



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

Twenty-five singles claim God's victory at SE 38

Twenty-five candidates claimed God's victory as they encountered "the heart of the self, of Christ and others" during the BLD Singles Encounter # 38 that was held at Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, June 8-10, 2018. Thank you to everyone who made the weekend super-special, especially to our God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Please join us in welcoming the following new graduates to the Singles Ministry:

* David Alba * Dustin Alba * Beatrice Almazan * Jules Almazar * Dana De Castro * Erika Dimagiba * Gregory Ezike * Kyle Flores * Jess Javier * Kevin Larobis * Zach Larobis * Sophia Lavell * Anthony Lucero * Michael Moral * Abigail Ocaya * KC Ochibili * Andrew Olazo * Mikey Ompod * Derek Quiambao * Jen Reyes * Ivan Reyes * Monica SanAgustin * Samantha Sierra * Bea Syquia * Peter Wong *



For the Greater Glory of God!

COUNSELS

Our Spiritual Tree

THEME: We are in communion with Christ when we allow the word of God to grow in our hearts.

WORD: Ez 17:22-24 ~ Ps 92:2-3,13-14,15-16
2 Cor 5:6-10 ~ Mk 4:26-34

ORDER: "...walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Cor 5:7)

REFLECTION:

The Kingdom of God started with His words of life, words that have now been sown into the hearts of men, where it is nourished and where it grows, and from where, they bear much fruit. In this parable, the Kingdom is likened to a mustard seed. When the seed is sown in the ground, it is nourished by nature and then grows into a tree. When fully grown, the tree's large branches offer a refuge for those who are weary; those who, although weary, persevere in their pursuit of that place of rest, the sanctuary where the cool breezes of peace and joy gently blow; the sanctuary where God wants us to be.

Let us keep in mind that things all started with a small group of individuals, His apostles and disciples, whose faith was nourished through our Lord's divine revelations of the truth of His glory, through His passionate love, by His obedience to the Father even to the point of death on the cross, and by His resurrection that manifested His glorious victory over sin and death.

The early disciples became the passionate messengers of the greatest Love of all. They went through extreme difficulties, even martyrdom, so that they could dwell in the sanctuary of the mustard tree, God's heavenly Kingdom. They have now become the role models for how to grow our faith in God; models that we are to follow to also become fruitful disciples.

... Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

They shall bear fruit even in old age; vigorous and sturdy shall they be. (cf Ps 92:15)

Santa Marta: Three Aspects of Evangelization

Homily on Memorial of St. Barnabas

June 11, 2018 17:07 • Jim Fair • Pope's Morning Homily
Source: zenit.org

The Holy Spirit is the protagonist of evangelization and the three-point power behind spreading the gospel.

That was the theme of the June 11, 2018, homily by Pope Francis during Mass at Casa Santa Marta in the Vatican, as reported by Vatican News.

Speaking on the Memorial of St. Barnabas, Pope Francis explained the three points that are present in the liturgy of the day.

Proclamation: This is unlike any other form of communications. Due to the action of the Holy Spirit, it has the power “to change hearts”. There have been pastoral plans that seem to be perfect, Pope Francis said. “They were incapable of changing hearts” because they were ends in themselves. “They were not instruments of evangelization.” (Acts 11:21-26; 12: 1-3 and Matthew 10:7-13)

Service: “We can say good things but without service it is not proclamation,” the Holy Father explained. “It may seem to be, but it is not, because the Spirit not only carries you forward to proclaim the truths of the Lord and the life of the Lord, but He also brings you to the service of the brothers and sisters, even in small things. It’s awful when you find evangelizers who make others serve them and who live to be served. They are like the princes of evangelization – how awful.”

Gratuitousness: The Holy Spirit gives us gifts we have not earned and expects no payment (Matthew 10:8). Francis explains:

“All of us have been saved gratuitously by Jesus Christ. Therefore, we must give gratuitously. Those who carry out the pastoral work of evangelization must learn this. Their life must be gratuitous, given in service, proclamation, borne by the Spirit. Their personal poverty forces them to open themselves up to the Spirit.”

ODDS AND ENDS

When You Wake Up Each Day...

In a book that I had read before about how to gain confidence to do well in public speaking, one of the celebrities that the author cited was Michael Jordan, who many consider to be the best basketball player of all time. MJ attributed some of his success in performing on the basketball court to the confidence and feeling of being special that wearing new shoes for each game brought him.

Of course, not all of us can afford to buy new shoes several times a week... But it seems that as I was recalling this, God had this message to tell us:

When you wake up each day, remember that you are special, and that every morning, I clothe you with a brand new day.



I Met this Guy...

I have a story to tell you. It's about a Guy I met.

Oddly enough, He wasn't boisterous or loud, so I don't know what made me look towards Him. Now when I think about it, it might have been His quiet confidence that caught my attention. So I found myself approaching Him.

But after an exchange of "How are you?" that were answered by the customary "Fine, thank you," I became fearful of being stuck, embarrassed by not having another thing to say to Him. Yet it seemed that it was ok to just be quiet, and I felt like I just wanted to be there with Him.

Then He beamed a knowing compassionate smile. It was a smile of grace, and it went in through my eyes, then into my heart, and into my soul.

Now, we date often, and although, still not many words are actually spoken, the conversation is quite awesome!

Throughout all of them I've come to love Him.

As it turns out, He loved me, even before I got to know Him.



The Contrition Corner

(From the Corporate Worship for Friday, May 11)

“Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.” (Mk 16:15)

I know that I can't give to others what I don't already have. I'm sorry Lord that even at this point in my BLD life I have not immersed myself in Your Word well enough to be able to effectively proclaim Your Gospel. In spite of knowing this shortcoming I can't seem to find the time to study Your Gospel. My busy schedule at work, at home and Community gets in the way. I'm also too preoccupied with worries about not completing daily tasks, that any little time that I have left in my day is still just spent on attending to less important matters instead. I'm ashamed Lord for even saying that I want to use that remaining time for You, when I should be making You my priority in the first place. I know Lord that I can't do this alone so I ask for Your guidance and the power of Your Holy Spirit to lead me and give me the courage to follow through.

“Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” (Mt 5:16)

I've been asking myself, how could I be a living example of Your works? Do I have to make an extra effort in inviting people to go to Church, to join our encounters or to come on Fridays for praise and worship? Do I have to do more corporal works of mercy? Or could the effort needed be as simple as sharing the Community's website with family and friends? Should my husband and I seek out other couples to attend a BLD marriage encounter so that they could also experience what we've experienced: the transformation of our married life? Or should I simply share my own experiences with others about how I now see and feel Your presence in my life? Forgive me Lord for I know that I'm not doing these enough, and that I have not shared the blessings that I've received.

My Lord, You are a loving God, You have given us all these gifts - our time, talents and resources. Forgive me Lord for I seem to fall short in making full use of them for Your glory. Forgive me Lord for the times I grumble about ministry work, and when I let myself get overwhelmed by BLD duties. Sorry Lord for I have not recognized that our ministry work is actually one of the most significant places where I can and am able to share the talents that I have received. You have done so much for me and my family →→

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

God's living word needs to be nourished in us so that our faith in Him can grow and bear fruit thereby attracting others to join us on our journey. We too can serve as examples for them, so that their hearts will also become the good soil where the seed can grow.

So, it all starts with each one of us, and how we constantly nourish the seed of love in our hearts and how we live our faith in Him. When we do this, we will find that dwelling place where we can rest whenever we get weary.

During our earthly lives, faith-based communities like our beloved BLD, can serve as that mustard tree. But the growth of our Community is dependent upon our efforts to grow our faith in God. We must cultivate that deep faith, so that we can gain the strength and courage needed to reach out so that others can also dwell and thrive, sheltered by our tree of life.



Here, we must become the branches that strive to remain connected to the True Vine, our Lord Jesus. We must become the branches that He prunes and nourishes so that we bear much fruit, all for God's glory. But we must also remain steadfast so that we can withstand the storms of life and the winds of deception that can deprive us of our spiritual attachment to that True Vine, our source of life, Who is Christ Jesus. ...Continued on page 4

→ that I should not be asking for anything more from You; I should instead be asking about what more I can do for others. I'm so sorry Lord for missing the point that I should be truly thankful for the blessings that I have received and for the person that the BLD Community has helped me to become.

My sweet Jesus, Your whole life is a model of humility and obedience. My Lord, I ask You now to grant me a double portion of humility and obedience to You - humility to be able to ask for forgiveness, and to forgive others and myself; and obedience to follow Your will. With help from the Holy Spirit Who is in me, I know Lord that I will be able to do much more. Lord cleanse my heart and may the offering of my hands, my time, my talents and my treasure be pleasing to You. Amen.

COUNSELS

(from page 3)

Our spiritual attachment to God needs to be continuously strengthened through daily prayers - individually, as a family, or as a community, through our regular reflection on the Word of God, by our devotion to the Sacraments, by our works of charity, and our willingness to participate, in any capacity needed, in the Community's endeavors.

Our willingness to avail ourselves of these spiritual nourishments is a reflection of our faith in God. We become courageous in doing God's will when we walk and work by faith, not by sight. We do the good works in deed and in truth, not only for others to see, but more importantly, for them to feel the unconditional and saving power of the love of God. Only then can we become worthy as a lampstand for the light of Christ.

When we do this, our mustard tree will continuously thrive and become more attractive to the weary souls who are looking for a place that offers them new life, providing hope for them to also become connected to the Vine. The attractiveness of our Community life is dependent upon our witnessing. Our transformation is evidenced by our selfless love and through our self-giving sacrifice for others; it is confirmed when others see and feel Christ because of what we do.

The growth of our spiritual tree depends entirely upon our own spiritual growth. As our spiritual tree grows, more branches will spring out via our outreaches; when that happens more will find the sanctuary where we will hear sweet voices proclaiming in unison the Gospel of Life.

Directions:

- Immerse yourself in the Word of God.
- Proclaim your faith by your actions



LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,437	\$ 28,731
Love Offerings	\$ 1,376	\$ 20,784
Mission Collections	\$ 104	\$ 10,215

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

COMMUNITY 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 / Praise and Worship (LSS 1-49)

Solo Parents Encounter #20

"Jesus is calling..." **June 23-24, 2018**
 Days Hotel of East Brunswick
 195 Route 18 S
 East Brunswick, NJ 08816
Please contact: Caezar and Vicky Razalan



Youth Encounter #25
 "Come and Follow Me..."
Please contact: dyc@bldnewark.com
 Fellowship Deaconry
 3575 Valley Road
 Liberty Corner, NJ

July 13-15, 2018

Your family is your first church...



Family Encounter #25

July 20-22, 2018
Malvern Retreat House
315 South Warren Avenue
Malvern, PA 19355

Contact Persons: Jonas and Emy Cebedo, or any of the FE 24 families

Community Day

"... love one another as I have loved you"



August 18, 2018
Johnson Park, Grove 4
Piscataway, NJ

Wear your Team Color!
A - C Red Team
D - G Blue Team
H - P Green Team
Q - Z Yellow Team



Bukas Loob sa Diyos
 (OPEN IN SPIRIT TO GOD)
 COVENANT COMMUNITY ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

SAVE THE DATE

September 22, 2018



26th Anniversary Dinner Dance

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Jun 22	Formation
		Jun 29	Management
		Jul 6	Mission
		Jul 13	Pastoral