



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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Bulletin Edition

October 7, 2016

Aspirants' Retreat 2016

If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.
(cf Ps 95:7b-8a)

Our BLD community was blessed with fifteen aspiring disciples who attended the most recent Aspirants' Retreat on Sep. 30 – Oct. 2 at the CYO Retreat House. The weekend coincided with the feasts of St. Jerome and St. Therese of the Child Jesus, saints who opened their hearts serving God. It was truly a spirit-filled weekend with Fr. Paul Lehman as the retreat master. Through teachings about discipleship, sharings from witnesses, and self-reflections (using the process of Ignatian Spirituality Discernment), the hearts of the aspirants were led through the possibilities of a life of service, continuing conversion, and a Christ-centered life-style.

The fifteen aspirants were: Jonas & Emy Cebedo, Nena Dacula, Bo & Bing Frio, Rose Go, Deborah Leung, Eliza Literato, Rico Lopez, Nelson & Rose Manzo, Belinda Pacaira, Maria Fe Rangel, Runnie & Jo-an Santiago. We pray that each one will be inspired to seal their BLD covenant in the near future.

We praise and thank God for equipping the disciples from the Teaching, Praise, Witness Development and Discipling ministries, with the support of our DCS, who shared their time and charisms for the glory of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



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

COUNSELS

The Gratefulness of the One Who is Healed

THEME: We bear the mark of a true servant of Christ when we recognize and express gratitude for His mercy.

WORD: 2 Kings 5:14-17; Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4; 2 Timothy 2:8-13; Luke 17:11-19

ORDER: Go show yourself to the priest. (Jesus, the High Priest)

REFLECTION:

“Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!” (Lk 17:12). This is the cry of the ten lepers, imploring Jesus to listen and heal them. This is also the cry of all whose condition - physical, spiritual, emotional, mental, or even financial - seems totally hopeless. There is nothing left to be done. However, it expresses hope in a superior power. The lepers recognized the fact that if Jesus could empathize with them, He could perform the miracle that would deliver them from their misery. Indeed, Jesus hears their cry and directs them to show themselves to a priest. Through their obedience, all of the lepers received God's mercy and saving gift. Along the way, their bodies were made new, clean and whole again. None of them deserved the healing, but by faith received it.

Of the lot, only one leper turned back, not just to give thanks, but to seek what his soul was really yearning for and needed: a relationship with the Divine Healer. The others were satisfied with mere physical healing, and sought nothing more from Jesus, but this one man understood the underlying truth that Jesus was not just a Healer but a Savior and Redeemer.

We all stand in need of God's grace and merciful help every day and every *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

The Lord has made salvation known ... He has revealed His justice. (cf Ps 98:2)

DO NOT BE AFRAID

Jesus Christ is always our safeguard against the difficulties and temptations we may have to undergo. We win every battle with Him at our side.

The history of the Incarnation opens with these words: ***“Do not be afraid, Mary”*** (Lk 1:30). And the Angel of the Lord says also to St Joseph: ***“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid”*** (Mt 1:20). And again to shepherds, the angels repeat: ***“Do not be afraid”*** (Lk 2:10). The angels’ exhortations to herald God’s coming into the world point to what Jesus’ presence among men truly means - that with Jesus, we do not/should not be afraid.

Later on, accompanied by His disciples, Jesus was crossing the little Sea of Galilee. ***“Suddenly a violent storm came up on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by waves”*** (Mt 8:24). St Mark puts this event in its proper context - it was the evening of the day on which Jesus had narrated the parables about the Kingdom of Heaven (Mk 4:35), and Our Lord, must have been tired after hours of preaching because He was asleep in the boat. The storm must have been tremendous, for the disciples, accustomed as they were to the sea, nevertheless saw themselves in danger. So they cried out to Jesus: ***“Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”*** (Mk 4:38)

From the start, the apostles understood why Jesus was asleep. (He must have been very tired not to have been awakened.) They probably did everything in their power to avert the danger - furling the sails, rowing hard and baling out the water. But gradually the storm began to get the better of them, and they were in imminent danger of sinking. Then, overcome with fear, they turned to Our Lord as their one and only recourse. They went and woke Him, saying ***“Lord, save us! We are perishing!”*** And He said to them, ***“Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?”*** (Mt 8:25-26).

How little, too, is our faith when we doubt if storms in our lives will abate! Too often we allow ourselves to be discouraged by circumstances: sickness, work, reversals of fortune, or opposition from others. Fear is a phenomenon which covers almost every aspect of life, and is often the result of ignorance or of selfishness, stemming from excessive concern for oneself, or anxiety over things that may never happen. But, above all else, fear often arises due to the weak foundations that we base our lives upon. Here we are forgetting an essential truth: ↗

20/20 Vision Conference

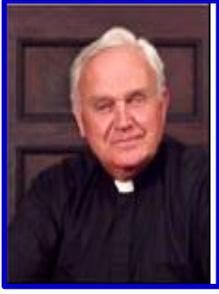
On October 1, 2016, a handful of BLD Singles Ministry members attended the 20/20 Vision Conference. The 20/20 Vision Alliance is a network of several organizations and church groups that have converged to work together toward achieving common anti-abortion goals by the year 2020 (hence the name.) The conference had effective speakers on topics such as: Church Activation, Public Education, Using Social Media, Running for Public Office, Mobilization and Advocacy.

The first W.I.G. (Wildly Important Goal) by 2020 was identified as the passing of a law that bans abortion past 20 weeks (5 months) of gestation: The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act legislation, designated as A-3452 and S-2026 by NJ lawmakers. This law is similar to laws that other states have already adopted designed to regulate the highly unregulated abortion industry in our country. Did you know that NJ has absolutely no restrictions in place as of yet? That means that babies, even past 24-weeks of gestation, can be brutally murdered and either discarded or sold for body parts! You can fulfill your Christian duty in the pro-life movement by helping pass the law here in New Jersey. Learn how at BabiesintheWombFeelPain.com.

The fight for the unborn continues on its many fronts. We urge you to let your faith guide your vote on November 8, 2016.



Jesus Christ is our constant security. This does not mean to say that we are insensitive to events, but that we should have more confidence in using the human means at our disposal. We must never forget that to be close to Jesus, even when He appears to be asleep, is to be safe. When we are confused and going through unpleasant times, Jesus does not forget us. As Saint Teresa said: “He never fails his friends.”



Fr. Paul Speaks

Divine Mercy

It happens often enough that when I am asked to write for CN, I wonder what I should share that will be helpful and practical for the readers. I feel the same when I preach a homily or teach. I want to be excited about what I am saying or writing. I sense that just writing appropriate words is not enough. I look for an inner movement, often called an anointing. This does not mean that everything I write is of divine inspiration, but it means that a very important element in teaching is listening to the Lord. I believe we should all seek inner confirmation before we say or do anything.

Some thoughts - October 1st is the feast day of St. Therese, commonly called the Little Flower. It is pointed out in the Magnificat publication that St. Therese mentioned "Divine Mercy" 75 times. That makes her a close companion with Sister Faustina who wrote her remarkable diary of revelations from the merciful heart of Jesus. It is interesting to note that both nuns, according to worldly standards, were insignificant persons, cloistered away in monasteries.

Yet, as in the case of St. Therese, she has been designated as a patron of foreign missions. Despite her short life of 23 years, it included a ministry and mission that was universal, not in distance or travel, but in the extent of her universal love for the salvation of mankind. Her autobiography is one of the most popular books ever published. We should be reminded then, that our love and intercession are more effective in winning souls than all the somewhat feverish activities that we are often involved in.

St. Therese looked for signs of her vocation within the context of her cloistered vocation in her Carmelite monastery. She looked into the charisms listed in 1 Cor. 12, but did not find herself filling the requirements she discovered there. Interesting to note that saints are aware of charismatic gifts that the Church needs in order to function; she then went to 1 Cor. 13 and read again that beautiful hymn of love which transcends all charismatic gifts. She finally discovered her vocation which is "LOVE", and love is manifested in mercy.

Devotion to the Divine Mercy has also become very widespread. When we stand before the Lord we look for mercy, not justice, even if in God these are the same. We can easily see the connection between ↗

COUNSELS (from page 1)

moment of our lives. Scripture tells us that *"The Lord's acts of mercy are not exhausted, his compassion is not spent; they are renewed each morning"* (Lam 3:22-23). God gives grace to the humble who seek Him with expectant faith and a repentant heart that wants to be made whole and clean again. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God Who is ever ready to heal and forgive.

In our Community, everybody benefits from the power and mercy of Christ. We bask in the wonders of His teachings and the miracles of His healing grace. But like most of the healed lepers, many become mere takers, content that their lives are fixed a little bit, perhaps superficially and temporarily. Few remain at the Lord's feet, glorifying and worshipping Him at our corporate worship, and continuing to listen and be nourished by His word through our word sharing circles. These are the ones who are not only grateful for their healing, but are also committed to offering their lives to be changed and their hearts transformed, as they seek salvation from Jesus, the Healer and Savior.

Gratitude is acknowledging God's outstretched hand in all the circumstances of our lives. Let us remain thankful to the Lord, and maintain our loving relationship with Jesus Christ from Whom comes our salvation from sin and death. Let us, as the psalmist exhorts, *"Give thanks to the Lord, invoke His name; make known among the peoples His deeds!"* (Ps 105:1) And let us not keep such gratitude to ourselves, but declare it through our testimony to Christ, that others may know of God's greatness and goodness, for indeed, He has shown us His saving grace and mercy, as proclaimed in Psalm 98:2, *"The Lord has made His victory known; has revealed His triumph."*

DIRECTIONS

1. Receive the Eucharist often.
2. Praise and give thanks to God at all times

mercy and love. Without love, mercy can be, at best, a function, or even just a token meaningless act. For example, there is a big difference between a hospital worker who exercises service for pay, and Mother Teresa who ministered to dying beggars on the streets of Calcutta.

Pray to these saints of Divine Mercy that the mercy of the heart of Jesus will always be obvious in all your relationships with others, even those you find difficult to love.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Teaching Calendar

- Teachings for Saturday, October 15 - 1 to 6 pm:
- Encounter with Jesus (LSS 1-46)
 - Christian Maturity Program II, Part I (LSS 1-45)
 - Sienna Gift Inventory (LSS 1-47)

SATURDAY, NOV 5, 2016 - WASHING OF THE FEET /
AGONY IN THE GARDEN RETREAT

Mercy Merci Raffle Fundraiser



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

Drawing Date: Friday, October 14, 2016

For remittances, please look for the raffle sponsors:

Friday, Oct 7 – after the LSS Mass, since there will be
no fellowship, in the BLD Treasury Office

Friday, Oct 14 – before worship, in the DMP
auditorium; **any unsold tickets must also be returned!**

Medical Mission

February 13-16, 2017

Maasin, Leyte, Philippines

Contact Persons: Ramon/Leonie Mariazeta
rmariazeta@msn.com / lmariazeta@msn.com

Works of Mercy

THE SEVEN CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Shelter the homeless.
5. Visit the sick.
6. Visit the imprisoned.
7. Bury the dead.

THE SEVEN SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. Counsel the doubtful.
2. Instruct the ignorant.
3. Admonish sinners.
4. Comfort the afflicted.
5. Forgive offenses.
6. Bear wrongs patiently.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.

LORD'S PROVISION

PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,091	105,488
Raffle	4,998	20,098
Mission	80	5,745

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Marriage Encounter # 47

November 18-20, 2016

Hotel Executive Suites

30 Minue Street, Carteret, NJ

Contact email: MLA@bldnewark.com



Disciples' Assembly
Saturday, 1- 5 pm
October 29, 2016

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Oct 14	Evangelization
			Oct 21	Formation
			Oct 28	Management
			Nov 04	Mission

Be a Living Word

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.

Please note that this Covenant News is also available online at BLDNEWARK.com