



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

Newark welcomes new Cardinal as its Archbishop



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The Most Reverend John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark, today announced to a gathering of local journalists and Archdiocesan employees and guests in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart that His Holiness, Pope Francis, has accepted his request for retirement under Canon 401 §1 of Canon law, and has named His Eminence, Cardinal-elect Joseph W. Tobin as the Sixth Archbishop of Newark.

Prior to this announcement, Cardinal-elect Tobin had been the Sixth Archbishop of Indianapolis. On October 9, The Holy Father named him to the College of Cardinals.

In making this announcement, Archbishop Myers stated: "Today it is my honor and pleasure to present to you His Eminence, Cardinal-elect Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.

"I am very happy to welcome him in the name of all of us in this great Archdiocese," he continued. "I know that he will find that the 1.5 million Catholics within the four counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union are rich in faith, have a great love for the Church, and are committed to living and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Cardinal-elect Tobin addressed the gathering by stating: "Two weeks ago, I learned that Pope Francis was entrusting to me the pastoral care of this storied Archdiocese. Two weeks earlier, I discovered that the Holy Father had named me to the College of Cardinals. I am not sure my central nervous system can take much more news. You will forgive the occasional stutter or facial twitch."

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COUNSELS

Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

THEME: Christ is sovereign in our life when we proclaim Him as our God and King.

WORD: 2 Sam 5:1-3 ~ Ps 122:1-2,3-4,4-5
Col 1:12-20 ~ Lk 23:35-43

ORDER: "Shepherd my people." (2 Sam 5:2)

REFLECTION:

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. The feast was a relatively recent one; it was established by Pope Pius XI in his encyclical letter Quas Primas in 1925. In those days the encyclicals were addressed to bishops, but Pope Pius XI wanted the Feast to impact the laity, he said:

"The faithful, moreover, by meditating upon these truths, will gain much strength and courage, enabling them to form their lives after the true Christian ideal. If to Christ our Lord is given all power in heaven and on earth; if all men, purchased by his precious blood, are by a new right subjected to his dominion; if this power embraces all men, it must be clear that not one of our faculties is exempt from his empire. He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to him alone. He must reign in our bodies and in our members, which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, as instruments of justice unto God."

Our experience of Jesus as King is that of a God whose kingship is marked by the profound and fathomless love He has for us, as evidenced by His sacrifice on the cross.

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Promise of the Week

"The Father... has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones." (Col 1:12)

A Sinless Heart

“Who may go up the mountain of the Lord? Who can stand in his holy place? ‘The clean of hand and pure of heart, who has not given his soul to useless things, what is vain.’” (Ps 24:3-4)

When I was asked to reflect on these verses, my initial reaction was, *Definitely, I cannot relate to this. Every day I fall short of God’s glory, so “having clean hands and pure heart” is merely a dream. How can I write about something I do not have, without being hypocritical?*

As I started to reflect, deep in my heart, I know that the Holy Spirit is making me realize that, by God’s grace and intervention, even the most imperfect human being can have a pure heart and can live a holy life. How? *When Jesus ascended the holy hill and entered the holy place by His own blood (Heb 10:19), He made a way for me to ascend and enter the holy place as well. Through His Precious Blood that was shed for me on the cross, and through His sanctifying work in my life (1 Jn 3:1-3), my hands and my heart have been washed clean and purified.*

I realized, to be truly **pure in heart**, I have to first embrace this gift of love wholeheartedly, take it to heart, and believe that the Lord can make my heart pure, despite my many imperfections.

Then one question came to mind: *What if I died today with a divided heart and had only served God with hypocrisy, deceit or ulterior motives, where would I go?* The thought of “descending” made me quiver.

To be pure does not mean I have to be perfect. To be **pure in heart** is to seek to live a holy life, to give my life completely to Jesus, and to constantly ask Him to cleanse my heart. As the Psalmist sang, ***“A clean heart create for me, O God; renew within me a steadfast spirit.”*** (Ps 51:12)

One thing I desire, when my earthly journey is complete, I want to spend life eternal with Jesus. I learned that my heart is the center of who I am. Hence, I must handle it with extreme care, making Jesus the center of my thoughts, longings, devotion, will, understanding, and character. To attain this, I need to allow the Lord to purify my heart constantly. Otherwise, my heart will turn into a “haughty heart,” that is vainglorious, only self-seeking and self-willed.

Lord, with all my being, please make me pure. I want to be holy. Give me the grace to have an undivided heart and to pursue holiness all the days of my life; so that one day, I may ascend to Your Hill and stand in Your Holy Place, and enjoy everlasting life with You. Amen!

A Youth’s Stewardship Prayer

The article below is from a CN from 2010, written by a former BLD Youth member, now in the Singles Ministry. It is reprinted here because its exhortation, based on the episode of The Poor Widow’s Contribution (Gospel for Monday, Nov 21), is as pertinent as ever.

There’s a chance you may not know this, but every Friday, the Youth in BLD make a love offering during their worship. From their meager resources, they give what they can. One Friday, the prayer preceding it spoke volumes about stewardship. Oftentimes there is so much we can learn from our children:

“When He looked up he saw some wealthy people putting their offerings into the treasury and he noticed a poor widow putting in two small coins. He said, “I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest; for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood.” (Lk 21:1-4)

I think it’s hilarious sometimes, the way God just provides for you. It’s amazing how much He really cares for the world. God really just has a big heart. The way God provides for me sometimes makes me smile till my cheeks hurt.

There was a day that I just had a bad morning. I had a fine due to a teacher, but had an empty wallet, I lost my chemistry homework somewhere in the school and had only an hour to find it, and I was just really hungry with no packed lunch. That day though, God created miracles: my teacher told me in the afternoon that the fine was cancelled because the book that was falling apart wasn’t even mine; a wonderful friend of mine found my chemistry homework in the library underneath her books; and I found twenty dollars in front of my locker. I then used ten dollars to buy me sushi and I decided to give the rest to God! Talk about the best afternoon ever!

No one else can make my day better like Him. He fixes my mistakes and He can really overwhelm me with His love. He definitely deserves more than ten dollars. I doubt even one million would suffice. But that and my life are really all that I could offer up to Him, which doesn’t even meet a fraction of what He deserves. Think about it, how many times have you or I been graced by God’s love and His miracles. How many of us gave God at least the same amount back? You have two hands and one heart. Isn’t that enough to be grateful for?

Go, go dig in your wallet, your purse, your man-bag, your pockets for that dollar or five, or that quarter or dime. Got nothing? That’s okay. Just give Him the praise He deserves. Nothing we give can ever be enough, but at least we could say we gave back all that we could. And that would make God smile till His cheeks hurt, too.

Lord, I’ll give You my heart, not just a part...

I’m lifting up everything...

Well it’s all I have to offer... And it’s all I have to give...

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

The kings of countries and territories of the world sit in stark contrast to the Kingship of God.

Who is Jesus that the Creator of the Universe has crowned Him King of the Universe? We can sit here all night and just reflect on that one title of God and never fully grasp the grandeur of its meaning. The numbers of the universe boggles the human mind. In the observable part of the universe alone there are hundreds of billions of galaxies each with billions of stars. There is no scientist who would argue against how the universe, as it exists, is incomprehensible. Scientific equipment on Earth measures it in terms of speeds of light, in galactic sizes, with distances in quintillion light years. As big as the Earth might already be, despite the wide expanse of the continents, the depths of the seas and the heights of the mountains, our universe is so immeasurable that the earth is not even a speck of dust in its vastness.

This is the universe. A vastness perfectly created to be just so, with every relationship determined by fundamental constants and mathematical precision, containing what man calls the "cosmic code." If the universe is the playground of God, who can even begin to comprehend the intelligence of the Creator? How can man have the arrogance to deny His existence? And what profound wisdom would necessitate our Creator to be so intimately attuned to us His creatures?

In truth, we have no capacity to understand God in the reality of His Glory. But God goes down to our level, to the scale of our day to day experience, to establish a relationship with us. What a profound thought. How amazing and glorious it is to know that the King of the Universe is our personal Friend and Redeemer. He showed Himself to us as Jesus, a Man-God, Who took upon Himself all the disorder that we bring upon ourselves, so that He may enable us to share in the inheritance of the holy ones of Israel.

He will walk with us every step of the way, through every trial, tribulation and challenge. He is our Savior, our Comforter, our Refuge, our Rock, the Source of our Wisdom, the Source of our Joy and our Strength. Truly God is not only the Creator of the Universe but also the very Essence of our existence. God's Kingship is an extraordinary form of kingship. It is not a position of domination but a position of salvation. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is the Road to the fullness of the Kingdom of Heaven ahead of us.

He is relentless and constant in His pursuit of our fellowship and love, faithfully leading us to a life that witnesses to and establishes Him as God and King. One day when we stand at the end of our earthly journey, may we reach out to Him and say, ***"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."*** And in faithful expectancy, we await His words, ➔➔

➔ ***"Today you will be with me in paradise."*** (Lk 23: 42-43)

This weekend, by the wisdom of the Church, we celebrate the awesome Kingship of Jesus, our Lord, Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation. For Whom ***"were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."*** (Col 1:16-17)

Directions

- Seek to be reconciled with one another, ask for and grant forgiveness.
- Share in the burden and provide pastoral support for your brethren.

Christ the King



Jesus of Nazareth, the Jewish King
The mockery of a rejected king
For the Jews expected a wealthy king
Not a carpenter's Son preaching

A messiah is supposed to be a warrior king
To lead the chosen people, globally invading
To march into Rome, victoriously conquering
With a brute force, triumphantly ruling
Instead, God gave them a merciful King

A King who is both loving and forgiving
A King, compassionate and understanding
A King of spiritual and physical healing
A Teacher showing us true peaceful living
The perfect example of a sacrificing King

But Jesus became Rome's Eternal King
Not by brute force, but of hearts softening
Not by swords, but by martyrs' hearts bleeding
Not by flaming arrows, but loving hearts burning

For this Nazarene is a Humble Servant King
The King of kings, The Heavenly King
As the Jews today still await their Messiah King
For us, it will already be His second coming!

NEWS

(from page 1)

Newark welcomes new Cardinal...

Reflecting on the change in assignment, he said, "I have understood that God has called me to live my baptism as a missionary disciple: one who is called by Jesus to be with Him and be sent forth to preach and to heal."

THE CROWN OF LIFE

The following is the continuation from last week's CN issue of a brief two-part feature article on the Book of Revelation; for those interested, one of the most reliable sources available, with more information and insights, is the Sacred Scripture Commentary volume on Revelation.

We don't know whether John, the author of Revelation, knew Hebrews, which encourages us with the message that we have a compassionate High Priest Who is like us in all things but sin, and therefore *knows* our poverty and tribulation. But it is quite likely John is familiar with Paul's letters, and in Pauline literature, true riches are always associated with God's grace (Phil 4:19, 2 Cor 8:9, Rom 9:23, and others). For Paul, nothing compares to the surpassing goodness of knowing Jesus. In Revelation, Jesus also says He knows what Smyrna is enduring, and this too can be considered "surpassing goodness," for through it, the Smyrnans know that He is with them!

"Do not be afraid of anything that you are going to suffer." (Rev 2:10); why have no fear? It is precisely because Jesus Christ has endured suffering and triumphed over death that we need not fear. Moreover, we must recall that in Revelation (and in all of the New Testament), Jesus is **"ruler of the kings of the earth"** (Rev 1:5), **"Lord of lords and king of kings"** (Rev 17:14), and He has **"made us into a kingdom, priests for his God and Father"** (Rev 1:6). John is convinced that worldly power may take away our lives, but it is not ultimate power, and that in the end, all will stand before God Who will judge and vindicate His faithful ones. Therefore we are to trust in the power and riches of God's grace here and now and endure to the end.

The Crown of Life

Thus, those who remain faithful unto death will receive the crown of life. The Smyrnans and others in antiquity, who would have heard Revelation, would have immediately caught the reference: just as the great athletes in Greco-Roman times competed for a crown, a greater and imperishable crown is available for us (1 Cor 9:25). People like to compete for material things; so we must also train in our spiritual lives with the tenacity of an Olympic athlete. Just as the professional athletes exercise, diet, rest, study, and persevere, we too must do the same with how we treat ourselves (bodily and spiritually!) - how we order our time, what we ingest, and how we "perform" in our journey. ➔➔

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

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings	\$ 1,998	\$ 120,505
Mission Collections	\$ 83	\$ 6,588

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Eucharistic Celebration, First Friday, Dec 2
Guest Celebrant – **Fr. John Gordon**, Coordinator for Evangelization / Associate to the Vicar for Pastoral Life, Archdiocese of Newark




MARCH for LIFE
Friday, Jan 27, 2017

Medical Mission

February 13-16, 2017

Maasin, Leyte, Philippines

Contact Persons: Ramon/Leonie Mariazeta

rmariazeta@msn.com / lmariazeta@msn.com

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Nov 25	Formation
			Dec 2	Management
			Dec 9	Mission
			Dec 16	Pastoral

➔ Thankfully, many Smyrnans faithfully kept the message of Revelation. In 155 AD, St. Polycarp of Smyrna was martyred for refusing to worship the Emperor, and we have documentation of many other apostolic fathers and martyrs who did not hesitate to suffer martyrdom to remain faithful to the Gospel. We might be inspired and strengthened by the examples of these great martyrs, who desired only **"the crown of life."** (Rev 2:10c).

How might we actualize this message today? First, to those who are enduring suffering, we can take consolation in knowing that Jesus knows our suffering. He is with us in our afflictions, and He has prepared a future of hope. We have to remain true to our calling and look forward to the resurrection, for **"affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit"** (Rom 5:3-5). Relatedly, we all need to consider ourselves rich if only we have God's grace. It is no surprise then, that in a famous prayer, St. Ignatius of Loyola confessed that if the Lord Jesus only gives us His love and grace, we will be rich enough and ought not desire anything else, other than the imperishable crown of eternal life with God.