



Bukás Loób sa Diyós

(Open in Spirit to God)

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY
DISTRICT OF NEWARK

COVENANT NEWS

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NEWS

COUNSELS

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>
Continuing his catechesis on St Paul's Letter to the Galatians, Pope Francis explains what it means "to walk in the Spirit."

By Christopher Wells

"To believe in Jesus means to follow Him," Pope Francis said at Wednesday's General Audience, adding, "At the same time, it means avoiding the opposite way, that of selfishness, of seeking one's own interest."

The Holy Father, continuing his catechesis on the Letter to the Galatians, reflected on St Paul's exhortation to "walk in the Spirit." The Holy Spirit, he said, is our guide on our "journey along the way of Christ," – a "stupendous, but difficult journey, that begins in Baptism and lasts our whole life."

Walking according to the Spirit

Following the path of Jesus, he said, leads Christians to "a positive vision of life," that does not deny the evils and difficulties seen in life, but means instead "that belief in God is always stronger than our resistance and greater than our sins."

St Paul, the Pope said, includes himself when he invites the Galatians "to walk in the Spirit." "Even though he knows that Christ lives in him," St Paul "is also convinced that he has not yet reached the goal." Pope Francis explains that Paul "does not place himself above his community, but places himself in the midst of the journey that everyone is on, in order to provide a concrete example of how necessary it is to obey God, corresponding more and more to the Spirit's guidance."

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Jesus, King Of My Heart

THEME: Those who are faithful to Christ the King give generously without reservation.

WORD: 1 Kgs 17:10-16/ Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10/
Heb 9:24-28/ Mk 12:38-44

ORDER: **"Everyone who belongs to the truth, listens to my voice."** (Jn 18:37)

REFLECTION:

Who reigns in your heart today? Our community word for the month of November puts emphasis on the Truth that Jesus Christ is the King of the universe, and He must reign in our hearts. We must allow Him to take full control of our lives, if we are to be faithful to Him. He is our only hope during this difficult time of the pandemic because He is not only King of the Church, but of the entire universe.

Before Pilate, Jesus declared that His Kingdom is beyond any kingdoms of this world and that He **"came into the world to testify to the truth"** (Jn 18:37). Knowing that He was being falsely accused, He testified, **"Everyone who belongs to the truth, listens to my voice."** Jesus is the only Truth. In *Revelations 1:5*, **"Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth."** He is our Savior and has given us the Kingdom of God, the **"Alpha and the Omega...the one who is and who was and is to come, the Almighty,"** (Rev 1:8)

As we are ending the present liturgical year with the Solemnity of Christ the King, we are exhorted to believe in Jesus, our King, to

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Promise of the Week

"The Lord keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets captives free." (Ps 146:7)

In Memoriam: Edmund "Apoy" Go, A Man of God

As we remember all the Saints and our dearly departed this week, it is fitting to mourn the recent passing of a beloved BLD member, who was a model and witness to what living by faith really means. He was someone who embodied servanthood, and whose qualities are what we would like to emulate.



All Soul's Day is sometimes thought of as a time of mourning – a time where some of us will simply want to weep to express our grief. For others, it is a time to come to terms with a grief that may never fully go away. As we honor our dear brother, Apoy Go, we are forever grateful for the loving memories he shared with us, and we will treasure them for a lifetime. We who knew Apoy count his recent passing a great loss.

Apoy and Peachy started as members of the Praise Ministry and later served as Treasury Ministry Coordinators and ME#8 Class Shepherds. They were very much involved with the Community's Mission Ministry during its early years. Though their stay with BLD Newark was cut short by their relocation to Manila, their service to the community during its infancy stage was considered instrumental and a blessing from the heavens that helped expand His work in this part of the globe.

Eulogy for Edmund "Apoy" Go

– By Richard dela Fuente

I'd like to quote a Scripture verse that describes Apoy to me: ***"We know that in everything, God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose."*** (Romans 8:28).

I first met Apoy and Peachy Go almost 30 years ago during the early years of BLD Newark through Roger and Irma Santiago. Apoy and Peachy were visiting at that time and joined our community worship and fellowship. Not too long after, Apoy was relocated by Citibank to its NY headquarters. With their move to New York, Apoy, Peachy, Christine, Archie and Michael became part of the BLD Newark community. It was during this time, when we worked side by side in the Lord's BLD Newark vineyard, that I got to know Apoy better. Given his professional background, Apoy and Peachy were given responsibility over the community's Treasury Ministry.

But I soon discovered that



→ there was a lot more to Apoy than his financial expertise and professional success.

Apoy had the essential leadership qualities that were critical to the growth of our fledgling community. Apoy had vision, integrity, character, humility, and compassion. Apoy was most importantly a man of God, who loved God, who lived consistent to his faith, attuned to God's will, whose leadership is service, whose life is an example for others.

In one of our early interactions, when we were faced with an important decision, Apoy advised us to prayerfully use our common sense. In that guidance, I caught a glimpse of a man whose many gifts were submitted to God's grace. Apoy advised that we should pray and seek God's help in using the gifts He gave us. Community work is the Lord's work; we are His co-workers. Let us do His work with the aid of His grace.

Over time, I learned that Apoy and Peachy consulted the Lord in big and small decisions. They practiced what they preached. Prayer and worship were at the heart of their relationship with God, of their relationship with each other, with their children and with others. Their love of God empowered Apoy and Peachy to raise their children in love and godliness, and so their lives and character are aligned with the Lord's.

The fruit of Apoy's and Peachy's friendship with God is service. The Lord Jesus Christ said He came not to be served but to serve. A life of service is what Jesus modeled for all of us. Service was not beneath the Lord; he defined leadership as service. Apoy led by serving. He lived a life of fruitful service to others in and out of our community.

In BLD Newark, they introduced a sound financial management system, practiced transparency in reporting, informed the community regularly on how funds were used, taught, and witnessed stewardship. It was during their tenure in BLD Newark's Treasury Ministry that the community's resources grew to support the launch of its mission to form new communities of faith in the US, expanding BLD's footprint in both east and west coasts and bringing hundreds of families to Christ. They were valued contributors in the conception and launch of various BLD North American mission programs. For example, the Lift Them Up Nursing Home Visitation, which is still being done in one form or another in the community.

In addition to their Treasury Ministry responsibility, Apoy and Peachy

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COUNSELS

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obey and listen to Him through the readings during the month of November.

The theme for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time is generosity – Those who are faithful to Christ the King give generously without reservation. Giving without counting the cost is what Jesus did for us on the cross. He gave us His all and offered His life for our salvation. We learn a lesson of all-giving from the widows illustrated in this Sunday's readings. What compelled the widow in the 1st reading to share her last piece of bread, and the widow in the gospel of Mark to give all of her two small coins which was everything she owned? They listened to the voice from within that stirred their faith in God, for they knew that the Almighty will take care of them. Like the two widows, let us pray to the Lord to grant us a generous heart that reaches out in love, that we may receive God's promise, ***"The Lord keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets captives free."*** (Ps 146: 7)

The theme for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time teaches us the importance of vigilance and preparedness – Those who are faithful to Christ the King vigilantly prepare for His coming. Do we set our eyes on the things of the world, or do we set our eyes on what is above? We all know that what the world offers is just temporary, while what God offers is eternity. Although the Lord allows us to experience this short-lived satisfaction while on earth, He will not let us tread the wrong path for long. He wills for us to live out our lives in His love so that we may be prepared for His coming, when He comes back to bring us to His eternal Kingdom. As soon as we see things in His perspective, we are bound to receive this promise, ***"You will show me the path to life, fullness of joys in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever."*** (Ps 16:1)

On the third week, we celebrate the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ who is King of the Universe. And our theme tells us – Those who are faithful to Christ the King listen to Him and testify to the truth. As His faithful followers, we are all called to listen and testify to Jesus who is Truth Himself. The truth that Jesus testifies to is that God loves us and has freed us from our sins by His precious blood. To belong to the truth then means to belong to Jesus as His disciples, for He himself is the Truth, the Way and the Life.

Jesus' kingship is far different from our perception of what a king of this world is. → →

→ Jesus hid His majesty and glory, and people did not even recognize Him because He came as a humble servant king, not as a powerful earthly ruler. He is the King of love and peace. He came to serve, not to be served. He is the sacrificial offering, the Lamb of God. Yet, he calls us to reign with Him. When we listen to His voice and accept His Truth, we will one day see the true Ruler of the Universe and reap the promise, ***"Behold, he is coming amid the clouds, and every eye will see him..."*** (Rev 1: 7a)

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, we acknowledge You as our universal King and Ruler of all nations. We pray that you protect us and our families from our enemies. Make us worthy to face You in the last judgement and be ready to enter into Your heavenly Kingdom. Have mercy on us and forgive our disobedience and sinfulness. We come and bow before You, our Lord and King. May Your Kingdom and Your reign be recognized throughout the earth. Amen.

Directions

1. ***Prepare yourself for God's calling by reading the Word daily and putting God's message into action.***
2. ***Witness to others that Jesus is truly the King of your life through your faithfulness to Him and your love for His brethren***

In Memoriam:

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accepted the call to serve as Shepherds of Newark's ME Class # 8, which raised many fruitful leaders who became as generative as their shepherds.

Fr. Paul Lehman, who eventually became Newark's district spiritual director, was a part of the ME 8 class. Fr. Paul used to say that it was because of ME 8 that he learned to be in touch with his feelings rather than rely primarily on his intellect, thereby enriching his priesthood. Even after Apoy and Peachy returned to Manila, they continued to minister to their ME 8 class, visiting them at their homes whenever they were in the US, to counsel and strengthen them. That is commitment. That is love.

Apoy's balanced spirituality was key to his great fruitfulness in life. He was fully engaged and was fruitful in all the responsibilities entrusted to him, as a husband, a father, a servant of the Lord, as a professional in the banking world and as a citizen. His love of God empowered his love for his wife and children, and fueled the fire of his love for others.

Apoy cared for people and used his God-given gifts for the common good. He is a model worthy of emulation, especially for

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In Memoriam:

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aspiring and current disciples of the Lord in BLD, who wish to follow the Lord faithfully along the difficult path of the two Greatest Commandments in a world that has become hostile to our faith. Apoy and Peachy, partnering with the Lord, have done this.

I will always think of Apoy first and foremost as a man of God, who is now with God and will be in God forever!

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of Apoy. Glory and praise to you, our Almighty God!

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NEWS

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Not judging others

Pope Francis emphasized that walking according to the Spirit involves us not only as individuals, but also as a community. It is easy, he said, to try to live up to the “exciting, but demanding” call to follow Jesus by having recourse to rigid precepts. But this, he said, “means straying from the path of freedom.” Instead, “journeying along the way of the Spirit requires space to grace and charity.”

The supreme rule of love

In particular, the Pope said, we can often be tempted to judge others if they make a mistake or fall away from the path of Jesus. Pope Francis encouraged the faithful to examine our own lives when we are tempted to judge others. If we do feel the need to correct others, he said, we should do so with gentleness and humility. “In addition to giving us the gift of gentleness,” he said, “the Holy Spirit invites us to be in solidarity, to bear others burdens.” The Pope insisted, “the supreme rule regarding fraternal correction is love: to desire the good of our brothers and sisters.”

Pope Francis concluded his audience by encouraging us “to walk along this path with joy and patience, allowing ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit.”

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Share your Time and Talent:
Become a Covenant News contributor!

Question of the month:
What are you thankful for?

Send us a few words or a sentence or two about what you are thankful for during this Thanksgiving Season
 Contact **Word Ministry** at 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 | \$ 1,062.00 | \$91,357.82 |
| Covid 19 Collection | \$ - | \$ 1,990.00 |
| Mission | \$ - | \$ 5,000.00 |

Financial details are available to all members through

treasury@bldnewark.com



Thank you for your generosity and support

To donate online:

Go to [Donate to BLD Newark](#) link on the home page of BLDNewark.com

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 @6:30PM

For more details, please contact
Ram & Claire Bautista



Joe Tobin @CardinalJWtobin · 9h

Mother of Sorrows, as we walk together, guide us when we feel lost and alone. Help us to listen prayerfully to the Holy Spirit and each other. Show us the way to your Son Jesus.