



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

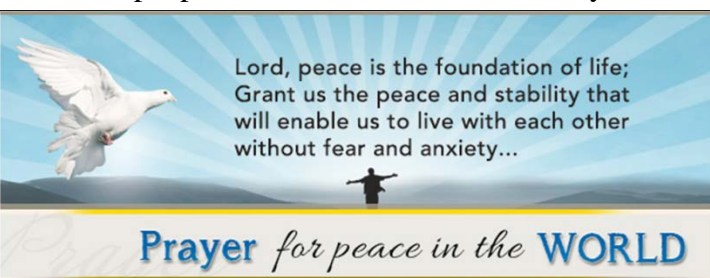
Pope condemns 'homicidal folly and senseless hatred' in Orlando

'The terrible massacre that has taken place in Orlando, with its dreadfully high number of innocent victims, has caused in Pope Francis, and in all of us, the deepest feelings of horror and condemnation, of pain and turmoil before this new manifestation of homicidal folly and senseless hatred.'

- JUNE 13, 2016 ZENIT STAFF, POPE AND HOLY SEE -

Below is the statement of Fr. Federico Lombardi, director of the Holy See Press Office, expressing the Pope's condolences for the victims of the shootings this weekend at a club in Orlando, Florida, claiming 50 lives and leaving 53 wounded, marking the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history:

The terrible massacre that has taken place in Orlando, with its dreadfully high number of innocent victims, has caused in Pope Francis, and in all of us, the deepest feelings of horror and condemnation, of pain and turmoil before this new manifestation of homicidal folly and senseless hatred. Pope Francis joins the families of the victims and all of the injured in prayer and in compassion. Sharing in their indescribable suffering he entrusts them to the Lord so they may find comfort. We all hope that ways may be found, as soon as possible, to effectively identify and contrast the causes of such terrible and absurd violence which so deeply upsets the desire for peace of the American people and of the whole of humanity.



COUNSELS

The Conditions of Discipleship

THEME: The spoken word of God empowers us to renounce the lure of worldly attachments.

WORD: Zec 12:10-11;13:1 ~ Ps 63:2,3-4,5-6,8-9
Gal 3:26-29 ~ Lk 9:18-24

ORDER: *"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."* - Lk 9:23

REFLECTION:

In this Sunday's readings, the prophet Zechariah foretold of the piercing or crucifixion of the Messiah of God. He also foretold that the promised Messiah would be a descendant of King David and prophesied that God would pour out a spirit of grace and petition upon David's family and all of Jerusalem. When this happens, then and only then, would Israel recognize that the One they pierced was indeed the Messiah. Eventually He did come in human form, preaching the Gospel message of repentance and one baptism for the forgiveness of sins, sending down the Holy Spirit to bring His mercy and love, becoming a fountain that purifies all from sin and uncleanness. St. Paul in his Letter to the Galatians [Gal. 3:26-29], further reminds us that in faith we received the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Baptism by virtue of which we became the children of God in Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of St. Luke [Lk. 9:18-24] conveys to us different levels of Jesus' identity as seen through the eyes of His disciples and according to His own words. The disciples said that people were saying that He was "John the Baptist" or "Elijah" or *"one of the ancient prophets who has arisen."* When He asked them Who they thought He was, ...*Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"Whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."
- Lk 9:24b

THE NARROW GATE

- reflection written by a member of the Singles Ministry
(based on the Gospel for Tuesday, June 21: Mt 7:13-14)

“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few.” (Mt 7:13-14)

Imagine yourself standing in front of two glass doors: one is large and through it, you can see a giant room with any material possessions you could ever want: money, cars, a large house; you name it, it's there. The other door is so small that you have to crawl to get through it, and on the other side is a small room, simple with no furnishings and a man sitting inside; he may look unkempt, with his clothes tattered, but he's asking you to come in and talk to him. Which door would you choose to go through?

Most people would want to go through the first one; it has everything you could ever dream of. So why would you choose to hang out with the man? And yet, as this Gospel passage tells us, that road leads to ***“destruction.”*** This destruction, in a way, means death, but it also means another form of loss: the loss of vision of what our goal is. If we follow the way of the world, then we lose sight of what our purpose truly is: to be disciples and followers of Jesus. He is the Man in the small room calling out to us; He wants us to follow Him, but few are willing to listen.

Mark's Gospel further warns us about this: Jesus says that ***“It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God.”*** (Mk 10:25) This also signals to us that we need to be wary of the way of the world. While it can provide us with many of the things we desire, in the end, it will not help us achieve our goal of salvation.

We believe that Jesus is **the Way, the Truth, and the Life**, and yet we've become a minority in this world. The way of the world, to have whatever you want in life, has gripped so many people, but we believe that we should not subscribe to it. In this respect, Jesus is the Narrow Gate: those who believe in Him will have life.

Through all of this, we can draw a parallel to “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost:

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I -
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference”

Jesus is challenging us to take the road less traveled. Yes, the comforts of this world are nice, and it may be the more attractive option; but in the end, that's not what Jesus wants from us. Jesus wants us to take the challenge of being His disciples and living out His word, whether the world wants to hear it or not.

DOUBLE STANDARDS

- reflection written by a member of the Youth Ministry
(based on the Gospel for Monday, June 20: Mt 7:1-5)

Judgment is the pitfall of society. Yet, our young generation allows judgment to consume us whole. It blinds us from salvation, from the goodness of God; from seeking redemption in a world of sin. What is it that tempts us? What is it that lures us to this doubt and regret?

Judgment disturbs the simplicity of our youth.

Since the beginning of time, judging others has been the epitome of sin. We have turned away from God and eventually strayed from our own spiritual identity. This becomes the double standard of society: becoming someone we are not. We judge, despite being the ones judged. Though we may recognize the burdens of despising another, do we take action to prevent it? In the Bible, it is clearly said, ***“Stop judging, that you may not be judged. For as you judge, so will you be judged, and the measure with which you measure will be measured to you.”*** (Mt 7:1-2)

**When You
Judge Someone**

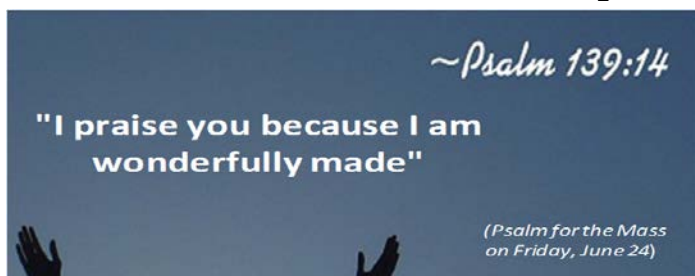
**It Doesn't Define
Who They Are,**

**It Defines
Who You Are**

What does this mean for our lives? As humans, we understand that imperfection and flaws exist. What is necessary to better our lives is the willingness to take action. Not by being the lone bystander or victim.

In the young generation of today, the examination of our conscience becomes essential. However, many teens, even myself, can easily be influenced otherwise. We know that having a source of guidance, a direction in life, is our primary goal as disciples of God. In fact, as Christians, we know God *is* that guidance. God wants to lead us into a life of perfection and salvation. That can be achieved only by working together, by becoming united. Rather than judging one another, we must learn to love as He loved us. This is an important Commandment for our lives, and certainly one to live by to ultimately overcome sin and judgment.

I Wanted to Praise God Today...



I wanted to praise God today...
But this morning I woke up late
So I skipped that ... breakfast too,
And rushed, since it was already after 8.

Then while on the road,
I cursed this other driver
Who was in my way
Cause she wasn't going faster.

At work in my cubicle,
Many messages waited for me
So email, text and voicemail
Were now my first priority.

"Just get me to lunchtime,"
I screamed in my head
*"Then maybe I'll have time
for Him instead."*

Then as noon approached
Office Outlook reminded me
Had a meeting to prepare for fairly quickly,
Cause it was going to be from 1 to 3.

Of course the meeting was delayed,
and an extra hour, it lasted
So by then, I was exhausted,
and at 4, seemed I was already wasted.

Then after 5, my boss declared,
"No OT tonight!"
...That's when I first sorta really thought of Him,
Cause **"Thank God"** I said.
Then I added, *"Time to go home!*
...Hmmm, maybe I can stop by the gym."

On the way home, of course
Crowds and traffic, I wound up battling.
Skipped the gym... dinner and some TV
Were now my plans for the evening.

So after another hectic day, all I could think of
Was sleep and rest in my comfortable bed,
Promising that tomorrow,
Somehow, I'd find time for God instead...

COUNSELS (continued from page 1)

Peter replied, *"The Messiah of God."* (Lk 9:20b) At this He scolded them and directed them not to tell anyone, perpetuating the "Messianic Secret" in Mark's Gospel. It was to be a secret because His hour had not yet come. Although Peter gave the right answer, he, like everyone else, had the wrong notion about the promised Messiah. They thought He would be a liberator Who would lead Israel's fight for freedom against the Roman occupation. In the next verse Jesus calls Himself the Son of Man and predicts His passion, death and resurrection. He reveals His true messianic identity as the suffering Messiah foretold by the prophet Isaiah. This revelation is genuinely a mystery to the disciples.

In the last verse He lays down the conditions of discipleship in that anyone who wishes to come after Him, must deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow Him. In this verse it seems anachronistic for St. Luke to mention Jesus' advice about taking up the cross since at this point in time He had not yet borne the cross to Calvary. But Jesus' words clearly command us to renounce our lives in order to follow Him and to persevere in our trials and the difficulties that we will surely encounter in our lives daily. Our theme for this week is: **the spoken word of God empowers us to renounce the lure of worldly attachment.** We recall that the sword of the Spirit in the Ephesian Armor of God is the Word of God which is our offensive weapon, without which we cannot overcome concupiscence and the threefold temptations: lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life with which Satan tempted Eve in the Garden, and Jesus in the desert.

In our lives we are often lured into seeking pleasure, possessions, and position, while holding on tightly to our pride. In varying degrees we develop a tenacious attachment to things from which we cannot seem to break free. This worldly attachment is an obstacle to our spiritual growth and conversion of heart. The second reading tells us how to overcome bondage to sin and counteract spiritual stagnation when St. Paul reminds us that through baptism, we clothe ourselves with Christ.



... Continued on page 4

COUNSELS (continued from page 3)

To clothe ourselves with Christ does not mean that externally we profess our faith and love in Jesus, but when we are in private we fall back into our old familiar ways and sins. Through baptism we have access to the Holy Spirit, the Fountain that purifies us of sin and uncleanness and the Source of all grace. To clothe ourselves with Jesus means that we have to continuously receive the Sacraments, to live as Jesus lived, to obey God's Commandments, to be faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church, to share our faith by proclaiming the Gospel to everyone we meet, and to live holy lives by loving one another just as Jesus loved us. His love was so great that He laid His life down for all of us. He has spoken and promised that *"whoever loses his life for my sake will save it"* (Lk 9:24b). For this weekend let us reflect on these sacred words that came from the lips of Jesus Himself.

Directions:

1. Consider others first before yourself.
2. Do not count the cost of your discipleship in your service.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Tragic news woke many of us up last Sunday morning, and brought back the horrors of gun violence that has plagued this nation. Almost four years ago, in Newton, Connecticut, 26 people perished, many of them children; last Sunday, it was 49 lives that were ended. Man has once again hurt fellow man.

Life is always precious, and in a sense, all of us suffer when Life is senselessly taken away... What can we do? What must we do?

*"Cry out to the Lord from your heart,
wall of daughter Zion!
Let your tears flow like a torrent
day and night;
Give yourself no rest,
no relief for your eyes."*

*"Rise up! Wail in the night,
at the start of every watch;
Pour out your heart like water
before the Lord;
Lift up your hands to him
for the lives of your children"*

The passage above is from the Old Testament book of Lamentations. Lam 2:18-19 is in the First Reading for the upcoming daily Mass on Saturday, June 25.

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
Tithes & Love Offerings	\$ 2,950	\$ 62,874
Mission Collections	\$ 94	\$ 4,500

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

Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Solo Parents Encounter #18

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

"Jesus is calling..."
Please contact: **Vic & Becky Napenas**

Singles Encounter #36

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

Come all you who are thirsty...
Please contact: **Jutt Bustos**
Lita Alfaro Note change in date

Youth Encounter #23

"Come and Follow Me..."
Please contact: **Charlie & Weng Larobis**
Ron & Dina Pangilinan
Oliver & Marissa Rangel

July 8-10, 2016
Pine Hill, PA (TBC)

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




Community Day



August 13, 2016
Johnson Park, Grove 4
Piscataway, NJ

TEACHING CALENDAR

- Teachings for **Saturday, June 18** - 1 to 6 pm:
- CMP1 Part 1 (LSS 1-45)
 - Christian Love / Christian Faith
Renewing the Mind / Walking in the Spirit
 - Shepherd's Training I & II (LSS 1-43)

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			June 24	Pastoral
			July 1	Evangelization
			July 8	Formation
July 15	Management			