



Bukás Loób sa Diyós

(Open in Spirit to God)

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY
DISTRICT OF NEWARK

COVENANT NEWS

Volume 27 Issue 33

Bulletin Edition

August 27, 2021

NEWS

COUNSELS

Update from the Formation Apostolate

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”
(Mt 28:19-20)

With Jesus Christ at the center of our hearts, we journey on with challenges that appear to be insurmountable, but with faith we believe we can overcome.

As a community of believers, we need to deepen our spirituality while simultaneously developing “Spirit-empowered” teachers and shepherds. As our Lord’s formators, we need to review and redesign our formation program and teaching modules to make them, not only life changing, but truly Christ-centered.

Based on the Council of Servant Leaders (CSL), Study and Advisory Group Report, the Formation Study and Advisory Group (FSAG) was formed to study, recommend, and implement possible action plans on how the Community’s Formation Apostolate will address the challenges that we face as a community.

These challenges we have in our midst have existed for several years. Covenanted members have not fully utilized their gifts in the attainment of our Vision and Mission. While committed members are still high in their desire to serve and be with the Lord through our Christian Discipleship Formation Program (CDFP), covenanted disciples appear to have missed the long haul for deeper involvement.

As an example, the General Emergence 2021 saw challenges become more glaring with many of our covenanted members declining nomination for higher positions and greater responsibilities in community. With this single example, we can all appreciate how the Global Formation Apostolate

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Whose Law Is It?

THEME: We are nourished for eternal life when we honor God’s commandments.

WORD: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/ Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5/ Ja 1:17-18, 21B-22, 27/ Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

ORDER: “...humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls.” (James 1:21)

REFLECTION:

During Jesus’ public ministry here on earth, He often engaged in head-on debate with the powerful religious leaders during His time – the Sadducees, scribes and the Pharisees. The Gospel today gives us a very interesting insight as to how deadly serious these debates were. Nothing wrong with having a healthy debate; in today’s world, debates crop up all the time and with clockwork regularity. Any issue is deemed fair game, worthy of intense discussion. In college, I witnessed many practice debates and marveled at how smoothly debaters switched sides, seamlessly and effortlessly, not even losing one tiny bit of tempo in delivering winning arguments.



The debate between Jesus and the scribes and the Pharisees occurred

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Promise of the Week

“Whoever walks blamelessly and does justice; who thinks the truth in his heart...shall never be disturbed.” (Ps 15:2, 5b)

More on the Community retreat that was held earlier this month on August 14:

Keep the Fire Burning

There were many concerns that were raised prior to the Community retreat.

- "If we could have 50 attend the retreat, that'll be good."
- "More than that will likely come, because just the Teaching Ministry, the working committee, and the DCS will add up to 25 members already."
- "We have to observe social distancing, the Delta virus is lurking."

After considering CDC's guidelines, and upon reaching the safe number of seats that were prescribed by them, pre-registration was closed. Still, more members had intentions to join the retreat! In the end, there were over one hundred who attended, and the community's overwhelming response, the hunger for God's word, and the desire to return to a community gathering brought much rejoicing.

Different groups showed up on Friday night to set-up the stage, the backdrop, the sound system, the seating arrangement, the snacks and refreshments, and to sanitize the venue. On the day of the event, the temperatures of the members were checked, contactless hand sanitizers were made available within easy reach of all the attendees, and reminders about wearing face masks were visible everywhere. The anticipation over the first in-person BLD retreat in the DMP Auditorium since the pandemic started was in the air and BLD members were indeed ready to respond, to ARISE, and affirm that the HOLY SPIRIT is ALIVE!

During the retreat, Fr. John Gordon recounted how we were affected by the pandemic, how it caused a crippling fear in us, our families, and friends, in the Church, and in our BLD community. But he also reminded us that Jesus had forewarned us about the coming of such tribulations (cf. Mk 13) and that the Lord had assured us of His ultimate victory.

Fr. John invited the retreatants to come to the front for an anointing of the Holy Spirit. He said that if our lives were fine and we felt that we did not need any change, then we did not have to go to the front to be anointed. But I, like everyone else, felt the need for change.

Jesus is the only WAY, the authentic TRUTH, and the real LIFE. If I cling to the true VINE, follow His teachings and commandments of love (cf. Jn 15) → →

NEWS

(from page 1)

could play a major role in BLD's vibrancy. Moving forward, we will not give up, for God is our strength and He has paved the way for us to continue to strengthen our Formation Program.

Beginning in September and for the next 12 months, the Formation Apostolate will conduct thirty-minute global CDFP-based supplemental teachings during all the districts' worship service every 3rd week of the month. After which, the Formation CSL, the Formation Study & Advisory Group (FSAG), and the various DCS Stewards for Formation will review the effectiveness of the program.

The BLD Academy has been formed and will be managed by FSAG from where all teachings, trainings and other formation endeavors will emanate.

Initially, the Train-the-Trainers Workshop will commence in mid-September. The objective of the training is for all formators/teachers to have one set of formation techniques and format. This will be an on-going program headed by the FSAG.

With our Lord in our hearts, we will move forward with His power and strength and with complete faith that God will bring His Light upon our path and remove every obstacle that may come our way!

God is with us and will always be!

With God's Word, Sacraments, Service and Community, let us always remember that the community journey requires that we pass through the narrow path with deepening prayer!

Peace and blessings!

AMDG,
FORMATION APOSTOLATE
BLD Newark

→ then His JOY, the inner, peaceful joy that He alone can give is mine.

After being anointed, as I enumerated the countless blessings that God had already poured out upon me, I prayed to the Holy Spirit, I prayed for His grace so that I would be able to keep the "fire of His love" always alive in me. I prayed this too for BLD, for the Church and for the world.



Pope Francis @Pontifex · Aug 21

Patience helps us to be merciful in the way we view ourselves, our communities and our world.

Too Busy Being Right

If you were to carefully read the Gospels, you might conclude that Jesus reserved His harshest words for the scribes and Pharisees. The Readings for this past Monday and Wednesday recount the times He addressed them saying, *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites”* (Mt 23:27). He then cited the many ways in which they misled the people, calling them, *“whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full... of every kind of filth.”* (Mt 23:27)f

Two thousand years later, it’s easy to assume that the Lord’s words were meant only for the religious leaders of that time, but the truth is that His warning applies, not only to those in charge of the Temple’s bureaucracy and the people in the first century. Especially given what’s happening in the world today, His warning is still very relevant, and in 2021, should be heeded by all of us.

No, this is not meant to be a commentary on the current political climate in America where both the left and the right have staked out their territories and are fighting a virtual war in the sphere of social media. The aim here is to stem the spillover of that stalemate into the relationships that we have with the people around us.

In this day and age, despite our seeming interconnectedness, our fascination with social media, Facebook and the programming on the internet have caused many of us to live in virtual cocoons. The tech tools at our fingertips have allowed us to build our lives, programmed to believe only what we want to believe, reinforced by the limited and filtered content of the things we listen to and read that only cater to “my own point of view.” Because of this, the definition of truth has been more personalized, maybe even more so than it has ever been before. This development has made it all too easy to be self-righteous in so many aspects of life.

In any argument, be it on social, moral, or political issues, what we have to be careful about is the self-righteousness that tends to make us blind to the harm that our words can cause.

On the most personal of levels, when there are disagreements with one’s spouse, family, and friends, our need to be right can cause us to forget our obligation to be kind, to be compassionate. In other words, we must watch out for the times when we find it hard to be loving because we are “too busy being right..”

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Pope Francis @Pontifex · Aug 24

It is in humility that we build the future of the world.

LORD’S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK’S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings / E-Giving / Mailed Checks	\$ 1,746	\$73,785
Covid 19 Collection	\$ -	\$ 1,990
Mission	\$ -	\$ 5,000

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



THE WORD MINISTRY IS LOOKING FOR YOUR REFLECTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE COVENANT NEWS!!!

Suggested Topics:

- Reflection based on the Mass Readings for an upcoming birthday or special days
- Blessings during the time of Pandemic
- Various themes involving faith and spirituality

Reach out to the Word Ministry
(Word@BLDNewark.com)

if you have any ideas for the Covenant News.

We are looking to hear from you!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



**Protecting God’s Children
Certification Course
DMP Library
Saturday, August 28, 2021
8:30 am to 12:30 pm**

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