



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

COUNSELS

Twelve couples feel the Lord's loving presence at ME #52

Twelve couples - Darrell and Michele Adan, Allan and Kim Balagot, Pedro and Nancy Burbano, Riemann and Jana Canlas, Eric and Melissa Cruz, Bob and Betty Entwistle, Ed and Sanette Garcia, JL and Mei Lavina, Nicolas and Cora Lladas, Louie and Carol Lomuntad, Roy and Gemma Musni, and Erik and Lee Ann Rivera, participated in the Marriage Encounter #52 Weekend, which was held at the Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Newton, NJ, this past May 18 and 19. The group included several young couples, a few of whom had been part of BLD's Singles Ministry and are now married with families of their own. There were also couples for whom this was their first experience with BLD. The BLD Community - sharers, auxies, and the sponsoring class of ME 51 (led by their Class Shepherds, Jonas and Emy Cebedo), welcomed the candidates with open arms. Some of the couples came as early as Friday night, while others arrived early that Saturday morning; meanwhile, everyone was filled with anticipation of what God had prepared for them.

Yes, it was beautiful! The weekend was filled with solemn prayers, songs and hymns of praise. As the talks by Msgr. Paul Schetelick and the sharings by Tess & Alan Cam and Bong & Merle Encarnacion began, each member of the ME #52 class listened attentively. Everyone felt the loving presence of our Lord as each word pierced through their hearts, resulting in amazing heartfelt emotions. They heard true stories of pure love, forgiveness and of the Lord's unfathomable mercy, and then reflected on and dialogued with their spouses about their own real-life experiences. Through it all, God touched each one of them uniquely, and in His own very special way.

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The World Cannot Give Us True Peace

THEME: We are faithful to Christ's word when we share the peace of God.

WORD: Acts 15:1-2,22-29 ~ Ps 67:2-3,5,6,8
Rev 21:10-14,22-23 ~ Jn 14:23-29

ORDER: *"Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."* (Jn 14:27c)

REFLECTION:

Our Scripture readings are those for the 6th Sunday of Easter. We have always prepared for and anticipated the big events of our faith, such as the forty days of Lent and the four weeks of Advent. And in our Church, the Resurrection of our Lord is celebrated beyond just Easter Sunday; the Church has actually designated seven consecutive Sundays to commemorate this most glorious event in our salvation history. It is the feast of all feasts, the solemnity of all solemnities, because it is the event that opened heaven's door for all of us and restored us to a covenant relationship with God.

We believe that our lives will not end in death; but that like our Savior, we too will rise; and if we've been faithful to our calling, then we will find a place reserved for us in heaven. St. Paul says that if Christ did not rise from the dead, then we are to be pitied because we would have believed in vain. But we have not believed in vain, and to this day, there are still many who bear witness to Jesus and His resurrection; and in many parts of the world, Christians continue to choose, even martyrdom, rather than opt to denounce their faith.

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Promise of the Week

*"The Advocate, the holy Spirit...
he will teach you everything and remind you
of all that I told you."* – Jn 14:26

Twelve couples feel the Lord's loving presence at ME #52

(from page 1)

A few of the couples mentioned that a big reason for their joining the encounter was that it was "the right time," and the weekend proved that nothing can be better than being with God at the right time! Yes, God works in mysterious ways! Jesus touched everyone there during the weekend, the participants as well as all those whom He chose to be present at the table.

One of the couples who shared at the ME, Alan and Tess Cam, will now go on as the Class Shepherds, and three couples accepted new roles as Class Coordinators for ME #52: Riemann and Janna Canlas, Alan and Kim Balagot, and Eric and Melissa Cruz.

So now, dear ME #52, we pray for more blessings for each one of you and your dearest ones. We pray for happier and more fruitful marriages with God in the center of your lives. And don't forget that He is not done yet... for this is just the beginning of true happiness with Christ.



Thank You Lord! To God be the glory!!!

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

Based on modern research on memory, after a week, most people will remember only about 15% of the things they heard. We can probably validate this based on what we remember from the Mass readings that we heard in our parishes last Sunday, and what the key messages of the priest's homily were.

The Lord knew that after He returned to the Father, His apostles and disciples wouldn't remember most of what He had taught them, and that His words would most likely be passed on in different, and perhaps, erroneous directions and interpretations. Our all-knowing God knew the limitations of His apostles, so in His divine plan, He sent an Advocate, a Teacher, Who granted them and their successors the ability to discover the fullness, depth and richness of the things that they had heard from Jesus.



He knew that without the guidance of the Holy Spirit, men would make their own interpretations of Sacred Scripture and form their own theologies. True enough, since the 16th century, many men have started their own religions primarily using just personal beliefs about what the Lord said and what we have to do to be saved; and so today, there are more than 25,000 different Christian denominations around the world. I believe that the Catholic Church has lasted for 2000 years, more than any other institution, because of the fidelity of our leaders to the guidance and promptings of the Holy Spirit.

The theme this week is, "We are faithful to Christ's word when we share the peace of God." It exhorts us to share the peace of God. Note that for Jews and Arabs, greeting a person with peace (shalom) is a normal form of greeting that is still done today. We too say this greeting at every celebration of the Mass. We long to give and receive this peace that comes from Christ that surpasses any peace that the world can give.

The biblical concept of peace does not focus on the absence of trouble. Biblical peace is unrelated to circumstances. It is about being at peace, inside, regardless of what is happening outside. We may be in the midst of great trials and still have the peace of Jesus Christ. This peace is brought about by reconciling with God and with our fellow men. St. Augustine describes it as a serenity of mind and tranquility of the soul.

May the Good Lord bless us with His peace always.

Directions: 1. In prayer and petition, lift up everything to Him. 2. Read and reflect on God's word daily.

On Bookmarks and Cookies



Although I'm not really that old (after all, I'm not sixty yet... but oh my... it's not that far away!), I am really not that tech savvy. Yes, I can go shopping on the internet, and if I really wanted to, look up old friends on Facebook, but for the most part, on a scale of one to ten, I'd grade myself a weak 3 in terms of knowing about websites, blogs, social media and all that 21st century stuff.

Having said all that, I do have an idea of what bookmarks and cookies do for me when I go to the web - something along the lines of helping me more easily return to the sites I've been interested in and have visited before. So, they're sort of a reminder tool, in case I ever want to go back there again.

While a computer can store these tools and retrieve them when needed, it seems that we have not learned to take this technology that we've invented and find a way to apply it to ourselves. You might ask, "What do I mean?"

For a lot of people, including me, what we really need to do is to install spiritual bookmarks and cookies in the computers in our brains. So that in the ebb and flow of life, we can summon them to pick us up when we feel down, and lift us up even higher when we're already feeling good.

Most of us have very busy 21st century lifestyles. We're all so busy with the business of living, trying to maximize every minute of every day, pre-occupied with the various things that life presents to us. In the blur, I know that in my case, there are many things that I've taken for granted.

That's something that needs fixing.

Recently, I realized what a real blessing it is to be able to look back and recognize the times in my life that I've been happy; and because of that, I've become even more amazed by God's goodness. So, what would really help is if I could somehow bookmark those times and actually re-visit them often so that I'd be reminded of how good He has been and continues to be in my life. They can be like a cookie, that packet of data that is readily available, to be summoned when I need it (and sometimes, even when I might not) that will always lead me to an even better place, where I'd be able to acknowledge God's greatness and feel His presence ever more. →→

Last week's CN included the first in a short series of sharings by couples from ME #51. Below, from another member of their class, is the second installment of that series, this time from both a wife and her husband.

From the wife:

“ME #51 was an amazing experience.”

We've been married for 25 years, but when our son was born, we began to have a lot of disagreements. We would then turn the disagreements into fights, and from fights, into not talking to each other at all. We tried to save our marriage by attending marriage counseling, but during those sessions, it was only I who did most of the talking. After attending ME #51, when I looked back, I realized that the counseling did not work because I blamed and condemned my husband for everything. I failed to look at myself and see what I was doing wrong.

ME #51 really helped to restore our marriage. We are so happy that we went. The encounter was truly “God-centered,” and it really showed us to do everything with love. The “love letter” exercise sessions during the ME weekend gave us an opportunity to understand each other better. We actually talked about a lot of things that we had not really talked about before.

We were told to hold hands when we fight so that we would know that we still loved each other, even when we do fight. After the weekend, we still have had disputes, but now, there is less blame and we would see things in a positive way. When fights occur, we hold each other's hands, we listen and talk to each other, and then we are able to come to an agreement that would help resolve our differences.

During the weekend, I learned from the presenting couples that the most important thing to restore a troubled marriage was to let go of the past and let God work, as in my life and in my marriage. Healing is a process, so is change. Things do not change overnight, but God does help and He makes all things possible.

ME #51 was an amazing experience.

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→ So, I guess that what you and I really need to do is to install those spiritual bookmarks and cookies into our mental browsers. And then, just as most of us do on actual computers, go back to those bookmarks and cookies many times each day, remembering His goodness and giving thanks to Him all along the way.

ME #51...

(from page 3)

From her husband:

“Now we are very grateful...”

The ME #51 weekend was a life changing event for us. Now, six months later, it is still continuing to change our lives and our marriage for the better. But we almost did not attend at all!

When we were first invited by our sponsors, we had no idea how wonderful an experience it would be. We had said no, but they did not give up on us. They kept asking us to attend until we ran out of excuses to not go. Now, we are very grateful to our sponsors, and we’ve become an excellent example of how being persistent can truly pay off.

About the Truth

Happiness does not define the Truth.

Because if it did,

Then that would make the Truth relative...

But the Truth will always be the Truth!

And it’s the Truth that will lead to happiness.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

PRAYER HEALING SEMINAR I

All LSS graduates of BLD are invited to participate in this beautiful retreat. After more than 4 years, our community is again offering this moving recollection/seminar.

June 22, 2019 - 7am-6pm; June 23, 2019 - 7am-5pm

at the Library, Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway NJ.

Limited to 50 participants, please register early.

Email prayer.healing@BLDNewark.com to RSVP, or Register online at www.BLDNewark.com and click on Prayer Healing Seminar I flyer.

There is a registration fee of \$50 to cover handouts and food & snacks for both days.

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 714	\$ 28,335
Love Offerings	\$ 541	\$ 14,864
E-Giving	\$ -	\$ 3,056
Mission	\$ 199	\$ 10,680

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

Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Singles Encounter 39

SAVE THE DATE!
June 7-9, 2019
 deadline to register is June 6

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL: \$160
*MUST BE PAID BY MAY 31
 REGULAR PRICE: \$175

REGISTER NOW!
<https://tinyurl.com/se39candidate>

RETREAT LOCATION:
 SACRED HEART RETREAT CENTER
 20 OLD SWARTWOOD ROAD
 NEWTON, NJ 07840



Solo Parents Encounter Weekend #21

June 29-30, 2019
 Days Hotel of East Brunswick
 195 NJ 18 East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Please contact: Matt and Precy Yap



YOUTH ENCOUNTER #26

July 12 - 14, 2019
 Fellowship Deaconry Ministries
 3575 Valley Rd., Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
 Contact: dyc@bldnewark.com



FAMILY ENCOUNTER 26

As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord: Joshua 24:15

July 26 - 28, 2019
 Malvern Retreat House
 Malvern PA

Contacts:
 Mike and Emma Pepino, Ed and Susan Fabe

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		May 31	Pastoral
	June 7	Evangelization	
	June 14	Formation	
	June 21	Management	