



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 24 Issue 22

Bulletin Edition

June 8, 2018

## NEWS

### 2018 Emergence results in fresh anointing for BLD

For BLD Newark, Jovy and Emily Lucero move on as Cluster Shepherds, and four new couples join the current Mission Apostolate Stewards as our DCS for the next three years. Their terms begin on July 1, 2018.

CS for BLD NEWARK (Cluster 5)

JOVY and EMILY LUCERO

#### District Council of Stewards (DCS)

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Flores, Fil & Hum      | - Evangelization |
| Ymbong, Algene & Ruby  | - Formation      |
| Guiang, Vino & Beth    | - Management     |
| Bustos, Nong & Tricia  | - Mission        |
| Vibar, Reuben & Cherry | - Pastoral       |



## COUNSELS

### Doing the Will of God

THEME: We are in communion with Christ when we draw others to Him.

WORD: Gn 3:9-15 ~ Ps 130:1-2,3-4,5-6,7-8  
2 Cor 4:13-5:1 ~ Mk 3:20-35

ORDER: *Know that the One Who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus.* (cf 2 Cor 4:14a)

REFLECTION:

*The* Gospel reading from Mark, for this 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time, relates how Jesus' relatives wanted to seize Him because they thought He was "*out of his mind*" (Mk 3:21). Meanwhile the scribes accused Jesus of being possessed by Beelzebul and attributed to this possession, His ability to drive out demons. Jesus responded with parables, stating that a kingdom or a house, even that of Satan himself, cannot last or stand if there is division within itself (cf Mk 3:24-26).

Our desire to do the will of God while we live in the flesh may seem impossible. Serving two masters simultaneously will divide us from within, and if we commit an eternal sin by blaspheming against the Holy Spirit, we will lose our chance at forgiveness (cf Mk 3:29). Jesus had said as much to the scribes after they had said, "*He has an unclean spirit.*" (Mk 3:30) When we do not follow the will of God, we create a barrier between God and us. The Gospel reading goes on to remind us that it is those who do the will of God who are Jesus' "*brother and sister and mother.*" (Mk 3:35)

In the First Reading, God called out Adam and Eve's defiance, and punished the serpent, the woman, and the man by creating enmity among them and their offspring (cf Gn 3:15). From the conversation God had with Adam and Eve, we find the origin of the blame game. Adam blamed Eve; ...Continued on page 2

### Promise of the Week

"...more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God." (2 Cor 4:15b)



# FIRST THOUGHTS...

The emergence of new Servant Leaders for BLD Newark is always a cause for celebration for the whole Community. Those chosen weigh many factors in their decisions to accept the responsibility. Below are some of their first thoughts as they now embark on a new anointed and fruitful journey together.



**“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”** (1 Pt 4:10)

We got called! What now? This was, we thought, the biggest decision we had to make. But Jesus said, **“It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.”** (Jn 15:16).

How can we say *no*? This verse was what struck us as we prayed unceasingly, which eventually paved the way for our big **YES** to God’s call. That answer, it seemed, was easy; what ensued afterwards was the hard part as thoughts of the challenges we might face in the next three years came to mind. But most of them were drawn out of fear, especially of the unknown. Realizing that it was the deceptive work of the enemy, we promptly returned to John 5:16 to recall that He chose us to go and bear fruit that will remain, and back to His promise that the Father will give us whatever we ask for in His name.

The night of the anointing confirmed our decision as we felt the love and support of the BLD Community that He has now called us to serve, affirming too that He will be there for us all. We pray that we remain faithful and continue to cling to the True Vine so that as we serve, we will be fruitful, and that any burdens may be light.

\*\*\*\*\*

Last Friday, while standing in front of the altar and gazing at the Tabernacle during our anointing, I remembered Jesus’ promise in Matthew 28:20 **“And behold, I am with you always, until end of the age.”** While I was feeling apprehensive, inadequate and vulnerable in the days that led up to that evening, it was the sight of the beautiful Tabernacle and Jesus’ presence there that ultimately gave me comfort and peace.



➔ Above us was the image of the Divine Mercy with rays radiating from His heart, sending a message of unlimited mercies to sustain us through any of the challenges and the huge responsibilities that come with the office of the DCS. As Msgr Paul asked the Community to raise their hands to bless us, and as they interceded for us, I felt this warmth all over me that gave me an inner joy and assurance that we are one with this BLD Community, where the presence of Jesus is always very palpable in the hearts of its members.



\*\*\*\*\*

May God bless all our hearts as we lead our beloved Community. We will be still and know that our awesome God, Who gave us the grace to say **YES**, was, is, and will always be **with us!** For as long as we abide in Christ and in His Word, we will bear much fruit for His glory and kingdom; we will love and do great things beyond imagining! Fruitfulness and faithfulness are His purposes for us, and that’s what we will constantly pray for, and we know that we will accomplish them because that’s His promise. It might not be easy, but with our God’s amazing grace, we will be each other’s cheerleader, corrector, reminder, and supporter!



\*\*\*\*\*

After we prayed the Holy Rosary the day before the anointing, we looked through the day’s readings and this is what struck us: **“Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality. Bless those who persecute [you], bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation.”** (Rom 12:9-16)

...Continued on page 4

# FIRST THOUGHTS... (from page 3)

We both cried a bit, knowing full well that this was exactly what the Lord was asking of us. Our response was the same as our Blessed Mother's when she visited her cousin Elizabeth: **"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant."**

**Amen!** ...for it was the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

\*\*\*\*\*

*God our Father, please grant us the grace to lead as You would. We desire to seek Your glory and to bring joy to those we will serve. May You grant us the grace to lead like Jesus, to model Christ-like servanthood in every situation, so that we may watch over Your flock. Not because we feel obligated, but because we are willing, as You want us to be; not to pursue shameful profit, but to just be eager to serve; not to lord it over those entrusted to us, but to be examples to Your flock. May we never forget what an honor it is to be able to serve Your people, and may we always be fully committed to all that we do for You and through You.*

*May the love and support of our beloved Community keep us energized for the many tasks ahead. And if ever we lose sight of the joy that there is in serving You, by Your loving grace, may our members be our source of encouragement, as we likewise strive to be that for them. Together in one accord, may we walk in Christ, and may You, Who give us patience and encouragement, help us live in complete harmony with each other, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds, working together with one heart and purpose. This we ask in the mighty name of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, our True Shepherd.*

**Amen.**

\*\*\*\*\*

# COUNSELS (from page 2)

We might fall, but we can soon realize that we have the same Spirit Who can unite us with God and one another, and allows us to perceive right from wrong, good from evil, and God's will from selfish desire.

We all must remember that what is of lasting value is the everlasting dwelling that God has prepared for those who believe. So stay close to Jesus. We need His Spirit to experience the kindness, the redemptive power, and freedom that enable us to prevent anything from dividing us from within. Resisting temptation is not easy, for the serpent is a formidable foe, but as we persevere, we progress toward the reward of **"an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison."** (2 Cor 4:17) →→

*A pdf of this Covenant News and more information about BLD are available online at [BLDNEWARK.com](http://BLDNEWARK.com)*

# LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,190	\$ 27,294
Love Offerings	\$ 1,173	\$ 19,408
Mission Collections	\$ 50	\$ 10,111

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



## A Special Announcement for the Spiritual Program for the Unborn

The Singles Ministry will again be accepting gift donations for new born babies on **Friday, June 15**. Please bring your donations to Connell Hall, either before or after Worship that evening.

- Thank you!

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Teaching Calendar

Teachings for Saturday, **June 16, 2018** - 1 to 6 pm:  
- CMP II, Part II (LSS 1-46)  
- Encounter with Jesus (LSS 1-48)  
- New Creation Realities / Growth in Prayer (LSS 1-49)

### Solo Parents Encounter #20

**"Jesus is calling..."** June 23-24, 2018  
Days Hotel of East Brunswick  
195 Route 18 S  
East Brunswick, NJ 08816  
Please contact: Caezar and Vicky Razalan



### 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

Your family is your first church...



### Family Encounter #25

July 20-22, 2018  
Malvern Retreat House  
315 South Warren Avenue  
Malvern, PA 19355

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Jun 15	Evangelization
			Jun 22	Formation
			Jun 29	Management
			Jul 6	Mission

→ Our prayer and commitment to live His Word will help us discover His will and unite us with Him and one another. When we act in accord with the Spirit, we show our kinship with Jesus,

**"...for whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."** (Mk 3:35)

### Directions:

- Draw others to Christ by our testimony.
- Actively invite others to our encounters and seminars.