



COVENANT NEWS

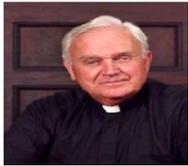
BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK



Volume 20 Issue 1

Bulletin Edition

January 3, 2014



2014 New Year Message from our Spiritual Director

A month ago, on December 1st, the first Sunday of Advent, I offered everyone a happy New Year. It was the beginning of the New Year for the liturgical cycle. Perhaps this was not a moment of celebration. Even though liturgy does express the spiritual life of the church, for all practical purposes, it is a liturgical technicality. May I use this opportunity to join the new Church year to the new civil beginning of 2014.

We do live in secular society, and we join with all the other members of the human race, Christian or not, in living life in the calendar life of the world around us. This is not necessarily a bad thing. However, let us be reminded that we are citizens of heaven as well as citizens of the world redeemed by Jesus. There is a joint connection between the two.

As Christians, we are called to sanctify the secular world around us by the way we live and respect one another, and the way we live our morality in dealings with the relations we have with our families, co-workers, our fellow classmates, even the casual contacts with the sales people at the store or market. There is no dichotomy between the secular and the sacred. The baptized are called to be a leaven. Often this seems more like a confrontation. And even though many of the elements of society are hostile to Christian principles, through our love and gentle witness by word and example, we are able to share the values our Christian life offers us.

May I encourage us to be more spiritually "aggressive" in this New Year. It is admittedly difficult to talk about hot issues like same sex marriage, contraception and our personal faith in Jesus and the Church. But only the combined efforts of laity and clergy can restore and keep truth alive in a world that is very confused. I encourage us all in this new year to be confident that with prayer and Christian courage we may make a difference, no matter how little or seemingly insignificant. A blessed and happy New Year to all.

Rev. Paul J. Lehman

Priest, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark
Spiritual Director, BLD Newark

COUNSELS EPIPHANY

THEME: True Christian disciples look to Jesus as the star, our guiding light.

WORD: Is 60:1-6 / Ps 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13
Eph 3:2-3,5-6 / Mt 2:1-12

ORDER: "Give to the Lord, you sons of God, give to the Lord glory and praise, give to the Lord the glory due his name." (Ps 29:1 - 2)

REFLECTION:

One of the most beautiful scenes of the Christmas season is the picture of the Magi slowly approaching Bethlehem, guided by the star. Something entered their horizon which changed their lives and prompted their journey. Many of us may have special experiences which brought us to a journey towards deeper faith, deeper hope and deeper love. The "star" in our life can change us so powerfully when we begin to see the truth about ourselves, about others, and about God.

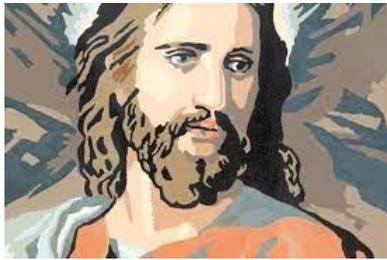
The feast of Epiphany is usually associated with **three kings**. Tradition has even given them names. Their three heads are supposedly buried in the great cathedral in Cologne, Germany. The reality is that we are not sure how many "magi" there were and whether they were actually kings. The magi were probably astronomers, perhaps intellectual elite from the Far East who observed strange planetary movements in the skies. There is an element of poetry and mystery associated with these visitors. Some have gone so far as to deny the historical nature of this event. We accept the historical fact of the arrival of these "magi" who came looking for the new born king. There is certainly an element of the supernatural that led these men to seek Jesus. It just was not planetary curiosity.

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Promise of the Week

"Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you." (Is 60:5)

I FOUND THE MESSIAH!



Just a couple of weeks ago we read Matthew 1:1-16 - the genealogy of Jesus. The genealogies of Luke and Matthew are New Testament clues about the personage of Jesus “the anointed one”! He was born in the City of David (Bethlehem). In Hebrew, *Bethlehem* means *House of Bread*. Jesus was the “Bread of Life”! Bethlehem is close to the tomb of Rachel. Jacob set up a pillar on her grave as Genesis 35:19-20 says. Bethlehem is the scene of the story of Ruth.

It is also the place where David was born and later anointed King (1 Sm 16:4-13). Bethlehem is the place where Joseph and Mary returned for the census. It’s because of the Messiah’s ancestry to King David that Joseph and Mary are here; when He is born. The town itself was conquered many times; it’s location in the hill country sits on the main highway to Egypt. When Herod decrees, all male children in Bethlehem age two or under, be put to the sword, he fulfills the prophecy of Jeremiah: “*A voice was heard in Ramah sobbing and loud lamentation. Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled since they were no more.*” (Mt 2:18)

Jesus escaped the carnage in Egypt because of the wise men, who tricked Herod. The wise men offered gold to Jesus’ earthly kingship. The frankincense represents the recognition of His spiritual kingship. The myrrh used to embalm, foretells His death and victory over it. The swaddling clothes are a type of burial wrappings.

In John 1:39-41, the apostles asked Him where are you staying, they could not have guessed ultimately; but they found Him in their midst. He said to them “*Come and you will see.*” We can find Him in the communities we are in and also in the eternal prophetic word. We find Him in our families and the faces of the hungry and dispossessed. No bright star will hover over a manger, just the light of life alive in children or the faces of the aged filled with hope. In all these people He exists. Will we honor His presence? Or is there no room in the inn?

LOOKING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD

As the New Year draws near, let us allow time to reflect on the past year’s relationship with God, others, and ourselves and find the areas for potential growth and greater intimacy in our relationships in the coming year.

Your Relationship with God

- How has your relationship with God been over the past year?
- Which ground did the seeds of faith fall on this past year?
- Did you plan time for God?
- Did your relationship with God start out with a new fervor only to slip away throughout the year?
- Did your love for God fall on good soil and stay constant throughout the year and grow deeper throughout the months?

RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT: Strengthen your prayer life by making prayer an “appointment” on your calendar of life. Make time for Christ in your busy life, put your meeting with Him on the calendar first; make Him a priority throughout the year.

Your Relationship with Others

- How would you characterize your relationships with others? Are they deep or superficial?
- What was your level of empathy toward others?
- How open were you to allowing another person to see your joys and sorrows?
- Can you allow yourself to be cared for by another?
- In what relationships did you maintain your emotional distance?
- In what relationships did you allow yourself to be emotionally connected?

RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT: Be more emphatic with those around you. Allow yourself to delve into another person’s experiences and feelings by taking the time to get to know them. The more time you spend in relationships, the more opportunities arise for deeper interactions.

Your Relationship with Yourself

- Do you know yourself, your wants, your needs, your dreams, your fears?
- Did you spend time in quiet self-reflection?
- What emphasis did you put on self-care?
- Did you pamper yourself too much – or too little?
- Did you take time to pray or just keep going with tasks to accomplish?

RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT: A healthy relationship with yourself is essential and needs to be protected by keeping a proper balance between taking care of yourself and taking care of others. Your relationship with yourself should be supported and guided spiritually though prayer and meditation in the presence of God. Practicing prayerful self-reflection can help you become more self-aware. Self-knowledge allows you to enter into honest relationships with God and others.

Once you have looked back over the past year, move forward with renewed vigor and commit to an emotionally and spiritually healthy new year.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

The feast emphasizes the universal nature of the saving work of Jesus. He was born Christmas day, not just for the Jewish people and fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. He was born, suffered and died for the whole human race, both Jewish and Gentile. There is a progression of the Christmas celebration, moving from a small revelation to poor shepherds on the night Jesus was born, to a universal worldwide revelation, symbolized by the revelation to the “magi”.

This feast moves us beyond the historical question, and directs us to allow the revelatory character of the Christian message to invade our lives more deeply. The Father is anxious to tell us more and more about the person of his Son, Jesus. The physical star that led the magi to Jesus is a true symbol of faith that points to the presence and reality of Jesus, always at work within us. “They saw and believed.” We see with the eyes of faith the action and movements of God in our lives. We believe that things just don’t happen. They are part of the loving providential action of an all seeing God who uses every situation, both good and seemingly bad, to demonstrate to us his intimate presence and loving concern in our lives. Just as there was a revelation to the magi, so there is an ongoing revelation of God’s personal love for us, If we just open the eyes of faith that has been implanted within us. As the blind men prayed in the gospels, “Lord I want to see,” so we pray for a deeper spiritual and supernatural vision during this new year of 2014.

Just as the magi expressed their gratitude with gifts, so we express our gratitude by our gift of gold, our love; by gift of myrrh, our daily dying to self; our gift of incense, our daily dedication to “lectio divina.”

As true disciples of Christ, we embark on a spiritual journey towards a destination, guided by the star in our life, a journey of intellectually seeking a deeper understanding of God’s ways, a journey that every soul should make towards God. The end of the Magi’s journey gives us the confidence that, if we follow His light and accept the grace God, we will come to a meaningful union, fulfillment and peace in Christ, the perfect light. The Magi recognized the star as a sign and followed it. If we are faithful to the graces given us by the “Star of Bethlehem,” we can draw near to the Lord. If we stay firm in our commitment, remain focused and keep moving on in the right direction, we will reach our ultimate destination and find our most treasured possession in Christ Jesus.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Study the scriptures and abide by God’s word to grow in the knowledge and love of Christ.
2. Be hearers and bearers of the word.

THE SAVING POWER OF GOD

“He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.”

(Psalm 98:3b)

Every year during Christmas time, the temporal and spiritual preparations compete with each other to make the celebrations meaningful in both ways. As Christmas day comes closer, business establishments intensify their efforts to catch my attention, and I become enticed by the discounted glitters of the material things they desperately want me to buy for my family and friends. I succumb to these distractions and often the temporal nature of the celebration wins, and the Real Reason for the Season takes a backseat. Whether I’m the giver or the receiver of these worldly presents, the intention and effect is the same. I tend to give more expensive presents to those closer to me or to those who have been nicer to me through the years.

When the celebrations wind down and all the gifts and greetings are exchanged, Christmas music is instantly gone from the airwaves as if a switch has been flipped, and the festive decor in the stores disappears to give way to the next commercial event. As I move around my neighborhood and my home, there is a feeling of emptiness and sadness that descends upon me. Could it be because all the reunions and gatherings with my loved ones are over and I am beginning to miss them? Or could it be the sinking reality that I have to go back to work and my holiday vacation is over?

I look around the house to assess the cleanup work that has to be done and take a long look at the Nativity scene I have put up. My eyes focus on the smallest piece at the center of it all. I look at the little figurine of the Baby Jesus, and I smile. Every year I see this miracle repeated over and over. Many nations of believers and non-believers around the world go crazy at this time of the year fighting over what is the true meaning of Christmas. The bottom line is this: the whole world is a witness to the promise of our God, our Messiah, our Savior, the Emmanuel...God with us. The saving power of God is the fulfillment of His promise to send us His own Son to redeem us from our weaknesses and sinfulness!



2014 BLD NEWARK EVENTS

1st Quarter 2014

March for Life	January 22
Prayer Healing 1	Jan 25-26
Community Teaching	Feb 1
Medical Mission	Feb 17-20
Singles Retreat	March 1
Youth LSS	March 7-9
Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden Retreat	March 15
Community Retreat	March 29

2nd Quarter 2014

Adult LSS #42	April 4-6
Youth Rally	April 26
BLD-Assisted Parish: Project "I DO"	April 26
Marriage Encounter #43	May 16-18
Aspirants Retreat	May 16-18
Singles Encounter #32	May 30-June 1
Solo Parents Annual Retreat	June 7
Community Teaching	June 7
Solo Parent Encounter #16	June 27-29

3rd Quarter 2014

Youth Encounter #21	July 11-13
Family Encounter # 21	July 18-20
Community Day	August 9
Prayer Healing 2	Sept 13-14
Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden Retreat	September 20
Youth: Battle of the Classes	September 20

4th Quarter 2014

Adult LSS # 43	October 3-5
John 6 Crossing #15	October 17-19
Aspirants' Retreat	October 17-19
Community Retreat	October 25
Mark 10 Parade of Saints	October 31
Singles Encounter #33	November 7-9
Marriage Encounter #44	Nov 14-16

Recurring Events

Mission: Nursing Home Visit	Every 2nd Sat (monthly)
Mission: Soup Kitchen	Every 4th Sat (monthly)
Teachings	Every 1st & 3rd Sat (except summer months and Dec)
Discipling Session	Every 4th Sat (monthly)

*Dates may change, please refer to the weekly Covenant News or BLD calendar (bldnewark.com) for confirmation, postponement or cancellation of events.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENT

PROJECT I DO (MASS WEDDING)

For: Couples who are civilly married but not sacramentally married in church / those who want to be married in church.

When: April 26, 2014

Place: Divine Mercy Parish Church

Deadline for submission of names: March. 7, 2014

Requirements & details: Contact Ray/Susie Atienza:
908-463-0449/bldassistedparish@bldnewark.com

LORD'S PROVISION

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$2,639	\$159,278
Mission Collections	12	25,922
Christmas Envelopes	88	1,369
Typhoon Yolanda	707	24,137

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

Jan 17* - John 6 Teaching

Jan 18** - Christian Parenting – ME 41 & 42/SPE 15

- CMP 1 Part 2 – LSS 1-39

Feb 1** - Community Teaching

Feb 7 & 14* LSS Orientation – ME 42/SPE 15/SE

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

Time: *Friday after worship, **Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARCH FOR LIFE 2014

Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2014

Venue: Washington DC

Contact Persons: Ray/Tess Salmo - raycsalmo@aol.com

2014 MEDICAL MISSION

Date: February 17-20, 2014

Venue: Bayambang Pangasinan, Philippines

Contact Persons: Mel/Remy Hernandez

chi944@hotmail.com

SPECIAL COLLECTION

FOR TYPHOON YOLANDA VICTIMS

Donations by members, friends and families, can be mailed to:

PO Box 139

114 Oak Tree Avenue

South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Please make check payable to **BLD Newark**, and in the memo field, write **Typhoon Yolanda**. On the envelope, provide a complete return address so that we can send you an acknowledgement letter.

Or...

1. Go to the BLD website: www.BLDNewark.com

2. Click on the **MINISTRIES** tab on the top

3. Click on **TREASURY** - here you will see the "Donate" icon

Contact Persons: Nong and Tricia Bustos

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Jan 10	Evangelization
			Jan 17	Formation
			Jan 24	Management
			Jan 31	Mission

Please notify the Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 2

Bulletin Edition

January 10, 2014

NEWS

Pope Francis Confirms Pilgrimage to Holy Land Will Visit Amman, Bethlehem and Jerusalem on May 24th-26th

Vatican City, January 07, 2014 (Zenit.org)

During his Angelus address on Sunday, Pope Francis announced that he will make his first papal visit to the Holy Land in May.

“In the climate of joy typical of this Christmas season, I would like to announce that May 24-26, if it pleases God, I will make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land,” the Pope told the pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

The Holy Father went on to explain the purpose of the Papal visit, which will be to commemorate the meeting between Patriarch Athenagoras and Pope Paul VI 50 years ago. The Pope will make three stops: Amman, Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

At the [Church of the] Holy Sepulchre, we will celebrate an ecumenical meeting with all of the representatives of the Christian Churches of Jerusalem, together with Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople,” the Holy Father said.

Concluding his remarks on the upcoming trip, Pope Francis asked the faithful for prayers for his pilgrimage, which he said will be “a pilgrimage of prayer.”

And he added that from this point of view, the Church of Rome is committed to her duty of giving her contribution to the life and future of the city; to animating her with the leaven of the Gospel and being a sign and instrument of God’s mercy.

COUNSELS

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

THEME: True Christian disciples always do what is pleasing to God.

WORD : Wis 11:22-12:2; Ps 145:1,2,8-14; 2 Thes 1:11-2:2; Lk 19:1-10

ORDER: Be “*a light to the nations... open the eyes of the blind, bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.*” (Is 42:6-7)

REFLECTION:

We welcome the year 2014 with metanoia - “change of heart”. The readings for this Sunday’s mass serve as an inspiration to all of us, to make “metanoia” supervene every Christian movement of our spiritual journey. It should be first in our bucket list of New Year’s resolution to allow the Holy Spirit to stir our heart and mind. As we listen to the gentle whisper of the Holy Spirit, let us ingest and digest his Word in spirit and in truth.

“*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.*” (Mt 3:17) As God spoke these words, we see the Great Theophany appear before our eyes, revealing the mystery of the Holy Trinity. This is an opportunity for all of us to revive the saving power of the Triune God in our lives. This is an occasion we all should not forego. Our openness and constant communion with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit will give us unconditional assurance that He will restore the covenant and be the light of all nations.

There is a twofold presentation of humility in the Gospel that we can emulate to brave the many challenges and trials of Christian discipleship. In Matthew 3:14, John the Baptist says, “*I need to be baptized by you*” and it continues in verse 15 when

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light to the nations.” (Is 42:6)



IT'S TIME TO BE BOLD!

“What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light, says the Lord, what you hear whispered, proclaimed on the housetops.” (Mt 10:27)

This New Year, let us take a moment to reflect on these two simple but very tough questions: **Are you a disciple of Christ? Are you an ambassador for Christ?**

If you think you are or have a strong desire to be Christ's disciple, then now is the time to carry the light of Christ to those who are in darkness. Now is the time to bring God's Word to those who have not heard the good news. **NO TIME FOR TIMIDITY! NO TIME FOR PROCRASTINATION!** To be Christ's ambassador, our goal must be to draw everyone to Christ, even if it means going the extra mile.

However, before you can do this task effectively, you need to examine the depth of your faith and your love for Jesus.

Have you been struggling to fulfill this task effectively and persistently? If yes, perhaps now is the time to admit that your faith and your love for Jesus are superficial and conditional. What have you neglected to do and what have you done to block the love of Christ to flow freely in you and through you? How is your prayer life? Have you been making a strong effort to remain in the state of grace by receiving the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Penance as often as possible? Do you have an intimate relationship with Jesus?

I have been in the community for so many years. Have I boldly proclaimed the gospel to others? Yes, but only when I am surrounded by my fellow Christians, when it is convenient, and when I do not have to expose myself to persecution. Obviously, this does not make me a true disciple, and that's because I only showed my love for Jesus when I thought the conditions were ideal. In short, He was not my priority!

I pray that this 2014 will bring a new beginning of hope, love, and peace in my life. I pray that Jesus will give me and all His striving *“disciples-to-be”* the grace we need so we may be like St. John the Baptist, who journeyed to distant lands out of longing for the salvation of souls and who bore effective witness to the Gospel.

Lord Jesus, please give us the courage to persevere in spreading Your Word, both in word and deed persistently. Send us Your Holy Spirit so we may bring many lost souls to Your Sacred Heart and be a good witness to every person we meet each and every day. AMEN.

Comfort Food

Jesus is God and knows all our needs, so He knows that we need food to function. In the miracle of the multiplication of loaves and fish (Mk 6:30-42), He was moved by the hunger of the crowd for His word, His teaching, and His wisdom, which motivated them to cross many towns by foot to reach the deserted place where He had sent his apostles to rest. Jesus felt for them and started to teach them but seeing that it was getting late, He responded to their need for food before dismissing them by performing the miracle of the multiplication. Five thousand men and their families were fed that day.

In times of trials, stressful events, and financial or emotional hardship, many of us tend to turn to what we call “comfort food.” It might be a special meal like meatloaf, or any food with a high sugar or other carbohydrate content, that is usually connected with a warm memory or a feeling of well being from our childhood. We are seeking in it a comfort that is only temporary and is very limited to the physical or emotional level at the most. We keep on coming back to this kind of food again and again. At some point it might become like an addiction and down the hill we go... it owns us. We are no longer free.

God alone should be the source of our comfort. Only He can satisfy us totally... not ourselves and not comfort food. We need to seek the true bread of life, Jesus. In the miracle of the multiplication, *“they all ate and were satisfied.”* (Mk 6:42) Jesus met their physical need but at the same time, He elevated their minds to the level of their spiritual need and prepared them to understand the ultimate gift that He was about to give: His Body and Blood as the True Food for the journey home, back to their Father. *“For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”* (Jn 6:33) The miracle of the multiplication is truly a prototype of the Eucharist. At mass, Jesus is present to billions of people around the world in the physical form of bread and wine. Whereas comfort food can lead us into slavery to sin, Jesus freed us from sin by His death and continues to be for us the source of true strength, nourishment, and comfort by His Word and by His own Body and Blood.

Hear Me Lord

“And we have this confidence in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.”

(1 Jn 5:14)

As I reflect on this verse and its overall promise to us, God’s message is very clear: He will hear our prayers, petitions, concerns according to His will. The key word that we need to build and develop within ourselves is our trust in God. How do we do this? Building trust in a human relationship is not easy.

It takes a lot of patience, confidence, communication, and mutual interaction before one can fully entrust himself or herself and build full confidence mutually with another. This constant and mutual relationship can go through a lot of obstacles or hurdles, which often lead to feelings of betrayal, miscommunication, and lack of trust. We constantly see this manifested between parents and their child where a simple mistake or not meeting one’s expectations causes a rift and distance between mothers and daughters or fathers and sons.

It is also present between spouses or friends where a person’s forgetfulness or busyness can lead to disappointments, anger, frustration, and hopelessness. In comparison to our relationship with God, one must bear in mind that we are dealing with our Heavenly Father who is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, and the One who has power over the entire universe.

This is our Omnipotent, ever-present Father who created us in His image and likeness. Thus our relationship is not based on human needs but on developing ourselves to become an image of our Father and following the examples set forth by Jesus Christ – complete obedience and submission to His Father’s will.

Rather than complaining about our burdens or discrediting other people in our prayers, let us focus on accepting the trials, frustrations, and stresses of life. Strive further in appreciating life’s challenges and burdens in making oneself transform and transcend to a higher sense of obedience so that like Jesus, we can sincerely pray in our hearts and confide in God, *“My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.”* (Mt 26:39)



COUNSELS (from page 1)

Jesus said *“Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”* If we intricately look at His words, John recognized His nothingness and Jesus exemplifying humility as an obedient servant, as foreshadowed in Isaiah 42:1 *“Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased.”*

St. Theresa of Avila defined true humility as “accepting our nothingness”. John, acknowledged that God can do all things for us. The testimony of John, *“there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie,”* (Jn 1:27) suggests His recognition of His nothingness. Have we embraced true humility when many times along the course of our earthly life we were blinded by our ego-centric notion that our success and accomplishments, who we are now and all our material achievements, are due to our human effort? Rather, we should borrow the words of St. Paul to the Galatians 6:14, *“But I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.”* When we champion the Cross of Jesus, it brings forth the glory of God.

The second fold of humility presented by Jesus augmented by trust and obedience, that fulfillment of all righteousness will transpire as He allowed Himself to be baptized to prepare for His public ministry. In biblical sense, **righteousness**, with His great love and wisdom, refers to God’s plan for the salvation of mankind. Jesus was cognizant of the fact that righteousness means to lead a moral conduct conformed according to God’s will. In this narrow pathway of discipleship, have we succumbed to the will of the Father?

Humility is closely linked to trust and obedience. In His baptism, Jesus completely trusted without reservation that our Heavenly Father will anoint His life and His ministry. In every undertaking He performed, His sincere gesture of prayer encapsulated Him with unwavering trust that He will establish justice on earth, *“a bruised reed he shall not break and a smoldering wick he shall not quench”* (Is 42:3). Humility begets trust and trust begets obedience to the Lord.

Jesus, with His divine nature since birth, allowed Himself to be baptized to show us His “hypostatic union.” Though sinless, He acquired the human nature and identified Himself with sinners. He humbled Himself to allow the greatest gift of God- The Holy Spirit, to work in Him, through Him and with Him. We too are called to humble ourselves so our holy vocation may be true and fulfilling.

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS (continued from page 3)

Mother Teresa of Calcutta drew an explicit picture on how to love and please God, as she lived the Gospel. She once said "I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish He didn't trust me so much." Like her, we too have our own worries, flustered by the different noises around us and the amount of commitments at work, family and community. But in the midst of all these, have we turned to Jesus, accepting Him as our Lord and Savior?

The renewal of our baptism changed our lives, enabling God to fill our cup to the brim. Yes, trusting Him, we can move mountains through serving people: the poor and the hungry. In Pope Francis' recently released encyclical, The Joy of the Gospel, section 49 states "I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security." You and I are entrusted with a task to make that difference a living reality - to be the light of all nations.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Reach out to those in need and share the word and love of God with them.
2. As disciples, be a witness of Christ's humility.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Date: March 7-9, 2014

Venue: Divine Mercy Auditorium
Rahway, NJ

Contact Information: DYC@bldnewark.com
YCS@bldnewark.com

PROJECT I DO (MASS WEDDING)

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[908-463-0449](tel:908-463-0449)/bldassistedparish@bldnewark.com

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	Jan 31	Mission
	Feb 7	Pastoral

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Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

Time: *Friday after worship, **Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARCH FOR LIFE 2014

Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2014

Venue: Washington DC

Contact Persons: Ray/Tess Salmo/raycsalmo@aol.com

2014 MEDICAL MISSION

Date: February 17-20, 2014

Venue: Bayambang Pangasinan, Philippines

Contact Persons: Mel/Remy Hernandez
chi1944@hotmail.com

PRAYER HEALING 1

What: Prayer Healing Retreat # 1

When: Jan 25 & 26, 2014 (Saturday & Sunday)

Saturday (Jan 25) 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Sunday (Jan 26) 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Where: Library, Divine Mercy Parish
231 Central Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065

Please register by: Jan. 19, 2014.

Registration fee is \$50.00 to cover costs for handouts, meals and snacks.

For group and individual sign-ups, please send complete name of attendees, encounter class#/district, and e-mail address of each (or the contact person) to audreysantos23@gmail.com

SPECIAL COLLECTION

FOR TYPHOON YOLANDA VICTIMS

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COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 3

Bulletin Edition

Jan. 17, 2014

NEWS

Pope to Parents: 'Hand on the Faith'

by KERRI LENARTOWICK/CNA/EWTN NEWS 01/13/2014

During his Sunday homily, Pope Francis reminded parents who had brought their infants to be baptized of their duty to be part of 'the chain of faith' that began with Jesus.

VATICAN CITY — During his homily at Sunday Mass Jan. 12 at the Sistine Chapel, Pope Francis reminded parents who had brought their infants to be baptized of their duty to pass on the faith to their children.



"Today, carry this thought home with you:

We must be transmitters of the faith. Think of this, think always of how to hand on the faith to [your] children," he told the families who were gathered for Mass in the Sistine Chapel.

"These children are links in a chain," he said of the 32 infants brought for baptism. "You parents have a baby son or daughter to be baptized, but, in several years, it will be they that have a baby to baptize or a grandchild; and so, the chain of faith!"

This chain of faith began with Christ, whose baptism the Church celebrates today. Although "Jesus did not need to be baptized," because he was without sin, "with his body, with his divinity, he blessed all waters," explained the Pope.

"And then, before going up to heaven, Jesus told us to go out to all the world and baptize. And from that day until today, this is an uninterrupted chain: They were baptizing children, and then the children [baptized] their children and their children; and, today, this chain carries on."

Parents, above all, have the task of raising children in the faith in which they were baptized, noted the Pope. The faith then becomes the greatest gift a child is given.

Continued on page 3

COUNSELS

Testify to Jesus, the Son of God

THEME: True Christian disciples boldly testify to Jesus, the Son of God.

WORD: Is 49:3,5-6 / Ps 40:2,4,7-10
1Cor 1:1-3 / Jn1:29-34

ORDER: **"Testify that Jesus is the Son of God." (Jn1:34)**

REFLECTION:

To be effective in our testimony, we must be credible witnesses. We must know Jesus and have a personal relationship with Him to be able to boldly testify about His presence in our lives.

There are three titles of Jesus that are highlighted in these readings: the Suffering Servant, the Lamb of God, and the Son of God. Calling Him the Suffering Servant, Isaiah pointed out that the Messiah is the *"servant who will raise... and restore Israel... and will be the light to the nations"* (Isa 49:6).

In the Gospel reading, John the Baptist introduced for the first time another title of Jesus, *"Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."* (Jn 1:29)

The third title is highlighted in John 1:32-34, *"I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him. But the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.'" The voice of the Father, the remaining presence of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, and the testimony of John confirmed that indeed Jesus is the Son of God.*

There were many other witnesses who testified about their encounter with Jesus as highlighted in the Advent readings.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"You are my servant, through whom I show my glory." (Is 49:3)

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

Gone Fishing

Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Mk 1:17)



For most of us, the phrase "Gone Fishing" usually connotes a "retired" way of life where one can relax on a boat while passing the time either reading or sleeping, or enjoying a hobby. However, as a disciple of Jesus, it connotes a deeper meaning. The first disciples had no idea what Jesus had in store for them when He called them to follow Him.

Why do you think Jesus chose fishermen as His first disciples? He could have called the learned but instead He called the uneducated and in time changed their profession to "fishers of men". Could it be that Jesus was looking for those who were accustomed to hard work and danger, those who were patient and humble? Perhaps He wanted people who were unafraid and willing to try whatever it takes and go wherever they could find a bountiful catch.

What about us? Are we living up to our calling as disciples of Jesus or are we looking forward to just relaxing in our discipleship? Can we consider ourselves as fishers of men? Our work for the Lord is to fish in unknown and uncharted waters and be willing to trust Jesus when He sends us out into the world to witness to the Gospel? In *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis says: "I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty, because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security."

As fishers of men, we need to dirty our hands and feet from the muddy waters that we are fishing in. We must be creative in our ways of spreading the Good News so we can catch more fish. We must never be comfortable and content in our evangelization efforts for that will lead us to complacency. We ought to be brave and courageous to come out of our comfort zone and try other means to catch fish.

We are fishers of men, let us live by our vocation.

PAYMENT IS DUE

Why people are hesitant to Praise, Worship and Serve still makes me wonder.

2014 marks the tenth year my family and I have been serving this wonderful community. Friday marks our family's weekly Payment Day to God's weekly blessings and miracles, with a minimum payment of

Praise, Worship and Service.

Through our participation in the Holy Eucharist, our Friday Praise & Worship, and our constant service, we try our best to express our deepest gratitude to the Father.



Praise and
Worship
Service

God gave us

Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and our life. How can we repay these very special gifts? My mother-in-law's passing after a long battle with neuropalsy and diabetes made me appreciate life more. To see people breathing through tanks, life support systems and being tube fed daily made me appreciate God's greatest gift and made me think about how I should pay Him back?

I remember one day a fellow came up to me and said, "You're still there in BLD?" And gladly I said, "Yes I am and I am there to stay." Then I asked him, "How come you left?" He answered, "Because nothing is happening." Shaking my head, I said, "You woke up this morning, your eyes opened, you were able to hear and breathe without paying a single cent and still you say nothing happened?"

It is unfortunate that "thank you" is not even included in the list of baby's first 100 words learned. Why people fail to look around them, who makes all things possible, still makes me wonder.

Each month a bill shows up in the mail and like clock work, we pay whatever we owe, because we are afraid of being put under collection.

Like what I said to my wife and four children, I am sorry but you pay your own bill, and you better do so, because when it is collection day, God takes everything you have, and each of us are accountable. By the way, did you make your last payment? You know payment is due, right?

Be Made Clean

“If You wish, You can make me clean.” The words of the leper in Mark 1:40-41 are simple and profound, a good example of how to approach our Lord in prayer.



Firstly, we need to be humble as the leper. Having leprosy automatically deemed one “unclean”. In addition to the pain that consumed him, he experienced the emotional pains of loneliness and rejection. His sad state could have brought him down to his knees and made him truly humble. This brought him to a perfect place to come to the Lord, kneel and beg Him to “make me clean”.

Secondly, the leper’s request was not only full of humility but also full of faith. The leper did not approach and see Jesus as a genie granting wishes. He knew our Lord could do it but left it up to Him to decide if it was within His will to do so. His expectant faith worked out well as Jesus was “moved with pity, He stretched out His hand, touched him, and said to him, ‘I do will it. Be made clean.’”

We can empathize with the leper. I am certain that all of us have been in that lowly place of suffering. Perhaps some of us are currently in that state. Let us imitate the leper in the manner he handled his suffering and brought all his woes and cares to the feet of Jesus.

Lord Jesus, have pity on us and shower us with grace to come to You in our need. Make us humble in our ways and bless us with the faith of the leper to accept Your Word and will in our lives. Amen.

Pope to Parents:... *(from page 1)*

Above all, I want to tell you this: You are the persons who hand on the faith, the transmitters; you have the duty to pass on the faith to these babies. It is the most beautiful inheritance that you can give them: the faith!” he exclaimed.

As the congregation stood surrounded by the beauty of Michelangelo’s famous paintings, Pope Francis offered a practical reflection for the parents: “Today, the choir sings, but the more beautiful choir is that of the children, who make noise.”

“Some will cry, because they are not comfortable or because they are hungry,” he continued.

“If they are hungry, mothers, give them something to eat — don’t worry, because they are the main people [here],” he assured them.

Following his homily, the Pope celebrated the rite of baptism for all 32 babies.

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

We heard the testimony of the shepherds who witnessed the Child Jesus born in a manger; the Three Wise men who paid homage to Jesus; Simeon and Ana who waited a long time for the fulfillment of God’s promise, and now John the Baptist, who testified that Jesus is the Lamb of God and the Son of God. They were all called to witness and testify to the presence of Jesus and how the prophecies were fulfilled in Him.

As the season of Advent ended, we thank God our Father for His Son Jesus. He is our Emmanuel, God with us. This is the same Jesus present in our encounter programs, in our retreats, in our teachings, in our praise and worship. He is the same Jesus present in the midst of our family life, binding together husbands and wives, and children.

As Catholic Christians, we are commissioned to proclaim the Good News to the ends of the earth. We are called to carry Christ’s light to the nations, to be His shining light to others. We are called to humbly share our life-story and to testify to Who Jesus is in our lives.

We are His instruments who are called to be like John the Baptist, pointing others to Jesus. We are the people overflowing with joy and gratitude for the blessings we receive from our Lord. We are God’s vessels who are called to witness, to share with our brethren the promises we receive through the Word of God. We are God’s children called upon to testify to the miracles and transformations in our lives as we live our Life in the Spirit.

As God’s witnesses, let us continue to know more about Christ through our sacramental life and prayers. Let us ask our Lord for the grace to live by what we preach, where our humble service speaks as loudly as our prayers and are as edifying as our songs of praise. Let us testify and bring Christ to this world - to the marginalized, to the unemployed, to the poorest of the poor, to those who are hurting and having difficulties in life. But most importantly, we ought to be Christ to each other, always ready with words of comfort, encouragement and hope.

We need to testify to the world that Jesus is alive and that we encounter Him every single day through the people we meet. This is the same Jesus that the Scriptures declared to be the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 13:8).

DIRECTION:

Be willing to witness and share your life for the glory of God.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER HEALING 1

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 When: Jan 25 & 26, 2014 (Saturday & Sunday)
 Saturday (Jan 25) 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM
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 Registration fee is \$50.00 to cover costs for handouts, meals and snacks.
 For group and individual sign-ups, please send complete name of attendees, encounter class#/district, and e-mail address of each (or the contact person) to audreysantos23@gmail.com

ARCHDIOCESAN BIBLE STUDY TRAINING SESSION

Date: **Saturday, January 25, 2014**
 Time: **9:00 am -1:00 pm**
 Venue: **Archdiocesan Center**
 171 Clifton Ave., Newark, NJ 07104
 Cost: **\$15** (To register: print flyer and mail in check)
 More info: officeforevangelization@rcan.org

YOUTH LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Date: **March 7-9, 2014**
 Venue: **Divine Mercy Auditorium**
Rahway, NJ
 Contact Information: DYC@bldnewark.com ~
YCS@bldnewark.com

PROJECT I DO (MASS WEDDING)

For: Couples who are civilly married but not sacramentally married in church / those who want to be married in church.
 When: April 26, 2014
 Place: Divine Mercy Parish Church
 Deadline for submission of names: March. 7, 2014
 Requirements & details: Contact Ray/Susie Atienza:
908-463-0449/bldassistedparish@bldnewark.com

Prayer of St Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 Where there is injury, pardon;
 Where there is error, truth;
 Where there is doubt, faith;
 Where there is despair, hope;
 Where there is darkness, light;
 And where there is sadness, joy.
 O Divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek
 To be consoled as to console;
 To be understood as to understand;
 To be loved as to love.
 For it is in giving that we receive;
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
 And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

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Tithe/Love Offering	\$3,821	\$3,821
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Mission Collections	\$3,000	\$3,000

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TEACHING CALENDAR

Jan 18** - Christian Parenting – **ME 41 & 42/SPE 15**
 - CMP 1 Part 2 – **LSS 1-39**
Feb 1*** - Community Teaching: "An Afternoon of Reflection and Prayer: GRATITUDE"
 (Guest Speaker: Mary Jo Kearns)
Feb 7 & 14* LSS Orientation – **ME 42/SPE 15/SE**
Venue: * & ** Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ
 *** Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium
Time: * Friday after worship, ** Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM
 *** Saturday 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARCH FOR LIFE 2014

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 Contact Persons: Ray/Tess Salmo ~ raycsalmo@aol.com

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Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Jan 24	Management
		Jan 31	Mission
		Feb 7	Pastoral
		Feb 14	Evangelization



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 4

Bulletin Edition

Jan. 24, 2014

NEWS

COUNSELS

March for Life Takes Place in Washington, DC

Live Action Founder Calls for Re-Education About Personhood, Dignity of Unborn

Washington, D.C., January 22, 2014 (Zenit.org) Ann Schneible

Thousands of people are braving the bitter cold in Washington, D.C. today to take part in the 41st March for Life.

Families, young adults, priests and religious, post-abortive mothers and abortion survivors were among those who marched peacefully through the US capital, calling for an end to legalized abortion.

Beginning in 1974, the March for Life has been held every year on, or near, the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decision – known as Roe vs. Wade – which declared abortion legal in the US. Since then, more than 57 million babies have been aborted.

Although the practice remains legal in all 50 US States, pro-life activists are reporting a nationwide decrease in support for abortion.

“The growth of the pro-life movement in the last few years has been phenomenal,” said Live Action founder Lila Rose in an interview this week with ZENIT. Recent polls indicate more people are identifying themselves as pro-life than pro-choice, she said, adding that there are growing trends of women, as well as young people, identifying as pro-life.

Also, the passing of pro-life legislation in the last few years, such as the “unprecedented defunding of the abortion giant, Planned Parenthood” at the State and local level, is a positive step towards ending abortion in the country.

Despite these advancements in the pro-life cause, however, Rose warns that there is still work to be done. “Keep in mind we have an Obama administration. He’s the most pro-abortion president we’ve ever had, so the political climate at the federal level is particularly hostile.”

Pro-life advocates are also facing the HHS Mandate – known as “Obama Care” – which, Rose says, “is another way of forcing Americans to fund abortion and contraceptives”.

We [need to] completely disentangle the government from the abortion industry,” she said, *Continued on page 4*

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY SALVATION!

THEME: **True Christian disciples live renewed lives and proclaim the Gospel.**

WORD: **Is 8-23 - 9-3, Ps 27:1, 4, 13--14
1 Cor 1: 10-13, 17, Mt 4:12--23**

ORDER: **1. Let there be no division among you; be united in the same mind and in the same purpose.
2. “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Mt 4:17)**

REFLECTION:

The readings for this Sunday continue to deal with the role of followers of Jesus Christ and as such our global theme for this week is: **True Christian disciples live renewed lives and proclaim the Gospel**

It is true that it is easier to profess our faith than to live it because, in this day and age, our values and beliefs are seen to be antiquated, bordering on superstition, and out of touch with modern realities. In addition to this, numerous judgments have been rendered by the courts that contradict our long-held, sacred beliefs that marriage must be between a man and a woman and that life begins at conception, a truth now lost to abortion on demand. We believe that only God, our Creator, decides when our life will end; yet mercy killings, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research and human cloning have placed the decision of creating and ending life in the hands of man. Many of our leaders in the political and judicial world have been deceived by the ancient serpent to think that they can be like God; they decide what is good and what is evil for their people. The latest battleground is the forcing of Catholic institutions and Christian businesses to provide contraceptives to employee *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

“Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matthew 4:19)

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

THE SABBATH

“Then he said to them, “The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath.” (Mk 2:27b)

When I open the Book of Exodus to read the Commandments that Moses received from God, I find, **“Remember the sabbath day—keep it holy.”** (Ex 20:8) I sometimes wonder what it means to be holy on the Sabbath.

When I was a child, my parents and I would go to Mass first thing every Sunday morning before we did anything else that day. Often I spent the day at a family gathering with my cousins or in the park or just hanging out at home with my parents and sibling. Every Sunday was a blessed day because we got to spend time with the Lord, had our family meal together, and were able to share our week’s experience and adventures with one another.

However, as a grown person, responsible for the lives of the young ones God has entrusted to me to lead, I now ask myself whether, with my busy schedule, I am living and leading a holy life on the Sabbath. We have kept the tradition of going to Mass together on Sunday before doing anything and the family Sunday meal, which now extends to the grandparents and cousins when possible. There are times when I have to work on the Sabbath, but I believe that, with Christ in my heart, my actions and words will emulate Christ, who did the works of the Father *every day*, even on the Sabbath.

“Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.” (Mk 2:27b)

I now come to realize that the Sabbath was made for us to give thanks to God for all we are. The Sabbath is made for us to be more aware of His presence and to be more conscious of the works we do for the Father especially on this sacred day, unlike some other traditions that would limit our work and be more restrictive than productive on the day the Lord has made.

So how do I keep The Lord’s Day holy? As the Psalmist says, **“I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall be always in my mouth.”** (Ps 31:2) I will give thanks to The Lord for all the wondrous things He has blessed me and family with and give Him greater glory in everything that I do every moment of my life, most especially on the Sabbath. Amen

Conversion of Saint Paul



Saul of Tarsus was a man of three cultures: Jew, Greek, and Roman. He was a Pharisee who persecuted Christians and a Roman citizen. He was present and consented to the stoning of St. Stephen, our first Christian martyr.

Saul’s life radically changed while on his way to Damascus. He saw a blinding light and he heard a voice calling to him, **“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”** He replied, **“Who are you, sir?”**.... **“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.”** (Acts 9:4-5) This marked the beginning of his conversion.

The men traveling with Saul stood amazed; they heard the sound but saw nothing. When Saul got up they found that he was blind. They led him to Damascus and for three days he was blind and did not eat or drink anything.

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord commanded him to go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul so that he might heal his blindness. Ananias was at first reluctant, having heard stories about Saul and his campaign to persecute Christians. Then the Lord once again commanded Ananias to go and He reassured him that Saul was His chosen instrument. Ananias then went to Saul and healed his blindness. Then Saul was converted from Judaism to Christianity and was baptized.

Saul went on to be known as Saint Paul the Apostle and did great things. Paul was an enormous influence of Christianity before and after he died. He was an Apostle to the gentiles. He wrote over one-fourth of the New Testament, including the famous “hymn of love” (1 Cor 13: 1, 4-5). Saint Paul managed to deliver the Good News to regions that Jesus did not physically reach. He encountered extreme obstacles in his journey and ultimate imprisonment in Rome where he was martyred under Emperor Nero.

SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Jesus the light of the world!

"In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw how good the light was." These were the first few words in Genesis 1:1-3. As we can see, the coming of Jesus was prefigured right at the beginning of the Holy Scripture.



Jesus is the light. The prophet Isaiah proclaimed, *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light was shone."* (Is 9:1) Again this is a foreshadowing of what would happen later to the Hebrews and, if we contemplate it, what would occur in our own lives. Many times we search for happiness and meaning in our lives in the wrong places. This is because there is no light just darkness in our hearts. It is not wealth or power or position that matters; it is not in being important and having people think well of us; and it is not in the way the world looks at it, which is "me first." Jesus, the light, helps us see the truth. He guides us like a lamp shining on our path. He gives us warmth, comfort, nourishment, and life like the sun does.

The word "light" has appeared in the Holy Scripture multiple times. It is reminding us of how important this word is. Jesus, Himself, proclaimed, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* (Jn 8:12) The magi were guided by the light of a bright star to where the new-born Jesus was. And haven't you noticed how the whole world lights up during the Christmas season? We put lights on our Christmas trees, our homes, our offices, our streets; and everywhere you look there are lights.

Let the light of Jesus shine in our hearts not only during Christmas but every day of our lives. Let us remember Jesus every time we turn on a light. Let the light serve, not as decoration, but as a reminder and a sign of God becoming one of us to help us, guide us, save us, and give us peace and joy that the world cannot give.

we know that God is still in control and His light will shine. We must not be afraid to leave our shallow waters of comfortable existence and get involved in the battle for our Church and for souls, knowing that we are never alone. Jesus, Emmanuel, will be with us.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

or be fined great amounts to punish and hurt them financially. In the medical field, people are losing jobs if they refuse to participate in abortion procedures. Like the people in Isaiah's time, Christians are walking in darkness and we need to see the great light. We are dwelling in a land overshadowed by the culture of death. How did we come to find ourselves in this predicament? It did not happen overnight; it took decades of slowly surrendering these values to a few vocal advocates of these anti-Christian causes while we, the majority, sat silently in the background.

In the gospel we read that when Jesus came to the land of darkness in the land of Zebulun and Naphtali, he said *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* (Mt 4:17b) There is a saying that "evil succeeds only when good men do nothing." We need to accept before the Lord that we are responsible because of our silent and uncaring attitude in allowing these evils to permeate our society. We should all repent and seek the help of His grace to have the courage to speak out and join the fight.

It was also in Galilee where Jesus called his first disciples: Peter, Andrew, James and John. They were simple fishermen, not the cream of the crop; but when they were called, they left everything and followed the Lord. No one asked how they would make a living or what was in it for them. Today, Christians still outnumber any other religious group in the world, but no other group has been subjected to so many vicious attacks by the media, the politicians and the judiciary. They can do it with impunity because we are a fragmented and disunited group. Oftentimes we are our own worst enemy because we have different agendas and priorities. We fail because we do not support the same vision and mission given to us by our Lord and our Church. Let us remind ourselves of this week's order: Let there be no division among you; be united in the same mind and same purpose.

As we enter into the New Year, let us live up to our covenant pledges and renew our calling as disciples of Christ. Let us focus on the directions given to us by our elders so we can march and move as one body.

DIRECTIONS:

- 1. Be reconciled with one another.**
- 2. Let us be one in supporting Catholic social teachings.**
- 3. Remain steadfast in living your life in the spirit.**

Let us not be discouraged by the disappointments and defeats that we are experiencing. Continue in faith to persevere and stand with our heads held high because



NEWS (from page 1)

adding that government funding of abortion chains must be shut down at the Federal level. "We need to be adamant in our pursuit of that goal, where we do *not* fund Planned Parenthood. We do not fund abortifacients. We do not fund [forms of] contraception that are also abortifacients." "That has to happen. And that can happen, even with a pro-abortion president. There are things that we can do and we must do."

Education is also fundamental to the pro-life cause, Rose continued, noting that one of Live Action's initiatives is the education through new media. "We need to be tireless in exposing the abortion industry in the United States," she said. "We need to be putting the evidence in front of the media, in front of the legislators, in front of young people, in front of the public."

"We need to be making the positive statement about why humans have dignity, why humans have rights, where those rights come from. [We need to be] educating people to understand why it is an actual injustice to kill a child in the womb, and how that respect for human life has to extend to all people, including themselves."

This education, she continued, must be done in such a way so as to provide "a foundation for lasting change." It needs to be made clear, she said, that an unborn child "is a human being, with rights - even if they're conceived in rape, even if their mother has health issues. We need to love them both, and explain to people what that means."

While the pro-life movement continues to confront these challenges, Rose remains optimistic. "The good news is that the cultural trending is very much in our favor [due to] the tireless work of pro-life advocates, and unlikely allies, who get out the message of the humanity of the unborn child."

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARCHDIOCESAN BIBLE STUDY TRAINING SESSION

Date: **Saturday, January 25, 2014**

Time: **9:00 am -1:00 pm**

Venue: **Archdiocesan Center**

171 Clifton Ave., Newark, NJ 07104

Cost: **\$15** (To register: print flyer and mail in check)

More info: officeforevangelization@rcan.org

DISCIPLING SESSION (1ST)

Date: **January 25, 2014**

Venue: **Divine Mercy Connell Hall, Rahway, NJ**

For: **Disciplers and New Disciples**

Contact Persons: **Mon/Bingle Chan**

discipling@bldnewark.com

YOUTH LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Date: **March 7-9, 2014**

Venue: **Divine Mercy Auditorium
Rahway, NJ**

Contact Information: DYC@bldnewark.com

YCS@bldnewark.com

LORD'S PROVISION

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$3,536	\$7,357
Typhoon Yolanda	\$680	\$28,119
Mission Collections	\$25	\$3,025

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

Community Teaching:

"An Afternoon of Reflection and Prayer: GRATITUDE"

(Guest Speaker: Mary Jo Kearns)

Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium

Saturday, February 1, 2014, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Contact Persons: Gene/Bing Ymbong

Feb 7 & 14 LSS Orientation – **ME 42/SPE 15/SE**

Feb 15* - Encounter with Jesus – LSS 1-40

Advanced Intercession/Orientation to Spiritual

Warfare – **LSS 1-38**

Feb 28* - Christian Servanthood 1 - **ME 40/SPE15**

- Basics of Prayer - **ME 42**

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

Time: Friday after worship, *Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

2014 MEDICAL MISSION

Date: **February 17-20, 2014**

Venue: **Bayambang Pangasinan, Philippines**

Contact Persons: **Mel/Remy Hernandez**

chi1944@hotmail.com

DLC MEETING

Date: **Tuesday, January 28, 2014**

Time: **7:30 pm**

Venue: **Divine Mercy Parish Library**

PROJECT I DO (MASS WEDDING)

For: Couples who are civilly married but not sacramentally married in church / those who want to be married in church.

When: April 26, 2014

Place: Divine Mercy Church, Rahway, NJ

Deadline for submission of names: March. 7, 2014

Requirements & details: Contact Ray/Susie Atienza:

908-463-0449/bldassistedparish@bldnewark.com

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Jan 31	Mission
		Feb 7	Pastoral
		Feb 14	Evangelization
		Feb 21	Formation

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 5

Bulletin Edition

Jan. 31, 2014

NEWS

President of US Bishops Welcomes Supreme Court Protection for Nuns

Ruling Delays Contraception Mandate

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 27, 2014 (Zenit.org) - The president of the US episcopal conference welcomed Friday's Supreme Court ruling, which granted an injunction to the Little Sisters of the Poor as they fight the government mandate requiring employers to provide free sterilization, abortifacient and contraception through employees' insurance plans.

The Little Sisters of the Poor run retirement homes for the poor elderly.

Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) welcomed the move by the U.S. Supreme Court, January 24, to extend an injunction granted by Justice Sonia Sotomayor, December 31, exempting the Little Sisters of the Poor and others in their lawsuit from the Department of Health and Human Services' contraception mandate while their appeal is pending.

"The bishops of the United States welcome the Court's protection of ministries like the Little Sisters whose vital work is at the heart of what it means to be Catholic," said Archbishop Kurtz.

The injunction from the Court states that if the parties before it write to the Secretary of Health and Human Services that they are non-profit organizations, that they are religious in nature, and that they object to providing the coverage required by the HHS mandate, those employers will be protected until a decision is made by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, which is currently reviewing the case.

COUNSELS

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

THEME: **We are purified towards holiness when we commit to a life of worship, prayer, and fasting.**

WORD: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10
Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40

ORDER: **Be consecrated to the Lord...in accordance with the dictate of the law of the Lord.**

REFLECTION:

The Gospel recalls the events that took place in



Jerusalem on the 40th day after the birth of Jesus – Jesus' Presentation in the Temple and the Purification of Mary. It takes us back to when the Holy Family,

Joseph, Mary and Jesus, went to Jerusalem to ritually redeem Jesus, their first-born son, and to ritually purify Mary, His mother.

As required by the Mosaic Law, whenever a Jewish couple becomes parents of a first-born son, ritual acts are required. First, they have to acknowledge that the child rightly belongs to the Lord and then redeem the first-born son or buy him back from the Lord. Second was the purification of the mother aimed at making her ritually clean. The Presentation shows Mary and Joseph's unquestionable obedience to the law. In the case of Mary, she did not need any ritual cleansing because of the virginal conception and birth of Jesus.

Continued on page 3

"The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him."

(Luke 2:40)

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

BLD members find inner healing



“A clean heart create for me, God; renew within me a steadfast spirit.” (Ps 51:12)

This is the desire in the hearts of the 47 attendees at the Prayer Healing Retreat which is designed to help in the recognition of the root causes of an individual's struggles in building a closer relationship with God and others.

With the grace of God, the attendees found inner healing through the teachings of our Prayer Counselors, the small group sessions and live counseling. As always, the weekend retreat was blessed with the loving support of our community through the Liturgy, Praise, Technical, Service and auxies from other ministries who offered their time to serve during this past weekend at Divine Mercy Parish.

Most of the attendees are from BLD Newark, including those from the Singles and Solo Parents ministries and ME classes. There are also attendees from Divine Mercy Parish and Saint Paul of the Cross Church.

As the attendees cling to God's promise in Ez 36:26; ***“I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”***, we believe that the Lord will allow the inner healing that they have experienced to endure forever in their lives.



***Thank You Lord for Your
Healing Grace and Mercy!***

PRAYER HEALING 1 RETREAT EXPERIENCE

Have you ever wondered who you are? Have you ever questioned why you do the things you do? Why you hurt the people you love? The emotional outbursts and overbearing attitude, even anxiety and loneliness despite the many blessings...these things never seem to change, no matter what you do... this is you, this is us.

This past weekend was a weekend of revelation for us. It showed us the causes of the many issues we are going through. A deeper meaning of the hurt, burdens, difficulties and challenges unraveled. It helped answer the many “why, how, what, and when” in our life.

“What goes around comes around,” is definitely a true statement. Sometimes out of rage, we say hurtful things we do not mean. We harbor negative thoughts towards others. We judge. Unknowingly, these actions have an adverse effect on the challenges we face. The repercussions of our actions have now been revealed and reflected upon. The causes of these have been lifted up and tossed at the foot of the cross.

Now we know we should not judge others, for we too will be judged. Now we know that we have to learn to forgive in order to be forgiven. Now we know we have to repent and restore the broken relationships we have with others, especially our parents. Although not easy, we must learn to be mindful of our thoughts, the motives in our hearts, and the words we say.

The retreat shed light on the things we do not understand. It was a significant leap in our spiritual growth as we continue our journey with the Lord. We have acquired a sense of awareness on the issues and unexplainable circumstances and events that shadow our life.

More importantly, we learned to embrace the miraculous healing power of forgiveness, for love and forgiveness cannot be separated. If we choose to live the love of God in our lives, then forgiving is an option one cannot avoid. As Pope Francis said, “Forgiveness is the Joy of God.”

The Prayer Healing Retreat is a spiritual calling that cures burdens, pains and ill-feelings. It is an uplifting experience that we are blessed to be a part of. God Bless.

OPEN WIDE

“Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted, you ancient portals, that the king of glory may enter.” (Psalm 24:7)

At the risk of sounding like a commercial, I want to recommend a website called **catholicity.com**. That’s where I found several excellent free CDs offered by the Mary Foundation with titles like, [The Eucharist Explained](#), [Healing and Holiness](#), [Seven Secrets of the Eucharist](#), and [The Mass Explained](#), among others. You can order copies for yourself or to share with friends; or you can listen to them anytime on the CatholiCity website.

The reason I mention this is that Tuesday’s reading from Psalm 24 brought to mind one of the great “secrets of the Eucharist” I learned from one of these CDs. The speaker was careful to explain that the wonderful truths of the Eucharist are not secrets at all. It’s just that many of us have forgotten, or perhaps never knew, the marvelous depths of meaning in this celebration which touches the very core of our faith. We know that when we celebrate the Eucharist, Christ is present. The secret is that He doesn’t come alone! Do you suppose He leaves the heavenly banquet behind? No! He brings everyone with Him! The Catechism says, “To the offering of Christ are united not only the members still here on earth, but also those already *in the glory of heaven*.” (CCC1370)

As I thought about what that meant, I began to experience a new-found sense of awe. I imagined that as the priest elevated the consecrated host, not only was Christ quietly present on the altar, but the walls of the church were opened wide as angels and saints streamed in, filling every empty seat. ***“Lift up your heads, O gates... that the king of glory may enter.”*** And not only were the heavy-hitters there, like St. Peter or St. Francis or Mother Teresa, but *all* the saints who had ever lived...even those I have known personally. I realized that my parents and grandparents and so many loved ones and friends who have gone home to heaven were worshiping and celebrating right beside me. Never had I felt so clearly what St. Paul described in Hebrews 12:1 as being, ***“surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses.”*** And the best part is...every time we draw close to Jesus in the Eucharist, we draw close to heaven. The words of the Preface say it clearly, “And so, with Angels and Archangels...and with all the hosts and powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory...Holy, Holy, Holy.” Open wide, and welcome the King of Glory. ***“Who is this king of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the king of glory.”*** (Ps 24:10)

COUNSELS (from page 1)

Mary however, submitted herself to the ritual as a renewal of the total offering of her life to God for the accomplishment of His Divine Plan. In the case of Jesus, this is one of the signs of His continuous service and obedience to the Father. This is also the fulfillment of the prophecies about the Messiah, the first-born son of a virgin, who was prefigured when the Lord punished the first-born of Egypt and saved the first-born of the Israelites during the Passover in Egypt and when Abraham was called to sacrifice his first-born, Isaac. This event became the basis for the Israelites to offer the first-fruits of the harvest to the Lord and to give Him honor on the first-day of the week, called the Lord’s Day.

In our case, when we offer to the Lord the first fruits and honor Him on the first day, we acknowledge that we belong to the Him. Everything belongs to the Lord, from the very first to the very last. When we commit to the Lord the best fruits of our lives, and make the Lord the first, the last, and the only one, then this is an ultimate act of worship.

The gospel also speaks of two other persons Simeon and Anna, as they welcome Jesus, Mary, and Joseph during their visit in the Temple. Simeon upon taking the child into his arms acknowledges that the helpless child is the salvation and light to all the nations (Lk 2:28). Anna too, on seeing the child Jesus, breaks into praising God and speaks about the child to those present in the Temple waiting for their redemption. We could see in Simeon his faithfulness to God’s promise and his submission to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Simeon and Anna’s dedication to a life of prayer and fasting (Lk 2:25 & 37) enable both of them to readily recognize the Messiah in the circumstances in which He manifests. Both of them were counted worthy to witness and to reveal the Messiah to mankind.

This feast should remind us that we too must carry out our own “ritual of presentation and purification” by offering our lives to the Lord. We must present every moment of our lives as an act of worship. We must continue to be living examples by the acts of love we share with our neighbors.

This feast should remind us that the awaited Messiah dwells among us every time we welcome the Word of God in our individual lives, in our family, and in our shared life here at the BLD community. This feast should remind us that as a covenanted community, our faithfulness to our Pledges is the best “first-fruit” that we can offer our Lord. We must continue to worship the Lord with fasting and prayers. We must continue our transformation in our New Life in the Spirit and help each other to grow like the child Jesus,

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS (from page 3)

“and become strong, filled with wisdom and the favor of God.” (Lk 2:40)

Let us continue to acknowledge that our lives, our possessions, our time, our talents, our treasures, our families, our friends, our jobs and our career, etc. all belong to God. As members of the Body of Christ, let us continue to live our lives and *“offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”* (Rom 12:1)

DIRECTIONS:

1. **Worship the Lord with fasting and prayer.**
2. **Be living examples of Christ Jesus by your acts of love and mercy.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Date: **March 7-9, 2014**

Venue: **Divine Mercy Auditorium
Rahway, NJ**

Contact Information: DYC@bldnewark.com
YCS@bldnewark.com

ADULT LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Date: **April 4, 2014 ~ Invocation Mass**

April 5-6, 2014 ~ LSS Proper

Venue: **Divine Mercy Auditorium
Rahway, NJ**

Contact Information: Joven/Lisa Soriano
LSA@bldnewark.com

LET US START INVITING OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS!!!

“It is not enough to discover Christ, you must bring Him to others.”

– Pope John Paul II



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER #43 May 16-18, 2014

“Let us all remember this: one cannot proclaim the Gospel of Jesus without the tangible witness of one’s life.” – Pope Francis

“O Lord give us a mind that is humble, quiet, peaceable, patient and charitable, and a taste of your Holy Spirit in all our thoughts, words, and deeds.”

– St. Thomas Moore

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com

LORD’S PROVISION

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$3,186	\$ 10,543
Typhoon Yolanda	\$670	\$ 28,789
Mission Collections	-	\$3,025

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“An Afternoon of Reflection and Prayer: GRATITUDE”

(Guest Speaker: Mary Jo Kearns)

Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium

Saturday, February 1, 2014, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Contact Persons: Gene/Bing Ymbong

Feb 7 & 14 LSS Orientation – ME 42/SPE 15/SE

Feb 15* - Encounter with Jesus – LSS 1-40
Advanced Intercession/Orientation to Spiritual Warfare – LSS 1-38

Feb 28 - Christian Servanthood 1 - ME 40/SPE15
- Basics of Prayer - ME 42

Mar 1* - Basic Bible Study – LSS 1-41
- Christian Maturity Program 2 Part 1 – LSS 1-39

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

Time: Friday after worship, *Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

2014 MEDICAL MISSION

Date: **February 17-20, 2014**

Venue: **Bayambang Pangasinan, Philippines**

Contact Persons: **Mel/Remy Hernandez**
chi1944@hotmail.com

PROJECT I DO (MASS WEDDING)

For: Couples who are civilly married but not sacramentally married in church / those who want to be married in church.

When: April 26, 2014

Place: Divine Mercy Church, Rahway, NJ

Deadline for submission of names: March. 7, 2014

Requirements & details: Contact Ray/Susie Atienza:
908-463-0449/bldassistedparish@bldnewark.com

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



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 6

Bulletin Edition

February 7, 2014

NEWS

GRATITUDE ROCKS!

For the 80+ BLD members present at the Community Teaching last Saturday, Feb 1st, the phrase “Gratitude Rocks” now has at least two meanings. The first meaning uses “rock” as a verb – describing the transforming power gratitude has in our lives. Our ordinary daily struggles and even our more troubling tribulations when viewed with thankful eyes can be seen in a different light.



Sister MaryJo Kearns, RSM presented a spiritual buffet table for everyone to feast on that afternoon. Interspersed between group sharings and video and audio segues were Sister’s quotes and explanations that touched on the many aspects of gratitude and opened up new understanding of what it means and what it does.

“If you have gratitude, you have all virtues... Gratitude shifts your energy... it invites others into a relationship...”

From a short discussion of the spiritual exercises by St. Ignatius, to a simple list of things to be grateful for, those present sought to answer the question of what God wants of us and for us.

Particularly memorable were the “gratitude rocks” (“rock” as a noun) that everyone was blessed to receive. They were ordinary rocks. But as the video showed, plain rocks used as a reminder of the need to be thankful, can become super spiritual stones capable of changing, not just one individual, but entire communities thousands of miles away.

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

Deeds of Love and Mercy

THEME: We are purified towards holiness when we are the salt of the earth and light of the world.

WORD: Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-9
1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

ORDER: *“Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”* (Mt 5:16)

REFLECTION:

The biblical foundation of the mission of *Bukas Loob sa Diyos* (Open in Spirit to God) is found and enumerated in the First Reading, Isaiah 58: 6-7: *“This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke, setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; Sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own.”*

A BLD member’s heart is distinguished by such qualities. And this is the kind of fasting God likes because God is interested only in deeds of love and mercy. However, some continue to find this challenging, and we struggle to reconcile our faith with our actions. But we find inspiration, motivation and strength in St. Paul’s letter to the Corinthians explaining God’s partiality for the humble, the unloved and the worthless. *“I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom...my message and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of spirit and power.”* (1 Cor 2:1, 4)

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“If you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted then the light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday” (Is 58:10)

GO HOME

St. Mark's account of Jesus' travel to the country of Gerasene tells of the healing of a man possessed by demons, who lived among the tombs, naked, always crying out, and bruising himself with stones day and night. Recognizing Jesus as the Son of God, the demoniac falls down prostrate before Him. Full of pity and compassion, Jesus commands the legion of evil spirits to depart from the man. The legion came out of the man and entered into a herd of swine that rushed into the sea where they all drowned.

No one had demonstrated such power and authority against the evil forces that controlled the possessed man as Jesus did. The people then feared Him and asked Him to leave their country. Just as He was about to leave, the formerly demoniac-possessed man, now fully clothed and perfectly sane, begged Jesus to leave with Him...to follow Him. But Jesus said, "No." The Lord understood the man, yet He told him. "**Go home...**" (Mk 5:19b)

Jesus wanted the man to stay behind and convince the unbelieving people to not be afraid of Jesus' power, but to surrender to it as he had. Jesus wanted this man to help the people in his hometown to be delivered from their "demon" of fear and misunderstanding ...to be healed. He was a perfect witness. He had a great story to tell - a story of what Jesus had done for him affirmed by seeing him changed, transformed, now clothed and in his right mind. The man returned home and began to proclaim what Jesus had done for him. "**And all were amazed.**" (Mk 5:20b)

How far off is this story from our own experiences? Certainly most of us weren't tormented by multiple demons, but some of us were equally lost, without hope and purpose, until we responded to Jesus' call to us. God's Word reminds us that no destructive force can keep anyone from the peace and safety that God offers to those who seek His help. Our Lord is ready and willing to free us from anything that binds and keeps us from His love. For He can see what's inside our heart and soul even while we are covered with rot. Jesus Christ has the power to overcome and heal the worst of human alienation and chaos. This is our gift from Him. In turn, our gift to Him must be our testimony to His enduring power, grace, love and mercy - so that others may believe! Our light must shine before others, that they may see our good deeds and glorify our heavenly Father - starting at home with our family.

You Deserve a Break Today!

"He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place." (Mark 6:31-32)

The twelve had just returned from their missionary journeys, tired yet excited and eager to share their stories with Jesus. But the crowds that followed Him everywhere were pressing in on them from every side. So Jesus simply said, "Come away."

"So they went off in the boat by themselves..." What a wonderful picture that phrase paints for us...a boat, on a lake, with our closest friends and with the Master. There are days when a little down time would make a huge difference in our attitude, would calm our nerves and settle our stomachs. St. Thomas Aquinas offered a simple formula for relaxing. He recommended, "a good sleep, a bath, and a glass of wine." That might do the trick on any ordinary day, but there are times when we really need to take a boat ride with Jesus.

Henry Nouwen, in his book Making All Things New, describes solitude as a basic necessity for Christian living, "Without solitude it is virtually impossible to live a spiritual life. Solitude begins with a time and place for God, and him alone." Moses knew how important it is to set aside a time and place for God. As the Israelites made their way through the wilderness, As the Israelites made their way through the wilderness, "**Moses used to pitch a tent outside the camp at some distance. It was called the tent of meeting. Anyone who wished to consult the LORD would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp... As Moses entered the tent, the column of cloud would come down and stand at its entrance while the LORD spoke with Moses...The LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a person speaks to a friend.**" (Ex 33:7,9,11a)

For us, that time and place is often difficult to find and hard to maintain. We don't have a column of cloud to block out the noisy demands of our everyday lives. It becomes a matter of discipline. Set a time and pick a place. Mark it on your calendar and keep that appointment, no matter what! You deserve a break today, and Jesus is calling you to come away. Why not let the Lord speak to *you* "as a person speaks to a friend." Accept His invitation. Hop into the boat.

Joyful Evangelization

The first writing from our new holy father, Pope Francis, is his exhortation, "*Evangelii Gaudium*", the joy of the gospel. It is technically not an encyclical, but for all practical purposes it communicates the mind and future direction of our new pope. We are all aware of the "new evangelization" with the reminder that evangelization is not really "new." What is new is the environment, the technologies, globalization, instant communications, individualism all mixed up together to create different challenges for the "evangelist." The receivers of this new evangelization are not just those who have never experienced the loving presence of Jesus, but even the "good" Catholic who needs to be constantly encouraged and renewed. Nominal Catholics who go to Church, but do so in an indifferent manner, need to experience a personal relationship with Jesus. Those who once were "practicing," but have left the church, need to hear the message over again. Ex-Catholics comprise the second largest denomination in the country. Pope Francis radiates a joy in his writing that sets the tone at the beginning of his exhortation. He even uses the term "sourpusses" to describe what could be a joyless gospel proclamation. (I have not checked the Latin word for **sourpusses**.)

It would be beyond the scope of this article to attempt to outline the whole exhortation. But I encourage you all to buy a copy or download it from USCCB. It might be well at this point here to extract from the exhortation what the pope calls "temptations faced by pastoral workers." He refers to the importance of a missionary spirituality. He addresses a mindset that would limit evangelization to a "mere appendage to life," when a desire and urgency to proclaim the gospel must flow from the very intrinsic spirituality of the Christian. Another temptation for the Christian living in a secular culture with its consequent skepticism and cynicism toward the church is to conceal or relativize Christian identities and convictions. This flows from a natural desire to be liked and accepted. Obviously the gospel message is often not a comfortable one, and mission then can become burdensome or watered down. Some could be afraid of the "time commitment" necessary to evangelize, leading to a kind of slothfulness, and laziness. We all need time to plan and evaluate, but to "squeeze" in ministry makes the gospel, as we said above, a mere appendage. The pope warns us even in the midst of challenges and difficulties, to avoid a sterile pessimism that it won't work. Pope Francis quotes Pope John XXIII's opening remarks at beginning the second Vatican council, referring to the "prophets of doom." Proclaiming the gospel should give us joy, and joy should permeate every word we speak in proclamation.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

Our response to be "hearers and bearers" of God's word finds fulfillment in our works of charity and mercy because this is the message Jesus Christ espouses for His Word to come alive.

There are two lessons in the Gospel reading which we need to practice whatever our circumstances may be. First, Matthew 5: 13 says, "**You are the salt of the earth...**" Salt refers to God's wisdom, His word. With the wisdom of God in our speech, we spread consolation where there is sorrow and pain; we sow goodness where there is hatred and discord. We help preserve love, unity and integrity and give meaning to our and other people's live, and thus like salt, help prevent human corruption, injustice and iniquity.

Matthew 5:14 says, "**You are the light of the world...**" We are tasked to be good witnesses to God's unfailing love in Jesus Christ, in and through our thoughts and actions. It does not invite us to become show-offs, calling attention to ourselves to be admired and praised. We are exhorted to maintain and to *keep our hearts on fire*, to persevere in performing visible and concrete works of charity and love. Our good intentions should be reflected in our actions, in our speech, in our relationship with one another, in the way we live. Christian disciples never dwell on their past, or do they sulk in the problems of the present, but rather, they concentrate on their "mission" to glorify God in every aspect of their life and being.

The Word of God is living and effective, yesterday, today and tomorrow. It is the food that nourishes our spiritual lives. It is the food that renews our minds and strengthens our hearts. Consuming God's Word therefore should be a daily undertaking, to feed and nourish our minds and hearts that we may come alive. If we are to be the salt and light of the earth, it is imperative that we read and study Scriptures because it is among its pages that we meet and come to know Christ more fully, and deepen our understanding of Who He is and His purpose for us. To be the salt and light of the earth is to be like Jesus in every way, to be loving and merciful to all his beloved children, especially the poor and marginalized members of society. To respond to this call is our own accountability to God who sees and knows all the deepest thoughts and longings of our hearts. It is in Him, for Him and through Him we live and move and have our being. Praise be to God for His Son Jesus Christ!

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS (from page 3)

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, with faith in Your love and mercy, we ask for forgiveness for the many times we failed to truly fast for Your glory. We ask You now to please grant us the grace and blessing to genuinely surrender our attachments and to follow after You in Spirit and in Truth. May we become the light and salt of the earth that many might come to You and believe in You. Renew us each day; strengthen us and let Your Holy Spirit move us to be Your vessels of love and compassion to those in need. Amen.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Strive to grow and mature as a Christian by reading, reflecting and sharing God's word.
2. Remain focused in purifying our hearts by fulfilling BLD's 5-point and 8-point pledges that we have made as our commitment to the Lord.

COMMUNITY WORD:

Disciples of Christ are purified towards holiness by their love for God and others.

NEWS (from page 1)

At 4:45 pm, after eager sharings from many, Sister smilingly declared our success at finishing on time. Just beginning in everyone was a refreshed awareness of all things to be grateful for, especially to the One Who makes all things possible.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Date: **March 7-9, 2014**

Venue: **Divine Mercy Auditorium, Rahway, NJ**

Contact Information: DYC@bldnewark.com
YCS@bldnewark.com

ADULT LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Date: **April 4, 2014 ~ Invocation Mass**

April 5-6, 2014 ~ LSS Proper

Venue: **Divine Mercy Auditorium, Rahway, NJ**

Contact Information: Joven/Lisa Soriano
LSA@bldnewark.com



LET US START INVITING!!!

"It is not enough to discover Christ, you must bring Him to others." – Pope John Paul II

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER #43

May 16-18, 2014

LORD'S PROVISION

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$3,325	\$ 13,868
Typhoon Yolanda	\$547	\$ 29,336
Mission Collections	\$30	\$3,055

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

Feb 7 & 14 LSS Orientation – **ME 42/SPE 15/SE**

Feb 15* - Encounter with Jesus – LSS 1-40
Advanced Intercession/Orientation to Spiritual Warfare – **LSS 1-38**

Feb 28 - Christian Servanthood 1 - **ME 40/SPE15**
- Basics of Prayer - **ME 42**

Mar 1* - Basic Bible Study – **LSS 1-41**
- Christian Maturity Program 2 Part 1 – **LSS 1-39**

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

Time: Friday after worship, *Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

2014 MEDICAL MISSION

Date: **February 17-20, 2014**

Venue: **Bayambang Pangasinan, Philippines**

Contact Persons: **Mel/Remy Hernandez**

chi1944@hotmail.com

SOLO PARENTS ENCOUNTER WEEKEND IN BLD LOS ANGELES

Date: **February 22-23, 2014**

Spiritual Director: **Msgr. Paul Schetelick**

Contact Information: **Jim/Alice De Guzman** (Pastoral Steward of BLD Los Angeles): jun-alice@att.net

PROJECT I DO (MASS WEDDING)

For: Couples who are civilly married but not sacramentally married in church / those who want to be married in church.

When: April 26, 2014

Place: Divine Mercy Church, Rahway, NJ

Deadline for submission of names: March. 7, 2014

Requirements & details: Contact Ray/Susie Atienza:
908-463-0449/bldassistedparish@bldnewark.com

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Feb 14	Evangelization
		Feb 21	Formation
		Feb 28	Management
		Mar 7	Mission

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 7

Bulletin Edition

February 14, 2014

NEWS

BLD assists typhoon Yolanda victims



This is an update on our relief efforts for the typhoon Yolanda victims. There are two types of donations that we are sending to the beneficiaries:

1. Relief goods

- We are sending 130 boxes (9 pallets) of assorted used clothing, footwear, beddings, toiletries (i.e. soap, toothbrush, toothpaste), canned goods, toys, kitchen utensils & shelter materials (tarp, etc.). These came for our BLD brethren, relatives and friends.
- A company (Rema Foods, Inc) also donated eleven pallets of assorted food items (i.e. rice, flour, mandarin orange, tuna, spaghettini, ziti, penne pasta, rigatoni, linguini, roasted peppers, sliced pineapple, grapefruit segments, coconut milk, mushrooms).
- These relief goods are in a container that is expected to arrive in Cebu on March 6. Our partner on the ground, BLD Cebu, will be in charge of the distribution to the victims of typhoon Yolanda.

2. Cash Donation\$

- These will be used for house repairs and livelihood assistance for selected typhoon victims. The following are the types of livelihood and the initial number of household beneficiaries:

- Fishing (2 groups of 12 households per group)
- Habal-habal/tricycle (2 groups of 12 households per group)
- Barangay store (2 groups of 10 households per group)
- The number of households may be adjusted later on.
- Initially, the beneficiaries will be selected from the affected areas of Ormoc (Leyte), Bogo & Daan Bantayan (Northern Cebu) ...*Continued, page 4*

COUNSELS

The Law of God

THEME: We are purified towards holiness when we obey Jesus and are reconciled with one another.

WORD: Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1,2,4,5,17,18,33,34/1Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37

ORDER: "...keep the commandment, they shall save you...trust in God, you, too shall live." (Sir 15:15)

REFLECTION:

In the ancient days the law of the land was dictated by whoever was stronger and had weapons. They ruled over those who had none and commonly, there was not only abuse, but oftentimes things ended in slaughter. There was no rule of law to follow and it was chaos. Fortunately for us, there was this group of people, the Jews who were loved by God and to them He gave the Decalogue, the 10 Commandments.



From this group of people started order and morality. Yes, there were other tribes of men who had their own laws, but theirs was not divine in nature. The Decalogue is divine, hence its continued presence. As recorded throughout human history, many nations followed the same law and were blessed and transformed. This great nation of ours was built on this very foundation and became ...*Continued, page 3*

Promise of the Week

"Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Mt 5:19b)

A Dozen Haikus... for You Lord!!!

*Haiku - Japanese poetry form adapted to English as
containing 17 syllables on 3 lines of 5, 7 and 5 syllables each*



**Something that we must
Not to let faith gather dust
In Christ put our trust.**

**Seek the Lord, don't wait
To others' problems relate
Show them love not hate.**

**This is the greatest
Command, not just a request
Love others, the test.**



**Him we should receive
His Love in our hearts conceive
Have faith and believe.**

**Your people, inspire
Fill us with Your Spirit's fire
You're our hearts' desire.**



**Choose not what's safer
For us Jesus did suffer
Take a stance, matter.**

**This is the Lord's dare
Show the world that we do care
Love beyond compare.**

**Jesus Christ is King
Forever He is reigning
Our lives He's blessing.**

**It is not so hard
To earn a holy award
Go the extra yard.**



**Sing God a glad tune
Sing it from July to June
Noon until next noon.**

**When and wherever
For always and forever
"AMEN" - OUR ANSWER!**



**In the end you'll see
Jesus Christ in victory
TO GOD... ALL GLORY!**

What is Love?

- a poll from our Mark 10 kids

What is love?

1. A strong connection with another person
2. A good feeling
3. You cannot leave the person you love
4. You cannot disappoint the person you love

How do you show love?

1. I do the laundry and help shovel the snow so my parents do not have to do it
2. By obeying the person we love
3. By pleasing Him
4. By being happy when they are around
5. By visiting them when they are sick and taking care of them

Who is the source of love?

- | | | |
|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. God | 2. Parents | 3. Neighbors |
| 4. Friends | 5. Me | 6. Everyone |

Valentine's day is February 14. Everyone wants to show love by giving Valentine cards, flowers, chocolate, hugs and kisses. It seems that everyone wants to show love. But yet...we wonder why do we quarrel with each other; why do we say bad things about each other; why is there war? Why do we have homeless people, hungry people, people in jail, lonely grandmas and grandpas? Why are there greedy people? Why do rich people have many homes and cars, and poor people have none? Does it mean we don't have enough love to fill the need of each person? The Mark 10 kids all agreed that these are true.

What can we do to make our world a better place; what can we do to show more love? JESUS. Jesus is the answer. For He is THE GOD OF LOVE. The only source of true Love that satisfies and never disappoints. When we are close to Jesus, His Holy Spirit can show us and teach us how to love without being selfish. He showed us a good example of a perfect love by dying on the cross to pay for our sins so that we don't suffer eternal death but rather we will have eternal life with Him in heaven.

We need to go to church, listen to His words and receive Holy Communion which is Christ Himself...the Bread of Life. We need to obey His commandments because these are acts of love toward God and to our neighbors. By going to confession regularly, we know God forgives our sins and in turn we can forgive each other.

We all like to be loved. But let us not forget that we should love in return.

- This is the meaning of love for us Mark 10 kids.

COUNSELS *(from page 1)*

the greatest country in the world today. It is proven that God's law brings order, discipline, justice, progress, ethics, etc. On the other hand, when the law of God is thwarted, there is violence, abuse and decay.

God's love is all embracing; and that is why He gave humankind the 10 commandments, in order for human nature to achieve its destiny to be holy and divine. Many believe the commandments restrict our freedom, but freedom from what? Freedom to commit sin? On the contrary it is true freedom when freedom has a safety net or has borders to prevent us from falling off a cliff, - from falling into sin. ***"The eyes of God are on those who fear Him; He understands man's every deed. No one does He command to act unjustly, to none does He give license to sin."*** (Sir 15:20)

In the Gospel reading, Jesus explains God's law and translates it with such intellect and depth that we can only be in awe at His wisdom. Jesus provides us a deeper understanding of God's law which centers on pure love. God's law empowers man to take control of his destiny. It is not merely a law of do's and do not's but a divine command to transform us humans towards that which is divine. We are mortals, and as such, will pass away, but Jesus said ***"until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law."*** (Mt 5:18)

Jesus invites us to avail ourselves of this blessing of understanding and wisdom, which is achieved through the meditation of God's law. God's wisdom is a blessing we have access to, the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Recall Jesus' presentation at the Temple, the wisdom of Simeon and Ana, knowing exactly what was in front of them, knowing at that very moment that the baby Jesus is 'The Salvation to come.' This wisdom ***"...which God predetermined before the ages for our glory..."*** (1Cor 2:7b) is for us; it is grace for our taking. But to receive this wisdom, we need to obey His statutes. In seeking God's wisdom, we open our hearts and minds to the ways of God, understanding His plan for us so that we may not be like children swayed by every wind of change. ***"Brothers and sisters, we speak a wisdom to those who are mature, not a wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away. Rather, we speak God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden..."*** (1Cor 2:6-7a)

Let us not take for granted the laws of God for ***"The statutes of the Lord are true, all of them just; more desirable than gold, than a hoard of purest gold, sweeter also than honey or drippings from the comb."*** (Ps 19:10b-11.)

...Continued, page 4

The Feast of Saint Valentine *A Celebration of Love*

As soon as the clock strikes twelve on the fourteenth of February, couples across the world spend the next twenty four hours exchanging gifts, such as flowers, chocolates and cards, during Valentine's Day, the celebration of love. The acclaimed holiday is known for its commercial aspects, but not many people are aware of its history.

During the reign of Emperor Claudias II, the church was persecuted once again, and an edict prohibiting the marriage of young people was issued. During the time of persecution, a Roman priest named Valentine was inspired to continue the work of the Church. This priest continuously encouraged young people to wed, despite the edict that prevented them from publicly doing so. Valentine worked constantly to continue the sacred bond between a man and woman. Secretly, he encouraged and married young men and women. However, Valentine was eventually discovered, imprisoned and tortured for performing marriage ceremonies.

While imprisoned, Valentine was rumored to have performed a miracle for one of his judge's daughters. It is said that a judge named Asterius had a daughter who was blind. Supposedly, Valentine had prayed with the judge's daughter and eventually healed her blindness. Because of this miracle, it is said that Asterius himself converted to Christianity. In addition, Valentine's last words written were apparently to this man's daughter. He had written a note to her, signing it, "from your Valentine," inspiring the romantic signature that is used as a modern day tradition in the romantic holiday.

Shortly after, Valentine was martyred for his dedication to Christianity and his strong belief in the sacredness of marriage. In a three part execution, Valentine was beaten, stoned and finally, beheaded. Although he suffered a gruesome death, Valentine's efforts were not futile. Due to his healing miracle, Valentine was named a saint, and because of his determination to continue marrying young people, he became the patron saint of lovers.

Over the years, the true purpose of Valentine's Day has been forgotten, replaced with just the romantic celebration of two people in love. But Saint Valentine's message remains. No amount of romantic gifts or celebrations can change the love between two people and their choice to be together for as long as they live.



COUNSELS (from page 3)

Father in heaven, You have set before us fire and water, before us is life and death, good and evil, whichever we choose will be given us. We choose You Lord God, Your law gives life. We trust in Your wisdom for You are all seeing. Help us, Your children, to stay blameless and observe all Your decrees. We seek you with all our heart Father for You are our meditation all the days of our lives, Amen.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Make good to the Lord all you vow.
2. Be reconciled with your brethren.
3. Let your "Yes" mean "Yes" and your "No" mean "No." Anything more is from the evil one.

NEWS (from page 1)

- Oversight committees will be formed consisting of BLD Spiritual Directors and BLD elders in the above mentioned areas, and non-BLD representatives. The functions of these oversight committees include the gathering of household information which will be used as the basis for selecting the beneficiaries, the determination of amount to be given per household, and the monitoring and reporting of progress of the different groups.
- Gathering of information on beneficiaries and the selection process are now in progress.

Further updates will be provided as we reach certain milestones in our relief efforts.

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May 16-18, 2014

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Typhoon Yolanda	\$332	\$ 29,668
Mission Collections	\$75	\$3,130

Financial details are available to all members through

treasury@bldnewark.com

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Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

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- Basics of Prayer - **ME 42**

Mar 1* - Basic Bible Study – **LSS 1-41**
- Christian Maturity Program 2 Part 1 – **LSS 1-39**

Mar 15** - Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden – **LSS 1-40**

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

**Divine Mercy Parish Library, Rahway, NJ

Time: Friday after worship, *Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**Saturday 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOLO PARENTS ENCOUNTER WEEKEND IN BLD LOS ANGELES

Date: **February 22-23, 2014**

Spiritual Director: **Msgr. Paul Schetelick**

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Deadline for submission of names: March. 7, 2014

Requirements & details: Contact Ray/Susie Atienza:
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Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Feb 21	Formation
			Feb 28	Management
			Mar 7	Mission
			Mar 14	Pastoral

Happy Valentine's Day!

Please notify the Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 8

Bulletin Edition

Feb. 21, 2014

NEWS

Pope: Loving Our Neighbor Requires More Than Just Observing the Law

Also Denounces Ugliness of Gossip in His Sunday Angelus Address

Vatican City, February 17, 2014 ([Zenit.org](http://zenit.org))

Over 50,000 pilgrims from around the world gathered in St. Peter's Square on Sunday to listen to Pope Francis' address before and after the recitation of the Angelus.

The Holy Father reflected on the Sunday's Gospel, which spoke of Christ's desire to fulfill the Law of Moses. This 'fulfillment', he said, "requires a greater justice, a more authentic observance."

"Jesus Himself answers us with some examples. Jesus was practical. He always used examples when He spoke to make Himself understood," he explained.

Referring to Christ's words about 'killing' a brother through judging, the Pope told the faithful that gossip is an example of this form of judgement.

"Gossiping too can kill because it kills a person's reputation! Gossip is very ugly!" he exclaimed. "At the beginning it can seem pleasant, even entertaining, like sucking on candy. But in the end it fills our hearts with bitterness, and it poisons us too."

"I will tell you the truth, I am convinced that if each of us were to decide to avoid gossip, in the end we would become a saint! It is a beautiful path!"

The Holy Father went on to say that loving our neighbor, as Jesus says in the Gospel, requires more than just a strict observance of the Law, but rather "deeper motivations" that are a manifestation of God's Wisdom.

Prior to reciting the Marian prayer with the faithful, Pope Francis

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

HOLINESS

THEME: We are purified towards holiness when we love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.

WORD: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

ORDER: "*Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy.*" (Leviticus 19:2)

REFLECTION:

HOLINESS is one of the many attributes of the character of Jesus Christ. The readings for this Sunday focus on this attribute because it is through His holiness that He fulfilled His mission here on earth as given to Him by His Father in Heaven, and that is to give up His life on the cross so that we may be saved. When Jesus took the Ten Commandments given to Moses and reduced them to two, the same attribute was ingrained within it, as these two commandments are personified by Jesus. Loving God and neighbor is what Jesus taught us, and what these readings are all about.

The very first verse of the First Reading immediately sets the tone for what it takes to be called a disciple and follower of Christ. Throughout the readings, the steps to holiness, which is the perfection of Jesus Christ, are given. The Psalm provides us with examples of how God loves us even with our own transgressions, and how we must learn to do the same to those who offend us.

God commanded Moses to tell the Israelites, "*Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God am holy*" (Leviticus 19:2) and proceeds to

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"He redeems your life from destruction, he crowns you with kindness and compassion." (Psalm 103:4)

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

Like A Sunflower

“But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:19)

I used to not understand the concept of free will and still having to listen to what God wants us to do. I thought God gave us the ability to do what we want to do so that we can be happy. It seemed like such a contradiction to me. How can I be free if I submit to someone else’s will? How can I be free when I’m still doing what God wants me to do and not what I want to do?

I like to compare this situation to a sunflower. A sunflower is able to grow and thrive when it points towards the sun. But if it decides to face the opposite

direction, it will wither and die. We as sinners are like this. If we choose to do what we want to do and turn away from



God, we too will wither and die. We refuse the gift of life that God wants us to have. He doesn’t try to interfere with our freedom, but He allows us to experience total fulfillment, to flourish and become the wonderful, beautiful people He knows we’re meant to be. Only He knows what will make us happy. And it’s only when we learn how to grow in our loving trust in Him will we be able to experience what true freedom really is.

Lord, I know that You have a plan for us. You have a plan to give us a beautiful future and hope. Only You know the way, the truth and the light. We pray Lord, that You may take away any selfish thoughts that linger in our minds. Take away our over-confident behaviors, the belief that we can do things alone, that we know what’s best, that we don’t need anyone. But no, Father. We do need someone and that someone is You. You gave us these commandments so that we may learn how to experience deep peace and lasting joy. We know You are constantly calling us to a life of love. We want to come find You. A Father who knows best for His children. We want to give you our full loving obedience, because we as humans, as your children ...all we can do is only imagine.

Faith Alone is Useless

“For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.” (Matthew 25:29)

This refers to our God-given talents that we are expected to use to serve or care for others, especially those who are spiritually and/or physically weak. There are reasons why we sometimes do not use these talents to further His Kingdom and thus glorify God.

One common excuse or reason is the fear of failure. We have the preconceived notion that we are being rated as to the number of converts we win over or the number of those we have served or cared for. We need to realize that God is more interested in the passion with which we use our God-given talents when we do His will. The number/quantity will be there if we do what we are called for and have complete trust in Him. He is always with us if what we do comes from the heart. It is not about love for ourselves as when we take an accounting of how much we do. Rather, to paraphrase Mother Teresa of Calcutta, *“It is not how much we give or do, but how much love we put in the giving or doing”*.

Therefore we can define fear as lack of faith in God. But faith alone is useless as in James 2:17, ***“Faith without works is dead.”*** Our faith should include our willingness or desire to do things that are pleasing in the eyes of God. As individuals or as a community, we can help bring peace to spouses or families who are struggling in their relationship with one another; we can bring hope to those who feel abandoned by God like the less fortunate, the hungry, the sick, etc. We surely have something to share, as simple as our time and talents.

Yes, there is a cost for discipleship. There are struggles to overcome. The first thing we need to overcome is our self-doubt by replacing it with gratitude for being called to serve Him. We also need to realize that it is not about me and you, nor our community, but it is all about the many who are just waiting to be part of a bountiful harvest. Only then can we feel the joy of living our faith.



Shepherd's Voice

God of Love

God of Love, Hear our Prayer

You ask us Lord, to be holy as your Father is holy. How could we hope to become holy when our sin drives us to despair, if not for your holiness which comes to illuminate our life? Are you not the only Holy One?

God of Love, Hear our Prayer

You ask us Lord, to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect. How could we hope to become perfect when we have so many faults, if not for your perfection which comes to embellish our hearts? Are you not the only Perfect One?

God of Love, Hear our Prayer

You ask us Lord, to be merciful as your Father is merciful. How could we hope to show mercy when our hardness of heart oppresses our brothers and sisters, if not for your mercy which comes to soften our hearts? Are you not the only Merciful One?

God of Love, Hear our Prayer

You ask us Lord, to love our enemies, to pray for our persecutors. How could we hope to forgive when the spirit of revenge besieges us, if not for your forgiveness which comes to evangelize our heart? Are you not the forgiveness of the Father?

God of Love, Hear our Prayer

God our Father, you truly ask us the impossible when you demand of us a holiness similar to that of your Son Jesus. But are you not the God of the impossible?

What we cannot accomplish by ourselves let your Son Jesus realize it in us. Look at our hands when they do good, it is His hands that do it through us.

Look at our heart when we love, it is His heart that loves in us. We are nothing without Him. But with Him we are, for eternity, Your beloved children.

Amen!!!!



COUNSELS (from page 1)

admonish us to love our neighbor if we are to keep this holiness.

In the 2nd Reading, God assures us that there is nothing to fear in our quest for holiness. Though we may be put to the test especially by our enemies as we seek to be holy, He tells us that nothing can destroy us for we are His temple and will have the strength and protection that comes from Him, so long as we rely on His wisdom and knowledge rather than on our own human intellect.

Christ, through the Gospel, illustrates what it takes to be Holy like Him:

- Christ says in Matthew 5:38-42 “*An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth ... but to you I say, when someone strikes you on one cheek, offer the other.*” In the Old Testament and the present justice system, the law defines the limits to how much you can get back at someone who has hurt you. Thus you cannot take a man’s life for taking your eye; you can only retaliate up to the degree of your injury or loss. But Jesus Christ tells us instead of getting back, to offer our other cheek. The act of getting back chips away at our holiness, for revenge is evil.
- Christ says in the next verse, “*If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand your cloak over as well.*” Jesus was speaking to the common people who barely have the basic necessities in life. He is telling them go to the extreme, to the point of giving up their own last source of comfort. This is how we must give, to the point of sacrificing our own comfort.
- Jesus says, “*Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go for two miles.*” The word used here is “press,” in other words, “force.” It is easy to go the extra mile if you are doing it for somebody you love or who is dear to you for you do it willingly and more. But here Christ is talking about being asked to do something against your will or by somebody you do not like. He admonishes us to go the extra mile instead of resisting. By doing this we not only gain respect and friendship, but we become more and more like Christ.
- Jesus says, “*Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.*” Christ teaches

Continued on page 4

NEWS (from page 1)

concluded his remarks by asking those present to allow themselves to be open to the action of the Holy Spirit in bringing the law to fulfillment in their own lives.

“In the light of this teaching every precept reveals its full meaning as a demand of love, and all precepts are contained within the greatest commandment: love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself,” he said.

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– Pope John Paul II

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER #43

May 16-18, 2014

SINGLES ENCOUNTER #32

May 30-June 1, 2014

SOLO PARENTS ENCOUNTER #16

JUNE 27-29, 2014

SAVE THE DATE!

COMMUNITY RETREAT

March 29, 2014

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908-463-0449 / bldassistedparish@bldnewark.com

COUNSELS (from page 3)

us here to be generous and charitable. This is about giving to the needy and not expecting anything in return. This goes beyond financial assistance or giving alms. This means helping alleviate the suffering of those who do not have much by giving them our time and talents, which are our real treasure. These are the things we can best give to help others. This is, in a way, giving up our own lives so that others may live.

These are all acts of holiness that bring us closer to becoming perfect like Jesus. But to be truly perfect and holy as Jesus is holy, we should, through His example, do the greatest of what Jesus asks us to do: *“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father.”* (Matthew 5:44-45)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Be slow to anger and abound in kindness.
2. Take no revenge and carry no grudge against anyone.

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$2,069	\$18,863
Typhoon Yolanda	\$2,263	\$31,931
Mission Collections	\$75	\$3,130

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

Feb 28 - Christian Servanthood 1 - ME 40/SPE15
- Basics of Prayer - ME 42

Mar 1* - Basic Bible Study - LSS 1-41

- Christian Maturity Program 2 Part 1 - LSS 1-39

Mar 15** - Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden - LSS 1-40

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

**Divine Mercy Parish Library, Rahway, NJ

Time: Friday after worship, *Saturday 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

**Saturday 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Be a Living Word

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Feb 28	Management
	Mar 7	Mission		
	Mar 14	Pastoral		
	Mar 21	Evangelization		

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COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 9

Bulletin Edition

Feb. 28, 2014

NEWS

COUNSELS

Pope Francis: 'War Destroy!'

Appeals for Peace in the World and in Families During Homily

Vatican City, February 25, 2014 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org))

Pope Francis appealed for peace today in his homily at Casa Santa Marta, saying that war only leaves innocent victims in its wake.

Drawing his reflection from the first reading of the Apostle James, the Holy Father called on Christians to not be accustomed to the scandal of war.

"Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from? Is it not from your passions that make war within your members? You covet but do not possess. You kill and envy but you cannot obtain; you fight and wage war," the Apostle James states.

The Pope told the faithful that we find news and images of wars around the world daily in the news, noting that "the spirit of war has taken a hold of us."

"There are acts to commemorate the centenary of some Great War, millions dead...And everyone is scandalized!" he said. "But today it is the same! Instead of a great war, there are little wars everywhere, divided people...And to preserve one's interest they kill, they kill each other."

Recalling the story of Cain and Abel, the Holy Father said that while some may be scandalized about hearing one brother killing another, today millions of brothers kill each other. It has become such a frequent occurrence that we have become accustomed to it. While the First World War scandalized many, the Pope said that there is a great war occurring now, in various parts of the world that is "hidden" and it does not scandalize everyone. "So many die for a piece of land, for an ambition, for hate, for racial jealousy. Passion brings us to war, to the spirit of the world," he said.

"Usually in front of a conflict," he continued, "we find ourselves in a curious situation: to solve it, arguing, with the language of war. *Continued on page 4*

GOD'S SUFFICIENCY

THEME: We live in God's righteousness when we trust His sufficiency.

WORD: Is 49:14-15/Ps 62:2-3,6-9
1 Cor 4:1-5/Mt 6:24-34

ORDER: "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides." (Mt 6:33)

REFLECTION:

Our Sunday Readings talk about trusting in God. Who can help but be moved by His words, spoken through the prophet Isaiah, who reveals His tender love and faithfulness with these words: "*Can a mother forget her infant?...Even should she forget, I will never forget you.*" (Is 49:15) Psalm 62 lauds God in so many ways, "*God alone is my Rock and my Salvation,*" and urges us to, "*trust in Him at all times*" so that we are led to call out, "*My soul, be at rest in God alone, from whom comes my hope.*"

What inspiring, soothing imagery these words bring. A trusting soul, at rest, not disturbed by any tempest or trials of life. Exactly a week ago, our vigilant Word ministry sent the community this inspiring quote from St. Francis de Sales: "*We shall steer safely through every storm, so long as... our trust is fixed on God.*"

Our Council of Servant Leaders in their prayerful discernment calls us to unity in our worship, as they set our theme for the new month that is now upon us. **Trusting God is living in His righteousness.** And the immediate call to us, on this first week of March, is to trust His sufficiency. *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"Do not worry about tomorrow, tomorrow will take care of itself."

(Mt 6:34)

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

CORRUPTIBLE RICHES

“Come now, you rich, weep and wail over your impending miseries. Your wealth has rotted away, your clothes have become moth-eaten, your gold and silver have corroded, and that corrosion will be a testimony against you; it will devour your flesh like a fire. You have stored up treasure for the last days.” (Jas 5:1-3)

A few years before we were invited to attend the BLD Marriage Encounter, my husband and I were engrossed in our “five- and ten-year plans.” They were my husband’s mostly, but I went along with it because the business seminars I had attended and self-help books I had read instructed that this was a good way to ensure my desired outcomes. We had to visualize our goals in order to attain them. Our personal goals then had all been fixated on material wealth, position, and prestige.

Although I prayed a lot, my prayers were, for the most part, about asking, asking the Lord to help me achieve my wants and desires: passing an exam, obtaining a higher degree, getting promoted, receiving a better salary. I was not interested very much in having a relationship with the Lord, or listening to what the Lord wanted to tell me. One could say that I lacked wisdom from above.

In this passage, St. James warns us that basing our goals on worldly treasures will cause us future sorrows, for these treasures are but fleeting and temporary. Material wealth can rot, or corrode, or be destroyed; and more importantly, the process of amassing them may cause us to sin against God. If we make money by cheating someone else of an honest wage, or if we gain a promotion by taking credit for someone else’s idea or hard work, and if we live luxuriously but fail to provide food for the hungry or shelter the homeless, then we are guilty of abandoning God’s commandments and have, in effect, condemned ourselves.

God allows for all these things to happen, but sees everything and is able to discern what is in our hearts. He is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. Even as He wants only what is good for us, He has given us free will so that we are able to choose. He has given us His only Son Jesus Christ that we may know what is perfect and pleasing to Him. He has given us the Holy Spirit to be our advocate and guide. He has put within our reach a miracle that we can partake of each and every day: the Holy Eucharist, the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, if we elect to receive it. He has given us a powerful intercessor, our Blessed Mother Mary, and all the angels and saints to whom we may pray and ask for help. Yet, we are free to choose for ourselves: justice or injustice, light or darkness, temporary pleasures or eternal joy. The choice is ours. May we always choose to live in the Lord, and pursue treasures we can store in heaven.

Bring ‘Em Back

What good is salvation if it applies to me and me alone? Would I be happy to die alone and leave my loved ones behind living a sinful life? Could I be peaceful seeing the pain my loved ones suffer from here to eternity? Would life satisfy me if I saw my fellow beloved doing something wrong and did nothing about it? What good then is heaven, if the people I love go to hell?

We all are sinners. Even saints are sinners. As Robert Louis Stevenson penned, “the saints are the sinners who keep on trying.” If I look at the lives of saints, most, if not all, of them could have had a comfortable life. Saint Francis of Assisi, for example, was born with a silver spoon and could have had comfort from birth to death. Instead, Saint Francis gave up all he had to become a deacon and led a lot of people to become priests and eventually saints. Saint Anthony de Padua was in the order of Saint Francis. Saint Augustine lived a life so comfortable that it became a sinful life. His mother, Saint Monica, prayed and prayed for his conversion. Her prayers were answered, and he eventually became a priest and led many others to walk the ways of the Lord when he founded the Augustinian order. Mother Theresa had enough wealth to live in comfort for the rest of her life. Instead, she sacrificed comfort for the discomfort of living with the poorest of the poor. She led a lot of women to do the same when she founded the Sisters of Charity. What but the Lord’s mercy can transform sinners into saints?

In James 5:19-20, it says, ***“My brothers, if anyone among you should stray from the truth and someone bring him back, he should know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”***

No one is perfect. But if I should be petrified of my imperfection so that I do nothing and stay by the wayside, living comfortably for the rest of my life, I do not think there would be salvation for me. If I would say nothing, offer no correction, to my fellowmen who walk in error, there would be no salvation for me. If I fail to bring out the good in someone I love, do I deserve salvation? In the end, what good is heaven if the people I truly loved and lived for go to hell?



Preventing Blandness

“Salt is good, but if salt becomes insipid, with what will you restore its flavor? Keep salt in yourselves and you will have peace with one another.” (Mk 9:50)

“Keep salt in yourselves.” Have the preserving, purifying principle always, the principle of denying yourselves, of suppressing pride, ambition, contention, etc. And thus you will be an acceptable offering to God. Avoid contention and quarrelling, struggling for place, honors, and office; and seek each other's welfare so that religion will be honored and preserved in the world. Have peace in yourself and with one another.

How do I retain salt in myself? The Gospel tells us to live in peace with one another as the God of Peace calls us to do and to talk and converse in a kind manner, behaving like a faithful disciple of Christ. Strive for holiness of heart and life, so as to behave wisely toward everyone who is without.

But Jesus implies that it is possible for the salt to lose its savor, and yet retain its appearance in the most perfect manner. In order for me to restore the salt in my heart, I must seek the grace of God. He is the one who seasons me again and again and prevents me from disputing with my family and with people that I do not agree with or who are not in conformance with my beliefs. He also preserves me from sinning through partaking of the Holy Eucharist daily. Jesus, who gives me grace and seasons my heart, makes it savory and preserves me from the corruption of sin. When I come to Mass, I invest my time and effort to celebrate my faith with my fellow Catholic believers. It is an investment that allows God to deposit in my heart and soul the sacrament that is none other than the Lord Himself.

This is not enough. God wants me to do more. This includes making sure I pay my debts on time through the sacrament of reconciliation, and that I also arm myself with prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. Therefore, I ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit daily to free me from anger, greed, envy, jealousy and gluttony. To be assured of my salvation, I must also exhibit more humility and die to myself and my pride. These are good and useful, not only to my brothers and sisters in the Singles Ministry, but to everyone whom God wants me to minister to by my words and actions, especially during and after the Life in the Spirit Seminars. Enable me, O Jesus, to see that I retain within me those precious qualities, so as to be a blessing to all around me.

Heavenly Father, You have called me to be the salt of the earth. Help me to live in peace with others so
Continued on page 4

COUNSELS (from page 1)

God's love for us is evident in His lavish abundance in providing for our needs. The Lord points out in our Gospel passage, how God feeds the birds of the air who neither toil for today's food nor hoard for tomorrow. He clothes the fields of the wild flowers with glorious beauty that surpass that of King Solomon. Man, being more important than these, will be much more provided for. Therefore, Jesus says, ***“Do not worry and say, ‘What are we to eat?’ or ‘What are we to drink?’ or ‘What are we to wear?’”*** (Mt 6:31)

The Lord does not deny these basic and other human needs, but forbids making them the object of anxious care, making us their slave. Our heavenly Father knows them, and our focus should not be on what worries us but on God's love, goodness and sufficiency. This kind of trust allows us to be more generous in turn. We will be able to fight off any selfish obsession to store up or hoard for future needs, but to share with those who lack what God has given us in abundance.

Believing in this teaching of the Lord is not easy, even as He warns His disciples (gently, I imagine) about being *of little faith*. St. Matthew recalls a few other times when Jesus had done so. He challenged Peter when he sank after walking on the water, his obedient faith overtaken by fear (Mt 14:31). He rebuked the disciples for being terrified amid a squall, instead of being reassured by His presence (Mt 8:26).

Do we see ourselves in any of these? Do we recognize and remember the great deeds wrought by the Lord, especially in our community, as His early followers did in Mt 16:8? Is the faith of Christ's disciples in BLD as deep as it should be? How big should our faith be to be *big enough*? How about, the size of a mustard seed? (Mt 17:20)

The Lord says, ***“Seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.”*** (Mt 6:33) Our moral conduct is to be in conformity with God's will, submitting to His plan for our salvation. ***“Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.”*** (Mt 5:6)

Where man is inadequate, God always suffices. May this dictum from St. Teresa of Avila inspire us: “Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you. All things are passing away, but God never changes. Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices.”

DIRECTIONS:

1. Study Scripture, know it by heart and live a holy life in gospel truth and values.
2. Consult God in every decision you make.

Preventing... (from page 3)

that my Catholic faith might reflect the glory of God. I pray that you remind me always to reflect on the Ten Commandments and the teachings of Your Son, Jesus Christ. He offered Himself for all of us through the Sacrifice of the Cross, by which we are filled with grace and receive His pledge of future glory. Lord, happy shall I be if I hope in you. Prevent me from being selfish; and grant that I may know the happiness of the poor in spirit, happy to offer You my hands, feet, and eyes in the service of others, so as to touch and see You in every person I meet. Amen.'

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Date: **March 7-9, 2014**

Venue: **Divine Mercy Auditorium, Rahway, NJ**

Contact Information: DYC@bldnewark.com
YCS@bldnewark.com

ADULT LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Date: **April 4, 2014 ~ Invocation Mass**

April 5-6, 2014 ~ LSS Proper

Venue: **Divine Mercy Auditorium, Rahway, NJ**

Contacts: Lito/Gigi Vibar: LSA@bldnewark.com

LET US START INVITING!!!

*"It is not enough to discover Christ,
you must bring Him to others."*

– Pope John Paul II

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER #43

May 30-June 1, 2014

SINGLES ENCOUNTER #32

May 30-June 1, 2014

SOLO PARENTS ENCOUNTER #16

JUNE 27-29, 2014

SAVE THE DATE!

COMMUNITY RETREAT

March 29, 2014

PROJECT I DO (MASS WEDDING)

For: Couples who are civilly married but not sacramentally married in church / those who want to be married in church.

When: April 26, 2014

Place: Divine Mercy Church, Rahway, NJ

Deadline for submission of names: March. 7, 2014

Requirements & details: Contact Ray/Susie Atienza:
 908-463-0449 / bldassistedparish@bldnewark.com

NEWS... (from page 1)

The language of peace doesn't come first! And the consequences? Think of the starving children in the refugee camps...Think only of this: this is the fruit of the war! And if you want, think of the big banquet halls, of the feasts that are done by the owners of the arms industries, who manufacture weapons, the weapons end there. The child that is sick, starving, in a refugee camp and the great feasts, the good life of those who manufacture weapons."

The 77 year old Pontiff went on to say that this "spirit of war" is not reduced to countries that are in conflict, but occur even in our own homes. "How many families are destroyed because the father or the mother is not capable of finding a path of peace and prefer war, to sue...War destroys!" he exclaimed.

Concluding his homily, Pope Francis called on the faithful to pray for peace, something that in today's world has been reduced to just a word. "May the Lord help us understand this and save us from getting used to news of war," he said.

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$2,894	\$21,757
Typhoon Yolanda	\$500	\$32,431
Mission Collections	\$1,050	\$4,180

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Stewardship - It's a way of life!

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- Basics of Prayer - ME 42

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**Divine Mercy Parish Library, Rahway, NJ

Time: Friday after worship, *Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

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Be a Living Word

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			Mar 7	Mission
			Mar 14	Pastoral
			Mar 21	Evangelization
			Mar 28	Formation

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Volume 20 Issue 10

Bulletin Edition

March 7, 2014

NEWS

COUNSELS

Pope Francis Calls for Prayer for Vocations

Reflects on Idolatries that Impede Young People from Answering Call To Follow Christ

Vatican City, March 03, 2014 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org))

During morning Mass at Casa Santa Marta, Pope Francis called on the faithful to pray for vocations free from the idolatries of this world. The Holy Father based his homily on today's Gospel from St. Mark, which recalled the meeting between Jesus and the rich young man.

"Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" the young man asks Christ. The Pope noted that although the young man was good man who observed the commandments, he wanted more. "The Holy Spirit urged him," the Pope said.

The Gospel recounts that Jesus told him to sell his goods, give the money to the poor and follow him. Upon hearing this, the rich young man went away sad.

"His heart was restless, because of the Holy Spirit that urged him to come closer to Jesus and follow him, it was a full heart, and he did not have the courage to empty it," the Pope explained.

"And he made the choice: money. A heart full of money...But he wasn't a thief, a criminal: no, no, no! He was a good man: he never robbed, never! He never swindled: it was honest money. But his heart was imprisoned there, he was tied to money and he did not have the freedom to choose. Money made the choice for him."

The Holy Father went on to compare the rich young man's dilemma with the struggle today's youth go through in answering God's call. Many who do feel the call resist because their hearts "are full of other things" and do not have the courage to empty it.

Continued on page 4

TRUSTING IS LIVING

THEME: We live in God's righteousness when we resist temptation through His word.

WORD: **Gn 2:7-9;3:1-7 / Ps 51:3 6,12,13,14, 17 Rom 5:12-19 / Mt 4:1-11**

ORDER *"Live... on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."* (Mt 4:4)

REFLECTION:

Why do we find ourselves going to confession asking for forgiveness when we commit the same offenses over and over again? It seems difficult to shake off the compulsion to commit sin. Everyone falls into transgressions, even the religious go to confession. *"But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam."* (Rom. 5:14). Sin is an affliction that we inherited from Adam, staining each of us from the very start of creation. *"For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners..."* (Rom 5:19). There is only one exception, our Blessed Mother who was *"exempt from all stain of original sin"* (Constitution Ineffabilis Deus of 8 December, 1854).

Sin often starts as an offer of some good or pleasures by Satan, the father of all lies. Eve was entrapped with a major deception. *"But the serpent said to the woman: You certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods..."* (Gen 3:4)

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"Just as through the disobedience of one man the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one, the many will be made righteous." (Rom 5:19)

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

On Beginning Lent



The other day, a childhood riddle suddenly came back to me: “What’s the similarity between Easter Sunday and the letter T?” The answer – they both come at the end of LENT. But since I’m no longer a child, I found myself likewise asking: “What’s the similarity between Ash Wednesday and the letter L?” That is, beyond the fact that they are both at Lent’s start?

Then this answer occurred to me – they’re both about the beginning of finding out more about other L words, as in Life and Love; and about avoiding the lures of the world and sacrificing things that I like; and to discover the truly more important things that I lack.

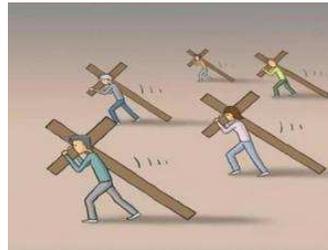
So it is Lent again. We can, once again, observe the rules on fasting and abstinence. We can do the Church’s minimum required, once-a-year confession. We can, give up luxuries, give up sweets, give up many things. But this Lent, may there be focus too on things that we lack.

There’s the lack of love for God, for families, for neighbors. Often, there’s the lack of time, maybe laziness in looking for Christ and knowing more about Him; or of being too pre-occupied and restless to listen to Him.

As you can see, this “l” list can really go on and on. But more important than anything during any Lent, and what we must strive for especially in the one we are now in – is yes, to do all those observances that we typically associate with Lent, but also to focus on renewed beginnings, of learning about Christ, of loving and living like Him.

In a sense, all this is optional, because even if we don’t, we’ll probably still continue living days and years even beyond this Lent; life can go on as usual. And quite frankly, it takes effort and discipline to go beyond the usual. But they are also required and imperative - if we are to realize the fullness of the length, height, depth and width of the True Joy that there is in being a Catholic believer in Christ.

And so that after Lent’s forty days, the Resurrection Promise of Easter Sunday - may become the ultimate reward – not as the end of Lent, but to be the new start, and the “L” that anchors LIFE and LOVE’s everyday beginning.



Our Daily Crosses

Today, we may be full of joy and tomorrow we may find ourselves in despair and hopelessness under the heavy weight of a cross. The death of a loved one, a severe illness, our home destroyed by a storm, fire, or being fired from our job, instantly become heavy crosses for us to bear. Sometimes the challenges they bring are sources of anger, depression, self-pity, or feelings of abandonment. Carrying one’s cross isn’t easy, it involves pain and some are more painful than others, which often makes us fearful of our crosses.

In Luke 9:23, Jesus tells us to take up our cross daily. Most of us would rather deny our cross and instead indulge in our heart’s desires. I believe God wants us to realize, that if we embrace our cross rather than resent it, He will give us the grace to endure it, which makes it easier than if we do it alone. No matter where our suffering comes from, God can use it to accomplish His will in us. In Romans 8, we’re told that for those who will embrace their suffering, rather than begrudge it – God will work it for good.

We must have trust and faith that God will help us overcome our daily crosses. Carrying our cross daily might be easier to do when life runs smoothly; but we need prayer & courage during our trials. Courage is defined as: “the mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.” In order to overcome our crosses, we need to have courage and faith. Our courage is a product of our trust in God and in His Word. God commands us to be strong and courageous because He is with us. **“I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”** (Joshua 1:9)

Lord, help me to use my daily cross as an opportunity for growth, as a time to courageously put faith into practice and as a chance to be an example of strength to others. Whatever my cross, big or small, help me to remember that I’m not facing the challenges alone, that You will walk with me every step of the way, guiding and leading me, while holding me in the palm of Your hand. Amen.

FR PAUL SPEAKS

My brothers and sisters, I begin with an apologetic note. When we share again on this season of Lent, there is the probability of repeating things that have been shared with you many times in the past. It is necessary to look again at the purposes and goal of Lent.

The history of Lent gives us a practical clue as to how we can live this season now. The reason for the gradual establishment of this season of Lent goes back to the very early days of the Church. Beside the practicing Christian, there were two categories of Christians who needed special attention namely, 1) those who were preparing to enter the church through Baptism, called Catechumens, and 2) public sinners who had caused a scandal in the Church and who now were seeking reconciliation and return to the body of the faithful.

Most of the converts to Christianity in the early Church were adults who, because of God's grace and evangelistic efforts sought Baptism. Through study and prayer for a long period of time as catechumens (today called RCIA), they completed their preparation for Baptism during the days of Lent. They received the Sacraments of initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, during the Easter vigil.

Even though most of us were baptized in infancy, Lent provides an opportunity to renew the graces of these three Sacraments by prayer, penance, and works of mercy. Easter is the time to renew again the spirit of our Baptism as well as desire to confront our sins. We are called upon during the Masses of Easter to repeat again the vows of Baptism and recommit ourselves to a deeper Christian life.

Private confession as we experience it today did not come into practice until the middle ages. The Sacrament of Penance was reserved for those who were guilty of public sin, such as apostasy or adultery. By our present day standards, the practice of public penance was very severe. The public sinner was "excommunicated" from the body of the faithful and from the Body of the Eucharist. He was covered with ashes and stood outside of the Church asking for prayers and a happy return to the Church. Finally he was readmitted on Holy Thursday, received absolution and once again allowed to receive the Eucharist.

We, in the present day Church need to realize afresh the tragedy of sin. Since sin is all around us, it is easy to become casual about this rebellious part of our human nature. This present season reminds us anew that as baptized Christians we can be victorious over sin, but only through the victory won for us by the death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus.

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

Eve succumbed to the temptation along with Adam. ***"she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it and falls into sin..."*** A small fruit, albeit "pleasing to the eyes and desirable," could cause such havoc and permit the entry of original sin into the world, causing the downfall of all mankind.

Lent officially started on Ash Wednesday. We must begin to quietly reflect on the state of our spiritual journey to eternal salvation. They say that the first step in the treatment of any kind of addiction is an admission of one's guilt. ***"For I acknowledge my offense, and my sin is before me always."*** (Ps 51:5). This is followed by a plea for forgiveness, ***"Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me."*** (Ps 51:4) "You shall confess your sins at least once a year." (Catechism of the Catholic Church -Precepts #2041-3) As disciples, we know that we have pledged ourselves to regularly partake of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Psalm concludes with a prayer of restoration and hope, as it reads, ***"Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me."*** (Ps 51 :14)

Lent is traditionally a season of penance - prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As followers of Christ, we are called not just to abstain from sin but to undergo a true conversion of heart and mind. We fast in memory of Jesus' forty days' fast in the desert. Fasting gives us the spiritual strength to resist temptations and the grace we need to overcome our sinful tendencies. Jesus Himself undergoes three temptations by Satan at a time when our Lord could have been most vulnerable, having just completed a forty day fast. But even as He was tempted and struggled with the forces of evil, Jesus was unyielding. He remained firm and rebuked the devil saying, ***"Away with you, Satan!"*** (Mt. 4:10).

What is most striking about the Gospel is the power of the Word which Jesus Himself uses to fend off Satan's temptations. In all three, offers of security, honor and power, Jesus responds by quoting passages from the Book of Deuteronomy. We too can be ready to confront temptation and guard ourselves against evil, by believing and invoking the promises of the Lord in Scripture. This is our theme for the week: ***We live in God's righteousness when we resist temptation through His word.*** When we proclaim God's word, we can face temptations with confidence and assurance that we will not fall, but rather, be victorious over sin.

Continued on page 4

NEWS

(from page 1)

“We should pray so that the heart of these young people can be emptied, emptied from other interests, from other loves, so that the heart can become free,” he said. “And this is the prayer for vocations: ‘Lord, send us, send us nuns, send us priests, defend them from idolatry, from the idolatry of vanity, from the idolatry of pride, from the idolatry of power, from the idolatry of money.’ And our prayer is to prepare these hearts to be able to follow Jesus closely.”

Concluding his homily, Pope Francis urged the faithful to pray for young people who have a vocation today so that “they may be free and not be slaves” to their idolatries.

“We should help them so that they may grow, so that the Lord can enter in those hearts and give this indescribable and glorious joy that each person who follow Jesus closely has,” he said. (J.A.E.)

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Date: April 4, 2014 ~ Invocation Mass

April 5-6, 2014 ~ LSS Proper

Venue: Divine Mercy Auditorium, Rahway, NJ

Contacts: Lito/Gigi Vibar: LSA@bldnewark.com

LET US START INVITING!!!

*“It is not enough to discover Christ,
you must bring Him to others.”*

– Pope John Paul II

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER #43

May 30-June 1, 2014

SINGLES ENCOUNTER #32

May 30-June 1, 2014

SOLO PARENTS ENCOUNTER #16

JUNE 27-29, 2014

SAVE THE DATE!

COMMUNITY RETREAT

March 29, 2014

PROJECT I DO (MASS WEDDING)

For: Couples who are civilly married but not sacramentally married in church / those who want to be married in church.

When: April 26, 2014

Place: Divine Mercy Church, Rahway, NJ

Deadline for submission of names: March. 7, 2014

Requirements & details: Contact Ray/Susie Atienza:
908-463-0449 / bldassistedparish@bldnewark.com

COUNSELS

(from page 3)

Our conviction comes from knowing that the Lord died for us and saved us from death through the glory of His resurrection. This is our promise for the week, *“Just as through the disobedience of one man the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one, the many will be made righteous.”* (Rom 5:19)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Resist temptation through His Word.
2. Acknowledge your sin and confess.
3. Undergo a true conversion of heart and mind through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$2,765	\$24,522
Typhoon Yolanda	*	\$32,431
Mission Collections	\$30	\$4,210

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TEACHING CALENDAR

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Mar 28 - Christian Servanthood 2 (Jesus – Servant of God)
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- LSS 1-41
- Shepherd's Training 1 & 2 – LSS 1-38

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

**Divine Mercy Parish Library, Rahway, NJ

Time: Friday after worship, *Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**Saturday 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

**Remember that you
are dust and to dust
you shall return.**

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Date	Apostolate
			Mar 14	Pastoral
			Mar 21	Evangelization
			Mar 28	Formation
			Apr 6	Management

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COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 11

Bulletin Edition

March 14, 2014

NEWS

COUNSELS

58 lambs grow in faith

The Youth Life in the Spirit Seminar 19, began on Friday, March 7th, 2014. Following the Invocation Mass, celebrated by Monsignor Paul Schetelick along with Father Paul Lehman and Father Robert Lamirez, the YLSS provided the opportunity for the 58 lambs to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation.

These lambs include **Alec Dizon, Angelle Doria, Angie McSpedon, Ashley Antonio, Bianca Salamat, Caitlyn Lagrada, Charlene Puertollano, Chris Arceo, Claude Chrysostome, Dana DeCastro, Eddison Ugaddan, Ezie Anyanwu, Francis San Andres, Jason Sorio, Jerome Ramos, Joanne Lim, John Chan, Jus Labang, Katrina Sarabia, Kelly Cabrera, Kevin Karakkat, Kevin Sugay, Kristianne Lopez, Matt Ferrer, Melissa San Agustin, Mergie Borreo, Niel Puertollano, Paul Mariano, Rogie Borja, Sarah Uran, Sean Booc, Sean Lee, Shay Reyes, and Tinn Demagajes** from Newark.



YLSS 19 also included lambs from two other groups: **Angel Anyanwu, Bobby Emmanuel, Briega Julien, Emmanuel Mercado, Michelle Akinwutan, Orlandy Cruz, and Phillip Ojo** from the Confirmation class of St. Antoninus, Newark, and **Bea Syquia, CJ Alfonso,**

Continued on page 4

THE GLORY THAT IS TO COME

THEME: We live in God's righteousness when we bear our share of hardship for the Gospel.

**WORD: Gn 12:1-4 / Ps 33:4,5,18,19,20,22
2 Tm 1:8-10 / Mt 17:1-9**

- ORDER**
- 1. Bear your share of hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God.**
 - 2. Listen to my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased.**

REFLECTION:

The Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Lent features the Transfiguration account according to Matthew. This event on the mountain was meant to strengthen the faith of the three disciples of Jesus in preparation for the events to follow: the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior. This reading should help us focus on the goal of the Christian life: to be transfigured as the Lord Himself was transfigured. In line with our theme for the coming week, which is, "...bear our share of hardship for the Gospel," we, too, are encouraged to press on despite trials and difficulties because, in the end, we can look forward to the Glory that is to come.

On the mountain of the Transfiguration, Jesus revealed the real truth of who He was, and who Peter, James and John, and each one of us, will become in Him. They were invited to exercise their free will and embrace the path that He had prepared. He was grounding them in the eternal Truth, and opening up

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." (Gn 12:2)

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

The Paraphrase of 'Our Father'

by St. Francis of Assisi

Our Father: Most Holy, our Creator and Redeemer,
our Savior and our Comforter.

Who art in Heaven: in the angels and the saints.

Who gives them light so that they may have knowledge,
because Thou, Lord, are Light. Who inflames them so
that they may love, because Thou, Lord, are Love.

Who lives continually in them and who fills them so that
they may be happy, because Thou, Lord, are the
Supreme Good, the Eternal Good, and it is from Thee
that all good comes, and without Thee there is no good.

Hallowed be Thy Name: May our knowledge of Thee
become ever clearer, so that we may realize the extent
of Thy benefits, the steadfastness of Thy promises, the
sublimity of Thy Majesty and the depth of Thy
judgments.

Thy Kingdom come: so that Thou may reign in us by
Thy grace and bring us to Thy Kingdom, where we shall
see Thee clearly, love Thee perfectly, be blessed in Thy
company and enjoy Thee forever.

Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven: so that we
may love Thee with our whole heart by always thinking
of Thee; with our whole mind by directing our whole
intention towards Thee and seeking Thy glory in
everything; and with all our strength by spending all our
powers and affections of soul and body in the service of

Thy Love alone. And may we love our neighbors as
ourselves, encouraging them all to love Thee as best we
can, rejoicing as the good fortune of others, just as it
were our own, and sympathizing with their misfortunes,
while giving offense to no one.

Give us this day our daily bread: Thy own beloved Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ, to remind us of the love He
showed for us and to help us understand and appreciate
it and everything that he did or said or suffered.

And forgive us our trespasses: in Thy infinite Mercy,
and by the power of the Passion of Thy Son, our Lord
Jesus Christ, together with the merits and the
intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all your
saints.

As we forgive those who trespass against us: and if we
do not forgive perfectly, Lord, make us forgive
perfectly, so that we may indeed love our enemies for
love of Thee, and pray fervently to Thee for them,
returning no one evil for evil, anxious only to serve
everybody in Thee.

And lead us not into temptation: hidden or obvious,
sudden or unforeseen.

But deliver us from evil: Present, past, or to come.

Amen.

Source: "The Writings of St. Francis of Assisi," Burnes & Oates, London, 1964.

JESUS IS LOVE!

"But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust." (Matthew 5:44-45)

So how can we love our enemies? Jesus told us to look at it this way: God the Father makes the sun rise on the bad as well as the good and makes the rain fall on the just and as well as the unjust. This is a great reassurance to all of us that God loves *everyone*.



When it comes to love, we have to follow Christ's example. He is the greatest example anyone could have. No matter how venial or serious the sins we commit are, Christ still loves us. He loves us when we do not even like Him or accept Him. He shows His love to mankind, even those who mistreat Him, by asking His Father to forgive them.

I am the kind of person who is sensitive. For me, following Christ's example is easier *said* than *done*. It is easy to love you back, if you treat me right. However, I find it so difficult to love those who do not treat me right and especially those who do not like me at all.

In May 2014, it will be a year since my spouse's Diaconate ordination. Somehow it became very clear to me that Christ needs to be in my thoughts and in my words, in order for me to be a good living witness to the people around me. There are times when I think, "Why should I pray for those people who are mean and nasty?" I feel that I am in a situation to love those who are nearly impossible to love, such as those who are hurtful or immoral. I strive to go to church each day and receive Christ through the Eucharist, praying hard that He bless me so that I will have the grace and the desire to walk in His ways. After mass, I feel in my heart a sense of conviction to love on God's terms and not my own.

Demonstrating the kind of love Christ did can be challenging; but with His help, you can love someone even if you are in a bad mood. You can love someone coming from your heart. What can you do to demonstrate your love for your neighbors and enemies? How can you change your attitude towards people that mistreat you, lie to you, abuse you, or even use you?

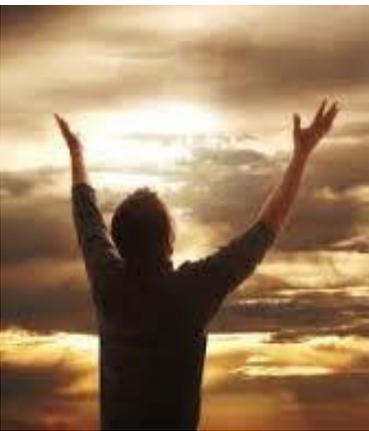
Take time to examine how you can work on loving others. Instead of asking God to change people, ask God to change *you* into someone who can love others in spite of how they treat you. And always remember that "Jesus is love."

YOUR WILL BE DONE

When we come before, God we must remember who He is and who we are, and that we are talking to the King, the Sovereign One, and the Creator; but we are only creatures. We pray that His Holy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven and ask that He help us to be more faithful to prayer each morning, noon, and night so that His Kingdom may live in our hearts and never leave.

Each day I pray that His will might burn in my heart every moment helping me to repent daily for my sins and to ask forgiveness for focusing on myself instead of Him as the Lord of my life.

Jesus, it is Your decisions and Your will that I must seek for everything. Help me spend quality



time praying as an act of obedience to Your will. Help me pray, "Your will be done." Reveal in me Your will, O Lord, each day of my life as I pray with a humble heart and put my own will aside. Jesus, I want to do Your will above all else and to

give you the glory, honor, and praise, O faithful Lord.

In Luke, chapter 22 verses 39-44, immediately following the Last Supper, Jesus walked to the Mount of Olives as was always His custom, and His disciples followed Him. When He got there, He told them to **"Pray that you may not undergo the test."** He left His disciples and was only a stone's throw away from them when He knelt down and prayed: **"Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from Me; still, not my will but yours be done."** Then an angel appeared to Him from Heaven, strengthening Him. Being in agony, He **"prayed so fervently that His sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground."**

Lord Jesus, not my will but Yours be done. Help me be submissive to Your will each and every day, that I may be always seeking Your will in every decision that I make for my life. Help me to discern what Your path is that I need to follow and help me to understand Your ways for my life. Help me always to understand who You are and who I am. AMEN

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

for countless future generations a glimpse of the Glory that is to come as we also choose Him in our daily lives.

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." (Matthew 17:5a) The Father's confirmation was all that Peter, James and John needed. Jesus was indeed the expected Messiah. Now they would listen to Jesus and follow him all the way to the shameful suffering and death on Golgotha's lonely hill. Their own faith would be shaken, tested and tried in ways they could not imagine. As they lived their lives no longer for themselves but for Him, they began to undergo their own trials and walked the way to their own transfiguration. As members of the Church, which is His Body, we are being re-created and transfigured in Him. We are all "works in progress." When our redemption is complete in the Resurrection of the Body, we will all be transfigured. Then, life will be in the new heaven and new earth. This reality is meant to influence our way of life beginning right now. This is the path of all who bear His name.

In the First Reading, God told Abraham, **"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you."** (Genesis 12:1) And with that came a promise to make him an instrument of great blessing to all the communities of the earth. Abraham obeyed and did as the Lord had commanded him. The Bible tells us that God, indeed, used Abraham in such a way that through his descendants would be born the Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ, who would bring salvation to those who believe. Just as the New Testament is the fulfillment of the Old Testament, our Lord Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of all the promises that God made to Abraham. Like Abraham, Jesus sought to please God and to bring Him glory at all cost. He knew His mission and He embraced it like the obedient and loving son He is.

"Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God." (2 Timothy 1:8b) How often do we experience trials and hardships in life? Have we experienced social injustice and discrimination? Or maybe we are going through personal and family crisis such as terminal illness, breakdown of relationships between husband and wife, between parent and child, or between friends. Don't we sometimes feel like the world is crumbling down on us?

Continued on page 4

NEWS

(from page 1)

Enjoy Furigay, Jas Syquia, Jean Luke Libunao, Kitkat Bautista, Lorenzo Syquia, Maia Marbella, Matt Libunao, Miguel Vergel de Dios, Miko Marbella, Paeng Marbella, Patrece Duhig, and Romy Balbastro from BLD Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Spirit of God moved most powerfully in the hearts of all 58 lambs where they were able to rest in the spirit, finding healing, forgiveness, and a more profound relationship with the Holy Spirit. Thanks to the spirit-filled sharings of Faith Pangilinan, Christian Quevada, Jay Ymbong, AJ Reyes, and the Flores Family, every lamb at the retreat grew in faith and devotion by the retreat's end.

The blessed retreat concluded Sunday with an encouraging graduation ceremony. **To God be the Glory for this victory in Christ!**

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COUNSELS

(from page 3)

At times like these, we need to go up the mountain of prayer and ask God to open our eyes to have a better understanding of His plan for us. When God grants us a glimpse of our own transfiguration, then we shall realize that all our anxieties in this life are short-lived. Then shall we have the courage and strength to accept the sometimes agonizing, and yet transforming, sufferings of this life, knowing that through it all God is on our side. All it takes is a little glimpse of heaven to empower us to take up our daily crosses and follow Jesus, knowing that the cross of Lent is followed by the crown of Easter.

DIRECTIONS:

1. In life's trials and sufferings, be strengthened by God's presence in your life.
2. Let us remember that our present sufferings cannot compare with the glory that awaits us.

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

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Typhoon Yolanda	*	\$32,431
Mission Collections	\$97	\$4,307

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COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 12

Bulletin Edition

March 21, 2014

NEWS

"Washing Of the Feet and Agony in the Garden" Retreat



Glory to God as we proclaim victory for last Saturday's wonderful and spiritual "Washing Of the Feet and Agony in the Garden" Retreat. The beautiful retreat served as a powerful reminder that we need to continually cleanse our daily lives with His words and take on the work that Jesus started. Matthew 20:16 demonstrates to us that even though

Jesus is the Son of God, He teaches us the meaning of true leadership and servanthood by showing us the significance of, "The last shall be first and the first shall be last." Through Jesus' example of washing His disciples' feet, we learn that willingness to be humble is necessary in order to truly serve others.

15 couples, 3 Solo Parents, and 10 Singles attended the retreat, which was hosted by the Teaching Ministry in collaboration with the Service, Intercessory, Witness and Coach Development and Praise Ministries.

Congratulations to: Dodge & Marichelle Lizardo, Hermie & Mila Tindoy, Archie & Lelet Quevada, Willy & Carol Lagrada, Jun & Juliet Songco, Michael & Carmen Weiner, Tess Galvez, Michael Serrano, Maria Ugadan, Danah, Diane, & Dorothy Alburo, Patrick McGrail, Norman Calora, Jen Ompod, James Calingo, Stephanie Olaso, Lisa Martinez, Kathryn Fajardo, John Estrella, Barbarra Pullo, Surla Milla, and Lilia Manlapaz, who embraced humility and served each other with compassion and love throughout the retreat. We give thanks to our Spiritual Director, Father Paul Lehman, whose love, wisdom, dedication, and guidance brought spiritual healing, reconciliation and a new beginning to the participants of the retreat, and to all the sharers. Thank You, Lord, for a Spirit-filled and amazing weekend!

COUNSELS

Wellspring of Eternal Life

THEME: We live in God's righteousness when we believe in Him because of His word.

WORD: Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95: 1-2, 6-7,8-9
Rom 5: 1-2, 5-8; Jn 4: 5-42

ORDER: *Worship the Father in spirit and in truth.*

REFLECTION:

This Sunday's gospel is about the Samaritan woman, about her conversion and subsequent transformation after her encounter with Jesus. First we see her as a woman who had to fetch water in the heat of the midday sun. Normally, people do this in the morning when the air is cool and the water is fresh. But she went to the well at midday so she can be alone and away from the gossip and rejection of the people of Sychar.

Jesus, breaking tradition, spoke with her and even asked her for water to drink. As the conversation progressed, she grew in her knowledge of Jesus. She first saw Him as a Jew, then a rabbi, a prophet and ultimately, the Messiah and Savior of the world. She opened her mind and her heart and honestly acknowledged her own sinfulness. She thus received the living water that transformed her. Her simple curiosity drew her closer to Him and she received the greatest revelation from Jesus Himself after she talked about the coming Messiah, when Jesus said, *"I am he, the one speaking with you."* (Jn 4:26) The woman then left her water jar and went into town and gave testimony that the Messiah was at Jacob's well and the townspeople listened to her, went to Him and believed in Him.

As products of encounters in BLD, we have all felt the love of God and His transforming grace. Our lives have changed. One thing I know now is that it was only God's love and compassion that delivered me from my days of slavery in Egypt, just like the Israelites, to where I am now. As the Israelites grumbled and longed for their days in relative comfort back in Egypt, I can only imagine how their days in the desert went. *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"Whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (Jn 4:14)

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

St Joseph played a very important role in Jesus' life. As a foster father he, like any other father, provided and cared for Jesus. He showed his complete obedience and trust in God.

Upon learning that Mary was pregnant, being a righteous man, he decided to divorce her quietly. But when the angel appeared to him in a dream, he listened and believed that Mary was carrying the Son of God. He sacrificed his own personal honor and reputation by choosing to obey God. This was a test of his character. He showed humility and accepted his role as the protector of Mary and the child Jesus. The same humility and complete trust in God are seen clearly in Jesus.

Jesus, our Savior, has said yes to what the God the Father had asked him. He sacrificed His own life for the sake of mankind. He is the ultimate example of complete obedience to God the Father. He trusted in God completely. This is exactly the same character that St. Joseph has shown in his life.

I now examine my own family life. Do I see this father-son similarity in my own family? My husband and son are completely opposite in so many ways. My husband was very athletic in his younger years while my son is not. My son's interests are books. They have different points of view on some issues but still there is a common bond that connects them both. It is the love for the Lord. They both see what is important in life and that is to live a life guided by Jesus' character. This is the very essence of our life - love and obedience to the Father's will, the way Jesus and St. Joseph did. And all of us should do the same. It may be difficult sometimes, but with constant prayers and keeping our ears open to God's promptings, we will listen to His voice - like what St Joseph did.

Lastly I would like to share this from one of the decrees of our faith—Paternas vices. "St Joseph stands as an exemplary model of the kindness and humility that the Christian faith raises to a great destiny, and demonstrates the ordinary and simple virtues necessary for men to be good and genuine followers of Christ. Through these virtues, this Just man, caring most lovingly for the Mother of God and happily dedicating himself to the upbringing of Jesus Christ, was placed as guardian over God the Father's most precious treasures."

STOP, LOOK, LISTEN

"He said, Then I beg you, father, send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they too come to this place of torment." But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them. He said, "Oh no, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent." Then Abraham said, "If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead." (Lk 16:27-31)

Everyone has been taught from childhood that heaven and hell exist. Growing up, our faith teaches the rewards of putting God first and following Christ's way of life. We also understand the consequence of abandoning the faith, living in greed, and sin. Stories of people who have undergone a second chance have shared their short experience on how it feels to be in the presence of God and the angels - joy, awe, peace, and deep happiness. On the other hand, there are also a few who shared their horrible experiences of agony, pain, despair, and torment after being "brought back from the dead."

Similarly, the gospel of Luke 16 captures the story of the rich man who went to hell after passing away. He was overcome with grief and regret, realizing that the privileged life he lived while on earth was temporary and does not last eternally. He wished that someone could have warned him but it was too late. However, because he loved the other siblings that he left behind, he wished that Lazarus could go back to earth and warn them.

Do we recognize ourselves in the rich man's situation? How many times did we STOP ourselves when we are faced with a difficult decision that can potentially sever our relationship with God and hurt other people? Or quickly went into a rage, impulsively act in haste instead of LOOKing up and raising our hands in prayer for help and guidance? Did we allow ourselves to truly LISTEN by setting a time to be in the presence of God and meditate on His word? Do we selectively hear what we want instead of listening to other people's concerns? The choice is clear, there is only one road to eternal life - are you ready to STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN to Jesus?



A Lenten Reflection

I was at a Christian bookstore last week and noticed one of the signs that they were selling there that said: “Prayer – It’s the Best Wireless Connection.”

And I thought: yes, better than Comcast and faster than Fios...and yet, it’s so easy to forget it. Which led to this other thought: in the past, I’ve wondered about how fortunate I feel to have been born and to be living in this day and age, where the latest technology no longer amazes me (I just take it for granted). What if I had been born back when roads didn’t really exist yet, and I had to travel by foot? And what about all those people who never saw the wireless technology which now has become so commonplace? Why couldn’t it have come sooner, so that they, too, would have benefitted?

The characteristics and properties that make such modern conveniences possible, must have always inherently been here on this earth, ever since God created it... you know, just waiting to be discovered. But maybe, only recently has He allowed man to discover and use them.

So I wondered what the reason might be that He has let this happen now. And I further thought: what if we have all these conveniences now because He wants us to have more time to think of and pray to Him?

Seems that man, being man, most of what I/we do is to fill in that extra time that has been created with more things that simply involve me/us. Unfortunately, that time often is invested in me... not Him. Lent offers me/us the perfect opportunity to turn this trend around and to redirect our focus toward the One who created time in the first place.

I pray that I don’t let God’s plan backfire on Him.



COUNSELS (continued from page 1)

They wanted deliverance from their Egyptian masters and followed the Lord’s instructions to Moses. Then reality set in. The physical challenges of living in the desert hit them. They were hungry, thirsty, fearful for their safety with no place for rest or comfort. They were forced to eat manna and locusts and were prey to beasts, poisonous insects and wild animals. Neither did they see any immediate end to their suffering. In their misery, they forgot the love of God for them and failed to see it was God who freed them from slavery in Egypt.

Now I have been in community for many years. I have been fed and He has quenched my thirst many times, too with His living water. But as I grew older, I also realized that true discipleship is a hard life and apostleship more so. On occasions, I have asked myself, - “What am I doing here? Why am I still here?” When discomforts take over, I am no better than those grumbling Israelites who considered returning to Egypt better than continuing their journey to the Promised Land.

I look at my own self and search for the reasons for my grumbings, my complaints. I look for comfort and convenience wherever I am assigned. I go to worship because I like the worship leader or the worship leader is my shepherd or maybe I go to worship because I really enjoy being with my spiritual friends.

How about community? Why do I stay in community? My own humanity easily takes over and I forget the main reason for staying in community. Do I stay in community because of my ME class, my shepherds or my ministry friends? Does the uplifting feeling coming from my service and recognition for my works dictate my contentment in community? Where does my consolation come from? Have we stopped growing in faith that we can refuse assignments, get timid in our evangelization efforts, and grumble unnecessarily about our brothers and sisters? I find it sad that the last medical mission composed of 237 volunteers affected the lives of over 9,000 people and yet our local evangelization effort cannot consistently bring fifteen couples to each encounter. As our evangelization efforts seem to have fallen flat, I ask, “What is wrong in what we are doing?”

Then I recall the story of the Samaritan woman. This woman came away with an encounter with Jesus Christ that transformed her forever, simply because Jesus knew who she was and showed love for her. Her short conversation with Jesus was enough to make her feel that she was the most important person in the world as Jesus made her feel loved and accepted just the way she was. Her communion with Him made all the difference. She then left her water jar and went on her mission to let everyone in town know about the Messiah, the Savior of the world.

Let us do the same. Though we are imperfect disciples in an imperfect community, we are more than the sum of our shortcomings.

Continued on page 4

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Date: April 4, 2014 ~ Invocation Mass

April 5-6, 2014 ~ LSS Proper

Venue: Divine Mercy Auditorium, Rahway, NJ

Contacts: Lito/Gigi Vibar: LSA@bldnewark.com

LET US START INVITING!!!

*“It is not enough to discover Christ,
you must bring Him to others.”*

– Pope John Paul II

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER #43

May 30-June 1, 2014

SINGLES ENCOUNTER #32

May 30-June 1, 2014

SOLO PARENTS ENCOUNTER #16

JUNE 27-29, 2014



PROJECT I DO (MASS WEDDING)

For: Couples who are civilly married but not sacramentally married in church / those who want to be married in church.

When: April 26, 2014

Place: Divine Mercy Church, Rahway, NJ

Requirements & details: Contact Ray/Susie Atienza:
908-463-0449 / bldassistedparish@bldnewark.com

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE Be Not Afraid Rejoice in God's Mercy

A Day of Reflection

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark

Women's Commission

When: Saturday, April 26, 2014

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Venue: Seton Hall University

400 South Orange Avenue

South Orange, NJ 07079

Register at www.rcan.org/womcom

For details: email CatholicWomen@rcan.org
or call 973-497-4545

**Remember that you are
dust and to dust
you shall return.**

COUNSELS

(from page 3)

We are imperfect, but in God's eyes we are perfect- so perfect that Christ Jesus deemed us worth dying for. We are loved beyond our human comprehension and we are asked to give each other that same kind of love. Love that transforms!

Let us go back to the well. Let us take the time to grow in Him and in His righteousness. Let us continue to focus on Him and commune with Him daily reflecting on His Word and worshiping Him in Spirit and in truth. Let us commune with Jesus to be refreshed and energized to increase our faith in Him, that we may get the boldness and zeal to spread the Good News of Christ Jesus to everyone we meet!

Let us then leave our water jars behind, these water jars filled with our feelings of unworthiness and frustrations. In our silent prayers, let us hear our God say, **“This is my beloved child in whom I am well pleased”**.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Encourage regular attendance in our community praise and worship.
2. Commune with God through heartfelt daily prayer and regular bible reflection.

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$4,491	\$35,319
Typhoon Yolanda	*	\$32,431
Mission Collections	\$210	\$4,517

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

Thank you for your continued support!
Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

- Mar 28** - Christian Servanthood 2 (Jesus – Servant of God)
- **ME 40/SPE15**
- Apr 12*** - Encounter with Jesus (Gospel of Mark/Matthew)
- **LSS 1-41**
- Shepherd's Training 1 & 2 – **LSS 1-38**
- Venue:** Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ
**Divine Mercy Parish Library, Rahway, NJ
- Time:** Friday after worship, *Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM
**Saturday 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Mar 28	Formation
			Apr 4	Management
			Apr 11	Mission
			Apr 18	Pastoral

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COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 13

Bulletin Edition

Mar. 28, 2014

NEWS

Salvation Cannot Be Bought Or Sold, It Is a Gift

Celebrates Solemnity of the Annunciation During Morning Mass
Vatican City, March 25, 2014 (Zenit.org)

A humble heart, like that of Mary, is what is required to obtain salvation. Pope Francis emphasized this during his homily at Casa Santa Marta today, the Solemnity of the Annunciation.

Through her obedience, Mary loosened the knot of disobedience, caused by the pride of Adam and Eve that led them to disobey God. The Holy Father said that while sin entered among mankind, through “another man comes salvation.”

“This very long road will help all of us to have a more human heart, closer to God, not so proud, not so self-sufficient,” he said. “This road of recovery occurs in stages, a road of obedience and humility that leads to salvation.”

“Salvation cannot be bought or sold: it’s a gift,” he said. “It’s given to us, it’s free. We can’t be saved through ourselves: Salvation is a totally free gift. It’s not bought through the blood of bulls or goats. It can’t be bought. But in order to receive this salvation, we need a humble heart, a meek heart, an obedient heart. Like that of Mary. And the model for this road towards salvation is the same God, his Son, who didn’t consider being equal to God an advantage which cannot be abandoned. Paul said this.”

Inviting the faithful to follow this road of humility, the Pope said that through the blood of his son, who “became like one of us”, we are saved.

Concluding his homily, Pope Francis called on the faithful to look at the history of Adam, Eve, Mary and Jesus, a road distinguished by the presence of God “who walks alongside his people.”

“Let’s say: ‘Thank you. Thank you Lord because today you told us that you have given us salvation.’ Today is a day to give thanks to the Lord,” the Pope said. (J.A.E.)

COUNSELS

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

THEME: We live in God’s righteousness when we do the works of God as children of light.

WORD: 1 Sm 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A / Ps 23:1-3A, 3B-4, 5,6 / Eph 5:8-14 / Jn 9:1-41

ORDER: *Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.*

REFLECTION:

As we step into Sunday’s Gospel, the story of the man born blind, we hear the challenge to witness to God’s truth courageously in the midst of a suffering world, no matter the consequences. As the story opens, Jesus dismisses the disciples’ theological debate about whose sin cause the man’s physical blindness. He made clear that the disciples understood God’s ways and directs them to what is most important, God’s work in the world. In the face of our human effort to control God and shrink God to our size, we discover that our efforts to control, points to our blindness, not to our sight.

The life of the blind beggar was a harsh one without any slightest expectation of a life change but for the worse. But Jesus makes clay and anoints the man’s eyes and says: “*go and wash in the pool of Siloam (which means ‘sent’)*.” (Jn 9:7a) The only thing asked of the man is to obey. And he does it without hesitation! Since he is on the bottom, what does he have to lose? And he came back able to see!

The man’s neighbors had not paid attention to him when he was blind. They don’t know his name. They talk about him, not to him. Finally the healed one stands up and says, “Hey, here I am – I am!” The realization dawns: Jesus is the great “I AM” in John’s gospel; Jesus’ I AM births this person’s I AM. The man, in response, witness powerfully by telling his story:

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“Awake and arise from the dead and Christ will give you light.” (Eph 5:14b)

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

LOVING THE UNLOVABLE

Jesus summarizes the teaching of the entire OT in two great commandments: *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart...You shall love your neighbor as yourself..."* (Mk 12:29-31; Mt 22: 37-39) Together these injunctions to love God and one's neighbor underlie all 613 precepts of the Mosaic Law and especially the Ten Commandments (*Deut 5:6-21; 6:4-5; Lev 19:18; Ex 20:2-17*). These two commandments were prefigured by the two stone tablets given by God to Moses in Ex 34:1-28.

In Christ, we find what is immanent in God, what is transcendent in God (*2 Pt 1:3-4*). Jesus tells man what is needed to be with God, as man is always in a tension between eternal loss and blessings. History tells us that the reality of man is to distance and even separate himself from God. The reality of human life is that oftentimes man forgets the reality of human death and what goes beyond the eternal life of his soul, whether it is eternal bliss in heaven or eternal life of damnation.

Knowledge of God does not come from man's rationality but from the gift of God, by the Holy Spirit, by the grace of God, by being with God and being reconciled with God always. Man is in constant need of truth and truth only comes from God. Man needs truth of himself to be able to understand God and the modern world. John 3:16-18, 21 states *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..."*

God has given man the supreme good: the reality, the morality and the ministry of Jesus. His life is the essence of life, the meaning of life. His life and his love are gifts to man. Man can only respond with reasons based on faith.

In Jesus, there is always a constant invitation to man's redemption. This redemptive work of Christ makes man one with God, in union with the Trinity. Sin is always a stumbling block for God's plan for man. Man wants to be what he wants to be. Man creates his own image instead of being in the image of God. Hence, God has to teach man how to love him and how to love his fellow man.

Loving your neighbor as yourself is only possible if you truly love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. You can know God from his works but you cannot know his nature if you are not with him. *"Those who keep his commandments, not in word or speech, but in deed and truth, remain in him, and he in them through the Holy Spirit. Whoever loves God must also love his brother."* (1 Jn 3:18, 24; 4:21).

Christ is the universal, singular and eternal motive of our salvation. Anyone who violates any human being violates God because each human being is God's property, as he created all. The knowledge of God opens us to the love of God and neighbor. To love our neighbor is possible if we have the face of God, if we live our faith in God, and if we live for each other. If we have the vision of God in us, then we



CHARITY AND HOSPITALITY

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me."

(Matthew 25: 35-36)

How is it that Jesus Christ is present in the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the ill and the imprisoned? To better answer this question, we have to remember Jesus' own life. As Scripture tells us, although he was God, he did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, He took the form of a slave. Even if He was rich, He became poor for our sake; although innocent, he was counted among the wicked. This is Jesus Christ who came to be with His people and who never shied away from being associated with the least of all men, the despised and even the greatest sinners. In fact, it is to them that He showered even greater love and mercy by drawing nearer to them. Like the hungry, He Himself experienced hunger in the desert before He began His public ministry. Like the thirsty, He asked the Samaritan woman to give Him a drink. Like a stranger, He was treated with suspicion by His hometown. Like the naked, He was stripped in public before His shameful crucifixion. Like the ill, He was greatly distressed that His sweat became like drops of blood in Gethsemane. Like the imprisoned, He was kept in a dungeon away from His mother and friends as He awaited His trial before Pilate.

Jesus experienced these all painful things so that He can truly say He was in all things like us except in sin and so that no one human person can ever feel like God is distant and knows not their suffering. Jesus knows the pain that comes with being hungry, thirsty, unwelcomed, stripped naked, sick, and imprisoned. And it is to these people that He especially draws close to. By showing love and mercy to the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the ill and the imprisoned, we honor Christ who embraced these unfortunate situations out of love for them and for all of humanity. By taking care of the least of our brothers and sisters, we are in fact, acknowledging the great humility of Jesus who not only loved them but became one of them to save you and me.

have a mission, that is, to love God and our neighbors. Our hearts need to be converted into the heart of Christ.

And this is doable, if everything that God has given to us, become part of us: our human nature, our thinking, our disposition, our words, our actions, our daily lives and our daily relationship.

BE REAL BEFORE GOD

Recognition of oneself with acknowledgement of our sinfulness is the first step in our reconciliation with God. This is the very message of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.

This message is founded upon humility which has as its major component, the acceptance of our brokenness, together with our firm belief that we have an all-knowing God.

This was also exemplified by Pope Francis when he described himself simply as a "sinner" during his first interview when asked how he would describe himself.

This parable describes the contrasting ways in praying. The Pharisee exalts himself before God while the tax collector humbles himself by readily admitting his sinfulness and truly feeling sorry for it. It is self exultation versus humility. This is further emphasized in Luke 18:14, ***"I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."***

This is not just a message about how we have to pray. It also emphasizes "**humility**", one of the very foundation of our faith. It is not just acceptance of our sinfulness, but also acceptance of others for what they are and by believing that only through the grace of God can someone be renewed. All we need to do is share the truth about God's love to everyone we meet and let the truth manifest itself in the lives of all.

The Pharisee went further by comparing himself against the tax collector and thus, making a judgment on him. This is an act of self-righteousness and it is against His word in Matthew 7:1-2, ***"Stop judging, that you may not be judged. For as you judge, so will you be judged, and the measure with which you measure will be measured out to you."***

In our prayers, God is looking at the purity of our intentions, the simplicity and honesty from within us, and our complete trust in His Divine love, mercy and grace. This is like having a childlike attitude in accepting the Kingdom of God (Luke 18:17). We have to project ourselves to Him the way we are, with the genuine desire to become the way He wants us to be.

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

"the man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and I can see." (Jn 9:11)

It is the Sabbath and into the scene come the masters of religious dispute, the Pharisees, who deal officially with Sabbath violations. Jesus' act of healing on the Sabbath proves to be a threat to those wedded to a narrow, unchanging human interpretation of God's ways. The dramatic confrontation between sight and blindness, light and darkness intensifies. Ironically while the authorities who are sure they see, grow blinder, and our blind friend sees more clearly and makes bold assertion: ***"He (Jesus) is a prophet."*** (Jn 9:17b)

The interrogators brings in his parents and another kind of blindness becomes apparent, the blindness of fear. The parents face expulsion if they acknowledge Jesus. And so they say, ***"He is of age – question him."*** (Jn 9:23b) The born-blind son now sees, the born-seeing parents choose blindness! To speak the truth boldly requires courage!

"We know that this man is a sinner... Do you want to be called His disciples too?," the authorities claim (Jn 9:24,28). Such an effort to call on tradition to support one's view does not work here. The blindness demonstrated might have been excusable if Jesus had not come and said, "I am the light." Our healed friend does not need theological debate to defend his position. God's healing, compassionate action is obvious. ***"Now I see," he declares. As his sight grows clearer, his audaciousness keeps pace: "I told you already and you did not listen... Do you also want to be his disciples?"*** (Jn 9:27b) Exasperated with the closed-mindedness of the authorities' "know it all" attitude, he moves to name and denounce their hypocrisy. The uneducated person lectures the theologically educated religious leaders. He dares to identify God's ways that do not conform to human ways. And, in response, they threw him out.

Jesus returns and asks: ***"Do you believe in the Son of Man?"*** (Jn 9:35b). Led by Jesus, the healed man is ready to take the radical step of commitment: "I do believe." Our healed friend joins a community of witnesses who, in the power of the Spirit, announce God's truth that counters the forces of darkness and blindness.

The story concludes with an uncomfortable challenge as we meet here a new group, the Pharisees who are with him, those who have chosen Jesus but who are not courageous enough to step into the full light. Trying to sound committed and seeking affirmation, they ask: "Surely we who are with you are not blind, are we?" (Jn 9:40).

Continued on page 4

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Date: April 4, 2014 ~ Invocation Mass

April 5-6, 2014 ~ LSS Proper

Venue: Divine Mercy Auditorium, Rahway, NJ

Contacts: Lito/Gigi Vibar: LSA@bldnewark.com

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– Pope John Paul II

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May 30-June 1, 2014

SINGLES ENCOUNTER #32

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SOLO PARENTS ENCOUNTER #16

JUNE 27-29, 2014



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For: Couples who are civilly married but not sacramentally married in church / those who want to be married in church.

When: Sunday, May 18, 2014 @ 3 PM

Place: Divine Mercy Church, Rahway, NJ

Requirements & details: Contact Ray/Susie Atienza:
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WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Be Not Afraid Rejoice in God's Mercy

A Day of Reflection

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark

Women's Commission

When: Saturday, April 26, 2014

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Venue: Seton Hall University

400 South Orange Avenue

South Orange, NJ 07079

Register at www.rcan.org/womcom

For details: email CatholicWomen@rcan.org

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**Remember that you are
dust and to dust
you shall return.**

COUNSELS

(from page 3)

“Jesus said, If you are truly blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see,’ so your sin remains.” (Jn 9:41) Because we see, even partially, we are accountable. We can't avoid the demands of the life of discipleship while claiming to be with Jesus. To “be with him” requires humbly stepping into the light, seeing God's plan, and witnessing to God's truth no matter the cost.

God of light, you call us out of darkness that gives us a false sense of security and safety. Your constant and unfailing presence in this journey encourages us to seek your light, challenging as that may be. For this our hearts are filled with gratitude. Amen.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Do what is pleasing to the Lord, do not sin.
2. Do not judge by appearance, but look into the goodness of one's heart.

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$3,011	\$38,330
Mission Collections	\$157	\$4,674

Financial details are available to all members through
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Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

Apr 12* - Encounter with Jesus (Gospel of Mark/Matthew)
- LSS 1-41

- Shepherd's Training 1 & 2 – LSS 1-38

Apr 25 - Christian Servanthood 3 (Application in Community)
- ME 40/SPE15

Apr 26* - Encounter with Jesus (Gospel of Luke/John)
- LSS 1-41

- CMP 2 Part 2 – LSS 1-39

- Siena Gift Inventory – LSS 1-42

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

**Divine Mercy Parish Library, Rahway, NJ

Time: Friday after worship, *Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**Saturday 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Apr 4	Management
			Apr 11	Mission
			Apr 18	Pastoral
			Apr 25	Evangelization

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Volume 20 Issue 14

Bulletin Edition

April 4, 2014

NEWS

Fordham honors Cardinal Tagle



In a ceremony held last Friday, March 28, 2014, at its Rosehill Campus in the Bronx, Fordham University granted its highest honor - a Doctorate of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, to Luis Cardinal Tagle, Archbishop of Manila (Philippines), thus distinguishing Fordham as the first US university to bestow such an honor upon His Eminence.

At the conferral, after graciously accepting the doctorate degree on behalf of all Filipinos, the Cardinal gave a rousing speech on Migrants and Refugees, a topic closely associated with his work on the Vatican's Pontifical Council. First, he cited the overwhelming statistics, evidence of the staggering worldwide issues of forced migration. He talked of going beyond the numbers to recognize that each statistic represented a person, each one with a separate individual human story of struggle. He then concluded with two personal anecdotes. First was of a person who fled the ravages of war in Vietnam and became a refugee in Palawan. He eventually grew to love its local community and found too, a love of God. *Continued, page 2*

COUNSELS

COME FORTH AND BELIEVE

THEME: We believe in the resurrection when we have faith in the healing power of God.

WORD: Ez 37:12-14 / Ps 130:1-2,3-4,5-6,7-8 / Rom 8:8-11 / Jn 11:1-45

ORDER: *"If you believe you will see the glory of God."* (Jn 11:40)

REFLECTION:

Resurrection is the highest point and goal of our earthly life. It is the meaning of our earthly journey. Resurrection is the reason we make sacrifices, do good, and endeavor to live a just life. It is the reason we follow Jesus and fulfil His commandments. Resurrection is our hope of glory, and the promised fulfilment of eternal life with God.



Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead through faith, the kind of faith that is deeper than mere knowledge. It is full confidence that the goodness and power of God can overcome any known obstacle, even the natural law involving the loss of life. With faith as small as a mustard seed, the Lord *Continued, page 3*

Promise of the Week

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live." (Jn 11:25)

Fordham honors Cardinal Tagle

He then entered the seminary where the Cardinal was serving as Rector, and went on to become a priest. The second was of a woman Cardinal Tagle spoke to on a visit to Milan, who, in order to earn more to support her family, worked as a nanny to two children there, leaving behind her own children back in the Philippines; and yet caring for the two just as she would her own.

The following day, many area Filipinos attended a Mass celebrated by His Eminence in the University Church. In his homily, he addressed the most important aspects of all three of the Sunday's readings. He brought renewed understanding to Samuel's selection of David to be the next King of Israel – pointing out that Samuel was able to see with God's eyes by listening to God's voice. He talked of how Christ was the Light Who healed the blind man in John's Gospel narrative. He then returned to his college Alma Matter's motto – *Lux in Domino* – to emphasize St Paul's exhortation in Ephesians, calling upon all of us to be the light of Christ in the world.

He also related this poignant story of his visit in November 2013 to areas ravaged by typhoon Yolanda. After a Mass at which he had presided, he was talking to a woman and he had gently inquired about what the coming Christmas might be like. Expecting a litany of difficulties (and complaints about the likely absence of holiday treats such as ham and cheese), he admitted to being humbled, stunned and amazed by her response – “Maybe this year, I think for the first time ever, we'll find out the true meaning of Christmas.”

But the engaging homily wasn't just all seriousness. He also related how sometimes, he looks in a mirror and asks himself, “**That's a cardinal?**” Addressing that question, Fordham University President Fr. Joseph McShane S.J. declared, in his concluding remarks, that the answer was “**YES!**” Not only was His Eminence a Cardinal because of who he is, his humanity and compassion, but because he listens to God's voice and so is able to see with God's eyes; and because Cardinal Tagle indeed serves as a Light of Christ.



A Sign of Faith

Some of the trying times we find ourselves in seem to go on for far too long. When this happens, we usually complain and get discouraged. My human nature led me to an inopportune financial decision again, leading me to make the mistake of comparing myself to others. I wanted a new life, in a new place... just like some of my friends.

I knew that with this decision, I still needed to work. I was confident though, that I could find a job easily, but I was wrong. So I started to worry about paying our bills for our daily needs and about our future security if this situation was to go on for a while. I thought that receiving the Eucharist and praying the Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet everyday would lessen my fear, anxiety, doubt and guilt, but that didn't seem to happen.

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat [or drink] or about your body, what you will wear.” (Mt 6:25) This passage struck me and reflecting on it, it gave me an opportunity to stop and take a look at my life. Through my visits to the Blessed Sacrament, Novenas, scriptural readings and deeper reflections, God revealed to me that when I focus too much on security issues, I am attending to something which will never really fulfill me; never bring me to the fullness of who I am called to be.

In Romans 8:28, it says *“We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.”* We can worry about hundreds of different things, like what people think of us, or what will happen to us as we age, but God knows the answer to everything.

God's word promises us that He will take care of us if we trust in Him. Our faith teaches us that He is always reaching out to us, always inviting us, always welcoming us. Now I've come to realize that perseverance in prayer helps me to focus on things that are eternal. And that with His grace, love, wisdom and strength, we can pass every test that lies ahead. God wants us to lean entirely on Him; that is what faith really is.

God, in His time, answers our prayers. Just recently, I received a call from my former employer asking me if I was interested to work again and re-join the organization.

*Lord my life is yours;
do with it what You will - Amen!*

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

tells us that we can do marvellous things, things that may seem humanly impossible. How much less demanding it should be for us to let go of our old ways, abandon bad habits, get rid of our old self-centered ways, and make ourselves available for the cross.

Jesus shows us that faith is the equivalent of life. We have to understand that God is far more concerned with growing our faith than with making us comfortable. When we believe in God, we are fully alive with a life that far surpasses our natural, physical life. When we live in and through the power of God all things become possible. Thus, for the person with faith, death is to fall asleep for a moment and then to wake up in the embrace of a loving Father, who welcomes us home to live with Him forever.

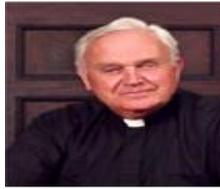
When Jesus is in our lives, death is not the end, because Jesus is Lord of Life, and He triumphs even over death. Our faith in Him helps us triumph over all the problems, struggles and difficulties, so that we may find life again in God. *“Where, O death is your victory? Where O death is your sting?”* (1 Cor 15:55)

It is possible that, with no meaningful relationship with God, our lives may lose purpose and direction. We may be slaves to sin, shackled to addictions, obsessions and fatal attractions. We may be among the living dead who live in tombs; not of stone, but tombs of the spirit, mind and heart. It is from these that Jesus calls us to come forth.



When Jesus says that He is the Resurrection and the Life, He is teaching us that the critical moment in one's life is the moment when we turn from unbelief to authentic belief in Jesus, because it connects us to Jesus in a very personal way.

Continued, page 4



FR. PAUL
SPEAKS

As we move through Lent and deepen our prayer life, we become more and more aware of the battle that our human nature faces as it tries to submit itself to the loving action and presence of God who is constantly calling us to intimacy with himself. Father Thomas Keating, a gifted teacher of centering and contemplative prayer, points out the roots of the struggle inherited by us through original sin. He locates the struggle in the center of our nature, wounded by original sin, in what he calls “emotional programs for happiness”. The discovery of these false programs (often times unconscious) for happiness, inherited by original sin, gives us an insight into the roots of the so called false self. Jesus came to redeem us and restore us to our true selves by his death and resurrection. Our true self is to become more and more identified with Jesus, our brother in the flesh and with the Father who calls us to relationship with him through his Son, Jesus. With all the confusion inside of us, these programs or roots of sin can be reduced to three. Allow me to briefly outline them below.

POWER/CONTROL There is big difference between the proper exercise of authority and CONTROL. Authority/leadership is service, and ideally, exercised humbly and with sensitivity. POWER/CONTROL is domination, an urge to have everything done under the direct action, or by subtle manipulation for the selfish satisfaction of the controller. Prayer, especially openness in contemplative prayer, gives us the insight to see this hidden motivation in even the best actions we externally perform for others.

ESTEEM/AFFECTION. Do we serve others, pray, plan, exercise a ministry or even fulfill our job to feel good or to serve and love God and others? There is nothing wrong in feeling good or getting satisfaction from our duties or prayer life. But if this is an overwhelming and consuming motivation, then we are dominated by self centeredness. This is most evident in the area of sexuality, when love and sexual feelings become identified. But even in our more “spiritual” moments, there can be that unconscious desire to “feel good”. Again prayer surfaces the self-deceptions.

SECURITY/SURVIVAL. We all want to feel safe and secure. The real answer to a secure life is trust in God and surrender to his leadings even if we do not sense his protection, or understand the workings of his providence. False programs tell us that material things like money (and sometimes lots of it) will guarantee our present and future security.

Daily prayer and “lectio divina” will establish us deeply into freedom from these false dominations, and reveal to us God's programs for happiness.

COUNSELS

(from page 3)

One of the keys to our spiritual growth as Christians is believing in God's love, even when we cannot see it. Life's saddest moments enable us to see Jesus not as a distant figure but someone close to us and involved in our life when we have faith in Him. Just like Mary and Martha, who deeply grieved at Lazarus' death, without the experience of life's biggest challenges, we will not come to understand and believe at the deepest, innermost level, that God is love; we will struggle with trusting Him, yielding to Him, obeying Him, and serving Him wholeheartedly.

The miracle of Lazarus coming to life is the promise of new spiritual life that Jesus can give to us here and now. Jesus gives us this new life that conquers any kind of death. The point of this Lazarus gospel is that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the Life, as embodied in our promise this 5th Sunday of lent - **"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live."** (Jn 11:25)

Prayer: Our great God, we remember the times when we were not unlike Lazarus in the tomb – seeming lifeless and without hope, overwhelmed by guilt, so that we wanted to hide ourselves away from this world. Thank you for the reassurance of the community word for this month – "the Spirit of the Lord dwells upon those who believe in the Resurrection". Continue to strengthen us with your love that we may hear you call us out of the tomb to set us free and be resurrected to a new life.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit in your daily life so that many will come to believe.
2. Immerse in the Word of God and sacraments, practice fasting and prayer, and visit the Blessed Sacrament regularly.

TEACHING CALENDAR

Apr 12 - Encounter with Jesus (Gospel of Mark/Matthew)*
- LSS 1-41

- Shepherd's Training 1 & 2 ** - LSS 1-38

Apr 25 - Christian Servanthood 3 (Application in Community)
- ME 40/SPE15

Apr 26 - Encounter with Jesus (Gospel of Luke/John)*
- LSS 1-41

- CMP 2 Part 2 - LSS 1-39

- Siena Gift Inventory - LSS 1-42

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

**Divine Mercy Parish Library, Rahway, NJ

Time: Friday after worship *Saturday 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

**Saturday 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM

LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$ 3,747	\$ 38,924
Mission Collections	\$ 57	\$ 4,731

Financial details are available to all members through

treasury@bldnewark.com

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

LET US START INVITING!!!

"It is not enough to discover Christ, you must bring Him to others." - Pope John Paul II

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER #43

May 30-June 1, 2014

SINGLES ENCOUNTER #32

May 30-June 1, 2014

SOLO PARENTS ENCOUNTER #16

JUNE 27-29, 2014

PROJECT I DO (MASS WEDDING)

For: Couples who are civilly married but not sacramentally married in church / those who want to be married in church.

When: Sunday, May 18, 2014 @ 3 PM

Place: Divine Mercy Church, Rahway, NJ

Requirements & details: Contact Ray/Susie Atienza:

[908-463-0449](tel:908-463-0449) / bldassistedparish@bldnewark.com

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Be Not Afraid

Rejoice in God's Mercy

A Day of Reflection - Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark Women's Commission

When: Saturday, April 26, 2014 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Seton Hall University, 400 South Orange Avenue

South Orange, NJ 07079

Register at www.rcan.org/womcom

For details: email CatholicWomen@rcan.org

or call 973-497-4545

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Apr 11	Mission
			Apr 18	Pastoral
			Apr 25	Evangelization
			May 2	Formation

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions April 2014

General intention: "that governments may foster the protection of creation and the just distribution of natural resources."

Missionary intention: "that the Risen Lord may fill with hope the hearts of those who are being tested by pain and sickness."

Please notify the Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 15

Bulletin Edition

April 11, 2014

NEWS

God Blesses BLD With 43 Lambs

Peter said, *"I have neither silver nor gold but what I do have I give you..."* (Acts 3:6)

Our BLD community completed its 42nd Life in the Spirit Seminar last weekend April 4-6, 2014. Touched by recent tragedies and pains, the LSS Team stormed the heavens and persevered with His work. The Singles



Encounter class was so blessed when their beloved SE Class Shepherds Ed and Armi Bayudan, in spite of the recent loss of their son, still found a way to reach out to their class

as they came by to greet them last Saturday. The Team also offered their prayers and service for the healing of their LSS Seminar Coordinator, Vino Guiang.

Through all the difficulties, God proved victorious by gifting us with 43 enthusiastic graduates.

SINGLES graduates: Melissa Kopko, Maria Saroca, Philip Noeth, Moly Brillantes, Jamie Lee Buhain, Gene Celestino, Kriczet Danta, Elven Espinar, Kathryn Fajardo, Lauren Lopina, Rorie Paul Reyes, Dee Solon, Matt Trinidad, Trixie Jose, and Eziaku Okezie.

SOLO PARENT graduates: Maria Domante, Leticia Tiangco, Mary Ann Mariano, Catherine Nyhus, Lilian Oguh, Ariana Lima, Collado Barbara and Normita Umali.

MARRIED Couple graduates: Regeliol/Lovelyn Babol, Carl/Nancy Sulit, Jule/Myrna Rosete, Carey/Denise Gross, Federico/Rosijer Lopez, Marcial/Marites Santos and Tom/Lou Almazora.

INFILLERS: Lilian Manlapaz, Amy Clemente, Theresa Salud and Apoy/Peachy Go.

The pastoral team was composed of Fr. Paul Lehman, Spiritual Director, and sharers: Vanessa Fabe, Gene/Bing Ymbong, Seg Ogang, Manny/Arlene Mangalonzo, Chito/Aileen Ciocon, Joey/Gemma Reyes, Nestor/Becbec Laxina.

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

Redemptive Suffering

THEME: We believe in the resurrection when we share in His passion.

WORD: Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9,17-18,19-20,23-24
Phil 2:6:11/Mt 26:14-27:66

ORDER: *"At the name of Jesus, every knee should bend and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."* (Phil 2:10-11)

REFLECTION:

"It was our pain that he bore, our sufferings he endured... He was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity... He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by his wounds we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, all following our own way; But the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all." (Isaiah 53:4-6)

Through His Cross and suffering, our Lord Jesus Christ redeemed mankind from sin and death. Christ suffered excruciating pain to accomplish our redemption. The depth of His agony exceeded only by His unfathomable love of the Father and of the wayward flock He was sent to save.

Jesus knew the price that He was to pay for our redemption. He had many opportunities to turn His back on His mission to avoid suffering, but He did not. Instead, He resolutely set out for Jerusalem (Lk 9:51).

- At the Last Supper, Jesus proclaimed His readiness to establish the New Covenant: *"This is My Body ... This is My Blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many..."* (Mt 26:26-28; CCC 610).
- At Gethsemane, the Lord was in such an agony over the suffering that He was to undertake for our sake that His sweat fell like great drops of blood. Yet Jesus submitted Himself to the Father's will:

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." (Mt 26:64)

HE HEARD MY VOICE

Life, as we know, is not easy. No matter how hard you work to achieve your goals, or how efficient your plans may be, your life can still be in such a mess and disarray. If you don't know how to stop and listen, you can do everything in your power yet still fail and merely wonder what it is you're missing.

But as we know, God is all good. He wants to show His amazing plans for us, but we sometimes focus our attention on doing things our way and we do not hear His voice. We'd magnify God's power and strength in our lives if we would just learn to listen to Him intently. My transgressions notwithstanding, the Lord has been good to me. He knows the struggles I've endured amidst all the chaos that's happened in my life. Beneath the seeming calm, He sees through my anguish over the dreams that have been lost and feels my agony for not realizing my heart's desires. ***"In my distress I called out: LORD! I called out to my God. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry to him reached his ears."*** (Ps 18:7)

Yes, there is a God who sees all our strife, who awaits our call for help. Honestly, I've been distraught lately because my son was waitlisted at his academy of choice due to limited admission. I kept worrying that if nobody declined, he'd surely fall back to the default school. Resignedly, I turned to God in prayer, and He heard my voice crying deep within my heart. ***"The Lord thundered from heaven...He reached down from on high and seized me...He rescued me from my mighty enemy, from foes too powerful for me. They attacked me on my day of distress, but the Lord was my support. He set me free in the open; He rescued me because He loves me."*** (Ps 18:14, 17-20)

The following week, the counselor called and offered him the option of applying to a new academy being opened. This time, I readily surrendered to God's will; and indeed, he got accepted two days after. If only we acknowledge our nothingness before Him, if we just surrender all our cares to Him, if we but call on Him and trust in His faithfulness, our God will be quick to listen and swiftly come to our aid. Praise to You, O Lord!

Fear Not

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

Who wouldn't know the start of the 23rd Psalm by heart? Often quoted, it is an oasis of comfort for the weary soul, a light bearing hope for the heavy-hearted. And far from wanting to sound assuming, I think I just described modern man's fate.

It's a chicken-or-egg thing; we've reached a point when maladies of the heart and soul have become so intertwined with our physical conditions that we fail to notice the *where* and *how* of things. Where did it start? How did all the gloom begin? We find ourselves caught up in a present that does not correspond directly to a plan we have set. Suddenly, our lives are on the brink of something which has caught us unprepared. What now?

That's when the fourth verse of Psalm 23 becomes a reinforcement, a shield: ***"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me."*** With these words, we are made aware of His divine presence. If we only take the time to listen, we will feel His overwhelming power. For starters, resistance and struggle are common. For who would be willing to give us such unconditional love and endless comfort and take us under His wing without anything in return? Could He still love us after all the things we've done against ourselves and other people? But our God is bigger than all the things we are capable of thinking or feeling.

Recently, I was diagnosed with a very rare disease. Yes, I asked all the routine questions. This wasn't exactly how I had it planned, I told myself. I had my share of doubts and fears. But after the long struggle comes the calming surrender. Offering everything to Him made me realize how faith can lead a long way, and I feel a tremendous amount of gratitude as I write these words. Though it may be an uphill ride, I know that I do not travel alone.

They say that living on the edge of things is what makes us feel most alive. All I can say is that in my sweet surrender, I have felt His divine hands guide me day by day. And have I told you that nothing beats living a day at a time without the looming shadow of fear?

I believe my cup will be filled. I believe that ***"goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life."***(Ps 23:6) I know that my God is bigger than all my problems. How about you?

St. John Baptist de la Salle *(Patron Saint of School Teachers)*



When people hear the name “John” and the title “Baptist” together, they tend to assume that the man being discussed is Saint John the Baptist. However, this is not always the case. Every year on April 7th, the feast day of Saint John Baptist de la Salle is celebrated.

Like some other saints, John Baptist, who was born in 1651, had a high social standing where he lived. Because he was the eldest child of a noble family, John Baptist was able to enjoy a good education in Paris. In addition to his advantage of being schooled, John Baptist was wealthy due to his nobility and had a refined upbringing. At age eleven, though, he was attracted to living a holy life. It was then that he decided to prepare for priesthood.

Ordained at the age of twenty-seven, John Baptist believed he would live a significantly eased life. However, God had other plans for him that he was not yet aware of. Over several years, Saint John began to discover an interest in the creation of schools for poor boys where he was stationed. Because of the poor area and amount of effort required, the task seemed unappealing at first. Eventually, John Baptist became thoroughly fascinated with the idea and wholeheartedly accepted the work that came with the task. He gave up his family, friends, home, position and fortune, and devoted himself to establishing the Brothers of the Christian School.

This community of religious men expanded rapidly, educating many boys from poor families and preparing them to be teachers. In addition, he also set up schools and homes for young delinquents of wealthier families. The motivational element in this was to persuade them to become better Christians.

Nowadays, many people view his material sacrifice and devotion as admirable. But despite all his good intentions, John Baptist was unable to avoid bitterness and resentment. He faced numerous trials through encounters with his disciples and secular schoolmasters, who did not approve of his method of teaching. Still, he strived to improve education.

John Baptist was canonized by Pope Leo XIII in 1900. His efforts to enhance education resulted in his being named the patron saint of teachers. Saint John Baptist de la Salle serves as an inspiration to school teachers and encourages them to help students reach their full potential.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

“Father if you be willing, remove this cup from me... not my will but yours be done.” (Mt 26:42)

- At Gabbatha, the Lord was betrayed, deserted and denied by His most intimate friends, and He was beaten, rejected, mocked, scourged, and condemned by His own people. But He did not waver.
- At Golgotha, the Lord was crucified as a criminal although blameless, placed between two condemned criminals. He resisted a last temptation to give up His Cross. When God the Father withdrew His protection, He cried, *“My God, my God why have you forsaken me.”* (Ps 22:1). The Savior, who restored and redeemed the world to the Father, died a painful, lonely death.

In redeeming us through suffering, the Lord raised human suffering to the level of redemption. Thus, each of us, in our suffering, can become sharers in Christ’s redemptive suffering (JP II, Salvifici Doloris), and we should embrace this call with faith, hope and love. It is also by our perseverance in following the way of the Cross that we will reign with the Lord and rise with Him (2 Tm 2:8-12). The promise of a triumphant Christ: *“From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven,”* was accomplished by the way of the Cross (Mt 26:64). God Himself inflicted pain and suffering upon Himself having sent His Only Begotten Son only to become the holocaust and ultimate sacrifice (Jn 3:16).

The Blessed Mother was fully engaged in this mystery. At the foot of her Son’s Cross, her heart was pierced right along with Jesus. Which mother can endure seeing her child die a horrible death like Christ’s? Mary witnessed her Son’s crucifixion silently, courageously, with great sorrow. But her faith was unshakable. Mary uncomplainingly embraced her Son’s suffering and her own, placing her complete trust in the Father.

How do we as a community respond to suffering from the perspective of faith and the human heart?

Over the past 22 years of BLD Newark’s existence, we’ve seen many family members and community members get sick, grow older, get seriously injured in accidents, lose their jobs, pass away or move away. The community is getting older, its members are getting older, our children are growing up and leaving home to go to college to start their own lives. How do we deal with these experiences of conflict, alienation, separation or even division?

We are confronted with social injustice issues, such as legalization of marijuana in some states for pain alleviation, legalization of abortion to avoid the inconvenience of children, etc. *Continued on page 4*

NEWS

(from page 1)

The seminar reunion is scheduled for April 26, 2014, from 12 to 5pm at Divine Mercy Library. Graduates are required to read and reflect on the 8th Chapter of Romans. Our continued prayers and warm congratulations to all graduates! God bless you all!

COUNSELS

(from page 3)

How do we speak of sharing in the salvific suffering of Christ to a culture where the self is held up as a god, where self-interest is the primary consideration?

Because we're interconnected parts of one body, all these changes and rites of passage bring an experience of sadness, sorrow, pain and suffering to our community of faith. However, suffering is a condition of our discipleship, challenging us to transcendence as a community with the mission of new evangelization.

It is a big challenge. We live in a suffering-averse society. How do we get people to accept our faith in a Suffering God, when doing so means embracing suffering as Christ did in Gethsemane and on the cross?

How do we help people see God's deepest, limitless love which is revealed to them in all its grandeur in the depth of their helplessness and need?

It has to begin with us, with our own joyful and courageous embrace of suffering which Christ has already embraced **as His own** on the Cross. It is not God's active will that we go through suffering, but it is His will for us to draw on Him for strength, courage and hope, and see what He wants us to learn through our own experiences. Bear in mind that *"affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint."* (Rom 5:3-6).

Sharing in Christ suffering is not easy, but this is reality! This is God's grace! This is the very goal of our faith!

DIRECTION: In everything you say and do, give thanks and glory to God.



Please call your Parish or check your Parish Bulletin for Holy Week Services.

LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$ 2,764	\$ 41,688
Mission Collections	\$ 80	\$ 4,811

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 **Saturday 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM

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LET US START INVITING!!!

"It is not enough to discover Christ, you must bring Him to others." - Pope John Paul II

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SINGLES ENCOUNTER #32

May 30-June 1, 2014

SOLO PARENTS ENCOUNTER
#16

JUNE 27-29, 2014

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Be Not Afraid
Rejoice in God's Mercy

A Day of Reflection - Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark Women's Commission

When: Saturday, April 26, 2014 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 Seton Hall University, 400 South Orange Avenue
 South Orange, NJ 07079

Register at www.rcan.org/womcom

For details: email CatholicWomen@rcan.org
 or call 973-497-4545

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Apr 18	No Worship
			Apr 25	Pastoral
			May 2	Evangelization
			May 9	Formation

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COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 16

Holy Week Edition

April 13, 2014

A WALK THROUGH HOLY WEEK

During Holy Week, we turn attention to the Paschal Mystery, which “has two aspects: by His death, Christ liberates us from sin; by His Resurrection, He opens for us the way to a new life” (CCC 654). This article is meant to help us follow in Jesus’ footsteps “with all faith and devotion,” as Palm Sunday exhorts us to do.¹ Along the way, we will notice how in His living, dying, and rising again, Jesus reveals the depth of God’s love for us.

The Entrance into Jerusalem

We begin our walk on Palm Sunday, and the reading for the Procession takes us to Jerusalem as the feast of Passover nears (although we read Matthew’s Passion narrative today, we will return to it later). Jesus makes plans to enter the city using a donkey and a colt, which His disciples obtain with the simple reason that “*the Master has need of them*” (Mt 21:3). Many residents welcome Him enthusiastically, laying their cloaks on the ground and proclaiming, “*Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*” (Mt 21:9).

What does this all mean? First, we are dealing with the reception of a king: the people lay their cloaks down in front of Jesus, and Jesus invokes the right of a king in acquiring another’s donkey for use. But what sort of king is Jesus? He chooses to ride on a donkey with Zechariah in mind: “*Behold, your king is coming to you, a just savior is he, humble, and riding on a donkey*” (Zech 9:9). Thus, Jesus is not to be understood as a political Messiah who will overthrow the Romans and restore Israel to its glory days (as the Zealots seemed to yearn for) but as a humble Savior intent on starting a kingdom of peace.²

Let us also examine the shouts of “Hosanna!” Its original meaning is “Come to our aid,” or more literally, “Save, please!” but here it is an expression of praise.³ Both meanings are important for us. Pope Benedict XVI notes that the early Church prayed “Hosanna” in the liturgy because they saw Jesus coming again and again “in the humble form of bread and wine.”⁴ In the Eucharist, we worship God, but we also receive God’s grace, His response to our plea to come to our aid and save us. Thus, we ought to more consciously pray “Hosanna” as both praise and petition. We should be excited to welcome the Lord again and again in the Eucharist!

For reflection: *Who is Jesus to me? Am I eager to welcome Jesus in the Eucharist? What does his example say to me?*

Interlude: The Servant Songs During Holy Week

During the first three weekdays of Holy Week, the lectionary draws significantly from the Prophet Isaiah. This provides an important interlude as we approach the Triduum. Isaiah declares that Israel is God’s servant, called and appointed “as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness” (Isa 42:6-7, Monday). We also hear of a “Suffering Servant,” called from birth, through whom God shows His glory. This Servant “*thought [he] had toiled in vain... but [his] reward is with the Lord.*” Through this Servant, God’s salvation will “*reach to the ends of the earth*” (Isa 49:5-6, Tuesday). And again, this Servant is obedient, suffers, and yet remains faithful that God is his help, and he “*shall not be put to shame*” (Isa 50:7, Wednesday). All of this will be fulfilled in Jesus, the true Suffering Servant and the Light of the World through whom God’s salvation will reach to the ends of the earth. But to see this, we have to look to the Cross, and to the empty tomb.

¹ The Roman Missal, *Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord*. The Procession. Pp. 273

² Gerhard Lohfink, *Jesus of Nazareth: What He Wanted, Who He Was*. Pp. 245-249; Pope Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth, Part II: Holy Week*. Pp. 4-5: “He is a king who destroys the weapons of war, a king of peace and a king of simplicity, a king of the poor.”

³ Daniel Harrington S.J., *The Gospel of Matthew*. Sacra Pagina 1. Pp. 294.

⁴ Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth, Part II*. Pp. 9-11.

For reflection: How do I approach suffering? What does it mean to me that Jesus suffers? Am I aware of my vocation to share in Jesus' mission to be a light to the nations?

Holy Thursday: The Last Supper and the Agony in the Garden

This leads us into the drama of the Triduum. Jesus knows that the hour is reaching His fulfillment. On Holy Thursday, we remember the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper, but during Holy Week we read two different accounts of Jesus' last night (Matthew on Palm Sunday, John on Holy Thursday). Here, we will reflect on both accounts together, but let us begin with John.

John notes that Jesus has loved His disciples "to the end" (John 13:1). As this end nears, Jesus sets an example for them by taking the role of a servant and washing His disciples' feet. This act cannot be glossed over: "***If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow***" (John 13:14-15a).

We may identify two takeaways from this: the obvious one is that the essence of discipleship ("followership") is following Jesus in humility by taking the role of a servant. But the greater takeaway is how deeply this reveals God's own character. God is indeed all-powerful, but God's power and love is so great precisely because he makes himself small, because he surrenders everything to save us even when we don't deserve it.

Oddly, John's Gospel differs from the Synoptics in that John has no mention of the institution of the Eucharist, which we hear of in Matthew. Why is this so? John has already addressed this in the Bread of Life discourse; here, he wants to focus more on what the Last Supper and Jesus' death really signify: humility. Jesus has become flesh for us, and now He is surrendering Himself totally for us to the point of death. Yet John recalls in the foot-washing something essential about our Eucharistic faith: Jesus wishes to cleanse us so that we can fully enter into the Eucharistic celebration; He cleanses not only our feet, but our hands and head as well (cf. John 13:10)!

The Agony in the Garden

After the Last Supper, Jesus goes out to pray in a Garden called Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. He passes through the Kidron Valley (Jn 18:1) It was in a garden that Adam and Eve committed the first sin, and it is in a garden that Jesus redeems us. Here, he becomes distressed as he faces abandonment, betrayal, and death (Mt 26:38). Why? Surely he feels "the weight of the world" in the Garden. He knows He has to die, and He knows that His disciples will falter. One scripture scholar recalls that both then and now, the Kidron Valley was essentially a graveyard. The path to Gethsemane, lined with tombs, catacombs, and graves, might have led Jesus to realize, "It might be tonight!"⁵ Not only does it help explain the Agony in the Garden, but it also alludes to the fact that Jesus' Passion will affect many lives. We will later hear in Matthew's Gospel that at the moment of Jesus' death, graves are opened and many saints are resurrected (Mt 27:52-53).

The Agony in the Garden also further displays the humility and true identity of Jesus. He is the all-powerful Word of God—He could have saved the world in a different way. As Matthew recalls, Jesus could have called on God's help and obtained "more than twelve legions of angels" for protection (Mt 26:53). But even at this difficult hour, he is resolved to pray to the Father, "***Your will be done***" (cf. Mt 26:38,42). He stays the course.

People already knew Jesus was a wise teacher and wonder worker. They called him a Prophet and received him as a king when he entered Jerusalem. But beginning in the Garden, Jesus' identity is in plain view: As John recalls, Jesus identifies Himself to His opponents saying, "I AM," and they are driven to the ground (Jn 18:5-6). This clearly echoes the revelation of God to Moses, "***I am who I am***" (Ex 3:14). Thus there can be no doubt at this point that the Word is God (cf. John 1:1). And yet the Eternal Word proceeds humbly to His condemnation and death.

For Reflection: Am I willing to wash other people's feet? Am I willing to go out of my comfort zone to serve others? When I pray to God, do I try to listen and serve God's will? Do I prepare for the Eucharist by going to Confession on a regular basis?

Good Friday

We can reflect on many things with Good Friday. For example, there is the scandalous reality of Jesus' death. Why did He die? When we read Matthew's Passion alongside John's, we see how both Gospels point to Jesus' death as revelatory. Jesus' gruesome death for us has already been illustrated vividly in artwork and in film, so we will focus less

⁵ Jerome Murphy-O'Connor O.P., "What Really Happened At Gethsemane." Available online at: <http://www.bib-arch.org/online-exclusives/easter-04.asp>

on the physical suffering and more on what this all says about God and our mission and destiny as Christians. For Matthew, Jesus' death fulfills the Law and scripture. For John, Jesus' death on the Cross is His coronation, the moment at which He, lifted up, "*gather[s] all people to Himself*" (cf. John 12:32). In all the Gospels, the Cross is the expression of the love of God.⁶

Let us begin with Matthew. Matthew, as we have seen, emphasizes the abandonment Jesus experiences in Gethsemane, and Jesus continues to experience this on the Cross. Jesus recites the first lines of Psalm 22 ("*Why have you forsaken me?*"), and seems to be in despair, but He is implying (and praying) the whole Psalm.⁷ Therefore Jesus is expressing at once intense loneliness and at the same time conviction that God will deliver him. Yet we cannot pass over this prayer too quickly, for Jesus is experiencing the depth of human abandonment and suffering. He has been rejected by His own people and abandoned by His disciples. The difference is that He knows God will deliver Him in the end.

In truth, this is already happening at the Crucifixion. According to the end of Psalm 22, "*all the ends of the earth*" and "*all the families of nations*" will turn to the Lord as God delivers the one in lament (Ps 22:28). At the moment of Jesus' death, amid the "cosmic portents" of the earth shaking and the veil tearing, a Roman centurion and other soldiers collectively confess that Jesus is surely the Son of God (Mt 27:51-54). In other words, Jesus' death on the Cross is already drawing the Gentiles to believe and "*turn to the Lord,*" just as Psalm 22 foresees. John demonstrates this in a different way in recalling that Pilate writes the charge against Jesus ("*King of the Jews*") in three languages: Hebrew (Aramaic), Latin, and Greek (Jn 19:20). Thus, the Cross proclaims that Jesus is King in the major languages of the time.

Jesus' assurance is seen more clearly in John's version, where Jesus is in control even on the Cross. Thus, Jesus' last words are: "*It is finished*" (Jn 19:30). He had loved His own "to the end" (John 13:1), and now His love has indeed reached to the end, to the very limit, and even gone beyond it. He knows that His mission is complete.

When precisely did Jesus die? Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, John places the Crucifixion on the day of preparation for Passover. The date of Jesus' death is up for debate, but the *theological* point for John is clear: Jesus is indeed the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (cf. Jn 1:29), and Pilate even ironically echoes John the Baptist's proclamation when he declares, "*Behold the man!*" (Jn 19:5).

For Reflection: In beholding Christ crucified, what does this mean for me? What do I see? As a disciple, do I avoid the Cross? What cross do I have to bear?

Holy Saturday and the Dawning of Easter

God's victory is by no means apparent. Rather, as we transition from Good Friday into Holy Saturday, we recall the trauma, shock, and scandal of the death of Jesus. The silence we observe for most of Holy Saturday reflects the dashed hopes of the disciples, who seem to be on their way home in disappointment. Yet something is happening in the silence.

In the Office of Readings for Holy Saturday, we read from an ancient homily whose author is unknown. The homily addresses what happens in silence on Holy Saturday during Christ's "descent into hell":

*Truly, He goes to seek out our first parent like a lost sheep; he wishes to visit those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. He goes to free the prisoner Adam and his fellow prisoner Eve from their pains... The Lord goes in to them holding his victorious weapon, His cross. I command you: awake, sleeper, I have not made you to be held a prisoner in the underworld. Arise from the dead; I am the life of the dead... Rise, let us go hence!*⁸

We celebrate this in a special way during the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, during which light suddenly breaks forth in a darkened church. The light grows gradually and steadily until the church is illuminated in splendor. And as the light fills the church, we customarily welcome catechumens into the Church as they receive Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. They are signs of life during this Vigil. But this new life is only part of the good news on this day. The really good news is that in the morning, the tomb where Jesus was laid will be found empty, and the disciples will encounter and believe in the Risen Lord. The dawning of Easter proves once and for all that "*love is strong as death*" (Song 8:6). Indeed, the resurrection is "the greater strength of love in face of death."⁹

In the Gospel for Holy Saturday, Jesus tells Mary to relay the message that He is going before them or ahead of them to Galilee. This may seem unimportant, but if we recall that Jesus is the "*pioneer and perfecter*" of our faith (Heb 12:2), then we can more fully appreciate what it means for Jesus to go before us—the literal task of a pioneer.

⁶ Gerald O'Collins S.J. cites this quote by a German theologian in his book *Jesus: A Portrait*: "God defined himself as love on the cross of Jesus."

⁷ Father Lohfink asserts that "in all probability" Jesus prayed as much of the whole Psalm as his strength allowed as he died, perhaps by stuttering it in bits or in sections as he was able. See *Jesus of Nazareth*, Pp. 283-84.

⁸ http://www.vatican.va/spirit/documents/spirit_20010414_omelia-sabato-santo_en.html

⁹ Joseph Ratzinger, *Introduction to Christianity*. Pp. 302

In the first sense, Jesus is going ahead to meet His dejected disciples, who have already begun to return to their old way of life in Galilee. Jesus is already going ahead of them to Galilee to rehabilitate them so that they can understand why He had to die, and go out to proclaim the Good News that He is risen. Later in Matthew, Jesus will also give them the “*great commissioning*” (Mt 28:19-20) in Galilee.

In another sense, Jesus goes ahead of all of us from death into eternal life by His perfect faith and obedience. He goes ahead, paving a “*new and living way*” for us (Heb 10:20). If we recall the Passion narratives we have heard, Jesus dies by entrusting His Spirit to the first believers (Jn 19:30).¹⁰ This foreshadows what will take place on Pentecost, when Jesus sends the Holy Spirit upon all of His disciples (Acts 2, John 20:19-23). During Jesus’ public ministry the Spirit had not yet been given (Jn 7:37-39), but as the Risen Lord, he has been granted all authority (Mt 28:19), and thus can finally bestow the Spirit upon His believers, thereby enabling true faith in Jesus (1 Cor 12:3) and adoption as God’s children (Rom 8:14-17).

For reflection: What does it mean to me to know that Jesus has entered into death and conquered it by rising? Am I walking the path paved by Jesus, or am I trying to make my own way? In what areas of my life might God want to bring new life? Am I aware of what my Baptism and Confirmation mean?

Easter: Looking Backward and Forward

Where is Jesus today? Did He really rise? Unfortunately there are some Christians who call into question the Resurrection because they think the empty tomb is not enough. Some even think of Jesus merely as an enlightened teacher, but not as Risen Lord and Savior. But St. Athanasius, writing many centuries ago, movingly objects to that position: “Dead men cannot take effective action; their power of influence on others lasts only till the grave.” But Jesus is still very much at work. Athanasius asserts:

*The Savior is... working mightily among men, every day. He is invisibly persuading numbers of people all over the world... to accept his faith and be obedient to his teaching. Can anyone, in face of this, still doubt that he has risen and lives, or rather that he is himself the life? ...This is the work of One who lives, not of one dead; and more than that, it is the work of God.*¹¹

Liturgically, the newly initiated Catechumens at the Easter Vigil are enduring signs of Jesus’ power at work today. Likewise, First Communions, Confirmations, ordinations, marriages, and retreats and initiatives that bring about conversion are all signs that Jesus is very much alive and with us today.

Looking back, one cannot help but be moved by the graciousness and goodness of God revealed in Jesus. He entered into our world, making Himself small. He patiently and generously gave freely of Himself unto death, conquered it by rising, and remains with us always, although in a new and different way. Jesus has revealed the depth of God’s love, which is stronger than death. God’s love abides and forgives and renews (cf. 1 Cor 13:1-13). It bears and covers our sins (1 Pet 4:8). It fills our hearts through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Gal 4:6, Rom 5:5).

Jesus also reveals that He is the New Adam: by His obedience He has undone Adam’s disobedience. Thus, He enables us to move forward from that past. But Jesus also enables us to face the future, for He has promised that in consolation or desolation, He “will be with [us] always until the end of the age” (Mt 28:20). As Athanasius points out, Jesus is very much working mightily even today; He is clearly faithful to His Word. Assured of His presence, we can face the future, even if it is a difficult one.

For reflection: Where and when have I seen Jesus alive? What might Jesus want to resurrect in me? Where am I in need of hope?



Prayer: *Jesus, we confess that You are Lord. We praise You for Your wonderful love and the riches of Your mercy as revealed in Your living, Your dying on the Cross, and Your rising from the grave. Grant us the grace to remain near You always and to become like You. Send forth Your Spirit, the Power from on high and the Bond of Love, to renew us and give us boldness and freedom as the children of God, and to sanctify us in Your truth. Deliver us from every evil, for You are the Savior of the world. **Glory be to the Father...***

¹⁰ Francis Moloney S.D.B. argues persuasively from the Greek that Jn 19:30 (“he handed over his spirit”) refers to the handing over of the Spirit; it is not a metaphor for death. *The Gospel of John*. Sacra Pagina 4. Pp. 504-505, 508-509.

¹¹ St. Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*. Chp 5: The Resurrection, n. 30



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 17

Bulletin Edition

April 25, 2014

NEWS

COUNSELS

DMP Parishioners celebrate Holy Week

The Pastoral Apostolate Team of the Divine Mercy Parish is hard at work in helping parishioners find and share Christ's life with one another. Their mission primarily includes the work of evangelization as they encourage members to commit themselves and deepen their parish involvement, working across diverse cultures in Community.



To help the parishioners understand the Paschal Mystery, which is the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus being the center of our Christian faith, a Lenten Program began on Holy Monday, following a Eucharistic Celebration. Fr. Bischmark (Spiritual Director of Falling in Love with Jesus #2) delivered a talk on the "Passion and Death of Christ".

On Holy Tuesday, Deacon Pedro Repollet spoke on the power of "Healing through Forgiveness" inspiring the parishioners further to be totally open to fully receive God's graces in their lives.

Tenebrae, which means "darkness or shadow," has been celebrated in the last 5 years every Holy Wednesday with the assistance of the BLD Mission Apostolate and Praise Ministry. This event has been well attended by parishioners as it ushers in the Triduum, the three-day period of prayer in preparation for the most important feast of Easter.

Both days of reflection were offered in English and Spanish. The sacrament of Reconciliation was open to the congregation to appropriately prepare their hearts for the Holy Week.

One could observe how the parishioners were so moved by these Holy Week festivities. We thank one and all who participated and helped in bringing this important celebration of Easter, the central theme of our Catholicity, to fruition.

Peace Through Forgiveness

THEME: We believe in the resurrection when we live in peace with one another.

WORD: Acts 2:42-47/ Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
1 Pt 1:3-9 / Jn 20: 19-31

ORDER: "Do not be unbelieving but believe."
(Jn 20:27)

REFLECTION:

In this Sunday's Gospel of John, Jesus appears to the disciples and offers them heaven's great absolution for the world's sins, which He both bore and confessed on the cross.

While the disciples were within locked doors, *"...for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst, and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'" (Jn 20:19)* After showing them His hands and His side, *"The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'...he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.'" (Jn 20:20-23)*

The disciples locked themselves in for fear of being arrested by Jewish authorities. They must have been struggling not only with fear but with anxiety, because of their weakened faith. They must have felt a sense of failure, but most of all, shame for having denied and deserted Jesus. In spite of this, Jesus stands in their midst and tells them that all is well. He calmed their fears and brought them peace, the peace that reconciles sinners and makes us one with God. He did not only forgive them but set them free from their past failures and disappointments.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"Receive the Holy Spirit, whose sins you forgive are forgiven them." (Jn 20:22b-23a)

EMMAUS AND EASTER: Healing and Mission

What happens when one encounters the Risen Lord? In many of the Resurrection appearances, the encounter with Jesus brings about healing and involves commissioning for evangelization. We would profit immensely from allowing that dynamic to affect us as we contemplate the scripture readings for Eastertide, the seven weeks of the Easter season. In particular, we would benefit from making the Emmaus encounter (Lk 24:13-35, 3rd Sunday of Easter) our own.

We may already be familiar with the Emmaus story: two disciples are leaving Jerusalem, shocked and disheartened by what has taken place just a few days before. Jesus appears and accompanies them, but they do not recognize Him. Gradually, this stranger unpacks scripture to show that Jesus died in its fulfillment (Lk 24:13-27). The disciples ask this stranger to stay with them as evening approaches, and during dinner, their guest blesses and breaks bread. Then they recognize Jesus, who had opened up the scriptures and made Himself known in the breaking of the bread (24:28-35). They report that their hearts were on fire as Jesus healed their memory and understanding.

But this encounter impels the disciples to share the Good News. Interestingly, they did not need to be commanded to do so—Jesus does not formally commission them until the Ascension (in Luke/Acts at least)! Rather, these disciples on the way to Emmaus respond directly, and in so doing illustrate this insight described by Benedict XVI: “The encounter with the risen Lord is mission, and it shapes the nascent Church.”¹

In communities like ours, there are surely many moments when we feel the Emmaus experience has been ours: our hearts have been set on fire and we have experienced the healing Jesus offers by encountering Him in Word and Sacrament, on retreats, and prayer meetings. But now, more than ever, we are being invited to go out and evangelize (cf. Mt 28:19), to be witnesses (cf. Acts 1:8) with joy (*Evangelii Gaudium*). Our encounters with Christ should shape the Church today by our testimony and ministry in parishes, diocesan initiatives, initiatives to protect and preserve life at all stages, and by how we live on a daily basis. Perhaps this Easter season, we can resolve to respond fully to the words of dismissal at Mass: “Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord!”

AN EASTER REFLECTION: Joy Drenched Essence

I have come to realize the essence of what Easter means to me. It comes from John 21:12 – “*Come, have breakfast.*”

After saying goodbye to His friends at the Last Supper and experiencing the agony of dying, Jesus comes back to life amongst His disciples delivering the overwhelming joy of rewarding their belief in Him.



After realizing the Truth about Who Christ is – “*the Way, the Truth and the Life*” (Jn 14:6), it inspired me to write many poems and essays and even some songs. I have tried to describe the feeling of what that realization has been like,

unsuccessfully until this day. I just could not come up with the most appropriate words; but in my recent readings, I found three words that captured my feelings: “*joy drenched essence.*”

That same “joy drenched essence” is really available to all of us. It is here in the various BLD encounters, retreats and reunions. It is here every Friday when we, as a community, worship Him in spirit and in truth. It is here at every Holy Mass, especially upon reception of the Eucharist. But even beyond the trappings of BLD and Church services, it is everywhere when I know and believe that His sacrifice happened and He triumphed in His Resurrection.

My Easter joy comes upon hearing Him every morning telling me to partake of this Life that He has won for us, inviting us all to “*Come, have breakfast.*”

This Easter, my sincere prayer is for everyone in community, all friends and families, to let go of all doubts, and break down the barriers that prevent true faith in Jesus Christ.

God invites us to experience the gift which only He can give – true peace and freedom, and ultimately, that is what Easter and life after Easter is, and should really be... all about a **JOY DRENCHED ESSENCE.**

¹ Benedict XVI/Joseph Ratzinger, *Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week*. Pp. 260

SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Life is a Pilgrimage

If you re-arrange the letters of the song "Alfie" it will give you – "A Life." It starts appropriately with a question– "What's it all about?"

Life is a journey towards eternal happiness, a pilgrimage of every man towards a sacred, holy, peaceful and joyful place which we all call heaven. The Old Testament foreshadowed our pilgrimage when it related the passage of the Jews from Egypt to the Promised Land.



Our pilgrimage may not always be without trials. At times the ride may be bumpy and filled with

obstacles and challenges. Our goal will be to make it to our destination, our Father's house, where there are many dwelling places, where Jesus has prepared a place for all of us. Our life-long journey may be burdened by excess luggage of enticements and attachments to worldly treasure and material possessions. Are we going to carry them in our backpacks? Or are we going to bring only what are necessary for our trip - humility, forgiveness and love.

We must remember that we are in the world and not of the world. We will meet and join other people along the way. We need to help our neighbor and be good witnesses to all.

Compassion and witnessing will provide refreshment for our travel. The more we keep our hearts open to other pilgrims, the more we will know and find the truth.

Lastly, we must focus only on our destination. Constant prayer will help keep our minds and hearts on our objective.

Let us journey on with *faith* in God's goodness, *hope* in His divine guidance, and *love* in our hearts for God and neighbor. With all these and with our Lord's grace, we will be able reach our Father's Kingdom and eternally enjoy His presence.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

Thomas was not with the disciples the first time Jesus appeared. He must have kept himself isolated from the fellowship of the other disciples because he was deeply hurt when Jesus was crucified. He thought of Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah, and when his dream was shattered, his faith was shaken. When he finally had the courage to rejoin the apostles a week later, he saw that their fear was replaced with joy and peace. But he refused to believe that they saw Jesus until the risen Lord made His presence known to him in a tangible way. He needed to touch Jesus' wounds, a human cry for certainty. He finally overcame his crisis of faith when he recognized his Master, for he gave the highest and most profound statement of faith in Jesus in the entire Gospel of John: "***My Lord and my God!***" (Jn 20:28) He went on to bear a courageous witness to Jesus and became one of the greatest missionaries of the early church.

We too struggle with fear, anxiety, doubt and even shame in our everyday life. We do not have to bear them in isolation but bring ourselves to be comforted in a community of believers. In a community like the BLD, we can resolve our doubts and sustain each other's faith. Here we have a fellowship which doubles our joy and divides our grief, a fellowship that flourishes at the fountain of love and forgiveness as we share each other's burden. With the numerous enrichment programs of the BLD, we can experience an unexpected spiritual growth: resurrected lives and deepened faith. Let us take advantage of these community activities like the early Christians, "***...who devoted themselves to the teachings of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.***" (Acts 2:42) In a deeper level, we encounter the Risen Christ especially in the commonly celebrated Eucharist, in which the community's faith is held together by His real presence. We believers understand that a community is not something we ourselves constructed on a purely human level; rather, it is an institution of the Lord. Only in Him and through Him do we, together, constitute the Church.

Jesus invites us to draw close to Him in faith, to touch His wounds and be healed. We are called to be ministers of reconciliation, to set people free by pouring out on them the same forgiveness we have received. At our baptism we received the same commission given to the apostles when the Risen Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit on them: to make

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

(from page 3)

Jesus 'visible' in the world and continue His mission of salvation (Jn 20:21-23).

In the second reading, Peter expresses remarkable praise to the first Christian converts who have not seen the Risen Lord, yet who love Him and believe in Him *"with indescribable and glorious joy,"* (1 Pt 1:8) This joy streams forth from a faith that does not reflect a Christian's glory back to himself, but a faith supported by a living hope based on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a faith that is made stronger for having endured earthly testing, a faith that reaches its goal when it follows the suffering and resurrected Lord.



May the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, strengthen our faith that we may be numbered among those whom Jesus declared blessed, *"...those who have not seen and yet have believed."* (Jn 20:29)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Recognize the presence of the Lord in the Eucharist.
2. Acknowledge the Lord's presence in community life and activities.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

**Be Not Afraid
Rejoice in God's Mercy**

A Day of Reflection - Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark Women's Commission

When: Saturday, April 26, 2014 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Seton Hall University, 400 South Orange Avenue
South Orange, NJ 07079

For details: email CatholicWomen@rcan.org
or call 973-497-4545

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			May 2	Evangelization
			May 9	Formation
			May 16	Management
			May 23	Mission

LORD'S PROVISION

April 11 th 's Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$ 3,364	\$ 45,052
Mission Collections	\$ 215	\$ 5,026

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

Apr 26* - Encounter with Jesus (Gospel of Luke/John)*
- LSS 1-41

- CMP 2 Part 2 - LSS 1-39
- Siena Gift Inventory - LSS 1-42

May 2 - Intro to Intercession - LSS 1-42
- Intro to Commitment - LSS 41

June 14** - Community Teaching: ALL
Topic: *Forgiveness through Our Lord's prayer and the Hail Mary*
Speaker: Dr. Gregory Glazov
Associate Professor, Seton Hall University

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ
**Divine Mercy Parish Library, Rahway, NJ

Time: Friday after worship *Saturday 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM
**Saturday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

LET US START INVITING!!!

"It is not enough to discover Christ, you must bring Him to others." - Pope John Paul II

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER #43

When: May 30-June 1, 2014
Where: Hotel Executive Suites, 30 Minue St. Carteret NJ
Contact Persons: Nong/Tricia Bustos ~ mla@bldnewark.com

SINGLES ENCOUNTER #32

When: May 30-June 1, 2014
Where: Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garrison, NY
Contact Persons: Emil/Baby Canlas ~ singles@bldnewark.com

SOLO PARENTS ENCOUNTER #16

When: June 27-29, 2014
Where: Vocationist Fathers Retreat House
90 Brooklake Road, Florham Park, NJ
Contact Person: Ruth Ureta (201)451-1780

FAMILY ENCOUNTER #21

When: July 18-20, 2014
Where: Malvern Retreat House, Malvern PA
Contact Persons: Archie/Lelet Quevada (732) 283-5894 or
Oliver/Marissa Rangel (732) 667-8332

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COVENANT NEWS

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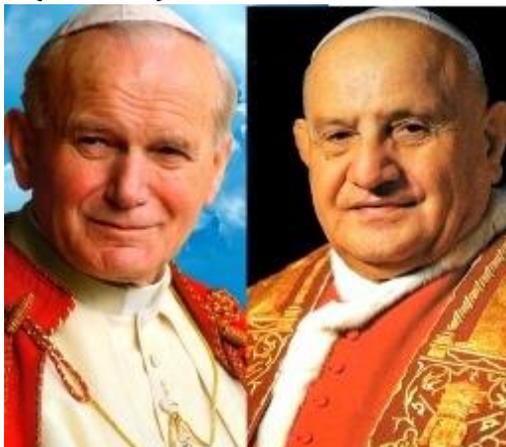
Volume 20 Issue 18

Bulletin Edition

May 2, 2014

NEWS

Pope Francis canonizes St. John Paul II and St. John XXIII (2846)



‘These were two men of courage,’ the Holy Father declared, ‘and they bore witness before the Church and the world to God’s goodness and mercy.’

by EDWARD PENTIN/NATIONAL CATHOLIC REGISTER/04/27/2014
Pilgrims attend the April 27 canonizations of Popes John Paul II and John XXIII in St. Peter’s Square.

VATICAN CITY — Rain was threatening to spoil today’s historic canonization of two popes in St. Peter’s Square, but at the very moment that Pope Francis proclaimed Popes John XXIII and John Paul II saints at the Vatican, the sky began to brighten.

Speaking in Latin at the canonization Mass in St. Peter’s Square for the two popes, Francis confirmed they were in heaven with the words: “We declare and define Blesseds John XXIII and John Paul II to be saints, and we enroll them among the saints, decreeing that they are to be venerated as such by the whole Church.”

St. Peter’s Square, filled with what the Vatican estimated were 800,000 pilgrims from all over the world — with especially large contingents from Poland (John Paul II’s birthplace) and the north of Italy (the home of John XXIII) — erupted with cheers and applause.

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

The New Evangelization

THEME: Our hearts are emboldened for the New Evangelization when we immerse ourselves in Scripture and proclaim God’s kingdom.

WORD: Acts 2:14,22-33 / Ps 16:1-2,5,7-8,9-10,11
1 Pt 1:17-21 / Lk 24:13-35

ORDER: **“Listen to my words.”** (Acts 2:14)

REFLECTION:

The Sunday readings after Easter should not only strengthen every Christian’s belief in the after-life, but also remind us of the post-Easter events in the resurrected life of our Lord Jesus, that we may heed, understand and live out His exhortations.

The Community Word for the month: **“Love for God’s word emboldens our hearts for the New Evangelization”**, should inspire us believers of the Risen Jesus to do our part in spreading the Good News. As members of the Church, the Body of Christ, and as baptized Christians, we are duty-bound to proclaim God’s word.

This leads us to the theme for the third Sunday of Easter: **Our hearts are emboldened for the New Evangelization when we immerse ourselves in Scripture and proclaim God’s kingdom.** In the gospel reading, two disciples on their way to Emmaus share their disappointment at their dashed hopes that Jesus would be the long-awaited messiah who would deliver Israel from Roman domination. Like the two disciples, we may not always be aware that Jesus is walking with us in our life’s journey. We need to come to Jesus and converse with Him more through our prayers, through Bible study, and through the Sacraments.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever.” (Ps 16:11)

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

COME TO THE LIGHT

I was presented by my mother and father to be baptized 21 days after my birth, according to the Byzantine Rite of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. To be baptized is to be immersed into the water and be cleansed from our original sin. This bath is called enlightenment, "The true light that enlightens every man," He becomes a "Son of Light." (CCC 1216).

"For everyone who does wicked things hates the light, and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed."(Jn 3:20)

We have all found ourselves at one time or another in the shadow of darkness, and I have drifted away from the light. I was in search for freedom and I was looking for it in the wrong way and the wrong place. I was seeking love in a selfish way; I was striving to fill the emptiness inside me with passing pleasures leading me into the fullness of sin. I was consumed in the pursuit of wealth working 70 to 80 hours a week to build my business into an empire, leading me to focus on money with very little time for anything else.

"What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life?" (Mt 16:26)

I was away from "The Light," estranged from God, living my life in a spiritual wasteland. Nine years ago I started my journey back to Jesus. I went to the Most Blessed Sacrament Friary in Newark to see their garden. It was God's providence that they had rat problem so with my Pest control business I was there regularly.

It was there where I met a brother who is like no other priest I knew. He became my counselor and my spiritual director who led me back to the light. I found myself being drawn to this Most Sacred place I have ever been. I felt safe and at peace. God was leading me away from the wasteland of darkness. It was when I went on a pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey following the footsteps of Saint Paul that once again I could say that I could see the glimpse of The Light.

Jesus said that those that followed him would not walk in darkness (Jn 8:12).

During my four day retreat with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, on that third day at about 8am during mass after receiving the Holy Eucharist, I found myself lying on the ground surrounded by people as I opened my eyes. They were helping me up and asking if I was all right, I could not recall anything but a very intense bright and white light.

"But whoever lives the truth comes to the light so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God." (Jn3: 21)



HANG IN THERE!!!

6 months to a year...6 months to a year. These words have been resonating in my ears ever since the oncologist bluntly articulated to me my life expectancy.

My cancer journey has not been easy. I completed the therapies one after another hoping that each would be the last. But the stubborn tumors continue to grow. Mother Teresa said, "*Suffering is nothing but the kiss of Jesus, a sign that you have come so close that he can kiss you.*" There were times when I asked Jesus to stop kissing me already. In 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, St. Paul wrote, "*Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen since what is seen is temporary but what is unseen is eternal.*" I have the choice of sulking in self-pity and slowly withering away but I choose to participate in a wonderful interchange of wills where I unite my will to God's. I have learned to accept my illness as a unique privilege to be a living witness of His mercy and grace. The Lord has formed and shaped me and worked out the details of my life, even a life with cancer, for His glory and my good. He has summoned me down a path I would not choose. But it is a path He has marked and He would be there every step of the way.

As I face the different situations in my life, I keep in mind that God is sovereign over both the blessings and the trials that come my way. I keep the faith, cling on to hope and embrace the love outpoured.

"I believe I shall see the LORD's goodness in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD, take courage; be stouthearted, wait for the LORD!"(Ps 27:13-14) I wake up each day thanking God for giving me another day. I pray that not a day passes without my making a difference in someone's life. I wait expectantly for His revelation as He unfolds the tapestry of my life.



Truly You are my light and my Lord and Savior. My heart leaps for joy when I think of these words. I want to be holy for You, my God, are holy. I want the wind of Your Holy Spirit to stir the fire in my life to love and serve You.

Thank you Jesus, my Savior and my Light. ...Amen

Getting the Message Out

“*Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?*” (Acts 22:7) It was at that point that St. Paul was converted and dedicated his life to preaching the Gospel and sharing God’s love in him. Our own transformation story might not be as dramatic. Nonetheless, we are in community because, like St. Paul, the Lord has touched us.

Jesus Christ treated every person He met, especially the poor, the sick, the abandoned and even the wicked with love, charity and respect. We all know how just, merciful, beautiful and loving Christ Jesus is and how peaceful and contented we feel after we have decided to put Christ at the center of our lives. Why then is it so difficult to proclaim and testify to God’s love?

In this community, there are many ways we can share the love and blessing of Christ with others, and put our faith into action. We have our monthly soup kitchens and nursing home visitations. The Covenant News, published at a minimum 50 times a year, is a forum where we can express through writing God’s glory in our lives. Lastly, on an average there are 15 yearly retreats and seminars where we can witness to others our very own conversion and transformation stories. There are many opportunities, yet at times we choose to be silent.

One activity that I found very rewarding and fulfilling is being a witness. The inner healing that I feel is so gratifying and worthwhile. I am reminded that I am a broken and inadequate person in constant need of God’s grace and mercy. When I share, I watch others transform before my very eyes. It is not the gory details of my sinfulness that touch others. Rather it is what our Lord and Savior has done to me, how He slowly refined me to become a better, albeit still imperfect, follower of Christ. I was an arm-chair Catholic and I thank the Lord daily for calling me to renewal.

Writing is my least favorite activity. Yet, time and time again I am unable to say NO when I receive an invitation. As Christ’s disciples, it is important for all of us to share God’s transforming love with others. It takes an act of faith. It is in faith that He reveals **His story** etched upon our lives, which is truly greater than ours.

If this article touches one person out there, then I have fulfilled one of Christ’s orders, “*As the Father has sent me, so I send you.*” (Jn 20:21)

COUNSELS (from page 1)

On the fourth Sunday of the Easter Season - also called “Good Shepherd Sunday” - Jesus makes it clear that the good shepherd is called to lead, to love and to die for His flock. He is the One True Divine Shepherd of all humanity, offering himself to us that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. We acknowledge Him as the caring and trusted Shepherd, the Gate of the sheepfold, through whom whoever enters, will be saved. When our life seems lacking in direction, and our hearts are full of bitterness and resentment, it could mean we are failing to listen, or recognize our Shepherd’s voice. We can only follow our theme for this week – “**Our hearts are emboldened for the New Evangelization when we listen to our Shepherd’s voice and follow Him.**” But his voice is best heard in the stillness of our hearts, so let us strive to find some quiet time with the Lord.

Our theme for the fifth Sunday of Easter - “**Our hearts are emboldened for the New Evangelization when we have faith in God and do good works**” - reminds us that as Christians we are meant to live a life of witnessing. But to be effective witnesses, we must have faith in God and do good works, and for this grace, we need to go to the Father. But no one goes to the Father except through Jesus. He alone, is the way to eternal life.

On the sixth Sunday of Easter, our theme is: “**Our hearts are emboldened for the New Evangelization when we love God and obey His commandments**”. Jesus challenges us to become advocates and defenders of people who may need us. He is calling us to serve, rather than impose our will on those over whom he has given us authority. He invites us to come to Him not out of obligation, but out of a disciple’s sincere response to our love for God.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Read the scriptures daily and open your hearts and minds to the Lord’s directions.
2. Talk to God through daily prayer.



NEWS (from page 1)

The two-hour Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday — a feast instituted by St. John Paul II — got under way at 10am, shortly after Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI arrived to take his seat to a warm welcome from the crowd.

Another prominent participant was Sister Marie-Simon Pierre, the French sister whose miraculous recovery from Parkinson's in 2005 paved the way for the beatification of John Paul II, who read of one of the intercessory prayers.

Thick clouds cleared at the moment of the proclamation and then again at the moment of consecration during the Mass.

Read more: <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/pope-francis-canonizes-st-john-paul-ii-and-st-john-xxiii#ixzz30DYWNst8>

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROJECT I DO (MASS WEDDING)

For: Couples who are civilly married but not sacramentally married in church / those who want to be married in church.

When: Sunday, May 18, 2014 @ 3 PM

Place: Divine Mercy Church, Rahway, NJ

Requirements & details: Contact Ray/Susie Atienza: [908-463-0449](tel:908-463-0449) / bldassistedparish@bldnewark.com

2014 LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Dynamic - Life Changing Experience!
ST. ANTONINUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

6 Wednesdays 8:00 – 10:00 PM
April 30th through June 4th

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT – June 8th
PENTECOST SUNDAY -10 AM MASS

Fr. Paul Lehman, Celebrant - 60th Priestly Anniversary
Fr. Joseph Meagher, Concelebrant
337 So. Orange Ave., Newark, NJ 07103

Quotes from St John Paul II in honor of the Divine Mercy

“Be apostles of Divine Mercy under the maternal and loving guidance of Mary.”

—John Paul II to the Marians, June 22, 1993

“There is nothing more man needs than Divine Mercy – that love which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises man above his weakness to the infinite heights to the holiness of God.”

—Shrine of Divine Mercy in Cracow, Poland on June 7, 1997

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com

LORD'S PROVISION

April 25 th 's Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$ 2,708	\$ 47,760
Mission Collections	\$ 174	\$ 5,200

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

Thank you for your continued support!
Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

May 2 - Intro to Intercession – LSS 1-42
- Intro to Commitment – LSS 41

June 14** - Community Teaching: ALL

Topic: *Forgiveness through The Lord's Prayer and Hail Mary*

Speaker: Dr. Gregory Glazov
Associate Professor, Seton Hall University

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

**Divine Mercy Parish Connell Hall, Rahway, NJ

Time: Friday after worship *Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**Saturday 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

LET US START INVITING!!!

“It is not enough to discover Christ, you must bring Him to others.” – Pope John Paul II

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER #43

When: May 30-June 1, 2014

Where: Hotel Executive Suites, 30 Minue St. Carteret NJ

Contact Persons: Nong/Tricia Bustos ~ mia@bldnewark.com

SINGLES ENCOUNTER #32

When: May 30-June 1, 2014

Where: Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garrison, NY

Contact Persons: Emil/Baby Canlas ~ singles@bldnewark.com

SOLO PARENTS ENCOUNTER #16

When: June 27-29, 2014

Where: Vocationist Fathers Retreat House
90 Brooklake Road, Florham Park, NJ

Contact Person: Ruth Ureta (201)451-1780

FAMILY ENCOUNTER #21

When: July 18-20, 2014

Where: Malvern Retreat House, Malvern PA

Contact Persons: Archie/Lelet Quevada (732) 283-5894 or
Oliver/Marissa Rangel (732) 667-8332

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			May 9	Formation
			May 16	Management
			May 23	Mission
			May 30	Pastoral



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 19

Bulletin Edition

May 9, 2014

POPE FRANCIS ON HOW WE LIVE OUR FAITH

“Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled.” (Jn 6:26)

Pope Francis said that the Gospel calls on us to look into ourselves and reflect on the way we live our Faith- whether we are following the Lord out of love or personal gain. He highlighted three particular attitudes to avoid to follow God - vanity, thirst for power, and lust for wealth.

He said that vanity causes us to slip on our pride. He advises us instead to ask ourselves, “When I do good, do I do it under the public eye, or do I do it in private?” He described some pastors- priests or bishops- who are vain and hence do not do good to the people nor follow Jesus’ way.

The Pope also said that there are some who follow Jesus and are in search for power unknowingly. He cited James and John, the sons of Zebedee who asked Jesus to seat them in places of honor in his Kingdom, one on His right and one on His left. The Holy Father noted that the disciples’ attitude changed only when the Holy Spirit descended upon them.

On the lust for wealth or money, he said that some follow Jesus yet they try “to take economic advantage of the parish, of the diocese, of their Christian community, of the hospital, or the college.” This has been a temptation right from the beginning of the first Christian community where Simon, Ananias and Sapphira were swayed by lust for wealth. He said that “many good Catholics, good Christians, friends and benefactors of the Church acted for personal profit. They presented themselves as benefactors of the Church and made money on the side...”

Concluding his homily, Pope Francis invited the faithful to ask God for the grace to follow Christ with good intentions and not with those three attitudes that stray from the path to Him.

Excerpted from Zenit.org/5/6/2014/J.A.E.

COUNSELS

A Disciple’s Journey

THEME: Our hearts are emboldened for the New Evangelization when we listen to our Shepherd’s voice and follow Him.

WORD : Acts 2:14, 36-41; Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6
1 Pt 2:20-25; Jn 10:1-10

ORDER: “Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example... follow in his footsteps.”
(1 Pt 2:21)

REFLECTION:

We all realize that life here on earth is temporary and we should spend it in preparation for the next one. As every race has a finish line, so has our journey, a destination. Obviously, our choice destination for our spiritual journey is where we can find eternal life with our Heavenly Father. And we can only go there by following the way our Lord Jesus has charted for us.

First and foremost, we listen to Him and follow His way simply because He loved us first to the point where He gave up His life to save us. Because of His great love for us, we believe that He is telling us the truth when He says that He is the only way to eternal life.

As the Lord implores us in Mt 23:26 “*Cleanse first the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may be made clean.*” This involves digging deeper into our faith in God and looking into ourselves and our feelings toward others. We need to cure ourselves of any self-inflicted wounds that we may still have due to our self-righteousness and pride. We must have the humility to accept our sinfulness to free ourselves from the bondage of sin. We need to love others first

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

*“Whoever enters through me will be saved.”
(John 10:9)*

LIVING BREAD

“Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life,* which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal.” (Jn 6:27)

When I first arrived in the U.S., I was so amazed at the variety and amount of food available. The portions were huge! It was so easy to get delicious meals from the fast food establishments. Of course the food was delicious. They are full of fat and sugar. Over the years, my overindulgence with food wrought havoc on my physical well-being. I started to gain weight, became obese, battled high blood pressure, clogged arteries and became a good candidate for diabetes. This attitude towards getting easy food also affected my attitude towards life. I focused my life on acquiring and enjoying material things.

After my wife and I experienced the Marriage Encounter sponsored by BLD, my outlook changed. I came to know Jesus in a more personal way and realized that it is more satisfying to follow His footsteps. I have absorbed His teachings from the Scriptures. When He was preaching the good news all over Judea, people always followed Him to listen to His words. Since the people stayed with Him during the day, they got hungry and had to find food. Jesus, in His compassion, never let the people go hungry. Not only did Jesus feed the people with real bread, He nourished their spirits with grace from the Father. Jesus said to them, ***“I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.”*** (Jn 6:35)

We have very recently commemorated the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This event asserts the very core of our belief: JESUS LIVES! He is alive in us and continues to nourish us with grace from the Holy Spirit. Just as the people of His time followed Him everywhere He went, we, His people, should also keep close to Him. We should not distance ourselves from Him. Just like huddling near a fireplace to keep warm, we should keep close to Him for spiritual warmth. Just as we gather by the oven to be close to the baking bread, we should also gather close to Him for he is the Living Bread.

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.” (Jn 6:51)

An Extraordinary Forgiveness

“Lord, do not hold this sin against them”; and when he said this, he fell asleep.” (Acts 7:60)

These were the last words uttered by Stephen as he was being stoned to death. He gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God. He was full of the Holy Spirit that gave him courage and empowerment to forgive his own persecutors as he lay dying.

Jesus was dying on the cross when He prayed to the Father for His persecutors, ***“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”*** (Lk 23:34). He bore the pains and sufferings and still had the magnanimity to forgive His persecutors.

In my early days at BLD, I often wondered what it would take to really understand and practice Christian suffering. It was difficult enough for me to follow what Jesus teaches on loving and praying for my enemies, how much more difficult would it be to bear suffering for them? But Community life changed me as I went through the formation programs, got more mature in my walk with the Spirit bearing burdens for others.

But the hardest test of my Christian maturity came when my eldest son was killed at a tender age of 27, full of dreams and plans for a very promising career. With my heart pierced, I could not understand why God gave me such unbearable pains despite my having served Him for years through His BLD community. I blamed God for such a cruel reward. I was dying in pain, in disbelief. And I became angrier when my husband told me he already forgave the man who ended our son's life. He did not want to be part of that man's sins by not forgiving him, thus leaving all to divine justice. I did not think I could do it!

One day, it came to me -- I had to be like Jesus and do this extraordinary forgiveness. I had to forgive my son's killer because it was God's permissive will that my son should leave us early and be with God. I never told anyone but my son once told me in confidence that he felt the calling to be a priest but did not know how to deal with it as he had great plans for his film career. But God had other plans: He took him instead for Himself to preserve him from the corruption in the film industry. Realizing this, I lifted up all my pains, grief and sorrows to Jesus; and He allowed me to move on, to live again, putting myself in mission work with mothers who also lost their children.

Only by God's grace and mercy can we accept what is humanly difficult to comprehend. He truly makes Christ-like suffering and forgiving more bearable by man, for His yoke is easy and His burden light.

CAFETERIA CATHOLICS

Christ teachings are sometimes hard to fathom and this was evident when He talked about the Eucharist. Those same people who kept on following Him because they saw the many miracles He performed were scandalized upon hearing that we must receive His body and His blood in order to have everlasting life. For centuries, the Church Fathers have explained this scripture passage so that we now have a clearer understanding of this scriptural verse and the Eucharist.

Now in the modern era, we as members of Christ's body are again facing division among ourselves. There is a growing divide since the issuance of the encyclical "Humanae Vitae" by Pope Paul VI, which highlighted the Church's opposition to artificial birth control and was affirmed by now-canonized St. John Paul II in his encyclical series "Theology of the Body". There are Catholics who are opposed to the Church teachings on abortion, birth control, divorce, same-sex marriage, sex outside of marriage and even pornography. These brethren of ours are labeled "Cafeteria Catholics" because of their tendency to pick and choose which teachings are convenient to follow. I should know; I was one of them. I had struggled to understand why our Church is against artificial birth control and why it would intervene in the personal lives of married couples.

And so when I read and reflected on the Bread of Life discourse in the Gospel of John, I realized that I am one of those followers of Jesus who were amazed by his miracles and awed by some of his teachings. But when presented with a difficult-to-understand teaching, my reaction would be similar to theirs. "***This saying is hard, who can accept this?***" (Jn 6:60) Most of his disciples left except the twelve apostles. Why did Peter and the eleven stay? I'm sure they were as confused as those who left. Peter replied. "***Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.***" (Jn 6:68-69). Peter stayed not to conform; he stayed because he believed in Jesus.

When one reads "Humanae Vitae" and the "Theology of the Body" from a practical and economic perspective, it just doesn't make any sense; but when one reads it with an open heart and with faith, the murkiness seems to dissipate and becomes clearer. As St. Augustine said, "Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore, seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand."

COUNSELS (from page 1)

without pre-condition the way our Lord has loved us. Individually and as a community, we must have the desire and perseverance to become worthy witnesses of His love for all, to make them feel that we truly care, that we are a loving and caring community.

Let us always remember that the Lord wants us to come clean before Him through repentance and a firm commitment to live our life by His word. We need to travel light during our spiritual journey by throwing away the extra baggage of sinfulness that could only wear us down. This would also make it easier for us to help others carry their heavy burdens in life. By doing these things, we make ourselves loveable to God and others and thus become more credible and believable, hoping that others would listen, join and follow the same way that we travel. And as we encounter others who are in need of our help, let us not turn our back on them nor take another route to avoid them. Let us take the additional responsibility of caring for them just like the Good Samaritan did.

But our job does not end after we have gathered His flock or after we have succeeded in inviting others to join us in our journey to become part of community. As God's love for us is eternal, so should our love for one another never end. We need to always realize that He has made us the undershepherds of His flock. We have to constantly minister to the pastoral needs of others, starting with our families and those around us, to help each other overcome the struggles that we face, to be instruments for each other's spiritual nourishment and to strive always to be holy by being constantly loving and humble.

And as we follow His way, we have to be mindful and willing to overcome the trials or difficulties that come our way. As the Lord tells us in 1 Pt 2:20-21, "***If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps.***"

It is only our love for God and our faith in Him that can free us from the fear of walking along the path of righteousness. It is only God's grace that would enable us to persevere in overcoming every struggle we would encounter along the way. And peace can only be achieved through our victory against the forces of evil that are always trying to derail our journey.

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS *(from page 3)*

As we are united by His love for us, we will walk together in this journey, helping anyone who stumbles to get back on his feet. Let us go for it and persevere to reach the finish line and enter through the “Gate” of eternal life.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Be a good witness to others.
2. Minister to the pastoral needs of your neighbors.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROJECT I DO (MASS WEDDING)

For: Couples who are civilly married but not sacramentally married in church / those who want to be married in church.

When: Sunday, May 18, 2014 @ 3 PM

Place: Divine Mercy Church, Rahway, NJ

Requirements & details: Contact Ray/Susie Atienza:
[908-463-0449](tel:908-463-0449) / bldassistedparish@bldnewark.com

The BLD Mission Ministry is sponsoring a **PENTECOST VIGIL**

Saturday, June 7, 2014

Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium
 240 Central Ave. Rahway, NJ 07065

6:00 pm - Rosary

6:30 to 8:30 pm - Praise and Worship by various prayer groups & BLD Ministries

8:30 pm - Eucharistic Celebration

Fellowship and light snacks

Contact Persons:

- Ray & Tess Salmo - (732) 766-1785, raysalmo@aol.com
- Ray & Susie Atienza - (908) 463,0449
asentertainmentdj@yahoo.com
- Cris & Ampy Escobinas - (973) 980-7179
crisampye@hotmail.com
- Alan & Tess Cam - (201) 659-5417
alantesscam@yahoo.com

Please invite your family and friends to an evening of praise and worship.

	Date	Apostolate
	May 16	Management
	May 23	Mission
	May 30	Pastoral
	June 6	Evangelization

Please notify the Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com

LORD'S PROVISION

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$ 3,108	\$ 50,868
Mission Collections	\$ 84	\$ 5,284
Easter Envelope	\$ 260	\$ 623

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

Thank you for your continued support!
Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

Community Teaching

Topic: **Forgiveness through
 The Lord's Prayer and Hail Mary**

Date: **June 14, 2014**

Time: Saturday 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish Connell Hall, Rahway, NJ

Speaker: Dr. Gregory Glazov
 Associate Professor, Seton Hall University

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

LET US START INVITING!!!

“It is not enough to discover Christ, you must bring Him to others.” – Pope John Paul II

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER #43

When: **May 30-June 1, 2014**

Where: **Hotel Executive Suites, 30 Minue St. Carteret NJ**

Contact Persons: Nong/Tricia Bustos ~ m1a@bldnewark.com

SINGLES ENCOUNTER #32

When: **May 30-June 1, 2014**

Where: **Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garrison, NY**

Contact Persons: Emil/Baby Canlas ~ singles@bldnewark.com

SOLO PARENTS ENCOUNTER #16

When: **June 27-29, 2014**

Where: **Vocationist Fathers Retreat House
 90 Brooklake Road, Florham Park, NJ**

Contact Person: Ruth Ureta (201)451-1780

FAMILY ENCOUNTER #21

When: **July 18-20, 2014**

Where: **Malvern Retreat House, Malvern PA**

Contact Persons: Archie/Lelet Quevada (732) 283-5894 or
 Oliver/Marissa Rangel (732) 667-8332

**Ignorance of the Bible is
 ignorance of Christ.
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COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 20

Bulletin Edition

May 16, 2014

NEWS

Mother Mary appears at Fatima



May 13, 2014 – It was 97 years ago today that three little children first caught a glimpse of heaven, in the village of Fatima, Portugal. As war was ravaging the European continent, eventually with over 37 million casualties, Mother Mary chose the three to convey her message of hope to the world.

But heaven was not the only thing they were shown on the 13th day of the months from May to October, 1917. In the final apparition (Oct 13), “Our Lady showed us a great sea of fire which seemed to be under the earth. Plunged in this fire were demons and souls in human form,” one of the children, Lucia Santos, wrote in her Third Memoir. “This vision lasted but an instant. How can we ever be grateful enough to our kind heavenly Mother, who had already prepared us by promising, in the first Apparition, to take us to heaven? Otherwise, I think we would have died of fear and terror.”

At Fatima, our Lady also spoke about the impending end of World War One... while warning that the start of an even greater conflict was to come (World War Two from 1939-1945). She also pleaded for prayers for the conversion of Russia; she called for prayers to Jesus for the sins of the world; and a consecration of hearts to her Immaculate Heart.

In what is known today as the “Third Secret of Fatima”, the vision of an Angel was seen crying “Penance, Penance, Penance!” Further into the vision, the blood of martyrs ran down the arms of a cross, martyrs dying in communion with the Passion of Christ, thus giving life to souls making their way to God. In 2000, then Cardinal Ratzinger wrote about this - “from the suffering of the witnesses there comes a purifying and renewing power, because their suffering is the actualization of the suffering of Christ himself and a communication in the here and now of its saving effect.” In his concluding statement about the message of Fatima, just as relevant today as it was when Fatima was first news 97 years ago, the future Pope Benedict XVI exhorted us all to trust in the promise in John 16:33 – “*In the world you will have trouble, but take courage; I have conquered the world.*”

COUNSELS

A Place in His House

THEME: Our hearts are emboldened for the New Evangelization when we have faith in God and do good works.

WORD: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2,4-5,18-19; 1Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

ORDER: “*Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these.*” (Jn 14:12)

REFLECTION:

“In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.” (Jn 14:2-3)



This scriptural verse is almost always used at wakes or memorial services. Instead of taking this as a message of gloom, we have here a very poignant, loving and reassuring message from our Father, telling His children that there will always be a place for each and every one of us in the heavenly kingdom of God. *Continued, page 3*

Promise of the Week

“Behold, the eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear him, upon those who count on his mercy, to deliver their soul from death and to keep them alive through famine.” (Ps 33:18-19)

The Call to Unity



Unity is one of the key themes of John's Gospel. Jesus' high-priestly prayer is that all may be one, just as He is one with the Father (Jn 17:21). In John 10, Jesus treats unity in the context of His role as the Good Shepherd - there

are other sheep *“that do not belong to this fold,”* but He will lay down His life for them also, so that there is only one flock and one Shepherd (Jn 10:16-17).

But who are the other sheep?

Israel understood itself to be God's flock, with God alone as Shepherd (Ez 34:15). But Israel's vocation is actually to be a light to the nations (Is 42:6, 49:6), so that all will gather as God's people. The “other sheep” therefore refers to the Gentiles, and Jesus has come to lay down His life for them as well and gather them into His flock. The Cross proves this: at Jesus' crucifixion, a Roman centurion confesses that Jesus is God's Son (Mt 27:43, Mk 15:39) and even praises God (Lk 23:47). The charge “King of the Jews” is written in Greek and Aramaic so that even the Gentiles will see that Jesus is their King (Jn 19:20).

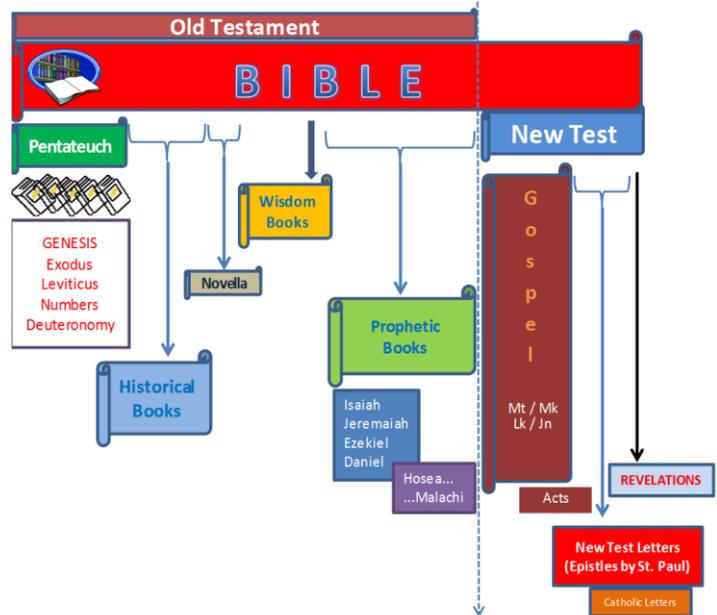
In response, the early church gradually turned to evangelizing the Gentiles, and realized the truth of “one flock, one shepherd” as the Body of Christ. But this Body's unity is not merely “mystical,” but concrete: in the one Body of Christ, diverse charisms work together to edify the whole Body (1 Cor 12-14; Rom 12:4-7). All bear one another's burdens, to the point of collecting alms for the poor in the Jerusalem community (Rom 15:25-26, 1 Cor 16:1, 2 Cor 9:1-16, Eph 4:7-17).

To respond to the call to unity today, we must be generous in using our charisms and resources to serve the flock of the Catholic Church and to serve all people. We must lay down our lives like Jesus in greater service to our parishes and our local Church. Along with other lay movements, we as a community must endeavor to journey with the Church, under the guidance of her pastors. As a lay movement, let us release and unite our charisms with those of other lay groups, so that we can together serve the Gospel in a complementary way. And let us always be attentive to the needs of *all* who seem like “other sheep”: the poor, the marginalized, Christians in other traditions, and our Jewish brothers and sisters. They, like us, are part of God's flock. Just like Jesus, we must earnestly and unceasingly pray that all may be one in God (Jn 17:21).

A Bible Refresher

If you've ever wondered why/how our Christian brethren are able to take a Bible and quickly jump to almost any verse in Scripture; whereas you find yourself, before proceeding there, having to look through the table of contents first, for the page that the book referred to starts at ... Then this chart is for you.

New American Bible - Revised Edition



Nothing replaces getting familiar with the Holy Book via usage, but if you want to jumpstart that, then imagine the whole Bible represented by the red scroll in the chart:

Note then that:

1. The Old Testament takes up about the first 75% of the scroll.
2. The New Testament is in about the last 25%; it starts with the Gospels and concludes with Revelations.
3. If you approximate opening almost any Bible around the middle, chances are that you will land in one of the Wisdom Books – Psalms, Proverbs or Wisdom.
4. Immediately to the right of the Wisdom Books would be the Prophetic Books of the Old Testament – usually denoted by the prophet's name. This section starts with the four major prophets – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel; followed by the other named prophets.
5. To the left of the Wisdom Books are the novellas (stories of Tobit and Judith, Esther and the Macabees).
6. And to the left of that are the historical books, with the first five books (Pentateuch) on the extreme left.

And when you get the chance, try this: look for the center of the Bible (based on chapter count, Ps 125/126 make up the center of NABRE); read it and see the message from God that's there for us.

A TICKET TO HEAVEN



As I thought about on this article for the **Covenant News**, I found myself contemplating the first few years of my life in **BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY** – always refusing to write, saying this instead: *“I have nothing original to say. Whatever I might say, someone else has already said it, and better than I will ever be able to.”*

For almost twenty years now, I have believed in faith that in His wisdom, Jesus has united me with my brethren in Community, living through times of turmoil, yet realizing that each of us is unique and original, that nobody has lived what we have lived. Furthermore, what we have lived, we have lived not just for ourselves but for others as well.

This convinced me that writing is a very creative and invigorating way to make our lives available not only in **BLD**, but also with our family and the Parish Community. Likewise I have come to trust that stories deserve to be told. The better they are told, the better we want to live them. This is my story:

St. John’s Gospel Chapter 14, verse 6 narrates: *“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”* With this I saw flashbacks of myself receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation to get ready for a scheduled flight – clearly implying a spiritually free life, a life with God in case of any eventuality, in spite of my confidence that air transportation is the safest way to travel. Where inner freedom is, there is God. Where God is, there I wanted to be. Jesus is my sure **Ticket to Heaven**. He is:

The Way – because He gave His life as a ransom for myself. His Blood cleanses all my sins and opens up my reconciliation with God.

The Truth – for Jesus always spoke and lived the Truth. The possession of Truth confers knowledge and liberation from sin.

The Life – since I discovered God’s love in Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection, calling me to a glorious life with Him.

God is truly awesome and His reward unimaginable. He never said that it would be easy. Truly as we follow God’s ways we may fall at certain times but with complete trust in our **Ticket to Heaven**, we will not be cast down for He will always be there.

Heavenly Father, during Lent, I contemplated the Passion of Christ Your Son, help me to love the world also and die for my salvation. Inspire me by His great compassion, and guide me by His example to embrace my world and transform the darkness of its pain into the life and joy of Easter. Amen.

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

The house of the Lord is a house open to everyone. The prodigal son in Luke 15, despite his wayward ways, the Father welcomed him home with open arms and even made a big celebration. Even the jealous brother was reassured by the Father and was welcomed into the house too. The adulterer, Mary Magdalene, was not stoned but instead told to change her ways and became a follower of Christ. Even the tax collector, Zacchaeus, in Luke 19:1-10, was welcome. Even those with physical infirmities, the handicapped as we would call them today - the blind, the deaf, the mute and the lepers, were cured instead of being ostracized. They too have a place in the house of the Lord.

Financial or social status was not a hindrance as the apostles were mostly fishermen. Joseph, the Lord’s foster father was a carpenter. Race and gender are not considerations either, as the Lord had one of the longest conversations in the Bible with the Samaritan woman at the well. Even one of the Lord’s greatest persecutors, Saint Paul, became one of His greatest followers. Everyone is welcome to the Lord’s house.

In My Father’s house there are many dwelling places. This shows us the heart of Jesus. It is a heart filled with love, compassion and forgiveness for each and every one of us. So much is the Lord’s love for us that in Isaiah 43:1 he assures us, *“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine.”* When we continued with our sinful ways and crucified the Lord and nailed Him to the cross, did the Lord close His doors to us? No. He opened them wide when He called out to the Father on our behalf, *“Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.”* (Luke 23:34).

But are the sinners the only ones who are welcome or do they seem to have priority in the house of the Lord? The Beatitudes in Mathew 5:3-9 further shows how open the Lord’s house is to everyone. The poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the clean of heart and the peacemakers. They are assured of a place in God’s heavenly home. **Continued, page 4**



COUNSELS

(from page 3)

The theme – “our hearts are emboldened for the New Evangelization when we have faith in God and do good works”, calls us to have the same heart of Jesus. It is a heart that loves and welcomes all. Discrimination has no place in evangelization. How then do we evangelize? How do we bring the Lord’s house to the people? The Lord teaches us in Matthew 25:35-36, “*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.*”

The question then is. As a community, do we do our share of evangelization? As a representative of God’s house here on earth, do we welcome everyone?

DIRECTIONS:

1. Be warm and welcoming to all.
2. Devote yourself to prayer.
3. Spread the Word of God through the encounters.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The BLD Mission Ministry is sponsoring a PENTECOST VIGIL

Saturday, June 7, 2014

Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium, 240 Central Ave. Rahway, NJ 07065

6:00 pm – Rosary

6:30 to 8:30 pm - Praise & Worship by various prayer groups & BLD

8:30 pm - Eucharistic Celebration

Followed by Fellowship and light snacks

Contact Persons:

Ray/Tess Salmo : (732) 766-1785 ~ raysalmo@aol.com

Ray/Susie Atienza : (908) 463-0449 ~ asentertainmentdj@yahoo.com

Cris/Ampy Escobinas: (973) 980-7179 ~ crisampye@hotmail.com

Alan/Tess Cam - (201) 659-5417 ~ alantesscam@yahoo.com

**Please invite your family and friends
to an evening of praise and worship.**

LSS 42 Reunion

Sunday, June 1, 2014 1-5 pm; Divine Mercy Library
Shepherds please contact your lambs and inform them
to read Romans 8

!!! PLEASE NOTE !!!

**Due to the 4th of July
holiday, July’s BLD
Eucharistic Celebration
will be on Thursday, July 3, 2014**

BLD will celebrate the 60th Ordination Anniversary (May 29)
and 86th Birthday (July 5) of Fr. Paul.



LORD’S PROVISION

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$ 3,400	\$ 54,268
Mission Collections	\$ 118	\$ 5,402

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

Thank you for your continued support!
Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

Community Teaching

Topic: **Forgiveness through
The Lord’s Prayer and Hail Mary**

Date: June 14, 2014

Time: Saturday 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish Connell Hall, Rahway, NJ

Speaker: Dr. Gregory Glazov

Associate Professor, Seton Hall University

UPCOMING ENCOUNTERS

LET US START INVITING!!!

*“It is not enough to discover Christ, you must bring
Him to others.”* – Pope John Paul II

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER #43

When: May 30-June 1, 2014

Where: Hotel Executive Suites, 30 Minue St. Carteret NJ

Contact Persons: Nong/Tricia Bustos ~ mia@bldnewark.com

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When: May 30-June 1, 2014

Where: Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garrison, NY

Contact Persons: Emil/Baby Canlas ~ singles@bldnewark.com

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When: June 27-29, 2014

Where: CYO Retreat Center

499 Belgrove Dr, Kearny, NJ 07032

Contact Person: Ruth Ureta (201)451-1780

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Where: Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA

Contact Persons: Lito/Elaine Fernando, Charlie/Weng
Larobis, Cy/Mavil Loreto ~ ycs@bldnewark.com

FAMILY ENCOUNTER #21

When: July 18-20, 2014

Where: Malvern Retreat House, Malvern PA

Contact Persons: Archie/Lelet Quevada (732) 283-5894 or
Oliver/Marissa Rangel (732) 667-8332

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			May 23	Mission
			May 30	Pastoral
			Jun 6	Evangelization
			Jun 13	Formation

Please notify the Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 21

Bulletin Edition

May 23, 2014

NEWS

Good and Fruitful Harvest

Our community's Aspirant Retreat was held at St. Peter's Retreat House in Belleville, New Jersey on May 16-18, 2014. We were blessed with 22 aspirants: 3 Solo Parents, 2 Singles, 1 couple from ME #37, 5 couples from ME #38, and 5 from Rockland. With God's grace, the retreat produced a good and fruitful harvest.

The aspirants were graced with witnesses who had given their time to share and talk about their transformation and walk with Jesus. They were also lovingly supported by the prayers and presence of their shepherds.

This retreat was sponsored by the Teaching Ministry and was blessed to have auxies from Solo Parents and Praise Ministries, who supported the morning worships, Eucharistic celebration and other movements of the retreat. The spiritual director for the retreat was Fr. Paul Lehman.



The 22 aspirants were: **ME #37:** Vic and Bebot Osias; **ME #38:** Jun & Edith Buhain, Norman & Marie Cabrera, Archie & Carol Dela Cruz, Jesse & Ofel Palafox and Mike & Emma Pepino; **Rockland:** Jun & Hyde Amano, *Continued on page 4*

COUNSELS

The Two Gifts

THEME: Our hearts are emboldened for the New Evangelization when we love God and obey His commandments.

WORD: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Psalms 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21

ORDER: "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts." (1 Peter 3:15)

REFLECTION:

The readings for this Sunday lead me to reflect on one of the two gifts which in themselves are a mystery and can be known only in their outward expression. One is love, and the other is the Holy Spirit. As we all know, both cannot be really known in themselves, and both are realized in their expression, their activity and their external manifestations. But at this point of our reflection, let us concentrate our talk on love.

One of the most spiritually destructive ideas that have infected the world is the false claim to love Jesus Christ while at the same time ignoring and even rejecting the commandments and the teachings of Jesus through the Church. This is like professing to love another person's voice but hating his or her persona. It is a superficial outlook. However, words of love are of great importance. There's nothing wrong with saying "I love you." In fact they can be the most beautiful and powerful words in a person's life. It is vital for husbands to tell their wives they love them. It's vital for wives to tell their husbands they love them. It is extremely vital for children to hear words of love from their moms and dads, along with lots of hugs. And so with friends too. Friends should not be ashamed to let each other know that they care for and love one another.

The real test and testimony of *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him." (John 14:21)

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

TO LISTEN IS TO LOVE!

How busy we have become, how preoccupied with ourselves and disconnected from one another and from God. How can we be prayerful or pursue anything resembling spirituality if we are so overbooked we have no time for the reality of the present moment?

The problem of not listening well is found in all walks of life. Health professionals are rarely taught to listen to patients, and many teachers struggle to listen to their students amid the competing busyness of the classroom. In social settings, people often seem to be listening, but most tend to be so anxious to find an opening to speak that they are not really listening at all.

Genuine listening requires the virtue of patience and the ability to slow down the rush of our thoughts so we can pay full attention to another. This type of listening is hard and takes practice.

Giving full attention to the ideas and concerns of another person is a form of love, a source of happiness, a type of prayer. It requires what Jesus emphasized in the first beatitude: poverty of spirit. "Blessed are the poor in Spirit" reveals that emptying ourselves of ego by putting our own needs aside is the essence of love. This is what we do when we devote time to another in word sharing circles. We can understand that person by listening deeply to him or her and we can show that person our love.

When asked why He used parables in His preaching, Jesus responded that many people "**look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.**" (Matthew 13:13) Frustrated by many people's lack of attention, more than once He said, "**Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear.**" (Mark 4:9) The Gospels contain numerous variations on this imperative to pay attention. The repeated use of "behold" often seems to be a call to stop and listen, something important is about to happen.

The way to make listening prayerful is to let go of self and be aware of God. He speaks to us every day. To hear His voice, we have to let go of our tightly scheduled lives and silently enter the light of God's present reality. Since the voice of God comes in unexpected ways that don't always involve words, we have to be open to it in the contemplative listening of silence or in the voices of those we love.

"I Created You"

"I woke up this morning, saw a world full of trouble now. Thought, how'd we ever get so far down? How's it ever gonna turn around? So I turned my eyes to Heaven, I thought, 'God, why don't You do something?' Well, I just couldn't bear the thought of people living in poverty, children sold into slavery. The thought disgusted me, so, I shook my fist at Heaven, said, 'God, why don't You do something?,' He said, 'I did, I created you.'"

The above lyrics from Matthew West's song "Do Something" are so real that I could not stop thinking about it. Yes, God created me to be His hands and feet, to bring peace to the world, to help the poor and the needy, to bring light into the troubled world. What have I done to fulfill the purpose of my existence?

I was sad upon realizing that I have not really done anything to make a difference in someone else's life.

Then I started to list down the things that I would have done something for:

I frequently came across homeless or beggars on the street, but I have not taken a moment to stop, share my blessing by giving them money or making an effort to buy them food and drink.

I always heard on the news about human trafficking, children slavery, abortion, same sex marriage, and violence, but I didn't do anything about it. I just let it go in one ear and out the other.

I often heard of people needing help to build a home, sick people needing surgery to survive and live a quality life but do not have money to pay for it; but I completely ignored their cry and just hoped that someone else will help them.

One day, I know I will die and meet my Creator, will I take the risk of saying "No" to His question: **Have you done something about the people's pains and hardships that I had sent your way?**

Dear God, I need Your grace to help me see the troubled, the poor and the helpless as You see them. Give me Your compassion that I make a strong effort to make a difference in people's lives and be an instrument in bringing them closer to You, making them realize that You love them and that they are never alone. May my hands and feet be truly Your hands and feet. This I ask in Jesus' name. I pray. AMEN.

My Peace I Give to You

COUNSELS (from page 1)

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.” (John 14:27)

With these words, Jesus strengthened His disciples for the difficult times to come. Though we read this verse during the Easter season, it takes place before the Crucifixion and Easter. His words simultaneously foreshadow Pentecost and reassure His disciples that they shouldn't be afraid.

Jesus reminds us that the peace He gives us is not the easily upset peace of this world, which only lasts as long as human endurance. The peace He offers is His divine peace, independent of our strengths and weaknesses. It comes with truly accepting God's gift of salvation and His blessing, brought to us by the Holy Spirit.

His peace, like His message, should still reside in us today. Are we, His followers, accepting of His gift of peace? It is easy to hold on to our worries and continue being concerned with our affairs, dwelling on them even when there is nothing more that we can do. We think maybe if we weren't so busy at work or if our loved ones weren't always arguing with us or if our finances were more stable, we'd finally be at peace.

However, Jesus says, ***“Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.”*** (Jn 14:27) He asks us to let the unshakeable serenity of His Holy Spirit into our hearts. It does not imply that His peace is about striving to remain calm or finding a quiet place to rest at home. The idea of not having any worries is a worldly kind of peace.

Divine peace, living in our hearts and integrated with our beings, is a working peace that remains even when we are occupied. It does not languish, but rather, continues to bear fruit. It is productive and progressive, not idle and indolent.

The depths of His peace in us should be there at our core. Like the disciples, Jesus fortifies us for the troubles ahead. He asks us to keep Him in our hearts, to bring His peace into our work, family, and community activities. If we have His ocean of peace within us, we can let our fears, anxieties, and weaknesses sink down and be swallowed up by the Holy Spirit. We can have His deep, inner serenity even when storms are brewing.

our love for another lies in our acceptance of what the one we love holds dear. Authentic love means cherishing and honoring what the one we love cherishes and honors, so long as it contributes to our true good. “If you love me, you will keep my commandments,” Jesus tells us in this week's Gospel passage. This is not an ultimatum but a simple statement of fact; anyone who truly loves Jesus will obey the Eternal Law because of the way that the Law of God enables us to make the love of God real in our lives. The Lord's commandments - in particular, the Ten Commandments - are a gift from God by which we can measure what we love most in life. The sad reality however is that human beings are prone to sin. We hesitate to give up sin because we doubt we can find anything else that gratifies us as much as we think sin does.

As our late Holy Father, now Saint John Paul II once wrote, the Ten Commandments *“save man from the destructive force of egoism, hatred and falsehood. They point out all the false gods that can draw him into slavery.”* The commandments provide us with a way to assess whether we are living for ourselves or living in and for Christ Jesus. Keeping the commandments frees us from the too-often empty and illusory promises of a secularized world that has lost sight of the vocation to which all human beings are called: life forever in the presence of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In this light, loving Jesus and keeping his commandments fills us with His love and the love of the Father, and in our hearts, we see Jesus. Sin kills the life of God in us, serious sin kills the life of God in us in a serious way. Whenever the life of God is lacking in us, it is not God's fault, it is ours. It is not God who sends us to purgatory. We send ourselves to purgatory because if our soul is impure we would be blinded by the pure light of God's love. We need to purify ourselves to be able to enjoy the vision of God in heaven. God does not send anyone to hell. Rather, anyone who goes to hell does so because they have chosen to totally reject the love of God.

Filled with the light of truth, we can embrace and live the Gospel freedom that comes to us through the blessing of the Lord's commandments: the freedom to love, the freedom to choose what is good in every situation, even when doing so is difficult. And what results from our observance ***Continued on page 4***

COUNSELS (from page 3)

of His commandments is the promise of Jesus, *“Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him.”* (John 14:21)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Observe God's commandments.
2. Love God with all your heart, with all your mind and all your strength, then love your neighbor as yourself.

Good And Fruitful Harvest (from page 1)

Ana Moreira, Froilan & Joan Quirante; **SE #13/14:** Marc Brillantes, Carlo Loreto; **SPE:** Cinderella Alegria, Joey Cadavillo and Blanca Francisco.

All of the aspirants have openly expressed the spiritual significance of this retreat. Many have stated that they will not hesitate in continuing their spiritual development to becoming disciples of Christ.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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6:00 pm – Rosary

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8:30 pm - Eucharistic Celebration, followed by Fellowship & snacks

Contact Persons:

Ray/Tess Salmo : (732) 766-1785 ~ raysalmo@aol.com

Ray/Susie Atienza : (908) 463-0449 ~ asentertainmentdj@yahoo.com

Cris/Ampy Escobinas: (973) 980-7179 ~ crisampye@hotmail.com

Alan/Tess Cam - (201) 659-5417 ~ alantesscam@yahoo.com

Please invite your family and friends to an evening of praise and worship.

LSS 42 Reunion

Sunday, June 15, 2014 1-5 pm; Divine Mercy Library
Lambs please read Romans 8

!!! PLEASE NOTE !!!

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BLD will celebrate the 60th Ordination Anniversary (May 29) and 86th Birthday (July 5) of Fr. Paul.



LORD'S PROVISION

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Tithe/Love Offering	\$ 2,702	\$ 56,970
Mission Collections	\$ 117	\$ 5,519

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

Thank you for your continued support!
Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

Community Teaching

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Time: Saturday 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

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Speaker: Dr. Gregory Glazov

Associate Professor, Seton Hall University

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“It is not enough to discover Christ, you must bring Him to others.” – Pope John Paul II

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		Jun 20	Management

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COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 22

Bulletin Edition

May 30, 2014

NEWS

COUNSELS

At Gethsemane, Pope Urges Religious to Live Without Fear

EXCERPT FROM CNA/EWTN NEWS 05/26/2014

JERUSALEM — Religious, priests and seminarians gathered in the church near the Garden of Gethsemane today to meet with Pope Francis, who urged them to follow Christ with courage.

“The Lord in his great goodness and his infinite mercy always takes us by the hand, lest we drown in the sea of our fears and anxieties. He is ever at our side; he never abandons us,” the Pope assured those gathered on May 26 near the site of Jesus’ agony in the garden.

The Church of Gethsemane in Jerusalem near the Mount of Olives was filled with enthusiastic religious, priests and seminarians anxious to hear the Pope’s remarks.

“We are fully conscious of the disproportion between the grandeur of God’s call and our own littleness, between the sublimity of the mission and the reality of our human weakness,” Pope Francis acknowledged.

Yet “Jesus’ friendship with us, his faithfulness and his mercy, are a priceless gift, which encourages us to follow him trustingly, our failures, our mistakes and betrayals notwithstanding.”

The Pope urged the consecrated persons to remain aware of the dangers of temptation, however.

“The Lord’s goodness does not dispense us from the need for vigilance before the Tempter, before sin, before the evil and the betrayal which can enter even into the religious and priestly life,” he cautioned...

Referencing the Garden of Gethsemane, where the disciples abandoned Christ, which is situated just outside the church, he asked, “Do I see myself in those who fled out of fear, who abandoned the Master at the most tragic hour in his earthly life?...Or, thanks be to God, do I find myself among those who remained faithful to the end, like the Virgin Mary and the apostle John?”

Continued on page 4

THE ASCENSION

THEME: We are empowered by the Holy Spirit when we observe all His commandments.

WORD: Acts 1:1-11 / Ps 47:2-3,6-7,8-9
Eph 1:17-23 / Mt 28:16-20

ORDER: “*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*” (Mt 28:19)

REFLECTION:

The Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ is part of our profession of faith in which we say “He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the father.” The Magisterium of the Church deemed it necessary to state it in our Creed.

Why is it important for us to remember and believe in the Ascension? The Catechism of the Catholic Church gives us some detailed points of reflection. First, while Jesus body was glorified at the time of His resurrection, it was only in His Ascension that He irreversibly entered into His divine glory. Meaning that during the forty days when He ate and drank with His disciples and taught them about the kingdom, His glory remained veiled under the appearance of ordinary humanity. Second, there is a difference in the manifestation between the glory of the risen Christ and that of the Christ exalted at the Father’s right hand. This transition is marked by the Ascension event. Third, since there was an Incarnation, a descent from heaven by the son of God, there is also an ascent into heaven by the same son of God. Thus, Jesus opened for us an access to our Father’s House since we are His body and He is our head. Fourth, the lifting up of Jesus in His Ascension into heaven began with and was announced by His lifting up on the cross.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“...I am with you always...” (Mt 28:20)

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

HOLY SPIRIT, MY FRIEND



“Deep inside my heart, I want to know you, Lord, I want to know you more.” These are the words of a song, a prayer set to music. Of the Holy Trinity, the third person, the Holy Spirit is the least known. We know Abba, our Father and picture him as a loving authority figure, someone that we need to be obedient to.

Most familiar to us is Jesus, a picture of whom I am sure you keep at home, or even in your wallet. He came down in human form and lived the way we do.

Why is the Holy Spirit, the least known? He came down in multiple forms: in fire and wind and as a dove. He is the Advocate that Jesus promised to send us when He ascended to His Father. The Holy Spirit resides in our hearts if we open up for Him to enter and fill us.

I am grateful for BLD for helping me to open up my heart and mind to the Holy Spirit. I learned to pray in tongues, trusting the Holy Spirit is leading me.

I have always treated Jesus as my friend. How about the Holy Spirit? Can I easily befriend the Holy Spirit? What is a friend to me?

- Someone I can talk to and confide all my heartaches, pains and joys to
- Someone who never leaves my side, who is there for me always
- Someone I can be with in silence and yet we understand each other without words
- Someone who walks or runs with me, exercises with me
- Someone who picks me up when I stumble and fall
- Someone who reminds me to be humble when I am getting proud
- Someone I rub elbows with when I feel alone
- Someone who wipes my tears when I cannot take it anymore

With that description, truly the Holy Spirit has been, is, and will forever be my friend.

Come Holy Spirit, fill my heart with Your presence. Remind me always that You are here in my heart so that I should behave circumspectly, according to Your words and teachings. Let me be a good witness to You so that I can bring more people to Your kingdom. Keep me grounded and obedient to Your leading. Walk with me Lord as I live on this earth. I pray. Amen.

In His Spiritual Presence

The Ascension is not just about Jesus’ absence, or departure from the earth, but about a different kind of presence. He leaves in a dramatic way, enveloped by a cloud, to emphasize that from now on He will be with us in a new kind of way, not physically, but in His spiritual presence. He is with us with the same redeeming power and cleansing love as He was with the Apostles. He is gone from our sight but not from our lives.

Jesus never intended His disciples to keep the truth of His word stored in the pool of knowledge within their own heads or hearts. Rather, He instructed them to go out into the world to share the teachings He imparted to them. And He commands us to do the same. We are exhorted to declare the Gospel to all nations, to go and make disciples of all nations, share the Good News, and pass on the gifts of revelation and wisdom that have been given to us. We are witnesses to the difference Christ makes in our lives. The theme this week, underscores the reality that – **We are empowered by the Holy Spirit when we observe His commandments.**

Let our daily lives speak of Christ’s name and carry the fullness of his message to all people. It is not an option, but a command to all who call Jesus their Lord. We have all received gifts that we can use in fulfilling Christ’s Great Commission; and as we obey, we find comfort in the knowledge that Jesus is always with us.

Being modern day apostles and witnesses to Christ does not mean that we have to add more work to our already over-burdened workload or that we should add another item to our already overcrowded schedule. We evangelize primarily as we are, with our lives as the living witness. The best message we can bring to the world is that Christ is present to us in this broken world, present in our hearts and in our lives, and that He is reaching out to the world through our open arms. This is the Lord’s promise this week: “... ***I am with you always...***” (Mt 28:20). And anybody on fire is a light to the world, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Eternal Father, you called us to share with the world the manifold works of your most beloved Son. Grant us the capacity to carry your revelation to others in ways they can understand. We are commissioned and sent to live and work as Jesus did. We rely on the Holy Spirit to empower us for greater works, as Jesus promised, and for the fortitude and perseverance to continue to testify to the Good News of God’s love. We believe that no power in heaven or on earth will conquer what we stand for. We can go into the world teaching all nations the Christian values we believe in, through the mighty name of Jesus in whose name we can do all things. Amen.

What is my new song?

Years back, my late husband and I were invited to be coordinators for the Praise Ministry in another BLD community. My husband said, “yes,” but my answer was, a resounding “No!” We were products of ME#1 of that community and we had to wear many hats. The tasks of community-building were many and demanding. Needless to say, the load fell on the shoulders of those discerned to be servant leaders. I did not accept the invitation because we were already members of the Core (equivalent to the DCS). We were also head of the Youth Ministry, and taking care of the young was a great responsibility. To add the Praise Ministry to our work was, to me, more than we would be able to handle. We knew nothing about the Praise Ministry. We did not even know the songs. Everything was new and quite intimidating.

Our shepherds did not give up on us. They said that our strongest charism was Praise. So we sat down with them and the Core to consult the Lord. The Psalm for that day’s readings was Psalm 98. The first line said “*Sing a new song to the LORD, for he has done marvelous deeds.*” I heard the Lord’s command, and I could not go against it.



And the Lord took us on a wonderful journey of discovery, learning the wonder of who He is through music. We stopped singing popular songs and fell head over heels in love with songs of praise. Literally, I slept, ate and drank Praise music. It became a part of what and who I am. Even as the Lord called my husband home, I sent him off with a song of praise. To console me God led me to write songs to praise Him. To this day, it is when singing that I am able to find my rest in God. I am in deep praise and worship when I sit at the keyboard and sing to Him, and He promptly answers me.

In Isaiah 40:31, the Lord said, “*They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar on eagles’ wings; they will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint.*” God has fulfilled this promise to me. I taste and see His kindness that renews my strength. Every day, His Spirit moves me to sing a new song of praise, and I soar like the eagle in joyful thanksgiving, knowing that I am under the shelter of His wings.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

“Jesus Christ, the one priest of the new and eternal Covenant, ‘entered, not into a sanctuary made by human hands...but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.’ There Christ permanently exercises his priesthood, for he ‘always lives to make intercession’ for ‘those who draw near to God through him’” (CCC 662).

Henceforth the reality of the Ascension is that Christ is now *seated at the right hand of the Father*. It signifies the inauguration of the Messiah’s kingdom, one that shall not be destroyed; the “kingdom [that] will have no end.” (CCC 664) Jesus Christ, having entered the sanctuary of heaven once and for all, intercedes constantly for us as the Mediator who assures us of the permanent outpouring of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 667)

Although the Ascension must have been a sad event for the apostles, it is for us a necessary and important event. This separation may be compared to a college graduation. The Apostles, having graduated from Jesus’ teaching, must now go out to the world on their own. They were entrusted with the mission of making disciples of all nations and teaching them to observe all that He has commanded. But unlike a graduation, Jesus was to send the Holy Spirit to strengthen, accompany and guide them in their journey. They had to learn to trust Jesus for everything.

For us, the Ascension should be like signpost, a directional guide that points to our destination: heaven and everlasting life with our Lord Jesus, Mama Mary, Father God and all the saints. The journey is long and sometimes we get distracted, losing our bearings, and getting lost. The church deemed it important to highlight this feast, to remind us where we are heading and to show us the way. Just like the apostles, we too were commissioned to make disciples of all who are sent to us. We have a job to do. And it is not just going to heaven by ourselves; it is also taking everybody with us.

That is what we are doing here in Bukas Loob sa Diyos. Our true mission in this community is to help our members find their way to heaven by living the Christ Life here on earth. The Ascension is a great reminder that we are headed to heaven. Here in BLD, we are committed to guiding and encouraging our members through the Christian Discipleship Formation Program. And through our encounters and seminars, we become living witnesses for transformation in Christ under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS *(from page 3)*

DIRECTIONS:

1. Evangelize by inviting to our community encounters.
2. Regularly attend teaching and formation programs.
3. Use the gifts of the Holy Spirit that you received in your baptism (i.e. LSS) for the good of others and help build God's kingdom in your family and community.

NEWS *(from page 1)*

At the moment of Jesus' suffering on the cross, "everything seemed bleak, and all hope seemed pointless," but "only love proved stronger than death," reflected the Holy Father.

He encouraged the consecrated to stay faithful to the love of Christ despite the difficulties of their lives... The Holy Father closed his remarks by quoting the words of Jesus in the Gospel of John. "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also."

Urged the Pope, "Let us imitate the Virgin Mary and St. John and stand by all those crosses where Jesus continues to be crucified. This is how the Lord calls us to follow him."

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The BLD Mission Ministry is sponsoring a **PENTECOST VIGIL**

Saturday, June 7, 2014

Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium, 240 Central Ave. Rahway, NJ 07065

6:00 pm – Rosary

6:30 to 8:30 pm - Praise & Worship by various prayer groups & BLD

8:30 pm - Eucharistic Celebration, followed by Fellowship & snacks

Contact Persons:

Ray/Tess Salmo : (732) 766-1785 ~ raysalmo@aol.com

Ray/Susie Atienza : (908) 463-0449 ~ asentertainmentdj@yahoo.com

Cris/Ampy Escobinas: (973) 980-7179 ~ crisampye@hotmail.com

Alan/Tess Cam - (201) 659-5417 ~ alantesscam@yahoo.com

!!! PLEASE NOTE !!!

**Due to July 4th holiday, July's BLD
Eucharistic Celebration will be on
Thursday, July 3, 2014**



LORD'S PROVISION

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$ 3,508	\$ 60,478
Mission Collections	\$ 148	\$ 5,667

Financial details are available to all members through

treasury@bldnewark.com

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

Community Teaching

Topic: **Forgiveness through**

The Lord's Prayer and Hail Mary

Date: **June 14, 2014**

Time: Saturday 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish Connell Hall, Rahway, NJ

Contact Persons: Ed/Eydie Unay ~ esunayvmd4@cs.com

Speaker: Dr. Gregory Glazov

Associate Professor, Seton Hall University

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

LET US CONTINUE INVITING!!!

*"It is not enough to discover Christ, you must bring
Him to others."* – Pope John Paul II

SOLO PARENTS ENCOUNTER #16

When: **June 27-29, 2014**

Where: Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center
499 Belgrove Dr, Kearny, NJ 07032

Contact Person: Ruth Ureta (201) 451-1780

YOUTH ENCOUNTER #21

When: **July 11-13, 2014**

Where: Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA

Contact Persons: Lito/Elaine Fernando, Charlie/Weng

Larobis, Cy/Mavil Loreto ~ yca@bldnewark.com

FAMILY ENCOUNTER #21

When: **July 18-20, 2014**

Where: **Malvern Retreat House, Malvern PA**

Contact Persons: Archie/Lelet Quevada (732) 283-5894 or
Oliver/Marissa Rangel (732) 667-8332

LSS 42 Reunion

Sunday, June 15, 2014 1-5 pm; Divine Mercy Library

Lambs please read Romans 8

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

Ceremony for

PATRICK MCGRAIL

Friday, June 6, 2014

Eucharistic Celebration



Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Jun 6	Evangelization
			Jun 13	Formation
			Jun 20	Management
			Jun 27	Mission

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 23

Bulletin Edition

June 6, 2014

NEWS

BLD welcomes ME 43!

"I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them." (Jn 17:11a)



BLD Newark
Marriage Encounter Class No. 43
Hotel Executive Suites, Carteret, NJ
30 May - 1 June 2014

We praise and thank the Lord for His abundant blessings of laborers in His vineyard and all the necessary provisions to carry on His will to bring His healing love to all. Our community has once again witnessed to others the blessings borne out of the seed of love and humility that the Lord has implanted in us.

Continued on page 4

SE 32 yields 12



Over the weekend, God invited 12 young men and women to an intimate personal relationship with Him towards holiness lasting throughout their lives by way of the Singles Encounter 32 held at the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center in Garrison, New York. They have responded wonderfully with their eagerness to share the Lord's love to others as made known by their beaming and joyous faces as they were welcomed by the Singles Ministry.

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

THEME: We are empowered by the Holy Spirit when we exercise our spiritual gifts.

WORD: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1,24,29-30,31,34
1Cor 12:3-7,12-13/Jn 20:19-23

ORDER: *"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."* (Mt 28:19)

REFLECTION:

Pentecost is considered as the birthday of the Church, and rightfully so. *"The Church was made manifest to the world on the day of Pentecost by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Spirit ushers in a new era... Christ now lives and acts in and with his Church, in a new way appropriate to this new age."* (1076, Catechism of the Catholic Church)

This spiritual re-birth is at the heart of every Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS) that is held at different times throughout the year by different BLD districts in the Philippines, North America and Hong Kong. It is one of the visible ways by which our community, Bukas Loob sa Diyos, is able to take an active part in the enormous task of infusing new life to the Catholic Church through a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the LSS graduates. This event is no different from the first Pentecost experienced by the apostles as they huddled together in fear and anxiety after the death of Jesus. Manifesting as strong wind and tongues of fire, Pentecost fulfills the promise of Jesus to teach the apostles everything and empower them: *"And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit..."* (Acts 2:2-4)

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the same benefit." (1Cor 12:7)

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

TAKE COURAGE

“That night the Lord appeared at Paul’s side and said keep up your courage just as you have given testimony to me here in Jerusalem, so must you do in Rome.” (Acts 23:11)

St. Paul had given us a good example on how to behave in difficult situations. He was rejected, criticized, stoned and left for dead, shipwrecked a few times, and doubted by the Apostles in Jerusalem. He persecuted and arrested the early followers of Jesus before his conversion on the road to Damascus. The experience transformed him and he became the faithful apostle of Lord to the Gentiles. In all his difficulties, he had the courage to trust in the Lord.

Courage is trust in God in our seeming defeat and disappointment. It is putting up with unkindness and intrigues and misunderstandings that lead to despair. For many of us we are firm and steady in our faith when things are going well in our lives. But once the storms appear, our poor foundation is manifested. Because God loves us, He will remove this weak foundation. So that we will make him our rock and true foundation. This is a painful process. It takes courage to trust someone. As we gradually continue to surrender everything to God, we become more courageous and trusting. Remember how Jesus rebuked his disciples when they woke him up in the boat during a violent storm? He called them: “Ye of little faith. “ Is that what he will call us too in our storms? ***“When the Shepherd has brought out all that is His, He walks in front of them, and the sheep follow Him because they recognize His voice.”*** (Jn 10:4)

An incident in my childhood illustrates this. Our dad was a medical officer assigned to a station hospital in the area. We were given a beautiful home to live in and a beautiful garden. At the site of the house was a camouflaged foxhole. It was a dug hole with sandbags around and became an effective hiding place when rebels raided. We were raided every few months when the rebels came down from their mountainous hideout. They robbed the nearby towns for their supplies for arms, medicines, and even doctors to tend to their wounded. One night when the raiders came once again they were targeting our home because they wanted our dad. He called my sister and me and took us to the foxhole. He told us not to pay attention to anything we hear and not to respond to anyone who calls us unless we are sure it is his voice. Because we trusted our dad completely, we had the courage to stay in that foxhole and actually fell asleep there until our parents came to get us the next morning. We should trust God at all times. ***“The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid and do not be discouraged.”*** (Dt 31:18)

Say YES to Him

“Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you.” (John 17:2)

Stop for a moment and think of all the events that lead you to reading this article. Your story may be somewhat different from the person across the room who is doing the same exact thing, but whatever those events may be, I can tell you that the reason for those events is because YOU were chosen to. About two years ago God placed me in the exact position you’re in today. And this is how I got there.

One day in the afternoon of 2003, I sat in the passenger’s seat of my mom’s red Toyota Corolla and asked her a question. She replied, “there’s a reason for everything baby. There’s no such thing as coincidence.” Afterwards she told me to always be strong no matter what happens, and I responded promising her I would. Not even a year later am I faced with the greatest challenge to this promise and to my faith. The following February, my mom was murdered, and it was through losing her did I learn that God was putting me through this for a reason. That it is through this heartbreak that God has asked me to follow Him, so I can be healed and serve Him.

It is through the heaviest trials that we undergo throughout our life do we truly understand that God has a plan for us. As His children, He guides and nurtures us, but at times through challenging ways. He gives us experiences that break us and make us. We are humans who possess a fragile nature, but through the Glory of God we are given the power to do something divine. That is to love. It is only because He loves us that we are able to do so. We know that love always perseveres. It never fails. Through God’s gift of love we are given a second chance, we are saved. And through God’s love you are here today. He is asking you to accept His love and follow Him, so He can bless you with a life free from burden and full of goodness. So say YES to Him, and He will save you.

Prayer: (for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit)

O Lord Jesus Christ, who, before ascending to heaven promised to send the Holy Spirit to finish your work among your apostles and disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me that He may perfect in my soul, the work of your grace and your love. Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom that I may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal, the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten my mind with the light of your divine truth, the Spirit of Counsel that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven, the Spirit of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with you and overcome with courage all the obstacles to my salvation, the Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and in knowing him come to know myself and Your perfect plan for my life, the Spirit of Piety that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable, and finally, the Spirit of Fear, that I may be filled with a holy reverence and dread anything that may be displeasing to You. Mark me, dear Lord with the sign of your true disciples, and animate me in all things with your Spirit. Amen.



This is the time of the year when graduations and weddings are very much in the news. This is also the time of the year when Ordinations to the Priesthood usually take place. The Archdiocese of Newark ordained its class of transitional deacons on May 24th. in Sacred Heart Cathedral. It is also a time for anniversaries. I am honored to say that I celebrated my 60th anniversary to the Priesthood on May 29th. Priestly ministry is actually a work of the Holy Spirit. Like the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, the Sacrament of Holy Orders places an indelible mark on the soul of the ordained, thus “ontologically” changing him into another Christ. This change does not automatically make the person any holier than the baptized Christian who together with the priest is called to holiness. It does equip the man for service to the Christian community, especially as a minister of the Sacraments. Thus we can never separate the ministerial Priesthood from the Priesthood of the laity. We are called to serve the Church, The Mystical Body of Christ. The Priesthood is not a personal gift.

The Holy Spirit is at work whenever the Sacraments are celebrated. Sunday, June 8th is the feast of Pentecost, the feast given over completely to celebrating and understanding the work of the Holy Spirit. It is closely connected to Easter. It is the fiftieth day of Easter. The work of the Holy Spirit is to connect the individual and the whole Church with the very being of God Himself. The Spirit’s relationship with us is the same as that with in the Triune God Himself. It is a bond of love so strong that the love in God exists as a separate person. When God loves us He gives us that Person. When we love, we give gifts as a sign of love, but we can never completely give ourselves. The closest we can become is the mutual giving of husband and wife to each other in the Sacrament of marriage. But even here the spouses in marriage give their bodies only as a sign of complete donation to one another. But the soul and identity of the individual spouse remains incommunicable.

It is the great privilege of the priest to celebrate this Love present in all the Sacraments. This is a potent reminder to the priest “to imitate what he handles”. Pray for priests. It is possible for the priest to forget what he is doing and to become a mere functionary. Pray that we practice what we preach. Pray that we make Jesus more visible not only during liturgical celebrations, but also in the everyday activity that priests share with the rest of the human race.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

Indeed every LSS re-lives the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on that first Pentecost. Just as it equipped the apostles to witness to Jesus in the work of redemption, LSS graduates receive the same gifts during the Baptism of the Spirit, described in the 2nd Reading: *“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.”* (2 Cor 12: 4-6)

One wonders why only a handful end up putting to good use the gifts which are intended to be shared for the good of many and not meant to be hoarded. Pentecost Sunday serves to remind us, as members of a charismatic community, of our duty to propagate the Christian faith by actively exercising the gifts we received from the Holy Spirit during our baptism in the Spirit. Foremost among these are the seven spiritual gifts: the gift of Wisdom, the gift of Counsel, the gift of Fortitude, the gift of Knowledge, the gift of Piety, Fear and Reverence for the Lord.

In his first letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor 12:7-11), Paul writes about the many other gifts we are tasked to share, namely, the gift of faith, healing, power of miracles, prophecy, recognizing spirits, tongues and the ability to interpret them. These gifts are freely given to anyone whose heart is open to receive them during the LSS. Everyone therefore has something to contribute in building up the body of Christ, of which we are all a part. By exercising even a few of these gifts, we would have a church, throbbing with life and moved by the Holy Spirit. This is our theme for the week: **We are empowered by the Holy Spirit when we exercise our spiritual gifts.**

As stewards, if we allow our gifts to remain idle, how are we to accomplish our mission of building His Kingdom? Paul states, *“As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.”* (1 Cor 12:12) Each of us is given an important role to play in the Body of Christ. This is our promise for the week: *“To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the same benefit.”* (1 Cor 12:7) Are we ready to exercise our gifts and be part of the Church revival to keep the Body of Christ alive in us? This is the mark of a true disciple.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Use the gifts of the Holy Spirit that you received in your baptism (i.e. LSS) for the good of others and help build God’s kingdom in your family and community.
2. Receive the Holy Eucharist frequently if not daily so that you may remain in God.

ME 43 (from page 1)

Truly the Holy Spirit has guided our Pastoral Team (Msgr. Paul Schetelick, Nestor & Becbec Laxina, Carlito & Arlene Claricia), the sponsoring class (ME 42), the different ministries involved (MLA, Praise, Liturgy, Intercessory, Mission), the incoming class shepherds (Mosty & Ling Garcia), the support of different ME classes and ministries, and many unnamed BLD members who came to pray for our Pastoral Team and Candidates and served during the weekend. To these beloved disciples, we offer a prayer of thanksgiving for answering Christ's call to service. They came and gave of themselves with humility and dedication and through this labor of love, God has rewarded our community with fourteen couples and one priest to form ME 43.

Let us welcome the ME 43 graduates with our outstretched and loving arms; Ben & Luz Asuncion, Bernie & Gertie De Guzman, Erick & Len Dimalanta, George & Cathi Geronimo, Bhoie & Tess Lopez, Joel & Girlie Manigbas, Cliff & Mae Moral, Almario & Malou Morales, Finbarr & Priscilla Ntigbu, Danny & Nanz Parale, Elmer & Annalyn Reyes, Rev. Fr. Jose Saltarin, Leo & Susan Seno, Francis & Armie Te, and Danny & Irene Zuniga.

We ask the Lord to hold them in the palm of His hands as they continue their journey as husband and wife with Christ in the center of their relationship. Let us, as one community bonded by the love of Jesus, pray for them, that the Holy Spirit guide their paths and lead them towards a life of love, peace and joy. *"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."* (Jn 10:10)

SE 32 (from page 1)

The new members of the Singles Ministry are: Marthy Albellera, Brian Banawa, Charles Birri, Julia Carpio, Elaine Espejon, Olivia Felibrico*, Jesraye Flores, Mike Nierva*, Liz Ortiz, Mikey Pepino*, Kat Salonga and Francis San Andres*. They will be led by Jojo and Adele Orosa, the SE32 class shepherds.

The spirit-filled weekend was led by facilitators: Jutt Bustos, Rashed Espejon, Mica Tolentino, and Jen Ompod, and our much-loved spiritual director, Father Paul Lehman. They were supported by the energetic class of SE 31 as well as praise and auxiliary members from the Singles Ministry.

The weekend concluded on Sunday with the celebration of the Eucharist with many family and close friends in attendance.

*class coordinators

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Jun 13	Formation
			Jun 20	Management
			Jun 27	Mission
			Jul 3	Pastoral

ATTENTION!

Next month's Eucharistic Celebration: July 3 (Thursday)

LORD'S PROVISION

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$ 3,242	\$ 63,720
Mission Collections	\$ 92	\$ 5,759

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

Thank you for your continued support!
Stewardship - It's a way of life!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The BLD Mission Ministry is sponsoring a **PENTECOST VIGIL**

Saturday, June 7, 2014

Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium, 240 Central Ave. Rahway, NJ 07065

6:00 pm – Rosary

6:30 to 8:30 pm - Praise & Worship by various prayer groups & BLD

8:30 pm - Eucharistic Celebration, followed by Fellowship & snacks

Contact Persons:

Ray/Tess Salmo : (732) 766-1785 ~ raysalmo@aol.com

Ray/Susie Atienza : (908) 463-0449 ~ asentertainmentdj@yahoo.com

Cris/Ampy Escobinas: (973) 980-7179 ~ crisampye@hotmail.com

Alan/Tess Cam - (201) 659-5417 ~ alantesscam@yahoo.com

LET US CONTINUE INVITING!!!

"It is not enough to discover Christ, you must bring Him to others." – Pope John Paul II

SOLO PARENTS ENCOUNTER #16

When: June 27-29, 2014

Where: Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center
499 Belgrove Dr, Kearny, NJ 07032

Contact Person: Ruth Ureta (201) 451-1780

YOUTH ENCOUNTER #21

When: July 11-13, 2014

Where: Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA

Contact Persons: Lito/Elaine Fernando, Charlie/Weng Larobis, Cy/Mavil Loreto ~ yca@bldnewark.com

FAMILY ENCOUNTER #21

When: July 18-20, 2014

Where: Malvern Retreat House, Malvern PA

Contact Persons: Archie/Lelet Quevada (732) 283-5894 or
Oliver/Marissa Rangel (732) 667-8332

LSS 42 Reunion

Sunday, June 15, 2014 1-5 pm; Divine Mercy Library
Lambs please read Romans 8

PENTECOST BREAKFAST

Fellowship with the Holy Spirit & One Another
Saturday, June 7, 2014, 9 AM – 12 NOON
St. Antoninus Church

Cost for Breakfast (Fellowship is free!)

Adults - \$15, Children 6-17 - \$10,

Children 5 & below - Free

Family rate (Parents & Children) – Max \$50

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 24

Bulletin Edition

June 13, 2014

NEWS

BLD sponsors Pentecost Vigil



BLD Newark held its first Pentecost Vigil celebration on Saturday, June 7, 2014, in the Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium. This event was sponsored by the Mission Ministry. More than 200 people came including the Divine Mercy parishioners who participated in singing and praising. Like the upper room, the entire place was filled with the Holy Spirit.

“Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.” Acts 2:3-4 *Continued on page 4*

2014 Spring Cleaning Event



It was a bright and sunny morning albeit a little cool. I arrived early and waited in the car. Soon, I started seeing the Solo Parents arriving for their retreat. Then I thought to myself, wouldn't I rather be playing golf? I once again needed a change of heart. I

needed to work on not only caring for the people but also caring for our home, our church, our place of worship. Working at our place of worship is a reflection upon His Word! *Continued on page 4*

COUNSELS

MOST HOLY TRINITY

THEME: We are empowered by the Holy Spirit when we love and fellowship with God as a community.

WORD: Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9; Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55 (52b); 2 Cor 13:11-13; Jn 3:16-18

ORDER: Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

REFLECTION:

Have you ever stopped to meditate on the words



we pray, “Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Amen”? What does it mean to give “Glory to the Father”? Do we have any fathers in this community like our true Abba Father that we are able to exclaim that He is “Glorious”? And the same question may arise as we glorify the “Son” and the

“Holy Spirit” in that same doxology.

In the perfect unity of the Three Persons of the Godhead that we call the “Holy Trinity,” we experience the perfect love of each member toward one another. As one commentator wrote, “there is a common word among the three readings and it is Love, God’s Love.” It’s an example that we strive to imitate in our daily walk with one another in family and community.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the “Most Holy Trinity,” we try to understand what God is communicating to us about the Trinity. Many spiritual writers have written that this great feast is one of the most difficult aspects of our faith to explain.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” (Jn 3:16)

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

CITY ON A HILL

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.” (Mt 5:14)



I did not know why God allowed my husband and me to migrate to the US. I was content with our jobs and lifestyles in the Philippines. But I trusted God and accepted His will to move our family to New Jersey.

I soon realized, after joining the BLD, that my love for music was God’s way of calling me into His fold. The last time I touched the piano was in my high school years. God used my stiffened fingers to play for a couple who led worship one Friday evening. It was nerve-racking and embarrassing. I did not do justice to a beautiful worship with all the off-keys I mistakenly played. But, with a forgiving heart, the worship leaders just smiled and said that if I tried harder, focused on God, and offered my best to Him, I would play beautiful music. After that, I started appreciating spiritual and religious songs. I forced myself to study, practice, and play worship songs gloriously, the way God would like to hear them. I believed that if I could touch and soften the heart of at least one soul through my musical ability, then I would have accomplished God’s purpose for me here on earth.

Praising God in my own time or with people in community became my avenue for spiritual growth. Unknowingly, as I strove to excel in praising God, I was able to develop other talents and skills that not only brought me closer to God, but also positively affected the spiritual lives of other people. Praising God became infectious. Since I could not contain the joy of being “born again” in spirit, I volunteered at encounters and retreats to help others feel and see Christ the way I did. Praising God allowed me to assist in building other BLD districts and form parish-based communities. It gave me opportunities to teach Praise, share my life, lead worship, pray for home-bound brethren, sing for patients in nursing homes, and feed homeless brothers in shelters.

Truly, the light of Christ had come into my world. Like a city set on a mountain, the flame that Christ lit in me could not be contained or left hidden. Who was I to let it die? Who was I not to share this gift?

Father God, might I always be a glimmer of hope for others to see Your great love. Amen.

True to One’s Word

“It was said to your ancestors, ‘Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.’ But I say to you, do not swear at all... Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’ Anything more is from the evil one.” (Mt 5:33b-37)

The early Christian community, with one mind and heart, gathered together in prayer and in the breaking of bread. No one claimed private ownership of their possessions, for everything they owned was held in common. No one was in need. The generosity of Barnabas was a perfect example: he sold his property and presented the proceeds to the apostles. On the other hand, there was Ananias and Sapphira who, out of greed, connived together to keep some portion of their profit for themselves. They presented only a part of the proceeds to the apostles. Knowing this, Peter admonished Ananias. *“Why did you contrive this deed? You have lied not to human beings, but to God.’ When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last.* (Acts 5:4-5) About three hours later his wife, Sapphira, came in not knowing what had taken place. Peter challenged her, *“Why did you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord?...At once, she fell down at his feet and breathed her last.”* (Acts 5:9-10)

Unlike Barnabas, Ananias and Sapphira had failed to heed the admonition found in Ecclesiastes: *“When you make a vow to God, delay not its fulfillment. For God has no pleasure in fools; fulfill what you have vowed. It is better not to make a vow than make it and not fulfill it.”* (Eccl 5:3-4) In the book of Revelation, St. John addressed the church at Laodicea: *“because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.”* (Rev 7:16) And St Matthew described a true disciple as, *“the person who does the will of my Father in heaven.”* (Mt 7:21)

The early Christians who heard the teaching of the apostles were filled with awe and vowed to follow their example. For us, the various community encounters we attend can fill us with the fire of the Holy Spirit so that we want to go deeper in our relationship with God. To go deeper in relationship with our Creator doesn’t mean making rash promises. We cannot always shout “Yes.” We have to discern prayerfully every decision that we make. Then we can let our “yes” mean yes and our “No” mean no.

SAINT BARNABAS

Saint Barnabas was an important person in the foundation of the early Church and the spread of the gospel. He is mentioned often in the Acts of the Apostles and in a number of Paul's letters. He is also honored with the title of apostle. Barnabas was born in Cyprus. He was first named Joseph but after he sold all of his goods and gave the money to the apostles in Jerusalem, his name was changed to Barnabas which means "son of consolation."



Barnabas believed in the power of the gospel message to change people's hearts. When Saul the persecutor, later Paul the Apostle, came to Jerusalem after his conversion, he could not see the reality of his conversion. Barnabas became a sponsor for him and persuaded the apostles and the church in Jerusalem that Paul had been converted from a persecutor to an apostle.

Barnabas was also the first to understand that the mission of the church was universal. The apostles sent him to Antioch in an effort to strengthen the Christians who were living there. Barnabas then invited Paul to join him. The Antioch community sent them on a missionary journey together, and they preached in synagogues throughout Asia Minor. Barnabas and Paul preached to Gentiles and had extreme success up until the point when the Gentiles wanted to offer sacrifice to the two apostles. They responded saying that they were men like them and that they should worship only God. When Barnabas planned to revisit the places they had evangelized, he wanted to take along his cousin, John Mark. However, in the past John Mark had deserted the two evangelizers. This led Paul to go against Barnabas' decision to bring him. Barnabas and John Mark ended up going to Cyprus while Paul took Silas to Syria. Later on, Paul, Barnabas, and Mark were reconciled.

There is no indication as to when Saint Barnabas died, but he was someone who dedicated his entire life to the Lord. He was filled with the Holy Spirit and had tremendous faith which helped to lead many people to the Lord. We remember Saint Barnabas and all he did, especially on his feast day, June 11.

COUNSELS *(from page 1)*

A popular legend that many of us have heard is that when St. Patrick was faced with the task of explaining the Trinity to the poor Irish pagans that he was trying to convert, he used a shamrock to visualize for them the theological concept of the Trinity. St. Patrick was able to explain "How a single clover plant with three leaves is analogous to the one Triune God with three separate and distinct Persons." When I reflect on the scripture readings for the Most Holy Trinity Solemnity, I am struck with the idea of this All Powerful, All Mighty, and Awesome God that causes me, like Moses in our first reading, to "bow down to the ground and worship." (Ex 34:8) Yet, this is the same God that in all humility, mercy and justice "gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." (Jn 3:16)

This Promise for the Week reminds me of my own salvation when I was so undeserving of His love and mercy because of my past life and deviant living. But because I accepted His Son as my Lord and Savior, through the power of His Holy Spirit, I was not condemned but received eternal life in Him.

Why then, I wonder, am I so quick to judge my brother or sister when they don't live up to my expectations? Why do I lose my patience so quickly when they "annoy me"? Why am I not like God the Father who is described in the first reading as "a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity"? (Ex 34:6). Isn't there a need in my life for "rejoicing" as directed to in the second reading? (2 Cor 13:11) Yet, if I look at the living example of the love that each Person of the Trinity has for one another, a perfect love that flows out of their relationship to one another, I will see the answers to many of my questions.

May we continue to grow in that Perfect Love and see that unique Perfect Love in our sisters and brothers in our families and community. May we continue to "follow the Lord's command" as we are directed to "affirm and empower one another in the Holy Spirit." May our relationship with others, especially in community, grow in that same Trinitarian Spirit that we experience from the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit in our daily lives. Finally, as in our second reading this week, may we truly be able to say to each other, may "the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you." (2 Cor 13:13)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Follow the Lord's command.
2. Affirm and empower one another in the Holy Spirit.

BLD sponsors... (from page 1)

The event started with praying the Rosary in different languages (Polish, Spanish, Tagalog and English). Then, singing and praising led by our very own John 6, Youth and Single's Ministry, followed by a spirit filled Praise and Worship, led by Rene and Sally Castaneda. The Eucharistic Celebration was celebrated by Fr. Kevin Kelly, Oratorian and Charismatic Priest from a new Brunswick parish, concelebrated by Fr. Robert Lamirez and Fr. John Azarcon. Flower offerings to the Blessed Mother started the Celebration. The DMP Filipino Choir and Spanish group led the singing during the Mass. Father Kelly was full of spirit as he reflected on Pentecost during his Homily. Pentecost is the fulfillment of God's promise, by sending His Holy Spirit as our help in transforming our lives, the kind of change that will lead us to eternal life in the Kingdom of God. Let us keep the Gifts and Fruit of the Spirit alive in our lives!

Spring Cleaning... (from page 1)

"Wisdom builds her house, but Folly tears her down with her own hands." (Prv 14:1) *"By wisdom a house is built, by understanding it is established."* (Prv 24:3)

This encourages me, as I sit in my car, thinking of the mess once again accumulated in our closets. I realize that mess is inevitable and that the place need not be spotless; but it helps to make our place welcoming, comfortable, and God-honoring.

Soon after, other members of the community started arriving; and we went to our rooms and closets to start cleaning. While this was going on, some members of the Secretariat prepared refreshments and sandwiches. By noon time, we had accumulated several thrash bags and some obsolete equipment for recycling. The BLD office had their fridge emptied, windows dusted, tables and blackboards wiped, and carpet vacuumed. The Mission Ministry discarded expired and unusable supplies. You could walk into the Youth closet without tripping over things. Other closets were neatly packed.

Once again, this place that BLD calls home is welcoming and God-honoring. Good-bye mess ... until next year.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday, August 9, 2014

7-10 AM, Morning of Community Day Picnic
Grove 4, Johnson's Park, Piscataway NJ

We need all BLD hands to help out!

- Register as a walker
- Encourage classmates, relatives and friends to be there
Seek out personal sponsors and major donors

More information and forms are available every Friday at the Registration Table at Fellowship, and also at:

<http://bldnewarkevents.weebly.com/in-his-footsteps.html>

LORD'S PROVISION

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$ 3,539	\$ 67,259
Mission Collections	\$ 95	\$ 5,854

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treasury@bldnewark.com

Thank you for your continued support!

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TEACHING CALENDAR

Community Teaching

Topic: **Forgiveness through**

The Lord's Prayer and Hail Mary

Date: Saturday, June 14, 2014

Time: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish Connell Hall, Rahway, NJ

Speaker: Dr. Gregory Glazov

Associate Professor, Seton Hall University

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

LET US CONTINUE INVITING!!!

"It is not enough to discover Christ, you must bring Him to others." – Pope John Paul II

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When: **June 27-29, 2014**

Where: **Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center**
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Contact Person: Ruth Ureta (201) 451-1780

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When: **July 11-13, 2014**

Where: **Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA**

Contact Persons: Lito/Elaine Fernando, Charlie/Weng
Larobis, Cy/Mavil Loreto ~ yca@bldnewark.com

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When: **July 18-20, 2014**

Where: **Malvern Retreat House, Malvern PA**

Contact Persons: Archie/Lelet Quevada (732) 283-5894 or
Oliver/Marissa Rangel (732) 667-8332

LSS 42 Reunion

Sunday, June 15, 2014 1-5 pm; Divine Mercy Library

Lambs please read Romans 8

ATTENTION!

Next month's Eucharistic Celebration: **July 3 (Thursday)**

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Jun 20	Management
			Jun 27	Mission
			Jul 3	Pastoral
			Jul 11	Evangelization

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COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 25

Bulletin Edition

June 20, 2014

NEWS

COUNSELS

BLD rediscovers two familiar prayers

Almost everybody in BLD knows the “Our Father” and the “Hail Mary” by heart. After last



Saturday, about 150 of us who attended a lecture about these prayers now know them even more intimately than before.

Dr. Gregory Glazov, an Associate Professor at Seton Hall University, gave the lecture last Saturday afternoon at St. Mark’s Church in Rahway. He started out by showing three versions of the “Hail Mary” – the “Western” which we’re most acquainted with; the “Eastern” which does not have the second part (the “Holy Mary” petition); and the “Oriental” where the leader says the first line and everyone responds with the rest of the full prayer, and from there is just slightly different from the Western version.

He then explored its various components, from the initial “Hail” to the role of Mary as “the Ark”, on to the biblical meanings associated with “now” and “the hour”. Using insights from years as a bible scholar, he guided attendees to a deeper understanding of Mary’s specialness, both as a woman and as a Mother, and how she is still fully living, and thus, can hear our petitions. He emphasized how she was “overshadowed by the Holy Spirit” and how the blessings she received have made her, also a source of blessings.

Continued on page 2

CORPUS CHRISTI

THEME: We are empowered by the Holy Spirit when we partake of Christ’s body and blood in the Holy Eucharist

WORD: Dt 8:2-3,14-16, Ps 147:12-13,14-15,19-20, 1 Cor 10:16-17, Jn 6:51-58

ORDER: “...eat My flesh, drink My blood and remain in Me.” (Jn 6:56)

REFLECTION:

The Roman Catholic Church believes in a doctrine called “transubstantiation”, referring to communion as the sacrament of “Holy Eucharist” and wherein the bread and wine used in the Mass actually and supernaturally transform into the literal body and blood of Jesus Christ. This was clearly defined in the Council of Trent in 1551 when it declared that “**in the sacrament of the most Holy Eucharist is contained truly, really, and substantially the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ, and consequently the whole Christ. Hence Christ is present truly actually and not only symbolically. He is present really, that is objectively in the Eucharist and not only subjectively in the mind of the believer.**”

Supernatural mysteries, such as the Holy Trinity and the virgin birth of Christ, and this one, the Holy Eucharist, cannot be understood by any of us through our human comprehension. Faith, rather than knowledge and understanding, is important in dealing with these mysteries. More importantly, our focus should be the effect of the Eucharist on the one who receives it. The effect is often referred to as the fruits of the Eucharist.

The **first** fruit and most significant effect of the Eucharist is our union with Christ.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“...whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

(Jn 6:58b)

NEWS (from page 1)

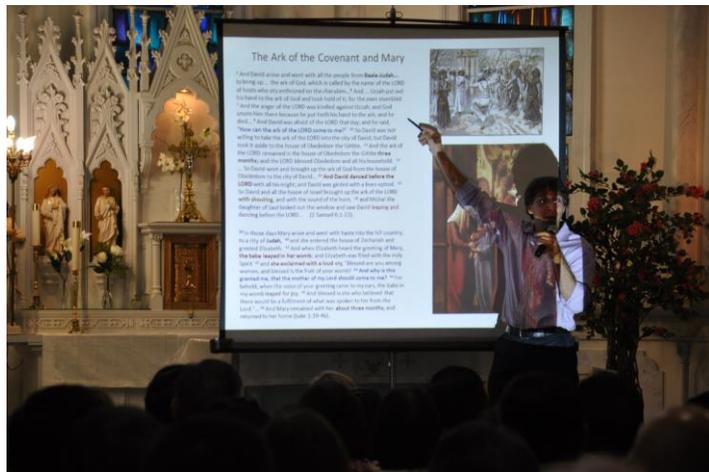
The segment on “the Lord’s Prayer” also started with a comparison of versions, the prayer in Matthew vs. Luke (and an even shorter one in Mark), noteworthy of which was the reference to “debt” instead of “sin” by the evangelist who was a former tax collector. Dr. Glazov then discussed the intimacy of Jesus with the Father through the Holy Spirit that is in the prayer. Equating mercy to perfection, he talked about asking for and receiving forgiveness, with the Holy Spirit central to the prayer since He is the Spirit of Forgiveness.

Using the parable of the sower, the professor pointed out the overriding importance of “the fruit of the Word”, as opposed to the seed. And how “hallowing the Father” involves bringing others to Him - “on earth as it is in heaven”... by forgiving as He forgives us.

Following the lecture, a Mass, celebrated by Father Paul for the Feast of the Holy Trinity, provided a resounding “AMEN!!!”

More on the “Our Father” and the “Hail Mary” – from the Teaching Ministry

The Lord’s Prayer, one of the four pillars of the Catholic Church and the very prayer taught to us by our Lord Jesus Christ is a complete prayer and deals mostly on forgiveness. Dr. Glazov reiterated what we have learned in the course of our CDFP teachings - that to be forgiven one also has to forgive. To forgive, one has to have love. Love is attributed to the Father because charity is necessary for us to become united to God. With the love of the Triune God in the deepest center of our being and the Holy Spirit indwelled in us, we can then truly be forgiving and loving with one another. “God is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and he has destined us to share in that exchange.” (CCC, 221)



The Hail Mary, a prayer to honor the Virgin Mother, recognizes how blessed Mother Mary is, and is

Continued on page 4

No Distinction

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:43-48)*

Why is this particular teaching of Jesus about loving our enemies, one of the most difficult teachings to follow? In a world where revenge is seen as a normal action or seen as a means to attain justice for wrong or hurtful acts, it’s no wonder that we would have a hard time obeying this command of Jesus. Some may even perceive actions of love towards our enemies as a sign of fear or weakness on our part because it appears that we are allowing ourselves to be a “doormat” for others to trample on.

According to Jesus, we should actually be doing the exact opposite of what society expects from us. Our Lord calls us to not only love our enemies, but also to pray for them. He states that God loves everyone equally, *“For he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.”* (Mt 5:45) Because God gives His unconditional love to us freely, even though we are all sinners and unworthy of His love, He expects us to give unconditional love to others, even though they sin against us and are unworthy of our love for them.

Loving and forgiving those who hurt us is much easier said than done, however, Jesus was also not “all talk and no action.” As God and man, Christ had the power to save Himself from His crucifixion and death, but He chose to obey God and love us instead, by sacrificing His life for us. While the soldiers were nailing His hands to the cross, He prayed, *“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”* (Lk 23:34) By following our Lord’s example, we too can love our enemies, and pray for those who persecute us. This is God’s command.

Goodness From Within

“No one is good but God alone.” (Mk 10:18)

His goodness is absolute. People have degrees of goodness as measured against the absolute standard.

What does it mean for a man to be good in light of the above scripture? How can we reflect the goodness of the Father when we ourselves are limited?

The term “good” connotes an admirable quality. It is the root of the word “goodness”. It implies inner qualities of virtue and excellence of character in a person’s behavior. People do good deeds for different motives. Someone with an evil motive is a sinful person even when performing good deeds. Jesus warns us not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see (Mt 6:1). He denounced the Scribes and Pharisees because they performed good deeds to win the praise of others.

True goodness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. To cultivate this virtue, we must allow the Holy Spirit to transform us.

In a spiritually renewed person, we see a pale reflection of God’s goodness. The “good person” is one who thinks about love, beauty, truth and consciously looks for ways to benefit others. Intrinsic goodness produces generosity and a Godlike state or being.

When goodness is alive in a person, it is inspiring and attractive. People wanted to be with Jesus whether He was speaking in the synagogue, walking down the street, or eating at someone’s home. This attractiveness has not only been shown in Jesus but is demonstrated today whenever someone goes out of his or her way to ease the burden of a stranger.

Goodness of God operating through anointed believers will have the ability to draw non-believers into repentance, renewal and salvation through the power of the Holy Spirit. Mother Theresa of Calcutta is a good example of a person who attracted the rich and the poor, the weak and powerful, irrespective of race or creed like magnet.

In short, Christians can effectively witness to others by just living right and being a good role model for others to follow.

Christ’s gift of Salvation offers us the grace necessary in the pursuit of virtues, one of which is goodness. Everyone should always ask for the grace of light and strength, frequent the Sacraments and finally cooperate with the Holy Spirit, following His calls to love what is good and shun evil (CCC 1811).

COUNSELS (from page 1)

Just as our bodies need food to survive, so the body of our Lord Jesus Christ nourishes the new life of God within us which we originally received at baptism. This life is strengthened as we celebrate and receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist (CCC #1391). As a true meal, the Eucharist is an act of union which is a personal one based on knowing and loving God. The Eucharist strengthens and deepens within us that life by which we can know and love Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The **second** fruit of the Eucharist is the forgiveness of sins, for the celebration of the Eucharist helps us grow in love for God and our neighbor (CCC #1393). The Eucharistic Sacrifice and Holy Communion purify us and give us strength to overcome evil. As we grow in charity and love, we are better prepared to resist temptations and to grow more in Christian virtues. This act of forgiveness of sins is central to the Eucharist.

The **third** fruit of the Eucharist is our ever-deepening union with our community, with the Church (CCC #1396). Holy Communion is very much linked to our bond with the Church. St. Paul reminds us that the Church is the body of Christ and we are its members. Linked to Jesus, we are linked to our Church, to our brothers and sisters in community. This is the genuine human brotherhood which the Eucharist is meant to inspire and deepen. And if we are true Christians who are linked to the human brotherhood, we should ask ourselves: Does the Eucharist lead us towards the poor, the sick, the marginalized, recognizing the face of God in them? Are we indifferent or are we concerned and willing to help those in need?

We, as true believers, recognize Christ when we receive His body and blood in the Eucharist. Through this same breaking of the bread, we see and feel united in love through Christ Jesus. May these words of Christ in John 6:54-56 now have greater meaning in our lives: **“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.”** Let us therefore not only receive and eat the Eucharist, but more importantly “live the Eucharist, in a spirit of faith and prayer, a spirit of forgiveness, joy and concern for all our brothers and sisters in need” (Pope Francis General Audience, Feb 2014).

Directions:

1. Be reconciled with God and your neighbor.
2. Be in the state of grace through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
3. Receive the Holy Eucharist as often as possible.

NEWS (from page 2)

one of the most recited prayers over the world. Mother Mary is blessed and chosen amongst all women to be conceived immaculately. She is blessed for carrying in her womb our Savior, the Word. The Blessed Mary is regarded as co-redemptor as it was through her that the Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us. The incarnate God manifested the greatest love that led to our ultimate forgiveness through His single, divine salvific act.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS



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- Encourage classmates, relatives and friends to be there
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The Divine Mercy Parish cordially invites you to a Catholic Bible Study.

A Quick Journey Through the Bible

This provides the clearest, easiest, and most accessible way to understand the Bible.

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For registration and information: Ray and Susie Atenza
asentertainmentdj@yahoo.com/ Cell# 908-463-0449
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LORD'S PROVISION

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$ 3,076	\$ 70,335
Mission Collections	\$ 81	\$ 5,935

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

June 21 - Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit - **LSS 1-41**
- Understanding Corporate Worship – **LSS 1-39**
- Healing and Deliverance – **LSS 1-39**

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

Time: 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Pls bring your bibles and pens.

Due to the summer weather, don't forget to bring your cold refreshments and snacks. Coffee will be served.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

LET US CONTINUE INVITING!!!

"It is not enough to discover Christ, you must bring Him to others." – Pope John Paul II

SOLO PARENTS ENCOUNTER #16

When: **June 27-29, 2014**

Where: **Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center**
499 Belgrove Dr, Kearny, NJ 07032

Contact Person: Ruth Ureta (201) 451-1780

YOUTH ENCOUNTER #21

When: **July 11-13, 2014**

Where: **Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA**
Contact Persons: Lito/Elaine Fernando, Charlie/Weng Larobis, Cy/Mavil Loreto ~ yca@bldnewark.com

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When: **July 18-20, 2014**

Where: **Malvern Retreat House, Malvern PA**
Contact Persons: Archie/Lelet Quevada (732) 283-5894 or Oliver/Marissa Rangel (732) 667-8332

Confession



Every last Friday of the month from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm at St. Mary's Church (DMP).

ATTENTION!

Next month's Eucharistic Celebration: **July 3 (Thursday)**

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Jun 27	Mission
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COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 26

Bulletin Edition

June 27, 2014

NEWS

COUNSELS

Pope: Announce Christ Like John the Baptist

The Holy Father reflected on the prophet's witness on the feast of his birthday.

by CNA/EWTN NEWS 06/24/2014

VATICAN CITY -- In his homily for the feast of John the Baptist's birth, Pope Francis emphasized that a true Christian puts oneself aside in order for God to be seen, as St. John the Baptist did.

"A Christian does not announce himself; he announces another, prepares the way for another: the Lord," the Pope observed in his June 24 daily Mass.

Celebrating the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, the Pope explained to those present at the Vatican's St. Martha guesthouse that the cousin of Jesus had a threefold vocation: to prepare the way for the Messiah, to discern who he was and to diminish himself so that others would follow Jesus.

Although many began to follow John because "his words were strong" and went "to the heart," the saint did not give in to temptation "to believe that he was important," Pope Francis said.

Instead, when asked whether or not he was the Messiah, John replied, "I am preparing the way of the Lord."

This is the first vocation of the Baptist, to "prepare the people, to prepare the hearts of the people for the encounter with the Lord," Francis said.

The second part of John's vocation was "to discern, from among so many good people, who the Lord was," he continued, noting how "the Spirit revealed this to him, and he had the courage of saying: 'This is the one. This is the Lamb of God, he who takes away the sins of the world.'"

Pope Francis noted that when John declared, "This is the one and more worthy than me!" the disciples left him and followed Jesus. . . .

Continued on page 4

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

THEME: We are empowered by the Holy Spirit when we proclaim Christ as the Son of the Living God.

WORD: Acts 12:1-11/Ps 34:2-3,4-5,6-7,8-9
2 Tm 4:6-8,17-18/Mt 16:13-19

ORDER: *Glorify the Lord with me, let us together extol His name.*

REFLECTION:



This Sunday, we celebrate the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, two important figures in the life of the early church who were very instrumental in building it and sustaining it. Due to their great suffering in the service of the Gospel, we have the Catholic Church which we are part of today. Both men confessed that Jesus is the Son of God. How did they come upon this revelation? In Peter's case, not from flesh and blood but from the heavenly Father, who gave him the gift of faith nurtured by his having followed Jesus' formation program for three years. In Paul's case, the risen Jesus did not wait for him to change, but met him, in the midst of his rage and great character weakness, on the Road to Damascus. Jesus chose the most imperfect men on which to bestow His grace and glory. Jesus blessed Simon Bar-Jona and changed his name to Peter, which is Cephas in Aramaic, and Petros in Greek from the word which means "rock." Jesus then promised that upon this rock, Peter, He would build His church against which "*the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail*" (Mt 16:18).

Chosen by Jesus for His purposes, primarily to proclaim the gospel, both men were transformed by His grace, since both were characterized by great human weakness.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"...the crown of righteousness awaits me which the Lord will award to me on that day."

(2 Timothy 4:8)

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

I Am So Special!

*Maybe you're the son who chose a broken road
Maybe you're the girl thinking you'll end up alone
Praying God, can You hear me?
Oh, God, are You listening?*

I am one out of seven billion people on this planet we call home. Many of these humans call out to You every day in prayer, Lord God, seeking Your love and attention.

*I know you've heard the truth that God has set you free.
But you think you're the one that grace could never reach.
So you just keep asking
Oh, what everybody's asking.*

I know I am a lone grain of sand in the vast beach of Your creation. I constantly call out to you for hope, for comfort, for answers. But are my constant prayers worth it? Do You even hear my cries? If I can barely handle nurturing ten students in my CCD class, plus my two YLSS lambs, in addition to my family and friends, how in the world could You find the time or the reason to even think about me?

*You are more than flesh and bone.
Can't you see, you're something beautiful!
Yes, you gotta believe, you gotta believe.
He wants you to see, He wants you to see.*

Your Holy Word found in Scripture provides us with one simple answer, reassuring us in Psalm 139:13 that ***"You formed my inmost being; You knit me in my mother's womb."*** Even far before the day I was born, you had everything planned out for me – my youthful facial structure, my optimistic personality, and my love for music. You knew the days when I would endure painful trials and the times I would triumph in Your glory. You had a specific and unique game plan for my entire life...just for me!

*"You're worth it, you can't earn it.
Yeah, the cross has proven
That You're sacred and blameless
Your life has purpose."*

The best part is you hint to us our life's purpose in Psalm 139:14: ***"I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well."*** Now that we know that You made us so perfectly, we can praise you and adore you for everything in our lives! Whether it be the joys and triumphs or the failures and trials, we always have a reason to adore our Lord and Savior! With God by my side, I can go out to the world and proudly proclaim that ***"I am SO special!"***

Beware of False Prophets

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves." (Mt 7:15)

There are so many false prophets in our society today. A false prophet can be one who deceptively claims the gift of prophecy or divine inspiration or one who uses these gifts for evil ends. False prophets are also those who act or appear holy but in fact they lead others astray (or away from God or the church) by their actions. Even within a community we can also encounter false prophets.

The problem with the false prophets in community is that they themselves are unaware that they are espousing falsehood in the guise of something sacred and divine. Because they use the Scriptures, quite passionately, they feel that they are in fact evangelizing. But how then do we know which one is truly motivated by divine inspiration? We know by the fruits their actions or deeds produce. If it is Christ inspired, then it should emulate the fruits of the Holy Spirit. ***"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."*** (Gal 5:22-23). Do any of these feelings arise by our actions and deeds to our neighbors? Are we being witnesses of God's love to others?

False prophets, on the other hand, emit worldly and evil effects to people they encounter. They speak to mislead, to divide, and to foment animosity behind the façade of speaking from the Word of God. These works of the flesh in community foment strife, hatred, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions and other evil (see Gal 5:19-21). Be wary of such people as we could be their unsuspecting victims. Some are so learned, that at times, they use their knowledge to prey upon other members, most especially the vulnerable ones.

To overcome these bad fruits among us, we need a deeper commitment and reverence for God through prayer and adoration. Be vigilant and exercise good witnessing of Christ-like virtues of humility, peace and above all His love amongst us. We should foster in His name a deeper sense of mutual uplifting and building a genuine bond of brotherhood in our Community.

Lord God, deepen my faith. Increase my prayer life so I can have the wisdom and the strength of the Holy Spirit to overcome all the temptations brought about by the lies and deceptions of the false prophets in my community. Up build the unity and camaraderie among my brethren so we can stand tall against all odds in the power of Christ's love in us. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary



Mary said yes to God, before anyone knew who Jesus is. Mary was Jesus' first follower, first believer, and first disciple. She is the spiritual Mother of mankind. In Matthew 16:24, Jesus said, "If anyone wants to become my follower, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me".

As humans, we are flawed. Humans are not strong enough to take their cross on their own. Humans are not determined enough to follow Jesus throughout every trial. But Pope Pius XII said, "Consecration to the Mother of God, is a total gift of self, for the whole of life and for all eternity; and a gift which is not a mere formality or sentimentality, but effectual, comprising the full intensity of the Christian life - Marian life. This consecration tends essentially to union with Jesus, under the guidance of Mary." This shows that with the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we, as humans, can be strong enough to go the distance to follow Christ. This shows that with the guidance of Mary, we can be followers of Christ.

Mary's immaculate heart shows that we need her strength to keep pushing forward to follow Jesus. Mary pushed for the complete trust in God during the Wedding at Cana, when she said, "**Do whatever he tells you.**" (Jn 2:5) Mary had complete trust in Jesus; she strongly believed that her son could perform his first miracle. By being Jesus' first believer, she has shown us that we must strive to put our complete trust in God.

The Dominican Fathers add onto Pope Pius' statement by saying, "To everyone who makes that consecration and sincerely tries to live it, the words of Our Lady to the child Lucia at Fatima would also apply: 'I will never leave you; my Immaculate Heart will be your refuge, and the way that will lead you to God.'" This shows how The Immaculate Heart of Mary will give God's followers the strength to follow Him. "**For he has said, 'I will never forsake you or abandon you.'**" (Heb 13:5). The strength that the Immaculate Heart of Mary gives us, will lead us to God, and He will never leave us.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Attend the weekly praise and worship.
2. Witness to the presence of God in our lives.
3. Accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior.
4. Live, support and defend the social and fundamental teachings of the Catholic Church.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

Transformation set them both on the road to fulfilling Jesus' Great Commission, to make disciples of all nations, which became the mission of the early Church. Their discipleship, which called them to go beyond themselves and became obedient even unto a martyr's death, was characterized by complete self-offering and self-emptying much like Jesus, who gave His life on the cross for the forgiveness of sins and the promise of everlasting life.

Peter and Paul were builders of the early Church, the Mystical Body of Christ. When they encountered "Yeshua," they were radically changed. They came to know Him, loved Him, and proclaimed His name throughout all the earth. Jesus, the stone the builders rejected who became the cornerstone, built His church on the "rock" that is Peter. The church encompassed all the people of God, who together became a spiritual house and temple of the Holy Spirit in which all the members are joined together as "**living stones**" (1 Peter 2:5). If we confess that Jesus is our Messiah, personal Savior and Redeemer, the Son of God, our faith in Jesus Christ will transform us into living stones. As Catholics we are all called to witness to the Gospel, to be ambassadors of Christ like Sts. Peter and Paul. We need to be more active in the New Evangelization and be prepared "to re-propose our belief in Christ and his Gospel to those who are convinced that they already know the faith but are no longer interested." (Cardinal Donald Wuerl) Through BLD we have to invite our Catholic brothers and sisters who are disinterested in the faith to hear the Gospel all over again, this time for the first time.

And this is what I propose we tell people: we tell them the great story of Jesus, and from our own lips, we tell them our answer to Jesus' question, "*who do you say that I am?*" Tell people who Jesus is to you: His great love, what He has done for you, what He's sacrificed for you, what He's given you. Catechists say, when you know Jesus it's hard not to be overjoyed. It's also hard not to share all you know with others. You want to tell people about Jesus. You want to tell people about His church. You want to tell them about the teachings and the Holy Spirit and His graces and the saints and the sacraments and everything you have encountered that has changed who you are. Tell people what St. Paul told us: compete well; finish the race; keep the faith. "**From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.**" (2 Tm 4:8)



NEWS (from page 1)

The third aspect of John's vocation was to diminish, and his "life began to descend, to diminish, because the Lord would grow until he was destroyed."

"He must increase, but I must decrease," the Pope said, adding that "this was the more difficult stage for John, because the Lord had a style that he had not imagined."

John the Baptist was imprisoned at the end of his life and had to send his disciples to confirm that Jesus was the Messiah.

"He suffered not only the darkness of the cell, but the darkness in his heart: 'But will it be this one? Did I make a mistake?'" Pope Francis said.

It was not clear if Jesus was the Messiah, because he came in a much different way than expected, the Pope reflected. However, since John "was a man of God, he asked his disciples to go to (Jesus) and ask: 'But is it really you? Or should we wait for another?'"

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLD-NEWARK MISSION WALK 2014

Saturday, August 9, 2014

7-10 AM, Morning of Community Day Picnic

Grove 4, Johnson's Park, Piscataway NJ

We need all BLD hands to help out!

- Register as a walker
- Encourage classmates, relatives and friends to be there
- Seek out personal sponsors and major donors

More information and forms are available every Friday at the Registration Table at Fellowship, and also at:

<http://bldnewarkevents.weebly.com/in-his-footsteps.html>

BLD COMMUNITY DAY!

22nd ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Date/Time: Saturday, August 9, 2014

Venue: Johnson Park, Piscataway, NJ

Time: 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

TEAMS	LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH
Red Team	A- C
Blue Team	D - G
Green Team	H - P
Yellow Team	Q - Z

For questions, please email: fla@bldnewark.com

LORD'S PROVISION

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$ 2,433	\$ 72,768
Mission Collection	\$ 90	\$ 6,025
Total Walk Collection	\$ 160	\$1,000

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Volume 20 Issue 27

Bulletin Edition

July 3, 2014

NEWS

COUNSELS

BLD welcomes SPE #16

“Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3)



On June 27, 2014, twenty-one brothers and sisters arrived at the **Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center in Kearny, NJ** to attend the Solo Parents Encounter Weekend #16. They arrived not knowing each other or what to expect throughout the weekend. They listened to the preaching, teaching and healing words of Msgr. Schetelick, who was the spiritual director for the weekend. His talks were geared toward the solo parent experiences. They laughed and cried as God’s love, grace, and mercy slowly entered into their hearts and as they listened to the heart moving experiences of the sharers, many experienced a very close and personal encounter with our Lord.

We are a community rooted in Christ, striving to grow in faith, in love for all, and in service to our community and each other. We are encouraged, humbled and inspired by the hard work of the sponsoring class, focused on serving God, making this weekend a memorable one.

Congratulations to the SPE # 16 graduates! May you continue to grow spiritually, as a class and as part of the Solo Parents family. *Maria Victoria Alcantara, Norbert Aminzia, Julius Bryant, Nagela Camille, Claude Chrysostome, Margaret De Filippo, Nicolle Elwin, Dennis Feliciano, Lourdes Gara-Cortez, Marie Paz Gatchalian, Rosemarie Go,*

Continued on page 2

Humble Hearts Rest in Jesus!

THEME: We find rest in Jesus when we are meek and humble of hearts.

WORD: Zec 9:9-10 / Ps 145:1-2,8-9,10-11,13-14; Rom 8:9,11-13 / Mt 11:25-30

ORDER: Those who come to Jesus find rest in Him.

REFLECTION:

The 1st reading from Zechariah 9:10 gives us a glimpse of how it will be when we are restored to the reign of the Messiah. He shall proclaim peace to all; His dominion will be sweeping, covering the ends of the earth. Strongholds will be demolished, and there will be no more wars or violence within and among ourselves.

However, there is a precondition which we find in the second reading from Romans 8:13 that states, *“for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you will live.”*

Likewise, the Gospel, and our theme for the week admonishes us to be meek and humble, and to surrender everything to the Lord. As an example, Jesus cites the character of a child as being truly pleasing to God. The gospel explicitly tells us so. God reveals himself, not to sophisticated adults who think they know everything, but to innocent children who are open and eager to learn what God has to teach them. Because we labor so hard, we tend to forget the Giver and Source of life. Consequently, we find ourselves caught up in, and impressed, by our own successes. Hence our tendency is to glorify ourselves, undermining our gratitude and acknowledgement of the Father’s role in meeting and providing for all our needs. Ultimately, we displease Him because of our pride, disobedience, arrogance, and lack of trust in His divine will.

Jesus invites us in this gospel, to come to Him and rest in the knowledge that He is present, ever ready to help us in our daily struggles and challenges.

Continued on page 2

Promise of the Week

“The Lord lifts up all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.” (Ps 145:14)

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

COUNSELS (from page 1)

He urges us not to carry our burdens alone, but to come to Him, that He may help lighten our load and we may find rest in His love. It pleases Him to have us come to Him and rely on Him for all our needs. As a child is dependent on his parents for everything, so is our Father in Heaven delighted to supply all our needs, and He is honoured to bless us with a life worthy of our calling, as our promise for the week declares: *“The Lord lifts up all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.”* (Ps 145:14)

Prayer:

Father, thank you for revealing to us Your Son who is a reflection of Your being. Thank you for the assurance that you are always with us, in us and for us, and for Your relentless invitation for us to come to you with all our burdens, prayers and supplications, as well as thanksgiving for answered prayers as we claim victory and find rest in You.

Reflection Questions:

1. Have I surrendered my thoughts, my heart to Jesus?
2. In my work, in my studies, in my relationship with my family and community, do I seek His counsel first, or rush to do things my own way?
3. How am I to grow in my faith?

NEWS (from page 1)

Yanick Joseph, Ariana Lima Eliza Literato, Minda Monjardin, Belinda Pacaira, Josephine Punla, Dakila Romano, Clarence Umali, Patricia Valenti, and Leticia Vizcayno. (Delfin & Letty Salon~ Class Shepherds).

Hallelujah and praise be to God for yet another triumphant and successful SPE weekend!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Green Team (H-P), **Yellow Team** (Q-Z)

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Mission Collection	\$ 84	\$ 6,109
Total Walk Collection	\$ 1,080	\$2,080

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		Jul 25	Management
		Aug 1	Mission



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Volume 20 Issue 28

Bulletin Edition

July 11, 2014

NEWS

ME 43 expresses their gratitude

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.”



The ME 43 class has become more than a group of strangers who met each other during one weekend. It has become a family that is bonded by God’s love. This is apparent as they witnessed to those who attended their grand reunion, the fruits of all the efforts that they spent in their preparation. It is their way of expressing their gratitude to our God of love and hope and to all those who helped them find the way to a relationship with Christ as its foundation.

To start off the reunion, there was a spirit filled worship led by their class shepherds, followed by lunch, fellowship, and their fun-filled presentation with a “never seen before” dance moves. And surely, they found time to reflect on the Word of God and to share the joy and the love of God with each other.

There was enthusiasm in their preparation; joy in their faces, unity of hearts and minds; humility in service; fun in their dance moves; and most of all, love for God and each other. Truly, as we have learned in 1 Corinthians 13:8, *“Love never fails.”*

The ME Grand Reunion is more than just a “first group activity, it is a building block for the transition of a group to become a team, then a family, and then a community of believers.

COUNSELS

THE SEED OF GRACE

THEME: We find rest in Jesus when we listen and understand the word of God.

WORD: Is 55:10-11 / Ps 65:10-11,12-13,14
Rom 8:18-23 / Mt 13:1-23

ORDER: “Whoever has ears ought to hear.” (Mt 13: 9)
“Hear the word and understand it and bear fruit.”(Mt 13:23, Paraphrased)

REFLECTION:

Many enjoy sprucing up the garden during the summer months. They equip themselves with every tool to build a nice garden. A pick to open up the ground, a shovel to turn over the soil, a rake to remove the weeds and clean up then a trowel and a tiller to keep the soil loose. But there is one thing that should not be missed, and that is the SEED. We can have the best kind of soil - but if we don’t have the seed or the bedding plants to plant - then we have nothing. So is it in our lives. The seed in the parable is the Word of God. We can do everything we can in our desire to come closer to God but unless we receive the Word of God deep into our lives we will have nothing of value.

Jesus is the Sower. He prepares our hearts to receive the seeds of the Holy Spirit and prays for the rain of grace from His Heavenly Father to bless us with a rich harvest. As Jesus tills our hearts, He discovers the hardness that has surrounded our hearts: bitterness and unforgiveness, addictions, selfishness and sins, petty annoyances, anxieties and attachment to worldly goods. Ever patiently, Jesus lovingly removes the thorns, thistles and weeds. Through the experiences of our life, the challenges, difficulties and trials we go through, Jesus softens our hearts and draws us back to Him.

Continued on page 2

Promise of the Week

“My word...shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.”

(Is 55:11)

COUNSELS (from page 1)

We groan in pain, sometimes we even resist this painful exercise and complain to our Lord. But St. Paul assures us in the 2nd Reading that *“the sufferings of this present time are nothing compared to the glory to be revealed for us.”* (Rom 8:18) As we yield more and more to the grace of God and willingly subject ourselves to this painful tilling and purification, He will bless us with a bountiful harvest.

Our Lord will never force Himself upon us because He has given us free will. As the Sower, He scatters the seeds of His grace everywhere indiscriminately. The soil of our hearts will yield a harvest according to how well we received and accepted the Word of God and how well we nourished the seed that was planted in our hearts. We must soften our hearts so that the Word of God will take root to hasten our spiritual growth. We must deepen our faith. We must not allow the thorns and weeds of anxiety, worries and other worldly concerns choke up the grace of our conversion, but instead, we must increase our trust in the Lord’s love for us. It is only then that we allow the seed God has planted in our hearts to settle deep in our being, to grow in understanding, and to yield a hundredfold as we become sowers ourselves. By His grace, we are able to join Jesus, the Sower and together scatter seeds far and wide. *“But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”* (Mt 13:23)

As Christ’s disciples, we have a shared responsibility to sow God’s Word and nourish His people. In receiving the Word He sows, God invites us to open our hearts, removing the stubborn obstacles within our control, so that we can be fruitful like the seed sown on good ground. If we accept God’s invitation seriously and share His Word with others, we not only receive His grace; we also become evangelizers of His word.

The same call to share the Good News is echoed by Pope Francis’ current thrust on the new evangelization. The ‘new evangelization’ is all about reminding ourselves that God has called all Catholics to reach out to others with the timeless gospel of Jesus Christ and to learn how to do that in a way the culture around us can understand and respond; to build bridges for the world that “God so loved” in order that all people may know the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Let us be true to our calling as disciples of Christ by using our gifts and talents, to reach others who have yet to hear or understand the good news of God’s plan of salvation in Jesus Christ.

They who have ears - let them hear - “Hear the word and understand it and bear fruit day by day, now and forever.

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

LORD’S PROVISION

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$ 1,490	\$ 77,547
Mission Collection	\$ 27	\$ 6,136
Total Walk Collection	*	\$2,080

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

Thank you for your continued support!
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MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLD COMMUNITY DAY! 22nd ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Date/Time: Saturday, August 9, 2014

Venue: Johnson Park, Piscataway, NJ

Time: 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Red Team (A-C), **Blue Team** (D-G),
Green Team (H-P), **Yellow Team** (Q-Z)

For questions, please email: fla@bldnewark.com

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Confession



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Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Jul 25	Management
		Aug 1	Mission
		Aug 8	Pastoral
		Aug 15	Evangelization

DIRECTIONS:

1. Know and live the teachings of Christ.
2. Be silent so we can hear the tenderness of God. (Pope Francis)



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 29

Bulletin Edition

July 18, 2014

NEWS

COUNSELS

BLD welcomes YE #21



On July 11-13, 2014, at the Pine Hill Retreat Center in Canadensis, Pennsylvania, God called 23 candidates to attend the Youth Encounter #21 to grow closer as one family in Jesus Christ.

The retreat was organized and led by the Study Team facilitators: Justin Lucero, Sean Olaso, Faith Pangilinan, and Kipsy Quevada; understudies: Dana DeCastro, Kyle Flores, Kevin Larobis, and Andrew Olazo; and shadow facilitators: John Estrella and Olivia Felibrico. The Pastoral Team was led by Father Paul Lehman together with Sam and Rory Olaso. Through the guidance of the Study and Pastoral Teams and of course the Holy Spirit, 23 complete strangers underwent a series of talks, activities, prayers, and worships, sharing tears and laughter together.

Despite the fact that this was a relatively small class, the size worked to their advantage as they became a close, tight-knit family. A common characteristic found among the YE 21 candidates is that though they may seem tough on the outside, they are actually soft-hearted individuals, hence their unique name: "YE 21?! SOFT!", as they do a muscle pose. The class also identifies themselves by their YE 21 theme song, "Wake" by Hillsong Young and Free. YE 21 shepherds: Tina Larobis, Darren Lopez, and Mario and Carmen Olazo and Coordinators: Ken Cebedo, Matthew Ferrer, Elexa Nano, Madeline Ann Tanchingco, and Paul Vibar were discerned to guide the class throughout their spiritual journey.

Congratulations to the YE 21 candidates, namely, Celeste Alesna, Jean-Beatrice Almazan, Nina Almazar, Chinyere Anyanwu, Gil Gerard Austria, Jan Carpio, John Paul

Continued on page 2

THE WEEDS & THE WHEAT

THEME: **We find rest in Jesus when we grow and bear fruit for the Kingdom of God.**

WORD: **Wis 12:1316-19 / Ps 86:5-6,9-10,15-16
Rom 8:26-27 / Mt 13:24-43**

ORDER: **"Gather the wheat into my barn."
(Mt 13:30)**

REFLECTION:

"Let them grow together until harvest." (Matt 13:30)

What Jesus is teaching us here is that when God, personified by the farm owner, wants the weeds and the wheat to grow together; He is not saying that He cannot do anything about evil. Rather, He wants both the good and the bad - to grow side by side. The separation will come at harvest time - at judgment time.

The coexistence of good and bad in the world is a reality we have to live with. Good and bad people are with us in Church, in our workplaces, and even at home. This is the reason why Jesus came: **NOT AS JUDGE BUT AS SAVIOR**. Meanwhile, He continues to remain ever patient and forbearing, lovingly cajoling us to follow the straight and the narrow path.

Jesus gives every person the chance to avail of His saving grace and thus reform himself. The parable also tells us that evil could also thrive in us, but this can be overcome when our hearts, "the good soil," are humble enough to welcome and accept the teachings and guidance of the Lord through scripture. It is in our humility that we are able to live with and prevail over the evils of this world. The humbleness in a person's heart as it translates into his actions is what differentiates the wheat from the weeds.

It is true that people do not change easily. Only God can change people. This is another reason why the Lord allows the weeds to grow also;

Continued on page 2

Promise of the Week

"The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father." (Mt 13:43)

COUNSELS (from page 1)

they may turn into wheat after all. If we want to change bad behavior, we better try to live a good life ourselves. We have to start thinking of doing things **GOD'S WAY** - not our way. There is so much blessing with simply being persistent, with being the one who is always faithful - always there to do your best.

If we all fight the evil inside us, then with God's help, good deeds will come out from within us, then there will be less evil in the world and less evil done by people to one another. To do this, our community offers all these opportunities such as: Friday Worships, Formation Teachings, Multiple Immersions in Intercessory, in Service and Missions.

Courage in the face of evil comes from belief that God has the final word and will restore us to life. How far then, are we willing to go rather than cut off communication with our God by violating **His commandments**? Is our hope in God strong enough to sustain us through trials?

Another practice is to be faithful in our devotion in attending daily Mass. A ton of benefits that come when we frequently go to Mass. Patience, humility, and devotion, especially to our Lord in the **Eucharist** may transform our life. Most importantly, it can draw us closer to the Lord.

A transformation has to take place within us. Spiritual growth does not happen overnight. It is a life-long process of small steps that requires our total commitment. We must **want** to grow, **decide** to grow, make an **effort** to grow, and **persist** in growing through holiness, frequent reception of the sacraments, and dedicated service to the poor, the sick, and the orphans. We have to live with care, leniency, clemency, justice, kindness, and hope for all people. Our deeds must be consistent with our creeds, and our belief must be backed up with Christ - like behavior. Thinking of others is our best evidence of spiritual growth. Thinking of others, as what St. Paul says, is a mark of maturity.

"We please God by what we do, and not only by what we believe." (James 2:24) As Christians, we should neither perpetuate evil nor allow ourselves to be used in support of evil goals against our neighbors. Pope Francis says: **"The secret of Christian living is love. Only love fills the empty spaces caused by evil."** But love is not something we can manufacture on our own: it is the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22). God will allow us to bear fruits of **LOVE** and **FORGIVENESS** to the extent that we abide in Him.

Jesus shows us that suffering leads to the cross, which leads to resurrection, which leads to new life. There is great glory in allowing Jesus to fight with us and for us. But how do we fight? We fight with gentleness, compassion, mercy, understanding, and with three of the greatest weapons: **PRAYER, LOVE, and TRUTH.**

DIRECTIONS:

- Develop and nurture our God given gifts through our community programs.**
- Recognize and remove the weeds in our lives.**

LORD'S PROVISION

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$ 3,478	\$ 81,025
Mission Collection	\$ 113	\$ 6,249
Total Walk Collection	155	\$2,235

Financial details are available to all members through

treasury@bldnewark.com

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MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Time: **8:30 AM - 5:00 PM**

Red Team (A-C), **Blue Team** (D-G),
Green Team (H-P), **Yellow Team** (Q-Z)

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		Jul 25	Management
		Aug 1	Mission
		Aug 8	Pastoral
Aug 15	Evangelization		

NEWS (from page 1)

Castillo, Ken Cebedo, Orlandy Cruz, Matthew Ferrer, Jj Gomez, Nikita Gurnasinghani, Sean Lee, Joanna Lizardo, Angelo Manaois, RJ Merluza, Elexa Nano, Allyson Nisay, Rhystan Pangilinan, Dominick Salar, Madeline Ann Tanchingco, Kevin Velasco, and Paul Vibar. **Go forth!**



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 30

Bulletin Edition

July 25, 2014

NEWS

COUNSELS

FE #21 yields a fruitful harvest

“All Nations You Have Made Shall Come.” (Ps 86:9)



Through prayers, petitions and vigils of the sponsoring class and of the whole community, the FE #21 weekend yielded a fruitful harvest.

Truly, the miracles of Jesus were seen this weekend. The BLD community gives thanks to our wonderful Savior Jesus Christ for calling 14 families to the Family Encounter #21, which took place on July 18–20, 2014 in Malvern, PA. The Lord worked His wonders by helping all candidate families to recognize their vocation of building their own household of faith. Each family valued the lessons they learned and came up with different ways to incorporate them into their own family relationship.

The community is grateful to the encounter’s spiritual director, Msgr. Paul Schetelick, and the Pastoral Team, the Larobis Family, (Charles, Weng, Kevin, & Zach) and the Loreto Family (Cy, Mavil, Carlo, Camille, & Adrian), for their beautiful sharings and teachings, which guided the families on their spiritual journeys.

Also, the weekend was blessed with wonderful workers: FE #20 families and their shepherd family, the Rangel family, and auxies, who humbly served with a joyful heart, all for God’s greater glory. Their actions were greatly appreciated by the candidates.

Let us welcome the class of FE #21: **Alegria Family, Almazar Family, Cebedo Family, Dizon Family, Flores Family, Fudalan Family, Lizardo Family, Mariano Family, Merluza Family, Pham Family, Sorio Family, Talbot Family, Tran Family, and Yanto Family**, to be tended by their shepherd family, the Fabe family.

The Lord is truly an amazing God, for He is the reason why every candidate family changed *Continued on page 2*

THE JOY OF DISCOVERY

THEME: **We find rest in Jesus when we treasure Him as our pearl of great price.**

WORD: 1 Kgs 3:5,7-12/Ps 19:57,72,76,77,127,158, 12-130/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52

ORDER: **“Ask something of me and I will give it to you.”** (1 Kgs 3:5)

REFLECTION:

The irony of the Gospel is that it truly becomes the Good News when we apply the Word to the bad news of our daily experiences.

In the readings of the 17th Sunday in Ordinary time, Jesus once again speaks in parables to His disciples. He compares the Kingdom of God to a treasure buried in a field or a pearl of a great price, which would cause anyone who finds it, “in his joy,” to sell all that he has in order to possess it.

Many of us when we talk about treasures, we immediately think of with jewelries, diamonds, silver and gold or lavish homes and cars and other extravagant material things. They catch our eyes and give us instantaneous joy with an adrenaline rush that lasts for a short period only to leave us restless, unsatisfied and unfulfilled. They drive our human inclination, our insatiable appetite, to want more and more and more.

Even Jesus’ very own intimate disciples, the mention of a Kingdom captivates their minds and triggers thoughts of power. They become political, self-serving and ambitious. Pope Francis, in one of his recent morning mass homilies, warns us against earthly treasures, “*of the allure of money, power and prestige, which hardens the heart and can never bring true happiness.* Worst, you lose your soul. He says, “*How many proud and powerful men and women have ended up in anonymity, in poverty and in prison?*” The tragedy of the rich young man to whom Jesus offered perfection and treasures is surreal.

Continued on page 2

Promise of the Week

“...all things work for the good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.”

(Romans 8:28)

COUNSELS (from page 1)

How many more blows of rejection will Christ absorb?

Jesus wants us to be free. Our hearts can only be free if we seek the treasures of heaven. So what are these immeasurable treasures, and where are they hidden? Earthly treasures catch our eyes, but the Epistle reminds us to “*walk by faith and not by sight*” (2 Cor 5:7). Heavenly treasures capture our heart. They are neither riches, power nor fame. As St Paul writes, “*What is more I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus for His sake, I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him.*” (Phil 3:8) Wasn't it also Paul who said, “*I am the worst of them all!*” (1 Tm 1:15) When the scales had fallen from his eyes, he beheld the long hidden treasure before him and abandoned all that he held most dear.

We are reminded of the abundant blessings that impart to the human soul durable riches and honor. The spiritual reality is the treasure of God is buried in us. Remember the Parable of the Sower? God planted the **Seed** and **It** grew and took root in us sacramentally in the grace of baptism, “*unless one is born again of water and the Spirit, one cannot enter the Kingdom of God.*” (Jn 3:5) He lives in us, His Temple. He always has been there, and what we are seeking was there all the time. We never paid attention to Him. He does the stirring, the prompting, the restlessness “until we rest in Him.” He is persistent and patient with us. We live our lives without much thought of how truly rich we are. We have what it takes to do what God command us. He promises us that all things will work for good for all of us. There is one caveat to this promise: treasure Him. How? The inestimable blessing of faith demands our faithfulness. Without it, it is impossible to please God (Heb 11.6) He gave Himself to us, and receiving Him in Communion is our ultimate adoration.

He demands virtue and perseverance in suffering. This may be a challenge for many of us who are burned out by the demands of life, hurt and rejected, exploited or abused and at times, abandoned and neglected. But God says His “*power is perfected in our weakness*” (2 Cor 12:9). He overcomes all our imperfections, weaknesses, and deficiencies. He carries our pain and suffering; gives us peace that earthly riches cannot give, unspeakable joy that money cannot buy and hope that modern medicine cannot offer.

His Kingdom also demands resolution and labors. Love, charity, service, and tenderness are beautiful treasures. When you share them with others, they become yours forever. Finally, His kingdom welcomes the contrite heart. Jesus remembers the repentant sinner when He comes into His kingdom. Pure souls keep the Kingdom, the impure loses it.

Yes, we do own the Greatest Treasure, and we do not have to sell all that we have to possess it The purchase price is beyond us. We cannot afford it. The truth is that it has already been paid for us by Christ, purchased by His Blood on the Cross. Abba Father gave us His most precious Jewel. 

LORD'S PROVISION

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$ 2,274	\$ 83,299
Mission Collection	\$ 88	\$ 6,249
Total Walk Collection	707	\$2,942

Thank you for your continued support!
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MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Date/Time: Saturday, August 9, 2014

Venue: Johnson Park, Piscataway, NJ

Time: 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

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AUGUST 1ST MARSHAL - MISSION

NEWS (from page 1)

their hearts this weekend. He has fixed broken families and strengthened their relationships.

Let us all pray that the class of FE #21 will become one family, bonded in the love of Christ, and will be blessed with the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

He exchanges our bad for His good.

The challenge is upon us. Which treasures do we wind up on the last day? As the Pope said with a hint of irony “*I have never seen a moving van following a funeral procession. But there is a treasure we can take with us, a treasure that no one can take away-- not those things you kept for yourself, but those you have given to others.*”

“*Where your treasure is, there your heart is also.*” (Lk 12:34)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Pray for an understanding heart and a discerning spirit to distinguish right from wrong.
2. Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to find Jesus as the True Treasure in your life.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 31

Bulletin Edition

August 1, 2014

NEWS

COUNSELS

Pope Makes Heartfelt Appeal on Behalf of Child Victims of War

Also Recalls Senseless Slaughter of World War One on 100th Anniversary

Rome, July 27, 2014 (Zenit.org)



During his Angelus address on Sunday, Pope Francis issued a heartfelt appeal on behalf of the world's child victims of war, and again appealed for peace in the Middle East and Ukraine.

Recalling that tomorrow is the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War One, the Pope said: "Brothers and sisters, no more war! No more war! Above all, I think of the children, those who have been denied hope of a decent life, of a future: dead children, wounded children, maimed children, orphaned children, children who have remnants of war as toys, children who don't know how to smile.

"Please stop!" the Pope implored, adding with visible emotion: "I ask you with all my heart, it's time to stop! Stop, please!"

The Pope said his thoughts "go out to three areas of crisis: the Middle East, Iraq and Ukraine."

He asked the faithful to continue to join him in prayer so that those in power will be tenacious in "dialogue and negotiation and with the force of reconciliation." He expressed his hope that at the center of every decision, "special interests aren't put forward, but rather the common good and respect for every person.

"Let's remember that all is lost with war, and nothing is lost with peace," he said to applause.

Remembering that Pope Benedict XV described World War One as a "senseless slaughter," the Holy Father said he hoped that the "mistakes of the past won't be repeated, but that the lessons of history be taken into account, that the demands of peace through patient and courageous dialogue are always made to prevail."

LOVE CONQUERS ALL

THEME: We believe in the Lord when we rely on His love and compassion.

WORD: Is 55:1-3 / Ps 145:8-9,15-16,17-18
Rom 8:35,37-39 / Mt 14:13-21

ORDER: "Bring them here to me." (Mt 14: 18)

REFLECTION:

In the Gospel reading of the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus had gone to spend a few minutes of solitude to mourn upon learning of the death of John the Baptist. But the crowd followed him and they soon turned into a multitude. Moved with compassion, Jesus forgot about his original intent, and instead ministered to the needs of the crowd. A very beautiful Bible translation of verse 14 says: "*when he had disembarked, he saw a great crowd, and he was moved with compassion for them to the depths of his being, and healed their sick.*"

This translation sums up not only what Jesus felt at the time, but also provides us with a picture of the true nature and character of Christ. "To the depths of His being" meant that compassion filled His entire being, and that there was nothing in His heart that did not translate to compassion.

Jesus wanted to spend a few moments in solitude as He grieved over John's death and He could have driven the crowds away but He did not. Instead, He gave to the people what they needed. In verse 14, Jesus showed His apostles the kind of sacrifice that awaits them when the time comes for them to go and make disciples of all nations. Here, Jesus was defining the quality of true servanthood, demonstrating the character required of every true servant – the ability and willingness to sacrifice even His own time and agenda to the service of others.

Another truth in this miracle of the multiplication of the five loaves and two fish is the important role the apostles will play, and to a certain degree, the role *Continued on page 2*

Promise of the Week

"Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life, I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David." (Is 55:3)

COUNSELS (from page 1)

that we also are to play. To serve the needs of more than 5,000 people, Jesus had to use His apostles and other disciples to distribute the food. This is the reality we too must face today. In order for the Good News to reach the ends of the world, we must allow Jesus to use us, because it is through us that the truth can be proclaimed.

What we also see in this miracle is not just the multiplication of the five loaves and two fish, but the miracle of the transformation of the people from an uncaring multitude, indifferent to the needs of their fellowmen, into a caring multitude, who had learned to share and become generous to one another. However, the people are not to blame, for it was their culture to fend only for themselves and their families. To share with strangers would be a rarity in those days, but they saw in Jesus the compassion to share with the hungry and those without food. More significant than the multiplication of the loaves and fish was the transformation that happened among the more than 5,000 people gathered there.

Jesus may have also used this occasion to give His apostles and disciples, and the people who followed Him, a preview of the things to come. When He lifted up the five loaves and two fish and said a blessing, He would have partaken a slice of bread and maybe also a slice of the fish before handing these over to His disciples to be distributed. In effect, the scenario presages the institution of the Sacrament of the Eucharist in which we partake of the Body of Christ during the Mass.

It is equally improbable that those gathered there took one loaf of bread and one fish each. What may actually have happened is that each one only took a small piece from the loaf of bread and fish that were being distributed, but because these were blessed by Jesus, it partook of the nature of spiritual food that was sufficient to fill the needs of the people. Above all, Jesus showed that anything is possible when it is done in love. Love conquers all things and in this Gospel passage, Jesus gave the apostles and disciples a lesson in the meaning of love. Jesus did not drive away the people. Instead, He responded to their cry, especially of the sick; and what Jesus demonstrated when He used His power to multiply the five loaves and two fish was that love could change even self-centered, self-serving men into generous, caring persons.

This is the same attitude that Jesus asks of anyone who will come and follow him. The love we receive from Jesus, we are to pass on, so that others may also be blessed. On those occasions when we feel that what we are able to give to Jesus may not be enough, this miracle of the five loaves and two fish assures us that whatever we give will be multiplied. The only thing we need to do is to share this same love with others. As our theme for this week expresses it - **We believe in the Lord when we rely on His love and compassion.** At the end of the day, we can claim this week's Promise in Isaiah 55:3: *"Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life, I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David."*

LORD'S PROVISION

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$ 3,473	\$ 86,772
Mission Collection	\$ 110	\$ 6447
Total Walk Collection	\$2,458	\$5,400

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MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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JOHN 6 CROSSING

When: September 12-14, 2014

Where: St. Peter's Retreat House
Belleville, NJ

Contact Persons: Tony/Marlene Brillantes
john6@bldnewark.com



AUGUST 8th MARSHAL - PASTORAL

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. What prevents me from helping someone in need?
2. How can I get over this bias against sharing my resources with others?

DIRECTIONS:

1. Seek God's blessings first in all that you do.
2. Read the word of God as your daily bread.
3. Be generous in all your ways.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 32

Bulletin Edition

August 8, 2014

NEWS

Pope: Multiplication of the Loaves – A Sign of Trust in God’s Providence

Vatican City/080314/Zenit.org/Junno Arocho Esteves/Excerpt

In his weekly address, the Holy Father gave a reflection on Sunday’s gospel reading on the multiplication of loaves and fishes. He said that the miracle performed by Christ highlights three messages: Compassion, Sharing and the Eucharist.

The Pope said that crowds followed Jesus as He retired to pray after the death of John the Baptist. He knew that they followed Him not out of curiosity but out of need. And He reacted to them not out of pity but with sympathy. Jesus empathized with their suffering to the point of taking it upon Himself because He suffers with us and for us. As He performed numerous healings, He teaches us to place the needs of those less fortunate before our own needs.” Our needs,” the Pope said, “even if legitimate, will never be as urgent as those of the poor who lack the necessities to live on.”

Pope Francis drew the second message of the Gospel-sharing- by comparing Jesus’ reaction to the hunger of the crowd to that of the disciples’. The disciples reason according to the world’s thinking and ask Christ to “dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves.” Jesus, instead, tells the disciples to “give them some food yourselves,” asking them to share instead. Doing anything else can only mean selfishness. The Pope further stressed that the miracle of the loaves and fishes was a sign that invites all to trust in the providence of God and “share it as brothers.”

The final message that the Gospel presents, the Pope told the pilgrims, was that the miracle foretold the Eucharist, where through His sacrifice, Christ “offers Himself to the Father out of love for us.” In going to the Eucharist, the Pope said that it is important to go with the spirit of compassion and sharing as shown by Jesus in the Gospel.

Concluding his address, Pope Francis said that these three messages not only lead us to the fellowship needed in this world, but also leads us to God.

COUNSELS

COME, DO NOT BE AFRAID!

THEME: We believe in the Lord when we trust in Him and confidently proclaim His Word.

WORD: 1Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Ps 85:9,10,11-12,13,14; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33

ORDER: “Take courage, It is I; do not be afraid.” (Mt 14: 27)

REFLECTION:

In the readings for this 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, we hear about two dramatic encounters with God where both Elijah and Peter experience His presence and those encounters help deepen their faith.

In the first reading, God told Elijah, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will pass by.” (1 Kgs 19:11) A strong and heavy wind came followed by an earthquake, then a fire, but the Lord was not to be found there. Then there was a tiny whispering sound and God was there. As Elijah realized, we cannot hear or recognize God’s voice amidst the noise and clatter of the world.

In the Gospel, Jesus “made the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side...while he went up on the mountain by himself to pray.” (Mt 14:22-23) It appears that Jesus was testing the faith of His disciples as He did not go with them. Late into the dark night and a few miles offshore with their boat being tossed about by the waves and the strong winds, the disciples started fearing for their lives. They did not even recognize Jesus when He came toward them walking on the sea for they were more focused on their fears rather than on the power of God. Despite Jesus’ assurance, Peter himself still doubted and allowed his own fear of drowning to surpass his faith and trust in God.

Continued on page 2

Promise of the Week

**“The Lord himself will give his benefit;
our land shall yield its increase.”**

(Psalm 85:12)

COUNSELS (from page 1)

There are many rich symbolisms we can gather from the readings. The storm at sea represents the evil that we face in this world. As Elijah found God in *“a light silent sound”* (1 Kgs 19:12), Jesus, too, was communing with His Father as He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. As a vibrant and active Catholic charismatic community, it is oftentimes challenging to quiet down and listen for the Lord’s soft voice. We devote so little of our time to private contemplation and God’s presence in that meditative space. We choose, rather, to keep ourselves busy in other charitable works. Not that those are unimportant, but by doing so, aren’t we missing opportunities to be with God, to gain wisdom in His presence and to receive affirmation, encouragement, and direction for our actions?

In a similar manner, the disciples are the mirror of our strengths, weaknesses and personal fears. How many of us can identify with Peter as he walked on water only to waver and sink, only saved by the extension of the hand of Jesus. More times than not, we do it alone, relying on ourselves rather than on God until our little faith cries out, “Lord, save me!”

BLD Newark, in its infancy, was the vanguard of BLD’s evangelization efforts in America planting districts in the East and West coasts. Like Peter, Newark can be lauded for its initiative and its courage to step out into the unknown, where her fruit has been bountiful. But have we stayed the course or have we faltered? Where are we headed? Can we fulfill our new mission and vision with the same, if not more intensity and resolve as when we started 22 years ago? More than ever, even in the face of dwindling membership, we should continue our resolve to evangelize, seeking God’s guidance every step of the way through prayers and with the strong belief that what we are doing is what God wants us to do. Let us get out of the boat, trusting God at all times and walking with others towards Christ without fear.

Father God, protect us and Your community from the violent waves and strong winds of fear and disbelief. Give us a strong faith and banish all our doubts. Help us not to be afraid but to be courageous and trusting in Your power and love. Should we lose focus on you and begin to sink, Lord, say “Come” and stretch out your hand and save us. Then as a community of faith, we will pay homage to You and with one voice proclaim, *“Truly, You are the Son of God.”* (Mt 14:33)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Get out of your comfort zone and evangelize.
2. Commune with God in the silence of your heart.
3. Do not doubt, trust God at all times.

LORD’S PROVISION

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$ 3,038	\$ 89,810
Mission Collection	\$ 129	\$ 6,576
Total Walk Collection	\$3,945	\$9,345

Financial details are available to all members through

treasury@bldnewark.com

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLD COMMUNITY DAY! 22nd ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Date/Time: Saturday, August 9, 2014

Venue: Johnson Park, Piscataway, NJ

Time: 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Red Team (A-C), **Blue Team** (D-G),
Green Team (H-P), **Yellow Team** (Q-Z)

For questions, please email: fla@bldnewark.com



*Looks like the LORD is going to provide us
with good weather – 82 & SUNNY.
Let’s all WALK IN HIS FOOTSTEPS!*

BLD-NEWARK MISSION WALK 2014

7-10 AM, Morning of Community Day Picnic
Grove 4, Johnson’s Park, Piscataway NJ

*Be there before 8 am and
BASK IN HIS SUNSHINE!*



JOHN 6 CROSSING

When: September 12-14, 2014

Where: St. Peter’s Retreat House
Belleville, NJ

Contact Persons: Tony/Marlene Brillantes
john6@bldnewark.com

PLEASE NOTE

Next week, August 15th,

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

(in lieu of Praise and Worship)

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Confession



Every last Friday of the month
from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm at
St. Mary’s Church (DMP).

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Aug 15	Evangelization
		Aug 22	Formation
		Aug 29	Management
		Sep 5	Mission



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 33

Bulletin Edition

August 15, 2014

NEWS

COUNSELS

God shines blessings on BLD

“My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 4:19)

Last Saturday, August 9th, our Creator turned up the lights, and the sun dawned on one of this year’s most beautiful mornings. By 7am, many participants in both the Mission Walk and the Community Day Picnic teams were busy preparing for the day’s activities at Johnson Park in Piscataway, NJ. FE #20 took charge of blessing the venue and began Mass preparations assisted by the Liturgical Ministry while the Praise Ministry set up the sound system. Banners for the Walk’s major sponsors and posters for century donors were



put on display by the grove’s entrance and the Walk’s starting line. Over 120 walkers were already there by 8 am, spending some time looking over the banners and posters, and taking photos which they quickly posted on their Facebook pages.

“At once Jesus spoke to them, Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.” (Mt 14:27)

Indeed it had been a bold step when the idea of the Mission Walk was presented as this year’s only fund raising project for the Community. There were a lot of unknown factors at the onset. As these “unknowns” started to unfold, the committee began to question the plan’s feasibility. The anxiety level was starting to rise when they saw that the expenses were more than what had been expected. As the day of the Walk approached, there was hardly enough money to cover the overhead. Like St. Peter, when he stepped out of the boat to meet Jesus (Mt 14:30-31), we may sometimes be people of little faith, but then the Lord stretched out His hand and caught us. Our Lord stirred up the excitement and enthusiasm of the community, so that support and donations suddenly came pouring in from many sources. *Continued on page 2*

ROCK-SOLID FAITH

THEME: **We believe in the Lord when we have unwavering faith.**

WORD: **Is 56:1,6-7/Ps 67:2-3,5,6,8
Rom 11:13-15,29-32/Mt 15:21-28**

REFLECTION (ECSL):

Our theme states: **We believe in the Lord when we have unwavering faith.** What then should our disposition be to have an unwavering faith? Isaiah gives us a clue – *“...and hold to my covenant”* (Is 56:6c), a statement we hear constantly in community, but sometimes overlook in the face of our daily challenges. Isaiah reminds us of the four qualities *“acceptable in the Lord’s altar.”* We can check our progress in our commitment to unwavering faith and our covenant, against these standards (Is 56:1, 6):

- Observe what is right, do what is just – listening & obedience to God’s Word
- Minister to Him – regularly receiving the Sacraments
- Love the Name of the Lord – praising & worshipping God
- Be His servant – being a bearer of God’s Word

St. Paul’s letter to the Romans reminds us further that, as God’s disciples, our commitment and covenant - inspired by the Holy Spirit, source of our spiritual gifts and the missionary call - are irrevocable. Daily, we may experience success and setbacks, but as we obediently exercise our gifts and call, those whom we touch will not only receive mercy and forgiveness, but grace as well. Hence, we become effective witnesses and bearers of God’s word. However, a most important ingredient to this endeavor is prayer, our constant communication and ministering to God.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“Let it be done for you as you wish.” (Mt 15:28b)

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

Beyond our reasonable expectations, He gave us His grace sufficient to our needs. The Lord was so good that we could not have asked for better weather for walking in His footsteps.

After a short prayer led by Fr. Joe of ME 43, the Walk was underway by 8:30, as walkers happily headed down the park's Johnson Drive. Most participants finished the 1.5 mile route, while many even did 2 or more rounds. There were older BLD members as well as young ones providing a good mix of what makes BLD really special – **FAMILY**.



Donations of bread and pastries (courtesy of Au Bon Pain) and water and fruits (from Trader Joe's Shoprite) gave added pep and energy to the walkers. The First Aid Team was manned by the Philippine Nurses Association while our own nurses from Singles conducted their wellness program.



In the end, as many as 200 people were involved in the Walk, contributing to a very successful endeavor. But the day was not done yet, because the Community Day Mass and Picnic were soon to follow.

The Mass started at about 11:30am with Fr. Dave as main celebrant, assisted by Fr. Joe and Fr. Robert as co-celebrants, and was followed by a wonderful picnic with lots of good food, music, and exciting competition.



Delicious food was plentiful, prepared by ME#40, the Solo Parents, and the Singles. After lunch, ministry presentations



(Mark 10 thru Golden Years) were also part of the day's menu, highlighted by a duet from two members of John 6, familiar praise songs sung by the Youth and Singles but with unique twists, and exhilarating line dance numbers from BLD's Solo Parents.



The presentations were ably emceed by one of the newest members of BLD from SPE 16. And then, to help digest all the calories, ME 38 and ME 39 held both traditional and new fun games throughout the rest of the day.



The Community Day drew more than 400 people. With everyone sporting their team colors and enjoying much good-hearted competition. In the end, the Green Team emerged as the victors of the day.



Many, many hands helped to make the day a success. By the end of the day, everyone recognized that each of us was truly one of God's blessings, especially to each other. And many had walked in His footsteps.

In His mighty name, the Mission Walk Fundraising Committee would like to thank the community for all their support. To our donors and sponsors from all sources, we offer our gratitude. Finally, we give thanks and honor to God for it was indeed a blessed day.



**Forever and always, Ad maiorem Dei gloriam,
to God be the Glory!**

Solemnity of the ASSUMPTION of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This feast of the Assumption of Mary is not only a very special feast day, but something very deeply imbedded in my personal memory.



The doctrine of the Assumption of Mary was obviously always a historical reality, and something always believed and accepted by both the Roman and the Eastern church, both Catholic and Orthodox. The reason it is close in my memory is that Pope Pius XII solemnly defined the doctrine on November 1st. 1950, four years

before my priestly Ordination. Pius chose to do this in order to bring to our attention the reality of her restoration to bodily life and entrance body and soul into heaven, and also to firm our belief that all of us like Jesus and Mary will some day at the end of time receive our resurrected bodies back into union with our immortal souls to participate hopefully in the joys and glory of heaven. It is interesting to note that the doctrine defining the reality does not explicitly address the reality of her death. It uses the expression, “having finished the course of her earthly life etc.” Of course there is no doubt that Mary died. In fact two graphical places claim to be the place on Mary’s death, the island of Patmos and Dormition abbey in Jerusalem. The doctrine focuses on being taken to heaven bodily, rather than the place of her death.

There is a logical reason for our belief in the Assumption of Mary. She was kept free from original sin by her Immaculate Conception. Death is a historical punishment for original sin. Since both Jesus and Mary were not guilty of sin, and thus free from the punishments of sin, they needed not to die. Nevertheless, they both embraced death to destroy the power and result of death and make it now a source of resurrected new life. Another personal note is that the year in which I was ordained was a special Marian year, commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the Immaculate Conception solemnly defined in 1854.

Notice the parallel between the life of Jesus and the life of Mary. Jesus was conceived virginally. Even though Mary was conceived by normal human intercourse, she was conceived in her souls free from original sin (feast day December 8th). She was present at the death of Jesus and participated in a unique

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

In the gospel reading, we are prompted to rid ourselves of our “selective attitude in mission,” an attitude similar to that of the disciples when they complained to Jesus – “*send her away, she keeps on calling us.*” (Mt 15:23) Other complaints by the disciples are recorded in the past Sunday readings. Similarly, we hear complaints in community, not unlike the disciples’ “send them away” declaration – we do not have the time, resources, nor desire to ‘feed them ourselves’. Yes, there are incidents or occasions in our mission activities when we find our boundaries violated by pestering propositions, not unlike the Canaanite woman in the Gospel. Consequently, we tend to choose mission activities that are convenient to us.

Today, we are being admonished by Jesus not to be choosy, but to be more loving and compassionate, especially as we minister to hard-core unbelievers, repentant sinners and inconvenient, difficult to reach mission fields – “*I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*” (Mt 15:24) But as we change our ways and veer away from our comfort zones, casting our nets into the deep waters, God’s grace will be justified, He will have pity on us and bless us. He will let his countenance shine upon us as the Psalmist declared. As an added bonus, He will grant us the desires of our hearts as declared in our promise for the week, “*Let it be done for you as you wish.*” (Mt 15:28)

Reflection Questions:

1. Can you share an experience when you encountered difficulties or trials and continued to have faith in God instead of complaining? What was your blessing?
2. How open are you in becoming a missionary of charity towards people in need?

way with Jesus through her intercession in our redemption from sin and eternal death. Jesus ascended into heaven by His own divine power. Mary was taken (assumed) into heaven by Jesus’ divine power. This feast is a call to thank the Lord for His divine plan in calling us with Mary in future participation, both soul and body, in the eternal joys of God’s heavenly kingdom.

Father in heaven, all creation rightly gives You praise, for all life and all holiness come from You. In the plan of Your wisdom, she who bore the Christ in her womb was raised body and soul in glory to be with Him in heaven.

May we follow her example in reflecting Your holiness and join in her hymn of endless love and praise. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLD VISION

- We are a community of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about a world of justice, human development and true peace.

BLD MISSION

In response to the challenges of our particular place, time and culture:

For our families:

- We will evangelize families and build communities of faith through encounters, Life in the Spirit Seminars and discipleship formation.
- We will give formation on personal and family prayer, pro-life values, Catholic social teachings and stewardship.

For our communities:

- We will actively participate in the life and mission of the Church in accord with our God-given gifts.

For our country:

- We will work on poverty alleviation through scholarships, housing for the poor and advocacies for life, environment and good governance.

Five (5) W's of Community Life

- Worship** – let us be faithful in giving honor and praise to the Lord by living out our pledge of personal, conjugal, family and community prayer.
- Word** – know the LORD through reading and reflecting on the gospel. Seek direction and guidance through the words in the Scripture.
- Witness** – let others see Jesus in you – see Jesus in every person you meet.
- Work** – giving a full day's work for a full day's pay – exercising Christian values and ethics.
- Warfare** – recognize that the enemy is like a roaring lion ready to devour, not sitting on the sidelines waiting for us to fall but aggressively seeking our destruction. Intercede daily for the needs and concerns of our family.



St. Michael and our guardian angels, defend us and our families in battle against all the evil ones that roam the earth.

Be a "Living Word"

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Aug 22	Formation
			Aug 29	Management
			Sep 5	Mission
			Sep 12	Pastoral

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$2,659	\$92,469
Mission Collections	\$66	\$6,642
Walk Fundraising	6,770	16,115

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

Thank you for your continued support!
Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

ASPIRANTS RETREAT

October 10-12, 2014 • CYO, Kearny NJ

For details, contact: King and Arlene Rigor

teaching@bldnewark.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PRAYER HEALING RETREAT 2

September 13-14, 2014 • Divine Mercy Auditorium, Rahway NJ

Contacts: Sam and Rory Olaso @ samrory@gmail.com

The retreat cost is \$60 for 2 days.

Pre-requisite is completion of Prayer Healing 1.

The retreat schedule is from 8am-7pm on Saturday and 8am-6pm on Sunday.

Attendance at all sessions from beginning to end is required.
"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." (Ez 36:26)

JOHN 6 CROSSING

September 12-14, 2014 •

St. Peter's Retreat House, Belleville, NJ

Contacts: Tony/Marlene Brillantes john6@bldnewark.com

ATTENTION!

Satanists are planning a "Black Mass" on city property at the Civic Center in Oklahoma City on Sunday, September 21, 2014. Spread the word to all your friends so we can stop this sacrilege. Your voice and prayers were decisive at Harvard University -- the "Black Mass" there was stopped. Cancelled. Our Lady won a great victory for God that day. And God can win again. As Our Lord Jesus Christ Is Attacked, We Cannot Remain Silent!

Send your E-PROTEST NOW!

<https://www.americanneedsfatima.org/forms/E14086b.html#form2>



Confession

Every last Friday of the month from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm at St. Mary's Church (DMP).



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 34

Summer Edition

August 22, 2014

NEWS

Pope Says Credible Lay Witnesses Are Needed More Than Ever

Reminds South Korean Laypeople How Their Contributions Are Essential
Seoul, August 16, 2014 (Zenit.org) [Deborah Castellano Lubov](#)

Pope Francis has called on laity to use their unique talents to advance the Church, and has reinforced how preserving the family unit is crucial.

Addressing South Korean laity at 6:30 p.m., local time, at the Spiritual Center in Kkottongnae, he said: "Today, as ever, the Church needs credible lay witnesses to the saving truth of the Gospel, its power to purify and transform human hearts," as well as its "fruitfulness for building up the human family in unity, justice and peace."

To the some 150 lay people gathered in the center's chapel, he said "every baptized Christian has a vital part in this mission of the Church."

"Whatever your particular contribution to the Church's mission," he said, "I ask you to continue to promote in your communities a more complete formation of the lay faithful through ongoing catechesis and spiritual direction.

"In all that you do, strive to place your own insights, talents and charisms at the service of the Church's growth in unity and missionary outreach," he encouraged, adding that this should be done "in complete harmony of mind and heart with your pastors."

"Your contribution is essential," the Pope declared, because "the future of the Church in Korea – as throughout Asia – will depend in large part on the development of an ecclesiological vision grounded in a spirituality of communion, participation and the sharing of gifts."

The Church in Korea, the Pope reflected, "is heir to the faith of generations of lay persons who persevered in the love of Christ Jesus and the communion of the Church despite the scarcity of priests and the threat of severe persecution."

Not only through sufferings and death did the martyrs' lives bear witness to the faith, Francis said, but also through "loving solidarity with one another in Christian communities, marked by exemplary charity."

"At a time of great crisis for family life," Francis reminded them, "the family remains the basic unit of society" and the "first school in which children learn the human, spiritual and moral values, which enable them to be a beacon of goodness, integrity and justice in our communities."

COUNSELS

Build My Church

THEME: We believe in the Lord when we proclaim Jesus as the Son of the Living God and help build His Church.

WORD: Is 22:19-33; Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8
Rom 11: 33-36; Mt 16: 13-20

ORDER: "...*build my church.*" (Matthew 16: 18a)

REFLECTION:

In this coming Sunday's Gospel, Jesus asks His disciples two very simple yet very profound questions. The first: "***Who do people say that the Son of Man is?***" (Mt 16:13b) The disciples gave different answers by listing a few great prophets' names- John the Baptist, Elijah, and Jeremiah. To the second question, "***But who do you say that I am?***" (Mt 16:15) Peter answered: "***You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.***" (Mt 16:16) Jesus praises Peter's insight and confirms that this revelation did not come from human understanding but through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' response to Peter indicates that His identity as Messiah is not obvious by way of human insight. Jesus, at that time, has not yet died nor risen from the dead. The disciples were unlearned and ignorant men, yet Peter, an ordinary fisherman by trade, said, "***You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.***" As modern day Christians, we believe this, but do we know what it means to say that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of the living God? If we say YES, then we must act and follow what Peter did. Peter became the disciple that Jesus knew he would be. Jesus put His trust on Peter and said, "***Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church.***" (Mt 16:17-18) *Continued on page 2*

Promise of the Week

"...*upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.*"
(Matthew 16:18b)

COUNSELS (from page 1)

As followers of Christ, we have received the grace to believe that Jesus is the Son of the living God and that He is alive! Most if not all of us grew up learning about Jesus and the Bible. We have attended Sunday masses and maybe took some CCD classes. We come to Rahway on Friday nights to praise and worship our Lord Jesus Christ. We have been blessed to have been given the opportunity to know Him more and receive the gift of faith. It is our faith that has revealed who Jesus is to us, a revelation that comes only from the heavenly Father! What responsibility does this gift carry?

Jesus then declares to Peter, *“And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church.”* (Mt 16:18) And Peter thus took up his role as *“rock”*, the rock on which Jesus builds His church. Just like Peter, we, as people of faith, make Jesus alive in us in many ways. The more we believe and recognize that Jesus is the Son of the living God, the more we are called to yield to the Spirit, the more we are called to His work of forgiveness and reconciliation, the more we are called to keep the Father’s word.

How then can we keep the Father’s word and build His church? How then can we follow and learn from Peter’s faith and obedience to the Lord? Peter was not a highly educated man. We know that Peter was not perfect. Peter doubted and showed little faith when he was walking on water with Jesus and began to sink. Again, Peter was afraid and denied Jesus three times. He had many weaknesses, just like anyone of us. Yet after Jesus’ resurrection, Peter went on to preach and continued Jesus’ work until the end when he was crucified upside down.

As a Catholic Community, we are called to walk in the footsteps of Christ. We are called to continue to build the church of our Lord Jesus Christ just as Peter did. Jesus wants us to learn from Peter ... to be fishers of men. This was Jesus’ call to the first disciples, *“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”* (Mt 4:19) We have heard it so many times at the conclusion of the Mass, *“Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.”* We are called. We are called to serve the Lord. We are called to keep the Father’s word, to build His church. We can go out and evangelize, witness to our friends and family that Jesus is alive in us! We can participate actively in our ministry and mission works, serve in soup kitchens, visit the sick and the lonely. We can support our parish projects and activities. As we do all these, we should ask ourselves, *“Are we preparing our own grand tomb with the rock from the ground as Shebna from the first reading did? Or are we building the church with **“the rock”** of St. Peter?”* As we follow Jesus, may we always do so for the love that He has given us first, without arrogance and pride but with all humility as Jesus did on the wood of the Cross.

LORD’S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK’S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$2,690	\$95,159
Mission Collections	\$65	\$6,707
Walk Fundraising	12,874	28,989

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

- Aug 22 - LSS Orientation - ME 43, SPE 16
- Community Intercession - ME 41, SPE 15
- Aug 29 - LSS Orientation - ME 43, SPE 16
- Sep 12 - Basics of Prayer - ME 43, SPE 16
- Sep 19 - John 6 Teaching
- Sep 20* - Christian Parenting - ME 41-43, SPE 16
- CMP 1 Part 1 – LSS 1-40
- Shepherd’s Training 1 & 2 – LSS 1-40

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ
Time: Friday after worship, *Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

ASPIRANTS RETREAT

October 10-12, 2014 • CYO, Kearny NJ

Contact: King & Arlene Rigor teaching@bldnewark.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PRAYER HEALING RETREAT 2

September 13-14, 2014 • Divine Mercy Auditorium, Rahway NJ

Contacts: Sam and Rory Olaso @ samrory@gmail.com

The retreat cost is \$60 for 2 days.

Pre-requisite is completion of Prayer Healing 1.

The retreat schedule is from 8am-7pm on Saturday
and 8am-6pm on Sunday.

Attendance at all sessions from beginning to end is required.
*“I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put
within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh
and give you a heart of flesh.”* (Ez 36:26)

JOHN 6 CROSSING

September 12-14, 2014 •

St. Peter’s Retreat House, Belleville, NJ

Contacts: Tony/Marlene Brillantes john6@bldnewark.com

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Aug 29	Management
			Sep 5	Mission
			Sep 12	Pastoral
			Sep 19	Evangelization

DIRECTIONS:

1. Go out and evangelize.
2. Participate actively in your ministry work.
3. Support your parish projects and activities.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 35

Summer Edition

August 29, 2014

NEWS

Pope at Audience: As Sinners, We Are Called Daily to Conversion

Holy Father Warns Against Placing Ourselves at the Center
Vatican City, 08/27/14 (Excerpt/Zenit.org/Deborah Castellano Lubov)

Addressing thousands of pilgrims and tourists gathered in a sunny St. Peter's square at today's weekly Audience, the Holy Father reminded those present that "while we, the members of the Church, are sinners, the unity and holiness of the Church arise from God and call us daily to conversion."

Noting we are "fragile," our faith "pushes us to conversion, to have the courage to live daily unity and holiness that come from God. Jesus Christ is the source of our unity and holiness, and if we are not united, if we are not saints, it is because we are not faithful to Him. "Yet he does not leave us alone, does not abandon his Church!" he said. "In Jesus," he said, "we have an intercessor," one "who prays, especially in his passion for our unity with him and the Father, and with each other."

In spite of this, we continue to "place ourselves at the center," which leads to sins against unity, such as "jealousy," "envy," and "antipathy," even within our parish communities.

This is human, the Pope admitted, but "this is not the Church". It happens both "when we put ourselves" and "personal ambitions" first, and when we judge and look at the "faults" of others, rather than their "skills." It happens when "we give more weight to what divides us rather than what unites us."

In the Creed, Francis recalled, we affirm that the Church is *one* and that she is *holy*. "One," he noted, because she has her origin in the Triune God, mystery of unity and full communion. Holy, he added, since the Church is founded by Jesus Christ, enlivened by his Holy Spirit, and filled with his love and salvation.

"God's will, however," the Pope said, "is that we grow in our capacity to welcome one another, to forgive and to love, and to resemble Jesus." This, he continued, is the holiness of the Church, to recognize the image of God in one another.

That Jesus prayed so much for the unity of his disciples should give us comfort, the Holy Father said, noting he did so "on the eve of the Passion, when he was about to offer his life for us."

Since the Church is "one body," Francis said the faithful must stop gossiping and being jealous. "In the face of all this," he said, speaking on the third, "we must make a serious examination of conscience because division is one of the most serious sins" and "it is not a sign of God's work."

COUNSELS UNTIL IT HURTS

THEME: We believe in the Lord when we are transformed to think and act like Jesus.

WORD: Jer 20:7-9; Ps 63:2-9

Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

ORDER: "Whoever wishes to come after Me must deny himself, take up His cross and Follow Me." (Mt 16:24)

REFLECTION:

The Gospel for this Sunday forthrightly presents the suffering that awaited Jesus and anyone, who would be Jesus Christ's disciple. "Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, 'God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you.' He turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.'" (Mt 16:22-23) This shows us how poorly Peter understood the true mission of Jesus. He and the other disciples expected a Messiah and were surprised to hear their Messiah talking about His passion and death. Jesus talked about resurrection, indeed, but all they could hear was that Jesus would suffer and die and that their expected New Kingdom would die with Him.

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life?'" (Mt 16:24-26)

This was dramatized in the first reading, which portrayed the suffering endured by prophet Jeremiah, who boldly cried out to God: "You duped me, O Lord, and I let myself be duped; You were too strong for me, and You triumphed. All the day I am an object of laughter; everyone mocks me." (Jer 20:7)

Continued on page 2

Promise of the Week

"For the Son of Man will come with His angels in His Father's glory, and then He will repay all according to his conduct." (Mt 16:27)

COUNSELS (from page 1)

Jeremiah found himself rejected, mocked, and attacked constantly, because the people did not like his prophecies of doom – for prophesying to Judah and Jerusalem, a stern message of condemnation for idolatry and disobedience. He refused to prophesy any longer for the cost of suffering was too high for him, but deep within his heart, he knew that the cost of disobedience was even higher. He, inwardly, suffered more from not prophesying than for doing so. If one must suffer, it is better to suffer for obedience than for disobedience. This is the lesson that Jesus teaches with His life: “suffering is not the goal, but the cost of discipleship”.

In Romans 12:2, Paul directs us: **“Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.”**

How are we to accomplish this? It is by offering our bodies, as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, using Jesus’ standards, which demand greater effort and deeper commitment than norms suggested by our human nature or worldly wisdom. Rationalizations or excuses like “I am not qualified for the task ahead”, or “I am not ready”, or “I am very busy with my work”, or “I don’t have time”, or other easy ways out and compromises have lined the pavements of complacency and indifference. It takes serious commitment, serious discipleship to square with the discipline of living up to the patterns of Jesus’ example.

As His followers, we are expected to be cast into difficult, painful, and trying situations. It is not when our circumstances are most comfortable that we are transformed, but when we are tested by fire that we believe in the Lord and therefore, our walk with Him truly becomes walking in His footsteps. It is not merely hearing His word, serving with little inconveniences, speaking loving and kind words when required, but sincerely giving up a self-centered life.

Indeed, the only way to discipleship is to respond to God’s call, “Follow me” and to empty ourselves until we are nothing, **until it hurts**. It is to follow the footsteps of Christ, to be men for others, to be Christ to others. It is to deny ourselves of our desire to cut the cross to make it lighter. If we are true followers of Jesus, we must be content to fellowship with Him in His suffering, so that we may rejoice and be counted worthy to suffer dishonor for His Holy Name. The Lord did not say that we will accomplish this in this lifetime, but putting ourselves in the lifestyle will enable Him to work in us and for us to claim His promise: **“For the Son of Man will come with His glory, and then, He will repay all according to his conduct.”** (Mt 16:27)

LORD’S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK’S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$3,024	\$98,183
Mission Collections	\$110	\$6,817
Walk Fundraising	2,855	31,844

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

- Aug 29** - LSS Orientation - ME 43, SPE 16
- Sep 12** - Basics of Prayer - ME 43, SPE 16
- Sep 19** - John 6 Teaching
- Sep 20*** - Christian Parenting - ME 41-43, SPE 16
 - CMP 1 Part 1 – LSS 1-40
 - Shepherd’s Training 1 & 2 – LSS 1-40

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

Time: Friday after worship, *Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

ASPIRANTS RETREAT

October 10-12, 2014 • CYO, Kearny NJ

Contact: King/Arlene Rigor teaching@bldnewark.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PRAYER HEALING RETREAT 2

September 13-14, 2014 • Divine Mercy Auditorium, Rahway NJ

Contacts: Sam/Rory Olaso @ samrory@ymail.com

The retreat cost is \$60 for 2 days.

Pre-requisite is completion of Prayer Healing 1.

The retreat schedule is from 8am-7pm on Saturday and
8am-6pm on Sunday.

Attendance at all sessions from beginning to end is required.

JOHN 6 CROSSING

September 12-14, 2014 • St. Peter’s Retreat House, Belleville, NJ

Contacts: Tony/Marlene Brillantes john6@bldnewark.com

ADULT LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR #43

October 3-5, 2014 ~ Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway, NJ

Contacts: Lito/Gigi Vibar: litogigi@vibar.com

Marshaling			Date	Apostolate
			Sep 5	Mission
			Sep 12	Pastoral
			Sep 19	Evangelization
			Sep 26	Formation

DIRECTIONS:

1. Accept your trials as a way of following Christ.
2. Share your time, talent and treasure generously through your ministry work.

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



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 36

Bulletin Edition

September 5, 2014

NEWS

Pope Francis: It is Sad to See 'Watered Down Christians'

Reflects on the Need to Be in a Constant State of Renewal During Sunday Angelus

Vatican City, August 31, 2014 (Zenit.org) [Junno Arocho Esteves](#)

The Gospel, the Eucharist and Prayer are the three gifts that allow us to walk the path of Christ and not of the world. This was the theme of Pope Francis' address during Sunday's Angelus.

The Holy Father reflected on today's Gospel from St. Matthew, where Jesus tells his disciples that He must go to Jerusalem to suffer, die and rise from the dead. When Peter rebukes Him, Jesus in turn reproaches him saying "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

This critical moment, the Holy Father noted, speaks to the reality of Christians today who run the risk of becoming worldly, or "watered down." "It is sad to find watered down Christians, who are like watered wine," he said. "You can't tell whether they are Christian or worldly."

"It is sad to find Christians that are no longer the salt of the Earth. And we know that when salt loses its flavor, it is no longer useful. Their salt has lost its flavor because they are committed to the spirit of this world. That is, they have become worldly."

The Pope emphasized the need for Christians to be in a constant state of renewal. In order to achieve this, he highlighted three gifts, the first being, to read and meditate on the Gospel.

"Remember, it would help you to carry a Gospel with you, a small book of Gospels, in your pocket or in your purse, and read a small passage during the day. But always the Gospel because it is carrying the Word of Jesus and being able to read it," he reminded the faithful.

Receiving the Eucharist, especially during Sunday Mass, and spending several days of retreat, he added, "are very important for spiritual renewal." "Gospel, Eucharist, Prayer. Do not forget: Gospel, Eucharist and Prayer. Thanks to these gifts from the Lord, we can conform not

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

"I AM IN YOUR MIDST"

THEME: We love one another when we listen to each other and live in harmony and peace.

WORD: Ez 33:7-9 / Ps 95:1-2,6-7,8-9
Rom 13:8-10 / Mt 18:15-20

ORDER: *Disciples of Christ who gather in His name love one another.*

REFLECTION:

This week's first reading reminds us that we should be willing to accept correction from those who are in authority over us so that we too may be able to correct those who are under our authority. Going further, as we minister to others, we too should be willing to be ministered to. Love of neighbor should be our first consideration when we confront and correct others, as emphasized in the second reading. The Gospel gives us an outline on how to confront and correct in a gentle spirit (Gal 6: 1), and forgive within and even outside the confines of community life; for as we are reconciled with one another, our prayers will be heard by our Father in heaven.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are told not to be judgmental or vengeful. St. Paul says, "*Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse... Do not repay evil for evil; be concerned of what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live in peace with all. Beloved, do not look for revenge but leave room for wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay says the Lord'. Rather, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by doing so you will heap burning coals upon his head. Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good.*" (Rom 12:14, 17-21)

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

(Mt 18:20)

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

We are God's Co-workers

“For we are God’s co-workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.” (1 Cor 3:9)

This is a testament of our Lord’s love and humility, that He considers us as His co-workers. By making us His co-workers, He treats us with equality in all our efforts to be part of what is currently referred to as the new evangelization.

It does not matter how long we have been in the community, or what position we hold, or what ministry we belong to, or what our educational background or professional achievement is. ***“For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another.”*** (Rom 12:4-5)



Even the new members of our community are an integral part of our collective efforts in building a community of believers as they are being prepared for the tasks ahead. The rest of us should act as humble servants for them to emulate. We all belong to one community with one mission that is based upon God’s unconditional love for all. This mission depends upon the qualities that are required of us, which are our willingness and dedication to share and make others feel His love.

It all starts with our faith in God, our belief that He is with us through His Most Holy Spirit when we do the works that He anoints us to do. He will never abandon us, and we should love Him and others with the same unconditional love that He has for us. He is our strength, our hope and our courage and the source of all goodness in everything we do. So let us always be reminded that faith alone is not enough. As in James 2:2, it says: ***“For just as a body without a spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.”*** And as it is said, our actions speak louder than words.

Our faith includes our belief that God knows what is in our heart. Our works should be done out of love for others, especially those who need love the most. Only then can we be considered as a loving and caring community and a manifestation of His presence in our lives.

Faith in action with love makes us deserving to be called “God’s co-workers.”

ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA



Everyone is being called by God to work for His glory. For some it may be to defend his or her belief in God. For Saint Teresa of Calcutta, better known as Mother Teresa, her religious vocation drew her to work among the poorest of the poor.

Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu was born to a well-respected businessman and a devoutly Christian woman. When she was eight years old, her father died. In her adolescent years she became involved in her parish. In September 1928, Agnes joined the Loreto Convent in Dublin, Ireland. On October 12th, as a postulant, she received the name Teresa after her patroness, Saint Therese of Lisieux.

She departed for India in 1929, and settled in Calcutta. In May 1931, she made her First Profession of Vows, became the “spouse of Jesus for all eternity” and was hereafter referred to as Mother Teresa. While in Calcutta, she taught at St. Mary’s School for girls and later became the school’s principal. Her charity, unselfishness and courage filled Mother Teresa’s twenty years in Loreto with pure happiness.

At her annual retreat in Darjeeling, she received her “call within a call.” Overwhelmed with Jesus’ thirst for love and the desire to satiate His thirst overtook her life. In interior locutions and visions, she saw His pain at the neglect of the poor, their ignorance of Him and His longing for their love.

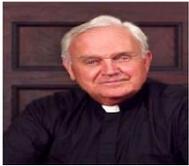
Mother Teresa’s first visit of the slums in Calcutta on December 1948 was to care for the sick children and to nurse the hungry and dying back to life. Each day began with Communion and Rosary. She set out to find and serve God amongst “the unwanted, the unloved, and the uncared for.

The new congregation of the Missionaries of Charity was established in the Archdiocese of Calcutta on October 7, 1950. It was dedicated to serving the poorest of the poor, followed by the Missionaries of Charity Brothers, Contemplative branch of Sisters, Contemplative Brothers, and the Missionaries of Charity Fathers. The Workers of Mother Teresa and the Sick and Suffering Co-workers were formed for those without religious vocations. Inspired to create the Lay Missionaries of Charity, Mother Teresa began the Corpus Christi Movement for Priests.

Mother Teresa received the Indian Padmashri Award in 1962 and the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, which she received “for the glory of God and in the name of the poor.”

Continued on page 4

FR PAUL SPEAKS ON ECUMENISM



When the subject of “ecumenism” comes up there are many aspects in interreligious dialogue that need to be kept clear. In our desire for openness and unity we can easily gloss over the precise differences as well as similarities that have to be made when we dialogue about relationships with other religions.

The relationship we may have with our Protestant Christian friends is different from that with our non-Christian friends. In every day interaction in business or chance meetings, the subject of religion rarely comes up; and business is conducted between parties that are not aware of the other person’s religious affiliation. But when families and children begin to talk about a religious or spiritual relationship, the conversation changes. This is especially true in the case of a marriage between a Catholic and non-Catholic. The experience I have had as a priest has led me to the conclusion that religion can often be a cause of division instead of unity. Deep sensitivity is necessary when arranging a marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic.

“Ecumenism,” even though the word is often used differently, more precisely refers to the relationship among Christian Churches, both Catholic and Protestant. There are two documents on Church relationships flowing from Vatican II. One addresses our relationship with non-Christian religions and the other, our relationship with other Christians. Our relationship with those who with us recognize the divinity of Jesus and His redemptive work is radically different from that of our relationship with a Jew or Moslem.

There is very much we have in common with other Christians. To believe in the Lordship of Jesus and the divine inspiration of the Scriptures is a big step forward in a dialogue that can follow when these first steps are agreed upon. The big difference between Catholic and Protestant Christianity is the authoritative role the Church has in its relationship with the Bible and the fullness of revelation. We Catholics are not “Bible- alone” believing Christians. The major teaching of the Catholic Church in this area is that we possess the fullness of revealed truth. I know it sounds arrogant, but the reality is that many other churches are missing dimensions that we insist are part of the revelation given to us by Jesus. This is not a judgment or condemnation of individual Christians (who may be closer to Jesus than we Catholics). This is an objective evaluation of structure.

This distinction can be the first step in any dialogue. It can also be a misunderstood obstacle to unity. Before discussions on differences, it is important to be in spiritual and prayerful communion with all our Protestant brothers and sisters with whom we have a real, if incomplete, relationship.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

During Biblical times, when there were no matches with which to light a fire, one man from the village was always assigned to keep the charcoal fire burning through the night. In the morning, he went around the village distributing the burning charcoal so the women could cook. In the spiritual sense, he was bringing goodwill, the grace and love of God to his neighbors. St. Paul admonishes us likewise to be the instruments of God’s grace and love to those around us.

The reality is that we too are wounded, frail human beings who are easily hurt and are just as quick to react. That is why we should be faithful in our prayer life that we may remain in the presence of Jesus and be aware always of God’s love and compassion for us, **“for as we abide in Him, He will abide in us.”** (Jm 4:8) As we deepen our relationship with Jesus, faithful in meditating and acting on His Word and in our frequent reception of the Sacraments, Jesus will continue to heal us. He will renew our minds and raise our earthly concerns to heavenly realities. He will instill in our hearts the thought that those who have hurt us or whom we have hurt are, like ourselves, equally deserving of eternal life. Jesus will support us with His Holy Spirit in healing those wounded areas in our hearts that remain sensitive and vulnerable to hurts.

With Jesus in our hearts, we will not exert effort to defend our honor and name when maligned or when there is false accusation. Rather, knowing Jesus will defend us, we will continue to forgive, lay those hurts at His cross, and bless those who persecute us. **“For as we continue to pray and forgive seventy times seventy; we can bear one another’s burden and so fulfill the law of Christ.”** (Gal 6:2) We will no longer let foul language escape from our lips, but only words that serve to edify and impart grace upon those who hear them. We will not grieve the Holy Spirit with which we were sealed for the day of redemption. We will be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another, as God has forgiven us in Christ (Eph 4: 29, 30, 32).

As we commit to a life of harmony and peace, we can be assured of this week’s Promise for us from the Lord: **“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”** (Mt 18:20)

Reflection Question:

1. How is my relationship with others? Do I still find it difficult to forgive others? How about those whom I have hurt?
2. How can I commit to a life of reconciliation and harmony?

ST TERESA (from page 2)

Although she experienced a deep, painful feeling of being separated from God, along with an increasing longing for His love, she continued to faithfully serve Him. Mother Teresa was beatified and named a saint, the patron of World Youth Day. Her feast day is on the same day she returned to God: September 5th.

Pope Francis: It is Sad... (from page 1)

to the world, but to Christ, and to follow Him on His path, the path of "losing one's own life" in order to find it," he said.

Concluding his address, Pope Francis told the faithful that through these three gifts, all Christians can follow the path of Christ, who gave His life, thus purifying us and freeing us from selfishness.

"The Virgin Mary always precedes us on this path; let us be guided and accompanied by Her," he concluded before reciting the Angelus prayer.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROJECT I DO/MASS WEDDING

What: For couples who are civilly married but not sacramentally married in church / those who want to be married in church.

When: November 9, 2014

Place: St. Mary's Church, Rahway NJ

Requirements & details: Contact Ray/Susie Atenza:

[908-463-0449](tel:908-463-0449)/bldassistedparish@bldnewark.com

Deadline for submission of application: October 1, 2014

A SPECIAL INVITATION FROM THE DIVINE MERCY PARISH

A Study Program on "The Eucharist"

by Fr. Robert Barron, the source and summit of the Christian life.

Every Thursday night from September 11, 18 & 25

@ 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM in the Church Auditorium.

Experience for yourself the profound mystery of the Eucharist in this 3-week sessions: The Sacred Meal, Sacrifice, The Real Presence

Please register now as space is limited. Registration is free.

Deadline: September 9, 2014

Study guide booklets will be purchased upon registration. Cost is \$ 12.00.

Contacts: Ray and Susie Atenza- 908-463-0449/ 908-463-0432

18th Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities (AFCCPC) National Convention –

September 12-14, 2014

Hilton Parsippany, One Hilton Court
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Cost: Adult Pre-registration \$40; Walk-in \$50

One Day Registration only \$20.00

Youth (12-18 yrs. old) Pre-registration \$20; Walk-in \$30;

One Day Registration Only \$10.00

Contact Person: Purita Vazquez 201-737-0757,

pv.jerseycity@comcast.net

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$3,033	\$101,216
Mission Collections	\$112	\$ 6,929
Walk Fundraising	1,450	33,294

Financial details are available to all members through

treasury@bldnewark.com

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

Sep 12 - Basics of Prayer - ME 43, SPE 16

Sep 19 - John 6 Teaching

Sep 20* - Christian Parenting - ME 41-43, SPE 16

- CMP 1 Part 1 – LSS 1-40

- Shepherd's Training 1 & 2 – LSS 1-40

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

Time: Friday after worship, *Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

ASPIRANTS RETREAT

October 10-12, 2014 • CYO, Kearny NJ

Contact: King/Arlene Rigor teaching@bldnewark.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PRAYER HEALING RETREAT 2

September 13-14, 2014 • Divine Mercy Auditorium, Rahway NJ

Contacts: Sam/Rory Olaso @ samrory@ymail.com

The retreat cost is \$60 for 2 days.

Pre-requisite is completion of Prayer Healing 1.

The retreat schedule is from 8am-7pm on Saturday and
8am-6pm on Sunday.

Attendance at all sessions from beginning to end is required.

JOHN 6 CROSSING

September 12-14, 2014 • St. Peter's Retreat House, Belleville, NJ

Contacts: Tony/Marlene Brillantes john6@bldnewark.com

ADULT LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR # 43

October 3-5, 2014 ~ Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway, NJ

Contacts: Lito/Gigi Vibar: litogigi@vibar.com

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER # 44

Date: November 14-16, 2014

Location: Hotel Executive Suites

30 Minue St. Carteret NJ

Contacts: Nong/Tricia Bustos ~ mla@bldnewark.com

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Sep 12	Pastoral
			Sep 19	Evangelization
			Sep 26	Formation
			Oct 3	Management



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 37

Bulletin Edition

September 12, 2014

NEWS

COUNSELS

HUMBLE OBEDIENCE

Filipino Youth Bring Social Media Evangelization to New Level

Ministry Leader Comments on What Francis Should Expect During His 2015 Visit

Rome, September 07, 2014 (Zenit.org) [Kathleen Naab](#)

Pope Francis will visit the Philippines at the start of next year, and according to one youth leader, he will find there a tremendous outpouring of love from young Filipinos, who are actively embracing the Church and her ministry.

One example of this is the group YouthPinoy, under the auspices of the bishops' conference. This weekend YouthPinoy is hosting its third summit on evangelization through social media, a particular mission the present and recent popes have spoken about for young Catholics.

ZENIT asked the director of the event, YouthPinoy secretary Nirva Delacruz, to tell us about the ministry and what she thinks Francis will find in the Philippines.

ZENIT: What is YouthPinoy? How did it get started and what does it do?

Delacruz: YouthPinoy is a group of young online missionaries under the auspices of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) Media Office and the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Youth (ECY). The group was a joint initiative of CBCP Media Office director Msgr. Pedro Quitarro III and then-CBCP ECY bishop chairman Bishop Joel Z. Baylon.

They came together and talked about what the Church in the Philippines was doing to respond to then Pope Benedict XVI's call to "evangelize the digital continent". So they got together and thought of forming a group of young people who would be committed to online evangelization.

Continued on page 3

THEME: We love one another when we humble ourselves in obedience.

WORD: Nm 21:4-9 / Ps 79:1-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38
Phil 2:6-11 / John 3:13-17

ORDER: "At the Name of Jesus every knee should bend... and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord." (Phil 2:10-11)

REFLECTION:

In the 1st reading God reveals to His people His salvation plan. When the Israelites sinned against God because of their lack of trust in His providence, He punished them by sending serpents which bit them and caused them to die. When they realized how they had sinned against God, the Israelites asked Moses to intercede for them. God then instructed Moses to make a bronze serpent and raise it high, so that those who were bitten could look at the bronze image and live.

The same is true for all of us who have sinned against God. To appease God's justice we need the blood sacrifice of God's own Son, Jesus. The healing power of His Cross, lifted high, saves us from death and eternal condemnation. Through Jesus humble obedience to His Father we have life and the promise of life eternal.

Through Jesus, God revealed to Nicodemus, and to all of us, His total self-giving love. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"For God so love the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." (Jn 3:16)

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

HEALING OF THE HEART

“Everyone in the crowd sought to touch him because power came forth from him and healed them all.”(Luke 6:19)

We all have experienced many trials in our lives, significant or otherwise. Some are light but some are so heavy that they can take a toll on our mental, emotional and spiritual state of well-being. We all try to balance the hectic lives that we live with demanding jobs, marriage and relationships, financial and moral obligations, extended family and friends, health issues, loneliness, etc. and we find it harder and harder to find the peace and happiness that we crave. People try to find that elusive happy state by pursuing the worldly things in life only to find in the end that these are not the answer. That has been my journey.

All throughout my life I thought I had done all the right things. I worked my fingers to the bone and saved for the future, was faithful to my marriage, went to church religiously and prayed the rosary. I have spent many years serving in my parish and the BLD community. But alas, all these are not enough! I have found that, at the end of the day, it has not given me the complete happiness that I am looking for. I have come to the realization that I have to truly seek Jesus in my life so I can be completely healed, emotionally and spiritually. I have to let go of all the pain and bitterness of the past and let the power of the Lord penetrate my life and make me whole again. I need to truly reach out and touch Jesus, and the healing will come only after I have completely let go. I know Jesus will heal all the wounds of my broken heart only if I allow Him to do so.

Lord please come into my life and allow Your healing power to penetrate into my soul and being. Watch over me and pour upon me the grace of complete surrender that I may always seek Your face all the days of my life, Amen.

“... I will give them another heart and a new spirit I will put within them. From their bodies I will remove the hearts of stone, and give them hearts of flesh, so that they walk according to my statutes, taking care to keep my ordinances. Thus they will be my people, and I will be their God.” (Ez 11:19-20)



Run to Win

Ever watch a marathon? Despite all the entrants, there is always just one winner (ok, two or more if you consider the many categories – men’s, women’s, wheelchair, etc.). There are many who train just as hard as the eventual winners, sacrificing so much...



and join even though they know that they have no shot at all at winning any of the official prizes.

But in a very real sense, they join because they can gain a victory more precious than first place plaquidts. It’s because in practical reality, they run a one-man race... they run against themselves. And it’s not just about finishing the race, but it’s more about conquering many things, the biggest of which is overcoming the many obstacles they place in the way of that victory... placed there by themselves.

In 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, St. Paul exhorts this: ***“Run to win.”*** He goes on to say that, ***“Every athlete exercises discipline in every way... to win a perishable crown... but we, an imperishable one.”*** But to achieve that imperishable crown, it isn’t enough to just run. St. Paul himself says it in verse 27- ***“I drive my body and train it...”*** And then he says one other interesting thing in that verse – ***“for fear that, after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.”***

In athletics, we applaud those who attain successes, but when we find out that these championships are tainted by scandal and cheating, then the players are scorned. In the race we run against ourselves, perhaps no one will scorn us when we fail in discipline, when we cheat a little, when we sin. It could very well be that only we ourselves, and God Himself, will ever know. We could preach to others about being good, maybe even look good while doing so, and yet be disqualified by the other things we say and do. Others may not know it, but ultimately, He knows it. And, I would argue that so would we, making for a hollow victory when we consider the times and ways we fall short and underachieve, shortchanging God and our own selves in this race called life.

As in that marathon, the only real way to assure that precious victory, in this very personal race we’re running, is via training, discipline, and perseverance. So as St. Paul rightly says (paraphrased): always train for it and run to win that imperishable crown... a victory that ultimately only needs to be known by you... and Him.

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century. A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its Church year with September. The September 8 date helped determine the date for the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8 (nine months earlier).



Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth. However, the apocryphal Protoevangelium of James fills in the gap and reflects the development of Christian piety. According to this account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child that will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story (like many biblical counterparts) stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning.

St. Augustine connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed." The opening prayer at Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation and asks for an increase of peace.

We can see every human birth as a call for new hope in the world. The love of two human beings joins with God in his creative work. The loving parents have shown hope in a world filled with travail. The new child has the potential to be a channel of God's love and peace to the world. This is all true in a magnificent way in Mary. If Jesus is the perfect expression of God's love, Mary is the foreshadowing of that love. If Jesus has brought the fullness of salvation, Mary is its dawning.

Birthday celebrations bring happiness to the celebrant as well as to family and friends. Next to the birth of Jesus, Mary's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world. Each time we celebrate her birth we can confidently hope for an increase of peace in our hearts and in the world at large.

COUNSELS *(from page 1)*

God is calling us to look at His Son on the cross and see His love poured down on us. He is gently calling us to love Him back. Like the father in the parable of the prodigal son, He is waiting for us every day to return to Him, to choose Him first in our thoughts, cares, choices and actions. How can we reject or ignore such Love? Brothers and sisters, wake up! We have a senseless life without God's love. We have to encounter His love to be truly alive. Not just with our lips and words should we confess our love for Him, but let us show it in our actions and our choices in life. Let us place our faith, trust and love in Jesus, accept our cross everyday with humble obedience and serve Him through the brothers and sisters we meet every day.

DIRECTIONS:

- 1. In times of triumph and suffering, keep your eyes on Jesus.**
- 2. Observe reverence in the house of the Lord.**

NEWS *(from page 1)*

They called a boatload of young people from different Catholic organizations to crack their brains about this specific group, thus, YouthPinoy was born in 2009, though it was only officially launched in 2010.

Primarily, YP would carry out its mandate through its website, www.youthpinoy.com, but it would grow to include other stuff like World Youth Day coverage and the Catholic Social Media Summit to fulfill being "online missionaries of God" or what we call OMGs.

ZENIT: What is the Catholic Social Media Summit? When did it start and what are its goals?

Delacruz: The Catholic Social Media Summit is the flagship event of YouthPinoy. It started in 2012 with the first one carrying the theme "Ministering Grace to this Generation" from Ephesians 4:29. Nearly 500 people from all over the country attended the first CSMS.

Primarily, YouthPinoy came up with the idea of having the CSMS because we needed a platform to cascade the advocacy of online evangelization. The first CSMS focused on just encouraging Catholics to bring their faith online, so there were a lot of skills workshops during the first CSMS, on photography, on microblogging, even on how to make creative power point presentations, things like that....

Continued on page 4

NEWS (from page 3)

ZENIT: As a youth leader, what is your outlook on the future of the Church in the Philippines? What will Pope Francis find in Filipino youth?

Delacruz: I'm full of hope and a sense of pride in being not just Catholic, but a Filipino Catholic. St. John Paul II has called us a "light to the rest of Asia", some people call us the "Irish of Asia" and so on and so forth. Personally, I think the Philippines is one of the last remaining bastions of pro-life common sense. We have not yet legalized abortion, divorce, same-sex marriage and though we recently lost the fight against a divisive bill on contraception, it seems like the ruling was more in our favor. Young Catholics were a crucial factor in all these developments. We remain a dynamic, passionate and idealistic segment of Philippine society.

I think simply, he'll be getting a lot of love from us, young Filipinos. As in a lot of LOVE! And we hope the Holy Father will not tire of our affection because as early as now, I know of young people coming up with their own personal initiatives to prepare for January 2015. (<http://www.cbcpnews.com/cbcpnews/?p=40252>)

Note that these are all young men and young male Marian devotees at that! I'm really proud to be a Filipino Catholic at this point in time. Praise God for all these graces!

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROJECT I DO/MASS WEDDING

November 9, 2014 ~ St. Mary's Church, Rahway NJ

What: For couples who are civilly married but not sacramentally married in church / those who want to be married in church.

Requirements & details: Contact Ray/Susie Atenza: [908-463-0449](tel:908-463-0449)/bldassistedparish@bldnewark.com

Deadline for submission of application: October 1, 2014

FR. PAUL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

September 27, 2014 ~ 11 AM – 4:30 PM

11 AM: Eucharistic Celebration – DMP Church
12:15 – 4:30 PM: Lunch/Fellowship/Presentation – DMP Auditorium

DLC MEETING

September 23, 2014 • 7:30 PM
Divine Mercy Parish Library

Marshaling		Date	Apostolate
		Sep 19	Evangelization
		Sep 26	Formation
		Oct 3	Management
		Oct 10	Mission

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$2,734	\$103,950
Mission Collections	\$14	\$ 6,943
Walk Fundraising	300	33,574

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

Sep 19 - John 6 Teaching

Sep 20* - Christian Parenting - ME 41-43, SPE 16

- CMP 1 Part 1 – LSS 1-40

- Shepherd's Training 1 & 2 – LSS 1-40

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

Time: Friday after worship, *Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

ASPIRANTS RETREAT

October 10-12, 2014 • CYO, Kearny NJ

Contact: King/Arlene Rigor teaching@bldnewark.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PRAYER HEALING RETREAT 2

September 13-14, 2014 • Divine Mercy Auditorium, Rahway NJ

Contacts: Sam/Rory Olaso @ samrory@gmail.com

The retreat cost is \$60 for 2 days.

Pre-requisite is completion of Prayer Healing 1.

The retreat schedule is from 8am-7pm on Saturday and 8am-6pm on Sunday.

Attendance at all sessions from beginning to end is required.

ADULT LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR # 43

October 3-5, 2014 ~ Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway, NJ

Contacts: Lito/Gigi Vibar: litogigi@vibar.com

SINGLES ENCOUNTER # 33

Date: November 7-9, 2014

Location: _ Graymoor Spiritual Life Center
Garrison, NY

Contacts: Jojo/Adelle Orosa ~ ja_orsosa@yahoo.com

Jutt Bustos ~ Justin.bustos@gmail.com

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER # 44

Date: November 14-16, 2014

Location: _Hotel Executive Suites

30 Minue St. Carteret NJ

Contacts: Nong/Tricia Bustos ~ mia@bldnewark.com

Please notify the Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 38

Bulletin Edition

September 19, 2014

NEWS

John 6 Crossing #15 yields 31



The John 6 Crossings #15 weekend had one of the largest classes yet with thirty one candidates, including ten from North Carolina and five from Rockland, NY.

Over the course of the weekend, we could see a strong bond has formed among them and witnessed the mindset of the candidates transformed. They learned more about God and themselves. Now they see God as a friend to whom they can turn during their most difficult times or just as a friend to talk to about anything in general. *Continued on page 2*

Prayer Healing 2 Retreat

Prayer Healing II retreat, a program by the Pastoral Ministry conducted by established BLD teachers of prayer ministry was successfully held at the DMP Library last weekend (Sep 13-14). The intensely biblical training teaches several ingredients to facilitate the process of sanctification:

- Confession: bringing to the light what has been held in secret.
- Repentance: exercising godly grief based in love for God and for those who have been wounded, resulting in real change.
- Forgiveness: releasing to God those who have hurt us, as well as asking Him to forgive us for our own sin.

It is by these three acts that we are reconciled to God and to one another. Christ's work is complete, but God is still at work in our lives. True freedom requires recognizing that many of today's problems have their roots in our sinful responses to yesterday's wounds and these problems cannot easily be erased by fleshly efforts at good behavior. *Continued on page 3*

COUNSELS

ARE WE TRULY GENEROUS?

THEME: **We love one another when we are generous with our time, talent and treasure.**

WORD: Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3,8-9,17-18
Phil 1:20-24,27/Mt 20:1-16

ORDER: **“Conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ.”** (Phil 1:27a)

REFLECTION:

Our worship theme for the coming week is: “We love one another when we are generous with our time, talent and treasure.” The key word in our theme is “generous”.

As we will notice in the readings for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, one common theme also emerges and that is God’s generosity to us. In the first reading from Isaiah, verse 7 says, **“Let them turn to the LORD to find mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving.”** The Lord is generous in mercy and forgiveness. In Psalm 145 verses 8 and 9, the psalmist extolls God’s generosity in His patience, kindness, and compassion: **“The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in mercy. The LORD is good to all, compassionate toward all your works.”** In the second reading, St. Paul acknowledges Christ’s generosity towards him when the Lord transformed him despite his prior life of persecuting Christians. It is in response to God’s generosity that St. Paul himself was as generous in living and giving his life for the sake of the Gospel (ref. Phil 1:20-24).

Finally, from the Gospel parable of the workers in the vineyard, God’s generosity in His Justice assures us “that all who respond to the call of Jesus, at whatever time (first or last), will be the same in respect to inheriting the benefits of the kingdom, which is the gift of God.” (uscgb.org) *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

“The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all his works.” (Psalm 145:9)

ONE IN SPIRIT



In his letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul reminds the church that the magnificent spiritual gifts and marvelous works are all given by and through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity, is the eternal love shared between the Father and the Son for us. Having been baptized in the names of the three persons

of the Holy Trinity, we have become one body--one church. Paul encourages us to use the spiritual gifts we receive through the Holy Spirit in union with the Church.

Saint Paul was one of the greatest, and perhaps the most well-known, evangelists the church has ever seen. After being commissioned by Jesus Christ himself, he preached the Gospel throughout Asia Minor and Europe, founding many church communities. From Paul's writings, we can clearly see that this great evangelizer was also a great theologian, with a firm understanding of God's love as the basis of his ministry. Paul knew that God would provide everything he would need to succeed in his mission. As such, Saint Paul's gifts to the Church take on three aspects: the evangelical, in his spreading of the Gospel during the Church's infancy; the theological, in his divinely-inspired writings; and the spiritual, through his faith in God that led to his martyrdom, Paul the Apostle became Saint Paul, who has been given the beatific vision in heaven and constantly intercedes for us.

Like Saint Paul, we have each been chosen by God. Jesus, the eternal Word of God, has known us since we were formed in the womb, and has called each of us by name. And like Paul, we have each received different gifts through the same Spirit. We are called to unite these gifts, first within ourselves, and then within our Church, to serve the Lord. Though our gifts, service, and callings may be different, we have all been baptized into the Church, the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27). Let us pray that God will continue to draw us closer to Him, and that our efforts, as members of Christ's body, may be united in glorifying Him. *

John 6 Crossing (from page 1)

As the candidates themselves shared their experiences, we could sense that they really enjoyed the retreat and its purpose - to be closer to God. This whole experience was made possible with the help of the moderators Anthony Lucero, Dana DeCastro, Kaye Pepino, and Kyle Flores, together with the love and assistance of Father Paul Lehman, the Spiritual Director.

By Sunday, the bond among them was so amazing that they were practically inseparable. Let us be united in welcoming the newest members of our John 6 ministry: Michelle Akinwutan, Colleen Alcano, Nicole Alcano, Mike Alesna, CJ Amano, Ian Amano, Ralph Aquirre, 

Without Love

1 Corinthians 13:2

We all know that because of God's love for us, He gave the life of His only begotten son to save us from sin. We all know that Jesus loved us so much that He willingly went into His Passion and remained obedient to the Father's will. Is there a greater display of the tremendous wonders that love can do than this, to die so others may live? Can you imagine living without God's great love?

Just think about it, because of love, we are saved. As we encounter many situations and face many choices in life, it is easy to overlook God's most important blessing, love. We are continually presented with opportunities to choose love over other things. Yes, as God's children, we are capable of doing great things out of love for others.

With the gift of knowledge through the Holy Spirit, we come to understand and realize that God is life. He created nature to be the source of medicines and provided the talents to those involved in sustaining life on earth. He is "love" that works through us even in the simple instance of helping an elderly stranger pick off a heavy item from the top of the grocery shelf. This is God's love at work.

Let us imagine two contrasting situations: a painter who painted the most beautiful image but was not willing to share it with others; and a 5-year old who drew a family portrait with a crayon and on a crumpled piece of paper that is displayed on the family's refrigerator door. Which piece do you think brought joy to others? True joy is the result of sharing love.

What matters most is the intent or the sincerity behind our actions and not the amount of what we do or give. Oftentimes, we tend to lose hold of our own intentions and we tend to focus instead on what we could gain in return. We tend to forget that God's love is in us waiting to be shared.

So the next time we open a door for a stranger, or when we hand over our love offering during offertory, or the next time we cook breakfast for our family, let us think about our intentions. Take a moment to feel what is in our heart and ask ourselves, "are we doing this with love?" Hopefully, we realize that without love, what we do is meaningless.

Khristine Bautista, CJ Diolina, Catheryn Duarte, Julia Duarte, Mick Estiler, Shayne Furigay, Justine Georfo, Matt Golamco, Rufus Gomez, Sam Ilagan, Briege Julien, Sean Kennedy, Caine Lambert, Chris Layo, Kate Morales, Ally Narciso, Philip Ojo, Zoe Parreno, Yanna Quirante, Bob/Jr. Quirante, Amanda Reyes, Jayliz Sowell, Frankie Syquia, and Tricia Yanto.

We hope that next year's class will be even larger so that more will be enlightened through their knowledge of God. The John 6 weekend is one that will not be forgotten.

JC 15... "Grooving with God!" *

Hide Me in the Shadow of Your Wings

“You are my hiding place... whenever I am afraid I will trust in you.” What a powerful song! When David wrote Psalm 17, he had pretty much the same thought in mind. He was seeking protection from his enemies who were pressing in all around him. So he prayed:

“Show your wonderful mercy, you who deliver with your right arm those who seek refuge from their foes. Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings.” (Ps17:7-8)

In itself, a shadow may not be much of a hiding place, but this is God’s shadow. In it one finds safety, warmth, peace, and hope. In Matthew 23:37b, Jesus is mourning the unfaithfulness of the people of Jerusalem when he says, **“how many times I yearned to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her young under her wing, but you were unwilling.”** Jesus wants us to feel the protective instinct of a mother hen who hides her chicks under her wings when danger is near, as she draws them close to her heart so they feel safe and warm in their feathered hiding place.

A few years ago I found myself facing a powerful enemy, an addiction that eventually took control of my life. I thought I could overcome it on my own. It got to the point where I felt God could not nor did not want to help me. I finally decided to seek the help of a spiritual director who made me realize how much God wants to help me by hiding me in the “shadow of His wings” and holding me close to His heart.

God has given us so many ways to seek His help. We have Mary our Mother to whom I go more than ever to pray for her intercession - and it works!

We also have our guardian angels whom God has given us, although we do not seem to depend on them as much as we did during childhood. God gave them to us for a reason, as the prayer says: “to light and guard, to rule and guide.”

Our first defense against any enemy is to ask God to protect us. Through the intercession of our Blessed Mother and/or the protection of our guardian angels, God Himself covers us and we can rest secure in the safety of the shadow of His wings. *

Prayer Healing 2 (from page 1)

Forty three community members participated in the retreat which covered topics such as Generational Sins, How we See God, Depression, Parental Inversion and Substitute Mate, Healing Life’s Common Sexual Experiences, Emotional Abuse, Slumbering and Captive Spirit, Care and Feeding of the Spirit, Healing Victims of Sexual Abuse, Spiritual Rebellion and Dyslexia, Inner Healing and 

COUNSELS (from page 1)

So if God is so generous to us, shouldn’t we be just as generous to one another? You are probably thinking to yourself, “But I am already generous! I regularly donate money to different causes - - to my parish, to my community, to several charities. I give my time to visit the sick and to serve in the soup kitchen. I play the piano and sing for the elderly residents at a nursing home.” If you are already doing these, well and good! But listen to what the Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen said: **“Never measure your generosity by what you give, but rather by what you have left.”**

Do you still have a lot of money left over after you have given to all the worthy causes? Do you still have a lot of time to spare after you’ve visited all the different places where you serve? Do you still have talents that you have not developed so that you can share those gifts with others? **“Never measure your generosity by what you give, but rather by what you have left.”**

So now, you and I realize that we are not so generous after all. On the contrary, we are probably like the envious workers in the parable who grumbled against the landowner’s generosity to those who worked less hours than they did. Don’t we complain when we see others more fortunate than us? Don’t we object when we are the ones who are always asked to do something? Don’t we protest when someone less senior and less qualified than us gets the promotion we were hoping for?

Let us be generous to each other in the same way that the Lord is generous to us. Even more than that, let us be generous not only with our time, talent, and treasure but also with our words of encouragement, our acts of kindness, our prayers and petitions on behalf of others. The Lord knows it is not easy but we must strive to follow His example and His will for us. Let us pray the prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola:

O my God, teach me to be generous: to serve you as you deserve to be served; to give without counting the cost; to fight without fear of being wounded; to work without seeking rest; and to spend myself without expecting any reward, but the knowledge that I am doing your holy will. Amen.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Immerse yourself in mission works.
2. Practice faithful giving of your time, talent, and treasure.

Deliverance.

The BLD teachers of Prayer Healing are Noel and Letty Trillana, Aimee Pena, Lith Golamco, and Lee dela Fuente. The retreat was made possible by the gracious and selfless support of many community disciples including five former Pastoral Ministry Coordinators. *

MORE NEWS...

Filipinos gather to be sent

Over a thousand Filipinos and friends gathered in Parsippany, NJ this past weekend to take part in the 18th National Convention of the Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities, proving that the Word of God is spreading among our kababayans who now call North America their home. Fr. Bill Halbing, a name familiar to many in BLD, was among the main speakers. Also serving at the conference from BLD were: Richard dela Fuente, who gave inspiring talks in the event's workshop segments; Dave dela Fuente, who ably moderated the Youth track; and Randy Trinidad, Ray and Suzie Atienza who were on hand to provide technical support. And showcasing beautiful voices, upbeat music and worship style, BLD Youth led an Adoration Service, and Adult Praise sang at the Sunday Eucharistic Celebration.

The main theme of the conference, "Here I am Lord, send me," echoed the response to servanthood that is also espoused by BLD Newark. Emphasized along those lines were the words from Jesus himself to "Come to Me"... and His instruction to follow in His footsteps and "Come after Me".

There were many takeaways from the many speakers. Most memorable is this question that was postulated as something that the Lord would ask each and every one of us someday: "Who did you bring along with you?" As our Catholic Faith faces unprecedented challenges in today's world, the conference reenergized our charismatic brethren to continue the mission the Lord has given all of us, His disciples, to spread His Good News. *

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROJECT I DO/MASS WEDDING

November 9, 2014 ~ St. Mary's Church, Rahway NJ

What: For couples who are civilly married but not sacramentally married in church / those who want to be married in church.

Requirements & details: Contact Ray/Susie Atienza:

[908-463-0449](tel:908-463-0449)/bldassistedparish@bldnewark.com

Deadline for submission of application: October 1, 2014

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF FR. PAUL'S PRIESTLY ORDINATION

September 27, 2014 ~ 11 AM – 4:30 PM

11 AM: Eucharistic Celebration – DMP Church

12:15 – 4:30 PM: Lunch/Fellowship/Presentation
– DMP Auditorium

DLC MEETING

September 23, 2014 • 7:30 PM ~ Divine Mercy Parish Library

MEDICAL MISSION 2015

February 16-19, 2015

Koronadal City, South Cotabato, Philippines

For details contact: Mel/Remy Hernandez

chi1944@hotmail.com

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$3,437	\$107,387
Mission Collections	-	\$ 6,943
Walk Fundraising	\$170	\$33,764

Financial details are available to all members through

treasury@bldnewark.com

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

Sep 20* - Christian Parenting - ME 41-43, SPE 16

- CMP 1 Part 1 – LSS 1-40

- Shepherd's Training 1 & 2 – LSS 1-40

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

Time: Friday after worship, *Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

ASPIRANTS RETREAT

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Contact: King/Arlene Rigor teaching@bldnewark.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ADULT LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR # 43

October 3-5, 2014 ~ Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway, NJ

Contacts: Lito/Gigi Vibar: litogigi@vibar.com

SINGLES ENCOUNTER # 33

Date: November 7-9, 2014

Location: **Graymoor Spiritual Life Center
Garrison, NY**

Contacts: Jojo/Adelle Orosa ~ ja_orsosa@yahoo.com

Jutt Bustos ~ Justin.bustos@gmail.com

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER # 44

Date: November 14-16, 2014

Location: **Hotel Executive Suites**

30 Minue St. Carteret NJ

Contacts: Nong/Tricia Bustos ~ mia@bldnewark.com

Confession



Every last Friday of the month
from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm at
St. Mary's Church (DMP).

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Sep 26	Formation
			Oct 3	Management
			Oct 10	Mission
			Oct 17	Pastoral

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



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 39

Bulletin Edition

September 26, 2014

NEWS

COUNSELS

YM holds Battle of the Districts

“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 15:57).



On September 20, 2014, the BLD Newark Youth hosted its annual Battle of the Districts, inviting the Youth from BLD Districts Trenton, Rockland, and Camden to come and join in the fun and games for God’s glory! The different communities gathered together at eight o’clock on a Saturday morning for a breakfast and worship led by the newly anointed NYC: Anthony Lucero, Jules Almazar, Kyle Flores, Dana DeCastro, and Kristian Quevada.

The NYC worked together with God’s guidance to facilitate events throughout the day, including relay races, dodge ball, tug of war, basketball, volleyball, and charades in the form of Bible passages.



Continued on page 4

The Parable of the Two Sons

THEME: We love one another when we change our ways and follow Jesus.

WORD: Ez 18:25-29 / Ps 25:4-5,6-7,8-9
Phil 2:1-11 / Mt 21:28-32

ORDER: Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interest, but also for those of others.

REFLECTION:



The Parable of the Two Sons in Sunday’s Gospel speaks of the people of Jesus’ time: the first son is like the prostitutes and tax collectors who have disobeyed the commandments of the Lord, but upon hearing the teachings of John the Baptist, have repented and reformed their ways. The second son is like the chief priests and elders to whom Jesus addressed His story. In spite of their outward display of holiness, they refused to embrace and believe in John’s teachings. Jesus then reveals to the chiefs and the elders that the prostitutes and the tax collectors will enter the kingdom of heaven. Jesus did not mince words. *“Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you.”* (Mt 21: 31b)

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed, and does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life.” (Ez 18:27)

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

RIGHT AND JUST

“To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.” (Proverbs 21:3)

Jesus’ words said to the Pharisees, **“I desire mercy, not sacrifice,”** (Mt 9:13a) opened up an argument that set the Kingdom’s priorities straight.

Doing what is “right and just” is doing what is “morally right.” Toward God, this means having a pure and humble heart and obeying His word and commandments (1 Sm 15:22-23 and Ps 51:18-19). Toward men, this means being fair, right, showing mercy, compassion and kindness in everything we do (Ex 18:21-22, Dt 1:16-17, Dt 16:18-20).

“Sacrifice” takes on a lot of meaning. It means keeping God’s precepts, policies, laws, adhering to His teachings. It also means external or outward manifestations or practices of religion, which may be ceremonial, ritualistic or official. It may also mean obeying the letter of God’s commandments while neglecting or even violating the spirit or the original intent of those laws.

In a perfect world, man does both and knows in his heart that religion of the heart is more important than external or ceremonial acts of public worship or giving (Mt 23:23, Mi 6:6-8). Examples of these can be seen in the scriptures. David drew close to God, but he also pursued the financing and building of God’s holy temple. His son, Solomon, asked for God’s wisdom but also was not outdone by anyone when it came to public worship. Our Lord, Jesus, even had to drive away sellers from His Father’s house but also taught us the essence of authentic worship of the Father (Jn 4:21-24). Perfect men do both!

The truth is: your true acts of inward or personal righteousness sanctify your outward and public worship. On the contrary, outward or public worship cannot cover for a sinful heart (Prv 15:9). God values the fair, righteous and merciful treatment of our brethren more than outward ceremonious actions. Loving God from the heart and being righteous, good, compassionate and merciful to others and ourselves pleases God more than strictly keeping ceremonial practices.

Authentic worshippers should not neglect formal worship. When you face a conflict between treating a neighbor with mercy and compassion and keeping a strict duty for worship, choose mercy and compassion. Never should you prioritize ceremony or letter of the law over mercy, compassion and the spirit of the law.

In conclusion, everyone should follow all of God’s precepts to be absolutely right (Ps 119:128). Remember what Jesus taught about breaking and obeying the least of commandments (Mt 5:19). Jesus Himself taught us mercy and love by not returning evil, by loving our enemies, by expressing joy over repentant sinners and by giving from within. Follow the Lord’s priority – His love endures forever!

Good Morning, Lord

“Teach us to count our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart....Fill us at daybreak with your mercy, that all our days we may sing for joy.” (Psalm 90:12,14)



Morning Prayer, the Morning Offering, daily Mass...as Catholics, we have many ways to start our day with God. But sometimes I roll out of bed and head for the shower without giving His love and grace more than a passing thought. Somewhere

between turning off the clock radio and turning on the coffeemaker, I want to remember to turn my thoughts to God and turn over my day to His guidance. Most days, all I can muster up is a whispered, “Good morning, Lord.”

I recently read a little booklet that suggested using a verse from Scripture, such as Psalm 27:1, as a way to greet God in the morning. **“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”** But Psalm 27 is sub-titled, a Triumphant Song of Confidence; and much as I hate to admit it, I just don’t jump out of bed with that kind of energy. So I mumble a quiet, “Good morning, Lord” as I head to the bathroom.

One translation of Psalm 90:12 says, **“Teach us to realize how short our lives are. Then our hearts will become wise.”** Life is short, and it is a gift. Even the clock radio reminds me to thank God for the gift of a new day. Every morning it plays *This Good Day* by Fernando Ortega with these great day-starting, God-thanking lyrics:

“This good day, it is a gift from You.

The world is turning in its place because You made it to.

I lift my voice to sing a song of praise on this good day.”

I may not be ready to burst into song first thing in the morning, but I like to pause long enough to take a look out the window to see what “this good day” looks like. Then I can smile and say, “Good morning, Lord, and thank you. Thank you for reminding me that my days are numbered and precious. Thank You for this good day. Whether it’s sunny or foggy or snowy, it’s still Your gift to me. Thank You for being my light and my strength and for taking away my fear. Thank You for a song of joy that lightens my load and lifts my heart to You. Good morning, Lord.”

A TIME TO WEEP. A TIME TO LAUGH

“There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to give birth, and a time to die. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance.”

(Ecclesiastes 3:1-2,4)



It was an overcast, rainy day when my father was driving home after buying farm implements from the neighboring city. He skidded and lost control of his jeep and plunge into a cliff. He was killed instantly. This happened many years ago; I was nine years old at that time. The untimely death of my father at that time created a void that our family had to adjust to and face. This was the time when family, relatives and friends came to share in our grief and mourning for his loss. His death bonded the family closer to one another. Why did God allow this to happen? We, his children, were still very young and dependent upon him. Our mother was suddenly given the responsibility of raising and taking care of seven young children, a task which she amazingly and marvelously performed.

I grew up and had my own family, but the question as to why God decided to take him back at an early age lingered in my mind. In one of our word sharing circle during our BLD worship, God gave me the answer to my question.

The story is that my father died on his 49th birthday. The morning of his birthday, he went to confession and received communion before that fateful trip. What could be a more opportune time to be called by God than after going to confession and receiving the Eucharist. What seemed to us to be a tragic early end to his earthly life was rewarded with eternal life and happiness in God's kingdom. We, the bereaved family members, wept and mourned because of our beloved father's early and tragic demise. God, in his infinite wisdom and divine plan, called my father to His heavenly kingdom at the most opportune time, after he repented of his sin and received the Holy Eucharist on his birthday. How many times have we questioned God following an unhappy incident that happened in our life? And in our grief we question why God allowed such a tragic incident to happen.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, oracle of the LORD.” (Is 55:8) We should always have faith and trust in God that His divine ways and divine thoughts may not be apparent to our human minds but in His mercy and love, He always has a good plan for us.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

Pondering this parable further, we come to an understanding that the father in this parable is God the Father. We are further enlightened through the second reading by St. Paul who reminds us that Jesus, although he was one with the Father, did not take advantage of this equality. Jesus submitted himself to the will of the Father, humbling himself and becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross. He is the summit of humility and obedience. He took upon himself human likeness and appearance so he can demonstrate to mankind full obedience to the Father's will.

To which of the two sons, then, can we liken ourselves?

Like both sons in the parable, each one of us has been invited by our Father to work in His vineyard. Some of us have outwardly said “No” yet later on and by the Lord's grace have repented and changed our hearts and our ways. Others have immediately said, ***“Yes, sir, but did not go.”*** (Mt 21:30b) When some of us *committed* and *covenanted* disciples are invited to serve in God's vineyard as shepherds, coordinators, praisers, teachers, writers, or sharers, do we readily say “Yes”? Have we always fulfilled our pledges in all ways that we are able? Despite our gifts and our availability to serve in community, do we often decline because of our insecurities or lack of faith or because it is not the kind of service we want?

Central to our understanding as Christians is the belief and hope in the kingdom of God. Our *raison d'etre*, our reason for being, therefore, is to follow Jesus' way of holiness as exemplified through His humble obedience to the Father's Will. It behooves us to know and understand His teachings and to live according to His Word. To maintain this discipline on our own has proven to be very difficult. This is why we have a community. We are in community so that we each may build up one another. It is our collective belief that we have the good of each other at heart, and that together, we serve the Lord in calling others to a life of prayer and service to Him. This is the *New Evangelization* and it starts with us. As St Paul exhorts in his second letter to the Philippians, let us conduct ourselves ***“by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing.”*** (Phil 2:2)

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS (from page 3)

Let us take to heart tonight's order, *"Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others."* (Phil 2:3-4)
Come, let us **live** His Word.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Have a Christ-like attitude. Learn to listen and respect other people's points of view.
2. Be ready to render and accept fraternal correction.

YM HOLDS... (from page 1)

The successful day came to a close with a mass celebrated by Fr. Robert and a praise jam. By the end of the day, the youth of the various districts were able to realize that we are not just different districts of BLD, but one community and one family with one purpose: to serve our Lord in any way we can, whether it be through worship, friendly competition, mass, or a praise jam.

"It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for." (Eph 1:11)

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROJECT I DO/MASS WEDDING

November 9, 2014 ~ St. Mary's Church, Rahway NJ

What: For couples who are civilly married but not sacramentally married in church / those who want to be married in church.

Requirements & details: Contact Ray/Susie Atienza:
[908-463-0449/ bldassistedparish@bldnewark.com](mailto:908-463-0449/bldassistedparish@bldnewark.com)

Deadline for submission of application: October 1, 2014

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF FR. PAUL'S PRIESTLY ORDINATION

September 27, 2014 ~ 11 AM – 4:30 PM

11 AM: Eucharistic Celebration – DMP Church

12:15 – 4:30 PM: Lunch/Fellowship/Presentation
– DMP Auditorium

MEDICAL MISSION 2015

February 16-19, 2015

Koronadal City, South Cotabato, Philippines
Volunteers needed.

If interested, please sign-up on or before December 15th
For details contact: Mel/Remy Hernandez chi1944@hotmail.com

ENCOUNTERING JESUS CHRIST IN THE GOSPEL

Bible Study: An Introductory Mini Course

Saturday, October 4, 11, 18, & 25, 2014 ~ 9 am-12 noon
Church of the Immaculate Concepcion (Madonna Hall)
30 North Fullerton Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07042

Register online at: www.mtcimmaculate.org

For details, contact: Dr. Julie V. Burkey
973-313-6331/julie.burkey@shu.edu

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$3,223	\$110,610
Mission Collections	\$143	\$ 6,943
Walk Fundraising	\$85	\$33,849

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

Thank you for your continued support!
Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

Oct 17 – John 6 Teaching

Oct 18* - CMP 1 Part 1 – LSS 1-40

Oct 24 – Intercessory Immersion – ME 41, SPE 15
Service Immersion – ME 42

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

Time: Friday after worship, *Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

ASPIRANTS RETREAT

October 10-12, 2014 • CYO, Kearny NJ

Contact: King/Arlene Rigor teaching@bldnewark.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ADULT LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR #43

October 3-5, 2014 ~ Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway, NJ

Contacts: Lito/Gigi Vibar: litogigi@vibar.com

SINGLES ENCOUNTER # 33

Date: November 7-9, 2014

Location: Graymoor Spiritual Life Center
Garrison, NY

Contacts: Joe/Adelle Orosa ~ ja_orsosa@yahoo.com

Jutt Bustos ~ Justin.bustos@gmail.com

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER # 44

Date: November 14-16, 2014

Location: Hotel Executive Suites

30 Minue St. Carteret NJ

Contacts: Nong/Tricia Bustos ~ mla@bldnewark.com

Confession



Every last Friday of the month
from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm at
St. Mary's Church (DMP).

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Oct 3	Management
			Oct 10	Mission
			Oct 17	Pastoral
			Oct 24	Evangelization

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

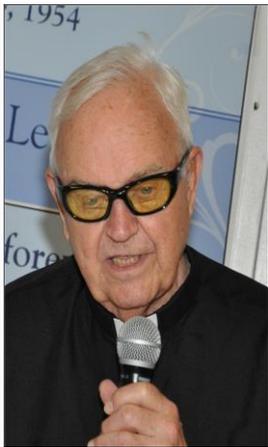
Volume 20 Issue 40

Bulletin Edition

October 3, 2014

NEWS

Fr. Paul Lehman continues to inspire many



September 27, 2014 – It was in May of 1954 that Fr. Paul Lehman, BLD Newark’s ageless Spiritual Director, was ordained by Archbishop Thomas Boland at the St. Patrick’s Pro-Cathedral in Newark, NJ. Last Saturday, in a Holy Mass at the Divine Mercy Parish Church in Rahway, he celebrated this milestone - his 60th Sacerdotal Anniversary, with BLD friends and families.

In his homily, Fr. Paul’s main reflection centered on the first reading, from Ecclesiastes, where Qoheleth addresses Youth and Old Age (Eccl 11:9). Fr. Paul cited his milestone, not as a marker for getting old, but of growing younger as the Holy Spirit continues to grow in him with the passing of earthly years. And that it should also be so, with each of us.

After the Mass BLD Newark hosted a special luncheon, with video tributes, speeches and special presentations by BLD Newark Ministries. Besides those from Newark, in attendance were disciples of other BLD districts (Washington, Allentown, Trenton, Long Island), as well as some members of Couples for Christ, where Fr. Paul has also served as Spiritual Director.

Over the years, Fr. Paul has served the Church in many capacities, as chaplain, administrator and pastor. Of note were - his first assignment, as Assistant Pastor at St. John’s Parish in Bergenfield; and his 10-year tenure leading the flock at St. Antoninus Church in Newark, up until his retirement in 1999.

Summing up everyone’s affection for him, a disciple from one of the other districts exclaimed, “We will never miss this occasion. We cancelled all our activities so we can give our love and respect to Father.” *Continued, page 3*

COUNSELS

Bearing Good Fruit

THEME: True disciples of Jesus respond with fruitfulness when they go and bear fruit that remain.

WORD: Is 5:1-7 / Ps 80:9,12-16,19-20 / Phil 4:6-9; Mt 27:33-43

ORDER: *“Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit.”* Mt 21:43

REFLECTION:

In the Gospel of the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus tells us of yet another landowner who planted a vineyard, adapting the image of the vineyard that the prophet Isaiah used in the First Reading. (Is 5:1-7) However, the vineyard in St. Matthew’s Gospel is more than just a vineyard story. Here, Jesus directly addresses the people involved – the landowner, the tenants, the servants and the son. He tells us not only of the unfruitfulness of the vineyard, but of the “unfruitfulness” of the tenants whose sin is the sour and bitter fruit of their lives. When harvest time comes, they not only refuse to give the landowner’s share, they also maltreat and even kill some of the servants he sent (Old Testament Prophets). And when he sent his own son (Jesus), *“thinking, ‘They will respect my son’”* (Mt 21:37), they get even bolder and plot to kill him. *“This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.”* (v.38)

In the second reading this Sunday, St. Paul explains to the Philippians the rewards of being fruitful, as he exhorts us to, *“Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.”* (Phil 4:9) In doing this we are following and surrendering ourselves to Jesus, and, as St. Paul himself tells us, *“it is no longer us who live, but Christ who lives in us,”* and we too can live for Jesus and bear fruit, for *“true disciples of Jesus respond with fruitfulness when they go and bear fruit that remain.”* Indeed, as Christ’s disciples we are expected to live out our lives in Christ, and to follow His ways as His witnesses to others.

Continued, page 3

Promise of the Week

“Then the God of peace will be with you.”
(Phil 4:9b)

Saint Therese of the Child Jesus *- "the Little flower"*



At the age of 14, in 1886, young Therese focused her powerful energy into loving others, rather than keeping herself happy. A year later, she entered the Carmelite convent in Lisieux to offer her life to God. Here, she lived secluded from the outside world.

Unlike other saints, she never went on missions, nor founded a religious order, nor performed any great works instead she devoted her life to the "little things." Therese maintained a quiet life of prayer and scattered flowers everywhere, as a symbol of her love for God. Through these acts she achieved great intimacy with Him. Even during times of sickness and doubt, she stayed faithful to Him. When she died on September 30, 1897, at the age of 24, her last words described her life perfectly: **"My God, I love you!"**

Though she died at an early age, the world came to know Therese through her autobiography, "Story of a Soul." She depicted her life as a "little way of spiritual childhood" and lived everyday with an unbreakable confidence in God. To Therese, great deeds did not matter in life but great love. She lived and taught a spirituality of loving everyone and everything. Her spirituality was based on doing the ordinary with extraordinary love. Not only did she love other people, but also loved flowers. Therese saw herself as the "little flower of Jesus," who gave glory to God by being her beautiful self among all the flowers in God's garden. Because of this, the title "Little Flower" remained with her name.

Therese's inspiration and powerful presence from heaven touched many people. On May 17, 1925, she was canonized by Pope Pius XI. If she had been alive, she would have only been 52 years old when she was declared a Saint.

Therese said, **"My mission - to make God loved - will begin after my death. I will spend my time in heaven doing good on earth."** Innumerable people have been touched by her intercession and follow in her "little ways." She has been praised as "the greatest saint of modern times." In 1997, Pope John Paul II announced her to be a Doctor of the Church, the only one of his pontificate, in honor of her powerful influence all over the world.

The Holy Rosary

October is the month of the Holy Rosary and the entire month is dedicated to the Rosary. The feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary in particular is October 7th in memory of the glorious and triumphant victory at the battle of Lepanto. That battle was the most convincing military victory that proved without a doubt the great power of the Rosary.

The word Rosary means **"Crown of Roses"**. Our Lady has revealed to several people that each time they say a Hail Mary they are giving her a beautiful rose. Each complete Rosary makes her a crown of roses. Within the Holy Rosary lies the awesome story of our salvation. Mary said **"YES"** to God and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

With the Rosary, we meditate the mysteries of joy, of light, of sorrow and the glory of Jesus and Mary. It's a simple prayer, humble, so much like Mary. It's a prayer we can all say together with Her, the Mother of God. With the Hail Mary we invite Her to pray for us and to pray with us as she joins Her prayer to ours. Therefore it becomes ever more useful to pray the Rosary, because what Mary asks she always receives, Jesus can never say no to whatever His Mother asks for. In every apparition, the heavenly Mother has invited us to say the Rosary as a powerful weapon against evil, to bring us to true peace. With our prayer made together with our heavenly Mother, we can obtain the great gift of bringing about a change of hearts and conversion. Each day, through prayer we can drive away from ourselves and from our homeland many dangers and evils.

It can seem a repetitive prayer but instead it is like two sweethearts who many times say to one another the words: "I love you"...

Concerning the Rosary, Our Lady herself had said to Padre Pio: **"With this weapon you will win."** Convinced of the power of the Rosary, Padre Pio always held the Rosary in his hands. He recommended the Rosary to his spiritual children, saying: **"Love Our Lady and make her loved. Always recite the Rosary."**



**Say the Rosary every day...
Pray, pray a lot and offer
sacrifices for sinners...
I'm the Lady of the Rosary.
"In the end My
Immaculate Heart will
triumph."
- Our Lady of Fatima**

NEWS: FR. PAUL ... (from page 1)



Since 1996, BLD Newark has had a special place in his Ministry. The Community will never be able to repay Fr. Paul for all the good that he has done and continues to do for us. Last Saturday, BLD Newark in turn, had the opportunity to express some of its gratitude - in dance, words and songs; additionally, in lieu of personal gifts, many generous donations were accepted (and can still be made) for the children's Scholarship of Hope in the Fr. Paul Lehman GK Village in Cabiao Nueva Ecija, Philippines.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

The story of the vineyard is a parable and by definition, we can personalize its interpretation. We can bring to it a new understanding as we let God's Word break through our defenses. We can venture into seeing the cast of characters two thousand years ago, and see in it how Jesus saw the future in our own situation today. The parallelism is uncanny.

We can look at our Community today as the vineyard the Lord has set up. It is the image of the chosen people, the work of the Lord, the joy of his heart. In it he tries to form and nurture us through our formation programs to bear abundant fruit in personal sanctity and ministry to his people. The Lord continues to send his servants (prophets), as in the Old Testament. He continues the work of the Spirit through people who live out and persevere in their Christian faith. He is still calling us to risk everything, as did the persecuted servants in the Old Testament. But we can also ask, if we identify with the landowner, whether we have entrusted our vineyard to *wretched men* - evil tenants who are using God's people (the vineyard) for their own benefit rather than leading them to God (the landowner). As a consequence, the people are not bearing the kind of fruit they are meant to bear. Worse yet, leaders like these are isolating the people from God's Son with their own self-serving laws. They reduce the vineyard to rubble, making it a ruin, overgrown with thorns and briars (worldly values and desires). Or, could we be the wicked tenants ourselves, opposing Jesus and refusing to give the owner his share and keeping the fruit for our own selfish use?

If we are to produce good fruit for the Lord we need to ask him for strong aversion to sin, sins that displease the Lord - our lack of charity, our critical and judgmental spirit towards others, our impatience, resentment, unforgiveness, etc - and need to reject. For our failure to do so will cut us off from the vine, as unproductive branches are cut and put into the fire. *Continued, page 4*



After the Mass, concelebrants - Fr. Eustace Edomobi and Fr. Louis Aumaitre - Deacons Ed, Serge, Rudy, Bong, Raj and Lawrence joined Fr. Paul in thanksgiving to God for the gift of priesthood and consecrated life.

COUNSELS (from page 3)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit." (Jn 15:1-2) But if we do live in him, God's love will permeate our lives. Our minds will be filled with all that is *true, honorable, upright and pure, good and praiseworthy*, fruits that God expects from us (Phil 4:8). And as we live a fruitful life, we receive the peace of God, *"that surpasses all understanding"* and *"will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus"* (Phil 4:7). When our minds are filled with God's goodness, we will bear fruit for his kingdom. Then we receive His promise this week: *"The God of peace will be with you."* (Phil 4:9b).

Prayer: *Father, you understand, all too well, what it is to yield a bitter harvest. You know how we feel when our efforts end in failure or worse, when they are cruelly sabotaged. Cherish us, loving Father, especially when we have little to show for ourselves; pity us when our yield is bitter. Sensitize our hearts that we may grieve with you in your disappointment. I now yield to you and ask you to drive out all that is opposed to your will and keep me from your kingdom.*

Directions:

1. Make it a habit to use your God-given gifts for the good of your family and the BLD community.
2. Be a faithful steward; use well what God has entrusted to your care.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Requirements & details: Contact Ray/Susie Atienza: [908-463-0449](tel:908-463-0449) / bldassistedparish@bldnewark.com

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For details, contact: Dr. Julie V. Burkey
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Koronadal City, South Cotabato, Philippines
Volunteers needed.

If interested, please sign-up on or before December 15th

For details contact: Mel/Remy Hernandez chi1944@hotmail.com

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$2,862	\$113,472
Mission Collections	\$258	\$7,201
Walk Fundraising	\$600	\$34,449
Fr. Paul's SOH	\$5,677	\$5,677

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

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Stewardship - It's a way of life!

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Contacts: Jojo/Adelle Orosa - ja_orsosa@yahoo.com

Jutt Bustos - Justin.bustos@gmail.com

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER # 44

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			Oct 17	Pastoral
			Oct 24	Evangelization
			Oct 31	Formation

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COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 41

Bulletin Edition

October 10, 2014

NEWS

Holy Spirit thrills and fills once again!

In the latest BLD Newark LSS, held this past weekend at Divine Mercy Parish in Rahway, New Jersey, LOVE once again filled the hearts of everyone who was there – lambs, shepherds, as well as auxies. Good feelings permeated the entire weekend.

Adding to the victories claimed during the weekend was the LSS emcee's own return from months of intensive chemotherapy. Vino Guiang, originally scheduled to be the coordinator for the LSS last April, found out last Friday afternoon, that his cancer is in remission.... Yes indeed, God is good all the time!



The 49 Graduates receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit were the following:

(ME) Bernardino De Guzman, Gertrudes De Guzman, John Erick Dimalanta, Rizalyn Dimalanta, George Geronimo, Catherinie Geronimo, Salvador Lopez, Teresita Lopez, Joel Manigbas, Maria Manigbas, Almario Morales, Mary Lu Morales, Danilo Parale, Nancy Parale, Elmeron Reyes, Annalyn Reyes, Leo Seno, Susan Seno, Danilo Zuniga, Irene Zuniga, Fr. Jose Saltarin, Rufino Santiago, and Josefa Santiago

Continued, page 4

COUNSELS

THE INVITATION OF THE KING

THEME: True disciples of Jesus respond with fruitfulness when they depend on Him totally for strength.

WORD: Is 25:6-10/Ps 23:1-3,3-4,5,6
Phil 4:12-14,19-20/Mt 35:1-14

ORDER: Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.

REFLECTION:

This Sunday's readings remind us that as we walk on the hard and narrow path to salvation, Jesus responds to our obedience of His directives with bountiful blessings; especially when we rely solely on Him to give us the strength to endure the persecution and trials throughout our journey. Our Heavenly Father knows all our weaknesses and concerns. He reassures us by saying, "*Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God. I will strengthen you, and help you, and uphold you with my right hand of justice.*" (Is 41:10)

We are called to be His disciples to invite those who do not know Him to the feast. At the same time, as believers we respond to the invitation with varying degree of dedication and commitment to God. When we accepted the call of God the Father, we became the **invitation; the bible to the people--the good news.** As such we are now obliged to **share** the gifts, the joy and the benefits we have received from the Father because of this courageous act of acceptance. Pope John Paul II called for a New Evangelization. We are all urged to **deepen our faith, to believe in the Gospel message and to go forth and proclaim the Gospel.** As instructed in this Sunday's Gospel, "*Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.*" *Continued, page 3*

Promise of the Week

"My God will supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:19)

ONLY ONE THING

“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 10:41-42)

It is not difficult to get lost in the daily distractions of life, the restless churning of our everyday routines: meals to cook, bills to pay, floors to mop, errands to run...the list goes on and on. If you are like me, a usual day would start with the alarm going off at around 5:00 am. From there, each minute is carefully calculated for every task and chore I have set out to do for that day. Typically, a work day consists of 16-18 hours of commuting, office and house work. Unless I intentionally set aside the one hour of prayer and meditation, the day gets away from me, and I find myself asking for forgiveness from the Lord as I collapse into my bed late at night.

Like Martha, I start my day with the best of intentions, but somehow fall short. Even when I make a routine of going to mass daily, I find my mind wandering while at Mass to the list of things I have to do after I get out church.

In this passage, Jesus reminds us Marthas to slow down and be mindful of what is truly important: prayer and reflection on His Word, seeking God’s guidance, and pausing to hear His answer. In the quiet of the inner recesses of our hearts, the Lord is constantly speaking to us. But, we need to slow down, and silence the noise of our busy, task-filled days to hear His soft whispers.

“There is need of only one thing.” Jesus’ words reverberate in my heart. At once, I realize I am both Martha and Mary. There is something in me that compels me to serve, to be of action. Yet, my heart also longs to sit quietly at the feet of Jesus, listening, contemplating, praying.

I then realize that as a disciple, I am only able to achieve a happy balance through God’s grace. St. Teresa of Avila defines contemplation simply and succinctly. Let us listen...

“Contemplative prayer is nothing else than a close sharing between friends; it means taking time **frequently** to be alone with Him who we know loves us. ...We seek Him, because to desire Him is always the beginning of love, and we seek Him in that pure faith which causes us to be born of Him and to live in Him.”

May the Lord grant me the grace to hear Him in the busyness of my day, and to invest my time wisely that what I do at each moment reflects the treasure I hold in Jesus. Amen.

God’s Will and Our Perseverance



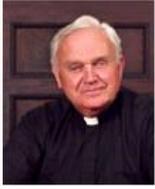
“I tell you, if he does not get up to give him the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence.” (Lk 11:8)

This verse reminds me of The Parable of the Unjust Judge, a story also in Luke’s Gospel about a woman who seeks a just decision against an adversary from a judge who, “neither feared God nor respected any human being.” After many times of refusing to render a just decision, the judge finally grants the woman her wish because he does not want to be bothered any longer. At the end of the parable Jesus asks, “**Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night?**” (Lk 18:7)

In the digital age, we communicate instantly with one another through text messages, email, and social media. However, it’s important to remember that prayer is not a form of instant communication. We must approach God with a pure soul because sin blocks us from developing an intimate relationship with the Lord. Once a personal relationship with Him is established, it becomes easier to communicate with God.

The Word tells us that patient perseverance is critical to the effectiveness of prayer. Instant gratification diminishes the importance of faith, hope, and patience – three keys to living a healthy Christian life. In Genesis, we learn that even God needed six days to create the world. Prayer, like maintaining a balanced diet, requires sacrifice and time in order to get our desired results. While the results do not come immediately, we should feel overly satisfied in the end, knowing that our patient perseverance did not go in vain.

When we pray for a specific intention for a while, it’s in our human nature to think that God is not listening. But God knows us better than we know ourselves. It’s certainly possible that our intentions are in conflict with His will or His timing. However, if you feel in your heart that your intentions align with His will, consider the possibility that God is shaping you into a patient and perseverant prayer warrior. As it says in Ecclesiastes 3:11, “**He made everything appropriate in its time. He also placed eternity within them – yet, no person can fully comprehend what God is doing from beginning to end.**”



FR. PAUL SPEAKS

ROSARY AND LECTIO DIVINA

With the beginning of the month of October, the Church invites us to the devotion of the Holy Rosary. As beautiful as this devotion is, I personally find it difficult to recite the Hail Marias and keep my mind focused on the mysteries rather than battling distracting thoughts. After all, the rosary is a summary of the principal mysteries of our Christian faith. A method I use when saying the rosary privately, which can also be used in communal recitation, is to interrupt each Hail Mary with a phrase that reminds us of the mystery we should be reflecting on. For instance for the first joyful mystery after saying “Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus” add a phrase like “who was conceived by the Holy Spirit”, and finish the hail Mary as usual. Similarly during the second decade add something like “who visited Elizabeth”, etc. We thus connect the mystery by focusing each Hail Mary on that event in the life of Jesus or Mary.

I am sure you all know the importance of daily reflection and contemplation of the scriptures, called Lectio Divina, especially the readings that are used in the Mass each day. I know many of you use the “Magnificat” for that purpose, or for the technically advanced, the smart phone or iPad can be used to locate the assigned readings. Again we all face the problem of distractions when we are trying to concentrate on the meaning of a Scripture passage, or when we are trying to pray over a verse, or even trying to be quiet and listen to the still voice of the Lord.

May I suggest a method I am sure many of you are familiar with, called “centering prayer”. This method, even though used by many spiritual writers in the past, has been taught extensively by Fr. Thomas Keating. His method is quite simple. When a thought comes to mind that is distracting and does not belong in prayer, or when we are trying to focus contemplatively on the presence of the Lord, and our mind wanders all over the place, he suggests using a “sacred word” like Jesus or Abba in order to interfere and derail the thought and refocus on the original subject matter. He suggests doing this very gently, because the tendency is to be annoyed with ourselves when we find ourselves wrestling with distraction. He reminds us that we are doing two things when we engage in this practice. We are refocusing and renewing our “attention”, and also renewing our “intention” to pray. No matter how many times in prayer we do this, the Lord is always pleased with our efforts, and prayer has accomplished its goal, a deeper union with the Lord.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

The kingdom of God, our inheritance, is that feast that the Father invites us to attend. Even when we refuse His invitation, He extends it again and again, revealing to us the wonders and majesty that await each of us in the heavenly home. I was invited to the feast numerous times and had various reasons for not accepting it wholeheartedly in many occasions. I humbly admit, in true retrospect, I lacked the faith of a true disciple at that time. Knowing the hardship of being a true disciple, St. Paul exhorts us, “*I can do all things in him who strengthens me. My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*” (Phil 4:13&19). Simply stated, I did not want this burden, I was selfish and materialistic. I cared more for matters of the secular world than the state of my appearance before the King.

Jesus said: “*Many are invited, but few are chosen.*” (Mt 22:14) The king rejected the improperly dressed man because he did not regard his invitation as a great honor. Consequently, he did not bother to clothe himself with “*the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness*” (Eph 4:24). The guest who was dressed in wedding garments recognized God’s abundant mercy and love as their only source of strength and hope, and so they “clothed” themselves with His mercy.

In the distant past, I, myself, was that guest who was improperly dressed. I came to the feast not ready to really receive the fruits and graces set before me. Prior to my renewal in the Spirit, I merely went through the motions of going to church on Sundays as my Catholic duties asked me to “keep the Sabbath day holy”. However, I would stand in the back of the church.

I was constantly invited by God’s disciples to come to the feast. When I had finally answered, I put on that wedding garment, and at the same time, became one of the servants instructed to invite others to the feast. I started with my family by inviting my children to join the Family Encounter to deepen their faith and understanding of Christ’s love. They, too, have dawned on their wedding attire and began to invite others to the feast. As I journey alongside you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, I am given the strength through Christ to persevere on this arduous journey.

Accepting the invitation to the feast is the beginning of our journey to being prepared for the **wedding**, our reunion with our Father in His Kingdom. The truest test to our Faith is remembering the Promise that God is our Ultimate Provider.

Continued, page 4

COUNSELS (from page 3)

As we follow His order to go out and evangelize and spread the Word of God, not only through words but also by our actions, we are preparing ourselves to the Greatest feast we will ever attend.

Let us embrace God's gift of love and grace in the Eucharist. By so doing, He will enable us to accept wholeheartedly His invitation to join in the celebration of the Wedding of the Lamb.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Invite more people to a renewed life in Christ.
2. Live an abundant life in Christ in your humble circumstances.

NEWS (from page 1)

SPE: Norbert Aminzia, Julius Bryant, Camille Nagela, Margaret De Filippo, Nicolle Elwin, Dennis James Feliciano, Rosemarie Go, Yanick Joseph, Eliza Literato, Belinda Pacaira, Dakila Romano, Leticia Vizcayno, and Saneeta Somai

SE: Julia Carpio, Elaine Espejon, Olivia Felibrico, Jesraye Flores, Francis San Andres, Liz Ortiz, Mikey Pepino, and Kat Salonga

NE: Charlene Irino, Letty Teopengco, Lourdes Delara, and Christeta Manigas

The pastoral team was composed of Fr. Paul Lehman (spiritual director) and sharers: Margarita Ocasio & Amanda Anderson (God's Love), George/MaryAnn McGehrin (New Life), Sam/Rory Olaso (Healing & Reconciliation), Ollie/Annie Felibrico (Growth), and Reuben/Cherry Vibar (Transformation).

Congratulations to LSS 43 Graduates!

GOD never fails! To GOD be the Glory!

LSS 43 Reunion will be held on Oct. 19th, from 1-6 pm.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROJECT I DO/MASS WEDDING

November 9, 2014 - St. Mary's Church, Rahway NJ

What: For couples who are civilly married but not sacramentally married in church / those who want to be married in church.

Requirements & details: Contact Ray/Susie Atienza: [908-463-0449](tel:908-463-0449) / bldassistedparish@bldnewark.com

MEDICAL MISSION 2015

February 16-19, 2015

Koronadal City, South Cotabato, Philippines

Volunteers needed.

If interested, please sign-up on or before December 15th

Contacts: Mel/Remy Hernandez chi1944@hotmail.com

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$2,442	\$115,914
Mission Collections	\$101	\$7,302
Walk Fundraising	-	\$34,449
Fr. Paul's SOH	\$60	\$5,737

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

Oct 18* - CMP 1 Part 1 – LSS 1-40

Oct 24 – Intercessory Immersion – ME 41, SPE 15
Service Immersion – ME 42

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

Time: Friday after worship, *Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

“It is not enough to discover Christ, you must bring Him to others.” – Pope John Paul II

SINGLES ENCOUNTER # 33

Date: November 7-9, 2014

Location: Graymoor Spiritual Life Center
Garrison, NY

Contacts: Jojo/Adelle Orosa - ja_orsosa@yahoo.com
Jutt Bustos - Justin.bustos@gmail.com

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER # 44

Date: November 14-16, 2014

Location: Hotel Executive Suites
30 Minue St. Carteret NJ

Contacts: Nong/Tricia Bustos - mla@bldnewark.com



Confession

Every last Friday of the month
from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm at
St. Mary's Church (DMP).

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Oct 17	Pastoral
		Oct 24	Evangelization
		Oct 31	Formation
		Nov 7	Management

Please notify the Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 42

Bulletin Edition

October 17, 2014

NEWS

CHRIST IS ALIVE! HALLELUJAH TO THE LAMB!



There were 19 candidates who answered the call to attend the Aspirants Retreat on October 10-12, 2014 at CYO in Kearny, NJ with Fr. Paul Lehman as the Retreat Master. Our sharers P. Calingo, E. Lucero, A. de Castro, M. Camacho, and C. Claricia, truly inspired the aspirants, with the collaborative support of the Praise Ministry, Technical Ministry and Witness and Coach Development Ministry.

The highlight of the retreat surfaced when Fr. Paul emphasized that true discipleship requires building of the basic foundation of our inmost being through Lectio Divina, allowing the grace of Centering Prayer (contemplative prayer). This affords all our spiritual faculties the opportunity to be involved in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads. He also said that the application of Christian discernment should not be fragmented; rather there is a need to offer our thoughts and actions to God in every aspect of our lives: at work, with the family, and in the community.

Aware of the many challenges of the discipleship to which they are called, the aspirants offered to Jesus their fears and anxieties while clinging to His promise: *"I have said, you are my servant; I chose you, I have not rejected you. Do not fear: I am with you; do not be anxious: I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."* (Is 41:9b-10)

Continue on page 4

COUNSELS

There is no God besides Me

THEME: True disciples of Jesus respond with fruitfulness when they live godly lives in accordance with His truth.

WORD: Is 45: 1, 4-6; Ps 96: 1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10; 1Thes 1: 1-5b; Mt 22: 15-21

ORDER: Give to the Lord the glory due His name.

REFLECTION:

"I am the LORD and there is no other, there is no God besides me. It is I who arm you, though you know me not, so that toward the rising and the setting of the sun people may know that there is none besides me." (Is 45:5-6)

The readings for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary time proclaim God, the creator of all things, as the sovereign ruler of the universe. This is our Christian belief. Our titles, authority and responsibility rest in Him. He is the source of all authority, in our homes, churches, workplace and our governments (God-ordained structures and authority). *"There is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God."* (Rom 13:1)

"Every human community needs an authority in order to endure and develop." (CCC 1919) Those in charge are responsible for the activities and productivity of the group. In the BLD formation program, we learn key words such as obedience and humility in order that we may grow in leadership, cooperation, and in the understanding of working as a body to further the mission of Christ.

Continue on page 3

Promise of the Week

"He has made the world firm, not to be moved, He governs the people with equity." (Ps 96:10b)

My Father's Plan

Sometimes I wonder,
When I was younger,
What if I had realized
What God's plan was for me?

But it seemed that
I was just way too busy
I was young and healthy
On my own, I thought
I was on my way to becoming happy

And although I heard about it
I never really understood it
... He had a plan for me

Inevitably, there arose some difficulty
Problems suddenly confronted me
And I cried "Unfair! Why am I no longer happy?"

But it seemed He was just preparing me
For all the things I actually missed
When I was young and thought I was already there
You know... "happy"

See, I thought doing things for myself was the key
That I could do things on my own, relying on only me
But eventually came a time, when me failed me...

Then He rescued me, made me realize and understand
Who it was He meant for me to be
Who I was even before He knit me

I was to be His child...
Rescued... redeemed by His Son
Relying... depending on Him
Therefore, a child He had already set free!

While I wish I had known this when I was younger
Today, what's most important of all
Is knowing that all along He has had this plan for me
That through Christ I am a child of His
Who, for the rest of my tomorrows has been set free
Rendering the rest of my life infinitely richer
Making me humbly grateful... indeed making me
truly happy.

Alleluia!

THE LORD KNOWS THE DESIRES OF OUR HEARTS

"The Lord said to him, "Oh you Pharisees! Although you cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish, inside you are filled with plunder and evil. You fools! Did not the maker of the outside also make the inside?" (Lk 11:39-40)

Our Lord Jesus was addressing the Pharisees of His time as hypocrites, because they led apparently clean lives outside but were greedy and self-indulgent on the inside. As leaders and teachers of the Jewish community, the Pharisees were labeled by the Lord as hypocrites because they acted contrary to what they said or what they taught others. The Pharisees gratified themselves by succumbing to the desire for luxury and comfort for the specific purpose of self-pleasing and satisfaction.

Actually, the Lord was putting out a challenge to all to clean up, not only what is on the outside, but more importantly, what is inside of us. To be pious or do acts of charity is a great thing if love and kindness is in one's heart. However, if done as a show of self-sacrifice for self-glorification, it becomes selfish and hypocritical. While we may receive the temporal reward of men's praise and recognition, to the Lord, it is of no value.

The Lord says in Matthew 6:2: *"When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward."*

The Pharisees were quick to criticize the Lord for not performing the traditional cleansing before eating. They adhered to the letter of the law but failed to see their own shortcomings. They saw the speck in the eye of another but failed to see the plank in their own eyes (Lk 6:42).

Our hypocrisy does not deceive or fool God. Our Lord knows the desires of our hearts. *"And he said to them, "You justify yourselves in the sight of others, but God knows your hearts; for what is of human esteem is an abomination in the sight of God."* (Lk 16:15)

Our lives should be transparent, revealing Christ living in us and converting us. We should mirror the peace and the kindness of Jesus inside and out. God's love for us awakens our love for Him, and that love is translated into service to others in His name.

WHOM SHOULD WE FEAR?

In Luke 12:4-5, Jesus makes it crystal clear whom to fear: ***“I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body but after that can do no more. I shall show you whom to fear. Be afraid of the one who after killing has the power to cast into Gehenna; yes, I tell you, be afraid of that one.”*** It is our soul that is at stake. Satan knows that God gave us free will. He tries to use this against us by deceiving us and appealing to our pride.

Recall the fall of man in Genesis, when the serpent said to Eve about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden: ***“You certainly will not die! God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, who know good and evil.”*** (Gen 3:4-5) While it is true that Adam and Eve didn’t die physically, they disobeyed God and their souls were compromised.

In the same way, an unmarried pregnant woman contemplating abortion has many excuses: “I am not married. What will people think of me?” “I am not ready financially to raise a kid.” “It is my body. I can decide what I want to do with it.” But she does not realize that she is about to kill a child, to commit murder, to compromise her soul.

Our society wants to remove God from sight – from our schools, from public places, from our courts, from pretty much everywhere – yet still expects man to “do what is right”. Knowing right from wrong is a gift that God has placed in the heart of every man but it relies on Him. We cannot separate the gift from the giver without putting ourselves at the mercy of the evil one and compromising our souls. With our free will, we can only choose to do what is right if we are in a relationship with God and subject our will to His.

While warning us whom to fear, Jesus reassures us that when we choose Him, we have nothing to fear (see Lk 12:6-8). He holds us in the palm of His hand. We need to trust Him, and because of our love for Him, the only thing we should fear is offending Him in any way. Our souls are precious to Him.

He wants us in Heaven, not in Gehenna!



COUNSELS (from page 1)

We are blessed that we stand together under the mantle of God’s headship, the one true God and King Who is worthy of all our trust and who generously provides for us. In our meagerness, He pours graces from heaven to encourage and equip us to lead, learn, and grow in Godly character.

In the gospel, God shifts focus and brings His sovereignty in contrast with the civil authority of the time. He told the Pharisees, ***“... repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”*** (Mt 22:21)

The response of Jesus indicates that we have an obligation to give back to every person what is due him. This is a justified expectation and follows normal practices of social, financial or legal transactions. And since God has given us all that we have and all that we are, then our very being must flow back to Him on whom our life and existence depends. Therefore, only God can demand our total and absolute loyalty and service.

The readings declare the need for all mankind and all creatures to give to the Lord glory and praise for His Sovereignty and Kingship over the universe. One of the directions for the community this week is to worship Him with all our mind, heart, and strength. We fulfill the requirements to praise God with all of our mind and heart during our Friday night worship and every time we lift our voices to Him in praise, whether in our private prayer or when praying with others.

We worship Him with all our heart, mind, and strength when we live godly and fruitful lives. A godly life is a life that is surrendered to the will of God. It is when we allow the Holy Spirit to live through us and our lives manifest love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal 5:22–23). We are created to fulfill the design of God, to bear His image to one another, and to be a witness of His virtues of faith, hope, and charity.

True fruitfulness cannot be hidden. It affects our outward actions; it is when our words and our activities glorify God. He wants us to do good works with humility and to be quick to love and forgive every step we take. He wants us to desire to be the “good soil” Jesus spoke of in the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13:3–9. In Jesus Christ, God will accomplish His Will through us and in us.

The lifestyle we choose as members of this community and as followers of Christ will require us to work in faith, labor in love and endure in hope.

(1 Thes 1:3).

Continue on page 4

COUNSELS (from page 3)

We pray for grace to sustain us through the months and years ahead even when there are emotional, relational, and spiritual obstacles and challenges. Our formation will never be completed in this lifetime; and therefore, we trust in God to stretch out His hand unflinchingly to help us over the hurdles we will face. For God, all things are possible.

DIRECTIONS:

- Worship Him with all your heart, mind, and strength.
- Work in faith, endure in hope and serve with love.

NEWS (from page 1)

It was truly a fruitful harvest, another glorious victory for the Lord! Here are the Candidates:

ME 39: Allan & Jen Almazar, Denny & Marichelle Dizon, Angel & Benilda Doria, Romeo & Ella Meluza, Darwin & Ellen Sorio, Eduardo & Maria Ugaddan

ME 38: Noel & Gail de Leon

ME 34: Louie & Kles Hernandez

Trenton: Tony & Connie Mendoza

SE: Veejay Gorospe

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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February 16-19, 2015, Koronadal City, So. Cotabato, Philippines
Volunteers needed.

If interested, please sign-up on or before December 15th

For details contact: Mel/Remy Hernandez chi1944@hotmail.com

CCR Leaders Day entitled

**“Coming Together to Serve Each Other/
Encourage, Educate and Empower.”**

*Saturday, November 15, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm,
Holy Family Parish in Nutley*

To all Charismatic Prayer Group and Ministry Leaders

Please mark your calendars, register between *now* and Nov. 1, and pray for this special event. Together let us seek the Holy Spirit for a fresh anointing upon our CCR in the Archdiocese of Newark. Registration fee: \$10

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
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Mission Collections	\$55	\$7,357
Walk Fundraising	\$100	\$34,549
Fr. Paul's SOH	\$1,392	\$7,129

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treasury@bldnewark.com

Thank you for your continued support!
Stewardship - It's a way of life!

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Service Immersion – ME 42

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

Time: Friday after worship, *Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SINGLES ENCOUNTER # 33

Date: **November 7-9, 2014**

Location: **Graymoor Spiritual Life Center
Garrison, NY**

Contacts: Jojo/Adelle Orosa ~ ja_orsosa@yahoo.com
Jutt Bustos ~ Justin.bustos@gmail.com

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER # 44

Date: **November 14-16, 2014**

Location: **Hotel Executive Suites
30 Minue St. Carteret NJ**

Contacts: Nong/Tricia Bustos ~ mia@bldnewark.com

Confession



Every last Friday of the month
from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm at
St. Mary's Church (DMP).

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Oct 24	Evangelization
		Oct 31	Formation
		Nov 7	Management
		Nov 14	Mission

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COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 43

Bulletin Edition

Oct. 24, 2014

NEWS

Pope Paul VI Declared Blessed

Pope Francis Concludes Synod of Bishops With Beatification of Predecessor

Vatican City/10/19/14/Zenit.org/Junno Arocho Esteves

“By our apostolic authority we declare that the Venerable Servant of God Paul VI, Pope, shall henceforth be called Blessed...”

With these words, Pope Francis beatified Paul VI at the closing Mass of the Synod of Bishops. The celebration comes at the conclusion of a two week meeting where the Pope, along with Bishops and Cardinals from around the world, discussing the challenges of the family.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who was made a Cardinal by the newly Blessed in 1977, was present at the beatification. He was greeted warmly by Pope Francis at the start of the Mass. Benedict XVI had declared Paul VI ‘Venerable’ in December 2012.

Pope Francis wore a gold chasuble that belonged to Blessed Paul VI as well as the newly beatified’s, pastoral cross.

The Holy Father reflected on the Synod, noting that pastors and lay people worked together “in order to help today’s family walk the path of the Gospel with their gaze fixed on Jesus.”

“It has been a great experience, in which we have lived synodality and collegiality, and felt the power of the Holy Spirit who constantly guides and renews the Church,” he said. “For the Church is called to waste no time in seeking to bind up open wounds and to rekindle hope in so many people who have lost hope.”

The Pope expressed his hope that the Holy Spirit would continue to “guide the journey which, in the Churches throughout the world, is bringing us to the Ordinary Synod of Bishops on October 2015.”

Paul VI: A Prophetic Witness of Love

Referring to Blessed Paul VI as a “tireless apostle,” Pope Francis recalled his predecessor’s establishment of the Synod as a way of adapting to the “growing needs of our times.”

Continued page 4

COUNSELS

LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR, FOR THE LOVE OF GOD

THEME: True disciples of Jesus respond with fruitfulness when they love God and neighbor as they love themselves.

WORD: Ex 22:20-26/Ps 18:2-3,3-4,47,5
1 Thes 1:5-10/Mt 22:34-40

ORDER: *You shall love the Lord your God.....You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

REFLECTION:

“If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. This is the commandment we have from Him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.” (1John 4:20-21)

Our love for our neighbor must be more than our natural affection. Drawing from God’s love through prayer and the sacraments gives us the ability to look at our neighbors through our Lord’s eyes. The most perfect prayer is the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. By participating in the Mass, as we renew our Lord’s sacrifice on the cross and unite ourselves with His self-offering to the Father, we express our love for Him. Only when we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength can we love our neighbor as ourselves.

In front of the Holy Eucharist, in our frequent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, we recognize our love for God and God’s love for us. This drives us to live with compassion and love for others. “*The Spirit compels us to encounter our brothers and sisters, even those most distant from us in every way, to share with them the love, peace, and joy of the Risen Lord.*”(Pope Francis 9/17/2104)

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

If he cries out to me, I will hear him for I am compassionate” (Ex 22:26b)

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

God's Handiwork



Why me? That's the first question that I asked when I was discerned to write this article for the Covenant News. I was really surprised and hesitant. For the past 15 years, I always refused invitations from every BLD relative and friend to join this community. I was always afraid to speak up, pray in front of other people, or open up about myself. I knew that I would need to share about deep, personal things from my life experiences. I felt like I was the worst speaker and writer in our ME class. So, why me?

“For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.” (Eph 2:10). A part of me told me that God chose me for a reason. This part of me did not exist in the past when I was spiritually dormant. However, the Encounters, LSS's, teachings, and worships that the community offers have revitalized my spirit. They allowed me to see Jesus' light; and gradually, I started thinking more positively about myself. Through my renewed faith, I now believe that He chose me, not for who I am or what I am able to do, but rather for what I would become under His direction and power.

During the prayer healing workshop, I expressed how much I wanted to serve Him despite how incapable I felt. I had focused on what I did not have instead of on what I already have. However, God made me see my flaws and weaknesses, so I could testify to growing and maturing through Christ's power. Now, I realize that each of us is unique and important. Each of us is needed in our church, in our community, and in this world to do good works and to spread the good news. We have worth because of what God has done *for* us and *in* us.

Now, whenever I ask myself, “Why me?” the answer is clear: my imperfections are all part of God's plan for me to reach other people who may also doubt their own capabilities. When the Lord calls us, we must respond to Him, and we should not think we have nothing to offer. Even before He created us, He knew what we could do. The Lord takes what we can offer and enables us to accomplish great things for Him.

“God is perfect, He is faultless. And so, when Divine love becomes manifest in us in the fullness of Grace, we radiate this love --- not only on the earth, but throughout the entire universe as well... It is God's all-encompassing love that manifests itself in us. When this happens, we see no difference between people: everyone is good, everyone is our brother, and we consider ourselves to be the worst of men --- servants of every created thing.” - Elder Thaddeus

Are You Ready?

Preparation. A word that comes with many negative connotations, especially when we ourselves have to deal with it. Why? Preparation often means much waiting and hard work. When an exam is coming up, it requires hours of studying, sitting and learning. **Preparation.** If a Christmas party is being held at your house, you will need to commit to hours of cleaning, planning and cooking. **Preparation.** We do it because we know that only those who are willing to sacrifice will reap the rewards of their hard labor.

What success then will be attained by those who prepare in faith? The heaviness that this word *preparation* bears prevents us from remembering the ultimate gift that comes to those who sacrifice: eternal life. Our God is so good, that He has promised everlasting life to those who prepare for His coming with love, obedience and faith. How beautiful is this? THIS is how much he loves us. Yet, the conditions to attain the ultimate goal appear daunting to the human mind. For what love requires is to respect our enemy. What obedience requires is that we follow the Lord's commandments. What faith requires is to trust not in our own instinct, but in the Lord's plan. When we say, “Yes, Lord, I love you,” how far must we go to prove this with our words, actions and character?



“Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.” (Lk 12:39). Having been assured of the Lord's

return, it is up to us to remain strong in faith and not be distracted by the things of this world. Let us not be disheartened by the negative connotations that the word *preparation* so often carries with it. Instead, let us rejoice in the truth that we are being welcomed into the kingdom of heaven to be with our Heavenly Father. For the happiness we know on Earth is nowhere near what our Lord has prepared for us in His kingdom. Let us walk by love, obedience and faith, knowing very well that Christ is coming, and He wants us to be with Him. Preparation. Are you ready?

Christian Authenticity

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

One concept that appeals to many Christians today is the notion of being **authentic**. By authentic I mean **being Christian in a way which reflects the reality of the gospel**. We want to be authentic Christians who are members of authentic churches pursuing authentic ministry. Yet what does this really look like? 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 paints a portrait that reveals Christian authenticity from several aspects.

The first aspect of Christian authenticity is a **community that is aware of the Father, Son, and Spirit**. Note how in verse 1 and 2 Paul, the author of 1 Thessalonians, is aware of both the Father's and Son's contributions to his relationship with his readers. Note also in verse 5 that he references the third member of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. Do our lives and communities reflect similar awareness of each member of the Trinity? If not, who is missing, and why might this be? If so, do we sense the same kind of energy pulsing through our community that is pulsing through chapter 1 of this letter?

A second aspect of Christian authenticity is **service characterized by faith, hope, and love**. Paul says, **"We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ"** (v. 3). The most exciting church experiences I've had have come from being part of a dynamic community in which faith, hope, and love are present together. Father, let me work, labor, and endure with the faith, love, and hope of these Thessalonian believers.

A third aspect of Christian authenticity is **proclamation framed not only by words, but also with power, the Spirit, and deep conviction** (v. 5). Is our community proclaiming Christ not only in word, but also in power, the Spirit, and with deep conviction? If not, what is God calling me to do toward moving in this direction?

A fourth aspect of Christian authenticity is **leadership marked by incarnation, modeling, suffering, joy, and reproduction** (vv. 6,7). A fifth aspect of Christian authenticity is **faith characterized by repentance, service, and waiting on the Lord** (vv. 8-10).

Let's examine each of these aspects of Christian authenticity - our experience of community, our service, our proclamation, our leadership, and our faith. May these verses affirm our own Christian authenticity where it exists and point the way ahead where we are deficient, that we might know and rejoice in the genuineness of the authentic gospel.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

In Proverbs 3:1&5, we read: **"My son, do not forget my teaching, take to heart my commands....Trust in the LORD with all your heart, on your own intelligence do not rely."** Our dear God so loved us, that He provided us with His Ten Commandments (not just suggestions), to teach us how to live as His sons and daughters (in the first four), and to live with our brothers and sisters in the community (in the last six). Our Lord Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, gave us the eight Beatitudes, not as commandments, but as teachings of humility, charity, and brotherly love to transform our inner person, our mind and heart. And our Holy Catholic Church provided us with the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy which illustrate the way to show charity toward others. These are God's social laws for living for Him and with the others. When we did not know God, we were slaves to sin, to ourselves, the world, and the devil. As Christians, we know that to love God and our neighbor is worth more than gold and silver because it leads us to the Kingdom of God.

Loving God is more than a creed or an attitude, more than a teaching or a doctrine or an article of faith. When our Lord Jesus said that we should love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind, He meant we should love God with our whole life. Loving God is more than praising and worshiping Him. Just as the Thessalonians turned from idolatry to serve the living and true God, we must turn from our evil ways. The Catechism says: *"Christ died out of love for us, while we were still 'enemies.' The Lord asks us to love as He does, even our enemies, to make ourselves the neighbor of those farthest away, and to love children and the poor as Christ himself."* (CCC1825) When St. Paul learned that the Christian community he founded in Corinth was displaying divisions and moral disorder, he wrote them letters in which he gave an incomparable description of love. He taught that the practice of all virtues (human, cardinal, and theological) is animated and inspired by love, the greatest virtue of them all... and that without love, we are nothing.

In Luke 6:46, Jesus asks, **"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord', but do not do what I command?"** Jesus commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Love is an essential part of our obligation to God. When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we ask that He forgive our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Where we Christians can, and frequently do, fail is in our effort to forgive and love our neighbor. When we fail to love our neighbor, we fail in our love for God, because we refuse to carry out our sacred duty. If we do not recognize our neighbor as our brother, we do not recognize God as our Father, and we do not love Him. We must always remember that whatever spiritual or material help we give to a neighbor in need out of true charity, is given to God; and whatever is given to God is invested in heaven. Our God pays bountiful dividends.

Continued page 4

COUNSELS (from page 3)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Be quick to forgive and reconcile with each other.
2. Avoid prejudice and bias.
3. Care for the needy and the oppressed.

NEWS (from page 1)

“When we look to this great Pope, this courageous Christian, this tireless apostle, we cannot but say in the sight of God a word as simple as it is heartfelt and important: thanks!” he exclaimed as the faithful applauded. “Thank you, our dear and beloved Pope Paul VI! Thank you for your humble and prophetic witness of love for Christ and his Church!”

During his pontificate, Blessed Paul VI led the Church during the sexual revolution of the 60s. It was in that time that he wrote his famed encyclical “Humanae Vitae” (Human Life) which reaffirmed the Church’s stance on conjugal love, parenthood, and the Church’s stance on contraception. Though facing opposition from both outside and within the Church, Paul VI staunchly defended “the design established by the Creator.”

It was his humility, Pope Francis concluded, where “the grandeur of Blessed Paul VI shines forth.

“Before the advent of a secularized and hostile society, he could hold fast, with farsightedness and wisdom – and at times alone – to the helm of the barque of Peter, while never losing his joy and his trust in the Lord.”

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEALING MASS ~ NOVEMBER 7, 2014

St. Mary’s Church, Rahway NJ

Officiated by Fr. Frank Pavonne, National Director, Priest for life

MEDICAL MISSION 2015

February 16-19, 2015,
Koronadal City, So. Cotabato, Philippines
Volunteers needed.

If interested, please sign-up on or before December 15th

For details contact: Mel/Remy Hernandez chi1944@hotmail.com

PASTORAL HOUR ~ Oct. 28th @ 8 pm

FOR: DLC (DCS/Ministry Coordinators/Class Shepherds)

CCR Leaders Day entitled
“Coming Together to Serve Each Other/
Encourage, Educate and Empower.”

*Saturday, November 15, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm,
Holy Family Parish in Nutley*

To all Charismatic Prayer Group and Ministry Leaders

Please mark your calendars, register between *now* and Nov. 1, and pray for this special event. Together let us seek the Holy Spirit for a fresh anointing upon our CCR in the Archdiocese of Newark. Registration fee: \$10

LORD’S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK’S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$3,977	\$122,310
Mission Collections	\$122	\$7,469
Walk Fundraising	\$100	\$34,649
Fr. Paul’s SOH	\$284	\$7,413

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

Thank you for your continued support!
Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

Oct 24 - Intercessory Immersion – ME 41, SPE 15
Service Immersion – ME 42

Nov 1* - New Creation Realities/Growth in Prayer – LSS 1-43
- Christian Maturity Program 2, Part 1 – LS 1-38

Nov 21 - Intercessory Immersion – ME 41, SPE 15
- Service Immersion – ME 42

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

Time: Friday after worship, *Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SINGLES ENCOUNTER # 33

Date: **November 7-9, 2014**

Location: **Graymoor Spiritual Life Center
Garrison, NY**

Contacts: Jojo/Adelle Orosa ~ ja_orsosa@yahoo.com
Jutt Bustos ~ Justin.bustos@gmail.com

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER # 44

Date: **November 14-16, 2014**

Location: **Hotel Executive Suites
30 Minue St. Carteret NJ**

Contacts: Mosty/Ling Garcia ~ mtg7lra@aol.com or
ME 43 class members

Confession



Every last Friday of the month
from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm at
St. Mary’s Church (DMP).

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Nov 7	Management
			Nov 14	Mission
			Nov 21	Pastoral

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 44

Bulletin Edition

October 31, 2014

NEWS

Pope Francis: Christians Are Called to Build the Unity of the Church

At Morning Mass, Encourages the Faithful to Be Living Stones

Vatican City/10/24/14/Zenit.org/Junno Arocho Esteves

The task of every Christian is to build “the unity of the Church.” This was the central theme of Pope Francis’ homily during his morning Mass at Casa Santa Marta today.

The Holy Father reflected on the first reading in which St. Paul calls on the Christian community of Ephesus “to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace.”

Recalling St. Paul’s image of the Church as living stones, the Pope stressed that as Christians, we are also tasked with “building the unity of the Church.”

“When constructing a temple or a building, the first thing ones does is find suitable land,” he explained.

“Then one lays the cornerstone, the Bible says. And the cornerstone of the unity of the Church, or rather the cornerstone of the Church, is Jesus and the cornerstone of the unity of the Church is Jesus’ prayer at the Last Supper: ‘Father, that they may be one!’ And this is its strength!”

The 77-year-old Pontiff went on to say that it is only through the grace of the Holy Spirit that one is capable of constructing this unity. The Spirit does this, he said, “in the diversity of nations, cultures and people.”

Contemplating St. Paul’s advice to be weak bricks, the Pope noted that in the eyes of the world that is weak advice.

“Humility, gentleness, magnanimity: These are weak things, because the humble person appears good for nothing; gentleness, meekness appear useless; generosity, being open to all, having a big heart,” he said.”

Continued page 4

COUNSELS

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SOULS

THEME: **We trust and believe in Jesus Christ when we do the will of the Father.**

WORD: **Wis 3:1-9 / Ps 27:1,4,7,8a,9a,13,14 Rom 6:3-9 / Jn 6:37-40**

ORDER: **Believe in the Son and have eternal life. (Jn 6:40 para.)**

REFLECTION:

The readings for the feast of All Souls’ Day remind us of an end to our earthly life; but we are created for immortality. St. Ambrose described death as the universal passage. One day each of us will have to render an account of how we used our talents and blessings here on earth before Jesus, our judge.

Let us not fear, for in the Book of Wisdom, (3:9) the emphasis was not on fear but on trust:



“trust in Him, grace and mercy are with His holy ones and His care is with the elect.”

And in the Gospel of John it says: *“For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life and I shall raise him up on the last day.”* (John 6:40) Both quotes support our theme. When we trust and believe in Jesus, we do the will of the Father.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are with the holy ones, and care is with the elect.” (Wisdom 3:9)

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

Am I provoking my children?

Is there a better way to give instructions to our children? Looking back in my life as a father of two teenage boys, I could easily recall the countless times I have unleashed harsh words. I easily reacted to situations without listening to my children's reasons. Only recently have I come to realize the deep resentments of my children each time they heard the words, "be quiet," in their formative years. With all good intentions in mind I often misused my parental authority.

"Be angry but do not sin." (Eph 4:26) Fathers have the tendency to overreact, right? Notice how in Eph 6:4 God directed the command to fathers to refrain from provoking their children. It is in the fabric of our human nature to be angry at times, but there is a gentle caution that we ought to restrain ourselves from sinning. Though as parents we are responsible for the moral and intellectual formation of our



children, we must do so *in accordance with the gospel*. God teaches us that we can nourish their souls with loving correction and Christian truth. We can use words that respect and uphold their dignity instead of being coercive and degrading. We are not to demean or dominate, instead to lead by example through gentleness. Do not be quick tempered when they make mistakes and compromises, but be present and provide sound counsel despite the circumstance. Be **"quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."** (Jas 1:19b) **"For those who rule their temper are better than the conqueror of a city."** (Prov 16:32) Try to reflect and contemplate instead of rashly reacting to tense or provoking situations. Pause, pray, and ask the Holy Spirit for eloquence and meekness of character. Listen attentively to the deeper meaning of what our children are trying to express. So do not discourage children with unreasonable discipline or restraint (see Col 3:21). Do not stifle their free spirit by being too rigid and too controlling.

There is a better way and we find that in Jesus. Look no further for idols in society or in media. You only need to gaze at the cross to realize that only through sacrifice and dying to self can we begin to live and experience the joy of the gospel. Each time we avoid hostile dialogues with our children, it seems to me to be nothing short of a miracle.

Children, obey your parents!

As children, we have a common trait that becomes more evident as we grow older: believing that we know everything. How many times have you heard a parent receive the infamous, "I know what I'm doing!" or "I got this, don't worry about it!"



Probably more often than you'd hope. Honestly speaking, I know I've been guilty of that habit multiple times. We think that we know everything and we believe we're ready to be independent, but we

aren't remotely close to being ready.

In Ephesians 6:1 it says, **"Children, obey your parents [in the Lord], for this is right."** As the common saying in BLD goes: "You were called by name." It can also be applied to the relationship of children and parents. There is no such thing in this world as the "perfect parent," but what matters is that they're perfect for us. God gave our parents to us because the role they play is exactly what we need, and this is why it's so important to obey them.

Interestingly enough, the fourth commandment, **"Honor your father and mother,"** (Ex 20:12) is the only commandment out of the ten that has a promise. The promise says that those who honor their father and mother will live a long life. But even without a superb promise like that, why shouldn't we obey and honor them? They're the reason why we're on this earth. Without them, you wouldn't even be reading this! Just think about it, the love your parents have for each other is manifested in a physical being: **you**. And then all that love goes to you! Although there are moments when it's hard to believe, everything that parents do for a child is done because they love him.

With all that parents do for us, the least we can do for them is listen to what they have to say. It's one of the easiest ways to show we love and appreciate them for everything they've done. It's a small gesture, but has a big impact.



ALL SAINTS' DAY



Have you ever prayed to a saint to help you in your problem? If so, you have the support of scripture, tradition, and the teaching of the Catholic Church that saints do intercede for us in our time of need.

Scripture tells us that the saints in heaven offer prayers as indicated by Revelation 5:8: “..... *Each of the elders held a harp and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones.*” Although Jesus is the only Mediator between God and man, it does not prevent us from asking others to intercede for us as evidenced by 1 Timothy 1-4.

The early Church fathers practiced and promoted the intercession of the saints. St. Augustine said that we commemorate martyrs so that they may pray for us and we may follow in their footsteps. St. Ambrose of Milan said, “May Peter who wept so efficaciously for himself, weep for us and turn towards us Christ’s benign countenance.”

The Catholic Church teaches the Communion of Saints. With Jesus Christ as its Head, it is the union that exists between the members of the Church on earth (the Church militant), with the blessed in heaven (the Church triumphant), and with suffering souls in purgatory (the Church suffering). The Church militant seeks the help of the saints, or the holy ones, in heaven to pray for one another and the souls in purgatory. The Church suffering cannot pray for others or themselves. Thus, we can see the importance of honoring the saints during this special day and having a spiritual relationship with your patron or favorite saint. The Blessed Virgin Mary, the greatest of all saints and Mother of Jesus Christ and of the Church, has always been the object of our request for intercession because she is the closest to Jesus Christ and the most loving mother to us all.

All Saints’ Day, celebrated every November 1st is a day on which Catholics honor all the saints, known and unknown. ↗

COUNSELS (from page 1)

Our Psalm says it all: “*The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.*” (Ps 23:1) When our gentle Shepherd is with us, there is no lack. He gives us peace, he guides us, encourages us and never leaves us; and He even laid down His life for us when we did not deserve it. Let us then be faithful to Him and heed His voice, then we don’t have to fear death and judgment. Jesus, my gentle Shepherd help me to ever remain faithful to you that I may be worthy of your mercy and grace. Amen.

St Paul’s message to the Romans was this: When Jesus died on the cross, He put to death our old fallen nature and when He rose, He made available to us a new life in Him (see Rom 6)

Our baptism and faith make our sinful nature die with Him. We are redeemed from sin. It means we are no longer slaves to our sins and sinful desires. Because we have died and risen with Christ, every day, we are called to life as new creations. But even if we say yes to this transformation, we need to nurture it with prayers, the sacraments, and our daily yielding to the Holy Spirit. Because transformation is usually a process, we are not yet completely holy nor purified completely from sin. Some sinful desires linger and we sometimes tolerate them out of habit. The Catholic church’s teachings, found in the CCC (1030-1032), are: until we are completely cleansed of our sins, we cannot enter heaven. Purgatory is that state of purification. The souls in purgatory can no longer pray for themselves, they depend on our prayers and compassion to shorten their stay there. Yet it is a place of hope because ultimately they will gain access to heaven through the intercession of the Church Triumphant and the Church Militant. Eternal rest, merciful Father, grant to our beloved departed who are still waiting to enjoy the Beatific Vision. Amen.

DIRECTIONS:

1. **Live in righteousness and holiness.**
2. **Accept God’s will in our lives.**

It is a Holy Day of Obligation. However, the bishops in the United States have received permission from the Vatican to waive that obligation if it falls on a Saturday or Monday. This year it falls on a Saturday, so we do not *have* to attend Mass, but it is always spiritually rewarding to join with the Communion of Saints in the greatest prayer available to us, the Holy Mass.

NEWS (from page 1)

“The weaker we are with these virtues of humility, generosity, gentleness, meekness, the stronger we become as stones in this Temple.”

The Pope called on the faithful to follow the path of Jesus who “became strong” only after becoming weak and dying on the Cross.

Concluding his homily, Pope Francis encouraged those present to hold on to “the hope of journeying towards the Lord” and “the hope of living in a living Church made of living stones.”

“We have been called to a great hope. Let’s go there!” he exclaimed. “But with the strength that Jesus prayer’ for unity gives us; with docility to the Holy Spirit, who is capable of making living stones from bricks; and with the hope of finding the Lord who has called us, to encounter Him in the fullness of time.”

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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St. Mary’s Church, Rahway NJ

Officiated by Fr. Frank Pavonne,
National Director, Priest for life

MEDICAL MISSION 2015

February 16-19, 2015,
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Volunteers needed.

If interested, please sign-up on or before December 15th

For details contact: Mel/Remy Hernandez
chi1944@hotmail.com

CCR Leaders Day entitled
“Coming Together to Serve Each Other/
Encourage, Educate and Empower.”

*Saturday, November 15, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm,
Holy Family Parish in Nutley*

To all Charismatic Prayer Group and Ministry Leaders

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Registration fee: \$10

LORD’S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK’S

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Mission Collections	\$118	\$7,587

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

Thank you for your continued support!
Stewardship - It's a way of life!

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- Christian Maturity Program 2, Part 1 – LS 1-38

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- Service Immersion – ME 42

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

Time: Friday after worship, *Saturday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Date: November 7-9, 2014

Location: Graymoor Spiritual Life Center
Garrison, NY

Contacts: Jojo/Adelle Orosa ~ ja_orsosa@yahoo.com
Jutt Bustos ~ Justin.bustos@gmail.com

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER # 44

Date: November 14-16, 2014

Location: Hotel Executive Suites
30 Minue St. Carteret NJ

Contacts: Mosty/Ling Garcia or ME 43 class members

SAVE THE DATE!

YOUTH LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

March 6-8, 2015 ~ Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway NJ

Contacts: ycs@bldnewark.com/dyc@bldnewark.com



Confession

Every last Friday of the month
from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm
St. Mary’s Church (DMP).

Marshaling	Schedule	
	Date	Apostolate
	Nov 7	Management
	Nov 14	Mission
	Nov 21	Pastoral
Nov 28	Evangelization	

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 45

Bulletin Edition

November 7, 2014

NEWS

Rivalry and Vainglory Weaken the Church

Excerpt from [Zenit.org/Junno Arocho Esteves/110414](http://Zenit.org/Junno_Arocho_Esteves/110414)

When no one seeks his own interests and is genuinely grateful, then there is harmony in the Church. This was the main theme of Pope Francis' homily during his morning Mass at Casa Santa Marta today.

He said that, rivalry and vainglory go against this harmony. According to Vatican Radio, the Pope noted that often in churches, parishes and schools, rivalry and vainglory are the "two worms that eat the fabric of the Church, weakening Her. When there is harmony in a Church, there is unity; no one seeks his or her own interests; there is an attitude of gratefulness."

He reflected on St. Paul's letter to the Philippians, in which the Apostle says, "*do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves.*" [St. Paul] felt this himself. He qualifies himself as the least among the apostles, the one 'not worthy to be called an apostle.' Noting that the Church celebrates the memorial of St. Martin de Porres today, the Pope said that the example set by the "humble Dominican friar" is something that Christians should aspire to. St. Martin's spirituality, he said, was in service, a spirituality that calls all of us to follow as St Paul exhorts everyone to do.

The Holy Father also spoke on today's Gospel, where Jesus advises one of the Pharisees to invite those who "*have no ability to repay*" to a banquet." He said, Jesus urges not to seek repayment for good done to others. Concluding his homily, the Pope invited the faithful to ask themselves when they do something good, if they have a spirit of gratitude or one seeking vainglory. Just as God's love is our greatest gift and our salvation free, Pope Francis calls on all the faithful to open our hearts, do our part as much as we can, gratefully accept the invitation to this banquet which Christ paid "*with His humiliation unto death, death on a cross.*"

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

COUNSELS

THE LIVING CHURCH - THE BODY OF CHRIST

THEME: **We trust and believe in Jesus Christ when we live by the word He has spoken.**

WORD: Ez 47:1-2,8-9,12; Ps 46:2-3,5-6,8-9
1 Cor 3:9c-11,16-17; Jn 2:13-22

ORDER: **Come to believe the Scripture and the Word Jesus had spoken. (Jn 2:22)**

REFLECTION:

Throughout the ages, we have come to understand "temple" in two ways: our physical bodies, as the living temple of God and the church, where we gather together to worship God. These visible churches are not simply gathering places but signify and make visible the Church living in this place, the dwelling of God with men reconciled and united in Christ. More than a physical structure, the Church is the gathering of God's people, all of whom together form the dwelling place of His Spirit.

Today we celebrate the feast of the Dedication of the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the cathedral of the Pope as Bishop of Rome. It is called the "mother church" of Rome and of all Catholic churches in the world. The Church gives importance to this church as a structure because it is a visible symbol of the universal Church. It calls us to look toward the house of God in the New Jerusalem toward which the earthly church is in pilgrimage.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"Wherever the river flows, every sort of living, creatures that can multiply shall live, and there shall be abundant fish, for wherever this water comes the sea shall be made fresh." (Ez 47:9)

EXCUSES, EXCUSES, EXCUSES

Jesus was at a dinner table when he told the parable of the Great Feast. A man invited many guests to a great dinner; and “*when the time for dinner came, he dispatched his servant to say to those invited, ‘Come everything is now ready.’*” (Lk 14:17) Those who were invited, however, began to excuse themselves one by one.

Excuses, excuses, excuses. There are many different characters in the Scriptures who tried to give excuses for their actions beginning with Adam and Eve. When God asked why they sinned and ate the forbidden fruit, Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent. Who do we blame when we sin?

Cain offered sacrifice to God but resented and envied Abel whose offering pleased God more. Thus Cain murdered his brother. When God asked him where Abel was, Cain’s excuse was that he was not his brother’s keeper. He wanted to please God but he wanted to do this on his own terms. What excuse do we give when our Church or BLD asks us to serve? Do we serve on our own terms, too?

Excuses, excuses, excuses. Lucifer was an angel of light but he was not happy with the position God gave him. He wanted more; he wanted to be God and be above God. His pride is SIN that is spelled “S” as in self; “I” as in me and “N” as in nobody else.

How about Moses? He gave many different excuses: his weaknesses, his sins, his speech problem. Eventually, he ran out of ways to excuse himself from leading the Israelites out of Egypt.

How about us? What excuse do we have for not getting involved in our missions, attending teachings or reading the Bible regularly? Are we giving our all or just what we feel like giving? Doesn’t God deserve our best? Didn’t he give *His* best, His only begotten Son, for us?

The Father is ready to accept us, the Son to intercede for us, the Spirit to sanctify us. God has prepared this great banquet. He got everything ready for us at a very great cost: the life of His only begotten Son, who died for our sins. Behold the dinner is prepared. Heaven is ready to receive us. Now is the acceptable time; do not delay. Are you ready? What is your excuse? One day the door will close, and no excuses will be accepted.

HOLINESS

No one with a true faith in God would regard himself or herself to be equal to Him. Yet, while this is what we may profess, our actions and deeds need to conform with the attitude of our Lord Jesus. As disciples of Christ, our objective should not be to have equality with Him but to become holy. To be holy may be difficult to do but consider the costs of discipleship.

As members of a Christian community, one of the important attitudes we need to have is unselfishness. This is about our willingness and desire to share with others our God-given talents, some or most of what we treasure in life, and then finding the time to actually do this. Let us also remember that our unselfishness should have as its foundation our love for others that is not based on our own convenience nor our comfort, but on our love for God. Likewise, the joy of sharing cannot be achieved if done out of pride or for self-recognition.

Looking after the interests of others is also part of unselfishness. It is about caring for others. We need to continue being a loving and caring community if we want to convince other people to join us in our spiritual journey as we enter through that narrow gate. We can have unlimited boundaries if we can become true Christian disciples.

We all know how we can act unselfishly. But knowledge alone is not enough. We may be asking ourselves why we feel some spiritual dryness or why we do not feel holy even when we offer to serve God through our BLD community. The answer to these is exemplified by our Lord Jesus as St. Paul describes Him in Phil 2:7-8, how He emptied and humbled Himself, becoming obedient even to death because of His unconditional love for us.

It is said that the biggest block to having a close relationship with God and others is our pride, and it is the most difficult block to break. Life is a matter of making choices, even when we are confronted with difficult ones. Our clear-cut choices in our spiritual journey are:

1. To feel holy through acts of unselfishness and humility, and love for God and others; and
2. To claim equality with God by doing things out of selfishness and pride and love for one’s self only.

The choice is yours. Which will you choose?



FR. PAUL SPEAKS.... **INNER AWARENESS**

With Halloween just past us, I thought it might be helpful to dwell a bit on the mysterious world of the invisible. Business and even entertainment has commercialized the mysterious and the invisible. It is ironic that as the world is becoming more secular and questioning of the invisible, entertainment in the form of horror films, and spooky costumes on Halloween has become more popular. Even though we might dismiss this as harmless, we would do well to be careful to avoid dabbling into witchcraft and horror programs which could have demonic roots. We may not take all of this very seriously, but remember the devil is looking for someone to devour and could use these harmless events as an entrée into our lives. That is why instead of horror costumes some churches sponsor "All Saints" programs. We should be aware that Halloween is in reality a preparation for the holy day of "All Saints," November 1st. Halloween means "holy evening".

Let's move next into a consideration of the invisible world of the supernatural. It is possible to become aware of the invisible and the supernatural through holy and spiritual means. Prayer brings us into the dimension of the supernatural, and even though faith is deeper than feelings, we can often sense a Divine presence when we raise our minds in prayer. This awareness is not necessarily an emotional feeling, even though often God gets our attention through our good or even distasteful feelings. Faith is an awareness, not necessarily emotional, but an awareness of the presence of God. That is why we often have to collect ourselves and consciously and deliberately "place ourselves in the presence of God" when we get ready to pray.

This brings us into an awareness of sin. Guilt feelings can be good or bad. Good guilt leads us to repentance and eventual joy. When we realize we have done something wrong and sinned and then repent to the Lord, this is good guilt. Bad guilt makes us discouraged and leads to just giving up, instead of trusting the Lord and receiving His forgiveness. We all sin and "fall short," but God is superior to even the most violent temptations. We should pray for and desire a healthy sense of sin. It is better to see the sin before doing it rather than to repent after the sin has produced that profound sense of guilt.

As we become more aware of the enemy in the form of sin and temptation, we at the same time become more aware of the consoling presence of the triune God who dwells in us and loves us. Inner awareness is a great spiritual gift. Pray for it, and let this contemplative awareness carry you through the challenges and burdens of life.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

In the first reading, the prophet Ezekiel tells of the vision of a wonderful and superabundant stream flowing from the temple to restore the fertility of the once dry land. On the cross, Jesus established His church as blood and water flowed from the temple of his body. In this healing flow, Ezekiel's vision of the New Jerusalem is fulfilled.

In the second reading, St. Paul asked the people of Corinth: "***Do you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?***" (1 Cor 3:16) We are that temple, and the healing and transforming power of the Spirit can flow from us. As the Body of Christ, we are made up of ordinary members built on the extraordinary foundation of Jesus Christ, the apostles and prophets; we are God's own building. Through the Holy Spirit, a great river flows from the church- the people of God- and brings life everywhere it goes. As heirs to the Kingdom, we are called to be responsible for its physical as well as spiritual well-being.

In the Gospel, Jesus' action in cleansing the temple recalls the warning of the prophet Jeremiah to the priests- that the temple had become a den of thieves. He prophesied that God would destroy the temple, the sanctuary at Shiloh. Jesus' action signifies that the messianic purification of the temple is now at hand and that his anger and his zeal are understandable as He is not only a prophet but also the awaited Messiah. They asked for a sign to show his source of authority. He tells them instead, "***Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.***" (Jn 2:19) John points out the temple Jesus is referring to is His own body. The Jews will eventually destroy it; but Jesus "will raise it up" by His resurrection. Another temple is then formed- the Church, which is the Body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit.

As Jesus is the one who has cleansed our own temples, we should take care of them by keeping them hallowed when we step out of whatever "marketplaces" we find ourselves in, in our moments of frequent prayers, and when we enter into real communion with God. As baptized Christians we know what a great privilege it is to be a member of the living church, the Body of Christ. We have all been adopted into God's family and like all the people of God and the saints, each of us has been commissioned by the Lord to go out and proclaim the good news of the Gospel.

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS *(from page 1)*

Filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and God's spoken word, each of us is empowered to reach out in love to those around us in our mission fields - when we build houses for the needy, do our prison ministry, work in soup kitchens, shepherd the lost, comfort the grieving, come to worship each Sunday. We unite with all to build God's kingdom on earth; we become part of the universal church. The lowliest of us as well as the most renowned have been called to play a special role in God's mission. With our belief and trust as Christ's witnesses, we are to be faithful to our call.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Read scriptures daily.
2. Put into action Christ's teachings.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER 2014

Lonely people:

That all who suffer loneliness may experience the closeness of God and the support of others.

Mentors of seminarians and religious:

That young seminarians and religious may have wise and well-formed mentors.



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

"Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do... but how much love we put in that action." ~ Mother Teresa

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Nov 14	Mission
		Nov 21	Pastoral
		Nov 28	Evangelization
		Dec 4	Formation

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$2,392	\$127,590
Mission Collections	\$80	\$7,667
BLD Walk Collection	\$100	\$34,749

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

Thank you for your continued support!
Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

Nov 21 - Intercessory Immersion - ME 41, SPE 15
- Service Immersion - ME 42

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ
Time: Friday after worship, *Saturday 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER # 44

Date: November 14-16, 2014

Location: Hotel Executive Suites
30 Minue St. Carteret NJ

Contacts: Mosty/Ling Garcia or ME 43 class members

MEDICAL MISSION 2015

February 16-19, 2015,
Koronadal City, So. Cotabato, Philippines
Volunteers needed.

If interested, please sign-up on or before December 15th

For details contact: Mel/Remy Hernandez
chi1944@hotmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!



MARCH FOR LIFE 2015

Thursday, January 22, 2015
Washington DC

SAVE THE DATE!

YOUTH LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

March 6-8, 2015 ~ Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway NJ
Contacts: ycs@bldnewark.com/dyc@bldnewark.com



Confession

Every last Friday of the month
from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm
St. Mary's Church (DMP).



COVENANT NEWS

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NEWS

The Lord adds SE33 to the Singles Ministry



“It was not you who chose me, but I chose you.” (Jn 15:16) Praise the Lord! It was another Spirit-filled encounter weekend for the Singles Ministry. This weekend saw thirteen young adults become part of SE Class # 33. It was beautiful to see our young adults - from the candidates, to the sponsoring class, the facilitators, the praise ministry, the auxies, and everyone else present at Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, spending an entire weekend focused on God. They could have been somewhere else, partying with their friends or spending their time doing more “fun” stuff, but they all chose “the better part.” The weekend served as a powerful reminder that we truly have an awesome and loving God!

Congratulations to the thirteen young adults of SE 33: **Cliff Bejin, John Cam, Julius Lizardo, Kyle Abinales, Chris Morales, Glendyll Fabe, Jillian Bustos, Marielle Go, Madona Kennedy, Nicole Tse, Jenn Faura, Alize Rodriguez, and Danya Facura.** Discerned as class coordinators are **Glendyll Fabe, Jillian Bustos, Marielle Go and Chris Morales.** They will be guided by the incoming class shepherds, **Danny and Cora Labung.**

It was also great to see how much the members of SE32 had grown in their spiritual lives, having gone through the same experience just six months ago. “Awesome job” best describes their service as the sponsoring class for the weekend. Special thanks to our spiritual director - **Fr. Paul Lehman**; facilitators - **Darlene Calotes, Samantha Olaso, Seg Ogang, Jon Panlilio and Ron Bernal**; as well as to the **Singles Ministry Core (Jutt, Lita & Walter)** and **Singles Ministry Coordinators (Emil & Baby Canlas).**

COUNSELS

Using Our Gifts

THEME: We trust and believe in Jesus Christ when we are good stewards of God’s gifts.

WORD: **Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 / Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 1 Thes 5:1-6 / Mt 25:14-30**

ORDER: **“Come, share your master’s joy.”** (Mt 25:23)

REFLECTION:

The parable in the gospel for the thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time relates how a man going on a journey entrusted his possessions to his three servants, each according to his ability. In the same manner, we are all given individual qualities, strengths, and material resources that equip us in our walk through life. We are all stewards of the gifts and resources the Lord has so generously entrusted to each of us for the greater purpose of fulfilling God’s plan for our lives, including providing for our personal needs and for those who depend on us.



In our community, we have been made more aware of the gifts and graces we receive from God. Through the encounters, retreats, and seminars we have attended, and through reading and reflecting on the Word of God daily, we learned about the spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit gives us in accordance with His will. We were taught that it is our responsibility to use whatever gifts we received from the Lord offering them for the greater glory of God, the Giver of all these blessings. Like the stewards who presented their master upon his return with twice the amount of the talents given them, let us do our best and strive to use the gifts and resources ...*Continued, page 3*

Promise of the Week

“Blessed are all who fear the Lord, and who walk in his ways.

*What your hands provide you will enjoy;
you will be blessed and prosper.”* (Ps 128:1-2)

The Productive Spirit



Two interesting but contrasting figures appear in this Sunday's readings. The woman in Proverbs can be seen as a very busy and accomplished wife and mother. She applies herself, industriously utilizing her personal skills; she is compassionate and generous to the poor and has reverence for the Lord. Meanwhile, in the Gospel's parable of the talents, we see the rejected servant as totally unproductive.

In community there are many who give of themselves with real dedication, accepting assignments without reservation; while there are some who pick and choose depending on their comfort level because they may be apprehensive about the work, or they may be complacent, letting others do the job. The parable of the talents makes it clear that the Lord wants us to be productive, making full use of the gifts received in Baptism. After being in community for many years, I ask myself these questions: Have I grown in virtue and zeal to live the way Christ wanted me to? Do I have a fear of rejection or failure, a fear borne from previous hurts that need more healing? Do I choose my assignments or simply hold back until asked to work? Am I the gifted servant who doubled his talents, or am I the rejected servant who was not productive?

We should all be aware of the spiritual gifts we have been given and develop them, just as the woman in Proverbs, who had honed her skills. Some of us have gone through darkness in one way or another; and there may be aspects of our lives that need healing, so that we can utilize our gifts to the fullest. Let us make full use of the teachings and retreats the community offers, specially the Prayer Healing Seminar, and avail ourselves of the trained counselors in community to help see ourselves the way God sees us.

The word of God reminds us that we are all called to grow in the grace of God, and to use our talents for our own good and that of others. God has equipped us to grow in holiness and live a new life in Christ, so that we can become credible witnesses and bring forth new disciples in His name. Let us be the good and faithful servant, and share in our Master's joy. As we take pause, let us ask ourselves: What prevents us from being true Christian disciples? Are we scared of the challenges to be more like Christ? Scared of the responsibility?

Let us resolve then to be more productive spirits.



Woman of Substance

"... older women should be reverent in their behavior, not slanderers, not addicted to drink, teaching what is good, so that they may train younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, chaste, good homemakers, under the control of their husbands, so that the word of God may not be discredited." (Ti 2:3-5)

Indeed witnessing is a powerful tool. The caring words we speak, the careful steps we take, the just actions and wise decisions we make can convince a negative and doubtful person to believe God's words instead. Alternatively, our insensitive words and actions can lead hopeful Christians astray and cause unfavorable long-term consequences.

Regrettably, my countless inconsiderate actions and hurtful words had negatively influenced my children's behavior. They had seen the way I maltreated their father, how I took advantage of his kindness, and the many times I refused to submit to him, and instead made myself the head of the family. It was my way or the highway. I persistently belittled my husband in front of my children, which I think made it easy for them to dishonor their father. I was critical of how my family acted and responded to issues, easily succumbing to anger and frustration instead of listening and understanding their concerns. Further, I worked all the time, which made it too obvious to them that they were not my priority. Consequently, they emulated these wrong examples. They turned out to be grouchy, uncaring, irritable, distant, and impatient... like me.

However, our God is a merciful and loving God. He did not only save my marriage when He called me and my spouse to join the ME, He also healed me, my children and our relationship. He brought to light all the negative feelings that were lodged in my heart for so many years and all the hurts I had inflicted on my family. God gave me the grace to forgive and to ask for forgiveness. Through constant prayer, confession, and daily mass, I came to realize that by putting God first, I can let go of my past, overcome sin, and strive to live a holy life. Through God's grace, I aim to be a good role model to my children and encourage them to live a godly, spirit-filled life.

Lord, thank you for making me see my brokenness. Thank you for Your mercy and love. Please forgive me for the times I have led my children astray because of my selfishness and mistrust. Give me the grace to constantly show Your love to them in word and deed, so they may be inspired to live the Gospel, serve You without grumbling, love You and the people around them unconditionally, discern Your will in everything they do, and desire to become a loving spouse and parent someday. May I give You praise and glory all the days of my life. AMEN.

True Servant

“When you have done all you have been commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.’” (Lk 17:10)

Servanthood is an attitude exemplified by Jesus Christ. All believers are called to be servants for the glory of God, following Jesus Christ’s example of selfless service. When we give Jesus Christ His rightful place as Lord of our lives, His Lordship will be expressed in the way we serve. Genuine service cannot be separated from love. In 1 Cor 13, St. Paul makes it clear that, unless our service is rooted in love, it is meaningless. Serving God, out of a sense of obligation or duty, apart from love for God, is not what He desires. Rather, serving God should be our natural, love-filled response to Him Who loved us first.

As true servants of Christ, we serve Him in the first place, through others; and when we have done all that’s commanded of us, we should be greatly thankful to God for the grace, for the assistance of the Holy Spirit, and for all the blessings which He gives us. We are not to entertain the thought that God is obliged to reward us, nor, for that matter, to conclude, that our service merits any favors or gains.

Likewise, as we serve in the BLD Community, we must serve like Jesus Christ served - selflessly and with all humility - remembering that all our gifts come from God and that we are just using these gifts as commanded, for God’s greater honor and glory, and not our own. Selfless service is not always easy. We become tired. We may feel as though we are unprepared to perform the specific task that God desires of us. We may be inclined to become agitated at those who do not cooperate or oppose our endeavors. We may find ourselves burdened, while our neighbors seem oblivious to all that remains to be accomplished.

When tempted, we must recall the Good Shepherd’s loving and peaceful service that excluded all brooding, self-pity, hopelessness and anger. He did not allow unfair malicious gossip or any other negativity to stop His generous service, thus achieving what His Father wanted.

As true servants, we must dispense with the attitude of “entitlement,” but instead, see ourselves as “unworthy servants,” unworthy of any praise, and just keep on serving even when it hurts.



COUNSELS (from page 1)

given to us so that we may continue to grow in our Catholic faith and get to know the Father more so we can love Him more. We must allow this greater love we have for the Lord to transform us so our thoughts, words, and actions will truly reflect the love that He has for all.



The Lord understands our human imperfections; and He does not expect anything beyond what we are capable of, as we strive to up-build His kingdom here on earth. Let us not allow fear or the feeling of inadequacy to envelope us, like the servant who buried his talent and failed to utilize it. Let us trust that the Holy Spirit will provide us with grace and wisdom to carry out tasks that are asked of us in our family, in our workplace, in our own parishes, and in community. As we are faced with challenges in life, let us always be open to the Holy Spirit to lead us so we may be inspired to use our resources wisely to achieve our set goals. While we rely on the Spirit to embolden us to accomplish the work, let us continue to serve with utmost humility. Let us always remember that all the gifts we have been given are to enable us to complete the purpose He has for us.

Let us ask ourselves these questions: Have we given of ourselves fully so we can honestly say we have used our gifts to glorify the Lord? How many times have we hesitated to take on new assignments in community as we are so afraid to get out of our comfort zones? Let us reflect upon our lives since we were called to renewal. Let us resolve to be fruitful disciples of the Lord so that one day, when we come before our Father, we will hear Him say:

“Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities.

Come, share your master’s joy.” (Mt 25:23)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Exercise your spiritual gifts so you can be the light to those in need.
2. Attend the community teachings and retreats regularly.
3. Seek Spiritual Direction or Prayer Counseling.

A RIGHT TO LIFE REFLECTION

Earlier last week, even before BLD's First Friday Mass where Fr. Frank Pavone of the Priests for Life was going to be the main celebrant (or maybe because I knew that was upcoming), I found myself re-visiting a YouTube video featuring the song "Life is Beautiful" from the movie "October Baby."

The movie, that some in BLD may remember seeing, was about a college coed, who found out she was adopted and whose many health issues were then thought to be related to her very premature birth. She was alive because of a "failed abortion" eighteen years earlier and the movie was about her poignant search for her birth mother. One of her questions for that birth mother was this: "Why did you not want me?"

As I was listening again to that song, I found myself in her place, imagining – what if I asked Father God this similar question: "Father God...me, knowing who I am... Why would You want me?"

Tears then welled up and gushed from my eyes when in my thoughts I heard His answer:

**"But I do want you... I want all of you...
In fact, I love you."**

Now, a week later, I can still hear Him, addressing not only me, but all of us - yes, including the unborn:

**"I do want you... In fact...
I love each and every one of you."**

SMILE THERAPY

One night, Sarah asked her dad to tuck her into bed. After a brief prayer, she decided to ask him this burning question: "Dad, where do people come from?"

Being the modern scientific man that he was, Sarah's dad gently explained that a long time ago, there were apes, Neanderthals and cavemen, and that eventually from those, evolved man as we know him.

The next night, it was Mom's turn to tuck Sarah in. After a brief prayer, she asked her mom the same question: "Mom, where do people come from?"

Mom then told Sarah about how our awesome God created everything in six days and that on the seventh day, God rested. And within that week, He also created our first parents, Adam & Eve... and from them, we now have man.

Puzzled, Sarah then protested: "But last night, Dad said we came from the apes!"

To which, Mom, without missing a beat explained: "I know why he said that... It's because that's his side of the family."

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

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Mission Collections	\$262	\$7,929

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TEACHING CALENDAR

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- Service Immersion – ME 42

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ
Time: Friday after worship

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MEDICAL MISSION 2015

February 16-19, 2015,
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Volunteers needed.

If interested, please sign-up on or before December 15th

For details contact: Mel/Remy Hernandez
chi1944@hotmail.com

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Washington DC

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YOUTH LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

March 6-8, 2015 - Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway NJ
Contacts: yces@bldnewark.com/dyc@bldnewark.com



Confession

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from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm
St. Mary's Church (DMP).

Marshaling			Schedule
	Date	Apostolate	
	Nov 21	Pastoral	
	Nov 28	Evangelization	
	Dec 5	Formation	
Dec 12	Management		

*"Invest time with God
because it's an investment
that lasts throughout eternity."
-Victoria Osteen*

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COVENANT NEWS

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Volume 20 Issue 47

Bulletin Edition

November 21, 2014

ME 44 shares in the Master's Joy!

"Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy."

(Matthew 25:21)

God's word this past Sunday is ideal for the occasion as we all share in the Master's joy for blessing our community with nineteen couples who are the members of ME #44. Our listening God answered our prayers and rewarded our efforts because of our Faith in Him. We feel the joy of serving because our efforts were done out of love and humility.

Let us welcome the following members of ME #44 with the love of God through our prayers so their journey will continue, preferably with our community and through the guidance of their class shepherds, Nelson & Noemi Ilagan.

Richard & Rosalyn Argonza*, Carlos & Isabel Austria*, Gary & Jennifer Beredo, Brian & Beth Bumanglag, Rocky & Evelyn Calingo, JJ & Chay Cuevas, Jun & Lei Faigao, Jimmy & Jenne Fudalan, Louie & Malou Galman, Joel & Roma Huelgas, Ignatius Isekenegbe & Laureen Joseph*, Joel & Joyce Javier*, Don & Ariane Labung, John & Claire Mejorada, Ryan & Maris Manguiat, Carl & Nikki Punla, Jim & Brige Reyes*, Hermie & Beth Torres, Jun & Gemma Victorino.

*coordinators

We are blessed with so many who served before and during the ME weekend which include our pastoral team led by Msgr. Paul Schetelick, Chito & Aileen Ciocon, and Bong & Merle Encarnacion; our Spiritual Director, Fr. Paul Lehman; the sponsoring class of ME #43; the Liturgy, Praise, MLA and other ministries and ME classes; our entire community for your prayers and support.

Let us continue with our efforts in bringing Christ to others so our Heavenly Father will continue to tell us, *"Come, share your Master's joy."* (Mt 25:23b)

God is with us!

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

COUNSELS

Christ the King

THEME: We trust and believe in Jesus Christ when we make Him the king of our lives.

WORD: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46

ORDER: *"Come you are blessed by my father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."* (Mt 25:34)

REFLECTION:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, is King of the universe, a righteous King, a holy King. Our King is unlike any other king for Christ the King does not use His authority to put us under His feet to dominate us or to oppress us or to crush us. Christ is the true King, for He uses His authority to set us free by putting our enemies under His feet: unforgiveness, sin, and death.

Christ the King has conquered these enemies through the greatest sign of His triumph: the Cross. Through our King's victory on the Cross, He will grant forgiveness to all of us when we remorsefully repent of our sins. This is our King. Our King does not use His authority to punish us, but uses His authority to love us. Our King does not wear a crown of gold, but instead wears a crown of thorns as He shed His most precious blood to purchase eternal life for us.

When we recognize that the Cross is the greatest act of love and forgiveness and mercy in all of salvation history, we see Jesus Christ as the shepherd King. In the first reading, we heard the words of the prophet Ezekiel. The Lord is our shepherd, and we are His sheep. The shepherd King rescues us and returns us to Him when we go astray. He promised us that, *"The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal."*

(Ez 34:16)

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal." (Ez 34:16)

NOT A MARKETPLACE!

“Then Jesus entered the temple area and proceeded to drive out those who were selling things, saying to them, ‘It is written, ‘My house shall be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves.’”

(Lk 19:45-46)



Whenever these verses of the Bible are read, my mind harkens back to when I was young, back in the Philippines. There the approaches to the churches were full of vendors selling their wares.

Before you were able to get into the church, you would have been asked to buy this or that product. I thought that Jesus was talking about all the commotion and the marketplace scene. But there are no such things here in America, so there must be something else.

Our Church teaches us in CCC 797, “What the soul is to the human body, the Holy Spirit is to the Body of Christ, which is the Church.” “To this Spirit of Christ, as an invisible principle, is to be ascribed the fact that all the parts of the body are joined one with the other and with their exalted head; for the whole Spirit of Christ is in the head, the whole Spirit is in the body, and the whole Spirit is in each of the members.” The Holy Spirit makes the Church the temple of the living God.”

And so if our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, it should be a temple devoted solely to prayer.

I propose that when Jesus drove all those vendors out of the temple, he was also telling us to get rid of our own marketplace attitude towards God. He was telling us to remove all evil desires, like greed, envy, malice and pride from our bodies, and from of our lives. They are the thieves that steal our peace. Instead we should use our bodies as they were designed to be used: for prayer.

In CCC 2559, we read: “Prayer is the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God’ But when we pray, do we speak from the height of our pride and will, or ‘out of the depths’ of a humble and contrite heart?...’Man is a beggar before God.’ Not a buyer or seller. We are not in a position to haggle with God. →

The Happiness Envelope

*Most of us aren’t aware of it
But the reality is
We’ve each been given
A happiness envelope*

*Some are bigger than others
And at times, we unknowingly replace
The big envelopes we’ve already been given
With smaller ones that limit
The happiness in our lives
That we can maximize*

*And in a nutshell, we have three tasks
That involve these happiness envelopes:*

*The first is to secure
The biggest envelope possible...
And hang on to it!*

*The second is to fill it up as best we can...
Love someone... make friends... pursue dreams
Cause otherwise, it’ll be, just an empty envelope*

*As for number three...
Sadly, some choose to leave theirs more than half
empty, When they leave out this most important thing*

*To let God in...
And then help others
Fill in their happiness envelopes
As much as possible too.*

Prayer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

*Eternal Father, I offer Thee through the
Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the
Wounds of Our Lord Jesus Christ to heal the
wounds of our souls, especially for the holy souls in
Purgatory.*

*My Jesus, pardon and mercy through the merits of
Thy Sacred Wounds.*

In CCC 2562: “Where does prayer come from? Whether prayer is expressed in words or gestures, it is the whole man who prays.... According to Scripture, it is the *heart* that prays. If our heart is far from God, the words of prayer are in vain.”

If in the depths of our heart, if in the house of the living God, if in the temple of the Holy Spirit, there is humble prayer, it truly becomes God's abode.

The Book of Revelation

When we read the Book of Revelation, it is easy to wonder: Is the world really ending, and will it end soon? Although this beautiful and (at times) terrifying text is difficult, surely we can come to see that conversion and true faith in the Risen Lord are at the heart of Revelation.

The Church teaches that when we interpret scripture, we have to ask what the author intended, and what God wanted to express through the author. Thus we must pay attention both to the “literary forms” in a text and its relationship to all of scripture (cf. *Dei Verbum* 12). So what exactly is Revelation? It is a letter, a prophecy, and an apocalypse (with similarities to parts of Daniel and Ezekiel) all in one. “Apocalyptic” is a genre in which a person sees heavenly beings, symbols, and actions that require the help of a heavenly figure to interpret. Revelation offers strange visions that are meant to speak God’s judgment and God’s plan for his people.

This book is addressed to real communities living in the first century AD, so it may be helpful to ask, “What did John of Patmos see?” Of course, he saw the glories of heaven and the “shock and awe” of the battle of good and evil. But John also saw seven churches that either needed a wake-up call or encouragement as they faced persecution or living in a rotten culture. John was especially disgusted with the practice of emperor-worship and in everything that Rome (“Babylon”) represented.

To some churches, John preached conversion, a message that always applies to us. Like the Laodiceans, we may feel as if we are rich, but oftentimes the truth is that we need to wake up because we are lukewarm (Rev 3:15-21) or complacent. We need ongoing conversion from the lust for power, money, fame, and pleasure. The descriptions of the Beasts and the cycle of seals, trumpet blasts, and bowls are John’s inspired way of calling us to conversion from praising the Beasts to living for God alone.

Along with conversion, perseverance in hope is key both then and now. John prophetically sees the future that God has in store, and the truth that God has already won in Jesus, the Lamb. If our world falls apart or we face terrifying “beasts,” we can persevere knowing that God “*makes all things new.*” (Rev 21:5) Just as the Lamb reigns *Continued on page 4*

COUNSELS (from page 1)

Jesus is our King, and Jesus is our Shepherd. These do not contradict each other. Just the opposite, His mercy and His forgiveness and His compassion are manifestations of His true authority over all of creation. His mercy and His forgiveness and His compassion are manifestations of His true kingship. Only a Shepherd can be the true King.

The love of God is greater than infinite. Jesus Christ sacrificed His own life so that we will enjoy eternal life with Him in His kingdom. All of us are invited to this kingdom. In Matthew 25:34 Jesus said, “*Come you are blessed by my father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*”

But with this privilege of inheriting the eternal kingdom of Christ comes responsibilities. The Gospel reading according to Matthew is often interpreted as follows: the Son of Man will reward the sheep to His right for all they did for Him by helping the broken and downtrodden, but He will condemn the goats to His left for all they did not do for Him by not helping the broken and downtrodden. In other words, faith in the Lord demands that we love our neighbor through good works. Indeed, the directions we have received tonight are to do the corporal works of mercy: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. Our community faithfully practices these works, though its soup kitchen services, nursing home visitations, and medical missions for example. But another common interpretation of this Gospel reading is that the Son of Man will reward the sheep to His right for believing and accepting the testimony of His disciples, but He will condemn the goats to His left for rejecting the testimony of His disciples.

These two views can be reconciled as follows: we, the disciples of the King, must serve the broken and downtrodden so that they may see the love of the King within us, so that they themselves will then be counted among the sheep. Anyone who feels any reservations about giving all of their worship and all of their praise to the King of the universe does not yet know Him, and we His disciples must lead them to the King. We must never forget why our King calls us to practice the corporal works of mercy: so that the world will see in us the image of the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sanctifier. *Continued on page 4*

“Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself.” (Matthew 6:34)

COUNSELS (from page 3)

While she lived here on earth, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, was once helping someone who saw the crucifix around her neck and asked her, "Who is that?" Mother Teresa answered, "He is my God." Being so moved by her faith and her love and her compassion, the person responded, "Then He is now my God as well."

Let us witness His love *"...that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."* (Phil 2:10-11)

DIRECTIONS

1. Practice corporal works of mercy.
2. Serve in mission activities of the community.

The Book of Revelation (from page 3)

forever, those who conquer in His name will inherit life with God in the New Jerusalem, where *"He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, [for] the old order has passed away."* (Rev 21:4) This is a future worth living and dying for.

For more thoughts and further resources on the Book of Revelation, please visit *The Word and the Spirit* blog at <http://bldnewarkwordministry.weebly.com/blog>

TEACHING CALENDAR

SAVE THE DATE!

COMMUNITY TEACHING

December 6, 2014 1:00 – 5:00 PM

Divine Mercy Parish Connell Hall, Rahway NJ

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$2,315	\$132,801
Mission Collections	\$85	\$8,014

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MEDICAL MISSION 2015

February 16-19, 2015,

Koronadal City, So. Cotabato, Philippines

Volunteers needed.

If interested, please sign-up on or before December 15th

For details contact: Mel/Remy Hernandez

chi1944@hotmail.com

CORPORATE WORSHIP

December 12, 2014 @ 8:30 pm (Rosary @ 8 pm)

St. Peter's Church, 155 William St., Belleville, NJ

**please note: change of venue & no fellowship after P&W*

Confession



Every last Friday of the month from 9:00 -10:00 pm
St. Mary's Church (DMP).

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Nov 28	Evangelization
		Dec 05	Formation
		Dec 12	Management
		Dec 19	Mission



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COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 48

Bulletin Edition

November 28, 2014

NEWS

Pope's Homily: Church Is to Boast of God, Not Itself

Tells 3 Ways How the Church Can Be, Is Faithful

Vatican City/11/24/14/Zenit.org/Deborah Castellano Lubov

During his daily morning Mass in Casa Santa Marta, Pope Francis stressed how the Church must be poor, humble, and completely focused on God. If it is tempted into "ostentation" and "vanity," he said, it will not accomplish its mission.

According to Vatican Radio, the Holy Father reflected on how the "poor Church must have no riches other than her Spouse." Clarifying, he noted, it is appropriate for the Church to, in certain respects, shed its light.

"It's true," the 77-year-old Pontiff admitted, that sometimes the Lord can ask His Church to take a bit of light itself, in the sense that, "If the Church's mission is to illuminate humanity, the light that is given must be only one received by Christ in an attitude of humility."

All the services the Church does help us "to get that light," he said. "A service without this light is not good."

Although the Pontiff reminded faithful that over the centuries, the Church wanted to have its own light, he decried, "She was wrong."

Recalling the widow in today's Gospel and how she was unknown, humble, and focused on her lost spouse, he stressed the Church must be likewise be focused on her Spouse: Christ, the Eucharist.

"The great virtue of the Church," he said, "must not shine on its own, but to shine the light that comes from her spouse."

When the Church is faithful to her Spouse, he said, it is joyful to receive the light from Him, to be in this sense the 'widow,' completely devoted.

The Pope gave three ways the Church can do this. "When the Church is humble, when the Church is poor, even when the Church confesses his misery," the Holy Father stated, "the Church is faithful."

Continued, page 4

COUNSELS

BE VIGILANT

THEME: Disciples of Jesus prepare with watchfulness when we allow the Lord to mold us in His likeness.

WORD: Is 63:16-17,19;64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19
1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

ORDER: **Be watchful, be alert... You do not know when the Lord of the house is coming.**

REFLECTION:

The Gospel reading for this coming Sunday challenges us to a higher calling: to "be watchful," to be vigilant, and to be responsible. The founder of Opus Dei, Jose Maria Escriva, gives this exhortation in his book *Friends of God*: "Your life is for God, for the good of all men, through your love for our Lord. Your buried talent - dig it up again! MAKE IT YIELD."

Now that we are a new creation in Christ, what is next? How do we respond to His command? Do we become complacent just because we know about God? You and I have been commissioned not only to become learners of the teachings of Jesus Christ but to become heralds of the richness of His Kingdom, to become apostles of Christ. Our transformation is a dynamic event that involves our cooperation, our active participation with the untiring invitation of God. It compels us to be rooted in the basic foundation of our faith: to love God with all our heart, mind and soul and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

To understand the highest expression of God's love, we have to recognize that we have been created in the image and likeness of God. Do we really understand the meaning of this? *Continued, page 3*

Promise of the Week

"He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1Cor 1:8)

Tears of Love

Life is definitely full of challenges. Many times I thought of just giving up and letting go when challenges come my way, especially when it comes to my marital relationship. Who wouldn't think of giving up particularly if the pain is caused by someone we love so much and dear to us? Some people easily forgive, move on and forget the pain; others hold grudges in their hearts and continue to hurt. The latter is definitely unhealthy, though this is the typical way of dealing with pain; after all, we are just humans.

When we attended the Marriage Encounter Retreat, we learned so many things about our inherited faith. I knew then that my selfish ways and old life was in need of a major overhaul. My husband must have felt the same way too since one Friday night after worship, out of the blue, he asked that we marry and exchange vows at church to officially get the blessings of our family in front of God. We have both forgotten that the sacred and profound sacrament of Holy Matrimony was missing in our twenty-five year relationship. To my surprise, excitement and reverence, I accepted.

On the wedding day, as I walked down the aisle, I saw my husband with so much anticipation as he patiently waited for me at the altar. The moment was breathtaking. Finally, we tied the knot in front of God witnessed by our children, family and friends. Taking the Holy Eucharist as a "sacramentally" married couple never felt so good. My heart was overflowing with joy that I couldn't contain the tears from flowing down my face. I realized it is not the struggles, the challenges, the pain in life that I should focus on, but the joy of having one another as we continue our journey in life together. I thanked God for making me see the importance of marriage, family, faith and love. Yes, life is definitely full of challenges; it shapes us to learn courage, perseverance, humility, trust, faith and love.

"Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails..." (1 Cor 13:4-8a)

RED ALERT

"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth."

The word of God in Luke 21:34-35, written over 2000 years ago, prophesied to the struggle that generations would face in pursuing the virtues of Christian living. Fast forward to the 21st century. Newark is in one of the most technologically advanced societies and the most densely populated states in the United States. This is the reality of the environment of a BLD disciple, and this message is more urgent and critical than ever.

We are constantly surrounded by distractions and demands on our time and attention. Christianity is being assaulted from all directions, and media is controlled by the god of profit so that media content is often contrary to Christian values. There are no more boundaries that keep technology from intruding into our thoughts every minute of the day. Even in our sleep we are connected to others through our electronic gadgets. Our children barely sleep as text messages clamor for their attention in the middle of the night.

Our situation brings to mind the story about the schemes of the Enemy to keep Christians busy in the nonessentials of life, to invent innumerable distractions to occupy our minds and to divert us from maintaining a vital connection with Jesus as we live our daily lives. The words in Luke 21:34-35 are a critical warning to all Christians that our enemy is constantly prowling to ensnare us, to remove us from our source of Life.

The Lord did not leave us unprotected. We have every spiritual armor at our disposal to repel the enemy; but it will take effort, desire, and perseverance on our part to remain alert. The word of God is clear, that indifference and passivity is not acceptable to Him.

The Lord knows our shortcomings and struggles, and He gives us the grace to bear our burdens and to walk in His way of holiness. We should be actively seeking God. He expects us to be actively watching for His coming and praying specifically for the strength to persevere in the faith and to endure trials

which come our way.

Lord help us to live out the rest of our lives watching, praying, living courageously and boldly for You so that on that day, we might stand before the Son of Man without shame.



I thank God for...

“Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.” (Psalm 95:2-3)

God has given me so many great things. Even though I don't always realize His blessings, I'm so thankful for all He's done. He gave me a great family and loving friends that I can always count on. God provided me with a safe home and school to attend. I can't thank Him enough for helping me go through all my hard school work every week. The Lord helps me realize that everything is possible and that I shouldn't give up. He's blessed me with my John 6 and JC #14 family who make me smile each day. I thank God for the gift of life, from waking up in the morning to going to sleep at night. He's given me the ability to pray and to worship Him every Friday. God is the reason why I smile, laugh, and live each day. Even though I don't see Him, I know He's there watching over me. I thank Him for everything!

**GIVE THANKS
TO THE LORD
FOR HE IS GOOD**
HIS LOVE endures FOREVER!!!

Being in BLD for 12 years, I've learned that God is the ultimate source of everything we have. Often, we may take for granted the blessings God gives us. As we all know, we have reached that time of the year when we thank God for everything. However, this isn't the only time to be thankful for our blessings. I realize that God gives me so many things every day, that I should always be giving thanks.

I am especially thankful for the family God blessed me with. Through the Family Encounter and the experience we had as FE Class Shepherds, I learned to really cherish my family. I am surrounded constantly with love and happiness. I thank God for my wonderful family. I don't know where I would be without them. I also thank God for letting me be a part of the BLD Community. I am thankful for the FE #20 and JC #14 lambs He has given me to guide. God has also given me the loving John 6 Ministry to be there when I need them most.

Most of all, I will really take into consideration all God has given me during this Thanksgiving. I never came to fully realize it, but God really does care for me. He is always watching over us and protecting us, which is what we all should be thankful for.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

Have we conducted our life in the likeness and image of God? You and I were created as rational beings, to be able to act according to what is good or bad. God has given us free will, true freedom, if you will. The proper exercise of free will or true freedom always directs us toward God and expands us so we may grow into perfection. It must be exercised in the context of what is morally right and just.

In Sirach 15:14, the writer says, ***“God in the beginning created human beings and made them subject to their own free choice.”*** God wants us to experience true freedom, the exercise of free will, which derives from our creation in the likeness and image of God. If we possess a bottomless desire in our hearts to be like Him, the grace of God will and can dispose us to enter into Divine Joy.

In the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, we are reminded that we are ***“enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge.”*** (1Cor 1:5) However, have we championed the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, namely knowledge, understanding, counsel, wisdom, fortitude, piety and fear of the Lord? It says in Psalm 111:10, ***“the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”*** As followers of Christ Jesus, we have to accept our nothingness in order for the Holy Spirit to act in our lives.

Each one of us is constantly graced with the gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His purpose. As members of the body of Christ, we are instructed to fellowship with His Son (1 Cor 1:9), so we may learn to listen when God is speaking. Living in the presence of Sanctifying Grace rekindles our sensitivity to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. This sensitivity encourages us to become responsible receivers of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is a condition of the heart, mind and spirit that draws us to be alert and to remain vigilant as we await “Parousia”- the second coming of Christ Jesus.

The challenge is for all of us, in every situation and in every vocation. Because of our human vulnerability to falling deeply into sin, there is an urgency to remain faithful and persevere with the love and mercy of God. We cannot compartmentalize our life. We cannot have a secular life different from our religious life, because God is everywhere. Since God created us to rule over the earth, we can and must be creative in order to magnify the presence of God in the web of relationship in our family, friends and work.

Oftentimes our lives are focused on the reality of human interaction and emotional response to one another.

Continued, page 4

COUNSELS (from page 3)

But we fail to recognize that we must point our human experience to another reality, the reality of spiritual warfare. We need to employ this wartime mindset because the war is ceaseless. *“For our struggle is not with the flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens.”* (Eph 6:12) For this reason the readings remind us to be alert and watchful.

Now that we have come to the beginning of Advent, are we content with what we have materially achieved, or do we shed tears of joy knowing that the infant Jesus is coming? Do we give more attention to His coming or to the beckoning of holiday lights and glamorous store displays? Are we ready to rest our heart, mind, and spirit in the palm of our mighty God? Are we ready to remain vigilant and watchful in the face of the world’s indifference to the cross of Christ?

ARE WE READY? ARE YOU READY?

DIRECTIONS:

1. Recognize the presence of the Lord in your life and the lives of others through your words and deeds.
2. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly.

NEWS (from page 1)

The Church, the Pope said, must say, “I am dark, but the light comes from there!” and must be, “Humble. Without boasting of having its own light, always seeking the light that comes from the Lord.”

Pope Francis concluded saying all faithful must throw away “everything we have from life,” leaving nothing for ourselves, and instead must give “everything for the Lord and for others.”

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O God, we thank You for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed sun, for the salt sea and the running water, for the everlasting hills and the never-resting winds, for trees and the common grass underfoot.

We thank You for our senses, by which we hear the songs of birds, and see the splendor of the summer fields, and taste of the autumn fruits, and rejoice in the feel of the snow, and smell the breath of the spring. Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty; and save our souls from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thornbush is aflame with Your glory, O God our Creator, Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

From *Living God's Justice: Reflections and Prayers*, compiled by The Roundtable Association of Diocesan Social Action Directors

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$2,930	\$135,731
Mission Collections	\$139	\$8,153

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

SAVE THE DATE!

COMMUNITY TEACHING

December 6, 2014 - 1:00 – 5:00 PM

Divine Mercy Parish Connell Hall, Rahway NJ

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MEDICAL MISSION 2015

February 16-19, 2015,

Koronadal City, So. Cotabato, Philippines

Volunteers needed.

If interested, please sign-up on or before December 15th

For details contact: Mel/Remy Hernandez

chi1944@hotmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!

YOUTH LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

March 6-8, 2015 - Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway NJ

Contacts: ycs@bldnewark.com/dyc@bldnewark.com



Every last Friday of the month
from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm
St. Mary's Church (DMP).

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

CORPORATE WORSHIP

December 12, 2014 @ 8:30 pm (Rosary @ 8 pm)

St. Peter's Church, 155 William St., Belleville, NJ

**Please note: change of venue & no fellowship after P&W*

SAVE THE DATE!

MARCH FOR LIFE 2015

Thursday, January 22, 2015 - Washington DC

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Dec 5	Formation
		Dec 12	Management
		Dec 19	Mission
		Dec 26	Pastoral

Please notify the Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 49

Bulletin Edition

December 5, 2014

NEWS

Pope: Don't Resist Holy Spirit Even When He Takes Us Out of Comfort Zone

Says It's Not Acceptable to Maintain 'Sedentary,' 'Unchanging' Ways

Excerpt from Zenit.org/11/29/14/Deborah Castellano Lubov

During his homily in Istanbul's Catholic Holy Spirit Cathedral, Pope Francis warned that, "When we try to create diversity, but are closed within our own particular and exclusive ways of seeing things, we create division." The Pope warned of that which prevents us from understanding others, while offering a solution for all problems: the Holy Spirit.

The Pope noted, "The temptation is always within us to resist the Holy Spirit. We resist because he takes us out of our comfort zone and unsettles us; he makes us get up and drives the Church forward. It is always easier and more comfortable to settle in our sedentary and unchanging ways." Our defensiveness is evident, the Jesuit Pope said, when we are "entrenched" within our ideas and our own strengths. When we are ambitious or vain, "defensive mechanisms prevent us from truly understanding other people and from opening ourselves to a sincere dialogue with them."

"The more we allow ourselves to be humbly guided by the Spirit of the Lord, the more we will overcome misunderstandings, divisions, and disagreements and be a credible sign of unity and peace," the Pontiff suggested. "In truth, the Church shows her fidelity to the Holy Spirit in as much as she does not try to control or tame him." When Christians become true missionary disciples, he noted, we are "able to challenge consciences," as long as we have thrown off our defensiveness and allow ourselves to be led. The Spirit's "freshness, imagination and newness," makes this possible.

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

THEME: Disciples of Jesus prepare with watchfulness when we acknowledge our sins and reform our lives.

WORD: **Is 40:1-5,9-11 / Ps 85:9-5,11-12,13-14**
2Pt 3:8-14 / Mk 1:1-8

ORDER: **"Be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace."** (2Pt 3:14)

REFLECTION:

Our Community Word for the month of December is: **'Disciples of Jesus prepare for His coming with watchfulness'**, which means that as disciples in Community, we need to take specific steps to ensure that Christ is "reborn" in our hearts, and that our bodies are worthy temples of the Holy Spirit throughout the whole year, starting with the season of Advent. It also means "dying" to our old sinful self. God calls each one of us to allow Him to transform us back to the original image He intended us to be when He created us. As the prophet Isaiah declares: **"You are our Father; we are the clay and You are potter, we are all the work of Your hands."** (Is 64:7-8)

Advent also prepares us for the coming glory of the triumphant Christ. On the first Sunday of Advent, we are to prepare for the coming of Jesus by **'allowing Him to mold us in His likeness.'** Our faith journey should be one of imitating the character of Christ, by acts of mercy and love towards our brethren, by trusting and hoping in Jesus when there are test and trials in life. As we go thru our day to day living, the Lord gave us His promise in 1 Corinthians 1:8, **"He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."**

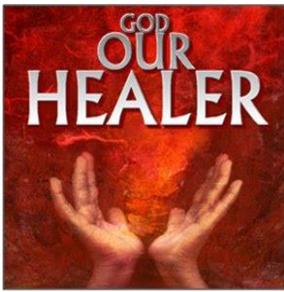
Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"The Lord himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase." (Ps 85:12)

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

THE HEALING POWER OF GOD



As we pray to our Heavenly Father, the healing power of God is released by the Holy Spirit. God is our Great Physician and He alone has the divine capacity to heal the sick.

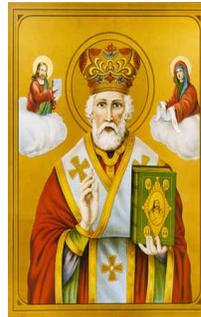
As we are freed from various ailments and spiritual barriers, we become free to praise God with all our mind, heart and soul. We experience healing while praising God because the Holy Spirit moves whenever we place God on the highest place. Indeed, the healing power of God is incomprehensible and unfathomable. We would not know how deep it would penetrate and permeate into our being.

There are people who are vested with the Gift of Healing. God's grace and healing mercy flow through these people, the channel of His healing love. Through the apostolic succession, the Bishops or clergies are more likely to become instruments of God's healing love. Through the Sacrament of Penance, inner healing occurs. Sometimes He would use the laity as channels of His healing power. The moment they utter their sincere prayer, miracle happens. Amazingly, when people pray, God's physical and emotional healing occurs instantaneously. Clearly, the people with healing gifts are just God's instruments. Our Triune God's response to their prayers is what brings about healing. As stated in James 5:15, "***A prayer of faith will save the sick person and the Lord will raise him up.***"

Elijah was an average man of his time, but his love for his people was overflowing. When he prayed to God it was always granted. God loves everybody unconditionally (Agape) and yet, He gives the Gift of Healing to people whose love for their brethren abounds. People who are truly caring, generous and loving, those who have pure hearts and see the face of Jesus in everyone they meet. There is always joy in their hearts and the love of God is manifested. "***Happy are those who have pure hearts for they will see God.***" (Mt 5:8b)

Hence, in order for us to be powerful intercessors, one thing is required: to be sincere in our faith by being honest and truthful in our daily living. We should continue to do good against all odds and we will reap our rewards (Gal 6:9).

SAINT NICHOLAS



Christmas always reminds us of Santa Claus and Santa Claus reminds us of St Nicholas who was born during the third century in a small village of Patara in what is *now known as Turkey*. *Nicholas was raised by his parents to be God fearing, a devout Christian and obedient to the words of Jesus Christ.*

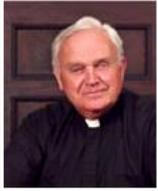
He lost his parents, during an epidemic, which left him all alone in a very young age. As a devoted Christian, he followed Christ's words of giving to the poor, needy, the sick and the suffering by using his whole inheritance and leaving nothing for himself. He dedicated himself in serving God and eventually became the Bishop of Myra and became widely known for his generosity to the needy.

During the reign of Emperor Diocletian Christians are being persecuted and Bishop Nicholas was exiled and imprisoned together with other priests, deacons and bishops. When Constantine became emperor, he was released from prison and Nicholas continued his work as the Bishop of Myra until his death on December 6, 343 AD. He was buried in his episcopal city of Myra and in his grave formed a unique relic, a manna, which is a liquid substance, that tradition said to have great healing powers and this triggered the growth of Christian devotion to St. Nicholas.

Many legends and accounts have been told about St. Nicholas' life which exemplifies his characteristic as a protector of children and of those in needs. One legend mentioned on about how he dreamed of the murder of three theological students by a wicked innkeeper who hid the bodies in a pickling tub. It was said that with his earnest prayer to God, brought back to life the three murdered students. Another legend was told on how he secretly helped a poor man raised his daughters' marriage dowries thus preventing them from being sold to slavery.

In America, St. Nicholas eventually became known as Santa Claus when in 1773 and 1774, a New York newspaper published a story about the Dutch families that honored the day of St. Nicholas' death. The Dutch called St. Nicholas "Sinter Klass," a shortened form of Sint Nikolaas. Sinter Klaas became Santa Claus over time. In some countries, such as Holland, areas of southern Germany and many areas in France, Saint Nicholas is still the primary gift-giver of the season and his feast day is still celebrated on December 6th.

His works, examples and his generosity to the needy inspires us to live a compassionate life, the same way Jesus Christ teaches us.



FR. PAUL SPEAKS VISITATION

One of the teachings issuing from the “Fraternity of Priests” group, to which I belong, is the so called “Visitation” message. It is a reminder of one of the basic teachings of the Church and Scripture, that is, God has not only “visited” His people in the past, but is still doing so at the present time. The Old Testament prophets announced the “visitation” message of the judgment of God on the people especially when they were disobeying Him by idolatry. Their call was one of repentance and obedience. This was a “visitation” message of often impending doom if they refused to obey God.

The prophets also announced a future “visitation” of God himself in the person of the Son of God. This coming or advent was unique in that God visited His people not only to proclaim a message, but to remain with the human race until the end of the world. The evangelist Matthew reports the words of Jesus BEFORE He ascended into heaven, *“Know that I am with you always until the end of the world.”* (Mt. 20:20) The evangelist Luke AFTER he recounts the Ascension of Jesus says: *“The Lord continued to work with them throughout and confirm the message through the signs that accompanied them.”* (Lk 16:20) Even though the Lord has disappeared in His physical form, He is still present in His Church, in the Sacraments, in the living proclamation of salvation to those who come to Him and obey Him. The Church does many wonderful things, but the primary reason we have a Church is to experience the salvation won for us by Jesus.

Advent is a time to remember that He is here now, even as we reflect on His past “visitation” on that first Christmas. The second joyful mystery of the rosary recounts Mary’s visitation to Elizabeth. When we meditate on this mystery we can ask Mary to visit us as she did to Elizabeth, and bring Jesus with her. There are so moments every day when God is ‘visiting’ us. But we are often so busy and distracted that we are unaware.

Your daily “lectio divina” is a prime opportunity to not only mediate and reflect, but to listen to the message the Lord may be visiting on you in that moment. Sometimes the visitation message is very clear. It may be an explicit direction, or a very sensible experience of God. Other times, it seems like somebody turned off the lights and nothing seems to be happening in prayer. But God is still “visiting” us in a deeper way, deeper than the feelings that sometimes accompany prayer. Be still in that quiet presence and know that God’s advent runs 24/7.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

Another preparation for the coming of Jesus is expressed in our theme for the 2nd Sunday of Advent and that is to **‘acknowledge our sins and reform our lives.’** The greatest obstacle for God to reign in our hearts is sin – above all, the sin of pride. St. John preached humble repentance, but repentance is no small task. Repentance is not merely some external act of penance, but rather, a thorough turn-around, a change of attitude, a transformation of the heart. The gift of love and forgiveness we received from God in our LSS and encounters become our own testimony to others that they, too, may come to believe that God is the one looking out and calling them back to Him. Then by God’s grace we become fruitful in the vineyard of our God and receive the promise in Psalm 85:12: *“The Lord himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase.”*

Our theme for the 3rd Sunday of Advent states: **‘Disciples of Jesus prepare with watchfulness when we testify to the light so that all might believe in Him.’** John the Baptist was sure what his role was in the story of salvation. He had no identity problems and he appeared in the Judean landscape speaking and urging the people to prepare the way for the Lord. He is known as the herald who prepared the way for Jesus and who announced his mission to the people: “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!” John saw from a distance what the Messiah came to accomplish — our redemption from slavery to sin, and our adoption as sons and daughters of the heavenly Father.

Like John, we too must recognize our identity as children of God and citizens of heaven. We must live like John, humble and faithful servants of God, pointing others to Jesus, through our example and witnessing. Then, we can share with them our Lord’s promise in Luke 1:54: *“He has come to help his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy.”*

The theme for the 4th Sunday of Advent says that we prepare for the coming of Jesus when **‘we are humble and obedient according to His word, like Mary.’** Christ’s birth into the human family depended on Mary’s response to the announcement of the angel Gabriel. Mary was a genuine listener of God’s word and was able to respond with faith and trust. Her “Yes” to the divine message should be the model of faith for all believers. Like Mary, God will also give

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS (from page 3)

us the grace to respond with the same willingness, obedience, and heartfelt trust. When God commands us to do something, He also gives us the strength and the means to respond in faith. Then we know that **“nothing will be impossible for God.”** (Lk 1:37)

For the 5th week, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family and the theme is: **‘Disciples of Jesus prepare with watchfulness when we take care of our family and our community.’** It is a good time to reflect on our families. Shared activities and commitments - going to mass, praying together, receiving the Holy Communion - can bind the family to grow in strength and character, and in God’s love. We can relive our encounter teachings and experiences, placing Nazareth in our home and community, and putting into action the peace, love and joy of Nazareth as we prepare for the revelation of our Lord in a community of love. Then we embrace the promise this week: **“I am your shield; I will make your reward very great.”** (Gn 15:1b)

*Excerpted from ECSL Monthly Reflection

DIRECTIONS:

1. Forgive readily and freely.
2. Conduct yourselves in holiness and devotion.

NEWS (from page 1)

The Holy Father stated, “The Holy Spirit is the soul of the Church, “He gives life, he brings forth different charisms which enrich the people of God and, above all, he creates unity among believers.” In addition, he said, the Church’s whole life and mission depend on the Holy Spirit, for “he fulfills all things.”

“When we pray, it is because the Holy Spirit inspires prayer in our heart,” Francis said, adding that he also does more. “When we break the cycle of our self-centeredness, and move beyond ourselves and go out to encounter others, to listen to them and help them,” he noted, “it is the Spirit of God who impels us to do so.”

Moreover, “when we find within a hitherto unknown ability to forgive, to love someone who doesn’t love us in return, it is the Spirit who has taken hold of us. When we move beyond mere self-serving words and turn to our brothers and sisters with that tenderness which warms the heart.” At such times, we have been “touched” by the Holy Spirit, the Pope said.

Given all these factors, the Pontiff reflected, the Holy Spirit “brings forth different charisms in the Church, which at first glance, may seem to create disorder, “but, in reality, create unity--the unity the Father has desired among all believers.

Please notify the Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com

LORD’S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK’S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$2,058	\$137,789
Mission Collections	\$40	\$8,193

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

SAVE THE DATE!

COMMUNITY TEACHING

Waiting in Joyful Hope

December 6, 2014 ~ 1:00 – 5:00 PM

Divine Mercy Parish Connell Hall, Rahway NJ

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MEDICAL MISSION 2015

February 16-19, 2015,

Koronadal City, So. Cotabato, Philippines

Volunteers needed.

If interested, please sign-up on or before December 15th

For details contact: Mel/Remy Hernandez

chi1944@hotmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!

YOUTH LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

March 6-8, 2015 ~ Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway NJ

Contacts: ycs@bldnewark.com/dyc@bldnewark.com



Confession

Every last Friday of the month
from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm
St. Mary’s Church (DMP).

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

CORPORATE WORSHIP

December 12, 2014 @ 8:30 pm (Rosary @ 8 pm)

St. Peter’s Church, 155 William St., Belleville, NJ

***Please note: change of venue & no fellowship after P&W**

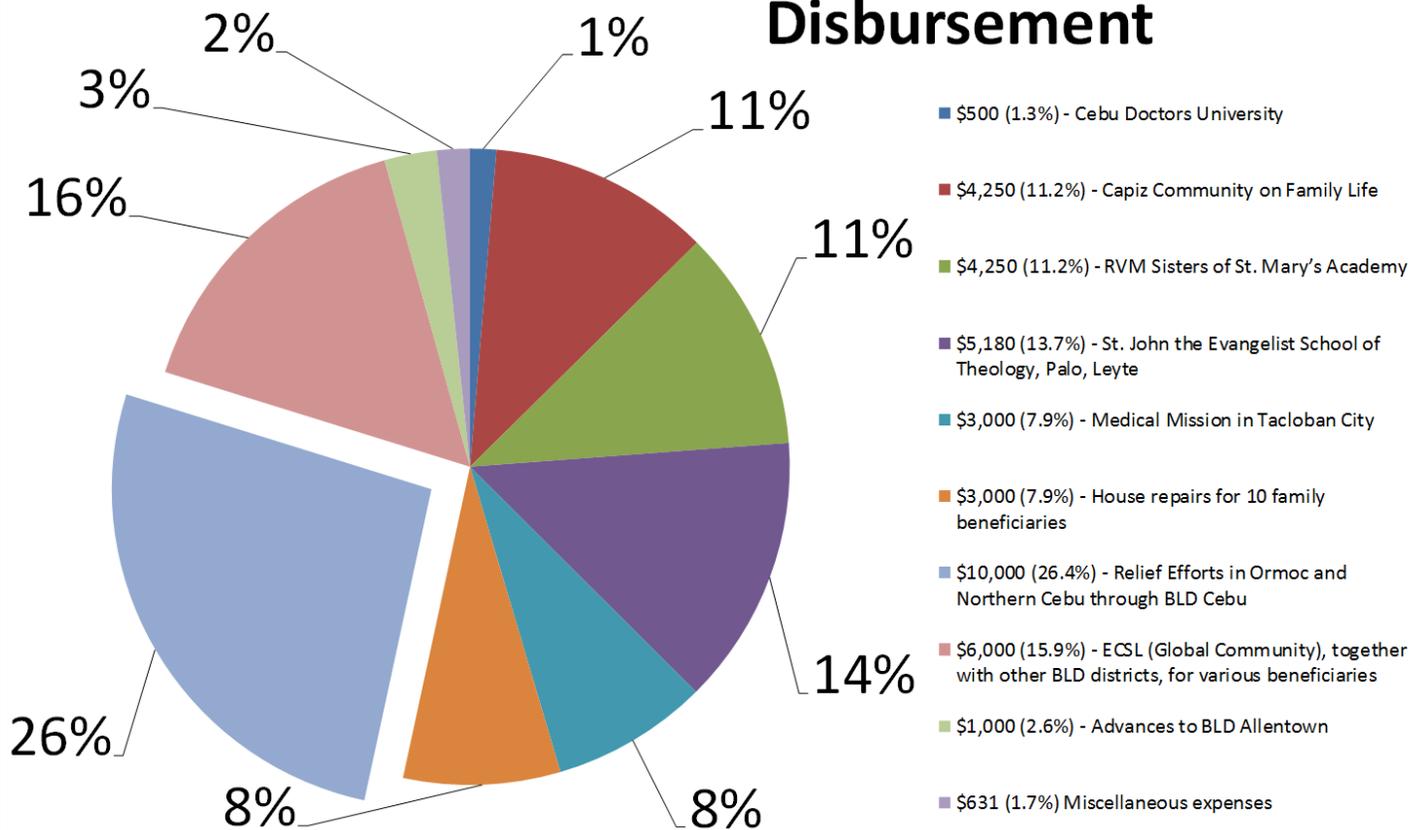
SAVE THE DATE!

MARCH FOR LIFE 2015

Thursday, January 22, 2015 ~ Washington DC

Marshaling	Schedule	
	Date	Apostolate
	Dec 12	Management
	Dec 19	Mission
	Dec 26	Pastoral
Jan 2	Evangelization	

\$37,811 Yolanda Relief Fund Disbursement



TYPHOON YOLANDA RELIEF FUND

The total collection for the typhoon Yolanda Relief Fund amounted to \$37,841 of which \$37,811 (99.9%) was disbursed to the various beneficiaries, leaving a balance of \$30.

Beneficiaries are as follows:

◆ Cebu Doctors University - \$500 (1.3%)

◆ Students of the university organized themselves and went on a mission to help the victims of typhoon Yolanda in Leyte within a few days after devastating effect of the super typhoon. The moneys donated were spent to buy food and other supplies which represented the immediate needs of the victims.

◆ Capiz Commission On Family Life - \$4,250 (11.2%)

◆ The Capiz Commission on Family and Life (CCFL) have provided school supplies for 600 poor pupils in 4 identified schools and materials for repair of 25 houses damaged by the typhoon. The money was sent to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Capiz through the coordination of Fr. John Azarcon of CCFL.

◆ RVM Sisters—St. Mary's Academy - \$4,250 (11.2%)

◆ The money was designated for use in the repair of St. Mary's Academy in Capiz, which was heavily damaged by the typhoon. St. Mary's Academy, being a private school, could not depend on governmental help, but rather on private donations only. Coordination of the repair efforts is being done by Sister Dolalas Mansuetas.

◆ **St. John the Evangelist School of Theology, Palo, Leyte - \$5,180 (13.7%)**

◆ Organizers of a golf outing coursed their proceeds, \$5,175.00, through BLD Newark with a specified beneficiary being the St. John the Evangelist School of Theology in Palo, Leyte, a town next to Tacloban City. The seminary was almost wiped out by the storm surge and a number of priests almost lost their lives. Funds will be used to reconstruct the seminary buildings and facilities that were severely damaged by the storm surge. The project is being coordinated by Fr. Benjamin Pantas.

◆ **Medical Mission in Tacloban City - \$3,000 (7.9%)**

◆ After the medical mission in Bayambang, Pangasinan, 26 members of our medical mission team went to Tacloban City for a one day medical mission on February 24, 2014. This was held in BLISS Calanipawan, Sangkahan district of Tacloban. We saw approximately 650 people. Since the mission was done by 3:00 pm and with extra time and extra medicines, the team proceeded to Barangay Basfer, Sitio Puro in the hillside outskirts of Tacloban City for another quick medical mission for about 80 people.

◆ **House Repairs for 10 family beneficiaries - \$2,790 & \$210.00 = \$3,000.00 (7.9%)**

◆ 10 family beneficiaries from Barangay Basfer, Sitio Puro in the hillside outskirts of Tacloban City received \$300.00 per family to repair their badly or totally damaged homes. The funds were actually remitted to the Leyte Lumber Yard and Hardware Company. The beneficiaries received construction materials instead of cash. The project is being coordinated by Juanito Paciencia, Jr, civic leader of the affected area.

◆ **Relief Efforts in Ormoc and Northern Cebu - \$10,000 (26.4%) through BLD Cebu**

◆ This mission was coordinated by BLD Cebu and the beneficiaries are in Ormoc, Leyte and also the Northern Cebu towns of Bogo and Daang Bantayan. Beneficiaries include 88 families in Ormoc for the repairs of their damaged houses and 91 school children for schools supplies. For Bogo and Daang Bantayan in Northern Cebu, 98 families were provided with funds for livelihood projects which include goat raising and cooperative stores (sari-sari). In addition, 105 children were provided money for school supplies. These projects are monitored by members of the BLD districts in process in Ormoc and Northern Cebu.

◆ **\$6,000.00 (15.9%) sent thru ECSL (BLD Global Community) were spent (together with other BLD districts) on the following beneficiaries:**

- ◆ Financial Aid to 91 family members of BLD Ormoc, Leyte
- ◆ Aid to Parishes in Northern Iloilo c/o Archbishop Lagdameo
- ◆ Aid to BLD Bogo & Daan-Bantayan c/o BLD Cebu
- ◆ Reconstruction of Sara Chapel, Iloilo c/o BLD Jaro
- ◆ Relief Operation for Guian, Samar
- ◆ St. Peter & Paul Parish reconstruction c/o Diocese of Palo, Iloilo
- ◆ Tacloban Parish c/o Fr. Manny Flores
- ◆ Divine Mercy Formation House – BLD Ormoc

◆ **Advances to BLD Allentown (\$1,000.00) (2.6%)**

◆ Yolanda Relief Fund contribution c/o ECSL (BLD Global)

◆ **Miscellaneous Expenses (\$631) (1.7%)**

◆ Packing supplies, bank & wire fees

“Whoever cares for the poor lends to the LORD, who will pay back the sum in full.” Ps 19:17



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 50

Bulletin Edition

December 12, 2014

NEWS

God blesses BLD community with two special events

For many in BLD who attended two Community events that happened quietly this past weekend, this Christmas season has had a very meaningful and memorable beginning.

Last Friday, Papal Nuncio Archbishop Bernardito Auza arrived at Divine Mercy Parish and was the main celebrant at the Community's First Friday Mass. His Grace, although unknown to many of New Jersey's local Filipino Catholics, is originally from Bohol, Philippines, and is currently the Vatican's Permanent Observer at the United Nations, a post he has held since July of this year (Papal Nuncio can loosely be translated as the "Pope's Ambassador." Prior to the UN assignment, he was the Papal Nuncio to Haiti). All who were at the Mass received the Archbishop's blessing.



And then last Saturday, Sister Eileen Smith of Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer, led about 40 BLD members in a very timely advent teaching: "Waiting in Joyful Hope." At the retreat, Sister talked about Advent, not just as the start of the Liturgical year, but as a season filled with "newness, promise and hope." Pointing out that waiting can simply be a part of life, she exhorted the BLD members in attendance not to let waiting be something useless, but to make it a preparation of hearts for Christ's coming. She also made the distinction between wishing and hoping, highlighting how hope is anchored in reality, and that with hope, although we may have to wait and endure, sometimes through gloominess and darkness, in the end, it will be well and it will be glorious.



The retreat opened many eyes to what's truly important in celebrating Advent, and was a much needed break from the extreme busy-ness of these December days leading up to Christmas. It made many realize the value of this period of waiting, a waiting to be rewarded with the hope and the joy of truly knowing that our salvation started at Christ's birth.

COUNSELS

BE PREPARED!

THEME: Disciples of Jesus prepare with watchfulness when we testify to the light so that all might believe in Him.

WORD: Is 61:1-2a,10-11/Lk 1:46-48,49-50,53-54
1Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8,19-28

ORDER: *"Bring glad tidings to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners."*
(Is 61:1)

REFLECTION:

With Advent in full swing, the common thread for the month has been preparation for Jesus. With preparation comes the anticipation of the coming of our Lord. How do we prepare? What should we do in anticipation of Jesus? What does the Word say we should do?

The entire First Reading is an order from God in what to do to prepare for Him.

"The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God." (Is 61:1-2a)

Isn't it amazing that our God, whom we believe in with all of our hearts and whom we have so much faith in, believes in us so much and has so much trust in us. What does that mean for us? If God can believe in us to do His work and be His hands, His feet and His voice, then we, as His children, need to follow His order and serve Him by serving His people.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy."

(Luke 1:54)

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

DO NOT WORRY, BE HAPPY

You've probably heard the song "Happy" popping up a lot more lately. Interest in happiness is growing. There is an awakening and many people are seeking true, lasting happiness. Google trends show that for nearly a decade there has been a steady increase in the number of times people search for the term "happiness." Of course, everyone aspires to be happy but do we know how to be happy? Recently, I joined the Live Happy Movement- an organization that promotes the belief that happiness starts with an individual then ripples into the lives of others and becomes a wave of positive change around the world. Since I joined the Live Happy Movement, people have described me as the "smiling face" and people ask, "What's your secret?"

In Matthew 11:29-30, I read, ***"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."*** As my husband and I become more involved in the BLD community, we feel that each day is a step closer to God, thanking Him more and more. Amid the uncertainties of this world, I remain joyful. In the next few months, as core volunteers, we are set to join our annual Medical Mission in the Philippines. The venue this time is Koronadal, South Cotabato.

People say, "Cotabato is a very dangerous place to go." I reply, "Don't worry, be happy." As the scripture runs in my head, ***"If God is for us, who can be against us?"*** (Rom 8:31b) I hear God say, ***"Not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives."*** (Lk 21:18-19).

People ask, "How are you traveling there locally. Where will you stay?" I smile, "Don't worry, be happy." The God's Word reminds me, ***"His faithfulness is a protecting shield. You shall not fear the terror of the night nor the arrow that flies by day. No evil shall befall you, no affliction come near your tent. For God commands his angels...to guard you wherever you go."*** (P 91:4-5, 10-11)

People doubt, "You may not have enough volunteers this time." I reassure, "Don't worry, be happy." To date, there are over 100 volunteers who have signed-up. Who can ever doubt God's divine providence? ***"I am confident of this, that the one who began, a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus."*** (Phil 1:6)

Grant us O, Lord we pray the constant gladness to serve You for Your yoke is easy and Your burden is light. Amen.

THE LOST SHEEP

"If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray? And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not stray." (Mt 18:12-13)

Will he, really? This situation is what the world would call silly, stupid, idiotic. It implies that the shepherd has no time to call somebody else over, to look after 99 sheep for him, in the hills by themselves. Every minute counts, the one solitary sheep is wandering farther, in a risky place, prey to a thief or a wolf. But leaving the entire flock would expose them to the same dangers. Instead of one, he's certain to lose many more. That doesn't sound right, it's foolhardy. He'd lose more, be a laughing stock.



But this is a secular worldview that's cynical and selfish, always measuring greatness and success with a calculating outlook. It is not for the Christian disciple whose worldview is endowed with a strong sense of the eternal.

Consider our BLD formation program. By it, we acquire the knowledge and love of the values of Christ the Lord. Who has not been tempted, for instance, to ignore the call to worship, to teachings, service or mission work, to relegate these realities of discipleship in favor of refreshing our bodies or spending time with our family? We have to examine whether such "conflicts" are real or imagined, and hold them up to the light of Mt 10:37-39.

The worldview that our community fosters through formation and witnessing is continually challenged, especially when we evangelize. There will be times when we ask in frustration, "What's the use, why do I toil without results?" St. Paul tells us that in ministry work, it is not us but ***"only God who causes the growth"*** (1 Cor 3:7).

It is the mature and enlightened disciple who understands and lives the parable of the lost sheep. He works patiently, keeps his inner peace when faced with adversity, and truly rejoices when he finds the strayed or lost. He makes the right decisions as he remains docile to the leadings of the Holy Spirit. And he is not worried about the others in his flock, fully trusting that God knows best and is the real Shepherd.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

On the morning of December 9, 1531, a poor Mexican peasant named Juan Diego witnessed an apparition of a young girl on top of the Hill of Tepeyac. The apparition asked that a church be built on this site in



her honor. After this encounter, Diego went and explained this to the Spanish Archbishop of Mexico city, who instructed him to go back to the place and ask the apparition for a sign to prove her identity. Hearing this she told Diego to gather flowers on top of the hill, even though growing season for flowers had passed. There he found Castilian roses, which are not native to Mexico, and the lady arranged them in his cloak. He

brought back the cloak to the archbishop on December 12 and on the fabric under the flowers was imprinted the image of the Virgin Mary.

The fabric has been in good condition for over 500 years, while most replicas can only withstand 15 years. The cloak has also been able to repair itself with no help and withstand a bomb blast that destroyed everything except the cloak. Later on it was discovered that there were reflections in the eyes of the image, just how it is for actual human eyes. Photographers enlarged the image 2500x and found the reflection of families, mothers, fathers, and children, as well as those who saw the cloak when it was first revealed.

This image on Juan Diego's cloak was granted a Canonical Coronation on October 12, 1895. Since then this image of the Virgin Mary has become the most famous religious and cultural image of Mexico. It has earned titles such as "Queen of Mexico," "Patroness of the Americas," "Empress of Latin America," "Protectress of Unborn Children," and "Heavenly Patroness of the Philippines." The image is of a woman clothed in a golden tunic with a blue mantle. She is also standing on the head of a serpent and a crescent moon and is carried by an angel. ***"Clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet"*** (Rev 12:1), this image is clearly Mother Mary reaching out to the people of Mexico to come follow her son. Juan Diego was canonized in 2002.

Today the image of the Blessed Mother on his cloak is one of the most visited Catholic destinations in the world, bringing in a record 6.1 million guests to visit and celebrate the anniversary of the apparition.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

We have to believe in ourselves and surrender ourselves to His call and His will. Now we all know that our service is human, which means it is imperfect; we are going to stumble and fall at times. It is at those moments when God's presence is stronger. It's up to us to see Him and feel Him. It is up to us to get back up and trust in Him. Trusting and surrendering to Him leads to the Second Reading:

"Brothers and sisters:

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

Do not quench the Spirit.

Do not despise prophetic utterances.

Test everything; retain what is good.

Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it." (1Thes 5:16-24)

Now I know this is the entire Second Reading, but the entire reading gives us orders and direction. God tells us to trust His Advocate, the Holy Spirit. It is His Spirit that fills us and moves us. Our humanness puts us in situations where we may have to make tough decisions or discern where God wants us to go from there. That is where trusting in the Spirit and discernment comes in. Not only do we have to trust in the Spirit to make the right decision, but we have to trust that God will see us through completely, which leads to the Responsorial Psalm:

"My soul rejoices in my God." (Is 61:10b)

Such a short and simple statement by Isaiah but yet so powerful that Mary includes it in her Magnificat (Lk 1:46-55). Through it all, God has been with them both as He is with me and with all of us. God chooses each of us all the time despite our short comings. Sometimes we go through trials that we feel we cannot overcome. It may be hard to say "My soul rejoices in my God" during these times, but we need to remember that God will not abandon us. Whenever we go through these things we have to believe that God will see us through. "My soul rejoices in my God" is so powerful because of all He does for us and all He is to us. Thinking about His love for us, I'm sure that God rejoices in us, especially when we follow Him, which leads to the Gospel:

I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord." (Jn 1:23)

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS (from page 3)

John the Baptist heard His call and prepared the way for the Lord. Before John was even born, he rejoiced and leapt in his mother's womb at the coming of Jesus. John the Baptist trusted in God and continued to serve Him, turning non-believers into believers and tending to the flock. Yes, he may have died for God but he lived for God more so. God wants us to live for Him by doing what He asks.

With anticipation comes preparation. John the Baptist helped prepare the way of the Lord. Are you prepared for the birth of Jesus? Will you live for God by following His order and direction?

DIRECTIONS:

1. Do mission work such as soup kitchens, nursing home visitation, medical mission.
2. Support and participate in the poverty alleviation programs.

A Spiritual Selfie



*Now that another year is almost done
And in keeping with the trends
Of this young century
Here's an upgrade for just about everyone*

*It's really time...
For a Spiritual Selfie*

*Don't really need a smartphone
But just as with those photos,
What we have to do
Is take plenty of them*

*Then review each one,
Assess how we look,
Adjust and change...
Then take another one!*

*Yes throughout each year
After anything we've done
... or not done...*

*Because with the Spiritual Selfie
It's not just us who will see
Most importantly...
It'll be you
... and He*

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$2,308	\$140,097
Mission Collections	\$119	\$8,312

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MEDICAL MISSION 2015

February 16-19, 2015,

Koronadal City, So. Cotabato, Philippines

Volunteers needed.

If interested, please sign-up on or before December 15th

For details contact: Mel/Remy Hernandez

chi1944@hotmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!

YOUTH LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

March 6-8, 2015 ~ Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway NJ

Contacts: ycs@bldnewark.com/dyc@bldnewark.com



Every last Friday of the month
from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm
St. Mary's Church (DMP).

SAVE THE DATE!

MARCH FOR LIFE

What: **Bus trip to Washington D.C.**

When: **January 22, 2015 - Thursday**

Departure Place and Time: **Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway, NJ @ 6:30 am. Bus leaves on time.**

Estimated Return time to Divine Mercy

Parish: **between 9:00 or 10:00 pm.**

Capacity of Bus: **55 passengers**

Cost: **Free of Charge (prepare \$10.00 for tips & other miscellaneous expenses)**

Reservations: **Strictly First-Come-First-Serve basis for BLD members only (30 youth/singles & 25 adults)**

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Dec 19	Mission
			Dec 26	Pastoral
			Jan 2	Evangelization
			Jan 9	Formation

Please notify the Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 20 Issue 51

Bulletin Edition

December 19, 2014

NEWS

Pope Explains 3 Steps to Ensure a Joyful Christmas

Visits Roman Parish on Gaudete Sunday

Vatican City/121514/Zenit.org/Deborah Castellano Lubov

The Pope has called for nothing other than pure joy as we prepare for Christmas, and given a three-step recipe for making sure we can live the birth of the Christ Child with joy.

This was his message Sunday afternoon when he visited the parish of Saint Joseph all' Aurelio, in the western sector of the Diocese of Rome.

On his arrival, the Pope met with little children, the sick and families with children baptized in the course of the year. The Holy Father then heard the confessions of some penitents. Finally, he presided over Mass.

In his homily, he reflected that the joy of Christmas is a special joy. However, he noted, it is not a joy that is only for Christmas day, but rather for the whole life of a Christian.

This "serene, tranquil joy" that always accompanies a Christian, he said, in difficult moments becomes instead peace.

The Holy Father recalled the Apostle St. Paul's words to the Thessalonians: "Brothers, always be happy"

"How can I be happy?" he reflected.

The answer, he said, quoting the saint: "Pray, uninterruptedly, and give thanks in everything," for we find Christian joy in prayer and giving thanks to God.

"Remember your life," he said, "and think of the many good things that life has given you."

He acknowledged that life has its bad things too, but "think of the good things," he said.

The Pontiff went on to explain three ways to have joy. The first, he said, is to pray, noting: "To have this joy in preparation for Christmas, first, pray: 'Lord, may I live this Christmas with true joy.' Not with the joy of consumerism which brings us to Dec. 24 full of anguish

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD

THEME: Disciples of Jesus prepare with watchfulness when we are humble and obedient according to His word, like Mary.

WORD: 2 Sm 7:1-5,12,14,16 / Ps 89:2-3,4-5,27,29 Rom 16:25-27 / Lk 1:26-38

ORDER: Make known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith to the only wise God through Jesus Christ. (Rom 16:26-27)

REFLECTION:

We are approaching the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas is less than a week away. There's something special in the air, an excitement, a kind of anticipation that's not like any other time of the year. We look forward to the parties and the presents. But we know there is so much more to it than that, because we share the anticipation of an angel.

Think about the story St. Luke tells in this week's gospel. God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth to speak to a young woman there named Mary. His task was to tell her about God's great plan and what her part in that plan would be. Perhaps Mary was sitting quietly in some peaceful corner of her home or up on the roof watching the sun go down, when there was a great burst of light (in the movies there would have been heavenly music playing in the background). And suddenly, there he stood, larger-than-life, and totally awesome to see, maybe even frightening, because one of the first things Gabriel said was: "*Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.*" (Lk 1:30) The angel then

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"Nothing will be impossible for God."

(Lk 1:37)

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

But the angel said to them...

“The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.” (Lk 2:10-11)

For many of us, Christmas is a time of rejoicing, a time of celebrations, family gatherings, and Advent programs in our churches to reflect on our spiritual preparedness for welcoming Jesus at Christmas.



We also prepare our homes by putting up the Christmas tree and other decorations.

Yet for many, Christmas is anything but wonderful. Many have little or nothing at all to share and no one to celebrate with and feel the joy of Christmas. For

some, Christmas can also be a time of financial stress and emotional strain. But come Christmas, as we herald the birth of our Lord Jesus by attending a Christmas eve/day mass, feel the joy and peace of Christ’s presence in our lives.

God breaks into our world seeking to love us and to draw us closer to himself. This is the true joy of Christmas, the joy from our God who loves us all unconditionally. God’s gift to us is the promise of eternal life in heaven, through the incarnation of His beloved Son.

Christmas decorations will come down after the holidays, but the joy of Christ’s presence in us will last forever. Jesus offers us hope for a joyful tomorrow. So let us not focus on painful memories of the past. Rather, let us focus on Jesus who brings us everlasting peace and joy.

As we come closer to Christmas, let us not forget what Christmas is all about. Let us keep its true meaning alive in our hearts and minds. We celebrate Christmas because of Christ, born to be our Savior and our path to eternal life. Let us proclaim in Jesus’ name that Christmas is the day the Lord comes as an infant to transform our lives through the power of the cross. ***“For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God.”*** (Heb 12:1b-2)

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

How often do we experience trials and hardships in life? Perhaps we are going through personal and family crisis such as terminal illness, breakdown of relationship between husband and wife, between parent and child, or between friends. Don’t we sometimes feel like the world is crumbling down on us? At times like these, we need to pray and ask God to open our eyes to have a better understanding of His plan for us. Then we will realize that all our anxieties in this life are short-lived. Then shall have the courage and strength to accept the apparently meaningless sufferings in this life, knowing that through it all, God is on our side. All it takes is to trust that nothing is impossible with God.

When I found out that my wife had cancer, it felt like the grey skies were drifting slowly into our life and darkness was closing in. I had to make a choice whether to let darkness engulf us or let light shine out of darkness. The Lord, in His goodness, made me choose light and helped me find ways to let its glimmering brilliance shine back into our life.

Jeremiah 29:12-13a states: ***“When you call me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me.”*** These words spoke hope when I felt hopeless and gave voice to my broken heart that often could find no words of its own. There were times when I felt physically, psychologically and emotionally drained in giving care to the person I promised to be with in sickness and in health, but I had to hide from her that hurting soul in me. I did not expect caregiving to be such a soul-crunching, spirit-bending, and body-wearying work. But God granted me a new vision for those I love and with that new vision, a new sense of compassion and grace. He showed me how to share His unconditional, unequivocal and unreserved love.

“Nothing is impossible with God.” (Luke 1:37) Through His word, God whispered to my heart that I had no reason to fear. He, Himself, had formed and shaped my wife. He would work out the details of her life, even a life with cancer, for His glory and her well-being. He had summoned my wife down a path we would not choose. But it was a path He had marked, and I believe He is there every step of the way.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

ST. HILDEGARD

St. Hildegard of Bingen, born in 1098 in West Franconia, Germany, was a writer, poet, and composer in the scientific and historical fields. She was known for her amazing visions and diverse forms of writing. She



was a 12th century religious leader in the Benedictine faith, the tenth and last child of noble parents who were wealthy landowners. Hildegard showed early signs of exceptional spiritual gifts. Looking back, she placed the onset of her visionary experiences in early childhood, although at that stage she did not understand

their significance. She established a convent in Rupertsberg where she studied evangelical arts. She has been known as “One of the most important figures in the history of the Middle Ages” and “the greatest woman of her time.”

Her journey started when she became a nun at the age of eighteen years. Twenty years later, she was appointed as the head of the female community at the monastery. From 1140-1150, she acquired distinct visions which she wrote down and illustrated, indicating their importance and what they meant. Pope Eugenius III wished to see her work and after examining it thoroughly, exclaimed that her work was authentic. Eugenius gave papal approval to whatever else Hildegard might produce by means of the Holy Spirit. Official recognition that Hildegard’s work was divinely inspired, served to disarm potential critics and allowed Hildegard a good deal of freedom to criticize the shortcomings of her secular and spiritual superiors. She saw herself as continuing the work of the prophets in proclaiming the truths that God wished humanity to know.

St. Hildegard spread her teachings throughout Europe, visiting various countries such as Germany, France, and Switzerland. She died on the seventeenth of September in the year 1179. She wrote many letters, over 100, to different emperors, popes, nuns, nobility, and bishops. She wrote 72 different songs from which some would consider her a musical genius. In addition to her list of accomplishments, St Hildegard also scribed 72 poems as well as nine books. Her books on theology include *Scivis*, *Liber Vitae Meritorum*, and *De Operatione Dei*, which describe her visions according to her “enigmatic but deeply moving” way. As a result, St. Hildegard of Bingen has been known as one of the greatest women of her time. On May 10, 2012, Benedict XVI ordered Hildegard to be inscribed in the catalogue of saints.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

went on to present God’s plan to Mary; he answered her questions, and even gave her some good news about her cousin, Elizabeth. And then he paused.....with great anticipation he waited for Mary’s reply.....the silence must have been profound.

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” (Lk 1:38)

Mary said, “Yes.” How wonderful it must have been on that day: the magnificent angel and the humble young woman, chosen by God Himself, pure and gentle and not-at-all prepared for what she was hearing. And then she said it, the sentence that would change the world forever. Surely Gabriel smiled; and the celebration in heaven must have been extraordinary! “May it be done to me according to your word.” Mary had said “Yes” to God!

Mary’s encounter with the angel was not the first or the last time that Scripture described a meeting between Heaven and Earth, between God and Mankind. To Mary, He sent an angel; for David, God’s word came through the prophet Nathan. When God wanted to get St. Paul’s attention, He knocked him off his horse.

Throughout the Scriptures, we read how God has communicated with human beings: He made promises, offered a covenant, spoke through a prophet, gave us the gospel, revealed His majesty, presented His commandments, and sent an angel. All of us here probably have heard God speak to us, in one way or another. And when God speaks, things happen. When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, he placed the final piece of the puzzle in Mary’s humble and obedient hands. Now, the power of God’s word was about to change the course of human history.

Of course, that’s not the end of the story. Actually, it’s just the beginning, for Mary, and for us. There is still a lot of work to be done. How do you suppose God will speak to *you* the next time He has a job for you to do? Will He send an angel? Probably not. But He might send someone from the community. Perhaps a ministry is shorthanded and needs your help, or an article is needed for the next Covenant News. There is always a need for more sponsors and shepherds, auxies and prayer warriors. Don’t be afraid to say, “yes.” When someone asks you to do a job that seems way too big, recall the words of the angel: “do not be afraid”...“nothing is impossible for God.” Then, like David, like Mary, like Paul, you and I can offer Him our own humble “yes,” with absolute trust in the promises and the faithfulness of our God!

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS (from page 3)

When Mary said, "May it be done to me according to your word," she helped set in motion the final stage of God's greatest plan, His plan for the salvation of the world! What great thing does God want to accomplish through *you*? The only way to find out is to say, "Lord, may it be done to me according to Your word."

DIRECTIONS:

1. Invite all people to Encounters and LSS.
2. Imitate Mary in her humility and obedience to God's will in our lives.

NEWS (from page 1)

because 'ah, I'm lacking this, I'm lacking that ...' No, this isn't God's joy. Pray."

Second, he said, is render thanks to the Lord for the good things he has given us.

Third, he continued, is to think "how I can go to others, to those who have difficulties, problems" and "where I can go to bring some relief, peace to those who suffer."

The Holy Father concluded by asking Mary to accompany the parishioners and calling them to joy.

Christmas Quotes

"He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy. He, the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute." ~St. Augustine

"Mankind is a great, an immense family... This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas."

~Pope John Paul XXIII

"Christmas is based on an exchange of gifts, the gift of God to man – His unspeakable gift of His Son, and the gift of man to God – when we present our bodies as a living sacrifice." ~Vance Havner

"You can never truly enjoy Christmas until you can look up into the Father's face and tell him you have received His Christmas gift." ~John R. Rice

"Joy is the true gift of Christmas, not the expensive gifts that call for time and money. We can communicate this joy simply: with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help, forgiveness. And the joy we give will certainly come back to us.... Let us pray that this presence of the liberating joy of God shines forth in our lives."

~Benedict XVI

"Rejoice and be glad that so great and good a Lord, on coming into the Virgin's womb, willed to appear despised, needy, and poor in this world, so that men who were in dire poverty and suffering in great need of heavenly food might be made rich in him." ~St. Claire

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$1,992	\$142,089
Mission Collections	\$40	\$8,352
Fr. Paul's SOH Collection	\$586	\$7,999

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Contacts: ycs@bldnewark.com/dyc@bldnewark.com



Confession

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from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm
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Jan 16	Management			

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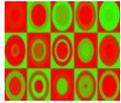
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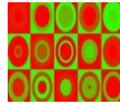
Volume 20 Issue 52

Bulletin Edition

Dec. 26, 2014



SEASON'S GREETINGS



As this year will soon come to an end, our thoughts hit every spectrum of what this year has brought us. We've been through triumphs and trials in our personal as well as community life. There were times when our hopes were met with despair but always felt God's loving arms wrapping tightly around us, giving courage not to give up. As always, perseverance in prayers gave us a better understanding and acceptance of the path God has put us on.

It is, therefore, with mixed feelings that we shall bid this year goodbye, but we need to look ahead and welcome the new year with a prayer to thank our Lord for all He has blessed us with in the past and to thank Him for new mercies the New Year holds for us.

Along with gratitude to our Almighty Father, we should end this year asking for forgiveness where we failed Him and beseech Him for guidance and direction according to His plans for us.

In all excitement of the festivities, let us take a moment of solitude and contemplate on what special gift we could give our Lord Jesus, Who is the very reason for our celebration. Just as the Father gave His only son to us, let us freely give our total self to Him, our heart and soul, the very core of our being.

As we welcome the New Year 2015, let us humbly ask our Lord for His wisdom that we may find His purpose and meaning in our lives. We pray that the Lord empowers us to transform everything we do into expression of His love.

It is with gladness in our hearts as we lift up our beloved BLD community for their dedication and commitment to serve the Lord selflessly.

"What thanksgiving, then, can we render for you, for all the joy we feel on your account before our God? May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you." (Thessalonians 3:9:12)

We wish you and your loved ones a Blessed, Healthy and Bountiful New Year! May God's Love, Peace and Joy reign in your hearts and the whole BLD Community!

Always in Christ service,
District Council of Stewards (DCS)

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

COUNSELS FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

THEME: Disciples of Jesus prepare with watchfulness when we take care of our family and our community.

**WORD: Gn 15:1-6;21:1-3 / Ps 105:1-2,3-4,6-7,8-9
Heb 11:8,11-12,17-19 / Lk 2:22-40**

ORDER: "Put on God's chosen ones...heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another... and over all these put on love." (Col 3:12-14)

"And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col 3:17)

REFLECTION:

From our Gospel reading, we see Mary as the model of all believers. Mary is the *heir to the hope of the righteous in Israel and first among the disciples of Jesus Christ*. By her "*fiat*" to the plan of God's love (cf. *Lk 1:38*), in the name of all humanity, she accepts in history the One sent by the Father, the Savior of mankind. In her *Magnificat*, she proclaims the advent of the Mystery of Salvation, the coming of the "Messiah of the poor" (cf. *Is 11:4; 61:1*). The God of the Covenant, whom the Virgin of Nazareth praises in song as her spirit rejoices, is the One Who casts down the mighty from their thrones and raises up the lowly, fills the hungry with good things and sends the rich away empty, scatters the proud, and shows mercy to those who fear Him (cf. *Lk 1:50-53*). [COMPENDIUM OF THE SOCIAL DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH - 59]



Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"I am your shield, I will make your reward very great." (Gn 15:1b)



CHANGES OF THE HEART



This parable of the two imperfect sons (Mt 21:28-32) is found only in Matthew. The two sons represent two segments of Judaism with the first son stands for sinners within Israel who, despite their initial negative response, ultimately answer favorably to the message of Jesus. The second son clearly represents Jesus' listeners, the religious leaders of the Jews, the recipients of God's revelation to His people.

I see relevance in the gospel with my personal behavior in our community. We enter the community in many ways. It could be in an encounter, an LSS or drawn in by one of its many retreats. We stayed because of our change of hearts, as conversions take place. A new mindset takes over. We shed our old life, the many variations of sins of the flesh, the craving for material accumulation and earthly recognition. We may have said NO initially to the invitation but this conversion made us stay, changed our ways and found joy in serving the Lord through this community.

I noticed though that the longer I stayed, the more my old self creeps in. I do not indulge in dreaded mortal sins, but I replaced them, primarily, with the sin of pride. I became inflexible like the religious leaders Jesus addressed. I found it hard to listen to other disciple's views especially my spouse's. I became more critical. There were many times I said to myself I am the lonely "voice in the wilderness" not realizing my blurred line between obstinacy and a true prophet. I needed and found a spiritual mirror and in Spiritual Direction saw myself better, and in the nakedness of truth, realized I have regressed. I have turned into the second son who now chooses what I want to do and ignore what does not conform to my idea of the truth. In short, I have backslidden. But I ask now, how many in community have silently regressed like me and are left by themselves or were corrected in love but refused to listen?

St. Paul tells us, "***Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others.***" (Phil 2:3) When I find it difficult to accept others, I now ask, who do I have in the center of my life? Do I seek to direct others instead of being directed by them? Obedience is opposed to this pride. St. Thomas Aquinas said that a very good sign of one's spiritual maturity is one's willingness to obey others. The only Son of the Father came down from Heaven to save us, to cure our pride. He became obedient unto death, to death on the cross. The calling is to empty ourselves and be more like Christ as He now lives in us. Our vocation is to be the true and beloved sons and daughters that our Father wants us to be.

Let us look at ourselves, and make others easily see Christ in us and in our actions. This will not be easy, but we can start with an "I will" and a single positive step towards the Kingdom.

He Dwelt Among Us

Last Sunday the priest's homily at our parish was about how Christmas has, for most, become just a cultural celebration. Many get wrapped up in the frenzy of gift buying, party planning, fashionable attire scheming and holiday decorations and carols. I even have friends who are non-Christian with Christmas trees, who exchange gifts on December 25 just because they don't want to feel left out.



Seemingly lost is God's humble entry into humanity.

But, in a sense, that's exactly what they are – "left out"... if there is no belief that God became Man and lived like a man.

For those many, the Christmas spirit fades when the colored lights dim. But for those who believe that it was mankind's rebirth, then the period after December 25 should be even more joyful and joy-filled, because God being with us is the true cause for celebration.

God being God, He didn't have to do this... And yet, God being God, in a very real sense, He had to... eventually experiencing everything, us His creations experience. Because how much would I believe in Him if He exempted Himself from some of the things that make man human?

There were times when Jesus must have cried as a child; maybe times when He went hungry. There too would have been times that He would have laughed at something funny. He too would have marveled at sunrises and sunsets. Just like you and me in BLD, He valued friends and family.

When His earthly father, St. Joseph passed on, Jesus too might have panicked at the thought of the years that were still to go on without him. And although troubled by His own passion that was to come, in the end, the ultimate proof of Who He was and is, is that He did not invoke an "escape clause". Just as He entered our world like any other man, He too died as men do.

But we're not left out when we believe that He rose again. It's so easy to succumb to disbelief in His resurrection, especially when belief involves so much risk and sacrifice. But it's the only way for His promise of abundant life to happen – certainly in the next life, but even more importantly, every day in this current one we all find ourselves living in.

Life will go on, whether one believes in Christ or not. Although the simple fact is that it is better when life is lived with Him, and that life manifests Him in all we think, say and do. We probably have all experienced enough to be able to look back and know this; just that sometimes, seems we choose to forget it, especially at times when we test God with our conditional requests for His favors. But for everyone and anyone this maxim remains:

**Believe in Jesus because belief in Him, is quite frankly,
the most death defying thing we can ever do...
And most assuredly, it will lead to Bountiful Life...
EVERLASTING.**

Undeclared

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

There is a beautiful moment at dawn right before sunrise if one rises early enough to experience it. The whole world is enveloped in darkness. There is nothing but black and stillness. However, even before the sun appears, the world begins to announce its coming. The earth comes alive as the birds awaken and begin to sing their morning song. Slowly, the first sunrays appear and pierce and paint the darkness with not only its light, but with color and warmth. Suddenly, the trees and the things around you become more visible. Before you know it the sun arrives and the beauty of the world is clear to see. It leaves no trace of the darkness of night.

This darkness is whatever trials in life, big or small, that take our sight and our vision of the beauty of the life God intends for us. We are the people waiting for the dawn to break through this darkness and thankfully we are never disappointed. This warm, life giving sun is the Son of God we’ve all been waiting for all advent long. The world has long since been singing songs for His welcome this and every Christmas. His love is the one that breaks through every dark night in our lives and warms our souls with hope. Finally, our victory is here. As it says in John 1:5, ***“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”***

Father God, let us continuously place our trust in You despite the darkness that threatens our daily lives. Just as the sun never fails to arrive every morning, You never disappoint. May we continuously experience your unending love and light in our lives that brings us victory every day. May our hearts always sing Your song of hope and joy to all and announce Your goodness and mercy to the world.

Let us rejoice because Jesus, our Emmanuel, is with us now and always.

starting with our immediate family: Our spouse and children, and then to other extended members of our family. We should not wait. We must share and show our feelings to each other right now.

As true disciples of Christ in our world today, we must continue to spread the Word as He commanded. We must stay vigilant and watchful. God is always with us. He will not abandon us. God is constantly reminding us to stay vigilant and focused on the prize. The prize that we are going to be with Him in His kingdom one day. ***“And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord, Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Col 3:17)***

DIRECTION: Listen, respect and love one another.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

Like Mary who is the first disciple of Jesus, we are also called to be His disciples. Similar to Mary, we received our calling when we were not ready, when we were busy, or simply not expecting the call through the Encounters, LSS, or retreats of the community. We had other plans, and not necessarily to become a disciple or follower of Jesus. For Mary, her plan to marry Joseph was set. But in her humility, she submitted herself to the will of God even when fear and pondering grasped her judgment.

In our community life, most of us who want to be disciples are also familiar with the fear and pondering of Mary. As we continue to serve and follow Christ, we also encounter difficulties. As we continue in our community life, attend our Friday worship and learn more about Christ through our teachings, life becomes more challenging and our Lord’s word is fulfilled in us: ***“If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.” (Lk 9:23)***

If one truly desires to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, it is vital that he or she must first take into account the words of our Lord, and the cost of discipleship. We will continue to have our own cross to bear. Every day may be a struggle for some people. But, if we remain devoted, we will be saved. Bearing our cross every day is showing God that we are putting aside our sense of self-righteousness and denying ourselves for the sake of humility. We must show Him that our heart’s desire is to please Him and not to satisfy ourselves. It shouldn’t matter how heavy our cross is. If we believe that He will be there and He is helping us carry this cross, then our load will be lighter. This is indeed the cost of discipleship: ***“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” (Lk 14:27)***

To become a true disciple of Jesus, one must go through a series of transformation. Just like a student, a disciple has to go on a series of preparation in order to be called a disciple. We have to learn more about Christ by putting into practice our Christian Maturity Program, our teachings. We have to grow in the Word of God. As disciples of Jesus, we must strive to learn more about Him so we can emulate Him. We must seek His words and His teachings to become a true follower.

Lastly, to be true disciple of Jesus is to recognize that Jesus is love. Our love for Jesus takes precedence over all. Loving Him first gives true meaning to our love toward our neighbors. Loving another person is maybe the hardest task for some people. Loving someone means you’re opening yourself to them and hoping that person loves you back. But what if that person wouldn’t give you the same love that you expected? Should you insist? Or should you just accept the fact that it will never happen? In this season of love and giving, along with the birth of Jesus Christ, there are many reasons why we should give love unconditionally. We should love unconditionally



2014 BLD NEWARK MAJOR EVENTS YEAR-END REPORT

DATES	EVENT
January 22	March For Life
January 25-26	Prayer Healing 1
February 1	Community Teachings
February 8	YLSS Protecting God's Children Teaching
February 17-20	Medical Mission
March 1	Singles Retreat
March 7-9	Youth Life in the Spirit Seminar
March 15	Agony in the Garden/ Washing of the Feet Retreat
March 29	Community Retreat
April 4-6	Life in the Spirit Seminar #42
April 25-27	Aspirant's Retreat
May 10	SPM 2,000 Hail Marys
May 16-18	Aspirant's Retreat
May 30-Jun 1	Singles Encounter #32
May 30-Jun 1	Marriage Encounter #43
June 7	Pentecost Vigil
June 14	Community Teaching
June 27-29	Solo Parents Encounter #16
July 11-13	Youth Encounter #21
August 9	2014 Community Day
September 12-14	John 6 Crossing #15
September 13-14	Prayer Healing 2
September 20	Agony in the Garden/ Washing of the Feet Retreat
October 3-5	Life in the Spirit Seminar #43
October 17-19	Aspirant's Retreat
October 25-26	Falling in Love with Jesus #3
November 7-9	Singles Encounter #33
November 14-16	Marriage Encounter #44
December 6	Community Teaching
December 19-26	Christmas Presentation/Party

May every moment of our lives be a MERRY Christmas for...

"It is Christmas every time you let GOD love others through you...yes it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand." -Mother Teresa

"Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas!" -Dale Evans Rogers

"There is better thing than observance of Christmas day, and that is, keeping Christmas." -Henry Van Dyke



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LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$3,924	\$146,013
Mission Collections	\$132	\$8,484
Christmas Envelope	\$1,016	\$1,016

Financial details are available to all members through treasury@bldnewark.com
Thank you for your continued support!
Stewardship - It's a way of life!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MEDICAL MISSION 2015

February 16-19, 2015,
Koronadal City, So. Cotabato, Philippines
Volunteers needed.
For details contact: Mel/Remy Hernandez
chi1944@hotmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!

YOUTH LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR
March 6-8, 2015 ~ Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway NJ
Contacts: yca@bldnewark.com/dyc@bldnewark.com



Every last Friday of the month
from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm
St. Mary's Church (DMP).

SAVE THE DATE!

MARCH FOR LIFE

What: **Bus trip to Washington D.C.**
When: **January 22, 2015 - Thursday**
Departure Place and Time: **Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway, NJ @ 6:30 am. Bus leaves on time.**
Estimated Return time to Divine Mercy Parish: **between 9:00 or 10:00 pm.**
Capacity of Bus: **55 passengers**
Cost: **Free of Charge (prepare \$10.00 for tips & other miscellaneous expenses)**
Reservations: **Strictly First-Come-First-Serve basis for BLD members only (30 youth/singles & 25 adults)**

Date	Apostolate
Jan 2	Evangelization
Jan 9	Formation
Jan 16	Management
Jan 23	Mission

Marshaling



Schedule