



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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## NEWS

### BLD joins two disciples on the Road to Emmaus



Two of Jesus’ disciples were conversing about their frustrations, disappointments and perceptions of what had just happened in Jerusalem as they walked on the road to Emmaus. Last Saturday, our Spiritual Director, Monsignor Paul Schetelick, led about 300 people of faith to walk with these two disciples. The Community Retreat which was themed, “Keep our Hearts Burning...the Mass, a New Fire Pit,” was based on the Gospel reading about “The Road to Emmaus.” The Resurrection episode provided the retreat’s numerous points of discussion, reflection questions, and most importantly the connection to the Holy Mass. Just as with the disciples, it was in the breaking of the bread that we found His presence among us, a presence that always brings us back to the right direction in life.

Luke 24:13-32 begins with the two disciples walking and talking about our Lord Jesus’ death. Then, Jesus Himself, joined them, but they did not recognize Him. Instead, they talked to Him as if He were an uninformed traveler. They continued to debate and complain, seemingly doubting that Jesus had risen.

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## COUNSELS

### Go and Bear Fruit

THEME: Our faith is strengthened when we bear much fruit for God’s Kingdom.

WORD: Acts 9:26-31 ~ Ps 22:26-27,28,30,31-32  
1 Jn 3:18-24 ~ Jn 15:1-8

ORDER: “...bear much fruit and become my disciples.” (Jn 15:8)

REFLECTION:

*“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.” (Jn 15:1-2)*

Pruning is good for the vine, because it helps the vine thrive. This is also the impact it has on us. In order for us to flourish and be fruitful, we need spiritual pruning. Jesus, the True Vine, is the Source of our fruitfulness. If we allow His love to seep into our own lives, and if we live in Him as He lives in us, we can become prodigies of virtue and goodness.

We all have healthy and unhealthy branches. We will bear much fruit for God’s glory and kingdom if we submit ourselves to the Vine Grower’s pruning, because this encourages our healthy branches to blossom and grow. At the same time, He cuts off certain aspects of our lives that are not fruitful. He eliminates selfish desires, unproductive activities, bad attitudes, harmful habits, and temporal things that waste our time and hinder our spiritual growth. This would free us to focus on the things that really matter – eternal things that bear lasting fruit for Him and His Kingdom.

Pruning is not a punishment. It is a process that is needed in order to attain the most fruitfulness. God prunes us because He loves us,

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### Promise of the Week

*“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.”*

(Jn 15:7)

The Gospel reading for next Friday, May 4, comes from St. John's account, and in it, Jesus says, **"This I command you: love one another."** (Jn 15:17) The following is a poem that was inspired by that commandment from our Savior:

## THE SECOND GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Loving others is not easy  
It can be downright difficult.

But Christ said...  
Love!

So you may try  
To do all you can

But even with family,  
You may already love them intensely,  
And yet sometimes, instead of a smile,  
You may still get a frown only.

But Christ said...  
Forgive... and Love!

He said love others as yourself.  
Love your family, your friends and neighbors.

But while at times  
That may already seem to be  
A virtual impossibility,

He upped the ante, and said... Love!  
- even your enemies!

You may then ask,  
"What to do... what to do?  
What should you and I do?"

"When it's so hard..."

Seems the answer is...  
- To love always...  
Keep at it...Keep loving!  
Love! ...Until loving..

Well...

**Until loving becomes easy!**

## COUNSELS

(from page 1)

and He wants us to flourish. He does this via the small and big sacrifices we undergo, such as physical and emotional sufferings, disappointments, failures, spiritual dryness, loneliness, and the challenges in our lives that bring about the detachment from the world that is essential for Christians to bear fruit to the fullest. He places us in situations where He knows that we can grow, and thus win victory.



When looked upon in our human way, God causes some pain by His pruning. And yet every move and gesture, every clip and cut is actually dictated by His loving care. Our Father, the Vine Grower, knows very well, the plan He has in mind for us (cf Jer 29:11). So if we embrace the challenges and difficulties with faith and love, and see them as part of God's wonderful and perfect plan for us, we can begin to bear more fruit; and our faith in God will continue to be strengthened.

It is important to remember that apart from Jesus, we can do nothing; we cannot produce any fruit! Just as a branch that is separated from the vine dies, if we are separated from Jesus, we will also die (cf Jn 15:5-6). Our fruitfulness, all the good things we do, come from our clinging to Jesus, the True Vine. As branches, we are grafted on to Him, by way of our Baptism; however, every day of our lives, we need to cultivate this connection. We need to draw our nourishment from Christ, through the Sacraments, daily prayer, study and meditation on the Word of God day and night, and through Christian service and fellowship.

We receive graces from our tears of repentance and reconciliation. From the Holy Eucharist, we receive vigor and strength. Scriptures remind us that we need the Lord, and when we are soaked in God's Word, our minds and wills get close to those of God, giving Him glory and putting us in tune with His fruit-bearing purposes. Because of all this, we can learn to pray and learn what God wants, not what we want; and then we will receive whatever we ask for (cf Jn 15:7).

Community and service provide the fertile soil that produces fruitful disciples because these are areas where words of love turn into action. The Lord equips us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to teach, lead, encourage, help, serve one another, and most importantly, to obey and keep His commandments. The great commission (cf Mt 28: 19-20) makes it incumbent upon us all

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## **BLD joins two disciples** *(from page 1)*

So Jesus questioned them, and quoted Scripture; still they did not recognize Him. However something about this Stranger was special enough for them to urge Him to stay with them longer. Later, when they sat down to eat, Jesus ***“took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that, their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?”*** (Lk 24:30-32)

Pope Benedict said, that “‘The Road to Emmaus’ is the path of renewal and maturation in faith for all Christians... this beautiful evangelical text already contains the structure of the Mass: in the first part listening to the Word through the Scriptures; second in the Eucharistic liturgy and communion with Christ present in the sacrament of his Body and his Blood. Nourishing ourselves in this twofold meal, the Church builds itself up and is renewed every day in faith, hope and charity.” (Regina Caeli 6 April 2008)

The Holy Mass allows each of us to take that walk with Jesus. The Mass calls all of us, through our free will, to be full and active participants, from beginning to end. At the Retreat, Monsignor Scheletick reminded us that Jesus asked us to partake in the Eucharist and to ***‘do this in memory of me.’*** (Lk 22:19) Through the act of intentional remembrance, we remember Jesus, and get to know Him more deeply. Msgr pointed out that in the Liturgy of the Word, we ask for God’s mercy and forgiveness while praising God during the Gloria; and that we learn more about Jesus through the Psalms and readings. During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we place our brokenness, at the foot of the cross; we pray, in the name of the Holy Spirit, for the resurrected Jesus to live in us; we pray for deliverance.

The DMP gym was packed with BLD disciples, friends and families, from Newark →→



→ and other districts, including Rockland, Trenton, Allentown, and South Carolina. It was an encounter filled with energy as the attendees shared their conversion stories with each other.

It was through teachings on the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist that we’ve come to understand why the Mass is the source and summit of our Christian life. During every Mass our eyes are opened and our hearts burn. As full and active participants in the Mass, we experience Jesus personally through the Holy Spirit. The Mass reminds us of Jesus’ death and resurrection, but it is also a celebration of the amazing love that He has for us. **The Holy Mass sets our hearts on fire!**

Thank you to Monsignor Paul, the BLD Community and all the ministries and their members who offered their spiritual gifts and talents to make that love of Christ even more alive in all of us.

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## **COUNSELS** *(from page 2)*

to share in Christ’s Mission. Hence, we must use our spiritual gifts to bear ***“the fruit of the Spirit”*** (cf Gal 5:22-23), because this spiritual fruit is necessary to carry out His will for us.



Indeed, our connection to Jesus is vital! And total dependence on Him is necessary. We, who are chosen and appointed by Christ ***“to go and bear fruit that will remain”*** (Jn 15:16), are called by Him to remain connected to Him, and to steadfastly abide, because faithfully abiding in Him leads to fruitfulness. Furthermore, as we abide in Jesus and His Word, He fills up our hearts with His divine love, so that He will grow in us; then it is no longer we who live but He Who lives in us (cf Gal 2:20).

So brothers and sisters: let us always remain in Christ and abide in His Word for this is the only way to bear much fruit for God’s Kingdom and His glory!

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# COUNSELS

(from page 3)

Directions:

1. Love one another not in word or speech, but in deed and in truth.
2. Meditate on the Word of God regularly and do as He tells you.

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## Update # 7 (of 9): BLD Newark Spiritual Program for the Unborn



The BIBLE Teaches Us That...



**PRAYER FOR THE UNBORN**  
 Jesus, Mary, Joseph  
 I love you very much  
 I beg you to spare  
 the life of the unborn baby  
 that I have spiritually adopted  
 who is in danger of abortion



LORD'S PROVISION		
Previous Week's		
Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,803	\$ 19,587
Love Offerings	\$ 1,416	\$ 12,167
Mission Collections	\$ 69	\$ 9,734

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

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**LSS # 49 Reunion**  
**Sunday, April 29, 2018**  
 11 am Mass at DMP Church; followed by lunch and Reunion from 12-4 pm, DMP Library

**Teaching Calendar**  
 Teachings for Saturday, **May 12, 2018** - 1 to 6 pm:  
 - Apologetics 2 (LSS 1-46)  
 - Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit (LSS 1-48)  
 - Sienna Gifts Inventory (LSS 49)

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER # 50**  
**Friday, May 18 – Sunday, May 20, 2018**  
 Hotel Executive Suites, Carteret, NJ  
 Contact: [MLA@BLDNewark.com](mailto:MLA@BLDNewark.com)

**Singles Encounter #38**  
 June 8 -10, 2018  
 Graymoor Spiritual Life Center  
 Garrison, NY 10524  
 Come all you who are thirsty...  
 Please contact: [Jutt Bustos](mailto:JuttBustos@graymoor.org)  
 Lita Alfaro

**Solo Parents Encounter #20**  
**"Jesus is calling..."**  
 June 22-24, 2018  
 Days Hotel of East Brunswick  
 195 Route 18 S  
 East Brunswick, NJ 08816  
 Please contact: [Caesar and Vicky Razalan](mailto:CaesarandVickyRazalan@gmail.com)

**YOUTH ENCOUNTER #25**  
**"Come and Follow Me..."**  
 Please contact: [dyc@bldnewark.com](mailto:dyc@bldnewark.com)  
 Fellowship Deaconry  
 3575 Valley Road  
 Liberty Corner, NJ  
 July 13-15, 2018

**DIVINE MERCY PARISH CALENDAR**  
**FOLLOW ME**  
 Experience the joy of a renewed friendship with Christ  
**Eight Monday nights beginning on Monday, May 21, 7 pm**  
 DMP Room 104 / Contacts: Ray/Suzie Atienza (908-463-0449)

Marshaling	Date	Apostolate
	May 4	Pastoral
	May 11	Evangelization
	May 18	Formation
	May 25	Management