



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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July 13, 2018

NEWS

Philippines: Bishops Call for Prayers, Fasting, Almsgiving, Penance

Invoking God's Mercy and Justice on Those who Have Blasphemed God's Holy Name

• July 10, 2018 18:45 • Jim Fair • Conflicts, War, Terrorism
Source: zenit.org

“On July 16, 2018 on the feast of the Blessed Mother of Mt. Carmel, the mountain associated with the bold challenge of the prophet Elijah in defense of God (2 Kings 18), let us spend a day of prayer and penance, invoking God's mercy and justice on those who have blasphemed God's Holy Name, those who slander and bear false witness, and those who commit murder or justify murder as a means for fighting criminality in our country. We invite you to join us, your bishops, in three days of fasting, prayer and almsgiving from July 17 to 19, 2018.”

That is the exhortation by Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) in a July 9, 2018, letter signed by the president of the CBCP, Archbishop Romulo Valles of Davao.

The Philippines has been beset with violence and anti-Christian sentiment in recent months, including President Rodrigo Duterte's reference to God as “stupid” and his offer to resign if anyone could prove God exists. In addition, three Catholic priests have been assassinated in the past six months.

The letter does not mention any political or cultural leaders by name, but uses strong language to condemn the lack of care for the poor.

“Our sufferings as Church leaders are nothing compared to the sufferings of the poor in our country,” the bishops' letter says. “Do we not hear the cry of poor slum-dwellers being jailed for ‘loitering’? Have they forgotten that for the homeless urban poor – the little alleys between their flimsy homes also serve as kitchens, bathrooms, recreation spaces,
...Continued on page 3

COUNSELS

Unshakeable Faith Is Sufficient

THEME: Unshakeable faith drives us to go to mission, fully dependent on God's provisions.

WORD: Am 7:12-15 ~ Ps 85:9-10,11-12,13-14
Eph 1:3-14 ~ Mk 6:7-13

ORDER: “... *take nothing for the journey but a walking stick – no food, no sack, no money...*” (Mk 6:8)

REFLECTION:

We need not fear as long as we have the power of faith. We live in a world where the standards of the Gospel are challenged, where they are ridiculed, where sacred things are mocked. Shall we compromise? Shall we revile those who speak ungraciously of us?

Shall any of us say that with faith we won't be better off than how we would be without it? No, for there is no obstacle too great, no challenge too difficult, that we cannot meet with faith. The prophet Amos responded with faith, and so should we. He had an unshakeable faith that brought him to fulfill his assigned tasks for the Lord, and he delivered God's desired message, empowered by that faith.

Amos was not afraid to appear in Bethel when crowds were gathered to worship the golden calf. Amidst their celebration, he announced the terrible punishment that God was to bring upon the sinful people of Israel who reacted with fury and violence. He was ridiculed and driven away, asked to never return to Bethel. But Amos replied that he was not a professional prophet, nor a prophet's disciple, but that he was just a simple man from the land and was only a breeder of sheep.
...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

The Lord himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. (cf Ps 85:13)

Fr. Paul Lehman exhorts the Community once more

As was to be expected, last Friday's Eucharistic Celebration was a truly special one for BLD Newark. Besides experiencing our oneness in the Eucharist, united in love and truth, in holiness and mission, many Community members and disciples were able to wish Fr. Paul Lehman a "Happy 90th Birthday!" in person.

And as he started his 90th year, Fr. Paul's message to the Community was as fresh as ever – last Friday, he reminded us again about the importance of personal and communal prayer in our lives, for prayer is a fundamental necessity in our spiritual formation and is needed for our Community to flourish. May we all take his exhortation to heart.

Our presence, our love and support really meant a lot to Fr. Paul, and we know that we made him very happy last Friday, which was just one day after his big milestone birthday. Thank you to all who served at the Mass and the celebration, and to all who were there for this special occasion.

May the Lord bless him and keep him! May He let His face shine upon him, and be gracious to him! May the LORD look upon him kindly and give him peace all the days of his life! (cf Num 6:24-26)

Thank You Lord for Fr. Paul Lehman!!!



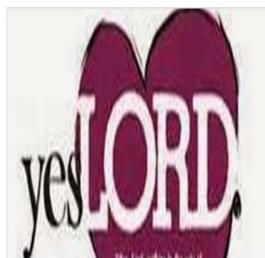
COUNSELS (from page 1)

Then Amos declared boldly and fearlessly that God had sent him to speak in His Name, to warn the people about their impending doom; that as His chosen people, God demanded higher standards of them. Amos then reminded them of God's kindness, and how God was like a loving father who would discipline an erring son because he loves him.

Today, when we see the state of things around us in Community, when mediocrity has become commonplace and we have problems that we do not have solutions for, when we feel we are so far from fulfilling our mission, it is good to hear the Lord saying to us: "Have faith and come up higher! Come and see things from My standpoint and TRUST Me! Be humble for it is only a humble heart that can hear My voice!" Only by having a humble heart and a firm faith will we be able to grow into the TRUTH we speak of; it cannot be attained by the power and influence that this world offers!

We need to trust God Whose wisdom we may have ignored and put aside. We need to believe that He will supply all our needs. His goodness and providence are more than sufficient. If we trust Him and truly submit ourselves to His care, we will have what we need to do His work. All we need are hands that are free from the stronghold of the material world; big hearts that not only give love and compassion, but hearts that listen and consider God's messages from the different corners of the Community; hearts that are open to the Word of God that contain the TRUTH that sets people free from bondage and affliction because of sin. Just like the prophet Amos, we can pursue our calling as bearers of TRUTH if we have unshakeable faith in our Lord.

Let us unite our hearts as God needs us today; let us stand before Him and hear His voice daily; truly, as men for others, men who have no desire in their hearts for anyone or anything other than God Himself; men who have the discernment of the Spirit to distinguish between the ordinary and the mediocre, versus what is best for the Lord; men who will steadfastly stand for God in the world; men who will be totally uncompromising; men who will proclaim the TRUTH, like the apostles and prophets of old. Men whose response to God's call will always be...



YES Lord, I will do Your will. →→

→ Lord grant us the faith to look beyond the problems of the moment to the miracles of the future. Give us the faith to put our trust in You and to believe in Your promise that You will never forsake those who call on You in prayer. Give us faith to do what is right, so that we may reap Your mighty abundance. Yes Lord Grant us faith when adversity beats us down and drives us to the ground. Strengthen our faith as we serve in Your mission fields.

God's call for all of us in Community - to be bearers of the Truth - is divine!

Let us move on and...



Directions:

- Be holy and without blemish, filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Actively participate in the mission activities of the Community.

NEWS (from page 1)

and playgrounds for their children? Have they forgotten that they live in tiny dwellings that are razed quickly to the ground when fire strikes, because they do not have proper roads? Do we not feel the sufferings of drug addicts who are labelled as 'non-humans', and are stigmatized as criminals when their names end up in the dreaded 'drug watch lists'?"

"Yes, we are aware of the sufferings of those who have been victimized by substance abusers, but can we not see them also as sick people who are struggling with a disease? Should we not rather look at them also as victims who are crying out for help? Are we to remain as bystanders when we hear of people being killed in cold blood by ruthless murderers who dispose of human lives like trash? Do we not realize that for every drug suspect killed, there is a widowed wife and there are orphaned children left behind — who could hardly even afford a decent burial for their loved ones? Do we not care when poor people's homes are searched without warrants, or when drug suspects are arrested without warrants, or detained without charges?"

Now for Another Birthday in July...

This week, someone very special to BLD Newark, also celebrated a birthday...



TWO PROFOUND QUESTIONS TO ANSWER

One of the nicer things that can happen when we're on vacation is when a nearby Church offers daily Mass and we're able to attend them. During a recent trip of ours, the local priest, Fr. Mark, was just recently transferred and was still very excited about his new parish; the added bonus was that he gave simple, and yet really insightful and thought-provoking homilies.

On the feast day for St. Thomas, he started things out by asking the people in Church what nickname almost everyone knows the saint by. Several answers came back from the pews; "Doubting Thomas" was the common reply.

Fr. Mark thought it ironic, because, after all, it was St. Thomas who famously said, "My Lord and My God." So, he asked, "Shouldn't we remember this apostle as "Believing Thomas" instead?"

Then he followed this up with two important questions that really made me think.

1. Given how we've lived so far, if we were to have one, what descriptive word might be attached to our own names?
2. What would I really want that word and my nickname to be?

These were simple yet profound queries that now clamor for and demand my answers.

A pdf of this Covenant News and more information about BLD are available online at BLDNEWARK.com

LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,710	\$ 34,709
Love Offerings	\$ 1,393	\$ 26,053
Mission Collections	\$ 49	\$ 10,486

Financial details are available to all members through treasury@bldnewark.com
Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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
		Jul 20	Evangelization
		Jul 27	Formation
		Aug 3	Management
		Aug 10	Mission