



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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## NEWS

### BLD Community prays 2000 Hail Mary's



As part of BLD Newark's 25th Anniversary celebrations, the Intercessory Ministry (IM) sponsored a Community-wide 2000 Hail Mary event last Oct 28, 2017 at the DMP Library. It started at 8.30 am, went on for over twelve hours, and concluded with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Nearly 300 BLD members, family and friends came, prayed the Hail Mary, gazed at Our Lady of Fatima, and sat and knelt in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Then, during separate breaks, the various participants enjoyed each other's company while partaking of the delicious foods and refreshments that people contributed and that the Lord Himself seemed to multiply throughout the day.

The event was a day of prayer and thanksgiving for the many blessings that the Community and its individual members have received *by His Grace*. And despite a full Community calendar, the IM was still able to hold it during October, the month of the Holy Rosary, and in the centennial year of Our Lady's appearances at Fatima. *...Continued on page 4*

## COUNSELS

### With Sincere Humility

THEME: God exalts those who serve others with humility.

WORD: Mal 1:14b-2:2b,8-10 ~ Ps 131:1,2,3  
1 Thes 2:7b-9,13 ~ Mt 23:1-12

ORDER: *"Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Messiah."* - Mt 23:10

REFLECTION:

**God** saved us for His purpose. He uses our lives to serve Him and His people. As we are called to service, He is ready to give us power and strength, gifts and abilities that we need to perform our mission. But many of us reject the responsibility thinking that we are not worthy or capable or available, that we look lowly in the sight of others. But if only we are meek and allow ourselves to be used as instruments, we will see that God's grace is sufficient for all our needs no matter what situation we may be in.

The missionary, George Bowen writes: "Whatever hinders us from receiving a blessing that God is willing to bestow upon us is not humility, but the mockery of it. A genuine humility will ever feel the need of the largest measures of grace, and will be perfected just in the degree in which that grace is bestowed. The truly humble man will seek to be filled with all the fullness of God, knowing that when so filled there is not the slightest place for pride or for self."

Our theme for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time states: **God exalts those who serve others with humility**. As members of the Body of Christ, we are called to serve others. Just as there is no non-functioning part of a healthy *...Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*"...whoever humbles himself will be exalted."*

- Mt 23:12b

# Persevere in Prayer

***“Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.”*** (Rom 12:12)

When I was asked to write an article regarding perseverance in prayer, I thought to myself, *Is God trying to tell me something?*

For years I’ve been struggling with a problem regarding my eldest son’s drug addiction. He is loving, kind, and generous, although not quite as gifted as his two other siblings. But I thought that I raised them all well. They went to Catholic schools, finished college, landed great jobs and they all eventually got married.

I still don’t understand how a loving and kind person could let drugs cause him to lose his job, and most importantly, his family. Sometimes I blame myself. Did I not raise and teach him well? Did I not show him enough love and support? Guilt overwhelmed me. For years he would get into trouble, but because of my love for him, I bailed him out each time, even when my husband and I frequently argued and fought about it. I had no strength to abandon my son.

I had no one to turn to except God, and I prayed like there was no tomorrow, novenas after novenas, going to pilgrimages, masses, adorations, you name it; but neither God nor the Blessed Mother seemed to answer my prayers. As problems persisted, my faith in God waned.

We have all experienced it before: a desperate prayer to God for something that we needed and it did not materialize. What do we do when our prayers are unanswered? Unfortunately, too often, we give up and make up reasons for abandoning prayer, rationalizing that, “I do not have the time to pray” or “God will not listen anyway.”

And yet for years, although my faith had weakened, I continued to pray. But I became just a *practicing* Catholic, going to Church only because of obligations. That was until two years ago when I joined BLD; then everything changed. My relationship with God deepened. I truly felt the power of the Holy Spirit in me. Prayers became my communication with God and for the first time, **I did not pray just to ask Him for favors, but rather, to understand what He wants me to do.**

During a weekly General Audience at St. Peter’s Square, Pope Francis had said that “prayer is not a magic wand.” The Pope was discussing passages from the Gospel of Luke, the Parable of the Persistent Widow (also known as the Parable of the Unjust Judge, Lk 18:1-8). In the parable, the persistence of a widow forces the unjust judge to grant her request for justice. →→

→ The Holy Father said that the widow in the parable used the only weapon she had: her persistence in presenting her request for justice, “and this persistence achieved its goal.” Pope Francis echoed Jesus’s words by saying that, if the widow can bend the will of the unjust judge, then God, Who is “a good and just Father,” will “do justice to those who cry out to Him day and night.”

All of us experience moments of fatigue and discouragement, especially when our prayers seem ineffective. Pope Francis said, “God promptly answers his children, although this does not mean he does it in the time and manner that we would like.” He continued, “It helps to preserve our faith in God, and to trust in Him even when we do not comprehend His will. In this, Jesus himself who prayed so much is the perfect example.”

My problems with my son are far from over. But now, the goal of my prayers has changed; what matters above all is my relationship with the Father. Yes, when we persevere in prayer because we are in a love relationship with God, whether we get what we want or not, God strengthens us in our relationship with Him. We gain the conviction that we can overcome all things if we entrust all into His loving hands. That is how His peace, hope and joy abide in us. Our loving relationship with God, and not our myriad needs and wants, is what truly initiates and sustains prayer life.

***“How much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask Him?”*** (Mt 7:11b) We are guaranteed the gift of the Holy Spirit as the first good thing we receive when we persistently pray to the Father.

And, as the fruit of prayer, first, the Spirit deepens our relationship with God. Second, He inspires and moves us to pray as God’s children. ***“Likewise the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought.”*** (Rom 8:26) Third, the Spirit enables us to be like Jesus Christ. His was a life empowered by prayer, sustained by His trust and love of the Father and by the Father’s undying love for Him.

We have this same Spirit of prayer in us today that binds us in a deep relationship with God as His children and gives us a share in Christ’s victory over life’s adversities. Whether our prayers are answered in the way we want or not, this Spirit is constantly moving us to persevere in prayer because we are made for communion with God. We cannot persevere in prayer if we have reduced it to merely begging for our wants and then judging His love by how He grants our requests. We will surely know the all-conquering power of His love when we begin and persevere in response to His love for us.



*“Every day I will bless you; I will praise your name forever and ever.” Ps 145:2*

For years my morning prayers would always start with, ‘Thank you God for this day, thank You for all You have provided me.’ Life had its usual ups and downs, but I considered myself to be blessed. I believed God was always there for us. Thanking God was easy when the blessings were for happy, desired things, like the birth of our first daughter, and when my father seemed to recover from a stroke. But when serious illnesses beset several family members - Dad’s dementia, Mom’s breast cancer, my mother-in-law’s Alzheimer’s, and my daughter’s hospitalization, at times these trials tested me, making it hard to leave things in His hands. It became difficult to see the trials as something to thank God for.

Our walk with BLD began two years ago. Then shortly after being baptized in the Spirit, I began referring to God as Abba Father, a term that describes the close relationship of a father to his child. I opened and surrendered myself to the power of God’s love for me. Soon I realized what love He has shown me all my life! My Father always provided for me, whether or not I thanked or acknowledged Him. I now firmly believe too that Jesus is the eternal devoted Son of God, and that through His example, we are called to be children of God. And that through the Holy Spirit we can experience how deep our Father’s love is for us.

Indeed, praying for solutions, healing, and the ease of burdens is to be expected. As we receive blessings from God though, every day it is proper that we should give thanks to our Heavenly Father. It is also proper that He should receive from us the tribute of praise every day, for to praise and honor Him is to express indescribable joy for all that He has done for us. We are all dependent on Him, and we should praise Him for all the gifts He bestows upon us. Our Heavenly Father was and forever is our God, always loving and ever-powerful, and He should be praised forever and ever.

I pray for my own intentions and those of others too, but I also joyfully praise Our Father’s Holy Name; I praise Him for His graces and tender mercies. I thank Him for the crosses, for in those difficult times He displays His mighty awesome power; He brings me closer to Him. Abba Father, I give glory to You; I praise, honor and bless You, forever, Amen!

## COUNSELS

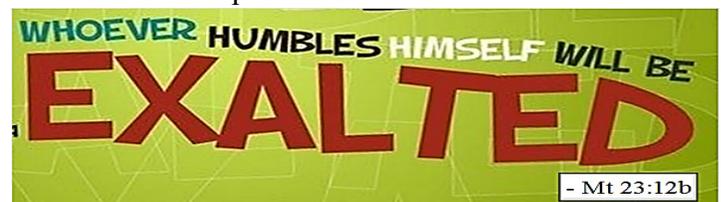
(from page 1)

human body, there ought not to be non-functioning members of Christ’s body. A Church, community or ministry functions well when everyone uses their gifts to build up other members. We should not boast about our great talents and unique gifts; instead we should serve others with sincere humility. Blessed Giles of Assisi said that “the way to mount high is to descend.”

Our humility must be inward and genuine, not a performance to be seen by others. Whatever we do for others should come from a sincere heart; so it does not need to be seen or noted by others. While in most situations serving the poor and needy can be rewarding, there are times when we might feel some frustration. Sometimes, we might feel used, unappreciated, and disrespected. We begin to struggle with the temptation to quit when on one hand, we are exposed to judgements, while on the other, we often shoulder a lot of responsibility. Then we become depressed when we start seeing people’s indifference and we feel unimportant. In the end, we may simply want to have nothing to do with it and leave. When this happens, it is time to seek and desire the Holy Spirit Who will empower us and give us the grace to face insurmountable trials. He purifies our thoughts, words and actions, allowing us to be renewed and to always realize that service is for God’s greater glory and for the love of Him. Servanthood is never about us.

People in power and position should be reminded that while they possess authority, such authority is not absolute. As leaders, they should never lord it over the people under them and they should be role models instead of leading others astray. Servant leaders and stewards in Community are expected to serve and not to be served, out of obedience and dedication to God, our one and only Master. They are accountable for their actions, and must not be proud that they are given better talents and skills than others. We should be reminded that in Church or Community, we are family and everyone is of equal importance in God’s eyes.

When we serve out of pure love and compassion, not expecting anything in return, our reward is so much greater than we could ever imagine. We are living the life of a true servant, which is the greatest reward of all because the Lord promises:



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# COUNSELS

(from page 3)

God will exalt us at the proper time. Our time while on earth may be short on worldly honor and adulation, but our final and true exaltation will be eternal in heaven.

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, set me free from fear and heal the wounds of pride in my heart that I may be a servant with love and compassion for others. Fill me with the joy of the Holy Spirit and transform me to be meek and humble that I may give of myself generously and serve others faithfully for Your sake. Amen*

**Direction:** Serve one another in humility.

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## BLD Community prays... (from page 1)

We prayed to our Lady of the Rosary that with our loved ones, we would continuously be under her mantle of protection, with her as our model and guide.

As the classes and ministries prayed their 100 Hail Mary's, each group's leader read petitions and intentions. There were prayers of thanksgiving for physical healing. ME classes prayed for marriage relationships, their class members and their children. Others prayed for the souls of loved ones. ME 48 prayed for candidates and the success of the upcoming ME 49. Various ministries asked for guidance in their ministry work. The DCS prayed the last 100 Hail Mary's and asked for blessings upon the Community.

This community-wide event will now be held annually, so save your slot for next year! Meanwhile, we continue to seek our Blessed Mother Mary's intercession and inspiration to guide us and remind us that we must always praise and thank our Ever-Loving Father through Jesus, our Lord, and with the Holy Spirit.

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Below are some of the interesting comments made by the participants who were there last Saturday:

*"The slot for the whole class allowed us to come and pray together for our intentions and intercede for others."*

*"When I saw the longer Rosary with many beads, I said 'Wow! How will I pray this?' This is my first time to join the 2000 Hail Mary. I liked it"*

*"I prayed 500 Hail Mary's, how many did you pray? I didn't even know that's how long I stayed with the Lord."*

*"He gave the mike to our class shepherd saying he lost track... It was probably because he was so immersed in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament."*

*"I sat, knelt, I prayed the Hail Mary aloud. Sometimes I would just listen to the prayers, but I experienced different things. I rested and felt relaxed in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament."*

# LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,408	\$ 59,118
Love Offerings	\$ 941	\$ 52,759
Mission Collections	\$ 116	\$ 5,155

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

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### JUST ONE MORE WEEK TO GO!!!

Support the BLD Newark 2017 Fundraiser!!!



First prize: a trip for 2 to go to the Holy Land!

**Tickets are just \$2 each.**

Raffle date: Friday, November 10, 2017

### Teaching Calendar

Teachings for Saturday, Nov 11 - 1 to 6 pm:

\* Sienna Gifts Inventory (LSS 1-48)

\* CMP I - Part II (LSS 1-47)

\* Healing and Deliverance (LSS1-46)

### Medical Mission to the Philippines, 2018

Tarlac City, Tarlac / February 5-8



Marshaling	Date	Apostolate
	Nov 10	Evangelization
	Nov 17	Formation
	Nov 24	Management
	Dec 1	Mission