



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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Bulletin Edition

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NEWS

BLD children join GK cause

One of the greatest blessings of BLD is when the whole family is involved. On February 5, 2016 the Community's youngest members made this most evident by launching a truly meaningful project – "Change for CHANGE".

Every Friday for the month of February, the Mark 10 and John 6 Ministries' children will encourage the Community to bring their spare change to help the Scholarship of Hope Foundation, for the children in the **Father Paul Lehman – UST Med Class '76 Gawad Kalinga Village** in Cabiao, Nueva Ecija. The kids will collect donations at fellowship, and after the collection is done in February, the selfless adult core members of the two ministries will buy school supplies in March and box them to be sent to the Philippines, in time for the children in Cabiao to use when school opens in June. They ask too that everyone bring in any unused school supplies and donate them for the GK children.

As observed by a couple from BLD Newark who visited the village last month (see the article, "Seeing GK Hope Anew" in the February 5, 2016 CN issue), college scholars who have already graduated and are now gainfully employed, as well as the Scholarship of Hope efforts (for high school and elementary), have sparked infectious and sustainable hope amongst the residents of the GK village, most importantly, amongst its youth. We pray that the benefits extend, not just to the GK Village; but to our children here in Newark also; that they learn more about sharing, giving, caring, helping and loving other people in need. With every BLD member's participation, this will surely happen.

Making the project announcements last Friday were Mark 10's Roman Manzo and John 6's Gabriel de Leon, supported by these additional adorable BLD Newark kids:



COUNSELS

WALKING WITH JESUS

THEME: We obey God's call when we believe every word that comes from the mouth of God.

WORD : Dt 26:4-10 ~ Ps 91:1-2,10-11,12-13,14-15
Rom 10:8-13 ~ Lk 4:1-13

ORDER: "... *confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead...*" (Rom 10:9)

REFLECTION:

Our scripture readings for this Sunday bring us to an understanding of how the Father invited His children to Himself from the very beginning, and continues to invite us now. We should understand that Moses and Elijah were also led by God into the wilderness in preparation for their respective missions, that they may "lead God's people into the way of holiness and righteousness, a way marked by love of God and love of neighbor". (Don Schwager, author of Daily Scripture Readings and Meditations, www.rc.net/wcc/readings/feb14.htm)

"Moses and Elijah prayed and fasted in the desert and God fed them with his life-giving word. Their time of solitude with God enabled them to be renewed in faith, hope and love for the call God had given them. Jesus likewise went into the wilderness, in solitude and prayer, to prepare himself for the mission entrusted to him.... Jesus wanted to do his Father's will, even though it might cost him great sacrifice, suffering, and even the loss of his own life. He hungered for his Father's word and made his life dependent on what

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Promise of the Week

"No one who believes in him will be put to shame."

(Rom 10:11)

TODAY IS THE DAY

"For he says: 'In an acceptable time I heard you, and on the day of salvation I helped you. Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.'"

(2 Cor. 6:2)

The readings for Ash Wednesday relay a clear message for the season of Lent: repent now. In the first reading, which comes from the Book of Joel, we hear the prophet urging us: *"Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning"* (Jl 2:12). God is asking His people to return to Him, and to do it *now*. There is a real sense of urgency about it. He wants us to know that through fasting and penance, we can recognize how we have drifted off course and turn again toward the Lord knowing that, *"...he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting in punishment."* (Jl 2:13b).

I used to think of Lent as rather a depressing time in the liturgical year with its fasting and abstention from meat on Fridays, and the Church's emphasis on repentance from sin. As I got older, I realized that doing these things and knowing that I am opening myself to God's mercy and love, makes Lent a very positive experience. This is especially clear to me right now as we begin the Jubilee Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis. There are many ways to participate in the Jubilee Year. There are the works of mercy, both spiritual and corporal, that anyone can do as something positive for Lent. Anything that makes us more open to His love and encourages us to share His mercy and His love with those around us will make this Lent a very positive season.

Rather than looking for something to *give up* for Lent, I want to look at the areas in my life that I need to *build up* in order to strengthen my walk with the Lord. I know I could spend more time in personal prayer, thanking God for all He has done for me. I should go to Confession more often. Hearing the words of absolution is one of the most comforting experiences I can have. As for Scripture reading, there is no such thing as too much when it helps me to know God better and love Him more. Answering the call to serve in my parish, my community, and my family, is another way to participate in the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

So then, today is the day to get started, *"a very acceptable time."* God is waiting to pour out His kindness, grace, and mercy on everyone that turns, or returns, to Him. Let's not keep Him waiting. *"Behold, now is the day of salvation."*

TOUCH THE TASSEL

"They laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak; and as many as touched it were healed."

(Mk 6:56a)

"Arise, LORD, come to your resting place, you and your mighty ark." (Ps 132:8). In 1 Kgs 8, we read that the elders of Israel and all the leaders of the tribes come to bring the ark of the Lord into the temple that Solomon had built in Jerusalem. For the occasion, they sacrificed before the ark, *"sheep and oxen too many to number or count"* (1 Kgs 8:5b) When the ark was in its place in the holy of holies, the Lord's glory filled the temple in the form of a cloud. The Lord's presence had come to rest in this princely house. But this was not to be a dwelling where God would be enthroned forever, as Solomon declared; for the eternal Temple is Jesus Christ.

Wherever the Lord and His disciples went, the crowds, *"scurried about the surrounding country and began to bring in the sick on mats...Whatever villages...he entered they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak"* (Mk 6:55-56a). Mark tells us that all who touched Him got well. Here is the true Temple at work, a place where prayers are answered, where healing is known. As the ark was placed in the sanctuary, *"beneath the wings of the cherubim,"* (1 Kgs 8:6b) so the Father has the angels spread their wings over His Son, guarding and blessing His every step. As when the ark is brought into the holy of holies, the Lord's glory fills the temple; so when He comes to us, when we but touch Him, we are filled with His presence and made whole. As the Israelites crowded into the temple to offer sacrifice, so now, all in need can surround the Lord to share in the Holy Sacrifice of His precious Body and Blood.

Here is the Temple not made by human hands. Here is the Lord's eternal dwelling place. Here is Jesus, the Son of God. In all the tabernacles of all the churches throughout the world He rests, His presence abides. Let us flock to Him. Let us receive Him into our hearts and bodies. Let us know His healing touch upon our souls. Let us pray with our psalmist, *"Your priests will be clothed with justice; your devout will shout for joy"* (Ps 132:9). For *here* is His holy presence; *here* is the glory of the Lord. Here He hears our prayers as we call upon His Name and worship before Him each day. *Here* He enters in and makes His home with us, and so we, too, become temples of the Lord.

What profit is there?

“For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself?” (Lk 9:24-25)

Have you been a follower of Jesus? In your walk, have there been times when you gave up your time because you had to fulfill an obligation to Jesus? Our Christian Discipleship entails a lot of our time, talent and treasures. Our commitment to Christ does not end after a Friday Worship or after a retreat, but it starts when we leave the venue to bring the Good News to our family and friends. Following Jesus is easy when life runs smoothly, but our true commitment to Him is revealed during trials. Jesus said that trials will come to His followers; and in John 16:33 He declared this: ***“I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world.”***

Discipleship is a significant component of the body of Christ, both theoretically and practically. It is an essential element of our Lord's ministry and is His command to believers. It means sacrifice and lots of love, and Jesus never hid that cost. Following Christ means losing everything for the sake of the Gospel. Jesus challenges us to examine who we love first and foremost. A true disciple loves God above all else and is willing to forsake all for Jesus Christ. Jesus wants His disciples to give Him the loyalty which is only due to God, higher than to a spouse or kin. It is a loyalty that takes precedence over other relationships. The love of God compels us to choose who will be first in our lives. To place any relationship (or anything else) above God is a form of idolatry.

There are times when you may have conflicts with your family or friends that threaten those precious relationships. Often their needs and desires can keep us from doing what we know God wants us to do. Although you speak to them in truth and in love for the sake of Christ, you may still alienate them. In trials like these, understanding and obeying Scripture is essential for one's growth as a disciple of Christ.

The call to discipleship means giving up *all*. Will you choose Jesus or the comforts of life? It takes commitment to be like Jesus. He gave up His life and died for us on the cross to fulfill His Father's will. Are you willing to follow and give up all?

The reward is worth the price. We all hope and pray that one day we will receive the gift of Salvation as promised to us, living eternally with the One True God in His Heavenly kingdom, with all the angels and saints and with Mary our Blessed Mother.

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, let us ask for His mercy and grace to give us the wisdom and strength so that we may follow Jesus faithfully.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

the Father wanted him to do, rather than what He might have preferred for himself.” (Don Schwager) Hence we should ask the question “Lord, what do You want me to do for you?”

“Jesus relied on the Holy Spirit to give him strength, wisdom, courage and self-control. Jesus knows we cannot fight temptation on our own. We need the strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit to help us in our weakness and to be our guide and strength in times of testing”. (Don Schwager)

Relating the above to our worship theme - **“We obey God's call when we believe every word that comes from the mouth of God”** - allows us to understand and believe that if we follow what Moses, Elijah and Jesus did, we therefore should expect something remarkable to happen to us, guaranteed. If we want to see the transforming grace of God in our lives, we must follow the same path our Lord took. It is unfortunate that we are so pampered here in America that even a single day's fast is difficult to follow. We need to take control of our desires so that we may follow what the Lord wants for us, not what we would prefer. We need to separate ourselves from the hustle and bustle of everyday living. We can start to fast and abstain this Lenten Season as a start, but fasting must be a part of our lifestyle! In it is the secret to knowing God in a deeper way. We need to be led by the Holy Spirit in our own wilderness to break the shackles that have kept us from getting closer to God.

God has a plan for us, our family and this community. Fasting on a regular basis will help us fulfill God's plan for all of us, but not all of us have the discipline to fast. Can we depend on each other to encourage each other to fast? With God's grace, we will be able to accomplish our mission.

The Church gave us a new mission, The New Evangelization, and our Community has been trying to fulfill this mission the best ...***Continued on page 4***



If I Could only Touch

(Matthew 9)

If I could only touch the clothes You wore
As You walked on Your way to suffering
If I could only touch the footsteps You left behind
On the streets that led You to Calvary.

If I could only reach and touch the sky
And walk in heaven where the angels lie
If I could only travel back in time
And touch the tree where You died.

I will be healed
I will be cleaned
I will be free from the bondage of sin.

COUNSELS

(from page 3)

we can. Fasting will surely help. We need to fast just as what Jesus did, and when we do, we are better equipped to fight the challenges before us and are better assured of success. Jesus knew His task ahead was not easy. He knew and yet He did it. God called us into this Community for a reason and we need to face up to the challenge; we need to seize this new opportunity.

We started with a small community, but with God's help, we were able to build more communities all over the nation (East and West Coasts), *"...with a small household and lived there as a resident alien. But there he became a nation, great, strong, and numerous."* (Dt 26:5) We are capable of this challenge because we have done it before. God will renew our strength and will be with us, as we serve Him. We need to come to Him through fasting and prayer. He will be beside us; in our frailty and weakness, we will be strong. Yes, You O Lord are *"my refuge and fortress, my God in whom I trust."*

Directions:

1. Know and live the Word of God.
2. Worship the Lord our God and Him alone shall you serve.



LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Prior Week	YTD
Tithe & Love Offering	\$ 3,240	\$ 12,794
Mission Collections	\$ 779	\$ 2,532

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

Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Prayer Healing 1

Saturday, March 12, 2016 – 7 am to 8 pm

Sunday, March 13, 2016 – 7 am to 7 pm

Contact Persons: Sam/Rory Oloso -

samrory@gmail.com

YLSS 21

March 4-6, 2016

Kristian Quevada: YLSS Youth Evangelization
Coordinator | (732) 910-9924

Ronald and Dina Pangilinan: YCS, Adult Youth
Evangelization Coordinators | (732) 581-9497

LSS 46 – Registration is now open!

Salubungan/Acquaintance: March 4

Invocation Mass: April 8

LSS 46: April 9-10

Contact: Lito/Gigi Vibar, litogigi@vibar.com



Disciples' Assembly

Saturday

April 23, 2016

TEACHING CALENDAR

Teachings for **Friday, February 19, after Worship:**

LSS orientation – the Four Basic Truths

Teachings for **Saturday, February 20:**

9 am to 6 pm - Singles

1 to 6 pm:

- CMP II Part II – Christian Suffering / Christian Giving / Christian Witnessing / Christian Discernment LSS 1-43
- Christian Parenting – ME 46
- Shepherd's Training

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Feb 19	Management
		Feb 26	Mission
		Mar 4	Pastoral
		Mar 11	Evangelization

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