



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

COUNSELS

Sixth Anniversary of the Pontificate: The Church Is Not Made Up of Super-Heroes or Super-Popes

Editorial by Andrea Torielli

• March 13, 2019 15:34 • Anne Kurian • Francis (Source: Zenit.org)

“The Church is not made up of super-heroes (or super-Popes), and she doesn’t advance by virtue of her human resources or her strategies,” stresses Andrea Torielli: “the Evil One is present in the world . . . and to be saved we are in need of help from on High.”

On the eve of the 6th anniversary of the Argentine Pope’s election (March 13, 2013), the Editorial Director of the Dicastery for Communication signed an article inviting a look at “the essential.”

This anniversary, he notes, “sees Pope Francis engaged in a year of dense, important international trips, marked at the beginning and the end by two “synodal” events: the meeting of the Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences of the whole world for the Protection of Minors (February 2109) and the special Synod on Amazonia (October 2019).

Andrea Torielli recalls the “important” impact of the Apostolic Journey to the United Arab Emirates (February 3-5, 2019) and the signing of the Joint Declaration of the Pope and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar: “A document that, we hope, will have consequences in the area of religious freedom.” Torielli adds that “the theme of ecumenism will be dominant in the forthcoming trips



Happy 6th Anniversary of Your Election as Pontiff, Pope Francis!

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The Transfiguration - Jesus in All His Glory

THEME: We respond to God’s unconditional love when we allow Him to transform our lives.

WORD : Gn 15:5-12,17-18 ~ Ps 27:1,7-8,8-9,13-14
Phil 3:17-4:1 ~ Lk 9:28b-36

ORDER: **“This is my chosen Son; listen to him.”**
(Lk 9:35)

REFLECTION:

The story of the Transfiguration brings glimpses of the fullness and greatness of God into my heart. However, before I go deeply into the subject, let me state some realities about our world. Sometimes, without us knowing it, or being aware of it, we can get locked into its busy-ness. So, we might tend to forget about, and lose sight of, the fact that we are just a part of something much bigger than ourselves. Often, it is difficult to profess our faith, especially in a culture that is not inclined to hear or accept the message of Christianity, let alone the truths of our Catholic faith. But because we believe that Jesus is a True Gift to us, and that He uplifts and dignifies our humanity, we should want to share His message even in the most challenging of situations.

In Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus took the apostles Peter, James and John away from their usual daily lives, and invited them to the mountain to pray. While they were there, something wonderful happened. First, Moses and Elijah appeared; and then, Jesus was transfigured. He was changed, His face shined brightly and His clothes became dazzling with light.



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Promise of the Week

“He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body...” – Phil 3:21

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to Bulgaria and Rumania (May 2019), while the desired trip to Japan, not yet official, can help to remember the devastation caused by nuclear arms, as a warning for humanity's present and future."

Protect the Church from the Devil

Tornielli also suggests "a glance at the year barely begun," with the "scandals of abuses and internal divisions." In this connection, he mentions former Nuncio Carlo Maria Vigano who "publicly called for the Pope's resignation over the handling of the McCarrick case." "In the face of these situations, the Bishop of Rome asked all the faithful worldwide to pray the Rosary every day, throughout the month of October 2018, to (. . .) and 'the Holy Mother of God and Saint Michael the Archangel to protect the Church from the devil, who always seeks to separate us from God and to divide us,'" he says.

For the Editorial Director, "such a detailed request has no precedent in the recent history of the Church." "By his words and his appeal to the People of God to pray to keep the Church united, Francis makes understood the gravity of the situation and, at the same time, expresses the Christian awareness that there are no human remedies able to ensure an outcome."

Once again, he stresses, "the Pope" called attention "to the essential: the Church isn't made up of superheroes (or of super-Popes) and she doesn't advance in virtue of her human resources or strategies. She knows that the Evil One is present in the world, that original sin exists, and that for us to be saved we need help from on High."

To repeat it, he assures, "doesn't mean to diminish the personal responsibilities of individuals or those of the institution, but to put them in their real context." He also points out that "it would be an error 'to unload' faults on those who are there before us, and to present oneself as 'pure.'"

"Today also the Church must ask to be freed from evil. A given of reality that the Pope, in continuity with his Predecessors, has recalled constantly," concludes Andrea Tornielli.



Pope Francis @Pontifex · 7 Mar

At the beginning of Lent, it would do us good to ask for the grace to preserve the memory of all that the Lord has done in our lives, of how He has loved us. #SantaMarta

7230 36035 Twitter

A MEDICAL MISSIONARY'S HOPE AND INSIGHTS

I just came back from the recently concluded BLD Medical Mission to the Philippines and I couldn't help but remember my enthusiasm, especially in the first few years that I'd go, when I'd see the thousands of people getting help, especially surgical patients. I am not a surgeon but I knew how those surgical procedures drastically changed their outlook in life.

Our missions have no longer been just band-aid missions because we've had tangible, palpable and permanent improvements to patients' lives and lifestyles. This was the case in those early years of BLD's Medical Mission, and it was still like that in the most recent one. I saw and felt that the worries and helplessness of our *kababayans* alleviated, with hope soaring for many of them because of the care they received. Afterwards, many would look forward to more comfortable and healthier lives; and perhaps begin work or find livelihoods to support their families.

Even after we stopped providing surgical procedures, the mission was still able to help thousands of patients, many with long-standing and severe illnesses. I've marveled at the patients' ability to walk around, seemingly, without any symptoms. Some would even have sky high blood pressures and yet only experienced mild and occasional pains at the back of their necks; others would have blood sugars that could have caused seizures in somebody else. I've thought that it must have been God's grace that made it possible for them to more fully function despite their illnesses. With the medicine provided by the Mission, we could at least push back, perhaps a little bit further, the complications that were bound to develop.

But recently, what actually gets to me are those patients, children and adults, who need complicated work-ups and much needed surgeries. I would know right then and there, that they probably only faced lifelong suffering and shortened lifespans, because the lack of resources made the procedures close to impossible for them to obtain. I'd feel a deep ache in my heart at my own helplessness and could only cry out to God, "Why does He make me see these patients when He knows that I cannot even lift a finger to really help them out?"



The good news is that there is now a form of universal healthcare in the Philippines

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Now, what exactly is the Transfiguration? The word alone seems somewhat remote and hard to define, perhaps a bit too theological. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, it was a “mysterious episode” in which Jesus, with His friends on the mountain, was transformed in appearance; it was a moment of disclosure of His divine glory (cf. CCC 554,555).

Does this Transfiguration of Jesus have any real meaning to us in our present lives? The answer is a definite yes! It allows us to experience the Second Coming of Jesus, even before it happens. It is not meant only for theologians to speculate over. We are all invited into this experience.

The reading of the Transfiguration episode comes early on in our Lenten journey, this Sunday being just the Second Sunday of Lent. The connection between Lent and the Transfiguration is that our efforts to conquer sin and grow in holiness will come into fullness in the reward that is given to those of us who reject sin, and try to live a life in the image and character of Jesus Christ. This Lenten season is an opportune time for us to take a little time out of our busy days to be transformed in His likeness, especially during Lent’s forty days and during Holy Week, and then beyond. The Transfiguration also reminds us that our lives are far more than just what we see, hear or experience in our everyday lives. It is not just a matter of getting through the day. Being transformed is about living with meaning, purpose and hope! The Transfiguration offers us a glimpse of Jesus in all His glory, and offers each and every one of us a taste of what God has promised to us in the fullness of His Kingdom.

We may never experience anything as powerful as what the apostles experienced, but nevertheless, every day, in countless and seemingly small ways, God does come into our world and into our daily lives. Every time we experience a moment of peace, love, joy, reconciliation and forgiveness, God is with us. Every time that we reach out to help another person is a moment of transfiguration, both for ourselves, and for those whom we are able to help. Every time somebody shows us that they care and that they are concerned for us, it is a moment when God Himself reaches out to us.

In our BLD Community, through the people and through the various things we do, we are able to get closer to our Lord. One could say that we were transformed when we became →→

A MEDICAL MISSIONARY’S HOPE ...

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that addresses some of the shortages in medical care for the poor. Filipinos can now avail of a health insurance called ‘Philhealth’ that would enable them to see a doctor or to seek help at public hospitals. There are also maintenance medications now available for free in many local rural health units and centers.

In the meantime it is my wish and dream that our mission finds the resources to fund those needed tests and procedures. Maybe we could even partner with a surgical team to serve in the future. Then I can leave each mission site seeing even more hope in the people that we’ve served.

Ultimately, I look forward to a time when our mission would no longer be needed because affordable medical care would be widely available. Our God has assured us of His help, and so I trust in Him, for...



→ committed or covenanted members. The Lord may not have literally shown Himself to us, but I truly believe that He gave Himself to us. And so, we no longer see the Lord partially or from a distance, but up close, face to face, and intimately. For many of us here, we have a closer relationship with Him because of the BLD Community.

I know that there are so many different ways of looking at this story in the Gospel, but one of the ways might be, that Jesus wanted each and every one of us to realize that life is a whole lot harder without Him. That is why, as we reflect on the Transfiguration of Jesus today and in the days to come, let us enter more deeply into the mystery it reveals. Let us draw encouragement and inspiration from the account and respond to the invitation of grace in our daily lives, in order to grow more fully into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Savior, so that we too may reveal His glory to a new world.

Brethren, we are being called to an ongoing transformation in Jesus Christ, and it begins right now!

Directions:

1. Spend more time in contemplative prayer.
2. Stand firm in being an imitator of Christ.

Each Morning

It's a question that I pray
Would brighten up your day.

You might already be feeling happy
Because things are already
Going your way
Yet it still will likely
As you go about your day
Add more shine and luster
To the sun's rays

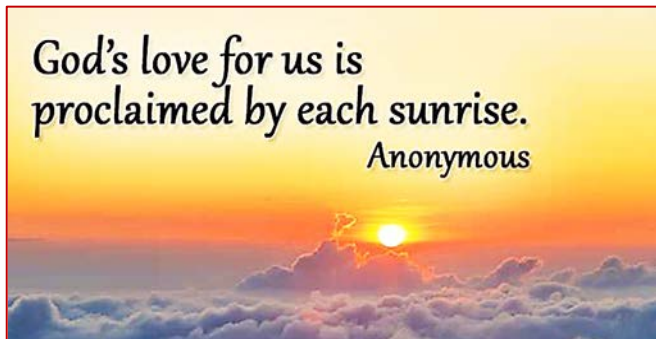
In the times when there is trouble
And your prayers seem unanswered
It will help you to remember
To keep praying and not drop the ball
For it can serve as a reminder
That your prayers will still be heard

Whatever condition that we might be in
Happy or sad
Worried or glad
In each of our days it's something
That we should really be asking
... and then be grateful after answering...

**“Who will turn the lights on
each morning?”**

No matter what happens
After all is said and done,
May we always humbly realize
That our God is still the One
Who is in charge of everything.

God's love for us is
proclaimed by each sunrise.
Anonymous



LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 990	\$ 15,756
Love Offerings	\$ 1,179	\$ 7,835
E-Giving	\$ -	\$ 1,070
Mission	\$ 2,610	\$ 9,633

Financial details are available to all members through treasury@bldnewark.com
Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Teaching Calendar

Teachings for Saturday, March 16, 1-6 pm DMP School Building

- Encounter with Jesus:
Mark/Matthew (LSS 1-50 / ME 47-50)
- Witness Development Seminar
- Shepherds' Training Part 1 (LSS 1-48)

DISCIPLES' ASSEMBLY: 1-5 PM
SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019

Life in the Spirit Seminar #51
April 5-7, 2019
Salubungan is on March 1, 2019
Contacts: Earl & Flo Manguiat

BLD NEWARK
7 Last Words of Christ
Reflections by:
Msgr. Paul Schetelick
DMP Auditorium
April 13, 2019 1 - 6 PM
Seats are limited. Email community.retreat@bldnewark.com to RSVP, or Register online at www.bldnewark.com and click on Community Retreat flyer
Registration Deadline: March 28

INSTALLATION OF REV. FR. ALEXANDER T. CRUZ AS PASTOR
SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019 - 4:00 PM; DIVINE MERCY PARISH, 232 CENTRAL AVE, RAHWAY, NJ

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Mar 22	Evangelization
		Mar 29	Formation
		Apr 5	Management
		Apr 12	Mission

Please note that a pdf of this Covenant News is also available online at BLDNEWARK.com