



Bukás Loób sa Diyós

(Open in Spirit to God)

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY
DISTRICT OF NEWARK

COVENANT NEWS

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NEWS

COUNSELS

Holy Spirit rekindles BLD Newark's Fire at LSS #53



-This one was two years in the making!

Aspiring to be Good Sheep of His Flock

| | |
|--------|--|
| THEME: | We serve God in love when we follow Jesus, our Good Shepherd. |
| WORD: | Acts 13:14, 43-52/ Ps 100:1, 2, 3, 5/ Rv 7:9, 14-17/ Jn 10:27-30 |
| ORDER: | <i>"Feed my lamb...tend my sheep...feed my sheep." (Jn 21:15-17)</i> |

The last time that BLD Newark conducted a Life in the Spirit Seminar was over two years ago. But this weekend saw the resumption of the LSS, which is one of the Community's major retreat events. And, despite the two year hiatus that was caused by the Covid 19 pandemic, it was as if BLD never really skipped a beat. Yes, all of the in-person participants had to wear face masks, and they all had to submit health forms; but as could be observed by anyone who was at Divine Mercy this past weekend, it seemed just like old times. To some, it may have even seemed more spirit-filled and powerful.

Just as before, the weekend started with the invocation Mass that was concelebrated by Fr. Dave Sison and our District Spiritual Director, Fr. Joe Meagher. Fr. Dave also served as the Spiritual Director for the LSS, and beginning with his homily for that Mass last Friday, he expressed his own overwhelming joy over his return to the Newark Archdiocese and to BLD, the Community that "he grew up with." For its part, BLD welcomed him back with open arms (and maybe with many extra warm embraces from members that snuck in past the social distancing guidelines that everyone there was supposed to observe).

Also, just as before, the weekend

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The 4th Sunday of Easter is known as the Good Shepherd Sunday. Jesus Christ is presented as the Good Shepherd who lovingly takes care of the flock that His Father entrusted to Him. We are this flock. The familiarity, love and intimacy that binds the shepherd and the flock together enables them to know each other mutually.



The greatness of the love of the Lord for His flock is affirmed in the many attributes mentioned in the scriptures. In *Psalm 23: 1-3*, "**The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I lack. In green pastures you let me graze; to safe waters you lead me; you restore my strength.**" In *Isaiah 40:11*: "**Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom and leading the ewes with care.**" In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus says, "**My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal** ...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish." (Jn 10:28)

NEWS

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was filled with healing, as attested to by the teachings from Fr. Dave, and the stories from the sharers of each of the Seminar's seven talks - from God's Love on Saturday morning to the one on Growth the next day. The sharers were: Tony and Tatess Abad, Maritess Montemayor, Roger and Irma Santiago, Caesar and Vicky Rasalan, and Mhyllanie Guinto.

One of the adjustments that was made as a result of covid precautions was to limit the close physical contact between lambs and shepherds. While many shepherds stilled the urge to constantly be right next to their lambs, the Holy Spirit was the one Who took over, making sure that the lambs would still feel His presence in a powerful way. He was there during one of the highlights of the weekend, the Healing and Deliverance, even as some of the shepherds had to stand-in-the-gap from a distance. Then during the Baptism itself, the floodgates of His love opened up for everyone, for shepherds and especially for the lambs as the auditorium was filled with His power and presence. And by the conclusion of the Baptism, with masks on, lambs and shepherds stood beside each other with arms raised high, praising God.



The next day, the joy from Saturday took another step higher beginning with Sunday morning's Praise and Worship (so much so that it

made one person ask if it was really a Catholic group that was holding the LSS). Before the LSS Sunday Mass, several of the candidates related what their experience was like - three of the ME couples, a few of the singles (including those who were in-filling candidates who emerged with a renewal of their spirits), and from LSS 53's two religious participants. In her remarks, the French nun, Sr. Arnelle, described how unique her experience was at BLD vs the many other times that she had attended LSS with other Church groups. Separately, Fr. Lemuel Camacho, who on Sunday, was back at his parish for their Church services, expressed his sincere gratitude to BLD in a text that Fr. Dave shared during his Sunday homily.

The weekend also featured some firsts for BLD Newark, which were the result of the creative use of technology by the LSS team. Recognizing that we are always in the presence of the Lord, wherever we may be, earlier in the week, the traditional Shepherds' Vigil →→

→ for the LSS was held via zoom. And even on that platform, it was as moving as ever. Throughout the weekend, vigil prayers were being said simultaneously, by in-person prayer warriors, and by BLD members who were connected to the vigil room online to intercede for the LSS lambs remotely on their cellphones and computers. Concurrently, since Divine Mercy Parish now has an Adoration Chapel, auxies and shepherds were also able to spend time there in contemplative prayer, lifting up and uniting their quiet prayers with the intercessions for the LSS that were being made. And the entire seminar itself was livestreamed so that folks who couldn't be at Divine Mercy could also join the LSS as if they were there. Altogether, vigil was truly a huge Powerhouse for LSS 53 and the fruit of everyone's prayers became evident in the Lambs' beautiful public sharings before the Mass on Sunday.

By the time the graduation ceremonies rolled around, the Holy Spirit's triumph was clear. And one could tell that praise for God was in everyone's heart.

Thank you to all who made this LSS possible - the tireless members of the LSA and their teams, the auxies, those from the Secretariat Ministry and BLD's Health Advisory Board who kept everyone safe, the shepherds, as well as lambs. And most special thanks to our Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

Always, to God Be the Glory!



The graduates of LSS 53 are: Riemann & Jana Canlas, Delfin Estanislao, Ed & Sanette Garcia, Bernard & Jenny Caleon, Craig & Zen Carey, Vince & Cielo Flores, Eloy & Lyn Magno, Sister Arnelle, Fr. Lemuel Camacho, Gabriel Drouet, Jessie Guadiel, Dominick Salar, Marvee San Augustin, Liza Latorre, Veronica Stanford, Corazon Veloso Simonson and Yamilee Wah.

(Please note that LSS #53 isn't quite done and over with just yet for the lambs and shepherds. The LSS # 53 reunion has been scheduled for Sunday, May 15, beginning with the 11 am Mass at the Divine Mercy Parish Church. Lunch and reunion activities will follow after the Mass, in the school auditorium.)

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life, they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of my Father's hand. The Father and I are one," (Jn 10:27-30).

We are his people, the sheep of his flock. We are called to listen to the voice of Jesus Christ and follow Him and be a good sheep of His Church. We are also encouraged to emulate His character as the Good Shepherd when we are called to handle shepherding roles.

As members of the Church or a community, we are given the opportunity to be shepherds as we are entrusted with people under our spiritual and moral care, especially new lambs. Shepherding is a demanding role and requires commitment, dedication, sacrifice, and attention. We become good lay under-shepherds by loving those entrusted to us, praying for them, spending our time for their welfare, and guarding them from physical and spiritual dangers. It is important that we accompany them in their spiritual journey until they are able to firmly establish a stable relationship with the Lord. We glorify the Lord and find great joy and fulfillment in being able to respond and perform His call to shepherd His lambs.

We also aspire to be good sheep in the fold of the Good Shepherd. We recognize Jesus as the High Priest and the Church leaders as our shepherds. Hence, as the good sheep of the Church, we hear and follow the voice of our shepherds through their homilies, counselling, and advice. We partake of the spiritual food they give through regular and active participation in the Holy Mass and by frequenting the Sacraments, prayer services, and renewal programs. We likewise cooperate in the activities of various councils, ministries, and parish associations.

As members of the community, we submit and conform to the anointed leaders as our shepherds in the various evangelization, formation, pastoral, mission programs. Our active participation, commitment to serve, and cooperation to the many apostolate activities are blessings and opportunities to become good followers of our Good Shepherd and be worthy of His promise: ***"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish," (Jn 10:28).***

Fittingly, this Sunday is also designated as World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The world needs more pastors, priests, and religious people to answer the leading of the Lord to feed His sheep.

In the Philippines, local and national elections will be held on May 9. It is a crucial

Remain in My Love

The past weekend's Life in the Spirit Seminar #53 was simply amazing, blessed and filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit. This was the community's first LSS in two years. Everyone in attendance could feel the release of the Holy Spirit fill the room and ignite our hearts. For those who were baptized in the Spirit, this resulted in a deeply personal and unique experience for each of the lambs. After the Baptism, some prayed in tongues, others spoke about their surrender and said "Yes!" to our Lord Jesus. Others shared their feelings of peace, love, and joy. For many in attendance, the experience was incredibly spiritual and uplifting, as if they also were being touched, moved, and guided by the spirit.

"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you." (John 15:16)

I was especially moved by this verse and heard it echo in my heart a number of times during the weekend. I remembered my first LSS six years ago, and how I had experienced so many emotions, including love, joy, and confusion about what this was all about. I didn't know how much deeper my relationship with Jesus could become. Because of my surrender to Jesus, I believed He could do His work through me, but I wondered how this would look. Since my LSS, I have served as an auxie many times, but this was my first LSS as a shepherd. I never could have imagined how this would unfold, but I left it to God, and He worked on the timing. I feel so blessed and honored because this journey, with my husband and with our lambs, has deepened my relationship with the Lord.

Each LSS has been a more deeply profound experience, with a new revelation about the power of God's love. God deeply touched me; and I heard myself say to Him, "yes Lord, I choose You, too, again and again!" Jesus chooses each of us in a special way, and He seeks to bring us closer to His Father. I know that God helped me to rise above some barriers that posed a challenge to attending the LSS. He called me to be with Him, and I came with an open heart, bringing my concerns and burdens to Him. And He took care of everything, as He always does. I pray He continues to use me, mold, and guide me, as He wishes me to serve Him. May we all continue to pray daily and ask Him "Lord, how can I serve You today?"

"As the Father loves Me, so I also love you. Remain in My love." (John 15:9).

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time for the Filipinos to choose the right and moral government leaders whom God has anointed to govern our political, economic, and social well-being. We must choose those who speak the truth and have the genuine capability to lead the nation, with no other purpose but to serve for the common good. Let us come before the Lord that our hearts may be enlightened, because it is only in listening to the voice of our Good Shepherd that our future will be secured and blessed.

Remain in My Love (from page 3)

We serve an awesome and mighty God, who loves us with an everlasting love. The joy and fire that was present during the entire LSS was a testament to the love of God, and served to remind all of us how alive and present God is in our lives. We thank you Lord for Your healing mercy, grace, forgiveness, and unconditional love for us. May we live in Your love and go forth to share it with others. To God be the Glory! Amen!

Health & Safety Guidelines

- Wear face mask.
- Safe physical distancing.
- Hand & respiratory hygiene.
- A person sick/with symptoms should stay home per CDC advice.

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**DID YOUR MINISTRY OR ENCOUNTER CLASS
EMBARK ON A PILGRIMAGE?**

Share your favorite pictures

Contact Word Ministry (Word@BLDNewark.com)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Marriage Encounter Weekend #54

May 27-29, 2022 | CYO, Kearny, NJ

Single's Encounter# 40

June 10 – 12 | CYO

Solo Parents Encounter# 22

June 24-26 | CYO

Youth Encounter # 27

July 29- 31 | Fellowship Deaconry

Family Encounter # 28

August 5 - 7 | Malvern, PA

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

| Collections (At DMP, E-Giving / Mailed Checks): | Last Week | YTD |
|---|------------|-------------|
| Tithes & Love Offerings | 1,260.00 | \$23,605.59 |
| Odette Calamity Fund | \$2,500.00 | \$5,500.00 |
| Ukraine | \$100.00 | \$ 1,561.00 |

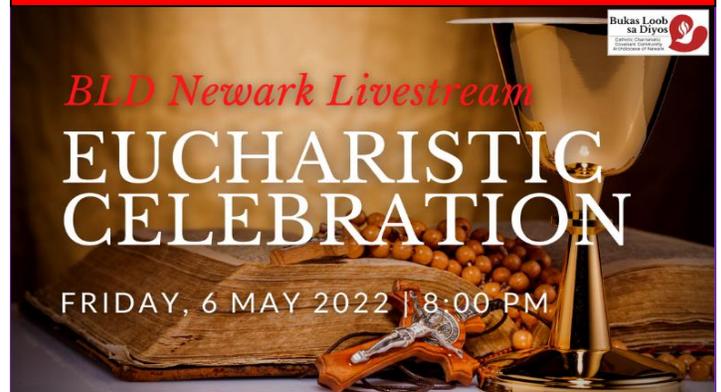
Financial details are available to all members through
treasury@bldnewark.com.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



BLD Teaching Ministry Virtual Classes

ALL Committed and Covenanted members are invited

May 11, 2022, Wed, 8:00 PM (Via ZOOM)

CMP 1 | Christian Love | Christian Faith

May 21, 2022, Sat., 1:00-5:00 PM (In-Person)

New Creation Realities | Growth in Prayer

Prayer | Praise & Worship

**Please join the 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



2000 Hail Mary

May 14, Saturday | DMP