



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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Bulletin Edition

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NEWS

20 singles join SE

"We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

On June 3-5 2011, twenty beaming candidates graduated from SE #26, held in Graymoor Spiritual Life Center in Garrison, NY. The graduates JC Abcede, Danielle Aliparo, Jeremy Apostol, Anne Benito, Cyn Boado, Gian Lincuna, Jihan Catalon, Steve Chan, Chris Embry, Nicholas Freeman, Xavier Geoffroy, Anthony Guinto, Rachel Hochhauser, Justin Jose, Jei Mendoza-Obispo, Erik Rivera, Pat Salmo, Francis Sangalang, Diane Sousa, and Hayden Yatco will be lead and nurtured in their spiritual walk by their class shepherds Boyet and Zita Cruz.

Initially, each candidate had unique reasons for participating, ranging from doing a friend a favor to meeting new friends, but by the end of the weekend, sparks to seek out relationships with God were kindling. This awakening was brought forth by the shared experiences and works of the facilitators: Danah Alburo, Justin Bustos, Cheryl Guinto, Joe Madrigal and Eric Cruz. A special acknowledgement and thanks to the Spiritual Director, Fr. Paul Lehman, who has always been the mover of the Spirit in his inspirational talk and in his initiative in planting the seeds of God's words upon the candidates.

A heartfelt gratitude goes to all the singles who tirelessly worked and kept vigil for the success of this victorious weekend, and to all the BLD community members who came to support or faithfully interceded in the confines of their homes. A special thanks to the sponsoring class of SE 25, under the guidance of class shepherds Roger & Pina Coquia, for successfully orchestrating a memorable retreat. May God's message, which was brought forth, continue beyond the walls of the retreat house to spread the joy, sacredness and happiness experienced from it. To God be the glory!

COUNSELS

PEACE!

THEME: We proclaim the Kingdom of God when we exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

WORD: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

ORDER: *"Receive the Holy Spirit."* (John 20:22)

Reflection:

I have often wondered what was going through the apostles' and disciples' minds when Jesus first appeared to them after His cruel death on the cross. Having witnessed His brutal crucifixion, what were they thinking? Did they feel abandoned by Jesus? How horrible was their fear of capture and retribution by the Jews especially since Jesus, their leader, was just executed? What would their future hold?

From St. John's gospel for Sunday, we read, *"...Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'" (Jn 20:19)* If I was present in that upper room when Jesus appeared, then I would probably have been scared to death too! But Jesus, knowing fully well how each of His disciples was feeling, tries to calm their fears and anxieties. His greeting reminds them and offers them the 'peace that the world cannot give (ref Jn 14:27).' And then, right after His disciples realize that it is the Lord, and as if to diminish their joy upon seeing Him alive, He again says to them, *"Peace be with you."* (Jn 20:21) But this time, His words seem to carry more weight for He is about to give them an enormous task. And so, as He greets them a second time, He offers them assurance and comfort: *"As the Father has sent me, so I send you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" (Jn 20:21b:22)*

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Promise of the Week

"When you send forth your breath, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth."
(Psalm 104: 30)

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

Do You Love Me?

Our Lord Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love me?" The threefold responses of Peter are meant to counteract his earlier threefold denial of the Lord's friendship. Peter answered reassuringly, "Yes Lord, you know that I love you".

In the Greek Old Testament, there are three different words of love. *Agape* love is perfect, pure and selfless love, generally known as divine love. *Phileo* is a brotherly love. *Eros* or physical love is an impulse to gratify one's basic needs.

Let us ponder and search our hearts on this simple yet profound question, "Do we truly love the Lord Jesus?" How can we honestly show our sincerity in loving a God who has first loved us, who has suffered and died for our sins, who has promised us eternal life, and who desires to re-create us in His own Divine image and likeness? Such an awesome God with an *agape* love for His children!

The Lord didn't look at Peter's wisdom or his leadership qualities when He chose him to care for His flock. Peter was chosen for his great love for Him. How then can we duly respond to His question, "If you love me, feed my sheep." Are we truly shepherding God's people according to His will and purpose? Are we nourishing our lambs to help them grow in His love? Are we performing our tasks for God's honor and glory and not for the self-fulfillment of our desires and wishes? Is Christ the focus of our lives through daily reflection and study of His Word? Do we regularly visit and adore His Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament? Are we serving our brethren in need – the sick and the downtrodden?

God is love and a true Christian needs to show love. If we truly love the Lord, we can show this by obeying His Word. "*If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*" (Jn 14:15) Its' essence is the very nature of love itself. "*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. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*" (Mt 22:37-39)

The Lord Almighty is Omnipotent and Omniscient. He has a total knowledge of everything, and He knows everyone's heart. →

The Blessings of Giving

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

(Acts 20:35)

God has blessed each one of us for a reason. For most of my life, I could not fathom the magnitude of His blessings. He has, indeed, given me everything I have needed and prayed for. Now, after several years in BLD, God has changed my way of thinking. It was not accidental that we joined the marriage encounter. It turns out that it was just the start of the process of molding us to be like His apostles.

When I was growing up, I have been selfish! I only liked the receiving part. Despite abundant blessings from God, I could not understand why I had to give up things I worked so hard for. Sharing my time, talent and treasure did not come easily.

But the Lord sent us people to help us with our conversion. He invited me, my husband, and my daughters to join the medical mission. He helped me hear the pleas of relatives back home who needed help and of scholars who needed sponsoring in order to pursue an education. Everyday, in my work as a nurse, He lets me take care of vulnerable babies born prematurely. And I thank the Lord for all these blessings!

He made me a different person. He has opened my eyes to my stewardship obligation. More than that, He made me realize that as you help, you bring joy and healing not only to others but to yourself as well. I am neither rich nor poor, but He showed me the way to find true joy and happiness. What a wonderful feeling to be able to give back to God the blessings I've received! He has liberated my soul.

So for all of us, my beloved brothers and sisters, I pray that He continually guides us to serve and to give generously of our love; to realize that we are more blessed, not when we receive, but when we give. Amen.



O Sacred Heart of Jesus, make our hearts like Yours – loving, forgiving and merciful. May we remain in Your love and keep Your commandments. Set our hearts for You alone so we may find joy in Your friendship, our treasures in Your grace, and peace in the Father's Will. Amen.

38 commissioned as disciples

“He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus (Christ). God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” (1 Cor 1:8-9)

On Friday, June 3, 2011, 38 BLD-Newark members, by God’s grace, have ascended to become *Committed disciples*, and were anointed @ St. Mary’s Church-Divine Mercy Parish. They are: Joseph Appell, Art & Yen Arnan, Ed & Armi Bayudan, Fe Chenet, Edgardo Curbita, Wenie & Fatima Darvin, Keith & Kat Davis, Aurora De Castro, Miles Dionisio, Dinah Encarnacion, Willy & Amor Ferrer, Jojo & Bing Gabriel, Jean Gutierrez, Louie & Kles Hernandez, Jhun & Ma’an Lomibao, Lilia Manlapaz, Mel & Anjou Martinez, Mario & Carmen Olazo, Robert & Emily Padoginog, Julito Pasturan, Mayen Rayack, William & Mary Sumandal, Anna Marie Vales, Lucille Viscayo and Mat & Precy Yap.

Fr. Dave conducts retreat

On Saturday, June 4, 2011, a well-attended Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden retreat was held at Connell Hall, led by Fr. Dave Sison and Deacon Serge Bernatchez. The attendees were: Mario & Jean Afante, Ed & Armi Bayudan, Fe Chenet, Edgardo & Liza Curbita, Wenie & Fatima Darvin, Keith & Kat Davis, Miles Dionisio, Dinah Encarnacion, Jojo & Bing Gabriel, Jean Gutierrez, Louie & Kles Hernandez, Franklin Lim, Lilia Manlapaz, Mel & Anjou Martinez, Violet Meneses, Lydia Mercado, Carlos Ocasio, Robert & Emily Padoginog, Julito Pasturan, Brian & Mayen Rayack, Jean & Marie Richard, Barry & Tawnie Scymanski, William & Mary Sumandal, Anna Marie Vales, Lucille Vizcayno and Mat & Precy Yap.

Let us continue to lift up our brethren in prayer as they persevere to walk with Jesus. All glory and honor to our faithful God. Praise be the Lord. Hallelujah!

Tony Meloto shares on GK progress



Among the many BLD events this past weekend was a visit to BLD Newark from Gawad. Kalinga founder, Tony Meloto. In a reception held Saturday evening in the school library, he rekindled the special bond between GK and BLD.

Our own DSL, Richard dela Fuente, started things off by exhorting BLD members in attendance on how support of GK is in accord with our new vision and mission. He emphasized how we are a “missionary community”, that we must be living witnesses in the pursuit of total human liberation. *Continued on page 4*

COUNSELS from page 1

So, as Jesus, sends them out (by the way, the word apostle means “one who is sent”), He ‘breathes’ on them the Holy Spirit and empowers them with His gifts.

Now, if we examine the rest of Pentecost Sunday’s readings, we will notice that the Holy Spirit is mentioned in each and every reading. The First Reading from Acts 2:4 says, ***“And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.”*** The responsorial psalm reads, ***“When you send forth your breath (Spirit), they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.”*** The Second Reading from 1 Cor 12:3b says, ***“And no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the holy Spirit.”***

So, what is the importance of the Holy Spirit? Why does our Church place so much emphasis on it in our readings, besides the fact that it is Pentecost Sunday? The answers are in sacred Scripture. Was it not by the power of the Holy Spirit that the disciples ‘began to speak in different tongues?’ Was it not the Holy Spirit, the Advocate promised by Jesus, that emboldened the apostles and the disciples to leave their fears behind and proclaim the Good News to all nations? Was it not because of the Holy Spirit that our Church was born and is it not the same Spirit that continues to guide and protect her until today?

By virtue of our Baptism and Confirmation, we have received the Holy Spirit. When we went through the Life in the Spirit seminar, the gifts of that same Spirit were awakened in us. Although we cannot claim to be apostles, we are Catholic Christians and as followers of Jesus, we too are first being called and then sent out. And yet, even though the Spirit is with us, we still doubt and we are still afraid. We focus more on our weaknesses and faults rather than on Jesus’ strength and power. We would rather dwell on our frustrations and worries than on the peace of Christ. We become content in receiving the gifts of the Spirit but make excuses not to exercise them for God’s glory.

As we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, we commemorate the birth of the Church and our membership in it. May we resolve not only to support and pray for our Church but to become true witnesses of Jesus to others. May we allow Christ’s peace to reign in our hearts. May we become bolder to say ‘Yes’ to Jesus’ order as He sends us out to the world. Here I am Lord, send me!

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| Directions | • Be ready and willing to witness when called. |
| | • Receive and share the peace of Christ. |

Our 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.

Our 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.

LORD'S PROVISION WEEK ENDING JUNE 3, 2011

| Collections | Actual | YTD |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Tithe/Love Offering | 3,201 | 75,430 |

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

Thank you for your continued support!

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

Pray for an End to Poverty

Creator God, You loved the world into life. Forgive us when our dreams of the future are shaped by anything other than glimpses of a kingdom of justice, peace and an end to poverty.

Incarnate God, You taught us to speak out for what is right. Make us content with nothing less than a world that is transformed into the shape of love, where poverty shall be no more.

Breath of God, let there be abundant life.

Inspire us with the vision of poverty over, and give us the faith, courage and will to make it happen.

Tony Meloto shares ... from page 3

In a series of videos, featuring among others, President Aquino and Manny Pacquiao, Mr. Meloto reported on the advances that GK has made towards ending poverty in the Philippines by 2024. He described how many young Filipinos are now pursuing nation building in lieu of careers with foreign multinationals. He pointed out how the same DNA that has made Filipinos successful abroad is now working in the Philippines. And how the world now recognizes what's happening. He asked for our continued prayers for the country.

What once seemed to be a quixotic dream, is becoming reality. So, kababayan, let's all be proud of our heritage and in the words of Congressman Pacquiao, join "the fight to knockout poverty."

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

TEACHING CALENDAR

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**

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.

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*.