



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 22 Issue 22

Bulletin Edition

May 27, 2016

NEWS

Mark 10 and John 6 lead BLD in crowning Mother Mary



After worship last Friday, the Church at Divine Mercy Parish seemed to transform into a paparazzi scene as the children of the Mark 10 Ministry walked down the Church's center aisle with flowers in hand to offer to our Blessed Mother. As the procession started, cell phones and cameras suddenly came out to take pictures of the adorable boys and girls, all of whom had dressed up for the special occasion. Not to be outdone, after Mark 10, many of the adults also proceeded to come up to Mary's statue, offering flowers to honor her, while Mary Argonza of the John 6 Ministry beautifully sang the "Ave Maria".

Also during the ceremony, Anne Argonza, Roman Manzo and John Argonza, announced the results of the Change for Change joint project with the John 6 Ministry from last February. Over the four Fridays of that month, they collected \$639 for school supplies for the children of the Fr. Paul Lehman - UST Med Class '76 Gawad Kalinga Village in Cabiao, Nueva Ecija, Philippines. To show their gratitude to the BLD Community, the Mark 10 kids held signs that simply said, "Thank You."

The highlight of the event was, of course, the crowning of Mother Mary as our Mother and Queen, led by first communicants, Kirsten Castaneda, Anthony de la Cruz, Aaron Flores and Ysabella Martinez.

When we are able to do this and claim her as our Mother, isn't it great to be Catholic?

Hail Mary indeed, AMEN!!!

COUNSELS

Give Them Some Food Yourselfes

THEME: We keep the word of God when we share our blessings, remembering Jesus in the Eucharist.

WORD: Gn 14:18-20 ~ Ps 110:1,2,3,4
1 Cor 11:23-26 ~ Lk 9:11b-17

ORDER: Give them some food yourselfes.

REFLECTION:

The scene in our First Reading is the city of Salem, which would later become Jerusalem. The king of that city, Melchizedek, who was also a priest, came out to give Abram a blessing and to share bread and wine with him. Melchizedek's blessing celebrated how God had protected Abram in battle. God later called him Abraham, the Father of the Israelites. For his part, as an expression of his own thanksgiving to the Lord, "*Abram gave him a tenth of everything.*" (Gn 14:20b). Centuries later, Christians saw a typology between Jesus Christ and Melchizedek. They understood the sharing of bread and wine as a sign of the Eucharist. Likewise, we are exhorted to give back in thanksgiving as Abraham did.

In the Second Reading, we listen to St Paul's account of the Last Supper. Jesus takes the bread, gives thanks, breaks it, and says, "*This is my body.*" He repeats the same actions with a cup of wine, saying, "*This cup is the new covenant in my blood.*" In the same way, the celebrant repeats the words and actions of Jesus in the Eucharistic prayer at each Mass. When we gather together for Mass, we share the Body and Blood of Christ, just as Jesus invited us to do at the Last Supper.

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Promise of the Week

"Yours is princely power from the day of your birth." (Ps 110:3a)

Let Us Not Be Misled

When Jesus was questioned by some Sadducees about the resurrection, He knew they were going to trick him.¹ They asked *“At the resurrection [when they arise] whose wife will she be? For all seven had been married to her?”* (Mk 12:23). Jesus replied that they were mistaken because the resurrected are like angels in heaven. Jesus knew what they were driving at, so He said, *“As for the dead being raised, have you not read in the Book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God told him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, [the] God of Isaac, and [the] God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead but of the living. You are greatly misled.”* (Mk 12: 26-27).

The Sadducees believed God to be alive and eternal, but they did not believe Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were resurrected and therefore alive. They did not believe Jesus when He said the “dead rise again,” but we know that Jesus predicted his own death and resurrection (Mk 8:31).

The resurrection was very important to the early Christians, as it is equally important to us now. Jesus Christ’s death by crucifixion between criminals was not only shameful, but also devastating to His believers. They were crushed, confused and in despair. But Jesus’ resurrection and later His ascension not only restored and strengthened the early Christians’ faith; it also bonded them together as the early Christian Church. They understood that Jesus’ resurrection was the fulfillment of Israel’s hope. If God raised Jesus from the dead, so will God raise the believers of Jesus from the dead. It is through resurrection that God’s promise of eternal life can be fulfilled. The resurrection of Jesus is indeed the foundation of Christian faith, without which our Creed loses its coherence and meaning.

Paul says, *“We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life”* (Rom 6:4). In John’s Gospel, Jesus says believers who abide in Him will be raised on the last day and have eternal life (Jn 6:54). Therefore, all those who believe in the risen Christ and abide in Him can hope for their own resurrection and claim the promise of new life where righteousness is at home (2 Pt 3:13). Let us not be misled: our God is the God of the living.

¹ Sadducees did not believe in the after-life as it is not mentioned in the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament (i.e., Genesis; Exodus; Leviticus; Numbers; Deuteronomy), which pertains to the law from God.

Paying the Landlord

“At the proper time, he sent a servant to the tenants to obtain from them some of the produce of the vineyard.”

- Mk 12:2

What was it that God was asking for in this parable? The Gospel of Mark tells us that the landlord wanted some of the produce of the vineyard. We know that this is quite a reasonable request. A landlord is entitled to the rent, or in this case his share of what was produced from the property that he had leased to these tenants. He was not asking for everything that they had, just some of it, just his rightful share, and yet they did not want to give anything to the landlord. By their actions we can see that they intended to keep everything to themselves and not give anything back. Did they have an obligation here to send back some of the produce to the landlord? Of course they did. They did not own the property, it was just a lease; and yet, they resorted to violence to take what was not theirs. In the end, this violence turned against them as the landlord took vengeance on them.

I find it difficult to understand so many things in this parable. Most of all, I couldn’t understand, why the tenants thought that they could get away with it. Did they not realize that the landlord would come and exact punishment? Were they so blind as to what was right and what was unjust?

Do we sometimes deceive ourselves that we are doing something that is right when actually, it is against God’s commands? Do we think that “we can get away with it”? Do we follow things that are *acceptable* in this world and not think about whether our actions or the paths we take are something that God has instructed us to avoid? In so many instances, these tenants had gone against what they ought to have done. Do we do the same?

God has said that we must give Him back our first fruits, and here, God, as Landlord, is just asking for what is rightfully His. Are there times when I have neglected to offer back to God what I should?

What are the things that God asks from me? What is our role and mission, the thing that we are supposed to do? To know, love and serve God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, with all our strength. And secondly, to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. (Mt 22:37-40).



God’s laws and commandments all work out so that when we follow them, understand them, we do what we are supposed to do - **love God** with all our heart, mind, soul and strength; and get to love our neighbors as ourselves.

“LET IT BE”

Next Tuesday, May 31, the Church will celebrate the **Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. The Gospel reading comes from Luke, recounting her visit with her cousin Elizabeth, and includes Mary saying her Magnificat.



So as I was thinking of Mary, a song from the group **The Beatles** popped into my head, in particular, the one that starts “When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me...”

And since the Old Testament reading for that day (from Zephaniah) was also about shouting for joy and singing joyfully, I then thought that some other songs by **The Beatles** can actually be converted into praise songs. So here are at least a dozen:

As Sung to the Tunes of The Beatles

1. Let It Be
2. God loves you, yeah, yeah, yeah! (*She Loves You*)
3. PS God Loves You (*PS I Love You*)
4. We all belong in God’s loving family
(*Yellow Submarine*)
5. Praise and Shout (*Twist and Shout*)
6. Jesus in the Sky with Angels
(*Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds*)
7. Oh I get by with a little help from His hand
(*With a Little Help from My Friends*)
8. He is here, there and everywhere
(*Here There and Everywhere*)
9. Here Comes God’s Son (*Here Comes the Sun*)
10. Every day, all my troubles seem so far away; yes it looks as though He’s here to stay. Oh I believe in Him, every day (*Yesterday*)
11. I love Him, eight days a week
(*Eight Days a Week*)
12. Ya, ya, ya, ya, ya, ya... Ya, ya, ya, ya...
...Yes Lord! (*Hey Jude*)

COUNSELS (continued from page 1)

The Eucharistic Prayer I, recited by the priest during Mass, mentions both Abraham and Melchizedek, soon after our offering of bread and wine have become the “the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation.” It says: “Look with favor on these offerings and accept them as once you accepted the gifts of your servant Abel, the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith, and the bread and wine offered by your priest Melchizedek” (Sacramentary, Eucharistic Prayer I).

Now we are offering Jesus back to the Father and ourselves in Him! After all these centuries of offerings, our participation in the Holy Mass invites us to give ourselves to God.

As we sat down to reflect on these readings, my spouse and I remembered that the year we were invited to this community was the year declared by the Pope at the time, now St. John Paul the Great, as the Year of the Eucharist. We reflected on how our lives have changed since then and the events that brought us to where we now are. Undoubtedly, the Lord used His disciples in BLD to shepherd us and lead us to the waters that quenched our thirst for Truth. Our 3-year CDFP program, our daily reflection on God’s word, our participation in the corporal works of mercy and evangelization efforts of this community, opened our hearts and minds to a deeper faith and knowledge of the Lord. This to us is the gift and significance of the Lord’s call to us on that weekend in November 2004, in the Year of the Eucharist.

Our Gospel story shows us Jesus and the Twelve surrounded by a huge, hungry crowd. When the Twelve protested that they could not feed everyone, Jesus had them divide the crowd into smaller groups. Then He took what they had - five loaves and two fish, gave thanks (blessed the food), broke it, and invited the disciples to pass around the food and share it. There was more than enough for everyone!

“Give them some food yourselves.” Lk 9:13a



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COUNSELS (continued from page 3)

We can, of course, see this story as a sign of the Eucharist, in which Jesus continues to feed the multitude of His followers. But we can also see it as a challenge to us to do what we can to feed the millions of hungry people in our world today: those who are hungry for food and drink, and those who are hungry for love and attention.



Jesus took the five loaves of bread and two fish and gave them to His disciples, not to the people. Then He ordered them to give them the food themselves. As His modern day disciples, how can we show our gratitude for the Eucharistic meal Jesus shares with us? Can we

accept the challenge to share with others in need, even if what we have to share seems small and insignificant? Are we able to step up to the challenge of giving ourselves away, just as Jesus did for us? Are we able to die to ourselves so that others may live? This is the challenge and the privilege handed down to us on our baptism: to live our promise as a "Priest, Prophet, and King," as a member of Christ's "Royal Priesthood," and co-heirs to His throne.

These days, the Holy Mass bears more meaning for us. My spouse and I have become more aware of the miracle that happens during the Holy Mass, a miracle that (in this country) is available to us every day. Through the celebration and remembrance of the Lord's Supper, we receive the Body and Blood of our Lord, and we are reminded, through the liturgy of His word, of His call to share His love to others.

Directions:

- Partake of the Eucharist as often as you can.
- Encourage members to attend community teachings and retreats.
- Serve in your parish.

CN RECAP

The following were the verses from next week's daily Mass readings, that were used by this issue's writers for their reflections:

Paying the Landlord	Mon, May 30 – Mk 12:2
Let It Be	Tue, May 31 – Lk 1:39-56
Let Us Not Be Misled	Wed, Jun 1 – Mk 12:27

Please note that a pdf of this Covenant News is also available online at BLDNEWARK.com

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Prior Week	YTD
Tithe & Love Offering	\$ 3,182	\$ 54,317
Mission Collections	\$ 156	\$ 4,235

Financial details are available to all members through treasury@bldnewark.com

Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Protecting God's Children Training

Saturday, June 4, 2016 - 9:30 AM

Contact: Elaine Fernando (mefernando@comcast.net)

Marriage Encounter #47

"Restore, Renew, Rekindle ..."

Please contact: Efen & Yollie Cruz

June 17-19, 2016
Hotel Executive Suites
30 Minue Street
Carteret, NJ 07008

Solo Parents Encounter #18

"Jesus is calling..."

Please contact: Vic & Becky Napenas

June 24-26, 2016
Days Hotel Conference
Center East Brunswick
195 Route 18 South, East
Brunswick, NJ 08816

Singles Encounter #36

Come all you who are thirsty...

Please contact: Jutt Bustos

Lita Alfaro Note change in date

June 24-26, 2016
Graymoor Spiritual Life Center
Garrison, NY 10524

Youth Encounter #22

"Come and Follow Me..."

Please contact: Charlie & Weng Larobis

July 8-10, 2016

Pine Hill, PA (TBC)

Ron & Dina Pangilinan

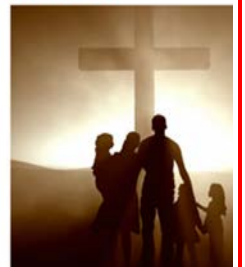
Oliver & Marissa Rangel

FAMILY ENCOUNTER 23

When: July 15, 16, 17, 2016
Where: Malvern Retreat House
Malvern, PA

Submit Applications to:

Mat & Precy Yap (973) 769-1426
June & Edith Buhain (973) 342-3276
Butch & Malou Morales
(908) 477-5125



TEACHING CALENDAR

Teachings for **Saturday, June 18** - 1 to 6 pm:

- Basic Bible Seminar (LSS 1-46)
- CMP1 Part 1 (LSS 1-44)
- Shepherd's Training (LSS 1-43)

Marshaling	Date	Apostolate
	June 3	Formation
	June 10	Management
	June 17	Mission
	June 24	Pastoral