



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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Bulletin Edition

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## NEWS

### BLD Newark celebrates milestone events on Pentecost Sunday

Last Sunday, May 20th, our Church celebrated its birthday and we all shared in the joy that the Feast of Pentecost graced upon us. But BLD Newark was celebrating even more, because there were two more events of special Community significance that made it a truly milestone weekend.

First was the Marriage Encounter that was held from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, May 18-20. And this was the **BIG FIVE-O... Marriage Encounter # 50!!!** The second event was the ordination, by Newark Archbishop Cardinal Tobin, of Rod Soriano as a Permanent Deacon.

From the **BIG FIVE-O:**



The Holy Spirit’s mighty anointing was present during the ME weekend, and the twelve couples who graduated last Sunday expressed their gratitude towards all who were involved ... Continued on page 2

## COUNSELS

### The Blessed Trinity

THEME: We make disciples of all nations when we bear witness to the glory of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

WORD: Dt 4:32-34,39-40 ~ Ps 33:4-5,6,9,18-19,20,22  
Rom 8:14-17~ Mt 28:16-20

ORDER: **“Observe all that I have commanded you.”**  
(Mt 28:20a)

REFLECTION:

*This* Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Trinity. But before I proceed with my reflections, let us all begin with the Sign of the Cross: *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

And that exactly summarizes the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. That’s all there is to it. We, as Christians and Catholics worship one God, Who is three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It might be completely baffling, but it is also pretty straightforward. It can also be viewed as the most difficult of Christian doctrines to understand, but it is also the most ordinary, commonplace and obvious, and we express it every time we start and end our prayers. To me, the whole concept of the Holy Trinity is still a mystery. Even St. Augustine, St. John Neumann and a few other saints found that it is one of the hardest doctrines to reflect on – and yet, it is central to our Christian beliefs.

Now let us take a look at the Holy Trinity from a lay person’s viewpoint. We may not be aware of it, but in our daily lives, each and every one of us invokes the Holy Trinity whenever we make the Sign of the Cross. How many times each day do we do that? It may be in our morning prayers, ... Continued on page 3

### Promise of the Week

**“...I am with you always, until the end of the age.”**  
(Mt 28:20b)

## BLD Newark celebrates

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- from our Spiritual Director - Msgr Paul, to the sharers - Fil and Hum Flores / Carlito and Arlene Claricia, and to the sponsors and auxies - the energetic class of ME 49, the many volunteers who helped out, and all those who prayed. Especially memorable was the *harana* that the sponsoring class presented during the Encounter's graduation festivities. Their songs and skits had many people hysterically laughing, and afterwards, they were looking for more!

After the *harana*, one of the candidates exclaimed, "You guys are the best!" More importantly, he also expressed this sentiment that served as proof of the Holy Spirit's triumph during the whole weekend: "I feel that there is so much love in this place."

Twelve couples are in the class of ME #50, and their class shepherds are Tony and Marlene Brillantes. The twelve couples are: Christopher & Mary Akinwuntan / Eric & Donna Augustus / Rujenee & Mary Grace Barrera / Kenny & Cassilda Boyd / Jorge & Graciela Bueno / Godwin & Christiana Ezeweputa / Reynaldo & Irma Hate / Nnamdi & Chinna Iheakaram / Ayodeji & Modupe Ojo / Eric & Alma Stouch / John & Cynthia Thomas / Tommy & Editha Vasay.

### From the Sacred Heart Basilica in Newark

Last Sunday afternoon, at the Sacred Heart Basilica in Newark, Cardinal Tobin ordained seven men into the Archdiocese's Deaconate, and one of them was BLD Newark's own Rod Soriano. He is a member of ME 17 and is currently serving in the Teaching Ministry.

It was a truly joyous occasion for our Church, and many justifiably proud BLD members were on hand to witness the event. Later on during the celebration party that was held at the school gym of St. Peter's Church in Belleville, the same BLD members were among the very first people to receive the newly-minted Deacon's special initial blessings as an ordained minister.

### **God bless you, Deacon Rod, and Congratulations!**



*Every week, the Covenant News includes the commentary that's to be used for the BLD Corporate Worship for that Friday evening. Often, the contrition prayers used for those Fridays are equally powerful; so, every once in a while, the CN has featured some of those prayers as well. Since they too can serve as a great source for additional personal reflection, this issue features the initial entry for the new CN column...*

## **The Contrition Corner**

Lord God, my first encounter with You at my ME was the single greatest event that changed my spiritual life forever. I rejoiced then because I was cleansed and felt Your presence within me. Now, after over 21 years in the Community, I ask myself, "Where am I in my relationship with You, Lord?" While I have changed, have I just replaced old sins with other sins?

Forgive me Lord, for the sin of avarice; for wanting more material things that make me feel good about myself, but where I end up creating idols to look up to, instead of trusting in Your Divine providence.

Lord, I thank You for everything that I have, for everything comes from You. Forgive me Lord for the times when I've thought of myself as holier and more knowledgeable than others, then arrogated Your gifts solely for my benefit and used them selfishly.

Lord God, I confess that I have been offered assignments in Community, but have refused to accept them. I've used the excuse that I cannot serve You because of a variety of reasons, forgetting that it is not I, but You Who truly accomplishes the work and builds up our Community. Forgive me, Lord for the absence of fire and lack of passion in my heart.

***"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you."*** (Jn 15:12)

I am sorry Lord, that despite all these years, I continue to struggle with loving and understanding Community members who do not conform to my ideal of a Christian disciple. I am sorry for judging them. I am sorry, Lord for not trying to see them as You see them. Lord, I am not free from feelings of hurts and pain. I store shame and guilt, resentments and prejudices against my brethren. I am sorry Lord and I also ask forgiveness from my brothers and sisters in community for those times when I had not taken the time to talk and smooth things out between us.

Isaiah 55:6 says, ***"Call upon him while he is near."*** Lord, I confess, that there are times when You feel so far away, and my faith wavers, and I forget to acknowledge that I need You. But when we call upon You, You bring us peace. Thank You and may I always be grateful for the blessing of Your Peace.

Amen.

## Update # 8 (of 9): BLD Newark Spiritual Program for the Unborn

As part of its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration last August, BLD Newark, spearheaded by the Singles Ministry, launched the Community's Spiritual Program for the Unborn. At that time, many members signed up, committing to pray daily (for about nine months) for a baby in the womb that they had spiritually adopted. In conjunction with this program, various issues of the Covenant News have featured monthly updates on the conception and development of life in the womb.

This coming **Friday, June 1**, the whole Community is invited to come to BLD's First Friday Mass to join the Eucharistic Celebration, and since it has been nine months, the culmination of BLD Newark's Spiritual Program for the Unborn.

Everyone, especially those who signed up for the Program, is encouraged to bring gifts on that evening, which will be donated to a Pro-Life Charity. Suggested gifts are baby items, such as diapers, wipes, and new clothes. **Please note that no cash or toys will be accepted.** The Singles Ministry will set up a table in the DMP School auditorium to accept donations, before and after the Mass.

Together, let us all rejoice that through everyone's prayers, our God has heeded our pleas and many lives and babies have been saved.

### Prayer for the Unborn

Jesus, Mary, Joseph,

I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion. Amen.



## COUNSELS

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at grace before meals, at Mass, or even before we retire at night. Moreover, every single baptized person has been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Through baptism we've been sealed by the Trinity, brought within its dynamic, and sent out on a mission.

You might ask, "And what is that mission?" Sunday's readings from Deuteronomy, Romans and Matthew are all about us and that mission. Disciples are to come from different parts of the world, bear witness to the unity of the Triune God, and live - not as one without, above, or against others - but one with and for others.

What we heard from the Gospel is also called "The Great Commission" and it comes at the conclusion of St. Matthew's account. ***"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,"*** Jesus told his followers, ***"baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."***

There are two things that strike me about this. First is that when He said, ***"baptizing them, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit,"*** He meant it for us also. Those words, not only stand as a powerful reminder, but they also embody the special and essential way that God empowers us to do the vital works that we are to accomplish for Him. Second is that the verse concludes with ***"teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."*** In other words, after our baptism, we are to teach them (the world), to obey His commandments - clothe the naked, feed the hungry, and shelter the homeless. We are to teach nations to love one another as Jesus loves us.

To paraphrase Pope Francis in one of his addresses in St. Peter's Square, it simply means accepting and witnessing in harmony with the beauty of the Word of the Lord. And when we do that, that's when we learn to share our joys and our sufferings, to ask and grant forgiveness, and to appreciate various charisms under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Finally, that is how we will experience love: unconditional love for the Lord, love for one another and for all, and show that we love God with all of our heart, mind and strength.

Jesus Christ entrusts this command to the Church, who inherited it from the Apostles. This missionary mandate means that we are to engage in the task of edifying and morally instructing others to build ecclesial communities. Doing so will eventually bear fruit in families that are capable of reflecting the splendor of the Holy Trinity,

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# COUNSELS

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and evangelizing, not only with the Word of the Lord, but also with the power of the love of God that lives within us.

Knowing that the three persons of the Trinity can work together in unity and harmony can fill us with a sense of peace and confidence about our future. Friends may abandon us, family members may disappoint us, setbacks will inevitably come our way, but as the Holy Spirit unites us to the Father and to the Son, it helps us look at the others and ourselves, with love and appreciation, and leads to more hope-filled lives. In the same manner, when the Holy Spirit empowers us to glorify the Father and the Son, it makes our job of making disciples of nations, a little bit easier, as it creates unity, harmony and universality with the Catholic Church. It overcomes barriers of nationality and language, and opens people's hearts for one another. By its nature, our Church, which is one and universal, is destined to thrive among all nations and all peoples.

The unity of the Triune God is important to parishes and dioceses, but it is equally important and essential for local Catholic communities, like our own BLD, to be in full union with the universal Church and its head, the Pope. Although this unifying attribute does not eliminate all the differences among believers, it fosters valuing different gifts appropriately for service to the entire Church.

The quality of our Christian life depends on our concordance with the interior life of the Trinity. The Trinity is the model for every human community, from the most simple and elemental, which is the family, all the way to the universal Church. It shows how love, despite our diversity, creates a unity of intentions, thought and will. We are all different and yet are called to be one, just as the Holy Trinity is distinctly three and one at the same time.

Our BLD Community is no different from other Christian communities. We are all called to love and serve one another. As BLD we will continue to pursue our vision and mission as a community of disciples. It is not by coincidence, but by the Lord's design that we have in our presence, the members of ME Class # 50. They graduated last Sunday, which was Pentecost, meaning that the Holy Spirit descended upon them, and that they now mark the beginning of their renewed journey during this great feast of the Blessed Trinity. We are with them, and they are with us!

As God unites the Holy Trinity, He also unites us as one to serve Him, in unity, ➔➔

*A pdf of this Covenant News and more information about BLD are available online at BLDNEWARK.com*

## LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,178	\$ 24,661
Love Offerings	\$ 851	\$ 16,686
Mission Collections	\$ 78	\$ 9,988

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)  
Thank you for your continued support!

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### DLC Pastoral Hour

DMP Library, Wednesday, **May 30, 2018** - 7:30 pm

### Teaching Calendar

Teachings for Saturday, **June 16, 2018** - 1 to 6 pm:

- CMP II, Part II (LSS 1-46)
- Encounter with Jesus (LSS 1-48)
- New Creation Realities / Growth in Prayer (LSS 1-49)

### Singles Encounter #38

June 8 -10, 2018

Graymoor Spiritual Life Center  
Garrison, NY 10524

Come all you who are thirsty...

Please contact: Paolo Nolasco  
Molly Brillantes

### Solo Parents Encounter #20

"Jesus is calling..."

June 23-24, 2018

Please contact: Caezar and Vicky Razalan

Days Hotel of East Brunswick  
195 Route 18 S  
East Brunswick, NJ 08816



July 13-15, 2018

### Youth Encounter #25

"Come and Follow Me..."

Please contact: [dyc@bidnewark.com](mailto:dyc@bidnewark.com)

Fellowship Deaconry  
3575 Valley Road  
Liberty Corner, NJ


Your family is your first church...



### Family Encounter #25

July 20-22, 2018

Malvern Retreat House  
315 South Warren Avenue  
Malvern, PA 19355

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Jun 1	Mission
			Jun 8	Pastoral
			Jun 15	Evangelization
			Jun 22	Formation

➔ - loving, serving and worshipping together! Indeed, that is giving glory to the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, as one body, one Church and one Community.

AMEN!

### Directions:

1. Love the Lord with all your heart, mind and soul.
2. Love your neighbor as you love yourself.