



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 25 Issue 10

Bulletin Edition

March 8, 2019

NEWS

COUNSELS

In YLSS 24, BLD Newark's Youth open themselves up to the Holy Spirit

The Desire for Fire

Through a *desire for the fire*, candidates of the Youth Life in the Spirit Seminar (YLSS #24) opened themselves up to the third, and arguably the most mysterious, of the Divine Trinity. By allowing the Spirit to flow freely throughout their minds, bodies, and souls, the candidates embarked on their new lives with a new Companion passionately resonating within their souls.

The Holy Spirit is present within all of us, first received at the Sacrament of Baptism, and then Confirmation; nevertheless, YLSS #24 provided its candidates with the opportunity to allow the Holy Spirit to be re-ignited and fully present within them. Through their shepherding sessions, the lambs came to understand God's love for them, as they prepared themselves for the Baptism with the help of their shepherds. However, these sessions did much more than just provide instructions and guidance; lasting bonds were developed between shepherds and lambs based on faith and love.

When the time for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit came, the lambs were ready. They were taught through those shepherding sessions, inspired by sharings, and spiritually prepared and purified through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and by prayer, meditation and forgiveness. At the Baptism, the Holy Spirit kindled anew the lambs' souls, their bodies and lives.

Screams, cries, laughter, and incomprehensible groans filled the gymnasium. And yet, within what looked like commotion, the candidates felt the full power of the Holy Spirit for the very first time. It must have been beautiful

...Continued on page 2

The Temptations of Jesus in the Desert

THEME: We respond to God's unconditional love when we believe and obey every word that comes from God.

WORD: Dt 26:4-10 ~ Ps 91:1-2,10-11,12-13,14-15
Rom 10:8-13 ~ Lk 4:1-13

ORDER: ***"You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve. You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test."***
(Lk 4:8,12)

REFLECTION:

The Gospel for the first Sunday of Lent is about Jesus being led by the Spirit into the desert for 40 days, to be tempted by the devil (cf. Lk 4:1).

These temptations involved a three-fold test, each one having its own distinct character. The first test was simply physical, especially since Jesus must have been very hungry after having fasted for forty days. The devil encouraged Jesus, "... **command this stone to become bread.**" The second test involved worshipping the devil in exchange for being granted power and glory. And the third test, which was probably the most devious, was for Him to throw Himself off the highest point of the temple to see if God's angels would catch Him.

So, what is going on here with this trio of temptations? What do Jesus' responses say about Him? What should we emulate in order to build up our own faith and discipleship?

Temptation #1

Forty days, no food, and one very empty stomach. Luke understatedly says: "...**he was hungry.**" Given that fact, why would it be a wrong

...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." – Rom 10:13

Also from YLSS #24

The following is a reflection from one of the graduates of YLSS 24:

After growing up in the BLD community for the majority of my life, I have always enjoyed going to worship every Friday. I remember that excited feeling when it was the end of the week because I'd be able to see my friends in Mark 10. I never complained about going to worship every single week because it felt like BLD was my second home where I could just feel comfortable and be myself.

Once I started middle school everything became more serious in terms of my school work. I also began to feel like I just couldn't be myself around some people because of the way they treated me. What made me disappointed was that some of these were my friends in school and in BLD. This was the beginning of my faith slowly fading.

When I started my freshman year of high school, I had so much negativity going through my head. I didn't like the path that my life was on. Almost every night I wondered why God would let me go through so many things that would hurt me. When I'd go to John 6, I was happy, but later on, it began to feel like it was just a routine. When it was time to take the Youth Encounter I began to think about how much I needed help with my faith and how I needed to improve it.

The Youth Encounter made me realize about a lot of things in my life, and that I shouldn't take things for granted. →→

NEWS

(from page 1)

in the eyes of God, because the outbursts seemed to mark the dissipation of all the pain and suffering from the lambs, replaced by the love and warmth of God radiating throughout them.

Baptized in the Spirit, many candidates received Gifts of the Spirit, including the Gift of Tongues and of Prophecy; there was joy and laughter, along with some tears. This was all made possible because the candidates surrendered themselves to the Holy Spirit.

Thank you to all who helped make the weekend happen – the members of the Youth Ministry, kids and adults alike, the seminar's Spiritual Director, Msgr. Paul Schetelick, and the many volunteers who served. And most especially, thank You to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN!

→ But when I started my sophomore year, I was so busy with so many things at the same time that I didn't realize what was most important in my life. I remembered not thinking about God, and it came to the point where I knew that my feelings for the Lord weren't as strong as before. When my YE class began to prepare for the YLSS, I was nervous because I knew what the retreat meant; but I wasn't expecting it to actually improve my faith in God. Still, when I met with my shepherd I had the feeling that she could actually help me to trust in the Lord.

Three months of shepherding sessions went by slowly and I started to again realize ...Continued on page 4



COUNSELS

(from page 1)

to turn stones into bread? Just a few chapters later in Luke's Gospel, Jesus multiplies five loaves to feed five thousand; surely anyone who could feed that many could handle this.

But when the devil said to Him, ***"If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread,"*** Jesus answered him, ***"It is written, 'One does not live on bread alone.'"***

Jesus, the divine Son, could not be manipulated by the devil. Jesus reminded the devil that the Word of God is even more important than food in order to sustain life. We too, should avoid the enemy's manipulation, always bearing in mind that which is most important.

Temptation #2

In the second test the devil transports Jesus to a lofty place and shows Him all the kingdoms of the world in an instant. It's a panoramic vision of the world of human beings, with its social and political order. But this is just the handiwork of humankind, the glory and the authority of which, the devil offers, with all its power and grandeur. The devil said to him, ***"I shall give to you all this power and their glory... if you worship me."***

But Jesus' response showed that there was indeed, something more important than what the devil and the world were offering. Above all is fidelity to God. So, Jesus answered him, ***"It is written: 'You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve.'"***

Temptation #3

In this final temptation, Jesus is led to the pinnacle of the temple in Jerusalem where the devil employed his final strategy. It seemed that he had learned something from the first two temptations where Jesus had relied on the authority of Scripture. So, the devil launched a preemptive attack by quoting Psalm 91: ***"...throw yourself down from here, for it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you!'"***

Jesus answered him, ***"It also says, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'"***

Jesus knows what true faith is. It is believing in the Father without imposing any conditions before trusting and believing. Furthermore, while God will save us from the spiritual penalty of our sins, this does not mean that we can just passively wait for His intervention. We are the ones being tested, not Him. We must do our part, which we heard →→

→ last Wednesday when we received ashes on our foreheads: **"Repent and believe in the Gospel."**

In Jesus, the Christ, our God assumed the vulnerability of our human condition and experienced hunger, weakness, and deprivation, without resorting to miraculous escapes. Jesus showed us that the way to the Father is not found in the ways of the world and its power, but to act in accord with His wisdom and truth.

It was a genuine struggle against these temptations for our Lord Jesus, but He triumphed. And His victory should inspire our faith and shape us all in our discipleship.

We, as followers of Jesus are faced with temptations at different times of our lives. No one is free of temptations. Jesus is the living proof. The devil will do anything he can to destroy us too. He will be there every second of our lives. So we should always be on guard against him, because, he will try to disrupt our focus on God by capitalizing on our vulnerabilities. Temptation itself is not a sin. We sin when we give in to temptation and act contrary to God's will and plan for us.

How can we resist the devil's traps, snares and lies, and succeed as Jesus did? Jesus did not argue with the devil, He merely spoke the Word of God. So, we must follow His lead. As St. Paul instructed,

"Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil... And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Eph 6:11,17).

The Word of God should be a vital part of our thinking and life to build a barrier against the devil. It is the voice of God in print. Scriptures, fortified by prayers and the Sacraments, are our help and protection.

Let us be committed to our God above all else so that the enticements of the kingdoms of this world will lose their allure. Let us follow Jesus into the wilderness, prepared to suffer with Him, and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will share in His victory.

Direction:

Immerse yourself with the word of God by reading Scripture daily and fast to resist temptation.



Also from YLSS #24

(from page 2)

how much God has done for me. During this time, I still had fears and doubts, which worried me before taking the retreat. Then, when I went through the Baptism, so many good things were happening to me. After the Baptism finished, my heart felt so much peace and love like I had never felt before. All of my thoughts about God changed for the better. I truly felt that I could always rely on the Lord and that He would be there wherever I go. Now that I have learned so much from this spiritual journey, I have to remember that I can always be open and talk to the Him. I've also learned that I shouldn't pray to God just for the things that I need; I also need to thank the Lord for what He has done for me. ***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart... in all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths."*** (Prv 3:5,6)

Meanwhile, this one is from one of the adults who was there:

Our immersion in the Youth Ministry allowed us to attend their Friday evening worships. Deafening was the description I would use. However, as I listened to the kids, I often experienced an overwhelming amazement at their prayers which were so simple, childlike, pure and untarnished, of full surrender to Our Lord Jesus, while asking for forgiveness, then help and guidance in their lives, studies, relationships and struggles.

A revisit of this experience happened to me when I volunteered for the prayer vigil during YLSS 24. Going through the rhythm of prayers, hour after hour, the Lord revealed to me the importance of the Youth in our BLD Community, for they continue to remain faithful, responding to the call of the Gospel for evangelization. They make sincere efforts at strengthening their relationships with Jesus and actively invite others in, thus providing a refuge to anchor other youths to during the challenging times of their lives; because bullying, loneliness, depression, broken relationships, peer pressures, drugs, stress in school and at home, and the lucrative attraction of the world and the flesh confront them every day.

As they grow, these young brothers and sisters will be the ones to continue God's works through BLD. In the future, they will be our leaders, sustaining the foundation laid by BLD's Vision and Mission, and fulfilling the legacy of the Community's charism that was started by their Tito's and Tita's.

Amidst the blast of songs and worship in the YLSS, an atmosphere of serenity enveloped the vigil room. Jesus' presence in the Blessed Sacrament provided solemnity as prayers were offered up to Him. →→

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

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,491	\$14,766
Love Offerings	\$ 1,157	\$6,656
E-Giving	\$ -	\$1,070
Mission	\$ 116	\$7,023

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

Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Teaching Calendar

Teachings for Saturday, March 16, 1-6 pm DMP School Building

- Encounter with Jesus:

Mark/Matthew (LSS 1-50 / ME 47-50)

- Witness Development Seminar

- Shepherds' Training Part 1 (LSS 1-48)

Life in the Spirit Seminar #51
 April 5-7, 2019
 Salubungan is on March 1, 2019
 Contacts: Earl & Flo Manguiat
bldnewarklsa@gmail.com

BLD NEWARK
7 Last Words of Christ
 Reflections by:
Msgr. Paul Schetelick
 DMP Auditorium
 April 13, 2019 1 - 6 PM
 Seats are limited. Email community.retreat@bldnewark.com to RSVP, or Register online at www.bldnewark.com and click on Community Retreat flyer
 Registration Deadline: March 28

INSTALLATION OF REV. FR. ALEXANDER T. CRUZ AS PASTOR

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019 - 4:00 PM; DIVINE MERCY PARISH, 232 CENTRAL AVE, RAHWAY, NJ

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Mar 15	Pastoral
		Mar 22	Evangelization
		Mar 29	Formation
		Apr 5	Management

→ **Most Loving Father God, bless our BLD youth. Like You Jesus, may they advance in wisdom and age and favor before our God and man.** (cf. Lk 2:52)