



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

COUNSELS

## Nine families experience a life-changing weekend at FE #26

The most recent FE was held at the Malvern Retreat House in Pennsylvania this past weekend, July 26-28, 2019. Despite having many tasks to accomplish and being of many different backgrounds, the members of the sponsoring class of FE #25 made a commitment to ensure the success of the weekend. Their goal was to bring the nine families of FE #26 together to work on their relationships, away from the pressures of their everyday lives. By that Sunday, the smiles that shined on their faces and the joy that was felt by the FE #26 families served as proof that the sponsoring class had attained it!



Of the nine families of this latest FE class, seven are from BLD Newark and two from North Carolina. From Newark, they were: the Castaneda family, the Montemayor family, the Mijarez family, the Marzan family, the Entrada family, the Au family, and the Manansala family; from North Carolina: the Facas family and the Villarin family.

Some of the families have already been long term members of the Community, after having joined BLD through its other retreats several years ago; but at the FE, they encountered a new experience. During the weekend, teachings on family relationships were imparted and fully discussed by Msgr. Paul Schetelick, who served as the Spiritual Director for the FE.

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## Only God Meets Our Deepest Longings

THEME: We store heavenly treasure when we guard against idolatry and worldly attachments.

WORD: Eccl 1:2;2:21-23 ~ Ps 90:3-4,5-6,12-13,14,17  
Col 3:1-5,9-11 ~ Lk 12:13-21

ORDER: "... seek what is above... not of what is on earth" (Col 3:1-2)

REFLECTION:

**Our** new life in Christ requires us to follow the values of the Kingdom rather than that of the world. In our former way of life, we were deeply immersed in the values of the world. Today, we need to be cut free of these wrongful attachments by "putting to death" our earthly desires. Both the First Reading and the Gospel for this Sunday speak about the meaninglessness and vanity of human life without God. A life that seeks only the superficial values of this world cannot truly satisfy, for life is only fulfilling when we can relate meaningfully to others and to God in Christ Jesus. Meanwhile, the Second Reading admonishes us to set our hearts on things above rather than on earthly things.

We should realize that only God meets the deepest longings of our human heart, which is never satisfied by what this world has to offer (Gaudium et Spes 41). Costly goods like cars, houses, gadgets, fashion items, and jewelries are passing things; we cannot take them with us when we die. Even the loveliest face on earth, or the highest honors and positions heaped upon man eventually fade or lose their luster. They cannot satisfy our deepest longing. Only in Christ, with Christ, and for Christ

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*Promise of the Week*

"When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory." – Col 3:4

## Nine families experience a life-changing weekend at FE #26...

In the teaching segments, he incorporated several strategies on how to improve the family members' communications with one another through different sessions of worship, teaching and prayers.

The weekend retreat was life changing, especially with the Holy Spirit filling the hearts of the members of each of the families. The sharers, the Larobis family (who will also serve as Class Shepherds) and the Loreto family, shared how God stood in their midst and how He conveyed His presence in their lives. Their sharings touched not only the candidates' hearts, but also those of everyone who was there in the conference room as well. Where before, some felt pain as their relationships struggled, during the FE, they received healing and reconciliation. God's message of love and forgiveness resonated throughout the room, and it renewed the areas of their lives that had grown stagnant. As empty vessels, all who were there asked the Holy Spirit to fill them with wisdom, compassion and humility so that they could have, possess and celebrate His spirit of love and mercy.

An encounter is a divine appointment with God. It is a specific time in our lives when we each get to realize that God has been there all along, and that our lives have been marked by His presence, His power and His deliverance. When we encounter God we are changed by the experience (for instance, the Family Encounter retreat that we did last year, not only changed my life, but the lives of my entire family!). But it is always in God's time.

We thank all the ministries and individuals who were involved in supporting the FE #26 weekend. We thank the Community's members who provided their financial support during the fundraisers that were held by the sponsoring class, as well as thank everyone for their prayers for the success of the weekend.

And most of all, ***WE THANK YOU LORD!***



## COUNSELS

(from page 1)

can we find our innermost joy and contentment. We need to unclutter our life of empty earthly desires so that we may have the poverty of heart needed for Jesus to reside there. Then we can live the new life of Christ within us.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church exhorts us to have poverty of heart. Jesus said: **"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be."** (Mt 6:21) Jesus enjoins His disciples to put Him first above everything and everyone else, and bids them to renounce all that they have for His sake and that of the Gospel. It involves a detachment from earthly riches, exemplified by the poor widow of Jerusalem whom Jesus pointed out, who, despite her poverty, still gave all that she had to live on. Detachment from earthly riches is a condition for entry into the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Lord grieves over the rich, because they find their consolation in the abundance of goods, like the rich man in the Gospel. St. Augustine said: "Let the proud seek and love earthly kingdoms, but blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." Abandonment to the providence of the Father in heaven frees us from anxiety about tomorrow. Desire for true happiness frees man from his attachment to the goods of this world so that he can find his fulfillment in the vision and beatitude of God. "The promise of seeing God surpasses all beatitude. In Scripture, to see is to possess...Whoever sees God has obtained all the goods of which he can conceive." (CCC 2544 - 2548)

When we attain poverty of heart, then we can truly love God with all our hearts, with all our minds, and with all our strength. Then we will have the peace of Jesus in our hearts. We can live a simple life without clutter, and value silence and prayer and freedom from the influences of the world. We can live the fullness of new life in Christ with contentment, joy and good health, which we should share with others. Then, we will reap the promise of the week:

**"When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory."** (Col 3:4)



## Fund raising sponsors launch this year's project

After Worship last Friday, the team in charge of BLD Newark's 2019 fundraiser launched this year's effort. It will be a raffle to be held on October 18, 2019, when holders of a \$2 ticket will have the chance to win one of these wonderful prizes:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – 9-Day Trip to the Holy Land for two, Mar 29 - Apr 8, 2020
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5-Night Cruise to Bermuda for two, Oct 31 - Nov 5, 2020
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Samsung 43" Class 4K UHD LED LCD Smart TV

Other – 10 Consolation Gift Cards of \$100 each

Everyone is encouraged to reach out to their families and friends to offer them the opportunity to win these prizes... and more importantly, to help fund God's work that He accomplishes through our beloved BLD Newark Community.

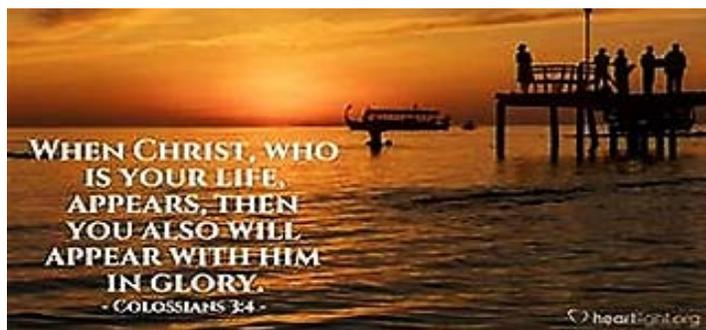
The sponsors had begun distributing the tickets for this raffle last Friday. For all those who still need tickets to sell, please look for their table in the Divine Mercy Parish auditorium, before/after Praise and Worship, each Friday.

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➔ *Prayer: Lord Jesus, free my heart from earthly attachments that lead me away from devoting my life to You. Help me to know Your will, so that I may desire only You as the one Treasure worth possessing. Teach me to put to good use the material blessings and spiritual gifts You have given me that I may generously dispense them for the good of others and for Your greater glory. Amen.*

Directions:

1. Practice humility and forgiveness in your family, community and workplace.
2. Share your talent, time and treasure to rebuild and reshape the community
3. Grow in holiness through prayer, Scripture reading and the Sacraments.



# BIRTHDAY BREW



The following Birthday Brew reflection was submitted by someone who celebrated his birthday July 31. The Gospel reading for that day, the Feast Day of the founder of the Society of Jesus, St. Ignatius of Loyola, was about the treasure and the pearl of great price (cf. Mt 13:44-46).

I've always had a fondness for St. Ignatius of Loyola. Maybe it's mainly because I went to a Jesuit school; but admittedly, it was also due to how his feast day and my birthday are the same day, and so it was always celebrated as a holiday.

Coincidentally, for July 31, the Gospel this year also seemed to highlight what his life was all about. In the reading, Jesus related how *"the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure... a pearl of great price"* that a person finds and sells all that he has to obtain, which is exactly what St. Ignatius did when he found the Lord.

So my thoughts returned to the movie about his life that I saw a few years ago. St. Ignatius had been born of nobility, but later on in life, he opted to become poor instead, always contemplating Jesus as he served those in need. In a very real sense, he gave up all he had to obtain what was life's truest treasure, and by doing that, he found Christ's joy; a joy that others found too as they followed him and formed what would eventually become the Society of Jesus.

I found Jesus' parable and St. Ignatius' life story very compelling, so I asked myself, "Indeed, could something really be so valuable?"

Too often in daily life, I feel like I ignore that question because of the sacrifice that it would entail. However, there are many moments each day when thinking about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit would bring me such immense joy, so much so that I'd feel that I've caught a glimpse of the treasure that St. Ignatius found - enough for me to know that the treasure is real.

Now, with help from the Holy Spirit (and also, I have to say, from many in BLD), I joyfully strive, even through life's daily challenges, for that day when I too will sell all that I have because I can trade it all in, for what God has in store for us in His Kingdom.

**AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM!!!**

Please note that a pdf of this Covenant News is also available online at [BLDNEWARK.com](http://BLDNEWARK.com)

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 981	\$ 41,632
Love Offerings	\$ 602	\$ 22,701
E-Giving	\$ 200	\$ 5,895
Mission	\$ 52	\$ 11,674

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)

Thank you for your continued support!

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Community Day

August 17, 2019

Johnson Park (Piscataway, NJ)

8:30 am – 4:00 pm

11:30 am – Eucharistic Celebration

### Family Colors

LAST NAME (Beginning with) COLOR

A – C  
D – G  
H – P  
Q – Z

RED  
BLUE  
GREEN  
YELLOW

## "Breaking the Silence"

A Symposium on Depression

Led by Msgr. Paul Schetelick and a Multidisciplinary team.

August 31, 2019 1pm - 6pm, DMP Library

Please RSVP at <http://bldnewark.com>

Join the Newark Archdiocesan Pilgrimage

BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Washington, D.C. | October 26, 2019

Under the leadership of Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.

Sign up with your parish pilgrimage promoter!



Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Aug 9	Pastoral
		Aug 16	Evangelization
		Aug 23	Formation
		Aug 30	Management