



NEWS

BLD Newark's Singles leads Advent Adoration



The Singles Ministry held a night of adoration last Saturday, December 15 at St. Genevieve's Church in Elizabeth, NJ. BLD members and parishioners from St. Gen's came out for a special night of worship, adoration, and teaching.

The evening began with a teaching on Christian Dating, given by Jim and Armi Clancy (Armi is the daughter of our very own Roger and Irma Santiago). Afterwards, an hour of Eucharistic adoration was held, accompanied by praise music and joyful Christmas carols.

The Singles Praise ministry would like to thank those who came out to our Advent Adoration event. It was a very emotional and blessed night. We also thank the Lord and the Holy spirit for making Their presence felt that evening.

We hope that you all will come to our next event. Among the many activities for the Singles, the Singles Praise Ministry usually serves at St Genevieve's in Elizabeth, providing the music and songs for their 7 pm Mass on the final Sunday of every month.

COUNSELS

Mama Mary - the Perfect Model to Emulate



THEME: We prepare for Christ's coming when we accept and obey the will of God in our lives.

WORD : Mi 5:1-4 ~ Ps 80:2-3,5-16,18-19
Heb 10:5-10 ~ Lk 1:39-45

ORDER: *"Stand firm and shepherd His flock by the strength of the Lord."* (Mi 5:3)

REFLECTION:

People may have different reflections about the readings for this coming Sunday. From the book of Micah in the First Reading, one could think of how the Lord exalts the small and humble because He chose Bethlehem as the birthplace of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. In Micah 5:1, the Old Testament prophet proclaimed, *"Thus says the LORD: You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times."*

In the Psalm response, as we implore, *"Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved,"* we might recall our Lord's promise that He will spare and remember us when the time comes to meet Him on judgement day, for He will grant us mercy because of Jesus' sacrifice that has taken away all our sins. Then, the reading from Hebrews adds that *"we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."* (Heb 10:10)

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Promise of the Week

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Lk 1:45)

Santa Marta: 'To Dream is to Open the Door to the Future

Like Joseph, Accompany in Silence

• December 18, 2018 16:22 • Anne Kurian • Pope's Morning Homily

"To dream is to open doors to the future," said Pope Francis at the Mass on December 18, 2018, at Casa Santa Marta in the Vatican.

In his homily reported by Vatican News, the Pope meditated on the figure of St. Joseph, presented in the Scriptures as "a righteous man, an observant of the law, a worker, humble, lover of Mary...God reveals to him his mission, Joseph embraces his role and accompanies the growth of the Son of God "in silence, without judging, without speaking, without repeating".

Saint Joseph helped Jesus "to grow, to grow," continued the pope: "He sought thus a place for his son to be born; he took care of him; he helped him grow up; he taught him his charge: so many things ... In silence. He never saw his son as a property: he let him grow in silence. He lets him grow: that would be the word that would help us a lot, we who by nature always want to put our noses everywhere, especially in the lives of others. And why is he doing this? Why the other ...? And we start to behave ... And he lets him grow. He protects. He helps but in silence. "

The Pope also pointed out that St Joseph is "the man of dreams...The dream is a privileged place to seek the truth because there we do not defend ourselves against the truth ... And God also speaks in dreams. Not always, because usually, it's our unconscious, but God often chooses to speak in dreams ... it shows in the Bible, does not it? Through dreams "

"Joseph was the man the man of dreams, but he was not a dreamer, eh? He was not a fancier. A dreamer is something else: he who believes ... come, he is in the clouds, he does not have eyes on earth ... Joseph had his feet on the ground. But he was open," assured the pope.

He urged "not to lose the ability to dream the future", encouraging: "Each of us: dream for our family, for our children, for our parents. Look how I would like their life to go. Priests too: to dream for our faithful, to what we want. To dream as young people dream, who are 'shamed' in the dream, and they find a way. "

This, he concluded, "does not lose the ability to dream, because to dream is to open the doors in the future. →→

ME #51 Grand Reunion



On Saturday, December 15, 2018, the class of ME 51 celebrated its first "Grand and Christmas Reunion" at Divine Mercy Parish in Rahway NJ. Many attended including members of past ME classes.

The event started with prayers and worship followed by songs of praise and thanksgiving. The house was filled with the Holy Spirit... and His Divine Peace and Joy. Each ME 51 couple was given the chance to speak of their own experiences during and after the ME weekend. It was amazing to hear how GOD works and touches so many lives in so many different ways.

Thank you Jonas and Emy for being our shepherds. Thank you ME 51's Cathy and Deacon John, Jo and Bill, Luisa and Arsing, Dr. Alice and Joe, Mia and Carlos for the wonderful sharings that filled the hearts of all of us who were there with so much love. Thank you Sherly and Izaac, Brian and Stephany and Father Joseph, for although you were unable to attend, you were very much there with us in spirit. Thank you to the sponsoring class, ME 50, for joining this gathering and helping us at this reunion, and especially during the MEW. Thank you for those who prepared the place, provided the food and specially for all who attended and those who made their presence felt...And lastly,

THANK YOU LORD JESUS FOR SUCH A BEAUTIFUL DAY! PRAISE AND GLORY TO YOUR NAME!

→ It's to be fruitful in the future. "

During the celebration, the Pope specially prayed for the handicapped children of Slovakia who made the ornaments of the Christmas tree installed near the altar of the chapel.

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

In the Gospel, while still in his mother's womb, John the Baptist leaped for joy when he heard Mama Mary's voice. So one can just imagine how glad, excited, and joyful he was because of her visit and the Lord's presence. Shouldn't we have the same excitement and joy when we come to meet Jesus at Mass or when He is physically close to us during Blessed Sacrament adoration? When we partake of the Holy Eucharist, as we become what we consume and are blessed to be one with Him in mind, body, and spirit, indeed, we should rejoice just as John the Baptist did!



If we look at the way God has been working in us, especially during this Advent season, we might see how He gave us Mama Mary as the perfect model to emulate. Mary our Mother, full of humility and simplicity, responded with complete faith and love for the Lord. She said 'Yes' to the Father and His will – ***“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”*** (LK 1:38).

Even though it has been over six years that we've been a part of BLD, my spouse and I, are still probably somewhat the same as a lot of others in the Community. We've grown complacent as to where we are spiritually, and would often prefer to just be part of the “background crew” when help is needed. Although we still do help a lot, and this is good, we could actually address this complacency, in order to enhance our participation in BLD's many endeavors. This year has been an extraordinarily active one for both of us, but at times, it seemed that we were getting asked to take on new undertakings that were way more than what should have been expected of us. But who among us here can ever really be prepared for what the Lord has in store for us?

Still, we continue to ask ourselves, are we ready to do this and more? Or should we opt to do only what our preferences dictate or just the things that work best for us? Are we even capable of taking on some of the tasks that we are asked to do for BLD, as well as for our parish church community? Are we the right persons to assume new responsibilities? Is this the right time? Is this really for me?

So many questions, but I am afraid that the Lord sees them as just part of my many excuses →→

→ Mama Mary is the example for all people, in the past, present, as well as in the future. Just as she did, we should be ready to say “Yes” to the Lord's will. In our BLD community, “Yes” to inviting and welcoming others to attend our encounters, seminars, teachings, and retreats.



“Yes” to learning about and experiencing Him more by active reflection, Word-sharing and Lectio Divina. It is important that we say ‘Yes’ to being a ministry coordinator, a facilitator, a sharer, a shepherd, a teacher, an intercessor, a lector, an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, or even just as a helper during seminars and retreats in our Churches and communities.

It was the “Yes” of our Mother Mary that was key to the Word becoming flesh, so that our Lord's promise could be fulfilled. The only more pivotal “Yes” was that of Jesus' in the Garden of Gethsemane, when He said to the Father, ***“still, not my will but yours be done.”***

Mary showed us how we too can offer more of ourselves and be obedient to the Lord. As disciples, we should follow her example by trusting our Lord wholly and completely, and fully believe that He has a plan for us.

Directions:

- Proclaim the Good News in your words and in your actions at all times.
- Partake of the body of Christ in memory of His sacrifice.

Merry Christmas!!!
- from the BLD Newark Word Ministry



BLD HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

In the first of the traditional, two-part, BLD Newark Christmas celebration, last Friday evening, the Community was treated to special holiday presentations from several Pastoral Ministries. After worship, the evening's program showcased songs from Mark 10, and numbers from the latest ME and FE classes (which included a fun video) and from members of the Solo Parents Ministry. There was tons of food and smiles for everyone.

This Friday (December 21), the BLD Newark Holiday Party will continue! In the meantime, here below is the proof that Part One was indeed a great time for everyone:



A Visit with Fr. Paul Lehman

Although Fr. Paul Lehman officially retired as BLD Newark's Spiritual Director almost two years ago, he is still very much in the thoughts and prayers of many in the Community. Early in December, members of the Youth Ministry sang for him and other retired priests at their residence in Caldwell. Last week, four BLD Newark couples were also able to bring him some holiday cheer.

Dear Fr. Paul, to say that we miss you is an understatement. To say that BLD can't ever repay you for your kindness and firm guidance (somehow, you were always able to be firm and kind simultaneously, even when they might seem mutually exclusive to others) is also true...



But what we can do is to always thank God for His gift to us that is you.

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	\$ 1,508	\$ 69,475
Love Offerings	\$ 437	\$ 48,007
Mission	\$ 1,123	\$ 14,082

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



MARCH for LIFE

Friday, January 18, 2019 • Washington, DC

To save a seat on the BLD Newark bus that will go to the **March for Life** on January 18, please contact Ray Salmo at (732)766-1785 / rayesalmo@gmail.com

BLD NEWARK MEDICAL MISSION

JOSE PANGANIBAN, CAMARINES NORTE

FEBRUARY 11 - 14, 2019

YLSS #24
Youth Life in the Spirit Seminar
March 1-3, 2019
Divine Mercy Auditorium

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Marshaling	Date	Apostolate
	Dec 28	Pastoral
	Jan 4	Evangelization
	Jan 11	Formation
	Jan 18	Management

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