



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

COUNSELS

Thousands get much needed medical and dental attention at this year's Medical Mission

Once again, BLD Newark successfully sponsored a week-long Medical Mission to the Philippines (February 11-14, 2019). This year, it was held in the town of Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte, in the Bicol region of the Philippines.

According to one of the volunteer doctors who served, this year's Mission was held in probably one of the most remote sites that she had ever been to as part of the BLD Newark Community's noble annual effort of providing free care to the poor in the Philippines. For many from the region, because of the scarcity of services in and around the area, BLD's Mission provided them a rare opportunity to see a health care professional for much needed medical and dental care. There were about 8,500 beneficiaries during the four days of the Mission, among whom were many children suffering from life-long ailments.

As much as many were helped over there, it was the gratitude for the full hearts that the medical missionaries from over here received as they served, that probably delivered the most joy.

Thank you to all the volunteers and the members of the Mission team. The months of planning and preparation really paid off! May God bless our BLD Newark volunteers and our Community, and the people of Jose Panganiban!

And as always...

We praise and thank the Lord!

...Continued on page 2

About Judging Others

THEME: We respond to God's unconditional love when our hearts are filled with righteousness.

WORD: Sir 27:4-7 ~ Ps 92:2-3,13-14,15-16
1 Cor 15:54-58 ~ Lk 6:39-45

ORDER: ***"Be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord."*** (1Cor 15:58b)

REFLECTION:

Our love for God becomes clear when, in our baptism, the Holy Spirit fills our hearts with righteousness. We have been justified by Christ's death and resurrection, bringing us out of darkness into the light of righteousness. Our actions should speak of goodness, not evil; for if there is goodness in our hearts, good is produced; but if there is evil in our hearts, evil is produced (cf. Lk 6:45a).

When we relate to others through words and action, it is essential to show love, care and understanding. Sometimes, we are so self-engrossed that we are not careful about how we look at others. We might see that we are already self-sufficient, especially when compared to them, and so, only notice their defects, but not our own imperfections. We are quick to see what is wrong with others, but disregard or fail to notice what is wrong with ourselves. And when people point out our faults, we might feel insulted and nurture resentment. Sometimes though, there are moments when we swallow our pride and accept being corrected. It's during those times that we realize that we've become better at criticizing others, but have been blind to our own shortcomings.

The Gospel illustrates how hypocrisy ...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

They shall bear fruit even in old age; vigorous and sturdy shall they be. – cf. Ps 92:15

Thousands get much needed medical and dental attention at this year's Medical Mission



The following is an unpublished piece from a CN contributor that was submitted a while ago; but with the report in this issue about the recent Medical Mission and the number of people it has touched, it just seemed like the perfect feature to include in CN 9:

JESUS' HANDS

Jesus' hands. Have you seen them?

Tanned by the sun, strong and calloused
by long days in the carpenter's workshop;
Every day, His disciples gathered around Him.
They watched His hands as He spoke
hands that were so expressive and powerful
Yet always ready to comfort and bless.

Jesus' hands. Have you seen them?
So gentle was His manner,
so warm and full of compassion.
Every day people came from all over Judea
to hear Him preach.
They sought His wisdom
and the healing touch of His hands.

Jesus' hands. Have you seen them?
Yes, you see His hands every day
Stirring a pot at a soup kitchen
Holding the door for a man on crutches
Shoveling snow for a homebound neighbor.

Jesus' hands. Have you seen them?
Supporting a friend in a time of grief
Wrapped around a child
in a loving and forgiving embrace
Reaching out to greet a stranger
in a gesture of peace
They were there at the Medical Mission too!

Yes, you see Jesus' hands every day.

Jesus' hands...they look like...
Well...They look a lot like your hands.

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

causes us to see the flaws of others, and not the good or the potential in them, while rendering us blind to our own faults and failures. Jesus admonished persons



like these as hypocrites, **"Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?"** (Lk 6:41) There are many examples of that wooden beam. We readily criticize the messiness in a

neighbor's surroundings, but do not see the garbage piling up in our own houses. Sometimes, we preach moral teachings to others, but forget that our own family needs pastoring. We might be quick to judge our leaders for what we perceive as burdensome directives, and so, refuse to cooperate. Often it's easier to complain, but when we just criticize and do not act, we fail to do our small part to improve things. There is this saying that we should observe - if you have nothing good to say to a person, then it is better to stay silent.

As Christ's followers, we are called to be a light to others, to point out the truth to them. As Christians, our speech and actions must be edifying to others, and not used to bring them down. Our own testimony must be true and not a pretense, **"for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks."**



(Lk 6:45b) Then others will see the righteousness of Christ in us. Let not our mouths, with which we offer praise to God, be used to curse or judge others. Let not our hands that we raise to honor God be used to hurt others.

Jesus has clothed us with His righteousness. Let us continue to examine ourselves, allowing others to give us feedback so that we might recognize our defects, and learn to be mindful of them. The light of Christ shines when we come out of the darkness of our pretenses; when we walk in righteousness and treat each other with kindness, we can claim the fruitful promise of the Lord:

They shall bear fruit even in old age; vigorous and sturdy shall they be. (cf. Ps 92:15)

Direction:

Persevere in your ministry work in your parish and community.

THE NEW TREE OF LIFE

In Eden, seems that it was all about the fruit...

There was the fruit
of the 'Tree of Life'
And of course, there was the fruit
of the 'Knowledge of Good and Evil.'

Of all the trees that in paradise took root
Why did Adam and Eve
choose the forbidden fruit?

Because of what they did, death was the result
And sinfulness and immorality followed suit
In mankind, evil words, deceit, and lies
would set foot
And to this day, sins of theft and murder
are still so hard to uproot.

When we became the product of that bad fruit
God destroyed humanity in a flood
Then a Covenant He had to institute.

I've often wondered about the 'Tree of Life' fruit
That angels with fiery swords guarded
so that man wouldn't loot
Was that because the Father
could not let sinners go the immortal route?

So God made a new 'Tree of Life'
The cross was that tree and Jesus was the fruit.
His Body and Blood now grant us life
Producing love and kindness from His Truth.
Truth that is quite absolute
With wisdom and judgment
that no one can dispute.
Along with mercy and forgiveness
He lights up the path
back to paradise's route.

Now, God has given us a chance
to sow good seeds that take root
So that by His grace
we too may yield good fruit.

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,384	\$13,275
Love Offerings	\$ 439	\$5,499
E-Giving	\$ 310	\$1,070
Mission	\$ -	\$6,907

Financial details are available to all members through treasury@bldnewark.com
Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Teaching Calendar

Teachings for Saturday, March 16, 1-6 pm DMP School Building

- Encounter with Jesus:
Mark/Matthew (LSS 1-50 / ME 47-50)
- Witness Development Seminar
- Shepherds' Training (LSS 1-48)



Life in the Spirit Seminar #51
April 5-7, 2019
Salubungan is on March 1, 2019
Contacts: Earl & Flo Manguiat

bldnewarklsa@gmail.com



BLD NEWARK
7 Last Words of Christ
Reflections by:
Msgr. Paul Schetelick
DMP Auditorium
April 13, 2019 1 - 6 PM
Seats are limited. Email community.retreat@bldnewark.com to RSVP, or Register online at www.bldnewark.com and click on Community Retreat flyer
Registration Deadline: March 28

INSTALLATION OF REV. FR. ALEXANDER T. CRUZ AS PASTOR

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019 - 4:00 PM
DIVINE MERCY PARISH, 232 CENTRAL AVE
RAHWAY, NJ

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Mar 8	Mission
			Mar 15	Pastoral
			Mar 22	Evangelization
Mar 29	Formation			

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