



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

COUNSELS

Twenty-five answer the Lord's call at SPE #21

Twenty-five men and women of diverse backgrounds answered God's call this past weekend, united by their common bond of seeking a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior. This Solo Parent retreat was held on June 29-30 at the Days Hotel Conference Center in East Brunswick, NJ. The Holy Spirit never fails, and the smooth flow of the encounter is a direct testament to that!

We are most grateful to the Solo Parents' Ministry leadership, the Pastoral team and the SPE #21 Spiritual Director, Msgr. Paul Schetelick. During the weekend, Msgr. Paul was once again able to make the Bible and Jesus' teachings come alive. The candidates especially loved his deep insights on Christ's love, healing and family values.

Special thanks to the sharers: Rosemary Go, Cris Jacobo, Joey Cadavillo, Ofel Paypon and Gigi Espejon, who enriched the encounter with their courageous and humble sharings about the difficult and sometimes tragic moments of their lives. They could have not shared their stories (and their triumphs!) without God's gentle persuasion, and for that we are truly grateful. Heartfelt thanks also to the SPM Praise who provided the heavenly music, the auxies whose loving extra hands were such a huge help, and to the untiring efforts of the sponsoring class (SPE 20). In one voice, everybody declared that the retreat was truly a Spirit-filled encounter!

Thank You Lord and...



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We are Empowered

THEME: Disciples of Christ are empowered when they perform mission work.

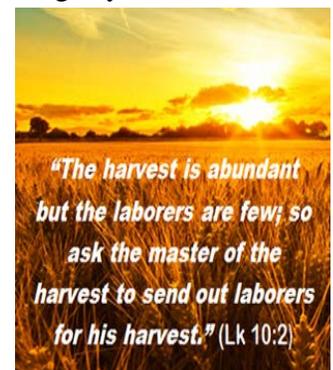
WORD: Is 66:10-14c ~ Ps 66:1-3,4-5,6-7,16,20
Gal 6:14-18 ~ Lk 10:1-12,17-20

ORDER: "Come and see the works of God" (Ps 66:5)

REFLECTION:

Dur Community Word for July – **Disciples of Christ are empowered to proclaim the Good News**, reminds us that there is still much to be done to promote the Kingdom of God, and that as empowered Christian disciples, we are called upon to help in the work of the Gospel. We can turn life's challenges into opportunities for those who want to know God more and who are hungry for His Word. Even if we feel insignificant, we can be an influential force in the lives of others. God calls us to lead others to Him; all we have to do is speak the truth in love and set a Christ-like example for them to follow. The Community Order for July directs us to – **"Come and see the works of God..."** (Ps 66:5). Therefore, in response to God's command, let us produce an abundant harvest for His greater glory.

The theme for the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time is – **Disciples of Christ are empowered when they perform mission work**. As His missionaries, Jesus encourages us to spread His Gospel wherever we go, sharing His merciful love, peace, and joy.



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Promise of the Week

"...rejoice because your names are written in heaven." – Lk 10:20b

Two more contributions about Fr. Paul Lehman, who was...

A GREAT PRIEST AND FRIEND

This past week, I struggled to put my thoughts about Fr. Paul Lehman into words. He played a large part in my conversion to the Catholic Faith, and he had been a spiritual mentor and friend ever since. We had theological discussions and had shared many meals together. For as long as I had known him, he had been a great role model of holiness, and to all that he ministered to, a shining example of the priesthood. After returning home from the vigil Mass celebrating Fr. Paul's life, I wanted to capture two things about the evening that struck me as particularly profound.

The first is that the people gathered in mourning his passing were many and diverse, whereas I had known him almost solely in just the context of his service as BLD Newark's Spiritual Director. At that Mass, we joined with the communities of St. Antoninus and other Churches and faith-based groups: countless individuals who had been touched by Father Paul's passion for evangelization and for serving the Lord. It reminded me of the closing verses of St. John's Gospel account: ***"There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written."*** (Jn 21:25) Surely, Jesus's work was continued in the life and priesthood of Fr. Paul. If we were to try to number those who have been impacted throughout his 65 years of priestly ministry, I think that it would be quite impossible to come up with a tally.

Secondly, during the Consecration, I was moved when these words were uttered: "This is my body, which will be given up for you." Those familiar with Fr. Paul know that he offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on a daily basis, even if he was just by himself. In doing so he fulfilled his call to the ministerial priesthood. These words also called to my mind how Fr. Paul continued to allow the Lord to work through him, even as his physical health declined. He continued to preach, instruct, and engage those in his spiritual care, well beyond the limits of what his physical condition and comfort could tolerate. In doing so, he made a sacrifice of his own body in service to the Lord. This is something we can all aspire to, whether ordained, consecrated, or lay: the offering of ourselves in service to the Lord, in pursuit of building His Kingdom here on earth, the Catholic Church.

As we remember all of the ways that Fr. Paul influenced our lives, let us also remember →→

→ to pray for the repose of his soul. We know that while we have lost a great priest and friend, we have gained a powerful intercessor in heaven's throne room. With faith in God's love, we have the blessed hope that he is enjoying his just reward and is finally united with the Risen Lord, Whom he pursued in this life with great dedication.

It was amazing to enter a packed wake and vigil mass for Fr. Paul at St. Antoninus Church, which was full, from front to back. It was beautiful to see the members of the BLD Community, as well as the countless others who were there, stream past, everyone whose lives were personally touched and ministered to by this man. He was a holy man with so many spiritual children. In the many retreats, encounters, masses and sacraments, and in the spiritual direction he had given, he had a big part in the growth of holiness and blessedness in our souls. How can a man like that not be in heaven? Truly, his reward is the joy... up there... with our Father!

Fr. Paul was faithful to the end, a friend and father-figure, always with something warm and witty to say. In describing others, it is not common for folks to say, "holy men." But that is what he would say to refer to priests and lay people whom he saw were filled with service and devotion; to them, he gave tremendous encouragement and provided a huge example to follow. One BLD member told me that Fr. Paul could read souls. Certainly, it seemed that he was able to see the good in people, and dared them to achieve even more. Fr. Paul had been a happy priest, a humble man, a long-time member of the Renewal; he was sharp-as-a-tack and on fire with love of Jesus, which was made evident during LSS talks, in the counsel he provided at confession, and even just in the ideas he'd discuss over the dinner table.

He never stopped treating souls. Even in his old age, when I had asked him for help in what could have been my worst problem, he advised me to be patient and taught me to persevere. He gave and gave till the end, even when he'd have to struggle when listening to my confessions in his hearing-assisted ear (and when I worried that he would have to speak so loud that others would hear, eventually, I didn't care because his words were so full of wisdom). In the parking lot, when we'd see each other, he would say, "The holy woman is here." And I would smile and take his hand to kiss or bless. Nobody had called me a holy woman before! But each time, he would buoy my spirits and encourage me to just put one foot ahead of the other... until it seemed that the Lord's mighty dance would come and gracefully sweep me along.

COUNSELS

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Every follower of Jesus should share in His mission to proclaim the Good News of Salvation to all. This is both a privilege and a task. We are to give our all in proclaiming Jesus' message and to testify to His saving love. In accepting this mission, no matter what the obstacles may be, there is joy, for His promise is that which is expressed in Luke 10:20b – "...rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

On the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, the theme is – **Disciples of Christ are empowered when they show mercy and compassion.** The Gospel can be summed up in one word – LOVE.



Who Is My Neighbor?

"And who is my neighbor?" (Lk 10:29b).

The answer to this question is that it includes even the unlovable, the arrogant, our persecutors and enemies – we have to love them all. How do we show love? By not judging, and understanding instead. To love is to not avoid, but to help them; to not ignore but to search for them; to not criticize but to reconcile with them. Loving involves actively helping to ease their struggles. Love of neighbor demands →

→ that we express sympathy and concern. It is not only desiring to help, but actually doing something for others with sincerity, and without counting the cost. So, we bring the promise of His Gospel to the last, the least, and the lost. *"The Lord hears the poor, and does not spurn those in bondage."* (Ps 69:34)

Disciples of Christ are empowered when they reflect on God's Word and serve others - is the theme for the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time. In the Gospel account by St. Luke, about Martha and Mary, is a good example of how there must be a relationship of heart and hand – a balance between prayers and deeds, a combination of words and works. Our prayers must be seen in the way we live our lives. It is said that you must "preach what you believe, practice what you preach." We pray and act, we praise God and we sacrifice for Him. Every disciple must spend time in loving service, but this must be balanced with prayerful meditation on the Word of God and constant reflection on the teachings and examples of Jesus. Jesus tells us: *"... you are anxious and worried about many things"* (Lk 10:41). This is a reminder that as much as we need to work, we also need

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NEWS

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From front; left to right: Judith Salientes, Emmy Valderama, Inday Dizon, Caroline Osborne, Milka Svaglinac, Msgr. Paul Schetelick, Eleanor Atienza (CS), Ray Atienza (CS), Och Umunna-Ignatius, Rebecca Kramer, Anita Daugherty, Celia de la Cruz, Aydiz Maravilla, Mariflor Hernandez, Jima Tiongco Lamp, Carmen Hermosisima, Val Antoine, Joy Yuzon, Wendy Medina, Rhenei Liberato, Beth Inacay, Meredith Pascal, Ta Gaza, Henry de Vera, Charlie Zammit, Barb Peterson, G Marasigan, Derek Symanski

COUNSELS

(from page 3)

to spend some time to be alone with God, to make both our work and lives meaningful and grace-filled. In Psalm 15:2,5b, we are given this assurance when we live a spiritual life: **“Whoever walks without blame, doing what is right, speaking truth from the heart... shall never be shaken.”**

The theme for the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time is – **Disciples of Christ are empowered when they persistently intercede for others.** There is no spiritual life to speak of if praying is not our way of life, for prayer is essential to live a purposeful life. It is our communication life-line to God. Our prayer must be persistent, a constant habit, and more importantly, our prayers must be the expression of our love and commitment to God. Jesus asks for only one thing in praying – to have perseverance. When we pray, we show our complete trust in God, believing and being confident that He will respond to us and to our intercessions for others, in His perfect will and in His perfect time. We are challenged to know, and to believe and live what we pray for. For this, Jesus assures us, **“For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”** (Lk 11:10)



Prayer:

Dear Lord of the Harvest, continue to inspire us to be humble and willing laborers in Your vineyard. Grant us the grace to be truly part of Your mission to spread the Gospel of love and build Your Kingdom on earth. Give us the joy in our hearts as we minister to the poor, testify to Your word, persevere in our prayers and share our blessings with those who are in need. Amen.

Directions:

1. Be a living witness of God’s transforming love and power by the way you think,
2. Show your concern for others through caring words and generosity.

Please note that a pdf of this Covenant News is also available online at BLDNEWARK.com

LORD’S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK’S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,131	\$ 36,938
Love Offerings	\$ 835	\$ 19,409
E-Giving	\$ -	\$ 4,726
Mission	\$ 50	\$ 11,278

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

Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Msgr. Paul Schetelick’s 70th Birthday & 43rd Sacerdotal Anniversary Celebration



July 6, 2019

- Eucharistic Celebration at 5:30 pm, Divine Mercy Church, Rahway, NJ
- Reception to follow in the DMP Auditorium



Bishop Rey Evangelista’s First US Pastoral Visit

JULY 12 AND 13, 2019

More information and the link to RSVP for the Welcome Celebration on Saturday, July 13 can be found at bldnewark.com

YOUTH ENCOUNTER #26

July 12 - 14, 2019
Fellowship Deaconry Ministries
3575 Valley Rd., Basking Ridge, NJ 07820
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

BLD COMMUNITY DAY PICNIC Saturday, August 17, 2019

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			July 12	Evangelization
			July 19	Formation
			July 26	Management
Aug 2	Mission			