



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

With God present in John 6 Crossing # 19, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE!



This past Sunday's reading from Mark's Gospel was most fitting for the John 6 Ministry's Weekend Crossing #19, which was held at the Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Newton, NJ. Twenty-two children, ages 10-14, came to learn more about God's love and His presence in theirs and everyone's lives. Some candidates were Mark 10 children who were ready to move on to John 6; others were children of new Solo Parents and Marriage Encounter members; and some were children of parishioners of St. Antoninus Church. Among the candidates were a few kids who were siblings, and some who were cousins or were friends who already knew each other from their own Churches. So, as the weekend started, many of the children were already familiar with each other. There was little apprehension among them and they were soon very energetic, enthusiastic and comfortable at the retreat. As they dropped their kids off, it seemed that the goodbyes affected the parents more than their children, even though for most of the kids, it was their first time to sleep away from home.

One of the class shepherds summed up the weekend: "This weekend was great! It was amazing to watch the candidates grow and learn more about God. I could see the difference from the beginning of Saturday to the end of Sunday; how they became more attentive and began to listen more to the teachings and the sharings."

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COUNSELS

Share Your Blessings

THEME: We inherit the Kingdom of God when we share our blessings with those in need.

WORD: Wis 7:7-11 ~ Ps 90:12-13,14-15,16-17
Heb 4:12-13 ~ Mk 10:17-30

ORDER: "...come follow me." - Mk 10:21b

REFLECTION:

In the Gospel of Mark, we catch sight of a rich young man as he hurries towards Jesus and falls on his knees before Him. This is the action of a man, not only filled with personal certainty and determined desire for something, but one who has great respect for Jesus. He is quite different from the Pharisees and Sadducees who hound Jesus only to trap Him. This young man seemed honest and worthy, only wanting to ask about how he could gain eternal life. Just as it was for him, it is a question which has occupied our minds and that of all true Christians throughout the ages.

The rich young man addresses Jesus, "*Good teacher.*" Then almost to set the youth straight and maybe, curb his

enthusiasm, Jesus answers, "*Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone*" (Mk 10:18). Jesus goes on to quote the Commandments which the youth assures Jesus he has kept all his life. The Gospel says, "*Jesus, looking at him, loved him*" (Mk 10:21a).



This is how Jesus looks into our hearts when we feel so self-assured, but do not realize that we lack many things in our spiritual life. Jesus knows ...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"... give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven" - Mk 10:21b

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE! *(from page 1)*

The kids surprised the moderators and adults with the deep level of their understanding of the teachings, as was expressed in their sharings during the graduation. They were listening and absorbing the teachings all along! Hearing the teachings expressed in the candidates' own words was a great victory for the Lord!

There were even more triumphs! While the weekend was for the candidates, the testimonies also delivered healing, love and hope to the sharers themselves, and to the rest of those who were there in the conference room. There was a feeling of lightness and calm throughout the building, that one of the auxies described as a wonderful "chill" feeling. We credited this to the powerful prayers of the children and adults at vigil during the entire weekend. The nuns who lived at the retreat center also might have been praying for everyone.

The Spiritual Director, Monsignor Schetelick, spoke to the candidates at their level and impressed upon them a greater understanding of God's love and presence. The study team was led by Joaquin Carias, who managed to keep the entire weekend on schedule while ensuring that the kids absorbed the teachings. Supporting him was prior-year head moderator, Poochie Brillantes. The other facilitators were Kerry Regis, MaryKate Morales and Reese Brillantes. Understudies were: Rheanne Reyes, Ryan Martinez, Catheryn Duarte, and Daniella Avisado. Ryan and Catheryn did double duty as sharers. The other sharers were: April Ocaya, Chad Cebedo, Karylle Torres, Geraldine Mendoza, Kipsy Quevada, and Divine Alba.

The twenty-two JC19 candidates were: James Akli, Divine Anopueme, Ciara Bawar, Cedric Bawar, Juan Berrios, Evangeline Cruz-Perez, Cherubim Cruz-Perez, Zacharie Desrosier, Charlene Emmanuel, Aaron Flores, Maritza Francisco-Rivera, LillyAnn Iheakaram, Nkenna Iheakaram, Nicholas Li, Brandon Maddatu-Wong, Jacob Magahis, Jonathan Miranda, LeiAnn Miranda, Adugo Okafor, Jonne Ramos, Francis Regis and Nadia-Soleil Yomba. Discerned to shepherd the JC19 children, who were present at the conference room all weekend, were Class Shepherds Roman Manzo and Gianna Austria, and Adult Class Shepherds, Roy and Esther Labang.

Thank you to all who were there - adults, auxies, and study team, who served and worked together seamlessly. It personified a body where each part serves a purpose, no one more important than the other, all working together and supporting each other. With the love of God and God's love in each one, JC19's theme song proved that by living in faith, "Nothing is Impossible!"

Thank You God!

BLD Newark prays to Mother Mary

On Saturday, October 6, 2018, the BLD Community celebrated a day of prayer in honor of Mother Mary, offering 2,000 Hail Mary's to her Immaculate Heart. Present for our prayers was a beautiful image of Our Lady of Fatima from the Blue Army Shrine; there was also the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament to conclude the event.



There were 100-bead rosaries on hand for use by those participating. Every '100 Hail Marys' was led by different ministries and their members, and was offered with special prayer intentions. Intentions included those for: peace, conversion of sinners, an end to acts of sexual harassment and healing for victims, blessings of marriages and families, an end to abortion, for priests and vocations, as well as for the intentions of the various BLD ministries. During the day, people also came in and said Hail Mary's for their personal concerns. The DCS prayed the last 100 Hail Mary's and asked for blessings upon the Community.

What better way is there, to honor our Blessed Mother, than to spend time dedicated to spiritually preparing as a community? This was made more special during October, the month of the Holy Rosary, and on the day before the Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary. To conclude the event, Fr. Alex Cruz celebrated a Mass of the Holy Eucharist.

We thank all who participated in our Community 2000 Hail Mary devotion. We are grateful to the ministries who dedicated their time; we are also grateful to the parents and children of the Mark 10 Ministry for offering flowers to the image of Our Lady during the First Friday Mass the night before. We thank the Intercessory Ministry for their sponsorship of this event, in collaboration with the Liturgy, Praise and Service Ministries. We also thank Father Alex who came out in full support.

It was truly a blessing for our Community to be able to venerate our Blessed Mother and to offer petitions for her intercession. We thank her, and we continue to seek her intercession and inspiration to guide us and remind us that we must always praise and thank our ever-loving Father, through Jesus, our Lord, and the Holy Spirit.

The Joy of Discipleship

A member of ME42, a couple from ME44, the class of ME45, and five other BLD couples - what do they have in common? For the past seven months this group had been coming together in a didactic and spiritual journey to discipleship in Christ. As it concluded with its last plenary session on Saturday, September 29, one couldn't help but notice the smiles painted on their faces, and etched on the hearts of everyone.



The joy of discipleship - where does it come from? Perhaps it's from believing in what lies ahead. Or perhaps it is in discipleship itself, for as Pope Francis has said, joy is one of the defining characteristics of one who has truly encountered Jesus. In *The Joy of Discipleship* he exhorted, "Dear friends, be glad! Do not be afraid of being joyful!" In 1 Thessalonians, St. Paul describes disciples as his source of joy. ***"For what is our hope or joy or crown to boast of in the presence of our Lord Jesus at his coming if not you yourselves? For you are our glory and joy."*** (1 Thes 2:19-20)

I can only imagine the many different ways that this joy can be expressed, and the myriad channels it springs from. As I reminisce about the seven months of Discipling 2018, and as I now eagerly await the Aspirants' Retreat a few weeks from now, I see a parallel between my anticipation of the group becoming Covenanted Disciples and an expectant mother about to deliver her baby. She does what she has to do, with courage and determination. And then, the moment comes - she hears a cry, new life emerges, and she feels overwhelming joy as her baby is born!

The spiritual journey of discipleship can somehow be likened to that childbirth experience - filled with anticipation, uncertainty, some pains and struggles. Fully engaged in the discipling journey, we've felt joy, because we believe that a divine gift awaits us.

"Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you, 'You must be born from above.'" (Jn 3:5-7)

Through their spiritual birth, disciples emerge, and we rejoice at that triumph.

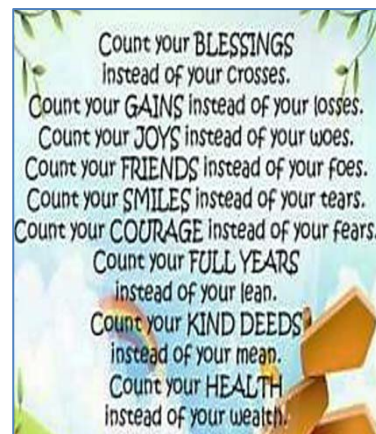
COUNSELS

(from page 1)

that this young man is a good person, but He also sees his weak point and gives him a truthful exhortation, to give everything that he has to the poor and follow Him (cf Mk 10:21b). But apparently, this young man had a heart divided between two masters - God and money, and he goes away sad. He is too attached to his wealth to turn his back on it and follow Jesus instead.

When we are called to serve Jesus as He wants us to, are we like the young man in this episode? Sometimes or oftentimes, we might be materialistic like the rich young man. Knowingly or unknowingly, we have our attachments; there may be times when the thought of being without our cell phones, cars, and other prized possessions, including our careers, our comforts, and even our relationships, is inconceivable. The thought of giving up our vices and pleasures seems hard for us; so too is denying ourselves and putting God before all material things.

It is not bad to have money and other material goods, or to spend time on our temporal concerns, but if these things become our attachments and top priorities, then this is not good for us. Instead, Jesus is asking us to share our blessings - time, talent and treasures, with those in need in order to inherit the Kingdom of God. Our theme reminds us of this: **We inherit the Kingdom of God when we share our blessings with those in need.** Our Lord Jesus



wants us to spend time serving Him every day, as well as to seek Him in prayer and in Scripture. He wants us to share our gifts and to serve our communities. Likewise, God expects us to be generous even if our financial resources are not plenty. Consistent financial giving is the best remedy for any greedy tendencies.

Jesus makes this solemn declaration: "I assure you that he who leaves everything to follow me will have eternal life in the age to come and a hundred times more now in this present age" (cf Mk 10:29-30). Pope Francis echoes these words today: "We deprive ourselves of goods and receive in exchange the joy of the true good; we free ourselves from slavery to things, and we win the liberty of service out of love; we renounce possessing and we attain the happiness of giving." About which Jesus said - "There is more joy in giving than receiving" (cf Acts 20:35).

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COUNSELS (from page 3)

The rich young man did not allow himself to be conquered by the loving gaze of Jesus and so, he was not able to change. In fact, *“he went away sad.”*

In one of his Angelus addresses, Pope Francis tells us: “Only in welcoming with humble gratitude the Lord’s love do we free ourselves from the seduction of idols and the blindness of our illusions. Money, pleasure and success dazzle, but later they disappoint: they promise life but cause death. The Lord asks of us a detachment from these false riches to enter into true life, a full life that is authentic and luminous.”

The Lord is inviting us to be poor, to live with and serve the poor; then the treasure of Heaven will be ours. In His promise, He says: *“give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven.”* (Mk 10:21b). Unlike the rich young man, we can be with Jesus and be His true followers by being mindful of sharing our blessings and our gifts with those who are in need. Then we can rejoice in anticipation of our true treasure of eternal life in heaven.

Directions:

- Serve the community by being a living witness to God’s love.
- Be the servant of all by promoting unity and teamwork.

An Invitation from the ME 50 Shepherds to join the ME again...

Two and a half years ago, Marlene and I, decided to join ME45 as an in-filling couple. To our surprise, our perspective towards our encounter with our Lord was insightfully different from how we viewed things when we first participated in the ME fourteen years ago. Having been in the Community for quite a while now, has given us an insider’s view of ourselves, as a couple and also as servants; unlike how it was at that first ME, when both of us were just outsiders looking in. Even my letters to Marlene at that ME were so simple and they didn’t have that much to offer.

My perspective certainly has changed. What’s more amazing during this second ME for us is the way God touched our lives again as a couple. It brought back good memories, but this time, our letters were more substantial. Throughout the weekend, we looked forward to the next talk and the next subject matter, which we then wrote love letters to each other about.

It really was worth doing it all over again.

So, if you don’t have a photographic memory that enables you to still remember the contents of the letters you wrote to your spouse during your ME, →→

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	\$ 1,218	\$ 54,973
Love Offerings	\$ 640	\$ 40,187
Mission Collections	\$ 200	\$ 11,838
Typhoon	\$ 1,006	\$ 1,424

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Teaching Calendar

- Teachings for Sat, October 20, 1-6 pm, DMP School Building
- Sienna Gift Inventory (LSS 1-50)
 - CMP I, Part 1 (LSS 1-48)



ME #51

WHEN: November 3 - 4, 2018
WHERE: Don Bosco Retreat Center
 174 Filors Lane
 Stony Point, NY 10980
CONTACT PERSONS:
 Rene & Sally Castaneda, MLA Coordinators
cast823@aol.com
 Tony & Marlene Brillantes, ME 50 Class Shepherds
Tony.Brillantes@bldnewark.com

For details and application form, please go to BLDNEWARK.com

Agony in the Garden/ Washing of the Feet Retreat

- LSS1-48
 8 am - 5 pm / November 10, 2018
 2nd Floor, Divine Mercy Parish

Protecting God’s Children Certification (new & renewal)

8:30 pm, Friday, Oct 19, 2018,
 DMP 1st Floor Classroom

For first time attendees, online pre-registration is required at www.virtus.org

For renewals, please submit your name(s) to Susie Atienza at eatienza60@yahoo.com

NO WALK INS



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FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2019

National Mall - 12th St.
 Washington, D.C

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Oct 19	Mission
		Oct 26	Pastoral
		Nov 2	Evangelization
Nov 9	Formation		

→ some 10, 15, or even 20 years ago, and if you’ve forgotten what it felt like to re-affirm your commitment to each other and to the Lord, then I suggest that you join ME 51 this November! Make ME 51 your Thanksgiving gift to each other and to yourself as well!

ME 51 is scheduled for November 3 and 4, 2018, at the Don Bosco Retreat Center in Stony Point, NY.