



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 1

Bulletin Edition

Jan. 7, 2011

Our New Year Blessings Twenty-One Covenanted Disciples!

On Dec. 29, 2010 the Executive Council of Servant Leaders (ECSL), as recommended by the District Council of Stewards of BLD Newark and endorsed by its District Servant Leaders, approved the following disciples of BLD Newark for covenanting and welcoming them to the Covenant Community: *Ellen Celis, Al & Au Cinco, Jane Enciso, Noy & Maricar Estiller, Rene & Clarita Monje, Vic & Rory Tiu, Mila Union, Angie Valeroso & Camille Viernes.*

We would also like to congratulate the eight covenanted disciples who sealed their covenant with the Lord in August 2010: *Romy & Lyn Castillo, Cris Escobinas, Francis Montemayor, Willie & Melinda Reyes, Ferdie & Aileen Umahon.* Praise be to God!

In a letter sent by Jojo & Koi Jalandoni, the ECSL states, "As newly covenanted members, we exhort you to grow and multiply in good works, to spread the Word of Jesus, and to nurture the love of each other in Community." *That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*" (Ephesians 3: 17-19)

FORMATION IMMERSION ROTATION

INTERCESSORY: ME #33 • Ed & Armi Bayudan; Hernan & Tina Catalon; Ed & Joann Valencia; John & Mardi Ramos; Verson & Raquel Casuple; John & Genny Entrada and Jay & Abi Castaneda-covenanted
SERVICE: SP • Joseph Appel, Vicente Calimoso, Fe Chenet, Miles Dionisio, Dinah Encarnacion, Jean Gutierrez, Lilia Manlapaz, Violeta Meneses, Julito Pasturan, Vivian Roz, Ana Maie Vales and Lucille Vizcano

MARK 10: SP • Ramses Bautista, Magdalena Blankas, Norma Calara, Remelee Leano, Vic Limbo and Linda Pedutem

JOHN 6 – SP • Au De Castro, Maris Fandino and Mar Zafra

YOUTH - SP • Claire Mariano and Gladys Vicari

COUNSELS

Call to Holiness through Baptism

THEME: The light of Christ shines upon those who are called to the cause of justice.

WORD: Is 42:1-4,6-7; Ps 29:1-4, 3,9-10; Act 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17

ORDERS:

- **"Show no partiality."** (Acts 10:34)
- **"Give to the LORD the glory due his name."** (Ps 129:1)

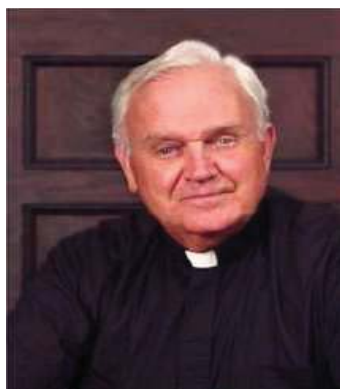
REFLECTION:

This Sunday is the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord. It marks the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of the season of Ordinary Time in the Church calendar. Jesus' public life begins with his baptism at the Jordan River, a solemn occasion in the history of salvation when Jesus joined the queue of sinners who flocked to the river to be baptized by John. In the Gospel, John was apprehensive to baptize Jesus because he knew that Jesus is the Messiah. At Jesus' insistence that it was the Father's will for Him to be baptized, John obliged in obedience to the Father and the Messiah King. Thus Jesus showed the world by His example that obedience to the Father's will is of key importance.

Similarly, for most Catholics, initiation to Christianity starts in infancy as parents have their children baptized. The Sacrament of Baptism marks the faithful's admission to the Church of Christ. *'It is a sacrament through which a person is joined to Christ in the paschal mystery of His death and resurrection'* (PCP II). It is a reminder of the vocation to which we are called. Our baptism in water cleansed our souls from the state of sin *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"I have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness." (Is 42:6-7)



Fr. Paul Speaks

A new year! It seems that as we get older, the years seem to look the same. Unfortunately for some, the years and life in general can get pretty boring. The adventure of youth is no longer there.

One doesn't have to be a senior citizen to fall into this blah mind set. Even young people get bored, maybe more than us oldsters. For instance, one may hear the not so young say they are bored with the liturgy. This challenges the priest to make the liturgy "more interesting". Those who look upon worship as entertainment are challenged week after week to think of new ways to attract people and keep them coming. There are absolutely outlandish things priests can do to get people's attention, like wearing a fireman's hat during sermons or changing the words of the liturgy to make them more "relevant". One of the problems here is that we are competing with multi-faceted stimulation, from the TV and the internet. We also forget that liturgy, particularly the Mass is not entertainment, but worship. People went to Mass to worship, and not necessarily to be entertained.

Newness can also mean discovery. Just as there are layers of precious metals hidden in the earth, so there are layers of rediscovery not only in religious matters, but even in rereading old letters and books. It has been pointed out that there are no new doctrinal revelations since the death of the last apostle. But look at the newly discovered riches that our religion has discovered and put forth over the centuries. If we look at the very person of Jesus, we see a historical figure. But being personally in contact with Him, is a presently exciting adventure. How can we get bored with Jesus? Our prayer life may settle down and become more quiet and less emotionally exciting, but never boring! One of the reasons why we enjoy working with young people is that we can experience new excitement and new discoveries that often help us appreciate anew the joy of living. Hence, I am often quoted as saying: "Don't get old." It is unfortunate when we meet a cynic, and more so, if the cynic is a young person who has already become bored with life.

The whole spiritual life is a constantly born again experience. Each approach to the Lord is renewal, and a call to being young again in the Lord, free from the heaviness and the weight of sin. We can be like ➤

HE MUST INCREASE

For this new year, I had resolved to make prayer a priority in my life. I do pray, but I felt that I had compartmentalized my relationship with the Lord with time set aside for "prayer" and the rest of my activities – especially work related ones -- centered on the world. As I continue this journey, I have come to realize that the world presents a number of things that I had accepted but have now come to question; things as simple as how to deal with my boss, how I talk to my children and husband. If I were to measure my daily activity through God's eyes, would He say that I had spent my time well? That I had made the right choices? It is very well to say "I must decrease", but do I do this in my life?

It is through prayer that I can get to know Him better. I know that I must obey His commandment that ***"we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us."*** (1 John 3:23), but it is in the understanding of what that entails that I am certainly lacking. All I know is that it certainly is difficult. This is where "He must increase" in me, so that the times that I take the easy "I" road will be less, and there be more of God's will in my choices. This is not a call to be fatalistic but to actively choose to do the actual "right" thing (even in seemingly insignificant matters), that is often so difficult to choose because it gets in the way of how I thought I should be. It would interfere with my self image which I had taken years to cultivate. But if I would have more of God in my life, I need to give up having "me" at the center of my world. Sitting here, that is so easy to say, but I know that when I am in the moment that the choice may not be as easy to determine. And I can only pray that God will give me the grace and the faith to trust in Him. Remember ***"commit your way to the Lord, trust that God will act."*** (PS 37:5)

Father God, You sent Your only Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, that we may know how much You loved us. Help us as we go through our daily lives to live in Your love and shower us with Your grace that we may be close to You and do what is pleasing to You.



Fr. Paul Speaks (continued)

new born babes ready to be carried into a future full of hope and newness in the loving arms of Our Lord who lived, died and rose to bring us to eternal life in His kingdom where nobody will ever get old. Happy New Year!

Agape – The Father's Love

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life." (Jn 3:16)

This passage from St. John's Gospel, reminds us of what Christmas season is all about. It all started because God loved us first (1 Jn 4:19). We are all beneficiaries of God's love, *agape* love: the love of a Father who is merciful, whose love never ceases. It is the love of a Father who, upon seeing His prodigal son from afar, rejoices, and rushes to meet him. (Lk 15:20) It is without limit, immeasurable. Agape love is the love that we, Christians, are called to emulate. It is what Pope Benedict XVI in his encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, calls the heart of our Christian faith.

The word "love" is broadly used in modern day English. We must differentiate *agape* in the context in which it is used in the Scriptures from its other meanings. In the New Testament, which is written in Greek, only the word *agape* is used, setting it apart from other Greek words that mean love: *eros*, romantic love between man and woman and *philia*, love for friends, brotherly love. Agape love entails an active, moment-by-moment decision to seek another's well-being. It empowers and creates an environment where *eros* and *philia* can thrive. It is not bound by one's environment or perception of situations. It is our response to the gift of love with which God draws us near. (*Deus Caritas Est*)

To gain better insight on the beauty and meaning of *agape*, let us take some time to reflect on the following scriptural verses:

- *God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in Him. (1 Jn 4: 16)*
- *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. (1 Jn 4: 11)*
- *But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for He Himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. (Lk 6:35)*
- *If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (Jn 14:15)*
- *Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. (Jn 14:23)*
- *The way we came to know love was that He laid down His life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. (1 Jn 3:16)*
- *Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (Jn 13:34-35)*
- *No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and His love is brought to perfection in us. (1 Jn 4:12)*

As we begin 2011, let us live these words, and love (agape) as Jesus did. A Blessed New Year to all.

COUNSEL (from page 1)

and ushered us to a new life in God. Jesus opened a way for us to be holy like Him. By following His example of self-abasement and obedience to the Father's will, we became God's 'beloved children.'

At the onset of His public life, Jesus identified Himself with sinners siding with them in a way, without condemning or ostracizing them. He walked with them, led them to the path of righteousness and delivered them from the yoke and slavery of sin. His baptism was an event where God chose to reconcile heaven and earth, God and man. God broke His long silence to be close to His chosen people once again, through Jesus. Jesus is the bearer of justice upon the nations, sent by God to spread His message of love throughout the world. He is the Servant of God who was sent not to impose a harsh law but to embrace gentleness and compassion. He was the restorer of the breach, the light of the nations, opening the eyes of the blind and setting the captives free, and accomplishing in full the mission He was tasked to do.

The image of the dove descending from the heavens upon Jesus confirms this mission of Christ to bring about peace on earth, through the power of the Holy Spirit. At the time of the flood, we recall that a dove came back to Noah's ark with an olive branch, signifying that the water had dried up and his family was free to come out of the boat. It was peace time. Similarly, by sending His Spirit upon Jesus, God the Father was saying that He was ready to speak to His people once more.

Not unlike Jesus, the Holy Spirit hovered upon us as we went through our own baptism in the Spirit. Our own experience tells us that without the baptism of the Holy Spirit we lacked the understanding of our faith. We did not have the power to say no to sin. Part of us recognizes the existence of God, yet, the lures of the world seduce the other part which more often than not, easily gives in. We lived in sin; we were selfish and self-centered, seeking power and fame. But through our LSS baptism, we were renewed, no longer slaves to sin; the old order has passed away as we were cleansed by the water and blood of Christ.

The baptism of Jesus is also called "Theophany", the manifestation of God Himself. As soon as Jesus came out of the water, "*the sky opened up and the Spirit of God descended like a dove and hovered around Jesus, and a voice was heard saying: This is My Beloved Son. My favor rests on Him*" (Mt 3:16-17). God shows us His Trinitarian nature. It was the Father's voice whom John heard, introducing Jesus as His Son, and the dove as the

Continued on page 4

COUNSEL (from page 3)

Holy Spirit. 'Christian life is indeed Trinitarian. We are called to fulfill our vocation to holiness and mission to establish God's reign in this world, in communion with Jesus Christ. United to the Son in the Spirit's bond of love, Christians are united to the Father' (CL 18). A reflection in *Anawim* puts it more succinctly: 'God does not merely save us; He descends into creation and plunges Himself into the muddy waters of the Jordan....The world is like the muddy waters of the Jordan, and our presence as Christians baptized in Christ can bring holiness into the world.'

DIRECTIONS:

1. Be humble and obedient.
2. Speak only of blessings.
3. Act uprightly. Up-build and give life.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check
Every 2nd Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.

We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter.

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place **every 4th Friday** at the Auditorium

WORD

Share your walk, faith, transformation in the Lord with the Community through an article (450 words)
Email to word@bldnewark.com

May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Day of Prayer, 2000 Hail Marys

Jan. 8, 8:30am -6:30pm • St. Mark's

For a successful Medical Mission to the Philippines, please spend an hour, half a day or the whole day praying with us. Holy Mass at 6:45pm.

2011 Medical Mission

Jan. 31-Feb. 3 • Sta. Barbara, Iloilo, Philippines

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

A soft copy of this CN can be found at www.bldnewark.net, click on **Covenant News**.



Family Prayer

God made us a family. We need one another. We love one another. We forgive one another. We work together. We play together. We worship together. Together we use God's word. Together we grow in Christ. Together we love all people. Together we serve our God. Together we hope for heaven. These are our hopes and ideals. Help us to attain them, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Youth LSS #16

Mar. 4-6 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Youth Tricord @ ycs@bldnewark.com

LSS #36

Apr. 1-3 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Joven/Lisa Soriano @ lsa@bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

1/07 CDFP Overview/Intro to the Word • ME36
Teaching • Youth

1/14 Teaching • Mark 10, John 6 & Service
Immersion

1/15* Christian Maturity Program II • LSS 33
Encounter With Jesus • LSS34 & LSS35
Prayer Leadership/ Understanding Corporate
Worship • LSS 31 & LSS 32

1/21 Teaching • Golden Years & Intercessory
Formation

1/29* Growth in Prayer • LSS34

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING DEC. 17, 2010

	Collections	Expenses	Surplus
Actual	8,328.00	4,951.41	3,376.59

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

March For Life

Jan. 24, 2011 (Monday) • Washington, DC

There will only be 1 bus. Departure times and locations: Nutley, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church (120 Prospect St.) @ 7:30am • Divine Mercy in Rahway at 8am. Contacts: Frank /Malou Venadas - bobbitski@hotmail.com Cez/Pinky Calingo - cezar02459@yahoo.com

Catholic Men's Conference

Mar. 5, 2011 (Saturday) • Seton Hall University



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NITAREK

Volume 17 Issue 2

Bulletin Edition

January 14, 2011

NEWS

POPE: "IMITATING BABY JESUS ISN'T ENOUGH"

Proposes Christmas as a Call to a Total Transformation

VATICAN CITY, JAN. 7, 2011 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).

The Christ Child incarnates a host of virtues, but Christmas is a call to more than imitating the goodness of Baby Jesus, says Benedict XVI. Instead, it is an invitation to a total transformation wrought by participation in divine nature.

The Bishop of Rome declared that Christmas must be rescued from an "overly moralistic and sentimental mask."

"The celebration of Christmas does not propose to us only examples to imitate, such as the humility and poverty of the Lord, and his benevolence and love for men," he said. "But it is rather an invitation to allow oneself to be totally transformed by him who entered into our flesh."

The Pope cited St. Leo the Great to clarify his point: "The Son of God ... joined himself to us and joined us to himself in such a way that the abasement of God to the human condition became a raising of man to the heights of God."

"And he adds: 'Recognize, O Christian, your dignity, and, made participant of the divine nature, be careful not to fall again, with unworthy conduct, from such greatness into primitive baseness.'"

The Pope concluded with an invitation to live Christmastide "with intensity."

"After having adored the Son of God made man and placed in the manger," he said, "we are called to pass to the altar of the Sacrifice, where Christ, the living Bread come down from heaven, offers himself to us as true nourishment for eternal life. And what we have seen with our eyes, at the table of the Word and of the Bread of Life, what we contemplated, what our hands have touched, that is the Word made flesh, let us proclaim him with joy to the world and witness to him generously with all our life."

COUNSELS

A Witness To The Light

WORD: Is 49:3,5-6; Ps 40:2,4,7-10; 1Cor 1:1-3; Jn. 1:29-34

THEME: The light of Christ shines upon those who testify to the truth that He is the Son of God.

ORDER: "Open your ears to obedience." (Ps. 40:7)

REFLECTION:

Our theme for the week is Christian Witnessing. This is very important in our community life, so much so, that it is a part of our Christian Discipleship Formation Program and we have a dedicated ministry that develops and trains members as 'witnesses and sharers'. Our directions for the week is also encouraging all of us- "to witness and testify to the love of Christ in your life". Christian witnessing is necessary in accomplishing the mission of all Christians - especially for all aspiring or covenanted disciples of BLD, in order to spread the Good News of Jesus to the ends of the earth. We cannot spread the Good News if we will not let others hear about our testimony, the many miracles in our lives.

The Gospel reading introduces us to one of the best examples of a Christian witness, John the Baptist. Although little is written about John, his life and examples gave us insights to the special grace that God bestowed upon him. These are among the many characteristics of John the Baptist, our model Christian witness that we must emulate:

- Attuned to the workings of the Holy Spirit - listening to the voice of the Father, confirming that Jesus is His Son.
- Not after fame nor power - he directs people to Jesus and not to himself

continued on page 4

Promise of the Week

"I will make you a light to the nations that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." (Is 49:6b)

"The Fisherman's Club"

"Jesus said to them, 'Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.' Then, they left their nets and followed Him." Mark 1:17-18

These verses narrate the call of the first disciples, the birth of what we may call in these days, The Fisherman's Club. Jesus Christ chose ordinary people, not the "cream of the crop" to be His disciples, to be members of The Fisherman's Club, whose common goal was to follow Jesus' powerful call to obey Him, to become fishers of men. The mysterious call of Jesus prompted them to leave their nets, their families and whatever they were doing to declare the Good News that the Kingdom of God was at hand, telling the people to repent for their sins.

In these days, perhaps we may ask: "How can we become members of the Fisherman's Club of Jesus in BLD?"

One qualification is we must be ready, willing and able to leave behind our baggage that impede us from following Jesus - our worldly cares, ambitions, and plans. This means that we must be totally focused on knowing, loving and serving God with all of our heart, mind and soul. To know Him better, we must read the Bible daily and reflect on God's word to receive His messages for us. Communication lines with God should be kept open through personal, conjugal and family prayers.

Another qualification is we must be reconciled with the Father and with each other by asking forgiveness for the sins that we commit daily, stemming from our pride, arrogance, greed, self-righteousness, malice, slander, gossips and other sins that defile us. Going to confession at least once a month and by receiving the Holy Eucharist as often as possible, if not daily, will definitely help us to stay on course.

Finally, we must live the Gospel in word and in deed. As followers of Jesus, we must walk the talk and there is no other way, but to live the Paschal Mystery – the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord, our Saviour, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. A true member of the Fisherman's Club is one who suffers along with Jesus, living out the commandments He has given, the most important of which is to love one another, even to the point of accepting death.

If we are able to love those who persecute us, leaving justice to God, then we have learned to get out of our comfort zones and are ready to cast our nets into deeper waters and help fish for more men to work in His vineyard. We are now ready to do our duty as members of BLD's Fisherman's Club.

Here is one challenging question for all of us: "How many have we caught from the time we joined BLD? How well have we witnessed to others as members of the Fisherman's Club?"

"A Call in The Wild"

"I did not come to call the righteous but the sinners."
(Mk 2:17)

"Those who are healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do." (Lk 5:31). Why was this the response of Jesus when asked why He ate and drank with tax collectors and sinners? The Pharisees were disgusted and grumbled why Jesus ate with Levi and his tax collector cohorts. Tax collectors were viewed as corrupt Roman underlings; extortionists enriching themselves by exacting more taxes from the citizens than was required and pocketing the difference. Jesus sees the righteous able to take care of themselves; the sinners need repentance and forgiveness to share in the eternal life promised by God. Life in the wilderness of 'in-sickened culture' - *is for those with a journey to make, and on it the redeemed will walk.*" (Is 35:9)

The common thread that binds human beings is the spiritual genetic of original sin- the consequence of the disobedience of Adam and Eve. Since then, it was a downhill history of man. The Old Testament is replete with stories of God's chosen forgetting to heed His commandments. In time of peace and plenty, the Israelites engaged in debauchery, adultery, gluttony, idolatry, bacchanalian orgies. An angry God meted punishments, for sure. At the same time, God, in his wisdom and love, relented and promised Noah (the only human and his family to survive the deluge) to never again destroy His creatures by flooding (Gn.9:11). God "painted" the RAINBOW in the sky as His sign of this new covenant, a new beginning. *"For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great tenderness I will take you back."* (Is 54:7)

God's mercy is the best manifestation of His power and He always responds to our weakness and sinfulness with unqualified forgiveness. *"I have sworn not to be angry with you, or to rebuke you ... my love shall never leave you nor my covenant of peace be shaken says the Lord Who has mercy on you."* (Is 54:9-10)

God's love, understanding and wisdom is the light that guides us to the right path to His kingdom. He helps us at all times and in all places. As we continue our incredible journey, God walks among us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, the Word made Flesh. Fulfillment of His promise is inaugurated through the risen Christ. The Church is the "new Israel" of both Jews and Gentiles who entered into Christ's death and resurrection through baptism.

Jesus searches out those in the margins of society in the continuing effort to bring the Good News of God's kingdom to the most far removed of God's children who are still in the wilderness. In His parable of the one hundred sheep, Jesus seeks one who was lost. The lost needs guidance to come back to God's pasture. And when found, *"There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents."* (Lk. 15:17)

Knowing Oneself - the first step into intimacy with God

Most, if not all of us started our intimate personal relationship with God through BLD in our encounter that was strengthened and brought to life with our LSS. Is this the end of the beginning of God's gift of intimacy? The Catechism of the Catholic Church 1702 tells us that we have God's Divine Image. "The Divine Image is present in every man. It shines forth in the communion of persons, in the likeness of the unity of the divine persons among themselves".

If so, God's gift for us is more than our encounters and seminars. To be God's Divine Image, His grace and our firm decision to be one with Him is all we need.

Allow me to share my experience in preparing a couple for their wedding to illustrate my point. I explained to the couple the difference between having their wedding within the Mass compared to being outside the Mass. I pointed out that the celebration of the Eucharist is the highest form of prayer. As such, the grace that God desires to give us is full and total in the Eucharist. With that, the bride passionately and emotionally in tears said, "Do you mean God will not bless our wedding if done outside the Mass"?

To clarify my point, I explained that the amount of grace received will not be the same if their wedding is done outside compared to within the Mass. Her difficulty of understanding my point lies on her faith that God loves her fully; therefore God's grace will not depend on the form of their wedding.

Recognizing her difficulty, I tried helping her understand that God's unconditional love is given to all. What we do in life will not change God's love for us. However, our decisions, influenced by our free will - which is God's greatest sign of that love - will define the amount of grace we receive. As the bride understood my point, I invited her to explore the reason for her passionate and emotional response to my earlier explanation. She realized that because her paternal grandmother never considered the marriage of her son to her mother, she and her brother were never considered to be part of the family even on the death bed of her brother. My explanation made her experience the pain she continuously experience from not having the love she desires from her grandmother. As a community who believes we are God's divine image, our personal and intimate relationship with Him should be the Divine Image.

Do we fully know who we are to the degree of knowing, understanding and accepting what influenced our life? What have we done to overcome our brokenness to receive God's full and total grace - understanding the difference in grace received in a wedding within or outside the mass? To what degree have we lived and reflected God's Divine image in us?

Ministry Announcements

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BLD VISION & MISSION

Vision

Community - We are a communion of families and a community of persons, called together as one people through a moment of encounter and a process of renewal, to a relationship of faith, hope and love with God.

Christian - We are reconciled with the Father by our saving faith in Jesus Christ, by our renewing trust in the Holy Spirit, and by our uniting compassion with one another.

Charismatic - We are blessed with personal gifts, spiritual and natural, innate or acquired, which we yield to the Word and Spirit.

Caring and Giving - We give freely and fully of ourselves and love and serve one another as we seek and proclaim God's kingdom.

Covenant Discipleship - Through our covenant relationship with the Lord Jesus, we commit as disciples to be a countersign to all that is at war with the teachings of our Lord, and to emerge victorious in living and sharing the values of our Christian faith.

Mission

The Lord calls us to:

- Liberate the family from the forces that work against life, love, and unity.
- Minister to the temporal, emotional, and spiritual needs of the elderly, the infirm, the immigrants, and the unemployed.
- Raise an army of disciplined prayer warriors through worship, instruction and pastoral care.
- Form and equip small communities of faith that will proclaim the kingdom of God in their respective areas.
- Serve the needs of the Roman Catholic diocese and parishes through our community programs.
- Support the community's breaking the yoke of poverty programs.

Counsels from page 1

- Knows his mission from the very beginning - to prepare the way as precursor of Christ
- Wants everyone to be baptized not only by water but also by the Spirit.
- Speaks of the truth - even if it is not politically correct, even unto death
- Glorifies Jesus for who He is - Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

The message for all of us for this week is to be like John in many ways – to be a relevant Christian witness in the marketplace, in the bus, in the office, and wherever the Lord leads us. We should continue to be the voice in our modern wilderness (the society that seem to be focused more on mammon rather than God). After finishing our formation, after our different encounters, and LSS, we should not ignore the calling of the Lord to spread the Good news in all places at all times. The same Jesus that John was waiting for is here today, he is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb13:8).

The same Christ that Is 49:6b prophesied about in our promise for the week: *“I will make you a light to the nations that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth”* is present here today. He is our Emmanuel, God with us. He has come to the world and has given us the Light.

God has given John the Baptist a special grace to be the preparer of the way, to witness and to testify about Jesus. That special grace is also with us today in the Blessed Sacrament, in the Liturgy of the Word and the Holy Eucharist in our Daily Masses. That grace is also present in our community through Christian witnessing. This grace is with us when we gather together and worship the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. It is present when we are overflowing with joy and thanksgiving when we tell others about the miracles in our lives:

- Our encounter with Jesus through the ME, SE FE, SPE,
- Our New Life and transformation - through the LSS
- Our growth in the Word and knowledge through our CDFP
- Our formation through service and ministry work and many more.

We owe a lot to the Lord. The Scripture says that ‘the one who owes more, loves more (paraphrase Lk7:47), Christian Witnessing is an overflowing expression of love and gratitude to our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

DIRECTIONS:

Witness and testify to the love of Christ in your life.

May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!

Community Calendar

Youth LSS #16

Mar. 4-6 at St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Youth Tricord @ ycs@bldnewark.com

LSS #36

Apr. 1-3 at St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Joven/Lisa Soriano @ lsa@bldnewark.com

Teaching Calendar

1/14 Teaching • Mark 10, John 6 & Service Immersion

1/15* Christian Maturity Program II for **LSS 33**
Encounter With Jesus for **LSS 34 + LSS 35**
Prayer Leadership/ Understanding
Corporate Worship for **LSS 31 & LSS 32**

1/21 Teaching for Golden Years & Intercessory Formation

1/29* Growth in Prayer for **LSS 34**

**Note: On Fri: after worship,
*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's**

Stewardship: It's a way of life!

Save The Date

March for Life

Jan. 24, 2011(Monday) Washington, DC

There will only be 1 bus. Departure times and locations: Nutley, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church (120 Prospect St.) @ 7:30am and Divine Mercy in Rahway at 8am. Contacts: Cez/Pinky Calingo-
cezar02459@yahoo.com

Catholic Men's Conference

Mar. 5, 2011 (Saturday) at Seton Hall University

Special Announcements

2011 Medical Mission

Jan. 31-Feb.3 at Sta. Barbara, Iloilo, Philippines

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 3

Bulletin Edition

January 21, 2011

NEWS

Life and Death Struggle

ROME, JAN. 16, 2010 (Zenit.org).- With the new members of the U.S. House of Congress now in place, abortion looks like continuing to be very much a high profile issue.

There are no comprehensive official statistics on the number of abortions in the United States. A good idea of the situation was given however, in a report published Jan. 11 by the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute.

According to the study, based on a census of all known abortion providers, the drop in abortion rates that had been a constant since 1981 has ceased. In a press release the institute said that the rate for 2008 stood at 19.6 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44. This was a small increase on the 2005 rate of 19.4.

The total number of abortions in 2008 (1.21 million) was slightly up, by around 6,000. The number of abortion providers also changed little -- from 1,787 to 1,793 -- between 2005 and 2008.

Just prior to the publication of the latest abortion figures, Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York issued an appeal for efforts to reduce abortions in the city.

"That 41% of New York babies are aborted -- a percentage even higher in the Bronx, and among our African-American babies in the womb -- is downright chilling," he declared at a Jan. 6 press conference.

His remarks took place at a press conference hosted by the Chiaroscuro Foundation at the Penn Club in New York City.

All of this news comes in the lead-up to the big annual pro-life event, the Washington, D.C., March for Life on Jan. 24. The Catholic Church will be marking the event with a National Prayer Vigil for Life from Jan. 23-24 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

*Make the Covenant News
Part of your Covenant Life*

COUNSELS

Making Haste to Jesus

WORD: Is 8:23-9:3; Ps 27:1,4,13-14; 1Cor1:10-13,17; Mt 4:12-23

ORDER: *"Come after me and I will make you fishers of men."* (Mt 4:19)

THEME: The light of Christ shines upon those who go to mission and become "fishers of men"

REFLECTION:

This week's Theme is a call for each one of us, as Christians, to reflect the Light of Christ to others, and in the process, make others reflect Christ's light so that one little candle in a dark corner, multiplied a thousand times with the light of Christ, will bring light into the dark areas of this world -- *"The Lord is my light and my salvation."* (Ps 27:1)

The First Reading speaks of Isaiah's prophecy about the hopelessness of the land of Zebulun and Naphtali and its inhabitants who lived a seemingly hopeless life, full of fear and uncertainty. Zebulun and Naphtali was a subjugated land. The Assyrians conquered its people who suffered everyday through oppression and contempt from their conquerors. Isaiah prophesied that one day this thick curtain of darkness will vanish with the coming of the light. In the Gospel, Christ fulfilled this prophecy when He permanently took away their hopelessness and distress by residing near the sea of Galilee where He began His ministry of bringing Light to every dark corner of the world. It is there where His first disciples were commissioned to bring the Good News of Salvation to the far reaches of the earth when He called them to *"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."* (Mt 4:19).

Christ chose this forsaken land because Zebulun and Naphtali, located in a major crossroad or highway, led to the four corners of the world, which means that the call to His disciples to spread His Light was not self-serving, but went beyond the far reaches of their region.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest." (Is 9:2)

SABBATH — *Holy Time?*

"The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath. That is why the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath." (Mk 2:27-28)

Sabbatarians generally make the assumption that Jesus was commanding all people in all ages to observe the weekly Sabbath as "*holy time*." But the truth of the matter is that Jesus' statement does not tell us whether Christians should or should not keep the Sabbath. The original question referred to what those who are required to keep the Sabbath (the Jews under the old covenant) should do in a particular circumstance.

The Pharisees, the religious leaders, had questioned Jesus' authority on the matter of His picking grain on the Sabbath. There were many acts that the teachers of the law had decided should be forbidden on the Sabbath. When Jesus and His disciples picked the heads of grain, they were immediately challenged by the Pharisees who demanded an explanation of their defiance of the Law of Moses. As the old covenant people of God, they were obligated to observe it.

The Pharisees had set themselves above Him on the issue of Sabbath interpretation. Jesus countered their challenge with a question and an example of his own. ***"He said to them, 'Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions were hungry? How he went into the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the bread of offering that only the priests could lawfully eat, and shared it with his companions?'"*** (Mk 2:25-26) By this example, Jesus pointed out that although the action of David was contrary to the Law of Moses, he was not condemned because such violations under certain conditions of need might be warranted. The issues in this passage then, are how to interpret the Mosaic Law, who has the ultimate authority to do so, and how the law should be observed by the Jews, the people to whom it applied. Many of the Jewish teachers of the law had made the Sabbath a burden for the people. Jesus was pointing out that human needs sometimes supersede legal requirements. Jesus was saying that the Sabbath, as defined by the Law of Moses under the old covenant, was meant to serve human needs, not the other way around, thus the use of the expression that the "Sabbath was made for man."

Jesus was the Word of God made flesh. Therefore Jesus, who was God incarnate, had more authority than the human Pharisees to decide how the Sabbath should be observed. He was, after all, the Lord of the law that had commanded Sabbath observance for old covenant Israel. He was telling them as old covenant people how they should apply the law of the Sabbath, that is, with mercy and thought to human need. And He was telling them, that as the Son of Man, He had full authority even over the Sabbath.

The Blood of Christ

What is blood? Scientifically, blood is a liquid which carries oxygen and other nutrients necessary for our tissue to live and grow. In other words, blood carries life. The Bible attests to the truth that the life of a living being is in its blood (cf. Lv 17:11). At the murder of Abel, God told Cain, "Your brother's blood cries out to me from the soil!" (Gn 4:10b).

But how sacred is blood? After our parents Adam and Eve disobeyed, God had His plan for our recovery. He promised to put enmity between the woman (Eve) and the serpent. He tried through many covenants to redeem His people. A covenant is more than a contract. It is an agreement between two parties (God and His people). It is sworn under oath and signed by bloody sacrifice.

At the first covenant, made with Noah after the flood, Noah offered clean animals in sacrifice. When the Lord smelled the sweet odor, He promised never again to doom the earth because of man (cf. Gn 8:20-21).

At the second covenant, God passed as a smoking brazier and a flaming torch between animals cut in half by Abram (cf. Gn 15:17). Later, after saving Isaac, God provided the ram that Abraham sacrificed as an offering to Him (cf. Gn 22:13).

At the third covenant, Moses, while in the desert, called the tribes in front of the tabernacle, read the Word of God, sprinkled the people present with the blood of the sacrificed animal, and said "this is the blood of the covenant" (Ex 24:8).

David offered burnt offerings when he entered Jerusalem with the Ark of the Covenant (cf. 2 Sm 6:17) and Solomon did the same at the consecration of the temple (cf. 1 Kgs 8:5).

How sacred is His Blood? On Holy Thursday at the Last Supper when Jesus took bread and gave it to His disciples, He was giving us food for the journey of life. When He took the cup, He gave us His life. He purified us saying "this is my blood of the covenant" (Mk 14:24). This prefigured the blood He was going to shed in the garden of Gethsemane ("His sweat became like drops of blood" (Lk 22:44)) and on Calvary ("Immediately blood and water flowed from his side" (Jn 19:34)).

This is the Precious Blood of Jesus, the Blood and Water of Divine Mercy, the Blood which washed away our sins and gave us eternal life (cf. Jn 6:53). This sacrifice is the last covenant and that blood is pleasing to God the Father. We are redeemed "not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood" (Heb 9:12).

What a great gift this is!

Ministry Matters

MARRIAGE LIFE APOSTOLATE

“And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from, ...the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, ‘Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now.’ Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him” (John 2:9-11)

Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding at Cana where He performed His first miracle. He chose a wedding feast as a fitting setting for the initial manifestation of His act of love as God made man. He blessed the bride and the groom and the entire wedding party with the best wine. In doing so, Jesus affirmed that as we invite Him into our marriage, our family and all our relationships, we too will be blessed abundantly beyond measure.

The Marriage Encounter Weekend is a momentous experience offering married couples opportunities to learn techniques of loving communication they can use for the rest of their lives. It is a chance to look deeper into their relationship with each other and with God. It is a time to break down barriers that have been built unnecessarily in their union. It is a time to rekindle their feelings, hopes and aspirations with each other.

The Marriage Encounter emphasizes the value of communication between husbands and wives. The weekend provides a conducive environment for couples to spend time together, away from the hubbub and tensions of everyday life, while encouraging them to focus on each other and their relationship.

It is neither a marriage clinic, a group sensitivity session, or a substitute for counseling. It is a unique approach aimed at revitalizing and enriching marriage and a way to restore the sanctity of a marriage with Christ in their midst.

The Marriage Encounter is a time for couples to rediscover each other and together focus on their relationship for an entire weekend. Every marriage deserves this kind of attention! Simply put, it is the best marriage enrichment program offered to sacramentally married couples.

In today's society where more than 50% of marriages end up in divorce, the Marriage Encounter is our Community's viable answer to restore the bond of love and understanding between husband and wife and to protect the sanctity of the sacrament of marriage.

Counsel *(from page 1)*

Man's propensity to settle in his comfort zone is contrary to what is required of us when we commit to Christian discipleship. In the 2nd Reading, we see man's inherent weakness to succumb to serve oneself. When the disciples started to argue with each other and allowed division to permeate them by aligning themselves to personalities and their respective groups, they were in effect building their own cozy environment and turf where they could exercise their new-found authority and power for their own sake and glory. Paul chastised them, reminding them that the power to heal, to comfort, to preach, and to bring their Lord and Savior's promise of salvation to all did not come from them nor was it for them only. Their ministry did not exist for its own sake. He reminded them about the purpose and cause of their calling.

This brings us to our calling here in this community. Many of us come not only because there is darkness in our lives, but we feel that certain call, a constant whispering to help others, to be “fishers of men.” We are called for the greater purpose of evangelization—to proclaim God's Word that brings Truth and Light to all. We must never lose this vision and mission. We must not dwell on making our ministries the altar where we worship and commit to our own desires. We must use the skills and knowledge of our ministries to come together and create an effectively active and operative work of evangelization for Christ. We should not make our mission's good works of witnessing and serving others as an end, but rather make them the means to achieve our more important calling of being “fishers of men.” Let us not live just for ourselves. Let us not live just for BLD. Let us live to be Christ's followers.

Our numbers may be dwindling, yet our works continue to grow. We need to pause for a moment and come together, through the united initiative of our servant leaders, and recognize the primary call to evangelization. We need to evaluate and study how to turn our members into real “fishers of men” who are not afraid to go to the deeper waters of this land.

God has brought us to our own land of Zebulun and Naphtali. He led us not only to people who are in the dark, but to our own major crossroads. Here, Christ gave us our permanent home. We have long ago fully developed the tools of our trade as “fishers of men.” The time to put these tools to wider use is overdue. Let us now begin to work hand in hand, not fearing to cast the net over the side of our boat, but believing and trusting in Jesus as we did when this community first began. Let Him lead us from here to the four corners of our own world to evangelize. Let us not forget this purpose of our calling and cause. These Mass readings are not only for this Sunday, or for this week, or for this year. They are for all times, as long as we truly accept and continue to respond to our call to be “fishers of men.” Evangelization is the central work of our Faith. Let today's Word of God be a renewal of our calling to be a community of ACTIVE AND OPERATIVE EVANGELIZERS FOR CHRIST!

Directions:

1. As a community, be united in mind and purpose in carrying out and supporting our mission.
2. Proclaim the Gospel as you serve in mission

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.

We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter.

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place **every 4th Friday** at the Auditorium

**Ignorance of the Bible is Ignorance of Christ.
Read your Bible daily!**

SAVE THE DATE

March For Life

Jan. 24, 2011 (Monday) • Washington, DC

There will only be 1 bus. Departure times and locations: Nutley, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church (120 Prospect St.) @ 7:30am • Divine Mercy in Rahway at 8am • Contacts: Frank /Malou Venadas • bobbitski@hotmail.com • Cez/Pinky Calingo • cezar02459@yahoo.com

Catholic Men's Conference

Mar. 5, 2011 (Saturday) • Seton Hall University

Online registration: www.rcan.org/menscommission

DLC Meeting

Mar. 12 • 1-6pm • Divine Mercy Library

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

2011 Medical Mission

Jan. 31-Feb. 3 • Sta. Barbara, Iloilo, Philippines

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

RENEW Prayer

Gracious God and Father, we are your people embraced by your love. We thank you for your presence with us throughout all time. Create us anew through Jesus Christ your Son. Liberate us from all that keeps us from you. Send your Holy Spirit, enabling us to share in your work of recreating our world and restoring justice. Heal us from every form of sin and violence. Transform us to live your Word more profoundly. Reconcile us so enemies become friends. Awaken us to the sacred; nurture our relationships. Enliven our parishes; reunite our families. Fill us with joy to celebrate the fullness of life. Empower us to be a community of love growing in your likeness by the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.

A soft copy of this CN can be found at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Youth LSS #16

Mar. 4-6 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Youth Tricord @ ycs@bldnewark.com

LSS #36

Apr. 1-3 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Joven/Lisa Soriano @ lsa@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter 37

May 13-15 • Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ

Contacts: Nick/Island Raagas @ nlraagas@yahoo.com

• MLA @ mla@blenewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

1/21 **Golden Years & Intercessory Formation**

1/29* **Growth in Prayer • LSS34**

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING JAN. 14, 2011

Collections

Disbursements

11,652.53

10,123.90

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Litany of Humility

O Jesus, meek and humble of heart, Hear me.

From the desire of being esteemed,

From the desire of being loved...

From the desire of being extolled ...

From the desire of being honored ...

From the desire of being praised ...

From the desire of being preferred to others...

From the desire of being consulted ...

From the desire of being approved ...

Deliver me, Jesus

From the fear of being humiliated ...

From the fear of being despised...

From the fear of suffering rebukes ...

From the fear of being calumniated ...

From the fear of being forgotten ...

From the fear of being ridiculed ...

From the fear of being wronged ...

From the fear of being suspected ...

That others may be loved more than I,

That, in the opinion of the world,

others may increase and I may decrease ...

That others may be chosen and I set aside ...

That others may be esteemed more than I ...

That others may be praised and I unnoticed ...

That others may be preferred to me in everything...

That others may become holier than I,

provided that I may become as holy as I should...

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 4

Bulletin Edition

January 28, 2011

NEWS

2011 March for Life

"America you are beautiful . . . and blessed . . .

The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most defenseless.

If you want equal justice for all and true freedom and lasting peace, then America, defend life."

- Pope John Paul II

On January 24, 2011 many people woke up bright and early to catch a bus. Some slept only a couple of hours, some not at all; and some were in such a rush, that they even forgot their socks. The bus was filled with men and women, young and old; all had something in common. On that day they decided to, as one community, march onto Washington D.C. to be a voice for the voiceless. Personally, it was my first experience joining in on the March for Life movement. It was awe inspiring to see so many people marching with the same purpose. I had a lot of fun as well - that perhaps was the joy that comes with doing God's will. I am joyful, humbled, and hopeful for the future. Same time, same place next year?

Father God, I pray that I never again forget the blessing that is my life. May I live by example to take courage in defense of life and to treat this march as a beginning. The beginning of the end of the injustice that is abortion. Amen.



COUNSELS

Blessed Promises

THEME: The light of Christ shines upon those who minister to the poor.

WORD: Zep 2:3 -3:12-13; Ps 146:6-10; 1Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a

ORDER: 1. Pasture and couch your flock.
2. Take refuge in the Name of the Lord.

REFLECTION:

This Sunday's readings reveal God's sacred promise to His chosen people. It centers on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life, showing us what disposition we should have to attain holiness which is the highest degree of happiness. Jesus calls us personally to His own Beatitude and this invitation also extends to the Church, as a whole, the new people made up of those who have accepted the promise and live it in faith because Jesus wants all believers to partake of eternal life when we enter into His glory and His divine joy (CCC 1717). Many of us may find His invitation hard to fulfill because it challenges us to deny ourselves completely and to courageously do His will, even if it will cause us so much anguish and humiliation.

In the community, we are constantly asked by the Lord to serve others unconditionally, with humility and in truth. We can do this effectively only if we live out His beatitudes. However, it is not easy to live out Jesus' beatitudes because we are in the modern world where self-assertiveness, self-reliance, independence, and self-sufficiency are considered very key to success and survival. We are constantly expected to live up to human principles or we may suffer negative consequences, such as being an outcast, losing a job or treasured possessions, or breaking cherished relationships. It is for these reasons that many of us may follow the Lord's commands with reservations.

Moreover, our sinful nature always leads us to fulfilling Jesus' commands with impure ...

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven." (Mt 5:12)

The Apostles' Mission

Mark 16:15 contains what is called the "universal apostolic mandate" (paralleled by Matthew 28:19-20 and Luke 24:46-48). This is an imperative command from Christ to His Apostles to preach the Gospel to the whole world. This same apostolic mission applies especially to the Apostles' successors, the bishops, in communion with Peter's successor, the Pope.

This mission extends further: the whole "Church" was founded to spread the Kingdom of Christ over all the Earth for the glory of God the Father, to make all men partakers in redemption and salvation. Every activity of the Mystical Body with this in view goes by the name of 'apostolate'; the Church exercises it through all its members, though in various ways. The body of Christ, the Church: the whole body achieves full growth in dependence on the full functioning of each part (Eph 4:16). Between the members of this body there further exists, such a unity and solidarity that a member who does not work at the growth of the body to the extent of his possibilities must be considered useless both to the Church and to himself.

The Vatican II document, *Apostolicam Actuositatem* says, "In the Church there is diversity of ministry but unity of mission. To the Apostles and their successors, Christ has entrusted the office of teaching, sanctifying and governing in His name and by His power. But the laity is made to share in the priestly, prophetic and kingly office of Christ; they have therefore, in the Church and in the world, their own assignment in the mission of the whole people of God".

It is true that God acts directly on each person's soul through grace, but it must also be said that it is Christ's will that men should be an instrument or vehicle of salvation for others. Vatican II also teaches this: "On all Christians, accordingly, rests the noble obligation of working to bring all men throughout the whole world to hear and accept the divine message of salvation".

Proclaiming the Good News has consequences: Faith and Baptism are pre-requisites for salvation; and that the Church is necessary. "Christ is the one mediator and way of salvation; He is present to us in His body which is the Church. He Himself explicitly asserted the necessity of faith and baptism (Mark 16:16; John 3:5), and thereby affirmed at the same time the necessity of the Church which men enter through baptism as through a door. Hence they could not be saved who, knowing that the Church was founded as necessary by God through Christ, would refuse to enter it, or to remain in it".

The Mustard Seed

God does things in His own time and in His own way, we do not always know how or when that seed of our calling will be planted. When it is, we might not understand what He wants us to do or become. And while God reveals His plan to us in the fullness of time, our individual calling has its roots in the tiny seed God had planted.

God chooses people from all walks of life to do His work when He plants that mustard seed. If God decides to use us to fulfill His will, there is nothing that can stop us when we and God work as a team. When God decides to use us, He doesn't care about outward appearances, only what is within our heart and soul.

God nurtures the seed He has planted in us and makes it grow for as long as we allow His will to take priority in our lives. He gives us a choice to accept or reject His work in us. If we accept, that mustard seed will grow and flourish. If we reject Him, that seed will be like the seed that fell on rocky soil - it doesn't take root, and it dies. We may not know what that seed will grow into, but God does, and He will reveal it to us as our faith and trust in Him grows.

God never stops planting seeds. He is always planting seeds in us. Perhaps the most potent use of the seed is to remind us that He is in charge. He uses our trials and tribulations to remind us to put our faith in Him and not rely on our own human strengths. We must put God in control of our life's journey. God plants the seed as a way of starting the journey. The road of life that we travel with Him is the growth of the mustard plant, and our arrival in Heaven is the ultimate blossoming of that tiny mustard seed. The road is long and bumpy, but the ultimate destination makes the process of planting and growth worthwhile.

Mark's gospel alone records the parable of the seed's growth. The emphasis is on the power of the seed to grow of itself without human intervention. Mysteriously it produces blade and ear and full grain. Thus the kingdom of God initiated by Jesus in proclaiming the Word develops quietly yet powerfully until it is fully established by Him at the final judgment.



Memorial to St. Agnes (Patroness of Young Girls)

Saint Agnes is the patron saint of young girls, virgins and purity, as well as rape victims. Her feast day is on January 21. Saint Agnes was a beautiful young girl who, at the age of thirteen, suffered martyrdom to protect her faith and love for the Lord. She made a promise to God never to stain her purity with sin. Her love for God was so immense that she was willing to die for Him; Agnes was devoted to God alone. She denied every man who proposed to her, saying, "Jesus Christ is my only Spouse."

One man in particular, Procop, became enraged at Agnes for rejecting him. Procop was the Governor's son. He tried to entice her with expensive gifts. Nevertheless, Agnes refused him, declaring that she was already promised to God and He will never leave her side. Angry, Procop accused her of being a Christian and brought her before the governor, his father. Again, Agnes was promised wonderful gifts if she denied God. But she refused. Procop's father had Agnes put to chains and sent to a brothel. But the Lord loved Agnes as she loved Him and sent an Angel to protect Agnes throughout her trials and tribulations.

Finally, Agnes was sentenced to die. Even pagans were saddened by this, and they pleaded with her to save herself by turning away from God. But Agnes simply prayed to God and embraced death, because she knew she would be united with God in eternal life.

"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life." (John 6:47) St. Agnes is a great role model for young men and women of all ages. She showed us how she kept strong in her faith. She made known to us how we can love God no matter what. She was a great example by saying 'no' to all temptations in life. She never forgot that Jesus loves her and wants the best for her. She knew Jesus would protect her throughout her life.

St. Agnes trusted God completely. She was poor in spirit, but her faith and love for God was so strong that nothing could break it. She despised sinning against the Lord, and would rather die than sin. She trusted the Lord with all of her heart, soul, mind, and strength. St. Agnes was not ashamed of her faith. She did not care of what others thought. She knew the Lord was with her at all times. She was not afraid because she knew He will save her. She believed that everyone who believes in Him would have eternal life.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

or mixed intentions and unclear understanding of our position as God's servants. This is why St. Paul reminds us to consider our own calling in 1Cor 1:29 that says: ***"no human being might boast before God."*** We sometimes forget that God chose and called us FIRST. Our own vanity and pride lead us to think that we are a privileged lot following God's will rather than be humble and grateful for having been chosen to fulfill His Purpose.

Clearly we cannot accomplish God's purpose by ourselves alone. To genuinely carry out our mission as God's disciples, we need to constantly ask for His grace to purify the intention of our service and give us the purity of heart and poverty of spirit. To effectively ***"pasture and couch their flock"*** (Zep 3:13) and to wholeheartedly ***"take refuge in the name of the Lord"*** (Zep 3:12), we need to be desperately and fearfully conscious of our inadequacy and our insufficiency.

Like Jesus, who came to set free those who were captives, blind, and spiritually poor (Psalm 146: 7-8) in the community, we can minister to the 'poor' by genuinely showing our love and concern for others, especially those who need of God's love and forgiveness. We can help each other in living out the Beatitudes steadily by looking after each other's spiritual needs through compassion, encouragement, prayer, and preaching. We can overlook each other's shortcoming, help each other cope with it, and love each other despite whatever defects one may have. We also have to do fraternal corrections, if necessary; and if a member walks in disobedience or strays away, we can reach out to them and pray for his or her return.

Conversely, if we commit a mistake against a brother or a sister, we can immediately ask for forgiveness and genuinely repent of the sin committed. As God's disciples, one of our greatest tasks is to foster peace in ourselves and in others and try to be reconciled with ourselves, with others and with God. We can also be generous and seek out the poor and the needy even if we have to struggle with our own needs. Doing all these things is not easy but we have to remember that genuine followers of Christ are those who patiently endure difficulties and those who, by God's grace, find joy in following the will of the Lord no matter what it takes and what it costs.

Saying 'Yes' to God's invitation to holiness involves our total, sincere, and constant submission to His Will and our complete self-denial. Truly, this is Christian suffering but a pleasant one. And it is our blessedness to be invited to partake of this suffering. We pray that our hearts remain open to God's message of hope and love as one community of faith, rich in spirit, and faithful in Christ, striving always to witness the love of Christ within and outside of BLD. We should all firmly believe that every suffering we endure and every sacrifice we offer here on earth for Christ's sake will be greatly rewarded in Heaven.

Living Testimony from a Dying Wish

On Monday, January 17th, Jane Enciso (of ME 17) was anointed a Covenanted disciple into Bukas Loob sa Diyos at their home in Piscataway, NJ. It turned out to be the fulfillment of her long desired wish. After a lengthy battle with cancer, she succumbed to the disease, passing away peacefully the very next day.

She was trying to make her way to Divine Mercy Parish for worship and covenanting the previous Friday, but due to her condition that night, was unable to make it. It was then suggested and decided upon, to hold the ceremony at their home.

BLD meant so much to Tita Jane; so much so that at her wake, the family had pinned the Community's covenant pin on her, and beside her, had prominently displayed the covenant document which she had so painstakingly signed.

Please include, her, as well as all those others fighting this terrible disease, including Mila Union, who was covenanted January 14th (that Friday night), in your prayers.

The following is an email she had written, expressing, despite her situation, a true servant's heart and a deep gratitude to our God.

TO ALL MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE BLD COMMUNITY,

I would like to send my sincerest gratitude to everybody who allowed me to be one of the BLD covenanted members, which I have wished for a long time now. I have been very blessed for I have all of you who made my life so beautiful. Even with the hardships and pains that I have, I am able to face everything that I am going through with the love of God and love of our community. I am so blessed to live this kind of life. Our community is the best blessing one can ever have. I have so much love for our shepherds, Manny and Judy San Luis, the Marriage Encounter # 17 class, shepherds, Rene and Cielo Arribe and the Family Encounter class, ministry coordinators, George and MaryAnn McGehrin and the Intercessory Ministry, BLD Spiritual Director, Father Paul Lehman, all the elders and members of our community. I received so much love and with that, we have another big family guiding and caring for us. I was able to live a fruitful, spiritually-fulfilled and a lot longer life because of your prayers, love and support.

Again, thank you so very much for letting me be a covenanted member of our BLD community. Thank you to our BLD Newark DCS, DSL and the Elders in Manila for their compassion, love, and prayers.

God bless you all.

Love, Mary Jane Enciso

DIRECTIONS:

1. In all things, give thanks when called to serve in a pastoral capacity
2. Be a channel of Christ's peace
3. Minister to the needs of the poor

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place **every 4th Friday** at the Auditorium

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Youth LSS #16

Mar. 4-6 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Youth Tricord @ ycs@bldnewark.com

LSS #36

Apr. 1-3 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Joven/Lisa Soriano @ lsa@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter 37

May 13-15 • Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ

Contacts: Nick/Island Raagas @ nlraagas@yahoo.com, MLA @ mla@blenewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

1/21 **Golden Years & Intercessory Formation**

1/29⁺ CDFP Overview • ME36
Growth in Prayer • LSS34

2/11 **Youth**

2/12* Basic Bible Seminar • Singles

2/18 **Mark 10, John 6 & Service Formation**

2/19* Christian Parenting I • ME36
Encounter with Jesus • LSS 34 & 35, SPE 12
Christian Maturity I & Motivational Gift
Test/Charismata • LSS 33 (ME33/SPE11)

Shepherds Training (Refresher) • Shepherds
2/25 **Golden Years & Intercessory Formation**

Fri: after worship; *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's, + at Reunion

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION WEEK ENDING JAN. 21, 2011

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,882	
Disbursements	21,170	
Surplus/(Deficit)		

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

Catholic Men's Conference

Mar. 5, 2011 (Saturday) • Seton Hall University

Online registration: www.rcan.org/menscommission

DLC Meeting

Mar. 12 • 1-6pm • Divine Mercy Library

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 05

Bulletin Edition

February 4, 2011

NEWS

THE MARCH FOR LIFE CONTINUES

January 24, 2011 was one of the coldest days this winter. As we got off the bus in Washington, D.C. that morning to join the thousands of Marchers for Life, freezing air hit our faces but our hearts were warm as we stood side by side, praying and quietly demonstrating our strong beliefs in the value of life. The crowd varied from the very young to the very senior marchers. It was so inspiring to see people from all walks of life braved the freezing weather. There are those who see this as political rally; others, simply a prayer rally by the faithful. The march was an expression of our Christian faith that life is a gift from God.

As Catholics and members of this covenanted community, silence is not an option for our beliefs. We have to come out in the open and strongly defend the voiceless and the powerless – the unborn. Some people try to justify their actions regarding abortion. We side with Mother Teresa, when she declared, *"It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish."*

To those who have participated in the march, keep the faith alive, pass on the torch and continue the fight. To those who have not, please join and be one with our community on this. This is a fight that we will surely win. *"What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?"* (Rom 8:31)



COUNSELS

Light of the World

THEME: Our heavenly Father is glorified when we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

WORD: Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-9; 1Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

ORDER: *"Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own."* (Is 58:7 - rephrased)

REFLECTION:

The Community's Word for the Month of February, **"Our heavenly Father is glorified by our good deeds"**, may be considered as the end-all and the be-all of the purpose for which we are created. This is especially true if, as Christian disciples we are able to give meaning to this week's Order, to: *"Sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own."* (Isaiah 58:7)

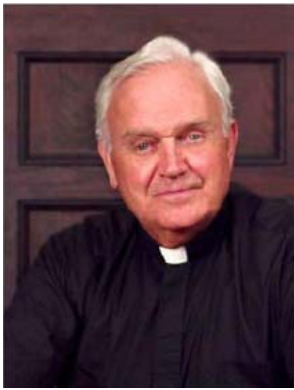
The Readings in all the four weeks of the month of February is as clear as when the noonday sun is up, and provides us with an unobstructed view of the horizon. They also point to the reason why our gracious Father sent His divine Son, Jesus, to earth to accomplish our salvation. Having no other need whatsoever, our glorious Father desired to share His life with us, and Jesus made it possible for us to live eternally as members of the divine household.

But this privilege is not without conditions. Our salvation is premised on our willingness to make Jesus the Lord of our lives and to enter into a personal relationship with Him. This is necessary because, as our Readings suggest, we are to respond to the call for us to evangelize. And in order for us to evangelize - which is the primary mission of the Church - we first need to be evangelized.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer, you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am!"
(Isaiah 58: 9)



Fr. Paul Speaks

Numbers and names in Sacred Scripture are not only a measure of duration and personal identification, but also symbols of divine activity. For instance the word "Adam" is not just the name of the first created man we read in Genesis, but also a symbol of the whole human race. Adam is not designated as a male until Eve, the first woman, is created. Even now, we refer to the human race as "mankind" (much to the chagrin of radical feminists). When we name a baby, we give little thought to the future of the individual, but in some sense a name in Scripture often indicates those who have a special mission given by God. Abraham, changed from Abram, is the "father of many nations", the new role that God had given him. Emmanuel is "God with us." Jesus is "God saves." Peter is the "rock."

Numbers also mean more than duration. There is the normal possibility of interpreting numbers in Scripture very mathematically, as we do today. The number interpretation (along with other symbols), for instance, in the book of Revelation, has been used for centuries to interpret the future.

The number "40" appears often in Scripture. It rained for 40 days and nights during the flood that saved Noah and his family. Right now we have just finished what, in the pre-Vatican old ending of the Christmas season, was the feast of the Purification or the 4th mystery of the rosary, the Presentation in the temple, February 2nd, 40 days after Christmas. Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to the apostles for 40 days before his ascension into heaven. At the beginning of his ministry Jesus was led into the desert and tempted for 40 days by the devil. The Jews wandered in the desert for 40 years before they reached the promised land.

Numbers and names are symbols. We deal with them constantly. We communicate through them. God deals with us through the use of our human symbols, the most important of which are the Sacraments, through which Jesus touches us and communicates with us.

Numbers, letters, human images, are things through which we can experience God's desire to communicate with us. Jesus himself was the human expression of the Godhead. The Sacraments are a combination of the human and the divine. We ➡

DO NOT BE AFRAID

"Do not be afraid," cited by John Paul II numerous times during his papacy; "*The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid,*" (Hebrews 3:6); "*Do not be afraid; just have faith,*" says Christ (Mark 5:36). These words are recurring theme in both the Old and New Testaments as God's promise to put our hope and trust in Him.

The Lord whispers "fear not" to our ears and implants it to our hearts whenever we pray. As we know all too well, it is easy to fall into fear – fear that prevents us from freedom to love instead. The burdens of life worry us constantly. Jesus exhorts us ***"Do not worry ... Can any you by worrying add a single moment to your lifespan?"*** (Matthew 6:25, 27)

With faith, we can control our fear. Jesus tells us that as long as ***"... you remain in my word... you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free?"*** (John 8:31-32). Breaking from the shackles of fear will free us to follow Him and make possible a spiritually uplifting life, a better life, a better future.

THE TRUTH THAT SETS US FREE

It's the most liberating thing of all

The Truth that sets us free

When we believe in Jesus

When we believe His Promise

That always, better things will come.

Thank Him at life's peaks

Cling to Him in its troughs and valleys

Through it all, rejoice, exhilarate, be happy

Cause better things will come

Always, better things will come.

So, no matter your life's story

Work with Jesus, live with Jesus, love with Jesus

His promise, commit it to heart's memory

For He will set you free

Because with Him, always, better things will come.

It's the most liberating thing of all

Believing... knowing...

That with Him, there is nothing to fear.

For no matter where or how we are

His Truth will set us free

For Always, YES!!!... Better things, they will come.

connect with the human and Jesus connects us to the divine through the use of these human and visible realities. Numbers, names, the whole visible world is the place where God meets us on this side of eternity. We use the gift of faith to see more than meets the senses. Pray for this renewed vision which extends the experience of life to include the intangible and invisible.

COUNSEL (from page 1)

Our Theme for Week 1: **Our heavenly Father is glorified when we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.** (Witnessing)

Indeed, we cannot become the witnesses God has designed us to be if we are not evangelized, because it is only when we allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through us that we can become the salt of the earth and light of the world.

"Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." There are two important things to consider in this message from Jesus: One is that all men must see our good deeds. Such good deeds must not only be good but may also be attractive. There is a goodness that attracts, and there is a goodness that repels. The goodness that Christians do must evoke a certain charm to make it into a lovely thing. Two, such good deeds must draw attention to God and not to ourselves, which is a total contradiction of what is known as "theatrical goodness" which many of us are guilty of.

As a Community, we are doing much that is good. We are good teachers and servants. We celebrate well the mysteries of the Lord. We are excellent in our worship celebration. But evangelization is not something we are very good at. For the most part, we give information, we intellectualize, reflect and discuss. We reach out and serve all those in need, the hungry, the lonely, the alienated, the sick, the imprisoned, the abandoned, the despairing, and the addicted. The list is long.

But while all these are imperative to our mission from the Lord, one ministry stands first and clearly above the rest – evangelization. We as a Community do a lot of good things and I know for certain the Lord is pleased. But we don't do a lot of evangelizing.

What then is evangelization? It is primarily the proclamation of the Good News of Salvation to the Church and to the world, which is our mandate. It takes precedence over everything else. All the good works we do, and there are many, must serve and be in submission to the principal work of the Church. We must organize for justice, lobby for life, reach out and serve all those in need but we need to stand as the salt of the earth and light of the world. And in order to do this, we must start making a choice.

In life, we have two choices. In the likeness of Christ, we can shine as a light in the world or we can fail to realize the ideal of the life of the Gospels, and be rejected by God. We cannot be both. We cannot serve two masters. We cannot gain the world and Heaven. The outcome of our eternal blessings depends entirely on the choice we make today, not tomorrow, because we might not be here tomorrow.

No one knows when anyone will be called to appear before the Lord. When we received the Sacrament of Confirmation, we were sent forth to preach and defend the Gospel.

Our calling mandates us to be lights in the world in

the likeness of Christ, the Source of light. This week, let us take the opportunity to ask ourselves to what extent we respond to our calling, remembering the Words of Jesus in Matthew 5:16, **"Just so, your light must shine before others..."**

Our Theme for Week 2: **Our heavenly Father is glorified when we obey and teach His commandments.** (Holiness)

The readings for this week speak of a certain level of spiritual maturity that begins when the individual is spiritually enlightened by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. Spiritual maturity has to do with learning spiritual virtues that will benefit the holiness of our soul as well as others.

When Jesus spoke about the Law and the Gospel, he did so because of two principles that He wanted His listeners to learn. He also emphasized that there is a correlation between the past and the present because the present grows out of the past. The Gospel is actually a warning from Jesus that the righteousness of the Christian must exceed that of the Scribes and Pharisees whose motive for living was premised on the law which is their one aim and desire. But the motive under which Christians must live is the motive of love.

As Christians we must have one desire and that is to show our gratitude for the love that God had bestowed on us, and when this motive of love propels us to live in loving relationship with the rest of humanity there can be no limit in time or in eternity.

Jesus sets before men, not the law of God, but the love of God. St. Augustine was quoted as saying long ago that the Christian life can be summed up in just one phrase: *"Love God, and do what you like."* When we realized how God has loved us, the one desire of life is to respond to that love by obeying and teaching His commandments.

That will be the greatest task that we will ever carry out because it will be an obligation more binding than the obligation to any law. When we will have learned what God is trying to teach us, having been disciplined by the grace of a loving Heavenly Father and having been purified by the fire of the Holy Spirit, then we will begin to shine as children of God in the likeness of God Himself.

Our Theme for Week 3: **Our heavenly Father is glorified when we love others with the unconditional love of Christ.** (Selfless Love)

This week, we continue with this series on the transformation of man into the salt of the earth and light of the world, as Jesus called for in the first week. The journey to holiness continued last week. This week, we are being challenged to be clothed in what the Gospel refers to as Christian Love. A love founded on the Greek word *'agape'* which, according to the way it is used by the Greeks, means unconquerable benevolence and invincible goodness. This means that if we regard a person with an

Continued on page 4

COUNSEL (from page 3)

'agape' kind of love, no matter what that person does to us, no matter how he treats us, no matter if he insults, injures or grieves us, we will never allow any bitterness against him to invade our hearts, but will regard him with that unconquerable benevolence and goodwill which seeks nothing but his highest good.

But in this passage, Jesus also sends a clear message of what is loving our enemies as differentiated from loving those who are nearest or dearest to us. Loving those who are near to us is born of our emotions because of our affinity to them. But loving our enemies is not just something of the heart but, also something of the will.

Loving our enemies is having the will to do it. It means a determination of the mind with which we achieve this unconquerable goodwill even for those who hurt and injure us. In so doing, we as Christians are able to reproduce in our lives the forgiving and sacrificial benevolence of God and we become like God and are transformed into the perfection designed by God. To put it simply, the man who cares most for men is the most perfect man.

Our Theme for Week 4: **Our heavenly Father is glorified when we trust in His divine providence.** (Trust)

And finally, Our Lord puts a cap into how we can become complete as Christians by setting aside all our worries and putting all our trust in Him who is, after all, the source of everything we have and can possess. In this Gospel, Jesus tells us that worrying about the future is worse than useless. It is actually injurious. There are two typical diseases in modern life that many medical researchers claim are the result of worry – stomach ulcer and coronary thrombosis. It is also a medical fact that he who laughs most lives longest because worry wears out both mind and body.

Worry affects a man's judgment, reduces his power to make wise and informed decisions and, worry renders a man utterly incapable of dealing with life. This is why man is tasked to give his best to every situation in as much as there is a limit to what man can do, and leave the rest to God.

In Isaiah 26:3 the great prophet says: *"Thou dost keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusts in thee."* There may be greater sins than worry, but definitely there is no more disabling sin than to worry. *"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough troubles of its own"* (Matthew 6:34). This is the command of Jesus and, it is the way not only to peace but also to power.

Direction:

Encourage and exhort all BLD members to be one in attaining our Community's mission goals: building homes, feeding the hungry, educating the poorest children, visiting the sick and those in prison, conducting medical missions, and supporting parishes.

CN archives are available online at www.bldnewark.com/

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check

Every 2nd Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Youth LSS #16

Mar. 4-6 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Youth Tricord @ ycs@bldnewark.com

LSS #36

Apr. 1-3 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Joven/Lisa Soriano @ lsa@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter 37

May 13-15 • Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ

Contacts: Nick/Island Raagas @ nlraagas@yahoo.com

• MLA @ mla@blenewark.com

Ignorance of the Bible is Ignorance of Christ.

Read your Bible daily!

TEACHING CALENDAR

2/11 Youth

2/18 Mark 10, John 6 & Service Formation

2/19* Christian Parenting I • ME36

Encounter with Jesus • LSS 34 & 35, SPE 12

Christian Maturity I & Motivational Gift

Test/Charismata • LSS 33 (ME33/SPE11)

Shepherds Training (Refresher) • Shepherds

2/25 Golden Years & Intercessory Formation

Fri: after worship; *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's, + At Reunion

Special Announcement

Feb. 12, 8am-4pm @ Connell Hall

Singles Retreat: "Discover Your Promise"

Contact: M/A Magalonzo singles@bldnewark.com

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING JAN. 28, 2011

	Actual	YTD
Collections	2,873.00	18,537.53
Disbursements	861.70	32,274.04
Surplus/(Deficit)		

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

Catholic Men's Conference

Mar. 5, 2011 (Saturday) • Seton Hall University

Online registration: www.rcan.org/menscommission

DLC Meeting

Mar. 12 • 1-6pm • Divine Mercy Library



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 6

Bulletin Edition

Feb. 11, 2011

Praise God for the Success & the Well-Attended March For Life, Washington, D.C. 2011

It was a great opportunity to be one of the large multitudes who were able to attend the March for Life at the Capitol, Washington, D.C, on January 24, 2011. I was humbled by seeing all the young adults and teenagers in attendance. God bless them. The spirit and commitment of the people there was overwhelming and encouraging at the same time. It was definitely a successful march/project, but where do we go from there?

Where do we go from here? A question I could not and still cannot get out of my mind. A question I may not have the answer to. Do I really know or understand what drives any woman to take the life of her own child through abortion? Do I understand what pushes adolescents and teenagers and young adults to get pregnant only to end up on abortion tables? What makes a married woman decide to commit abortion, killing her own child "conceived in love"? What state of mind are these women in when they make and carry out these horrible decisions and actions?

I may or may not know the answers to these questions either. But, for now, I can begin quietly from where I am. I can begin to pay attention, to ask questions, to listen, to show sympathy, empathy, love, affection, caring, and to make myself available and supportive. Above all, I can bring Christ into the situation and allow Him to do and give what I cannot do or give. I can do this through prayers.

As a Middle School teacher, it is very challenging to work with, teach, listen to, love, guide and watch teenagers go through the challenges of life. As a mother, it is hard to give my all and watch my children go through the challenges of life. As a friend and a married woman, it is painful to hold hands and cry with fellow women and sisters as we all go through the challenges of life. In all of these, there has been victory because there is *Continued on page 4*

COUNSELS Our Clear Choice

THEME: Our heavenly Father is glorified when we obey and teach His commandments.

WORD: Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37

ORDER: **"Keep the commandments...trust in God."** (Sir 15:15)

REFLECTION:

On the 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time in the liturgical year, we find a simple message in our Readings - to keep making the right choice in the many circumstances of our life. And what choice would please our God? "To keep the commandments, and to trust in Him."

This passage from the book of the prophet Sirach is echoed in other parts of Scripture. One recalls the moving call of Moses to God's people in Deuteronomy 30:15-20. The twin messages in our Order are related. It isn't easy **to obey** God's commandments faithfully, all the time, in all circumstances. And so He wants us **to trust** in Him, to carry us through the difficulties and contradictions that we will surely face as we follow Christ.

The word itself, *choice*, no longer carries a simple meaning, in the sense of selecting among alternatives and making up one's mind. In our present world, the meaning of the word "choice" has been corrupted and perverted. The world has appropriated this good word to imply a right to total freedom --- to make a "choice" in order to be "free" and unburdened in a lifestyle of ease and unbridled pleasure, in total disregard of any moral consequence of our decisions and actions. Artificial lines have been drawn by self-described pro-choice forces who would *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you; if you trust in God, you too will live. (Sir 15:15)

THE LIVING BREAD **THE BREAD THAT SATISFIES**

The Council of Trent summarizes the Catholic faith by declaring: "Because Christ our Redeemer said that it was truly His body that He was offering under the species of bread, it has always been the conviction of the Church of God, ..., that by the consecration of the bread and wine there takes place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of His blood. This change the holy Catholic Church has fittingly and properly called transubstantiation." (CCC 1376)

The Eucharistic presence of Christ begins at the moment of the consecration and endures as long as the Eucharistic species subsists. Christ is present whole and entire in each of the species and whole and entire in each of their parts, in such a way that the breaking of the bread does not divide Christ. (CCC 1377)

After receiving communion, have you ever felt warm? I was not conscious of the feeling myself until my spouse mentioned it to me. The warmth remains in me even after mass and I have left the church. Then I remembered Jesus' promise in John 6:48-51, ***"I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."***

When we partake in this most holy sacrament, we are all ONE with the Lord. The one and only Lord and Savior, He is never different today nor tomorrow; it is the same Lamb of God. The act of receiving is one's answer to His invitation for all to share the very life of our Lord. Our Lord's presence within purifies and cleanses us to become like Him. The work of our redemption is carried out. ***"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him."*** (John 6:56)

The Eucharist is a priceless gift and grace, both sustenance and sacrifice from our Lord. The Body and Body, once consecrated, do not revert back to bread and wine and it should not only be celebrated during mass. Our Lord is present in the tabernacle, patiently and faithfully waiting for us to spend time conversing with Him in silent adoration.

In 2004's World Mission Sunday, Pope John Paul delivered a message that stated, "The Eucharist is the comfort and the pledge of final triumph for those who fight evil and sin; it is the 'bread of life' which sustains those who, in turn, become 'bread broken' for others, paying at times even with martyrdom their fidelity to the Gospel".

Fruit of the Tree **of Good and Evil**

"The LORD God gave man this order: "You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and bad. From that tree you shall not eat; the moment you eat from it you are surely doomed to die." (Gen 2:16-17)

God put the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden to give Adam and Eve a choice to obey Him or disobey Him. Adam and Eve were free to do anything they wanted, except eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. "And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.'" If God had not given Adam and Eve the choice, they would have essentially been robots, simply doing what they were programmed to do. God created Adam and Eve to be "free" beings, able to make decisions, able to choose between good and evil. In order for Adam and Eve to truly be free, they had to have a choice.

There was nothing essentially evil about the tree or the fruit of the tree. It is unlikely that eating the fruit truly gave Adam and Eve any further knowledge. It was the act of disobedience that opened Adam and Eve's eyes to evil. Their sin of disobeying God brought sin and evil into the world and into their lives as a consequence of their bad choice. Eating the fruit, as an act of disobedience against God, was what gave Adam and Eve knowledge of evil.

God did not want Adam and Eve to sin. God knew ahead of time what the results of sin would be. God knew that Adam and Eve would sin and would thereby bring evil, suffering, and death into the world. Why, then, did God allow Satan to tempt Adam and Eve? God allowed Satan to tempt Adam and Eve to force them to make the choice. Adam and Eve chose, of their own free will, to disobey God and eat the forbidden fruit. The results, evil, sin, suffering, sickness, and death, have plagued the world ever since. Adam and Eve's decision results in every person being born with a sinful nature, the human tendency to sin. Adam and Eve's decision is what ultimately required Jesus Christ to die on the cross and shed His blood on our behalf. Through faith in Christ, we will choose not to sin and can be free from sin's consequences, and ultimately free from sin itself. May we remember the words of St. Paul, ***"Miserable one that I am! Who will deliver me from this mortal body? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, I myself, with my mind, serve the law of God but with my flesh, the law of sin."*** (Rom 7:24-25)

Shepherds Voice

Revelation Through Creation

In the beginning God makes Himself known. God, who creates and conserves all things by His Word, provides men with constant evidence of Himself in created realities. And furthermore, wishing to open up the way to heavenly salvation, He manifested Himself to our first parents from the very beginning; He invited them to intimate communion with Himself and clothed them with resplendent grace and justice (CCC 54).

In His goodness and wisdom God chose to reveal Himself and to make known to us the hidden purpose of His will by which through Christ, the Word made flesh, man might in the Holy Spirit have access to the Father and come to share in the divine nature. Through this revelation, therefore, the invisible God out of the abundance of His love speaks to men as friends and lives among them, so that He may invite and take them into fellowship with Himself. This plan of revelation is realized by deeds and words having an inner unity: the deeds wrought by God in the history of salvation manifest and confirm the teaching and realities signified by the words, while the words proclaim the deeds and clarify the mystery contained in them. By this revelation then, the deepest truth about God and the salvation of man shines out for our sake in Christ, who is both the mediator and the fullness of all revelation.

The Christian dispensation, therefore, as the new and definitive covenant, will never pass away and we now await no further new public revelation before the glorious manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The obedience of faith is to be given to God who reveals, an obedience by which man commits his whole self freely to God, offering the full submission of intellect and will to God who reveals, and freely assenting to the truth revealed by Him. To make this act of faith, the grace of God and the interior help of the Holy Spirit must precede and assist, moving the heart and turning it to God, opening the eyes of the mind and giving joy and ease to everyone, in assenting to the truth and believing it. To bring about an ever deeper understanding of revelation, the same Holy Spirit constantly brings faith to completion by His gifts.

As a sacred synod has affirmed, God, the beginning and end of all things, can be known with certainty from created reality by the light of human reason; but teaches that it is through His revelation that those religious truths which are by their nature accessible to human reason can be known by all men with ease, with solid certitude and with no trace of error, even in this present state of the human race (DV 2, 4-6).

COUNSEL (from page 1)

confuse issues and drown out disagreement. Now, to uphold the sanctity of life is to subject oneself to ridicule for being intolerant, and even to virulent hatred for "denying" others their "right to choose".

Clearly, the world would make us question, doubt and abandon our Godly values. We find the same situation in Jesus' time, when He recognized and called out the perversion of God's holy law, His commandments. Today, we should apply the Lord's teaching when we hear those in a position of influence and authority - like those in media and entertainment - foist their beliefs and drown out what we hold true, holy and Christ-like.

Sunday's Gospel focuses on three examples of God's laws that had been corrupted - swearing, adultery and killing. The Lord is quite clear in cautioning us against worldly values. laying out the true meaning against the worldly, perverted meaning of the law. In each instance, He says, "You have heard that it was said..." and follows it up with, "But I say to you..." It's what the world says, against what Jesus says.

How pervasively do such contradictions seep into our lives today, teaching us to abide by the world's values? We hear it said, "I want to find myself, to be myself," in total narcissism and selfishness. Contrast this with Mt 16:25, ***"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."*** The world says, "To each his own, what's in it for me"... focusing on one's wants and ignoring the needs of others. The Lord says differently in 1 Jn 4:20-21, ***"If anyone says, 'I love God,' but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. This is the commandment we have from Him: whoever loves God must also love his brother."*** "Live for the day" has taken a secular, hedonistic meaning, "Eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we die"; whereas Jesus talked of abandonment and complete trust in Divine Providence in Mt 6:34, ***"Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil."***

God laid out His commands out of a Father's love for His children. Satan the father of lies would deceive us, his followers would deride us, "You're so old-fashioned. This is the 21st century; change and keep up with the times!" But today we hear Christ say firmly, ***"Not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place."*** (Mt 5:18)

Continued on page 4

Praise God for the Success...

God. He has always been there when the Government couldn't be. He has always done something when the Government couldn't do anything. Let us look to Him alone, in prayers, He has the answers, but WE HAVE HIS GRACE to reach out and touch others in their life challenges, while waiting for God to touch the hearts of those in Washington. Only He can, and He will.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check

Every 2nd Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place every 4th Friday at the Auditorium

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Youth LSS #16

Mar. 4-6 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Youth Tricord @ ycs@bldnewark.com

LSS #36

Apr. 1-3 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Joven/Lisa Soriano @ lsa@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter 37

May 13-15 • Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ

Contacts: Nick/Island Raagas @ nlraagas@yahoo.com

• MLA @ mla@blenewark.com

The Disciples Prayer

Jesus, my Lord and my Brother, let me do Your work for your sake, and not for my own pride or self satisfaction. As long as I want what you want I will act prudently and safely. If I fret at my failures I am working for myself and not for You. Your will is to be done, not mine. I hope to attempt all of the good within my reach but I will not be over-anxious about the results. If I lose my presence of Mind and my peace of soul it is because I am thinking more of Your work than Your will. I need only do my best. The rest depends on the people around me and Your grace. Let me never think I am bigger or more able than You. I now put all things into Your hands. Amen.

SAVE THE DATE

Catholic Men's Conference

Mar. 5, 2011 (Saturday) • Seton Hall University

Online registration: www.rcan.org/menscommission

DLC Meeting

Mar. 12 • 1-6pm • Divine Mercy Library

CN archives are available online at www.bldnewark.com!

COUNSEL (from page 3)

In the haven of our community, we can feel secure in our choice to obey God rather than man. We reach out to the larger community of our home parish, Divine Mercy. We're in the midst of a Medical Mission to help out with the needs of the poor and the sick. Other members were again part of the annual March for Life. Our servant leaders are now gathered in a global conference, seeking confirmation, direction and refreshment from the Holy Spirit *who scrutinizes all things*. Let us confidently see His hand as we live out the BLD vision and mission.

The command we hear today is simple, and our choice is clear. May it not be our will but His will that we choose to follow to the end, that we may be saved, that we may live.

DIRECTIONS:

1. "Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No'. Anything more is from the evil one." (Mt 5:37)
2. Make good to the Lord all your pledges and covenant.
3. Teach the commandments through good witnessing.

**Ignorance of the Bible
is Ignorance of Christ.
Read your Bible daily!**

TEACHING CALENDAR

2/11	Youth
2/18	Mark 10, John 6 & Service Formation
2/19*	Christian Parenting I • ME36 Encounter with Jesus • LSS 34 & 35, SPE 12 Christian Maturity I & Motivational Gift Test/Charismata • LSS 33 (ME33/SPE11) Shepherds Training (Refresher) • Shepherds
2/25	Golden Years & Intercessory Formation
Fri: after worship; *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's, + At Reunion	

Special Announcement

Feb. 12, 8am-4pm @ Connell Hall

Singles Retreat: "Discover Your Promise"

Contact: M/A Magalonzo singles@bldnewark.com

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION WEEK ENDING FEB. 4, 2011

	Actual	YTD
Collections	2,732.00	21,269.53
Disbursements	5,645.49	37,919.53
Surplus/(Deficit)		

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

Thank you for your continued support!



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 7

Bulletin Edition

Feb. 18, 2011

NEWS

DISCOVER YOUR PROMISE



It was a day focused in knowing Jesus through the Holy Scripture. Activities varied from worship to games.

The Singles and Teaching ministries of BLD Newark worked in collaboration and with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit – the “Discover Your Promise” Retreat came alive on Feb. 12, 2011 in Our Divine Mercy Connell Hall as the day was filled with praise songs, teachings, prayers and reflections. It started when our Singles Ministry expressed their unquenchable thirst and hunger to know the Lord. To quote one of the Singles’ members, “One of our biggest concerns had always been the WORD of God and how to use it in our own lives. Despite the service hearts we struggle time and time again not being able to fully have Him consistently burning in our lives. The main reason of it is that we were missing His Words”.

The retreat was indeed powerful as we allow the Holy Spirit to take full control and with hearts full of Faith that He will do the rest. Participants opened up their hearts and minds and the whole room just overflowed with knowledge and understanding as Jesus Christ’s Love became more and more evident.

One of the participant’s reflection stated “I went from barely believing in God...to wanting to know all about Him”.

We, as members of this community, are directed by Jesus to carry out the Great Commission.

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

(Mt 28:19-20)

COUNSELS

Love vs. Enmity

THEME: Our heavenly Father is glorified when we love others with the unconditional love of Christ.

WORD: Lev 19:1-2,17-18; Ps 103: 1-4,8,10,12-13, 1Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

ORDER Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

REFLECTION: For most of us, ‘love of neighbor’ means love of one’s families, relatives, friends, acquaintances and members of the community. It is relatively easy to be kind and good to somebody who reciprocates our love.

So it was with the Jews in our 1st reading from the book of Leviticus where love of neighbor as we love ourselves is linked to holiness. In order to be holy as God is holy, we must refrain from nursing hatred in our hearts. If we see someone doing wrong, we are required to rebuke them or we will share their guilt. We are forbidden to entertain any form of vengeance and harbor any grudge. And we are told to love our neighbor as we love ourselves -- their well-being must be as important to us as our own. However, the focus here is on love of neighbors, of members of the same clan or people. Nothing is said about enemies. James 2:8 calls it the kingly commandment: “**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**” Anyone who can fulfill this royal law according to the Scripture will really do well.

Christ Jesus goes a big step further and surpasses it by extending the concept of neighbor when He said –“...**love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father...**” (Mt 5:44-45). Thus, love extends beyond neighbors who think and act similarly, to

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“...You may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.”

(Mt 5:45)

SACRIFICE OF PRAISE

The Old Testament tells us of sacrifice for sins. These were offered by high priests first for his own sins and then for the sins of the people, to appease God for the sinfulness of man. Unblemished animals and the best first fruits were offered but these sacrifices were never enough, they never ever satisfied the need for men to be justified before God. These sacrifices for sins never really opened the gates of heaven to mankind. They could not fulfill God's plan to share his kingdom with his people.

Man's helplessness to save himself, needed divine intervention. It is out of God's love for men, that Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son and the second person in the Godhead, took flesh, became man and died for us. ***"It was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, higher than the heavens. He has no need, as did the high priests, to offer sacrifice day after day, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did that once for all when he offered himself."*** (Heb 7:26-27)

Jesus is the high priest who offered himself, as the unblemished lamb, to the Father and opened the gates of heaven so that all may enter into His kingdom. For this most perfect offering, we are called now and given a reason to offer our sacrifice of praise. And from the sacrifice of praise issues forth the sacrifice of thanksgiving from our lips, spoken with words that are most pleasing to the Lord.

Jesus is the reason that holy souls are now offering endless sacrifice of praise in heaven. In the timelessness of heaven, the angels, the saints and all the courts of heaven offer endless sacrifice praise before the holiness and the glory of God.

By God's mercy and grace given through our divine savior, we on earth are able to echo heaven's endless praise. As the earth turns on its axis, as night turns to day and day to night, second after second, minute after minute, hour after hour, the holy sacrifice of praise is said without ceasing in all the masses celebrated in all the Catholic churches throughout the world.

God has taught us to open our mouth to offer our sacrifice of praise every Friday in this community not because he needs our praise for we cannot add nor subtract to his glory and perfection. When we come together for Friday worship, it is an appointed time for us all to offer our Lord, the community's sacrifice of praise. As we praise and sing in one voice, blessings upon blessings flow from God's throne to cover us. Then we learn to praise Him, in good times as well as in bad times. Foremost and more than the praise issuing from our lips, our highest sacrifice of praise is manifested by how we are able to honor our Lord in the kind of life that we live. Holy, undefiled, separated from sin and worthy to be called heirs to His kingdom.

NURTURED IN GOD'S UNFAILING LOVE

In Mark 8:22-26, Jesus healed a blind person. He had to lay His hands on the blind man twice before the man was completely healed and was able to see. This brings us to the question of how we are with our spiritual efforts. Do we persevere with our good deeds? Do we patiently act on God's word or do we set it aside if our situation becomes a bit difficult? Do we give people a second chance or set them aside instantaneously as soon as they fail to live up to our standards?

An old friend once shared his life with me and how the Lord brought him into His fold. Despite his very beautiful childhood, having grown up in a wealthy and well-endowed family and his education in an exclusive Catholic all boy's school, which culminated in a top Ivy League business school, the young man never gave God some space in his heart. He proceeded with life recklessly and was not very much guided by any moral values in his career. His love life was likewise the same. His only dream was to amass wealth apart from his family and to win every woman's heart. His quest for fame, power and fortune filled his heart. They all displaced God.

One day, he fell seriously ill and was about to die. Through his prayers and the intercessions of those close to him, God relented and gave him a new life. His faith in our Lord saved him from sure death-death not only of the body but also of the soul.

Like the blind man, this man was touched by Jesus twice...the very first time in his early childhood but shrugged off God out of his life. The second time around, God did not relent. He could now see life in a more clear way. This young man is now firmly guided by the norms and values of a Christian as he conducts his business as Chief Financial Officer of big conglomerate. He has given his life to the Lord by being one of the pillars of a spiritual community that seeks to renew Christians and bring others closer to the Lord.

But like the blind man, this man also needed to "go home" to his loved ones, to his family and friends to proclaim God's goodness and love. As he was overwhelmed by God's love, he needed to "go home" to let his experience settle in his heart, to nourish and nurture His new found relationship. He needed to share God with the world now that his heart is rooted in God's word and work.

Jesus sent the man whom He healed of blindness, with the admonition, *"Do not even go into the village."* Instead of

Continued on page 3

Nurtured..... (from page 2)

skipping town and following Jesus' admonition, "Do not even go into the village." he ran back to his village to proclaim God's victory in his life. God's love and healing mercies took a strong hold of this man's heart that there was nothing that could stop Him from bringing the Good News to all men!

Let us pray to God that He touches us deep in our souls and gives us not only the Virtue of doing His will but the Wisdom of knowing it and the Strength of living by it.

If You Are Not Serving, You Are Just Existing

by Rick Warren

"Each of us shall give an account of himself to God." (Rom 14:12)

At the end of your life on earth you will stand before God, and He is going to evaluate how well you served others with your life. The Bible says, ***"Each of us will have to give a personal account to God."*** (Rom 14:12)

Think about the implications of that. One day God will compare how much time and energy we spent on ourselves compared with what we invested in serving others.

At that point, all our excuses for self-centeredness will sound hollow: *"I was too busy,"* or *"I had my own goals,"* or *"I was preoccupied with working, having fun, or preparing for retirement."* To all excuses God will respond, *"Sorry, wrong answer. I created, saved, and called you and commanded you to live a life of service. What part did you not understand?"*

The Bible warns unbelievers, ***"He will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves,"*** but for Christians it will mean a loss of eternal rewards. (Romans 2:8 NLT)

We are only fully alive when we're helping others. Jesus said, ***"If you insist on saving your life, you will lose it. Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live."*** (Mark 8:35 LB; see also Matthew 10:39; 16:25; Luke 9:24; 17:33)

This truth is so important that it is repeated five times in the Gospels. If you are not serving, you are just existing ... because life is meant for ministry. God wants you to learn to love and serve others unselfishly.

**Ignorance of the Bible
is Ignorance of Christ.
Read your Bible daily!**

COUNSEL (from page 1)

those who disagree and dislike us, and even desire to do us harm. The neighbors we are to love are those people who do not particularly like us, who deliberately exclude us from their social circles and who talk about us behind our backs. Our love must be patterned after God's love, which is given to the bad and the good alike. For if we love only those who love us but harm those who harm us, then we are merely fulfilling the law ***"...An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth"*** (Mt 5:38)

Martin Luther King Jr. wrote: "a reason why we should love our enemies is that love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend. We never get rid of an enemy by meeting hate with hate; we get rid of an enemy by getting rid of enmity. By its very nature hate destroys and tears down; by its very nature love creates and builds up. Love transforms with redemptive power". It is the same love that Jesus gave us – unconditional, irrevocable and total!

In the Gospel of Mathew, Jesus even suggested that we should not retaliate in kind when people hurt us. Rather, we should turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, outdo yourself in generosity, and rise above the fray. The way to turn enemies into neighbors is through kindness

Are you thinking, "This is too much"? Yes, of course it is beyond human powers! It makes us take down our defenses and become vulnerable. It would be considered foolish by human standards. But Jesus has overturned the standards of the world as He preaches that this kind of love is true wisdom. By the power of the Spirit of God, who dwells in us, we can overcome our prejudices, go beyond our antagonisms and turn enemies into neighbors.

In the end, only if we can imitate The Father's love can we love our enemies and pray for them and be perfect as Our Father; for His love is universal. His love knows no partiality. He loves every one of us! ***"...for He makes His sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust."*** (Mt 5:45)

Brothers and sisters, let us do our best to cooperate with the Lord today. Instead of harboring spiteful thoughts, let us say a short prayer for those who provoke us. Let us think about whether there are other people we should love more than we do, people we may take for granted, look down upon, or consider undeserving. Let us start with those we live and work with. Let us take advantage of every invitation to love. It is only when we love others without measure discrimination will the perfection of God shine on us.

Continued on page 4

COUNSEL (from page 3)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Be merciful and gracious; slow to anger and abounding in kindness.
2. Reach out to those who have hurt you and to those whom you have hurt; be reconciled.
3. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.

BLD Community Covenant

1. We shall surrender ourselves totally to God the Father, to Christ the Son of God, and to the Holy Spirit of God; and we believe that God is the source of all authority. We humbly offer ourselves in submission and servanthood to God's authority as represented by the Catholic Church in the persons of the Holy Father and the Bishops of the Church. We submit to the ecclesial authority of the bishop of our Diocese and the diocesan Spiritual Director of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. In the Covenant Community of Bukas-Loob sa Diyos, we commit ourselves to the pastoral authority of our Spiritual Director and of those who constitute or represent the Community Council of Servant Leaders.
2. We shall nourish our spiritual lives by opening to God through individual, conjugal and family daily prayers; and we will up build the Community through intercessory prayer.
3. We shall read, study, and live the Word of God in the Holy Scriptures and in other spiritual readings, and we shall regularly share our knowledge and experience in the Word with other members of the Community at least once a week at our designated Word Sharing Circles.
4. We shall regularly receive the Sacrament of our Faith, particularly the Eucharist and Reconciliation, and bear witness to the power of God's grace in our lives.
5. We shall faithfully pray and worship in unity and fellowship as one Community at least once each week.
6. We shall serve in at least one Community Mission or Ministry, guided by the direction of the Council of Servant Leaders through the appointed Pastoral Head.
7. We shall actively assist in ministering to the spiritual, personal, and material needs of other members of the Community, and of the other members of the Body of Christ in a spirit of self-giving love.
8. We shall support the Community's Missions and Ministries with regular tithes and love offerings given according to our true means and out of the fullness of our hearts.

SAVE THE DATE

Catholic Men's Conference

Mar. 5 (Saturday) • Seton Hall University

Online registration: www.rcan.org/menscommission

Disciples Assembly/DLC Meeting

Mar. 12 • 1-5pm • Venue TBD

For all: Committed and Covenanted Disciples

Community Retreat

Mar. 26 • 9am-7pm • St. Mary's

Contact: Pastoral Ministry pastoral@bldnewark.com

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.

We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter.

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place **every 4th Friday** at the Auditorium

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Youth LSS #16

Mar. 4-6 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Youth Tricord @ ycs@bldnewark.com

LSS #36

Apr. 1-3 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Joven/Lisa Soriano @ lsa@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter 37

May 13-15 • Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ

Contacts: Nick/Island Raagas @ nlraagas@yahoo.com

• MLA @ mla@blenewark.com

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

TEACHING CALENDAR

2/18 **Mark 10, John 6 & Service Formation**

2/19* Christian Parenting I • ME36⁺
Encounter with Jesus • LSS 34 & 35, SPE 12
Christian Maturity I & Motivational Gift
Test/Charismata • LSS 33 (ME33/SPE11)
Shepherds Training (Refresher) • **Shepherds**

2/25 **Golden Years & Intercessory Formation**

3/11 **Youth Teaching**

3/18 **Mark 10, John 6 & Service Formation**

3/19 Christian Maturity I • LSS 33 (ME33/SPE11)
Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit • LSS 34 & 35, SPE12

Respect For Human Life • **Community**

Fri: after worship; *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's, ⁺ At Reunion

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING FEB. 11, 2011

	Actual	YTD
Collections	4,750.00	26,019.53
Disbursements	1,059.20	38,978.73
Surplus/(Deficit)		

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

Thank you for your continued support!

CN archives are available online at www.bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKAS-LOOB SA DIYOS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 9

Bulletin Edition

March 4, 2011

NEWS

DESIRE THE FIRE



Sixty-four lambs and thirty-nine shepherds, servants, and prayer warriors all “desired the fire” of the Holy Spirit in the 1st Life In the Spirit Seminar held at St. Michael Parish in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, from February 25-27, 2011. And the Spirit did not disappoint as many graces and miracles of healing overflowed in the hearts of all the participants

The BLD-assisted LSS was historic in the sense that a majority of the candidates (two-thirds of them, in fact) were non-Filipinos. It was as if the Lord’s call to **“Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch...” (Lk 5:4)** was being fulfilled right before our eyes. Outside of their usual comfort zones, the thirty-nine members from the various BLD districts of Newark, Rockland, Trenton, Washington, and Charlotte, served as one body together with members of the St. Michael Charismatic Prayer Group and the Encounter with Jesus prayer group during the Spirit-filled weekend seminar. The participants came not only from the parishioners of St. Michael’s but also from different parishes in Myrtle Beach, North Carolina, and even as far as New Jersey and New York. Despite the shepherding time constraints, the “lambs” were very responsive, open, and receptive to the Spirit’s promptings delivered through the various talks given by the Spiritual Director, Msgr. Paul Schetelick and the life testimonies of the sharers and witnesses.

Let us keep the members of the St. Michael Parish LSS#1 always in our prayers so that as they continue their faith journey through their monthly reunions and teachings, **“They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles’ wings; They will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)**

COUNSELS

*“Obey God’s Word.
Live God’s Word.”*

WORD: Dt.11:18, 26-28/Ps 31:2-3, 3-4, 17, 25/
Rom 3:21-25, 28/Mt 7:21-27

THEME: Those who obey the Word of God
will enter the kingdom of heaven.

ORDER: *“Be careful to observe all the statutes
and decrees that I set before you today.”*
(Dt. 11:32)

REFLECTION:

The readings for the Sundays in March begin with the Ninth Week in Ordinary Time, followed by the First, Second, and Third Sundays of Lent. We continue to reflect upon how we have been faithful (or unfaithful) to our Lord Jesus Christ. Do we truly anchor our lives on Jesus, the Rock of our Salvation in prosperity and in adversity; amidst applause and persecution; just as joyful in peaceful moments as in troubled times? Our unwavering faith in Jesus is reflected in the continuing conversion of our hearts and in our deeds. This in turn ensures our spiritual growth and the blessings we to receive in rising above our earthly struggles.

The Word for the month of March, 2011 is - **Blessings will be upon those who obey the Word of God.** The Sunday readings invite us to reflect on our faithfulness to Jesus and to His word. We cannot be truly faithful to Him unless we abide in Him and obey His word. His word is our sure guide in following Jesus. It will constantly transform us. By obeying His word, we find strength to fight sin.

continued on page 3

Promise for the Week

*“Everyone who listens to these words of mine
and acts on them will be like a wise man
who built his house on rock...” (Mt 7:24)*

Come Follow Me with All Your Heart

"Jesus looked at him, loved him and said to him," You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to (the) poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." (Mk 10: 21)

This scriptural passage resonates in my mind each time I begin to discern when asked to serve in community. Like everyone, I too have many worldly attachments, "possessions" that I cling to, and sometimes find difficult to give up. Truly, all too often, I allow my possessions to possess me.

I seek solace in His arms. I try to go to mass and receive Him in Holy Communion. I make time to spend at least an hour each week in Eucharistic Adoration. It is in the silence of these moments with Him that I wait to hear His voice. Then, I am reminded through prayer and scripture that it was He who loved me first (1 Jn 4:19.) He knit me in my mother's womb (Ps 139:13b) and fashioned me in His own likeness (Gen 1:26). He knows the desires of my heart and if I seek Him, I will find Him (1 Chr. 28:9).

He has purposefully led me to this community, like a deer to a clear spring of water, that I may drink of His living waters. In Proverbs 3:5, the Lord reassures me: *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not."* I listen to Him in prayer and I am assured that when I say "yes", the Lord will equip me (Heb 13:21); He will not abandon me (Deut 31:8).

I realize that if I am to follow Jesus, I am to surrender all. I am to leave all my fears, my anxieties and doubts, even to leave the comforts of my daily routines and the haven of my home. Every sacrifice of time, talent, and wealth is my expression of my love for Him. By His grace, I am able to offer what I have, not that it adds to His glory, but that I am given the privilege to express my love for Him. There is an immeasurable sense of inner peace, well-being and joy in serving the Lord. It is a feeling that enables me to keep going, and this peace is indeed addicting and intoxicating. It is when I feel closest to the Lord. I am at the same time overwhelmed and overjoyed that He has chosen me to share in His work.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from you; it is a gift from God; it is not from your works, so no one may boast." (Eph 2:8)

A Persistent Plea

They came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging. On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me." And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me." Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage; get up, he is calling you." He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. Jesus said to him in reply, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see." Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way. (Mark 10: 46-52)

Mark tells us the story of Bartimaeus, a blind man who spent his days sitting by the side of a dusty road, begging. He had already heard the noisy crowd approaching. When he found out that Jesus was nearby, he cried out, *"Jesus, son of David, have pity on me."* (Mark 10:47) The crowd tried to silence him. The popular wisdom of that time was that his disability was a punishment for sin inflicted by a just God, but that didn't stop Bartimaeus. *"Son of David, have pity on me."* (Mark 10: 48) You have to admire his persistence. When Jesus called him closer, the blind man wasted no time. He ran to Jesus and expressed the desire of his heart, *"Master, I want to see."* (Mark 10:51) And Jesus honored his faith by restoring his sight. Bartimaeus was healed because his faith was not deterred by popular opinion or by the rebuke of the crowd.

As Christians in the 21st century, we find that sincere expressions of faith are often misunderstood, openly criticized, and mocked. Like Bartimaeus we hear the rebuke of the crowd. Here in BLD, I find something very different. Persistence is encouraged. I am constantly reminded that Jesus is nearby just as He was on that day in Jericho. At worship my heart hears the same soothing words that Bartimaeus heard, *"Take courage..he is calling you"* (Mark 10: 49). I attend teachings, seminars, and retreats still whispering the 2000-year-old prayer of a blind beggar, *"Master, I want to see."* (Mark 10:51) And I find that I am not alone. BLD is full of seekers and followers. Popular opinion is never an issue here. The only opinion that matters is God's. And the promise He offers us is the same one He gave to Bartimaeus, *"Go your way; your faith has saved you."* (Mark 10:52).

Jr. Paul Speaks

That very important and often misunderstood season is upon us again, the annual springtime reminder of the death/resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the holy season of Lent. We take this opportunity to remind ourselves that Lent is not just a remembrance of the events at the end of the life of our Savior. Lent (and every day) is a living out of what happens every time we go to Mass. Mass is a chance to offer our lives, our actions, our good and bad moments, our whole being. We unite it all with the sacrifice of Jesus who, now at the right hand of the Father, is perpetually offering to the Father the gifts of his death and resurrection. Our personal offering, united to the offering of Jesus, now takes upon itself an inestimable value. Even if this is something we should be aware of all year long, Lent gives us the opportunity to refocus.

The traditional morning offering pulls together all the thoughts, words, sufferings, joys and actions of the coming day in union with the sacrifice of the Mass. The daily life of the Christian is then a perpetual Mass. Even though this should be happening all year round, Lent gives us pause to renew and perfect the daily giving of the gift. What can be a consciousness raising experience during the 40 days, can also be carried into the daily routine after the season of Lent. This daily immersion into the perpetual offering of our heavenly Savior, is a "supernaturalizing" of the ordinary and natural into a gift worthy of acceptance by the Father.

We may not be able to go to Mass every day, but we can offer ourselves every day, in union with the Mass. If we have problems, difficulties, physical or emotional pain, these challenges can be the raw material for great holiness. If we are looking for "something to do" during Lent, we need look no further than the daily happenings of everyday life. Instead of complaining about a problem, why not "offer it up"? Don't waste the anointed moment when difficulties come. Poets have compared these moments to the splinters from the cross, or love letters from God, all opportunities to recall the constant presence of God and his gift to us.

The traditional morning offering: "O Jesus, through the immaculate heart of Mary I offer you my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in reparation for all my sins, and for the intentions of those close to me and those recommended to me for my personal prayer." Begin your day this way, and you will be on your way to "living the Mass".

Lord's Provision

Week Ending Feb. 25, 2011

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,822.00	37,112.53
Disbursements	4,226.38	53,546.25

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

Counsels *continued from page 1*

As we ponder upon His precepts daily and consider the paths He wants us to take, we will never forget His word; for as His word becomes rooted in our hearts, we will not allow the violence of our words and deeds to overcome us. Instead, only goodness, mercy, and love will permeate our being. We will recount all His decrees with our tongues; delight in His statutes, rejoice in doing His will, and treasure His promises. (Ps 119; 9-16; Ps 17:4 NSV) Then blessings will be upon us for we obey His Word.

The Theme of the first Sunday of March is - ***Those who obey the Word of God will enter the Kingdom of heaven.*** In the first reading Moses tells the people that they will be blessed if they obey the commandments of God. And in the Gospel, Jesus says essentially the same thing – only those who do the will of His Father will enter the Kingdom of heaven. How do we follow the will of God? By hearing His words and putting them into practice. St. James said; "***Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding themselves,***" (Jm. 1:19). And the Promise of the Week is: "***Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like the wise man who built his house on rock...***"(Mt 7:24).

For the second Sunday of March, the Theme is - ***Those who obey the Word of God will overcome temptation.*** The Gospel reading shows us how Jesus repulsed the temptations of Satan by using the word of God. As Jesus was tempted but did not succumb to temptation, we too are being tempted – tempted to be relevant, to make productivity the basis of our ministry, to be spectacular - to bask in applause for what we have done, or are doing ; and to be powerful – to lord it over those under us. Because of what Jesus suffered for the love of us, we should allow the word of God to continue to convert us from these human strivings for recognition. As we do, we can overcome temptations. The Promise of the Week is: "***... just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all.***" (Rom 5:18).

The theme for the third Sunday's is - ***Those who obey the Word of God will grow in holiness.*** Our ultimate aim is to go to heaven. There we will witness the majesty and the greatness of God. The apostles were able to behold the glory of God in the Transfiguration of Jesus. As we bear hardships in obeying His word, Jesus will grant us the necessary graces to persevere in being holy. As others see our continuing conversion, they too will want to obey His word and attain holiness. And being holy in His sight, we all can attain our aim to be in heaven. The Promise of the Week is: "***I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.***" (Gen 12:2)

continued on page 4

Counsels continued from page 3

For the last Sunday, the Theme is - ***Those who obey the Word of God will be made right in His sight.*** Psalm 119: 1-2 says, "***Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk by the teaching of the Lord. Happy are those who observe God's decrees, who seek the Lord with all their heart.***" As we remain in Jesus by obeying His word, He will remain in us. The Holy Spirit will continue to guide us and God will make us right in His sight. The Promise of the Week is: "***... the water I shall give you will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.***" (Jn 4: 14b).

DIRECTIONS

1. Remind our covenanted and committed members to follow the statutes of the Community for it was by the Spirit of the Lord that these were made.
2. Be steadfast in your prayer life through the Word and Sacraments. Read and reflect on the Holy Bible daily and meditate upon the Word of God.
Do the examination of conscience daily.

Jesus, Send Your Spirit

(Cardinal Newman)

Dear Jesus, help us to spread Your fragrance everywhere we go. Flood our souls with Your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly that our lives may only be a radiance of Yours.

Shine through us, and be so in us, that every soul we come in contact with may feel your presence in our soul. Let them look up and see no longer us but only Jesus!

Stay with us, and then we shall begin to shine You shine; so to shine as to be a light to others; the light O Jesus, will be all from You, none of it will be ours; it will be You, shining on others through us.

Let us thus praise You in the way You love best by shining on those around us. Let us preach You without preaching, not by words but by our example, by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what we do. The evident fullness of the love our hearts bear to You. Amen

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

(Father Lechner, C.S. Sp.)

O Lord Jesus Christ, before ascending into heaven You promised to send the Holy Spirit to continue Your work in the souls of the Apostles and disciples. Grant the same Spirit to us that we may ever better cooperate with Your love and grace.

Grant us the spirit of **Wisdom** - that we may not unduly attach ourselves to perishable things and aspire ever more for things that are eternal

The Spirit of **Understanding** - that Divine Truth might enlighten our mind

The spirit of **Knowledge** - that we may see all things in the light of Divine Revelation

The spirit of **Counsel** - that we may always choose the surest way of pleasing God

The spirit of **Fortitude** - that we may bear our crosses with courage

The spirit of **Piety** - that we may be filled with a childlike love for God and be eager to obey Him in all things
The Spirit of **Fear** - that will make us avoid whatever displeases You

This we ask, for the greater glory of the Triune God. Amen.

Save The Date

Disciples Assembly/DLC Meeting

Mar. 12, 1-5pm .. Committed and Covenanted Disciples

Women's Commission - Day of Reflection

Mar.19 9am-4pm at Seton Hall University www.rcan.org/womcom

Community Retreat

Mar. 26 .. 9am-7pm at St. Mary's, contact: Pastoral Ministry
pastoral@bldnewark.com

Ministry Announcements

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Monthly, every 2nd Sat. Volunteers are needed.

Mar 12 Singles - Contacts Manny/Arlene Mangalonzo
@ singles@bldnewark.com

Audie/VuletChong @ institutional@bldnewark.com

Community Calendar

LSS 36

Apr. 1-3 at St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Joven/Lisa Soriano

@ lsa@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter 37

May 13-15 at Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ

Contacts: Nick/Island Raagas @ nlraagas@yahoo.com

Gary/Mil Camacho @ mla@bldnewark.com

Singles Encounter 26

Jun. 3-5 at Graymoor Spiritual Center, Garrison, NY

Contact: Manny/Arlene Mangalonzo

@ singles@bldnewark.com

Teaching Calendar

3/05 Christian Parenting II - **ME 36**

Encounter with Jesus - **LSS 34 & 35, SPE12**

Mission Development - **Community**

3/11 **Youth Teaching**

3/18 **Mark 10, John 6 & Service Formation**

3/19 Christian Maturity I .. **LSS 33** (ME33/SPE11)

Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit .. **LSS 34 & 35, SPE12**

Respect For Human Life .. **Community**

3/25 **Golden Years & Intercessory Formation**

Fri: after worship; *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's,

Special Announcement

March 5, **TOMORROW** from 1-5pm .

Witness Development Program

St. Mary's, Room 205



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 10

Bulletin Edition

March 11, 2011

NEWS

YLSS 16: God's Love Manifested

The Lord is my shepherd ; there is nothing I lack.
(Ps 23:1)

Last weekend the Youth experienced the beauty and power of the good Lord's Spirit. In that weekend, thirty-six lambs undertook the YLSS 16 retreat. Spiritual director Fr. Paul Lehman expounded on the lambs knowledge and awareness of the Holy Spirit. They grew into a stringer relationship with the Spirit while listening to sharings on God's love by Jeanelle Nacion, New Life by Mikko Pepino, Healing and Reconciliation by the Lucero family, and Transformation by Faith Ikalina.

During the Baptism, first time exhorters Erik Cruz and Olivia Felibrico called on the lambs to truly embrace God's presence in their hearts. As a result, the gifts of the Holy Spirit flooded abundantly through our Youth ministry lambs, as many of them received the gift of tongues. Truly, this stands as testimony to an almighty love. Indeed, the Lord has the power to touch the hearts and lives of the Youth today. Praise be to God!

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.(Heb 13:8)



COUNSELS

TITLE: Fighting Our Temptations
READINGS: Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-6, 12-14, 17;
Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11
ORDER: ***"The Lord, your God, shall you worship and Him alone shall you serve." (Mt 4:10)***
THEME: Those who obey the Word of God will overcome temptation

REFLECTION:

Those who obey the Word of God will overcome temptations. This is the theme for this 1st Sunday of Lent. The Season of Lent begins with the story of the Fall of Man. Our 1st parents Adam & Eve were tempted by the serpent to eat of the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Here the first sin was committed: the sin of disobedience. Adam & Eve disobeyed God's Word and along with it came it's punishment. They were banished from the Garden of Eden and were driven to the wilderness and to childbearing pain, lust, slavery, strife, labor toils, hardness of life and death.

Let us compare our first parents' to Jesus' temptation in the Gospel reading. In the Garden of Eden, Adam & Eve had it all and still disobeyed God. Jesus had nothing in the desert yet He obeyed God's will. There was no food, no water to quench his thirst from the intense heat of the sun. He was exposed to the cold harsh desert night and to dangerous desert animals. His only protection was God's Word and the Holy Spirit. Luke says that Jesus "was full of the Holy Spirit" (Luke 4:1). Our 1st parents relied on their own strength to overcome temptation which led to their downfall and our death. Jesus relied on His faith that God the Father will sustain Him with grace and strength to overcome sin. He was able to resist the devil's temptations His adherence to God's Word and Will. Each 3 temptations were answered by Jesus with God's powerful Words.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"...just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came for all." (Rm 5:18)

Following Jesus Always

Then he said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me..." (Luke 9:23)

I recently returned from a trip to the Philippines and as I was traveling from place to place, I was once more reminded about the plight of my less fortunate fellow-countrymen and women. There is no denying that for most of them, daily life is a constant struggle to search for the next meal, a warm place to sleep, or even a shirt or a pair of shoes to wear. Those scenes of just struggling to survive brought me to thinking about my own struggles and challenges in my spiritual life as I strive to follow Jesus by denying myself and taking up my daily crosses.

Similar to the beggar who is daily actively searching for his next meal, I too should be just as focused on following Jesus **every day**. Instead, what do I do? I become complacent, lazy, even a procrastinator. I don't see the urgency or the importance of a daily concerted effort to rid myself of the many things that I hold on to that block my way to an open and transforming relationship with my Savior. Rather than seeing an opportunity to grow in holiness, I complain whenever I face a problem or some difficulty. I pray for patience and understanding and yet when the Lord presents me with a situation that tests my patience, my first response is to judge others and point fingers. Instead of being "slow to anger and rich in kindness", I easily lose my temper and become hostile, unsympathetic, and cruel.

As a disciple striving to follow Jesus, I must learn to make my will, my desires, and my whole being subservient to the Master's. I must forget myself and always place the Lord and his people as first priority. I must put into action what St. Paul says in his letter to the Galatians, ***"yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me."***

It is only in a humble heart that the Lord makes His dwelling place. May you and I become like persistent beggars, who daily strive to satisfy our hungry hearts by becoming less of ourselves and more of Jesus.



SUNDAY SWEET SUNDAY

"If you hold back your foot on the Sabbath from following your own pursuits on my holy day; If you call the Sabbath a delight, and the Lord's holy day honorable; If you honor it by not following your ways, seeking your own interests, or speaking with malice-Then you shall delight in the Lord." (Isaiah 58:13:14)

This Lent, I feel challenged to honor Sundays, being a day spent not only to fulfill our weekly obligation to attend mass but to devote the full day to commune with the Lord. The ideal would be to spend the day in activities that will bring me and my family, closer to the Lord (e.g. bible reading and reflection, watching EWTN, listening to Christ centered music or bible related topics, praying the rosary together or serving Him through volunteering). As a full time working mother, I usually spend the weekends to catch up with housework, cooking or shopping. I know that it will not be easy initially as I know that if I do not do the work, I will eventually have to do it sometime during the week. But I know with God's grace, I will have to learn to let go and give this a try. The best time to do this is now. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states the following about Sunday being a day of grace and rest from work:

2184 Just as God "rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done," human life has a rhythm of work and rest. The institution of the Lord's Day helps everyone enjoy adequate rest and leisure to cultivate their familial, cultural, social, and religious lives.

2185 On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are to refrain from engaging in work or activities that hinder the worship owed to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day, the performance of the works of mercy, and the appropriate relaxation of mind and body. Family needs or important social service can legitimately excuse from the obligation of Sunday rest. The faithful should see to it that legitimate excuses do not lead to habits prejudicial to religion, family life, and health.

The charity of truth seeks holy leisure - the necessity of charity accepts just work.

2186 Those Christians who have leisure should be mindful of their brethren who have the same needs and the same rights, yet cannot rest from work because of poverty and misery. Sunday is traditionally consecrated by Christian piety to good works and humble service of the sick, the infirm, and the elderly. Christians will also sanctify Sunday by devoting time and care to their families and relatives, often difficult to do on other days of the week. Sunday is a time for reflection, silence, cultivation of the mind, and meditation which furthers the growth of the Christian interior life.

As I am reminded of what Sundays should truly be, I encourage everyone to take this challenge with me. Let us reclaim Sunday and live it as it is meant to be lived.

Lent, A Time To Prepare

And so we begin another Lent. We use this time, as a matter of fact, to remind ourselves of the urgency of the matter - that the time is now to concentrate on our salvation – to get busy about building the reign of God. And through this season we'll remind ourselves through the reading of the scripture – the stories that are full of reminders for us – through the symbols that might stir us –we have apples this week to help us reflect perhaps on the different enticements we might have to stray, through our prayer in different ways this season.

We begin this Lent listening to that story of the fall. And we are reminded of the beginning of the struggle – the struggle between our desire to live fully to find fulfillment on the one hand and on the other to be focused only on our needs, wants and desires.

Interestingly enough, while we have an apple as our symbol this week, it never mentions original sin. And yet over the years and years we have in a sense simplified the story and made it seem as if we are only inheritors of this act – that we live in a state of sin because of what Adam and Eve did. But the essential fact of the story is that it illustrates our human condition. The bottom line is that each person, whether it be Adam or Eve or you or I, are directly responsible for himself/herself. We are free to make bad choices, choices that conflict with the perfection for which God created them. The fact is that the accumulation of bad choices around us often weighs against each person's choice to make right choices. If I live in a community that is continually turning its back on the goodness of God or the ways in which God is calling us it is increasingly difficult for me to make a right choice. But in spite of that it is my responsibility to make right choices – to do God's will, to love and care and create harmony.

Our Lenten time – this time now – is a time to recognize how we are tempted – lured – cajoled by the forces that surround us.

It is imperative that we do this now – that we realize the opportunities we have now to be saved and to be whole.

Our task this Lent is great – we have forty days to look at what lures us and draws us into ourselves and away from our God. And it can seem to be a lot. But we don't do it alone. We do it together as pilgrims together and we do it being loved so much by our merciful and good God.

Let us not hesitate. The time is now.

Counsels *(from page 1)*

God proves and purifies everyone to see to prepare us for the task He has given us. God tests his servants to see if they are fit and ready to be used by him. He tested Abraham to sacrifice Isaac to prove his faith and to strengthen his hope in God's promises. He tested the Israelites for more than 400 years in Egypt, but they did not forget God. In the same way, God will continue to test us. He will allow Satan to tempt us and Satan will try his best to get us to choose our will over God's will. If Satan can't make us renounce our faith or to commit sin mortally, he will then try to get us to make choices that will lead us, little by little, away from what God wants for us.

Like Jesus, let us use God's word to fight our daily temptations. Let us read and reflect on it daily. Instead of our iPad and iPhone, bring the Bible wherever we go. Let us invoke the power of the Holy Spirit to help us in our weakness. The Lord gives grace to the humble who acknowledge their dependence on him (James 4:6)

God wants us to "fight the good fight of the faith" (1 Tm 6:12) with the power and strength which comes from the Holy Spirit. This Lent God is asking us to fast and pray with Him. Feel the hunger pangs, pray like we've never prayed before. Read the Holy Bible. Go to confession regularly, receive the Eucharist daily. Resist the worldly temptations of the devil by tithing generously to our Church, our favorite charity, and to those who are in need. Be radical in loving God! Be radical in loving the poor, the sick and lonely people around us by supporting our community mission. As members of this community, God is pruning and preparing us for the task that He prepared for us. Archbishop Lagdameo reiterated Jesus' call to His disciples by exhorting our community to "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." (Lk 5:4) Be fishers of men not just for our own countrymen but for all peoples in the world.

God's saving work continues up to this day. We as God's disciples continue His divine plan by proclaiming the Good News that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin and death. Do not let this Lenten Season pass us by without doing anything for God. Rather, allow ourselves to suffer and die for Him. By doing so, we rejoice and share His new life at Easter.

Directions:

1. Soak in the word of God and pray
2. Go to confession regularly and receive the Holy Eucharist daily
3. Observe fasting and abstinence

SAVE THE DATE

Disciples Assembly/DLC Meeting

Mar 12, 1-5pm • Committed & Covenanted Disciples

Women's Commission - Day of Reflection

Mar. 19 • 9am-4pm • Seton Hall University

Online registration: www.rcan.org/womcom/

Community Retreat

Mar. 26 • 9am-7pm • St. Mary's

Contact: Pastoral Ministry pastoral@bldnewark.com

AFCCPC 16th National Convention

(Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities)

July 1-3 • Sheraton Meadowlands Conference Center

2 Meadowlands Plaza, E. Rutherford, NJ

Our very own Richard dela Fuente will be presenting.

Request registration forms from Frank/Malou

Venadas @ bobbitski@hotmail.com or 973-562-0055

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Under-Shepherd Volunteers Needed

Every Wed. (starting Mar. 16) 8-9pm at St. Andrew's

Msgr. Paul Schetelick, Bayonne's St. Andrew's

Church pastor, is requesting our assistance for their

first parish LSS, which will culminate with the

Baptism on April 30. Volunteers from BLD are

needed to serve as under-shepherds for the candidates.

For addition info, please contact ...

O Jesus, meek and humble of heart, Hear me.

From the desire of being esteemed,

From the desire of being loved...

From the desire of being extolled ...

From the desire of being honored ...

From the desire of being praised ...

From the desire of being preferred to others...

From the desire of being consulted ...

From the desire of being approved ...

Deliver me, Jesus

From the fear of being humiliated ...

From the fear of being despised...

From the fear of suffering rebukes ...

From the fear of being calumniated ...

From the fear of being forgotten ...

From the fear of being ridiculed ...

From the fear of being wronged ...

From the fear of being suspected ...

That others may be loved more than I,

That, in the opinion of the world,

others may increase and I may decrease ...

That others may be chosen and I set aside ...

That others may be esteemed more than I ...

That others may be praised and I unnoticed ...

That others may be preferred to me in everything...

That others may become holier than I,

provided that I may become as holy as I should...

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

CN archives are available online at www.bldnewark.com!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check

Every 2nd Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Monthly, every 2nd Sat. Volunteers are needed.

Mar 12 • Singles • Contacts Manny/Arlene

Mangalonzo @ singles@bldnewark.com • Audie/Vulet

Chong @ institutional@bldnewark.com

Make Covenant News

A Part of Your Covenant Life!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LSS 36

Apr. 1-3 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Joven/Lisa Soriano @ lsa@bldnewark.com

Youth Ministry Retreat

April 16 • Saturday • St. Mary's

Washing Of The Feet / Agony In The Garden

Contact: Youth Tricord @ ycs@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter 37

May 13-15 • Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ

Contacts: Nick/Island Raagas @ nlraagas@yahoo.com

• Gary/Mil Camacho @ mla@bldnewark.com

Singles Encounter 26

Jun. 3-5 • Graymoor Spiritual Center, Garrison, NY

Contact: Manny/Arlene Mangalonzo @

singles@bldnewark.com

**Ignorance of the Bible
is Ignorance of Christ.
Read your Bible daily!**

TEACHING CALENDAR

3/11 **Youth Teaching**

3/18 **Mark 10, John 6 & Service Formation**

3/19 Christian Maturity I • LSS 33 (ME33/SPE11)

Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit • LSS 34 &

35, SPE12

Respect For Human Life • **Community**

3/25 **Golden Years & Intercessory Formation**

Fri: after worship; *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's, ⁺At Reunion

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

LORD'S PROVISION WEEK ENDING MAR. 4, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,280	29,175

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

Thank you for your continued support!



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 11

Bulletin Edition

March 18, 2011

NEWS

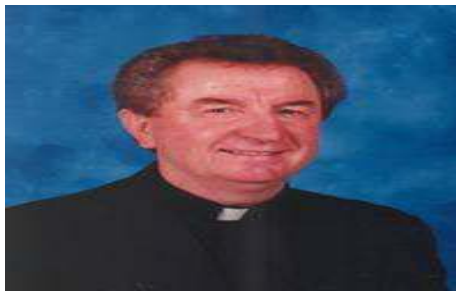
Fr. Brendan Williams is Spiritual Director for March 26 Community Recollection

Fr. Brendan is the pastor of the St. Veronica's Parish in Howell- Diocese of Trenton. He is the diocese's liaison to the Bishop of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, a member of the National Service Committee for the US Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and for a good number of years, the president of the New Jersey Charismatic Conference.

He is a much sought-after, Spirit-filled preacher and retreat master. Fr. Brendan gave the recollection at BLD Washington last year. Although we had not given him ample notice, Fr. Brendan cancelled his March 26th schedule in order to be available to us.

The March 26 Community Recollection will focus on the Lord's call to cast into deeper waters and the new BLD Vision and Mission. Fr. Brennan will guide the community into reflection and discernment of the messages the Holy Spirit wants to deliver to us.

Fr. Brendan Williams



We thank and praise God for blessing us with the precious gift of Fr. Brendan!

Community Recollection
9am-5:30 pm @ St. Mary's Auditorium
All BLD members are welcome!

Please plan to attend this momentous community event and remember to bring your bibles to the recollection as Fr. Brendan refers to the bible frequently in his reflections.

COUNSELS

Listen to Him

THEME: **Those who obey the Word of God will grow in holiness.**

WORD: Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

ORDER: **"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him."** (Mt. 17:5)

REFLECTION:

There was quiet beauty and serenity on that mountaintop as Peter, James and John waited for Jesus to pray. Jesus situated Himself a little distance from the apostles to pray. It was His time with His Father and He needed that communion, especially as the conclusion of His mission on earth is drawing closer. Suddenly, the veil over Jesus' humanity was lifted, and the Son of Man was revealed to the three chosen apostles for Who He is and what He is. He was transfigured before them. He was shown in the glory and majesty of God, eternal, unchangeable, and everlasting. Moses and Elijah came to converse with Him, the Glory of the Lord covered them and a voice was heard from heaven, **"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him."** (Mt 17:5)

What an amazing gift to see Jesus indescribable, incandescent and all holy. It is an eyewitness account which draws Christians for the past 2,000 years to desire the same awesome experience on that holy mountain. It was a moment when the earth stood still and gloried in the presence of their King, where mortals with fear and trembling lay prostrate on the ground at the sound of God's voice, **"Listen to Him."**

We are commanded to listen to Jesus by God the Father for he has **"called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to His own design..."** (2 Tm 1:9). The readings this Sunday show the flow of God's mercy in our lives as He encourages and guides us in our Christian walk.

... Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." (Gen 12:2)

How The Word Challenges Us



Yes, my friends, our Lenten Journey has begun as we move from the Ordinary Time of the Church Calendar Year into this Season of Lent. Right away during this first week of Lent we have heard in the Mass readings the invitation of the Lord to depend on His Word. In Isaiah 55:11 the Lord proclaims to the Israelites, and to a greater extent to us in our own generation, these words: ***“So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.”*** In essence then, all of us are invited by the Lord to enter into His Word as He offers us several challenges.

The first challenge that the Lord gives us is to hear the “Word” that “goes forth from” His “mouth”. During this time, there are steps we may take to accomplish this task. Firstly, are we really ready to hear His Word? Or are we too busy doing the “things of the Lord” to hear what He is exactly telling us to do? Are our lives like Martha or our lives like Mary who knelt at His feet and adored Him? Secondly, once hearing His Word, are we willing to act upon His Word? Thirdly, are we ready to take His Word and accomplish what He wants us to do with it and not use His Word to accomplish our own agendas and plans for our lives and for those of our loved ones?

The second challenge that the Lord gives us is to “return to” Him the results or what I like to describe as the “fruits” of His Word. By His Word, all of us are invited by the Lord to return to Him as much fruit as He wills it to be done. During our 2011 Lenten Journey, will we “achieve the end for which” the Lord “sent” us? Will we be willing to forego our natural tendencies to be self-sufficient, and depend on the Lord for everything? Will we be willing to forego our inclinations to please ourselves or others by making personal sacrifices so that at the end of this Lenten Journey we have become closer to the Lord? Will we be able to examine our consciences at the end of this Lenten Season and be able to see some discernable progress in our spiritual lives? If so, we will be blessed to hear the Lord say to us, ***“Well done, My good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your Master’s joy.”*** (Mt 25:21)

Out of the Depths of My Soul

“Out of the depths I call to you, LORD; Lord, hear my cry! May your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy,” prayed the psalmist in Psalm 130. This is one of several penitential Psalms sung by pilgrims. Jesus, Mary and Joseph probably prayed this while on pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

Let us consider these words. Out of what depths?

First, out of the depths of our hearts, broken and contrite that the Lord may enter in. Second, in our case, out of the depths of our sinfulness and separation from God, that we, with the psalmist, might cry out for mercy to our All-loving God Who desires nothing more than to restore us, His sons and daughters, to His grace and favor by showering mercy upon us through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Next, out of the depths of our lack of holiness that He might sanctify us through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Out of the depths of our littleness and nothingness before the Almighty, Who, in His immeasurable Love has carved our names on the hands of His Son and has counted the hairs on our heads. Out of the depths of our misery and pain before a loving and compassionate Father, Who knows and experiences our pain with us and Who holds our tears in His flask. Out of the depths of our joys before a God Who delights and rejoices over us, Who loves us just the way we are, only too much to let us stay that way.

Out of the depths of our frail humanity, which He loved so much that He desired, in an act that baffled even some of His angels, to become one with us, His creatures, in all things except sin. Out of the depths of our trust in Him, that He has not left us orphans, that He has an appointed task for each of us to continue the work He started, building His kingdom, that we might be called members of His own family.

Out of these depths, the depths of our soul, is where prayer happens and where we truly come to know God. On Feb 2, 2011, Mother Mary told visionary Mirjana Soldo at Medjugorje:

“Proper prayer comes from the depth of your heart, from your suffering, from your joy, from your seeking the forgiveness of sins. This is the way to come to know the right God [God as He really is in His Love] and by that also yourselves, because you are created according to Him. Prayer will bring you to the fulfillment of my desire, of my mission here with you, to the unity in God’s family. Thank you.”

Ministry Matters: Family Life Apostolate (FLA)

A family, in the simplest term, is the union of a man and a woman along with their offspring. In the Holy Scripture the Israelites were divided into tribes and clans, and the clans were made up of “ancestral houses” or families. It was to this extent that families followed the descent from famous ancestors, such as the “house of David”. The family was also a unit in worship, and the books of wisdom speak of the goodness of a family, its blessing and the rearing of children (Prv 20:20; 4:1-5; Sir 7:18-36).

The Christian family constitutes specific revelations and a realization of ecclesial communion, and for this reason it can and should be called a domestic church. It is a community of faith, hope and charity; it assumes singular importance in the church, as is evident in the New Testament (CCC2204). It is in this context that the Family Life Apostolate (FLA) is built upon.

With the firm belief that the family is the primary vehicle for spiritual growth, the Family Life Apostolate was designed to explore the dynamics of faith growth and faith sharing in Catholic families and to develop new initiatives for promoting faith maturity in families throughout the entire family cycle. This is a unique community effort to create new pastoral and faith-based approaches to fostering spiritual growth in families.

The FLA believes that: as the family is a community of life and love in service to God’s kingdom, it is also the primary context for faith growth and faith sharing; as the family is a privileged locale for encountering God in everyday life experiences, the family life cycle stages provide a framework for faith growth in the entire family system.

The Family Encounter Weekend is one of the highlights of the BLD Community’s various activities. It offers the family a chance to rekindle and affirm each family member’s love and relationship with one another. To some families, broken by maligned ideas of our corrupt society, this weekend could be the beginning of a healing for a lifetime. For those whose relationships have been alienated by pressing circumstances, this could be the time to attain that pristine and wholesome need to reach out to loved ones and mend their differences and begin a life full of hope and love. Let us all remember the Word of God: *“grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift... for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ.”* (Ephesians 4:7, 12-13)

COUNSELS (from page 1)

First, He promises to bless us and second, He promises to make us be a blessing to others as well.

Our physical senses have not had the privilege beholding the Heavenly Body of our Lord, but we have had the privilege of repeatedly witnessing the spiritual glory of His presence in our lives. This is a validation of our calling, just as Jesus was affirmed by the Father on the mountain, and just as the apostles were able to testify to the Truth of Jesus Christ unto death.

As a community, our hearts must be attuned to the voice of God. We must be actively listening to His leading and direction so that we may not go wrong in the path that He has set for us. We must have the boldness and confidence to exercise this free gift of a personal relationship with our Lord. A relationship so intimate that we can hear Him and relate to Him as an active presence in our lives. Listening to Him requires a deliberate choice to shut out the chaos around us and center ourselves in Him. It is important to be in a state of grace so that our hearts may be welcoming to His presence. Just as in any conversation, God speaks to us in different ways, so we must be discerning. He can speak to us through His Word, our thoughts, through conversation with others, and through circumstances. We can request a brother or sister to pray with us to confirm or validate the message we have received. To have the right attitude to listen to God, we must desire to do His will. God honors the heart that is fully surrendered to Him.

Finally, critical to an intimate relationship with God, is a humble spirit. We need to constantly check our hearts for pride and false humility. A proud heart is a stumbling block in God’s work, for it has its own agenda. Pride is an abomination to the Lord (Prv 16:5). Just like Peter offering to build the tents, we tend to want to improve on God’s plan, second guessing His will, and finally failing to respond with wisdom. On the other hand, when our spirit is right with God, He can use us mightily to bless others. We are able to witness to our family and friends and lead them to God. We are able to speak God’s truth in the lives of others. We are able to uplift, encourage, bring healing to believers, and evangelize hearts to turn back to Jesus. We are called to persevere and continue to reach out to others.

May our Good Lord preserve us and keep us as one. May we respond to His voice in unity of spirit, loving and supporting one another in our Christian walk. *“bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.”* (2 im 1:8b)

Directions:

- Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.
- Get out of your comfort zones.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 12

Bulletin Edition

March 25, 2011

NEWS

Catholic Men's Conference 2011

"As iron sharpens iron, so man sharpens his fellow man." (Proverbs 27:17)

SOUTH ORANGE—Once again in numbers beyond expectations, fathers, sons, uncles and brothers from throughout the Archdiocese of Newark and beyond joined in spiritual fellowship at the third Catholic Men's Conference. More than 2,500 participants filled the Seton Hall Indoor Field on Saturday, March 5 for the two-tier English and Spanish eight-hour program. Walter Wade, the Conference emcee and one of the primary proponents of the conference and Men's Commission, described the event as "a gathering of men seeking a deeper relationship with God and stronger participation in parish life. 2,500-strong men gathered in one place thinking and talking all day about Jesus."

Everyone present on that blessed day reflected on the powerful presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ, it was clear that once again He has called all of us to a great ministry and more than 2,500 men were moved by the Holy Spirit. It was a blessing to be part of such a spiritual day where many men found Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Eucharist, in the Holy Hour and in the Word that was proclaimed by many inspired speakers one of whom was 1987 Super bowl Champion Giants defensive lineman Chris Godfrey. Citing his success on the football field and later in the business world, he declared "it all happened because I said too many prayers." Godfrey explained that prayer is not a form or admission of weakness or failure. Prayer is the source of strength, of faith and of hope.

In summary, the Conference's challenge to the audience was to candidly measure their internal spiritual strength. The Catholic male
continued on page 4



COUNSELS

The Samaritan Woman and Mission

THEME: Those who obey the Word of God will be made right in His sight.

WORD: Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42

ORDER: *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and truth"* (Jn 4:24)

REFLECTION:



In the narrative of the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus provides us with lessons valuable to the realization of our new community vision and mission.

Tired from His journey, Jesus sat by Jacob's well to rest and to await the return of His disciples who had gone into a Samaritan town to buy food. When the woman came to draw water from the well, Jesus ignored His own need to rest and spoke with her. His request for a drink to quench His thirst broke the social stigma that the culture at the time placed on the Samaritans. He used their conversation to awaken in the woman her unrecognized thirst for God.

The Samaritan woman's encounter with the Lord became a life-changing event- her conversion moment. The Messiah blessed her with the truth about Himself. He gave her access to the Living Water of the Holy Spirit, through whom she can worship the Father in Spirit and truth. What was her response? She had come to draw water from the well (Jn 4:7). After encountering the Lord, *continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"...the water I shall give you will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (Jn 4:14b)

Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!

Whose Leaves Never Fade

"They are like a tree planted near streams of water, that yields its fruits in season; its leaves never wither; whatever they do prospers." (Psalm 1:3)

Psalm 1 – the preface to the whole Hebrew Book of Psalters outlines the lot of the good and of the wicked. Verse 3, reveals a straight-forward guarantee that the person who lives according to God's Word rather than according to the world's wisdom, will be like *"a tree planted near running water, That yields its fruit in due season; and whose leaves never fade, [Whatever he does, prospers.]"*

Prosper in Hebrew means *"to push forward; to pass through; to get on."* It carries the idea of thriving and succeeding in everything one does - the marks of a truly blessed man whose blessedness comes not from outward circumstances, but from his inward separation from the worldly, and unity with God. The delight of the truly blessed man, is to meditate on God's word, His precepts, statutes and testimonies, day and night. In this way *he is rooted as a tree, taking nourishment from a stream which shall never dry up.*

All of the foregoing simply send me into joyful reminiscence about life in **Bukas-Loob sa Diyos Covenant Community** – where I gained a thorough understanding and complete trust in God who lovingly created me to be fruitful. That fruit which God has always wanted to produce in me is true Love, love for Him supremely, and for my neighbors equally.

The Community had truly transformed my life mightily in ways I can appreciate only now. After every commission of sin, my fruitfulness renders me to be *"out of season."* But I can always come back to God, be truly human again, and brought into a wonderful continuity, *"...fruit in its season"*.

Surely, in this economically depressed time and declining society, we have all the opportunities to set our hearts on the Lord and the truthfulness of His Word. Instead of walking in the counsel of ungodly people and standing in the way of sinners and sitting in the seat of scornful antagonists, we will become a healthy tree amidst an otherwise desolate forest. (Psalm 1:1-3)

One who meditates on the law of God will derive strength and life from his meditation; he is like a tree planted near water, takes root, grows and *its leaves will never fade* because it has enough moisture.

Lord Jesus, move powerfully to transform my life radically. Let go of anything that binds me to the world. Free me from the temptations that threaten my relationship with you. Strengthen me with your love so that I can freely live for you each day. Amen.

What About Me?

"But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found." (Luke 16:32)

The Parable of the Lost Son (Luke 15:11-32) focuses primarily on the younger son who left his father, squandered all his inheritance and went back to his father with great repentance for his sins. The father rejoiced on the return of his son and held a feast with fattened calf. On the other hand, the older son who never left his father became very angry. He shared his grievances with his father that he never received such treat from him not even a young goat. So the father said, *"my son, you are here with me always, everything I have is yours"*. (Luke 15:31)

Translated in our modern times, the older brother would say, "How about me?" After doing all the chores and following your house rules, I don't get appreciated."

This household scenario is not uncommon. For example, in a family with a son who has drug addiction, the father gives extra attention to the problem child and celebrates the recovery of the son. He forgets at times to appreciate the other sibling who does well in school and follows house rules. Most often the good son will ask, "how about me?" How about in our community? Are there members who also ask, how about me? After all I have done in my ministry!

It is a basic human need to be appreciated and loved. Everyone wants to be appreciated for the good deeds. But our ever loving God sees all of us as we are, whether we have done great or small things. As true followers of Christ, whatever we do, God would say to us – *"you are here with me always, everything I have is yours."* We do not have to behave like the prodigal son to get the attention and love of our merciful God. For we know that He will always love us no matter what. While we should reach out to our lost brothers and sisters to bring them back to our BLD community, we should be reassured that our loving God will say to us at the end of our journey, *"everything I have is yours"*.



*"Be still
and
know
that I
am God."*

Psalm 46:11
(paraphrased)

COUNSELS *(from page 1)*

she left her water jar behind and went into the town to testify to Jesus (Jn 4:28ff). Many Samaritans of that town began to believe in Jesus because of the word of the woman. She became a missionary.

Compare the action of the woman when she went into town with that of the disciples of Jesus. While both were on an errand, it was the woman who witnessed Jesus to the townspeople, not the disciples. Why didn't they when they knew Him well? Was it because the Samaritans were different? Or were they just too hungry and eager to return quickly to Jesus so that they could eat together in fellowship?

The disciples' return gave the Lord another opportunity to teach and transform them. He declined their offer to eat the food they bought and spoke of the food of which they did not know, the food that they too should hunger for- to obey the Father's will and complete His work. To be a disciple of Christ means to embrace His life and mission. The Lord's message on mission was clear: "look up and see that the fields are ripe for the harvest...I sent you to reap what you have not worked for..." What was the disciples' response? We see this at the Pentecost, when the disciples' prayerful waiting was graced by the gift of the Holy Spirit, the power of God who equipped them for their mission to the ends of the earth.

Applications in community:

We find a parallel between the Samaritan woman's enthusiastic witnessing for Jesus with our new members' zeal in evangelizing their families and friends. This is proof that one does not have to be a covenant disciple or a full-term district to serve in mission. Consider how she evangelized: "Come see a man who told me everything I have done." When we evangelize, let us witness to God's action in our life and invite them to an encounter with Christ. Let us not merely sign them up for the weekend or recruit them into the community.

We also find a parallel between the disciples' lack of evangelization zeal with the decreased involvement in evangelization among many of our older members. If each one of us actively evangelized and brought at least one couple or person to our encounters and LSS every year, we will not experience dwindling classes, right?

We can also draw two other lessons from Jesus' example. One is that we should use every possible opportunity to evangelize, to share the wonderful things God does for us. We don't have to wait for the official start of the new encounter or LSS cycle to ➤

How Would Love Decide?

Often, the answer won't be easy
But in almost any situation we may face
The question is really quite simple
How would Love decide?

Should I shout at my child?
Or could I gently reprimand?
Indulge in anger at my spouse?
Or calmly talk it out?

In the many big and small things throughout the day
When we consider, what to do, what to say
May it be the arbiter of reaction
How would Love decide?

Shall I frown or smile?
Shall I ignore or listen?

Will I help if I can?
Reach for money in my pocket
To help a poor and hungry man
Which way would Love decide
When a marriage struggles
Which way would Love decide
In the case of unborn child?

The right answer is seldom easy
The right path can be very hard
But in letting Love decide
Always, Love too, is the reward.

Healing Prayer

Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, go back into my memory as I sleep. Every hurt that has ever been done to me, heal that hurt. Every hurt that I have ever caused another person, heal that hurt.

All the relationships that have been damaged in my whole life that I am not aware of, heal those relationships. But, O Lord, if there is anything that I need to do, if I need to go to a person because he or she is still suffering from my hand, bring to my awareness that person. I choose to forgive, and I ask to be forgiven.

Remove whatever bitterness may be in my heart, Lord, and fill the empty spaces with Your love. Amen.

evangelize. Second, we should not confine our evangelization to people like us but we should reach out to people of other ethnic backgrounds. God's Church is the universal church. We are in America. Our community should reflect the face of the Church in America.

DIRECTIONS:

- Be a living witness to your ministry and community through your faith and good works.
- Quench your thirst for living water through faithful attendance in worship, teachings and retreats.

Catholic Men's Conference 2011

identity has been obscured in today's culture, that many men typically take the "easy way out" preferring to define themselves by their chosen careers or material possessions. Many are afraid to bring Christ in a conversation. Our real identity is being a son of God. As a man, as a son of God, our main responsibility is to bring our family and friends to God, to have all of them experience the depth of His love.

SAVE THE DATE

Community Retreat

Mar. 26 • 9am-7pm • St. Mary's

Contact: Pastoral Ministry pastoral@bldnewark.com

AFCCPC 16th National Convention

(Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities)

July 1-3 • Sheraton Meadowlands Conference Center

2 Meadowlands Plaza, E. Rutherford, NJ

Our very own Richard dela Fuente will be presenting.

Request registration forms from Frank/Malou

Venadas @ bobbitski@hotmail.com or 973-562-0055

My Covenant with God

Father, I want to find a new relationship with You and the new life You are promising. I want to know You more fully. I want to have You change my life and give me the power to live in a better way. To allow You to do this, I promise to live a life led by the Holy Spirit, to set aside a period of prayer each day to seek You on my own, to pray with the community each week, and to share with others how I am growing and what difficulties I am experiencing. I wish to allow You the chance to give me those good things You have promised.

Our soul awaits in the Lord, He is our help and shield; our hearts rejoice in Him, we trust in His holy name. Lord, let your love rest on us as our hope has rested in You.

We renounce Satan and all wrongdoings. We believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died to free us from our sins, and that He rose to bring us new life. We follow Jesus as our Lord. Lord Jesus Christ, I want to belong to You from now on. I want to be freed from the dominion of darkness and the rule of Satan, and I want to enter into Your kingdom and be part of Your people. I will turn away from all wrongdoings, and I will avoid everything that leads me to it. I ask You to forgive all the sins that I have committed. I offer my life to You, and I promise to obey You as my Lord. I ask You to soak me with the gifts of the Holy Spirit especially, the gifts of patience, humility and self-control.

CN archives are available at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month. • **Mar 26** • Secretariat
Contacts: Fil/Hum @ secretariat@bldnewark.com •
Audie/Vulet Chong @ institutional@bldnewark.com

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place every 4th Friday at the Auditorium

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LSS 36

Apr. 1-3 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Joven/Lisa Soriano @ lsa@bldnewark.com

Youth Ministry Retreat

April 16 • St. Mary's

Washing Of The Feet / Agony In The Garden

Contact: Youth Tricord @ ycs@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter 37

May 13-15 • Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ

Contacts: Nick/Island Raagas @ nlraagas@yahoo.com

• Gary/Mil Camacho @ mla@bldnewark.com

Singles Encounter 26

Jun. 3-5 • Graymoor Spiritual Center, Garrison, NY

Contact: Manny/Arlene Mangalonzo @

singles@bldnewark.com

Solo Parent Encounter 13

June 24-26 • Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ

Applications available after worship. Contacts: Lucille Vizcayno 914-963-9017 Miles Dionisio 703-899-9967

Family Encounter 18

July 15-17 • Malvern Retreat House, PA

Contacts: Randy/Beth Trinidad lynx.cmt314@comcast.net •

Manny/Nette Manguiat @ fla@bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

3/25 **Golden Years & Intercessory Formation**

4/8 **Youth Teaching**

4/9-10 **Teachers Development** - By Invitation •
District Cluster - Covenanted/ Disciples

4/15 Intro to Intercession • **ME 36 & 37**
Mark 10, John 6 & Service Formation
Teaching

Fri: after worship; *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's, + At Reunion

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION WEEK ENDING MAR. 18, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	4,208	37,378

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

Thank you for your continued support!



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 14

Bulletin Edition

April 8, 2011

BEARING FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



“As they prayed, the place where they were gathered shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:31)

We give high praise, honor and thanksgiving to our Almighty Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit in blessing our Life in the Spirit seminar held at Divine Mercy Parish the weekend of April 2-3, 2011. Forty individuals have opened their hearts with the desire to have a personal conversion experience with the Holy Spirit. Led by our Spiritual Director Fr. Paul Lehman and assisted by Fr. Mike Fugee, in prayer and adoration, the candidates joyfully acclaimed the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit.

Tears of joy were evident on their faces as they were hugged and kissed by their loved ones. Although some graduates received flowers and gifts from their shepherds, friends and families, all of them went home bearing fruits of the Holy Spirit.

To God be the glory as we congratulate the graduates of LSS #36: Adel, Michael; Cacabelo, Aldren; Calara, Gabriel; Canlas, Clara; Cubelo, Jeremy; Curbita, Ed & Lisa; Daza, Mando & Necy; De Guzman, Michael; de Luna, Grace; Duma, Stephanie; Dumandan, Kevin; Durugo, Chidi & Mirian; Escobinas, Richie & Aileen; Guzman, Rosie; Ignacio, Glen; Jose, Justin; Laporte, Angel; Lintag, Rody & Arlene; Manansala, Tiffanie; Maramba, Rubelita; Marquez, Jon; Mercado, Lydia; Ornillo, Clarisa; Postadan, Ryan; Raagas, Aiko; Rios, Alcides; Rosete, Kathleen; San Agustin, Matthew; Valeriano, Allison; Valeriano, Ashley; Vega, Elizabeth; Yago, Mina; Yanto, Arnold & Christy; Yap, Joahna.

We welcome our new brothers and sisters in Christ to our BLD Community. We pray that they will continue to grow in faith with Jesus as their hearts overflow with the Spirit of God.

Thank you our Father in heaven for allowing us to feel Your love and experience Your awesome presence and the power of Your Most Holy Spirit on this victorious weekend. We pray that You will preserve the peace and joy that has now filled their hearts as they begin a new life with You. Praise be to God.

COUNSELS THE RAISING OF LAZARUS

THEME: We are children of light when we firmly believe that Christ will raise us up to new life.

WORD: Ezk 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

ORDER: 1. Believe and you will see the glory of God.
2. Be dead to sin and alive in the Spirit.

REFLECTION:

The story of the raising of Lazarus is the seventh of seven signs, revealed to us in the Gospel of John, that narrates the wondrous deeds of Jesus to prove that He is the Son of God. The account of this miracle leads directly to the climax of the story about the raising of Lazarus and the greatest sign of all - the resurrection. Lazarus is presented as a token of the real life that Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life, gives to all who believe in Him.

Ironically, Jesus will soon after, be put to death because of His gift of life to Lazarus. After the raising of Lazarus from the dead, the “hour” of Jesus arrives. John’s gospel is a progressive revelation of the glory of God’s only Son, who comes to reveal the Father and then returns in glory to the Father. One could conclude that John’s account of all seven signs is to show that in all that Jesus said and did, God was fully present, actively revealing and “glorifying” the redemptive power of God’s love. Through Jesus, even though dead in sin, we can have life in His Name.

While the miracle of raising Lazarus from the grave shows Jesus’ divine power over death itself, the entire account reveals to a large extent the human nature of Jesus. His love for Lazarus and his sisters is very apparent. Martha’s and Mary’s accusation that Jesus’ presence would have averted Lazarus’ death shows not only their faith in

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“I will put my spirit in you that you may live...”

(Ezk 37:14a)

Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!

THE WORK CONTINUES

At the pool of Bethesda Jesus healed a man who was paralyzed for 38 years during the Sabbath so the Jews accosted him for doing work on this holy day. Jesus answered them, ***“My Father is at work until now, so I am at work.’ For this reason the Jews tried all the more to kill him, because he not only broke the sabbath but he also called God his own father, making himself equal to God.”*** (Jn 5:17-18) St. Thomas Aquinas in his Commentary on St. John regarding the above verses asserts that “God is the cause of all things in the sense that He also maintains them in existence; for if for one moment He were to stop exercising His power, at that very moment everything that nature contains would cease to exist”

Jesus knowing that He will be going back to the Father delegated to His apostles the work that still needs to continue. In His priestly prayer addressing the Father He said ***“As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world.”*** (Jn 17:18) and then after His resurrection Jesus spoke to Peter commanding him to ***“...Feed my lambs...Tend my sheep... Feed my sheep.”*** (Jn 21:15-17)

The work that started with the apostles through the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday has crossed the boundaries of all nations and succeeding generations through the faith of the martyrs and missionaries for the last 2000 years. We have been blessed through our Catholic heritage, and now as disciples of Jesus in the BLD community, to be part of this mission to continue building up the kingdom in our respective districts. The fruit of our work sometimes could be seen in the lives of those who have expressed their joy in actively participating in the life of our community and in their parish. Other results could not be visibly seen – only the Lord knows where they are now or what He has planned for them.

Recently the community celebrated its 25th Anniversary and during last February’s inter-district conference there was a new Vision and Mission that emerged after prayerful discernment of our elders. The Vision points us to the state we hope our community will be and the Missions will be the stepping stones that will guide us in achieving this new vision. Our Global Spiritual Director has challenged us not to rest in the shallow waters of past successes but to open up new doors in evangelization and to ***“Cast our nets into the deep waters”*** (Lk 5:4) where the laborers’ work of harvesting for the kingdom continues until the glorious return of our Savior Jesus Christ.

WHEREVER THE RIVER FLOWS

When we were invited to a Marriage Encounter almost 18 years ago, I was skeptical and hesitant. I was overwhelmed with a handicapped spouse who needed assistance in all basic needs, mortgage and credit card debts, 2 rebellious teenagers, and the pressure of a full time job. During the ME, my spouse and I consecrated our marriage to God and enthroned our Lord Jesus as the Ruler of our family. After our LSS, I surrendered all my problems to God. I pleaded with Him to heal my spouse, help us in our material needs, give me peace of heart, and transform our family into the Christian family that He wanted us to be.

God is indeed an answering God. Our family attended the Family Encounter and my 2 sons were so touched by the Holy Spirit that they decided to attend the LSS and joined the newly formed Youth Group. We felt so blessed to belong to a loving, welcoming, and prayerful BLD Newark community.

My spiritual growth was slow and difficult. Many times I was tempted to turn back to my old ways. Forgiveness of those who have wronged me was a big stumbling block. But our patient and compassionate God never gave up on me. By faithful attendance to the formation program, I realized how proud and self-righteous I was. Gradually, the Holy Spirit helped me control my short temper and stop judging people according to my human standards. I prayed more, read the Bible, attended the teachings offered by the community, and availed of the Sacraments especially Penance and Holy Eucharist. I even learned to pray the Holy Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

With a contrite heart, I accepted Jesus Christ as my God and Savior. The more I surrendered myself to God’s will, the more my intimacy and personal relationship with our Lord Jesus grew. He has now become my close brother, best friend, and confidant who loves me unconditionally.

Praise and thank God whose mercy endures forever! Contrary to the doctors’ prediction that my spouse’s health would continue to progressively deteriorate, my spouse became functional and could walk again. Our prodigal sons turned away from the sins of their youth and became active in the BLD community. The Holy Spirit gradually transformed my family into a God-loving domestic church. However, our family continues to have trials just like other families, including my major heart attack and job layoff. By the grace of God, I persevere in serving Him in BLD, my parish, and the ministry to the sick and poor. I truly believe that only God knows what is best for me and I have to trust Him completely. He has turned many seemingly bad situations in my family into blessings in disguise.

My spouse and I brought all the spiritual riches, especially the worship prayers that we learned in BLD to our parish prayer group. Members of the group have attended the ME and SPE weekends. Glory and honor to God that our older son and the wife he met in BLD just joined the last ME weekend while our younger son remains an active member of the Singles Ministry. God’s blessings overflow in abundance. Now in my golden years, I am so humbled and grateful that God has not retired me yet but still finds some use for me in His vineyard. ***“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”*** (1 Sam 3:9) ***“Here I am, Lord. I come to do Your will.”*** (Ps 40:8a; 9b paraphrased)

Nicodemus

During the time Jesus walked this earth, there were many who failed to see the divine presence that lay deep within Him. Despite the miracles and teachings that took place, there were still many who failed to recognize the light that radiated from our Lord. However, there was one man who caught a glimpse of this light, and that one glimpse changed his life forever. Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a well-known ruler of the Jews. Unlike his fellow leaders, he was intrigued by Jesus and sought to learn more from Him, and most of all, he was able to recognize that God was with Him. What Nicodemus learned from Jesus is a lesson that changed his heart forever. Jesus first explained to Nicodemus that in order for one to enter the kingdom of God, one must be reborn of the spirit. These were words that Nicodemus could not at first comprehend, but then the Lord enlightened him and proclaimed to him these powerful words, ***“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish by might have eternal life.”*** (Jn 3:16) To many people today, this verse has such great meaning. It has moved hearts and souls across the world for thousands of years. But imagine what Nicodemus felt to hear these words proclaimed from the mouth of Jesus Himself. How could his heart not be moved? How could he not believe? How could he not come to love and accept Jesus as the Son of God?

When Jesus was brought before the Sanhedrin, which Nicodemus was a part of, he was the only one who reasoned on behalf of Jesus, but how could he not? For deep inside his heart, he knew who Jesus truly was. Nicodemus was a man who started off with timid and questionable faith, but after meeting with Jesus for a moment in the dark night, his heart was changed to fully see the light forever. It was a light that he followed to the very end, even to the cross.

Nicodemus along with Joseph of Arimathea were the ones who prepared Jesus’ body for burial. He followed Jesus to the very end of His walk here on earth, showed his respect and love for Him by offering his gifts and time to prepare and care for His sacred body. Nicodemus showed his love and faith in Jesus by his simple words and actions. His curiosity led to faith. His faith led him to remind others of what true justice and righteousness is, and his love led him to care for the Lord in one of the most compassionate and loving ways possible.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

Him but also the depth of their friendship. Jesus’ tears was the natural human reaction of anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one, the sorrow, the hurt, the feeling of absolute helplessness that one faces when confronted with death. John’s Gospel reveals that distinct human response of openly expressing real feelings.

“I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me even if he dies, will live,” (v 25a). Jesus challenged death and He conquered death. Jesus fills our deepest yearnings and illumines the darkest recesses of our souls. Most importantly, He brings life to the most hopeless and seemingly irreversible of situations. Jesus, in teaching us the truth about the Resurrection, uses Lazarus’ death as a practical lesson to help us better understand the fundamental fact of our faith is - Jesus is Lord of the Living and The Dead. This miracle, the resurrection of a person who had been dead for four days, is supreme proof that Jesus is Lord, that He has life giving power. This heavenly sign fulfills the words of Jesus that are found in John 5:28, ***“For the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice.”***

The resurrection is the cornerstone of Christianity. And without the resurrection we have no Christ. And if you take away the resurrection then all of Christianity would be meaningless and faith will be in vain. The story finally ends with Jesus asking the people to *“untie him and let him go”*. It illustrates the role of the community in the faith of the individual person. God alone gives life and faith and satisfies our deepest thirsts. Still, the community must unbind the person who has been set free. In this important respect, the story of Lazarus contrasts with that of the man born blind (Jn 9:1-39). In the latter story, the man comes into faith despite being abandoned by neighbors, parents and authorities. Here we see a community responding properly to Jesus’ gift of life, and we are challenged to act in a similar manner.

We have a new chance to live life as God wants us to live it, but to do so well, to live in the freedom that God wants us to have, we need to unbind ourselves from the shrouds that still cover us. We need to unwrap the wonderful reality that God has promised us: ***“I will put my spirit in you that you may live.”*** (Ezk 37:14a)

DIRECTIONS

1. Prepare for Lent by availing ourselves of the sacrament of reconciliation.
2. Receive healing counsels through the services of our newly formed Prayer Counseling Office.

Bioethics (Source: www.ncbcenter.org)

End-of Life Decision

The death of Terri Schiavo raises a number of issues: moral, legal, and constitutional, about *the right to life* and the so-called *right to die*. Most coverage of the case focused on the question of her guardian's right to decide according to her alleged wishes and the *due process* of the judicial proceedings. However, at base the question was a moral, not a legal, one: under what conditions, if any, may a patient, a guardian, medical personnel, or civil authorities, withhold or withdraw nutrition and hydration.

Catholic Teaching on Extraordinary Means

The natural law and the Fifth Commandment requires that all ordinary means be used to preserve life, such as food, water, exercise, and medical care. Since the Middle Ages, however, Catholic theologians have recognized that human beings are not morally obligated to undergo every possible medical treatment to save their lives. Treatments that are unduly burdensome or sorrowful, such as amputation, or beyond the economic means of the person, or which only prolong the suffering of a dying person, are morally *extraordinary*, meaning they are not obligatory.

The many advances in medicine during recent decades, however, has complicated the decision whether to undergo or forego medical treatment, since medicine can now save many people who would simply have been allowed to die in the past. Further having saved them, many people continue to live for long periods in comatose or semi-comatose states, unable to live without technological assistance of one kind or another. Subsequently, the *Covenant News* will be running a series of *Questions & Answers* which will address some of the complexities of this issue.

Q. When may medical therapies, procedures, equipment and the like be withheld or withdrawn from a patient? A. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: The key principle in this statement is that one does not will to cause death. When a person has an underlying terminal disease, or their heart, or some other organ, cannot work without mechanical assistance, or a therapy being proposed is dangerous, or has little chance of success, then not using that machine or that therapy results in the person dying from the disease or organ failure they already have. The omission allows nature to take its course. It does not directly kill the person, even though it may contribute to the person dying earlier than if aggressive treatment had been done.

LORD'S PROVISION WEEK ENDING APRIL 1, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,574	44,767

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

Thank you for your continued support!

CN archives are available at www.bldnewark.net, click on *Covenant News*.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Youth Ministry Retreat

April 16 • St. Mary's

Washing Of The Feet / Agony In The Garden

Contact: Youth Tricord yes@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter 37

May 13-15 • Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ
Contacts: Nick/Island Raagas nlraagas@yahoo.com •
Gary/Mil Camacho mla@bldnewark.com

Singles Encounter 26

June 3-5 • Graymoor Spiritual Center, Garrison, NY
Contact: M/A Mangalonzo @ singles@bldnewark.com

Solo Parent Encounter 13

June 24-26 • Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ
Applications available after worship. Contacts: Lucille Vizcayno 914-963-9017 Miles Dionisio 703-899-9967

Family Encounter 18

July 15-17 • Malvern Retreat House, PA

Contacts: Randy/Beth Trinidad lynx.cmt314@comcast.net •
Manny/Nette Manguiat fla@bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

4/8	Youth Teaching
4/9-10*	Teachers Development - By Invitation • District Cluster - Covenanted/ Disciples
4/15	Intro to Intercession • ME 36, ME37 sponsors Mark 10, John 6 & Service Formation Teaching
5/7*	Advanced Intercession / Intro to Spiritual Warfare • LSS 30, 31 & 32 Christian Maturity I • LSS 34 & 35, SPE 12

Special Announcement

April 30 • 9-4pm • Connell Hall
Singles Retreat: "Create Your Love Story". Contact:
Manny/Arlene Magalanzo singles@bldnewark.com

Fri: after worship; *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's, + At Reunion

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check
Every 2nd Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055
Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.
Apr. 9 • Solo Parents • Contacts: Angie Valeroso
valerosoangelita@yahoo.com • Audie/Vulet Chong

SAVE THE DATE

AFCCPC 16th National Convention

(Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities)
July 1-3 • Sheraton Meadowlands Conference Center
Our very own Richard dela Fuente will be presenting.
Request registration forms from Frank/Malou Venadas
bobbitski@hotmail.com or 973-562-0055

Erratum

BLD Newark Community Retreat attendance on
March 26, 2011 was 143 disciples not 154.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 15

Bulletin Edition

April 15, 2011

BLD Welcomes New Teachers

BLD Newark sponsored a workshop on Teachers Development this past weekend, April 9-10, 2011 at the Divine Mercy Parish, in Rahway, NJ. Invitees included those who were deemed to possess gifts on teaching and prophecy based on MGT previously taken by member-disciples of BLD Newark, its cluster and outreaches. The weekend was well-attended by 91 disciples from the different BLD communities who responded enthusiastically to our Lord's call to become future CDFP instructors of the community. 43 future teachers came from BLD Newark adults, singles and youth groups, BLD Long Island came with 11 adults and 3 youths and the BLD Trenton contingent arrived with 11 adults. BLD communities in Rockland and Camden arrived with 9 and 10 adults respectively while other communities like Allentown, PA, Washington DC pulled in with 3 future teachers each while the distant community from Charlotte, NC turned up with 8 adults.

Members of the Teaching Ministry together with the community's "Jesus Crew" helped make the workshop a rousing success. The weekend was well-organized and the activities went smoothly as the Lord has once again shown us that HE is in our midst. At the Eucharistic celebration on Sunday morning, Fr Lamirez exhorted everyone with the words, "Ite Missa est" (Go the mass is ended) effectively sending everyone to the mission field to evangelize the whole world following the Gospel in Mt 28: 19-20, "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nation, baptizing them in the name of The Father, and of The Son, and of The Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold I am with you always until the end of the age.*"

Go, Teach and Tell

BLD Newark hosted the biennial Teachers' Development Program (TDP) on April 9-10, 2011 at Divine Mercy Parish Church, Rahway, NJ. Some 91 invited committed and covenanted disciples from the BLD districts of Charlotte, NC, Long Island and Rockland, NY, Camden, Newark, Trenton and Allentown, NJ and Washington, *Continued on pg 4*

COUNSELS

Endurance To The Cross

THEME: We are children of light when we endure suffering and persecution for the sake of the gospel.

WORD: Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9,17-20,23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 to 27:66

ORDER: Live the Paschal Mystery of Christ in our every day life.

REFLECTION:

Our theme for Palm Sunday is, "We are children of light when we endure suffering and persecution for the sake of the gospel." As members of the community, we are being exhorted by our elders to carry our crosses daily, with endurance that can only be found in Christ, as we follow Him in His own passion and death. We all have our own passion and death, our own crosses to bear. However, Jesus' passion and death show us His own kind of loving, that demands dying to one's self, ego, pride, comfort or convenience in order to give life to others. Though He was God, Jesus became man, and lived among the poorest of the poor. Jesus tells us in this Sunday's readings to be humble and pure of heart, not to seek the highest place, but to serve with love and humility, and to courageously follow His way of loving that may even require us to give up our own life for the glory of the Father.

More than 2000 years ago, our Lord entered Jerusalem triumphantly. Tonight, as we remember that event, Jesus also wants to enter triumphantly into our lives. He would like us to bear witness to our transformation in Him in the simplicity of our work, showing forth our cheerfulness, our serenity, and our sincere concern for others. He wants to be close to us through our normal dealings within our family, in our work place and in our community. *Continued on pg 3*

Promise of the Week

"The Lord God is my help therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame." (Is 50:2)

Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!

Ministry Focus On The Matters Secretariat Ministry

“Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up.” (Gal 6:9)

Responsibilities:

1. Administrative Functions:
 - a. Provide administrative assistance to the DCS/DSL in the exercise of their functions
 - b. Assist the DCS with Disciples’ Assembly preparation
 - c. In-charge of BLD Office organization and cleanliness
2. Ensure effective flow of all internal and external communications:
 - a. Manage BLD Newark Emails (DLC and others)
 - b. Update DLC Contact Information (Directory) regularly
3. Safekeeping of Important Documents
 - a. Ensure that the minutes of the DCS, DLC, Disciples’ Assembly, and BOT meetings and resolutions are published and archived.
 - b. Provide assistance to other ministries in archiving important ministry documents
 - c. Archive important BLD documents, manuals, & modules
 - d. Archive monthly TPOD (Theme, Promise, Order, & Direction)
4. Every Friday Worship (Married Couple Worship and Eucharistic Celebration)
 - a. Join weekly WSC with Secretariat members
 - b. Record STATS (duration of worship)
 - c. In-charge of the registration table
 - d. In-charge of seating assignments and arrangement
 - e. Prepare Friday Post-worship announcements (PowerPoint)
 - f. Welcoming committee: greet guests and members
 - g. Ensure the church is clean after use
 - h. Ensure all church entrances are locked after worship
 - i. Provide technical or clerical assistance to other ministry members, if needed
5. Event Scheduling
 - a. Maintain overall BLD Newark’s event scheduling
 - b. In-charge of the BLD Newark Calendar
6. Event/Meeting Venues:
 - a. Manage Meetings/Events/Activities’ Venue Assignment
 - b. Work closely with Divine Mercy Parish to coordinate use of major venues, such as Auditorium, Gymnasium, and Connell Hall.
7. BLD Newark website:
 - a. Maintain, update, and support BLD Newark Website (including individual ministries’ restricted web pages)
 - b. Create user access to restricted web pages on a regular basis.

Continued on page 4

Come To The Feast

“Feed my lambs...tend my sheep...feed my sheep.”

(John 21:15-17)

Put yourself in Peter’s position. If Jesus asked you three times, asking the same question whether you love Him or not, how would you feel? I am sure, similar to Peter, at the end of the third question, doubts would creep in. You will ask yourself, what is behind His question that I cannot seem to be able to answer correctly? No good answer seems to satisfy my Lord. Three times He asks the same question and three times, upon receiving the confirmation that you really and truly love Him, Jesus then asks you to attend to His lambs. The next question that comes to mind is what am I supposed to feed my lamb? What food is needed by my sheep to survive?

We, Filipinos love food and company, hence the widespread tradition to have a feast. We celebrate birthdays or anniversaries of saints and offer a variety of food to our guests in honor of the saint. Following this tradition, if Jesus tells us to feed and tend to His flock, would you have a ready ‘YES’ answer to His call? Look at your small church – your family. Can you rightfully say that you were able to feed and tend the children that He has entrusted to you? Have you been a good witness of God’s glory to your family members that they are encouraged to worship God with you?

The Lord asks each one of us to provide our lambs not just food for the body but more importantly, food for the soul –

1. glorious food that will not give our flock indigestion but direction
2. eternal food that will give life
3. joyful and comforting food that will give peace
4. forgiving food that will give deliverance
5. timely food that will be there anytime you need it - only through HIS word and HIS presence in our lives.

Dear Lord, grant me the grace to be able to lead the flock You have entrusted to me to Your Kingdom. Bless me with the resources that I can always celebrate Your love as a feast and to show to everybody how generous You are with Your blessings. Let me offer a plethora of Your gifts to Your lambs that they will be able to appreciate them more. Let me bring the goats that come my way, and guide them to meekness and obedience as the lambs under my care. Give me the knowledge and the wisdom that I will be able to know who of your lambs need more shepherding compared to the others. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.

Sin No More

“Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore.” (John 8:11)

The reality of sin is life’s greatest problem. Man’s concupiscence predisposes him to detach himself from God because of his inclination to gravitate towards sin. Because of the first man’s rebellion against God passed on through generations to every human being, any prior free decision of the human mind has become disordered and every sin is a freely committed disobedience against God.

John 8:1-11 tells about a woman caught in adultery, punishable by death through stoning under the Law of Moses. The scribes and the Pharisees brought the woman to Jesus to test Him and bring charges against Him. Jesus, ignoring and dodging the Pharisees trap, bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. He challenged anyone who is without sin to cast the first stone. On hearing this, the crowd went away one by one until only two remained: the wretched woman and the incarnation of mercy.

What exegesis can we surmount through the above narrative that will guide us to sin no more? Jesus’ gestures of bending and inscribing on the ground could be symbolic of *“those who turn away from God shall be written in the earth...”* (Jer 17:13). Writing on the ground could mean the non-permanence of writing on dirt as He writes on top of our sins when He forgives sinners. Under the New Covenant, through Jesus, sins are removed and thus no longer remembered (Heb 8:12; Jn 1:12; Jn 1:29). Furthermore, in the Parousia, only two will remain: the Judge and the one to be judged.

In this gospel, Jesus’ divinity is unveiled. The woman addressed Jesus as *“Lord”* displaying her reverence for Him, establishing a relationship with Jesus through this moment of encounter. He offered her the double possibility of a new life, a new life restored to her through Jesus’ intervention and the command to sin no more gave her newness of life, as a new creation, in right relationship with God.

In a similar vein, none of us can claim to be without sin. As Jesus bent down to write on the ground, we should also bend low in humility to examine our sinfulness. We need to be reconciled and united with God, to know Him more through His Word and live its meaning. We need the sanctifying grace of the Holy Spirit to avoid sin. To sin no more is neither utopian nor impossible. It is attainable and doable by believing in Him as our Savior and Redeemer, doing things that are holy and pleasing to Him, encountering Him every day through the Holy Eucharist, that *“separates us from sin... cleansing us from past sins and preserving us from future sins”* (CCC 1393) proclaiming our Lord’s death as a ➔

COUNSELS (from page 1)

Jesus was ready to do everything for Jerusalem, but the city, at that time was not willing to open up her gates to His mercy. This is the deep mystery of human freedom which always retains the sad possibility of rejecting the grace of God. How indeed are we responding to the countless promptings of the Holy Spirit, who seeks to make us holy through the mission and vision of our community? How often do we say ‘yes’ to God and ‘no’ to our selfishness?

The children of Jerusalem welcomed Christ the King. Waving olive branches, they proclaimed the resurrection of life and loudly praised the Lord: Hosanna in the highest! Five days later, the enthusiastic hosannas gave way to angry shouts of *“Crucify him!”* What a contrast between the green branches and the cross, between the flowers and the thorns! They were offering their own clothes for Him to walk upon, and so soon afterwards they were stripping Him of His, and casting lots upon these. What accounted for such swift and sharp turn-around? Perhaps we only need to look into our own hearts.

The triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem asks for loyalty and perseverance from each one of us; it calls us to deepen our faithfulness and commitments-to be more than just bright lights that sparkle for a moment and then fade away. There are some striking contrasts in the depths of our hearts, for we are capable of doing the greatest things and also the worst. To possess the divine life and triumph with Christ, we need to put to death within us anything that separates us from God and prevents us from following our Lord unto the Cross.

As disciples of Christ, let us die to ourselves and renounce our pride and arrogance. Like Christ, let us be obedient to our Father’s will despite humiliations. Let us endure our sufferings that we too like Christ may be glorified in the eyes of our Father. Our readings for the week exhort us to embrace the self-emptying attitude of humility as we imitate the life of Jesus who endured suffering and persecution for the sake of the Gospel. As we approach the climax of Christ’s mission on earth, let us hold on to the promise for us from Isaiah 50:7 – *“the Lord God is my help therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.”*

DIRECTION

- Put our sinful ways to death so that we may rise as living witnesses of our transformation in Christ.
-
- ransom for the forgiveness of sins. If Jesus’ example and commandments become our practice, we will conquer sin.

Ministry Matters (from page 2)

- c. Monitor BLD website traffic on a regular basis
8. BLD Newark Database
 - a. Maintain BLD Newark's Database
 - b. Maintain BLD Newark's Members' Attendance Records
 - c. Provide DLC with all members' attendance records on a quarterly basis for pastoral purposes
 - d. Provide specific data to Ministry Coordinators on 'as needed' basis
9. Provide BLD Office Network and Technical Support
10. Manage School Building and Church keys
11. Photo ID Issuance: Create new IDs for new members and replace lost IDs
12. Maintain BLD Newark's Organizational Chart
13. In charge of security guard and parking attendant
14. Assist the Pastoral Team with secretarial functions during community retreats and BLD inter-district conferences, and so much more....

Serving at Soup Kitchen is, indeed, one fulfilling and rewarding experience for all members. Praise be to God for giving all members the grace to walk this extra mile and fulfill all aforementioned ministry tasks joyfully. May the Lord continue to bless all its members so they will persevere in their walk with the Lord and fulfill whatever the Lord asks them to do, within the community and beyond, with humility and meekness.

God bless the Secretariat Ministry! To GOD be the GLORY always!

LORD'S PROVISION WEEK ENDING APRIL 8, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,157	47,924

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

Thank you for your continued support!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Apr 23 • Treasury Ministry Contacts: Gerry/Dimples Canlas treasury@bldnewark.com • Audie/Vulet Chong

SAVE THE DATE

AFCCPC 16th National Convention

(Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities)

July 1-3 • Sheraton Meadowlands Conference Center

Our very own Richard dela Fuente will be presenting.

Request registration forms from Frank/Malou Venadas @ bobbitski@hotmail.com or 973-562-0055

BLD Newark Golf Invitational

Sept. 17, Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, PA

BLD Newark Dinner Dance

Oct. 15, "A Night To Remember"

Go, Teach and Tell (from page 1)

D.C. attended. The thrust of the seminar was *One Vocation, One Mission*, with the goal of training and developing the growth of future teachers/catechists in all districts of the BLD covenanted community.

Gifted by the Holy Spirit with knowledge and the wisdom of experience, community teachers/instructors were very inspired and animated in teaching. But, they all emphasized that they were merely the conduit or transmitter of Jesus' teaching. Jesus Himself is the Teacher. The Holy Spirit was working overtime too on all the candidates who showed undiminished enthusiasm.

The highlight of the day was a 24-group TEACHING DEMO on topics selected as listed in the modules. Each group was evaluated by a 4-member panel as to their understanding of the teachings and their presentation of the topic following the 7Ws and 3Hs (whence, whither, who, what, when, where and why, how, what hinders, what helps) format. By and large, the seminar was a learning experience for everyone.

"And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ." (Eph 4:11-13)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Marriage Encounter 37

May 13-15 • Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ
Contacts: Nick/Island Raagas @ nlraagas@yahoo.com
• Gary/Mil Camacho @ mla@bldnewark.com

Singles Encounter 26

June 3-5 • Graymoor Spiritual Center, Garrison, NY
Contact: M/A Mangalonzo @ singles@bldnewark.com

Solo Parent Encounter 13

June 24-26 • Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ
Applications available after worship. Contacts: Lucille Vizcayno 914-963-9017 Miles Dionisio 703-899-9967

Family Encounter 18

July 15-17 • Malvern Retreat House, PA
Contacts: Randy/Beth Trinidad lynx.cmt314@comcast.net • Manny/Nette Manguiat @ fla@bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

5/7* Advanced Intercession / Intro to Spiritual Warfare • LSS 30, 31 & 32
Christian Maturity I • LSS 34 & 35, SPE 12

Special Announcement

April 30 • 9-4pm • Connell Hall
Singles Retreat: "Create Your Love Story". Contact: Manny/Arlene Magalonzo @ singles@bldnewark.com
Fri: after worship; *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's, +At Reunion

CN archives are available at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 16

Bulletin Edition

April 29, 2011

Christianity Is Based On Historical Event, Pope Affirms

VATICAN CITY, APRIL 24, 2010 (Zenit.org).- Speaking from the central balcony of the Basilica of St. Peter's, Benedict XVI once again affirmed today that Christianity is based on the historical event of the Resurrection.

In his Easter message, which he delivered before imparting his blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city of Rome and the world), the Pope stated that "the resurrection of Christ is not the fruit of speculation or mystical experience," but rather an event that took place "at a precise moment in history."

"Right down to our own time -- even in these days of advanced communications technology -- the faith of Christians is based on that same news," he added, "on the testimony of those sisters and brothers who saw firstly the stone that had been rolled away from the empty tomb and then the mysterious messengers who testified that Jesus, the Crucified, was risen."

"The light which dazzled the guards keeping watch over Jesus' tomb has traversed time and space," the Pontiff continued. "It is a different kind of light, a divine light, that has rent asunder the darkness of death and has brought to the world the splendor of God, the splendor of Truth and Goodness."

Before delivering an Easter greeting in 65 languages, Benedict XVI proclaimed the joy of the Resurrection: "The entire cosmos is rejoicing today, caught up in the springtime of humanity, which gives voice to creation's silent hymn of praise."

"The Easter Alleluia," he added, "resounding in the Church as she makes her pilgrim way through the world, expresses the silent exultation of the universe and above all the longing of every human soul that is sincerely open to God, giving thanks to him for his infinite goodness, beauty and truth."

After a week of intense Holy Week and Easter liturgies, the Holy Father departed Rome for the pontifical residence of Castel Gandolfo. He will return to Rome for the May 1 beatification of Pope John Paul II.

COUNSELS

Jesus, Heal My Unbelief

THEME: We are united in faith when we believe in the living God.

WORD: Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4,13-15,22-24; 1Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

ORDER: **"Do not be unbelieving, but believe."**
(John 20:27)

REFLECTION:

The Gospel readings (John 20:19-31) recounts a scary scene among the disciples locked in the upper room. The disciples took comfort among themselves, terrified and afraid because they are being sought after by the enemies of Jesus, the Roman soldiers, the loyal guards of Caiphas, even their fellow Jews. They felt like derelicts abandoned and forsaken by their master, who was crucified to death.

It was therefore a great sigh of relief when Jesus appeared before them and says "Peace be with you" breathing upon them the Holy Spirit and reestablishing His divine authority.

However, Thomas was not with them when Jesus came. Other disciples recounted his appearance and told him "we have seen the Lord", but he doubted their story. "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hand and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe".

Eight days later, Thomas was present in the upper room when Jesus once again appeared. Jesus ordered Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas remarked "My Lord and my God".

This exchanged has led, over two thousand years of Christian history, to Thomas being dubbed as "doubting Thomas". Yet this doubting Thomas died a martyr for his faith. He

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." (Jn 20:29)

Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!

BURNING HEARTS

EUREKA! (I found it!) This exclamation is most famously attributed to the ancient Greek scholar Archimedes. He reportedly proclaimed "Eureka!" when he stepped into a bath and noticed that the water level rose — he suddenly understood that the volume of water displaced must be equal to the volume of the part of his body he had submerged. He is said to have been so eager to share his realization that he leapt out of his bathtub and ran through the streets of Syracuse naked.

Have you experienced this profound realization and understanding of truth? Have you felt the welling of happiness in your heart that you cannot help but wear a silly grin, making people around you wonder what you are up to?

Such is the feeling that you experience when you come to the realization that Jesus Christ is in you, walking with you every step of the way. Such is the happiness that Mother Teresa felt while she cared for the most marginalized human beings in Calcutta. Such is the ecstasy that the martyrs felt on their way to their execution and death.

It is the feeling of internal happiness in the midst of the turmoil and chaos around you and your daily life. It is the feeling of peace—for Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

Jesus does not hit you over the head with this realization. The signs are manifested all around you and when you open your hearts in humility, EUREKA! You will find that Jesus has always been there, ready to help, caring and waiting for you to find Him.

During the chaos and confusion among the disciples following the crucifixion, two disciples decided to go to Emmaus. They wanted to understand what happened, to grasp the meaning of the events that had occurred. Jesus appeared to them as a stranger and patiently discussed the events that befuddled them. When the time came, Jesus blessed and broke the bread at supper and gave it to them.

"With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, ***"Were not our hearts burning (within us) while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?"*** (Luke 24: 31-32)

Imagine how you would feel if you find out that you won a hundred million dollars in the lottery. Wouldn't you be so excited that you will want to tell everybody?

How much more would you feel if you find out that you won your eternal reward in heaven and that you will be with Jesus Christ though all eternity?

Would you say "Eureka"? No. You would say "Praise the Lord Almighty!!"

Why are You Troubled?

"He said to them, 'Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts?'" (Luke 24:38)

Every now and then, doubts invade our minds. The fear of the unknown or the future worries us to no end. They come especially when we are anxious about something we hold dearly in our hearts. Whether it refers to ourselves or loved ones, we hope and pray that everything will turn out alright. We promise that if the result of our trepidation comes to our favor, we will resolve to do better next time so that we will not be in this predicament. Or if it's really something unforeseen, we, at times, "bribe" our way thru offerings be it in kind or material things.

Anxiety and worry go hand in hand. They are also the antithesis of trust in God. Because of our human nature and brokenness, we are easy prey to these situations. And what are the other bad side complications? Upset stomach, nervousness, stress, which then may eventually lead to hypertension and ulcer. So now we know that it will not only be costly (for medicines and visits to the doctor) but more importantly to our overall well being. What to do?

We can't let fear rule our lives. We miss out on many enjoyable and happy experiences. Let us look fear in the eye and tell ourselves, 'I can handle this with God's guidance'.

Turn to Jesus, turn to Him for guidance, turn to Jesus for His teachings. In Matthew 6:31-34, He admonishes us for worrying about material things and outward appearances. ***"What are we to eat?" or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear? All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you.'*** (Matthew 6:31-33) For it is indeed true that we should ***"not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself."*** (Matthew 6:34) God is the ultimate provider and He loves us. All these material things will come to pass but our heavenly Father will always be there. We should dedicate ourselves in obeying His commandments and showing love to one another. For our goal in life is to be with Him, adoring and paying homage to the Almighty.

Let not our hearts be troubled. Go to Him, He who loves us. Surrender all our worries and pain, and they will all go away. ***"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."*** (Matthew 11:28)

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I fear no harm for you are at my side; your rod and staff give me courage...Only goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come." (Psalm 23:4, 6)

Shepherd's Voice Baptism & Penance

BAPTISM – the gateway to the sacraments and necessary for salvation by actual reception or at least by desire, is validly conferred only by a washing of true water with the proper form of words. Through baptism men and women are freed from sin, are reborn as children of God, and configured to Christ by an indelible character, and are incorporated into the Church. CAN. 849

PENANCE / RECONCILIATION – in the sacrament of penance the faithful who confess their sins to a legitimate minister, are sorry for them, and intend to reform themselves obtain from God through the absolution imparted by the same minister forgiveness for the sins they have committed after baptism and, at the same time are reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by sinning. CAN. 959

What are unforgivable sins, eternal sins, sins of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit as mentioned in Mark 3:28-30, ***“Amen, I say to you, all sins and all blasphemies that people utter will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an everlasting sin. For they had said, ‘He has an unclean spirit.’”*** (Also mentioned in Matthew 12:30-32, Luke 12:8-10.)

Some examples of sins against the Holy Spirit includes:

1. Despair – consists in thinking that one's own malice is greater than the Divine Goodness
2. Presumption –pardon without repentance of a grievous offense.
3. Impenitence – the specific purpose of not repenting a grave sin

A person trapped in a quicksand is in a situation that is very difficult or impossible to escape alone. He can only be saved with outside intervention. The same is true with an individual guilty of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. It is hard to be reconciled, because of the gravity of the sin and by its description. The Church believes that there is no offense, however serious it may be, committed by a non-baptized individual that cannot be absolved by Sacrament of Baptism. In the same manner sins committed after Baptism, however grave or malicious they may be can be absolved in the confessional box. When it involves blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, the difficult part is to go into confession and confess the sin. The grace of God is needed because of the situation the individual is in that usually prevents him from going to confession. In Matthew 16:19; ***Continued on page 4***

COUNSELS (from page 1)

became a messenger of Mercy, a missionary to India who shed his blood for his Lord and master, Jesus. The disciple Thomas when he touched Jesus' wounds became a witness to the reality of the resurrection. This likewise opens up the gospel account of John to a profoundly important aspect of our Christian faith, the bodily resurrection of Jesus.

In our journey thru life, we feel like the “Didymus”, meaning a twin of Thomas. Our faith is up and up whenever everything is fine and smooth sailing. When blessings upon blessings are pouring in our life.

But when the sailing gets rough, the journey tumultuous, when the circumstances pose a great danger, when pain and grief besets us, it becomes more difficult to believe. It seems that God's distance is at its farthest. We become skeptical of His existence. We doubt that He is ever present in our suffering. We are desperate to see and feel his presence. We even want to witness some visible signs.

In times of uncertainties, just like the disciples, we too shall take refuge among friends, our family, our community to find comfort, assurances, and peace.

The encounter of Jesus and Thomas becomes the testimony of God's presence in our lives. The depths of God's tender mercy would open up and pour out his grace upon those who ask, who seek, and those who believe. “Blessed are those who have not seen but yet believe”.

We too are invited to approach his throne of Mercy and cry out with Thomas, the remark that became the exclamation of millions of believers when faced with the mystery of mysteries, before the elevation of the Holy Eucharist at Mass, “My Lord and my God”. Jesus had turned Thomas's doubt into an event of mercy for generations to come.

When this doubting Thomas touched his master's wound, he cured the wound of our own disbelief. As Jesus told Sister Mary Faustina Kowalski “Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to the divine Mercy.” From the sacred heart of Jesus, emits two rays of light, which are “the blood and water” of His divine mercy poured out on humanity illuminating the world.

On the Feast of the Divine Mercy this Sunday, let us all echo the words of Thomas, “My Lord and my God”. Through the intercession of Sister Mary Faustina, let us ask the Lord of Mercy for grace to be true messenger of his love to others, most especially those in need of his kind and tender mercy.

Lord Jesus, we are Thomas Continued on page 4

Shepherd's Voice (from page 3)

It says: *I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whoever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*" No matter how wicked and guilty an individual is, he can always confidently hope for forgiveness. Nobody can hinder the Almighty and Merciful God from helping sinners that are trapped in a quicksand of sin.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Marriage Encounter 37

May 13-15 • Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ
Contacts: Nick/Island Raagas @ nlaagas@yahoo.com
• Gary/Mil Camacho @ mla@bldnewark.com

Singles Encounter 26

June 3-5 • Graymoor Spiritual Center, Garrison, NY
Contact: M/A Mangalanzo @ singles@bldnewark.com

Solo Parent Encounter 13

June 24-26 • Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ
Applications available after worship. Contacts: Lucille Vizcayno 914-963-9017 Miles Dionisio 703-899-9967

Youth Encounter 18

July 8-10 • Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ
Ages 15-19 years old.
Contact: Youth Tricord @ ycs@bldnewark.com

Family Encounter 18

July 15-17 • Malvern Retreat House, PA
Contacts: Randy/Beth Trinidad lynx.cmt314@comcast.net •
Manny/Nette Manguiat @ fla@bldnewark.com
Application forms available in BLD Newark website.

TEACHING CALENDAR

5/7* Advanced Intercession / Intro to Spiritual Warfare
• LSS 30, 31 & 32
Christian Maturity I • LSS 34 & 35, SPE 12

5/13 **Youth Teaching**

5/20 Intro to Intercession • SE 25 & SE 26 Sponsors
Mark 10, John 6 & Service Formation Teaching

5/21* Christian Maturity I • LSS 34 & 35, SPE 12
Missions with St. Paul • Community
Prayer Leadership / Understanding Corporate
Worship • LSS 33 (ME33, SPE11)

5/27 **Golden Years & Intercessory Formation Teaching**

Special Announcement

April 30 • 9-4pm • Connell Hall
Singles Retreat: "Create Your Love Story". Contact:
Manny/Arlene Magalanzo @ singles@bldnewark.com

Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden Retreat
June 4 • LSS 34, LSS 35, SPE 12

Fri: after worship; *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's, +At Reunion

CN archives are available at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.

COUNSELS (from page 3)

personified. Many times, in our anguish and pain, when besieged with what seems to be insurmountable problems, instead of coming to you, we find it difficult to pray, to believe that you are with us in our suffering. We doubt that you even hear our cry for help. Forgive us O' Lord for we are people of little faith. We get easily swayed, distracted and tempted. Forgive our brokenness and sinful ways. Grant us our Lord the strength to believe, to trust that you will never forsake us, you will never abandon us. Grant us the fullness of your grace to make you our redeemer, our shield, the rock of our salvation. Truly, you are "my Lord and my God". AMEN.

DIRECTIONS

1. Foster love, unity and harmony in the community, bearing each others weaknesses and sharing each others strength.
2. Do good deeds and get involved in our mission outreaches, that they may see Jesus alive in us.

LORD'S PROVISION WEEK ENDING APRIL 15, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	4,316	54,391
Easter Envelopes	2,438	2,438
Total	6,754	56,829

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship
It's a way of life!

SAVE THE DATE

Divine Mercy Sunday Feast & Divine Mercy Parish Feast Day

May 1 • All Religious groups are invited to the Holy Mass Celebration at 3PM, Divine Mercy Parish in Rahway. Fellowship follows in the Auditorium.

BLD Allentown Golf Invitational

June 12 • Willowbrook Golf Club, Catasauqua, PA
Visit www.bldallentowngolf.com for more info.

AFCCPC 16th National Convention

(Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities)
July 1-3 • Sheraton Meadowlands Conference Center
Our very own Richard dela Fuente will be presenting.

Request registration forms from Frank/Malou Venadas @ bobbitski@hotmail.com or 973-562-0055

BLD Newark Golf Invitational

Sept. 17, Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, PA

BLD Newark Dinner Dance

Oct. 15, "A Night To Remember"



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 17

Bulletin Edition

May 6, 2011

Casting Our Nets

A BLD Supported LSS in Bayonne, NJ

This past week-end, Friday, April 29th thru Sunday, May 1st, LSS # 1 at St. Andrew's Parish in Bayonne, NJ was held. Thirty lambs were baptized in the Holy Spirit. It was a BLD supported event patterned after our very own LSS weekend.

Many BLD members volunteered their time and talents to make this a success: from Monsignor Schetelick, their parish priest and many times a BLD retreat Spiritual Director, to the many who selflessly filled the role of shepherds and sharers, to the Praise Ministry, right on down on to the many auxies who were there – food servers, catchers, prayer warriors... all bearing testimony, and by their service, paying homage to God's Love.

Shepherding sessions were held during five Wednesdays in March and April, leading up to the LSS. Each evening started with mass, and after exhortation and teaching from Msgr. Paul, an hour or so of shepherding. Things got off on a very good footing, since from the onset, the lambs were so welcoming and open - that the mostly non-Filipino lambs and the mostly Filipino shepherds quickly warmed up to each other. In the end, it just proved that the love of God knows no bounds, and when Christ is the center of the conversation, we all speak the same language, the language of His Love.

By Sunday, the transformation of the lambs was clear - the previously reserved and hesitant lambs were responding with resounding "Amen's," enthusiastically raising their hands and joining in the singing of praise songs. Many were moved to tears as they listened to the morning's moving praise and worship. They later shared their life changing experiences during the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Most of all, they expressed gratitude and appreciation for all, BLD in particular, who made the LSS possible... and thanks and praise to our God!

With the LSS graduates as his core, Msgr. Paul intends to start a weekly prayer group at St. Andrew's. He has also extended an open invitation for them to come to BLD Friday worships at Divine Mercy Parish in Rahway. Their grand reunion, to which all are invited will be held on Wednesday June 8th. This LSS # 1 is proof that when we cast our nets into deeper waters, we *make a catch* and form everlasting friendships and relationships, molded in Christ.

COUNSELS

The Love of Jesus

THEME: **We are united in faith when we recognize the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist**

WORD: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2,5,7-11; 1Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

ORDER: ***"Conduct yourselves with reverence realizing that you were ransomed with the precious blood of Christ."*** (1 Pt.1:17,19)

REFLECTION:

The social revolution has started!

This month of May we meet, full of expectation and with joyful hearts, because the Lord is risen. For us, a new era begins; the Risen Christ is King of all the earth. He is eternal, alive forevermore and is now seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven, interceding for and on behalf of all peoples on earth. Our Glorious King is supreme and victorious, His triumph on the cross is our victory over sin and death, our hope of glory and eternal life after death, and God's very presence here and now, as Jesus gives us His Holy Spirit.

All of us who have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit have been empowered to respond to the call of repentance and conversion. Our transformation which is reflective of this new life in the Risen Christ in us depends solely on our will to follow Jesus. It is a decision that we all face daily, as we live and interact with people - with our families, friends and relatives, our colleagues at work, and members of our communities. We are all called to love one another as Christ loved us. Jesus showed us the kind of love that is pleasing to the Father. It is a love that is selfless, merciful and compassionate. It is a love that thinks of the good of the other person. It is a love that is on fire for God Himself, bringing people closer to Him. It is a love that is subservient to the will of the Father, accepting in humble obedience, of the Word of God. ... *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"You will show me the path to life, fullness of joys in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever." (Ps 16:11)

Divinity of Faith

Daughter: Mom, the sister taught us a beautiful prayer today, the prayer of Fatima: "My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love Thee. I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love Thee." The sister said that we have to practice human virtues such as justice and fairness but there are also virtues for which we have to pray to God: faith, hope, and love. Why should I pray for faith, Mom?

Mother: Because faith, like hope and love, is a theological virtue (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1812-1813).

Scriptures is replete with exhortations and witnessing to faith. In John 3:2-3, Nicodemus asked *"Rabbi, we know that You are a Teacher Who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that You are doing unless God is with Him."* Jesus answered, *"Amen, amen I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."* Yes, that is why we are baptized of water and Holy Spirit as a baby. The Catechism teaches us that *"Faith is the theological virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that He has said and revealed to us through the Holy Spirit"* (CCC 1814). In Hebrews 11:1, St. Paul wrote *"Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen."*

God manifested Himself to our fathers in many ways. To prepare Noah and his family from the impending 40 days/40 nights of deluge, God told Noah to build a boat (Gn 6:14). *"By faith Noah, warned about what was not yet seen, with reverence built an ark for the salvation of his household."* (Heb 11:7). By faith Abraham, in his old age, became a father, even as Sarah herself was sterile. He trusted God to keep His promise. (Heb 11:11). The faith of Noah and Abraham was a gift from God.

In Luke 7:6-7, the centurion said *"Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy to have You enter under my roof... but say the word and let my servant be healed."* He had faith in Jesus. Jesus said to the crowd in Luke 7:9 *"I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith."* On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit rested on the Apostles and it enabled them to speak in tongues. (Acts 2:1-4) Yes, they received the gift of faith. They were born again in the Spirit. Christ kept his promise.

Let us run patience and perseverance to the fight proposed to us, setting our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of faith. (Heb 12:1-2).

Light of My Life

"For God so loved the world that He gave us His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. Whoever believes in Him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God." (Jn 3:16-21)

This is a much quoted scriptural passage, that most Christians have committed it to memory. Memorizing the Word of God is hardly of the same level as applying it to our lives. Sometimes we become desensitized to God's word, and the message becomes cliché. But the resounding truth is God is Love; He is the Light of our lives which envelops us all everyday.

The fullness of God's love for us is incomprehensible, because as we keep committing acts against Him, He keeps forgiving us! Then there are also God's acts that we can not fathom. For instance, why would God become man? In becoming man, why would He live in poverty and suffering? Why would He, being blameless, suffer injustice and cruelty for the sake of us? These are endless questions with endless answers which you can discover for yourselves. But indeed, what a gift is this love that God has placed in our hearts!

How do we receive His love? We can either choose to belong to the "light of the world", or the "darkness of the world." In running from the light or from God's love by our dishonesty and shameful behavior, we resign ourselves to a life in darkness and separation. On the other hand, to live in His light is to embrace Him and to live in transparency with all that we are, allowing us to be united with God and with each other.

To come into the light is not easy. We must be honest and accountable for our actions, to allow the light to expose our true selves and expel whatever darkness still exists in our hearts. To overcome our pride, selfishness, and worldliness is a challenge. But God in His infinite love and compassion rewards us with many blessings for our faithfulness.

Fr. Paul Speaks

Pope Benedict in the recent publication of his second volume, "Jesus of Nazareth" covers the events of Holy Week, the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. The whole work is a laying out of divine mercy through the prism of the history of that most important week in all of history. The new commandment revealed during Jesus' last supper discourse could be viewed as the publishing of a new "norm", a higher standard of morality. We may see it as a challenge to reach for the highest possible moral living, a kind of a new moral code. The newness of the new commandment is not a call to supreme achievement, but as Benedict so beautifully says; "The newness of the gift can come only from the gift of being-with and being – in Christ. This is accomplished by letting ourselves be repeatedly cleansed and made pure by the Lord himself so we can learn to act as he did. It depends on "I" being absorbed into Christ, so that "it is not I who live, but Christ who lives in me." We must learn to be absorbed into the Lord's mercy so that our hearts will discover the path of newness, and only then discover the possibility of high moral living.

The beauty of all of this is that we are incapable of confronting our own evil as well as the evil in the world around us. This could be a discouraging reminder of our basic incapacity to accomplish anything worthwhile in the eyes of God. Rather because of the unconditional love of God HE confronts the evil so obviously rampant in the world around us if we let ourselves be drawn into the embrace of his merciful forgiveness.

One of the passages in Scripture reminding us of God's mercy is Jesus' plea from the cross: "Father, forgive them. They know not what they do." There can be a certain excuse for sin. We are not guilty if we are unaware of the seriousness of our offenses. To what degree are we responsible for our ignorance? We do have an obligation to search for truth. Part of our teaching and evangelization ministry in BLD is to not just inform, but to form followers in the truth of the gospel.

As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday we think of John Paul II who will be beatified on Divine Mercy Sunday as well as St. Faustina both of whom were responsible for the devotion that has won the hearts and minds of so many who could be caught up into the depths of despair. Let the mercy of the Sacred Heart of Jesus embrace us all once again during this joyful Easter season.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

It is a love that is faithful and true, trusting and believing in an unseen God Whose presence is felt and perceived through His work in our lives, in the wonders of the world around us.

Our Word for the month of May says: **A Christian community is united in faith in Christ Jesus.** All of us who

COUNSELS (from below)

have been called to this Christian community we call Bukas-Loob sa Diyos, share the same faith in Christ Jesus, just as we share the same calling to be one in our efforts to live the new life of grace that Jesus has given us. We have the same goal and aspiration to please the Father, and ultimately live with Him in heaven in fulfillment of His promise of eternal life. We define and call our community "Open in spirit to God" to signify our oneness in Christ in pursuing and striving to achieve the goal of journeying through life with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

This brings us to the themes and promises of each week in May, as prayed for and discerned by the elders in our community, so that with one heart and one mind we, members of BLD, can, hand-in-hand, run the race, climb our mountains, hurdle obstacles together until, with Jesus by our side, guiding us and pulling us up when we fall, we finish our race and catch the perfect prize who is God, Himself.

In the first week, we profess our unity as a global community through our theme: "We are united in faith when we believe in God." This should not only be self-evident, but the basic premise of our being in community; that though we are many and have diverse ideas and gifts, we are bound by one common faith in the Living God. Our Promise, from John 20:29, gives us the assurance that we will be blessed as we translate that belief into action: ***"Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."*** We believe because we have felt and experienced His presence in our lives.

The 2nd week of the month (or 3rd Sunday of Easter) expresses our unity in faith as we recognize the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. It is Jesus Himself, Who instituted the Eucharist during the last supper with His disciples. He is the Living Bread, and His Word in Scriptures tells us that whoever partakes of this bread will have life eternal. The act itself, of raising and blessing the bread during the Mass, is a reenactment of that scene more than 2000 years ago, and we, Catholics, believe that Jesus Himself is fully and truly present in the Eucharist. He is the Living Bread we partake of during the Mass. It is through our participation in the Eucharistic Celebration that we receive our spiritual sustenance because Jesus gives us life. So, if we hear Mass every Sunday, it is as if we are "fed" only once a week; but consider this, if we hear Mass and receive spiritual sustenance every day, wouldn't we be more blessed, more Christ-like, as He comes more alive in us? Our promise for the week is taken from Ps 16:11: ***"You will show me the path to life, fullness of joys in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever."*** May we be encouraged to be truly a Eucharistic community, growing in wisdom and strength, knowledge and understanding as we practice our faith each day. ... *Continued on page 4*

Direction: Let our hearts burn when He speaks to us in Scripture and in the breaking of bread.

COUNSELS (from page 3)

On the 4th Sunday of Easter, our theme presents Jesus to us as the Good Shepherd. As a community united in faith in Christ, we follow Jesus as our Good Shepherd, who pastures and seeks us out whenever we go astray. As our Shepherd, Jesus will always be there to nurture us with His love, His presence will always make a difference in the way we live our lives. As promised in John 10:9, *"Whoever enters through Me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture."* How comforting it is to know that as we rely on Jesus, Our Good Shepherd, we will be looked after for all eternity and that we will have no reason to worry or be anxious for anything, as He will supply us all our needs. In Him we will find pasture; we are "Home".

Our second reading on the 4th week of the month tells us that we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation set apart. We grow in our love for Jesus as our faith is nurtured by His daily presence in our lives. *"Do not let your hearts be troubled,"* He assures us in the Gospel. *"In My Father's house, there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?"* If He has gone to prepare a place for us, what indeed, is there for us to fear? In our quiet moments of communion with Him, let us express our thoughts and feelings, our aspirations, our doubts, our needs, to God. His Word gives us the answer to our many questions and longings. It encourages us and brings us to a higher level of closeness with Him, as we claim the promise of the week, taken from Psalm 33:18: *"The eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear Him, upon those who hope for His kindness."*

The last week of May is the 6th Sunday of Easter, and we are reminded of the greatest of His commandments- Love. It is only through love of God and neighbor that we can come united under the banner of Christ, for God is Love, and all who love are in God. Without love, living in peace and unity will be extremely difficult. We become too legalistic, too demanding or judgmental, too fault-finding with one another to live in peace or unity. In fact, with no love to bind us together, there is no real community, only disparate groups of people, each going their own way, each pursuing their own ends. This is not what we aim for, for we are a community in Christ, a new order of Christ's disciples, united in faith and fear of God because we love Him and we want to be with Him forever.

We are truly an Easter people, who live in hope for His kindness every day of our lives. We are open to the Lord in spirit, and find encouragement in one another to follow Christ. The Lord well knows man's propensity to sin, so He has given us His Holy Spirit, the Paraclete and Advocate, to help us in our human weakness and dissuade us from falling into sin. That is the power within us, the power of the Holy Spirit, given to us by Christ Jesus, because of God's love for us. Let us be motivated to keep our faith in Christ for He promised us in John 14: 15-16, *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always."*

A soft copy of this CN can be found at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Marriage Encounter 37

May 13-15 • Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ
Contacts: Nick/Island Raagas @ nlraagas@yahoo.com
• Gary/Mil Camacho @ mla@bldnewark.com

Singles Encounter 26

June 3-5 • Graymoor Spiritual Center, Garrison, NY
Contact: M/A Mangalonzo @ singles@bldnewark.com

Solo Parent Encounter 13

June 24-26 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ
Applications available after worship. Contacts: Lucille Vizcayno 914.963.9017 Miles Dionisio 703.899.9967

Youth Encounter 18

July 8-10 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ
15-19 yrs of age. Contact: YM Tricord @ ycs@bldnewark.com

Family Encounter 18

July 15-17 • Malvern Retreat House, PA
Contacts: Randy/Beth Trinidad lynx.cmt314@comcast.net
• Manny/Nette Manguiat @ fla@bldnewark.com
Application forms available in BLD Newark website.

LORD'S PROVISION WEEK ENDING APRIL 29, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,235	57,626

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

BLD Allentown Golf Invitational

June 12 • Willowbrook Golf Club, Catasauqua, PA
Visit www.bldallentowngolf.com for more info.

Basic Prayer Counseling Seminar

July 23-24 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret NJ
For committed and covenanted members.

BLD Newark Golf Invitational

Sept. 17, Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, PA

BLD Newark Dinner Dance

Oct. 15, "A Night To Remember"

TEACHING CALENDAR

5/7* Advanced Intercession / Intro to Spiritual Warfare
• LSS 30, 31 & 32
Christian Maturity I • LSS 34 & 35, SPE 12

5/13 Youth Teaching

5/20 Intro to Intercession • SE 25 & SE 26 Sponsors
Mark 10, John 6 & Service Formation Teaching

5/21* Christian Maturity I • LSS 34 & 35, SPE 12
Missions with St. Paul • Community
Prayer Leadership / Understanding Corporate Worship • LSS 33 (ME33, SPE11)

5/27 Golden Years & Intercessory Formation Teaching

Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden Retreat
June 4 • LSS 34, LSS 35, SPE 12

Fri: after worship; *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's, +At Reunion



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 18

Bulletin Edition

May 13, 2011

NEWS

Upcoming MC#37

Prayer Warriors Needed

This weekend May 13 to 15, 2011, our BLD Newark community is sponsoring Marriage Encounter Retreat # 37 to be held at the Radisson Hotel in Carteret, NJ. Jesus had called all the participants in the retreat and He wants them to recognize Him too.

We ask all the members of the community to drop by and include in their weekend walk with Jesus the intercessions for a spirit-filled retreat that will move the participants to look deeper into their marriage and see the importance of putting Jesus as the focal point of their lives.

During this Easter season we recall the narrative from the Gospel according to Luke wherein two disciples were joined by the resurrected Jesus as the disciples were walking the seven miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus.

Jesus was different and initially unrecognizable. During the walk, Jesus spoke to them in a manner that made them open up their feelings of apparent disillusionment on the death of the man Jesus who they believed *"would be the one to redeem Israel"* (Luke 24:21) and on the statements made by women in their group and some other disciples that Jesus' body was missing from the tomb.

After the disciples spoke, Jesus then explained to them that what had happened were all spoken of by the prophets and that it was *"necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory"* (Luke 24:26). It was only during the evening meal when Jesus broke bread with them that the disciples' *"eyes were opened and they recognized him."* (Luke 24:31)

Let us pray that in their hearts they will truly recognize His presence and that this weekend would rekindle their love for each other that would rouse them to start to burn for the desire to know Jesus more.

COUNSELS

Recognizing the Shepherd's Voice

THEME: We are united in faith when we follow Christ, our Good Shepherd

WORD: Acts 2:14, 36-41/ Ps 23:1-6/ 1Pt 2:20-25/ Jn 10:1-10

ORDER: 1. *"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."* (Acts 2:38)
2. *"Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."* (Acts 2:40)

REFLECTION:

It's been customary in Jesus' time that during the winter season the sheep were brought to a communal shelter which was locked and kept secure by a guardian. During the summer months the sheep were usually kept out in the fields and then gathered into a fold at night which was guarded by a shepherd throughout the night. The shepherd was literally the *gate* through which the sheep had to pass.

The scriptures describe Jesus as a shepherd who guards and protects His people. His sheep recognize His voice. In John's Gospel, Jesus said that His sheep would hear His voice and follow Him.

Now, imagine a crowded sheepfold noisy with milling flocks and the conflicting voices of shepherds calling their sheep. In our world today, there are a lot of voices out there, beckoning, presenting themselves as authoritative and speaking the truth. It's a marketplace full of claims and advertisements – people claiming to be better than others, atheists promoting their own belief (or non-belief), people claiming to be Bible experts, and last but not least,

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture."

(John 10:9)

JESUS, STAY WITH US

"Stay with us" (Luke 24:29a)

The Gospel reading I would like to refer to here is called the Emmaus story. It is a beautiful story because it is about the journey from blindness to enlightenment. In so many ways it encapsulates our journey through this earthly life. We start with not really knowing Jesus Christ personally. We do not have any faith or trust in Him. We live our lives focused on self-interest and pleasure.

But then Jesus comes into our lives. We do not recognize Him because we are so preoccupied with our fast paced orientation and our earthly goals. Just like the two disciples, who left Jerusalem after the crucifixion to go to Emmaus, we are just interested in our own priorities and more often than not they lead to sorrows and disillusionment.

"Stay with us." This is what we want Jesus to do because we do not understand, we do not know the way, we are afraid. And yet if you think about it, He has not left us. In fact, He has stayed with us all this time. It is us who have left Him.

We easily get distracted by the world we live in. Our senses want to taste and enjoy earthly life. And yet it is in the quietness within our hearts, the beauty of our surroundings, and the stillness of life that we find Jesus.

It is in His words that we find comfort and peace. It is in loving and caring for other people that we meet Him face to face. It is in receiving His body and blood that we attain eternal life and we become like Him.

There was once a protestant who asked a catholic if he really believed that Jesus is in the tabernacle at the altar of our Church. The catholic said "yes."

The protestant incredulously remarked, "Well if you believe that He is there, how come you are not giving Him the adoration, the reverence, and the honor He deserves.

If I believe Jesus is there, I will go down and walk on my knees towards the altar to honor, adore and praise Him."

How true! We want Jesus to stay with us and yet do we accord Him the honor and reverence that is due to Him.

Stay with us Jesus, and hold us to keep us from going too fast. Keep us still. Keep us quiet. In this way we can focus on You, hear Your voice, know Your will and love You more. Amen!

Food That Endures

"Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life" (John 6: 27)

Admit it, we all love food. Every time we have a gathering, there is food. We especially have a strong desire for food that is not good for us. Even though some of us have high cholesterol or are overweight, we continue to eat food that will only worsen our health.

Why do we continue to do these things even though we know it is harmful to us? We do it because food usually gives us the immediate albeit momentary satisfaction we want.

We don't see the long term harm and thus don't think of the consequences it will do down the road in our lives. Sadly, as our Lord points out in the verse above from John, we do the same thing with our prayer life and with our faith. We look for the immediate payback and not for the long term benefit.

In John 6, Jesus has just fed the 5,000 and because of this people began to follow and believe because they know that He can provide them what they need, they were fed and were satisfied. Jesus then reprimanded them and told them that they should not work for food that perishes but *"for food that endures for eternal life"*.

We often make the same mistake. We tend to find God only when we need Him to help us solve our current problem – to help us get immediate satisfaction.

We often forget that only by knowing Him more will we be more like Him and gain the key to eternal life. Only by understanding Him more can we begin to understand His will and see His bigger plan for all of us.

Just as Jesus prayed to God for immediate release from the suffering He was to face, He gave in to His Father's will as He knew the plan.

But as some of these foods and medication that we take may help us live longer, God gave us something that will make us seek a higher purpose - the Bread of life, eternal life with our Lord Jesus Christ!



COUNSEL (from page 1)

television and radio broadcasts promoting errant lifestyles. There is, indeed, so much noise!

We, surely, are blessed to belong to the sheepfold of Christ – His Church – the Catholic Church. We are blessed to have the Son of God as our Shepherd, who came among us in order to lead us to the right path. We are blessed that despite so much noise, the voice of Christ speaking to us can still be heard.

“When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.” (John 10:4-5)

Now, one might ask, “How could Christ’s voice be heard amidst all the distractions?” Well, what can the words of Jesus be if not words of love and charity towards all of us, whom He calls to salvation in His Name? Certainly, what Jesus says consists of nothing but words of love, for He, Himself is the Father’s Word of Love. He is the Word of Life begotten by the Father in the Spirit of Love, the Holy Spirit, who is the bond of their union and the expression of their devotion to one another.

When Jesus speaks, it is Love who speaks. When another speaks not in the name of Jesus but rather in his own name, it is the love of self that speaks, not the Love of God. The sheep know the voice of Jesus, for He is the Love of God in person who came into the world so that all might have life and have it more abundantly.

Jesus came to earth bringing with Him the faithful love, which is the family life of God in the blessedness of a Trinitarian life. He wants His Church to be a family - a reflection of the Trinity in which a spirit of unselfish love prevails, where mutual care, nourishment, and protection are the manifest gift of the Spirit of Love.

Continued next column

COUNSEL (cont.)

Is it fitting to say that we, in the BLD Community, strive to live in the Spirit of Love?

“For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.” (1 Peter 2:25)

For those of us who have gone through Encounters and LSS, we know that we have made a 180-degree turn by returning to the sheepfold of Christ. We are still going through the ongoing process of conversion and we are transformed every second and every minute of our lives through the cleansing fire of the love of Jesus. It is not easy, yet in the midst of obstacles, challenges, and adversities, we find happiness in knowing that we have a Shepherd who is sincerely interested in the true welfare of His flock.

So let’s listen to the Good Shepherd and become familiar with His voice in our hearts. Through the reading of the Scriptures and our personal relationship with Jesus, let’s listen carefully and discern, for there are many voices out there claiming to be the shepherd. Jesus calls us to go through the narrow road, but let’s not be afraid of His call. It may seem that His way confines or locks us into a certain path or moral behavior, but know that by trusting the Good Shepherd we will certainly reach the pasture of abundant life.

DIRECTION:

1. Recognize and listen to the Lord’s voice.
2. Be patient when you suffer for doing what is good.
3. Do not return insult with insult.



MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check
Every 2nd Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055
Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.
May 14 • ME 30 • Contacts: Norie/Miriam Abes @

mormir1010@yahoo.com

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month.

May 28 • Teaching Ministry • Contacts: Jovy/Emily
Lucero @ teaching@bldnewark.com

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take
place every 4th Friday at the Auditorium

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING APRIL 15, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,291	60,917

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

Thank you for your continued support!

May the blessing and favor of the
Lord be upon those who are
celebrating their birthdays and
wedding anniversaries this week!

SAVE THE DATE

DLC MEETING

May 24 • 7:30pm-until • St. Mary's Library

BLD Allentown Golf Invitational

June 12 • Willowbrook Golf Club, Catasauqua, PA
Visit www.bldallentowngolf.com for more info.

Basic Prayer Counseling Seminar

July 23-24 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret NJ
For committed and covenanted members.

BLD Newark Golf Invitational

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BLD Newark Dinner Dance

Oct. 15, "A Night To Remember"

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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June 3-5 • Graymoor Spiritual Center, Garrison, NY
Contact: M/A Mangalanzo @ singles@bldnewark.com

Solo Parent Encounter 13

June 24-26 • Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ
Applications available after worship. Contacts: Lucille
Vizcayno 914-963-9017 Miles Dionisio 703-899-9967

Youth Encounter 18

July 8-10 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ
15-19 yrs of age. Contact: YM Tricord @ ycs@bldnewark.com

Family Encounter 18

July 15-17 • Malvern Retreat House, PA
Contacts: Randy/Beth Trinidad lynx.cmt314@comcast.net •
Manny/Nette Manguiat @ fla@bldnewark.com

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

TEACHING CALENDAR

- 5/13 Youth Teaching
- 5/20 Intro to Intercession • SE 25 & SE 26
Sponsors
Mark 10, John 6 & Service Formation
Teaching
- 5/21* Christian Maturity Program I • LSS 34 & 35,
SPE 12
Missions with St. Paul • Community
Prayer Leadership / Understanding Corporate
Worship • LSS 33 (ME33, SPE11)
- 5/27 Golden Years & Intercessory Formation
Teaching
- 6/3 Intro to Intercession • SPE 12 & SPE 13
Sponsors

Special Announcement

Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden Retreat
June 4 • LSS 34, LSS 35, SPE 12

Fri: after worship; *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's, + At Reunion

*"Be it remembered therefore, that
according to our degree of
charity, will be our degree of
eternal happiness; and not any
other virtue."*

Saint Thomas Aquinas

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Medical Mission 2012

May 31, 2011 is the submission deadline for venue
application and required documents. For more info
contact Mosti/Ling Garcia @ district@bldnewark.com



*He is
Risen*

CN archives are available at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 19

Bulletin Edition

May 20, 2011

NEWS

ME 37 Harvests 16 Couples

With the power of God's grace, we had a victorious Marriage Encounter #37 as we are blessed with 16 couples responding to His call! The spirit-filled encounter was held at the Radisson Carteret Hotel from May 13-15, 2011. The pastoral team included Father Michael Fugee as the Spiritual Director and together with Merle & Bong Encarnacion and Judy & Manny San Luis as presenters.

Their testimonies opened the eyes of the couples to God's living presence in their married lives, and the use of loving communications for a better and deeper relationship with each other. They have inspired the class to persevere and live their marriage covenant with love and trust.

We praise and thank you, Lord, for opening the hearts of the couples and we pray for their continued transformation with the power of your love. With happiness in our hearts, we welcome the ME 37 graduates to our community led by their shepherds Ency & Baby Alberto: Lennon and Anne Ceria*, Rey and Daphne Cobarrubias*, Bong and Vina

Continued on page 3

BLD-NEWARK CONDUCTS YOUTH ENCOUNTER FACILITATORS TRAINING

"Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." (1 Tim 4:12)

A Holy Spirit filled youth encounter facilitators training was completed last May 14-15 at the Divine Mercy Parish. The Divine Graces of God made it possible for: the 5 youth of Rockland, the 6 youth of Long Island and 11 youth from Newark, to understand and comprehend what it takes to be incorporated and be configured to Christ. By virtue of their Baptism, the youth are made sharers in the anointing of Christ to evangelize as prophets, to offer sacrifices of praise as priest and to protect our faith as kings who exercise dominions.

As youth evangelical leaders, the newly trained youth encounter facilitators will be spiritually equipped to obey and follow the commandment of Christ to *"Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."* (Mk 10:14); not only through the Youth Encounter but also in their daily lives as they grow into spiritual maturity.

Jesus Christ made it possible to collaborate Newark BLD Youth Ministry resources with youth from other districts and giving us a good and prime example through witnessing what being "One Body in Christ" truly means.

COUNSELS

Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled

THEME: We are united in faith when we devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word.

WORD: Act 6:1-7/ Ps 33:1-2,4-5,18-19/ 1 Pt 2:4-9/ Jn 14:1-12

ORDER: ***"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God, have faith also in Jesus."*** (Jn 14:1)

REFLECTION:

Today, our message is based on all three of our readings with special attention to these words of our Savior in the Gospel of St. John: "Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in my Father, believe also in Me. And most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to my Father".

But how does one, like Philip, the apostle that Jesus is addressing to, or me or you, do greater works than that of Jesus? The fundamental point is whether or not one believes in Jesus, or trust Him for who He truly is. Jesus wants us to have faith in Him. He even uses "imperative" verbs to make His point, like it is a command, such as, "Don't be troubled, or believe, or have faith in me".

Once that faith and trust becomes a reality in our heart, then a true relationship is established between us and Jesus. Now, we can approach Him in faith, and not demand a sign. And all that remains is to carry on His works, but in the power of the Holy Spirit, not on our own power. But, precisely, what is it that makes our works "greater" than those of Jesus? Well, my brothers and sisters, the greatness comes from the very fact of His absence. Jesus is still present – in His absence! Everyday He gives us signs in our life, showing us that He is there and that He is with us. Most of the time, we are too preoccupied with our things, that we fail to see Jesus working. If we can continue to focus on Jesus Christ through prayer and to call upon the Holy Spirit, then I believe that we will be able to better see the works that He is doing in our lives.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"The eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear him, upon those who hope for his kindness." (Ps 33:18)

Not To Condemn But To Save

"And if anyone hears my words and does not observe them, I do not condemn him, for I did not come to condemn the world but to save the world." (Jn 12:47)

Jesus is the unique revelation of God the Father, the only begotten Son, who was sent as the incarnate Son of Man to save humanity from the darkness of sin. He is the exegesis of the Father. To comprehend the saving mercies of God, we need to understand our covenant with God.

When God created our first parents, He exalted human nature by giving them the divine life of sanctifying grace and free will. (*Gen 1:26-27*) But then a great tragedy occurred when Adam and Eve opted to use their free will by disobeying God's commandment. As a result, humans lost the divine life and the means of attaining heaven. But because of God's unconditional love for us, He promised that His own Son would become human in order to redeem us and restore the divine life to all. Therefore, God chose to share in our humanity in order that we might come to share in His divinity. (*Jn 3:16-17*)

Jesus came to us as a human being in fulfillment of God's covenant with us and to establish an effective mediation between mankind and God. (*Jer 31:31-34; Mt 5:17*) Through the teaching ministry of Jesus, God made His revelation for the salvation of mankind. (*Jn 7:16*) Jesus, to be totally identified in solidarity with mankind, has to undergo the necessity for the passion and die on the cross to teach us, above all, the immense mercy and love of God. (*Rom 5:8*)

Jesus' Resurrection demonstrated His ultimate power over evil as epitomized by death and is not only the annulment of His death, but it is at the same time its consequence. The redemptive suffering, death and resurrection of Christ produced the glorious outburst of a new life. Further, the fact that Jesus conquered death has provided all those united to Him by Baptism and who believed in Him, with the shared belief that they too will share His glory, restoring us to God's grace and making us adopted children of God. (*Jn 1:12*)

Whereas the passion of Jesus is an event in the past, which has taken place once and for all, the authority of Christ is a present reality. The glorified Christ possesses it and is exercising it at the present time. He is speaking to all believers through the Sacred Scriptures and His bride, the Church, in His capacity as heavenly high priest and God. (*Heb 9:25-28*) And so does the gift of free will, given to us by God from the beginning of man's creation, is still at work in us, in our contemporary life. The lifestyle on earth we chose is our own responsibility and our response to the Word of God is a measure of how we respond to the Father. (*1 Jn 2:22-23*)



MY OTHER APOSTOLATE

"The favors of the Lord I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness." (Psalm 89:1)

It would be an understatement to say that my husband and I were *not* newlyweds when we came to BLD. As a matter of fact, we are among the more *mature* members of our ME class. Our children are grown and we have four grandchildren. When birthday parties, First Communions, and other family celebrations conflicted with community events, we were happy to discover the "family comes first" rule.

The best part was when we learned that babysitting the grandkids is often referred to as "my other apostolate" or perhaps that should be spelled *apostolate*. Of course, our job goes way beyond babysitting. In a world where most parents work and kids are involved in so many extra activities, family time is very limited. Kids need the loving attention of their grandparents. We're the ones who have time to listen to them. Kids also need the prayers, wisdom and faith that they learn by watching and listening to their grandparents. According to the Second Vatican Council the word apostolate means "every activity of the Mystical Body" which "aims to spread the kingdom of Christ over the whole world."

When I was a kid, I was always amazed to hear the stories told by returning missionaries who had endured every type of hardship and primitive living conditions in order to "spread the kingdom of Christ." They had learned the local language and customs. They brought education and medicine to remote areas. Even when faced with a hostile reception, they lovingly carried the light of Christ into every corner of the world.

Here we are, in the first half of the 21st century. We live in comfortable homes. Our kids are loving, hard-working, dedicated parents. Our grandchildren are well cared for and well educated. Still there is a great need for us to be grandparents with an *apostolic* mission. We have to help our precious grandkids stand up to a hostile culture that constantly bombards them with immorality and materialism. And we have to learn a new language to do it. Terms like 4G, HDMI, Blu-ray, megapixels, Google, and apps were unknown to us just a few years ago but now are everywhere.

Of course, I still have a lot to learn...my cell phone doesn't even have a camera...and I can't text. But the next time I am asked to spend time at "my other apostolate," I will bring cookies and read bedtime stories and play Wii Baseball, but I will also be sure to kiss those precious faces, hold them close and bless them as only a grandparent can...because there's just no app for that!

We are the captain of our souls, so to speak, and whatever or wherever we direct our spiritual being is basically our own making, whether we will be saved or be condemned. Jesus brings light into the world so that those who believe in Him and does the will of God can emerge from the darkness of sin and walk permanently in the light of God. The world judges itself as it accepts or refuses this light, the revelation of the Father and thus Jesus does not actively judge. God will judge us based on that measure. (*Jn 12:44-50*) So the choice is yours: salvation or perdition?

Ministry Matters — Institutional Ministry

“Proclaim the Word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine, but following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths. But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry.”

(2 Timothy 4:2-5)

Timothy in verse 5 chapter 4 of his 2nd book, encouraged us to be patient, cheerful, and fearless in executing the work of our ministry, enduring the persecutions and trials. He admonished us to faithfully carry out and perform God's work without neglecting its sacred function; to proclaim His words and to stand up for the truth, to bring glad tidings to the poor and to bring the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ. He reminded us to do God's work not according to our own desires but according His own way and the leading of His spirit.

Currently, the Institutional Ministry focuses on performing the mission work of the community to institutions like soup kitchen through the Missionaries of Charity, and nursing homes visitations to the Hamilton Plaza Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center, and The Riverton Nursing Home. Soup kitchen services are scheduled every fourth Saturday of the month and visits to nursing home are scheduled every second Saturday and Sunday of the month. The ministry has manpower support from the different apostolate of our community and volunteers from ME. In keeping with God's word, part of the activities during the service is prayers and reading the scriptures. We recite the rosary, pray with religious sisters, and say the prayers in ACTS format. The homeless likewise receive nourishment from God's word as we read and reflect on the readings for the day.

The Institutional Ministry also serves the sick and the aged of the Rahway community. We participate in the celebration of a taped Holy Mass for the Catholic residents of the Riverton Nursing Home. We act as Eucharistic Ministers and provide healing prayers to all the residents.

We do our best to faithfully fulfill the duties of our ministry without losing sight of its sacred function, all for the love of God and His Glory.

ME 37 Harvests ... (cont. from page 1)

Regis*, Ryan and Leah Pagala*, Jim and Armi Clancy, Jerry and Dana Facura, Jon and Elle Lambino, Gabby and Ellen Lintag, Ed and Alice Mamaril, Jack and Emmie McWade, Vic and Loucel Osias, Phil and Estee Peredo, Tonio and San Saint-Jean, Michael and Lucy Scotti, Nonoy and Dona Victoria, Rick and Ysabel Yglesias.

“...in toil and drudgery, night and day we worked, so as not to burden any of you. Not that we do not have the right. Rather, we wanted to present ourselves as a model for you, so that you might imitate us.”(Thess 3:8-9)

To God be the Glory for the things He had wonderfully and powerfully done for us!

* Coordinators

COUNSELS (from page 1)

The Gospel story also teaches us about trusting in God's Word for us. In the Gospel, Jesus begins by telling His disciples that they should not let their hearts be troubled, and then essentially gives them two reasons why they should not fear. First they were to trust God. The bible paraphrases the Greek text to read, “Do not be afraid, but trust in God.” Those words were not cheap third person words of advice, but rather Jesus' own personal experience with fear and His own distressed heart. He told His disciples that His own heart was troubled just knowing what events were before Him. But He could face them, just because of His trust in God. This trust was not simple, wishful thinking or a positive outlook on life, but rather, it had a solid foundation. Jesus had seen on numerous occasions the works of His Father. Crippled men stood and walked for the first time because of His Words. A woman had been healed just because she touched His garment. Jesus had put God to the test and His Father has delivered. He was not asking His disciples to have hope in hope, or have faith in faith. Simply, he was telling them to rely on someone who had already demonstrated His trustworthiness.

Secondly, all through His life, Jesus was calling for trust, trust in Himself, trust in God the Father, trust in His Words and trust in the Kingdom of Heaven. The fundamental condition of our Christian life is trust, for which comes hope and love and every good work and the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the doctrine of Christ, the Apostles and the Church. The call on us, is to have the sort of trust that makes us prepared to put our entire lives into God's hands. Simply believing in Him is no good to us. We are to have faith, and trust is the practical outworking of faith.

We can understand trust, though, can't we? After all, we find ourselves having to trust people everyday. We trust whoever built our house that it's not to fall on our heads. We trust the bank with our money. We exercise trust all the time, quite unthinkingly, we know what it means. The call here is not to a piecemeal trust in God, but rather, it is to a complete trust in Him; trusting Him with our whole hearts and putting our whole lives in His hands.

In today's society, the ability to build trusts and a trusting relationship is one of the most important characteristics, in which we share responsibility in achieving vision, and operate on a model of shared relationship. Trust takes time to establish, and just mere seconds to destroy. If trust is abused, then the impact can be serious. Trust needs to be accompanied by accountability, openness, reliability and equity.

Yet, God wants us to operate at a high level of trust – in Him, between individuals and within the Church. God is trustworthy. In Hebrews Chapter 13, verse 6, He says, “Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you. Also, we need to trust completely. Proverbs 3, verse 5 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.” Lean instead on the wisdom of God's word. As we read daily and understand His word, we will be learning to think His own thoughts. And that will help us as we seek to trust in Him with all our hearts. Our experience of placing trust in God should increase our capability to trust, and encourage us to build trust within our Christian fellowships.

(Continued on page 4)

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month.

May 28 • Teaching Ministry • Contacts: Jovy/Emily
Lucero @ teaching@bldnewark.com

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place
every 4th Friday at the Auditorium

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION WEEK ENDING MAY 13, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,623	64,540

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE DLC MEETING

May 24 • 7:30pm-until • St. Mary's

HOLY SPIRIT BREAKFAST

June 11 • 9-12pm • Church of St. Mary
20 Legion Place, Closter, NJ

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark
Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Cost \$10/person
Contact: F/M Venadas @ bobbitski@hotmail.com

BLD Allentown Golf Invitational
June 12 • Willowbrook Golf Club, Catasauqua, PA
Visit www.bldallentowngolf.com for more info

Basic Prayer Counseling Seminar
July 23-24 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret NJ
For committed and covenanted members

BLD Newark Golf Invitational
Sept. 17, Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, PA

BLD Newark Dinner Dance
Oct. 15, "A Night To Remember"



**A Warm
Welcome to
ME 37**



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Singles Encounter 26

June 3-5 • Graymoor Spiritual Center, Garrison, NY
Contact: M/A Mangalonzo @ singles@bldnewark.com

Solo Parent Encounter 13

June 24-26 • Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ
Applications available after worship. Contacts: Lucille
Vizcayno 914-963-9017 Miles Dionisio 703-899-9967

Youth Encounter 18

July 8-10 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ
15-19 yrs of age. Contact: YM Tricord @ ycs@bldnewark.com

Family Encounter 18

July 15-17 • Malvern Retreat House, PA
Contacts: Randy/Beth Trinidad lynx.cmt314@comcast.net •
Manny/Nette Manguiat @ fla@bldnewark.com
For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

TEACHING CALENDAR

- 5/20 Intro to Intercession • SE 25 & SE 26 Sponsors
Mark 10, John 6 & Service Formation Teaching
- 5/21* Christian Maturity Program I • LSS 34 & 35, SPE 12
Missions with St. Paul • Community
Prayer Leadership / Understanding Corporate Worship •
LSS 33 (ME33, SPE11)
- 5/27 Golden Years & Interscory Formation Teaching
- 6/3 Intro to Intercession • SPE 12 & SPE 13 Sponsors

Special Announcement

Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden Retreat
June 4 • LSS 34, LSS 35, SPE 12

Fri: after worship; *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's, + At Reunion

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Medical Mission 2012

May 31, 2011 is the submission deadline for venue
application and required documents. For more info contact
Mosti/Ling Garcia @ district@bldnewark.com

COUNSELS (from page 3)

As Catholics, we profess our faith at the Sunday liturgy. We summarize the things we believe, and it is our responsibility to not only profess that faith and trust, but to live it everyday in our lives, by our words and by our actions. Taking our words and actions of our faith and trust into the world is how we share our royal priesthood with Jesus Christ. The wisdom of trusting the Lord is one of the dominant themes of the entire bible. It is demonstrated in the lives of so many people and recommended by the writers of the Scriptures over and over again. Finally, it is only by yielding ourselves completely to the Lord and by trusting in His constant care that we can ever have the peace of mind that we desire.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Let yourselves be built into a spiritual house.
2. Devote time to prayer and to the ministry of the word.
3. Place our trust in God.
4. Do the works that Jesus did.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 20

Bulletin Edition

May 27, 2011

NEWS

Singles Prepare for SE#26

As Singles Encounter 26, scheduled for June 3-5 at Graymoor Spiritual Center, Garrison, NY, draws nearer, the Singles Ministry gears up for spirit-filled weekend. On Sunday, May 22, the Singles ministry's leadership along with the Witness and Coach Development ministry held the *Breaking of the Bread* session which is the read-through of the sharers' testimony. The testimonies without doubt will touch the lives of the young attendees.

The encounter is open to all single young adults 20 years old (or turning 20) and above. Application is available at newark.bldsingles.org/retreats/singles-encounter or you may contact Roger & Pina Coquia at rccola0131@aol.com or Manny & Arlene Mangalonzo at arlenemanny@gmail.com. Everyone is encouraged to disseminate this information to potential candidates.

Let us as one body in Christ lift up the candidates, sharers, sponsoring class & auxies along with the Spiritual Director, that they may be willing earthen vessels for the Almighty's loving plan in their lives. Praise be to God!



St. Francis Chapel, Graymoor, Garrison, NY

COUNSELS

Do you love Me?

THEME: We are united in faith when we believe in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

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

ORDER: ***"Put the flesh to death and live in the Spirit."*** (1 Pt 3:18)
"Love God and keep His commandments." (Jn 14:15)

REFLECTION:

In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus assured His disciples and gave His promise to send the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, to those who love Him. ***"And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always."*** (Jn 14:16) Our Lord promised that He would never leave us orphans. This describes God's encompassing love for us. Though the world does not see Him, those who love Him feel His presence through the power of the Holy Spirit that dwells in us. The Lord reveals Himself fully to those who love and obey Him.

"Do you love me?" Jesus clearly tells us how we can show we love Him. In John 14:15 He says, ***"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."*** Jesus does not want us to keep His commandments out of a sense of duty nor out of fear. We have to keep Jesus' commandments because of our love for Him! Obedience is essential in expressing our love for Him. Keeping God's commandments must always be within the context of love. Jesus told us that He had come to fulfill the

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always..." (John 14:15-16)

OPEN THE DOOR OF FAITH

“They strengthened the spirits of the disciples and exhorted them to persevere in the faith, saying: ‘It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.’” (Acts 14: 22)

At four years of age, my son had shown his faith in God which made me reflect on my own. It seems that the door of faith was opened to him at this young age. Fretting over a small cut on his finger, a touch of Neosporin and band-aid, I was consoled and enlightened when he said: “Mom, it’s okay, God will give me a new skin”. The next day, he took off the band-aid and excitedly told me: “See mom, it’s not bleeding anymore, God gave me a new skin”. Faith, Hope and Trust was already in his heart.

Faith is defined as the confident belief or trust in the truth or trustworthiness of a person, concept or thing, or a belief that is not based on proof. It has to be experienced. There are times when we dwindle in our faith because of lack of trust in a person or situation and the distractions of the world blind us. We become anxious and fearful, doubtful and desperate at times. The Beloved Pope John Paul II wrote in his book *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*: “The value of faith cannot be explained, even though efforts are often made to do so, by merely stressing its usefulness for human morality. Rather one could say that *the basic usefulness of faith lies precisely in the fact that a person believes and entrusts himself.* By believing and entrusting ourselves, in fact, we respond to God’s Word”.

Often our faith is tested in different life situations. In this community, we have elders and fellow members who have shared with us their wisdom; trials and tribulations in their spiritual journey. We are affirmed with these famous lines: “Have faith”; “Be steadfast in your faith”; “I’ll pray for you”. ***“...With prayer and fasting, commended them to the Lord in whom they had put their faith.”*** (Acts 14:23) It is through our witnessing and exhortation, prayer and fasting for our brethren that we open or reopen the door of faith for ourselves.

The testimonies of individuals who experienced physical, emotional and spiritual struggles give us a ‘boost’ in our own faith, when we see and feel their faith in God. Faith thrives when we stay focused on God rather than on ourselves. Let us listen to those who are wise in the ways of the Spirit and listen to our inner hearts so that we will grow closer to the Lord, who puts faith in our hearts.

“Faith is believing what you do not see; the reward of faith is to see what you believe.” (St. Augustine)

To Your Name I Give Glory

“Not to us, LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory because of your faithfulness and love.”
(Ps 115:1)

When faced with adversities and uncertainties in life, where do you turn to? I turn to God. Deep inside me, I know God loves me, but in moments of weakness and intense pain, I doubt, resent, hold on to my past hurts. Yet our Lord always lifts me up from darkness to light and consoles me with His words. ***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not; In all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths.”*** (Prv 3:5-6)

It’s more than 2 years now since I lost my son. Vividly, I still remember the joy and pride that swelled in my heart, as the good memories of him kept flashing into my mind. He was everybody’s son, brother, friend, who was always there to help. He loved to dance, was on the dean’s list and a few months away from graduation.

In my intense grief and hurts, I fell on my knees, offered and surrendered everything to God. ***“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”*** (Mt 11:28) On my saddest moments, I find myself reading the bible. I felt that He was speaking directly to me, lifting up my spirit, declaring His love. He was telling me to put my trust completely in Him and hold on strongly to my faith. I spent time with the Blessed Sacrament, heard mass and received the Eucharist regularly. I attended worships, served in the ministry and in encounters with the BLD community. These gave me a deeper sense of love for God that transformed my attitude from adversity to joy, as the Lord lifted up the burdens in my heart and the weight of my cross. I became more patient in dealing with things and more grateful to our Lord’s provisions. Our Lord also worked through the friends who stood there with me and my family.

Today, I may have ups and downs in my faith. But each day, as I offer all my cares to Him, I look forward to a new dawn of hope, love, and life. With the grace of God, my family and I are able to move on with our lives.

Gracious Father, thank You for Your love and mercy; for the gift of faith that helps us persevere and for carrying us through our trials and difficulties. ***“Praise the Lord,...Your love endures forever.”*** (Ps 136:1)

COUNSEL (from page 1)

commandments and He sums up all the commandments – love of God and love of neighbor. God's commandments are not restrictive nor are burdensome laws, but are expressions of His love for us and our love for Him. He invites us to have a deep and personal relationship with Him in our lives. We cannot love someone whom we do not know. Often, one needs the presence of the other person, knowledge of the other, and above all, the need to encounter, communicate and experience love.

How can we faithfully respond to Jesus' love? On our own, we recognize that it is impossible to know or love. By ourselves, we are not capable of giving an affirmative response, for we are weak and sinful. Jesus knew it that is why He promised to all of us, ***"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always"***. The Holy Spirit will empower us to do tremendous deeds for the Lord!

In baptism, the Holy Spirit gives us the strength and grace to live the new life we have been given – we become and live as children of light, faith and love with God's presence among us.

In 1 Pt 3:15, St. Peter reminds us to ***"...sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts..."*** Our lives are no longer our own, because we belong to Him. Jesus, our Lord and Savior, is the reason for our hope. Knowing His immense and unconditional love for us is a source of our great joy. Keep the commandment of love with a clear conscience and pure heart.

In the first reading, Philip, a Jew who believed in Jesus, went to Samaria to preach, heal and perform miracles and to serve in spite of all the sustained animosity, hatred and prejudice between the Jews and the Samaritans. Instead, he embraced them as his brothers and sisters in the name of the Lord! His love and obedience to Jesus' call enabled the Holy Spirit to work in him.

We, on the other hand have to go the extra mile to win the hearts of non-believers patiently through the power of our good witnessing and the selflessness of our works. We may even be misunderstood or even feel wronged because of how we live

Continued next column

COUNSEL (cont.)

our life in faithfulness to God and His commandments. ***"For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil."*** (1 Pt 3:17) In the midst of all difficulties, we should keep in mind Jesus' wonderful promise that ***"...whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."*** (Jn 14:21)

"...Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit." (1 Pt 3:18) The more we pray, the more we become sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, so that we become faithful instruments and effective witnesses of God's love. Love leads to faith and it gives us courage and patience to face everything without fear.

At the end of the day, what Jesus is asking of us, is that we show our love for Him by loving others in the same way we love God. We should respond to the needs of those around us, (to our family, friends and strangers, not only here inside our BLD community but, everywhere), by allowing our actions to speak louder than our words. Love binds the community, united in faith, in the person of our Savior Jesus Christ, who is the epitome of Love.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God.
2. Sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts.



MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month.

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20 Legion Place, Closter, NJ

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark
Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Cost \$10/person
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July 23-24 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret NJ
For committed and covenanted members.

BLD Newark Golf Invitational

Sept. 17, Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, PA

BLD Newark Dinner Dance

Oct. 15, "A Night To Remember"

The Disciples Prayer

Jesus, my Lord and my Brother, let me do Your work for Your sake, and not for my own pride or self satisfaction. As long as I want what You want I will act prudently and safely. If I fret at my failures I am working for myself and not for You. Your will is to be done, not mine. I hope to attempt all of the good within my reach but I will attempt all of the good within my reach but I will not be over-anxious about the results. If I lose my presence of mind and my peace of soul it is because I am thinking more of Your work than Your will. I need only do my best. The rest depends on the people around me and Your grace. Let me never think I am bigger or more able than You. I now put all things into Your hands. Amen.

CN archives are available at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.

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15-19 yrs of age. Contact: YM Tricord @ ycs@bldnewark.com

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July 15-17 • Malvern Retreat House, PA
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Manny/Nette Manguiat @ fla@bldnewark.com

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

TEACHING CALENDAR

5/27 **Golden Years & Intercessory Formation Teaching**

6/3 Intro to Intercession • SPE 12 & SPE 13
Sponsors

6/10 CDFP Overview / Intro to the Word • ME37
Youth Teaching

6/17 Intro to Commitment • LSS 36 & Singles
Mark 10, John 6 & Service Formation Teaching

6/18* Healing and Deliverance • LSS 30, 31, 32, 33
including SPE 11
New Creation Realities / Growth in Prayer •
LSS 36

6/24 **Golden Years & Intercessory Formation Teaching**

Special Announcement

Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden Retreat
June 4 • LSS 34, LSS 35, SPE 12

Fri: after worship; *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's, + At Reunion



**Ignorance of
the Bible is
Ignorance of
Christ.**

Read your Bible daily!

**May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon
those who are celebrating their birthdays and
wedding anniversaries this week!**

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Medical Mission 2012

May 31, 2011 is the submission deadline for venue
application and required documents. For more info
contact Mosti/Ling Garcia @ district@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 21

Bulletin Edition

June 3, 2011

NEWS

Spring Cleaning Kick Off

"Complete your outdoor tasks, and arrange your work in the field; afterward you can establish your house." (Proverbs 24:27)

Our annual Spring Cleaning project here in our home parish of the Divine Mercy kicked off last Saturday, May 21. Due to conflict with another event, there were a few hardy souls who came. Together with the parishioners from other groups, they accomplished enough to get our home parish to look its best as is deserving of the House of Worship. One member of our community came with flowers, another brought tools, and still another donated much needed trash cans and cleaning supplies. Through the inspiration of Fr Robert and in keeping with past BLD practices, someone brought ingredients for an impromptu barbecue and refreshments that gave everybody an opportunity to fellowship with each other. It was a perfect ending to show appreciation to everyone for work well done.

There is still so much to be done, though and again we ask our community to come forward and give time to help keep our home clean, looking like a mansion of the Lord. This is a work in progress and so we again invite everyone to the next opportunity for our BLD community to join hands with the rest of the parish to help make our home a clean and comfortable place to stay and enjoy each other's company in the house of our Lord. Remember the date- next Saturday, June 11, 2011!



***Ignorance of the Bible
is Ignorance of Christ.***

Read your Bible daily!

COUNSELS

Proclaim the Kingdom of God

THEME: We proclaim the Kingdom of God when we make disciples of all nations.

WORD: Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3,6-7,8-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20

ORDER: ***"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."*** (Mt 28:19-20)

REFLECTION:

The Theme for the week is: We proclaim the Kingdom of God when we make disciples of all nations. At first glance, it seems impossible to follow the theme if we rely solely on our human capacity, to "proclaim the Kingdom of God and make disciples of all nations". It would require so much manpower and resources. This command though is for all members of the Catholic Church, which includes BLD.

First, we should reflect on how Jesus enabled the first disciples, many of them ordinary fishermen, to go out and proclaim the Kingdom of God. In the first reading Jesus said: ***"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes down on you; then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria; yes even to the ends of the world."*** (Acts 1: 8) The Holy Spirit, which He sent after His ascension, reaffirmed their faith in Jesus Christ. They were convicted of their sins, repented, and reformed their lives. The Holy Spirit gave them the power to proclaim the Kingdom of God and through their successors, the Church continues to proclaim the same message throughout the whole world.

We too in BLD have received the Holy Spirit. We are being called to proclaim the Kingdom of God. Our proclamation should begin with members of our own family, especially our children by ***Continued on page 3***

Promise of the Week

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

JOY IN GRIEF

"Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy." (John 16:20)

An open letter to my beloved:

It's almost a year now since I lost you. I still couldn't put together my emotions, my disbelief that you're gone forever. I was so numb; I had no fear as I gazed at you in that hospital bed. All I had was my trust in God and the hope to be with you again.

I could hardly speak as you opened your eyes but to say, *"pray, pray, pray without ceasing."* You nodded and grasped my hand then you drifted back to sleep, as they wheeled you to the O.R. I felt helpless, unable to save you. I still feel the guilt, for not fighting for your life enough. I gave consent, trusting the doctors in their decision. All I wanted was the best for you.

They gave you back to me with your lifeless body. I didn't feel death but I saw it as a start of your journey to eternal life. I raced to ask the Lord gladly, to embrace you and take care of you, as I surrendered you to Our Creator. I wished I could have held you longer but everything went fast; there was no time to say goodbye.

I wish you could feel the way I feel. I miss you. I love you and thank you for loving me and taking care of me. Events of last year have passed and I found my way of coping. Memories will always be there. I love looking back where we began, seeing and remembering as we were at the beginning, opening up memories we made together. These have brought me to where I am today. But now you are gone. The scenes of your life and your passing had run its course. While I bravely cope with my grief of losing you, I am encouraged for I know that God is always at my side.

There is no love greater than the love of God who had called you. It is also this love that consoles me now in my grief; for as long as I have God with me He will give me comfort and joy in remembering you, giving me strength as I continue on. I will seek the help of the Lord always for He is my joy in grief. Till we meet again, my love.

"So you also are now in anguish. But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you."

(John 16:22)

God's Chosen Vessel

"...My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed." (Luke 1:46-48)

Her life and the role she played for our salvation was defined even before she was born. As the Ark in the Old Testament was Noah's safety net, so was Mary, God's Ark of the Covenant in the New Testament. Isaiah 7:14, prophesied, ***"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name Him Immanuel."*** She was to carry out the fulfillment of God's new plan for salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ, both human and divine.

Mary found favor with God and she would give birth to His Son, Jesus. Mary was understandably alarmed, asking ***"How can this be, since I have no relation with a man?"*** The angel replied, ***"The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you."*** (Luke 1:34-35) As God's chosen vessel, Mary epitomizes complete faith and obedience, ***"May it be done to me according to your word."*** (Luke 1:38). Oblivious to the pains of birth, burdens of rearing and nurturing, she followed her heart and obeyed. She said **YES** to the incarnation and stayed with Jesus in the paschal mysteries of His life: His first miracle at the wedding feast in Cana, His agony and pain at His crucifixion and death, unbearable waiting while praying with the disciples at Pentecost.

Mary's assent made her the new Eve, the Mother of the living- "death through Eve, life through Mary." (Lumen Gentium 56). "... Eve's disobedience was untied by Mary's obedience. What the virgin Eve bound through her unbelief, Mary loosened by her faith." (CCC 494).

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed that "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by the singular grace and privilege of the Almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of sin." (Dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mother) Being reserved for God, Mary is the sinless mother to the sinless Child, Jesus. In Mary, the ultimate of intimacy with the Triune God is achieved: daughter to the Father God, mother to the Divine Son, and spouse to the Holy Spirit.

Even at the end of her life on earth, the Blessed Mother was exempt from the penalty of death and decay as she assumed into Heaven body and soul. As God's chosen vessel, she remained the most beautiful, glorious and beloved creature of God, the Queen of Heaven and Earth.

COUNSELS *(from page 1)*

being present to them, praying for and with them and demonstrating our concern for their youthful concerns and struggles in the countless ways that show Christ's concern for them and the family. We can also proclaim God's Kingdom through our care and concern for our own parents and in our lived witness of our new life in Christ Jesus to our relatives and neighbors. From our immediate family circle, we can move on to our workplace – where our commitment to excellence and honesty give witness to our Christian work ethics, untainted by corruption and greed.

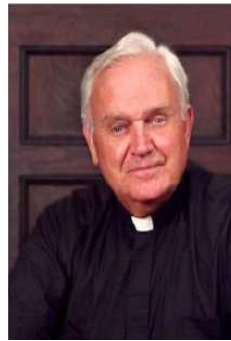
In community life, we should endeavor to proclaim the Kingdom outside of the safe confines of community and join in mission work. Bishop Chito Tagle points out that before we can proclaim "we must first go" (An Easter People p.12). We should not remain content with our accomplishments, the number of weekend Encounters and Life in the Spirit Seminars that our district have conducted, nor should we remain fixated week after week in merely attending worship service and Word Sharing Circles which, while necessary for our spiritual growth, are not enough by and of themselves. We need to go out to proclaim the Kingdom of God to experience the *wealth of our glorious heritage and the immeasurable scope of His power* (Eph 1:18-19).

The early members of BLD were fired with enthusiasm to proclaim the Kingdom of God. They were able to establish districts in Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and Hong Kong. After settling down and praying for discernment, members who later migrated to North America initiated the establishment of BLD Districts there. In proclaiming the Kingdom of God, they did not preach theology, or discuss political issues. Rather, they shared on their personal encounter with Jesus Christ, and how they accepted His Love and the new life that He offered, in the process experiencing His peace, joy, healing and love. And, as they witnessed to His work in their lives, people who heard their sharing opened their hearts to Jesus.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we should earnestly proclaim the Kingdom of God through our witnessing by accepting our leaders' invitation to be sharers, teachers and doers of the word by joining the mission of the community. Then we, the community and the Universal Church, can truly make disciples of all nations. We should not be afraid, nor should we concern ourselves about our resources, for we have the **Promise of the Week: "And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."** (Mt 28:20b)

DIRECTION

- In response to the new BLD Vision and Mission, exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit and develop more witnesses for the Lord.



Fr. Paul Speaks

As we sail into the conclusion of the great Easter season, the great GIFT of the Spirit is presented to us by the risen Jesus. We should be reminded that we are not just a covenant community, but a charismatic community. That is why as powerful as are our encounter weekends, the real power comes from the infusion of the Holy Spirit. Without that anointing we tend to concentrate on doing things right, etc. Certainly we should often reevaluate and fine tune our presentations. For there can be the tendency to just repeat what worked well in the past. Changes can offer improvements and new possibilities. But the real power comes not from efficiency, but from the Spirit. All involved in encounter weekends, from Crossings to SPE should be prayerfully attuned to the inspiration of the Spirit. The tendency is to either neglect or presume that this supernatural dimension will always be present. Thank God that in my experience the weekends always seem to be powerful and Spirit-filled. But I often wonder if more could or should be happening.

The outline of the LSS weekend could be prayerfully renewed and reflected upon. Leaders on weekends should reflect over and over again the experience of their LSS. Pentecost is the time for all of us to meditate again on those power LSS teachings. Recall the teaching on God's love and the unconditional presumption we can make that that love will always be there and ready to be released as we and the candidates open up to that precious reality of God's love which is actually a person, the person of the Holy Spirit. Recall that that love was purchased for us by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thus, holiness is more than good moral living. It is primarily living in conscious loving relationship with Our Lord. Recall that the Spirit gives us a supernatural life, an ability to live in deep intimate union with the Holy Trinity. Recall that the Christian life is more than doing. It is yielding and receiving the supernatural ability to pray and live beyond our capacity. We can overcome the deepest sinful habits. We can pray from the heart as we yield to tongues. We can become mystics as we grow in contemplative prayer.

Continued on page 4

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit



O Lord Jesus Christ Who, before ascending into heaven did promise to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your Apostles and Disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me that He may perfect in my soul, the work of Your grace and Your love.

Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom that I may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal, the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth, the Spirit of Counsel that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven, the Spirit of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with You and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation, the Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself and grow perfect in the science of the Saints, the Spirit of Piety that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable, and the Spirit of Fear that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease Him. Mark me, dear Lord, with the sign of Your true disciples and animate me in all things with Your Spirit. Amen

LORD'S PROVISION WEEK ENDING MAY 20, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,685	72,229

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

SAVE THE DATE

HOLY SPIRIT BREAKFAST

June 11 • 9-12pm • Church of St. Mary
20 Legion Place, Closter, NJ

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark
Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Cost \$10/person
Contact: F/M Venadas @ bobbitski@hotmail.com

BLD Allentown Golf Invitational

June 12 • Willowbrook Golf Club, Catasauqua, PA
Visit www.bldallentowngolf.com for more info.

Basic Prayer Counseling Seminar

July 23-24 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret NJ
For committed and covenanted members.

BLD Newark Golf Invitational

Sept. 17, Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, PA

BLD Newark Dinner Dance

Oct. 15, "A Night To Remember"

CN archives are available at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.

Fr. Paul ... (from page 3)

Jesus has gone home to the "right hand of the Father." But He has not gone away. In fact the invisible dimension of His presence is all around us. We live in the atmosphere of the supernatural. Our faith penetrates that veil and reveals to us that dynamic presence of Jesus always ready to baptize us again with that gift of the love He shares with the Father, Holy Spirit.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Solo Parent Encounter 13

June 24-26 • Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ
Applications available after worship. Contacts: Lucille Vizcayno 914-963-9017 Miles Dionisio 703-899-9967

Youth Encounter 18

July 8-10 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ
15-19 yrs of age. Contact: YMTricord @ ycs@bldnewark.com

Family Encounter 18

July 15-17 • Malvern Retreat House, PA
Contacts: Randy/Beth Trinidad lynx.cmt314@comcast.net •
Manny/Nette Manguiat @ fla@bldnewark.com

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055
Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.
June 11 • John 6 Ministry • Boyet/Zita Cruz
John6@bldnewark.com • Audie/Vulet Chong
732-356-9056

ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check

Every 2nd Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

TEACHING CALENDAR

- 6/3 Intro to Intercession • SPE 12 & SPE 13
Sponsors
- 6/10 CDFP Overview / Intro to the Word • ME37
Youth Teaching
- 6/17 Intro to Commitment • LSS 36 & Singles
Mark 10, John 6 & Service Formation
Teaching
- 6/18* Healing and Deliverance • LSS 30, 31, 32, 33
including SPE 11
New Creation Realities / Growth in Prayer
• LSS 36
- 6/24 Golden Years & Intercessory Formation
Teaching

Special Announcement

Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden Retreat
June 4 • LSS 34, LSS 35, SPE 12

Fri: after worship; *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's, + At Reunion



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 23

Bulletin Edition

June 17, 2011

NEWS

BLD-Newark welcomes two more deacons!

The BLD Newark community has been doubly blessed in the months of May and June this year. Two more of our covenanted members, Emeruwa (Eme) Anyanwu (ME#15, LSS#15) and Jose (Joey) Viola (ME#6, LSS#6) have answered the call to deeper service in the Church. Both men were ordained permanent deacons - Deacon Eme in the Archdiocese of Newark, NJ and Deacon Joey in the Diocese of Bridgeport, CT.

Deacons are ordained as a sacramental sign to the Church and to the world of Christ, who came "to serve and not to be served." The title 'deacon' comes from the Greek word *diakonia* meaning "servant." Whether they are involved in the Church's liturgical or pastoral life or in her social and charitable endeavors, deacons are "strengthened by the imposition of hands that have come down from the apostles." In the Latin Church, deacons may baptize, proclaim the Gospel, preach the homily, assist at and bless marriages, and preside at funerals (Catechism of the Catholic Church).

Deacon Eme is assigned at St. Joseph's in Maplewood, NJ while Deacon Joey will be serving at St. Gabriel's in Stamford, CT. We thank not only Deacons Eme and Joey for responding to the call to service but also thank their wives, Imma and Linda, and their families for their generosity in sharing their spouses and giving their consent for them to serve more fully in the Church.

At the diaconate ordination ceremonies, the presiding Bishop exhorts the new deacons to "Believe in what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach." Let us pray for our newly ordained deacons that they be able to live out their vows and become good witnesses for all whom the Lord calls "in order to serve" Him and His people through His Church.

COUNSELS

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

THEME: We proclaim the Kingdom of God when we share our belief in the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

WORD: Ex 34:4-6, 8-9; Dn 3:52-56; 2Cor 13:11-13; Jn 3:16-18

ORDER: ***"Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace."*** (2 Cor 13:11)

REFLECTION:

The Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of our Christian faith and our Christian life- the mystery of God's intimate life, the mystery of divine love. We believe in one God in the Trinity and the Trinity in Unity. We distinguish among the Persons - Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, but we do not divide the Substance. *"We do not confess to three Gods, but one God in three Persons, the 'consubstantial Trinity.' The divine Persons do not share the one divinity among themselves but each one of them is God, whole and entire."* (CCC253)

As we contemplate this mystery that can never be fully understood or defined, we find a God in the Book of Exodus who initiated a call for a deep personal relationship with His people. He comes to Moses and reveals Himself as ***"The LORD, the LORD, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity."*** (Ex 34:6) Moses comes to know Him more deeply and bows down in worship and supplication. He puts his trust in Him, who is not only a just God, who freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, but a compassionate One, as well, as He continued to bless them and forgive their sins, iniquities, and infidelities.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus teaches us about the magnitude of God's love. *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"...everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." (John 3:16b)

Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!

MINISTRY MATTERS

Life in the Spirit Apostolate

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:38-39)

The Life in the Spirit Seminar is a retreat that centers on God, the Holy Spirit. It is like opening a new door. A Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS) is designed to help us yield to the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives just as our Lord Jesus Christ empowered the Church on the day of Pentecost.

Our BLD Community through the Life in the Spirit Apostolate Ministry (LSA Ministry) schedules two LSS weekends every year intended for those who have attended Marriage Encounters, Singles Encounters, Solo Parents Encounters and other invitees, who desire a new awareness and deeper relationship with God, especially through the working of the Holy Spirit. It is an invitation to "stir into flames," in a renewed Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit that was given at Baptism and Confirmation.

LSA has the task of implementing all requirements for LSS candidates beginning with applications and coordinating with the Teaching Ministry for them to attend the LSS Orientation. It coordinates the discernment of shepherds for each lamb with the Class Shepherds and the DCS and is responsible for the preparation of all reading materials for Lambs and Shepherds before the Salubungan.

The LSS candidates participate in BLD's unique process of shepherding for four weeks. These shepherding sessions give the discerned shepherds, all of whom are covenanted members of the community, an opportunity to share with their lambs their own experiences of God's love and transforming power and to discuss with them how to live a life in and with the Holy Spirit. Shepherds help their lambs prepare mentally and spiritually to open their hearts for a meaningful encounter with Jesus and the renewal of the Holy Spirit in their lives. LSA members work behind the scenes overseeing the progress and problems of each lamb, while coordinating with Intercessory Ministry for needed prayers.

While shepherding sessions are on-going, LSA continues with its task of conducting briefings, guiding and helping the discerned ***Continued on page 4***

He Listens, He Delivers

"I sought the LORD, who answered me, delivered me from all my fears." (Psalm 34:5)

This could very well be me calling to Him for refuge. For like David, when he tried to flee the king of Gath (1 Samuel 21:13-16), I seek the Lord for protection. If only I could be enfolded in His arms I would be safe. And I go to Him, our Lord, not only when I am in danger, but at all times when I am at a loss as to what to do. He is my Protector, the light that shines on my path, my Comforter who warms my heart and fills me with hope.

So many times in my life, through all my trials and tribulations, I have sought Him and implored Him for deliverance. Let not this misfortune fall on me! I hear myself cry. Unlike Jesus when He accepted His fate on that evening in the Garden of Gethsemane, I try to deflect the things I fear. And when beset by tough decisions, I call on Him to guide me so that the outcome will be in my favor. I know He has not forsaken me. For by His presence, my Lord and God, my Shepherd is always around to hear me.

There are times when I think He does not heed my plea. For the answer seems to hang on the breeze. There are also times when I think He doesn't like me because His decision is not what I hoped for, or the outcome is not what I expected. My reaction is "Why Lord?" And just like a child who cries to his mom when hurt, I question. During these times, the Lord is at His best. He knows everything and He sees the future. He knows me. He understands what is good for me. He never truly abandons me but is telling me, ***"Have no fear ... because I am with you to deliver you."*** (Jeremiah 1:8) I only have to wait and be patient.

"In danger I called on the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me free." (Psalm 118:5) By the same token, David sets the final tone on his pleadings. Oftentimes, in the Book of Psalms, I hear him call on the Lord for refuge and deliverance; but towards the end, with the heart of a grateful son, he thanks the Lord for releasing him from his burden. Our Lord wants us to go to Him, to lay at His feet problems that are too heavy to carry. He is our Father and, like a doting parent, is always around to guide and protect us.

BLD-Allentown Holds Golf Outing

June 12, 2011, BLD-Allentown held its fund-raising golf tournament at the Willow Brook Golf Club in Catasauqua, PA. Despite a light drizzle in the morning, the weather turned out for the better the rest of the day. At 7am the golfers started arriving (the first golfer who registered was ***Continued on page 4***

COUNSELS (from page 1)

So great is the Father's love that He sent His Son to save us. ***"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."*** (Jn 3:16) It is Christ who reveals to us in all its fullness the inner workings of the mystery of the Holy Trinity. ***"...No one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal Him."*** (Mt 11:27) It is Jesus, who speaks of the coexistence of the Holy Spirit with the Father, and who sends Him to the Church to sanctify it until the end of time; and it is He who reveals to us the perfect oneness of life of the Three Divine Persons. ***"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth...it remains with you and will be in you."*** (Jn 14:15-17)

The readings tell us that The Holy Trinity is a relational God, a mystery of community and of self-giving who gives and loves. If we are made in God's image, we must find our identity in community and self-giving through love, not in power, for love gives but power dominates. Love is the secret to beautiful, free and gratifying relationships. The only way to living the kind of community that our Trinity models for us is through self-giving love that creates and sustains life, making us ready to die to self so that we can give to others as our Lord gave to us.

Our community teachings tell us that the greatest gift we can give to our children is an abundant, overflowing love. It is a gift that gives back, as a child who is raised in love becomes a loving spouse in return. After every Marriage Encounter, or Solo Parent Encounter, we see a rise in the children joining the Mark 10, Youth, Singles and Family Encounters, not because they are forced, but because the changes seen in the parents attract the children to look at the source.

In the second reading from the 2nd Letter to the Corinthians, Paul tells us, ***"...Brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you."*** (2 Cor 13:11) He reminds us that God is a God of love and peace, who calls us to live in harmony following the example of love, peace, and unity which is revealed in the Trinity. As Christ came not to condemn but to save, so should we. We have to look inward to find that child of God He deemed worthy of saving. Either by Grace alone or with the help of our Prayer Ministers or Directors, we need to recognize the movement of God in our lives, discarding our old selves along the way, so we can say, ***"...I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me;..."*** (Gal 2:19-20) ➤

True Forgiveness

"If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you." (Matthew 6:14)

One of the most powerful weapons we have is the ability to forgive. In many respects forgiveness is the most difficult of all human virtues to practice; yet it remains central to any lasting healing process, personal or collective. Its importance is often underrated and unspoken. On the surface it sometimes seems an unfair thing to attempt given the pain caused by an injustice. But practicing forgiveness is a foundation stone for healthy living. It is the step we need to take to be free of the ongoing negative effects of past injustice. It has transformative qualities not found elsewhere. To decide to forgive is to create a different future from one controlled by events from the past. It doesn't mean forgetting the past. It means remembering the past in a different way, leaving one free to develop the future.

For many, forgiveness essentially comes from God and is a divine gift. Specifically for the Christian, it flows from an understanding of the death and resurrection of Christ. But regardless of religious views, forgiveness is among the most healthy, mature things we can do as human beings and is a derivative of love. It can be freely offered or sought, given or refused. Forgiveness is a central part of holistic healing and always needs to be part of the journey for anyone seeking to be fully restored from pain, loss or hurt.

The best reason to forgive is because Jesus commanded us to forgive. We learn from Scripture if we don't forgive, neither will we be forgiven. ***"If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions."*** (Matthew 6:14-16)

The bottom line is this: we forgive out of obedience to the Lord. It is a choice, a decision we make. However as we do this forgiving, we discover the command is in place for our own good, and we receive the reward of our forgiveness...freedom.

May we all continue to persevere to imitate that love, peace and unity in the Godhead and seek to live it among all of us and thus proclaim the Kingdom of God, here and now. May ***"the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you."*** (2 Cor 13:13)

DIRECTIONS

- Be honest and open, acknowledge your sinfulness, affirm and love one another.
- Die to self.

Ministry Matters *(from page 2)*

Seminar Coordinator, Action Team Coordinators and Piety Team Coordinators with their assigned duties and responsibilities for the LSS weekend. LSA schedules meetings with the coordinators and sponsoring class members for the four weeks of extensive planning and coordinating needed in order to prepare for the logistics of the venue, the food preparations, and the planning of all program schedules for worship leaders, Spiritual Director talks and sharers. The most important is the coordination of all the various ministries and individuals who will be involved in the weekend and in the highlight of the seminar that is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Our BLD community's Life in the Spirit Seminar is the gateway for many of our newest members who are just beginning their journey toward becoming committed and covenanted disciples of Christ in our community. LSA is blessed with five active core couples, but when our LSS weekend comes around, the whole community comes together in service and prayer as one body in Christ asking God to lift our LSS candidates from darkness to the Light of the Holy Spirit and working always for the Greater Glory of God.

LORD'S PROVISION WEEK ENDING JUNE 10, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,964	79,594

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

Thank you for your continued support!

BLD-Allentown ... *(from page 2)*

awarded a prize) and breakfast was served. With about 52 golfers, the outing got started at 8am. The golfers came from the local communities and New Jersey, and as far away as Connecticut, Long Island, and Rochester. It was a happy occasion to see old friends from our mother community in Newark who came bringing along family members and friends in support of this fundraising effort, which was intended to finance the BLD-Allentown projects.

While waiting for the outing to finish, the volunteer workers and guests treated themselves to line-dancing with DJ music. At about 2pm when the golfers were back at the club house, a sumptuous lunch was served during which door prizes and awards were given to deserving winners. Everyone had a pleasant and fun-filled day.

BLD-Allentown thanks all who contributed to the success of this fundraising event, especially BLD-Newark and the coordinating committees. Most of all, we thank the Lord for blessing us with good weather, a good number of golfers, and for giving us friends with generous hearts.

CN archives are available at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Solo Parent Encounter 13

June 24-26 • Radisson Hotel located in Carteret, NJ
Applications available after worship. Contacts: Lucille Vizcayno 914.963.9017 Miles Dionisio 703.899.9967

Youth Encounter 18

July 8-10 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ
15-19 yrs of age. Contact: YM Tricord @ ycs@bldnewark.com

Family Encounter 18

July 15-17 • Malvern Retreat House, PA
Contacts: Randy/Beth Trinidad lynx.cmt314@comcast.net
• Manny/Nette Manguiat @ fla@bldnewark.com

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Saturday, **June 25** • Word Ministry
• Carlito/Arlene Claricia word@bldnewark.com
• Audie/Vulet Chong 732-356-9056

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place **every 4th Friday** at the Auditorium

TEACHING CALENDAR

- 6/17 Intro to Commitment • LSS 36 & Singles
Mark 10, John 6 & Service Formation Teaching
- 6/18* Healing and Deliverance • LSS 30, 31, 32, 33 including SPE 11
New Creation Realities / Growth in Prayer
• LSS 36 **(canceled)**
- 6/24 Golden Years & Intercessory Formation Teaching

Fri: after worship; *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's, + At Reunion

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

SAVE THE DATE

Basic Prayer Counseling Seminar

July 23-24 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret NJ
For committed and covenanted members.

DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY

Please reserve **July 30, 1-6pm** for our next Disciples Assembly at St. Mary's. All committed and covenanted disciples are highly encouraged to attend. There will be no teachings, or any reunions/parties to conflict with this date. RSVP to secretariat for valid excuses.

COMMUNITY DAY

Aug. 20, 9-6pm, Johnson Park, Piscataway

BLD Newark Golf Invitational

Sept. 17, Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, PA

BLD Newark Dinner Dance

Oct. 15, "A Night To Remember"



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 24

Bulletin Edition

June 24, 2011

Shepherd's Voice *The Authentic Servant*

Pope Benedict XVI in addressing Rome Diocesan Congress last June 23, 2006 says, *"The source of Christian joy is the certainty of being loved by God, loved personally by our Creator, by the one who holds the entire universe in his hands."* Pope Benedict's words put emphasis on an experience of love, an experience that is beyond human imaginations, beyond logic, and beyond our understanding that can only be found in Jesus. It is the love of God expressed to us when He sent His only Son to take our own sins that we may be filled with his divine life as we look forward to our eternal home that brings inner peace.

The opportunity to serve lovingly our brothers and sisters is a gift from Jesus where we can discover him and experience his love as we serve. We need to meditate on God's love and make it the force of our service that will make our acts genuine, holy and pleasing to God. We need to learn how to remove the obstacles of the world behind and enter our "inner self" putting Jesus the center of our thoughts. As Christ image becomes visible in the people we will serve, our concerns starts to fade away allowing us to feel and experience inner peace. Any fear we may have will be replaced with the assurance that our service will be Jesus' using us as His hands, feet, heart and mind. To test our inner peace, ask the question; "do I serve to make myself feel good or look good to others or rather do I serve to encounter and experience Jesus in person through the people I will serve?"

Being versus doing as we serve:

Our world identifies us according to our accomplishments instead of our relationships with one another. More often than not, each time we meet someone, we are tempted to ask what do they do, where they work, and in what capacity. We judge ourselves and others based on our success or failures. To certain a degree, this is only natural; to help us set our goals. However, to

Continued on page 2

COUNSELS

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

THEME: We proclaim the Kingdom of God when we testify to the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist.

WORD: Dt 8:2-3, 14-16; Ps 104:12-15, 19-20; 1 Cor 10:16-17; Jn 6:51-58

ORDER: **"Do not forget the Lord your God."**
(Deuteronomy 8:14)
"Eat My flesh and drink My blood."
(John 6:53)

REFLECTION:



One of our unique blessings as Catholics is the Sacraments. This is defined in one of our teachings as the 'visible sign of receiving an invisible grace'. In the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist, Catholics are unique as we believe in the real presence of the

Body and Blood of Christ, in the form of bread and wine. This is what we receive when we partake of the sacred meal during Holy Communion.

From the very beginning, many Christians, just like the Jews in the Gospel, do not agree in partaking the real Body and Blood of Christ. They question: **"How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"** (Jn 6:52) This is a hard teaching, and thus created divisions and different denominations even among Christian churches today.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

**"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
remains in me and I in him."** (John 6:56)

Shepherd's Voice: The Authentic Servant

experience God's love is not about doing, it is about being. Just as it is natural to love our children simply because they are ours, God loves us simply because we are His children. He is pleased when we do good things, however, His first and foremost love is because of who we are.

While on earth, Jesus called his Father "Abba" a word of intimacy and familiarity expressing the kind of relationship they share. When He taught His disciples to pray, Jesus told them to call God "Abba" as well (Matthew 6:9). This means that every day, the Holy Spirit, (the love of the Son to the Father and the Father to the Son) who lives in us is saying; "Do you know that you are God's child? He loves you! He wants you to know him! He wants to have a Father relationship with you!"

Yes, to be in this world, doing is a necessary part of life. If we want to know, experience, and love God, "being" is the key. We should not do things because it is our duty or to survive. We do things to know, meet and experience the One who gave us our life. This brings us to God's invitation to surrender our whole being to His care. It is our eagerness to listen to what He wants to tell us and ready to receive whatever gifts He has for us. We follow and obey His command to love as He loved us not because we don't want to sin but not to be separated from Him who is our Father. Let us see ourselves as children of God, His beloved sons and daughters created in His image and likeness. As such, do we serve others lovingly as our brothers and sisters just as Jesus did?

Sensing Jesus in the people we serve:

As you come into communion with Jesus while serving others, be as receptive as possible to whatever He wants to do with you and through you. Be open to receive. Trust in God's goodness and His love. Perhaps He wants you to speak affirming or comforting words to their hearts. Maybe He wants to heal their old wounds through you by listening empathically to their anger, concerns, heartaches, worries, and resentments. Or He may ask you to do something you are afraid of or avoid doing.

Whatever you sense God is saying or doing in you, put your confidence in him. Even if you can't sense at all, believe that Jesus is present with you. Remember what he promised: "***knock and the door will be opened to you.***" (Matthew 7:7) Remember Peter's words: "***even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy.***" (1 Peter 1:8)

Sometimes we can sense what the Holy Spirit is doing in and through us. People who contemplate Jesus are frequently filled with a deep peace and a great joy. We may find ourselves thinking about God's awesome presence and feel moved to say: "I love you Jesus", or "Jesus I offer you my works", or

"Jesus, I give you my life as you gave yours to me on the cross". As we sense Jesus in the people we serve, our loving service becomes gentle and comforting. The people we are serving sense the presence of God. They let us know that peace is felt experiencing the presence of God through the genuine love received from us – an overflow of God's love for us. A common experience that we find when we sense Jesus in the people we serve is a sense of God filling us with love and peace.

Being with Jesus as you serve:

Each time we serve others lovingly, Jesus invites us to come into His presence and have communion with Him. "***Come to me he promise, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest***" (Matthew 11:28) This is what Mother Teresa of Calcutta has experienced caring for the lepers in India. She saw Jesus in the faces of people she served, eaten by worms that protected her from catching the same disease. Jesus wants to fill the deep needs in us and the people we serve. He knows that His love is the only thing that will fully satisfy us and the people we serve. Jesus wants us to know that the real joy and the true meaning of life we are all searching can only be found in him.

Having served others, rest in Jesus:

James 2: 14-17 says; "***What good is it, my brothers if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day and one of you says to them, go in peace, keep warm, and eat well, but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith in itself, if it does not work, is dead.***" Serving others with the love of God is a great blessing and is taking James' words seriously in our hearts. Not only do we grow deep in our relationship with God but personally experience Jesus in each person we serve. It is also putting to life what Pope Benedict has emphasized on the experience of love, an experience that is beyond human imaginations, beyond logic, and beyond our understanding that can only be found in Jesus. It is all the experiences we received as we have lovingly served others. It is the love of God expressed to us through the people we have loved and cared.

As we share in the sufferings and pains of others we also share in Christ sufferings and pains – an expression of God's unconditional love. Receiving and experiencing the unconditional love of God through our loving service to others is resting in Jesus. This experience brings inner peace within us. It is also a foretaste of our own Easter when suffering and death lose its sting and power. Just as Jesus' resurrection puts an end to sin, suffering and death, so will we also rise with Jesus on the last day because we have shared in His suffering and pains through the people we have served! Thus, as Jesus took our own sins that we may be filled with His divine life, we can hope and look forward to our eternal home that brings inner peace – our own resurrection on the last day.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

However, we Catholics, in obedience to the Scripture as confirmed again in our promise this week, believe that Jesus Himself had said, ***"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him."*** (Jn 6:56) – We receive and worship the visible sign in the form of bread and wine, of the invisible grace of Jesus remaining to be with us.

This invisible grace was also mentioned by St. Paul, when he reminds us to recognize that the bread and the wine really become, by a miracle of God's grace, the actual body and blood of Jesus: ***"Anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself."*** (1 Cor 11:29)

There are many events that foreshadow the Eucharist. One of them is from our first reading where Moses had explained the importance of food that gives life, the 'manna' that came from heaven, ***"a food unknown to you and your fathers, in order to show you that not by bread alone does one live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the LORD."*** (Dt 8:3)

The different readings point out to the human affliction of hunger, to the food, the bread that satisfies temporarily but unable to extend our lives. However, the bread that came down from heaven, in accordance to the Word that comes forth from the mouth of God, gives life far beyond our earthly life, but life eternal.

Another event that foreshadows the Eucharist is the gospel account of the multiplication of the bread. Jesus is teaching the disciples and the people to trust in God's omnipotence. Jesus knows fully how deficient our flesh is. This is confirmed by St. Paul's letter to the Galatians: ***"The works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissension, factions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like."*** (Gal 5:19-21) St. Paul also warns us in Romans 8:5-6 that ***"Those who live according to the flesh are concerned with the things of the flesh... The concern of the flesh is death..."*** However, just as those who ate the manna in the wilderness died, and those who ate the bread and fish will crave for more, our Lord Jesus had replaced these imperfect offerings, with a perfect offering, the Holy Eucharist. The "deficiency of the flesh" was replaced by Jesus' "perfect flesh". The concern of the flesh, which is death, was replaced

by life: ***"unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you."*** (Jn 6:53) Jesus knows what our world needs: life, not death, so He promised us ***"The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."*** (Jn 6:51)

In the multiplication of the bread, we noticed that Jesus gives bountifully, everyone was satisfied, and yet there are still leftovers. This is how He loves us, He make sure that "grace is always sufficient" when He gives, it is always bountiful, always overflowing. Jesus has given Himself to us. But how much do we give and share the Jesus that we received? How much do we share our time, talents, and treasures? What is our attitude in giving: cheerfully or just a show-off? Knowing how difficult it is for men to be detached from the concerns of the flesh, the Lord even dares us in Malachi 3:10-11: ***"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, That there may be food in my house, and try me in this, says the LORD of hosts: Shall I not open for you the floodgates of heaven, to pour down blessing upon you without measure? For your sake I will forbid the locust to destroy your crops; and the vine in the field will not be barren hosts."***

All of our readings talk about meals, all pointing to or foreshadowing the Most Precious Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus. Jesus understands how we are all attached to the concerns of the flesh, our pre-occupation to many less important things in life, majoring in minors, so to speak. Most of us grew up as Catholics, and most of us know what we believe in but do not necessarily know why? He feels compassion on seeing our spiritual need, to be transformed and not be destroyed. Hosea 4:6 says: ***"My people perish for want of knowledge!"*** We need to have knowledge and to understand our Catholic faith, our teachings, our Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation. We touched upon many things in the different readings tonight. We were unable to answer most of the questions but we encourage you to attend our community teachings and learn more about the things that we believe in. We should be well equipped in defending our Catholic beliefs.

DIRECTIONS

- Maintain proper decorum in church and piously prepare for the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!

Forgiveness

Forgiveness is one of the most important practice on our journey back to God. Its importance is clear from the Gospels themselves, where it is prominently featured in the preaching of Jesus. The forgiveness of enemies is mentioned in the Sermon of the Mount. The pardoning of those who trespass against us is one of the central petitions of the "Our Father". Even at the very end of His life, Jesus asks the Father to forgive those who tortured Him. We must forgive because He forgave. *"Forgive and you will be forgiven."* (Lk 6:37)

But what exactly is forgiveness? To say I have put that offense out of my mind and have resolved to move on is not forgiveness; feeling no anger at someone who has hurt me and to refrain from harming that person is short of real forgiveness. Forgiveness is an act not an attitude. It is repairing a broken relationship even in the face of opposition. When a relationship is broken, each party should do his part to reestablish the bond. Forgiveness is the bearing of the other person's burden, moving towards him even when he refuses to move towards you. It is a refusal even to give up on a relationship. *"Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him?"* (Mt 18:21)

In 1995 Cardinal Joseph Bernardin was accused of having sexually abused a young man named Steven, years before when Steven was a seminarian and the Cardinal was Archbishop of Cincinnati. When the story became public, the Cardinal was exposed to a humiliating position. He was subjected to embarrassing questions by the Media. The Cardinal endured his Garden of Gethsemane. Though he continued his usual schedule of masses and gatherings he knew many of his flock probably believed the charge to be credible.

Eventually Steven admitted that his accusations were without merit and charges were withdrawn. This was now the opportunity for Cardinal Bernardin to get back to Steven and the Media. It was an opportune time to retaliate in anger or even to countersue. But what did he do? He chose to forgive, to mend the relationship. He visited Steven in his home, celebrated mass with him, prayed with him and gave him a gift- A Holy Bible. *"Let there be no strife between you and me or between your herdsman and mine for we are kinsmen."* (Gn 13:8)

Since Steven was the one who initiated the charges, the Cardinal was not obliged to do anything to repair the damage. The Burden of reconciling rested on the accuser. Unable to do it, Cardinal Bernardin made the overture for reconciliation. This is FORGIVENESS— and we are in constant need of it!

CN archives are available at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Youth Encounter 18

July 8-10 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ
15-19 yrs of age. Contact: YM Tricord @ ysc@bldnewark.com

Family Encounter 18

July 15-17 • Malvern Retreat House, PA
Contacts: Randy/Beth Trinidad lynx.cmt314@comcast.net
• Manny/Nette Manguiat @ fla@bldnewark.com

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58

In Need of Wellness Program Volunteers

Nurses for Blood Pressure & Sugar Screening
Doctors (General Practice)

Contact: R/L Amarante 908-265-2157 • rubenluz@aol.com

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place every 4th Friday at the Auditorium

TEACHING CALENDAR

6/24 Golden Years & Intercessory Formation Teaching

7/7 Youth Teaching

7/15 Mark 10, John 6 & Service Formation Teaching

7/16* Christian Maturity Program II • LSS 34 & 35, SPE 12

Christian Parenting I • ME 37

7/22 Golden Years & Intercessory Formation Teaching

Fri: after worship; *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's, +At Reunion

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING JUNE 17, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
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Tithe/Love Offering	2,927	82,521
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Financial details are available to all members through treasury@bldnewark.com

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

Basic Prayer Counseling Seminar

July 23-24 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret NJ

For committed and covenanted members.

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BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 25

Bulletin Edition

July 1, 2011

NEWS

29 Solo Parents answer the Lord's call

SPE 13 says "YES!"

On June 24-26, the workings and the presence of the Lord were very much felt within our midst. Our Lord's infinite love and mercy were once again proclaimed through the SPE#13 held at the Radisson Hotel in Carteret, NJ. The class sponsors and auxies experienced the Lord's power and direction as they won the battle over individual challenges during the encounter weekend. Twenty-nine candidates said "YES" to the Lord under the guidance of their incoming class shepherds Auring Bandilla and Sol Cruz. These were Cinderella Alegria, Maria Teresa Aquino, Gloria Ballon, Mark Bertotti, Aurora Betron, Karen Canillas, Marissa Castro, Ana Cruz, Precy Dimatera, Tess Farinas, Elma Garcia, Rosa Garcia, Caroline Ilogienboh, Donna Labella, Franklin Lim, Ira Luster, Libarid A. Maljian, Catherine Mariano, Constanca Quesea, Janice Agnes Reilly, Lynford Rhoden, Patricia A. Roda, Troy Smith, Denise Sanchez, Jose Soto, Milagros Surla, Marlene Twal, Maria Hycinth Umaran and Elizabeth Zywicki.

It was a joy to behold the beaming and glowing faces of the candidates on Sunday morning, a dramatic change from the serious and worried faces we saw the previous Friday night. Thanks be to God for another bountiful harvest for the BLD Solo Parents family!



COUNSELS

To Be On Fire Again

THEME: We submit to the Will of the Father when we are meek and humble of heart.

WORD: Zec 9:9-10; Ps 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14; Rom 8:9, 11-13; Mt 11:25-30

ORDER: *"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves."*
(Mt 11:29)

REFLECTION:

The Word for the Community this month is very timely in that it resonates with the exhortation of our Spiritual Director Archbishop Angel Lagdameo for the Community to be on fire again. This comes on the heels of IDC III held in February 2011, that gave birth to a new Vision for the Community.

The vision which guided the Community over the past 25 years has been updated and now states: *"We are a Community of Disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about a world of justice, human development and true peace."*

To give meaning to this new Vision, Archbishop Lagdameo exhorts the Community to be on 'fire' again, premised on the exercise of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that will produce in every person, the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, which hopefully, will lead every member of the Community to become "fruitful, inspired, renewed and empowered."

To be on 'fire' is to allow and to give the Holy Spirit complete authority to reign in our lives and to guide, counsel, teach and move in us; for only by living in the Spirit can we submit to the will of the Father. This attitude is reflected in almost all the Gospel passages for the month.

...Continued, page 3

Promise of the Week

"The Lord supports all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down." (Ps 145:14)

Follow Me

In Matthew 8:22, Jesus answered him, ***“Follow me, and let the dead bury their dead.”***

Luke’s gospel has the same message, ***“Let the dead bury their dead. But you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”*** (Lk 9:60)

Jesus appears harsh in His response – “let the dead bury their dead”. It is similar to His unreasonable response when He cursed the fig tree which could not produce fruit as it was not in season yet (Mk 11:12-14). Often times, when the message of Jesus seems harsh or unreasonable, He is teaching us a lesson – that God is good and everything that He does is good for us. What is being asked of us is our total obedience and total trust in Him, not excuses. Jesus is telling us that if we want to follow Him, we must deny ourselves, we must forsake all things, including people that we love. ***“If anyone comes to Me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, ... everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions, cannot be My disciple.”*** (Lk 14:26, 33)

When Jesus asks us to follow Him, our response should not be – “but Lord, I am not ready yet.... I am not equipped.... I am too shy..... I am too busy...it is not my time (season) yet.” Instead our response should always be “Yes, Lord. Your will be done.”

As we continue to grow in this community, there will be times when we will be asked to share the little of what we have, to teach, to share the goodness of the Lord in our lives, to stand up for the truth of the gospel. We will be asked to choose between God and this world (Mt 6:24). If we choose to follow Him, Jesus must be our first priority, over all things. When the Lord is first in our lives, all things fall into place. When we say “yes” to Jesus, the things that we worry about, our excuses such as – our financial instability, our unavailability, our inadequacy, and our unproductiveness will be taken care of. We should not worry about the consequence of our ‘yes’, for He promised in Matthew 6:33 to ***“seek first the Kingdom [of God] and His righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.”***

Feed My Sheep

“Feed my lambs ... Tend my sheep ... Feed my sheep ...” One after another, Jesus told Peter. And each time, He asked if he truly loves Him. Peter answered yes, and on the very last question, said ***“Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.”*** Jesus did this as a form of rehabilitation for Peter for denying Him three times on that fateful night when Jesus was taken by the Jewish authorities. This is also to establish Peter’s role in the Church, ***“you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church.”*** (Mt 16:18) In spite of Peter’s denials, he is still given the lead role in this earthly kingdom that Jesus established.

But these words are not for Peter’s ears alone. This is a message for all of us. Can you hear Him talk to you? “Take care of my flock.” He is our ultimate Shepherd. This is a call for us to take care of one another not only for spiritual nourishment but also for our corporal needs. We are asked to spread His word and give to those in need. For our lives here on earth are just temporary. Our ultimate destination is to be with Him and our goal is to bring as many of us along on our journey.

As further supported by the church, we find in paragraph 2043 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church where it says, ***“(‘You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church’) means that the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability.”*** And we are the church. Our help can come in the form of tithing or simply helping the less fortunate in meeting their daily needs. We can also course it through acts of kindness or in kind, such as visiting the sick and elderly, helping out in soup kitchens, and contributing to charitable institutions. There are various ways we can help out. One has simply to use his imagination.

Let us, as one body, heed Christ’s call. Let us all remember that there is joy in giving. ***“God loves a cheerful giver.”*** (2 Cor 9:7b); ***“As it is written: ‘He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.’”*** (2 Cor 9:9) We should give from our hearts until it hurts. It is a pleasing sacrifice if it comes from the heart. It is what He expected of us.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Singles Inter-District Conference (SIC) Fundraising
July 23 • 9-4pm, Flea Market at Divine Mercy
"Empty Your Closets and Garages!"
Vendor Fee: \$40/table • Contacts:
Walter Wade 908-397-2015 • Kate Roz 908-420-1501

SIC Community Assistance
Singles Ministry is requesting for love offerings of individual (small) snack packs (salty & sweet), gallons of water and liters of soda. Your love offerings can be dropped off in a donation box located in Connell Hall. Contacts: Stephanie Ikalina or Stephanie Rigor @ sic2011.action@gmail.com.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

Week #1, Theme: We submit to the will of the Father when we are meek and humble of heart.

In the Gospel, Jesus spoke in praise of the Father for allowing the “little ones” to learn what the learned could not grasp. Meek and gentle as He is, Jesus does not force anyone to believe in nor follow Him. The elite of that time, the Scribes and Pharisees, rejected Him. But the simple folk, the fishermen and children believed in Him and accepted Him.

Jesus invites those who are burdened to come to Him. That includes all of us, and He encourages us to clothe ourselves with humility and imitate Him in the way He Himself came into the world as a “little one” to show us the way. Unwittingly, it is we, ourselves, who lay heavy burdens on our lives, with our slavery to sin, guilty conscience, and greed for material things, all of which lead us away from God. But the Lord doesn’t want us to be burdened. He impresses upon us that we are not alone in our trials and it is in such hopeless situations that Jesus comes to free us and release us from the burdens that hinder our spiritual growth.

Week#2, Theme: We submit to the will of the Father when we listen and act on His Word.

Seeds have great power in them. They break through soil and can even breach concrete and knock down walls. But the Word of God is more powerful because it has Divine Power. Evidence of this, is the way people were healed just by the spoken word of Christ. Seeds are also a sign of life. Jesus is Himself a seed that died, but sprang forth from His burial ground to give new life to us. When nourished, most plants bear fruit and many more seeds, and God in His goodness plants His Word everywhere, even on soil in which it is unlikely to grow. The hope is that, in our case, it will melt our stony hearts to receive Him.

The different kinds of soil are examples of how we respond to the Word. The Word and the Seed remain the same, but the condition of the soil (our hearts and our response to the seed) determines how it can grow and take root in our lives. Our responsibility as Christians is to become good soil. We need to prepare our hearts. We need to turn away from sin, do away with obstacles that prevent us from bearing fruit, and throw ourselves at the mercy of God. To repent of our sins is the first concrete step towards turning our hearts into fertile soil.

Week #3, Theme: We submit to the will of the Father when we are forbearing of the weaknesses of others.

Speaking again in parables, Jesus talks of the evil that permeates the world. In these parables, He tells us that it is the devil that tempts us to do wrong. But with free will, we have the power to choose whom to follow – Satan or God.

But while the Lord allows some weaknesses to remain in us for our own good, the Lord also reminds us that His grace is enough for us to overcome our weaknesses. The Church has ordained the Sacraments and prayer, to be the channels through which we can receive the grace that allows us to resist evil.

Our Lord is also asking us to allow His grace to fill and transform us, that we may live in the will of God. God made

everything good because God is good, and yet we find ourselves bogged down by the effects of original sin. This is why, in the parable of the mustard seed and that of the leaven in the dough, we are exhorted to accept that we are small, docile and unassuming, so that the life of Christ can grow within our hearts and we can be used as instruments to lead others to Him.

Week #4, Theme: We submit to the will of the Father when we seek His Kingdom above all else.

For us to seek His Kingdom above all else requires a life guided by godly-wisdom, because to make a choice between worldly treasures or our share in the life and love of God, will require grace and the operation of Divine Wisdom in our persons. The parable in this week’s Gospel passage gives us Divine Wisdom that allows us to know and value the ways of God. It teaches us that what God is offering is of infinitely greater value than what this world can offer.

It is a paradox that while God grants us the privilege to be called children of light, we continue to cling to the darkness of prioritizing unnecessary earthly possessions. To make the right choice, we need to ask the Holy Spirit to grant us a measure of the wisdom of Solomon, whose heart was not set on his earthly riches. In fact, the Holy Spirit is simply waiting for us to ask, and He will empower us to dispose of all our baggage in order to receive Him more fully in our hearts.

Week #5, Theme: We submit to the will of the Father when we share the love of Christ.

For the past several weeks, we have read and meditated on the word of God as seed, and our hearts as soil. The readings now lead us to ponder on the presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

The multiplication of the loaves and fishes symbolizes the love and care of God for us. The readings clearly show that God provides what we need. Jesus came to satisfy our human hunger for food and spiritual nourishment, by providing, not only bread to satisfy physical hunger, but His word in Scripture and the Eucharist, to satisfy the deeper hunger of the human soul for God.

This miracle of the multiplication of loaves and fishes also shows that in asking His disciples to distribute the food to the people, Jesus is working through them – and through us - by giving us the opportunity to use our own efforts, while He supplies the grace needed to get the job done.

Jesus actually comes to fill our hearts with His own life. In the Eucharist, He gives Himself to us as spiritual food to nourish us on our earthly journey. All that we need to do, especially as a community of disciples, is to open our hearts to His purifying love, to sustain us in our struggles and help transform us into His own image and likeness.

-
- Directions: 1. Continue to reach out to our brothers and sisters, and shepherd especially those who are heavily burdened.
2. Set aside pride and selfishness, and our emptiness will be filled with the Spirit of God.

Fr. Paul Speaks



We celebrate Independence Day in this country on July 4th. Almost every country has a day when they celebrate their separation from a mother country, either by revolution or peaceful means. This is a natural and morally neutral expression of a legitimate nationalism. It is a celebration of a unique culture which can be expressed only when a legitimate freedom is allowed to exist. This country has always been a leader in its

insistence on freedom of expression. The Church has always insisted along with this country on the natural desire to be free. Many countries of the world do not allow this freedom, and worse, subjugate many of their people in the worst kinds of slavery.

Because of original sin, however, this desire can easily become nothing more than an excuse to do whatever we feel like doing. This is nothing more than a different form of interior slavery. In fact many who advocate freedom of conscience actually, not only desire a legitimate freedom of action, but have redefined freedom to mean permission to do what the person feels like doing, completely independently of any moral restraints or legal restrictions. Not only does this lead to chaos, but degenerates very quickly into a different and worst kind of slavery.

For example the sexual liberation of the 60's has led to the present day desire to change the very definition of marriage. This logically has led to the breakdown of family life and countless pain and destruction of the lives of many children. The freedom to engage in any kind of sexual activity like divorce, contraception, pre-marital sex, homosexual activity etc. has already given evidence of such scourges as sexually transmitted diseases, and the wholesale abandonment of God's plan for human living, much less the abandonment of a spiritual life that seeks the Will of God as the only way to human and spiritual joy in this world.

The challenge of moral living often involves the restricting of our human tendencies to sin. But this is not a restriction on our freedom, but God's way to real freedom in fulfilling His will and arriving at the freedom that only the seriously holy can experience. Because of our inherent weakness we often do not know what is real for our freedom. In our honest moments under the openness to the Holy Spirit we can begin to realize the roots of rebellion deep inside the substance of our being.

Obedience is not passive conformity, but a free choice to listen to God in prayer, and direct our lives according to a conscience which has been formed by truth revealed to us by a loving God who desires our true happiness and freedom.

A soft copy of this CN can be found at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Youth Encounter 18

July 8-10 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ
15-19 yrs of age. Contact: YMTricord @ ysc@bldnewark.com

Family Encounter 18

July 15-17 • Malvern Retreat House, PA
Contacts: Randy/Beth Trinidad lynx.cmt314@comcast.net
• Manny/Nette Manguiat @ fla@bldnewark.com

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58

In Need of Wellness Program Volunteers

Nurses for Blood Pressure & Sugar Screening
Doctors (General Practice)

Contact: R/L Amarante 908-265-2157 • rubenluz@aol.com

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, every 2nd Sat. of the month.

July 9 • Singles Ministry • Volunteers are needed.
Contacts: M/AMangalozo • singles@bldnewark.com
Audie/Vulet Chong 732-356-9056

TEACHING CALENDAR

7/7	Youth Teaching
7/15	Mark 10, John 6 & Service Formation Teaching
7/16*	Christian Maturity Program II • LSS 34 & 35, SPE 12 Christian Parenting I • ME 37
7/22	Golden Years & Intercessory Formation Teaching

Fri: after worship; *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's, +At Reunion

SAVE THE DATE

Basic Prayer Counseling Seminar

July 23-24 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret NJ
For committed and covenanted members.

DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY

Please reserve **July 30, 1-6pm** for our next Disciples Assembly at St. Mary's. All committed and covenanted disciples are highly encouraged to attend. There will be no teachings, or any reunions/parties to conflict with this date. RSVP to Secretariat for valid excuses.

COMMUNITY DAY

Aug. 20, 9-6pm, Johnson Park, Piscataway

BLD Newark Golf Invitational

Sept. 17, Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, PA

BLD Newark Dinner Dance

Oct. 15, "A Night To Remember"

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING JUNE 24, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,454	85,975

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

Thank you for your continued support!



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 26

Bulletin Edition

July 8, 2011

NEWS

BLD Newark's July 1st celebration

On July 1, 2011, the BLD-Newark Covenant Community celebrated its Friday Eucharistic celebration in honor of the Solemnity of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. This usual first Friday event was made more special by three events which underscored the joining of our hearts with Jesus' heart, and offering of our lives in communion with the Lord's. Foremost, the community joyfully welcomed our newly-ordained deacon, Jose "Joey" Viola, who was ordained last month, and is currently serving the Archdiocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut. Additionally, three new ministry coordinators, who humbly responded to God's call to service were anointed. Lastly, the community welcomed its new Solo Parents #13 class; 29-member strong, they now join the ranks of our ever-growing Solo Parents Ministry.

Fittingly, Deacon Joey Viola delivered a Spirit-inspired homily, his first to the community, in a mass concelebrated by our beloved Spiritual Director, Fr. Paul Lehman, along with Frs. Michael Fugee and Robert Lamirez.

The anointing of the new ministry coordinators followed the mass. The Teaching Ministry is now under the pastoral care and leadership of King and Arlene Rigor; the Parish Mission Ministry will be lead and shepherded by Ray and Tess Salmo; the newly-formed Management Services Ministry (which replaces the Stewardship Committee) will be under the care and guidance of Cezar and Pinky Calingo.

SPE #13 will be lovingly shepherded by its Class Shepherds, Auring Bandilla and Sol Cruz.

The community is truly blessed to have steadfast members and disciples serving in it. As our community sets forth to "cast our nets in deeper waters" and employ BLD's new mission and vision, may the anointing and empowerment of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

COUNSELS

The Parable of the Sower

THEME: We submit to the Will of the Father when we listen and act on His Word

WORD: Is 55:10-11/ Ps 65:10-14/ Rom 8:18-23/ Mt 13:1-23

ORDER: "Whoever has ears ought to hear."
(Mt 13:9)

REFLECTION:

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus refers to us as hearers of the word, and divides us into four categories. The first category is the one who hears His word but does not understand it, like a seed sown on the path that does not grow at all. The second category is the hearer who accepts the word with joy but whose knowledge is shallow and like a seed sown on rocky ground, he quickly withers away. The third is the hearer who understands the word of God but is choked by his worldly anxiety and the lure of riches, like a seed sown on thorny ground that grows but is choked by thorns and is unable to bear fruit. The fourth category is the hearer who truly understands the word of God and becomes fruitful, just like a seed sown on rich soil.

The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the Word without understanding it... Prior to BLD, as born Catholics, I am sure we heard about Jesus and the scripture, but our faith in Him was only superficial. Although we went to church on Sundays and holy days and we would hear His Word, we would not really understand it. ***"They look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand. Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says: You shall indeed hear but not understand, you shall indeed look but never see."***
Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"...so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it." (Is 55:11)

EMMANUEL...GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US

When we left our home country and migrated to the land of milk and honey, we all had the saddest moments ~ leaving family, friends and loved ones perhaps never to see some of them again.

Whenever we hear that one is not migrating alone but his whole family is going with him, when all his relations are all moving to their new planned home our feelings change and we feel consoled that he will not be isolated and alone.

It is lonely to be alone but no matter where we are, no matter how deserted we feel, no matter where we are in our life, we should be able to rejoice as Christ Jesus, Emmanuel, is the Captain of our salvation. He is God who is always with us!

For the fatherless child, for the orphan: He is the Everlasting Father. For the lonely one: He is the Omnipotent Companion Who is with him wherever he goes, whatever he does. For the aging, for the sick, for those going through the valley of death: He is the Shepherd in the grazing lands of life until we all dwell with the Father in eternity!

Out of His deep love for us, God took our human nature upon Himself. He took upon Himself our being, our feelings, our emotions. With such glory, such beauty, such splendour, He accepted the will of the Father, came down and left them all. He was true God who became true Man ... and He became God with us! He is God by our side in whose almighty arms we can rest and to whose human sympathy we can appeal.

Today, we thank our heavenly Father that He sent us His only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and clothed Him in human flesh that He might suffer with us, that He might empathize in our sorrows and in our trials, that He might save us and deliver us from our sins. We thank Him as we rejoice in Emmanuel ~ God with us ~ and if God be for us, who can be against us? In Him, we place all our hope and trust as God said: *"Know that I am with you; I will protect you wherever you go, and bring you back to this land. I will never leave you until I have done what I promised you."*

Why We Serve?

In reading chapter 10 of Matthews's gospel, we as disciples of Jesus serving Him in the BLD community, can easily relate to the three-fold action of Christ therein described. The Lord summoned His disciples, equipped them, and sent them out to continue doing as He was doing. Jesus brought us to BLD by various means, and perhaps for reasons that needed to be purified over time for us to know, love and serve Him better. He prepares us in our Christian discipleship formation program, in faithfully coming together for weekly worship, reflection and fellowship. We then start in mission immersion, and eventually serve in our permanent ministries.

As we focus on verse 8 of this chapter, we find the Lord giving us an essential element of being His disciple: *Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.* He wants us to be unencumbered by human burdens and motives while serving Him, these to be replaced by total trust in Him for our all that we need.

In the first place, we are to acknowledge that all that we are and all that we have, come from God. Our encounters and moments of conversion made us realize the futility and fleeting nature of material possessions and fleshly pleasures. It is Christ, our Savior, Who opens our eyes to the supreme value of determined pursuit of the eternal goods, of being in the world but forsaking its ways that would draw us away from Him. We were introduced to such treasures as the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit, each one a means of equipping us for the work that Jesus has for us. These gifts are given to us freely from the treasure chest of divine grace, none from our merits.

In turn, we are to confer these gifts and exert all power conferred on us, sharing them with whomever the Lord sends our way. Banish the thoughts of profiting from our spiritual gifts! All of us give up comfort and time in community. We do not demand payment for service. Another way we can grow in rectitude of intention, is to forsake any desire to be applauded and admired for the manner we speak and pray. As others make mistakes, we are called to be patient, not holding any resentment nor expecting blind obedience from those we lead. We give our gifts freely.

On the other hand, it is good to see the presence and the work of our Savior in the actions of our brethren, both in community and outside of it. Our spirit of supportive compassion helps us balance the heavier demands on those called to lead and minister to us.

Jesus gives us the authority to do the same activities that He did on earth. May we also keep faithfully the only motive that He had: the love of God and selfless love of our neighbor.

What does meek mean?

The Prophet Zechariah describes our just Savior as meek and St. Matthew tells us that our Lord describes Himself as meek. Jesus even teaches us that the meek are blessed and will inherit the Promised Land.

What does meek mean? It seems it is important to understand since it is given as one of the attributes of God and a characteristic of those who are on the way to Heaven.

Erasmus Leiva wrote a wonderful two volume commentary on St. Matthew's Gospel, [Fire of Mercy, Heart of the Word](#), which is published by Ignatius Press. In the section on the Beatitudes he offers a beautiful explanation any sincerely motivated Christian will need and very much appreciate. He begins by drawing our attention to the mistake so many are too often found to make. He clarifies what meek is not and then he exposes the beauty of the virtue of meekness. Meekness is inseparably tied to courage enabling strength and fortitude.

Meekness is the condition which enables us to always remain in God's love, especially when confronted by evil. It keeps evil from gaining a foothold in us. And even enables us to return positive and good to those who try to carry evil to us. The meek are true vessels of the goodness, power and mercy of God.

A priest was often heard praying, "Lord, make me your instrument, but please help me to stay out of your way." He is a man who knows God uses him and he wants to be sure that he does not try to do things as he thinks they should be done. In other words he wants to do what God wants, when God wants and where God wants and the way God wants.

Gratitude is a mark of a meek person. The meek are grateful to be instruments used by God to make the world, or family a better place. They share the joy of knowing that evil is overcome by good and that all things are reconciled in Christ. In God's goodness He allows and uses the meek to be a part of this recreation.

The meek affects others by bestowing the goodness of God on the world. The meek does not fight with the world's weapons, because they are ineffective for the task that must be accomplished. This can be done only when a person is sincerely secure in praying honestly, "Jesus, I trust in You!" The world, my family, my friends need You, O Lord. I am not needed to do anything other than to be your servant and enable You to be present here and now through me.

Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears..." (Mt 13:13-15)

The seeds sown on rocky ground can be likened to a lot of us when we were new members of BLD. Back then, right after ME or LSS, we were so spiritually high and excited, and were constantly thirsting for more knowledge about our Lord. And as we attended the teachings through BLD's formation program, we learned and grew quickly in our spiritual life. However, our growth was not deeply rooted because what we learned were mostly concepts and theories, and most of them remained as such and probably did not have practical applications in our lives.

The seed sown on thorny ground is the one who hears the word of God, but does not bear fruit because he is choked by his worldly desires and the lure of riches. If we had been in the community for a while but feel that we are still struggling in our faith and feel like giving up, then we could be a seed sown on thorny ground. We are unable to bear fruit because we are choked by our worldly desires. The thorns that choke us up are generally of our own making, and therefore we know them. Sometimes the stranglehold is so strong that we feel helpless. A lot of times we try to confront problems our way and they only get worse because we fail to ask for guidance from our Lord.

The fourth scenario is the seed sown on rich soil which produces fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Our BLD community is a rich soil where all of us can grow in our love for the Lord and be fruitful. Here, God has not only provided us with fertile ground where we can truly develop strong roots for our spiritual growth, He also has guided us in putting to good use what we have learned about our good Lord. It is now up to us to nourish our growth by abiding by His commands and by being doers of His word and not hearers only.

In our quest to be a truly fruitful creation of God, the first reading reminds us that there will be sufferings and groaning. These are however nothing compared to the glorious freedom and our redemption that is promised to us in the same scripture. And because our God is a good God, we should have no fear whenever we face trials and tribulations.

DIRECTION:

1. Be bold in proclaiming the Word of God, whether it is convenient or inconvenient.
2. Be hearers and doers of the Word.

BLD VISION

- We are a community of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about a world of justice, human development and true peace

BLD MISSION

In response to the challenges of our particular place, time and culture:

For our families:

- We will evangelize families and build communities of faith through encounters, Life in the Spirit Seminars and discipleship formation.
- We will give formation on personal and family prayer, pro-life values, Catholic social teachings and stewardship.

For our communities:

- We will actively participate in the life and mission of the Church in accord with our God-given gifts.

For our country:

- We will work on poverty alleviation through scholarships, housing for the poor and advocacies for life, environment and good governance.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Singles Inter-District Conference (SIC) Fundraising
July 23 • 9-4pm, Flea Market at Divine Mercy
"Empty Your Closets and Garages!"
Vendor Fee: \$40/table • Contacts:
Walter Wade 908-397-2015 • Kate Roz 908-420-1501

SIC Community Assistance
Singles Ministry is requesting for love offerings of individual snack packs (salty & sweet), water and soda. Your love offerings can be dropped off in a donation box located in Connell Hall. Contacts:
Stephanie Ikalina/Stephanie Rigor sic2011.action@gmail.com.

Renew Prayer

Gracious God and Father, we are your people embraced by your love. We thank you for your presence with us throughout all time. Create us anew through Jesus Christ your Son. Liberate us from all that keeps us from you. Send your Holy Spirit, enabling us to share in your work of recreating our world and restoring justice. Heal us from every form of sin and violence. Transform us to live your Word more profoundly. Reconcile us so enemies become friends. Awaken us to the sacred; nurture our relationships. Enliven our parishes; reunite our families. Fill us with joy to celebrate the fullness of life. Empower us to be a community of love growing in your likeness by the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Family Encounter 18

July 15-17 • Malvern Retreat House, PA

Contacts: Randy/Beth Trinidad lynx.cmt314@comcast.net

• Manny/Nette Manguiat @ fla@bldnewark.com

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check

Every 2nd Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, every 2nd Sat. of the month.

July 9 • Singles Ministry • Volunteers are needed.

Contacts: M/AMangalozo • singles@bldnewark.com

Audie/Vulet Chong 732-356-9056

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

TEACHING CALENDAR

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7/16* **Christian Maturity Program II • LSS 34 & 35, SPE 12**

Christian Parenting I • ME 37

7/22 **Golden Years & Intercessory Formation Teaching**

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BLD Newark Golf Invitational

Sept. 17, Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, PA

BLD Newark Dinner Dance

Oct. 15, "A Night To Remember"

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING JULY 1, 2011

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COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 28

Bulletin Edition

July 22, 2011

NEWS

God's Kingdom grows

Thirteen families heeded God's call to experience a life-changing spiritual encounter weekend in Malvern, PA becoming our community's FE18 family.

Friday night started with a "breaking- the- ice" activity, introducing one's own family to the group. Father Pete, our weekend Spiritual Director, spearheaded the entire weekend activities and guided/directed the family presenters: A (Olaso family) and B (Calilap family). The sponsoring class, FE17, with their class shepherd and auxies, selflessly and cheerfully served the physical and spiritual needs for the weekend.

As the FE 18 families listened attentively to the talks and the inspiring life stories of the presenters they started to open up their eyes and heart to the prompting of the Holy Spirit as manifested by their emotions. As they eagerly listened and continuously participated actively in the workshop/family dialogue they finally experienced God's transforming power and the barrier within the family was broken allowing the members to be reconciled with one another. As the weekend miracles unfolded, the tears of sadness turned to tears of joy as they committed to put the Lord Jesus in the center of their families.

Congratulations and welcome FE #18! These families are: Arceo, Ciocon, Gabriel, Libunao*, Lomibao, Ocacio, Ocasio, Margarita, Okereke, Rangel, Severt, Syquia*, Umezinwa, Vibar. God's newest FE families will be tended by their class shepherds Sundee and Neneng Ikalina. May God bless you richly. To God be the glory!

*from North Carolina



Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!

COUNSELS

TRUE WISDOM

THEME: We submit to the will of the Father when we seek His Kingdom above all else.

WORD: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52

ORDER: *"Be conformed to the image of His Son."*
(Rom 8:29)

REFLECTION:

Since the beginning of time, people have been searching and treasure-hunting, in the sense that they have been looking for something to make them completely happy. True happiness is the treasure of every human soul, which lies in the fulfillment of the spirit. If we want to know where our treasure is, we should ask ourselves where our heart is. What is it that we most desire, that we pursue with all our heart? *"Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."* (Mt 6:21) The heart is the place of desire and longing, the place of will and focus. What then is the treasure and delight of your heart?

True joy can be found only in God's Kingdom which is present in Jesus Christ. The parable of the treasure and the precious pearl in Matthew's gospel refer to the Kingdom of God which is worth more than all the riches, the power and pleasures of the world. In a special way, Jesus Himself is the treasure we seek. With zeal and total commitment, we can discover the riches hidden in Him, the treasure of God's wisdom which is a discerning judgment to distinguish good and bad. (1 Kgs 3:9)

The Kingdom is something completely and entirely God's work. It refers not only to the spiritual joy beyond death but also the peace and happiness within God's power, here and now. God offers the treasure of His Kingdom to all who believe. But we should also realize that we have to do our part in order to acquire it. The concept of God's kingdom is

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"...all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

(Rom 8:28)

A Table In The Desert

"They tested God in their hearts, demanding the food they craved. They spoke against God, and said, 'Can God spread a table in the desert?'"

(Ps 78:18-19)

Moses told the Pharaoh, *"The God of the Hebrews has sent us word. Let us go to a three days' journey in the desert, that we may offer sacrifice to the Lord, our God; otherwise He will punish us with pestilence or the sword."* (Ex 5:3) Not before plagues and death of all first born Egyptian males did the Pharaoh allow the Israelites to leave. Thus began the great exodus of the Israelites from slavery to freedom toward the Promised Land.

By God's mighty hands, Moses parted the Red Sea allowing the Israelites to pass through the desert *"...with its seraph, serpents and scorpions; its parched and waterless ground..."* (Dt 8:15) As they entered the wilderness, *"...lo, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud."* (Ex 16:10) The Angel of God moved about the camp with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night as a protective mantle of God to His people. At God's bidding, the same cloud directed the Israelites what to do. When the cloud rose, they break camp; when the cloud covers the Dwelling of the Covenant, they encamp.

Three days into their journey, the Israelites grumbled and complained about their miserable life. At the Wilderness of Shur, there was no water. At Marah, water was bitter. Moses cried out to God for help. The Lord told him to cast a tree to the water and it turned sweet.



As the cloud rose, the tribes left for Elim. Behold appeared the **Table of the Lord:** twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees, a promise the LORD fulfilled, *"...Her desert He shall make like Eden, her wasteland like the garden of the Lord..."* (Is 51:3)

Tired of eating manna and fine flakes rained down from heaven, the people waxed nostalgic for the food they ate in Egypt, as slaves. They cried, *"Would that we had meat for food! ...Why did we ever leave Egypt?"* (Nm 11:4, 20) God's wrath flared up but He sent quail for meat. Moses reminded his people that God took care of all their needs and every word of God is their sustenance. For their lack of faith and disobedience, God made the Israelites wander in the desert for 40 years. Only then, God allowed them to enter the Promised Land - Canaan, the land of milk and honey, truly the bountiful **Table of the Lord!** Sadly, brothers Aaron and Moses never set foot in Canaan.

I Will Take Jesus

"And they said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.'" (Jn 20:13)

The woman referred in the scripture is Mary Magdalene. Mary is one of the leading women who followed Jesus Christ. She is the only person who witnessed the three most important events in all of recorded history - the crucifixion, the burial, and the discovery of His tomb to be empty the resurrection of Jesus Christ. She was such an important witness of these historical events.

Mary was present at the crucifixion of Jesus, while the other disciples had forsaken Jesus and fled from His crucifixion and burial. However, Mary remained close to Him. Mary and many women showed great courage in being at the crucifixion. She valued her relationship as a disciple of Jesus Christ. She was determined to stand by Him until the very end. She remembered the healing that He had given her when Jesus cast the seven demons out of her. Jesus had given her a new life, and she would stand by Him even in His death.

Mary was such a faithful disciple of Jesus. Jesus Christ had set her free from the bondage of the demonic world. She was very thankful because of this miraculous event.

Yes, Mary Magdalene was also present at the burial of Christ. She was there to witness the burial of her master and lord. She would later return to the tomb to anoint His body with spices, but she would not find Jesus there.

Mary was disturbed. If Jesus were not alive, she wanted to still touch His body and anoint it with spices. She did not want to let go of her master to whom she was so devoted.

She persuaded Peter and John to go to the tomb. They ran to it and looked inside. Then the disciples went home, but Mary Magdalene did not go home. Just as she had remained close to Jesus at His crucifixion and burial, she would remain close to His empty tomb until she saw two angels inside it and said *"And they said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.'" (John 20:13)*

Jesus sent Mary Magdalene to tell His disciples, who would become apostles, that He was alive. For this reason, some early writings refer to Mary Magdalene as the apostle to the apostles. However, she had no authority as an apostle in any official capacity. She was not one of the 12. However, she was honored for her example and devotion.

The fact that Jesus Christ first appeared to a woman and made her a witness of His resurrection is one of the strongest proofs of the truth of the resurrection. When Mary Magdalene told the disciples that she had seen Jesus Christ alive, they did not believe her.

However, women were important to Jesus. He appreciated their devotion, especially the devotion of Mary Magdalene. He valued the opinions and the testimony of a woman. If the account of Jesus Christ's resurrection were a mere fable, Mary Magdalene would never have been listed as its first witness.

St. Mary Magdalene

St. Mary Magdalene may be the most famous or most celebrated disciple of Jesus. Although she was a Jewish woman, she lived in a Gentile town called Magdala (thus her name Magdalene) in northern Galilee and her culture and manners were those of a Gentile.

St. Luke records that she was a notorious sinner who had seven demons removed from her. She was very beautiful and proud, but after she met Jesus, she felt great sorrow for her evil life. She went to Simon's house where Jesus was having supper and wept at His feet as in repentance, washed His feet, dried them with her long beautiful hair, and anointed His feet with expensive fragrances. Our Lord could see into Mary's heart and said: **"... her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love."** (Lk 7:47)

Then He said to Mary: **"Your faith has saved you; go in peace."** (Lk 7:50) After this, Mary Magdalene became a follower of Jesus and humbly served Jesus and His Apostles until the end.

When Our Lord was crucified, she was there at the foot of His cross. After Jesus' body had been placed in the tomb, Mary went to anoint it with spices early Easter Sunday morning. She began to weep when she did not find Jesus in the tomb. She then asked who she at first thought was a gardener if He had seen the body of Jesus. But the person was Jesus and chose to reveal Himself to her first, the repentant sinner.

Fourteen years after Our Lord's death, Mary, together with her brother Lazarus, sister Martha, and some others, were put out to sea on a boat. They landed on the shores of Southern France where they were not welcomed by the pagans. Mary Magdalene preached to the people there and eventually converted and baptized them. After having accomplished all this, Mary spent the rest of her life secluded in a cave known as Sainte-Baume where she devoted herself for thirty years to solitary penance for the sins of her past life. She was given the Holy Eucharist daily by the angels as her only food. Just before she died at the age of 72, she was miraculously transported to the chapel of St. Maximin where she received her last sacraments.

Her feast day is July 22nd and is the patron of the Frail and Penitent Women.

Contributed by John 6 writers Zachary Larobis and Peter Wong

Bible Trivia Answers

1-C, 2-C, 3-C, 4-B, 5-C, 6-A, 7-B, 8-C, 9-A, 10-C

COUNSELS (from page 1)

the meaning of life and how to live it. We should ask the Holy Spirit in prayer for the gift of true wisdom, wisdom greater than that of Solomon, the wisdom to govern and direct our lives according to God's laws, according to justice and charity. And if we have it we must use it, for we are surrounded by worldly wisdom, the opposite of what we need for a godly way of life.

In the first reading, Solomon acknowledged his inexperience, and being a servant of God, he asked for wisdom to govern his people. But he failed in governing his own personal life because he succumbed to idolatry and the desires of the flesh, thus establishing a worldly kingdom. Jesus, on the other hand, came to accomplish the Father's will of bringing us the spiritual kingdom on earth. He has become our wisdom and our virtue, our holiness and our redemption. (1 Cor 1:30) We are all called by the Father according to His purpose and to be conformed to the image of His Son. (Rom 8:28-29) Obedience to the call and gift of the Kingdom must take precedence over everything else. This involves a letting go of our dependence on all other things that deter us from having a close relationship with God. Only God can give us what we are looking for. If we find God, we find all.

There is joy in what the two men in the parables found. Likewise, there is joy in finding the Kingdom, and there is joy in helping to build it. In community we can help build the Kingdom, though not in its fullness, if we possess the wisdom to live the way God wants us to live. We see a glimpse of the Kingdom in our community when we love God and trust completely in His divine providence, when we conduct ourselves with selfless love for others, and when we serve Him with all our heart through the various ministries in BLD.

Like the 'net which collects fish of every kind', our community is made up of all kinds of people. Our Christian faith obliges us to love them and to do all in our power to lead them to the treasure and the pearl of great price. God, in the end, will give the reward we deserve.

Some of you might identify with my personal life before I found Christ. I opted for a self-directed way of bringing happiness into my life. I did it my way, the worldly way. But by the grace of God and the leading of His Holy Spirit, I have found the greatest treasure the world cannot give. He is someone of immeasurable worth that at any cost I have chosen Him to direct my life. I still have a long road to travel, but in God's time and place I hope for that wonderful, lasting joy.

DIRECTIONS

1. Pray for wisdom and understanding to distinguish between right and wrong.
2. Delight in the law of the Lord.

WORD ANNOUNCEMENT

In the absence of our printer, hard copies of Covenant News # 28 & 29 (July 22 & 29 issues) will not be available for distribution. A limited amount will be printed by Word Ministry members as a love offering for the GYMers. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience. The soft copy will be distributed as per usual procedure. **Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com.**

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

Bible Trivia

1. How old was Abram when the LORD changed his name to Abraham? a) 72 b) 86 c) 99
2. Which man's household were the first converts in Achaia? a) Fortunatus b) Achaicus c) Stephanas
3. Of what nationality was the one cleansed leper who returned to thank Jesus? a) Jew b) Greek c) Samaritan
4. When Jesus arrived at Bethany, how long had Lazarus already been in the tomb? a) 2 days b) 4 days c) 1 week
5. Who was Manoah's son, born to his sterile wife, who was promised to them by the angel of the LORD? a) Elijah b) David c) Samson
6. What was the name of the man who fell asleep while sitting in the window of the upper room at Troas? a) Eutychus b) Aristarchus c) Gaius
7. Who was stoned - but not killed - in Lystra? a) Barnabas b) Paul c) Timothy
8. What Greek god did the people of Lystra think that Paul was? a) Zeus b) Poseidon c) Hermes
9. In which city did Paul oppose Peter because of the way he was treating the Gentiles? a) Antioch b) Tarsus c) Lystra
10. At Jesus' death, who said: "Truly, this was the Son of God!" a) The disciples b) Mary Magdalene c) The centurion
(answers on page 3)

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION WEEK ENDING JULY 8, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	4,144	96,791

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

Thank you for your continued support!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place **every 4th Friday** at the Auditorium

MISSION

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ

Every 4th Sat. of the month. **July 23 • ME# 34**

Contacts: Nong/Tricia Bustos • nongB601@aol.com

SAVE THE DATE

Basic Prayer Counseling Seminar

July 23-24 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret NJ

For committed and covenanted members.

DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY

July 30, 1-6pm

CANCELLED

COMMUNITY DAY

Aug. 20th, 8:30-5pm, Johnson Park, Piscataway

Family Colors

A-C

D-G

H-P

Q-Z

FLA is appealing to **all BLD members** for donations of unopened gift items to be used as game prizes. ME

1-37 classes are requested to make a \$ 75-100/class

donation to defer cost of luncheon. Please contact:

Manny/Nette Manguiat at FLA@bldnewark.com

BLD Newark Golf Invitational

Sept. 17, Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, PA

Registration forms are available at fellowship or visit

www.bldnewark.com. Contacts: Al Cinco 917-453-3266,

Ferdie Umahon 973-393-8804, Jun Viernes 908-494-3182

BLD Newark Dinner Dance

Oct. 15, "A Night To Remember"

May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Singles Inter-District Conference (SIC) Fundraising

July 23 • 9-4pm, Flea Market at Divine Mercy

"Empty Your Closets and Garages!"

Vendor Fee: \$40/table • Contacts:

Walter Wade 908-397-2015 • Kate Roz 908-420-1501

SIC Community Assistance

Singles Ministry is requesting for love offerings of individual snack packs (salty & sweet), water and

soda. Your love offerings can be dropped off in a

donation box located in Connell Hall. Contacts:

Stephanie Ikalina/Stephanie Rigor sic2011.action@gmail.com.

CN archives are available at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 29

Bulletin Edition

July 29, 2011

ECSL approves 21 covenanted disciples

As recommended by BLD Newark's District Council of Stewards and endorsed by its District Servant Leaders, the Executive Council of Servant Leaders is of one heart and one mind in approving for covenanting the disciples of BLD Newark and welcoming them to the Covenant Community:

Elmer Agapito	Tess Mercado	Frank Soquite
Rowena Agapito	Ron Pangilinan	Rebecca Soquite
Jules Laput	Dina Pangilinan	Danny Sta. Ana
Emily Laput	Delfin Salon	MeAnne Sta. Ana
Cy Loreto	Letty Salon	John Talavera
Mavil Loreto	Rod Soriano	Jiji Talavera
Frank Mercado	Alma Soriano	Mario Union

A weekend of restoration

As part of the pastoral care program of the community, the Pastoral Apostolate is pleased to have concluded Basic 1 Prayer Counseling Seminar last weekend, July 23-24 held at the Radisson Hotel in Carteret, New Jersey. The seminar was attended by committed and covenanted members of community. Prayer Counseling seeks to provide a Holy Spirit-directed atmosphere where individuals can readily identify negative patterns of response in their life, experience freedom from practiced and destructive ways of thinking and behaving, and come to the full realization of who they were created to be in Christ. The topics included among others Accomplishing Forgiveness, Bitter Roots, Hearts of Stone and Inner Vows, Honoring Father and Mother, Basic Trust, Prenatal Sins and Wounds, and Performance Orientation.

Twenty nine attendees were blessed by the grace of the Holy Spirit to recognize the strongholds in their lives that prevent them from fully leading victorious Christian lives. Together with the newly-formed Prayer Counseling Team, they delved deeply into their spiritual foundation and *Continued on page 4*

COUNSELS

Giving Out of Our Substance

THEME: We submit to the will of the Father when we share the love of Christ.

WORD: Is 55:1-3; Ps 145:8-9, 15-18; Rom 8:37-39; Mt 14:13-21

ORDER: *"Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life."* (Isaiah 55:3)

REFLECTION:

There is certain uniqueness in the readings for this Sunday because it is the only miracle that is mentioned in all the four gospels. Given the overriding coverage of this event we believe that the Holy Spirit inspired all the Gospel writers to give importance to this miraculous event. The feeding of the 5,000 impressed all who were there but again most of them have missed what the Lord was leading them up to. Their hunger was satisfied but they were focused on the hors d'oeuvres/appetizers and not realizing the banquet that is to come.

In John's account, the multiplication of the loaves was further enhanced when Jesus spoke to the crowd about the bread from Heaven. He told them that He is the bread of life and unless they eat His flesh and drink His blood they will have no life in them. His followers could not comprehend; they doubted and even ridiculed what he was teaching them and many of them drew back and no longer went with him. The Lord did not call them back as he was telling them a basic and necessary truth for them to be saved. Belief in this teaching was fundamental in our salvation and not negotiable.

Unfazed by the desertion of his disciples Jesus went to his hand-picked apostles and asked them *"Will you also go away?"* Peter said *"Lord to whom shall we go – You have the words of eternal life"*. Do any of us think that Peter truly understood what Jesus was *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth." (Psalm 145:18)

NOT TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE

There are many instances in the Gospel of Matthew in which one encounters the themes of discipleship and community life. This leads scholars to speculate that Matthew has a particular interest in addressing the difficulties of community life as experienced by the Christians within his community. What could have been on Matthew's mind when he recounted the story of James and John's ambitious request, and Jesus' rebuke contained in Matthew 20:17-28? The Gospel writer likely grasped the full gravity of Jesus' teaching as He Himself evangelized and took charge of the livelihood of Christian communities as an Apostle. The same issues likely cropped up then; and even today, one needs to hear Jesus' explanation of the meaning of service anew.

In Matthew 20:17-28¹ there are two dimensions to Jesus' teaching about discipleship, which is inseparable from service: first, one cannot be motivated by glory or prestige. James and John seem to desire seats of honor beside Jesus: they want to sit at His right and His left. From what we know about the Sons of Zebedee in other texts, we get the sense that they are ambitious and bold. In Mark, James and John themselves tell Jesus "to do for us whatever we ask of you," and then make the same request to sit at His right and left (see Mark 10:35-45). In Luke, they ask Jesus if they should "call down fire from heaven" to consume Samaritans who did not welcome Jesus (Luke 9:51-54). Their ambition proves to be a source of agitation for their brothers: Peter and the others "became indignant"² at the sons of Zebedee (Matthew 20:24, Mark 10:41).

The infighting among the Twelve prompts Jesus to defuse the situation; from His rebuke emerges the second dimension of Jesus' teaching: they are not to be like the rulers of the world. Rather, **"...whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave. Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as ransom for many."** (Matthew 20:26-28) Just as Jesus came "not to be served, but to serve," all of His followers must do likewise. Thus the relevance of this text can be seen in this way: On the one hand, those who aspire to be disciples of Jesus cannot seek their own glory or prestige or power. On the other hand, there is no place for "indignation" at the faults of another in the Body



of Christ.

Paul explicates what it means to "do likewise;" he too takes Jesus' statement that **"it will not be so among [us]:"** Paul teaches the primacy of love (1 Corinthians 13). We are to **"bear with one another and forgive each other"** (Colossians 3:13), to **"... to live a life in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit, through the bond of peace."** (Ephesians 4:1-3)

In this reading, it seems that none of the Twelve understood the meaning of service, and this should be refreshing to the reader: even the Twelve had room to grow. Is there still space in my life where I need to grow, to prune, to change? Indeed, even today, one constantly grapples with the temptation to serve oneself—or with the temptation to bring others down with gossip, anger, or infighting. But Jesus tells us, "Let it not be so" among us! If we therefore desire to follow Jesus, we must be willing to "be last," to be servants, "to give our lives," just as Jesus did. He came not to be served, but to serve. To follow Jesus, this prayer of St. Ignatius Loyola is edifying:

Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for any reward—except that of knowing that I do your will.

"We see a glimpse of the Kingdom in our community when we love God and trust completely in His divine providence, when we conduct ourselves with selfless love for others, and when we serve Him with all our heart through the various ministries in BLD."

CN 28 Counsels – July 22, 2011

¹ Except when otherwise noted, scriptural citations are taken from the NRSV Catholic Edition.

² From the New American Bible; in the NRSV it is rendered as "They were angry with the two..."

Whoever Has Ears Ought To Hear

This particular bible verse (Matthew 13:43) can be related to the book of the Prophet Daniel Chapter 12, verses 2 to 3. It reads: *"Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some shall live forever, others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace. But the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever."*

The first Israelites who have fallen according to Daniel 11:33-35 shall awake, that is, rise to live forever. A resurrection of the wicked: a later Christian teaching (John 5:28-29) is implied here. The evangelist John says, *"Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation."* While John 5:19-27 present realized eschatology, John 5:28-29 present future eschatology. It is the branch of Theology that deals with the end of the world.

Isaiah, who lived seven centuries before Christ saw God's enemies lie dead outside the walls of the New Jerusalem; just as in the past, corpses, filth and refuse lay in the Valley of Hinnom outside the city, where huge fires were constantly burning.



This is God's revelation to us that we really need to realize. The Church is made up of good and bad people, of just men and sinners, mixed in one another until the harvest time, the end of the world, when the Son of Man, in

His capacity as Judge of the living and the dead, will divide the good from the bad at the Last Judgment -- the former going to eternal glory, the inheritance of the saints; the latter, to the eternal fire of Hell. Although the just and the sinners are now side by side, the Church has the right and the duty to exclude those who cause scandal, especially those who attack its doctrine and unity. This can be done through ecclesiastical excommunication and other canonical penalties. However, excommunication has a medicinal and pastoral function -- to correct those who are obstinate in error, and to protect others from them.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

teaching them about the mystery of the Eucharist? He was placing his trust in the Lord's word -- believing through faith what his mind could not fully comprehend.

Are we not on the same predicament as Peter? None of us could understand or explain the mystery that happens at every Mass as the priest pronounces the words of consecration. We see with the eyes of faith and believe in our hearts that we are going to receive the Body and Blood of our Savior -- because He said so -- the One who has the words of eternal life. As we line up behind the next person in the aisles to go up to the altar do we realize that, that line is almost 2,000 years long - it begun in the Upper Room when our Lord instituted the Eucharist?

During our preparation for this worship the Lord pointed to us the boy who offered all his provisions when asked by the apostles. We found also that although we all know about this boy, it was only in John's account that he was mentioned -- not by name so he remains anonymous to this day. Reflecting on what he did illumined us to the theme of tonight's worship - **We submit to the Will of the Father when we share the love of Christ.** This nameless boy shared everything he had so Jesus could show His love and fulfill the miracle of the loaves -- pre-figuring the Holy Eucharist.

Sometimes we wonder how our community in Newark has survived for 19 years now. Despite our meager resources several districts across the United States were established due to our initiative and our trust in the Vision and Mission that the Lord has given to us. When I asked one of our elders how we were able to support such financially prohibitive endeavors, his answer surprised me -- he said many of our members give not out of their abundance, they give from the substance -- meaning they were living with less in order to share the gift of knowing Jesus to others. Now even with the current difficult economic situation there are still many of us who give to God what is right not what is left. May the good Lord continue to inspire all of us to share the love of Christ and His gifts at every opportunity so we could fulfill our work as fruitful laborers in His Vineyard.

DIRECTIONS

1. Deepen your prayer life.
2. Be good stewards at all times.
3. Receive the Holy Eucharist as often as possible.

A weekend of restoration (from page 1)

roots of formation allowing the light of Christ to shine upon those hidden areas that need the most healing.

"All things work for good of those who love God, who are called according to their purpose." (Romans 8:28)

Singles flea market hotter than the weather!

The only thing hotter than the weather, was the BLD Singles Flea Market held this past Saturday, July 23. The "trading floor" opened at 9 am. Prayers were offered up by all the intrepid souls who braved the heat. Items that once clogged garages and closets sought new homes. By noon people from the neighborhood began to arrive. Special thanks to our volunteer "street teams" who canvassed local malls and drove business to the auditorium. One of the highlights of the day was the woman who bought so much merchandise; one of our singles had to help her carry out the six shopping bags bulging with DVDs, clothes and hand bags. She left the building laughing hysterically as the whole auditorium erupted with a standing ovation.

Why did this flea market take place? We did it to raise money for the Singles Inter-District Conference (SIC) to be held at Divine Mercy in August. It's a gathering, bringing singles from as far away as Manila and Vancouver. All proceeds from rented tables and food sales at the flea market will help defray costs. The singles ministry is grateful to all vendors, volunteers and class shepherds who made this such a fun event. Special thanks to Father Dennis and Father Robert of Divine Mercy Parish.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

SIC Community Assistance

Singles Ministry is requesting for love offerings of individual snack packs (salty & sweet), water and soda. Your love offerings can be dropped off in a donation box located in Connell Hall.

Singles Ministry is inviting community members to advertise their businesses in this year's featured SIC booklet which will be given to delegates in the August conference. If anyone would like to place their ads/business cards in the booklet, contact Stephanie Ikalina and Stephanie Rigor @ sic2011.action@gmail.com

May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAMILY LIFE APOSTOLATE

FLA is appealing to **all BLD members** for donations of unopened gift items to be used as game prizes. ME 1-37 classes are requested to make a **\$75-100** per class donation to defer cost of luncheon. Contact: Manny/Nette Manguiat at fla@bldnewark.com

ISAIAH 58

In Need of Wellness Program Volunteers

Nurses for Blood Pressure & Sugar Screening
Doctors (General Practice)

Contact: R/L Amarante 908-265-2157 rubenluz@aol.com

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

SAVE THE DATE

DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY July 30, **CANCELLED**

COMMUNITY DAY

Aug. 20, 8:30-5pm, Johnson Park, Piscataway
Family Colors **A-C** **D-G** **H-P** **Q-Z**

SINGLES INTER-DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2011

Aug. 26-28, St. Mary's

Contact: Singles @ core@newark.bldsingles.org

BLD NEWARK GOLF INVITATIONAL

Sept. 17, Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, PA

Registration forms are available at fellowship or visit www.bldnewark.com. Contacts: Al Cinco 917-453-3266, Ferdie Umahon 973-393-8804, Jun Viernes 908-494-3182

BLD NEWARK DINNER DANCE

Oct. 15, "A Night To Remember"

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION WEEK ENDING JULY 22, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,095	99,886

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

Thank you for your continued support!

WORD ANNOUNCEMENT

In the absence of our printer, hard copies of Covenant News # 29 (July 29th issue) will not be available for distribution. A limited amount will be printed by Word Ministry members as a love offering for the GYMers. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience. The soft copy will be distributed as per usual procedure. Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com.

CN archives are available at www.bldnewark.net, click on **Covenant News**.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 30

Summer Edition

August 5, 2011

NEWS

GK Cabiao of Fr. Paul Lehman and UST Medicine Class 1976

- Life Bank Foundation, an Iloilo based bank, awarded a grant to build and equip a 60 sq meter Sibol school in our village. Only twenty all over our country were awarded. We must be doing something good.
- BLD Newark sent \$5,500 for the Scholarship of Hope in our shared village. This year we have 47 elementary age children in the program. The funding will last 2-3 years based on the future number of scholars.



- Isaiah 58 Ministry of Newark sent 24 boxes of books to the village.

Those who went to Cabiao with us probably still remember our awesome emcee, Liezel Rivera. She and another young lady are enrolling in the community college. Lito S asked for sponsors for them if possible. A BLD Newark member and a doctor from UST Medicine Class 76 volunteered to sponsor Liezel and Bernadette for this year. We hope that they will find sponsors for the rest of their college years.

Continued on page 2

Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!

COUNSELS

Faith First

THEME: We have faith in Jesus when we remain focused on Him.

WORD: 1Kgs 19:9,11-13; Ps 85:9-14; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-23

ORDER: "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." (Mt 14:27)

REFLECTION:

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that "Faith is first of all personal adherence of man to God." (CCC 150) It means we must entrust ourselves wholly to God and believe absolutely in what He says. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we must listen to His word and act on them (Lk 6:47). We are to persevere in our walk with Jesus, remain firmly rooted in Him and established in our faith, and abound in thanksgiving, (Col 2:6-7), for there is "no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved," except the Name of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12).

And as we follow Jesus and His commandments with unwavering faith, when we cry out to Him, He will save us from useless anxieties - what to eat, what to drink, what to wear (Mt 6: 33). Jesus will shield us from the storms of life, from our fears and from our sinful inclinations and give us the reward of eternal life. Therefore, our Community Word for August reminds us that 'Jesus saves all who have faith in Him.'

Our Theme for the First week is: We have faith in Jesus when we remain focused on Him.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"The Lord will surely grant abundance; our land will yield its increase. Prosperity will march before the Lord, and good fortune will follow behind." (Ps 85:13-14)

GK Cabiao of ... continuation

As you buy new summer clothes and clean out your closets, please earmark some of your gently used summer clothes for our residents. Or even buy new ones for them at end of summer sales if you prefer, they will truly be appreciated especially the XS to M.

I have always said that GK is not just a housing program. One of their slogans stuck with me from 7 years ago and that is their real goal is total human liberation. With Grace, two generous and caring communities focused to that end, I believe we can get there.

Thanks to our awesome God.



LEARNING TO GIVE: The medical mission team brought free medicines to the BLD-GK village. The team cared for families including children of all ages, pregnant women, middle-aged men and women, and the elderly. They treated patients with skin diseases, urinary tract infections, gastroenteritis, hypertension, acute nasopharyngitis, parasitism, and many more. Furthermore, short lecture about proper hygiene, first aid remedies using local medicinal plants, and good compliance to medications were given

BLD GK San Ildefonso

BLD Malolos members with the leadership of the Mission Steward Willie-Marie Zunigas and GK Coordinators Dan-Baby Daez are the energetic, spirit filled caretakers of the BLD GK Rockville Center and GK CARP Iletto Villages. They adopted both villages and all projects include the Iletto residents. Talagang Walang Iwanan!

Here is a list of past and future endeavors:
They converted an unused duplex into a prayer

room and the other room for spiritual / community teachings. They contributed a crucifix, Bible and stand, a statue of the Lady of Fatima, an image of The Lady of Perpetual Helping, rosaries and booklets on how to pray the Rosary. They continue to encourage the community to participate in block rosaries.

- Last Christmas, they distributed Christmas gifts to the 34 families in both communities. Funding was raised by BLD Malolos.
- Upcoming Tilapia Culture Fishpond in a 500 sq m area. Heavy equipment will be provided DPWH with assistance from Santa Catalina Barangay Captain. This will carry with it the construction a 1 meter wide 3 meter deep water well lined with concrete pipes for cheaper costing water supply.
- Piggery Project with initial 10 heads to commercial sale
- Gulayan & Halamanan Projects for raising vegetables and high value food crops geared for market rather than for home consumption. This is courtesy of Art Bolo, GK Bulacan Provincial Coordinator.
- The piggery, tilapia funds came from the Community Development Fund.



WARM WELCOME: Mr. Leo Alquiros of Tropical Hut NJ, together with his friends, were delightfully received by the residents of BLD-GK Village of the Angels, Lucena City last June 18 2011. Motivation of members of the medical mission team out rightly matched the heartfelt gratitude coming from the residents.

We praise and thank God for BLD Malolos and Mother Olive.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

In the first reading, Elijah had defeated the 450 false prophets of Baal, and when he prayed for rain, it rained after three years of drought. But, he continued to focus on the miracles and failed to remain in communion with God. Similarly, Peter, at a word from Jesus, walked on water, but nearly drowned when he lost focus on Jesus and became distracted by the big waves around him. By wavering, his faith weakened despite having personally witnessed the many miracles that Jesus has performed in his presence. Both Elijah and Peter failed to stay focused on God. We are reminded, therefore, to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus that we may remain unwavering in faith. The Promise of the Week is: ***"The Lord will surely grant abundance; our and will yield its increase. Prosperity will march before the Lord, and good fortune will follow behind."*** (Ps 85:13-14)

The Theme for the Second week is: We have faith in Jesus when we persist in our prayers. The Canaanite woman persisted in appealing to Jesus to heal her daughter, though Jesus did not answer her and even the disciples tried to dissuade her from coming to Him. Because of her persistent faith, Jesus healed her daughter. As disciples of Christ, we have to follow the exhortation of St. Paul to ***"Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus"*** (1 Thes 5:17-18), for we do not know when and how Jesus will answer our prayers. However, we know in faith that Jesus hears and answers our prayers. The Promise of the Week is: ***"...great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."*** (Mt. 15:28)

The Theme for the Third week is: We have faith in Jesus when we proclaim Him as Son of the Living God. Just as Peter proclaimed Jesus as the Son of the Living God, we too, as disciples of Christ, should be ready to proclaim Him in our witness to what He has done for us in our lives. Then people will be encouraged to know more about Him and to follow Him. The Promise for the week is: ***"...upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it."*** (Mt. 16:18)

Finally, the Theme for the Fourth week is: We have faith in Jesus when we deny ourselves; take up the cross and follow Him. As His disciples, we have to allow Jesus to constantly transform us and bring us to new life in the Spirit. By His mercy and grace, we can resist the attractions of the world, die daily to our self-centeredness, and persevere in following Jesus, who will lead us to a fruitful life here on earth and preserve us for eternal life (Jn12:24-25). The Promise for the week is: ***"...whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."*** (Mt 16:25b)

Bible Trivia

1.) At which festival did the 12-year-old Jesus stay behind at the temple?

- a) Feast of booths
- b) First fruits
- c) Passover
- d) Pentecost

2.) Whom did Jesus call the "generation of vipers"?

- a) The Jews of his day
- b) The Pharisees
- c) The Scribes
- d) The Saducees

3.) Where was Jesus when he rose into heaven?

- a) Jerusalem
- b) Mount of Olives
- c) Galilee
- d) Nazareth

4.) What was the name of Judas' father?

- a) Jonah
- b) Iscariot
- c) Alexander
- d) Simon

5.) When Mary annointed Jesus, why did Judas say, "Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?"

- a) Because he secretly cared for the poor.
- b) Because he was a thief.
- c) Because he abhorred waste.
- d) Because he didn't understand the purpose.

6.) What was the name of the field that was purchased with the betrayal money Judas returned?

- a) Corban
- b) Golgotha
- c) Aceldama
- d) Gabbatha

7.) Who married his half-sister?

- a) Lot
- b) Nahor
- c) Terah
- d) Abraham

8.) Who wrongly thought that Abraham's and Isaac's wives were their sisters?

- a) Abimelech
- b) Ishmael
- c) Ben-Ammi
- d) Mamre

9.) Who tricked Jacob into marrying his daughter?

- a) Lot
- b) Nahor
- c) Terah
- d) Laban

10.) Who stole the household gods of her father?

- a) Rachel
- b) Leah
- c) Zilpah
- d) Bilhah

Answers on next week's issue.

DIRECTIONS:

Have a disciplined prayer life. Spend quiet time to commune with God and hear Him in the stillness of our hearts. Read and reflect on His Word daily. Go to confession regularly and receive the Holy Eucharist more often.

WYD AND THE WEST IN POPE'S PRAYERS FOR AUGUST

MADRID, SPAIN, JULY 29, 2011 (Zenit.org) - As Benedict XVI travels to Madrid in a few weeks, he will be supported by the prayers of all those who join him in his monthly intentions. In August, his general intentions are for youth and the fruits of World Youth Day in Spain.

The Apostleship of Prayer announced the intentions chosen by the Pope for the upcoming month. His general intention is: That World Youth Day in Madrid may encourage young people throughout the world to have their lives rooted and built up in Christ."

His apostolic intention, meanwhile, calls to mind one of the priorities of his pontificate: the new evangelization.

The Pontiff's apostolic intention for August is: "That Western Christians may be open to the action of the Holy Spirit and rediscover the freshness and enthusiasm of their faith."

Meanwhile, the Sisters of Life are preparing young people for the experience of the pilgrimage through a blog updated from Madrid. With the Knights of Columbus, it is co-sponsoring the "Love Life: A Home for English-Speaking Pilgrims" center in Madrid. The sisters' blog has a "spiritual prep topic" for each day leading up to the Pope's meeting with youth. Each blog entry concludes with "some spiritual exercises": concrete steps to respond to the reflection. There are also a series of links directing pilgrims to a variety of media for further reflection and learning.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Single Inter-district Conference Community Assistance

Singles Ministry is requesting for love offerings of individual snack packs (salty & sweet), water and soda. Your love offerings can be dropped off in a donation box located in Connell Hall.

Singles Ministry is inviting community members to advertise their businesses in this year's featured SIC booklet which will be given to delegates in the August conference. If anyone would like to place their ads/business cards in the booklet (B&W only), please contact Stephanie Rigor @

Stephanierigor@gmail.com or 908-875-1132

Full Page: \$150, Half: \$100, Quarter: \$50

CN archives are available at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAMILY LIFE APOSTOLATE

FLA is appealing to all BLD members for donations of unopened gift items to be used as game prizes. ME 1-37 classes are requested to make a **\$75-100** per class donation to defer cost of luncheon. Contact: Manny/Nette Manguiat at fla@bldnewark.com

ISAIAH 58

In Need of Wellness Program Volunteers

Nurses for Blood Pressure & Sugar Screening

Doctors (General Practice)

Contact: R/L Amarante 908-265-2157 rubenluz@aol.com

WORD

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A. www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

SAVE THE DATE

COMMUNITY DAY

Aug. 20, 8:30-5pm, Johnson Park, Piscataway

Family Colors **A-C** **D-G** **H-P** **Q-Z**

SINGLES INTER-DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2011

Aug. 26-28, St. Mary's

Contact: Singles @ core@newark.bldsingles.org

BLD NEWARK GOLF INVITATIONAL

Sept. 17, Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, PA

Registration forms are available at fellowship or visit www.bldnewark.com. Contacts: Al Cinco 917-453-3266, Ferdie Umahon 973-393-8804, Jun Viernes 908-494-3182

BLD NEWARK DINNER DANCE

Oct. 15, "A Night To Remember"

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING JULY 29, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$3,310	\$103,196

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

Thank you for your continued support!

"I will give them a new heart and put a new spirit within them; I will remove the stony heart from their bodies, and replace it with a natural heart, so that they will live according to my statutes, and observe and carry out my ordinances; thus they shall be my people and I will be their God." (Ez 11:19-20)



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 31

Summer Edition

August 12, 2011

Singles & ME couple commit to Jesus

Transformed, renewed. That was what it felt to the Singles after attending the Life in the Spirit Seminar in June 2011. Friday, August 5th, at Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway, Fr. Paul Lehman, celebrated the Healing Mass followed by the anointing of 11 singles and one ME couple who committed themselves as Jesus' disciples. All welcomed, with joy, our new members.

The newly anointed singles were Irvin Aglibut, Tina Avisado, Laura Cancio, Rashed Espejon, Christine Garcia, Fid Lim, Joe Madrigal, James Sabale, Vanessa Fabe, April Santos, Jen Ompod and ME couple Willie and Amor Ferrer.

FR. PAUL SPEAKS

"The Resurrection of the body", this is the next to last act of faith we confess to at the conclusion of the Nicene Creed. Closely connected to this act of faith is the phrase, "life everlasting". We believe that someday the body we now inhabit will be "raised up" and joined to our souls to complete our human personhood and share with our souls eternal life and happiness in heaven or eternal damnation in hell. It assures us that our bodies are worthy subjects for glorification. It tells us that we are in a sense incomplete without our bodies. We are not angels. A false spirituality sees a dichotomy between the spiritual and physical aspects of our human nature, one good, the other bad. Even though our human nature is weakened by original sin, God made everything good. Thus our physical bodies, our emotions, our sexuality are all good and to be respected. Precisely because our humanity has been used improperly, do some fail to distinguish between the legitimate use of the physical and its abuse.

The fact of the Incarnation confirms the fact that God would and could not have assumed something into His person that was not good, a body. In the very beginning of creation He elevated the body to a dignity that it can become the means of cooperating with God in creating life. In recreating us and redeeming us by His suffering, death and resurrection the body can now be even used for supernatural communications. The Sacraments themselves are material things that have

Continued on page 2

COUNSELS

DIVINE JUSTICE

THEME: We have faith in Jesus when we persist in our prayers.

WORD: Is 56:1, 6-7; Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

ORDER: "...observe what is right, do what is just... keep the sabbath free from profanation and hold fast to my covenant ..." (Is 56:1, 6)

REFLECTION:

In Matthew's Gospel, (15:21-28), he tells us of Jesus acting mean and showing a side of Him we do not normally see. Even with all the explanations, commentaries written regarding this biblical passage, I find them all unsatisfactory and hard to believe. While some people use this passage to say Jesus as racist, others say He was only following the Jewish custom and tradition of His time, that is, calling the Gentiles and pagans as dogs. Still, others try to explain it as a mistranslation, or that Jesus did not really say it. But whatever it is, it is still unsatisfactory to me. At this scene, Jesus wanted to teach the Canaanite woman a lesson. At first, He ignores the Canaanite woman. Then, tells her that He "was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Finally, He says, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." In view of these statements, I propose that the reason Jesus did what did and said what He said was simply to fulfill the demands of Justice.

Remember, God is a god of Justice. The common usage of the word justice is "to render to every man his due." Like an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth, in the Old Testament. With Jesus, it is akin to Peter denying Him three times during His crucifixion, and again Peter professing three times he loves Him, after His resurrection.

Continued on page 2

Promise of the Week

"...great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." (Mt 15:28)

COUNSELS (from page 1)

Justice requires Peter to do so.

Can you imagine this Canaanite woman ignoring someone seeking her help previously? Or, telling this person to get lost because her food is reserved only for her family and cannot be thrown to the dogs, meaning non-Canaanites or Jews? Is it reasonable to expect this from anybody, I ask you? Imagine too, demons afflicting and tormenting her daughter. This Canaanite might lose her family wealth just to get a cure for her daughter's illness. At this point, the Canaanite woman hears of this man, Jesus, who happens to be passing by and was known to have driven demons out of a man.

When the Canaanite woman approached Jesus, she had a change of heart. She understood why Jesus repeated her own words before without love, but, this time spoke to her full of love. Instead of going away, she comes back with a plea so humble, yet so firm that Jesus could not resist. I believe, Justice requires her to undo what she had done and for her to move forward. Her persistence shows complete trust in Jesus' mercy.

This passage shows not only that divine justice that restores souls back to God, but also that wrongs be repaid to return to good standing with the Lord. It punishes not for its own sake, because wrongs cannot be satisfied by legal means alone. It needs God's divine mercy to fully restore righteousness. Divine Justice shows us and makes us realize that when do wrong, we hurt others. It also paves the way to humility, perseverance and faith. While God's mercy trumps God's justice, it does not cancel it. It exists in just one person, Jesus Christ, who took the punishment for our sins by His crucifixion. *"Thus, says the Lord, observe what is right, do what is just; for my salvation is about to come, my justice about to be revealed."* (Is 56:1) His Justice was revealed on the cross and is cloaked in Mercy. Thanks to Jesus' obedience, we may now enter into the greatest justice ever, which is divine love. As He tells us, *"Let it be done for you as you wish."* Persistence in prayers is answered; faith in the God cures and heals. Let us approach Jesus, trusting that He will hear us. Let us not lose hope but keep on praying any day, any time.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Be joyful in my house of prayer.
2. Be persistent in our prayers.

LORD'S PROVISION WEEK ENDING AUG. 5, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	\$1,871	\$105,067

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Fr. Paul Speaks (from page 1)

been transformed by the incarnate Jesus and are to be used by bodily persons in transforming and transferring supernatural gifts.

Even in the human sphere we use the body to communicate our inner feelings. A smile, a frown, or even an embrace can often speak louder than words. We've all heard about body language. As mentioned above, the marital act of love opens the couple up to the transmission of life.

That is the reason why the Church insists that openness to the possibility of life must be intrinsic to the marital act, and why contraception is in a sense a lie. This has been beautifully taught by our previous holy father, John Paul II in his long teaching on the theology of the body. This is also the basic reason why the misuse of the body is in a certain sense an act of irreverence to the sacred, our bodies.

Even if our bodies give us trouble in the form of sickness, temptation or fatigue it is God's gift and part of our human nature. Respect the life of body and soul that form the complex thing we call the human person.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check

Every 2nd Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

SINGLES

SINGLES INTER-DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2011

Aug. 26-28, Singles Ministry is requesting for love offerings of individual snack packs (salty & sweet), water and soda. Your love offerings can be dropped off in a donation box located in Connell Hall.

Singles Ministry is inviting community members to advertise their businesses in this year's featured SIC booklet which will be given to delegates in the August conference. If anyone would like to place their ads/business cards in the booklet (B&W only), please contact Stephanie Rigor @ Stephanierigor@gmail.com or 908-875-1132 **Full Page: \$150, Half: \$100, Quarter: \$50**

SAVE THE DATE

COMMUNITY DAY

Aug. 20, 8:30-5pm, Johnson Park, Piscataway
FLA is appealing to **all BLD members** for donations of unopened gift items to be used as game prizes. ME 1-37 classes are requested to make a **\$75-100** per class donation to defer cost of luncheon. Contact: Manny/Nette Manguiat.
Family Colors **A-C D-G H-P Q-Z**

BLD NEWARK GOLF INVITATIONAL

Sept. 17, Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, PA
Contacts: Al Cinco 917-453-3266, Ferdie Umahon 973-393-8804, Jun Viernes 908-494-3182

BLD NEWARK DINNER DANCE

Oct. 15, "A Night To Remember"



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 32

Summer Edition

August 19, 2011

BLD Newark prepares for Community Day

The annual BLD-Newark Community Day will be held tomorrow, August 20 from 8:30am to 5pm at Johnson Park in Piscataway. Manny and Nette Manguiat and the Family Life Apostolate have been hard at work planning a wonderful day based on the core BLD values of Faith, Fellowship, Family, Fun, and, of course, Food.

In order to make all of this possible, the FLA has requested donations from all segments of the community. It is not too late. If your ME class has not yet made a contribution, please do not hesitate. All donations are welcome.

Also, all BLD members are urged to check their attics and closets for unopened gift items that can be donated and used as game prizes.

So make a plan to gather up the kids and come on down to Johnson Park. Get there early, attend the outdoor Mass, join in the fun, and enjoy the good food and fellowship that BLD-Newark is famous for. And, don't forget to wear your family colors.

More than just fundraisers ... let's celebrate!

On two upcoming Saturdays, BLD will be holding its annual fundraisers: a Golf Outing (Sept 17th) and a Dinner Dance (Oct 15th). We need your support for each – certainly financial, but also your interest, involvement and participation.

They're really not just fundraisers. Yes, they're FUN-raisers too; they are celebrations of God's blessings. Out on the golf course, there's the warmth of the sunshine, the greenness of grass and trees; the camaraderie that'll surely be there no matter what one scores. At the Dinner Dance, we celebrate His gift of BLD – family and friends, dancing the night away on "A Night to Remember."

Truly, these are opportunities to celebrate our thanks to God for BLD, and to help it in the mission that it has signed up for wholeheartedly... summed up in two words: to love.

All golfers and dancers are welcome.... and since they are fundraisers too, so are all helping hands (and hearts, and prayers!), pockets and wallets too!

COUNSELS

Who do you say I am?

THEME: We have faith in Jesus when we proclaim Him Son of the living God.

WORD: Is 22:15, 19-23; Ps 138:1-3, 2-3, 6, 8; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16: 13-20

ORDER: *"Affirm that all things are from Him, through Him and for Him. Give glory to God forever."* (Rom 11:36 paraphrase)

REFLECTION:

"Who do you say I am?" (Mt 16:15) This was the second question Jesus posed to His apostles. To His earlier question, *"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"* (Mt 16:13) they seemingly had an easy response: *"Some say John, some Elijah, others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."* (Mt 16:14) The apostles were caught off-guard when Jesus asked His second unexpected question. There was only one person, Peter, who responded to Jesus by saying *"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."* (Mt 16:16)

This is the same Peter who would often cause trouble within Jesus' inner circle; the same person we would see, a few verses later, being sternly reprimanded by our Lord when he was told, *"Get behind me, Satan!"* (Mt 16:23) the same person who had the faith to walk on water yet began to sink when he doubted; the same person who was the only one who spoke during the Transfiguration; the same person whom the Lord asked, *"You could not keep watch with me for one hour?"* (Mt 26:40) the same person who denied our Lord three times; the same person the Lord asked, *"Do you love Me?"* (Jn 21:16)

Jesus did not ask these two questions in order to take an opinion poll or survey. He was not interested in measuring His popularity. His purpose was entirely different. He wanted to make sure His apostles understood who He was before He left them. That is why He immediately asked His second question, "Who do you say I am?" Peter's *Continued on page 2*

Promise of the Week

"Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it." (Mt 16:18)

COUNSELS (from page 1)

response is one of conversion, of faith and conviction, as compared to the apostles' collective first response which was based on facts, opinion, or even hearsay. Peter's right response elicited Jesus' blessing, affirming the primacy of Peter as our first pope. ***"You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church."*** (Mt 16:18) Because Jesus was the true rock, the One who is, who was, and who will always remain the cornerstone, it was necessary for Him to make a sign, someone to represent Him as the Christ, the foundation of our faith. That sign was Peter. Jesus thus made Peter His vicar or substitute with the responsibility to pastor and feed His flock (the Church) in His place.

Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter. We often see this happening in Scripture when someone receives an important mission or anointing (Abram became Abraham, Jacob became Israel and later, Saul was named Paul). In a similar example of fresh anointing in the first reading, the Lord God denounced His chief steward, Shebna, and lifted up Eliakim instead by giving him authority and the keys to the house of David. Similarly, when Jesus said to Peter, ***"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven,"*** (Mt 16:19) it affirmed Jesus' role in salvation history. ***"The holy one, the true, who holds the key of David, who opens and no one shall close, who closes and no one shall open."*** (Rev 3:7)

Indeed, Jesus has the authority to allow or disallow someone entrance into the Kingdom. He is the one who holds ***"the keys to death and the netherworld."*** (Rev 1:18b) By giving Peter the keys to heaven, Jesus lends His authority to His true followers: to teach as He taught, to love as He loved, to share as He has shared, to be instruments in helping people live the way of the Kingdom. As disciples of Christ, we should be ready to proclaim who He is and what He has done in our lives through our words and actions. Others will then be encouraged to know, love and to follow Him.

We profess ourselves as Catholic Christians, followers of the Lord, disciples of Jesus the Christ. We declare Jesus as our Lord, our King, and the Son of the Living God, our Savior, Messiah and Redeemer. We proclaim Him as the Bright Morning Star, the Prince of Peace, the Rock of our Salvation, Wonderful Counselor. If Jesus asks you today, "And you, who do you say I am?" how are you going to respond?

As we listen to and follow the Lord's voice, let us also yield to His directions for ourselves and our community:

1. Give thanks to the Lord for His kindness endures forever.
2. Proclaim that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God.

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SINGLES

SINGLES INTER-DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2011

Aug. 26-28, Divine Mercy, Rahway, NJ

Singles Ministry is requesting for love offerings of individual snack packs (salty & sweet), water and soda. Your love offerings can be dropped off in a donation box located in Connell Hall.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Life in the Spirit Seminar #37

Oct 8-9, Divine Mercy Auditorium, Rahway, NJ

Contact: Joven/Lisa Soriano - lsa@bldnewark.com

John 6 Crossing #12

Oct. 21-23 • Venue to be finalized

Cost for the weekend to be determined when venue is finalized & secured. Contact: Ernest/Nellie Sun at bldnewarkjohn6@yahoo.com, visit bldnewarkjohn6.weebly.com

Aspirants Retreat

Oct. 21-23 • Venue to be finalized

Contact King/Arlene Rigor teaching@bldnewark.com

2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro

Contact: Mosti/Ling Garcia - district@bldnewark.com

SAVE THE DATE

COMMUNITY DAY

Aug. 20, 8:30-5pm, Johnson Park, Piscataway

Contact: M/N Manguiat - fla@bldnewark.com

Family Colors **A-C** **D-G** **H-P** **Q-Z**

BLD NEWARK GOLF INVITATIONAL

Sept. 17, Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, PA

Contacts: Al Cinco 917-453-3266, Ferdie Umahon 973-393-8804, Jun Viernes 908-494-3182

BLD NEWARK DINNER DANCE

"A Night To Remember"

Oct. 15, 7pm - 600 Washington Ave. Manville, NJ

Contacts: Vino/Beth Guiang - 908-229-2273
or Cezar/Pinky Calingo - 908-230-3660

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING AUG. 12, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,901	108,968

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

Thank you for your continued support!

CN 30 Bible Trivia answers: (forgive us for the delay)

1-c 2-b 3-b 4-d 5-b 6-c 7-d 8-a 9-a 10-a



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 33

Summer Edition

August 26, 2011

BLD Newark turns 19

On Aug. 22, BLD Newark turned 19. Indeed, the community has grown by leaps and bounds. Surely this was the work of God and not of men!

Congratulations on the steadfastness in spreading the gospel of LOVE. Only the Lord can invigorate a sizable number of people to leave their weekend comforts behind and do God's work.

But, such is the perplexity of God and everything that is OF and ABOUT Him. Work becomes a very light load, in fact, a joy to do. Human imperfections are common but are readily excused and quite accepted. Love is the moving and nurturing factor, and it guarantees indescribable peace and joy in people's hearts!

Truly, we are all blessed to be so favored by God! May we never tire in this heaven-bound commitment and may the harvests from our toil fill God's barn-houses to the rafters! God's blessings upon you all!

Community Day - perfect and awesome

"Blessed shall you be, and favored." (Psalm 128)
God is so good and His grace is bountiful! He provides us all with what we need, including perfect and awesome weather, as families and friends gathered together to celebrate our BLD 19th Community Day anniversary at Johnson Park, Piscataway, NJ on Aug. 20, 2011.

The Lord has put His faithful servants in charge of His household as they set the park up at 7am and prepared for everyone to enjoy His blessings. Fr. Paul officiated the Eucharistic celebration, concelebrated by Fr. Robert.

Each Ministry cheerfully did their presentation from Mark 10, John 6, Youth, Singles, Solo Parents, Adult (various ME Classes) and Golden Years as they shared their talent in singing, acting and dancing. The games and the door prizes for children and adults enhanced the excitement and fun of the day.

And, this family fun and fellowship day would have not happened if not for the wholehearted prayers, generosity, and genuine love of our dear brothers and sisters in the

Continued on page 2

COUNSELS

No One Can Serve Two Masters

THEME: We have faith in Jesus when we deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him.

WORD: Jer. 20:7-9; Ps 63:2, 3-6, 8-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

ORDER: "...offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship." (Rom 12:1)

REFLECTION:

When St. Paul in Romans 12:2 says: **"Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good, pleasing and perfect."** he is describing the mind of Christ. And clearly he is giving us the guide for our own transformation.

When I arrived in this country in the early 70's, like most Filipinos, my objective was financial stability. Hard work, overtime and frugal living were the norms during those days – typical of most recently arrived immigrant Filipinos. True enough within 10 years, together with my wife, we were able to buy our house. Is it wrong to have financial stability as a goal? I don't think so. We use the talents that God gave us to achieve a goal. But there is a danger here. I, like most of our countrymen during those days, was conforming to this age. Materialism was the agenda of the day. Dreams of a beautiful house and flashy cars were at the top of our list. Religious duties were done only because of habit - just going through the motions.

In 1995, my wife and I joined BLD. After attending a few worships and teachings, observing the witnessing of its members, I concluded that this BLD is a good community. Their fruits were good.

Why didn't our Lord allow its birth earlier when it could have produced more

Continued on page 2

Promise of the Week

"...whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."
(Mt 16:24b)

COUNSELS (from page 1)

good fruits? The answer that came to me was this: the immigrants of the 70's and 80's were so focused on financial stability, and good paying jobs, they were conforming to the age. It was not yet time. ***"No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one or love the other."*** (Mt 6:24)

In the 90's however, when most of us have more or less stabilized, we begun to look for other horizons. We recall the values imparted to us by our parents, the good examples shown by our aunts and uncles, our culture and tradition – then it is time. Through the grace of God BLD Newark was born, The Lord's timing is perfect. Whether we realize it or not, He is using this community to help us to be transformed, to renew our minds and thus know the will of God. Like Christ!

This is a God-given community. If we consistently attend its Friday worships, follow and practice its formation program and help in its different ministries and activities, it should be more than enough to make saints out of us. To our young members, from Mark 10 to Singles, why were they called at an early age? Violence and sex, internet, alcohol and drugs – these kids are growing up in a very difficult environment. So God offered them the BLD option and now they are here, called at an early age, again perfect timing by God. He gave our young a tool to fight the evils of the day.

To our beloved Golden Years, why is it that God called you late in your life? You never experienced the hustle and bustle of working here like the couples and the solo parents, neither were you exposed to the temptations of the day, the drawbacks of modern technology. Besides, the conservative Filipino values are deeply embedded in you. BLD is a gift of God to you. This community is your ticket for your final flight back home. Dear senior citizens rejoice - you are safe!

To the new members of the community, ME 37: why are you here? Who brought you here? Some will say my sister-in-law invited us, others may say my neighbor kept pestering us, still others may say I heard about this community let me try it. The real reason you are here is God wanted you to be here. ***"It is the Lord."*** (Jn 21:7)

So listen to your class shepherd, do not be over sensitive, hold hands together as you move forward, encourage and support each other. Yes in this community, you will serve and intercede and learn what love is all about. What is your mission? Whatever you learned here, whatever gifts you receive are not meant for you to keep, they are meant for you to share – that is your mission. So be strong and persevere and one day all your sacrifices will turn to joy and gratitude.

To all of us here, let us not lose sight of the ➔

Community Day ... (from page 1)

community.

To our faithful and selfless servants you have demonstrated the true and real meaning of SERVICE as our Lord Jesus Christ has taught us.

Thank You Father God for Your blessings of fellowship, unity and harmony as one big Family-the BLD Community.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LSS Shepherd's Forum

Aug. 31, 8pm • Divine Mercy Library

Covenanted members are encouraged to attend.

Life in the Spirit Seminar #37

Oct. 8-9, St. Mary's Auditorium, Rahway, NJ

Contact: Joven/Lisa Soriano - lsa@bldnewark.com

John 6 Crossing #12

Oct. 21-23 • Venue to be finalized

Cost for the weekend to be determined when venue is finalized & secured. Contact: Ernest/Nellie Sun at bldnewarkjohn6@yahoo.com or visit bldnewarkjohn6.weebly.com

Aspirants Retreat

Oct. 21-23 • Venue to be finalized

Contact King/Arlene Rigor teaching@bldnewark.com

SAVE THE DATE

DLC MEETING

Sept. 10, 1-6pm • Divine Mercy

BLD NEWARK GOLF INVITATIONAL

Sept. 17, 1pm - Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, PA

Contacts: Al Cinco 917-453-3266, Ferdie Umahon 973-393-8804, Jun Viernes 908-494-3182

BLD NEWARK DINNER DANCE

"A Night To Remember"

Oct. 15, 7pm - 600 Washington Ave. Manville, NJ

Contacts: Vino/Beth Guiang - 908-229-2273
or Cezar/Pinky Calingo - 908-230-3660

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING AUG. 19, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	2,279	111,247

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

Thank you for your continued support!

summit. The road to the top is steep and winding. There will be days when the climb will be difficult. Fear not and hold your ground, never relying on your strength but always on the grace of our Savior.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Do not conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.
2. Think as God does.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 34

Bulletin Edition

Sept. 3, 2011

SIC weathers the storm

The Singles Inter-district Conference (SIC) #2 was held Aug. 26-28 at Divine Mercy Parish and Hotel Indigo in Rahway, NJ hosted by BLD Newark Singles Ministry. Despite the rough weather, God still made it an incredible and victorious weekend for everyone. Almost 200 singles from BLD Toronto, Vancouver, Seattle, Los Angeles, Bay Area, Phoenix, Detroit, Washington, D.C, Trenton and Davao, Philippines attended. The weekend was filled with many great activities as well as amazing and powerful worships. Nothing beat the sight of seeing everyone's hands raised high to the Lord and hearing everyone's voices fill the room in songs of praise to God. The conference's guest speakers from BLD Newark and the Archdiocese led the talks and workshops that addressed topics revolving around relationships, passion and purpose in our faith.

Although the storm came, the conference continued during the weekend at Hotel Indigo, where the majority of the attendees stayed. It was at Hotel Indigo, the attendees had district dialogues, testimonies, fellowship and, a powerful and final worship where they made their recommitment to God. SIC's theme was "**aCross to share**" and indeed that is what the attendees did. This SIC brought the attendees closer and allowed them to realize that they do indeed share many of the same crosses. Most of all, **He** gave them all the grace to learn how to share, bear and overcome these crosses together as one Singles Ministry, one community, and one **Body** in Christ.



Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!

COUNSELS

Conquering Evil with Good

THEME: Ez 33:7-9; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

WORD: Jesus upholds those who commit to a life of prayer and reconciliation.

ORDER: "*Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.*" (Rom 13:8)

REFLECTION:

The Theme for the Week is: **Jesus upholds those who commit to a life of prayer and reconciliation.** The Random dictionary defines 'uphold' as 'to support, defend, lift upward, raise, to take care of'. Jesus will support, defend, take care of us and raise us up when we are prayerful and strive for reconciliation.

The first reading reminds us that we should be willing to accept correction from those who are in authority over us; that we too may be able to correct those who are under our authority. Going further, as we minister to others, we too should be willing to be ministered to. Love of neighbor should be our first consideration when we confront and correct others, as emphasized in the second reading. The Gospel gives us an outline on how to confront and correct in a gentle spirit (Gal 6:1), and forgive within and even outside the confines of community life; for as we are reconciled with one another, our prayers will be heard by our Father in heaven.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are told not to be judgmental or vengeful. St. Paul says, "*Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse...Do not repay evil for evil; be concerned of what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live in peace with all.*"

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"If two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father." (Mt 18:19)

I Am Witness

But he said to them, ***"To the other towns also I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent."*** (Lk 4:43b) Jesus' response to the crowds as they tried to prevent him from leaving Capernaum imparts a sense of urgency, duty and mission. We are given the opportunity to do as Jesus if we could only acknowledge that we are called to be a Witness, His witness. Our personal encounter with Jesus should compel us into action for His work here on earth. We are blessed to bring the message of salvation to others.

As a Christian, have you ever asked, what is my purpose? If we follow our Lord Jesus' own example the answer is quite clear. From the beginning, Jesus associated His disciples with His own life, revealed the mystery of the Kingdom to the disciples and gave them a share in His mission, His joy and His sufferings. (CCC 787)

How humbling to think that our Lord would allow us to partake and share in His own life. It's not an easy task to proclaim the good news and often time one is vulnerable to rejection, ridicule and persecution. We, as Jesus did, can experience the harshest of rejections from our own families and "native lands". However, we should hold steadfast and as St. Paul writes, ***"Proclaim the Word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching."*** (2 Tm 4:2)

Fulfilling the call to be a witness for the Lord takes openness to God's grace and detachment from self-will. We are challenged to go beyond all that is familiar. We should never undervalue our personal witness as a member of the body of Christ. As Jesus stated, ***"to other towns also I must proclaim"*** (Lk 4:43b) we too are challenged to go beyond. We are the disciples of today bringing the message of truth, hope, God's love and mercy in words and actions. As witnesses, we must trust in our Triune God and surrender all to His transforming grace and power.

When we experience disappointment, reflect on the words of St. Paul, ***"But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry."*** (2 Tm 4:5) Then, will we experience God's victory from glory to glory, till eternal glory.

Destined for Salvation

"For God did not destine us for wrath, but to gain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thes 5: 9)

My family usually starts thinking about summer in January. That's when our favorite vacation destination sends out a brochure for the new year. For us, that means it's time to plan a road trip. By mid-June all the reservations have been made and we are on the road, equipped with tour books, maps, and printouts of ideas gathered during many hours of searching the internet (including Masstimes.org for the addresses of local churches.) My husband drives and I navigate. We spend a week or two on our own, taking in the sights and finding refreshment for body and soul.

Sometimes, after a day of doing the things that tourists do, we like to skip the interstate and return to our hotel on back roads that wander through small towns and over rolling countryside. Along the way, we often discover quiet stretches of beach just begging to be explored, interesting shops, and the best little family restaurants and cafes. The only problem is that these wonderful back roads are seldom marked on my map, and I sometimes think it will take a miracle for us to find our way home. And then we come upon a major intersection where a huge sign tells us to turn right if we want the turnpike or the interstate North or Route 1 South or another interstate West or a couple of local highways going in various directions. OR... we can turn left and get all those same roads going in the opposite directions. At that point, I am convinced it will take a miracle to get home.

The Christian life is often referred to as a journey, a sort of road trip to our eternal home. It is marked by signs that point in every direction and by choices that need to be made carefully. God speaks to us through events, good and bad, and through the people we meet every day. If we ignore what He is saying to us, it is like traveling country roads without a map... it's going to take a miracle to get home. Do you remember the day you stopped wandering around and started to head for home? That was a miracle, you know. None of us finds our way on our own. Only God can turn us around and put us on the right path. Only He can point us toward home. And because we travel with Him, we know we are destined for salvation.

Flood did a real job on St. Mark's again. St. Mark's rectory was damaged with water entering the house and destroying most of its contents. Diocesan people are at work now to clean up. How can we help? As of Aug. 31, the parking lot is muddy and smells like mud, the plastic tables and steel chairs are soaked in mud. Volunteers are needed to power wash them and the parking lot. ***Bring drinking water when you come, the water is not safe to drink. Above all, prayers are needed for good health to everyone and grace for all to recover from the flood.***

COUNSELS (from page 1)

Beloved, do not look for revenge but leave room for wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay says the Lord'. Rather, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by doing so you will heap burning coals upon his head. Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good," (Rom 12:14, 17-21). During Biblical times, when there were no matches with which to light a fire, one man from the village was always assigned to keep the charcoal fire burning through the night. In the morning, he went around the village distributing the burning charcoal so the women can cook. In the spiritual sense, he was bringing goodwill, the grace and love of God to his neighbors. St. Paul admonishes us likewise to be the instruments of God's grace and love to those around us.

The reality is that we too are wounded, frail human beings who are easily hurt and are just as quick to react. That is why we should be faithful in our prayer life, that we may remain in the presence of Jesus and always aware of God's love and compassion for us, ***"for as we abide in Him, He will abide in us,"*** (Jm 4:8). As we deepen our relationship with Jesus, faithful in meditating and acting on His Word and in our frequent reception of the Sacraments, Jesus will continue to heal us. He will renew our minds and raise our earthly concerns to heavenly realities. He will instill in our hearts the thought that those who have hurt us or whom we have hurt are, like ourselves, equally deserving of eternal life. Jesus will support us with His Holy Spirit in healing those wounded areas in our hearts that remain sensitive and vulnerable to hurts.

With Jesus in our hearts, we will not exert effort to defend our honor and name when maligned or when there is false accusation. Rather, knowing Jesus will defend us, we will continue to forgive, lay those hurts at His cross, and bless those who persecute us. ***"For as we continue to pray and forgive seventy times seventy, we can bear one another's burden and so fulfill the law of Christ,"*** (Gal 6:2). We will no longer let foul language escape from our lips, but only words that serve to edify and impart grace upon those who hear it. We will not grieve the Holy Spirit with which we were sealed for the day of redemption. We will be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another, as God has forgiven us in Christ (Eph 4:29, 30, 32).

As we commit to a life of prayer and reconciliation, we will have the Promise of the Week: ***"If two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father,"*** (Mt 18:19).

Fr. Paul Speaks

"After he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water (Duc in altum) and lower your nets for a catch'. Simon said in reply, 'Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command, I will lower the nets. When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing.'"(Luke 5:4-6) This event is very similar to the situation, recounted at the end of John's gospel, after the resurrection, when Jesus told the apostles to lower their net after a night of frustrating fishing failure. These events were used as a spin off in John Paul II's exhortation, ***Novo Millenio Ineunte*** published at the beginning of the century, year 2000. John Paul wanted to "stir up a fresh fervor and enthusiasm for spiritual and pastoral responsibilities." This message, already eleven years old, is still a word for BLD as we celebrate a new beginning. The Latin phrase is worth remembering: ***"Duc in altum"***. Go out into the deep waters of evangelization and don't be afraid.

The pope reminded us first that our basic human duty is to praise the Lord. We do that well in BLD. We can do it better, especially with a more extensive use of the gift of tongues. He also pointed to the Church's prayer for forgiveness for the sins of the Church over the centuries. It was a surprising reminder that even though the Church is the body and the bride of Christ it is composed of us sinful human beings, constantly in need of forgiveness, and that repentance is a constant part of the Christian life. He spoke of the precious gift of our young people with a great sense of optimism. I personally am deeply impressed by the spirituality of our young people, even as they struggle with their own maturation in a world that is hostile to what the Church proclaims to be the truth. I have seen so many examples of spiritual leadership shown by our singles and youth.

He reminded, us as the Vatican II council taught explicitly, that because of our Baptism, we are all called to holiness. There is no second class spirituality in the Church. He connected the importance of prayer as part of any pastoral plan.

The century ahead of us is like a vast ocean. Duc in altum. Don't be afraid of the obstacles. Cast out the nets of evangelization. Ignore the indifference of those we evangelize. Success is the work of Jesus and his Spirit. Jesus assures us: ***"I am with you always, until the end of the age."*** (Mt 28:20)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Rekindle your desire to pray especially for others.
2. Out of love for one another, correct each other's wrongdoing and be open to fraternal correction.

Hurricane Irene - God's Mercy in disguise

Though SIC was cut short, Hurricane Irene was truly God's Mercy in disguise. SIC attendees were able to experience the bulk of the planned activities. Talks on Relationships and Purpose, and all the workshops were covered. Attendees received confession and spiritual direction from all the priests during "Guided Free Time", and as one body praised, worshipped and celebrated Saturday's Mass together.

Because of the floods, many singles were "stranded" at Hotel Indigo Saturday night and were unable to return home or go to work on Monday. However, God made that an opportunity for the attendees to solidify their bond as a BLD Singles Ministry through fellowship and enabled them to continue their "District Dialogues", "Public Sharing", and collaborate on a heart-pounding "Inter-district Worship" on Sunday as they recommitted themselves to Christ to share in carrying His Cross for Him and one another.

The planned "Holy Power Hour" for Saturday, which was Evening Prayer/Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament lead by the Community of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal had to be canceled along with Sunday's Talk 3: Passion by Msgr Schetelick and testimony by Richie and Aileen Escobina.

Many attendees expressed how inspired they were by the speakers and workshop leaders from the BLD Community and beyond. The out of state districts' guests expressed so much appreciation towards BLD Newark for hosting and welcoming them at Divine Mercy. BLD Newark singles were all still very much in awe over the fruits of the weekend and felt so much love and generosity from the BLD Community and Divine Mercy Parish during these past few months of preparation and especially throughout this weekend. The Singles Ministry is committed to give back to the BLD Newark Community and to allow God to foster their relationships across ministries.

TEACHING CALENDAR

09/16 **Mark 10, John 6 & Golden Years Teaching**

09/17* Christian Maturity Program II • LSS 1-35
New Creation Realities / Growth in Prayer
• LSS 1-36
Christian Parenting II • ME 37

09/23 **Intercessory Formation Teaching**

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ Divine Mercy

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 **KOMAPET**

(Kotse Mo Alay Para sa Ekonomiya at Talinto)
Cars for economic & skills development aide. Donate your cars & get a tax deductible receipt; free towing. Proceeds will be used to break the yoke of poverty:

Save a School Child & Scholarship Program.
YTD collection: \$705 from 3 generous BLD donors.
Contact: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908.810.1213 rubenlyz@aol.net

ISAIAH 58 /SERVICE MINISTRY
Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check
Every 2nd Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DLC Meeting

Sept. 10, 1-6pm • Divine Mercy

BLD Newark Golf Invitational

Sept. 17, Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, PA

Contacts: Al Cinco 917-453-3266, Ferdie Umahon
973-393-8804, Jun Viernes 908-494-3182

Life in the Spirit Seminar #37

Oct. 8-9, St. Mary's Auditorium, Rahway, NJ

Contact: Joven/Lisa Soriano - lsa@bldnewark.com

BLD Newark Dinner Dance

"A Night To Remember"

Oct. 15, 7pm - 600 Washington Ave. Manville, NJ

Contacts: Vino/Beth Guiang - 908-229-2273
or Cezar/Pinky Calingo - 908-230-3660

John 6 Crossing #12

Oct. 21-23 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ

Cost for the weekend to be determined when venue is finalized & secured. Contact: Ernest/Nellie Sun at bldnewarkjohn6@yahoo.com or visit bldnewarkjohn6.weebly.com

Aspirants Retreat

Nov 18-20 • Venue to be finalized

Contact King/Arlene Rigor teaching@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter #38

Nov. 18-20 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ

Fee: \$125/couple. Applications available at www.bldnewark.com.
Contacts: Ency/Baby Alberto engeng5149@verizon.net
Gary/Mil Camacho mla@bldnewark.com

2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro

Contact: Mosti/Ling Garcia - district@bldnewark.com

LORD'S PROVISION **WEEK ENDING AUG. 26, 2011**

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	4,464	115,711

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 35

Bulletin Edition

September 9, 2011

NEWS

BLD Newark welcomes 21 newly-covenanted disciples

September 2, 2011 marked the *Sealing of the Covenant* for twenty-one faithful followers of Christ. The community cheerfully welcomed them as they pledged their lives to the service of the Lord. Our community's newest covenanted disciples are: Elmer Agapito, Rowena Agapito, Jules Laput, Emily Laput, Cy Loreto, Mavil Loreto, Frank Mercado, Tess Mercado, Ron Pangilinan, Dina Pangilinan, Delfin Salon, Letty Salon, Rod Soriano, Alma Soriano, Frank Soquite, Rebecca Soquite, Danny Sta. Ana, Me-Anne Sta Ana, John Talavera, Jiji Talavera, Mario Union.

"Let all your works give You thanks, O Lord, and let Your faithful ones bless You." (Ps 145:10)

BLD VISION

- We are a community of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about a world of justice, human development and true peace

BLD MISSION

In response to the challenges of our particular place, time and culture:

For our families:

- We will evangelize families and build communities of faith through encounters, Life in the Spirit Seminars and discipleship formation.
- We will give formation on personal and family prayer, pro-life values, Catholic social teachings and stewardship.

For our communities:

- We will actively participate in the life and mission of the Church in accord with our God-given gifts.

For our country:

- We will work on poverty alleviation through scholarships, housing for the poor and advocacies for life, environment and good governance.

Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!

COUNSELS

THE CALL TO FORGIVENESS

THEME: Jesus upholds those who can forgive with love

WORD: Sir 27:30-28:1-7; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

ORDER: Forgive your neighbor's injustice, not seven times but seventy-seven times.

REFLECTION:

The resounding message of forgiveness is reinforced all throughout the readings. The first reading from the book of Sirach tells us: *"Forgive your neighbor's injustice, then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven"*. (Sir 28:2) The responsorial psalm gives us the forgiving Lord as an example to follow as the psalmist proclaims: "The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion." The gospel repeats the theme of forgiveness when the Lord answers Peter's question: "...Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times? Jesus answered, 'I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.'"

The message of forgiveness was mentioned repeatedly in the beginning of this commentary, because we want to make sure that the call of the Lord to us, His disciples, to love and forgive, does not get lost and drowned out when we commemorate the 10th anniversary of September 11 or 9/11 as we commonly call it. Memories of 9/11 stir up and still bring back feelings of anger, wrath, vengeance and revenge. Since 9/11, the message of unforgiveness, mistrust, fear, discrimination and recrimination has pervaded our way of life. The message of love, compassion, peace,

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"He pardons all your iniquities; he heals all your ills."
(Ps 103:3)

THE CHOSEN

"In those days he departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. When day came, he called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve, whom he also named apostles." (Luke 6:12-16)

Jesus tells us, ***"You have not chosen me, I have chosen you."*** (John 15:16) Did you ever wonder why God has called you to the BLD community?

In Luke 6:12-16, it says that Jesus prayed to the Father and called His apostles by name. It is not a random pick or by any chance that He chose each one but according to His divine plan. The call of the first disciples, Simon & Andrew, are described as immediately consenting and abandoning their nets despite Jesus only briefly requesting that they join Him. Jesus also called James & his brother John while mending their nets, but readily joined without hesitation. They left their boat, their father and followed Him. Abandonment of their worldly possessions emphasizes the importance of renunciation. This gives us a model to follow that when we are called we should be ready to follow Him and trust that ***"everyone who has given up everything will be repaid a hundredfold and will gain eternal life."*** (Mt 19:29)

It's been six years since my husband and I joined the Marriage Encounter and our life has never been the same. The life that was filled with worldly pleasures slowly turned into Godly treasures. The Friday nights partying turned into Friday night's Worshiping. The love of money was replaced with the love of giving. The blaming, screaming and foul language in the past had been transformed into "I love you, I forgive you, please forgive me." Happiness now comes by giving of ourselves to the less fortunate ones rather than becoming obsessed with our own needs and pleasures.

We are called not according to our works but according to God's own design as the living witnesses to the Gospel in our homes, workplaces, neighborhoods and communities of faith.

Christ's call is not once. He calls us again and again, yet at times we ignore His invitation. He calls us amidst the busyness, the inconvenience, and the hastiness of our life. He calls us when we are frantic because His call is our salvation.

Being chosen by God blesses us with a renewed self-identity, and a new way of being in the world.

Complete Surrender

"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

(Matthew 1: 20-21)

In looking back at how the world was made ready for the coming of the Messiah, we realize that to be truly one of us, Jesus had to be born of a woman. This gospel leads us to examine the heart of Joseph, who he truly was, accepting Mary who was already pregnant to be his wife in order to protect her from punishment according to the Jewish law. This gospel reading depicts Joseph in his dilemma. Feeling that it would not be right for him to assume the paternity of the child, in view of the requirements of the Mosaic law, yet at the same time realizing that even a private divorce will expose Mary to the suspicion and accusation of adultery, Joseph honorably took Mary as his wife while with child. Thus Joseph's humility and obedience, together with Mary's "Yes", made possible the fruition of God's will for the salvation of mankind. The Word made flesh and dwelt among us, through the complete surrender of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. By Mary and Joseph's complete surrender to the will of God in their life, God's greatest gift came into being.

When we look at our lives, and examine our own responses to God's calling, are we able to completely surrender our wills and desires, just as Mary and Joseph did? Oftentimes, we make excuses or look out for what's in store for us first, or pick and choose only what is convenient or advantageous for us. In our human weakness, we often fail to persevere in listening to God's promptings, and be obedient to His will in our lives.

If we were to be true disciples and followers of Christ, we should not depend upon our convenience or personal gain, but do things out of love and obedience to the one who has created us. We are here on this earth not to fulfill our whims and fantasies, but only to do the will of our Father, our Creator, our Omnipotent God. We were created in His image and likeness so that we may give of ourselves freely, cheerfully and fully to God's service.

Send us what You will my Father, from now on we will trust and obey completely as St. Joseph and Mother Mary did, no matter how dark the night or how bitter the sorrow for "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish His work." (John 4:34)

Remembering 9/11

This Sunday we commemorate the 10th anniversary of the tragedy of September 11, 2001. It is hard to believe that ten years have already passed since that infamous day in the history of our country.

I clearly still remember hearing the newscast over the radio while at work. Disbelief was what was passing through all of our minds at first, but when the reality hit of what was happening, I can remember that several of us got together to pray for the victims.

Following the news throughout the day I could not help but to think of all the people I knew that worked in the city of Manhattan. On Sunday morning after the attacks, the church services all over the country were full of people trying to grasp a sense of what was happening in this world, that someone could hate us so much to want to kill innocent people for no good reason. Many people in my parish that day were also looking for answers from God. The pews had been full for several months, until slowly things were coming back to a sense of normalcy for some of us. I don't know if those people who stopped coming to mass found an answer or not, but many of them were certainly very angry with God for allowing this to happen.

I know in my heart that God did not abandon us, in fact I am sure that He was there welcoming innocent souls to heaven. I believe that because the first official victim counted was a Catholic priest by the name of Father Judge, who was a fire Chaplain in New York City. He gave his life while ministering to people who were injured or dying.

It took me a long time to have a sense of peace in my life after 9/11. So many things changed for us, and we lost our sense of security and began looking at different races and faiths with at least a little contempt if not outright hatred.

God created each and everyone one of us, whether white, black, brown or whatever color our skin may be. Each and every person that God created, He has a relationship with, whether or not it is reciprocated. We all work on our salvation some way or other. It is important for all faiths to dialogue and respect each other's beliefs if we are to live in harmony in the world that God gave us. Let us all pray for those lives we lost and to continue to build bridges to peace with all mankind.

**Make the Covenant News
part of your Covenant Life**

COUNSEL (from page 1)

understanding and forgiveness many times gets lost in the shouts after 9/11 of "Never Forget" or "Always Remember". Each one of us has had our own personal 9/11's in our lives. These were events or experiences in our lives wherein we were hurt, abused, taken advantage of, lied to, persecuted or even abandoned.

These personal 9/11's could be as big as a member of our family being killed by (cont.) someone or a member of our family not repaying us a debt or a son or daughter leaving us or even a member of our own BLD community taking advantage of us. To all these painful events, we are called to forgive.

Forgiveness is a personal choice, a personal decision of us to go against the natural instinct to pay back evil for evil. Forgiveness is a personal decision on how we decide to react to these difficult events around us. The measure of that decision is the love of God who draws us to Himself in spite of our sins. The perfect example is the forgiveness that Christ has for us. After being scourged at the pillar, made to carry the heavy cross on the road to Calvary and finally being nailed to the same cross for the sins not of His but our sins, Christ Jesus cried out "...Father forgive them, they know what not what they do..." (Luke 23:34). With so much unforgiveness in our hearts, how can we even call for world peace. Forgiveness resulting in peace starts from our hearts. It then radiates to the immediate people around us, then our community and only then, the world.

Peace is essential for development but true peace is possible through forgiveness. But how many times have we found very valid reasons, a valid excuse not to forgive. "It was his fault." "He started it." "He would not listen." It is just like the servant in today's gospel who refused to forgive his fellow servant who owed him a small debt. Similarly, when it is our turn to make a mistake, we expect everyone to immediately forgive us. We are slow to forgive but fast to expect forgiveness. Remember the Lord's Prayer "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

As disciples of Christ, the expectations of the Lord from us is far greater as we gather for praise and worship or when we go to Sunday mass. Matthew 5:23 tells us: ***"Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be*** *Continued on page 4*

COUNSEL (from page 3)

reconciled with your brother and then come and offer your gift."

As we answer the call to forgiveness, let us ask our loving Father to hear our prayers as we lift up to Him our deepest hurts, anger, resentments and bitterness. May He touch all the areas of woundedness in our hearts and fill them with His love and peace. May He change our broken hearts and replace them with His Sacred Heart. May He grant us the virtue of humility to acknowledge our own mistakes and failures and bless us with a desire to forgive and seek forgiveness. May He heal and lead us on our life journey of peace, love and joy, so we can truly be one with Him and our neighbors. May He give us the grace to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law and will always have forgiveness in his heart.

DIRECTION:

1. Do not nourish anger or refuse mercy to another; set enmity aside and overlook faults.
2. Remember that God has forgiven us, so must we be forgiving

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 KOMAPET

(Kotse Mo Alay Para sa Ekonomiya at Talinto)
Cars for economic & skills development aide. Donate your cars & get a tax deductible receipt; free towing. Proceeds will be used to break the yoke of poverty:

Save a School Child & Scholarship Program.
YTD collection: \$705 from 3 generous BLD donors.
Contact: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908.810.1213 rubenlyz@aol.net

ISAIAH 58 /SERVICE MINISTRY
Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check
Every 2nd Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055
Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.
Sept. 10, ME 20 • Contacts: Roger/PinaCoquia
roger_pina@yahoo.com Audie/Vulet Chong 732-356-9056

TEACHING CALENDAR

09/16	Mark 10, John 6 & Golden Years Teaching
09/17*	Christian Maturity Program II • LSS 1-35 New Creation Realities / Growth in Prayer • LSS 1-36 Christian Parenting II • ME 37
09/23	Intercessory Formation Teaching

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ Divine Mercy

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BLD Newark Golf Invitational

Sept. 17, Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, PA
Contacts: Al Cinco 917-453-3266, Ferdie Umahon
973-393-8804, Jun Viernes 908-494-3182

DLC Meeting (rescheduled)

Sept. 27, 8pm • Divine Mercy Library

Life in the Spirit Seminar #37

Oct. 8-9, St. Mary's Auditorium, Rahway, NJ
Contact: Joven/Lisa Soriano - lsa@bldnewark.com

BLD Newark Dinner Dance

"A Night To Remember"

Oct. 15, 7pm - 600 Washington Ave. Manville, NJ
Contacts: Vino/Beth Guiang - 908-229-2273
or Cezar/Pinky Calingo - 908-230-3660

John 6 Crossing #12

Oct. 21-23 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ
Cost for the weekend to be determined when venue is finalized & secured. Contact: Ernest/Nellie Sun at
bldnewarkjohn6@yahoo.com or visit bldnewarkjohn6.weebly.com

Aspirants Retreat

Oct. 21-23 • Venue to be finalized
Contact King/Arlene Rigor teaching@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter #38

Nov. 18-20 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ
Fee: \$125/couple. Applications available at www.bldnewark.com.
Contacts: Ency/Baby Alberto engeng5149@verizon.net
Gary/Mil Camacho mila@bldnewark.com

2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro
Contact: Mosti/Ling Garcia - district@bldnewark.com

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING AUG. 26, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	1,984	117,695

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

St. Mark's Collection \$659

"Be it remembered therefore, that according to our degree of charity, will be our degree of eternal happiness; and not any other virtue." Saint Thomas Aquinas

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 36

Bulletin Edition

September 16, 2011

UPDATE

Changes to the Mass

The way Mass is celebrated and the structure itself are not changing. What will be different are some of the prayers and responses during Mass for both the priest and the liturgical assembly. One of the reasons for the changes in wording is to make more obvious the biblical origin of many of the prayers we use during Mass.

What is different? The noticeable change will be in the response we make several times during Mass. We currently say or sing *And also with you* in response to the priest's prompt, *The Lord be with you*. Instead we will say *And with your spirit*. When the Mass first changed from Latin to English in the mid 1960s, for a while *And with your spirit* was our response. When the final version of the *Sacramentary* came out in 1974, the official English version became *And also with you*, which is what we now use.

The wording to *And with your spirit*, more directly translates the original Latin *Et cum spiritu tuo*, but also it brings out that the Holy Spirit is at work in both priest and people (though in different ways) as we gather to celebrate Eucharist. This expression recurs in various combinations throughout St. Paul's letters to the early Christian communities he founded.

Another example is in the response to the invitation to Communion. We currently say *Lord I am not worthy to receive you; but only say the word and I shall be healed*. The new version will be *Lord I am not worthy that you enter under my roof; but only say the word and my soul shall be healed*. A more direct translation and makes a more obvious reference to the episode in the Gospel where this prayer originates. Luke 7-11 (continued on page 3)

COUNSELS

God Is Generous To All Who Call On Him

THEME: Jesus upholds those with generous hearts.

WORD: Is 55:6-9; Ps 145: 2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20-24, 27; Mt 20:1-16

ORDER: Conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ.

REFLECTION:

In Matthew 20:16, the Lord says, "*Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.*" The Jews who thought they had always done the will of God deserve more than others, like the poor and the tax collectors to be seated first in God's kingdom. But God, does not owe salvation to any one because of their obedience to the Mosaic Law nor based on seniority. It is an unmerited gift given at His free will from His divine grace. Everyone is precious to Him and He delights in giving all of us full share in His kingdom in heaven.

In Matthew 20:16, the Lord says, "*Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.*" The Jews who thought they had always done the will of God deserve more than others, like the poor and the tax collectors to be seated first in God's kingdom. But God, does not owe salvation to any one because of their obedience to the Mosaic Law nor based on seniority. It is an unmerited gift given at His free will from His divine grace. Everyone is precious to Him and He delights in giving all of us full share in His kingdom in heaven.

Brothers and sisters, honestly, we will admit that we will have the same reaction. After all, the late-

continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all his works." (Ps 145:9)

Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!

Total Obedience

“Therefore, I did not consider myself worthy to come to you; but say the word and let my servant be healed. For I too am a person subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come here,’ and he comes; and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

(Lk 7:7-8)

Total obedience to God is impossible, so how much must I obey in order to please Him? God knows you cannot obey Him completely, so He is more interested in how much you want to obey Him. To want to obey Him more, you must grasp a true understanding of obedience and how it builds or destroys relationships. From the 6 year old who leaves her playmates because her mother has called her in for dinner, to the business executive who pays his taxes on time, we all live in a web of relationships that depend upon obedience to authority. Like a loving parent or a responsible government, God sets standards of behavior for your own good and to protect you from evil and harm. Some people defy authority, but obedience actually frees us to enjoy life as God intended because it keeps us from becoming entangled in harmful situations. Even though God's commandments are sometimes difficult to obey or don't always make sense from our human perspective, obedience to Him will always bring blessing, joy, and peace. When you look at obedience this way, then you will obey God out of love and gratitude for all He is trying to do for you rather than out of fear of being punished. The more you obey out of love, the more you will want to obey, and the more obedience will become a lifestyle rather than a chore. Since God is the Creator of life, He knows how life is supposed to work. Obedience to His ways demonstrates your trust that God's way is the best and that it will work for you.

“Listen to my voice; then I will be your God and you shall be my people. Walk exactly in the way I command you, so that you may prosper.” (Jer 7:23) Obedience to God is determined not by words, but by deeds. There is no joy for God, or us, in an attitude that says, 'I'll do it if I must,' or 'I'll do this if you will do that.' But there is joy in saying: "I'll do this, Lord because You have done so much for me. I'm grateful, and I know this brings You delight. Thank you, I love you." Many people find obedience a drag, but to the "God-fearing", whatever God asks them to do, is a delight.

Behold Your Mother

Imagine this: after multiple severe beatings, after several hours with a crown of thorns on His head, after carrying a heavy cross, and after His crucifixion – (in the Gospel of St. John) Jesus says all but twelve words. In His last bits of energy, He uses more than half of those words to say: "Woman, behold, your son"... and then to the disciple with her, "Behold your mother."

The Virgin Mary had a crucial role in the story of our salvation. We all know the story of the Annunciation and marvel at her acceptance of this role. Every year at Christmas pageants in many churches, both Catholic and not, we hear of her sacrifice in giving birth to our Savior. But because the Gospels are mainly quiet about her after that, most Christians are left to imagine what Mary was really like.

Was she a loving mother? We probably would all say 'YES!' Did she take care of Jesus as He was growing up? – Another 'YES!' Did she want the best for her Son? 'YES!' and probably gave all that she could give Him.

Because Christ was God, Mary had to be someone really special. Did she have to be a Virgin? – Doesn't take much thought to conclude that the answer to that too is a 'YES!' But she was still human, which was part of God's plan all along. For His becoming human, I think is really the key to our salvation. By doing so, God showed us that He did not make Himself exempt, that even He had to go through the journey that we, His creations, go through.

But what's missing from most of the Gospels, Christ Himself, as He was about to die, summed it all for us: "Behold your mother."

"Behold your mother." Those three words fill in all the blanks left out by the Gospel writers. No, while He did not make Mary a god, He Himself elevated her to be, not only His, but also our Mother – along with all the love that "Mother" encompasses. And it's what makes Mary as relevant and special today, as she was during that moment of extreme anguish as she was watching her Son die on the cross. Because she is our Mother we pray for her prayers and guidance always – now and, as she was with Jesus, at the hour of our death.

Knowing that she is all about love, let us then return that love by saying that we love her, and by acts of love that honor her.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

-comers hardly worked at all. Why should they be paid the same wage as those who endured the scorching heat of the sun all day long. This parable is God's lesson to us about fairness, generosity and compassion.

Jesus has leveled the playing field for everybody. He opened the door of the Kingdom to those who labored for a lifetime and those who came in at the last hour. God's kingdom is not given by virtue of time served, but the grace extended to the chosen. At Christ's Crucifixion, one of the thieves taunted Jesus to save himself if He was the Messiah. The good thief Dismas, protested that they deserved their punishment but not Jesus for He has not done anything wrong. Fearing God, he turned to Jesus, "...remember me when you come into your Kingdom." (Lk 23:42)

Jesus replied, "**Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.**" (Lk 23:43). The repentant thief received the greatest gift of salvation by his simple act of faith and humility. No one has claim position in God's kingdom for He has the final say. The last and first places cannot be earned, bought or bargained for. God's great generosity goes beyond our human idea of what is fair. "**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.**" (Is 55:8)

We do not serve God because we want to receive and be rewarded. God is infinitely generous and gracious and will give us better than we deserve. We must trust Him and believe that He will always give us the very best. Therefore, we should not be jealous, compare and measure ourselves to other whom we perceive to have more than us. We should be grateful and thankful for our own blessings. Who said, working in God's vineyard is easy? It is hard work and often humbling. He is always looking for laborers to do His work, to send out to minister and heal the sick, clothe the naked and preach the good news. "...whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers of mine, you did for me." (Mt 25:40) Are we up to par as day laborers in God's vineyard, under the scorching heat of the sun and not expecting any reward?

The mission and vision of our community requires freely giving of ourselves: our time, talent and treasure. There are struggles to come, causing some to complain, argue and even grumble, but let us stand united in body and spirit to do God's work. Let us ➡

stand united in body and spirit to do God's work. Let us forgive one another and work to build each other up. Our conduct must be fully pleasing and giving glory to God. Our lives should not be about us, but about Jesus, the one who lived and died for us, the one who has shown us the true meaning of love and generosity. When we do this, we can truly say, we conduct ourselves worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Amen!

DIRECTIONS:

1. Do not grumble; serve God without regard for rewards.
2. Do not be envious of others; focus on your blessings.
3. Be fair, compassionate and generous.

Changes to the Mass (from page 1)

narrates the episode of Jesus' healing of a Roman centurion's slave. While Jesus is on the way to the slave, the centurion sends friends to say to Him "**Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof ... but say the word and let my servant be healed.**" Jesus marvels at the faith of one who is a pagan and not one of the chosen people. This is the faith we express as we prepare to receive the Lord in Holy Communion.

These changes in wording may be uncomfortable at first, since the current words come so automatically to our lips. But with use, we will become accustomed to the new words and phrases and in so doing, we will come to a deeper appreciation of what the church intends to say by them. We will come to a **fuller participation** in the mystery of the Eucharist we celebrate.

Sample of Changes:

Greeting

Priest: *The Lord be with you.*

People: *And with your spirit.*

Gloria

All: *Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will.*

Sanctus

All: *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts.*

Nicene Creed

All: *I believe...*

(continued on page 4)

Source: Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions
www.fdlc.org

Sample of changes: (from page 3)

Invitation to Communion

Priest: *Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.*

People: *Lord I am not worthy that you enter under my roof; but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.*

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 KOMAPET

(Kotse Mo Alay Para sa Ekonomiya at Talinto)
Cars for economic & skills development aide. Donate your cars & get a tax deductible receipt; free towing. YTD collection: \$705 from 3 generous BLD donors.
Contact: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908.810.1213 rubenlyz@aol.net

MISSION Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark
Every 4th Saturday, **Sept. 24 • Solo Parents**
Contacts: Angie Valeroso valerosoangelita@yahoo.com
Audie/Vulet Chong 732-356-9056

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place **every 4th Friday** at the Auditorium

*Make the Covenant News
part of your Covenant Life*

TEACHING CALENDAR

09/16	Mark 10, John 6 & Golden Years Teaching
09/17*	Christian Maturity Program II • LSS 1-35 New Creation Realities / Growth in Prayer • LSS 1-36 Christian Parenting II • ME 37
09/23	Intercessory Formation Teaching
Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ Divine Mercy	

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

ERRATUM

The Aspirant Retreat's date was incorrectly posted last week. Please note the correct date.

*God has created us to love and to be loved,
and this is the beginning of prayer—to
know that he loves me, to know that I have
been created for greater things.
Blessed Mother Teresa*

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Virtus - Protecting God's Children

Sept. 24, 10-1pm, St. Mary's DCS room

In accordance with the Catholic Church, all adults dealing with children **must**, at the minimum, be certified by taking this teaching. This is the only teaching this year. Anyone dealing with children is encouraged to attend. Those that had taken it before may attend and get recertified.

Singles Retreat Grow in Christ, Grow in Life

Sept. 24, 8-4pm • Connell Hall, St. Mary's

Contact: Manny/Arlene Magalonzo singles@bldnewark.com

DLC Meeting

Sept. 27, 8pm • St. Mary's Library

Please mark your calendar and ensure that your ministry is represented at the meeting, if you are unable to attend.

Life in the Spirit Seminar #37

Oct. 8-9, St. Mary's Auditorium, Rahway, NJ

Contact: Joven/Lisa Soriano - lsa@bldnewark.com

BLD Newark Dinner Dance

"A Night To Remember"

Oct. 15, 7pm - 600 Washington Ave. Manville, NJ

Contacts: Vino/Beth Guiang - 908-229-2273
or Cezar/Pinky Calingo - 908-230-3660

John 6 Crossing #12

Oct. 21-23 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ

Cost for the weekend to be determined when venue is finalized & secured. Contact: Ernest/Nellie Sun at bldnewarkjohn6@yahoo.com or visit bldnewarkjohn6.weebly.com

Aspirants Retreat

Nov. 18-20 • St. Peter's Retreat House, Belleville

Contact King/Arlene Rigor teaching@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter #38

Nov. 18-20 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ

Fee: \$125/couple. Applications available at www.bldnewark.com.

Contacts: Ency/Baby Alberto engeng5149@verizon.net

Gary/Mil Camacho mla@bldnewark.com

2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro

Contact: Mosti/Ling Garcia - district@bldnewark.com

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING SEPT. 9, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,893	121,588

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

Thank you for your continued support!



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 37

Bulletin Edition

September 23, 2011

NEWS

BLD disciples witness Christ's love at the BLD Newark 2011 Golf Invitational

As BLD disciples, we take every opportunity to witness to Christ's love in our lives. One such event was our Golf Invitational, held last Saturday, September 17. This year's sponsors for this event were the ME 26 and 28 families, led by their respective class shepherds, Bebot & Grace Baquilod and Efren and Yoly Cruz. The love of Christ and love of neighbor was very evident, as both classes cheerfully served with all their hearts, souls and minds. The 45 golfers were quite impressed with the hospitality and thoughtfulness of the class members, who thought of every detail to enhance the comfort and enjoyment of all the players and guests. The day started with a sumptuous breakfast and ended with a most impressive dinner banquet, complete with a lechon (roasted pig!) Some members of BLD-Allentown also came to lend brotherly support and love to the workers at the outing. There were many positive feedbacks from both BLD and non-BLD members alike. A modest number of golfer turn-out was turned into a wonderful opportunity to evangelize as beautiful prayers were prepared and shared at this outing. The loving way in which each BLD member labored at the outing was surely appreciated as many golfers left with a promise to attend our 2012 Golf Invitational. May we, as a community of disciples, continue to witness His love to all!

"We see a glimpse of the Kingdom in our community when we love God and trust completely in His divine providence, when we conduct ourselves with selfless love for others, and when we serve Him with all our heart through the various ministries in BLD."

CN 28 Counsels – July 22, 2011

COUNSELS

Doing the Father's Will

THEME: Jesus upholds those who do the Father's Will.

WORD: Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-9; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32

ORDER: Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus.

REFLECTION:

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of two imperfect sons to illustrate the way of God's kingdom. Jesus first asks the chief priests and elders of the people: **"What is your opinion?"** (Mt 21:28a) He then tells the story of a man who had two sons. The man asked his sons to go out and work in their vineyard. The first son said, **"No"** but changed his mind and eventually worked. The second son said, **"Yes"** but never worked.

Jesus then asked the chief priests and elders, **"Which of the two did his father's will?"** (Mt 21:31) They answered promptly, **"the first."** Their answer came quickly because it was about a situation they themselves experienced in their own families. The elders gave the right answer to Jesus' question. Jesus confirmed that the tax collectors, thieves, prostitutes and other sinners were really like the first son. They believed in St. John the Baptist's message and turned away from wickedness and sin and preserved their spiritual life. (Ez 18) It then became clear that the priests and elders were really more like the second son, who said yes to the father, but did not do what the father asked. They did not accept St. John's message, even in the face of so many who accepted it as from God.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"If he...does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life." (Ez 18:27)

Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!

THE RICH GET RICHER ...

"To anyone who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he seems to have will be taken away." (Luke 8:18b)

Interestingly, when I first read this scriptural verse the first thing I thought of was that all too familiar, "the rich get richer and the poor get poorer".

Prior to joining BLD, my spouse and I were just another couple who regularly attended mass on Sundays, received communion and put money in the collection basket...two people trying to make the grade, nothing more, nothing less. Personally, that was the extent of my relationship with God, then.

Then in early 2000, we moved to a new town and at our new parish they had an adoration chapel. Somehow, we got invited to sign up and spend an hour each week in front of the Blessed Sacrament. After about a year, I started to feel the need to attend mass more often than just Sundays. Eventually I went about 3-4 times a week as often as my work schedule permitted.

In 2004, we were given an opportunity to join an ME, and later an LSS. Before I even realized what was happening I have become a "Magnificat-carrying" member of a charismatic community, going to Praise and Worship on Fridays, writing articles for the CN, and supporting the Teaching Ministry as a volunteer teacher. We have even become LSS shepherds and have become active in our parish church.

I turned 48 in August of this year and looking back, I thought I have done a lot more these last 10 years to enrich my spiritual life than I have during the previous 38 years of my life. But just to be clear I am not here to brag for the sake of bragging for I am still a sinner with all my faults and weaknesses. Rather, I remember St. Paul's admonition, ***"Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord."*** (1 Cor 1:31)

I have found out that once I allowed God to enter my life, before I knew it, I was doing things I never thought I would or could. I have discovered that once one becomes "rich" in the Lord, it just becomes so much easier to acquire more "spiritual wealth" and thus become even "richer".

On the other hand if one ever finds oneself on the opposite side as "the one who has not", only God can help. I have been there as well and it was the worst time of my life. Everything, even what I thought I had, was literally taken away. Thanks be to Him that today, I have become "relatively rich" compared to where I was many years ago...and God-willing will become even "richer".

One Body, One Spirit

We are all members of the body of Christ, the Church. Christ's own body unites the diverse members of the one body who are joined together by baptism. ***"For in one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons...Now you are Christ's body..."*** (1 Cor 12:13, 27) By reception of the Eucharist we become aware that we are members of the body of Christ. ***"Is not the bread we eat a sharing in the body of Christ?"*** (1 Cor 10:16)

We should understand our union with Christ in a very real sense. ***"God has so constructed the body...so that there may be no division...but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all parts share its joy."*** (1 Cor 12:24-26) Sin affects the whole body of Christ, not just the person committing the sin. It is about the individual body of Jesus that the unity of mankind becomes a reality as all men are called to join themselves to that body. In this body, each Christian has his own function for the total good. ***"Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. Some people, God has designated...to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues."*** (1 Cor 12:27-28)

As the early Christian communities grew and the Church needed more organization, it was the sevenfold unity of belief, one body and one Spirit (Col 3:12-15) and Trinitarian belief, one Spirit and one Lord (Eph 4:1-6) that held Christians together as one. ***"I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."*** (Eph 4:1-6)

Practicing the virtues of Christian life preserves the unity of the Church. Let us be compassionate when we hear the cry of the poor, kind when we take care of those who suffer, humble when we pretend not to be better or worse than the other person. Let us be gentle in how we treat other people, patient while we wait and bear with one another as we lighten the other's load. Let us forgive others as many times as God is willing to forgive us because unforgiveness is the root of resentfulness, unresolved frustration and vindictiveness that may subsequently contribute to physical illness. Finally, let us deeply love one another on a selfless level.

September 21 marks the feast of Saint Matthew, who devoted his life to Jesus Christ and the propagation of His message. Jesus called Matthew, a tax collector, out of his life of sinful greed to a higher calling. Matthew enthusiastically agreed and later that day, dines with Jesus in celebration. Upon seeing Jesus with sinners, the Pharisees criticize Him saying, ***“Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”*** (Mt 9:11b) (For Matthew was the most unlikely person to have been chosen. He was a tax collector, an unclean and detestable occupation at that time.) Jesus replies, ***“Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do.”*** (Mt 9:12) This is the central purpose of His ministry; Jesus did not come to call the righteous, but He came to call the sinners.

From that moment on, Saint Matthew followed Jesus. He listened to His teachings and witnessed His miraculous works. Matthew was among the first to document Jesus’ teachings into a handbook for the benefit of others. He organized this “handbook” into five parts which focused and detailed the Kingdom’s law, mission, mysteries, greatness and future. These five sections are crucial to the Gospel of Matthew that allowed for the easy learning of Jesus’ teachings.

Matthew in his Gospel made it clear that Jesus Christ was the Messiah. He reaffirmed that Jesus was the Savior who would redeem us from our sins and bring us to victory in His Kingdom. The presentation of Jesus as the Messiah aimed to make others aware of this divine realization of God-made-man.

Matthew was a witness to Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension. He realized that in spite of his Savior’s physical absence on the earth, Jesus’ ministry and Word must live on as Jesus said, ***“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”*** (Mt 28:19) The events at Pentecost anointed Matthew with the strength and wisdom to evangelize his fellow Jews. His own Gospel account written according to their language and understanding enlightened them and made known to them that Jesus Christ is the Savior who had brought them their salvation.

In commemoration of Saint Matthew and reflecting on his apostolic life, Pope Benedict describes him as, “...a true and proper paradox: those who seem to be the farthest from holiness can even become a model of the acceptance of God’s mercy and offer a glimpse of its marvelous effects in their own lives.” Saint Matthew embodied the life of the evangelist we should all strive to be. He made the decision to cast away his sinful life, follow the Lord Jesus, and spread His message to the people of the nation.

The first son said ‘No’ while the second son said ‘Yes’. The first son at first had no intention of working but had the integrity to say so to his father. He was wrong, but he was honest. The second son said the expedient thing that his father wanted to hear. He was disrespectful and dishonest for he had no intention to do as he was asked. How many of us say ‘No’ to the Lord when we are called to serve in a ministry or apostolate? How many of us say ‘Yes’? Do we say ‘Yes’ to God because it is convenient and we think this is what He wants to hear? Do we say beautifully crafted words to our Father God in heaven without following through with action?

Jesus puts the same questions to us, ***“Which of the two did his father’s will?”*** (Mt 21:31) Are we going to be like the second son who said ‘Yes’ but did not obey? Or are we going to be like the first son who said ‘No’ at first but saw the error of his ways and obeyed the father in the end? Neither of them really is the ideal for obedience to the will of God.

We should look to the teller of the story. He is the One described in the second reading as the one true Son we should imitate, the perfect Son and our perfect ideal- the Son who says ‘Yes’ to the Father and lives up to His word and follows through with His actions. He is our Lord Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Man, the model of meekness, humility and obedience. His whole earthly life was one singular ‘Yes’ to the will of the Father. ***“Here I am to do your will...”*** (Heb 10:7) he prayed even from his mother’s womb. And in the garden of Gethsemane he said, ***“Not my will but your will be done.”*** (Mt 26:42).

Our responses may reflect our current attitudes and the inner disposition of our hearts and minds when called by the Lord to go out and work in His vineyard today. Our ‘Yes’ may still reflect our superficial understanding of what needs to be done. We need the Holy Spirit to give us the gift of knowledge so that we may attain a correct understanding of the Word of God. We must remain open to the transforming power of Holy Scriptures to work a change of heart and mind in us. We should embody the mind of Christ who emptied himself being obedient unto death on the cross. By thinking the way Christ thinks, we can attain the grace to follow His ways and do God’s will. All those who follow Jesus listen to God’s voice and respond ‘Yes’ to it every single time. Let our ‘Yes’ really genuinely mean ‘Yes.’ This will

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS (from page 3)

ultimately lead us to a new life where we can claim the Lord's promise in Ez 18:27, "*if he ... does what is right and just ... he shall preserve his life.*"

DIRECTIONS:

1. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory.
2. Humbly regard others as more important than yourselves.
3. Look out not for your own interests, but also for those of others.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark
Every 4th Saturday, **Sept. 24 • Solo Parents**
Contacts: Angie Valeroso valerosoangelita@yahoo.com
Audie/Vulet Chong 732-356-9056

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place **every 4th Friday** at the Auditorium

*Make the Covenant News
part of your Covenant Life*

TEACHING CALENDAR

09/23	Intercessory & Formation Teaching
10/21	Mark 10 & John 6 Teaching
10/22*	Christian Maturity Program I • LSS 1-35 Spiritual Warfare / Shepherds Training I • LSS 1-34 Basic Bible Seminar • LSS 1-37
10/28	Golden Years & Intercessory Formation Teaching

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ Divine Mercy

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

The Disciples Prayer

Jesus, my Lord and my Brother, let me do Your work for Your sake, and not for my own pride or self satisfaction. As long as I want what You want I will act prudently and safely. If I fret at my failures I am working for myself and not for You. Your will is to be done, not mine. I hope to attempt all of the good within my reach but I will attempt all of the good within my reach but I will not be over-anxious about the results. If I lose my presence of mind and my peace of soul it is because I am thinking more of Your work than Your will. I need only do my best. The rest depends on the people around me and Your grace. Let me never think I am bigger or more able than You. I now put all things into Your hands. Amen.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Virtus - Protecting God's Children

Sept. 24, 10-1pm • St. Mary's DCS room

In accordance with the Catholic Church, all adults dealing with children *must*, at the minimum, be certified by taking this teaching. This is the only teaching this year. Anyone dealing with children is encouraged to attend. Those that had taken it before may attend and get recertified.

Singles Retreat Grow in Christ, Grow in Life

Sept. 24, 8-4pm • Connell Hall, St. Mary's

Contact: Manny/Arlene Magalonzo singles@bldnewark.com

DLC Meeting

Sept. 27, 8pm • St. Mary's Library

Please mark your calendar and ensure that your ministry is represented at the meeting, if you are unable to attend.

Life in the Spirit Seminar #37

Oct. 8-9 • St. Mary's Auditorium, Rahway, NJ

Contact: Joven/Lisa Soriano - lsa@bldnewark.com

BLD Newark Dinner Dance

"A Night To Remember"

Oct. 15, 7pm • 600 Washington Ave. Manville, NJ

Contacts: Vino/Beth Guiang - 908-229-2273
or Cezar/Pinky Calingo - 908-230-3660

John 6 Crossing #12

Oct. 21-23 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ

Crossing cost, application and more information are available on the web site BLDNewarkJohn6.weebly.com.
Contact: Ernest/Nellie Sun at bldnewarkjohn6@yahoo.com

Coaches Development Workshop

Nov. 5, 1-5pm • St. Mary's Room 205

For encounter and LSS sharers

Aspirants Retreat

Nov. 18-20 • St. Peter's Retreat House, Belleville

Contact King/Arlene Rigor teaching@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter #38

Nov. 18-20 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ

Fee: \$125/couple. Applications available at www.bldnewark.com.
Contacts: Ency/Baby Alberto engeng5149@verizon.net
Gary/Mil Camacho mila@bldnewark.com

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION WEEK ENDING SEPT. 9, 2011

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,513	125,101

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

Thank you for your continued support!

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COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 38

Bulletin Edition

Sept. 30, 2011

UPDATES

On Nov. 27, 2011, the 1st Sunday of Advent, the *Roman Missal, Third Edition* will be implemented in the USA. The Mass celebration and structure itself are not changing. What will be different are some of the prayers and responses during Mass for both the priest and the liturgical assembly. One of the reasons for the changes in wording is to make more obvious the biblical origin of many of the prayers we use during Mass.

These changes in wording may be uncomfortable at first, but with use, we will become accustomed to the new words and phrases. Below are sample changes.

Current	Changes
Greeting Priest: <i>The Lord be with you.</i> People: <i>And also with you.</i>	Greeting Priest: <i>The Lord be with you.</i> People: <i>And with your spirit.</i>
Gloria All: <i>Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.</i>	Gloria All: <i>Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will.</i>
Nicene Creed All: <i>We believe...</i>	Nicene Creed All: <i>I believe...</i>
Sanctus All: <i>Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of power and might.</i>	Sanctus All: <i>Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts.</i>
Invitation to Communion Priest: <i>This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.</i> People: <i>Lord I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.</i>	Invitation to Communion Priest: <i>Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.</i> People: <i>Lord I am not worthy that you enter under my roof; but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.</i>

Add'l info: <http://old.usccb.org/romanmissal/samples-people.shtml>

COUNSELS

Jesus the New Vine

THEME: We are fruitful servants when we surrender to God's will and gratefully act on it.

WORD: Is 5:1-7; Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

ORDER: *"Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you."* (Phil 4:9)

REFLECTION:

Our Sunday's readings begin with a canticle of love from the prophet Isaiah and ends with a divine assurance from Jesus Himself, quoting Sacred Scripture, *"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."* (Psalm 118:22)

Our first thought contains the image of a loving God, creating a vineyard and choosing the best vines for His people. It speaks of all the goodness of God's creation and the greatness of the choice by which He seeks us out and loves us. He gives and provides us all that we need in carrying out our responsibilities. He trusts and hopes that we will reciprocate with His appeal.

Will He find a response? He did. The vineyard was a disappointment. Instead of choice fruit, it produced nothing but wild grapes.

This is the second fundamental thought in our readings. They speak of our own human story that was repeatedly lived out – the fall of man. There are pictorials in the Holy Book that are unpleasant to read but are necessary to portray the ugliness of sin and its consequences in our fellowship with God and how He feels and responds.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"The peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:7)

Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!

Different Paths, One Purpose

“John answered, ‘Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us.’ But Jesus said to him, ‘Do not stop him; for whoever is not against you is for you.’” (Luke 9:49-50, NRSV Catholic)

Here is a brief, but rich passage about ministry and evangelization. In sum, it tells us that even when those ministering take different paths, their unified purpose makes the difference. One must notice the high stakes here: this “someone” that John observed was exorcizing demons: his was not an ordinary ministry, but was one that required true authority derived from the name of Jesus, at whose name ***“every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.”*** (Phil 2:10-11)

As a whole, Luke 9 tells us first that our ministry must be based on the name and authority of Jesus. From the commissioning of the Twelve to cure, heal, and exorcize demons (9:1-6) to Peter’s confession that Jesus is indeed the Messiah (9:18-20) to the Transfiguration (9:28-35), Luke shows that Jesus’ identity and authority are central to our ministry: they define our purpose.

This sets up the passage in question: John sees an exorcist and reports him to Jesus, but He tells John, ***“Do not stop him, for whoever is not against you is for you.”*** (Luke 9:50) This separate exorcist’s ministry is valid, for he shares the same purpose as the Twelve, professes the same Lord and works in His name. Indeed, anyone on a different “path” who does ministry in Jesus’ name should be seen as a coworker, not an opponent.

The idea of working together develops immediately after this passage: Jesus moves to send out seventy-two disciples in Luke 10, and He remarks, ***“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few.”*** (10:1-12, NAB) Thus, looking backwards and forwards makes Luke 9:49-50 all the more richer: indeed, the stakes are as high for us, for today there are figurative and literal demons in the world the Church needs to exorcize, such as unbelief, sexual immorality, broken marriages and families, addictions of all kinds, violence and injustice.

Given such high stakes, every different ministry must be “for” each other, for the Twelve, the exorcist, and the seventy-two all share the same purpose. But it does not stop there: in Acts,

Continued on page 4

A Taste of Heaven



The search for heaven on earth is every person’s ultimate purpose for being. I believe that every moment of our existence is geared towards achieving this purpose. A

song’s lyrics -- “heaven, I’m in heaven, and my heart beats so that I can hardly speak...” -- inadequately describe the true nature of what it is like to be in heaven, for heaven is beyond awe, beyond excitement. Some religions describe heaven as reaching full and complete enlightenment or achieving a state of deep inner peace. I believe that enlightenment and inner peace do not come from the void of one’s inner being, nor does it come from nothing. It does not come from nature, nor does it come from the harmonious interaction of the elements of the universe alone. Everything that exists, tangible or intangible, including our state of mind and feelings, are creations, and these creations have to come from someone, not something. Following this logic, my mind, true to its human nature, has the propensity to complicate the questions of things it cannot understand and tries to find a philosophical answer to the existence of heaven. This passage in the Scripture provides the simple answer. It takes away the mystery of where and what heaven is. ***“Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”*** (Lk 10:23-24) The greatest gift of our faith is the belief and understanding of the real presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. Indeed, it is in that very moment when we enter into our private world of communing with Jesus when we allow our whole physical being to transcend from this world. As the priest presents to us our Lord with the words, “The Body of Christ,” our spirit leaves our body to be engulfed into His being. For heaven to exist, its creator must be present. This very moment is the taste of heaven that we seek. It can be fleeting if we allow the cacophonies of our world to draw us out of that rapture, but time stands still and heaven pervades if we savor the presence of God within us through the Holy Eucharist. Heaven is here on earth when we allow Jesus to be constantly present in our lives.

**Make the Covenant News
part of your Covenant Life**

COUNSELS *(from page 1)*

We grew up with the story of creation and saw how Adam and Eve mishandled paradise. Such is the story of the two sons in the vineyard who were defiant and rebellious against the authority of their father; we heard the grumbling of the vineyard laborers, demanding more, after receiving equal pay with the rest; and now, the story of the vineyard tenants' contemptuous beating of the landowner's messengers and gruesome killing of his son. These stories mirror us, our ongoing struggles against sin, our nature and irresistible want to always be in control, our delusions of kingship as to who is the master and the servant, the creator and the creature. Our primacy reduces God to a mere name, rejected and banned from participation in our lives.

At the opening of the Synod of the Eucharist, Pope Benedict XVI posed a question "Is not our Christian life often far more like vinegar than wine? Self-pity, self-centeredness, conflict and indifference."

How then do we live the Gospel message in our community? How do we cultivate a piece of land that it may yield good grapes and prevent the beast and the boars to feed upon it?

Let us recall the order from Paul's letter to the Philippians "Keep on doing what we have learned and received and heard and seen". Let us think about these things.

When we respect each other, our parents, our elders, including ourselves, that is honorable. When we are able to forgive as we are forgiven, that is gracious. When we seek the best of our brothers and sisters and think of them better than us, that is pure. When we feel the pain of the weak, the poor and the widows and we own their sufferings, that is just. When we see each other as God sees us, that is lovely. When we speak and live God's word and trust each other as God trusts us, that is being true. For this is God's will in His vineyard. We bear good fruits when we gratefully act on it. They are God's splendor of truth and love, excellent and worthy of praise.

If we think as man does, then our Gospel story will end with the threat of utter destruction. But this is God's story. His judgment is inscrutable. Who amongst us would send his only son to face a brutal death? Our Father did. The death of His Son is not the end of history. This death takes us in a new direction. "The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone" From the Son's death springs life ➤

Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

Although not really mentioned as an archangel in the bible, Gabriel, whose name means 'God is my strength', did three appearances on the bible. First, he announced the conception of Jesus upon the Blessed Mother. Our prayer 'Hail Mary...' is quoted from Gabriel himself. Next, he also announced the birth of John the Baptist to Zachary when offering incense in the temple. This is likely the same Gabriel who delivered a message to the prophet Daniel in the Old Testament to explain the vision concerning the Messiah.

Raphael, whose name means 'God has healed', appeared in the bible in the book of Tobit. Although he did not reveal his true identity at first, His mission was to be a guide to the young Tobias on his journey, protect him from dangers, and helped him make important decisions in life. Upon their safe return, he cured Tobit's vision. He later revealed his true identity before returning to heaven.

Michael, whose name means 'Who is like God', was the only one who was labeled Archangel. He is also known as the 'prince of the heavenly host'. He appeared in the scripture four times – twice in the book of Daniel, once in the book of Revelations, and lastly in the Epistle of St Jude. He is well known as God's champion in the battle of the Angels when he defeated Satan and his evil ones.

Michael protects. Gabriel heralds. Raphael guides. Our own personal guardian angels do all those three functions. To celebrate and honor them, their feast day is on the 29th of September.

eternal, a new tower, a new vineyard that is indestructible. It is the gift of God himself, an act of radical love that overcame death and sins. His spilled blood is the ultimate gift, the true wine.

Christ himself became the vine and this vine always bears good fruit, in season and out of season. The Eucharistic presence of His love shall dwell in us at all times.

Let us taste the savor of the Divine.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Persevere in taking care of the flock by putting into practice our Lord's command to care and love one another.
2. Take to heart our BLD Vision and Mission so that we can know and obey God's direction for us.

Different Paths, One Purpose (from page 3)

the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost impels *all* of Jesus' followers to go out (Acts 2). Today, this figurative "seventy-two" includes: the Bishops and their dioceses, parishes, religious orders, BLD, CFC, GK, the Knights of Columbus, and other associations of the faithful. All of these groups are "for us" and with us—but are we in BLD for them? How can we better collaborate with other ministries to preach the Gospel, to promote healing, to "cast out" demons in lives and in society?

There are clearly different ministries with different "paths" of discipleship yet sharing the same purpose; they proclaim the same Lord and operate under His authority. We are called to *"always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope"* (1 Peter 3:15, NAB), to *"be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 1:8) In light of the issues facing the Church and the world today, perhaps we can consider anew how to collaborate with those on different paths, and remember that we nonetheless profess the same Lord and share the same purpose, for *"whoever is not against you is for you."* (Luke 9:50)

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 KOMAPET

(Kotse Mo Alay Para sa Ekonomiya at Talinto)

Cars for economic & skills development aide. Donate your cars & get a tax deductible receipt; free towing. YTD collection: \$705 from 3 generous BLD donors. Contact: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908.810.1213 rubenluz@aol.com

In Need of Wellness Program Volunteers

Nurses for Blood Pressure & Sugar Screening
Doctors (General Practice)

Contact: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908.810.1213 rubenluz@aol.com

Renew Prayer

Gracious God and Father, we are Your people embraced by Your love. We thank You for Your presence with us throughout all time. Create us anew through Jesus Christ, Your Son. Liberate us from all that keeps us from You. Send Your Holy Spirit, enabling us to share in Your work of recreating our world and restoring justice. Heal us from every form of sin and violence. Transform us to live Your Word more profoundly. Reconcile us so enemies become friends. Awaken us to the sacred; nurture our relationships. Enliven our parishes; reunite our families. Fill us with joy to celebrate the fullness of life. Empower us to be a community of love growing in Your likeness by the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Life in the Spirit Seminar #37

Oct. 8-9 • St. Mary's Auditorium, Rahway, NJ
Contact: Joven/Lisa Soriano - lsa@bldnewark.com

BLD Newark Dinner Dance

"A Night To Remember"

Oct. 15, 7pm • 600 Washington Ave. Manville, NJ
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or Cezar/Pinky Calingo - 908-230-3660

John 6 Crossing #12

Oct. 21-23 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ
Crossing cost, application and more information are available on the web site BLDNewarkJohn6.weebly.com.
Contact: Ernest/Nellie Sun at bldnewarkjohn6@yahoo.com

COMMUNITY RETREAT

Oct. 29 • St. Mary's
Contact: Sam/Rory Olaso pastoral@bldnewark.com

Coaches Development Workshop

Nov. 5, 1-5pm • St. Mary's Room 205
For encounter and LSS sharers
Contact: Chito/Aileen Ciocon witness@bldnewark.com

Aspirants Retreat

Nov. 18-20 • St. Peter's Retreat House, Belleville
Contact King/Arlene Rigor teaching@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter #38

Nov. 18-20 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ
Fee: \$125/couple. Applications available at www.bldnewark.com.
Contacts: Ency/Baby Alberto engeng5149@verizon.net
Gary/Mil Camacho mla@bldnewark.com

2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro
Contact: Mosti/Ling Garcia - district@bldnewark.com

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,945	129,046
Financial details are available to all members through treasury@bldnewark.com Thank you for your continued support!		

TEACHING CALENDAR

10/21	Mark 10 & John 6 Teaching
10/22*	Christian Maturity Program I • LSS 1-35 Spiritual Warfare / Shepherds Training I • LSS 1-34 Basic Bible Seminar • LSS 1-37
10/28	Golden Years & Intercessory Formation Teaching

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ Divine Mercy



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 39

Bulletin Edition

October 7, 2011

Fr. Paul Speaks

COUNSELS

Jesus, the Cornerstone

THEME: We are fruitful servants when we come prepared for God's invitation to share the joy of His Kingdom.

WORD: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-6; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14

ORDER: "Live in humble circumstances." (Phil 4:12)

"Everything is ready; Come to the feast." (Mt 22:4b)

REFLECTION:

"Therefore, I say to you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit." (Mt 21:43) This is the last verse from our Gospel reading for the 1st Sunday of October, Year A. It is clear from the words of Jesus that God expects us to act on His words and to be faithful and fruitful. It pleases Him the most when we bear fruit, because as we do, we glorify God.

On the other hand, He reserves the severest judgment for those who are unfruitful and are deaf to His words and His calling, like the fig tree in Mt 21:19: *"May you never bear fruit again. Immediately the fig tree withered and died."* Israel as a nation lost its privilege because of the people's unbelief and unfruitfulness.

Our Community Word for the month of October speaks of fruitfulness as a gauge of our love response to the Lord. He is the landlord who calls us to work in His vineyard and whose stamp of ownership is upon us for we are truly His own. As a community of believers, 'Open in spirit to God,' we express our allegiance to Him by adhering *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:19)



October is traditionally the month of the Holy Rosary. First Friday, Oct. 7th, is the Feast of the Holy Rosary. This devotion, like many of the devotions in the Church, can become mechanical and recitative. The repetition of the "Hail Mary" over and over can become a source of distraction. We finish the rosary sometimes wondering whether we have prayed at all. The real focus in saying this highly recommended prayer is meditation on the mysteries. There are now four sets of "mysteries" proposed for different days of the week. The glorious mysteries (Resurrection, Ascension, Descent of the Holy Spirit, Assumption of Mary, Coronation of Mary) are said on Sunday and Wednesday. The joyful mysteries (Annunciation, Visitation, Birth of Jesus, Presentation, Finding of Jesus in the temple) are said on Monday and Saturday. The sorrowful mysteries (Agony, Scourging, Crowning with thorns, Carrying of the cross, Crucifixion) are said on Tuesday and Friday. The mysteries of light (Baptism of Jesus, Marriage feast at Cana, Proclamation of the Kingdom, Transfiguration, Last Supper) are said on Thursday. These mysteries sum up the chief moments of the lives of Jesus and Mary. If used well they can be an excellent way to grow in meditation and even contemplation.

One of the practical helps in overcoming distractions especially during the recitation of the rosary is to insert a brief phrase that summarizes the mystery. For instance after the phrase, "blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus" in the Hail Mary, say: "who was conceived by the Holy Spirit" or "who died for us" or "who rose from the dead" etc. In this way the focus on the particular mystery is reinforced every time you say the Hail Mary. There are also a number of published rosary aids that introduce the decade with a Scripture passage, giving *Continued on page 4*

Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!

A House Divided

“Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste and House will fall against house.” (Luke 11:17b)

While Jesus was casting the demons out of the mute man, the authorities accused Him of being an instrument of Beelzebul, the prince of demons. Jesus’ enemies remained obstinate despite the evidence of this miracle. They attributed this supernatural event to the power of the devil. They were also convinced that they were right because they were descendants of Abraham and designated as God’s chosen people.

In His priestly prayer in John 17, Jesus intercedes for us to be one with Him, just as He and the Father are one. Dividing the House of God – the Church established by Jesus Christ – has been the primary goal of the evil one from the very beginning. The first big division occurred in the 10th century when the Patriarchs of the Sees of Antioch, Alexandria, Constantinople and Jerusalem broke off from the See of Rome and formed the Orthodox Churches, like the Greek and Russian Orthodox.

The next house division came in the 16th century during the time of the Protestant Reformation spearheaded by Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk. The Protestant movement splintered into many different denominations and further splitting into thousands of sects and churches even to this day.

As Catholics, we must not judge or condemn those who broke off from the Church. Like the Jewish authorities at the beginning, the non-Catholics were convinced that it was the Lord who inspired them to form their own church. To better understand and appreciate one another, we need to focus on what unites us than what separates us in doing God’s work.

In recent times, we have seen divisions in a few communities formed to serve the Lord and His people. Our own BLD community has gone through divisions in the more than two decades of our existence. God, in His perfect wisdom, sometimes allows these things to happen for His purpose and plan. It is our role and responsibility to learn from them and to discern what the Lord is instructing us to do. Our leaders, anointed to guide us, must be the first to show unity and oneness.

Let us direct our focus on the Lord’s word and always seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all that we do as disciples and as a community of faith. Our goal must always be to unite, not to divide. Let us ➤

One Door Closes, Another Opens

“And I tell you, ask and you will receive, seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you; For everyone who asks receives, and one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Luke 11:9-10)

This specific verse has been very appropriate in my life, especially with the events that unfolded within the last few months when I received notification that my job for the last seven years will be eliminated. My first instinct was to seek the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and pray for guidance and strength.

As I was trying to figure out what went wrong and what my next steps will be, the final days of my employment was drawing near. I continued to go to the Blessed Sacrament on a daily basis to pray for direction, and went to my usual daily mass and started a devotion to the Divine Mercy. Instinctively I continued to vigorously and actively look for new employment. Slowly, the fear and anxiety in my heart has vanished as I am convinced that the Lord has done this to me to draw me closer to Him and to learn to completely surrender my plans to Him. I know that whatever happens to me I will accept wholeheartedly as it is part of His divine plan.

In the end, I found a much better job with a good company and with a higher salary one week before my scheduled last day at my old job. Once again, the Lord has shown His power that “when you seek, you will find; when you knock, the door will be opened”.

He has once more reminded me that He is always there and all we have to do is “ask and you will receive”.

“Lord, your mercy and generosity are beyond compare. You never fail to remind me how much You love me in spite of my sinfulness and unworthiness. I could not find words to thank You as You deserve to be thanked and express the depth of gratitude I have in my heart. Lord continue to give me the grace to always remember that everything I have and everything that I am comes from You and without You I am nothing. This I pray in the name of Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, amen.”

be on the side of Jesus by following His words, ***“Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.”*** (Luke 11:23)

COUNSELS (from page 1)

to our Community Values, Norms and Culture, and by responding in love to the Community Vision and Mission, because BLD is a vineyard, whose cornerstone is Jesus, and we are guided by His Word and inspired by His Holy Spirit.

In community, we find avenues for growth that lead us to fruitfulness. Once a month, our ECSL (Executive Council of Servant Leaders) spends time in prayer, pondering the Word of God, waiting on Him to give to the BLD Community the Word, Order and Direction, Theme and Promise for each week of the month. These, in return, serve as the basis of our Corporate Worship and Word Sharing Circles.

If we are sensitive to the leadings of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we will find these directions to be lampposts guiding our everyday lives. There is no way we cannot bear fruit, individually and as a community when we look at these as the spoken words of God to us, leading us to know Him more deeply, to see Him more clearly and truly taste the goodness of His love. Phil 4:9, says, ***“Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.”*** This is our Order for the month, meaning, as a community, BLD is ordered, commanded explicitly by God to persist, persevere, and be faithful in keeping and obeying His word. As servants in His vineyard, we follow the voice of the Master, trusting that as we do, we will reap good fruit.

In the 1st week, there is the call to gratefully surrender to the will of God, act on it, and trust that as we do, His peace will surround us. God knows what is best for us; He sees far beyond what we can see. As we learn to entrust our will to His, we are better able to experience His love and care. As the cornerstone, Jesus leads us to greater understanding of things, allowing us to see more clearly the purpose of our calling, thereby guiding us to make better decisions. Our call is not mere words or a passive mindset but one that requires positive action – ***“...go and bear fruit that will remain...”*** (Jn 15:16)

The 2nd week speaks of preparedness. We have been called and for us to stay in community is truly a blessing because we know that Jesus is the cornerstone of BLD. Through the years, following His directions, we have grown to what we are today, from one to 51 districts worldwide, and we continue to grow as His love breaks through to all continents of the world. We are not a perfect community, but God has showed BLD the immensity of His love and faithfulness, as a true Shepherd guarding His flock from the snares that could lead to destruction. ➤

In community, we continue to grow in wisdom and learn what joy it is to share the love of God, especially with those who do not know Christ. As we respond to our mission call, we experience all the more the presence of God in our midst. All our longings, all our fears are set aside because of the assurance of His loving presence that strengthens us to do mighty works for Him and His glory. As we pursue the purpose to which we are called, our plans, our wills become synchronized to His, allowing us to decrease as He increases in our lives. ***“I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me...My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”*** (Phil 4:13 &19)

From the time of our LSS, the reality of who we are in God’s kingdom has been drilled into our consciousness, and it is reassuring to know that we have an inheritance in Jesus, because we too are God’s children. The 3rd week speaks of this, because it is important for us to know who we are, and to appreciate our identity as children of God, so that we can give our loving Father what is due Him. He is God, the Almighty Father and even though He gives us the freedom to do whatever we plan, ultimately, He is sovereign and it is His will that will be realized and nothing can foil His plans.

As we recognize the lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives, we give of ourselves to the work that we do to proclaim His kingdom with hearts full of love and gratitude for what the Lord has done for us. It is for His glory and honor and not ours to claim or assume. All glory belongs to Christ Jesus. It is important that we focus on Him and attribute everything to God, making Jesus the true cornerstone of our hearts. In Him we live, move and have our being. Our community vision tells us that we get our inspiration from the Holy Spirit, and that all our actions, the work that we do as a community, lead us to be transformed continually into the likeness of Christ. That way, we glorify Him in our lives.

The 4th week brings us to the greatest commandment of all – love. Jesus summarized all the 10 commandments given to Moses in the OT into two – Love God above all things and love your neighbor as yourself. Our call to proclaim the Good News is actually a call to love. God wants all to be saved and be given the opportunity to experience His love. It is a tall order and a daunting task but Jesus assures us that ***“Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him...”*** (Jn 14:23)
Continued on page 4

Fr. Paul Speaks (from page 1)

us again the focus to enter the recitation of that decade and mystery, with a better focus and concentration.

When a particular mystery does not directly connect with Mary like the sorrowful mysteries, try to put Mary into the background as if you were contemplating the mystery with her. Look at Jesus through the eyes of Mary.

If you are led to just lovingly contemplate the presence of God during the rosary without any picture or image, follow that lead. Even if the focus is not completely on the mystery, the goal of all prayer has been reached. Just as we can be led to go from vocal to meditative, to contemplative prayer when we are for instance meditating on Scripture, so the same process can happen when we *pray* the rosary. Use that highly recommended prayer often and well, and you will find your prayer life growing.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BLD Newark Dinner Dance

"A Night To Remember"

Oct. 15, 7pm • 600 Washington Ave. Manville, NJ

Contacts: Vino/Beth Guiang - 908-229-2273
or Cezar/Pinky Calingo - 908-230-3660

John 6 Crossing #12

Oct. 21-23 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ

Crossing cost, application and more information are available on the web site BLDNewarkJohn6.weebly.com.
Contact: Ernest/Nellie Sun at bldnewarkjohn6@yahoo.com

Community Retreat

Oct. 29 • St. Mary's

Contact: Sam/Rory Olaso pastoral@bldnewark.com

Coaches Development Workshop

Nov. 5, 1-5pm • St. Mary's Room 205

For encounter and LSS sharers

Contact: Chito/Aileen Ciocon witness@bldnewark.com

Aspirants Retreat

Nov. 18-20 • St. Peter's Retreat House, Belleville

Contact King/Arlene Rigor teaching@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter #38

Nov. 18-20 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ

Fee: \$125/couple. Applications available at www.bldnewark.com.

Contacts: Ency/Baby Alberto engeng5149@verizon.net

Gary/Mil Camacho mla@bldnewark.com

2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro

Contact: Mosti/Ling Garcia - district@bldnewark.com

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com

COUNSELS (from page 3)

Our mission statement defines the many areas where we can carry out this commandment of love. Whenever and however we respond or participate in the mission activities of our community - whether through hospital visitations, prison ministry, at Encounters as sharers, teachers, or shepherds, or at BLD-GK activities, or as tutor or benefactor of the *Scholarship of Hope*, and in whatever way we serve the Lord in the poorest of the poor - we share in the mission of Christ, work in His vineyard, and become fruitful. Our gifts from the Holy Spirit will be put to good use and surely His fruit will grow in us too.

Humility is one fruit of the Holy Spirit that is vital in our spiritual growth. The witnessing of our lives should be that of Christ in us and not the self. God deserves all our reverence as we fulfill our mission with integrity and faithfulness. We bring Christ to the poor because He is the answer to all of man's longings and pain. He is our hope of glory. We share Christ humbly to those in need because we are the people who have received mercy from God's merciful heart. It is not our own selves we bring. It is Jesus we bring, and the power of God's love that heals our brokenness. This is what we talk about in the 5th week. Humility is when we do not exalt ourselves. *"The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; whoever humbles himself will be exalted."* (Mt 23:11-12)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Always be ready when the Lord invites you.
2. *"Go out to the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find"* [Evangelize] (Mt 22:9)

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	2,866	131,9112
Fundraisers	Golf Outing	10,141

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

10/21 **Mark 10 & John 6 Teaching**

10/22* Christian Maturity Program I • LSS 1-35
Spiritual Warfare / Shepherds Training I
• LSS 1-34

Basic Bible Seminar • LSS 1-37

10/28 **Golden Years & Intercessory Teaching**

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ Divine Mercy

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 40

Bulletin Edition

October 14, 2011

NEWS

BLD-Newark welcomes LSS #37 graduates

“Peter [said] to them, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” (Act2:38)



The lambs opened their hearts, repented, were baptized and they received the gift of the Holy Spirit. We lift our prayers of thanksgiving for a triumphant and Spirit-filled Life in the Spirit Seminar on Oct. 8-9, 2011, held at our Divine Mercy Auditorium. It was led by our Spiritual Director Fr.

Paul Lehman, with the assistance of Deacon Joey Viola.

Lord, touch the hearts of our LSS #37 graduates in a special way to thirst with desire to know, love and serve You. They are: Lenon & Anne Ceria, James & Armi Clancy, Rey & Daphne Cobarrubias, Jonathan & Mariel Lambino, Joseph & Donabel Victoria, Victor & Loucel Osias, Ryan & Leah Pagala, Bayani & Vivina Regis, Antonio & Sandy Saint Jean, Ric & Isabel Yglesias, Cindee Alegria, Rosa Garcia, Libarid Maljian, Catherine Mariano, Connie Quese, Lynford Rhoden, Mila Surla, Melania Carpio, Blanca Francisco, Frank Lim, Wilma Tayman, Jose Soto, Liza Cruz, Danielle Aliparo, Diane Souza, Michelle Mata, Carlo Abcede, Steve Chan, Xavier Geoffroy, Gian Lincuna, Jei Mendoza-Obispo, Erik Rivera, Pat Salmo, Carl Tiu, Michael Gervasio, Donato QUINTOS and Romy & Jean Timbang.

We welcome our new brothers and sisters in Christ to our BLD Community.

We pray that they will continue to grow in faith in Jesus as their hearts are filled with the Spirit of God.

COUNSELS

Faithful Citizenry

THEME: We are fruitful servants when we give to God what is due Him.

WORD: Is 45:1, 4-6; Ps 96:1, 3-5, 7-10; 1 Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21

ORDER: “*Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.*” (Mt 22:21)

“*Give to the Lord the glory due his name.*” (Ps 96:8)

REFLECTION:

“*Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.*” (Mt 22:21) With that statement Jesus makes a fine distinction between the believer’s duties as a citizen and as a child of God. As children of God created in God’s image (Gn 1:26), we have access to heavenly wisdom which we can apply to every earthly situation. This means that we can inject the “yeast” of God into our surroundings, allowing His justice to become the leaven that raises our culture to a more godly perspective. Jesus himself calls us to give to Caesar that which rightfully belongs to him: tribute, obedience to just laws. The presence of godly and committed citizens can do nothing less. But what about “giving unto Caesar”? Does this mean simply resigning ourselves to pay taxes? Probably not. Somehow, “giving unto god” should influence the way we give Caesar his due. Rendering unto Caesar involves actively seeking to advance the Kingdom of God on earth so that society will also be transformed.

What then belongs to God? We can readily agree that “what belongs to God” is our hearts. We should freely give ourselves to God, offering Him our time in prayer and worship and placing Him above everything else. God created us to know Him, to serve Him, and to love Him. Where do we get this information? It comes from our scriptures which are full of the words of God’s love, teachings, and commands and also from published Catholic encyclicals.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“I have called you by your name, giving you a title...It is I who arm you...I am the Lord, there is no other.” (Is 45:4-6)

Know more about the Lord. Read your Bible daily!

LIVING THE TRANSPARENT LIFE

“There is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed on the housetops. Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them has escaped the notice of God. Even the hairs of your head have all been counted. Do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.” (Luke 12:2-3, 6-7)

Jesus forewarns His disciples about the hypocrisy of the Pharisees but gives them the assurance that in the end, the truth will be revealed. **“Whatever you have said in darkness will be heard in the light.”** (Lk 12:3) In striving to know Christ, we find that Jesus lived a transparent life. In BLD, our responsibility as a leader, shepherd, prayer partner or simply, as a member, is to influence others to turn to a renewed life in Christ. In so doing, we need to learn how to develop this into our own character. Christ calls us not to live a life of hypocrisy, to cover up our sins and problems and to act as though we do not have any but to deal with our baggage quickly and openly.

Transparency involves allowing the light to pass through so that objects behind can be clearly seen. Jesus dared to do miracles right out in the open, right on the Sabbath, in front of everyone on the holiest of days, when the crowds were out. He was the light of the world, and He was not afraid to shine before men and by so doing, stirred anger among the Pharisees. Faced with similar challenges in today’s world, be it upholding the truth or advocating controversial issues involving our faith such as abortion, would we be able to do the same? We claim that we are a miracle of transformed lives, do we have the conviction to live that out and be a light in the midst of darkness, sin and despair around us? If Christ’s disciples and the early Christians suffered persecution in defense of the Church, then we should expect suffering, resistance, humiliation and even condemnation in living renewed lives in Christ. Our actions should testify to Christ’s presence in our lives, our behavior should encourage transparency, not cause division in the body of Christ.

Jesus admonished His disciples to stop worrying and start living a life of faith because nothing escapes God’s attention and care for them. **“Even the hairs of your head have been counted. Do not be afraid.”** (Lk 12:7) As we fulfill our mission as Christians, Jesus gives us the assurance of sufficiency in our material needs. We are not to think of tomorrow but trust God completely for His love for us far exceeds the value of even a small sparrow. Reflecting on Christ’s word, one would say, “Lord, following You is difficult indeed, but it is well worth it.”

Unforgivable

“Everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the holy Spirit will not be forgiven.”

(Luke 12:10)

In Luke 12, Jesus warns his disciples about the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and describes whom the people should really fear: **“the one who after killing has the power to cast into Gehenna”** (Luke 12:5). Jesus tells them: **“everyone who acknowledges me before others the Son of Man will acknowledge before the angels of God. But whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God”** (Luke 12:8-9). Jesus goes on to clarify who will and who will not be forgiven: **“Everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the holy Spirit will not be forgiven”** (Luke 12:10).

Who then blasphemes against the Holy Spirit? He is the person who speaks, inwardly or outwardly, words of hatred, reproach, or defiance against God. He speaks ill of God, fails to respect God in speech, misuses God’s name to cover up criminal practices, or to reduce people to servitude, to torture persons or put them to death. He directly opposes the second commandment of God and openly expresses, with full knowledge and deliberate consent, his irreverence for God and what His Spirit is capable of doing.

Why is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit unforgivable? Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is the sin of attributing to Satan. The Pharisees attempted to discredit Christ’s Messiahship by accusing Him of performing miracles by the power of Satan. This is unforgivable because it strikes at the very heart and nature of Christ’s redemptive and salvific work. Jesus ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit Himself, fulfilling the divine plan of God to provide a sacrifice for our sins. The Pharisees attributed this to demonic activity, which was a great blasphemy.

One can also blaspheme the Spirit of God by continually refusing His ministrations. The hardness of heart and persistent refusal to grasp God’s truth can reach a point where good can no longer be distinguished from evil. One can become so dead to sin that he is not conscious of sinning at all. If the sinner cannot recognize his sin, how can repentance become possible? How can God forgive if His forgiveness is not being sought? “There are no limits to the mercy of God, but anyone who deliberately refuses to accept his mercy by repenting, rejects the forgiveness of his sins and the salvation offered by the Holy Spirit. Such hardness of heart can lead to final impenitence and eternal loss.” (C.C.C. # 1864)

However, knowing is not enough. We have to live and act on it. Our spiritual journey must be the same as Jesus' while He was on earth. God's law is to bring the Good News of salvation to all men, bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, heal the sick, free the oppressed, preserve dignity and justice, and be partners in building God's Kingdom.

Peter was appointed as the first entrusted leader of the Church whose purpose and authority is to continue the Lord's mission to establish the Kingdom of truth, justice and peace. But, Peter cannot do the work alone; neither can the Pope, bishops and other leaders of the Catholic Church.

Since politics and economics are of primary importance to God, this should also be of importance to the Church. Therefore, the Church, through the lay faithful, must participate in politics and economics as they directly affect the people of God.

Through the grace of God, we, as members of the BLD community, attend Friday Worship, Encounters and Retreats, and do some charitable works such as: Soup Kitchen, Nursing Home Visitation, Parish Mission, Medical Mission, Gawad Kalunga, and Scholarship of Hope. These are our examples of the good works the Lord has begun in us and how we give back to God what belongs to Him. We need to make sure that we are on the right spiritual paths as His disciples and true stewards of His Word. This shows our faith to others by the power of our good deeds and by the way we are able to demonstrate what our faith means to us.

Let us examine ourselves to see if we are truly being a good example to others in fostering the common good. According to Pope John Paul II's homily as published in L'Osservatore Romano on Oct 21, 1990, he says, and I quote: "Always show that you are citizens who are respectful of the just laws of the state; with the inspiration and strength of the Gospel; become involved in ensuring a more just and human co-existence; creating forms of solidarity and service for those who are weak, as well as initiatives of reconciliation and peace. Do not renounce your responsibility to give a more humane and Christian aspect to your sector of the city, as well as a more livable way of life, based on the dignity of the human person."

Always do this with complete confidence in God, who does not leave you alone, but who is with you as your rock of salvation and sure support as He was for Mary on her journey of faith, hope, and charity."

How do we know God's will in our lives and in the word? The power of the Spirit is always present. He moves within our hearts and guides our thoughts and actions.

All powerful God, help us to serve You in holiness and justice. Make us bold and humble in revealing God to all men. Yes, Lord, we are here to answer Your call as Your witnesses here on earth in our journey to Your heavenly kingdom.

Shepherd's Voice

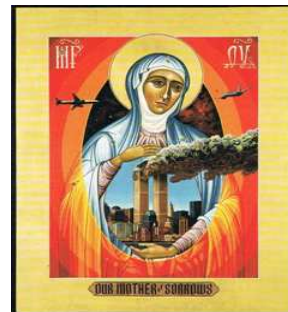
"Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good." (Romans 12:21)

The attack on the United States on the morning of September 11, 2001 cost more than 3,000 lives. It devastated many lives, ruined many families who lost loved ones. Many cried to heaven for vengeance. Many wanted punishment for those that inflicted pain and suffering on so many.

On the 10th anniversary of that awful day, as we remember the attack on our soil, the pain and suffering we endured, opening once again the wounds that cry for retaliation and retribution, we are awoken by the readings for September 11, 2011 that say differently. The readings are: Sirach 27:30-28:7; Psalm 103:1-4, 9-12; Romans 14:7-9; and Matthew 18:21-35.

On this 10th anniversary of September 11 we recall how our nation was violated. We remember the 3,000 people that died during the attack on our beloved USA. We commemorate the first responders who sacrificed their own lives to save the lives of their fellowmen and women. Our lives were shattered and our hearts broken; and we cry to heaven for vengeance and we desire punishment for the wrong inflicted on us. In our scripture readings for that day, however, we sing and acknowledge in the Psalm that the Lord is kind and merciful. That He pardons all our iniquities, heals all our ills. He redeems our life from destruction; he crowns us with kindness and compassion. Because the Lord is merciful, we should be forgiving toward one another as mentioned in the first reading. Anger and resentment should give way to mercy. Just as we pray in the Lord's Prayer, "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us," we have to forgive first before we can be forgiven. The litmus test of true forgiveness as required in the Gospel is that our forgiveness must be without limit. Our forgiveness should come from the heart, so that when we ask for forgiveness, we can be forgiven. When we do this, we reflect Christ's eternal love. Christ's will is in us. As it is said in the second reading: ***"we are the Lord's"*** (Romans 14:8b).

Although so many lives were lost because of the 9/11 attacks, although our freedom was violated and our hearts devastated, let anger and resentment give way to mercy. Let us pray that peace prevail over terrorism.



Directions:

1. Worship the Lord with your love-offering and tithes.
2. Bring your families to the Lord.
3. Give thanks to the Lord always.
4. Worship the Lord, in holy attire

BLD VISION

- We are a community of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about a world of justice, human development and true peace

BLD MISSION

In response to the challenges of our particular place, time and culture:

For our families:

- We will evangelize families and build communities of faith through encounters, Life in the Spirit Seminars and discipleship formation.
- We will give formation on personal and family prayer, pro-life values, Catholic social teachings and stewardship.

For our communities:

- We will actively participate in the life and mission of the Church in accord with our God-given gifts.

For our country:

- We will work on poverty alleviation through scholarships, housing for the poor and advocacies for life, environment and good governance.

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 **KOMAPET**

(Kotse Mo Alay Para sa Ekonomiya at Talinto)
Cars for economic & skills development aide. Donate your cars & get a tax deductible receipt; free towing. YTD collection: \$705 from 3 generous BLD donors.
Contact: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908.810.1213 rubenluz@aol.com

In Need of Wellness Program Volunteers

Nurses for Blood Pressure & Sugar Screening
Doctors (General Practice)
Contact: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908.810.1213 rubenluz@aol.com

MISSION **Soup Kitchen**

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark
Every 4th Saturday, Oct. 22 • **Singles Ministry**
Contacts: Manny/Arlene Mangalozo singles@bldnewark.com
Audie/Vulet Chong 732-356-9056

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place **every 4th Friday** at the Auditorium

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

John 6 Crossing #12

Oct. 21-23 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ

Crossing cost, application and more information are available on the web site BLDNewarkJohn6.weebly.com.
Contact: Ernest/Nellie Sun at bldnewarkjohn6@yahoo.com

Community Retreat

Oct. 29, 9-4pm • St. Mary's Auditorium

"How Big is Your God: A Day of Reflection on our Relationship with God, our deepest Self and Others."
Contact: Sam/Rory Olaso pastoral@bldnewark.com

Coaches Development Workshop

Nov. 5, 1-5pm • St. Mary's Room 205

For encounter and LSS sharers
Contact: Chito/Aileen Ciocon witness@bldnewark.com

Aspirants Retreat

Nov. 18-20 • St. Peter's Retreat House, Belleville

Contact King/Arlene Rigor teaching@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter #38

Nov. 18-20 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ

Fee: \$125/couple. Applications available at www.bldnewark.com.
Contacts: Ency/Baby Alberto engeng5149@verizon.net
Gary/Mil Camacho mila@bldnewark.com

2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro

Contact: Mosti/Ling Garcia - district@bldnewark.com

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	2,866	131,912
Fundraisers	Golf Outing	10,941

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

TEACHING CALENDAR

10/21	Mark 10 Teaching
10/22*	Christian Maturity Program I • LSS 1-35 Spiritual Warfare / Shepherds Training I • LSS 1-34 Basic Bible Seminar • LSS 1-37
10/28	Golden Years & Intercessory Formation Teaching

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Bible Class – Fridays, 7pm @ St. Mary's, Room 104
A verse by verse explanation of all the readings from the previous Sunday to next Sunday.

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 41

Bulletin Edition

October 21, 2011

NEWS

BLD Celebrates

“A Night To Remember”

“... *Where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in their midst...*” (Mt 18:20). Last Saturday night, Lord, You were in our midst, and we know that You enjoyed the dining and the dancing, as much as we did.

Saturday, October 15, 2011, BLD held its 19th Anniversary Dinner Dance – “A Night to Remember” at the VFW Hall in Manville NJ. The celebration was from 6:30PM thru 12:00AM. Planning and preparation for this event started a year ago, soon after the 2010 Dinner-Dance. It paid off. There was joy in everybody’s company. Many feet rejoiced in dancing, teamed up with hefty appetites and not to forget the JFK Medical Center- sponsored ‘sinful’ desserts. Pictures were also a plenty.

As a fundraiser, again the Good Lord has granted BLD a bountiful harvest – monies that BLD will put to good use, to support our poverty alleviation programs and the numerous efforts that enable us to “*put out into deep water and lower your nets a catch*” (Lk5:4). But it was more than a fundraiser for it was indeed a celebration. All thanks and praises to You Lord – for You made it a success – a night to remember for all.



Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!

COUNSELS

Loving God and Neighbor

THEME: We are fruitful servants when we love the Lord with all our hearts, soul, and mind, and our neighbors as ourselves.

WORD: Ex 22:20-26; Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51; 1 Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40

ORDER:

- “*You shall love the Lord, your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.*” (Mt 22:37)
- “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” (Mt 22:39)

REFLECTION:

When we reflect on the scripture readings for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary time, many of us can relate to the Lord’s direction in the first reading to “*not oppress or afflict a resident alien, for you were once aliens...*” (Ex 22:20) No matter whether we were born in a foreign country or whether we are the first or second generation in America, we have all experienced the isolation and loneliness that all foreigners experience once leaving their country of origin.

However, like the alien or foreigner, the Lord promises us that, “*If he cries out to me, I will listen; for I am compassionate.*” (Ex 22:26b) We can always depend on the compassion of our loving Father. No matter where you have been in the past, no matter where you are right now, we can rest on the Lord’s promise to be compassionate and receive His embrace of Love. Not only do we receive His compassion, we also receive His protection as the Psalmist tells us “*I have been delivered from my enemies.*” (Ps 18:4)

Like the Thessalonians in our second reading, we have become “imitators ... of the Lord” when we turn away

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“If he cries out to me, I will hear him; for I am compassionate”
(Ex 22:26b)

LIFE'S TREASURES

“Take care to guard against all greed for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions.”
(Lk 12:15)

The parable of the rich, fool man shows the whole basis of his security is his material wealth. For sure, God wants us to prosper, but Jesus admonishes us to ***“think of what is above, not what is on earth.”*** (Col 3:2), for ***“those who trust in his riches will fall ...”*** (Prov 11:28) Our spiritual wealth is in humility and forgiveness, generosity, love and faith in God. ***“Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?”*** (Mt 6:25) The nourishment of our souls is the ultimate goal; this will bring us closer to God and lead us to a righteous life.

Born naked, died naked. It is life’s truism that we cannot take our material possessions with us to the grave. Materialism does not give us peace and happiness, but rather misery and emptiness. Money may buy you happiness, in the short term, but in the end your life is as miserable as before you had all the money to buy it. Why? People starts to envy you, despise you and even steal from, or worse, even kill you. True happiness is found only in communion with God.

Recently, a well-known New Yorker was incarcerated for fraud. But his main sin was greed. As if imprisonment was not punishment enough, his son committed suicide, another son disowned him, and his wife abandoned him. He lost all the trappings of wealth and power – ended up penniless, shamed, and shunned by family and friends. Wealth can numb the thoughts of God. Money, per se, is not evil; it is the love of it that is the root of all evils. ***“Let your life be free from love of money, but be content with what you have...”*** (Heb 13:5)

Job trusted the Lord despite losing his health, his family and his possessions. God rewarded Job double what he lost! What about Solomon? He prayed for wisdom, not material wealth. That’s what God gave him. ***“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”*** (Mt 6:19-21)

Lay-up treasures in heaven by being generous and compassionate. Every soul helped gets saved, every word of praise and thanksgiving, every loving thoughts of God, every act of worship to Him, are your treasures in heaven. Heaven on earth is having our hearts in heaven, and heaven in our hearts.

Harvest Time

It is that time of the year when we all experience something new, different, and refreshing. Autumn is upon us and we now feel energizing cooler temperatures. School is back. The activities in our parishes have become busier, usually started off by the parish picnic, the resumption of the vigil hour, CCD classes, and the RCIA program, to name a few. The important implementation of the revised Mass Liturgy is happening. In our BLD community, we go about our second half of the year retreats and activities in preparation for the Thanksgiving feast and the celebration of our Savior’s birth at Christmas. Indeed, we are and will be experiencing changes that ultimately bring life.

In Luke 10:2, the Lord exhorted the seventy two disciples before He sent them ahead to the places He wanted to go: ***“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”*** As the Master of the harvest, our Lord continued to teach them the urgency and single mindedness of their mission to spread the good news of salvation, hence the need for them to detach themselves from worldly distractions and possessions. Our Lord taught them the need for change for the good. Just as the Lord had called the twelve and then the seventy two, He calls each one of us to work in His vineyard to help in the harvest here on earth, where much still has to be done. For us to be effective workers, we need to take heed of Christ’s own words in the gospel. How can we strip ourselves of worldliness? We need to deepen our faith through prayers, frequent reception of the sacraments and Mass attendance, reading and reflecting on the bible, and participation in our parish and community enrichment programs. The more we align ourselves to the person that Christ wants us to be, the more we become attuned to His mission for us. We need to develop and maintain the attitude of humility, live our lives in true witnessing of the love of Christ for all, and work in our assigned ministries with the fervor that the Holy Spirit empowers us with. Only then can we experience with joy the changes that are constantly happening to us as we immerse ourselves in Christ’s calling and focus on how to bring the abundant harvest to our Master’s storehouse.

Let us therefore go forth and heed His word and bring a bountiful harvest of saved souls and good men to God’s table.



Ministry Matters – Praise Ministry

Music is a powerful form of expression and it has always been an important part of Eucharistic celebrations, prayer services, worships, retreats, seminars, and other religious events. Not only does music communicate thoughts and ideas, it also conveys emotions and feelings. It has been said that, more often than not, a song is more easily recalled than a sermon or lecture, no matter how powerful or profound the monologue may have been.

The Holy Scripture is replete with verses on music and praise. Specifically, music is referenced in over 1150 verses in the bible. Because of the vital role played by music in religious services, churches have invariably designated choir directors to address their liturgical music requirements.

Being part of the larger church, BLD has its own Praise Ministry which takes care of its liturgical music. Praise Ministry is headed by a coordinating couple. Its constituents are covenanted members of the community who, according to the Covenant of Communion, are known to exhibit the gifts of prayer and exhortation, find joy in giving praise and worship to the Lord, and bear the fruit of the Spirit in his/her life. To be a member of the praise ministry or “praiser”, one should have a God-given talent for singing, playing appropriate musical instruments, supervising sound-enhancement systems or administering to the material needs of the ministry. Non-covenanted members may be accepted as trainees, apprentices or understudies if they have gone through the Life in the Spirit Seminar and have completed their Service and Intercessory Ministry immersion. The foundation verse for BLD’s praise ministry is Psalm 150:6 ***“Let everything that has breath give praise to the Lord! Hallelujah!”***

‘Excellence in Worship’ is what the Praise Ministry strives for in every worship, in collaboration with the prayer leaders. To attain this goal, every praiser should have a heart of a true worshipper and be committed to attend weekly practices and worships. Additionally, he/she should be available to serve at encounters, retreats, seminars, conferences, community meetings and other events, not just of BLD Newark but also in support of the other districts or DIPs if called upon. A true praiser’s commitment is embedded deep in his/her heart and he/she is ready to work in His vineyard at all times. Many praise ministry members have been assigned to other ministries, but most of them come back to praise as volunteers. Truly, once a praiser, always a praiser.

St. Augustine is said to have declared that singing praises is doubly praying. When we pray more, we are bound to be blessed more.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

from earthly idols to ***“serve the living and true God”*** (1 Thes 1:9b). We began this turning away from serving false idols after our “Baptism in the Holy Spirit” whether it was two weeks ago at the LSS #37 or many years ago. This encounter with the True and Living God initiated for us a “New Life in the Spirit” and a new “Springtime of Growth and Transformation” in our lives as shared at the LSS we attended. We began to understand more fully not only the love that the Lord has for us but began to experience, perhaps for the first time in our lives, the Father’s compassion and love for us.

It is through this experience that we are able to live out the words of Jesus in the Gospel reading from Matthew when He replies to the Pharisee’s question about which commandment in the law is the greatest and He replies ***“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment.”*** (Mt 22:37-38) But Jesus doesn’t just answer the Pharisee’s question but continues on to discuss that loving our neighbor as we love ourselves is a necessary part of loving God.

Thinking about Jesus’ words, I sometimes get stuck on His emphasis about that three letter word “all”. In my mind, I ask God a question, “Lord, You really do not mean “all” do you?” And His response to me always is “Son, with my grace **all** is possible; without it, it is impossible.” So then, loving God and my neighbor “with all my heart, with all of my soul, and with all of my mind” can and is possible only through the **grace** of God (2 Cor 12:9). Yes, not by my human effort, as I will tire quickly, but only by His Grace can I truly love the Lord, love the alien or stranger, love the widow, or love the orphan. It is only then with my “all in all” that I am able to forgive my neighbor. As I cry out to the Lord like my neighbor and ***“with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit”*** (1 Thes 1:6b), I, too, receive from the Lord the gift of compassion.

May we always be open to receive all the graces and love that the Lord has for us, for our families, for our neighbors, for our friends, and yes, even for our enemies as we come before our compassionate God. It is only when we give our all without reservation, without waiting for anything in return, can we sing like David: ***“I love you, Lord, my strength.”*** (Ps 18:2)

DIRECTIONS:

- It is more blessed to give than to receive. Give generously.
- You shall not wrong any widow or orphan.
- Be a model of Christ for all believers.

Litany of Humility

O Jesus, meek and humble of heart, Hear me.

*From the desire of being esteemed,
From the desire of being loved...
From the desire of being extolled ...
From the desire of being honored ...
From the desire of being praised ...
From the desire of being preferred to others...
From the desire of being consulted ...
From the desire of being approved ...*

Deliver me, Jesus

*From the fear of being humiliated ...
From the fear of being despised...
From the fear of suffering rebukes ...
From the fear of being calumniated ...
From the fear of being forgotten ...
From the fear of being ridiculed ...
From the fear of being wronged ...
From the fear of being suspected ...
That others may be loved more than I,
That, in the opinion of the world,
others may increase and I may decrease ...
That others may be chosen and I set aside ...
That others may be esteemed more than I ...
That others may be praised and I unnoticed ...
That others may be preferred to me in everything...

That others may become holier than I, provided that
I may become as holy as I should...*

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

Be a Living Word

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 KOMAPET

(Kotse Mo Alay Para sa Ekonomiya at Talento)
Cars for economic & skills development aide. Donate your cars & get a tax deductible receipt; free towing.
YTD collection: \$705 from 3 generous BLD donors.
Contact: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908.810.1213 rubenluz@aol.com

MISSION Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark
Every 4th Saturday, **Oct. 22 • Singles Ministry**
Contacts: Manny/Arlene Mangalozo singles@bldnewark.com
Audie/Vulet Chong 732-356-9056

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place **every 4th Friday** at the Auditorium

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community Retreat

Oct. 29, 9-4pm • St. Mary's Auditorium
Contact: Sam/Rory Olaso pastoral@bldnewark.com

Coaches Development Workshop

Nov. 5, 1-5pm • St. Mary's Room 205
For encounter and LSS sharers
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Aspirants Retreat

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Marriage Encounter #38

Nov. 18-20 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ
Fee: \$125/couple. Applications available at www.bldnewark.com.
Contacts: Ency/Baby Alberto engeng5149@verizon.net
Gary/Mil Camacho mla@bldnewark.com

2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro
Contact: Mosti/Ling Garcia - district@bldnewark.com

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,293	138,103
Fundraisers	Golf Outing	10,941
	Dinner Dance	18,211

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

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

TEACHING CALENDAR

10/21	Mark 10 Teaching
10/22*	Christian Maturity Program I • LSS 1-35 Spiritual Warfare / Shepherds Training I • LSS 1-34 Basic Bible Seminar • LSS 1-37
10/28	Golden Years & Intercessory Formation Teaching

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ Divine Mercy

May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Bible Class – Fridays, 7pm @ St. Mary's, Room 104
A verse by verse explanation of all the readings from the previous Sunday to next Sunday.

CN archives are available at www.bldnewark.net, click on *Covenant News*.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 42

Bulletin Edition

October 28, 2011

NEWS

John 6 Crossing #12 Finds The Lord! (by Dana De Castro)

We praise the LORD for a successful John6 Crossings Retreat #12. The thirteen candidates—Raphael Acero, Marrion Afante, Isabel Rose Agapito, Chiemezie Anyanwu, Matthew Biehl, Ken Cebedo, Joshua Mendoza, Elexa Nano, Rhystan Pangilinan, Dominick Salar, Gabriel Soler, Paul Vibar and Jason Yanto—spent October twenty-first, twenty-second, and twenty-third of the year 2011 at the Radisson Hotel in Carteret, New Jersey. The J6C12 class spent the weekend bonding, with their Crossings classmates, moderators, understudies, and class shepherds. Most importantly, J6C12 bonded and strengthened their relationship with GOD.

The J6C12 candidates were enlightened in many different levels of life. They were able to understand themselves on a personal level. The candidates were also able to learn how to pray and praise GOD in a new way. They found HIS love within themselves and felt the fire of the Holy Spirit burning in their hearts. They now understand the Word of GOD and are able to pass it along to others that they may meet along their life's journey.

Special thanks to all the titas, titos, auxies, and sponsors that came to support and help the candidates find peace, joy, and comfort in GOD's unending love. We are truly grateful for all the blessings we have received from HIM, and surely the candidates appreciate everything they have now a thousand times more, as well.



COUNSELS

Whoever Humbles Himself Will Be Exalted

THEME: We are fruitful servants when we humble ourselves.

WORD: Mal 1:14-2:2, 8-10; Ps 131:1, 2, 3;
1 Thes 2:7-9, 13; Mt 23:1-12

ORDER: Practice what we preach.

REFLECTION:

The first reading from Mal 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10, begins with God expressing His Divine love for Israel. But as we have heard, God's love was not being returned to Him. Love is meant to be given and received. Can love be love when it is self-centered? Certainly not!

God was angry with Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem, especially with the priests who had been offering defective animals rather than presenting the best of their animals as sacrifices to God, they offered the blind, the lame and the sick animals. The priests were told how they had fallen from the grace of the Lord God. They had also become sinful in their daily lives, walking away from the righteousness of the Lord. In their sinfulness, they had influenced others to turn to sin. By their acts, they had broken the agreement that God had made with them, He being their Father and they being His children. It is clear from this Reading that when someone's spiritual life deteriorates, his family life also deteriorates. Spirituality and family life cannot be separated. Next, the people were reminded that they have one Father, one God who created them all. Since they all shared the one God, they were called to be united as one in order to belong to the family of God. "And now you are living stones that are being used to build a spiritual house. You are also a group of holy priests, and with the help of Jesus Christ you will offer sacrifices that please God" (1 Pt 2:5)

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"Whoever humbles himself will be exalted." (Mt 23:12b)

DIE TO FLESH, LIVE BY THE SPIRIT

After his warning in Romans 7 against the wrong route to fulfillment of the objective of holiness expressed in Romans 6:22, Saint Paul points his addressees to the correct way. Through the redemptive work of Christ, Christians have been liberated from the terrible forces of sin and death. Holiness was impossible so long as the flesh (or our "old self"), that is, self-interested hostility toward God (Romans 8:7), frustrated the divine objectives expressed in the law. What is worse, sin used the law to break forth into all manner of lawlessness (Romans 8:8). All this is now changed. At the cross, God broke the power of sin and pronounced sentence on it (Romans 8:3). Christians still retain the flesh, but it is alien to their new being, which is life in the spirit, namely the new self, governed by the Holy Spirit. Under the direction of the Holy Spirit, Christians are able to fulfill the divine will that formerly found expression in the law (Romans 8:4). The same Spirit who enlivens Christians for holiness will also resurrect their bodies at the last day (Romans 8:11). Christian life is therefore the experience of a constant challenge to put to death the evil deeds of the body through life of the spirit (Romans 8:13). In Matthew 16:21-27, Jesus gives us three ways to Christian perfection:

1. The Purgative Way – Self-denial; Striving for holiness, we must be purged and purified in many ways. It is essential that we hate sin and avoid it at all cost by fighting temptation. Our sentiments, passions, memory and imagination must be placed under the rule of our faith, intellect and will. Beginning a prayer life requires effort, fight and constancy. By embracing the cross of the purification process we can advance in holiness.
2. The Illuminative Way – We take up His cross; achieve a certain measure of self-control over the force of our passions, avoiding any grave sins, and have deep convictions regarding the truths of our faith. Our present task is to progress in good, strengthening ourselves especially in charity. We seek to adorn ourselves with Christ's virtues and to make Christ the center of our thoughts, affections and actions.
3. The Unitive Way – follow Him; ready to be among the closest followers of Christ, the saints! We are detached from created things, and our primary focus is on the presence of the Creator who dwells in our hearts. Love of God becomes the driving force in our life and we can say with our Lord, "I always do what pleases him" (John 8:29). Deep union with God in prayer, never resisting grace, and perfect mastery over ourselves bring us to see crosses and difficulties with great joy.

The Narrow Gate

***"Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough."
(Lk 13:24)***

REFLECTING on the gospels of Luke and Matthew on the narrow gate, it reminds me of Beth Day's poem in which she admonishes us to try passing the three narrow gates of **Truth, Necessity and Kindness**, thus: *"If you are tempted to reveal a tale to you, someone has told about another, make it pass. Before you speak, three gates of gold. These narrow gates: First, 'Is it true?' Then, 'Is it needful?' In your mind give truthful, answers. And next, 'Is it kind?' If to reach you lips "at last it passes through, these gateway three, then you may tell the tale, nor fear what the result of speech may be."*

If passing the gateway three is difficult, can you imagine the Narrow Gate to heaven? *"The longest part of the journey is passing the gate."* So, how can we navigate the difficult path to life and reach the Narrow Gate? By adhering to the exhortations of Jesus to a life that promotes love: mercy, peace, righteousness, compassion. The Beatitudes set forth the behavior required to enter the Kingdom. It allows us to do the good works that God may be praised (Mt 5:14) The parable of the Kingdom of Heaven stresses the great effort required to enter it. ***"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the Kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven."*** (Mt 7:13) This, basically, answers the disciples' question to Jesus, ***"who then can be saved?"***(Mt 19:25)

In Matthew 7:13-14, he tells us that a wide gate and broad road lead to destruction. Easier to navigate, many enter it. The narrow gate and constricted road lead to a righteous life. What is the implication of the Narrow Gate? A lot. Jesus Himself is the gate. In John 10:9-10, Jesus says, ***"I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ... I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."*** One enters it only through Him, made possible by His gift of sacrificial death for our salvation. We must strive to be perfect by seeking Jesus and asking for forgiveness. Only then, it becomes easy to pass the Gate of the Lord. Metaphorically, a fat, righteous man will easily squeeze himself in the narrow gate; a slim, self-righteous man will hardly be able to squeeze himself in the same gate.

St. Jude

(by Bianca Salamat and Zach Larobis)

Jude is also translated as Judas or Judah in Greek and is a common name among the Jews at that time. St. Jude, also known as Thaddaeus, was traditionally interpreted as brother of St. James the Less, and a relative of Our Savior Jesus Christ. St. Jude was one of the 12 Apostles of Jesus. St. Jude is not the same person as Judas Iscariot, another disciple and who later betrayed Jesus.

Tradition holds that St. Jude was born into a Jewish family in Paneas, a town in Galilee later rebuilt by the Romans and renamed Caesarea Philippi. Ancient writers tell us that he preached the Gospel in Judea, Samaria, Idumaea, Syria, Mesopotamia, and Lybia. According to Eusebius, he returned to Jerusalem in the year 62, and assisted at the election of his brother, St. Simeon, as Bishop of Jerusalem. He is an author of an epistle (letter) to the Churches of the East, particularly the Jewish converts, directed against the heresies of the Simonians, Nicolaites, and Gnostics. This apostle is said to have suffered martyrdom in Armenia, which was then subject to Persia. The final conversion of the Armenian nation to Christianity did not take place until the third century of our era. St. Jude was the one who asked Jesus at the Last Supper why He would not manifest Himself to the whole world after His resurrection.

According to the Armenian tradition, Saint Jude suffered martyrdom about 65 AD in Beirut, in the Roman province of Syria, together with the apostle Simon the Zealot, with whom he is usually connected. Sometime after his death, Saint Jude's body was brought from Beirut to [Rome](#) and placed in a crypt in [St. Peter's Basilica](#) which is visited by many devotees.

Jude is invoked in desperate situations because his New Testament letter stresses that the faithful should persevere in the environment of harsh, difficult circumstances, just as their forefathers had done before them. One of his namesakes is St. Jude Children's Hospital which has helped many children with terminal illnesses. Therefore, he is the patron saint of "desperate cases", the Catholic Patron Saint of "lost causes", "The Miraculous Saint" and his feast day is October 28.

Saint Jude's attribute is a club. He is also often shown in icons with a flame around his head. This represents his presence at Pentecost, when he received the Holy Spirit with the other apostles. Another common attribute is Jude holding an image of Jesus Christ, in the image of Edessa. In some instances he may be shown with a scroll or a book (the Epistle of Jude) or holding a carpenter's rule.

COUNSELS (continued from page 1)

Each and every one of us, having become God's children through faith in Jesus and the Sacrament of Baptism, now belong to the common priesthood. Accordingly, we are called to share the love of God. We are called to become living sacrifices that are pleasing to the eyes of God. Our living sacrifice is our way of life in the imitation of Christ.

We heard how Saint Paul and his companions were committed to sharing the love of God in this Second Reading 1 Thess. 2:7-9, 13, although as apostles of Christ they had made demands upon the people, they had done so with gentleness as nursing mothers. Their demands were not worldly. They did not ask for money or personal property to satisfy their own personal needs. Their self-sacrificing love as Apostle and minister of the word was more than nursing mothers. The demands that they made upon the Thessalonians were spiritual demands. It was for their own personal spiritual benefit and growth.

At the end of this Second Reading, Paul gave thanks to God to the fact that when the Thessalonians received the Word of God from them, they did not take it as the word of men. Rather, they accepted it as it truly was, the Word of God Himself. Now, the Word that they had heard was at work in them.

In the Gospel Reading Mt. 23:1-12. Jesus was not attacking the Law but the scribes and the Pharisees whose teachings were not in harmony with their practice. They did not practice what they were preaching to the others.

Jesus had two complaints, the harshness in which the scribes explained the Law to the people and the conceit and hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees. When they explained the Law, the scribes would ignore the humane interpretation of it. While they commanded others to obey the Law without any deviation from it, they themselves were not doing it. Everything they did, it was to be seen.

As you can see, the scribes and the Pharisees were not committed to sharing the love of God. They applied self-love! What did self-love get them? It received criticism from Jesus who is the Word of God. For us Christians to be committed to sharing the love of God, we must do the opposite of what the scribes and the Pharisees were doing. We must be humble! We must serve others! We must not draw attention to our prayer lives in order to receive worldly praise.

And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS (continued from page 3)

who sees in secret will reward you." (Mt 6:5-6)

After listening to the readings, let us prayerfully reflect this week on how we have committed our lives to sharing the love of God. Is there room for improvement? Is there a lack of sharing the love of God? Let us ask ourselves how Jesus would judge our commitment to share God's love to others.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Do not be called "Master", you have but one master, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant.
2. Be gentle as a nursing mother cares for her children.
3. Show no partiality in your decision.
4. Be faithful to your covenant.

Mass Sample Changes

Current	Changes
Greeting Priest: <i>The Lord be with you.</i> People: <i>And also with you.</i>	Greeting Priest: <i>The Lord be with you.</i> People: <i>And with your spirit.</i>
Gloria All: <i>Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.</i>	Gloria All: <i>Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will.</i>
Nicene Creed All: <i>We believe...</i>	Nicene Creed All: <i>I believe...</i>
Sanctus All: <i>Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of power and might.</i>	Sanctus All: <i>Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts.</i>
Invitation to Communion Priest: <i>This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.</i> People: <i>Lord I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.</i>	Invitation to Communion Priest: <i>Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.</i> People: <i>Lord I am not worthy that you enter under my roof; but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.</i>

Add'l info: <http://old.usccb.org/romanmissal/samples-people.shtml>

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58- KOMAPET

(Kotse Mo Alay Para saEkonomiya at Talinto)

Cars for economic & skills development aide. Donate your cars & get a tax deductible receipt; free towing.

YTD collection: \$705 from 3 generous BLD donors.

Contact: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908.810.1213 rubenluz@aol.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community Retreat

Oct. 29, 9-6pm • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Sam/Rory Olaso pastoral@bldnewark.com

Coaches Development Workshop

Nov. 5, 1-5pm • St. Mary's Room 205

For encounter and LSS sharers

Contact: Chito/Aileen Ciocon witness@bldnewark.com

Aspirants Retreat

Nov. 18-20 • St. Peter's Retreat House, Belleville

Contact King/Arlene Rigor teaching@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter #38

Nov. 18-20 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ

Fee: \$125/couple. Applications available at www.bldnewark.com.

Contacts: Ency/Baby Alberto engeng5149@verizon.net

Gary/Mil Camacho mla@bldnewark.com

2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro

Contact: Mosti/Ling Garcia - district@bldnewark.com

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	2,433	140,536
Typhoon Donations	422	922
Fundraisers	Golf Outing	10,976
	Dinner Dance	21,714
	Total	32,690

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

Thank you for your continued support!

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

TEACHING CALENDAR

10/28	Golden Years & Intercessory Formation Teaching
11/04	Youth Teaching
11/05*	Understanding Corporate Worship • LSS 1-35 Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit • LSS 1-37 Apologetics • LSS 1-37
11/25	Mark 10, John 6, Golden Years & Intercessory Formation Teaching

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ Divine Mercy

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Bible Class – Fridays, 7pm @ St. Mary's, Room 104

A verse by verse explanation of all the readings from the previous Sunday to next Sunday.

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 43

Bulletin Edition

November 4, 2011

NEWS

BLD Adds New Teachers

Oct. 27, 2011 - The Executive Council of Servant Leaders (ECSL) with one heart and one mind, approved the accreditation of Formation Teachers recommended by BLD Newark's DCS and DSL for BLD Newark and its Districts in Process – BLD Charlotte and BLD Allentown.

The newly appointed teachers have complied with the requirements to teach the following Discipleship Formation Tracks: NCR, GIP, BBS, LSS Orientation and CMP 1 topics.

District Instructors:

BLD Newark

Vino Guiang

Vicky Rasalan

Gene Ymbong

Bing Ymbong

BLD Charlotte

Martin Syquia

Joanne Syquia

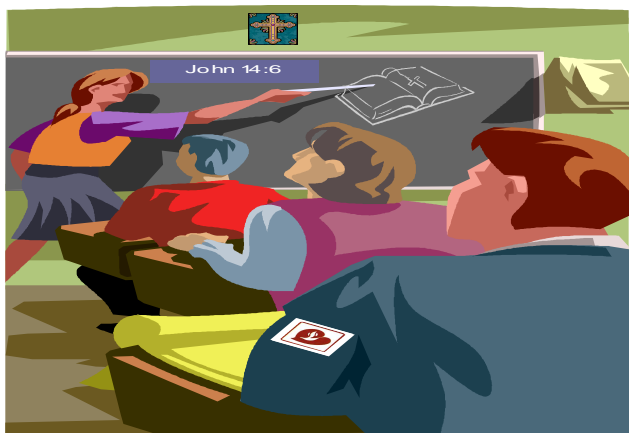
Dee Strickland

BLD Allentown

Tony Avisado

Linda Avisado

Frank Belarmino



The following are elevated as Community Instructors:

BLD Newark

Bong Encarnacion

Merle Encarnacion

Congratulations to all!

COUNSELS

Stay Awake

THEME: We stay awake and are vigilant for the Lord's second coming when we seek to know and follow God's will.

WORD: Wis 6:12-16; Ps 63:2, 3-8; 1 Thes 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13

ORDER: *"Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."* (Mt 25:13)

REFLECTION:

The Catholic Church has associated the end of the liturgical year with the month of November - a time to remember the dead and also a good time to examine how well we have done with our own lives. The order for this month is *"Stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."* (Mt 25:13) As Christ's disciples, we are exhorted to prepare, and to be vigilant for the second coming of the Lord.

The theme for the first week is: **We stay awake and are vigilant for the Lord's second coming when we seek to know and follow God's will.** This week's parable tells of two types of bridesmaids: the wise and the foolish. The foolish ones are excluded from the wedding feast and remain shut out in the dark. We may consider this an excessively severe punishment, but the parable is not about the last minute rush or dash to catch up, or as in the case of the foolish bridesmaids, a last minute effort to secure extra oil for their lamps but about how we view the invitation for us to take our place in the kingdom of God. Admission to the banquet of eternal life should not be taken for granted. Christ teaches us through this parable that the day of the Lord may come suddenly, like a thief in the night. And Wisdom 6:12-16, tells us that we should put first things first, making our...*Continued, page 3*



Promise of the Week

"We who are alive...shall always be with the Lord." (1 Thes 4:17)

For the Lord

Do not be afraid, as our Holy Father Blessed John Paul II was constantly telling us. We belong to the Lord. As we recall when we pray the Holy Rosary, by His life, death and resurrection, He has purchased for us the rewards of Eternal life. Yes, we are His - ***“For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.”*** (Romans 14:8)

Fear not; like St. John the Baptist, speak the truth: ***“John had said to Herod, ‘It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.’”*** (Mark 6:18) Nothing stopped him from speaking out even though it resulted in his death.

In the infancy of the Church, after Peter and John had cured the beggar, they were called in front of the Sanhedrin and ***“ordered ... not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.”*** (Acts 4:18) But in reply, they said: ***“... It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard”*** (Acts 4:19-20) They prayed and were filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak Jesus’ Word with boldness. Though they were flogged and humiliated, nothing could stop them. Instead, they were ***“... rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name.”*** (Acts 5:41)

Now it is our turn to speak out for the Lord, stand for what is right, respect life, and stand for family as God has created the family to be. Let us know our faith. Let us know the true teaching of the Church. We belong to Jesus; He is our King of kings, Lord of lords. So, since we are ***“heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ”*** (Romans 8:17) - and He has given us a spirit of courage, not cowardice, let us claim our royalty on earth as it will be in Heaven.

“Finally, draw your strength from the Lord ... Put on the armor of God ...” (Ephesians 6:10-11). If we surrender to Him, He will transform us. By His grace alone, we will be able to carry out His mission. Do not miss out on the peace, the joy, the true happiness that comes by doing His will regardless of the circumstances. So let us go, live out, and proclaim His Word!

Blessed Are We

When I first learned about the Beatitudes, I remember being confused. Partly because I was a young child, but also because I found it odd that Jesus would call those such as the mourning and the persecuted “blessed.” By the world’s standards, these people whom Jesus calls “blessed” are far from it. One might even call them cursed. They are the states of the human condition that many would try their best to avoid at all costs. There are those who stay away from love and put up walls just to avoid mourning and heartbreak over another. The world teaches to “mind our own business” rather than be those blessed peacemakers. Even for a good cause, not many would risk their good names and be insulted. But in Matthew 5:1-12a, Jesus reminds us that we are called to live contrary to what the world says.

As I grow older and, by God’s grace, grow more in understanding of His words I am less confused. Although I know God is always present, I think about the times I felt closest to Him. I think of the times I truly felt His hand upon my heart and my life. I realize that those intimate moments I shared with the Lord were those moments of mourning and when I felt the world had turned its back on me. He truly comforted me and lifted me. Through Him I am able to do what I once thought was impossible and joyfully accept whatever comes my way. How great is our God that He can turn the worst times of our lives into such victory!

In this way, I now have a better understanding of why Jesus had called them “blessed”. Because of Him, we are all included in those who are “blessed” as no one can escape the pain and suffering that comes from living in this imperfect world. Despite it being contrary to how the world expects us to be, let us welcome our temporary pains and live the words Jesus shares with us with a new found understanding and appreciation. My “blessed” brothers and sisters in Christ let us always find joy through Him in our daily sufferings. “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

A FIVE-SECOND REFLECTION

Someday, we all will have to apply for a job in heaven... What’s on your resume today?



COUNSELS (from page 1)

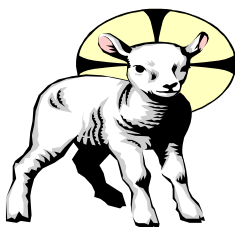
first priority the pursuit of what matters the most.

In this world of uncertainties only one thing is certain – death. We do not know the day or the hour of this appointment that we cannot cancel. Hence we focus on what is important in our life. If we live with no thought about what direction our life is taking, death may catch us unaware with no oil for our spiritual lamp. Are we prepared for the Master's return? In November, as we advert to death and dying, may we come to see that every day is grace – the more time to know Jesus more fully. And when the Lord comes, may our lamps be burning brightly to illuminate Christ, the Bridegroom, and we have sufficient oil to keep the flame burning all the time.

The second week gives us another sobering parable, that of the talents and how three individuals deal with them. This week's theme is: **"We stay awake and are vigilant for the Lord's second coming when we make good use of the gifts and talents given us for the glory of God."** This parable is about judgment and accountability. There is a side to us which identifies with the insecurity of the man who is severely punished for his laziness in not wisely using God's gifts. The Gospel is a forthright reminder that the gifts of God are not ours to dispense with as we please. Neither does it suffice to hide them away, leave them unused or allow them to wither. As Christians, we are stewards of whatever gifts we are given, and we are expected to make full use of them for the glory of God, perhaps through the BLD mission. This is a call to be energetic and active in living the Gospel.

The first reading from the book of Proverbs extols the gifts of the virtuous wife, not in spectacular deeds but in small, yet meaningful actions like caring for a spouse, managing a home and keeping a family together. It is in making the best use of the 3 T's (Time, Talent & Treasure) that we can serve God completely and diligently. When shared with others, these 3 T's are the way to offer back to the Father what He has given us. Jesus teaches us to live in a fruitful manner because each of us is accountable to God as stewards of His gifts. We pray for the grace to choose well and prepare well for the day we know will inevitably come to us all.

The last week of the month, we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, the Good Shepherd of all the earth. The feast brings the Church's year to a close, and with it comes the reminder that the cycle of our own lives here on earth will also reach its completion. The end of the year is review time and gives us the opportunity to take stock of our lives as individuals and as members of God's community. This week's parable of judging the sheep and goats takes on exceptional

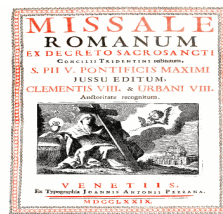


...Continued, page 4

Fr. Paul Speaks

The New Translation

Beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27th, the Mass orations and Eucharistic prayers which were newly translated, will be put into use. We have been used to a more colloquial style in our formal liturgical prayer form up to this point, since the English translation from the Latin language. I personally celebrated Mass in Latin after my Ordination for over thirteen years. This Latin form can still be used as needed, and is now called the "extraordinary rite". The reality is that most will prefer to worship in a language they are familiar with. However, another surprise is the continuing popularity of this "extraordinary form". Although relatively few, there are demands for the Latin Mass. It seems that even those who never experienced Mass in Latin as I did, are looking for a more reverent and quiet style of worship.



The new translation will be more formal, reverent, and respectful. The criticism of the previous translation is that it is too chummy, lacking reverence and almost demanding of God. The new translation will make us more aware of the transcendence of God, and our need for a sense of the sacred. The criticism of the translation after the Vatican II council was that the English translation was done hastily, and followed the principle of "dynamic equivalence", which allowed a very free translation and simplification of the Latin text. The end result has been a deviation from the original text, and almost a new translation. It has been criticized as being too banal, too superficial, and missing the fine nuances that appear in the Latin text. The new translation was now required to follow the document, "Liturgicam Authenticam", requiring a more literal translation from the Latin. Some examples you will notice will be in the penitential rite, repeating "through my fault" three times; "I believe" instead of "We believe"; "And with your spirit" instead of "Also with you"; "I am not worthy to have you enter my roof", a quote from Scripture; "From the rising of the sun to its setting", instead of "From East to West", etc. One of the controverted translations is the phrase said after the consecration, "for many" instead of "for all". Some felt that the phrase excluded part of the human race. This, however, is not the case. The Latin reads "pro multis" which includes us all.

The biggest challenge will be for priests, reciting the Eucharistic prayers. Over the years we almost memorize them. Now we have to read them. Anything new can be daunting, but the new translation can give us a deeper appreciation of the mysteries of our Christian faith. After all liturgy is a celebration of what we believe.



COUNSELS (from page 3)

importance as a metaphor for the final judgement and presents us with choice of being for or against Christ. There is no in between. God is going to judge us on the works of mercy we perform in response to the poor. Our theme for this week is **"We stay awake and are vigilant for the Lord's second coming when we respond to the needs of the poor."**

One thing is certain; there will be no excuses on the last day. *Whatever you do to the least of these, you are doing to me, what you failed to do for them, you failed to do for me.* These words are both disturbing and comforting because they give us proof of how much we love the Lord.

As the world around us is placed into our hands in trust and stewardship, Christianity lays the burden on us, as in Matthew 25:35-36 **"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me."**

Aside from helping provide such basic necessities as those mentioned above, we, in the Community, are challenged to do even small intangible acts of mercy, including giving words of encouragement, acknowledgement and recognition to the deserving; smiling and greeting the poor to convey to them a sense of warmth and acceptance and to make them feel valued. Christ, our King and Good Shepherd will become real when we reach out and show our concern for the welfare and dignity of the least of our brethren. Let your heart be your guide in sharing of your time, talents and treasures with those less fortunate. When all is said and done, what really matters is your answer to the question: "Have I done enough? Have I been Christ to others?" The answer will tell you the truth about yourself, the depth of your faith, and your eternal destiny.

The month of November is a good time to reflect upon our end, not as gloomy preoccupation with death, but an appreciation of life with a healthy dose of Christian realism. It is also an opportune time to see the areas of possible change and improvement, and the missed chances and opportunities. We have to take action now, working with God's grace for the establishment of His kingdom. This month leads us to Advent - a time to prepare for the coming of Christ.

Directions:

1. Be in the state of grace at all times by regularly going to confession and receiving Holy Communion in anticipation of the Lord's coming.
2. Meditate on God's Word and do acts of mercy.



Please notify the Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Coaches Development Workshop

Nov. 5, 1-5pm • St. Mary's Room 205

For encounter and LSS sharers

Contact: Chito/Aileen Ciocon witness@bldnewark.com

Singles Encounter 27

Nov 11-13 • Graymoor Spiritual Center, Garrison, NY

Contact: B/Z Cruz boyetzita_cruz@yahoo.com

Aspirants Retreat

Nov. 18-20 • St. Peter's Retreat House, Belleville

Contact King/Arlene Rigor teaching@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter #38

Nov. 18-20 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ

Fee: \$125/couple. Applications available at www.bldnewark.com.

Contacts: Ency/Baby Alberto engeng5149@verizon.net

Gary/Mil Camacho mila@bldnewark.com

2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro

Contact: Mosti/Ling Garcia - district@bldnewark.com

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,978	144,514
Typhoon Donations	417	1,339
Fundraisers	Golf Outing	10,976
	Dinner Dance	22,364
	Total	33,340

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

Thank you for your continued support!

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www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

TEACHING CALENDAR

11/04 **Youth Teaching**

11/05* Understanding Corporate Worship •

LSS 1-35

Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit • **LSS 1-37**

Apologetics • **LSS 1-37**

11/25 **Mark 10, John 6, Golden Years & Intercessory Formation Teaching**

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ Divine Mercy

*Make the Covenant News
part of your Covenant Life*

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Bible Class – Fridays, 7pm @ St. Mary's, Room 104

A verse by verse explanation of all the readings from the previous Sunday to next Sunday.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 44

Bulletin Edition

November 11, 2011

Heightened Security Measures at Divine Mercy Parish

On Friday, November 4, 12011, a notice was received by the Community through the Secretariat Ministry to all Ministry Coordinators and Class Shepherds (i.e., DLC), urging everyone to be vigilant, and extra cautious because of three incidences of break-in and vandalism in Divine Mercy buildings during the past 2 weeks. A Patrol Squad was also operationalized by the Pastoral Ministry; Formation Apostolate volunteers manned the posts last Friday. Each Apostolate will take turns in ensuring the safety of our members, most especially our children.

Below are few safety measures we can try to follow:

1. Wear our BLD ID at every BLD event.
2. Never leave any building entrances open unattended. Latecomers for meetings or events should call one of the attendees to open the door for them as soon as they arrive or are already at the door. If you see an unlocked door/opened window, please close it.
3. Never leave any windows open unattended.
4. Make sure BLD Office and Library are locked before leaving.
5. Make sure our cars are locked all the time. Keep valuable items (example: GPS) out of sight. However, please be aware that almost any worthless personal item that's visible from the outside, even an empty shopping bag could be seen as a valuable or a carrier of valuables.
6. If we see suspicious people loitering around, we should ask them why they are there. If they do have any business being there, ask them to leave, and call us immediately at 201-841-5472. We will call Father Robert. **Children should not approach them, instead, report it to any adult members of the community who are present.**
7. Tell our children to stay inside the building at all times and do not hang out outside the building especially when there are no adult members around.
8. Do not walk alone outside the building especially at night and in dark areas of the vicinity.
9. We must all try to vacate the building every Friday after the worship before 12 am Saturday.

"Most importantly, we need to pray for everyone's safety all the time. Let us be strong and courageous. Let us not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD our God goes with us; he will never leave us nor forsake us." (Dt 31:6)

COUNSELS

Eternal Fruitfulness

THEME: We stay awake and are vigilant for the Lord's second coming when we make good use of the gifts and talents given us for the glory of God.

WORD: Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Ps 128:1-5; 1 Thes 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30

ORDER: *"Let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober."* (1 Thes 5:6)

REFLECTION:

The readings this Sunday remind us of the importance of living each day to the fullest, striving to discover, develop, make good use of the gifts and talents in complete correspondence to the daily gift of grace we receive. This will prepare us to face the inevitable but unpredictable day of reckoning when the Master and Lord Jesus Christ comes back to earth at the end of time.

St. Thomas Aquinas once wrote, "Grace builds on nature". And so whatever innate and acquired character traits and exposures we have from birth until we grow up and pass through various stages in life, are part of God's plan so that we may be useful and fruitful in every way to serve Him.

The servants in this Sunday's Gospel were entrusted talents of different amounts, but the rewards were not based on how much they were given, but on what they did with what they were given. While the first two servants in the parable were equally praised for the profits they acquired, the third servant, on the other hand, (*cont. on p. 3*)

Promise of the Week

"Blessed are you who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; happy shall you be, and favored."

(Ps 128:1 - 2)

Will We Find Faith On Earth?

“When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” (Lk 18:8) In the parable of the widow and the unjust judge, Jesus contrasts appealing to an unjust judge with making supplication to God who is both merciful and just. God is not “worn out” by our prayers; rather, He seeks to draw all people to Himself through Jesus (Jn 17, 2 Cor 5:15-21). Paul tells us not to worry, but to make our supplication to God with thanksgiving (Phil 4:6). Thus, we must “pray always” and never “lose heart” (Lk 18:1).

But will there be faith? In Luke, Jesus teaches that the one who prays humbly is the one with true faith (Lk 18:9-14). Children have true faith, and the kingdom of God belongs to them (Lk 18:15-17). Those who leave everything to follow Jesus have true faith (Lk 18:18-30). In Acts, even the Gentiles will come to have faith. (Acts 10:45, 11:1-18).

What ought this faith look like? That faith must be childlike, which requires pure trust and hope in God as our Father. Like a child eager to greet one’s parents, our faith must be filled with anticipation, longing, and trust. We must be filled with wonder and awe at the greatness of God. Today, we must learn to persevere against the push to conform to the ways of this world in order to maintain a pure, childlike faith. Parents and children have to support each other in a culture that is materialistic, hedonistic, and individualistic. By our endurance, we will gain our souls (Lk 21:19).

A pure faith is total; it requires discipleship. Jesus told the rich ruler that he must sell everything he owns and follow Jesus. The Twelve left everything to follow Jesus; we must do likewise (Lk 18:28). A total faith requires humility: we must pray with the honesty of that tax collector (and the tenacity of the widow): ***“God, be merciful to me, a sinner!”*** (Lk 18:13) Discipleship demands that we learn to share in God’s nature through the Sacraments and upright conduct (2 Pt 1:3-11), and that we evangelize under the aegis of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). We must always be ready to give an account for our hope (1 Pt 3:15). Thus, a total faith affects every part of our being: our deeds, thoughts and aspirations.

When Jesus returns, will He find faith on earth? Yes, for this faith will always be found among those who are humble, childlike, and totally committed. Our mission, under the power of the Holy Spirit, is to be witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). If we remain true to this mission, the Lord will find faith when He returns.

The Kingdom of GOD is among US

The Pharisees asked Jesus when the kingdom of God was coming. Although they were of the privilege class among the Jews they were also clamoring for the glory and power that they used to enjoy during the reign of David their king. For many centuries they have been subjugated by different nations and the present one the Romans are no better than the Assyrians or the Greeks. Their concept of the kingdom has not changed – they were looking for a strong man to lead them, defeat their occupiers and restore them to their previous privileged status as a people and as a nation.

Jesus said the kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed or could be pointed out to them but the kingdom of God was already in their midst. Disappointed for not getting what they wanted they later turned against the Lord and crucified him.

What Jesus said then is true today, the kingdom of God is among us but because of the culture and environment of our times, we are like the first century Jews we find it difficult to see. The signs seem to tell us that the kingdom is disappearing in our midst. We see the desecration of Christian values by the liberal judges rendering their decisions to pave the way for legal abortions, homosexual unions, defending causes that drive away God from this world. Sadly some Catholic and Christian politicians are supporting or sponsoring laws that are not for the common good but their deep pocketed lobbyist will provide funds for their re-election.

The easy thing to do is to just stay on the sidelines and hope things will turn around – but we will just delude ourselves because we know it will get even worse if we do not take a stand to revive the kingdom in our midst. We must render obedience to the teachings and directives we are getting from of Holy Father, the Vicar of Christ, to our bishops and priest – to become what the Lord wants us to be – a people set apart – a chosen race, a royal priesthood and a holy people of God.

Our new Vision and Mission exhorts all of our communities to stand at the forefront in this battle between the culture of death and the culture of life. We as disciples must do our utmost to bring back the kingdom of God among us, in our families, communities and the entire world.

COUNSELS *(from page 1)*

failed to properly steward the talents given him because he feared the master's anger if he misused the talents. He was reprimanded and thrown into the darkness outside, presumably hell.

God has equipped us to fulfill the purpose for which He has called us, be it in pastoral life, family life or business. ***"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them."*** (Eph.2:10) Each of us has an arena of influence, whether large or small, and a specific ministry that the Lord has placed in our care. ***"Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God."*** (1 Cor 4:1)

Regardless of what we have been given, stewardship is tested by the same standard which is **faithfulness**. It is not the size of our ministry that counts, but what we do with what we have been entrusted. Aside from the initial gift of existence, as God's children, we have been entrusted with other gifts and talents, each according to one's abilities; we call these our own, but they are not really ours, but God's. We have no possessions, and we do not even own ourselves. And because God is our master who owns everything that we have, we are **responsible** to manage His affairs and possessions.

God expects us not just to conserve these things but to nurture and grow them so that He will be pleased when we have prospered them until we bear fruit by being beneficial to others, otherwise we could be cut down as the fig tree in Luke 13:7 because we only exhaust the soil we are in by being useless. But when we cultivate and fertilize the same soil, we become fruitful giving glory to our Creator. It is in the fear of the Lord that the promise tonight in Ps 128:1-2 about being happy and favored is fulfilled for we will truly be happy as we taste the fruit of our handiwork, as we use our God-given talents and treasures to multiply and be able share them with others.

In the Last Supper discourse (Jn 15) Jesus speaks of the disciples as bearing much fruit. In the Parable of the Sower He speaks of grain that bears fruit 30, 60, 100 fold. Whatever ministry or capacity in the community we are involved in be it economic, parental, apostolic, the goal should be to develop, increase, and grow what God has given us, for His honor and glory.

Our ORDER based on this Sunday's readings states: ***"Let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober."*** (1 Thes 5:6) Work is a God-ordained means of providing for our physical needs and those of others. God expects us to work hard, but not to overwork. As servants of Christ, we should not get so wrapped up in our work that we lose sight of our highest priority to ***"seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."*** (Mt 6:33) *(cont. on p. 4)*

SHEPHERD'S VOICE

HOW DO WE BUILD THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

In the Parable of the Talents, the man who went on a long trip was Jesus who ascended into heaven. He will return at the end of the time. The servants are you and me. The talents refer to money - a lot of money.

A talent is a Greek silver coin worth 6,000 Drachmas. A Drachma is a day's wage during that time. Jesus, in His wisdom chose the example of money not only to be better understood but also to get the undivided attention of the listeners. Money talks even during those times. Furthermore, His reference to talent will continue to be relevant till the end of time.

Now, we know that in building His Church, in being instruments of salvation, in following His teachings and spreading His love; Jesus is more interested in using our talents. However, the concept of talent is elusive especially when we apply it to ourselves. We think of talent as those what celebrities, athletes, performers, CEO's and perhaps rich people have. And since we have a tendency to think they are special, we always think we have less or do not have any talent and this is probably the situation the last servant had or what most of us find ourselves in.

We are unsure of our talent; therefore, we are afraid to try and do not want to get embarrassed. Did the apostles know their talents when Jesus chose them? No. Most of them were fishermen and yet they were able to spread the Gospel and continue the work of Jesus Christ. They had faith and the rest was up to the Holy Spirit. God did not create all of us the same. Each one has different capabilities. Some can do big things and some can do small things.

However, each and everyone are important to complete the work of God. We are like building blocks of the Church with Jesus Christ as our cornerstone and foundation. Jesus is like a bonfire. If we are close, we will feel the heat and see in His light. If we are far, we will no longer feel the heat and be subject to the danger of darkness and animals.

We must always be connected to Him so that the Holy Spirit will always flow freely to us. Then, when He comes back, we will not be afraid to answer Him as to what we did with our talents for we have served Him with our utmost abilities.

COUNSELS (from page 3)

As faithful stewards of God in the vineyard, we should have the courage to take bold but discerned initiatives, whatever area of influence we are in, to be creative even entrepreneurial, to express our gratitude to God for all that He has given us by making it grow and prosper to benefit not only ourselves but others as well. A true disciple of Christ who strives in a Christian sense is always ready to render account. The day of the Lord's coming cannot take him "by surprise like a thief." And when he is found worthy, God will grant him an incalculable, eternal fruitfulness.

Directions:

1. Actively participate in the life and mission of the Church, in accord with our God-given gifts.
2. Be good stewards of the gifts and talents received from God.

*Make the Covenant News
part of your Covenant Life*

YOUTH MINISTRY PRAISE ENCOUNTER

On November 5, 2011, BLD Youth Ministry held its annual Praise Encounter. The encounter was held at the Divine Mercy Parish from 9am to 5pm and was facilitated by Joreen Baquilod.

The DYCs of Evangelization and Formation, Erika Danielle Flores and Olivia-Anne Felibrico, assisted to oversee the event which ran smoothly. The objective of the Praise Encounter was to train future members who wish to join the Youth Praise Ministry.

Training was two parts; it included teachings on praise etiquette, responsibilities, and ideals that all explained how Praise works. Following the teachings were musical instruction with singers and instrumentalists, familiarizing new members with songs of praise and group dynamics with the help of the Youth Ministry's Praise Coordinators Jocef Baquilod, James Santiago, Ira "Salami" Aglibut and Kristine Villanueva.

Candidates of this event were Christian Ikalina, Joseph Daguio, Faith Pangilinan, Wilfred Estiler, Meldrick Umahon, Kyle Abinales, Darren Lopez, David Alba, Kevin Larobis, Sean Olaso, Adrian Loreto, Kipsy Quevada, James Abes, Allyson Dia, Kaitlyn McSpedon, Rita Yglesias, Grace Abes, and James Calingo.

Please notify the Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Aspirants Retreat

Nov. 18-20 • St. Peter's Retreat House, Belleville
Contact King/Arlene Rigor teaching@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter #38

Nov. 18-20 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ
Fee: \$125/couple. Applications available at www.bldnewark.com.
Contacts: Ency/Baby Alberto engeng5149@verizon.net
Gary/Mil Camacho mila@bldnewark.com

2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro
Contact: Mosti/Ling Garcia - district@bldnewark.com

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	2,638	147,152
Fundraisers (Golf & Dinner Dance)		33,340
Typhoon Donations		1,339

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

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

TEACHING CALENDAR

11/25 **Mark 10, John 6, Golden Years & Intercessory Formation Teaching**

12/03 **Contemplative Prayer** – Community Teaching by Fr. Paul and Deacon Serge

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ Divine Mercy

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58

In Need of Wellness Program Volunteers

Nurses for Blood Pressure & Sugar Screening
Doctors (General Practice)

Contact: R/L Amarante 908-265-2157 rubenluz@aol.com

ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check

Every 2nd Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055
Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

Nov. 12 • Solo Parents • Contacts: Angie Valeroso
valerosoangelita@yahoo.com

Audie/Vulet Chong institutional@bldnewark.com

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Bible Class – Fridays, 7pm @ St. Mary's, Room 104

A verse by verse explanation of all the readings from the previous Sunday to next Sunday.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 45

Bulletin Edition

November 18, 2011

Sing praise to the Lord and welcome SE 27

“Sing to him, sing his praise, proclaim all his wondrous deeds. Glory in his holy name; rejoice, O hearts that seek the LORD!” (Psalm 105:2-3)

With gentleness and compassion, our Lord called twenty eight unique and wonderful people closer to Him, that they may fully know His Love and mercy. On the weekend of November 11-13, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our Singles Ministry gathered and formed the Singles Encounter #27. The love of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit touched the hearts of the newly empowered singles.

God manifested His power and glory in the servant hearts of our Singles’ Facilitators, Auxies, Praise, Sponsoring Class, and especially in Father Paul Lehman and Father Dave Sison, who joyfully accomplished the numerous tasks and duties of the encounter.

The SE #27 graduates, with renewed faith in God, realized His presence in their own selves, their families and friends. Through the testimonies of the facilitators, the beautiful songs of praise, the wholehearted prayers and support of everyone, the graduates were inspired, and opened their hearts, ears and eyes to Jesus. This Singles Encounter was a weekend of spiritual upliftment, joy and peace etched in graduates’ lives, never to be forgotten.

Let us pray, encourage and continue to make a difference in the lives of God’s children in SE 27 listed below:

Anthoni Awuviri, Edward Ahearn, Christian Banoan, Joseph Bautista, Marc Brilliantes, Zyril Carilo, Josefa Corpuz, Mario Dabu Jr., Joseph De Guzman, Wesley Falcao, John Francisco, Kevin Gongob, Veejay Gorospe, Mel Ibarra, Faith Ikalina, Ruby Jao, Nikki Jose, Carlo Loreto, Johnathan Luna, Neil Martin, Karyll Magnaye, Patricia McKee, Roman Nolasco, Dustin Ramos, Kristen Reale, Kelly Terranova, Maverick Umahon, Jeremy Viruet

Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!

COUNSELS

God’s Kingdom

THEME: We stay awake and are vigilant for the Lord’s second coming when we respond to the needs of the poor.

WORD: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; Ps 23:1-3, 5-6; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46

ORDER: *“Feed the hungry, give a drink to the thirsty, care for the ill or the imprisoned; clothe the naked.” (Mt 25:35-36 pp)*

REFLECTION:

GOD’S PROMISE

The early Israelites, fed up with the corruption of the sons of Samuel as appointed judges, asked Samuel to appoint a king over them, such as the practice of their neighboring nations. God was so offended by this, and said *“Listen to whatever the people say. You are not the one they are rejecting. They are rejecting me as their king.” (1 Sam 8:7)*

From King Saul, the reign of kings continued until such time that the Israelites were taken into captivity. During this period of suffering, they never gave up hope of God’s promise to give them a King, who would rule over them for eternity. The Lord reiterates this promise in the first reading. He Himself would come to Shepherd His sheep, to seek, gather, rescue, feed and tend to their wounds. How great God’s love is for His people!

GOD’S KINGDOM

Our LORD Jesus preached that the Kingdom of God was at hand (Mt 4:17), and that His Kingdom was not of this world (Jn 18:36). *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” (Mt 25:34)

SALVATION IS FOR ALL

"Today, salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham." (Lk 19:9)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "Since Christ died for all, and since all men are in fact called to one and the same destiny, which is divine, we must hold that the Holy Spirit offers to all the possibility of being made partakers, in a way known to God, of the Paschal mystery. Every man who is ignorant of the Gospel of Christ and of His Church, but seeks the truth and does the will of God in accordance with his understanding of it, can be saved. It may be supposed that such persons would have *desired Baptism explicitly* if they had known its necessity." (CCC #1260). This paragraph of the Catechism addresses three issues:

First, "Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or His Church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart, and, moved by grace, try in their actions to do His will as they know it through the dictates of their conscience - those too may achieve eternal salvation." (CCC #847)

Second, if there exists today, someone who has not been called and touched by the grace of God during his entire life, but had he known of the necessity of the Sacrament of Baptism for his salvation, he would have desired it. In all fairness, no one can disagree with this statement, if such a case does exist.

Third, since Christ died for all, "we must hold that the Holy Spirit offers to all the possibility of being made partakers, in a way known to God, of the Paschal mystery."

Today, God speaks to us about His impartiality. He does not discriminate; He calls everybody and the Holy Spirit offers to all the possibility of being made partakers of the Paschal mystery. No one has been neglected by God as everyone has received the opportunity to be guided towards salvation in "the way, the truth and the life." (John 14:6)

As Catholics, we believe that the human race fell from a supernatural state of life-making union with God devoid of spiritual life. The fall of Adam and Eve did not totally corrupt our nature; it merely wounded it and severed our fellowship with God. We cannot restore, in ourselves, the sanctifying grace which we lost in The Fall. God alone can restore that divine gift. God restored it in Jesus Christ, by whose death we have all been saved.

God is a God of mercy and made salvation available to all!

Sacrificing with Dignity

"The Lord in his holy knowledge knows full well that, although I could have escaped death, I am not only enduring terrible pain in my body from the scourging, but also suffering it with joy in my soul because of my devotion to Him." (2 Mc 6:30)

The Lord knows full well the ecstasy I felt after our marriage encounter. For the first time in my life, love radiated within me as reflected in my changed relationship with my husband and my family. But the burning desire to know God and to love him more lasted a mere 3 years after joining BLD. Trials and sufferings tested my faith.

Out of a concern to save our Catholic hospital and its chapel from closing, I sought the help of a priest and others in the area. The response? A can't-do-anything attitude toward the poor, the sick, the non-immigrant, and even toward our faith. In this bleak atmosphere, I "saw" Jesus on the cross, deeply hurt by the rejection of His own people and the desertion of His friends. As painful as it was, I saw HOPE.

I moved on and thanked the Lord for my new-found job. But less than a year into my job, new trials came to my life: my sister in the Philippines was seriously ill (she died 6 months later); here at work, the hospital initiated long suspensions without pay and outsourced our department resulting in lay-offs. Fear and financial worries seized me. By God's providence, I found another job suited to my experience and time: a night shift. This enabled my husband and me to plan for our retirement.

Praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for giving me a caring husband on whose shoulder I leaned during the painful ordeal I went through. Two months to the day after my job orientation, I got the bad news of my husband's hospitalization for a heart attack. My nursing training and experience did not prepare me to hear the familiar words of heart attack, and to see the machines and monitors attached to his body. We prayed; but God, in His wisdom, took him from us.

The pain so numbed me that I could not even cry. I simply offered my sufferings and my husband to the Lord. As I live my new life now, I still ask the Lord why all these trials and why did He take away my husband, my consoler, and my joy? But the more I ask each day, the more I learn to lean closely on Jesus, love Him more, and share in the dignity of His suffering.

Pastoral care is the expression of our response to God's covenant love by nurturing and caring for one another, thus bringing to full maturity in Christ those whom God has entrusted to our Community. All members of the community carry out this mission by participating in Word Sharing Circles, keeping shepherding relationships active, interceding, and uplifting one another through prayers and show of care and support.

One of the ways the Pastoral Ministry supports the Pastoral Care program of the community is by establishing the Prayer Counseling Ministry. It is a Christ-centered ministry of inner healing. It seeks to provide a Holy Spirit directed atmosphere where individuals can readily identify negative patterns of response in their life, experience freedom from practiced and destructive ways of thinking, and come to the full realization of who they were created to be in Christ.

The pastoral staff and prayer counselors work together as a team to provide the highest level of compassionate care. Prayer Counselors are trained to listen to people's relational issues such as unforgiveness, hurts, and judgments and they use prayer and scripture to welcome God's presence into the healing process.

The Pastoral Ministry, together with Prayer Counseling teachers, conducts Prayer Counseling Seminars. The seminar offers participants the opportunity to experience personal healing through small group ministry, which provides a venue for building relationships, learning and understanding prayer healing, and applying the scriptural elements of healing. The Pastoral Ministry also conducts refresher video training and practicum to enhance the knowledge of counselors and then apply it in their office.

The Pastoral Ministry organizes the Spring and Fall Community retreats which are generally open to all members of community, their families and friends. The Jeremiah 17 team coordinates and supports small group pray-over for sick BLD members and relatives, which may be held after worship or in the homes of those who are ill. One aspect of the community's bereavement program includes the sending of mass cards or flowers, and arranging mass to be celebrated on the 1st death anniversary of the brethren.

Currently, the ministry is overseeing the implementation of the Safety and Security Plan of the Community.

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS (from page 1)

"But if it is by the finger of God that I drive demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you." (Lk 11:20)

God's Kingdom is a spiritual Kingdom visibly manifested through the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, the Body of Christ. Our LORD Jesus Christ reigns as our King, destroying every ruler, authority, and power of Satan that has overtaken this world by Adam's sin. In the end, Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, shall hand over the Kingdom to God the Father, to subject all to God, so that God may be all in all.

OUR OBLIGATION

God made us to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him, for His own purpose.

We come to know Jesus as the Son of God, the Word of God, the Second Person in the Holy Trinity. We come to love Him as our brother, benefactor, Savior and Redeemer, Comforter and friend, and we are, with courage and strength, to submit to His authority and to serve Him as our King: of our hearts, minds, wills and bodies.

In His infinite wisdom, God has provided us with so many ways of heeding His call to be merciful and to serve His people, especially the least of His brethren.

The biblical origin for **Works of Mercy** are: ***"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that world might be saved through Him."*** (Jn 3:17) ***"When you give to him, give freely and not with ill will; for the LORD, your God will bless you for this in all your works and undertakings. The needy will never be lacking in the land; that is why I command you to open your hand to your poor and needy kinsman in your country."*** (Dt 15:10-11)

"The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are SPIRITUAL Works of Mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The CORPORAL Works of Mercy consist in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity, so it is also a work of justice pleasing to God." (CCC 2447)

SERVANTHOOD

We serve God by serving others. In our world greatness is defined in terms

Continued on page 4

Ministry Matters – Pastoral (from page 3)

Most recently implemented is the deployment of marshals to monitor the perimeter of the Divine Mercy Parish on Friday nights. Also in the calendar is the fire evacuation drills, and the integration of social media in our emergency preparedness plan to include the use of mass notification system to alert community members of worship cancellations and other unforeseen events which may affect planned gatherings.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 **Reaching Out**

Fusion Diagnostics Laboratories seeks to fill the following positions:

- **Hematologists:** Bachelor's of Science and 3+ years experience required.
- **Medical Technologists:** Bachelor's of Science/Med Tech. 3+ years experience required.
- **Phlebotomists:** NJ licensed, 2 years experience required.
- **Microbiologists:** Part Time BSC and 5+ years experience required.
- **Data Accessionists:** Needed for data accessioning. 2 years experience minimum. Computer literate.
- **IT/Technical Support:** Networks troubleshooting a must, make ongoing changes to website/html.
- **Clinical/Pathology Lab Sales:** Proven sales track & 2+ years Clinical/ Pathology laboratory sales .
 - FT/ PT positions, salary or commission base. BS in Marketing a plus.
- **Marketing Coordinator:** Strong knowledge & E-commerce background, works independently
 - FT/PT positions, salary or commission base, BS in Marketing a plus, full benefits, paid holidays & vacations.
- **Drivers:** Needed to perform specimen collection for a medical testing facility in Cedar Knolls
 - Own transportation a plus. *Clean driver's abstract a must.*

For more info: Call Me-Anne Sta Ana • 973.998.8189

MISSION **Soup Kitchen**

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month.

Nov. 26 • Intercessory Ministry • Contacts:
George/Mary Ann McGherin • intercessory@bldnewark.com

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place every 4th Friday at the Auditorium

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro
Contact: Mosti/Ling Garcia - district@bldnewark.com

CN archives are available at www.bldnewark.net, click on **Covenant News**.

COUNSELS (from page 3)

of power, prestige, position, and possessions.

Having made it or having arrived means we are served by and can demand service from others. But God measures greatness in terms of the model of Jesus Christ, and not of worldly status.

We serve God because we love Him. If we seek excellence for the pleasure of our God, then our intentions are well and good. But if "being not good enough" keeps us from serving God as He calls us to, then we will be missing out on the grace of serving.

Serving for the love of God is the highest use of our God-given lives, for which Jesus promised a reward: Jesus said "*Whoever serves me must follow me, where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.*" (Jn 12:26) In Heb 6:10, John said: "*For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love you have demonstrated for his name by having served and continuing to serve the holy ones.*" **PRAISE CHRIST THE KING!**

DIRECTION:

Support our missions for the poor and needy.

LORD'S PROVISION **PREVIOUS WEEK'S**

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	4,207	151,359
Fundraisers (Golf & Dinner Dance)		33,505
Typhoon Donations		1,339

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

Thank you for your continued support!

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

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TEACHING CALENDAR

11/25 **Mark 10, John 6, Golden Years & Intercessory Formation Teaching**

12/03* **Contemplative Prayer – Community Teaching by Fr. Paul and Deacon Serge**

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ Divine Mercy

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

DLC MEETING/ PASTORAL HOUR

Nov. 22, 2011 @ 7:30pm-till • St. Mary's Library

Bible Class – Fridays, 7pm @ St. Mary's, Room 104
A verse by verse explanation of all the readings from the previous Sunday to next Sunday. The class may be viewed on YouTube; type 'Rod Soriano' on the search.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 46

Bulletin Edition

November 25, 2011

ME38 Yields 12

“...praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47)

By the grace of God, we once again, witnessed the transformation of 12 couples in the recently concluded Marriage Encounter #38 at Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ last November 18-20, 2011. Led by Fr. Michael Fugee, as Spiritual Director, who enthusiastically began each Talk with emphasis on God’s infinite love for us by being merciful and forgiving no matter how many times we sinned against Him. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the presentors, Jovy & Emily Lucero and Boyie & Stella Huelgas, lovingly shared their real life experiences and how God’s interventions in their married lives reaffirmed their vows of lifelong commitments to one another.

Let us joyfully welcome ME #38 couples to our community led by their class shepherds Jovy and Emily Lucero: Saturnino & Maria Lourdes Almazora, Rodolfo & Editha Buhain*, Norman & Marie Cabrera, Manolo & Rosario Chavez*, Angel & Caroline Dela Cruz, Noel & Gale De Leon*, Ronald & Therese Lizares, Robert & Marissa Pactwa, Jesus & Ofelia Palafox, Marcial & Lucia Pellicia, Miguel & Emma Pepino*, and Gerald & Audry Lyn Santos.

Continued on page 4

51 Aspire For Discipleship

What a blessed and overwhelmingly successful Aspirants’ Retreat! The Teaching Ministry not only had a blessed place in St. Peter’s Retreat House, Belleville but most importantly we had the blessing of spirit-filled, inspired, zealous aspirants. All 51 aspirants came to hear and see the real presence of Jesus. They found out the word of God is alive and the one that truly nourishes our spiritual lives. They once again affirmed our Christian belief that following and living in Jesus is the essence of salvation and that full Christian maturity only evolves from true discipleship with Jesus Christ and love for others.

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

Like a Thief in the Night

THEME: We prepare for the coming of the Lord when we are steadfast in service to Him.

WORD: Is 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

ORDER: *“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.” (Mk 13:33)*

REFLECTION:

Compared to the recent Hurricane Irene, we were given multiple detailed warnings and instructions on how to go about when the hurricane would hit our area. We knew the specific date and time it was coming and its strength as it unleashed its fury upon the land. Because of these, we were able to prepare ourselves, our families, and our personal properties. We had flashlights in case of power failure, we had enough food and water. In short, we were ready.

Mark 13:33 says, *“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.”* We ought to be ready all the time for the Son of Man will come when least expected. It goes back at least 2,000 years earlier when Jesus promised His followers that He would return to earth to take His true followers home to heaven with Him. Only God knows the exact day and the hour of Jesus’ return. It may or may not be in our lifetime.

This Advent, let us prepare our hearts by welcoming Jesus into our lives as we begin each day. Let us ask Him to open our eyes to enable us to see how close He is to us, and how precious we are to Him. Let us open the windows of our hearts, getting rid of all the accumulated garbage and baggage we had been carrying.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor 1:8)

Because of My Name: Discipleship and "God Alone Suffices"

"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify." – Luke 21:12-13, NRSV Catholic

The passage above reveals an important aspect of discipleship: we can count on facing trials and persecution, but in such situations, we can also count on God's grace. As such, we are to take these moments as opportunities to testify to the greatness of our God. All of these are a consequence of believing in Jesus' name.

The above verses immediately follow Jesus' observation of the poor widow's offering in the Temple (21:1-3) and are found within the discourse about signs and persecutions. The poor widow gives witness to the meaning of discipleship: "she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on" (21:4). She entrusts herself to God, and believes that her faith in God is sufficient.

With this in mind, we can now turn to the "signs and persecutions." At first sight, Jesus' words here are hardly comforting: he speaks of persecution (21:12), hatred (21:17), betrayal and even death (21:16). But embedded in this section is reason for hope. While faced with adversities, one can count on God's help. His grace makes such moments "an opportunity to testify" (21:13). We will receive "words and a wisdom that none of [our] opponents will be able to withstand or contradict" (21:14-15). Staying firm, we stand to gain our souls (21:18-19).

Following Jesus will be difficult: because "the world" hates Jesus (Luke 21:17, John 15:18). But as disciples, we must persevere. In fact, testimony under duress is perhaps the greatest proclamation of the Gospel. Jesus will provide "words and wisdom" to testify. In Acts, the Holy Spirit empowers the Apostles with "words and wisdom" (Luke 21:15), and they become "witnesses... to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). As disciples, we must bear witness to the greatness of our God. Amidst hardship, we must be hopeful in the power of Jesus' name. We can even face martyrdom knowing and believing that by Jesus' name we can be saved. (Acts 4:12).

St. Teresa of Avila has powerfully expressed the essence of discipleship in this poem: *"Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing make you afraid. All things are passing. God alone never changes. Patience gains all things. If you have God you will want for nothing. God alone suffices."*

PRAYER, THE SECRET TO VIGILANCE

The first time Jesus came in Bethlehem was in weakness, humility and poverty. He came to show us how to live life that is always in God's friendship. Because of sin and human selfishness however, the Lord has delayed His second coming at an indefinite future to get us in good spiritual condition. He will come again, this time in "power and glory"; to subdue all evil and to permanently establish His kingdom in the hearts of good people. Those who live their faith will have nothing to worry about and will stand with confidence ***"before the Son of Man"*** (Luke 21:36), joyfully awaiting the realization of God's plan.

During this long intermediate period we have become so immersed in worldly comfort that many of us live and act as if the earth is our permanent home. We are so busy making a living that we forget the purpose of living, allowing our spirits to be ***"weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life."*** (Luke 21:34) Christ is telling us in Luke 21:34-36 not to let the cares of everyday life preoccupy our time but to "watch and pray" at all times should Jesus come suddenly in our lifetime. Christ's purpose in forewarning us is not to instill fear but to inspire us with the urgency of the gospel message, awakening us to the true facts of life and of death. Even the good and the virtuous must be ever on their guard as life has many temptations. The world, largely the creation of Satan, can lure us to "worldliness", the love of beauty without the corresponding love of righteousness.

Prayer is the secret to awareness. It intensifies persistence, not losing heart while waiting for His return. Praying constantly is vitally important so as not to lose the presence of spirit deepening in our hearts the knowledge and the awareness of God's love and presence among us. In this way, He gives us the strength and the light to bear the bad days. He implants in our hearts peace, even in the midst of problems and pains and increases our hope and courage to continue on our journey.

Let us make a new beginning this Advent season by making a constant effort not to be attached to anything but God; by living both a life and a lifestyle in the Spirit and prepare not only for Jesus' Christmas coming but also His final coming.

HE TRUSTED IN HIS GOD

Daniel, a good friend of King Darius of Persia, was gifted with divine wisdom that enabled him to interpret people's dreams and visions. The king appointed him as the sole administrator over the entire kingdom, causing the other royal advisers to be jealous. They plotted to get rid of him. Knowing of Daniel's unfailing loyalty to his God, the advisers convinced Darius to issue an edit demanding all his subjects to worship him alone. They saw their chance when they caught him praying to his God. As punishment, Daniel was thrown into the lions' den. Upon learning that Daniel's God sent His angel to 'shut the lions' mouths', the king ordered Daniel released, and his detractors rounded up and thrown into the den, where the lions devoured them.

This story of Daniel demonstrates how true faith and unwavering belief in God can keep one safe even in the midst of hopelessness and impossibility. Whenever we feel helpless or confined in a situation where our enemy prowls around like a roaring lion ready to devour us, we too are experiencing our own dark night in the lions' den. There may have been instances in our past when God sent us his angel in the person of a good Samaritan who came to rescue us from a pressing predicament. We may also have experienced God's loving compassion when a major problem of ours got resolved miraculously.

God can surely shut the mouths of the 'lions' in our lives, by touching the hearts and minds of our enemies, and by pouring into their being His mercy and love. The bible mentions of many occurrences of miracles brought about by absolute faith, trust and belief in God. Miracles can happen in our lives if we keep our trust and belief in our Lord. Our God is an awesome God. We are His creation and He will never abandon us.

God knows our situations and He will provide us protection and help if we unconditionally believe in Him. Just like Daniel, who continually prayed and put his trust in God, we too can be delivered from our darkest moments and be freed out of our own lions' dens. If we find favor in our good Lord, He will also put an end to whatever or whoever may have caused our suffering, just like what King Darius did to Daniel's accusers.

Happy Thanksgiving

COUNSELS (from page 1)

The Parable of the Ten Virgins and the Parable of the Talents emphasize the suddenness and unpredictability of the coming of Jesus Christ and the need to be watchful and vigilant. What does the Lord expect from us, and are we ready to meet His expectation? Jesus told a story that was familiar to His followers -- the necessity for His laborers to be ready for action and ready to give their best when the Master returned from His journey. Were these servants excited about their Master's return? The watchful servants looked forward to their Master coming back because they knew their Master would be pleased and would reward them for their vigilance and hard work. However, disaster and punishment awaited those who were unprepared because of carelessness, laziness or ignorance.

The prophet Isaiah tells us that God will surely reward those who wait for Him. Isaiah 64:3 says: ***"Such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but You working such deeds for those who wait for Him."*** Our Master, Lord Jesus Christ, entrusts us with His gifts and grace and He expects us to be ready for action and be prepared for the future. Our call is not only to believe but to watch. And we don't only watch; we also need to be ready at all times.

Today, as we begin a new Advent Season, Jesus is asking us to be on the watch. We tend to relegate this command to simply keeping guard; guarding our minds against sin, guarding our bodies against over-indulgence, and guarding our families against harm. However this is only one part of the picture. Our Catholic faith tells us that we can not live this Christian life solely by our own power—by our own watchfulness. We need the grace of God if we want to become like Jesus Christ

So whether, we are at Praise and Worship, or at Mass, or saying the rosary, or sitting before the Lord in adoration, or lying in bed at night, or simply doing nothing, the Lord asks us to "watch" by fixing our eyes on Him, opening our ears to His still small voice. The more we ask Jesus to fill us with His grace, the more we will find His presence. And finding His presence, we will find everything we need.

Let us get soaked in His word to see the immeasurable reflection of His love for us. Lastly, let us persevere in our desires to serve Him, and to remain steadfast in our service to God. Everyday, we can know the joy of awaiting our Master's return.

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS (from page 3)

Lord, awaken our hearts and minds to receive Your Word and to prepare for Your coming. Free us, Lord, from complacency and laziness, from the grip of sin and worldliness, and from attachments to things which pass away. May we always be eager and be ready to meet You when You come again. Help us to always remember that in the twinkling of an eye You are coming, like a thief in the night You'll be here. Maranatha... Maranatha.

Direction

Remain vigilant through a sustained prayer life, regular reception of the sacraments and corporal works of mercy.

ME38 Yields 12 (from page 1)

We pray to the Lord that they will always be guided by the Holy Spirit and allow Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be in the center of their lives. Let us also ask the Lord to strengthen the love that binds them together especially when in times of trials.

We thank the sponsoring class of ME#37, Praise Ministry, Liturgy Ministry, Treasury, Intercessory Ministry, Word Ministry, Treasury, the auxies and the rest of the community for answering God's call to be His instrument, the hands that put together a successful weekend.

Glory to God!

51 Aspire For Discipleship (from page 1)

Our aspirants truly represented our mature community members in Au de Castro of SPE 9. Liz Carpio, Portia de Jesus, Ces Florentino, Margarita Ocasio, Erlinda Pedutem, Melit Perez and Leah Samson of SPE 10. Rameses Bautista, Malou Blankas, Norma Calara, Maris Fandino, Clair Mariano, and Gladys Vicari of SPE 11. Joe Appel, Fe Chenet, Miles Dionisio, Dinah Encarnacion, Violet Meneses, Anna Marie Vales and Lucille Viscayno of SPE 12. Mary Ann San Agustin and our couple power in Marcelo & Michelle Mijares of ME 31. Efrain & Wanda Ortiz, Jude & Maricel de los Reyes, George & Sarita Rodriguez of ME 32. Ed & Armi Bayudan of ME 33. Art & Yen Arnan, Willy and Amor Ferrer, Jun & Maryanne Lomibao, Mario & Carmen Olazo, William & Maria Sumandal and Mateo & Precy Yap of ME 34. Eric Cruz of Singles Ministry and our brethrens from Trenton Outreach, Cesar & Rosalie Angeles, Totie & Nilda Araga and Jojo & Marlene Legaspi.

CN archives are available at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 - Reaching Out

Fusion Diagnostics Laboratories seeks to fill the following positions:

- **Hematologists:** Bachelor's of Science and 3+ years experience required.
- **Medical Technologists:** BS/Med Tech. Degree, cert., 3+ years experience required.
- **Phlebotomists:** NJ licensed, 2 years experience required.
- **Data Accessionists:** Needed for data accessioning. 2 years experience minimum. Computer literate.
- **IT/Technical Support:** Networks troubleshooting a must, make ongoing changes to website/html.
- **Clinical/Pathology Lab Sales:** Proven sales track & 2+ years Clinical/ Pathology laboratory sales .
 - FT/ PT positions, salary or commission base. BS in Marketing a plus.
- **Marketing Coordinator:** Strong knowledge & E-commerce background, works independently
 - FT/PT positions, salary or commission base, BS in Marketing a plus, full benefits, paid holidays & vacations.

Email resume: hiring@healtharray.net

MISSION Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month.

Nov. 26 • Intercessory Ministry • Contacts:

George/Mary Ann McGherin • intercessory@bldnewark.com

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place every 4th Friday at the Auditorium

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro

Contact: Mosti/Ling Garcia district@bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

11/25	Mark 10, John 6, Golden Years & Intercessory Formation Teaching
12/03*	Contemplative Prayer – Community Teaching by Fr. Paul and Deacon Serge

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ Divine Mercy

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	2,016	153,375
Fundraisers (Golf & Dinner Dance)		33,605
Typhoon Donations		1,339

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

Thank you for your continued support!



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 47

Bulletin Edition

December 2, 2011

COUNSELS

Prepare with Vigilance

THEME: Disciples of Christ prepare for the coming of the Lord with vigilance.

WORD: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10, 11-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

ORDER: *"Prepare the way of the Lord make straight his paths."* (Mk 1:3)

REFLECTION:

From the eschatological liturgical readings of the past several weeks, we now come to a season that is brimming with hope. And from reflections on end times, we now come to a new beginning, a time of joyful preparation that will clear the way for us to enter into a relationship with the Lord.

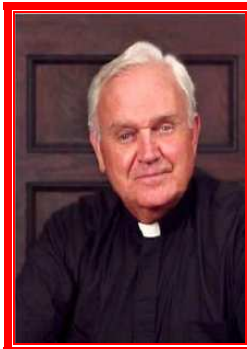
1st Week

It would also be good to know that there are actually three ways in which our Lord came and made Himself manifest to us. First, as the Word made flesh through His birth into an ordinary human family, thus enabling Him to dwell among us (John 1:14). It is this co-mingling of the divinity of Christ with our humanness that transforms us into supernatural beings. Second, He came to us through the indwelling Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, a transforming event. Having received power from on high (Acts 1:8), man will never be the same again. In the third and final manifestation, Jesus Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead (CCC682).

As the Advent season is also referred to as a "little Lenten season" it presupposes that we are also called to a life of prayer and fasting. CCC522 also tells us that *"The coming of God's Son to earth is an event of such immensity that God willed to prepare for it over centuries. He makes everything - all the rituals and sacrifices, figures* **Continued on page 3**

Promise of the Week

"Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land." (Ps 85:10)



Fr. Paul Szpaks Contemplative Prayer

I use this article as an invitation as well as an opportunity to encourage your openness to a deeper form of prayer. Deacon Serge and I will be teaching tomorrow afternoon (Dec. 3) on contemplative prayer.

Obviously, we encourage you all to attend. The point we wish to make is to encourage you to contemplative possibilities in your prayer life, if, of course, God so wills. Contemplation is often associated with cloistered monks and nuns, who you might say, specialize in this form of prayer. The reality is that contemplative prayer is part of the regular development of the "normal" Christian prayer life. Tomorrow, we want to clarify exactly what is contemplative prayer as well as the signs we can discern if God is leading us to pray that way.

Those who are baptized in the Holy Spirit may already have an insight into the notion of "passive" prayer when they experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Our whole Christian life is more what we allow God to do rather than what we can do for God. This is the basic reason why we pray at all. It is all God's work. Our prayer life becomes more contemplative when we begin to experience an inability to pray as we did before. Often times this inability is attributed to our neglect or lukewarmness when in reality it is truly the action of God calling us to let go our "busyness" in prayer. We are invited to just consent to God's presence, and rest in that awareness.

The starting point for contemplative prayer is "lectiodivina", something I have very often talked about. Very simply we begin with reading (lectio), preferably a short passage from Scripture. We then think or reflect (meditatio) on what we have read. We move next to informal prayer (oratio). Finally the passive dimension moves in when we just listen and wait for any communication **Continued on page 4**

Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!

PEACE!

PEACE! We hear this word everyday, in the news, at Holy Mass, in songs. We see it symbolized in works of art like a statue of a dove or a painting depicting people of every nation coming together in goodwill.

Yet, PEACE is the most elusive commodity in the world today. We see nations at war against other nations, or a country at war within its territory. There is war going on in families- brothers against brothers, sons against fathers, daughters against mothers, daughters-in-law against mothers-in-law, etc. There is even war raging within ourselves. Without peace within ourselves, then a home, a town, a community, a city, a country or a nation can never have peace.

We oftentimes fail to recognize that peace will only abide in our midst, if we rid ourselves of what the world teaches us- to clamor for fame, power and riches that deprive God of His righteous place within our hearts. For as long as there is greed in the world, then justice will be trampled upon. Nations will rise against each other coveting what the other has even through foul and evil means.

Yet the Lord has promised a period of Peace in Isaiah 11:9, when no one will desire an evil deed on His Holy Mountain. The good news is: the promise has partially been fulfilled. **THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS HERE AND NOW!!!** Jesus was born and the angels sang, **"PEACE TO MEN OF GOODWILL!"** He died on the cross and rose again to show mankind the way back to His kingdom where He sits on His throne and rules as King of all the Earth and governs with equity. He sent His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Peace, to dwell in His temple within us. And if the Holy Spirit were within us then we would live by God's rules and see God's justice prevail. Witnessing to God's justice and love would strengthen our children's faith and convert non-believers back God's fold. Witnessing to the Gospel of Christ would then fill the earth with the knowledge of the Lord, like the waters of the seas fill every space and recess of the deep ocean.

Even now, the Gospel of Christ wherever it is preached, brings forth conversion and transformation. It has calmed and subdued angry passions, changed peoples feelings and conduct, done away with practices that were cruel and bloody, abolished games and entertainment that were ferocious and savage, changed a domineering husband into a kind partner and friend, and changed an abusive father into a loving protector of his child.

We look to the near future when the promise of God would be completely fulfilled and felt in all ➔

GOD in Whom We Trust

"Better to take refuge in the LORD than to put one's trust in mortals."(Ps 118:8)

The word *"trust"* as used in Scripture means to be confident, to be sure, to be bold, and to be secure. The whole concept of *"trust"* has something to do with what or who we *"trust."* To grasp the true meaning of *"Trust"* in a biblical manner, we should focus on the concept of totally *"trusting"* in the Lord in everything. So, when is it time to Trust the Lord?

In times of weakness, trust God for strength. We all have periods of time when we feel very weak and vulnerable. This is the time when we need to trust Him. The apostle Paul wrote that when he was at his weakest point, that is when he was strongest...because then he trusted upon the Lord to get him through.

In times when we are unsure of our ways, trust God for direction. A perfect example is when the Israelites left Egypt, even if they didn't know what it was, they relied on God's divine plan for them. He guided them each step of the way to the promise land. God was faithful then as He is now. This is the same promise that is made available to us today. Life with God is an exciting journey for as long as we allow God to take control of the wheel in our life. We never know what may come our way but we can be assured that He will be there to guide and direct us. For as long as we commit our ways to God, He has promised that HE would direct our paths, most especially during our darkest moments. ***"In all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths."*** (Prv 3:6)

In times when we don't understand, trust God's loving care. ***"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, on your own intelligence do not rely."*** (Prv 3:5) It is when things just don't make sense to us that it is hardest for us to trust Him. We want to be able to figure everything out, and then trust Him but that isn't trust. He tells us that His ways are not our ways and that His thoughts are above our thoughts. That means we cannot figure out what God is doing all the time. And when we don't understand...that is when we must trust Him the most.

Most importantly, before we can have complete confidence in God, before we can trust Him at all times, we must have a personal relationship with Him. Let us put our faith and trust in God for salvation as He will save us and keep us for all of eternity. Remember, it is not our *"trust"* that keeps us, but the **God in whom we trust** who keeps us.

the nations of the world. Then the world and all that dwell in it would live in peace forever.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

and symbols of the First Covenant - converge on Christ... He announces him through the mouths of prophets who succeeded one another in Israel. Moreover, he awakens in the hearts of pagans a dim expectation of this coming."

2nd Week – Prepare the Way of the Lord

The preparation begins with Elizabeth, the cousin of Mary, from whose womb John the Baptist will come to announce the coming of the Messiah to the world. Scriptures tell us that John the Baptist's life was committed to one burning mission – to point others to Jesus Christ and to the coming kingdom.

Like Jesus who emerged victorious and with great wisdom from the temptation in the desert, John was likewise tested in the wilderness, but grew in the Word of God and began to call the people of Israel to repentance. Do we, like John, also point others to Christ in the way we live, work, and speak?

We must remember that through John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit began our restoration into the divine likeness of God, prefiguring what would be achieved with and through our Lord Jesus. John's baptism was a baptism of repentance – a turning away from sin to a new way of life based on God's word. Our baptism of water in Jesus Christ, and baptism in the Spirit result in a new birth and entry into God's kingdom as His beloved sons and daughters (John 3:5).

Through baptism, Jesus gives us the fire of His Spirit that we may radiate the joy and truth of the gospel to a world in desperate need of God's light and truth.

3rd Week – Who are we?

"Who are you really?" It was not difficult for John the Baptist to answer this when the authorities posed the question to him. But supposing someone challenges your identity with the same question. How would you answer? There's an identity crisis in the world today and many are confused. While we can manufacture our identity with an assumed persona, our true nature rests in God who made us in His image and likeness.

John the Baptist had no identity problems. He appeared in the Judean landscape speaking and urging the people to prepare the way for the Lord. He bridges the Old and New Testaments. He was the last of the Old Testament prophets, pointing the way to the Messiah and was the first of the New Testament's witnesses and martyrs. He is known as the herald who prepared the way for Jesus and who announced his mission to the people: ***"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!"*** John saw from a distance what the Messiah came to accomplish — ➤

our redemption from slavery to sin, and our adoption as sons and daughters of the heavenly Father.

Like John, we too must recognize our identity as children of God and citizens of heaven. So too, must we live like John, as humble and faithful servants of God, pointing others to Jesus, through our example and witness.

4th Week – Be obedient by saying Yes!

Christ's birth into the human family largely depended on Mary's response to the announcement of the angel Gabriel. It determined our salvation, and aren't we glad she responded positively, in all humility and obedience. It couldn't have been an easy decision to make, because what the Gabriel told her surpasses all human understanding.

Her question, ***"How shall this be, since I have no husband?"*** was not prompted by doubt or skepticism, but by wonderment! But Mary was a genuine listener of God's word and was able to respond with faith and trust. Her "Yes" to the divine message should be the model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was filled with grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult and costly.

Like Mary, God will also give us the grace to respond with the same willingness, obedience, and heartfelt trust. When God commands us to do something, He also gives us the strength and the means to respond in faith. We can either yield to His grace or resist and go our own way. But if we believe in God's promise of eternal life to those who will believe in Him and remain obedient in faith, He will fill us with grace as He did Mary.

It's Christmas – the King is born!

Why does John the Evangelist begin his gospel with a description of the Word of God? The ***"Word of God"*** was a common expression among the Jews. Thus, John presents Jesus as God's creative, life-giving and light-giving word that has come to earth in human form. Jesus is the wisdom and power of God that created the world and sustains it by assuming a human nature in order to accomplish the promised salvation.

Gregory of Nyssa, one of the great early church fathers (330-395 AD) wrote: *Sick, our nature demanded to be healed; fallen, to be raised up; dead, to rise again. We had lost the possession of the good; it was necessary for it to be given back to us. Closed in darkness, it was necessary to bring us the light; captives, we awaited a Savior;* ***Continued on page 4***

COUNSELS (from page 3)

prisoners, help; slaves, a liberator. Are these things minor or insignificant? Did they not move God to descend to human nature and visit it, since humanity was in so miserable and unhappy a state?

Pope Paul VI says in his encyclical *Gaudium et Spes*: "The Son of God assumed a human nature in order to accomplish our salvation in it. The Son of God ...worked with human hands; he thought with a human mind. He acted with a human will, and with a human heart he loved. Born of the Virgin Mary, he has truly been made one of us, like to us in all things except sin."

Indeed, if we are going to behold the glory of God we can only do it through Jesus Christ. *Jesus became the partaker of our humanity so we could be partakers of his divinity* (2 Peter 1:4). God's purpose for us, even from the beginning of His creation, is that we would be fully united with Him. By our being united in Jesus, God becomes our Father and we become His sons and daughters. Indeed, we should be grateful to our Father for sending His only begotten Son to redeem us and to share in His glory.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Bring glad tidings to the poor, heal the broken heart and proclaim liberty to the captive.
2. Rejoice in the Lord, share your blessings with others; advent is the time of repentance with confession, prayer and fasting.

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,695	157,070
Fundraisers (Golf & Dinner Dance)		33,855
Typhoon Donations		1,364

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro

Contact: Mosti/Ling Garcia district@bldnewark.com

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

TEACHING CALENDAR

12/03*	Contemplative Prayer – Community Teaching by Fr. Paul and Deacon Serge
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Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ Divine Mercy

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com

Fr. Paul Speaks (from page 1)

from the Lord (contemplatio). We move along as the Lord leads. Some days we may be led to do much thinking; other times to many words; and finally, sometimes, to just being there, waiting on the Lord. It is this last dimension that the Lord may often communicate with us without words. That is contemplation.

Mystical writers have assured us that those who are faithful to daily prayer come relatively quickly to at least the first stirrings of passive prayer. The important thing is persistence in daily prayer, no matter how distracted and upset we may be. A community like BLD should be the breeding ground not only for real apostolic evangelization, but also the place where we learn to pray, which is the only source of a successful apostolic life. See you tomorrow afternoon.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 – Reaching Out

Fusion Diagnostics Laboratories seeks to fill the following positions:

- **Hematologists:** Bachelor's of Science and 3+ years experience required.
- **Medical Technologists:** BS/Med Tech. Degree, cert., 3+ years experience required.
- **Phlebotomists:** NJ licensed, 2 years experience required.
- **Data Accessionists:** Needed for data accessioning. 2 years experience minimum. Computer literate.
- **IT/Technical Support:** Networks troubleshooting a must, make ongoing changes to website/html.
- **Clinical/Pathology Lab Sales:** Proven sales track & 2+ years Clinical/ Pathology laboratory sales .
 - FT/ PT positions, salary or commission base. BS in Marketing a plus.
- **Marketing Coordinator:** Strong knowledge & E-commerce background, works independently
 - FT/PT positions, salary or commission base, BS in Marketing a plus, full benefits, paid holidays & vacations.

Email resume: hiring@healtharray.net

ISAIAH 58

In Need of Wellness Program Volunteers

Nurses for Blood Pressure & Sugar Screening

Doctors (General Practice)

Contact: R/L Amarante 908-265-2157 rubenluz@aol.com

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

Dec. 10 • Mission Ministry • Contacts: Audie/Vulet

Chong 732-356-9056 institutional@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 48

Bulletin Edition

December 9, 2011

NEWS

POPE: FEEDING THE HUNGRY FORCES QUESTION OF WHY THERE IS HUNGER

VATICAN CITY, NOV. 25, 2011 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- Benedict XVI says that charity groups have a role in educating society, since a work of charity speaks of God and brings people to question.

The Pope said this Thursday when he addressed members of Italian Caritas.

Noting that a work of charity announces hope, he said it is also an "educational" act that helps "the poor to grow in dignity, Christian communities to follow Christ and civil society to shoulder its obligations."

"Charity requires an open mind," the Holy Father went on. "Responding to need means not only giving bread to the hungry, but also asking ourselves about the reasons for their hunger, using the gaze of Jesus who could see the profound truth of the people around him. In this perspective, our modern times are calling you to ask yourselves about the way you work for charity."

Benedict XVI emphasized in particular the needs of migrants.

"Natural calamities and wars often create emergencies," he added. "The global economic crisis is another sign of the times which calls for the courage of fraternity. The gap between the north and south of the world, and the wounded human dignity of so many people, call for a charity able to expand in concentric circles from the small economic systems to the great. Increasing poverty, the weakening of families, and the uncertainty faced by the young all point to the risk of diminishing hope."

"Humankind needs not only benefactors," the Holy Father stated, "but also humble practical people who, like Jesus, stand alongside their brothers and sisters and share their fatigue. In a word, humanity is looking for signs of hope. The source of our hope is in the Lord. This is why we need Caritas, not to delegate it with the responsibility for charitable service, but for it to be a sign of Christ's charity, a sign that brings hope."

COUNSELS

JOHN AND THE LIGHT

THEME: We prepare for the coming of the Lord when we testify that Jesus is our light and our salvation.

WORD: Is 61:1-2, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

ORDER: *"Testify to the Light of Christ so that all might believe."* (Jn 1:6)

REFLECTION:

"A man named John was sent by God." (Jn 1:6) Here is the one of whom the prophet speaks and who can rightly proclaim the words inscribed by Isaiah: *"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me."* (Is 61:1) Here is he who has come "to announce the year of favor from the Lord and a day of vindication by our God." The spirit is upon him and he speaks of the coming Messiah. He has been sent by God to "testify to the light."

But who heeds his proclamation? Who is able to hear this voice crying and find the joy of the path it would blaze in their hearts? How many are still as the priest and Levites and Pharisees of the Sunday's gospel, inquiring so blindly, *"Who are you?"* How many have no sense of prophecy, or the Spirit, or God Himself? How many are deaf to John's cry?

St. Paul's instruct us: *"Do not quench the spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances."* (1 Thess 5:19-20) And yet the greatest of all prophetic utterances are watered down in ankle-deep wisdom. *"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,"* (Lk 1:46) Mary declares. The Spirit wells up in her spirit and she cannot but *"rejoice in God (her) Savior."* These are not words put into her mouth by any man; her prophecy does not come from the pen of a scribe but from the very Spirit of God! *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it." (1 Thes 5:24)

Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!

YES LORD!!!

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Lk 1:38)

Many years ago I had a chance to watch Richard Pryor in San Francisco (pre-BLD of course...) and one thing he said that struck me is that, since the breakup of his first marriage he learned to avoid saying "Yes" because he knows that somehow it'll cost him, not sure how or when, but, one way or another, it will definitely "cost him", better he said, to say "No". Until recently I thought what he said was pretty funny.

But having been a member of BLD for several years now and as I reflect on the above verse, not only do I no longer think what Pryor said was funny, but I actually feel quite ashamed of myself.

As a member of BLD I participate in my assigned ministry as well as volunteer my time with the other ministries, attend Friday P&W as often as I can, serve as a LSS shepherd, and take part in other BLD activities.

Because of BLD I became more active in my parish, attend mass as often as I can and am no longer uncomfortable discussing my faith with others. Because of BLD I feel that I have become closer to God.

So why, you may ask, despite the progress I've made in my spiritual life do I feel ashamed...because like Richard Pryor, I have a fear of saying "Yes". I'm afraid to really put myself out there for fear that I'll be asked to take on some new "assignment" whether in my parish or BLD and will have to say yes. Saying yes could mean making a commitment I'm really not inclined to make.

I'm ashamed because I feel I can do more for my faith, because I know I have not reached my limit in terms of sharing my GOD-given "talents" and when compared to Mary, who at a very young age, offered her whole being to GOD by saying "Yes" with no hesitation, with no doubt, and with complete surrender.

On the other hand, I see myself more like that young man in Mark's gospel who has done everything prescribed in the law but went away sad when Jesus asked him to do more and to come follow him (Mk 10:17-22). And yet it was my saying "Yes" to join an ME retreat years ago that got me started on this wonderful journey.

I don't know if I'll ever be able to overcome my fear and constant struggle of saying "Yes". But I do know that I will have to look to Mary's example on that night to give me the strength to always say "Yes Lord!!!"

Lastly, when Jesus said, ***"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you"***... (Jn 15:16), then how can I even say "No" to that?

My Yoke is Easy

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." (Mt 11:28-30)

The deadline for submitting this reflection was yesterday. I've been trying to write it for at least a month and just can't seem to find the right words. But today is the day! I am determined to get this written. However, this morning when I sat down at the computer with the best of intentions, I noticed my credit card bill needed to be paid and there were several ministry emails awaiting my attention. On top of those distractions, today is Cyber Monday and my grand-kids' wishlists are just a click away. Suddenly, I heard a loud "BOOM" and the screen went dark. When our power goes out, we lose the computer, tv, and phone...the very distractions that have kept me from starting this reflection on Matthew 11:28-30.

This isn't the first time God made me stop and pay attention to this little love note He sends to all His weary, over-worked, stressed-out children. This is one of those scripture verses that I have been fond of for as long as I can remember. Over time, I have learned that coming to Him doesn't just mean prayer. It means Mass, adoration, worship, reading His Word and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Again and again, I find that Jesus keeps His wonderful promise: "I will give you rest."

It took me a long time to figure out the next part of this verse, ***"Take my yoke upon you...For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."*** If a person is already weighed down by the demands of his work and his family responsibilities and is dealing with worries over health and financial issues, how could he even think of adding on the yoke and burden that Jesus offers him...even if they are easy and light? Eventually God answered this question for me. It isn't often that the Holy Spirit speaks directly to my heart in words that are unmistakeable, loud and clear. But when He does, He makes a lasting impression. It came as our ME class was getting ready to sign our Commitment letters and present them to Fr. Lehman at a community Mass. In my mind *commitment* meant more time, more work, more service to the community. I wasn't sure I had it in me. Besides that, I was dealing with the persistent fear that the hope I felt and the new life I had found in Christ could easily slip through my fingers. That's when the Spirit explained it to me. Jesus never intended to pile His burden on top of my



own, but rather to trade His light one for my heavy one. In fact He was saying, "You take on this Commitment and I will take away your fear." That night I took Him at His word, and those fears have never returned. Thanks be to God.

Immaculate Conception



If you can bring back time and you will be given the power to create your own mother, what kind of mother are you going to create? Are you going to create a sinful mother or a sinless mother? Are you going to create a bad looking mother or a beautiful mother? Are you going to create a mother stained by

original sin or a mother free from the stain of original sin? Naturally, all of us would want a mother that is beautiful and sinless. And if we, a human being would want a mother immaculately conceived, what kind of mother do we think our Lord Jesus Christ would pick? It is obvious of course that our Lord will create a mother immaculately conceived.

So what is the problem? How come it is so hard for some people to believe and accept the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception? Is it just because it is not written in the Bible? Trinity is not in the Bible also but most Christians believe it. They say that it is because the idea of the Trinity is in the Bible. But the idea of the Immaculate Conception is all over in the Bible also. One reference is when the angel Gabriel said, "**Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you**" (Lk 1:28). The phrase "*full of grace*" is a translation of the Greek word "*kecharitomene*".

The traditional translation, "*full of grace*" is better than the one found in many recent versions of the New Testament, which give something along the lines of "highly favored daughter." Mary was indeed a highly favored daughter of God, but the Greek implies more than that (and it never mentions the word for "daughter"). The grace given to Mary is at once permanent and of a unique kind. *Kecharitomene* is a perfect passive participle of *charitoō*, meaning "to fill or endow with grace." Since this term is in the perfect tense, it indicates that Mary was graced in the past but with continuing effects in the present. So, the grace Mary enjoyed was not a result of the angel's visit. In fact, Catholics hold, it extended over the whole of her life, from conception onward. She was in a state of sanctifying grace from the first moment of her existence.

The Immaculate Conception means that Mary, whose conception was brought about the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain—that's what "*immaculate*" means: without stain. The essence of original sin consists in the deprivation of sanctifying grace, and its stain is a corrupt nature. Mary was preserved from these defects by God's grace; from the first instant of her existence she was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature original sin brings.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

The word of God cannot be chained; the voice "*crying out in the desert*" cannot be tamed by those "*not worthy to untie*" the mysteries hidden in sacred Scripture. St. Paul will be put under house arrest; John the Baptist, Herod will cast into his dungeon, the Christ shall be crucified – but the word of God will go forth, and nothing shall silence its voice. The testimony to the light must be heard. "*So that all might believe through Him*"; there will ever be proclaimed "*liberty to captives and release to the prisoners*" by the power of Jesus Christ, until all hear of the mercy He has "*on those who fear Him*."

While the synoptic gospels refer to John the Baptist as the forerunner and preacher of conversion, in gospel of John, introduces him as merely as the one who testify to the light. The word "*testify*" clarifies John's whole life. He endures warm days and cold nights in the desert in fasting and mortification. He baptizes the Israelites, preparing them to receive Jesus. John's greatness lies in his humble acknowledgement of Jesus as the light. He freely admits that he himself is a mere witness to the light. Once the light appears, he will fade from the scene. Jesus will take over. John knows himself by the one who comes after him.

Many people spend their lives without recognizing Christ as the light. Those who chose other gods discover, much to their regret, that their pursuits bring emptiness and pain. On the other hand, those who acknowledge Christ as the light are fulfilled. They follow Christ's dictum of love of neighbor, the kind of love that heals, restores, and promotes life. Having accepted Christ as the light of their lives, they easily recognize Christ in others. They become more respectful, compassionate, and loving towards their neighbors. As Christians we are faced with the challenge of letting Christ shine in our life. The good God can be seen in the way we relate with our brothers and sisters, especially the less fortunate. May this love that heals, restores, and promotes life continue to burn in our hearts. May the light of Christ that John the Baptist preached conquer the darkness in our lives. Lord, prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which Your presence will bestow.

Directions:

1. Bring glad tidings to the poor, heal the broken heart and proclaim liberty to the captive.
2. Rejoice in the Lord, share your blessings with others; advent is the time of repentance with confession, prayer and fasting.



BLD VISION

- We are a community of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about a world of justice, human development and true peace

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For our country:

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Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,128	160,198
Fundraisers (Golf & Dinner Dance)		33,855
Typhoon Donations		1,364

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

Thank you for your continued support!

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Youth Rally

Jan. 14 • 8am-7pm • St. Mary's Auditorium

Catholic Conference of Youth and Parents

"The Lord Made You a Blessing Forever"

Contacts: Tony/Tatess Abad • 201.244.5744

2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro

Contacts: Mosti/Ling Garcia district@bldnewark.com

Be A Living Word

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 - Reaching Out

Fusion Diagnostics Laboratories seeks to fill the following positions:

- Hematologists:** Bachelor's of Science and 3+ years experience required.
- Medical Technologists:** BS/Med Tech. Degree, cert., 3+ years experience required.
- Phlebotomists:** NJ licensed, 2 years experience required.
- Data Accessionists:** Needed for data accessioning. 2 years experience minimum. Computer literate.
- IT/Technical Support:** Networks troubleshooting a must, make ongoing changes to website/html.
- Clinical/Pathology Lab Sales:** Proven sales track & 2+ years Clinical/ Pathology laboratory sales .
 - FT/ PT positions, salary or commission base. BS in Marketing a plus.
- Marketing Coordinator:** Strong knowledge & E-commerce background, works independently
 - FT/PT positions, salary or commission base, BS in Marketing a plus, full benefits, paid holidays & vacations.

Email resume: hiring@healtharray.net

ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check

Every 2nd Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

Dec. 10 • Mission Ministry • Contacts: Audie/Vulet

Chong 732-356-9056 institutional@bldnewark.com

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ

Every 4th Sat. of the month.

Dec. 24 • Mission Ministry • Contacts: Audie/Vulet

Chong 732-356-9056 institutional@bldnewark.com

"We see a glimpse of the Kingdom in our community when we love God and trust completely in His divine providence, when we conduct ourselves with selfless love for others, and when we serve Him with all our heart through the various ministries in BLD."

CN 28 Counsels – July 22, 2011





COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 49

Bulletin Edition

December 16, 2011

NEWS

COUNSELS

Pope Invites Married Couples to Remember Nazareth

Recalls Thursday's Feast of Immaculate Conception

VATICAN CITY, DEC. 7, 2011 (Zenit.org).- Benedict XVI today encouraged newlyweds to model their homes on that of the Holy Family in Nazareth.

The Pope spoke of Our Lady and Nazareth at the end of today's general audience, during his customary greetings to youth, the sick and newlyweds.

He mentioned Thursday's feast of the Immaculate Conception, saying it "reminds us of Mary's singular adherence to God's saving plan."

"Preserved from every shadow of sin, in order to be the all holy dwelling place of the Word Incarnate, she always entrusted herself wholly to the Lord," the Pontiff said.

"Dear young people," he continued, "strive to imitate her with pure and limpid hearts, allowing yourselves to be molded by God who also intends 'to do great things' in you (cf. Luke 1:49)."

The Holy Father encouraged the sick to avail of Mary's help to trust in the Lord, "who knows your sufferings and who, by uniting them to His own, offers them for the salvation of the world."

He concluded: "And you, dear newlyweds, who wish to build your homes on the grace of God, make your homes, in imitation of the home of Nazareth, a hearth of love and piety."



May It Be Done To Me

THEME: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

WORD: We prepare for the coming of the Lord when we humbly submit to the will of the Father.

ORDER: *Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God.*" (Lk 1:30)

REFLECTION:

In the liturgical season of Advent, a time to prepare for the coming of Christ, we see the figure of John the Baptist exhorting us to repentance and conversion. On the fourth Sunday of season, as we make our final preparations to celebrate the Incarnation, the story of the annunciation tells us how God made known the birth of Jesus through the angel Gabriel, who announces a seemingly impossible event: a child is to be born of a virgin! He would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. Luke's gospel concentrates on Mary, presenting the miracles of the virgin birth as a preliminary element in the extraordinary origin of the Messiah.

Mary, who made a way for the Son of the Most High to be born in human form, sets a perfect example for us of openness, deep faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's otherwise disturbing message without hesitation. Her response "*May it be done to me according to your word*" carries a revolutionary significance in the world. *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm." (Ps 89: 29)

Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!

Ministry Matters

YOUTH

In Luke 18:16-17, "**Jesus ... said, 'Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.'**" True to Jesus' preaching, the BLD Community calls His children at an early age, so that we may bring the Kingdom of God to them because His Kingdom is theirs.

You can view the Youth Ministry as a community in itself. The leadership is composed of five Youth members that go thru an emergence and a discernment process similar to BLD adults. Each youth is assigned to focus on a particular apostolate – Evangelization, Formation, Pastoral, Management and Mission. Three adult couples are assigned to guide them thru the myriad of activities geared towards these apostolates. The membership is composed of teen-agers ranging in age from 15 thru 19, usually high school to early college years. A youth member will stay with the Ministry for an average of 2-3 years, and thus, you can view the ministry as transitional in nature.

There are two major activities that the Ministry holds each year– the Youth Life in the Spirit Seminar (YLSS), usually held the first week-end of March, and the Youth Encounter (YE) during the summer, just in time for the youth to be out of school. These activities are patterned after the adult LSS and encounters, although these are designed with the youth in mind. We have our own Praise Ministry, providing praise support for all the ministry activities including those invitations to serve at DIPs and other full-fledged districts.

During the year, we have our own Friday worships, led by youth members. We have bi-monthly family worship led by a BLD member family which encourages the whole family to pray together. Various one-day retreats are also held during the year such as the Youth Rally, Washing of the Feet or a special leadership retreat designed to enable the youth leadership to bond closer together. Teachings are scheduled on the 2nd and 4th Fridays conducted by a Youth Teacher who attended the Teacher's Development Program. We also have 'fun' activities such as Prom Night, apple-picking, or sports meets like the Battle of the Classes (BOTC) or basketball games with the Singles Ministry or a mini-Bowling Tournament, when the schedule permits.

What really distinguishes us is our music which ➤

Justice Revealed

"Observe what is right, do what is just; for my salvation is about to come, my justice, about to be revealed." (Is 56:1)

The dictionary defines "justice" as the quality of being fair and reasonable. But what is the Lord's justice? There are times, as I listen to a friend tell me that her prayers were heard, I think to myself, "Why not mine?" But then on my way home, as I ascend the steps from the train platform to the station, I see the homeless man who has lived in the train station for more than a year. Is this the Lord's justice for him, that he should be homeless?

Are we each getting what is just? Maybe my real question is will I be getting what I deserve? What do I deserve? What must I do for His salvation to come to me?

The answer lies, not with the things that we have or do not have. While it is true that some trials seem more difficult than others, the challenge is the same for the homeless man, as it is for each of us individually. Jesus tells us that to inherit eternal life, one must **"love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself"** (Luke 10:27)

Our God has said this in so many ways, in no uncertain terms – in Isaiah, in Luke, in both the Old and New Testaments - thus will His justice be revealed. It will be based on how we "observe what is right, do what is just." It will be based on how we love God... God as God... God as He is in our neighbors... God as He is in that homeless man.

Salvation can come as soon as the very next moment. For if we follow His ways, He showers blessings upon us. The things of the world become less important, and the things that we pray for change.

Once we truly begin to love God and strive to have loving Him as our purpose in this life, we experience the gift of His love; and it does not matter what our station in life is - old or young, rich, poor or homeless, infirm or healthy. Imagine the moment that we become truly aware of it – when we get that which we deserve – His Love. Then His Justice is revealed.

is very contemporary worship music that will enable the membership to sing and dance for the Lord. We invite you to come and attend our worship and we guarantee you an hour of foot-stomping, hip-swaying worship songs and lots of clapping... honoring the only Lord we know – Jesus!

COUNSELS (from page 1)

The universe shifts gear, a spark of bright light falls upon the earth, and deep within Mary's body a baby begins to form. Her life changes, and so does the life of the world. Mary proclaims herself the Lord's maidservant, despite the shame and dishonor unwed pregnancy brings with it at that time. Mary's obedience and willingness to accept the call of God became her assurance of God's protection and care during her pregnancy and childbirth, as well as in the care of her young son. Mary does not expect great things from God in return. She simply and humbly submits to his will. This submission will become the model for those who listen to the Lord and allow Him to move in their lives and in the world at large without question.

Mary was the chosen mother of the Redeemer. She was prepared for the role from the moment of her conception, through her holy origin - unsullied and untouched by sin, like the son she was to bear. Her life as a human being became the starting point of the new creation which will find perfection in the life and person of Jesus. The gospel states that Mary is *kecharitomene*, "graced by God," and therefore full of grace, conceived as holy and full of grace by her own loving parents.

Mary's obedience to the will of the Father challenges us to reflect on our own dispositions of the heart. Am I willing to respond to God in the same way? We may never encounter an archangel delivering a message to us, but God's call can come to us in many ways. Are we sensitive and open to his call? We admire Mary's response to the annunciation, but what can we learn from it? Are we also ready to respond with the same words - ***"I am the servant of the Lord may it be done to me according to your word?"*** This is a declaration of complete faith and submission to God, a readiness to be used in risky and even painful ways.

Would we still obey God's will when faced with disease in our family? Can we still welcome this season of joy if today we are diagnosed to be suffering from some incurable disease, or when family members encounter problems and turn to us repeatedly for help? When age starts to weaken our bodies, and our plans fail, or are thwarted at every turn, or when the Church calls us to widen our vision and give witness to the sacredness of all human life at a time of change, are we still prepared to put God's call above our own preferences and needs?

Advent is about God entering into our human life and condition, not through an angel, but in ways we can perceive, comprehend and embrace. God comes into us through events, circumstances, people, challenges, and responsibilities. How has he come to you, personally, at this time? Perhaps, this is the first question we should be asking ourselves, because our response to the call ➤

THE GIFT OF SONG

"I will bless the Lord at all times; praise shall be always in my mouth. My soul will glory in the Lord that the poor may hear and be glad." (Ps 34:2-3)

I love to sing and singing was always a part of our family activity growing up. I have memories as a young child of visiting hospitals with my family and friends especially during the Christmas season to sing carols and bring the joy and love of Christ to others. Hearing Christmas carols always brings special memories of this wonderful experience which I so value and cherish in retrospect. I remember seeing the emotions of the people we visited. They had tears of joy and feelings of gratitude for our visit. My sisters and I were members of the choir. The Christmas season was very hectic as Christmas Eve was spent at the hospital singing carols to those who could not be with their families. Afterward, we would rush back home, get dressed and sing at the Mass.

I always find myself singing. On long trips it is not unusual for our family to be singing in harmony to pass the time away. There are songs from Burt Bacharach, Frank Sinatra or Tony Bennett. Now that I am a part of the renewal, you will likely hear me singing or humming songs of praise. I love attending the Mass, corporate worships and healing services. During the week, I find myself singing songs from these past services. These songs turn my heart toward the Lord, reminding me of his blessings and goodness. When we fill our minds with good thoughts and songs of praise, I know that we suppress and drive out whatever is not of the Lord.

As I write this article at 4 am (while my family sleeps and house work awaits), I cannot help being emotional as it has struck me that it is no coincidence that I have been assigned this task. My sister has continued our family legacy of caroling at nursing homes and hospitals. Every year, I miss joining them because of a conflict in our schedule. But this year, you know where I will be. God has reminded me of this wonderful activity of bringing joy to others with songs especially during this advent season.

to prepare the way of the Lord depends mainly on our answer. It defines our true relationship with Him. And the answer is really a matter of the heart.

Let us create the wonder of Christmas anew like Mary- the first tabernacle - by saying 'Yes' to God at all times and bringing Jesus to the world.

DIRECTIONS

1. Be steadfast with your covenant with God.
2. Be like Mary in complete obedience to the will of the Father.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS ENVELOPES

will be available on Dec. 16th and 23rd for our **Love Offering** this Blessed Season, in **THANKSGIVING** for God's love that has been poured out into our hearts.

BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20

The Stewardship and Management Services Ministry is sponsoring a contest for the logo that we shall use at our 20th Anniversary entitled BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20. The chosen entry will be notified and an appreciation gift will be awarded at our anniversary celebration. Please email your entry no later than **January 31, 2012** to gcabunag@verizon.net.

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A. www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

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Be A Living Word

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MISSION **Soup Kitchen**

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month.

Dec. 24 • Mission Ministry • Contacts: Audie/Vulet Chong 732.356.9056 institutional@bldnewark.com

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place **every 4th Friday** at the Auditorium

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

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Dec. 30	Family Worship

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Catholic Conference of Youth and Parents

"The Lord Made You a Blessing Forever"
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2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro
Contacts: Mosti/Ling Garcia district@bldnewark.com

Advent Prayer

Father, all-powerful God, Your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of Your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces His glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for His coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.





COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

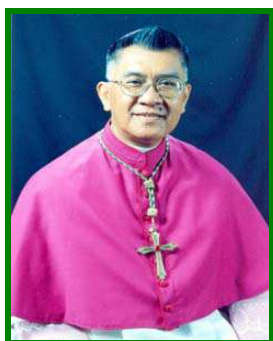
Volume 17 Issue 50

Bulletin Edition

December 23, 2011

Christmas & New Year Messages

Archbishop Angel Lagdameo



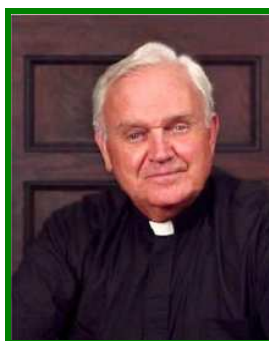
Years ago the most important decorations in churches, chapels, stores, parks, and in many, many homes was the CRIB in varied and beautiful presentations. As we contemplate before such cribs, we encounter one of the deepest riddles of life: why God as we know Him to be - eternal, transcendent, omnipotent, omnipresent, immutable, impassable - chose for His coming into our world the cave, the poor accommodations of the crib, the lowly parents and visitors. Shocking for one with "His status and stature!" What a contrast! The answer to the riddle is precisely that: God loves contrasts. True God and true man! Fully divine and fully human! God in Jesus has become "a sign of contradiction," a "living paradox," a living parable that can be told again and again.

Nowadays we seldom see the Crib displayed in homes and public places and parks. Many of our churches and chapels still keep the tradition though. Probably we have not "taken in" the answer, the meaning of the riddle of life. Probably the Filipino has become so poor and the "poor crib" expensive! But look at the expensive neon lights for sale in our department stores and the firecrackers being readied for an explosive celebration of Christmas and New Year's Eve. How beautiful to behold the intricate decorations and neon lights in public places and homes. Where is the source of the "riddle of life"? In one city parish, for nine "aguinaldo masses" the parishioners were led to reflect on God's question "Is there still a place for God?"

Today's Christmas celebration, although centuries apart from the historical birth of JESUS CHRIST, Son of God, Son of Man, continues the pulse of that historic birth, because it is not the birth of just



Fr. Paul Lehman



Beloved brothers and sisters, Allow me to repeat what Archbishop Lagdameo reminds us in his letter to the global BLD community- that the season is an opportunity to renew faith. As important as celebration is and as necessary for human relationships, we must not forget that as Christians we are celebrating the Incarnation. We use that technical term, "Incarnate" now in the creed. On Christmas and on March 25 we not just bow at these words. We kneel in amazement that the Son of God should become one of us. Do we realize the implications of this act of faith? God is our brother. Later in the year we will renew faith that He is our redeemer. But now rejoice that He is here among us and one of us and that He will never go away.

a great man of this world, it is the birth of one who continues to be born in the hearts of men and women "who hear the Word of God and obey it." He is the WORD made FLESH. He is the enfleshed Word of God. As long as we can find Him in our hearts, in the heart of every man and woman, of every Filipino, never mind if we fail to see Him displayed in our homes, parks, and public places, - although that would still be a good reminder of what we truly are celebrating. Christmas is not a matter of remembering a past event, the birth of Jesus Christ.

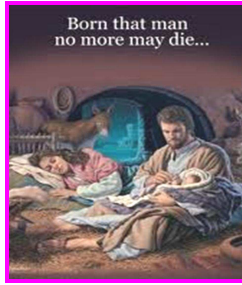
Christmas is a celebration of the new presence, the new companionship, the new image of God in our life as Man. Through the enfleshment/incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, we discover the mystery of our own human life. The incarnation of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity is the mystery that reveals to us the wisdom and the insight of God who sends to us His Son. It is an event that

Continued on page 3

Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!

Executive Council of Servant Leaders

We come to another season of merriment and we spend time choosing and putting up the ornaments, decorations, colored lights to add joy to the festive air, the food we need to prepare and, of course, the gifts. We hear the words "Merry Christmas" and it gives us an idea that indeed this is the time of the year when we can be merry even in times of uncertainties.



But how many really understand what Christmas means? To grasp the true meaning of what the Christmas Season is all about, we need to set aside all of the customs, glitter and traditions of Christmas that we have so that we can focus on the significance of Christmas. Though it is true that Christmas is celebrated as the day of the Birth of Christ into this world, it also symbolizes a very deep significant truth in our spiritual life. Jesus Christ is the very personification of Divinity and He was born at a time when ignorance, superstition, greed, hatred and hypocrisy prevailed in the ancient land. Purity was forgotten and morality was neglected.

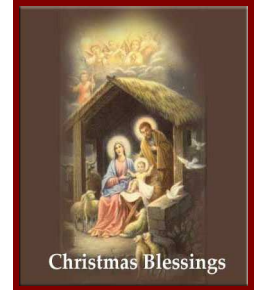
In the midst of these conditions, Christ was born and He preached on the need for transformation in the lives of the people. By the life He lived and His salvific death on the cross, Jesus ushered in a new spiritual paradigm with the institution of the Christian faith that brought in not only a new way of life but also the dawning of a new era in the world.

But this all began with His birth that symbolized the indwelling of the Christian spirit in the lives of every believer and the real Christmas emerges when this Divine Person fills and transforms the hearts of men. As God who is divine was born of human parents, man who is human was thus transformed into a supernatural being. This commingling of the divinity of God and the humanity of man became the light that began to shine where darkness was before.

The human nature of Christ is like the yeast which leavens the whole mass (Mt 13:33). He is the vine and we are the branches (Jn 15:5). And as St. Ambrose said: "The Almighty took the form of a slave that the slave might become a king." St. Athanasius also said: "The Son of God became Son of man that the children of men might become children of God." This then is what makes Christmas or the celebration of Christ's birth significant in that Christ did not deem equality with God as something to be grasped (Phil 2:6) as He was born in a manger in a corner of a stable to humble and poor parents, who had nothing to boast about, except their own spotless character and holiness. ➤

District Servant Leader & District Council of Servants

Christmas reminds us of the holiness of the Holy Family. Holiness includes compassion, understanding, humor and the capacity to forgive and be forgiven, to love and be loved.



Holy families are not perfect, but always striving to be perfect, not according to a set of worldly standards, but to God's standards. Holy families are not free from conflicts, nor do they never hurt one another. Holiness in families means learning to forgive and to be reconciled, and learning to face problems and do something about them. It means striving to surrender to God's light within us when the darkness around us seems overwhelming. It means struggling day after day to bring creative order to the chaos in our lives. When we work at cultivating forgiveness, reconciliation, and community, we embody God's holy will in our family life.

May we all strive to have holy families as we await the second coming of Jesus Christ. May we (BLD) become a holy family mirroring the love and unity of the Holy Family and the Blessed Trinity.

Together, with all the families represented in our BLD-Newark district, we thank our Lord for another year of blessings and favors. We rejoice, together with all of our members, the presence of Emmanuel - "God with us" in our community, in our families and in our hearts, not only in our worship but at all times.

Have a Blessed Christmas & a Prosperous New Year!

The Incarnation of the Son of God will continue to remain as a mystery that we cannot comprehend but this was a divinely-inspired event that we can only admire and honor. As St. John Chrysostom said: "I know that the Son of God became man, but how I do not know."

The celebration of Christmas is thus, a celebration of faith. As Christians clothed with faith in our God, we are mandated to celebrate Christmas not for the merriment that enlivens the season but to herald the coming of our Divine God so that we, humans as we are, will become partakers of the divine nature.

We, in the Executive Council of Servant Leaders, greet one and all a meaningful and joyful Christmas and it is our hope and prayer that this coming of Christ into our hearts will re-energize our lives that we can all be ON FIRE again!

COUNSELS

Nativity of Our Lord

THEME: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

WORD: We prepare for the coming of the Lord when we celebrate and rejoice over the birth of our Messiah.

ORDER: Accept and believe in Jesus' name.

REFLECTION:

The Theme for the Week is: **We prepare for the coming of the Lord when we celebrate and rejoice over the birth of our Messiah.**

After the four-weeks of Advent, this week opens providentially with the Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord. This Solemnity allows us to reflect on how we, as disciples of Christ, prepared ourselves to mark the birth of our Lord and Savior. If during the four weeks of Advent, we have focused more on the material aspects of Christmas, by now, we may well be physically exhausted by the days spent shopping, decorating our homes, and going to endless parties. And now, as we look at our credit standing and decreased savings account, we ponder what Christmas is all about.

On the other hand, if we had spent time reflecting daily on the readings of the Advent, we should by now have come to a realization once again, of how much God loves us, having sent His only begotten Son, Jesus, to save us from our sinfulness. St. Paul tells us: ***"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those from the law, so that we may receive adoption. As proof that you are children, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, 'Abba Father!'"*** So you are no longer a slave, but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God." (Gal 4:4-7)

And so, with eyes of faith we are now able to observe the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. He came into this world in humble circumstances – born in a stable with only Mary and Joseph present by His side and surrounded by animals. The nativity scene underscores the importance of family. Blessed Adolph Kolping said: ***"The first thing that a person***

finds in life and the last to which he holds out his hand, and the most precious that he possesses, even if he does not realize it, is family life." Likewise, it behooves us to take care of nature and animals. In that stable, the Lord reminds us that we should live simply and in humility rather than ostentatiously, or in ceaseless striving for great wealth, power, worldly honors and public acclaim. A clean heart is what matters to Jesus. His first visitors were lowly shepherds. Our Lord also reminds us to share our blessings with the lowly, especially this Christmas season, bearing the final judgment in mind when Jesus will ask us if we have given food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, welcome to strangers, clothed the naked, or visited prisoners. (Mt 26:35)

If our spiritual preparation has been as good as our physical preparations, we should be able to celebrate and rejoice on this the Solemnity of the Nativity of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we continue to follow Him by obeying His commandments and sharing our resources with the needy, we will find great delight in the simple things of life – the amazing evidence of His work in the world around us and, closer to home, our family, friends, community – and best of all, in knowing that God our Father will continue to provide for all our needs, for we are truly His beloved children, with an imperishable, inheritance that is kept for us in heaven undefiled and unfading (1 Pt 1:4.)

With thankfulness in our hearts, we claim the promise of the week which says: ***"From His fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace."*** (Jn 1:16)

DIRECTIONS

1. Speak only blessings.
2. Bear Good news and announce salvation.

Archbishop Angel Lagdameo (from page 1)

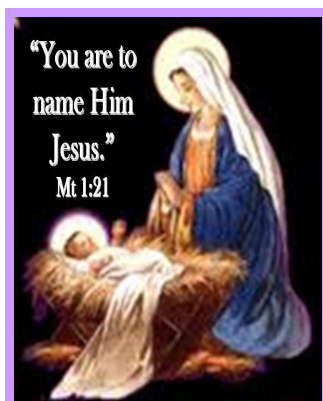
cannot be consigned to the past because He is the "Living One" "who is and who was and who is to come" (Rev 1:18 & 4.)

What does the coming New Year hold for us, for our country? If we really believe that God in Jesus invades our human situation even now and until now, we can verily expect that He can transform the worst of times into the best of times, our failures into victories, our tragedies into transformations, our curses into blessings.

Promise of the Week

"From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace." (Jn 1:16)

Christmas Prayer



Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise You for the great wonders You have sent us: for the shining star and angel's song, for the infant's cry in the lowly manger. We praise You for the Word made flesh in a little Child.

We behold His glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas, the incomprehensible comprehended, the poetry made hard fact, the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder. We kneel before You shepherds, innkeepers, wisemen. Help us to rise bigger than we are. Amen.



*Maligayang Pasko
at Manigong Bagong Taon!*

We, in the Word Ministry would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all the contributors and volunteers who have worked alongside us to bring you the Covenant News each week.

Thank-you for sharing the Christ in you to our community. May the Lord continue to prosper your work.

***Merry Christmas
& a Prosperous New Year!***

Erratum: Volume 17 Issue 49's date should have been December 16, 2011 not December 23, 2011.

CN archives are available at www.bldnewark.net, click on **Covenant News**.

TEACHING CALENDAR

Singles Retreat

Jan. 14, 2012 • 9am-4pm • St. Mary's
Grow in Christ, Grow in Life II & Discover Your Promise • Contacts: Manny/Arlene Magalonzo
singles@bldnewark.com

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20

The Stewardship and Management Services Ministry is sponsoring a contest for the logo that we shall use at our 20th Anniversary entitled BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20. The chosen entry will be notified and an appreciation gift will be awarded at our anniversary celebration. Please email your entry no later than **Jan 31, 2012** to gcabunag@verizon.net

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month.

Dec. 24 • Mission Ministry • Contacts: Audie/Vulet Chong 732.356.9056 institutional@bldnewark.com

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place **every 4th Friday** at the Auditorium

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,144	166,897
Fundraisers (Golf & Dinner Dance)		33,905
Typhoon Donations		1,364

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

Thank you for your continued support!

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Dec. 30 Family Worship

Youth Rally

Jan. 14 • 8am-7pm • St. Mary's Auditorium
Catholic Conference of Youth and Parents
"The Lord Made You a Blessing Forever"
Contacts: Tony/Tatess Abad • 201.244.5744

2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro
Contacts: Mosti/Ling Garcia district@bldnewark.com



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 51

Bulletin Edition

December 30, 2011

NEWS

Christ is born!

December ...about 2000 years ago – REJOICE!!!
GREAT NEWS!!! - After traveling about eighty miles, on a trek that took several days from Nazareth to Bethlehem, our Mother Mary gave birth to our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Although His birth had been prophesied, Jesus' arrival was initially not met with much fanfare. But it's from this humble start that the culmination of God's plan of salvation began. A plan to save the world with the Power of His Love...

“For God so loved the world...



...that He gave His only Son”

– John 3:16

... The world as in all men: those from two thousand years ago; those from both before and since then, including us to this very day.

Let us rejoice indeed!!!

COUNSELS

Child of Bethlehem Be Born in Our Hearts

THEME: We are a blessing to others when we are humble and obedient like Mary.

WORD: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

ORDER: *“...Say to them: ‘The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!’”* (Nm 6:23-26)

REFLECTION:

In the Gospel today, we could imagine the shepherds rushing to get to Bethlehem. They had received the message from the angel of the Lord that in the city of David a Savior had been born. When they saw the Child, they recounted what had been told them and all who heard it were amazed by the shepherds' tale. Overjoyed, as they had become recipients of God's favors and blessings, the shepherds went home glorifying and praising God. They had seen the sign: an Infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Three wise men also saw a sign, a star that led them to where the newborn King of the Jews would be found. When they saw the Child with Mary His mother, they prostrated themselves and did Him homage. They then offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Elizabeth, on Mary's earlier visit to her, was unable to contain herself with the sight of Mary that she cried out in a loud voice: *“Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.”* (Lk 1:41-44)

...Continued, page 3

Promise of the Week

“So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.” (Gal 4:7)

Consecrated to God

"Now I, in turn give him to the Lord as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the Lord." (1 Sam 1:28)

At some point in our lives, trials, hurts, loss of loved ones, and other painful occurrences, happen. We feel intense pain and often our faith in God is put to a test as we doubt His love. Sadly, we demand that God answer our questions: Why me? Why now? Why?...Why?...Why?..." But should we really?

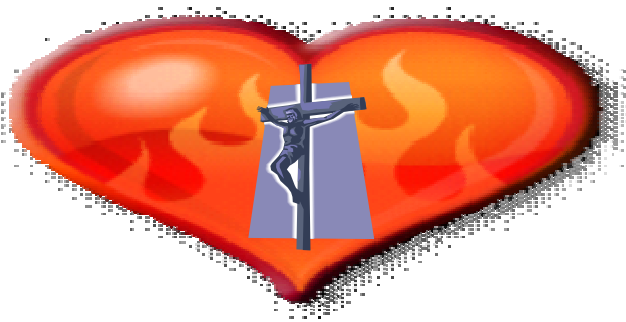
As I followed my son's casket, I felt numb and totally broken with grief. I turned my gaze to the crucifix at the altar. My heart was crying inside. I thought God loved me and my family. Somehow I was awakened while focused on the cross. God so loves me as to allow His Son to die on the cross. The readings during the mass dwelt in my mind: Wisdom 3:1, 9 - ***"But the souls of the just are in the hand of God..., and the faithful shall abide in love..."***; John 11:25-26 - ***"...whoever believes in Me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die..."*** This allowed me to let go of my son despite the pain and anguish. It must have been God's way.

Gradually, I felt God's love unfolding, as I looked at myself and my relationship with Him. I begged Him to empty me, of myself so I could receive Him wholeheartedly; for the grace to focus on His goodness and to be thankful for His blessings. I asked God to take control of my life.

Through the years, I realized that my pains were awesome opportunities towards a meaningful relationship with our Lord. They strengthened my faith and gave me the courage to carry on, let go of my pain and anguish, and surrender my son in consecration to the loving Father.

Indeed, God is an awesome God. I gave thanks to God for His faithfulness and steadfast love. Day to day, I learned to be cognizant and to be grateful for His blessings, even for little things. ***"In all circumstances give thanks ..."*** (1 Thes 5:18)

Truly, ***"...all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose."*** (Rom 8:28)



Refiner's Fire

"But who will endure the day of his coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like the refiner's fire, or like the fuller's lye. He will sit refining and purifying [silver], and He will purify the sons of Levi, refining them like gold or like silver, that they may offer due sacrifice to the LORD." (Mal 3:2-3)

"All the pre-op patients were called, except for this one. We tried to call him many times these past two days, but no answer," my nurse reported exasperatedly. As she left my office, I reached out for the phone and dialed the number. It rang twice, and surprisingly a man answered. "Is this Mr. Gutierrez?" I asked. "Yes," he answered. I proceeded with the interview. Mr. Gutierrez was scheduled for an enucleation of both eyes. He had been suffering from intolerable pain in his eyes, which had been blind for 16 years, and now they were scheduled for surgical removal.

At the end of my interview, I told him that he needed to bring an escort with him. "I have no one," he said. Then he went on to tell me about how he once had a wife and children, and worked two jobs. But he lost everything after a car accident that left him blind. He then started to sob as he said, "Sometimes I ask God, why He allowed me to survive, only to leave me suffering like this."

I paused for a moment and then reassured him that God had not abandoned him, that God loves him, and that sometimes He allows him to go through trials and sufferings so that he may draw closer to Him in prayer. Despite many others' attempts to contact him, that I was able to reach him, I said, was a sign that God wanted me to remind Mr. Gutierrez of His love. I told Mr. Gutierrez that I would be praying for him from now on, and that I would include him in our BLD Intercessory Prayers.

As I recall this incident from a few weeks ago, I cannot help but marvel at how magnificent and merciful our Lord is. This brief moment in time when I was able to serve as witness of God's love to a complete stranger, strengthens my hope in Christ Jesus, our Light. As I reflect this Advent season, I take to heart God's words in Malachi 3:2-3. As we undergo our trials, I believe that the Lord is like the Silversmith, Who puts silver or gold through fire, until it is purified - when He finally sees His image reflected on it. Our Lord has put us on this earth, our temporary exile, until we are purified, ready to join Him in the place He has lovingly prepared for us in His Heavenly abode.

"And they shall be Mine, says the LORD of hosts, My own special possession, on the day I take action. And I will have compassion on them, as a man has compassion on his son who serves him." (Mal 3:17)

COUNSELS (from page 1)

What stirred the hearts of the shepherds that caused this excitement? What made the three wise men walk the distance? In what way did Elizabeth's pronouncement relate to what the shepherds and the wise men experienced? It was their encounter with the divine! They had seen the Infant Jesus - the Son of God, the Prince of Peace! They had seen the face of God shining upon them, looking kindly upon them, and giving them peace! And so were they blessed!

"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." (Lk 2:19)

The miracle of Jesus' birth was the fulfillment of a prophecy revealed to her by the angel Gabriel when he announced: ***"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High..."*** (Lk 1:31-32). It was the fulfillment of a prophecy that became *sealed* the very moment Mary expressed faith and complete obedience to God's plan of salvation: ***"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."*** (Lk 1:38)

Mary shared the "priestly obedience" of her Son and prepared for Him a worthy receptacle by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. In giving birth to the Son of the Father, Mary contributed to achieving the fullness of time (Gal 4:4). Faithful and obedient, she freely cooperated with the work of our salvation. Her motherhood brought Jesus to the shepherds, the wise men, and Elizabeth. Her motherhood brought God's blessings to the world.

So profound is the role Mary plays in the lives of Christians today that she has been given numerous titles of affection. Of these, most significant and most encompassing is the Holy Mother of God, by which we also celebrate the Solemnity of her Motherhood. By her title Holy Mother of God we bring to light the unique relationship Mary has with all Three Persons of the Trinity, summed up in St. John Eudes' Salutation to Mary: Daughter of God the Father, Mother of God the Son, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, Temple of the Most Holy Trinity!

God came to Mary in a very special way. He knew her heart, and blessed her abundantly. Mary's blessings are poured down to us in ways that are wonderful! Through God's grace, Mary gave us Jesus. At the Crucifixion, Jesus in turn gave Mary to us, the church, when He said to the disciple whom He loved: ***"Behold your mother."*** (Jn 19:27) The Christ we seek becomes concrete with our relationship to the Mother of God. Mary, our mother, gives us a sense of belonging to each other. We are her children; the Church Christ built.

Today we honor Mary, our mother, the Holy Mother of God. May her humility and obedience ...*Continued, page 4*

Canticle of Zechariah

The very first part of this chant by the priest Zechariah is a prayer of thanksgiving. First of all, the birth of his son brought new hope. A hope that the offspring would someday take over his priestly position; that his son will bring salvation from the Romans. Also, being of advanced age, this childless priest was extremely thankful for the gift of fatherhood. Being a father at this stage of his life was a miracle only the



Heavenly Father could do. He even became mute in his disbelief, with his speech restored only when John was born. He was so happy that the Almighty was actually listening after all - his lifelong prayers were finally answered. The miracle of fatherhood, the removal of the disgrace associated with childlessness, the newly revived hope and his answered prayers brought forth extreme happiness and deep gratitude to the Heavenly Father.

The second part of his chant is a prophecy for his newly born child - John the Baptist. He had foreseen the main purpose of his son's existence. His son was supposed to prepare the way for the promised Savior; to lead the people to the dawn of a new beginning, from the darkness and sorrows of the state they were in. His son was supposed to enlighten the souls of the people through repentance and cleansing through baptism. Lastly, his son, with the help of the Messiah, was supposed to lead the people of Israel, establishing God's kingdom here on earth - a kingdom of everlasting peace.

The very last part of this chant is an exultation to the Blessed Trinity; but because of the mention of the Son here in the canticle about the birth of John the Baptist, most of us consider this a continuation of the prophecy in the second part. However this also meant that the Savior was about to come - the Son of the Heavenly Father, coming as the promised Messiah. Thus the glory of the Blessed Trinity raised Zechariah's hope even higher.

The canticle of Zechariah today is an Advent morning prayer. As John the Baptist precedes Jesus and prepares the way for him, John's birth is also a preparation for Christ's. As John prepared the souls of long ago through repentance and change of heart, this chant reminds us to do the same. Just as John had to decrease so that Jesus would increase, this reminds us to humble ourselves, paving the way for Jesus inside our hearts to celebrate His birth. Lastly, John, being the one who started Christ's public ministry through baptism, reminds us of our baptismal renewal with Jesus. It is important every Advent to renew our baptism with Jesus; which is why it is fitting and proper for Zechariah's chant to be sung during Advent - as we prepare for Christ's birth.

COUNSELS (from page 3)

serve to guide us as followers of Christ. May we have the courage and grace to live a life of faith, just as Mary did. May we continue to be on FIRE - fruitful, inspired, renewed, and empowered in our mission work.

As we go on our daily lives let us strive to see God in the faces of the people we meet, in situations we find ourselves in, in the ordinary and extraordinary happenings around us. He will bless us more as He blesses those who seek Him. He did the lowly shepherds, as well as the respected magi. And so we invite that little Child to come to us. And we pray: "Child of Bethlehem, be born in our hearts!" as we prepare for Him a "receptacle" fit for the Child of the Gentle Woman.

Directions:

1. Let us be a blessing to the community; start the year living up to our roles as shepherds and disciples of Christ consistent with our Community Vision and Mission.
2. Be obedient like Mary; with humility and joy in every mission work, to again set the community on **FIRE** (Fruitful, Inspired, Renewed and Empowered)

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	2,128	169,025
Christmas Love Offering		1,964
Typhoon Sendong		4,291

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Prayer for a Blessing on the New Year

O sacred and adorable Trinity, hear our prayers on behalf of our holy Father the Pope, our Bishops, our clergy, and for all that are in authority over us. Bless, we beseech You, during the coming year, the whole Catholic Church; convert heretics and unbelievers; soften the hearts of sinners so that they may return to Your friendship; give prosperity to our country and peace among the nations of the world; pour down Your blessings upon our friends, relatives, and acquaintances, and upon our enemies, if we have any; assist the poor and the sick; have pity on the souls of those whom this year has taken from us; and Lord be merciful to those who during the coming year will be summoned before Your judgment seat. May all our actions be preceded by Your inspirations and carried on by Your assistance, so that all our prayers and works, having been begun in You, may likewise be ended through You. Amen.

Have a Blessed and Bountiful New Year!

Please notify the Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: word@bldnewark.com

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Be a Living Word

TEACHING CALENDAR

Singles Retreat

Jan. 14, 2012 • 9am-4pm • St. Mary's
Grow in Christ, Grow in Life II & Discover Your Promise
Contacts: Manny/Arlene Mangalonzo singles@bldnewark.com

Jan. 20 CDFP Overview – ME 38, SPE 13
Teaching – Mark 10, John 6, Youth

Jan. 21* New Creation Realities / Growth in Prayer
– LSS 1-37
Intercessory – LSS 1-35

Jan. 27 Teaching – Intercessory Formation,
Golden Years

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

Make the Covenant News Part of Your Covenant Life

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58

In Need of Wellness Program Volunteers

Nurses for Blood Pressure & Sugar Screening
Doctors (General Practice)

Contact: R/L Amarante 908-265-2157 rubenluz@aol.com

ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check

Every 2nd Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Youth Rally

Jan. 14 • 8am-7pm • St. Mary's Auditorium

Catholic Conference of Youth and Parents

"The Lord Made You a Blessing Forever"

Contacts: Tony/Tatess Abad • 201.244.5744

2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro
Contacts: Mosti/Ling Garcia district@bldnewark.com