



Bukás Loób sa Diyós

(Open in Spirit to God)

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY
DISTRICT OF NEWARK

COVENANT NEWS

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NEWS

BLD Newark Disciples Meet



Not even an early afternoon deluge could stop about sixty BLD members from attending the second Disciples' Assembly this year, which was held last Saturday, at the Divine Mercy Parish auditorium in Rahway. While it was pouring rain outside, the Holy Spirit too was



raining down on the praise and worship team that led off the assembly's afternoon agenda, and on all the disciples who were there.



Afterwards, each Apostolate Steward of the District Council of Stewards (more commonly referred to by BLD members as the "DCS") discussed the challenges that they see facing their apostolate's ministries early in their term as DCS and for the upcoming months of the coronavirus-impacted world. *...Continued on page 2*

COUNSELS

Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

THEME: Those who are faithful to Christ the King listen to Him and testify to the truth.

WORD: Dn 7:13-14/ Ps 93:1, 1-2, 5/
Rev 1:5-8/ Jn 18:33b-37

ORDER: "...Testify to the Truth!" (John 18:37)

REFLECTION:

Why did Jesus come into this world?

Jesus once said, *"You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth (Jn 18:37).*

The truth may have eluded us in the past, yet those who know the truth will recognize Jesus as King and will know how to interpret this insight. The kingship of Jesus was hidden from many of His contemporaries. Only those chosen, only those who have the eyes of faith, are able to see. As modern-day disciples of Jesus, we also struggle, at times, to recognize Jesus as King.

Jesus came into a world that is ignorant about God, ignorant about righteousness and sin. Jesus came into this world to establish His Kingdom, not by arms, but by truth. He came to speak, live, and die for the TRUTH!

Today's Gospel invites us to see Jesus in His crucifixion and death as the King and Savior of all. Let us reflect, upon our own *...Continued on page 3*



Promise of the Week

"Behold, he is coming amid the clouds, and every eye will see him"



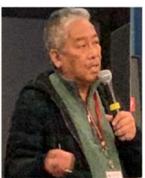
FORMATION



The lead-off presenter was Boyie Huelgas who is now the head of Formation for BLD Newark. He described the main role of the apostolate and its ministries as that of overseeing the spiritual growth of BLD members and disciples, by managing formation programs and providing in-depth training to enable instruction in matters of faith and spirituality. He also reported on the 2021 development of the BLD Academy, which is a recent global effort spearheaded by the Council of Servant Leaders in Manila. This Academy was formed to address some of the weaknesses in the global community that were identified by a Formation Study and Advisory Group earlier in the year. The breadth of its work spans many aspects of Formation, which includes the review and revision of all the modules of the current CDFP teachings to make them more relevant, applicable, relatable, and engaging, the addition of supplemental curricula, and global zoom workshops designed to “train the teachers.” In addition, there are plans to offer monthly enrichment teachings and develop new retreat/encounter sharers. Finally, CDFP and other related teachings will resume in the 1st quarter of 2022.

He then went on to describe the ongoing activities of the Word, Service, Intercessory, Teaching and Witness Development ministries. He also described plans to hold at least semi-annual retreats for the community here in Newark and quarterly Two-Thousand Hail Mary prayer events.

PASTORAL



Next up was the Pastoral Apostolate. Caezar Rasalan, the DCS who also served as the assembly’s emcee, started his presentation with a brief discussion of what’s involved in pastoral care and how it’s actually everyone’s responsibility to offer counsel, instruction and intercession to a brother or friend in need because everyone needs help at one time or another. Everything in the community →→

→ touches everybody and as we release our love to others, we each become the very vessel God has chosen from the beginning. He proceeded to describe the challenges and achievements in the Solo Parents, Singles, Youth, Golden Years, John 6, and Mark 10 ministries. While Covid concerns have curtailed in-person events, especially in the case of John 6 and Mark 10 Friday night worships which have not resumed because most of the children have not yet been vaccinated, he reported on their use of Zoom for ministry led Rosary prayers and Novenas. On the more pro-active front, efforts have been initiated aimed at bringing back our members who have stopped attending our live Eucharistic Masses and Friday Praise and Worship services by instituting improvements in several areas most specially in the format of Praise and Worships, strengthening of our shepherding endeavors, ensuring strict observance of health safety protocols, and advancing the wise use of technology and social media among members. The Solo Parents, Singles and Youth Ministries hold regular in-person and live streamed Praise and Worships. The Singles and Solo Parents Ministries have scheduled their respective Encounter Retreats in June 2023.

MISSION

Then, Tess Cam came up to present what’s up with the Mission Apostolate, starting with the Institutional Ministry, which, before the lockdowns due to the pandemic, was responsible for coordinating BLD Newark’s soup kitchen and nursing home visits. During all this time, they have continued to provide other support (i.e., financial), that is, just short of physically going back to those two venues. The soup kitchen, in particular, will soon allow a maximum of 4 BLD volunteers to come help the nuns who continue to serve food six out of seven days of every week. For BLD Newark, our official commitment will be back to what it was before the lockdowns here in New Jersey; it will be every fourth Saturday of the month.



As most everyone knows, BLD’s most noble and visible activities are spearheaded by the Mission Apostolate. And the hope is for the resumption of most activities in 2022, including the participation of BLD in the March for Life in January; the interaction with other charismatic and prayer groups; sponsorship of parish-based LSS seminars, and a renewed focus on other outreaches. These will be conducted by

COUNSELS

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embrace of Jesus as Christ the King. Does He truly govern our lives in every way? Do we allow Him to have complete control over our lives? Does He rule our innermost thoughts, aspirations...our very own hearts?

God's truth needs a voice and He wants to use us to proclaim the truth. Jesus testified to the truth. Are we ready to follow Him and testify to the truth?

How many times have we held back God's messages because we don't think it will make a difference, because we don't think it will produce positive results or simply because we are scared to be judged as an unbending fanatic, someone odd! But God says there is power in the truth and the nature of our calling is to be faithful witnesses. As we faithfully give voice to the truth, like a sword coming out of our mouth (*Revelation 1:6*), God's truth will conquer.

What is the truth? For the enemies of our Lord, death was His end, and it implied defeat and loss of His cause. For Jesus and His followers, to die is to live and to die is the beginning of new life... life eternal. This is the TRUTH we have in Christ. His death is our victory over sin. His death promised that whatever happens and no matter how huge evil is, it will never destroy us. It may kill us, but it will not destroy us. Neither will it annihilate us if we are deeply rooted in the Lord and if He is the very ground of our being. A faithful and deeply rooted follower of Jesus can at every moment draw from Him the life and sustenance, the strength and comfort needed to face and to triumph over whatever evil may come our way.

Authentic disciples of Jesus are of a different breed. They listen to Jesus and testify to humble service and obedience to God's plan and will. They are unassuming servants, who like Jesus, have their hearts in being last, rather than first, who think and accept the kingdom of God like a child. In their journey, status, position, authority and power do not get in the way of their fellowship and ministry work. They are not rigid in their ways and they take people for who they are and not for what they want them to be. They draw the best out of everyone despite perceived imperfections. They are loving, forgiving and caring...they are Christ-like in all their ways!

To them, listening to Christ's truth and testifying to it means overcoming the temptations to power and its trappings. It means overcoming the desire to be served and following in the footsteps of the Master, who came not to be served but to serve and give his life for others. This is the truth



→ to which Jesus testifies. This is the truth which authentic disciples of Jesus hear and proclaim. It is this truth which they seek to live, the truth of loving God above all and neighbor as thyself, the truth that to die is to live, the truth which is the most potent sign of the Kingdom, ***“whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant, whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.”*** (Mt 20:26-27)

Jesus Christ is the Alpha and the Omega. He is, the TRUTH, the WAY and the LIFE, the most authentic servant and slave of all, yet the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords! Yes, Jesus, is Christ, the King!

Directions

Proclaim Jesus by loving God and neighbor.

NEWS

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the apostolate's ministries: Parish Mission Advocacy, District (Medical Mission), Parish Ministry Services and Mission Outreach.

With regards to the Medical Mission, there are no plans yet for 2022 due to the pandemic. The preparation for this mission work requires 6-8 months. By God's grace, 2023 is looking like a more promising time to resume this activity.

Finally, there are plans to ask the community members for voluntary support for the Scholarship of Hope Program, a BLD Manila project that assists children of the poorest of the poor in the Philippines.

EVANGELIZATION



In what was probably the liveliest presentation of the afternoon, Efen Cruz began by pointing out the BLD logo that was flashed by PowerPoint on the auditorium's projection screen, and citing how “that heart belongs to us... and that we, belong to that heart.”

He then related how, while it was true that the pandemic had halted our encounters and seminars in 2020 and 2021, he surmised that maybe God just wanted us to rest a while. Meanwhile, he also triumphantly pointed out how, somehow (except for maybe two Fridays at the beginning of the lockdowns in March 2020), Friday night worships have continued to be held during all this time! Next, he and his wife, Yollie Cruz, took turns announcing the main evangelization events for next year – LSS 53 (April 2 – 3, 2022), Marriage Encounter 55 (May 6-8, 2022) and Family Encounter 27 (date TBD).

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NEWS

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Since Evangelization is also responsible for Friday nights, which involves a lot of constant weekly work, he asked for assistance in filling in vacancies for ministry coordinator positions, as currently, only the heads of the Liturgical Ministry are in place.

MANAGEMENT



If Evangelization was the liveliest presentation of the afternoon, the one from Management, by Tony Abad, was a nice and upbeat way to conclude the assembly's agenda. He first announced some new appointments for coordinator positions; then he touched on the important administrative initiatives that the ministries in Management quietly conduct for the community. These include the maintenance of BLDNewark.com and our use of the Microsoft Outlook email platform, the Archdiocesan Protecting God's Children program, other safety protocol and compliance efforts (including, in the age of covid, the sanitizing of the spaces that we use at Divine Mercy Parish). He also briefly touched on the community's lease arrangements with the Parish and other Treasury related matters, the rest of the ministries' unsung efforts, such as in attendance and record keeping, room scheduling, and the coordination of BLD Newark's community calendar. Besides Treasury, the Apostolate's ministries are Safety, Secretariat, Management Services, and Isaiah 58.

He also had some good news regarding some initial indicators about membership attendance, which hopefully, will translate into a more pronounced upward trend. And while some big expense ticket items are coming up in the next few months – the community's Christmas party in December, the Medical Mission and encounters and seminars in 2022 – currently, especially given the impact of the pandemic, BLD's finances look good.

By the time Management was done with its presentation, it was already close to 5 o'clock. So, on that upbeat note, as with all things BLD, the Assembly concluded with a prayer of thanks to our Almighty Father.

Thank you to all who helped and participated!
And... Thank You Lord!

Wishing you all

a Blessed and Safe Thanksgiving!!!



Joe Tobin @CardinalJWTObin · 12h

Walk with us, Blessed Mother. Teach us to care for our common home and to be grateful stewards of all God's gifts.

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings / E-Giving / Mailed Checks	\$ 1,314.46	\$94,251.35
Covid 19 Collection	\$ -	\$ 1,990.00
Mission	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00

Financial details are available to all members through

treasury@bldnewark.com

Donate
to BLD Newark

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

BLD Academy Enrichment Teaching On Personal Values

Friday, December 3, 2021, After 1st Friday Mass
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

*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](mailto:Word@BLDNewark.com) at Word@BLDNewark.com.