



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 22 Issue 35

Bulletin Edition

August 26, 2016

NEWS

Pope reminds faithful of Jesus

Pope on Salvation: 'Life Is Not Video Game or Soap Opera.' During Angelus, Reminds Faithful of Jesus' 'Pressing Invitation' to Let Go of Whatever Is Inside Us That Prevents Us From Abandoning Ourselves to God's Mercy.

Zenit.org / AUGUST 21, 2016 / DEBORAH CASTELLANO LUBOV / ANGELUS/REGINA CAELI

Pope Francis says life is not a soap opera or video game, so we better take our eternal salvation seriously.

He stressed this to the faithful in St. Peter's Square today at noon, during his Sunday Angelus address, as he reflected on salvation.

The Pontiff drew inspiration from today's reading from the Gospel of Luke, in which Jesus, going toward Jerusalem, is approached by a man who asks Him, if only a few people will be saved, and Jesus, not giving a direct answer, notes the door is narrow.

With the image of the door, the Jesuit Pontiff explained, the Lord wants to explain to His listeners that it is not a question of numbers, of how many people will be saved. Francis noted that "how many" is not what matters, but what does, is that everyone understands the door that leads to salvation.

On Why It's Narrow

"But where is the door? What is it like? Who is the door?" the Pope asked, reminding all the pilgrims that Jesus Himself is the door, as He says in the Gospel of John.

The Pontiff then acknowledged that some may be asking themselves why the door is narrow.

"It is a narrow door," he responded, "not because it is oppressive – no, but because it asks us to restrict and limit our pride and our fear, to open ourselves with humble and trusting heart to Him, recognizing ourselves as sinners, in need of His forgiveness."

He highlighted its need to be narrow to contain our pride.

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COUNSELS

Our Humble King Our Humble God

THEME: We build God's Kingdom when we leave our comfort zones and serve the needy and the less fortunate.

WORD: Sir 3:17-18,20,28-29 ~ Ps 68:4-5,6-7,10-11
Heb 12:18-19,22-24a ~ Lk 14:1,7-14

ORDER: "Conduct your affairs with humility."
Sir 3:17

REFLECTION:

Our readings for this Sunday express God's desire for us to be enlightened, to comprehend and understand the importance, the meaning, and essence of humility. I believe we may have a hint of this in scripture: "*Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave.*" (Phil 2:6-7)

In this day and age, can we imagine a King to be humble? It is impossible. For such a virtue to exist in a King is only in fairy tales or in Hollywood. These days, where can we find humility? Where can we find an abundance of humility? I believe it is readily visible among the poor, people who are neglected by society, and those in Third World countries. Why is that so? It's because of the absence of material things.

Let us ask ourselves, would Mother Teresa of Calcutta think that she is humble? I think not. I believe that a humble person cannot say that to him/herself.

We can expound on it forever; and we will all come up with varied answers, good answers but still, humility will be elusive for so many. The ego wants to be above others, the Spirit does not.

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Promise of the Week

"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Lk 14:11)

A BLD Newark... **Holy Door Update**

Last week's Covenant News issue reported a total of fourteen Holy Doors as having been visited by BLD Newark members so far (thru Aug 16), including three that were in the Philippines.

A place in NJ, often visited by many in BLD, has now been added to the list: [the Blue Army Shrine in Washington NJ](#). In addition to that Holy Door, the BLD list now also has: The Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa (Doylestown, PA), the Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia (Philadelphia, PA), and Sacred Heart Church (Dover, NJ). As of Aug 24, our total is now eighteen.

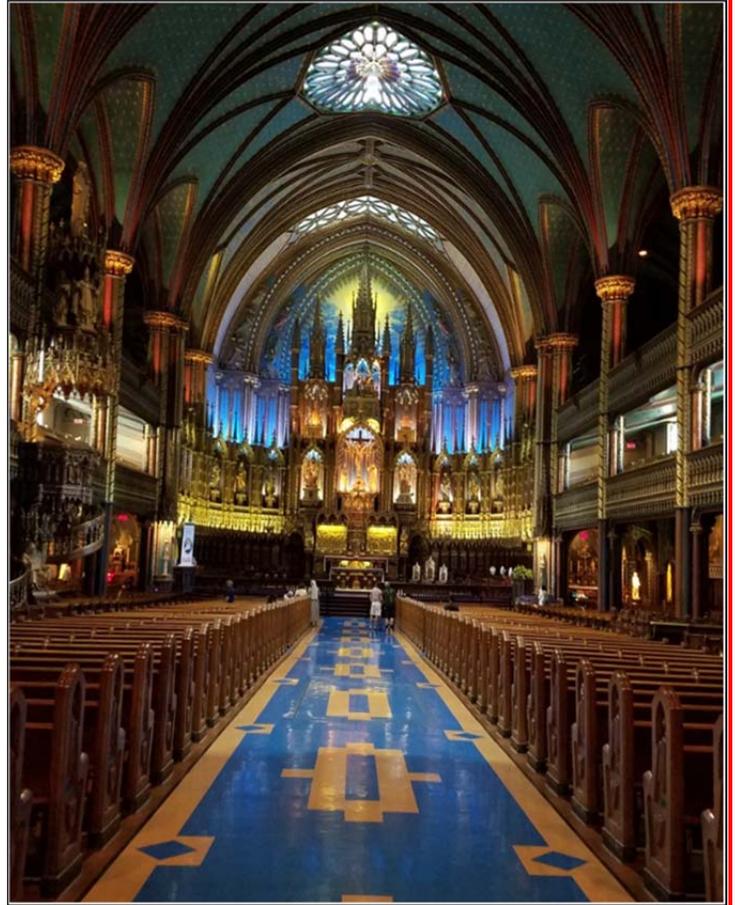
In other pilgrimages...

CN 28 had pictures of one ME group that had journeyed to enter the Permanent Holy Door at the Basilica Cathedral of Notre Dame in Quebec City.

(that Church is pictured below)



That same weekend of July 4th, there was a second ME group on a similar pilgrimage that toured both Montreal and Quebec City. Although the Notre Dame Basilica in Montreal was not a designated Holy Door site, the group wanted to share this spectacular picture that they took when they visited there.



Happy Anniversary, BLD Newark!

SOMETHING SPECIAL

- a BLD rhyme

When friends ask me
Why I come to BLD
Why I'm in Rahway
Almost every single Friday

After giving them a hug
Often I just shrug

Because we have something special here

See, there's the joy in worship
Praise in Spirit and in song
There's the food and fun at fellowship
That makes me feel like I belong

"But I already go to Church on Sunday," they'd reply
"I'm waaayyy too busy everyday, to even begin to try."

So I'd say, That's what I thought too
Before, when my life was a zoo

Now it seems I have the time
For everything I used to do
Now I also have the time
For BLD weekends too!
See, wherever and whenever
It is that we praise together
My heart kinda does a jump
And I get this feeling that nothing can trump

See, for all of us in my family
On this we all agree
We have something... make that Someone special here

Simply put... **we see Jesus... HERE.**

Twenty-four years ago, Sunday, August 23, 1992, the first candidates graduated from BLD Newark's first ever Marriage Encounter Weekend. Since that time, the Lord has always been with the Community, in all the venues it has called "home" and in all of its countless endeavors.

**Dear all, Happy 24th Anniversary!
We Thank You Lord for BLD!**

Pope reminds faithful ...

Pope on Salvation: 'Life Is Not Video Game or Soap Opera.'

God Has No 'Favorites'

"The door of God's mercy is narrow but always wide open, wide open for everyone!" he said, stressing, "God has no favorites, but always welcomes everyone, without distinction."

The salvation that the Lord gives us, Francis stressed, is an endless stream of mercy, which can break down all barriers and bring surprising peace and light.

"The gate is narrow, but always wide open: do not forget this," he said.

Pressing Invitation

The Pontiff then told those in the Square that as Jesus speaks to His faithful today, He continues to offer them a pressing invitation to come to Him, be reconciled and happy.

"He waits for us, no matter what sin we have committed, no matter what, to embrace us, to offer us His forgiveness. He alone can transform our hearts, He alone can give full meaning to our existence, giving us the real joy."

Escaping Worldly Attitudes and Bad Habits

"Upon entering the gate of Jesus, the door of faith and of the Gospel, we can get out from worldly attitudes, bad habits, by selfishness and by the closures," he said.

Francis explained that when there is contact made with God's love and mercy, "there is a real change," and our lives will be "illuminated by the light of the Holy Spirit: an inextinguishable light!"

Proposal

"I would like to make a proposal," Francis said. "Let us think now, in silence, for a moment to the things we have inside of us and prevent us through the door: my pride, my sins. And then, let us think of the other door, that is open from the mercy of God, Who on the other side, is waiting for us, to give forgiveness."

The Holy Father reminded those present how the Lord offers us many opportunities to be saved and enter through the door of salvation. "This door is an opportunity, that must not be wasted," he said.

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The ego wants to acquire material things, the Spirit does not.

In my walk with God, I have always tried to be conscious of how people will perceive my actions. I try my best to act the way God would want me to, even if I know I may be embarrassed. It is very difficult for me to be humble because it is very contrary to my ego, my flesh, which always pursues material things, instead of things that do not decay or rust.

Humility is a constant reaching, searching, changing and persevering in becoming more Christ like. It is an on-going process and very, very difficult for me. The moment I say I have the virtue of humility, that's actually the time I fail big time! Humility is achieved when we have totally eradicated our ego or self, and only Jesus, and all that pertains to Him, is what is left in our hearts.

And so, because we love God, we strive to acquire the virtue of humility. In the process, we continue striving to imitate Christ; we continue to love others; we continue to let go of material things. We learn to serve others; we learn to forgive constantly; we learn to accept corrections and criticism; and we pursue discipleship of Christ. Through our search for humility we experience the love and mercy of God, and we become better persons. Without realizing it, we come closer to being humble.

In this world, a humble person is often thought to be a sissy or a push over. In our culture, being humble is very much discouraged. Why? Because the world belongs to the evil one, this is his territory. If you notice, aside from making humility unattractive, Satan encourages and inspires us to acquire greater material wealth. We know this and we agree to it subconsciously. We want brand new items; we buy them constantly, and many are never used and just remain in our closets getting old. Remember, Satan is a deceiver. We are deceived if we think that having a nice car, a nice house, the latest cellphone, and nice clothes, will make us happy. If we can go on vacation regularly, we are happy (and why not, when we worked hard for our money?).

It is not bad to want these things, but the problem lies in the CONSTANT, UNCEASING, and CONTINUOUS desire to obtain them. The result is that we have no time left to do God's will. Yes we may devote much time to our families, our first church, which is good, but we may find out later that God has only come in second. ...Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

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Satan will keep us busy with material things to distract us from becoming humble. Humility is very rare here in America; it is almost extinct.

My brothers and sisters, hold off on buying that new car, hold off on that new TV set. Let it pass. Down size now, not when you are about to retire; we need to change our life styles now. Do something for our community, for our friends who have not been introduced to what Catholicism is, as it really is.

This way, we may receive God's promise: *“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”* (Lk 14:11).

Reflection Questions:

1. How do I consider myself in relation to others? In what ways can I improve and grow in humility?
2. Share an experience when you felt humbled and blessed after being charitable to a poor person (giving alms, food, shelter, etc.), or comforting a total stranger. How did this affect you?

Directions

1. Invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind.
2. Go and take the lowest place.

Pope reminds faithful...

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Not Video game or Soap Opera

The Pontiff acknowledged that those present may ask themselves: ‘But if God is good and loves us, why does He close the door at some point?’

To this he responded, “Because our life is not a video game or a soap opera; our life is serious and the goal to achieve is important: eternal salvation.”

Pope Francis concluded his words before the Angelus prayer to ask Mary, Door of Heaven, to intercede in inspiring faithful to seize the opportunities the Lord gives to reach their end goal of salvation.

Random Thoughts...

“Lampas Langit” (Beyond Heaven)

There’s a saying in Filipino, when folks want to chide someone who is good, pious and religious, that all they do might get them “lampas langit” - that is, that all that good might cause them to overshoot heaven.

That’s actually not possible.

Because even there, our God will be just waiting, ready to catch us with His embrace.

Mercy Merci Raffle Fundraiser

Drawing Date: Friday, October 14, 2016

Please note that a pdf of this covenant News is also available online at BLDNEWARK.com

LORD'S PROVISION

PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings	\$ 1,961	\$ 88,412
Mission Collections	\$ 75	\$ 5,205

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

Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Teaching Calendar

Teachings for Saturday, September 17 - 1 to 6 pm:

- Basic Bible Seminar (LSS 1-46)
- Christian Maturity Program 1, Part II (LSS 1-45)
- Advanced Intercession (LSS 1-43)

Newark Archdiocese Jubilee of Mercy Event at Divine Mercy Parish in Rahway



Morning of Mercy Mini Pilgrimage
Saturday, September 24
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Divine Mercy Parish
232 Central Ave.
Rahway, NJ

Guest Speaker:
Msgr. Joseph Reilly
Missionary of Mercy

Msgr Reilly was named by Pope Francis as the Archdiocesan Missionary of Mercy. After his talk, there will be time for adoration, confession and passing through the Holy Door. The event will conclude with a Eucharistic Celebration.

LSS 46-B - October 7-9, 2016

Now Open for Registration

Salubungan / Acquaintance - Friday, Sept. 2

Contacts: Lito.Vibar@bldnewark.com,

Earl.Manguiat@bldnewark.com, Flo.Manguiat@bldnewark.com

John 6 Crossings # 17

Retreat for children, ages 11-14.

October 7-9, 2016

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

Contacts: Marlene.Brillantes@bldnewark.com

Tony.Brillantes@bldnewark.com

"Unlocking the Mystery" - Bible Study by Jeff Cavins

Divine Mercy Parish, Room 104, Sept 12 - Oct 31, 2016

8 Sessions every Monday night from 8:15-10 pm

Please register by September 1, 2016 (student booklet: \$ 25)

Contacts: Ray/Susie Atienza, BLD Assisted Parish Coordinators

Tel: 908-463-0449, Email: asentertainmentdj@yahoo.com

Marshaling	Date	Apostolate
	Sep 2	Pastoral
	Sep 9	Evangelization
	Sep 16	Formation
	Sep 23	Management