



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 23 Issue 32

Bulletin Edition

August 18, 2017

NEWS

COUNSELS

BLD Newark set to celebrate its 25th Anniversary

Archbishop Angel Lagdameo and CSL in Manila congratulate BLD Newark.



Archdiocese of Jaro

BLD NEWARK
New Jersey

MESSAGE

I wish to greet and congratulate BLD Newark on its 25th year of Foundation.

“Bukas Loob sa Diyos,” this is what you are called to do first of all ... to open your hearts to God that He may influence with His grace and blessings your families, your communities and the world.

Pray for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Pray for Priests!

God bless you all!


+ANGEL N. LAGDAMEO, D.D.
Archbishop of Jaro &
BLD Community Spiritual Director
July 13, 2017

A Journey of Faith

THEME: We are transformed as we put our trust in the love and mercy of God.

WORD: Is 56:1, 6-7 ~ Ps 67:2-3,5,6,8

Rom 11:13-15,29-32 ~ Mt 15:21-28

ORDER: **“Observe what is right, do what is just.”**
(Is 56:1)

REFLECTION:

As BLD reaches a very important milestone, the Community is brought to reflect on its journey of 25 years of a covenant lifestyle. The fire of the Spirit impelled the first members of the Community to live a life that, at that time, was novel and unusual. It is a lifestyle that has changed the lives of families forever. It is not by coincidence that God’s Word for this Sunday Reading in Isaiah 56 reminds us of His covenant promise when He called us to this community:.

“...and foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, to become his servants - all who keep the sabbath without profaning it and hold fast to my covenant, them I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer” (Is 56:6-7a)

The 25 years of BLD has indeed been a journey of faith. We are foreigners and immigrants to this great land. For many of us, this is the promised land, the land where we expected to carve out careers and raise families, where we expected hard work to pay in terms of financial and material rewards.

...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“All who hold... to my covenant... I will bring to my holy mountain.” (Is 56:6c,7a)

BLD Newark set to celebrate...

(from page 1)



Bukás-Loób sa Diyós
Catholic Charismatic Covenant Community
Council of Servant Leaders

"We are to be faithful to the Lord, and only to the Lord because we are His servants."
Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo, Community Spiritual Director

MESSAGE

"All who hold to my covenant...I will bring to my holy mountain and make joyful in my house of prayer," (Isaiah 56: 6 - 7). With joy in our hearts, the Council of Servant Leaders congratulates BLD Newark as you celebrate 25 years of God's faithfulness and blessing in community. It is only fitting that today, we give glory and thanksgiving to the Lord for all that He has done, be it in your spiritual renewal and growth, in service and mission, or in testifying to God's love and mercy.

It is indeed a great time of joy and grace as you reach this milestone and reminisce the many rewarding, though sometimes challenging, endeavors and achievements of the past 25 years. You also recall with gratefulness all those who journeyed with you and those who served as your guide and inspiration in fulfilling BLD's vision and mission.

It is our prayer that you continue to be the beacon light of God's unchanging message of salvation in this part of the USA, bringing evangelization and mission to more "territories." With open hearts to the Lord, may you look ahead with hope and courage, remaining steadfast to prosper His Kingdom. As one BLD, let us be inspired by Mama Mary who is blessed in her humble obedience to God's will, and be authentic evangelizers of His gospel as we renew, commune and witness in faith, hope and love.

Happy 25th Anniversary! May God grant you more fruitful years!

COUNCIL OF SERVANT LEADERS

Rey & Voleth Florogo
Rey and Voleth Florogo
Presiding Servant Leaders
August 20, 2017



Singles and "Mingles" attend Reflection Day

This past Saturday (August 12) the BLD Newark Singles Ministry was blessed to participate in the first (in recent memory) Singles Reflection Day. The event was open to all members of the Singles Ministry and our attendees included Mingles (former singles who met and married their spouses in the ministry) from past SEs all the way up to graduates of the most recent Singles Encounter #37. Monsignor Paul Schetelick provided the spiritual direction for the day-long silent retreat.

The retreat was held at the Loyola Jesuit Center in Morristown, NJ, where attendees were able to enjoy two beautiful chapels and the sprawling grounds which included the Stations of the Cross, and many statues of Jesus and the Saints. It was a fitting location for the retreat, as the day's (silent) activities were centered around St. Ignatius of Loyola's Spiritual Exercises.



Monsignor Paul Schetelick guided the retreatants through the practice of Ignatian Meditation, in which one reads a passage from the Gospel and engages their senses to become immersed in the scene. The first session of silent meditations was on Jesus healing the Woman with a Hemorrhage (Matthew 9 and Luke 8).

In my personal reflections on St. Matthew's account, I found it interesting that after the woman touched the tassels of Jesus's cloak she was healed, but Jesus responded to her **"Courage daughter, your faith has saved you."** Jesus seems to be saying that it wasn't the act of touching the tassel that healed the woman, but the woman's faith. I found myself in the place of the woman, saying **"If only I can touch his cloak, I shall be cured"** with Jesus answering me, **"your faith has saved you"**. I am still reflecting on the "if onlies" that I've been waiting for, and doing my best to exercise the gift of faith in order to better seek and pursue God's will in my life.

...Continued on page 4

The following is a personal prayer that was shared by a CN contributor amongst some friends in the Community, and it beautifully adds to the theme of BLD Newark's 25th Anniversary, "... By His Grace." It is printed here with his permission.

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

A Letter to Jesus

When I accepted your call to be a laborer in your kingdom, by Your gift of prevenient grace, You helped me to take courage, to be strong and to persevere.

Let your Divine Graces sustain me because I know that You will never abandon me.

Grow my faith and help me be steadfast in You when faced with strong and heavy winds, crushing rocks and earthquakes that I find so often in my life.

Help me "go outside and stand on the mountain" of trials and tribulations and await your constant presence in my life through your "tiny whispering sound."

Let the fire of the Holy Spirit be in my heart always.

Help me be a true adopted child of Your Divine Mercy.

Create me in Your image and likeness that I may share Your glory and presence with others, especially those who are in need of Your kindness, Your compassion, Your truth and Your unending, unconditional love for all of us.

I trust in You that in my times of failure,

- when I am burdened by doubt and cannot keep my gaze fixed on You,
- when I become judgmental of my neighbors,
- when I fail to trust completely in Your Word,
- when I become dependent on the winds of the earth, and let needless worldly anxieties batter my faith,
- when life's problems and difficulties engulf my being,

You will stretch out Your almighty and loving hands and raise me up above my fears and whisper in my heart, **"take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."**

THANK YOU, LORD JESUS.

AMEN.

Indeed, the Lord blessed us in every way, especially in our expectation of self-sufficiency, but more importantly, He used this Community to nurture our faith and the faith of our friends and family, forming a beautiful Community in ways we could not have ever imagined.

For many of us, life without this Community would have been tremendously difficult and challenging, spiritually, emotionally and psychologically, especially with regards to the quality of our marriages and family relationships.

However, as we persevered in this new life, we were learning the ways of discipleship; we were growing in our prayer lives we were witnessing to the fruit of the Spirit in our lives and learning to repair and enrich our relationships with others and with God. Together we learned the practical application of humility, forgiveness and faith. We learned to overcome our differences and misunderstandings, and avoid disunity

Although, there are many moments when it seems that the effort of serving and belonging to a covenant community is more difficult and painful than necessary, God gives us the grace to persevere.

God's plan is perfect. It may be difficult to understand, but He knows us intimately. He knows our weaknesses and is familiar with our pride. Our hearts rebel and disobey the call to humility, and we ignore mercy in our desire to be right, but in the example and witnessing of Christ, nothing justifies a man to act more superior than others especially in a Christian community. We stand only by His love and mercy, and it is mercy and love that He expects all of us to offer to our brethren in return.

By His Grace, we look forward to many more years of serving the household of God, of walking hand in hand, passing on the work of evangelization to our children, gratefully accepting challenges, trials, and sacrifices, and trusting that God will continue the work that He had begun in us.

May our witnessing and speech continue to build a strong fabric that will support the struggles, transformation and renewal of all of us in this Community. We pray that God may continue to use this Community to enrich lives and deliver others from disobedience, just as it has done for us.

We pray that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith. And that we may be rooted and

...Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

(from page 3)

established in love, and together with all the Lord's Holy people, be granted the wisdom to grasp the depth, and breadth, height and width of the love of Christ. To know the love that surpasses all knowledge – that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

May all persevere in this wonderful walk of faith, let us continue to hold on to each other, uplift each other through our journey of sanctification so that when we are called to stand before Him on His Holy Mountain, joyfully in His house of prayer, we will proclaim –

**To God be Glory forevermore!
Amen.**

DIRECTIONS:

- Live according to the commandments of God.
- Fulfill your commitment and covenant pledges faithfully.

Singles and "Mingles"... (from page 2)



On behalf of the Singles Ministry, I would like to extend thanks to our Spiritual Director Monsignor Paul Schetelick for leading us in prayer and celebration of the Eucharist, our ministry heads Elaine and Lito Fernando for coordinating this event, the Jesuit brothers and fathers at the Loyola Center for welcoming us into their home, and the BLD Newark Community for supporting the day of recollection. For those who missed out on this fruitful day of prayer, meditation, and scripture, look forward to similar day-retreats in the future. Thanks be to God!

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

LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,409	\$ 44,057
Love Offerings	\$ 1,219	\$ 40,767
Mission Collections	\$ 75	\$ 3,843

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



BLD Newark

August 19, 2017
Community Celebration at the
Divine Mercy Parish

August 20, 2017
25th Anniversary Dinner Dance



1992-2017

By HIS Grace... We Worship

celebrating 25 years

8:00 pm - Saturday, Aug. 19, 2017

Doors Open at 7:00PM

Union County Performing Arts Center
1601 Irving Street • Rahway, NJ 07065



Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Aug 25	Pastoral
		Sep 1	Evangelization
		Sep 8	Formation
		Sep 15	Management