



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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## NEWS

### Statement of Archbishop Myers on the Current Ad Campaign by Catholics for Choice

Source: RCAN.org

On September 12, both The Record and The Star-Ledger, along with papers in some 20+ markets across the country, ran a deceptive ad from an abortion advocacy group calling itself "Catholics for Choice" as part of that organization's campaign calling for taxpayer funding for abortions.

In response to this organization's attempt to distort Catholic teaching and mislead people, the Bishops of New Jersey have prepared a response that states clearly and demonstrably what the Church teaches about abortion. This ad will run statewide in the print and digital editions of both The Record and The Star-Ledger on Sunday, September 18, 2016. You can view the ad here.

## COUNSELS

### How Important Is Faith?

THEME: We bear the mark of a true servant of Christ when we give our utmost for Him.

WORD: Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4 ~ Ps 95:1-2,6-7,8-9  
2 Tm 1:6-8,13-14 ~ Lk 17:5-10

ORDER: **Harden not your hearts.** (cf Ps 95:8)

REFLECTION:

“How important is faith? It takes faith to believe in Christ; it takes faith to believe that what God says is always right and true, and it takes faith to trust and walk in that truth each day. And, if your faith doesn’t continue to grow in your relationship with Christ, you won’t have the faith to see God’s Kingdom come not only in your life, but in the lives of those around you.” (Christy Wimber)

In the Gospel reading, Jesus teaches us the importance of faith and service to God. Using a tiny mustard seed and a large mulberry tree for comparison, He demonstrates that even a little, but sincere faith, will enable His followers to do wondrous things. **“If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to [this] mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you”** (Lk 17:6). Faith then, should include knowledge and understanding of our place in God’s plans. Through faith, we receive God’s grace as faithful servants to do the work He calls us to do, and to participate and cooperate in His plan for His Kingdom. Our faith enables us to believe that what little we have to offer in our service to God can grow and multiply a hundredfold.

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### Promise of the Week

... God give(s)... us power... and love and self-control.

cf 2 Tm 1:7

► The teaching of the Catholic Church on the sanctity of all human life – especially life in the womb – has been clearly and unequivocally expressed by Pope Francis, both during his papacy and as Cardinal Bergoglio:

“Life must be protected with utmost care from the first moment of conception; abortion and infanticide are abominable crimes.”

“Abortion is without a doubt one of the greatest moral evils within modernity.”

“The right to life is the first human right. Abortion is killing someone that cannot defend himself or herself.”



**You can not be Catholic and Pro-Abortion.**

**The only “choice” for Catholics is life.**

This message has been sponsored by the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey in response to a recent nationwide ad campaign by Catholics for Choice that misrepresents the Catholic Church’s teaching on abortion.

To learn more about the Church’s efforts to protect all human life – from conception to natural death – visit [uscbb.org/about/pro-life-activities/](http://uscbb.org/about/pro-life-activities/)

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## ZECHARIAH'S PROPHECY FOR ALL

***"He has raised up a horn for our salvation."*** (Lk 1:69)

Before Christ came, the Jews knew God through the Law. For example, there were the Ten Commandments given by Him as guidance for faith and conduct. Also, there were the laws that every faithful Jew needed to follow. Eventually, the ten expanded to over six hundred, governing everything, from the necessity of circumcision to the minutest detail of daily life. But in Galatians 3:2, St. Paul asks if the Spirit is received from works of the law or from faith itself.

Early Christians were being persuaded to adopt Jewish customs as a requirement for salvation. But Jesus had come, was crucified and had risen, not just for Jews. And He did not come just for the early Christians; He came for all. So even today, we have Him to follow and believe in.

This does not mean that there is no place for law. There are many reasons, including some very practical ones, why laws need to be obeyed. Problems stem from our tendency to be guided solely by literal legal language, and thinking that that should be enough. Most importantly, we should live out our faith. We should strive for salvation by having faith and trust in Our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Promise; Jesus is the new and living Covenant; Jesus is our Redeemer and our Salvation. Jesus is the way to inherit eternal life.

How do we inherit eternal life? By treating our neighbors, with compassion and mercy, just as Jesus would.

How do we obtain the promise of eternal life? The promise is granted to those who believe... by faith. (cf Gal 3:22). We obtain the promise by: singing praises to Him, glorifying His holy name, looking to the Lord for strength, and seeking to serve Him constantly (cf Ps 105:2-5).

The promise of our Lord was for us to be set free from the law and from our sins. And God made it possible through the Living Covenant, Jesus Christ, Who redeemed the world by dying for us on the cross.

St. Paul put this in no uncertain terms for both Jews and gentiles and for everyone, that ***"there is neither slave nor free person... not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ... heirs according to the promise."*** (Gal 3:28-29)

## Faith Above the Law

What is necessary to enjoy eternal life in Heaven? This is the most important question any of us could ever ask. Sadly, most people will avoid responding to this question, and most of those who do respond will stand upon their own righteousness as justification for eternal life. But our own righteousness is not justification. ***"For all who depend on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, 'Cursed be everyone who does not persevere in doing all the things written in the book of the law.'"*** (Gal 3:10)

Who among us has fulfilled God's standard of perfect holiness at all places and at all times? Only God is perfectly holy. All of us must humble ourselves and confess that we are sinners. Not a single one of us can testify before God that we are justified through perfect obedience to His law. We cannot stand upon our own righteousness because we are not righteous through our own works. Every one of us deserves eternal separation from God, the curse we are under as spoken through St. Paul's letter to the Galatians.

Once we fully realize that we cannot earn our own salvation, we cry out to God for mercy. In return, God will reveal to us through His Holy Spirit that His mercy is beyond infinite. We ourselves can never fulfill the law, but God Himself can. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who is God through the mystery of the Trinity, does not abolish the law but fulfills it Himself.

***"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill."*** (Mt 5:17)

God's law stands. God's most precious Son spoke through Matthew the evangelist, ***"Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place."*** (Mt 5:18)

The punishment for sin is God's judgement, but Christ Jesus has paid this punishment for us upon the Cross. ***"Christ ransomed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written, 'Cursed be everyone who hangs on a tree'"*** (Gal 3:13). The penalty for sin must be paid, but when we stand before the most holy and most righteous Eternal Judge of the universe, we are not asked to make satisfaction. Instead, our merciful God loves each of us so far beyond reason that He Himself paid the cost of sin for us.

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## Newark Archdiocese holds Morning of Mercy Mini Pilgrimage at Divine Mercy Parish



The Divine Mercy Parish Church (DMP) was packed with pilgrims during the Morning of Mercy Mini Pilgrimage this past weekend. The pilgrims came from many different places to receive the grace of a plenary indulgence (a full pardon from sin and all its effects). As DMP is designated a Holy Door of Mercy Parish, anyone who enters through the Holy Door will experience the love of God Who consoles, pardons and instills hope.

Through the inspirational talk of the special guest speaker, Msgr. Joseph Reilly (the Archdiocese's Missionary of Mercy), a Eucharistic Adoration, a Penance Service, prayers (including the Divine Mercy Chaplet), and a Eucharistic Celebration (with celebrant, Fr. John Gordon - Coordinator of the Office of Evangelization of the Archdiocese of Newark), the pilgrims further developed and exhibited an openness to receive God's graces. This was evident in the long lines that formed in the Church that morning, with people seeking to avail themselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

This event was blessed with the support of **BLD Newark**. Many members were there, including those from our Praise, Liturgy, and DMP Parish Mission ministries.

***“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ (by grace you have been saved)”*** (Eph 2:4-5)

## Statement of Archbishop Myers

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Below is a statement from the Archbishop of Newark and President of the New Jersey Catholic Conference, John J. Myers, about this organization's deception:

"Catholics have the same freedom as other citizens in making choices. They also have the duty to follow a well-formed conscience, a conscience formed not by fad or personal convenience, but by Catholic teaching.

Catholic faith and teaching have condemned abortion since the earliest days of the Church. Every unique human life begins at conception. Every unborn human being shares with every other member of the human family a basic moral right to life.

Through pregnancy help centers and other programs, the Catholic Church brings love and mercy and caring to mothers and children according to the call of the Gospel. And with equal love and mercy and caring, the Church works to heal the wounds of every woman or man who has struggled with the emotional and spiritual pain of an abortion.

Sadly, there are those who purport to be Catholic who believe that they can condone abortion. But abortion is radically inconsistent with the Catholic faith. Anyone who helps to make abortion more widely available commits a grave injustice against the most vulnerable members of the human family. Those who openly commit such instances while purporting to espouse Catholic faith not only undermine the teaching of the Church, but also seriously weaken their own relationship with the Church, the Body of Christ.

To make sure everyone understands how misguided the Catholics for Choice effort is, read these few words from Pope Francis: "Abortion is without a doubt one of the greatest moral evils within modernity."

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## Faith Above the Law

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We are not righteous by our own works, but God's righteousness purchased eternal life for us from the Cross.

Is there anything we must do to receive the gift of eternal life? We are called to believe, to have faith that God's Word is true. ***“And that no one is justified before God by the law is clear, for ‘the one who is righteous by faith will live.’”*** (Gal 3:11) What is necessary to receive eternal life in Heaven? Faith! Believe that God the Holy Spirit dwells within you and sanctifies you. Believe that God the Son shed His most precious blood for you. Believe that God the Father created you so that you could receive His gift of eternal life.

# COUNSELS (from page 1)

The first and second readings tell us to hold on to our relationship with God who brings salvation, reminding us to keep alive our covenant with Him. Our aim as believers is to give our utmost to the Lord. This involves complete surrender to Him and to His will.

Giving our utmost to God means surrendering the good and the bad, the best of who we are and what we have.

Our all in all. If we are to truly live for God there is a cost involved. Growing in the Lord and taking up our cross and following Him is a long and challenging process that we must nurture daily in our relationship with Him. We are to grow slowly no matter how painful it may be. Scripture tells us to love the Lord with all our heart. God must be paramount. If other priorities are more important to us, then we are not giving Him our all. In everything that we do, obedience to God's will is what we should pursue and strive for. And God's grace will carry us through with this promise for the week: ...God give(s) ... us power and love and self-control (2 Tim 1:7).

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, like your disciples, I ask You to increase my faith day after day. Continue to draw me closer to You, for You are my fondest hope, my deepest desire. I surrender everything to You; and as You take control of my life, grant me the grace to follow after You, and be obedient to Your divine will at all times. Amen!

Reflection Questions:

1. Has your relationship with God grown deeper and stronger in your faith journey?
2. What obstacle(s) have you encountered which challenged your faith in the Lord's will for your life?



**Faith the size of a mustard seed**

Please note that a pdf of this Covenant News is also available online at [BLDNEWARK.com](http://BLDNEWARK.com)

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings	\$ 3,181	\$ 102,397
Mission Collections	\$ 101	\$ 5,665
Fundraising Raffle	\$ 5,200	\$ 15,100

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

Thank you for your continued support!

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### Teaching Calendar

Teachings for Saturday, October 15 - 1 to 6 pm:

- Encounter with Jesus (LSS 1-46)
- Christian Maturity Program II, Part I (LSS 1-45)
- Siena Gift Inventory (LSS 1-47)

#### Mercy Merci Raffle Fundraiser



Support BLD! Please ask families and friends to help us out... **Tickets are just \$2 each!**

**Drawing Date: Friday, October 14, 2016**

**PLEASE REMIT TICKETS AND PROCEEDS BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7**

#### LSS 46-B – October 7-9, 2016

Contacts: Lito.Vibar@bldnewark.com,  
Earl.Manguiat@bldnewark.com, Flo.Manguiat@bldnewark.com

#### John 6 Crossings # 17

Retreat for children, ages 11-14.

**October 7-9, 2016**

Fellowship Deaconry, 3575 Valley Road,  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Contacts: Marlene.Brillantes@bldnewark.com  
Tony.Brillantes@bldnewark.com

#### Marriage Encounter # 47

**November 18-20, 2016**

Hotel Executive Suites

30 Minue Street, Carteret, NJ

Contact email: [MLA@bldnewark.com](mailto:MLA@bldnewark.com)

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Oct 7	Pastoral
		Oct 14	Evangelization
		Oct 21	Formation
Oct 28	Management		