



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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May 4, 2018

## NEWS

## COUNSELS

### Pope Calls on Parents to Protect Children From Curiosities at Morning Mass

At Santa Marta, Says Not to Worry, But Turn to Holy Spirit to Help Avoid Making Mistakes

April 30, 2018 17:48 • Deborah Castellano Lubov • Pope & Holy See, Pope and Holy See, Pope's Morning Homily  
Source: zenit.org

While reminding that no one should be worried, Pope Francis stressed parents ought to protect children, especially given their curiosity and their exposure online.

According to Vatican News, Pope Francis stressed this during his daily morning Mass at Casa Santa Marta as he reflected on the interaction between Jesus and his disciples in the day's Gospel as a healthy "dialogue between curiosity and certainty."

The Holy Father encouraged Christians to pray for the grace to be able to discern between good and bad curiosities and to open one's heart to the Holy Spirit who gives certainty in life.

Children, the Pope observed, have healthy curiosity and are very inquisitive.

Noting that life is full of curiosities, the Pope stressed the importance of being able to differentiate between good and bad ones. Children's inquisitiveness, he noted, is healthy, because as they grow up, they notice things they don't understand and seek an explanation. This, he said, develops autonomy.

Gossip, the Pope denounced, as bad curiosity. Eavesdropping about the life of others, he said, ends up dirtying others, making people understand things that they do not have the right to know.

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### Reflection for May 2018

THEME: We make disciples of all nations when we bear much fruit that will remain.

WORD: Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48 ~ Ps 98:1,2-3,3-4  
1 Jn 4:7-10 ~ Jn 15:9-17

ORDER: "Remain in my love." (Jn 15:9b)

REFLECTION:

The Community Word for the month is - **God's love empowers us to make disciples of all nations.** He has commissioned all of us to proclaim the Good



News of His love to all people. The very nature of God is love. He is love and this is the reason why He wants all of us to know about His love, and be affected by His love, and be part of His kingdom. We are loved by God, as manifested by His giving us His only Son to save us – through the ministry, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. In our gratefulness, we respond to His command and share the Good News of Salvation to His people, by our loving service and witnessing to Christ. We are called and empowered to love one another as He had loved us. And His order for us is, "Remain in my love." (Jn 15:9b)

The theme for the 6th Sunday of Easter is – **We make disciples of all nations when we bear much fruit that will remain.** The only way to bear fruit in the Kingdom of God is to live our lives in Jesus and in imitation of Jesus. We are called and chosen by God to continue the work and ministry of Jesus. Once we experience God's love in our life, we should be able to testify to this love and bear fruit, ...Continued on page 3

### Promise of the Week

"...whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you." (Jn 15:16b)

Three weeks ago, CN 14 featured an article about our Spiritual Director Emeritus, Fr. Paul Lehman. The following is the second installment in the series of articles about him, written by various BLD members, highlighting just how much he truly means to us, individually and to the whole BLD Community.

## A BELOVED SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

I first met Fr. Paul Lehman during our ME weekend in 2006, and based on his calm demeanor, I wouldn't have guessed that he was the Spiritual Director for a Filipino Charismatic organization. For one thing, he wasn't even Filipino; and for another, he didn't quite act like how I imagined charismatic priests would. Actually, at that time, he had already been BLD's Spiritual Director for 10 years... and he seemed much beloved by the BLD members who were there serving that weekend. In the years that have followed since, I've found out firsthand, why that's so.

Many adjectives now come to my mind when I think of Fr. Paul. Yes, holy is one of them. Tireless is another. He seemed to be at every BLD event there was. At first, he would drive himself to the various encounters and retreats. Then when driving became too difficult, he somehow would manage to find a ride so that he could serve the Community, or to just be present for worship on Friday nights.

When I met him, I could tell that Fr. Paul was a very caring priest; he still is. This is best seen when he interacts with BLD's youth and singles, giving them sound advice as they begin to face the challenges that come with adulthood. And the interactions aren't just a one-time thing, because he actively follows up on subsequent developments. Fr. Paul is also quite the scholar. During his tenure as Spiritual Director, he would write a monthly column for the Covenant News; and in his articles, one would find the wide range of his theological knowledge and the depth of his insights.

Those who have worked closely with him have also discovered his great sense of humor. There are moments when his wit flashes brilliantly, in emails and in the other things that he has written, and even in simple conversations with him. And remember when he used to wear those bright green sneakers? Somehow, they went well with his thick framed eyeglass-goggles.



## Another Spirit-filled Sunday at the LSS #49 Reunion

This past Sunday, the graduates of LSS 49, their shepherds and the auxies were reunited in an afternoon of fellowship, powerful worship and teachings on the gifts of the Holy Spirit by the LSA's Earl and Flo Manguiat. This was preceded by a Community Mass which was held at the Divine Mercy Parish Church.

Two weeks have passed since the seminar, and the graduates at the reunion were still high with the Holy Spirit. Some of them, who did not get a chance to share during the LSS weekend, did so this time, and talked about their experiences. Some of them even shared about the other gifts they've received since the seminar, and the transformation that is still currently happening to them. One witness said she did not receive the gift of tongues during the LSS, but that it actually came to her at the reunion during Earl's exhortations. This reminded them of the powerful and amazing work of the Holy Spirit to foster our spiritual growth and action.

The reunion was a testimony to how beautiful an experience it was for the graduates, as they witnessed and professed about how the Holy Spirit is now working in their lives. The atmosphere during the sharings became quite emotional as they each acknowledged their transformation. They were truly touched and lifted by the Holy Spirit, as evidenced by the raising of their arms in exalting and praising the Lord our God. There were sharings on some experiences that

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➔ He has been so very instrumental in helping BLD thrive, which I ascribe to two things – he has always been steady, and he loves our Community. He has always staunchly defended what is right whenever organizational issues threatened BLD harmony, always looking out for his flock here in Newark. Many times, his hallmark steadiness and guidance helped us avoid the political pitfalls that seem to plague other Church groups. His loving leadership, along with his strength of character and deep faith in God, have been his greatest contributions to the success of BLD Newark's 25+ years as a Community.

Since he retired as our Spiritual Director, we no longer see him as often, but I am sure that he is always praying for us... like the true good shepherd that he is.

**Fr. Paul, Thank you!**

## Pope Calls on Parents (from page 1)

“This kind of bad curiosity accompanies us all our lives,” he said, warning, “it is a temptation that we will always have.”

When they find many bad things online, the Pope noted, they should be helped not to become prisoners of this curiosity. He urged Christians to ask for the Holy Spirit who gives certainty against this unhealthy curiosity.

Yet, he highlighted, there is nothing to be frightened of but one must be careful. The Holy Father said there are many curiosities, for example, in the virtual world.

“There is no discipline in that curiosity,” the Pope warned.

Pope Francis urged adults to help young people live in this world, by making sure that their desire to know does not make them prisoners of curiosity.

The Holy Spirit, the Pope said, brings certainty

The curiosity of the Apostles in the Gospel, the Pope said, was healthy because they wanted to know what will happen and Jesus responded by giving them a certainty that “never deceives,” promising them the Holy Spirit who will teach them everything and remind them of everything He has told them.

It is the Holy Spirit, Francis stressed, who brings certainty in our life, “but not like a bundle of certainties.” In the measure we proceed in life and ask the Holy Spirit opening our hearts, he said, the Holy Spirit give us the certainty for that moment, the answer for that moment. The Holy Spirit is the companion on the journey of a Christian, the Pope said.

This talk between Jesus and his disciples, which is “dialogue of between human curiosity and certainty,” the Pope explained ends with this reference to the Holy Spirit, “the companion of memory” that leads to “fixed happiness” that does not move.

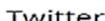
Pope Francis concluded, telling Christians to turn to and have true joy with the Holy Spirit, Who will help them not make mistakes.



Pope Francis  

Pope Francis  @Pontifex · 1 May

Today, at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Divine Love, as we recite the Rosary, we pray especially for peace in Syria and throughout the world. I invite you to pray the Rosary for peace during the entire month of May.

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## COUNSELS (from page 1)

to announce it by our caring service to others, glorifying and honoring God in each thought and action of our daily life. Christian life is life in Jesus, life in relationship with Him under the guidance of His Spirit, and with the Father. We are promised – “*whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.*” (Jn 15:16b)

# ASK

## IN THE NAME OF JESUS

The theme for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord is – **We make disciples of all nations when we open ourselves to God’s call in spreading the Good News.** If we truly love God, we will listen to Him and open our hearts to answer His call to share the Good News. It is indeed a great task, but we do not have to go far in this undertaking. We can start right where God has placed us, and Jesus will always be with us in His Spirit as we carry out our divine mission. We may feel underserving of this task but with His Spirit, we live, not only with hope, but also with strength as He tasks us to accomplish this mission. Christ is working through us and therefore, we should not fear to undertake great things for His Kingdom. Jesus assures us – “*...you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you.*” (Acts 1:8a) It is the work of the Holy Spirit, Who is our Counselor and Helper, to empower and enable us to spread the Good News.

The Theme for Pentecost Sunday is: **We make disciples of all nations when we use our spiritual gifts to unite the Body of Christ.** The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles is what happened on Pentecost. They were empowered with spiritual gifts that gave them courage and strength. Because of this, they went out courageously to the whole world and proclaimed that Jesus is the Son of God and our Savior. Through His gifts the same Holy Spirit is now working in our lives and unites us in His Church, the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit equips us to succeed in the tasks given to us, to love and to serve others, even in the face of many challenges and obstacles. We have been transformed, and as our minds are renewed, we manifest the presence of the Holy Spirit as true Christians, bearing the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

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## LSS #49 Reunion

(from page 2)

the LSS graduates could not fully explain, other than as the work of the Holy Spirit, and they all expressed their gratitude for what had happened.

The LSS and the reunion were truly successful events for the Community. For everyone who was there, these have provided a living testament that our God is truly an awesome God!

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## COUNSELS

(from page 3)

The Holy Spirit shows us what the Word of God means, and He reveals to us the Truth. In times of opposition and oppression, the Holy Spirit continues to be our Advocate, calling on all Christian generations to come forward, to stand up and to be counted as Christ's witnesses. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds us that His peace will always be with us as we have His Spirit in our hearts, telling us – *“Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them.”* (Jn 20:22a)

The theme for the Solemnity of the Blessed Trinity is – **We make disciples of all nations when we bear witness to the glory of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.** The sign of the Cross is a profound and powerful profession of our faith in the Holy Trinity. One aspect of our belief that can help us in our day-to-day life is that of the Trinity as one Community – the perfect Community. Looking at what each of the Persons is, and what binds “Them” together in a Trinitarian Community, can help us create better human communities. The whole existence of the Three Persons in one Godhead revolves around the perfect love each of Them has for the Other. It is this love that forms the Trinitarian Community. And this is what Jesus wants for every human community to be, just as how true disciples of Christ are expected to be - where members give more than they take, and settle conflicts where love reigns - for where there is love, there is harmony, trust and peace.

Thus, Jesus commanded His disciples and us today to *“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit.”* (Mt 28:19) As we work for the glory of the Holy Trinity, by sharing the central mystery of our faith, we are assured by this promise – *“I am with you always, until the end of the age.”* (Mt 28:20b).

Directions:

1. Show love for your neighbor by performing works of mercy.
2. Share Christ with others with love.

## LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

| Collections:        | Last Week | YTD       |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Tithes              | \$ 1,522  | \$ 21,109 |
| Love Offerings      | \$ 1,736  | \$ 13,903 |
| Mission Collections | \$ 66     | \$ 9,800  |

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

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### 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:Jutt.Bustos@graymoor.org)  
[Lita Alfaro](mailto:Lita.Alfaro@graymoor.org)

## Solo Parents Encounter #20

*“Jesus is calling...”*

Please contact: [Caezar and Vicky Razalan](mailto:Caezar.and.Vicky.Razalan@stjohns.org)

June 22-24, 2018

Days Hotel of East Brunswick  
195 Route 18 S  
East Brunswick, NJ 08816



July 13-15, 2018

## Youth Encounter #25

*“Come and Follow Me...”*

Please contact: [dyc@bidnewark.com](mailto:dyc@bidnewark.com)

Fellowship Deaconry  
3575 Valley Road  
Liberty Corner, NJ

Your family is your first church...



Please contact: [Mat & Precy Yap](mailto:Mat.Precy.Yap@stjohns.org)

## Family Encounter #25

July 20-22, 2018

Malvern Retreat House  
315 South Warren Avenue  
Malvern, PA 19355

June & Edith Buhain  
Butch & Malou Morales

## 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 |  | Schedule | Date   | Apostolate     |
|------------|--|----------|--------|----------------|
|            |  |          | May 11 | Evangelization |
|            |  |          | May 18 | Formation      |
|            |  |          | May 25 | Management     |
|            |  |          | Jun 1  | Mission        |