



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 15 Issue 36

Bulletin Edition

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## NEWS

*"Shout joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom we belong, whose people we are, God's well-tended flock." (Ps 100:1b, 3)*

### SE 20 Committed Disciples Commissioning

On Friday, September 4, 2009, the BLD-Newark Community proudly witnessed the commissioning of its newest SE committed disciples. They were from SE20, namely: Nile Solon, Oleen Solon, Marvin Venadas, Kevin Salmo, James Sabale, Caroline Grabowy, Christine Garcia, Cynthia Arnedo, Danah Alburo, Nikki Pabatao.

These young adults were welcomed by everyone with rousing applause, warm hugs and handshakes, and as in a community of believers, fervent prayers on their behalf, for a steadfast and faithful journey with Jesus. May they be filled with the Holy Spirit as they continue their walk, side by side, building each other up in faith. May the light of Jesus shine through each of them, glorifying Him every step of the way!

### LSS 33 Salubungan

Once again, our Lord called His beloved as lambs and shepherds that they may share in the glory of His Kingdom. On Friday, September 4, 2009, faithful lambs came to meet their LSS shepherds for the first time, in what BLD-Newark calls the LSS "*Salubungan*" (Tagalog, roughly translated: *The Meeting*) last Friday. We praise and thank the Lord for the fifty-eight lambs who have answered His call to join our Life in the Spirit Seminar #33 on the weekend of October 3-4, 2009 along with the Invocation Mass on Friday, October 2, 2009. May our community, as one body in Christ, lift them up in prayers for their journey ahead. To God be the glory!

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

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## COUNSELS

### Our Faith and The Cross Within Us

**Word:** Is 50:4c-9a; Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

**Theme:** We are open to the Father's will when we deny ourselves and take up our cross.

**Order:** *"Deny yourself, pick up your cross and follow Jesus."* (Mk 8:34)

#### Reflection:

Why do we call ourselves Christians? Is belief in the Triune God enough to be worthy of the name of Christ? In our walk with the Lord, oftentimes we encounter uncertainties, discouragements, doubts and problems. If we believe and have faith in God, why are we stumbling along the way? Why do we allow any blind spots to blur our vision of God's kingdom and his ways? Somebody once said that the problems of Christianity are the Christians themselves.


The prophet Isaiah clarifies how our faith in God should be manifested. He tells us how personal and individual our faith should be and the suffering that comes with it. He tells us to be totally trusting in God and giving our absolute surrender to the will of the Father.

How do we demonstrate our faith in Jesus? Can we be saved and be justified by faith and grace alone?

Our Lord Jesus wants us to have a strong faith in Him and to live our lives in a manner that is pleasing to him. With God's grace comes faith. With faith comes love. With love comes action.

In the Gospel of Mark 8:34, Jesus said: *"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me."*

What is your cross in life? Is it your spouse? Is it your children? Is it your mother or your father? Is it your in-laws? Is it people around you? Is it your work and financial situation?

(continued on page 3) 

### God's Promise for the Week

*"Whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it." (Mk 8:35b)*

## Deacon's Corner's Our Daily Bread

We often hear of famine and see on TV emaciated children in Sudan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia and others. We hear the cry of the poor for bread that they may survive. I remember when I was in grade school in the Philippines the US International Aid Program gave powdered milk for the poor. The farmers didn't like the powdered milk so they fed it to the pigs making the pigs grow fast and fat. Then, they ate the roasted pigs.

Albert Schweitzer, a theologian, philosopher and an accomplished concert pianist who studied under Johann Sebastian Bach felt something was missing in his life. Hearing about the poor in Africa, he went to medical school then opened a missionary hospital to take care of the poor in what is now known as Gabon, West Africa. I am sure each of us knows of someone who was "successful" in the eyes of others yet continued to search for fulfillment and became priests, deacons, religious or missionaries.

What links these stories together is that all of us have two lives to nourish: our physical life which requires physical food and our spiritual life which requires spiritual food. This is what the scriptural readings on this 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time are all about. According to St. Augustine when we pray "Give us this day our **daily bread**" in the **Lord's Prayer**, the word **bread** is **all inclusive**. We are really asking for bread in a general sense which includes our basic human needs, food, clothing, shelter as well as our psychological, spiritual and other needs. The term "**bread**" is used 7 times with 3 different meanings in the 12 verses of the Gospel reading. First, bread means the material food which Jesus miraculously multiplied to feed the 5000. This reminds us that although we have to work, it is really God who provides for us. The 12 wicker baskets left-over means that God supplies us with more than what we need. The second meaning is bread from heaven or "manna" that God gave the Israelites in response to their complaints to Moses. This too was material food to satisfy hunger. The restriction of collecting just enough manna for the day is to teach us not to accumulate stuff but to share what we have and to remind us that our survival is in God's hands, not ours. The third meaning of bread is Jesus Himself, who is the "**bread of life**" who nourishes our souls giving it life, not any life **but life eternal**.

If we take in, all that the world provides as nourishment we would still feel hungry. This reminds me of a story about two friends who were in a weight reducing program discussing the reasons why they overeat. One said, "Whenever I am bored, depressed or happy wanting to celebrate, I go to the fridge. The other responded, "I think you were hungry then but it's spiritual hunger. Your mistake is trying to satisfy a spiritual hunger with physical food." Although the Israelites ate the loaves and fish in the Gospel reading (Jn 6: 24-25), in the first reading from the Book of Exodus (Ex 16:2-4, 12-15) on the manna that God supplied in the desert they were only temporarily satisfied. Like the Israelites, we keep on searching for something that satisfies yet we cannot pin-point what is missing. Most of us experience spiritual emptiness. We keep looking for our immediate temporal needs for the here and now but God has plans for us for all eternity. Searching, St. Augustine in the introduction to his work "Confessions" said, "O Lord, You have created us for Yourself. And our hearts are restless till they rest in You." The answer for our search is at the end of today's Gospel reading. Jesus proclaimed, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

Jesus is extending His invitation to all of us. Let us stop here a moment and imagine each of us standing on one side of the door

## Make Known the Riches of the Glory

The circumstances of St. Paul at the time he wrote his epistle to the Colossians give us cause to wonder at his zeal and motivation to persevere his mission. In 1<sup>st</sup> Col 1:24a, he said, "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake..." St. Paul was imprisoned, afflicted in body, but joyful and full of purpose. I look at myself and see how the smallest trial in community, the most insignificant hurt can so easily derail my plan to persevere and negate my behavior from being loving and uplifting. It seems that despite having been a member of community for many years there is the underlying sense in me that one day, I will just pack up and leave community. I thank you Lord for giving me the opportunity to verbalize this fear. I know that the temptation to give up and take the easy and comfortable road is great and that time and length of service does not free me from the weaknesses of flesh.

Lord God, you have called all of us for a purpose, keep us focused and zealous for that purpose. You have given us gifts and continue to shower us with graces to serve the needs of your kingdom. Grant us the clarity of mind and spirit to discern our calling whether it is to personify humility in the most menial jobs in community, to serve the youth and the children, to bring comfort to those who are hurting, and healing to those who are wounded.

Just like St. Paul, we have all been equipped to minister the word of God to others and to make known the riches of the glory (1 Col 1:25, 27). BLD shares some of the same problems encountered by the early Christian churches, however, I have the expectation that life in BLD should get better as we gain experience in running ministries, standardizing teachings and functions, promoting and conducting seminars and retreats, etc. In many ways we have certainly done so, but as we continue to bring our many personalities to the mix, it is obvious that we will always be God's work in progress. Since all good things come from God's hands then we can be assured that if we remain in Him we will bear good fruit.

Lord God, let us not forget that you have a calling for each and everyone of us and that you have given us the gifts to carry out the mission You have designed for us. Cleanse our hearts, minds and senses of any distractions. May we remain aware that "this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison." (2 Cor 4:17)

### Our Daily Bread

(of our heart) and Jesus standing on the other side. The door has only one door knob and can be opened only on our side. In the book of revelation, Jesus says, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me." It is our faith that it is Jesus whom we will be receiving in the Eucharist and who will satisfy our deepest hunger and deepest thirst. If our hearts are open, every mass and every Eucharist will transform us into the likeness of Jesus becoming new men and women who live their lives according to the Gospel referred as to by St Paul in his Letter to the Ephesians. Thus transformed, we become **the all inclusive daily bread in the Lord's Prayer** so that through us and in us, Jesus can satisfy the hunger and thirst of all who are searching for the meaning of their lives.

Indeed, "Blessed are we who are invited to the Supper of the Lamb."

*Stewardship  
It's a way of life!*



# Ministry Stewardship Corner

**John 6:** In the parable of the talents Matthew 25:14-30, it tells us that whatever talent we have, little or great, we must lay it at the service of God. And being stewards in John6 Ministry, we feel that we have been entrusted with an even greater thing, our children.

Sharing one's **time, talent and treasure** with these children is such a blessing. It calls for one to be creative with one's **talent** because it is important that you can get their attention and keep it. By spending **time** with them you will gain their trust especially when they see that you are always there for them. And the easiest but equally challenging is sharing one's **treasure**. Although one wants to provide these children with material gifts, we also want to instill in them prudence.

William Barclay, a theologian, once said, "God never demands from a man abilities which he has not got; but he does demand that man should use to the full, the abilities which he does possess. Men are not equal in talent, but men can be equal in effort."

**Youth:** In the Youth Ministry, we take stewardship to heart and make ourselves accountable for God's creations, focusing mostly on our responsibility to His people. We thrive in service to others as we educate, love, and lead our neighbors.

The Youth Ministry has taken enormous strides this year in service to God's people. In March, twelve youth participated in the Teachers Development Program and are now certified teachers for the ministry. Our youth teachers contributed greatly to the Youth Rally held in May, a day spent bridging the gap between parents and children through seminars and workshops. We also facilitated the Youth Encounter retreat for the parishes of St. Mary and St. Mark, BLD Rockland, and our own BLD Newark. Recently, the YE16 class of BLD Newark visited the Hamilton Plaza Nursing Home and sang for its elderly patients.

With hearts full of love for our Savior, we continue to bring our youthful enthusiasm to His people.

**Singles:** There is a famous quote that says, "What you are is God's gift to you, what you make of yourself is your gift back to God." This simple sentence, in many ways, sums up what stewardship is really about. Stewardship is a call to live our lives in ways that will constantly bring greater glory back to our God. It is about giving, not only what we have, but giving our whole selves into everything that we do. By nurturing the gifts and talents that God has given us, and by treating each person and relationship with the love of Christ, these are ways of not only multiplying God's blessings, but ways of bringing glory to our God. By giving all that we are in Christ to everything that we do in life, and by taking everything that God has given us, and giving it all right back to Him, through our service, our community, our church, our family, friends and even strangers; these are all ways of how we can be good stewards. It is a constant self sacrifice of love and humility, all to which will bring greater glory back to our Heavenly Father.

# Counsel (from page 1)

The real cross that we have to carry and bury at the foot of his cross is our old self. Our pride, our arrogance, our anger, our judgmental attitudes, our untamed tongue, our self-righteous behavior, our performance-oriented ways, our dislikes and biased attitudes, and all those things we live by, that is not of Christ.

To truly work for our faith we need first to work on ourselves. Why? As we serve and follow Jesus most often, our old self comes on the way and blocks our relationship with God. This ungodly old self becomes an obstacle in working for our faith. It is imperative that to be authentic in our servanthood in Christ we must deny our old self. As a new wine of God's creation, we should place ourselves in a new wine skin because we cannot sustain our faith with an old wine skin or the old way of life, otherwise, we may burst into something that is not of God. We should be able to rebuke our old self, the evil within us, to go beyond Christ in our service to him. We should be able to bury this cross and lay it at the foot of his cross.

Self-denial requires us to empty ourselves from thoughts, words, actions, and a mindset that is not of God. We must always be in the presence of God because we cannot do this on our own. If we are not in God, we become prisoners of ourselves. If we do not dwell in God, we tend to rely on ourselves. We must be aware of our shortcomings; and must be able to bear, endure and suffer in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Dying to one self is an ongoing process of conversion to be transformed in the image of Jesus.

Self love can and will take us away from our covenant with God. If we do not dwell in God, then we tend to dwell within ourselves and we get entangled in the bondage of our sinfulness. We need to change from within and be good witnesses to others, promote healthy faith in God and fraternally correcting each other in our family and in our community.

Let us all deny ourselves, take up our cross, work for our faith and only then can we truly follow Jesus. To effectively do this, we must soak ourselves in prayers and live the Sacred Scriptures. We should avail of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation regularly. We should receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, on Sunday and other holidays of obligations and if possible everyday of our earthly lives, for nothing is impossible with God. We must try to love one another as God has commanded us. Let us open our hearts to Jesus so He can move and sanctify us into His ways. We must strive to be holy to be a child of God and follow Jesus, our Sovereign and Omnipotent God of all creations.

## Directions:

1. Demonstrate your faith in your works
2. Get out of your comfort zone and do corporal works of mercy
3. Practice prayer and fasting for the intentions of the poor

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

[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Sep 12-13 Basic Prayer Counseling Seminar**  
 Ramada Limited  
 2989 Hamilton Blvd, South Plainfield, NJ  
 Sat. 8am-10:30pm ~ Sun. 8am-7pm  
 Contact: [pastoral@bldnewark.com](mailto:pastoral@bldnewark.com)
- Oct 02-04 LSS 33**  
 St. Mary's Auditorium  
 Contact: [lsa@bldnewark.com](mailto:lsa@bldnewark.com)
- Oct. 09-11 Aspirants Retreat**  
 Radisson Carteret, 30 Minue St., Carteret, NJ  
 Contacts: Jovy/Emily Lucero 732-207-9422  
[jovluc@aol.com](mailto:jovluc@aol.com), Ed/Eydie Unay 973-222-1342  
[esunayvmd4@cs.com](mailto:esunayvmd4@cs.com)
- Oct. 23-24 John 6 Crossing Retreat**  
 Applications @ [www.bldnewark.com](http://www.bldnewark.com)  
 Contacts: Boyet/Zita Cruz, Gene/Ruby  
 Ymbong, Ernest/Nellie Sun

## TEACHINGS

- Sep 18 After Worship**  
 Christian Maturity Program I Singles  
 Teachings Mark 10, John 6, Youth
- Sep 19 St. Mary's 1-6 pm**  
 Christian Maturity Program I LSS 31
- Sep 25 After Worship**  
 Encounter with Jesus Solo Parents  
 Teaching Golden Years, Service &  
 Intercessory Formation
- Oct 16 After Worship**  
 Christian Maturity Program I Singles  
 Teachings Mark 10, John 6, Youth
- Oct 17 St. Mary's 1-6 pm**  
 Christian Maturity Program I LSS 31  
 Encounter with Jesus LSS 32  
 Growth in Prayer & New LSS 33  
 Creation Realities
- Oct 23 After Worship**  
 Encounter with Jesus Solo Parents  
 Teaching Golden Years, Service &  
 Intercessory Formation
- Oct 30 After Worship**  
 Intro to Intercession LSS 33  
 MGT - Charismata LSS 31

## Lord's Provision

Week Ending Sep. 04, '09	Actual	YTD
Collection	3,380	133,917
Expenses	2,175	148,552
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,205	(14,635)

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)

**Thank you for your continued support!**

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ISAIAH 58

#### Sagip ka Eskuela Program (Save a School Child)

Bring your old or unused school supplies  
 to St. Mary Church (Fellowship area).

Contacts: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908-810-1213

[rubenluz@verizon.net](mailto:rubenluz@verizon.net),

Cez/Pinky Calingo 308-230-3660

Gene/Bing Ymbong 308-406-6955

### MISSION

#### Nursing Home Visit - Hamilton Plaza Nursing Home

(Sep. 12 - Solo Parents)

56 Hamilton Avenue, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

Mosty/Ling Garcia 908-222-0550 [mtg7lra@aol.com](mailto:mtg7lra@aol.com)

#### Soup Kitchen - Missionary of Sisters of Charity

Sep 26 - ME 25 - Gerry/Dimples Canlas

60 Jay Street, Newark NJ

Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sat. of the month

Contacts: Ramie/Emmie Espina 732-817-1050

#### Medical Mission

February 22-25, 2010 (Venue-TBD)

Mosty/Ling Garcia 908-222-0550 [mtg7lra@aol.com](mailto:mtg7lra@aol.com)

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Reasons to Believe - Dr. Scott Hahn Conference

Sep-12, Kellenbergh H.S. Auditorium

Admission - \$15.00 advance, \$20 at the door

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

#### DSL-DCS-DLC Recollection by Fr. Paul Lehman

Sep-19, 9-5pm St. Mark's Church, Rahway, NJ

For: DSL, DCS, all DLC

#### A Date with Jesus Retreat

Sep-26, 8:30-5:30pm St. Mary's Connell Hall

Retreat Master: Fr. Paul Lehman/ Deacon Bong David

Contacts: Manny/Arlene Mangalanzo [arlenemanny@gmail.com](mailto:arlenemanny@gmail.com),

Pauline Montemayor [prmontemayor@gmail.com](mailto:prmontemayor@gmail.com), Carol Manguiat

[cmanguiat@gmail.com](mailto:cmanguiat@gmail.com), Eric Cruz [jcrucer@gmail.com](mailto:jcrucer@gmail.com)

#### Life Issues Seminar 2009

Oct-03, Queen of Peace Church, North Arlington, NJ

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

Contacts: Frank/Malou Venadas 973-562-0055

#### BLD's Annual Dinner Dance

Oct-17, 6:30-11:30pm Veterans Memorial Hall

600 Washington Ave., Manville NJ

Contacts: Joe/Trudy Aboyme 908-252-0904

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