



Bukás Loób sa Diyós

(Open in Spirit to God)

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY
DISTRICT OF NEWARK

COVENANT NEWS

Volume 27 Issue 29

Bulletin Edition

July 30, 2021

NEWS

COUNSELS

The Pope Emeritus and the Unrealism of "Flight into Pure Doctrine"

- by **Andrea Torielli**

JULY 27, 2021 19:13 ~ HÉLÈNE GINABAT ~ BENEDICT XVI

Source: Zenit.org

"The Pope Emeritus and the unrealism of the 'flight into pure doctrine'": this is the title of this reflection by the editorial director of the dicastery for communication, Andrea Torielli, in L'Osservatore Romano of July 28, 2021, on the response of Pope Benedict XVI to the "Herder Korrespondenz".

Here is our translation, from Italian, of Andrea Torielli's reflection.

"The idea of a 'flight into pure doctrine' strikes me as quite unrealistic." Theologian Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Emeritus, answers in writing the questions of the German monthly "Herder Korrespondenz." Once again, he seems to want to set himself apart from the self-serving clichés he has been decked out in.

In a passage from the interview, on which hardly anyone dwelled in the repetitions or comments, Benedict XVI affirms this: "And above all, the believer is a person who questions himself, a person who must continually find the reality of this faith behind and against the oppressive realities of everyday life. In this sense, the thought of a 'flight into pure doctrine' strikes me as absolutely unrealistic."

"A doctrine which would exist only as a kind of natural reserve, separated from the daily world of faith and its demands, would in a way represent a renunciation of faith itself. The doctrine must develop in faith and from it, and not alongside it." The words of the Pope Emeritus, as it appears in the rest of the interview, reveal the face of a Church which speaks with the heart and with the spirit, because a Church

...Continued on page 2

The Bread of Life

THEME: We are nourished for eternal life when we live in God's righteousness.

WORD: Ex 16:2-4,12-15 ~ Ps 78:3-4,23-24,25,54
Eph 4:17,20-24 ~ Jn 6:24-35

ORDER: **"Do not work for food that perishes but for food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you."** – Jn 6:27

REFLECTION:

Following the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, where the power of God was witnessed by the crowd, the miracle was soon forgotten and seemed to have no real impact on their faith. They still asked Jesus, **"What sign can you do that we may see and believe in you?"** (Jn 6:30)

Similarly, the Israelites had watched the power of God in the parting of the Red Sea so that they could escape the Egyptians who were pursuing them. They were freed from bondage and led through the barren desert, but these things did not turn out to be sufficient for them to maintain their faith in God. Their hunger made them wish that they had never left Egypt and they quickly forgot about God's providence and His mighty works that had freed and sustained them despite their disobedience.



...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger and whoever believes in me will never thirst." – Jn 6:35

Msgr. Paul thanks BLD Newark

July 25, 2021 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Only 5 months to Christmas: love incarnated)

My dearest sisters and brothers of Newark's Open in Spirit community of love,

This brief note has been delayed in being given to the Community as I felt it was necessary to wait until all new leadership was in place. I begin to express to each of you my deepest gratitude boldly captured in last Sunday's Second Reading:

Eph 4:1-6

Brothers and sisters:

I, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

My many years (20+) with this Community have covenanted me again and again. The Word of the Lord, ever the divine foundation of BLD, has been experienced by me in the lives of each of you and the numerous Encounters I have been called to humbly serve. One of my great joys was learning at the feet of the "holy man" - Father Paul Lehman, and at one point, hunting, not for his foot, but his finger. His Spirit-filled energy toward this community was an awesome model for me to emulate.

This past year has been a very difficult one for all the global districts and for me personally. But the words of St. Paul ring true ***"bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit."*** Preserve, persevere, pray, participate and like the Blessed Mother, ponder. I have pondered many things over these many pandemic months, but the grandest ponder was the power of people of love. This community of committed disciples acts as Christ's reflection for all who are invited to come and see. I am ever grateful that the Lord placed me in the midst of so many Christ-like believers.

In conclusion, since I do not have access to everyone's addresses, let me extend a word of thanksgiving to all who sent me cards of support, →→

NEWS

(from page 1)

which speaks only with the official character of its doctrine or the functionalism of its structures, ends up moving away instead of attracting.

In his book-interview with Peter Seewald, "This is our God. Conversations with Peter Seewald" (2001), the then Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, had affirmed: "The nature of faith is not such that from a certain moment one can say: I have it, others do not have it... Faith remains a way. Throughout our life, it remains a path and that is why faith is always threatened and in danger. And it is also salutary that it thus avoids the risk of transforming itself into a manipulable ideology. At the risk of hardening us and making us incapable of sharing the reflection and the suffering of a brother who doubts and questions himself. Faith can only mature to the extent that it supports and takes charge, in all phases of existence, the anguish and force of unbelief and finally crosses it to become again a possible path to a new era."

These are words that Benedict XVI, the Pope of the Court of the Gentiles, had also repeated in the dialogue with the journalists, on the flight which took him to Prague, on September 26, 2009. He recalled that the unbeliever and the believer have need of each other. And that "the Catholic cannot be satisfied with having faith, but that he must be in search of God, even more, and in dialogue with others, re-learn God in a more profound way".

The believer who does not already know everything but who asks himself questions in the face of the reality of daily life, the faith which is not a possession acquired once and for all but a path and a development, far from any escape in doctrine, ...Continued on page 3

→ to all the generous love offerings from individuals and from the Community, for emails and text messages of prayer and intercessions, for invitations to dinner and for so many acts of kindness towards me. Each of you echo St. Paul's letter - *you have all lived in the manner worthy of the call, with all humility, gentleness and patience.*

I will keep all the BLD global communities in my daily prayers and hold Newark BLD in my hands and heart each time I hold the paten and chalice at Eucharist.

Forever in the Power of Love,

- Msgr. Paul Schetelick

COUNSELS (from page 1)

How can anyone witness the power of God without it having much impact on their faith? For us, how can witnessing a miracle not change us? Do we need constant signs so that we might believe? What is it about us that compels us to demand signs instead of believing and trusting God?

We can glean from both the First Reading and the Gospel for this Sunday that God knows about our human weaknesses and our need for constant reassurance. In His wisdom, instead of rewarding only those who remained faithful, God provided blessings for the doubters as well as the believers.

In our minds and hearts, we all have different ideas about what we want and what we don't want, what we would like to have and what we have to settle for. While we might have such differences, what we are to strive for is the same... holiness. And the common question that we should ask is the same one that Jesus was asked by the crowd in Capernaum - ***"What can we do to accomplish the works of God?"*** (Jn 6:28)

We must pray and worship, listen and respond to His Word, and believe in the One He sent so that we can accomplish our mission and may ultimately, reach our true home, which is heaven. As St. Paul declared to the people he had preached to, converted and baptized, ***"...you must no longer live as the Gentiles do... that you should put away the old self of your former way of life... put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth"*** (Eph 4:17,22,24). We have to undergo a transformation and renew ourselves according to God's ways. We must seek Jesus and let Him rule our hearts and our lives. Jesus is all we need to sustain us and make us one with God.

In the Gospel, John helps us to understand what this renewal is about and the transformation that we have to undergo. Jesus challenges us in saying, ***"Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life... This is the work of God, that you believe in the one He sent"*** (Jn 6:27a,29).

Jesus wants us to firmly believe that He is the Christ, the Son of God, and that we must follow Him. In the Holy Eucharist, which we believe is His true Body and Blood, is Emmanuel, God with us. When we receive Him in the Sacrament, we are nourished for eternal life. When we faithfully partake of His Body and Blood, we are blessed with holiness and righteousness.

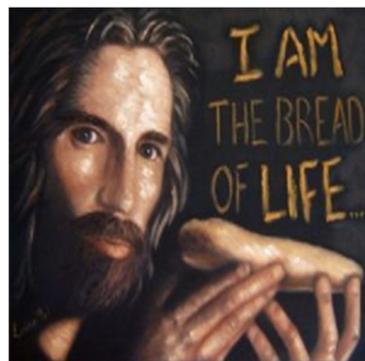
Believe and you will have life through →→

NEWS (from page 2)

reduced to a nature reserve separate from the world. The believer who needs the questions and doubts of the non-believer, so as not to reduce his faith to an ideology, to a schema: these are themes that Benedict XVI has often explored as a theologian, cardinal and then pope. And it is a look that we often find in the words of his successor François. For example, in the dialogue he had with priests and men and women religious in the cathedral of Milan on March 25, 2017.

"It's good," François said, "that there are challenges because they make us grow. They are the sign of a living faith, of a living community that seeks its Lord and keeps its eyes and heart open. We must rather fear a faith without challenges, a faith which considers itself complete, completely complete: I do not need anything else, all done... And which considers itself complete as if everything had been said and carried out." "The challenges," added Pope Bergoglio on this occasion, "help us to ensure that our faith does not become ideological. There are the dangers of ideologies, always. Ideologies grow and germinate and grow when someone believes they have complete faith, and it becomes ideology. The challenges save us from a closed and defined thought and open us to a broader understanding of the given revealed."

→ His holy name. Have faith and develop a deeper relationship with Him. Come to know Him in quiet prayer, and you will experience His presence. May we deepen our awareness of Who He is, and live the way of life that He lived so that God might be revealed to us.



As He says, ***"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst"*** (Jn 6:35). Jesus asks us to recognize our thirst and hunger for what He offers. It is a hunger and thirst that can only be satisfied by acknowledging Him as our Lord and Savior. We must allow the Holy Spirit to change our beings as it did for the disciples at Pentecost.

Jesus is the Bread that comes from heaven that feeds our spiritual life. Jesus is the Bread of Life, the Bread that nourishes for eternal life and satisfies forever. His presence in the Holy Eucharist is our reminder of His great love for us.

...Continued on page 4

Investing in God

I frequently drive by several churches in our town, but last week was the first time that I really took notice of one of the signs that was out on the front lawn of one of them. It was an invitation to an upcoming seminar which they called “Investing in God.” Since my office job involves numbers and finance, what initially caught my eye was the word “investing” which made me expect that it would be about a retirement planning event that they were going to hold (which it wasn’t). Then, after a few seconds of thinking about it a bit more, I realized that it wasn’t about money at all...

It was about God!

Then I was struck by the thought that in a very real sense, what this church was offering was really about the ultimate in retirement planning. No... not just for the temporary time span of the days after one officially leaves the employed workforce, but for forever, as in the days after that retirement and in all of the days that are to come after that.

If you’ve ever attended an actual financial seminar on retirement planning, one of the main points that they will repeatedly hammer into your head is that you have to start your plan as soon as possible... maybe even as soon as now (as in this very moment as you are reading this!). I imagine that it’s the same message that would be said in an Investing in God seminar... except that in this case, it’s actually even more important.

A main impetus for the urgency is that truly, life is short. Life is just too short to not get to know God right away. And because it *is* in fact short, then it behooves us to start now! Now is the time to begin, whether it’s for a more secure financial future, or, more importantly, when it’s for spiritual security... for eternity!

In the case of spirituality, it often starts with prayer, and then things progress quickly from there as we get to know more about God each day... seeking and finding Him... having a conversation and a relationship with Him... asking Him about how He wants us to invest our time, talents, resources and efforts. →→



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

→ Truly, life becomes most fulfilling when it isn’t about what *I* want, but when it’s about what *He* wants.

And as I thought about all of this, I began to comprehend too that God will remain holy, glorious and all powerful, regardless of whether I search for Him or not. What I do or do not do will neither add to nor detract from His glory. But the benefits of investing in God will actually accrue to me. Peace, happiness, joy... all of that becomes mine, in the time that I still have remaining in this life, and God-willing and by His grace alone, hopefully, in the next one.

At first blush, it might not seem like it... but I pray that we all realize this important bottom line - that investing in God really is also about... it’s about investing in *me*.

COUNSELS (from page 3)

Directions:

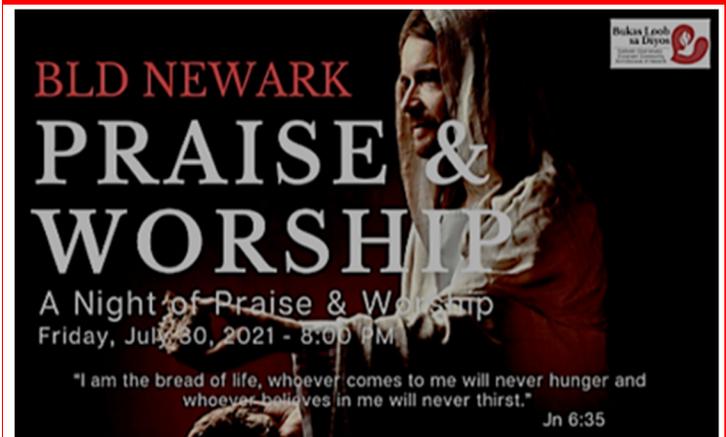
1. Receive the Holy Eucharist as often as you can.
2. Join in person the First Friday Mass and our BLD praise and worship.

LORD’S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK’S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings / E-Giving / Mailed Checks	\$ 2,770	\$ 65,430
Covid 19 Collection	\$ -	\$ 1,990
Mission	\$ -	\$ 5,000

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



**BLD Global Renewal/Recommitment Retreat – Saturday, July 31, 2021
8:30 pm to 11:30 pm**

**BLD Newark Community Retreat and Disciples’ Assembly
Saturday, August 14, 2021**