



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 25 Issue 3

Bulletin Edition

January 18, 2019

NEWS

COUNSELS

From the Vatican's ZENIT website:

US: Bishop's Decry Court Ruling Against HHS Mandate

January 16, 2019 17:40 • ZENIT Staff • Health and Healthcare

Source: zenit.org

In response to the January 14, 2019, federal court ruling from Pennsylvania granting a nationwide injunction barring the broadened moral and religious exemption to the HHS mandate, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Chairman of the USCCB Committee for Religious Liberty, issued the following statement:

"Yesterday's court ruling freezing these common-sense regulations leaves those with conscientious or religious objections to the HHS mandate out in the cold. In a free country, no one should be forced to facilitate or fund things like contraception, sterilization, and abortion-inducing drugs and devices, which go against their core beliefs. We pray that this decision will be appealed and that future courts will respect the free exercise arguments of the Little Sisters of the Poor and so many others who simply seek the freedom to serve their neighbors without the threat of massive government fines hanging over their heads."

From the RCAN website:

Statement from Cardinal Tobin on Tuesday's Immigration Speeches

January 9, 2019

I listened with deep disappointment to the dehumanizing words used to describe our immigrant sisters and brothers.

...Continued on page 3

Obedience to Authority

THEME: God's glory is revealed when we are obedient to pastoral authority.

WORD: Is 62:1-5 ~ Ps 96:1-2,2-3,7-8,9-10
1 Cor 12:4-11 ~ Jn 2:1-11

ORDER: "Do whatever he tells you." (Jn 2:5)

REFLECTION:

God's glory is revealed when we are obedient to pastoral authority.



What is authority? In the secular world it can be understood to mean power, be it in economic terms, or in government and state affairs, or in military or police matters. If I don't obey my boss, I will be out of a job; if I break the law, I will be imprisoned.

But pastoral authority is different. We find it in Church or religious settings, but especially in our families. It has agrarian connotations, as in the herding and caring for sheep. Jesus used it to illustrate His relationship with His flock. He highlighted its family dimension by coming into this world as the Son of Mary, His mother. In the Gospel reading, one could see that Mary had pastoral authority over Jesus. And we know what happened; by Jesus' obedience, His glory was revealed through the miracle at Cana.

Similarly, for us, through our witnessing, as in our efforts to obey the teaching authority of the Church, Jesus is revealed to the world. That pastoral authority within the Church is one of the many gifts God gave to us. It is in the exercise of this authority

...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord" - Is 62:3

*Imagine how possible this scenario could be...
(...and please pray for a peaceful and meaningful March for Life
on Friday January 18, 2019):*

From the Future...

A Letter to BLD

Dear BLD Newark in 2019,

I wanted to say thank you to your organization for supporting the March for Life back in 2019. I am a doctor from the year 2070, and am convinced that I am alive today directly due to your efforts.

Back in your year, my mother was afraid that having a baby was going to derail her career plans, and so, she was contemplating not having any children at all. But one of her close friends asked her to join that year's March for Life. Since she was free that day, my mother joined that group from BLD Newark.

After seeing the hundreds of thousands of people there at the March, and learning about how every life is precious, Mom's outlook on the issue changed.

Yup, and a year later, I was born!

Unfortunately, her career plans had to be altered, but she said that she never regretted having me, and that I bring irreplaceable joy to her every day.

She had wanted to become a doctor and do something big, like find a cure for cancer... Well, as it turns out, that dream was realized through me, because God found it right for me to be the one to discover that cure.

So I guess this "thank you" isn't just from me. It's also from the countless many who are now living fruitful lives free from that dreadful disease. And I just wanted to share that good news with you.

Anyway, from all of us in 2070...

**“AGAIN, BLD NEWARK...
THANK YOU!”**

Sincerely yours,

- Dr. Milagros de Dios

(BLD Newark: J6C31, YE40, SE58, ME111, LSS111, FE57)

MOTHER MARY, INTERCEDE FOR US ... AS AT CANA

Marriage was started
by the Heavenly Father
You could even say
that it was the very first sacrament ever.

So how important was marriage
to the Blessed Mother?
When a wedding
was on the brink of disaster
Mother Mary made a request
for the Lord Jesus to consider.

And out of respect for His mother
Although He thought
that it wasn't yet time
Jesus was obedient
And so the Holy Lord began His ministry
Water turned into wine
And the newlyweds avoided shame
their celebration continued
because of the Redeemer's miracle

Then, throughout His life
Jesus was also obedient
to the Heavenly Father
And in His passion,
He truly proved His love
When His life He willingly surrendered
Now He sits at the right hand of the Father

A prayer to Virgin Mary:
O Blessed Mother,
We ask you to intercede for us in prayer
for we are but lowly sinners
Please send our pleas to your Son Jesus
and to our Heavenly Father
That we may be granted mercy
...now and forever

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

that the Magisterium, along with Sacred Scriptures, is able to guide us for our own individual good, and that of the whole body that is the Church, and its unity and harmony. Authority also sets the boundaries within which all the gifts that we've been given can flourish. Thus, we are able to work with one heart, one soul and one spirit, thereby testifying to the world about God's love and mercy.

In Scripture, the Ten Commandments have set God's Law as boundaries by which we are to live; disobedience to them brings about the death of the human spirit. Our obedience to pastoral authority and to God's Law reveals Jesus in us like ***"a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord."*** (Is 62:3)

The reason authority fails to bring blessings to a community is when it is sometimes exercised incorrectly, or it's abused by greed, lust, power and pride. As Jesus said in Matthew 23:3, ***"Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice."***

So, a person in authority must be credible. He must be honest and a disciple of Truth.

The following is taken from a Covenant News issue back in 2004. The title of the article was "Authority is God's Gift to Community" –

He must be a witness who continues to love God above all and his neighbor as himself. Authority is a shepherd that leads the flock to green pastures so that all may grow spiritually and mature in their relationship with the Lord. He must be like Jesus who leads His flock by serving others and teaching them the way. He knows His lambs by their names, nourishes them and helps their gifts to grow He nurses their wounds, comforts them and gives them strength. He is bonded to His people with love and is ready to give his life for them, sacrificing his own personal interests.

When authority proceeds in love, then it brings growth, spiritual fulfillment, harmony and communion! We are all under a pastoral authority, the primary source of which is God's sovereignty.

This reminds me of Adam and Eve and how they disobeyed God's love and authority. They wanted to be like gods and to know what is good and evil. In contrast to obedience, disobedience brings discord, disunity, and slavery. Our human spirit suffers and we become miserable, lost and joyless. It cost Adam and Eve their perfect life in Paradise. →→

→ In Sunday's Gospel, we find ourselves at a Jewish wedding feast when Jesus was just beginning His public ministry. At Cana, we witness, not just a miracle, but two models of faithful obedience clothed in humility, simplicity and grace, Jesus and Mary. Because of Mary's magnificat and her role as the Mother of God, she now wears that glorious crown as Queen of Heaven; Jesus, our Messiah, showed us true obedience and true love.



If we desire to follow Jesus, then we must carry our own cross and die embracing it, because that is what He did. That is true love; obedient until death, even death on a cross. The glory of the Lord shines upon those who live in faithful obedience to His will, which He expressed in His commandment for us to ***"love one another as I love you."*** (Jn 15:12)

When we love, then this promise will be fulfilled - ***"You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord."*** (Is 62:3)

Directions:

1. Exercise your spiritual gifts to build up the community.
2. Always pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit when discerning the will of God.
3. Be faithful to our covenantal pledges.

NEWS

(from page 1)

These men, women and children are neither numbers, nor criminal statistics, but flesh and blood people with their own stories and histories. Most are fleeing human misery and brutal violence that threatens their lives. False and fear-filled caricatures seek to provoke a sort of amnesia that would have this great nation deny our roots in immigrants and refugees.

Last June, Pope Francis said in an address at a conference on international migration: "We must move from considering others as threats to our comfort to valuing them as persons whose life experience and values can contribute greatly to the enrichment of our society." Those coming to our borders seeking asylum or escaping crushing poverty are not pawns in a political debate, but rather the strangers and aliens our Scriptures constantly instruct us to welcome. As a Shepherd to God's people in Northern New Jersey, I beg all our legislative leaders to come together for the common good. Work through your differences for the good of all. Lives literally depend upon it.

Family Health and Wellness Day, 2019



Over 35 participants came together to experience bursts of energy from head to toe as they stretched, walked, exercised and munched on delicious and healthy snacks last Saturday at the BLD Family Health and Wellness Day, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.



The event opened with a prayer, offering the afternoon's activities for the glory of God. Blood pressure checks were done and sound health educational pointers were given by BLD nurses. People, young and old, enjoyed the hour-long, heart-pumping Zumba moves, which was then followed by a slower paced line-dancing session. For the more athletically inclined, there was also basketball and badminton. There were smiles all around. There was fun and fellowship. There was gratitude to the Lord.

Since it is still January...

...there is still time to make this New Year's resolution: In 2019, why not write at least one reflection article for the Covenant News?

Is your birthday coming up soon? If it is, then we want to hear from you. The Word Ministry is looking for people to write reflections to be based on the Mass readings that fall on their birthdays, for inclusion in the Covenant News. Guidelines for this initiative:

- Articles are to be based on the Mass readings for the writer's birthday
- 400-450 words
- Subject to review and editing by members of the Word Ministry
- Due date:
Must be submitted to WORD@bldnewark.com, two weeks before the upcoming birthday
- for those whose birthdays have just recently passed, but for whom, what was read in Church that day still resonates, we would still want to receive your written reflections (submission deadline for these is the Friday after the birthday)

For more information, email us at WORD@bldnewark.com

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

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 2,475	\$3,865
Love Offerings	\$ 653	\$1,710
E-Giving	\$260	\$260
Mission	\$ 145	\$485

Financial details are available to all members through treasury@bldnewark.com
Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Teaching Calendar

Teachings for Saturday, Jan 19, 1-6 pm DMP School Building
- NCR / GIP (LSS 1-50 / ME 47,49,50 / SPE 20 / SE 38)
CMP II, Part I (LSS 1-48 / ME 48 / SPE 19)

2000 Hail Mary's for the Med Mission – 8 am to 5 pm, Saturday, Jan 26, DMP Rm 204

BLD NEWARK MEDICAL MISSION

JOSE PANGANIBAN, CAMARINES NORTE
FEBRUARY 11 - 14, 2019

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Jan 25	Management
		Feb 1	Mission
		Feb 8	Pastoral
		Feb 15	Evangelization