



Bukás Loób sa Diyós

(Open in Spirit to God)

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY
DISTRICT OF NEWARK

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NEWS

Cardinal Tagle at Lambeth Conference: 'Let us dream together'

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle speaks at the Lambeth Conference taking place at the University of Kent from 26 July to 8 August and offers his contribution to the theme with a talk on 'The Church of 1 Peter for the Coming Decade.'

By Vatican News staff writer

On Saturday, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle gave an address at the Lambeth Conference underway at the University of Kent until August 8.

Speaking at the invitation of the meeting convened by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, Cardinal Tagle offered his own reflections on the theme of the meeting, 'God's Church for God's World - walking, listening and witnessing together', with a talk entitled, "The Church of 1 Peter for the Decade Ahead."

The Lambeth Conference takes place every ten years and marks a key moment for discussions about the Church, world affairs, and the global mission of the Anglican Communion for the decade ahead. Speakers are invited from around the world. The global meeting has taken place every decade since 1867, and consists of one of the four Instruments of Unity in the Anglican Communion. This year's meeting marks the 15th Lambeth Conference.

Common spiritual home

Cardinal Tagle began by imagining if the Letter of First Peter were addressed to us, the Church, and world we know today. The Letter encourages Christians to remain faithful in beliefs and conduct, and being of one mind, loving, compassionate and humble, despite the risk of persecution and suffering.

Cardinal Tagle said he dreams of this reality, this home for the Church today, united as a human family and together with creation, encouraging everyone to dream together to allow the Lord to create this home for the Church.

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COUNSELS

The Lord's Prayer

THEME: We are empowered to build God's Kingdom as we honor the Father and persistently pray for all our needs.

WORD: Gen 18:20-32; Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8; Col 2:12-14; Lk 11:1-13

ORDER: We are empowered to build God's Kingdom as we honor the Father and persistently pray for all our needs.

COMMENTARY:

This past Saturday, we visited the Sisters of Charity in Newark where the BLD community helps with their soup kitchen for the poor and the needy of the neighborhood on the third Saturday of every month. Just before we started to hand out the bags of food to the people gathered at the gate, a Sister led those gathered in prayer. She started the prayers with the prayer the Lord Himself taught us, the Our Father.

In the gospel of Luke chapter 11 verse 1, one of the Lord's disciples asked Jesus "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." Then the Lord taught them, and us, the Our Father.

What is so significant about the Our Father prayer? In today's computer environment, it is tantamount to Jesus sharing His own personal password with us. The Our Father is that special password that allows us a direct connection with God the Father. It is a password because it is exact and specific and as Jesus said in the second verse of Luke chapter 11, "**When you pray, say...**" Jesus is giving us the exact and precise words to say when we pray to the Father. And the password is "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." (Lk 11:10)

Connect the Dots

This week's daily Mass readings have a thread running through them that is somewhat obscure. It reminds me of the connect-the-dots pictures I used to do as a kid. You can't see what the picture is until you begin to connect the dots.

- The first dot came from the Old Testament reading on Monday, in which the prophet Micah told the people that God didn't want sacrifices and burnt offerings. He just wanted them to, "***do justice... and to walk humbly with your God***" (Micah 6:8).
- Dot #2 was found in Tuesday's reading from St. Matthew's gospel, when Jesus says, "***For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother***" (Matthew 12:50).
- Then on Wednesday, we heard the beginning of the Book of Jeremiah, in which God calls the young man to be a prophet. "***Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.***" (Jeremiah 1:5) When Jeremiah protested, God replied, "***Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you***" (Jeremiah 1:7). That was the third dot.
- The fourth dot was found at the end of Wednesday's gospel reading, when Jesus finishes the Parable of the Sower with this sentence, "***Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty***" (Matthew 13:8).
- Another dot comes from the closing words of Thursday's gospel. In Matthew 13:17 Jesus says to His disciples, "***Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.***"

Do you see the picture yet? No? That's because I haven't given you the last dots, a little cluster that ties all the others together and completes the picture. Those dots were added on Tuesday when our pastor, in his homily, asked us what Jesus meant when He said, "***For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.***" What does it mean to do the Will of God? Several members of the congregation offered great answers: to love God and neighbor, to obey the Ten Commandments. Then Father told us how he sees it. Doing the Will of the Father has three parts, three more dots.

- First, follow the teachings of Jesus. Micah's call to justice reflects the legal thinking of the Old Testament, whereas Jesus teaches us that it's all about learning to love one another.
- Secondly, do good. The seed that fell on rich soil produced good fruit, and lots of it. And that's what God wants us to do.
- The third thing God asks is that we share our faith with others, and that we express it in our actions as well as in our words. Like God told Jeremiah, we must go where we are sent and speak what we have been told. Jesus said that many people "long to hear what you hear." Faith is a gift that is meant to be shared.

I hope the picture is getting clearer.

- There is one last dot, from the Communion Antiphon for Friday which comes from 1Corinthians 14-15. "For the love of Christ urges us on... so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them." That's what it means to do the Will of God.

St. Paul connected all the dots in his letter to the Church in Colossae:

"...we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God." Colossians 1:9b-10

COUNSELS *(from page 1)*

Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test.” Exact words as taught by Jesus to you and me in Luke 11 verse 2 to 4.

By praying the Our Father, it connects us, gives us a direct line, allows us to chat or have face time or a Zoom meeting directly with the Father. The Our Father covers the two greatest commandments from Mathew 22:37-40, ***“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.”***

But how did Jesus get to know this prayer? How did He know that these exact words are the words that the Father would like to hear from us? Jesus tells us in John 14:6, ***“I am the way, and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me.”*** Again, Jesus has the password, the Our Father, and he has shared it with us.

But why did Jesus share this special prayer with us? “For God so loved the world that he gave us His only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” Such is God’s love. God gave us His only Son. His Son shares with us His password to His Father so you and I will be saved.

Prayer requires a relationship between us and the Father. This is shown in the first reading from Genesis 18:20-32, where we find Abraham talking to the Lord, actually he was pleading, almost like bargaining for leniency, trying to lower the standard, on behalf of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. By praying the Our Father, we too can have this type of conversation with the Father.

But we also must be persistent. Persistent in prayers. Jesus tells us the story of the persistent friend knocking on the door of his friend at midnight to borrow some bread. ***“I tell you, if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence. And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be*** ➔➔

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

HOW ARE YOU HELPING BUILD GOD’S KINGDOM?

Contact Word Ministry (Word@BLDNewark.com)

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

2000 HAIL MARY

Sponsored by: Solo Parents Ministry
Saturday, August 13, Starts 8:00 am
Library, Room 208, Divine Mercy Parish

Community Day Picnic
August 20, 2022 (Saturday)
Grove 3, Johnson Park, Piscataway, NJ

CSL Jojo Jalandoni Visit to BLD Newark
September 2 & 3, 2022 (Friday & Saturday)
Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway, NJ 07065

BLD 30th Anniversary Dinner Dance
September 10, 2022, Saturday
St. Demetrius, Carteret, NJ

opened.” (Luke 11:8-10).

The Lord has shared this very special password that will connect us directly to the Father. Let us use it as often as we can. Consistently and persistently. Both in our personal prayers and in our community prayers.

Lord Jesus, I pray the prayer that you taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Direction:

- Persevere in prayer

'Let us dream together' *(from page 1)*

He observed that the Letter of First Peter is addressed to Christians in the diaspora who were made to feel like strangers or exiles.

He asked if we can still feel that reality today as we move towards a future homeland, especially as we can be so set in our ways of being and doing, whereas we are called to be a Church that goes forth and reaches out to others, a Church that is a spiritual home with peoples of diverse backgrounds and cultures through its encounters.

Welcoming the strangers in our midst

This calling brings to mind the displaced peoples of today, Cardinal Tagle continued, the forced migrants, refugees, victims of war, human trafficking and forced labour.


They are the new strangers in our midst, often marginalized are scapegoated for today's problems, he observed. The Letter of First Peter asks all of us, especially as members of the Church, how we are treating these millions of "homeless" people and if we are showing the compassion and hospitality that is part of the Christian vocation.

Cardinal Tagle lamented that even within the Church we have allowed ethnic and cultural divisions to ruin our spiritual home, making the dream of a common human family ever more elusive for future generations due to our neglect and succumbing to violence and war.

Populism has also played in role in this reality, he admitted, as it actually shows disregard for people by deepening polarisation in already divided societies, by categorising entire peoples, groups and societies, especially on social media. He stressed that we must not let culture or religion be used for partisan interests that undermine efforts at fostering positive relationships and creating a human family marked by respect and fraternity.

Humility in walking together

The invitation to walk and live together requires humility, Cardinal Tagle pointed out, and our diversity comes from our culture of origin and not only individual freedom and choices.

Therefore, Church pastoral leadership needs to better develop its own "cultural intelligence," by first reflecting upon our own backgrounds and then by putting ourselves in the shoes of others who express their humanity based on their own cultural 

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Last Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings	\$1,460.83	\$45,400.17
ABP lagdameo	\$290.00	\$290.00
Ukraine	\$0.00	\$1661.00
Mission	\$0.00	\$40.00

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backgrounds.

Doing so, he explained, can help us do away with any traces of cultural superiority and prejudice, when uncovered and rightly admitted. We can learn from each other greatly by humbly observing one another and learning to appreciate other experiences and cultures that make us who we are.

Reading the Gospels, we have many accounts of how much Jesus suffered for his openness and compassion for outsiders, strangers, and public sinners, Cardinal Tagle added, leading to Jesus' condemnation and crucifixion.

Our common home

In conclusion, Cardinal Tagle recounted some of his own experiences that remind him of the Letter of First Peter, saying they brought to life a dream for the future here in the present.

In one anecdote, he recalled visiting a refugee camp in Greece where he met so many people who risked their lives by fleeing suffering back home. The camp brought together people of every culture, religion, economic, and social background imaginable, but united by their journey from desperation to safety and seeking a brighter future for their children.

He spoke with a town governmental official while there and discovered she was not there in any official capacity, but instead donating her time in the camp. She told him: "My ancestors were refugees too. I have refugee DNA. These refugees are my brothers and sisters."

That struck him profoundly and marked a teaching moment of how to think and walk humbly with others and allow God through us to build a common home, marked by compassion and fraternity.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Please note a copy of this Covenant News is available at www.bldnewark.com