



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 21 Issue 46

Bulletin Edition

November 20, 2015

## NEWS

### BLD WELCOMES ME46

Marriage Encounter # 46 was held the weekend of November 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>. The retreat was powerful, filled with spiritual promises and new beginnings. The joy and the realization that God had opened up the floodgates with the diverse cultures represented were overwhelming. The transformation of the sharers through spiritual impetus created epiphanies and renewed hopes with the encountered and amongst those present.

*Continued on page 4*



### YOUTH WASHING OF THE FEET

*“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, so that as I have done for you, you should also do”* (Jn 13:14-15).

On November 14<sup>th</sup> 2015, the Youth Ministry was



blessed to have the opportunity to hold its second Washing of the Feet

Retreat. Thanks to the efforts of the Teaching Ministry, Witness-Development Program, and Singles Ministry’s Praise, Washing of the Feet was able to be fruitful. The first movement of the retreat was gaining a deeper understanding of The Agony in the Garden and then going over the Washing of the Feet. *Continued on page 4*

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

## COUNSELS

### CHRIST THE KING!

THEME: We hunger and thirst for His righteousness when we testify to the Truth

WORD: Dn 7:13-14 ~ Ps 93:1,1-2,5  
Rev 1:5-8 ~ Jn 18:33B-37

ORDER: Testify to the Truth. Everyone who belongs to the Truth listens to My voice.

REFLECTION:



We celebrate the Feast of Jesus, King of the Universe or the Feast of Christ the King on the last Sunday of the liturgical year which is this coming Sunday. This feast was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 in response to the growing secularism and nationalism in

Europe that gave birth to the fascism of Mussolini and Hitler's Nazis. This country and the world were then beginning to experience the great Depression. What a great time to be aware and to remember that our loving and merciful God, Jesus is the true King who would never forsake or abandon us!

Today more than ever, just like that time almost a hundred years ago, in the face of all the false values that surround us, we need Christ the King. We need Christ the King to help us face the radicalism, extremism and serious errors that are widely believed in certain parts of the world. Now more than ever, as professed disciples of the King, we must seize the opportunity to imitate our Lord and testify to the truth! Now is the chance to live out the gospel. Jesus said, *“For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.”* (Jn 18:37)

*Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*“Behold, he is coming amid the cloud, and every eye will see him”* (Rev 1:7)

## ZACCHAEUS – SALVATION HAS COME

### Reflection on Luke 19: 1-10



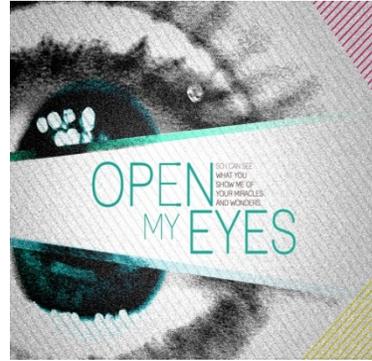
We learn a lot about Zacchaeus in the first four lines of Luke Chapter 19. He was short, a tax collector, rich, a sinner, a leader and resourceful. Jesus says to him **“today I must stay at your house”**. Why did Jesus single him out? We know that Jesus came to save the lost, and here we see Him reaching out to Zacchaeus; but this was not the only significance of the encounter. We see that Zacchaeus had a longing in his heart to see Jesus, so much so that he climbed a tree. Was it for personal gain, as we would expect from someone of Zacchaeus’ description? Maybe, but when Jesus called to him, he responded with great joy. He repented and made restitution. We can see his desire not to be separated from Jesus, the desire to welcome Him to his house. Are we like Zacchaeus then? Maybe.

Jesus comes to us first and calls us, but to be like Zacchaeus, we need to open our hearts to the call and accept the grace to repent and make restitution. Jesus’ presence filled Zacchaeus with grace and gave him the ability to truly repent. What do we say to Jesus when He tells us that He must stay at our house? Do we joyfully get rid of the impediments to welcoming God? Zacchaeus’ conversion was absolute. He gave away the thing that appeared to be dearest to him, his money, not only as restitution but also as a measure of charity or love. **“Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor.”** Of course, Zacchaeus had an advantage - Jesus was standing right beside him filling him with grace and love; but I don’t believe that we are at a disadvantage. If we truly open up our hearts to Him, we will find that Jesus is right beside us too, filling us with grace and strength. God always calls to us first, but we need to respond. We need to be willing to let go of the things that keep us separated from Him. More than just trust God, we need to love God.

Let us pray to God to open the eyes of our hearts so that we may see Jesus standing beside us, and receive the grace that He bestows, so that we, like Zacchaeus, may repent and discard the things that get in the way of a true and meaningful relationship with Jesus.

## LET ME SEE

### A Reflection on Luke 18: 35-43



This reading from Luke begins in a place with which many can identify, especially with Thanksgiving fast approaching and Christmas following not far behind. We are in a season of asking. For the week to go well, for safety, for health, for the family to be together, if only for a night; we ask these things of the Lord, faithful that everything happens according to His plan. So too was the blind man as he called for Jesus’ intervention in his life. Regardless of what others say, the blind man was firm in his belief that our God is one who listens to those who are humble enough to seek His aid. As Jesus said, **“Have, sight; your faith has saved you.”** (Lk 18:42)

However, we must watch for the times when we are the people in the crowd. These people rebuked the blind beggar, telling him to be silent. As easy as it is to outwardly say that we love and serve the Lord, it is even easier to judge another without seeing the faith in their actions. We can get so caught up in appearances, in what we deem to be correct. We must be watchful for moments when we judge someone for having a relationship with the Lord that we cannot understand. As every soul is individually crafted by the Lord, so too is the ministry that each person needs. Only when the crowd saw Jesus perform a miracle did **“all the people [give] praise to God.”** (Lk 18:43) There was no mention of worship before the crowd received concrete proof of His work in the world. However, the blind man was faithful, and the results became clear according to the Lord’s plan. As brothers and sisters in the Lord, we are being asked to support one another, especially the most marginalized of our communities.

Only when we have faith in the Lord, can we attain true sight. Only then can we allow God to work in our lives, so that we can work to help others. When we support others, we live as members of the Body of Christ, and we give praise to God as a complete family of faith.

## THY WILL BE DONE

"Thy Holy will be done. Jesus, Jesus, come. Yes-yes. My Jesus Thy will be done-Jesus," These were the last words of Blessed Charles I, the last Emperor of Austria and king of Hungary, facing the end of his life with dignity. He was the first world leader to establish a Ministry of Social Welfare. Bearing the culture of Catholic Christianity, he advocated peace in the midst of WW I. "Now we must help each other get to heaven," Blessed Charles words on the eve of his marriage to Princess Zita in 1911.

Pope John Paul II declaring Charles Blessed in October 3, 2004, said: "The decisive task of Christians consists in seeking, recognizing and following God's Will in all things."

These are the spiritual foundational directions of the community's mission works, the focus we must set our minds to follow. Mission works must come from our hearts, filled with the Love of God and love of neighbors.

It is not about you or me, but about Jesus in us.



Recently, the BLD Assisted Parish Ministry, through Father Dennis, dedicated their spiritual energy to the parishioners of DMP, through sharings and teachings on family values, and issues regarding spiritual struggles, as well as medical health. The ministry shared that the family is a domestic Church, a "factory of hope" (Pope Francis), through the 7A's: Affirmation, Affection, Acceptance, Appreciation, Attention, Approval and Action; and discussed the need for medical well-being. These were all received with "mucho gusto", manifested through their questions, answers and happy faces.

Sometimes our spiritual cataracts blind us to the realization and understanding that our neighbors in need - the poor, the marginalized, the unemployed, and our mission of Evangelization are just around the corner. We must incorporate and inculcate in our community's moral and spiritual convictions the principles and demands of true mission works. It is neither about *feeling good* nor about being exclusive to our race. It is about *Agape Love*, the kind of love Jesus is giving to us which we must share with others.

*Continued on page 4*

## COUNSELS

(from page 1)

For the people of Jesus' time, it was absurd to recognize that God would send His chosen people someone like Jesus. In their minds, this Messiah-King would come in all splendor and glory, mighty and powerful, to redeem them from slavery and oppression that they, the Jewish people experienced from the political forces at work. They envisioned that their coming King would be served by the whole world when He establishes a kingdom where He would reign forever and ever. We see this in the first reading from the book of the prophet Daniel. "***I saw coming with the clouds of heaven, One like a son of man.... He received dominion, glory, and kingship... one that shall not be destroyed.***" (Dn 7: 13-14)

Jesus, however, states that His kingship is of a different order. His kingdom is not of this world. He is not the expected King with vast powers, crowned with gold, holding a scepter and robed in majesty. His Kingdom is one that looks for conversion, allegiance and faithfulness of the heart. Its authority is spiritual and exercised through love, service, humility, kindness and self-sacrifice, in obedience to the Father's will. His authority does not compete with earthly powers because His kingdom is of a different and higher order.

Jesus has come to reveal the Father and His plan of salvation, to bring us all who have gone astray back to Father. He is the absolute Truth: "***I am the way, the truth and the life.***" (Jn 14:6) Those open to the Truth hear the word of Jesus. "***Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.***" (Jn 18:37) They hear Him as they accept Him and submit to Him as their King and Master. And this is our invitation from Him: to find Him, to discover the real King, to live out the Reign of God - in our hearts. It may be easy for some of us to say Jesus is the King, the Lord of my heart; or perhaps many still struggle to recognize Jesus as our Lord and King. What does this mean to me? To us?

There is a statement that I heard before that asks: Tell me what you value and I will tell you what you worship. What do we value in our lives? Who sits in the throne of our hearts? Does Jesus occupy the place of honor in our hearts? Do we have other idols that come before Him?

*Continued on page 4*

### DIRECTIONS

- Make disciples of others.
- Be witnesses for Christ.
- Be faithful to your prayers and reflection of the Word

## BLD WELCOMES ME46

Led by ME45 and their Class Shepherds the community did not go unnoticed, with its unselfish response and unrelenting dedication. It touched the lambs tremendously. BLD created an opportunity of transparency to influence the next chapter of their lives as married couples and for their children as well. We all know that BLD is not a perfect community but it is a community that nurtures spiritually, physically and mentally.

With the spiritual guidance of Msgr. Schetelick the Marriage Encounter Retreat culminated with the desired spiritual success. The Harana brought everyone to their feet and was totally enjoyed by everyone especially the encountered lambs -- Tikoy & Minky Aguiluz, Melchor & Cheryl Amarrador, Arturo & Cristina Baez, Boyet & Gale Clarin, Yvon & Nickie Joseph, George & Margaret Roeck, Eddie & Giselle Roldan, Roger & Malou Regalado, Calin Razuri & Laura Tamayo, CQ & May Quiban, Milly Rivas and Simon Villacres.

## Youth Washing Of The Feet

It was through Father Paul Lehman's talks and the testimonies given by Kyle Abinales, John Estrella, Olivia Felibrico, Coleen Atienza, Kipsy Quevada, Dana De Castro, Justin Lucero, and Jay Ymbong that the 36 candidates truly absorbed the 3 themes of the retreat: Obedience, Humility, and Service.

It was then time for the pinnacle of the retreat: washing each other's feet. In that moment, the room was filled with the Holy Spirit as youth members were brought to tears performing what would seem to be such a simple task. On bended knees we humbled ourselves and asked for forgiveness and expressed our love for one another. There is profound beauty in being able to wash each other's feet not only as an act of service, but because it was what Jesus did. It is what He wants us to do today.

## Thy Will Be Done

(from page 3)

We are stewards of God's gifts, and our time, talents and treasures should also be geared and directed toward Catholic Social Justice, invoking the name of Jesus in our Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Let us focus and concentrate on the fruits of God's Peace, that they may be enjoyed by all. Above all, let our mortality be lived humbly with dignity, imitating the life of Jesus through this BLD community.

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

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe & Love Offering	\$ 2,740	\$ 126,009
Mission Collections	\$ 173	\$ 7,618

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)  
Thank you for your continued support!

### DLC Meeting & Pastoral Hour

**Monday, November 23**  
**7:30 pm**

	Date	Apostolate
	Nov 27	Management
	Dec 4	Mission
	Dec 11	Pastoral
	Dec 18	Evangelization

\*\*\*\*\*

## COUNSELS

(from page 3)

Or have we pushed Him out and filled His throne with our hidden negative judgments, grudges, pride and lust for recognition and power? Or have we driven the nails again into His hands by our hearts of stone and unforgiveness? Like the apostles, we can easily lose our way and give up, as His way is not just physical death, but a wholehearted dying to ourselves, to our humanity and everything we believe in, for our love of Him, Who selflessly gave His life for us, ***“who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, who has made us into a kingdom, priests for his God and Father...”*** (Rev 1:5,6) Let us gain strength and glorify the King by constantly drawing from that moment of grace when we first felt the hand of the love of God for us - that miracle of the moment when we knew, when we felt His loving presence in our lives; that time when He called us His beloved, perhaps during our encounters or LSS. And the only thing we could do then was to relish that love and try to give back to Him in return by serving Him. Our King asks us to never forget and to constantly relive that moment, to testify to the truth of His endless and unconditional love for us, venerating Him in our thoughts and actions, having a close personal relationship with Him as our Lord, Savior and Friend. He wants us to see Him among our broken brothers and sisters, serve them without measure, help one another to become the face of Jesus to those we meet, and make authentic disciples of each other and the vast multitude that Jesus is still waiting for us to meet. This is His kingship and we are commissioned to bring His Truth to others by our witnessing, by thinking, acting and living like Jesus. Only then will we see His Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. ***“To Him be glory and power, forever and ever. Amen.”*** (Rev 1:8)