



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

Pope to the Elderly: Power and Looks Are Mythicized; You Must Show What Truly Matters

Young people need you, you are essential, so talk to your grandchildren, Francis says.

OCTOBER 17, 2016 ~ KATHLEEN NAAB ~ POPE & HOLY SEE ~ Zenit.org



Today's world mythicizes power and looks, and thus the elderly have a special mission, Pope Francis says: To give witness to what really matters — the values that remain forever.

The Pope said this Saturday when he addressed some 7,000 elderly, including many grandparents, in Paul VI Hall.

The Holy Father emphasized that the Church looks at elderly people with "affection, gratitude and great esteem." "They are an essential part of the Christian community and of society," he said, adding, "I don't know if you heard well: The elderly are an essential part of the Christian community and of society!"

The role of the elderly is one of Francis' favorite themes, particularly on papal visits, and in his address Saturday, he returned to an image he has often used. The elderly, he said, "represent the roots and memory of a people."

Experience is a "precious treasure," he continued, "indispensable to look to the future with hope and responsibility."

Better future

He said the witness of the elderly helps youth to look to the future with hope: "The elderly, in fact, witness that, even in the most difficult trials, one must never lose faith in God and in a better future."

The Holy Father praised the role that elderly people carry out in parishes, noting particularly how in countries that have suffered religious persecution, it is often the grandparents who transmit the faith. ...Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

Righteousness, the Mark of a True Servant

THEME: We bear the mark of a true servant of Christ when we do not allow self-righteousness to rule our hearts.

WORD: Sir 35:12-14,16-18 ~ Ps 34:2-3,17-18,19,23
2 Tm 4:6-8,16-18 ~ Lk 18:9-14

ORDER: "Bless the Lord at all times." Ps 34:2

REFLECTION:

The mark of a true servant of God and an authentic Christian fellowship is Christ's righteousness, where humility rules the heart and soul of everyone. God's righteousness, the natural expression of His justice and His holiness, rests on His humility. Jesus teaches that true righteousness is not what men regard as popular and justified in the sight of God, but is based on what He sees in our hearts. "You justify yourselves in the sight of others, but God knows your hearts; for what is of human esteem is abomination in the sight of God." (Lk 16:15)

The scribes and Pharisees thought of themselves as setting the standard for righteousness. They felt that they, of all men, were righteous. But Jesus said, "I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 5:20).

Jesus Himself said that those who appeared to be the most righteous would not make it into the kingdom by depending on their own righteousness. He did not say blessed are the scribes and Pharisees, but that the ones who are blessed are: "the poor in spirit... they who mourn... the meek... they who hunger and thirst for righteousness... the merciful... the clean of heart... the peacemakers... they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness" (Mt 5:3-10).

When God takes second place to man, when neither Christ nor God's Word

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Promise of the Week

"The one who humbles himself will be exalted." Lk 18:14b

Merci Mercy Raffle

“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.’”
(Mt 9:37-38)

Raffle!

The most awaited event, the fundraising raffle drawing, finally took place last Friday, October 14th. The raffle drawing kicked-off right after the worship at the Divine Mercy auditorium with Mr. Alan Cam graciously presiding over the event. A special performance by Mr. Romy Merluza (ME 39 -Praise Ministry) added to the excitement of the night when he sang his heart out with his rendition of 2 songs "Only You" (originally recorded by the Platters) and "Kung Ako'y Iwan Mo" (by Filipino music artist, Basil Valdez). His beautiful voice certainly entertained everyone, most especially his lovely family. In retrospect Romy picked the right songs for this occasion, particularly because of the profound spiritual message of that first song; "Only You can make the darkness bright... Only you can make this change in me... You are my destiny."

You may ask, "Why do we have to raise funds?" The answer is because of our BLD Community Mission which is to evangelize. We need resources to accomplish our mission. As we evangelize, we draw people to get to know Jesus more, to know His Word and God's commandments. HE is the "Only You" Who can make the darkness bright; the "Only You" Who can make a change in you and me; and the "Only You" Who will be there waiting for us as we reach our final destiny! Moreover, we are also reminded in scriptures when Jesus said *“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few”* (Mt 9:37). Therefore, as workers in His vineyard, when we evangelize we are also working on increasing the number of followers of Jesus.

Congratulations to all the winners!!!

Pilgrimage - **Tony Carrera** from BLD Rockland (#09622) ; Las Vegas trip - **Tricia Bustos** (#19622); Surface pro - **Aida Sedgwick** (#11556); Go Pro - **Belinda Pacaira** (#29505); IPAD - **Thelma Susas / Jodi Wilson** (#00126/19084); Fitbit - **Ylla Protacio / Corazon Caday** (#13628/02614); Blue tooth speaker - **Rene Tolentino / Rhen Ivan Reyes** (#07427/23417); Blood Pressure Monitor - **Pochie / Reese Brillantes** (#12708/12709)

Raffle!

Though most of us went home empty-handed, in God's eyes we are all winners. Kudos to ME 39 and their shepherds Gary & Mil Camacho who spearheaded this year's fundraising event. →

“MERCY CHANGES THE WORLD”

On **World Mission Sunday, October 23**, Pope Francis invites each of us to be part of this change for our world of great need, and calls us to announce the mercy of God, “the beating heart of the Gospel” (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 12).

WORLD MISSION PRAYER



Lord Jesus Christ,
You told Your apostles to proclaim the Good News
and to make followers of all nations.
They gave their lives to You, and for You,
to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

Today, the faithful still strive
to bring Your name to those who need it most.
Give Your strength to missionaries around the world
who give their lives every day in lands far from home.

Help those charged with bringing Your Word
to be an example of You
for those who cannot read Your Word for themselves.

Help those who do their work in Your name
To inspire others to seek You as their Savior.
We ask this through You, Christ, our Lord,
Savior of the world.
Amen.

Source: Pontifical Mission Society, National Office

They selflessly devoted their precious time, resources, and efforts, and put their hearts and souls into bringing this event to fruition, all for the glory of God!

“God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:7).

To those who sold and bought tickets, to those who assisted in any way, and to the generous donors who contributed prizes, BLD Newark extends the Community's deep gratitude and prays that abundant blessings be upon you always.

Important Note: Please return any unsold tickets that you may still have to the Raffle Committee. A report must be filed with the NJ State Agency that oversees non-profit fundraising raffles, and all tickets (sold and unsold) need to be accounted for. Thank you.

The Persistent Widow

Over the weekend, I was still thinking about the Gospel reading for last Sunday, October 16th, the one about the persistent widow who persevered in asking a dishonest judge for a fair decision (Lk 18:1-8). Eventually, the dishonest judge succumbed to her pressure and did the right thing. The main lesson from this parable is that, like the woman, we should persist in prayer too.

While I was thinking that unceasing prayer is the lesson to be derived from it, another possible angle introduced itself in my reflection that added an interesting dimension to the parable. The allegorical angle was this – What if both the widow and the dishonest judge represented two aspects of just one person? Let me explain.

I likened the dishonest judge to how I normally am in this world, trying to “make it.” In pursuit of that, I know that sometimes, I have been hardened to the things that really matter. The widow then, is like my conscience, pestering the harsh judge in me. Sometimes just out of habit, I have ignored that pang of conscience... But I sincerely pray that I am able to heed my conscience’s advice instead, and like the dishonest judge in the parable, do what is right by my God and my neighbor.

LAUGH A LITTLE... 😊

A newly-wed couple, married just a few months, decided to join a BLD Marriage Encounter. Soon after the ME weekend, they decided to take the advice from one of the retreat’s sharers seriously. So they promised that they would not go to bed angry.



During the sharing portion of their first class reunion, their shepherds asked how things were going. The wife said, “Okay...”

The husband was a little more honest. “Since the ME, we’ve made the commitment never to go to bed angry...”

“So... this past month... I’ve only slept ten out of thirty days.”

“Things will change,” their shepherds reassured them. “Look at us. Although we still have arguments, we were able to adapt... All these years that we’ve been married, we’ve gotten by on just four hours of sleep each night.”

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

is the standard, when we’ve set ourselves as the standard, then self-righteousness becomes a most difficult sin to recognize because it emanates from an attitude of the heart rather than an action. It is one of those plagues we don’t even know we have, as it comes with a spiritual pride that blinds us to self-righteousness.

Let us realize that the righteousness of God means that we, as His children, should seek to imitate our heavenly Father. We should seek to be humble like Christ, ***“Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather... he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.”*** (Phil 2:6-8) We ought to willingly suffer the injustice of men, but pray in faith, as our Lord instructed us.

Today, we would do well to ***“fix our eyes on Jesus”*** (Heb 12:2) and not be convinced of our own righteousness. Let us not believe that we are superior to ***“the rest of humanity - greedy, dishonest, adulterous,”*** but be like the repentant tax collector who ***“would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner.’”*** (Lk 18:11,13) We must not look at others and worry about whether or not they match up to our own righteousness. Let Christ be the standard, and let us realize that we will never equal His righteousness on our own. Without Him, we have no ability to attain true righteousness.

The cure for self-righteousness is humility. The Lord hears the prayer of the humble, the orphan and the widow. The humble prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds; it does not rest till it reaches its goal, nor will it withdraw till the Most High responds, judges justly, and affirms the right without delay; for the one who humbles himself will be exalted. The one who humbly serves God willingly is heard and his petitions reach the heavens. Jesus commands us to deny ourselves in humility and follow His example, to set aside our pride, to give due regard for our neighbor’s God-given dignity, and to ***“humbly regard others as more important”*** (Phil 2:3b). It means seeing others as equals, loving one another with mutual affection; anticipating one another in showing honor as God’s children, who are special and created in His image (Gen 1:27). We need to guard our hearts against prejudice and jealousy towards other people, and serve one another in love.

Our fight against self-righteousness is a constant battle, but with prayer and the Holy Spirit living in us, we will have the grace to know our real selves, and we will be empowered to be humble. The time of our departure may be at hand, so let us face the truth of who we are. Let us ask God to remove our self-righteousness and help us to run the race, and to complete it by keeping the faith, for today the crown of righteousness awaits us!

NEWS

(from page 1)

“In a world such as the present, in which often strength and appearance are mythicized, you have the mission to witness the values that truly count and that remain forever, because they are inscribed in the heart of every human being and guaranteed by the Word of God. Precisely as persons of the so-called third age, you, or better, we — because I am also part of it — are called to work for the development of the culture of life, witnessing that every stage of existence is a gift of God and has its beauty and importance, even if marked by frailty.”

Caregivers

Pope Francis went on to praise the “persons and structures” dedicated to caring for the elderly day by day.

Institutes that house the elderly are “called to be places of humanity and loving care, where the weakest individuals are not forgotten or neglected, but visited, remembered and protected as older brothers and sisters,” he said, adding that this is a way to show gratitude to those who “have given so much to the community.”

He said that protecting the dignity of the elderly means opposing the throwaway culture, since it marginalizes the elderly as non-producers.

“This idea of being disposable is awful,” he said, as he recounted a story told him by his grandmother. The story is about a grandpa who lived with his son and his family but was moved to the kitchen for meals since he was unable to eat without making a mess.

The father learned his lesson about ostracizing the grandfather when one day his young son was playing pretend, building a table which the boy explained would one day be for his father to eat, separate from the family.

“Children are naturally very attached to their grandparents and they understand things that only grandparents can explain with their life, with their attitude,” the Pope said. “The throwaway culture says: ‘You are old, get out.’ ... You are old, yes, but you have so many things to say to us, to tell us, of history, of culture, of life, of values ...”

Society needs your smile

The Pope also encouraged the elderly to seek out the younger generations.

Talk with your grandchildren, he encouraged them, even if they do things differently, listen to different music, etc.

“They are in need of the elderly, of this continuous dialogue; give them wisdom too,” he said, recalling how it was the elderly, the “wisdom of the people,” who received Jesus in the Temple.

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings	\$ 2,851	\$ 111,239
Mission Collections	\$ 127	\$ 6,107
Fundraising Raffle	\$ 11,446	\$ 42,860

Financial details are available to all members through

treasury@bldnewark.com

Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SATURDAY, NOV 5, 2016 - WASHING OF THE FEET /
AGONY IN THE GARDEN RETREAT



Disciples' Assembly

Saturday, 1-5 pm
October 29, 2016

Marriage Encounter # 47

November 18-20, 2016

Hotel Executive Suites

30 Minue Street, Carteret, NJ

Contact email: MLA@bldnewark.com



**Conclusion of the Extraordinary
Jubilee Year of Mercy
Feast of Christ the King
Sunday, November 20, 2016**



THE POWER OF ONE



Medical Mission

February 13-16, 2017

Maasin, Leyte, Philippines

Contact Persons: Ramon/Leonie Mariazeta

rmariazeta@msn.com / lmariazeta@msn.com

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Oct 28	Management
			Nov 4	Mission
			Nov 11	Pastoral
			Nov 18	Evangelization

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