



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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Bulletin Edition

October 9, 2009

NEWS

A Bountiful Harvest

All praises and thanksgiving to the Almighty Father for the bountiful harvest of His beloved children at the Life in the Spirit Seminar #33 last 02 October 2009 until 03 October 2009 held at St Mary's in Rahway, NJ. We thank the good Lord for the lambs who have answered His call and for opening up their invitation to seat at the Lord's banquet. 56 lambs who came from encounters held for married couples, singles and solo parents and non-encountered individuals are Olga Abrogue, Vic and Lourdes Alas, Dawn Aliparo, Joe Appel, Bryan, Atienza, Susan Banzuela, Rujenne Barrera, Ram Bautista, Armi and Ed Bayudan, Malou Blankas, Wilma Borja, Angelo Canlas, Jayjay and Abi Castaneda, Pedro and Maria Castano, Shirley Castro, Verson and Raquel Casuple, Hernan and Cristina Catalon, Roman Damaso, Larissa DaRocha, Lia Dela Cruz, Maris Fandino, Fr. Robert Lamirez, Rem Leano, Estel Maido, Claire Mariano, Rose McHugh, Jason Mendiola, Nikolas and Ijeoma Nwaigwe, Erlinda Oandasan, Charisse Ompod, Jonathan Panlilio, Derek Pineda, John and Mardi Ramos, Erwin Razon, TepTep Rigor, Melissa Rios, Kristel Roz, April Santos, Fe Subida, Simon Peter Tiu, Diana Valdez, Ed and Joann Valencia, Bernadette Velez, Gladys Vicari, Maria Yangas, Joy Yuzon, and Mar Zafra.

To GOD be the glory!!!



COUNSELS

Give Up All

WORD: Wis 7:7-11; Ps 90:12-17;
Heb 4:12-13; Mk 10:17-30

ORDER: *"Give to the poor and you will have treasures in heaven; then come, follow me."* (Mk 10:21)

THEME: We are faithful to Christ when we renounce our worldliness and follow His word.

REFLECTION:

Imagine that we are the rich man in the gospel narrative. We have run up to Jesus, knelt before Him and asked Him, *"Lord, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"* Suppose the Lord answers as He did in the gospel, *"You know the commandments: you shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother."*

Before responding, note that the Lord used the word know in the sense of faithful observance, not merely mental knowledge. The rich man understood this correctly, when he responded *"Lord, all these I have observed from my youth."* Can we honestly say, *"Lord, all these I have observed since I joined BLD?"*

"Jesus, looking at him..." When the Lord looks at us, what will He see? *"No creature is concealed from Him, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must render an account."* This thought alone should bring us to urgently plea, *"Lord, have mercy!"* Thankfully, the Lord sees not as man sees. For when we see our brother sinning, what comes to our heart? Is it judgment or compassion? Are we moved to condemn or to correct? Do we run away from our brother or run to him that ***Continued on page 3***

Promise of the Week

"All things are possible for God." (Mk 10:27b)

"Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart." (Ps 90:12)

Martha Or Mary

On his way to Jerusalem, Jesus passed the town of Bethany where his friends Martha, Mary and their brother, Lazarus lived. As in any hospitable Jewish household, Martha welcomed our Lord, prepared the meal and served him and his disciples. Mary on the other hand, sat at his feet and listened attentively to what he said. *“Martha, burdened with much serving came to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me.” The Lord said to her in reply, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.” (Lk 10:40-42)*

What was wrong with cooking and serving, welcoming and showing hospitality to guests who were tired and hungry from a long journey? There was no doubt about Martha's good intention and her love for Jesus. Jesus, however reproached her because of her anxiety and worry, NOT on the value of her work. Martha who was worried about many things, did not have a sense of peace or fulfillment as she served our Lord. Her gaze was focused somewhere else, not on our Lord. As disciples of Christ, we are to sanctify our lives through our work. As we do so, anxiety and disquiet, fear and apprehension do not lead us closer to that goal.

On the other hand, was it enough for Mary to listen and sit at our Lord's feet and not care about how to make their guests feel welcome and comfortable? How meaningful can one's life of prayer and contemplation be if it does not bear fruit in deeds of charity, friendship and work well done?

The story of Martha and Mary has often been used to illustrate the two aspects of a disciple's life- Martha being held as the symbol of the active life and Mary as that of contemplative life. But a true disciple's heart incorporates both elements, service and contemplation, in his/her life of service to the Lord. A life immersed in active ministry without the contemplative dimension leads to dryness and burnout. A life lived wholly in contemplation with no sense of outreach resembles a cult and does not live out the faith of the New Testament. They are complementary to one another.

As we reflect about our own discipleship, do we see elements of Martha and Mary in us? What makes us feel empowered to do our work in community? God's Word and ministry are necessarily linked together though they may be difficult to balance. One without the other is not complete.

Born In God's Image And Likeness - We Are Divine Image

Most of us, if not all, started our intimate personal relationship with God through BLD in our encounter that was strengthened and brought to life in our LSS. Is this all that God has gifted us to have? The Catechism of the Catholic Church 1702 tells us that we have God's divine image. **“The divine image is present in every man. It shines forth in the communion of persons, in the likeness of the unity of the divine persons among themselves”**. If so, God's gift for us is more than our encounters and seminars. **To be God's divine image**, His grace and our firm decision to be one is all we need.

Allow me to share my experience preparing a couple for their wedding, to illustrate my point. In explaining to the couple the difference of having their wedding within, as opposed to being outside the mass, I pointed out that the celebration of the Eucharist is the highest form of prayer. As such the grace that God desires to give us is full and total in the Eucharist. With that, the bride passionately and emotionally in tears said, “Do you mean God will not bless our wedding if done outside the mass?” To clarify my point, I explained to them that the amount of grace received will not be the same. Her difficulty lies in her faith that God loves her fully; therefore God's grace will not depend on the form of their wedding. Recognizing her difficulty, I tried helping her understand God's unconditional love is given to all. What we do in life will not change God's love for us. However, our decision influenced by our freewill, which is God's greatest sign of that love, will define the amount of grace we receive. As the bride understood my point, I invited her to explore the reason for her passionate and emotional response to my earlier explanation. She realized that because her father's mother never acknowledged her father's marriage to her mother, she and her brother were never considered to be part of the family, even on the deathbed of her brother. My explanation made her experience the pain she continuously feels from not having the love she desired from her grandmother. As a community that believes we are God's divine image, our personal and intimate relationship with Him should be in the light of this divine image. Do we fully know who we are to the degree of *knowing, understanding* and *accepting* what influences our life? What have we done to overcome our brokenness to receive God's full and total grace – understanding the difference in grace received (as in a wedding within vs. outside the mass?) To what degree have we lived and reflected upon God's divine image within us?

JESUS LOVES YOU!

Counsel (from page 1)

we may bring him back to the Lord?

“Jesus, looking at him, loved him” This verse captures God’s deepest essence- love. God sees our sins and all, yet His love for us remains as great and as unfathomable as ever. And because *Deus caritas est*, the Lord guides us to the road leading to salvation. ***“You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”***

What is that one thing that the rich man was lacking? He may have tried to faithfully observe all the commandments summed up in the 2nd great commandment: ***“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*** (Mk 12:31) But his love of neighbor was hollow, because his love of God was lacking: ***“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.”*** (Mk 12:30) When the Lord looked at the man, He saw that the man’s heart was in his earthly possessions. His love for wealth competed with his love for God.

The Lord’s sermon on the mount regarding the foolishness of worldly wealth is clear: ***“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth...but store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”*** (Mt 6:19-21) ***“You can not serve God and mammon.”*** (Mt 6:24) ***“But seek first the kingdom of God and is righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.”*** (Mt 6:33)

Some might be tempted to say, I am not rich, so that teaching does not apply to me. Perhaps our treasure comes in other forms. Am I attached to power and authority that I would zealously protect my turf against an interloper? Am I attached to my ideas and preferences that I would insist on always having my way? Am I attached to my personal good or that of my “group” that I would actively advocate for them even at the expense of common good? To identify our mammon, ask these questions: What opposing love competes against our love for God? What rival throne wages war against Jesus’ lordship in our life?

Hearing the Lord’s command to go sell what he had and give to the poor, the man’s ***“face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.”*** He did not love God enough to give up his possessions. Why does giving to the poor equate to love of God? Jesus Himself said: **continued →**

What BLD Means To Me

Although worship is sometimes long
And way past midnight when we get home
How my life has been changed
Through BLD, closer to Jesus I’ve become.

No longer do I wander aimlessly
Once the week-end has begun
Fridays, Saturdays, sometimes Sundays
Even weekdays, We make best use of our time.

Long ago I promised God
That someday I will do what I can
To serve Him once I’m older
And have a little bit more time.

Through BLD, now I’ve realized
That after all,
When all’s said and done
For God I can really make time.

Now that He has, BLD, to me provided
Now I must, do whatever I can
No better place than here
No better time than now

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

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,

London/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

Deadline for Ads: Oct. 15, 2009

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Mt 25:40)

Contrast the rich man’s reaction to that of Peter and the other disciples: “We have given up everything and followed you.” The “Give up all” is the third of four “spiritual phases” of our Christian Discipleship Formation Program, the one preceding the “Follow me” phase- our life as covenant disciples. Can we truly say as Peter did, we have given up all to follow You?

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal Oct. 24, 2009 9:00am-5:00pm

Men's Retreat Day - The Courage of Pope John Paul II
A Challenge to Men to Live a Courageous Gospel Life
Most Blessed Sacrament Friary 375 13th Ave, Newark, NJ 07103
Registration 8:00am, **Main Speaker-George Weigel**
Space is limited - To pre-register please call 973-622-6622
For More Information: www.franciscanfriars.com

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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 Mangalonzo 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**

Nov 7 Advanced Intercession & Intro to Spiritual Warfare
LSS 29 & 30
Christian Maturity Program II - **LSS 31**
Encounter with Jesus - **LSS 32**

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

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 OCT. 2, 2009

| | Actual | YTD |
|-------------------|---------|----------|
| Collections | 2,151 | 149,398 |
| Expenses | 5,839 | 161,070 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | (3,688) | (11,673) |

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Ondoy Disaster Relief Fund 6,193

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

Make the Covenant News a part of your covenant life.