



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

Pope's Homily in Fatima: 'We Have a Mother. Cling to Her'

Pope Canonizes Jacinta & Francisco Marto in Fatima
MAY 13, 2017 / DEBORAH CASTELLANO LUBOV / PAPAL TRIPS

This morning, Pope Francis reminded half a million pilgrims that we all have a Mother, Mary, and we ought to cling to her.

The Holy Father gave this message in his homily during the Canonization Mass for Jacinta and Francesco Marto, the two young visionaries of Fatima. Pope Francis just concluded his May 12-13 Apostolic Pilgrimage to Fatima.

In the Gospel, the Jesuit Pontiff recalled in his homily, we hear Jesus say to his disciple, "Here is your mother" (Jn 19:27).

"We have a Mother!" Pope Francis exclaimed, continuing, "So beautiful a Lady," as the seers of Fatima said to one another as they returned home on that blessed day of May 13, 100 years ago. That evening, Jacinta could not restrain herself and told the secret to her mother: "Today I saw Our Lady."

They had seen the Mother of Heaven, the Pope stressed.

Our Lady foretold, and warned us about, the Pope warned, a way of life that is godless and indeed profanes God in his creatures. "Such a life – frequently proposed and imposed – risks leading to hell."

Mary, he pointed out, came to remind us that God's light dwells within us and protects us, recalling that in Lucia's account, the three chosen children found themselves surrounded by God's light as it radiated from Our Lady.

"She enveloped them in the mantle of Light that God had given her."

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COUNSELS

Invigorated by the Love of Christ

THEME: We are empowered by the Holy Spirit when we remain in Christ and live in Him.

WORD: Acts 8:5-8,14-17 ~ Ps 66:1-3,4-5,6-7,16,20
1 Pt 3:15-18 ~ Jn 14:15-21

ORDER: "... keep my commandments" (Jn 14:15)

REFLECTION:

This Gospel reading for the 6th Sunday of Easter continues Jesus' farewell discourse at the Last Supper. It was at this meal that He washed the disciples' feet as He modeled the humble and selfless love which He had asked them to imitate. He also gave them a new commandment that would be the most certain sign of true discipleship:

Love
one I another
as I have
loved you

"...love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." (Jn 13:34). Knowing that He would soon leave them, He promised to send another Advocate from the Father: "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always..." (Jn 14:16).

This Sunday's first reading recalls those early days of Christianity when a severe persecution of the Church in Jerusalem broke out, ...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"...whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."

(Jn 14:21b)

A LESSON FROM WALL STREET



Kuya Jess

One of the things I used to do at work was a lot of analysis that attempted to determine what the true value of the stock of the company that I worked for was. I had not done that before, and so, I was forced to look back at finance textbooks, to see how one went about doing that.

There are several methods, and the results varied. Meanwhile, since our company was publicly traded, almost every single moment of the day, the stock market came up with its own price per share at which the stock could be bought or sold at.

At its core, investment valuations, including what Wall Street comes up with, are based on one overarching premise – the value today is based on what you expect its returns will be in the future. But because the future remains uncertain, to get a better handle on any stock's value, what Wall Street does is to look at past performance.

Oddly enough, I started relating that lesson in finance to faith, wondering about the value my Creator places on me. My guess is that, similar to a stock investment, it's still inherently based on what I will do in the future. Not that He needs it, but the question is: *Will I be providing returns back to God?* For my own sake, this is something that I must actively answer; and I can answer it positively, but only if what I do is always to be guided by Him.

A general Wall Street axiom states that: "Past performance is not a guarantee of future results." But analysts are always touting and using past performance, and it is always a major factor in determining what current valuations might be. So it seems to me that, as with most things, the past is still the best source of clues regarding the future.

Consider then, this lesson from Wall Street: since what we do each day soon becomes part of our past performance, and in turn, that influences what the future will bring, then God must really value what we do, what we've done and what we'll continue to do. It is easy to see why our lives always should be guided by Him; He has a great deal invested in us. At some point in the future, our ultimate value will be based on what we will be doing for eternity. Will that eternity be spent loving and praising God?

At that point then, the clues as to how God will value us, will remain embedded in, and based on, our past performance, which we should earnestly start shaping, now.

**If life gets you down
Your face always in a frown
He is someone you can call on
Someone you can depend on**

**If you are troubled
Problems got you hobbled
Pray to Him, pray
Relate what's on your mind and say**

**Watch over me
Please guide me
Kuya Jess
Always be with me**

**For it's true He will listen
Just speak to Him often
Heart's whispers He hears
With peace He'll replace fears**

**Watch over me
Please guide me
Kuya Jess
Always be with me**

**Not just once or twice
Maybe more than thrice
Whenever and wherever
Call to Him in prayer**

**Watch over me
Please guide me
Kuya Jess
Always be with me**

**Humbly call to Him in prayer
For prayer He is sure to answer**

**Watch over me
Please guide me
Kuya Jess
Always be with me**

***"And behold, I am with you always,
until the end of the age."*** (Mt 28:20)

- from the Gospel for Ascension Thursday, May, 25, 2017

Pope's Homily in Fatima (from page 1)



According to the belief and experience of many, “if not all,” pilgrims, Francis said, “Fatima is more than anything this mantle of Light that protects us, here as in almost no other place on earth.”

Therefore, he encouraged, “We need but take refuge under the protection of the Virgin Mary and to ask her, as the *Salve Regina* teaches: ‘show unto us... Jesus.’”

“Dear pilgrims, we have a Mother. Clinging to her like children, we live in the hope that rests on Jesus.”

When Jesus ascended to heaven, Francis reminded, He brought our humanity to the Heavenly Father, assuming it in the womb of the Virgin Mary and “will never forsake [it].”

“Like an anchor, let us fix our hope on that humanity, seated in heaven at the right hand of the Father,” Pope Francis said, stressing, “May this hope guide our lives! It is a hope that sustains us always, to our dying breath.”

Francis said faithful can work to do this by Saint Francisco and Saint Jacinta as examples, “whom the Virgin Mary introduced into the immense ocean of God’s light and taught to adore Him.”

Noting he felt compelled to come here to venerate the Virgin Mary and to entrust to her all her sons and daughters, Francis encouraged those present to pray to God “with the hope that others will hear us.”

“With Mary’s protection,” Pope Francis concluded, praying, “may we be for our world sentinels of the dawn, contemplating the true face of Jesus the Savior, resplendent at Easter.

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

and the disciples were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Philip, who was inspired by his conviction that Jesus was truly risen and compelled by Christ to open the hearts of anyone who would listen, went to Samaria. There they heard his words and watched his actions. Philip cured many of the physically and spiritually sick who, upon hearing Philip’s message, felt a joy that they had not known before. They invited Christ into their hearts and received the Holy Spirit.

Fast forward to 2000 years later - Pope Francis in his apostolic letter entitled *Joy of the Gospel* wrote, “I invite all Christians everywhere at this moment to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least openness to letting him encounter them. I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her since no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord.” Aren’t we the people that Pope Francis speaks of? Do we still remember our own personal encounter with Jesus Christ and the joy that filled us when we opened our hearts and souls to Him? Many of us have been cured of physical, emotional and spiritual illnesses; among our many ailments, we might not have even been initially aware of some that we were actually suffering from.

Do we remember the tears of joy that we shed as we realized God’s limitless and unconditional love for us? And once we felt the Spirit dwell in our hearts, didn’t we feel empowered to invite others to our encounters and seminars, and to share our awesome experience? And so we were witnesses to the rise of many other BLD communities in North America from the East to West Coasts, and from the North to the South.

Twenty-five years after the founding of the BLD Community, we continue to sponsor numerous encounters and seminars the same way as we always have; but disappointingly, the number of attendees has drastically come down. There are many challenges that have arisen from within and without, but the Community continues to strive to face these challenges.

Happily, the bigger Church seems to have awakened from slumber and has started to form small faith communities that have energized more Catholics. Interactions among many parishioners have become friendlier and more personal. Also, there are now more programs offered to congregations that have fostered

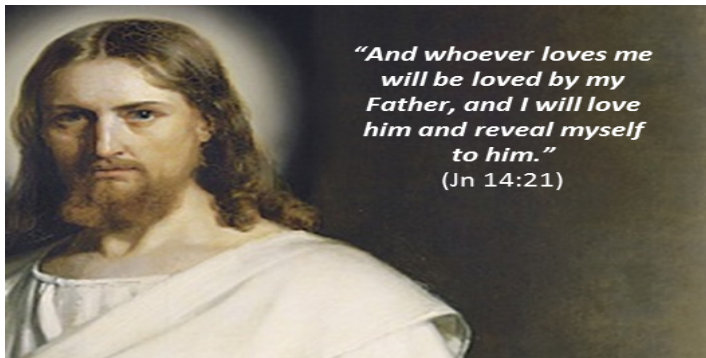
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COUNSELS

(from page 3)

renewed spiritual growth, much like our own BLD seminars, retreats, encounters and teachings. To some degree, all these have served to satisfy people's spiritual hunger; but it is possible that these have inadvertently contributed to the decline in membership for our Community.

What about challenges from within? As disciples of Christ, we need to admit that we are all imperfect. We suffer from our own sins and failures. We are impaired by the scars of our own lives. We are hurt and we hurt others by our insensitivity, our judgments, our stubbornness and inflexibility. We have to acknowledge that despite years in Community, we continue to be broken vessels and we all need to heal together, and be refreshed and re-invigorated by the love of Christ.



"And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."
(Jn 14:21)

Only through God's love will we be able to open our hearts to those who are hurting, fill those who hunger and console those who weep. Only through the Spirit can we give hope to the wounded and peace to those who are troubled. We can embrace those we consider unlovable, only when we keep the commandments, not for their own sake, but because we want to honor the Lord Jesus by loving. We have to become a source of love and healing for each other. We have to mature into true evangelizers, not just by what we say, but more importantly, by the sincerity of what we do for others. And may Christ always be our true motive.

Let us encounter Christ once again with the start of every new day as Pope Francis exhorts us to do. Let us meet and contemplate Him in our daily prayers. Let us focus on our mission of transformation in Christ through frequent reception of the Sacraments. Let us deepen our enthusiasm for God Who constantly restores all His faithful ones, for no one is excluded from the love of God and the joy that the Lord brings.

Directions:

1. Witness to your life in the Spirit by doing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.
2. Cultivate our personal relationship with Christ through prayers and reception of the Sacraments.

A pdf of this Covenant News is also available online at BLDNEWARK.com

LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,553	\$ 25,930
Love Offerings	\$ 939	\$ 24,514
Mission Collections	\$ 66	\$ 2,747

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

A Stewardship Prayer

-from the Franciscans at St. Anthony's Shrine, Boston, MA

Receive my offering O Lord. It is not charity because You are not a beggar. It is not a contribution because You have no need for it. It is not leftovers because You want more than that.

My gift O Lord, represents my gratitude, my love...

...for whatever I have, it is because You have given it to me.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Teaching Calendar

Teachings for Saturday, **June 17, 2017** - 1 to 6 pm:
 - Healing and Deliverance (LSS 1-45)
 - Encounter with Jesus: Luke / John (LSS 1-46B)
 - New Creation Realities / Growth in Prayer (LSS 47)

June 16 -18, 2017
 Graymoor Spiritual Life Center
 Garrison, NY 10524
Singles Encounter #37
Come all you who are thirsty...
 Please contact: Jutt Bustos
 Lita Alfaro

June 23-25, 2017
 Days Hotel of East Brunswick
 195 Route 18 S
 East Brunswick, NJ 08816
Solo Parents Encounter #19
"Jesus is calling..."
 Please contact: Cherry and Reuben Vibar

July 7-9, 2017
 Pine Hill, PA (TBC)
Youth Encounter #23
"Come and Follow Me..."
 Please contact: dyc@bldnewark.com

July 14-16, 2017
 Malvern Retreat House
 315 South Warren Avenue
 Malvern, PA 19355
Family Encounter #24
Your family is your first church...
 Please contact: Willy and Amor Ferrer
 Noel and Gale Deleon

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		May 26	Formation
		Jun 2	Management
		Jun 9	Mission
		Jun 16	Pastoral