



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

25th Anniversary Committee presents the logo for the Community's Silver Jubilee

BLD-Newark
1992-2017



At a meeting held last Monday evening, former Formation Steward, Ollie Felibrico (who together with his wife Annie, is spearheading the planning efforts for BLD Newark's 25th Anniversary celebrations in August 2017) presented to members of the DLC, the logo especially designed for this truly significant BLD milestone. The logo was crafted by Mike and Emma Pepino, with input coming from the rest of the Planning Committee.

Described below are the different features that were incorporated into it, and their significance.

The Disciple's rendition of our BLD Newark 25th Anniversary Logo captures the essence of our celebration:

- 2017 is the **Year of Grace**, and **By His Grace**, we have come this far with gratitude and thanksgiving.

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COUNSELS

"I Am the Light of the World."

THEME: We overcome temptation when we remain in God's presence.

WORD: 1 Sm 16:1b,6-7,10-13a / Ps 23:1-3a,3b-4,5,6
Eph 5:8-14 / Jn 9:1-41

ORDER: **"Learn what is pleasing to the Lord."**
(Eph 5:10)

REFLECTION:

As we step into Sunday's Gospel, the story of the man born blind, we hear the challenge to witness to God's truth courageously in the midst of a suffering world, no matter the consequences. As the story opens, Jesus dismisses the disciples' theological debate about whose sin caused the man's physical blindness. He pushes aside the disciples' certainty that they understood God's ways and directs them to what is most important, God's work in the world. In the face of our human effort to control God and shrink Him down to our size, we discover that our efforts to control, point to our blindness, not to our sight.

The life of the blind beggar was a harsh one. One born blind would not have the slightest expectation of a life change, other than for the worse. But Jesus makes clay and anoints the man's eyes and says: **"go and wash in the pool of Siloam."** The only thing asked of the man was to obey, which he does without hesitation! And he came back able to see!

It was the Sabbath and into the scene came the masters of religious dispute, the Pharisees, who officially deal with Sabbath violations. Jesus' act of healing on the Sabbath

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Promise of the Week

"Christ will give you light." (Eph 5:14b)

F-o-M-O

Today's social media lingo is so hard to keep up with. I still remember the first time a friend used LoL in an email to me many years ago, and I did not know what it meant... Only to later find out what it was which then actually made me laugh out loud.

The other day, a program on the radio had a segment on acronyms that a lot of people now use, and what the letters stood for. Among the many they said, were: F-Y-I (which everybody should know by now, is *for your information*), I-M-H-O (*in my humble opinion*), G-o-A-T (*greatest of all time*), P-o-t-US (*President of the United States*) and F-o-M-O. Among them, that last one stood out and made me think... *fear-of-missing-out*.

According to Wikipedia, "FoMO is a pervasive apprehension that others might be having rewarding experiences from which one is absent... In other words, FoMO perpetuates the fear of having made the wrong decision on how to spend time, as 'you can imagine how things could be different.'"

I was thinking of FoMO when I read the Gospel acclamation for Friday, March 31, from Matthew:

"One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." (Mt 4:4b)

On one level, when one has bread, one can still go through life and live... until one dies. But when life is sustained, not just by bread alone, but also with the Word of God, then it is lived on an infinitely higher level; and it is lived to the full!

For many of us, that is what we've found in BLD. When I compare myself, before and after BLD, I could clearly see how that BLD choice has taken on a trajectory that's definitely more joyful, happy and fulfilling. I am sure that others share this sentiment.

But we must do more than just be content in having found Christ through our wonderful Community. Truly, we must project that joy, happiness and fulfillment in all the things we say and do, in all our relationships, even with strangers. So much so that perhaps, they might get FoMO – a fear that they might be missing out on something really good. And they are, if they do not have the Word of God. In a sense, evangelization involves this aspect too – how we should display so much joy because of the treasure we've found, that others will have FoMO and want what we're having too. →→

ANNIVERSARY LOGO... (from page 1)

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- The 25 in silver, blended into the heart of the original BLD logo proclaims our Jubilee year.

- The 3 solid dots represent the timeless promise of God - that He will be with us until the end of time. They remind us of the Trinity. And how, where there is community, then the Trinity is there.

- The Dove, with the artist's representation of an olive branch and its green color, remind us of reconciliation, new life, peace and love.

- The frame of the logo is in red and is open, allowing for the emblem, **By His Grace**, to flow out freely... Freely... for we are an open community and we share all the graces that we have received with others, and share them to the ends of the earth.

***"You called us, You called us to come
And now by Your Grace we come."***

→ **F-o-M-O** (continued)

Truly, when one lives by His Word, all of life progresses on a higher plane. Then, even the end of earthly life becomes, not an end, but the segue to even more immense joy than any one of us can ever imagine.

Back in 1998, one of the issues of the Covenant News had an article on S-o-G-I-P... the "**Symptoms of God's Inner Peace**." It wonderfully summarizes what happens to us in BLD, that we should loudly and reverently show the world.

SoGIP –

Symptoms of God's Inner Peace

Be on the lookout for symptoms of God's inner peace. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to inner peace and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of God's inner peace:

- a tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than act with fear based on past experiences
- an unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment

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Resurrection of Life or Condemnation?

There is a saying in science that says something like:

**MATTER CAN BE NEITHER
CREATED OR DESTROYED.**



It is sometimes referred to as the Law of Matter and it further stipulates that matter can only be transformed.

Remember that from your high school chemistry class? Essentially this says that at matter's most basic level, molecules and atoms will always be there, but they can come together differently, so that, say, depending on the temperature, there can be transformations from solid-to-liquid-to-gas (and vice versa), of essentially the same thing.

After reading the Gospel from John 5:17-30, for Wednesday, March 29, this principle that I heard in the classroom back in the 1970's suddenly came to mind. In that reading, Jesus answered the Jews, citing that He could not do anything on His own, but does so because of the Father. He went on to say, ***"the hour is coming and is now here, when those who hear will live."***

"Those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation." (Jn 5:29)

As people live their lives in the world today, it is so easy to fall into the trap of thinking only of today. This is even more so in the instant gratification mindset that is so prevalent, that makes one forgo doing good for others. As is human nature, we seem to like the focus to be on ourselves.

But what we have now is not permanent.

Thing is, just like matter which cannot be created nor destroyed, the reality is that some form of ourselves will forever be... and in the end, there will be a transformation. What we get transformed into is what's uncertain, other than this clue from Christ: it will be either a resurrection from death to life, or a resurrection of condemnation.

Like most everyone, I too do not like to think of what's to happen then. But as believers, we hope in Christ and that there is a better place. For many others, the worst they fear is that things just end... no more existence. But the lesson from science, I think, will apply – with the only question being which resurrection that Christ described will we be transformed into. And the time for us to do something about it, is really now.

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

proves to be a threat to those wedded to narrow, unchanging human interpretations of God's ways. The dramatic confrontation between sight and blindness, light and darkness intensifies. Ironically while the authorities, who are sure they see, grow blinder, our blind friend sees more clearly and makes this bold assertion:

"He is a prophet." (Jn 9:17)

The interrogators bring in the parents and another kind of blindness becomes apparent, the blindness of fear. In that world, religious, social, and cultural identities were all bound up together. The parents faced the loss of all of this if they acknowledged Jesus. And so they just say, ***"He is of age – question him."*** The son, although born blind, now sees, but his parents, who were born with sight, choose blindness! To speak the truth boldly requires courage!

"We know that this man is a sinner... We are disciples of Moses," the authorities claim. Efforts to call on tradition to support their view do not work here. The blindness that was demonstrated might have been excusable if Jesus had not come and said,

"I am the light of the world." (Jn 9:5)

Our healed friend does not need a theological debate to defend his position. God's healing, compassionate action is obvious. ***"Now I see,"*** he declares. As his sight grows clearer, his audaciousness keeps pace: ***"I told you already and you did not listen... Do you also want to become his disciples?"*** Exasperated with the closed-mindedness of the authorities' know-it-all attitude, he moves to describe and denounce their hypocrisy. The uneducated person is now the one lecturing the theologically educated religious leaders. He dares to identify God's ways that do not conform to human ways. In response, they threw him out.

Jesus returns and asks: ***"Do you believe in the Son of Man?"*** Led by Jesus, the healed man is ready to take the radical step of commitment:



"I do believe, Lord." (Jn 9:38)

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COUNSELS

(from page 3)

Our healed friend joins a community of witnesses who, in the power of the Spirit, announce God's truth that counters the forces of darkness and blindness.

This story does not end with warm hugs or cozy feelings. It concludes with an uncomfortable challenge as we meet a small group of Pharisees who were with Him, those who had chosen Jesus but who were not courageous enough to step into the full light. Trying to sound committed and seeking affirmation, they ask: *"Surely we who are with you are not blind, are we?"*

Jesus says: *"If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains."*

Because we see, even partially, we are accountable. We can't have our cake and eat it too; we can't avoid the demands of the life of discipleship and claim to be with Jesus. To *be with Him* requires that we humbly step into the light, see God's plan, and witness to God's truth, no matter the cost.

Father, You enlighten all who come into the world. Fill our hearts with the light of Your Gospel, so that our thoughts may please You, and our love be sincere. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Directions:

1. Seek God's real presence in the Holy Eucharist.
2. Practice the Christian values of faith, hope and love in your everyday life.

SoGIP...

(from page 2)

- a loss of interest in judging other people
- a loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others
- a loss of interest in conflict
- a loss of ability to worry (note that this is a serious symptom)
- frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation
- contented feelings of connection with others and with nature
- frequent attacks of smiling

WARNING!! If you have some or all of the above symptoms of God's inner peace, please be advised that your condition of inner peace may be so far advanced as to not be curable, and may then actually be highly contagious!

LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings	\$ 2,806	\$ 27,942
Mission Collections	\$ 172	\$ 2,232

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

Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BLD-Newark
1992-2017



LSS # 47

March 31 - April 2, 2017

Contacts: Manny & Nette Manguiat - elxman@hotmail.com,
Earl & Flo Manguiat - bldnewarklsa@gmail.com



BLD-Newark
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You are invited to a
BLD 25th Anniversary Event

Feel The Father's Love Retreat
(Parable of the Prodigal Son)
with Msgr. Paul Schetelick

Sat., April 22, 2017 11:30am-6:30pm
Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium

Registration & Lunch start promptly at 11:30am & end at 12:30pm

Seats are limited. Please RSVP early to: teaching@bldnewark.com.

Marriage Encounter # 48

May 19-21, 2017

Hotel Executive Suites
30 Minue Street, Carteret, NJ
Contact email: MLA@bldnewark.com

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Mar 31	Pastoral
		Apr 7	Evangelization
		Apr 21	Formation
		Apr 28	Management