



**Bukás Loób sa Diyós**

(Open in Spirit to God)

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY

DISTRICT OF NEWARK

# COVENANT NEWS

Volume 27 Issue 30

Bulletin Edition

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NEWS

COUNSELS

## BLD Holds Global Event

### Over four thousand zoom participants join the BLD Global Re-Commitment Retreat

For those who were unable to join the live session that was held last Saturday, July 31st, the video of the three-hour event is available on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0mVIY4UVyEQ>

## I RECOMMIT TO DO GOD'S WORK

One of the greatest gifts we can give ourselves is a spiritual re-awakening, a chance to go deep into our hearts and minds on how we have lived as disciples of our Lord Jesus.

Last Saturday's BLD Global Recommitment Retreat with our Community Spiritual Director Bishop Rey Evangelista was one blessing which touched the spirit of countless disciples who flocked virtually from far flung districts, both locally and across the oceans.

It was indeed a way to re-energize ourselves, refocus our minds, reset our emotions, clarify our purpose, and renew our spirits. It was God's way to refresh us amidst the global crisis that continues to impede our work for Him. It was a great opportunity to place some of our mundane concerns on the back burner for a brief while, and reconnect with our own inner selves instead. It was a chance to spend quality time with ourselves, with the Lord and with our brothers and sisters in Community.

God is calling everyone. We simply need to respond, reconnect, and recommit to our discipleship. And the only way we can restart is to make PRAYER a key part of our daily lives. Prayer will lead us to commit and do the work of the Lord without any hesitation!



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## Receiving Holy Communion

THEME: We are nourished for eternal life when we worthily partake of the Holy Eucharist.

WORD : 1 Kgs 19:4-8 ~ Ps 34:2-3,4-5,6-7,8-9  
Eph 4:30-5:2 ~ Jn 6:41-51

ORDER: "...work for food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal." – Jn 6:27

### REFLECTION:

**A**s they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then He broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "***Take and eat; this is my body***" (Mt 26:26). This is repeated every time Holy Mass is celebrated, and it happens during Consecration and Communion. To truly participate in the Eucharistic Celebration, as Catholic faithful, we believe in the transubstantiation of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, and we should make every effort to worthily partake of Christ in Holy Communion.



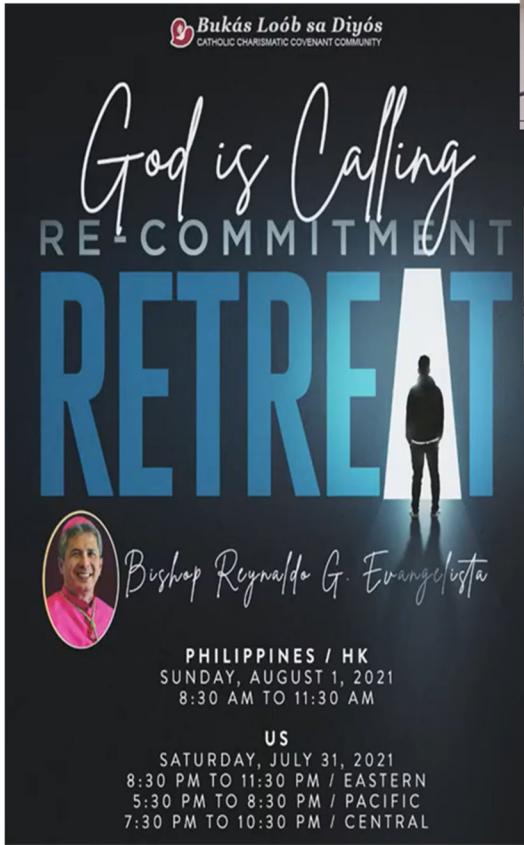
Sacrament is said to be the font of God's grace that nurtures our being, our mind, body and spirit. And, the Holy Eucharist is one of two Sacraments of the Church that we can receive over and over again. It is the food of our souls that allows us to share the very being of Jesus Christ. Thus, our hearts must be cleansed of any sin,

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### Promise of the Week

"...whoever eats this bread will live forever."

– Jn 6:51b



## Say “Yes!” to God again and again!!

*“So, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in him.” (Col 2:6)*

Have you ever said, “Yes” to God because it was something you wanted to do, or was it just a response that you offered in exchange for a result that you were hoping for? Did you say “Yes” when you were unsure about what you were getting into? Or have you said, “Yes,” even when it may have been challenging for you to do so? Sometimes to say “Yes” to God can seem so natural and easy that you say it even before you realize that you just did it. Then, there are other times when there is a prompting or calling to answer affirmatively... even when you feel like running in the other direction and responding, “No way!”

*“I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received.”*

- Eph 4:1

In order to say yes to God, we need to remember that discipleship is a gift given to us by Him. We are here in this community, not by accident, but because we were led by Him. We need to remember that He continues to ask something from each of us to do in His vineyard. Sometimes God is very obvious and He lets us know what He wants from us; at other times, God silently speaks to us individually in the desires of our hearts... after all, He made us, and He created us to be unique persons with different gifts and talents. We are saying “Yes” to Him when we use these gifts in the way that He wants us to use them...when we use them in the service of others.

So why has there been a need for a Re-commitment Retreat? In the words spoken by Bishop Evangelista, as a community we must “rekindle, deepen and re-live the promises made by covenanted disciples of Bukás Loob sa Diyos.” He encouraged members, both committed and covenanted disciples, pointing out that we have the tools that we need to renew our vows to God and to the community. This retreat was live and we should take the opportunity to watch it again and listen for the Lord’s messages so that we might hear them once more, and find ways to more earnestly learn and continue to spiritually grow.

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# COUNSELS

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as we receive Him with deep faith and sincere love in a personal and intimate way. If we truly believe that God is present in us by receiving Holy Communion, we must live, think and act in a manner that is pleasing to Him. In Ephesians 4:31-32, St. Paul reminds us, *"All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. [And] be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ."*

The Eucharist is a beautiful reminder that we are all united as one body in and through the Body of Christ, a bond that holds all believers of faith together. The Holy Mass satisfies our need for love, communion and fellowship, knitting us into one community of God. The Eucharist sustains us in our commitment to love God, praise and serve Him all the days of our lives.

Although we are in an environment that is centered on materialism and consumerism, and focused on money, comfort and pleasure, God helps us to never forget the more important aspect of our being, which is our spiritual life that does not end, even in death. Receiving Holy Communion regularly nurtures us so that we may walk in the path of righteousness to gain our final reward of eternal life in heaven. We will have the grace of true wisdom to make the right choices according to God's plan for our lives that will glorify Him.

Holy Communion is not a mere ritual, but a blessing to be received. It is God's channel of blessing for our healing that makes us whole despite our sinfulness and brokenness. Jesus wants to remind us of how His own body was broken on the cross so that we may be made whole, and that His blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins. So when we partake of the host, we claim that Jesus's divine life flows into our mortal bodies. When we partake of the wine, we claim that with His sacrifice, that our sins are forgiven and that we are made righteous. With the Body and Blood of Jesus in us, we have the confidence to approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and partake of the inheritance of righteousness before God.

***"This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me."*** (Lk 22:19)

In every celebration of the Holy Mass today, we remember how in the Last Supper, Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist. In His eternal words, Jesus continues to give Himself to us: *This bread is my body, this wine is my blood.*

→ Every time you eat this bread and drink this wine in my name, I will be present with you (cf. Jn 6:55-56). With God's presence in us comes the realization of His Promise,

Do this in remembrance of Me

***"... whoever eats this bread will live forever"***

- Jn 6:51

These very words truly nourish us for eternal life.

Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I come to You and remember all that You have done for me. Thank You for loving and caring for me. Thank You for allowing Your body to be broken so that mine might be made whole. As I partake of Your Body and Blood, You become part of my mortal body. By Your grace, I shall be completely strong and healthy in body, mind and spirit, all the days of my life. No sickness shall linger in my body because the same power that raised You from the grave flows through me. Lord, by Your stripes, I am healed. Amen.

Directions:

1. Frequently receive Jesus in Holy Communion and be transformed into His image and likeness.
  2. Testify and be a good witness to the good works of the Lord in your life.
  3. Strengthen the poverty alleviation program of your District.
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## NEWS

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Let us pray to Jesus, that He make us live our lives by following His example. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide, mold and lead us in the ways of Jesus. We pray for open hearts and humble spirits to be obedient servants within our community. Everyone who follows God is asked by Him to live their lives according to the Gospel and to be involved in the life of the Church. Let us follow the example of our Lord Jesus, as the obedient Son that He is to our Father in Heaven.

***"If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love."***

- Jn 15:10



Archdiocese of Newark

12 hrs · 0

Daily Reflections from Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark:

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Mother of Mercy, we pray for God's forgiveness. Help us "let go" of all grievances against us—as we would have God forgive our sins against God and each other.

# We are all called to be holy men and holy women, "saints next door." – Cardinal Tobin

REJOICE in the LORD / July 30, 2021 / Vol. 2, No. 22

Source: RCAN.org

"Be you therefore perfect, as also your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48)

In his Apostolic Exhortation GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE, ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD, Pope Francis calls our attention to what the Second Vatican Council termed "the universal call to holiness." We Catholics believe that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God, and all of us - no matter who we are or what our personal history may be - are called to be holy.

What does it mean to be holy? According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "the desire for God is written in the human heart" (#27). We human beings are meant to search for God, to find him and to become united with him – both here on Earth and in our heavenly home.

Holiness is the quality of our union with God, the indication of our closeness to him. Holy women and men are close to God. That's why we call them "saints," which comes from the Latin word *sanctus* or holy.

In his encyclical "Spe Salvi" ("Saved by Hope"), Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI writes: "Life is a voyage on the sea of history, often dark and stormy, a voyage in which we watch for the stars that indicate the route. The true stars of our life are the people who have lived good lives." They are the lights of hope, the Holy Father writes, because they point us to Jesus Christ, "the true light, the sun that has risen above all the shadows of history" (#49).

Saints shine with the light of Christ. Many of the saints have been officially recognized by the Church through a process that results in the solemn proclamation (canonization) that they practiced heroic virtue and lived in fidelity to God's grace.

But during the last 2,000 years, many other holy women and men have given themselves wholeheartedly to Jesus Christ without being declared saints by the Church. These are the men and women that Pope Francis calls "the middle class of holiness" or "saints next door." These are the saints we celebrate on Nov. 1, the Solemnity of All Saints.

All of us are called to holiness, to closeness to God, but unfortunately, most of us find ourselves further away from God than we would like to be. That's why Christ gives us the sacraments - especially the Eucharist and the sacrament of penance—to help us in our daily struggles on the way to holiness.



→ We are all called to be close to God, but for many of us (most of us?), the journey is a long and difficult one.

Thanks be to God; his grace and mercy are endless. Our loving and merciful God never gives up on us. Even after we die, we Christians believe that it is still possible to atone for our sins, to grow in holiness and come closer to God. That's why we pray for those who have died.

It's also why the Church celebrates the feast of All Souls on Nov. 2. We are all called to become holy - both the living and the dead - and the grace of our Lord Jesus is not confined to this world, but can reach even into the state of being we call purgatory, to touch the hearts of those "poor souls" who must undergo a process of purification before being fully united with God.

Saints are men and women who know how to pray, to be close to God and communicate with him from the heart. They are people who in times of difficulty, as well as in good times, raise their minds and hearts to the Lord. The saints seek God's will in their lives. They share with him their hopes and frustrations, their loneliness, anger and fear. Through their prayer, their attentive listening even more than the words they speak, the holy men and women we call saints are in constant contact with God.

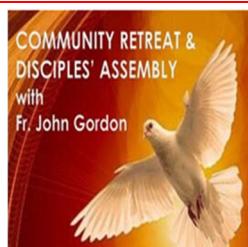
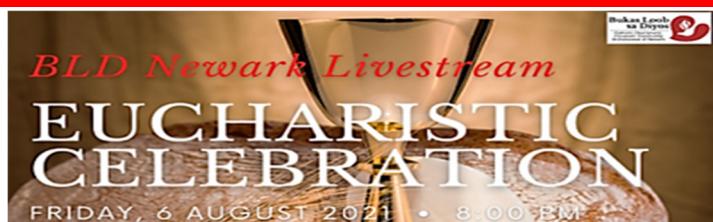
As we recall the holy people - living and deceased - who serve as stars guiding us to Christ, let's pray for the grace to let God's love and mercy touch our hearts and bring us closer to him, so that we too can be holy as our Heavenly Father is holy.

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings / E-Giving / Mailed Checks	\$ 1,661	\$ 67,091
Covid 19 Collection	\$ -	\$ 1,990
Mission	\$ -	\$ 5,000

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

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR



BLD NEWARK COMMUNITY RETREAT & DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY  
with Fr. John Gordon  
*"Arise the Spirit is Alive!"*  
WHEN: August 14, 2021 at 8:00 am  
WHERE: Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium  
Online Registration is now open