



**Bukás Loób sa Diyós**

(Open in Spirit to God)

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY  
DISTRICT OF NEWARK

# COVENANT NEWS

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NEWS

COUNSELS

## Singles Walking Pilgrimage

October 9 was the feast day of Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, priests and martyrs, and their companions, martyrs. To honor and celebrate their feast day, the BLD Singles together with the St. Antoninus young adult group traveled to Upstate New York to take part in a 6-mile walking pilgrimage led by Fr. Joseph Meagher. The group of 14 pilgrims started



the day with morning prayers in the coliseum at Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine, followed by readings and reflections on St. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues. To put things into perspective, an informative short film on the saints' lives and their martyrdom was played before they set out on the journey to the Saint Kateri National Shrine. The 6-mile walking journey from the Shrine to the baptismal site of St. Kateri Tekakwitha included singing praise songs, praying the Holy Rosary, and reciting the Divine Mercy Chaplet while Fr. Joe heard confession along the way. Fr. Joe led the pilgrims in the renewal of their baptismal vows and blessed them with water from the spring. Upon returning to the shrine, the pilgrimage concluded with Holy Mass in honor of Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, priests and martyrs, and their companions.

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## A COMMAND TO LOVE

THEME: We obey God's commandment of love when we sincerely love our neighbor in word and deed.

WORD: Dt 6:2-6/ Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51/ Hb 7:23-28/ Mk 12:28-34

ORDER: *"You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, you shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Mk 12:30-31a)*

### REFLECTION:

Love God with all of your heart, all of your soul, and all of your mind and all of your strength and love your neighbors as yourself. There is no greater commandment than this.

It is hard to say something new about these commandments. In two short verses, Jesus summarizes the main points of the 10 commandments, but many followers find it difficult to fulfill this appeal to love. So, it is necessary that we understand the meaning and depth of God's love and the importance of this commandment.

The Almighty Father gave flesh and blood to the meaning of God's love through Christ. In Jesus, it is God himself who goes in search ...Continued on page 3



### Promise of the Week

*"... that you may grow and prosper the more...to give you a land flowing with milk and honey." (Dt. 6:3)*

# NEWS

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The following testimonials from some Singles who participated in the pilgrimage demonstrate what a powerful experience it was.

"What stood out to me was how St. Rene Goupil died - he was martyred because he taught a native child the Sign of the Cross, which the natives thought was a curse. This image stayed with me especially as we walked through the ravine where St. Rene was killed. It brought more meaning every time I made the Sign of the Cross as we prayed the Rosary on those sacred grounds, a simple but profound gesture that I will not take for granted again."

"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." Stepping into the coliseum at the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs is like walking on holy ground. Historically known as a location where Christians were persecuted and killed, it has become a place of honor for countless men and women of faith. Courageous and selfless, these martyrs laid down their lives to save countless souls. I couldn't help but feel awe and deep reverence. Walking down the ravine, I learned about St. Rene Goupil and St. Isaac Goupil. Their sacrifices were not in vain, but rather fruitful, for St. Kateri was born where the 8 North American martyrs became saints. Their fearlessness and zeal inspire me greatly but also challenge me to die to self."

"There were actually two moments during our pilgrimage that stood out to me the most. The first was walking on that path and reading the accounts of 2 of the martyrs. It felt surreal, and I felt their love for the Lord so much as I followed the path. The second was going to confession during our actual pilgrimage to the next site. That sense of just walking with Fr. Joe and chatting with him made me feel at ease and helped me understand what to pray for. It was something so different and although I was tired, finishing out the pilgrimage was something that lifted my spirit and kicked me into a spiritual boost!! Also being with the Young Adults from St. Antoninus was so inspiring. We all walked, talked, and sang praise music along our pilgrimage. Their love for the Love is so great that it was so easy to bond and spend the day with them!"



Joe Tobin @CardinalJWTobin · 18h

Generous and loving Mother Mary, inspire us to be women and men who are grateful for all God's gifts. As we walk together as a pilgrim people, teach us to share generously especially with those who are in the greatest need.



Pope Francis @Pontifex · Oct 28

We often do the bare minimum, whereas Jesus invites us to do the maximum possible. How many times are we satisfied with doing our duties — the precepts, a few prayers — whereas God, who gives us life, asks us for enthusiasm in life!

## Pope Francis: Love alone attracts and changes the human heart

Taken from Vatican News:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-10/pope-francis-love-alone-attracts-and-changes-the-human-heart.html>

*At the General Audience on Wednesday, October 27, Pope Francis reflects on the fruits of the Holy Spirit. By Christopher Wells*

Saint Paul reminds the Galatians – and us – that the centre of salvation and faith is the death and resurrection of the Lord, Pope Francis said at Wednesday's General Audience.

The Pope warned that there are many people today "who still seek religious security rather than the living and true God, focusing on rituals and precepts instead of embracing God's love with their whole being."

### Return to what is essential

So, he said, St. Paul asks the Galatians "to return to what is essential, to the God who gives us life in Christ crucified." Pope Francis encourages us to "place ourselves in front of Christ crucified," including in Adoration of the Eucharist, when we feel we are losing the thread in our spiritual life.

This leads to a further step, he continued: When we meet Christ crucified, Jesus changes our hearts, which leads us to understand that "the Gospel is meant for everyone, not just for a privileged few." Thus, the Pope said, "the life of the community is regenerated" and through the Spirit, our lives as Christians are renewed, and we are able to continue "to engage in our spiritual battle."

### Works of the flesh v. fruit of the Spirit

Here Saint Paul presents a dichotomy between the "works of the flesh" and the "fruit of the Spirit." Pope Francis explained that the works of the flesh are "behaviours that are contrary to the Spirit of God. St Paul does not intend to say that the flesh is evil in itself, but uses the term to indicate the condition of being turned in on oneself, "closing the door to the spirit" and reminding us that the things of the world grow old and pass away, "while the Spirit gives life."

Christians are called to live out our baptismal calling, which leads to the fruits of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." Pope Francis invited Christians to read Saint Paul and reflect on our own behaviour to see if we are bearing those fruits.

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# COUNSELS

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of the lost sheep, a suffering and lost humanity. In His parables, when Jesus speaks of the shepherd who goes after the lost sheep, of the woman in the Parable of the Lost Coin who looks for the lost coin, of the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son who goes to meet the embrace of his repentant son, He gives us an explanation of His very being and character. His death on the cross is the culmination of His sacrifice to save mankind. Translating this into the here and now remains the challenge for each one of us. Through a life of service, of looking not at one's own needs but at the needs of others, of going beyond the comforts of life, we are able to understand the meaning of God's love and what it stands for.



The message of tonight's liturgical readings is that our love for God will always show itself in our love for God's people. Love for our brethren is the natural and logical result of our love for God. The concept of neighbor is no longer generic or influenced by political and archdiocesan considerations. As portrayed in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, the concept of neighbor was understood as essentially referring to a closely knit community of people. This narrow definition of neighbor is now changed and universalized in the Parable of the Last Judgement, *Mt 25:31-46*. Jesus identified himself with those in need: with the hungry, the stranger, the sick, the homeless and the oppressed. In *Mt 25:40b*, Jesus said, "**whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.**" Anyone who needs us, and whom we can help is our neighbor. Jesus teaches that the love of God and love of neighbor have become one: that in the least of the brethren, we find Jesus Himself and in Jesus, we find God.

Jesus admonished his disciples: "**This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.**" (*Jn 13:35*). Can we claim to be Christ's disciples when we proclaim our love for Christ when our lives show nothing to prove it? Can we say we are followers of Christ when our fear of man is greater than the fear of the Lord, when we choose to disregard His teachings for political correctness or as a personal choice? BLD's vision, charism, mission, and discipleship formation programs are all reconciled with God's teachings and commandments. However, if we view attendance of CDFP teachings ➔ ➔

➔ as mere compliance with the requirement for covenanting rather than the desire to know Christ more, then establishing closer relations with Him as His disciples will not prosper.

As disciples of Christ, let us look at the pandemic as a great opportunity for us to evangelize and practice our faith, to invite people to cling to God in the face of so many uncertainties, to invite our members to attend Eucharistic celebrations and praise and worships to receive the gifts of Word and the Eucharist sacramentally. We must encourage our BLD brethren whom we have not seen for some time to join us and become alive in the Spirit. We must lift them up in our prayers to let Christ touch, renew, and encourage them to be one with the community through the Holy Spirit. We want to let our inactive brothers and sisters know that we are family and that they always have a place in our home. If we have been remiss in understanding each other or communicating the right words, forgiveness is the way to go as Christ has taught us.

Never in our community life has our witnessing of love for neighbor been as strong as when we have joined with ministries or groups praying for their deceased family members, offering words of consolation, sending mass cards, and simply letting the grieving family know that there is always someone they can turn to for any kind of help. And for those locked down in their homes because of sickness or inability to go out, love for neighbor comes through phone calls checking how they are, sending cooked food or groceries for their supply.

Our sealing of discipleship pledges is a response to the very same test of love that the early disciples and the apostles went through. If we love God, then we must tend his sheep, feed his lambs, and feed his sheep (*Jn 21:15-17*). As covenanted and committed disciples, we agreed to do the holy work of evangelizing and shepherding other persons through our own personal witnessing of authentic Christian love and faith, service, and worship. But keeping our covenant pledges remains a challenge for many of us.

... *Continued on page 4*

## Directions

- 1. Love one another as God loves us. Our fruitfulness and growth depend on this.**
- 2. Love by serving one another.**
- 3. Get together for Word Sharing Circles and minister to each other's needs.**



Pope Francis @Pontifex · 4h

When we pray, we never do so alone: even if we do not think about it, we are immersed in a majestic river of invocations that precedes us and proceeds after us. #Prayer #CommunionOfSaints

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# COUNSELS

(from page 3)

We continue to meet difficulties in tending God's flock even in responding to the simple tasks like attending disciples' assemblies and other community events. Many still tend to choose what to attend and to support. They decide, when, where and how long they will give of their time and energy as if community building is the singular responsibility of the elders.

As a covenant community, we are summoned to witness God's passion, death, and resurrection in our lives. There are so many things that God wants us to do. Let us minister to our brethren to meet every pastoral need of our members. We must show care for those who are not yet well grounded in the teachings of Christ, making sure that they do not go astray and extending every effort to seek out those who are lost. Every moment of our lives is an opportunity to practice our faith, so that what we believe is reflected in the way we live – to join ourselves to Christ, to die to ourselves, to live for others and to love one another as Christ loves us.

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# NEWS

(from page 2)

## A challenge for our communities

"The Apostle's teaching poses quite a challenge for our communities, too," Pope Francis said. He explained, "the beauty of faith in Jesus Christ cannot be grasped on the basis of so many commandments or of a moral vision developed in many layers which can make us forget the original fruitfulness of love nourished by prayer from which peace and joyful witness flow."

Nor, he said, can "the life of the Spirit ... be suffocated by a bureaucracy that prevents access to the grace of the Spirit, the initiator of conversion of the heart."

## Proclaiming Christ crucified

Therefore, Pope Francis said in conclusion, "we have the huge responsibility of proclaiming Christ crucified and risen, enlivened by the breath of the Spirit of love. For it is this Love alone that possesses the power to attract and change the human heart."

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## Share your Time and Talent:

## Become a Covenant News contributor!

How do you nourish your faith? What are you thankful for? Do you have favorite Bible verses, prayers, or saints? Favorite podcast, Bible or Catholic Apps? Would you like to share your reflections? Contact Word Ministry at [Word@BLDNewark.com](mailto:Word@BLDNewark.com). We would love to hear from you!

## LORD'S PROVISION

PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings / E-Giving / Mailed Checks	\$ 1,343.49	\$90,295.82
Covid 19 Collection	\$ -	\$ 1,990.00
Mission	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00

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

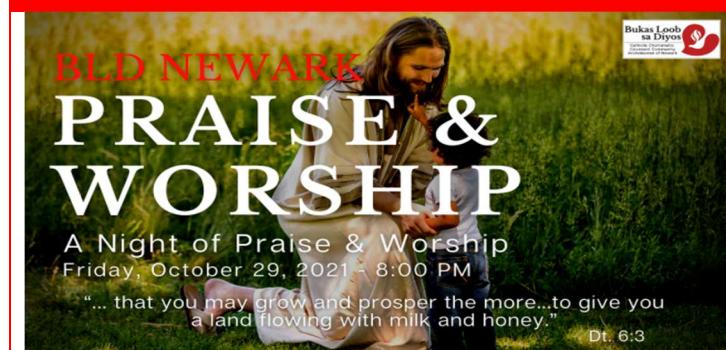
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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR



[\*\*Parade of Saints by Mark 10 Ministry\*\*](#)  
(Parents: Please bring your children to join the  
Parade of Saints)  
Friday, November 5, 2021 – 8 PM

## Disciples Assembly

Saturday, November 13, Starts at 1:00pm  
In-Person: Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium

Please join our own Intercessory Ministry in their  
nightly community prayers via Zoom.  
Everyone is most welcome to participate  
Zoom ID: 2265467380 / PW: 750109  
For more details, please contact  
Ram & Claire Bautista



Joe Tobin @CardinalJWTObin · Oct 29

Blessed Mother, help us to live the Beatitudes: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, they who mourn, the meek, they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the clean of heart, the peacemakers, and they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness" (cf. Mt 5:1-12).

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