



Bukás Loób sa Diyós

(Open in Spirit to God)

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY
DISTRICT OF NEWARK

COVENANT NEWS

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NEWS

Regina Coeli: "not by words but by deeds"

"As she is and not as we want her to be"

MAY 09, 2021 16:29 ~ ANNE KURIAN-MONTABONE ~ ANGÉLUS
~ POPE FRANCIS. *Source: Zenit.org*

To love like Christ, "not by words but by deeds": this is Pope Francis' invitation to the Regina Coeli - a prayer that replaces the Angelus in Easter time - on this Sunday, May 9, 2021.

In his meditation from St. Peter's Square, the Pope encouraged "to go out of oneself, to detach oneself from one's own human securities, worldly comforts, to open up to others", far from "the pretension to control and manage others".

To love like Christ, he continued, is also "to say no to other "loves" that the world offers us: the love of money... the love of success, of vanity, of power", just as many "deceptive" loves which "lead us to become ever more selfish, narcissistic and tyrannical", to "the cult of ourselves".

To love, the Pope said again, is "to appreciate the person who is next to us and to respect his freedom, to love him as he is and not as we want him to be; as it is, for free".

"Joy is the hallmark of the Christian", he also affirmed: "The true Christian is not sad, he always has this joy in him, even in bad times."

Meditation of Pope Francis

Dear brothers and sisters, hello!

In this Sunday's Gospel (Jn 15:9-17) Jesus, after comparing himself to the vine and us to the branches, explains what fruit those who remain united to him bear: this fruit is love. He again uses the key verb: to remain.

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COUNSELS

His Promise at the Ascension

THEME: We remain in Jesus' love and bear much fruit when we proclaim the Good News.

WORD: Acts 1:1-11, ~ Ps 47:2-3,6-7,8-9
Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 ~ Mk 16:15-20

ORDER: **"Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature."** - Mk 16:15

REFLECTION:

The Lord's ascension into Heaven marked the completion of His life and mission here on earth and His return home to His heavenly Father. It was the culmination of God's plan for Jesus Christ wherein He prepared the way for us. As such, it's an event that can be likened to the inaugural cutting of the ceremonial ribbon of the bridge from earth to heaven.



Every time we pray the Apostle's Creed, we profess that Jesus ascended into heaven. Glorious as the Lord's ascension was, it must have caused mixed emotions among His disciples because it also meant that He was physically leaving them behind. So surely they experienced some separation anxiety; and in Acts 1:6, it seems that they felt compelled to ask Jesus this question, **"Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"** ...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you..." – Acts 1:8

Eighty-Six Thousand Four Hundred

Imagine this: What if there was a lottery, and the prize that a person could win is that they would be given \$86,400 a day for the rest of his/her life? Would you eagerly buy a ticket? The answer, it would seem, is rather obvious... I know that I would.

When I first arrived here in America to stay for good, I thought that I had just won the jackpot because my future looked rosy. Soon I found out that there was this thing called "Lotto" and for a dollar, one could win millions. So, like most people who had little saved in their bank accounts, I too would set aside some money for that dream of winning big and not having to work anymore for the rest of my life. I too imagined all the things that my winnings could buy. But alas... as of this writing, I've won a total of ten bucks... and long ago, gave up on buying tickets, concluding that in the end, the lottery is really just a tax on the poor.

But, back to that other lottery about being given \$86,400 each day... Part of the rules of this one say that whatever you aren't able to spend at the end of each day, you have to forfeit... only to be given another \$86,400 to spend, however you want to, by the very next day! It still sounds like a great deal, doesn't it? After all, that's still a lot of money!

As things turn out, something like this is very real, and we don't even have to part with even a single dollar.

It goes like this: each day, we are given 86,400 seconds to spend in whatever way we want to, each and every one of those precious seconds. Then, at the end of the day, none of those seconds can be banked. But we do start things off again at the stroke of midnight with a fresh set of 86,400 seconds to be used solely for the very next day.

Just like money, time can also be squandered. But it can also be spent wisely... and in the case of life's every second, it really is in our best of interests to maximize what we are able to do with the time the Good Lord has granted to us. Odd but true that this involves a focus, not on ourselves, but more so on others. What's even more true is that this involves keeping a constant eye on life's real grand prize – to someday be with Jesus in Heaven.



NEWS

(from page 1)

He invites us to remain in his love so that his joy may be in us and our joy may be full (vv. 9-11). Remain in the love of Jesus.

Let us ask ourselves: what is this love in which Jesus tells us to remain in order to have his joy? What is this love? It is love that takes its origin in the Father, because "God is love" (1 Jn 4:8). Like a river flows in the Son Jesus and through Him arrives to us, his creatures. He says in fact: "As the Father loved me, I also loved you (Jn 15:9). The love that Jesus gives us is the same as that with which the Father loves him: a pure, unconditional, free love. It cannot be bought, it is free. By giving it to us, Jesus treats us as friends - through this love - making us know the Father, and involves us in his mission for the life of the world.

And we can ask ourselves how do we stay in this love? Jesus said, "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love" (v.10). Jesus summed up his commandments in one, this one: "Love one another as I have loved you" (V. 12). To love as Christ loves means to put oneself at the service of the brothers, as he did by washing the feet of the disciples. It also means going out of oneself, detaching oneself from one's own human security, worldly comforts, to open up to others, especially to those who need it most. It means making ourselves available, with what we are and what we have. It means to love not by words but by deeds.

To love like Christ means to say no to other "loves" that the world offers us: the love of money - he who loves money does not love like Jesus - the love of success, of vanity, power.... These deceptive paths of "love" lead us away from the love of the Lord and lead us to become ever more selfish, narcissistic and tyrannical. And tyranny leads to a degeneration of love, to abuse others, to make the loved one suffer. I think of sick love that turns into violence - and how many women are victims of violence today. It is not love. To love as the Lord loves us means to appreciate the person who is next to us and to respect his freedom, to love him as he is and not as we want him to be; as it is, for free. Ultimately, Jesus asks us to abide in his love, to live in his love, not in our ideas, not in the worship of ourselves. The one who remains in the worship of himself remains in the mirror: always looking at himself. He asks us to get out of the pretense of controlling and managing others. Not to control them, to serve them. Opening your heart to others, and giving ourselves to others, that is love.

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COUNSELS (from page 1)

They too must have been looking for a sort of military victory or miracle that would restore the glory of Israel. And if Jesus did this, that is restored the kingdom to Israel, at least, even if He were to leave, He would have left them in a position of power.

In Jn 10:9, Jesus says, ***“I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture.”*** On the other side is the place with the greenest of pastures - Heaven. It is in this heavenly pasture that Jesus fondly waits for our arrival. Jesus even promised a place for us, ***“In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I would prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.”*** (Jn 14:2-3)

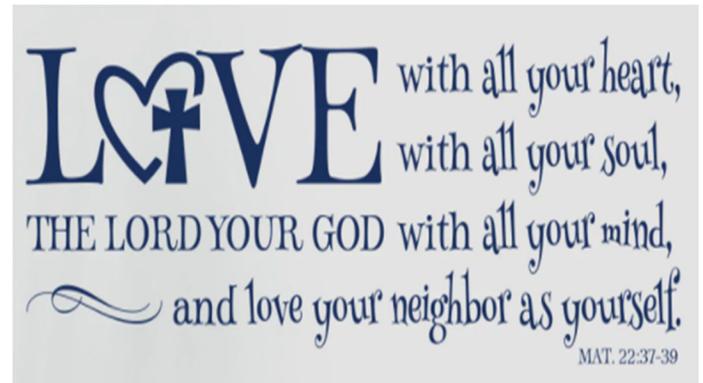
To assuage the fears of the Apostles about His ascension to heaven, fears that may very well be our own today also, He promised that He would not leave them alone. He said ***“I will not leave you orphans, I will come to you”*** (Jn 14:18). So Who did the Lord send across the bridge from heaven to help us out here on earth? In John 14:25-26, the Lord said, ***“The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name – he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you.”***

Such is God’s love for us that virtually as soon as His Son crossed that bridge to Heaven, He did what He had promised. He sent the Holy Spirit right back across the bridge to be our guide here on earth. And what does the Holy Spirit give us? As enumerated in Isaiah 11, He delivers all the tools that we need to live a true Christian life: ***“a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord”*** (Is 11:2)



→ This too is what we find in the Promise that was discerned from this Sunday’s readings: ***“...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you”*** (Acts 1:8a.).

And how do we use these gifts? We must use them to love. In Matthew 22:37-39, Jesus exhorts us to do exactly that - ***“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”***



During this time of pandemic, when lockdown and quarantine have been the norm, we’ve been able to show our love for God by remaining connected to the Church and to each other through technology, such as via online masses, Zoom meetings, online teachings, religious and church events, and inspiring publications that we’ve been able to access on social media. Many have stayed in touch via apps on their cellphones.

Now, as lockdown restrictions have begun to ease, once again, we are called to continue to bear much fruit, fruit that goes beyond the virtual realm. We are called to rise above the pain, suffering and even the death of friends and family that were caused by the pandemic. We are called to help our suffering neighbors to the best of our abilities, and to use the gifts that the Lord has given us in the service of others.

This is the call to us, both as individual disciples and as members of *Bukas Loob sa Diyos*. When we answer this call with love, with prayers and with the Holy Spirit as our guide, then we will arise above our earthly travails. When we follow Christ’s footsteps while here on earth, then someday, we will follow after Him and ascend to heaven.

Direction:

Use every opportunity, including social media, to proclaim the Word of God and live His Word in our daily life.

NEWS

(from page 2)

Dear brothers and sisters, where does remaining in the love of the Lord lead? Where is it leading us? Jesus said so: "That my joy may be in you, and your joy may be perfect" (v.11). The Lord wants the joy he possesses because he is in total communion with the Father, to also be in us, who are united to him. The joy of knowing ourselves loved by God despite our infidelities makes us face life's trials with faith, makes us go through crises in order to emerge better. Our being as true witnesses consists in living this joy, because joy is the distinctive sign of the Christian. The true Christian is not sad, he always has this joy in him, even in bad times.

May the Virgin Mary help us to remain in the love of Jesus and to grow in love for all, witnessing to the joy of the Risen Lord.

A Dozen Covid 19 Commandments

1. Thou shall be mindful of overall health, and stay at home when feeling sick
2. Thou shall wash and sanitize hands frequently
3. Thou shall wear a mask or face cloth covering over the nose and mouth
4. Thou shall get tested for Covid 19 and get the vaccine
5. Thou shall not hug or shake hands (at least, not until the pandemic ends)
6. Thou shall engage in social distancing
7. Thou shall love thy neighbor and care for thyself also
8. Thou shall be considerate of vulnerable populations
9. Thou shall be respectful of others' personal space
10. Thou shall be flexible with pew seating in Church
11. Thou shall participate via livestream if unable to attend in person
12. Thou shall stay informed of guidelines to follow as part of the community



- Source: St. Teresa's Church

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	\$ 3,732	\$ 37,590
Covid 19 Collection	\$ 430	\$ 530
Mission	\$ -	\$5,000



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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Teaching Calendar

REPAIRING WRONGDOING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021 @ 7:45 PM

for: ME 47-52 / SPE 18-21 / SE 33-38 /
2021 Discipling Class / Everyone wishing to take a refresher course

Appeal to Help Covid-19 Victims in the Philippines

Donations can be made via:

- Separate envelopes during our Friday events
- Checks payable to BLD Newark; mail to:

"For Covid-19 victims"
c/o Vino & Beth Guiang
604 Kenneth Ave.

South Plainfield, NJ 07080

- On-line via e-Giving on our BLD Newark website.

The Word Ministry Is Looking for Your
Reflections for Inclusion in the Covenant News!!!

Should you wish to see your compositions in a future CN issue, please email them to cez.calingo@bldnewark.com

THANK YOU!