help[ed] to support [Jesus and his disciples] out of [her] own means"* (Luke 8:3).

As one of Jesus' most dedicated followers, Mary Magdalene was present for most of the events surrounding the Crucifixion. She witnessed Jesus' trial and heard Pontius Pilate pronounce the death sentence; she saw Jesus beaten by the Roman soldiers and humiliated by the crowd; she was one of the women who tried to comfort Him on His way to Golgotha, where He was to be crucified. She watched from a distance as Jesus hung on the cross and breathed his last (Mark 15:37,40) and as He was placed in a tomb.

On the day of the Resurrection, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb with two other women. They had *"bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body"* (Mark 16:1). An angel appeared to them and said that Jesus had risen from the dead. Mary Magdalene was also the first to whom Jesus appeared after the Resurrection. He tells her, *"Go out instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"* (John 20:17).

For the past several years, historians and archaeologists have attempted to provide evidence that she wrote a gospel and was married to Jesus. They are, in a sense, uncovering the secrets that were left out of the Bible. But these "secrets" are not the important lessons we can learn from Mary Magdalene's example. From a few simple verses we gain a role model for devotion to Christ. She was a faithful witness to God's grace. She proclaimed, *"I have seen the Lord!"* (John 20:18) and thus testified that Jesus fulfilled the promise as written in the Scriptures, that the Son of Man would rise on the third day. She sustained God's will by supporting Jesus and his disciples with her money and her own work. Finally, God rewarded her love for His son; the name of Mary Magdalene was recorded in each gospel as a memorial to her devotion, and Jesus appeared to her personally after the Resurrection as a tribute to her great love for him. We, too, must be faithful witnesses and supporters of God's work in our world so that when we leave this life, we will be rewarded for our love for God and our devoted actions for his people.

Like all of us, Mary Magdalene was a sinner, but she did amazing works for the glory of God. We should follow her example while bearing in mind the message of 2 Corinthians 8:5: *"And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will."*

**For Mass & Adoration schedule
within the U.S.A.**

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORD:

Share your walk/faith/transformation in the Lord with the community thru an article (450 words max.).
Email to word@BLDNewark.com

MISSION:

Soup Kitchen
Missionary of Sisters of Charity
60 Jay Street, Newark NJ
Every 4th Saturday of the Month
July 25 - Volunteers needed
Frank & Malou Venadas – Contact Persons
973-562-0055

AUG 22 - ME 20

Please contact: Roger/Pina Coquia
Mosty/Ling Garcia 908-222-0550

Nursing Home Visit – Volunteers Needed

Every 2nd Saturday of the Month
Hamilton Plaza Nursing Home
56 Hamilton Avenue, Passaic, NJ 07055
Audie & Vulet Chong (732) 356-9056

Save the Date:

Medical Mission 2010 - Feb. 22-25 (Venue - TBD)
Contact: Mosty & Ling Garcia 908-659-8940 or 732-547-1917

Healing Prayer Service & Eucharistic Celebration

Every first Monday of the month at 8:00 pm
Resurrection Parish-St. Bridget Church
372 Montgomery St Jersey City, NJ 07302

2000 Hail Marys Devotion & Eucharistic Celebration

Every last Saturday of the month,
starts at 8:30am except December
Resurrection Parish-St. Bridget Church
372 Montgomery St Jersey City, NJ 07302

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**August 7- Archbishop Lagdameo's pastoral visit w/
the eucharistic celebration - St. Helen Westfield NJ**

**August 15, 2009 - BLD Newark 17th Year
Anniversary Celebration - Community Day**
Johnson Park, Piscataway NJ 8:30 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.
Contact: Manny/Nette Manguiat 201-355-0439

August 21- BLD'S 17th year anniversary mass

August 29- Allan Cruz's Body Talk retreat 1-5 pm
Target audience - age 13 and up singles and adult

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unworthiness as seen from the standard of Christ's perfect life. It comes from our sense of creatureliness who are in absolute dependence on God, our Creator.

- The second virtue is gentleness or meekness. One who possesses this virtue is the person who is always angry at the right time and never angry at the wrong time. He is kindled by indignation at the wrongs and sufferings of others but is never moved to anger by the wrongs and insults that he himself has to bear. He is the person who has every instinct and every passion under perfect control, not self-controlled but God-controlled.
- The third virtue is patience or long-suffering. It is the spirit that never gives in and endures to the end despite discouragements, misfortunes, and sufferings. It bears insult and injury without bitterness and complaint, remains gracious with unpleasant people and fools alike showing the patience towards his fellowmen which God has shown him.
- The fourth quality is love- the *agape* kind of love- the quality of mind and heart which compels a Christian never to feel any bitterness, nor any desire for revenge. It is the ability to seek the highest good for every man, the unlovely and unlovable, those who do not love us and even those whom we do not like.

As we humble ourselves, become gentle, patient and loving to one another, peace cannot be far behind and unity would be a given. But this will never be realized as long as we put ourselves in the center of things. When the self dies and Christ becomes the center of things, then we become united as "*one body and one Spirit... 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.*" (Ep 4:4-6)

As we go back to the Gospel, we meet Philip and Andrew and the little boy. They each had their own opposing beliefs, convictions and positions. Setting aside their own differences of opinions and following the Lord's guidance, they were able to accomplish the impossible task of feeding the huge crowd in an orderly manner. With everyone doing their part, peace and unity reigned and the mission was accomplished.

As our community continues to grow, we are faced with the challenges of community and mission work in our ministries. It may not be surprising that conflicts and disagreements may arise with just as many different opinions, ideas and attitudes that come out as there are members in our ministries. In those situations, are we a Philip, an Andrew or the little boy? Can we put ourselves aside and follow the higher calling to humility, gentleness, patience, and love to "*preserve the unity of spirit through the bond of peace*"? Can we forsake of the need for recognition, relevance, power, and honor just like He did on the Cross to become the Body and Blood given to sustain us that we may have life with Him? Let us bring to Jesus what little we have to enable Him to multiply them and nourish us in our journey. Nothing is impossible with God as He is always with us, the source of our strength. He is indeed "*near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.*" (Ps 145:18)

DIRECTIONS: Practice humility, be gentle and patient, bear with one another.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sagip Ka Eskuela program (Save a School Child)

Bring your old or unused School Supplies
St. Mary's Church (Fellowship Area)
Ruben/Luz Amarante 908-810-1231
Rubenluz@verizon.net
Cez/Pinky Calingo – 308-230-3660
Gene/Bing Ymbong – 308-406-6955

BIBLE STUDY

ST. MARY & ST. MARK PARISH

Conducted by Fr. Dennis Kaelin

Every Friday, 7:30-8:00 pm

St. Mary's School, Room 104

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

Visit to the Shrines of the Jesuit Martyrs, Canada

Dates: August 3-12, 2009

Price: \$215

Contact info: fr.colum.power@avemaria.edu

Life Issues Seminar 2009

October 3, 2009, Saturday

Queen of Peace Church,
North Arlington, NJ

General admission - \$10.00 Students - \$5.00

Contact: Frank/Malou Venadas (973)562-0055

TEACHING SCHEDULE

July 24, 2009 (Friday after worship)

Golden Years Teaching

LSS 29 Intercessory Formation

LSS 30 Christian Servanthood

Solo Parents – Encounter with Jesus (Matthew)

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Weekly Budget	6,121
Collections	2,661
Budget Surplus/(Deficit)	(3,460)*
Other Collections	8,903**
Expenses	8,555
Surplus/(Deficit)	348

* Weekly collections remain lower than the projected weekly budget and continue to be a **major concern**.

** Other collections were from encounter registration fees and reserve funds subsidization.