



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 17 Issue 27

Bulletin Edition

July 15, 2011

## NEWS

### Youth go fishing, nets a bountiful catch!

This last weekend, July 8-10, 2011, the Youth Ministry held its annual Youth Encounter at the Radisson Hotel in Carteret, NJ. This is the 18th Encounter and one of the biggest catch. The harvest netted the Youth Ministry with 55 new members as: Avery Abad, Darren Abinales, Ursula Afante, Tiffany Anyanwu, Ashley Austria\*, Jamie Lee Buhain, Jill Eunice Buhain, Adrian Cabrera, Franco Cabrera, Stephen Cacnio\*, Nadine Capil, Jon Ciocon, Joseph Daguio, Allyson Dia, Alec Dizon, Russel Dizon, Rowena Dolot, Daniel Escobar, Kristen Fernandez, Katrina Fernando, Christian Ikalina, Osiano Iseknege, Paolo Jose\*, Kirby Labaso, Shella-Marie Lanez, Sean Louise Laput, Maria Isabel Limosnero, Gianna Marie Limosnero, Rebecca Lintag, Norman Lopez, Darren Lopez\*, Adrian Loreto, Collin Maandal, Danielle Rose Marcial, Michael Ntigbu, Abigail Ocaya, Nneka Okereke, Sean Olaso\*, Calvin Ombrete, Zachary Pacia, Faith Pangilinan, Kipsy Quevada\*, Xanilyn Red\*, Samantha Salamat, Hanna Nina Salamat, Monica Grace Sanagustin\*, Juan Paulo Sison, Andrew Sun, Cristine Sun\*, Crystal-Pearl Tayman, Charisse Nicole Anne Trinidad, Mirian Ugokwe, Ndidi Umezina\*, Chijioke Umenzinwa, and Fatima Ria Veridiano (\* Coordinators).

Those who served as facilitators for the weekend were Stephanie Olaso, Faith Ikalina, Joseph DeGuzman, and John Estrella. Msgr Paul Schetelick served as the Spiritual Director. Throughout the weekend all 55 candidates opened up to each other and shared their faith with one another. To keep the bonds close, Kody Tolentino, YE14 and Trixie Jose, YE15 were discerned to be the youth class shepherds together with Tony and Tatess Abad, ME17 as their adult counterparts. We welcome the YE18 class to the whole BLD Community with open arms.



## COUNSELS

### Growing Together

**THEME:** We submit to the Will of the Father when we are forbearing of the weaknesses of others.

**WORD:** Wis 12:13, 16-19; Ps 86: 5-6, 9-10, 15-16; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43

**ORDER:** *"Let them grow together until harvest ... and gather the wheat into my barn."* (Mt 13:30)

#### REFLECTION:

Mother Teresa once said: "If you judge people, you have no time to love them."

Too often, we are in denial of our own judgmental attitude even within God's church. We decline to believe that in our self-righteousness we isolate people whom we have judged as "not one of us." Contrary to the Master's advice, we cannot accept those we have classified as weeds in God's garden and we forcibly pull them out of the scene. We blindly pull up the weeds and wheat together. We take a great risk and opt for the alternative Jesus did not decide to take in His ministry.

This is one sad story even within God's very own flock. Where God calls us to hate evil and love good, we have chosen to make the insane attempt at calling good and evil, pretty much the same thing. Where God has asked us to unite His people, we set aside and judge some as good and acceptable while we leave some behind as sinful and broken.

Today, God talks about the way we see each other and treat others. As He is concerned about whether there will be room in our hearts to welcome each other naturally as neighbors and friends, He calls us to the Christian dimensions of total gratuity, forgiveness and reconciliation. His challenge is right within our midst-to make God's church overcome "structures of sin and oppression" where the human and natural bonds of love and forgiveness prevail; where one accepts that we are responsible for all and not just a chosen few.

*Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*"The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness...." (Rom 8:26a)*

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

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

In Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Juliet said "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." To some people, though, their name is everything and they can get into a fight for it. I have met some people who get insulted or get angry when their names are mispronounced or misspelled; others get offended when their preferred names are not used to address them.

What really is in a name, anyway? Simply, names are given to us for identification, to distinguish us from others. In some societies or families, their name is all that a person or what their family stands for: greatness, nobility, wealth, or fame. When parents name a child, they invariably think of a name of a famous person, a saint, a beloved relative or the name of a person that they admire, respect or look up to.

In the Old Testament, even Moses had to ask God what name to call Him, not because he cared, but because the Israelites would surely want to know by what authority Moses was speaking to them. So **"God replied, 'I am who am.' Then he added, 'This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you ... This is my name forever; this is my title for all generations.'"** (Ex 3:14-15)

In the New Testament, however, it was Jesus who asked **"'Who do the crowds say that I am?' They said in reply, 'John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, 'One of the ancient prophets has arisen.'"** Then he said to them, **"But who do you say that I am?" Peter said in reply, 'The Messiah of God.'"** (Lk 9:18-20)

While in the Old Testament God's name is "I Am Who Am" and in the New, "Jesus, the Christ of God", we are talking of the same God in two persons. Both identifications do not really give us a name but a description of who God is, His Character and what power He has above all powers and things. As God, Jesus embodies every element of God's character. **"For in Him dwells the whole fullness of the deity bodily..."** (Col 2:9) **"...one who has ...been tested in every way, yet without sin."** (Heb 4:15)

Can we choose the name "God" for ourselves? No, for that would be sacrilege and a violation of the second commandment, **"You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain. For the LORD will not leave unpunished him who takes his name in vain."** (Ex 20:7) Our God is awesome and only Him shall we worship.

What's in a name? A lot! But not to any name given to ordinary man but only the Name given to the True God and True Man: Jesus! It is the only Name that saves us from eternal damnation. As St. Peter proclaims in Acts 4:12: **"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,"** but by the Holy Name of Jesus, our Lord!

## Yoked to Jesus

**"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 yourselves. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."** (Mt 11:28-30)

What lovely words of comfort they bring!

During the years Jesus spent in Nazareth, He was aware of the heavy burdens life placed on the shoulders of ordinary people. The Scribes and Pharisees imposed on them the exact observance of the law and had little sympathy for those who found this burden too much to bear. Jesus felt for these simple people. They came to Him with their sickness and misery. His mere presence could bring peace to these anguished souls.

**"Take my yoke upon you..."** (Mt 11:29) A yoke is a wooden bar attached to the necks of a pair of oxen binding them together so they will pull a plow in the same direction. Jesus likens it as a bond of love which joins us to Him, and through Him, to our loving Father in heaven. We are called to put on the sweet yoke of Christ and to live the "heavenly way of life and happiness." To be yoked to Jesus is to accept Him as the Lord of our lives, let His will be done to us as He pulls us along the direction which He knows is best for us and His kingdom. He guides our steps on the straight road to heaven making our journey easier and safer. While He took on Himself the burdens of so many with love, He asks us to carry our cross daily. Once the cross is grasped firmly and lovingly, it ceases to be a burden. No burden is too heavy when it is given and carried in love. While faith makes all things possible, love makes all things easy.

Before Christ came to earth, idolatry often made life on earth unbearable and gave no hope whatsoever of any after-life. The few chosen people had very limited knowledge of the true God. They served Him out of self-interest, to get from Him temporal gifts, rather than out of real gratitude and love toward a kind and merciful Father.



Surely God is good to us, to put us into this world on this day and age, and give us the light of faith and the knowledge of Him. He makes known his loving plans for us, making the burden of this life relatively light and bearable. We still have struggles, difficulties and frustrations but now we see a meaning to all these trials.

# Ministry Matters – Liturgy Ministry

*“When they thirsted, they called upon you, and water was given them from the sheer rock, assuagement for their thirst from the hard stone.”*  
(Wisdom 11:4)

Someone could ask what the role of the Ministry on Liturgy is. We already have the Ministry of the Word and the Ministry of the Eucharist. We have priests and Deacons who could do these things. What else could be their function?

The Liturgical Ministry is responsible for scheduling and coordinating the ordinary Ministers of a Eucharistic celebration, and together with the Sponsoring Ministry Coordinator collaborates the assignment of the Mass participants (Readers/Lectors, Rosary Leaders, Ushers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers and others) every First Friday of each month (Healing Mass). Another function also is that through the Liturgy Ministry the DCS In-Charge could oversee all Eucharistic Celebrations in the BLD Newark District.

The Ministry provides liturgical support during encounters (ME, SPE, LSS, etc.), Community retreats, Prayer Counseling and all other activities of the district. We also provide assistance in setting up the Vigil Room for the intercessory prayers that support the encounters. The Liturgy Ministry is also responsible for the maintenance & upkeep of the sacred vessels used in BLD events as well as monitoring liturgical supplies (hosts/wines) and other equipment (purificators, candles, stoles, flowers, etc.)

*“When they thirsted, they called upon you”* and the living water is given to them, You quenched their thirst by Your word and Yourself, through the Eucharist, the tangible manifestation of Your love for us.

Another goal of the Liturgy Ministry is to encourage and train people to evangelize and re-evangelize through the proclamation of the word of God, and so the “Lectors’ Proficiency Program” was initiated and implemented through the cooperation of the Class Shepherds of various encounters (ME, SPE) whose class are new graduates of LSS. This is done every Friday during the Adult Praise and Worship. Why do they have to be graduates of the Life in the Spirit Seminar? Who could proclaim the Word of God and evangelize with vibrant demeanor but those who had an encounter and have been touched by our Lord from the inside-out?

We praise and thank You Lord that through the Liturgy Ministry You have guided us closer to You and we have totally changed our lives’ outlook, to focus and serve only You. Thank You for giving us this gift of Your Healing love, the Holy Mass!

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

How then do we address people who fall below our expectations? St Paul in his letter to the Corinthians did not say that the strong should simply accept the weak without teaching them. He provided clear instruction to the weak concerning their weakness. He said we should receive one another and patiently allow each other time to grow in understanding. In John 16, when Jesus said *“but you cannot bear them now”*, He knew they were still weak and were not ready to receive all the truths. Jesus did not let them remain in their weakness, but He was patient with them while they learned and grew stronger. In the same light, He wants us to be patient with each other, allowing the weak to grow and mature while those strong in the faith are allowed to exercise their freedom with a clear conscience.

This Sunday’s gospel does not only deal with those who are weak or strong in their faith but is a reminder to all that no matter how broken and sinful a man can be, no matter how poor a Christian witness one can be, no one can ever write him off as hopeless. No one should condemn anyone as we are all imperfect - broken and sinful, in all forms and shapes. We must never commit the mistake of trying to protect the wheat from the weeds by weeding out those whom we find unacceptable and condemning them.

As we all meditate on God’s Word, let us look deep into our hearts and ask ourselves if there were people we have condemned as weeds, unworthy of any consideration, any love and mercy.

Having experienced God’s love and mercy amidst our shortcomings, we should re-consider giving the very same love and mercy to those we may have caused to be estranged from God’s flock. We have to seek forgiveness for what we have done and acknowledge the weedy nature of our hearts that has caused us to judge. We have to see God’s people the way Jesus sees all of us. We have to love them the way Jesus loved them. We have to give them every chance to be closer to God rather than plucking them out and throwing them into the fire.

If Jesus has not given up on us, if he has not written us off, we ought to do the same to our neighbor! Let God be the Judge!

Today, let us follow what Jesus has revealed to us when He said: *“Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, ‘First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.’”* (Mt 13:30) Let us not judge but be patient and love our neighbor. Most importantly, let us, welcome every man who opens His heart to God and allow God to do His work!

## DIRECTIONS

- Be kind, judge with clemency and govern with leniency. Provide your children good ground for hope that will allow repentance for sins.



## 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](mailto:word@bldnewark.com).**

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

## Stewardship Prayer

Lord God, You alone are the source of every good gift, of the vast array of our universe, and the mystery of each human life. We praise You and thank You for Your great power and tender, faithful love. Everything we are and everything we have are your gifts, and after having created us you have given us into the keeping of Your Son, Jesus Christ

O Lord, forgive our fears that so stifle our stewardship. Forgive our giving in and our giving up instead of giving ourselves to Christ's mission of love. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. Fill our minds with His truth and our hearts with His love, and in His spirit may we be bonded together into a community of faith, a parish family, a caring people.

In the name and spirit of Jesus, we commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, to share our time, our talent, and our material and spiritual gifts as an outward sign of the treasure we hold in Jesus.

We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

## LORD'S PROVISION WEEK ENDING JULY 8, 2011

|                            |              |               |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Collections                | Actual       | YTD           |
| <b>Tithe/Love Offering</b> | <b>3,241</b> | <b>92,647</b> |

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)

Thank you for your continued support!

## TEACHING CALENDAR

7/22 **Golden Years & Intercessory Formation Teaching**

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

CN archives are available at [www.bldnewark.net](http://www.bldnewark.net), click on **Covenant News**.

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place **every 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:nongB601@aol.com)

## 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, 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:sic2011.action@gmail.com).