



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

COUNSELS

Pope at General Audience: Amid Pandemic, We Need to Learn Again the Art of Contemplation

In Order to See How Creation & One Another Reflect God's Infinite Wisdom, Goodness & Beauty

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 10:49 ~ DEBORAH CASTELLANO LUBOV ~ GENERAL AUDIENCE *Source:zenit.org*

"In order to regain a proper sense of our place within God's creation, and of our call to respect and care for the earth and one another, we need to learn anew the art of contemplation."

Pope Francis made this observation at his weekly General Audience, today, Sept. 16, 2020, the third week since the virus' outbreak, where faithful could be present in the Vatican's Courtyard of San Damaso of the Apostolic Palace.

Participation remains open to all who wish, without the need for tickets. Zenit English was with the Pope at the Audience for his first such Audience since February.

While continuing his series of catecheses on COVID 19, Francis reflected on the current pandemic in the light of the Church's Social Doctrine, and remembered "the vital role" played by the many people who generously care for others, especially the sick, elderly and most vulnerable.

This period, the Pope recognized, has made us recognize our responsibility to care for the natural world, "whose beauty is all too often ignored and its resources squandered."

"In order to regain a proper sense of our place within God's creation, and of our call to respect and care for the earth and one another," he said, "we need to learn anew the art of contemplation."

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A Journey of Life in Him

THEME: We fulfill God's commandment of love when we are generous with our resources.

WORD: Is 55:6-9 ~ Ps 145:2-3,8-9,17-18
Phil 1:20c-24,27a ~ Mt 20:1-16a

ORDER: "...conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ..." – Phil 1:27

REFLECTION:

"As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts." (Is 55:9)

The parable of the Workers in the Vineyard exemplifies the meaning of how God's word and His ways and thoughts are high above ours. Our Lord teaches us in parables to stir our minds and instill in our hearts the depth of His love, which at times is beyond our understanding. But once understood, as in the case of this parable, it is made clear to us that a reward awaits us at the end of our life's journey.



As we take our first glance at this parable, we most likely agree with the laborers who were hired first, that they received an unfair wage since it was the same as what the others received, even those who were hired much later in the day.

As we dig deeper into it, the workday is reminiscent of our spiritual journey that spans our earthly life. It starts at the time of our acceptance of God's call

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Promise of the Week

"The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all his works." – Ps 145:9

The following poem is based on some of the same passages from the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes that's to be proclaimed for the daily Mass on Friday, September 25:

Why?

In the blink of an eye
Time goes by
In the span of a lifetime
There are many questions... "Why?"

Why must there be,
A time to be born
A time to live
A time to die?

Why must we feel
Some times of sadness
In order to know
True feelings of happiness?

In the times
We find ourselves searching
Remember, it is Jesus
Who gives life meaning

In the blink of an eye
Time goes by
In the span of a lifetime
There are many questions... "Why?"

Why must there be darkness
So that there could be light?
At times blindness and deafness
At times hearing and sight?

When do we keep?
When do we scatter?
When should we seek?
When should we gather?

In the times
We find ourselves searching
Remember, it is Jesus
Who gives life meaning

There will be a time to rend
And a time to sew
In the span of our lifetimes
These, we will get to know



NEWS...

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"For when we enter into silence and contemplate our interconnected world," he explained, "we come to appreciate the true meaning and value of all creatures, for each in its own way reflects something of God's infinite wisdom, goodness and beauty."

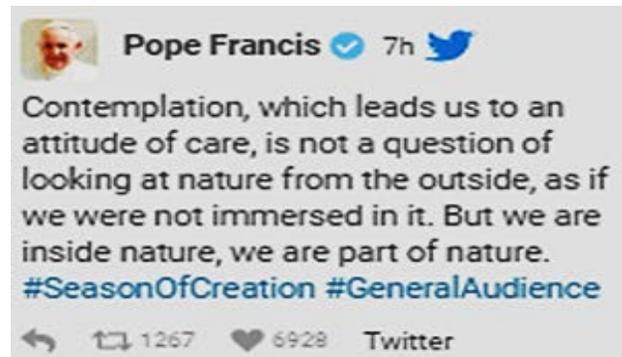
Contemplation, he said, teaches us how integral we all are to the whole of creation, our calling to be faithful stewards of its riches, and our need to preserve it for future generations.

Greeting the English-speaking faithful, the Pontiff remembered in a special way the elderly and infirm, and those who generously care for them. Invoking the joy and peace of the Lord, upon all of them and their families, he said: "God bless you!"

Following the health indications of the Authorities, the General Audiences in September are taking place in the San Damaso Courtyard of the Vatican's Apostolic Palace, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Individuals enter from the Bronze Doors of the right colonnade of St. Peter's Square, as early as 7:30 a.m. Pilgrims are to maintain proper social distancing, sanitize hands, have temperatures taken and pass through security clearance. To reach the Courtyard of San Damaso, faithful go past the masked Swiss Guards, climb about 75 steps, before arriving at the site of the audience. It is rare for faithful and pilgrims to have access to this space.

In the past, General Audiences were held in St. Peter's Square, or in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall.





So in this blink of an eye
Don't let it pass by
For now it is prime
Yes now make it time

Maybe, can't help but ask,
But in our search for meaning
Remember, He is the answer to "Why?"
Our God, He's our reason for living and being

COUNSELS (from page 1)

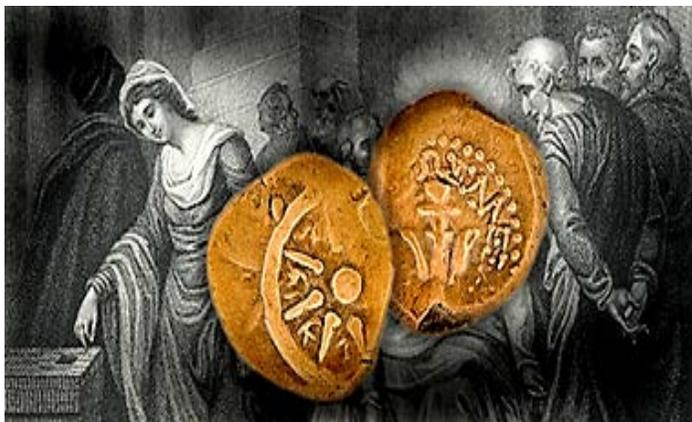
to take part in a journey of life in Him. In our case, it started with our acceptance to join our BLD community through our encounter programs or LSS. Like the laborers in the parable, some of us came to really know the Lord much later in life than others.

Our acceptance of God's call represents our willingness to live a new life in Him. It is a life that can be attained only by working hard and being transformed in this life as a preparation for the next. It involves working in our Lord's vineyard where we encounter challenges and trials that test of our faith in Him.

We need to realize that these tests of faith offer us the opportunities to live a life that is reflective of the depth of God's love for us. His love, as expressed via the way of the cross, has no limit as it comes from His generous and compassionate heart. It is by His generosity that we are equipped for our work of ministry to become fruitful workers in His vineyard, and be blessed with the strength to overcome our trying moments in life.

God's blessings are meant to be shared and should reflect the essential element of His generosity, which is *selfless love*. So, because of such a love, we should freely give without counting the cost. This is exemplified in this episode from the Gospel of St. Mark (12:42-44):

"A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents."



"Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, 'Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood.'"

God's generosity is unlimited in scope and variety. It includes priceless resources and gifts that allow us to perform works of mercy. →→

→ ***"...God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have abundance for every good work"*** (2 Cor 9:8). These resources include the gifts of talents and time, the sharing of which are best expressed during this current pandemic by the medical front liners who care for the sick and risk their own safety and that of their loved ones. They are our modern-day heroes and our community is blessed to have a good number of them. We are with them in spirit as we express our gratitude through our concerted prayers for their safety.



Moreover, through the abundance of His grace, we are grateful for all the efforts of our members who lovingly and tirelessly provide their support in bringing us together in prayer through our weekly Praise and Worship, First Friday Eucharistic Celebrations and other on-line events. Likewise, there is joy in our hearts whenever we learn of the volunteer services of our members who help with the food preparations in soup kitchens and food drives, in addition to their monetary contributions and donations of food and supplies. The economic effect of this pandemic has firmed up the resolve of many to continue in their efforts to help the weak and the needy.

All the things that we do as a community are reflective of what our Lord Jesus did during His earthly ministry. We are enlightened to do ministry works as we are told in James 2:26, ***"For just as a body without a spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead."*** Furthermore, we are inspired by His generosity as He provides us with what we need to transform any feelings of spiritual dryness into cascading fountains of holiness.

Even when we encounter trying moments, we commit to finish the race. Our life journey is our workday, where we work, pray, ...Continued on page 4

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and hope to receive His generous reward that is the same for everyone who believes in Him to the end. The gift is eternal life in His glory, when our everlasting hope becomes a reality.

Direction: Lovingly share your blessings with others, especially the weak and the needy.

A LESSON FROM MR. FLUFFY: NEVER SAY "NO" TO FREE FOOD

Back in April and March, during the peak of the pandemic in New York and New Jersey, one of the things that kept my spirits up was laughter. And a big source of that was a stand-up comedian on Netflix and Youtube who calls himself "Mr. Fluffy." Unlike other comedians who litter their acts with profanity, he keeps everything at a PG level. In one of the Youtube videos, from amid the jokes he was telling, there emerged a lesson that I thought might be nice for all of us to take note of.

Once, during one of his shows, he had mentioned that he likes chocolate cake. After that, sure enough, people started to go to his shows bearing gifts of chocolate cake. Although he's not called Mr. Fluffy for being skinny, he couldn't really eat all the cake that folks were giving him; but he never refused them either. And he explained why.

He started the explanation with an almost philosophical statement, "Never say 'no' to free food." He continued, saying that by accepting all the food offered to him, he wasn't just avoiding being rude to his fans. He would take what he was unable to consume, and find people, the homeless, those who were poor, or those who may have been depressed who needed a spiritual lift, and give the food to them. So in the end, nothing is wasted, and the extra goes toward a good cause.

When you get the chance, check him out. His humor is actually full of wit and wisdom...and also, he is really funny 😊.



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 & Love Offerings / E-Giving / Mailed Checks	\$ 728	\$ 66,341
Bereavement Fund	\$ -	\$8,252
Mission	\$ -	\$ 3,656



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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Guidelines and registration link are available at BLDNewark.com

BLD Newark VIRTUAL TEACHINGS

BLD CLUSTER5 Back to Basics Teachings
Session 4: The Call and A Meaningful Sacred Reading of the Word of God



Save the Date: September 23, 2020, Wednesday
Holy Rosary starts at 7:30 p.m. and Teaching proper follows promptly

Teacher: Ollie Felibrico (BLD Community Teacher)

To register, copy this link onto your web browser:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zM_aEmW6zQFGAJB_DzvyxDw

7:45 PM Wednesday, October 7

**Encounter with Jesus
- Gospel of Matthew**

(ME 49-52, SPE 17-21, SE 34-39)

CMP 1 Part 2 - Overcoming the World

(ME 47-50, SPE 17-20, SE 34-38)