



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 24 Issue 24

Bulletin Edition

June 22, 2018

## NEWS

**Happy 90th Birthday, 64th Sacerdotal Anniversary, and Father's Day to Father Paul Lehman!**



Clearly, BLD Newark's beloved Spiritual Director Emeritus, Fr. Paul Lehman (who will be turning 90 on July 5), has many reasons to celebrate; and so, last Saturday, he received a well-deserved tribute and celebration. Things kicked off with probably the best way possible – a Mass at his home parish of St. Antoninus in Newark - surrounded by his loved ones, beloved parishioners, and members of the BLD Community. During the homily, Fr. Paul shared his personal story, from his adolescent years to the present day, and he thanked God for blessing him with a long life. He admitted that the physical limitations that have come with age are challenging, but that he uses them as ways to glorify God. In that homily, he provided this lesson for all of us - that we should always strive to live a life of service to Him.

Immediately after the Mass, the festivities commenced with an abundance of cheeses, fruits, and his special request – wine. Speakers from various communities came up to the microphone to honor Fr. Paul. They testified about his great impact on an incredible number of people. It was very evident that through his words of wisdom, sense of humor, and Christ-like nature, he had touched the lives of everyone he encountered. On behalf of BLD, we thank you, Fr. Paul, for your years of service to our Community. We pray that you have many more years of great health and countless blessings. **We love you!**

## COUNSELS

### **I Was Made to Love and Serve the Lord**

THEME: We are in communion with Christ when we let God empower us to grow strong in spirit.

WORD: Is 49:1-6 ~ Ps 139:1b-3,13-14a,14c-15  
Acts 13:22-26~ Lk 1:57-66,80

ORDER: ***"...proclaim a baptism of repentance to all the people."*** (Acts 13:24)

REFLECTION:

*Are* you ready?

You might all ask, "Ready for what?"

The readings for the Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist provide a simple but profound assurance and promise that we will become the light to the nations, so that His salvation may reach to the ends of the earth. (cf Is 49:6b). It is a testament that teaches us to be more than just simply human; rather, it provides a new way to be human, encapsulated by the Divine. In the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (8:9), he said ***"But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him."*** This is in line with the theme for this Sunday - We are in communion with Christ when we let God empower us to grow strong in spirit.

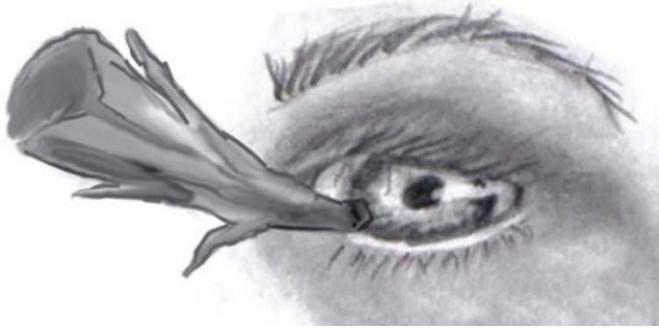
The first reading instructs us to learn to trust God with all our might, since the Lord molded each and every one of us in our mother's womb with a special purpose. In Isaiah 49:5, the prophet says that the Lord ***"formed me as his servant from the womb, that Jacob may be brought back to him and Israel gathered to him."*** The principalities of darkness will do anything to deceive us

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### *Promise of the Week*

***"I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."*** (Is 49:6b)

*Before anything else,*  
**First, Remove the Wooden Beam...**



For anyone who has been fortunate enough to attend a Prayer Healing Seminar, the words that Jesus said in Matthew (which is the Gospel reading for Monday, June 25) will sound very familiar:

*“You hypocrite, remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother’s eye.”* (Mt 7:5)

Many Christians, in their zeal to spread the Good News and evangelize, bypass these words from Jesus. Yet, His instruction here is really a very important first step before doing anything else. It applies to most, if not all of what we do in BLD.

The beam in our eyes represents the many things that prevent us from seeing clearly. The verses prior to the one cited above have Jesus’ warning, **“Stop judging, that you may not be judged.”** Our human nature often makes us want to compare ourselves to others, with an emphasis on how much better *I am*, as opposed to them. This can apply to how busy *I am* as opposed to others; and this even applies to *my* relationship with Jesus. Even if I don’t give it an actual voice, how many times a day do I think of myself as holier than someone else? Often, pride presides over the comparison and words escape our mouths quicker than they should. The words can even be disguised under the veil of good intentions, such as how, “I only want to help them” and “It’s for their own good anyway.”

But the good intentions quickly lose steam and are forgotten, overshadowed by the message others actually hear and see because of the attitude and behavior of the messenger. So, before any words escape our mouths, or any of our self-promoting actions are seen, we first need to remember Jesus’ words of caution and make sure that pure motives are what guide our vision and understanding of the people we interact with, and our actions and reactions to various situations. Then we can earnestly and honestly begin to evangelize and do good for His glory.

## **ODDS AND ENDS**

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### ***Whatever floats your boat...***

Although my family has been active in BLD for almost twelve years now, I still remember the time in my past when folks would describe the joys they found in religious groups that they were involved in, and I would passively, and somewhat cynically remark, “Whatever floats your boat.”

It finally dawned on me this weekend that for more than twelve years now, **I’m actually in the boat!**

...And it’s really a very good place to be in, where we are buoyed up, always and all the time, by His infinite love.

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### ***Congratulations to All of Our BLD Newark Grads!***

At the conclusion of the Praise and Worship last Friday, the whole Community gathered in the Church at DMP to welcome the latest Singles Encounter class, for the anointing of new Ministry Coordinators, for the Father’s Day blessing by Msgr Paul upon BLD Dads, and to congratulate all of this year’s BLD grads - those who finished kindergarten, all the way up to newly-minted degree holders.

Afterwards, a feast celebrating the grads’ accomplishments was held during fellowship. (A big THANK YOU to all who prepared the festivities, especially the Service Ministry and their latest immersion classes.)

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A guy asked a girl once, “Do you know why Solomon had 600 wives?”

The girl responded, “No... Why?”

The guy answered, “Solomon, he kept looking... Because he never met someone like you!”

Riddle: Who is the first person in history to download from the cloud and onto a tablet?

Answer: Moses

## Pope Francis Encourages 'Meal of Encounter' and 'Share the Journey'

'I heartily bless your soup kitchen, and I wish you a good lunch.'

June 19, 2018 16:31 • Jim Fair • Human Rights and Justice  
source: Zenit.org

Pope Francis on June 19, 2018, continued his enthusiastic support for the "Share the Journey" campaign with a message of blessing to the participants in the "Meal of Encounter" in the "Saint John Paul II" Caritas soup kitchen in Via Marsala, Rome.

"With this message, I wish to encourage you to continue your journey with migrants and refugees, and to share a meal with them, like the one organized here by Caritas," the Holy Father said.

The soup kitchen is part of World Action Week (June 17-24, 2018). Caritas is organizing opportunities for interacting with migrants around the world. The Caritas website has information about events and ways to reach out to migrants.

"Hope is what drives the hearts of those who depart," said Pope Francis on September 27, 2017, as he opened the Caritas Internationalis 'Share the Journey' migration campaign. He stressed the need to build relationships between migrants, refugees, and local communities.

Speaking during his weekly General Audience in St. Peter's Square in Rome, the Pope said that hope "is also what drives the hearts of those who welcome: the desire to meet each other, get to know each other, to dialogue."

Pope Francis warned against what he called "the enemies of hope" as he launched the Caritas two-year campaign.

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, President of Caritas Internationalis said, "If we bond with refugees and migrants, we will break down the barriers with which some are trying to separate us. The campaign reaches out to recognize, restore and share our common humanity."

The Caritas campaign is backed by its national organizations in more than 160 countries, by the ecumenical ACT Alliance of over 140 members, by the United Nations agencies the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the UN's refugee organization, UNCHR and its World Food Program, along with numerous religious and civil society organizations.

Pope Francis has been a strong and consistent advocate for the rights of migrants. In his message for the 104th World Day for Migrants and Refugees (January 14, 2018) he affirmed the need for a shared

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## COUNSELS

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so that we become weak and useless. But the Lord's plan is perfect and so, we can do all things through Jesus Christ Who strengthens us. (cf Phil 4:13) So brace yourself for this higher calling. But before we promote ourselves, let us try to understand what it is like to be a true disciple of Christ. In the Gospel, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist. You might ask, how does the birth of Saint John relate to us becoming true disciples?

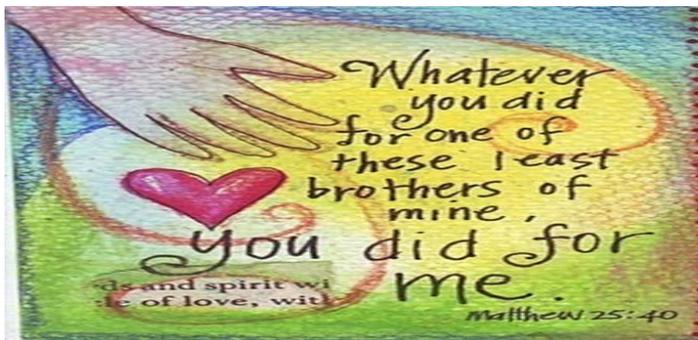
In recalling how the baby John leaped for joy while in his mother's womb, the Gospel calls us to rejoice also. No wonder he was mentioned in the Second Joyful Mystery of the Rosary, when Mama Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth who, at that time, was six months pregnant with him. He leaped for joy because he sensed the coming of Christ. There is so much to rejoice in as we reflect on this story, one of the biggest being how unbelief turned into belief and trust in the Lord. The father of John, Zechariah, experienced this first hand. He learned the essence of obedience through a predicament that he had to face. The positive result of trust and obedience is the flow of God's grace and blessings, as we saw when Zechariah regained his speech and John became the last the herald who served as the prelude to the opening of the gates of Heaven for all people.

His birth has now become a time of thanksgiving for us because he prepared our hearts by teaching us how to prepare ourselves to receive our Lord Jesus Christ. "**John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.**" (Acts 13:24) Just as with any endeavor we might undertake, we need to prepare. The requisite change is a transformative change of heart; in Greek, "**METANOIA.**" In simpler terms, John was asking us to stay away from sin. The fact that you attend and help out with BLD activities means that you've already taken the first step.

All we really need to do is to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit. Then, just like the Apostle Thomas, we too will acknowledge that Jesus is, "**My Lord and my God.**" (Jn 20:28) John the Baptist epitomized the virtue of humility. In the Gospel accounts, it was he who declared, himself "**not worthy to untie**" even just the sandal straps of the Messiah (cf Jn 1:27). For John, life was not about him. By the same token, our lives should not be about us, and not just about what's good for us. Our lives should be about Jesus and about what we can do for others so that we may become a light for all nations to see. ...Continued on page 4

# COUNSELS

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John the Baptist was way ahead of the people of his time. He became the voice, crying out loud in the wilderness that the Messiah was coming. He embodied this mission centuries before the Vatican's mandate for a New Evangelization. And we are not different from John, for individually and as a Church, we need to proclaim in a loud voice the Word, the Gospel, the Good News, so that salvation may reach unto the ends of the earth.

We exhort you to embrace these words from St. Augustine of Hippo; in his "Confessions" he said, "You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you."

We have received the greatest gift of God - the Holy Spirit. Rejoice for we are never alone! Let us be a part of God's army; let us love and serve the Lord.

Directions:

- Avail yourselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Promote the Life in the Spirit Seminar to different parishes.

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## Pope's Morning Homily...

(from page 3)

response to migrants described to four verbs: welcome, protect, promote, and integrate. He has continued to remind the world of the human face of migration.

"I would like to point out that the issue of migration is not simply one of numbers, but of persons, each with his or her own history, culture, feelings, and aspirations..." the Pope said June 14, 2018, in his message to Second Holy See-Mexico Conference on International Migration.

"These persons, our brothers, and sisters need "ongoing protection", independently of whatever migrant status they may have," the Pope continued. "Their fundamental rights and their dignity need to be protected and defended. Particular concern must be shown for migrant children and their families, those who are victims of human trafficking rings, and those displaced due to conflicts, natural disasters, and persecution."

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	\$ 3,270	\$ 32,001
Love Offerings	\$ 750	\$ 21,534
Mission Collections	\$ 84	\$ 10,299

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

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR



### 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

Contact Persons: Jonas and Emy Cebedo, or any of the FE 24 families

### Community Day

"... love one another as I have loved you"



August 18, 2018

Johnson Park, Grove 4  
Piscataway, NJ

Wear your Team Color!  
A - C Red Team  
D - G Blue Team  
H - P Green Team  
Q - Z Yellow Team

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Jun 29	Management
		Jul 6	Mission
		Jul 13	Pastoral
		Jul 20	Evangelization