



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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## NEWS

### Pope talks about love in action.

JUBILEE AUDIENCE: On Carrying Out Love

- 'When one forgets oneself and thinks of others, this is love!'

MARCH 14, 2016 ZENIT STAFF JUBILEE AUDIENCE, PAPAL TEXTS

*Below is a ZENIT translation of Pope Francis' address during his 3rd Jubilee Audience held Saturday morning in St. Peter's Square. The Jubilee Audiences are planned to be held on Saturdays, once a month, during the Holy Year:*

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

We are approaching the feast of Easter, central mystery of our faith. As we heard, John's Gospel recounts that before dying and resurrecting for us, Jesus carried out a gesture that was engraved in the memory of the disciples: the washing of the feet, an unexpected and overwhelming gesture, to the point that Peter refused to accept it. I would like to reflect on Jesus' last words: "Do you know what I have done to you? [...] If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet" (13:12.14). Thus Jesus pointed out service to His disciples as the way to follow, to live faith in Him and to give witness of His love. Jesus applied to Himself the image of the "Servant of God" used by the prophet Isaiah. He, who is the Lord, makes Himself servant!

By washing the feet of the Apostles, Jesus wanted to reveal to us God's way of acting in our relations, and to give an example of his "new commandment" (John 13:34) to love one another as He has loved us, namely, by giving His life for us. John himself writes this in his First Letter: "By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren [...] Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth" (3:16.18).

Love, therefore, is the concrete service we render one another. Love not in words but in deeds and service, a humble service, carried out in silence and hiddenness, as Jesus Himself said: "do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing" (Matthew 6:3).

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## COUNSELS

### THE ROAD TO CALVARY – THE PASSION OF CHRIST

THEME: We live a life of holiness when we willingly share in the suffering of Christ.

WORD: Is 50:4-7 ~ Ps 22:8-9,17-18,19-20,23-24

Phil 2:6-11 ~ Lk 22:14 - 23:56

ORDER: **"This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me."** (Lk 22:19)

REFLECTION:

The reading of the account of the passion of our Lord is a great blessing for us because it takes us back to the time when our Lord suffered, to redeem us from our sins.

Holy Week is a time the Church sets aside each year so that we may experience in the liturgy the events of our salvation, so as to renew our faith, to strengthen our spiritual life and to give strength to our faith. As we make our faith journey, we recognize that it is through the eyes of faith that we see so much more of what God intends for us.

The Passion of Jesus teaches us that in living the Christian life we must be able to accept suffering for the love of God. This is a hard lesson for us because our nature prefers pleasure and the easy way. But Jesus commands us to carry our cross, because suffering contains a great treasure.

Christ holds up the cross for us with the understanding that if we embrace it with love, as He did, the cross is redemptive, life-giving, and transforming. Every life comes with a cross. There's no way to avoid the cross that each of us must carry. Some crosses are more visible than others. Yet no one can run away from the ups and downs of the human condition. Sometimes the cross comes in the form of aging, physical suffering, diseases, or disability.

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### Promise of the Week

**"I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father has conferred one on me, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom"** (Lk 22:29-30)

## DIVINE MERCY CHURCH, RAHWAY NJ, "THE HOLY DOOR"

The Jubilee Year of Mercy is an invitation - an invitation to Love, Kindness, Forgiveness and unbounded Generosity. Pope Francis is offering us the opportunity to encounter the incredible God Who is Mercy Himself. For the first time in history, individual Dioceses around the world are encouraged to open the Holy Door of Mercy either in the Cathedral or in churches of special importance for pilgrimages. A *Holy Door* refers to an entrance portal located within the Papal Major basilicas in Rome. They are ceremonially opened during Jubilee years designated by the Pope so that pilgrims who piously enter through these doors may gain the plenary indulgences attached to the Jubilee year celebrations.

The 2016 Jubilee was first announced by Pope Francis on March 13, 2015. It was declared in the Pope's April, 2015 Papal Bull of Indiction, *Misericordiae Vultus* (Latin: "The Face of Mercy"). The Jubilee of Mercy that Pope Francis has called, from December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016, is an Extraordinary Jubilee. The term "Extraordinary Jubilee" sets it apart from the ordinary cycle of jubilees, or holy years, which are called every 25 years in the Catholic Church. The Extraordinary Holy Year is centered on the Mercy of God, "***Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful***" (Lk 6:36).

The *Jubilee logo* represents Jesus, the Good Shepherd, taking upon His shoulders the lost sheep with the motto "*Merciful Like the Father*" Luke, 6:36 serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness. The logo, the work of Jesuit Father Marko I. Rupnik, was designed to express the profound way in which the Good Shepherd touches the flesh of humanity and does so with a love that has the power to change lives. The right eye of the shepherd merges with the left eye of the sheep to signify the profound intimacy of the two. Because of the incarnation, Christ sees with the eyes of man, and man with the eye of Christ: and together they contemplate the love of the Father.

A Jubilee year is a celebration that is observed under certain conditions, when a special indulgence is granted to members of the faith by the Pope, and Confessors are given special faculties, including the lifting of censures. It resembles the Old Testament Jubilee, held every 50 years, when the Hebrews celebrated a year of perfect rest, slaves were released from bondage and hereditary

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## GO AND SIN NO MORE – THE MERCY OF GOD



***"Go and sin no more,"*** Jesus said to the woman caught in adultery (Jn 8:1-11). Have you committed adultery? I have, in my heart. For Jesus said, ***"I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart"*** (Mt 5:28). How many of us, if we are honest, can say that we have never

looked lustfully at another person and thereby committed adultery in our heart? For the world is full of sensuality and ***"enticement for the eyes"*** (1 Jn 2:16). Adultery also symbolizes sin and unfaithfulness to God in general in the Old Testament (for e.g. Ez 16:32). We ought therefore to see ourselves in the place of that adulterous woman and hear Jesus say to us, ***"go and sin no more."***

This is the true representation of God's mercy. God's mercy does not say, "Oh, you have sinned, but it's OK. It's all fine." No! God's mercy says, "I do not condemn YOU (referring to the person), but now you go and sin no more" (Jn 8:11). God, in His mercy, does not condemn the person, but God does condemn sin (Rom 8:3). While we live, God is patient with us, ***"not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance"*** (2 Pt 3:9). God does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather He wants them to turn from their ways and live (Ez 18:23). This kindness of God towards us is meant to lead us to repentance (Rom 2:4).

I have heard it being said that "God loves us the way we are, but He loves us too much to leave us the way we are," that is, in sin. God is a God of 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th... nth chances. Each time we fall into sin, His mercy is available to us and He says to us ***"Go, and sin no more."*** The story of the adulterous woman doesn't tell us whether she repented of her sin or went forth and still continued to sin. She had to make a choice. Perhaps God intended to keep the story incomplete, so that we could see ourselves in place of that adulterous woman and realize that the choice is ours to make, whether we continue to sin and thereby become slaves of sin (Jn 8:34), which leads to death; or we yield ourselves as slaves to obedience which leads to righteousness (Rom 6:16).

***"Go and sin no more,"*** says Jesus. What choice have you made today?

## SAINT PATRICK



Saint Patrick is Ireland's patron saint who spread Christianity throughout the country as a missionary during the 5<sup>th</sup> century. He was born in Britain in the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D. His family had a high social standing in the society but he didn't have much of an education when he was young. When Patrick was 16, he was captured by Irish pirates

who brought him to Ireland and sold him into slavery in Dalriada. During his 6 years of captivity, Patrick's faith grew and he became devoted to Christianity through constant prayer. He thought that his enslavement was God's test of his faith.

In the year 408 A.D., Patrick had a dream where he escaped slavery, in which a voice promised him that he would find his way home to Britain. Patrick then wanted his dream to come true, so he convinced some sailors to let him board their ship. After three days of sailing, he and the crew abandoned the vessel in France and wandered, lost, for 28 days, covering 200 miles of territory in the process, with Patrick ultimately becoming reunited with his family. Patrick then went to Auxerre, France where he studied and entered the priesthood under the guidance of the missionary St. Germanus.

He wanted to convert Ireland to Christianity because at the time, people there were pagans. Then in 431, Pope St. Celestine made St. Patrick Bishop of the Irish, and sent him to Ireland to spread the Good News. Upon his arrival in Ireland, Patrick managed to spread Christian teachings far and wide, along with other missionaries, through preaching, writing and performing countless baptisms. Throughout his missionary work, Patrick supported church officials, created councils, founded monasteries and organized Ireland into dioceses.

Saint Patrick died in the year 461 A.D. in Saul, Ireland. Though he was never formally canonized by a pope, Patrick is on the list of saints and was declared a Saint in Heaven by many Catholic churches.

Main source: <http://www.biography.com/people/st-patrick-9434729>



## COUNSELS (from page 1)

It may be unnatural attachments to material things or sexual desires. Other times it is a betrayal of a friendship or an abuse of a relationship. Our cross might simply be the struggle to live out the wondrous yet demanding promise to love, honor and support one another in our marriages. Whatever the cross Jesus shows us, we must take it up. We must carry it. We must pick up our cross and walk with Him up to Calvary.

Let us learn how to accept our suffering and carry it without giving up in defeat. Let us keep getting back up when we fall. The sacrament of reconciliation is always available to us. Let us accept suffering and humbly endure it with a sincere and faithful heart. Let us focus on Jesus who carried His cross through Jerusalem. It is enough for Jesus to see us doing it for the love of God the Father. Then, every wound and every sting, every disease and every suffering will be healed by the precious blood of Jesus.

The blood of Christ is like an ocean of mercy which has the power to cleanse and cure the suffering of all mankind. His blood brings us into fellowship with God. According to Ephesians 2:13, ***"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have become near by the blood of Christ."*** Without the atonement and the blood of Christ, man is a long way from God. His blood cleanses us. Not only does it remove the punishment of sin, it removes the pollution and stain of sin. It doesn't matter what sin we've committed. ***"But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of his Son Jesus cleanses us from all sin."*** (1 Jn 1:7)

His blood has power over the devil. It's the blood that Satan fears. Revelation 12:11 says, ***"They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; love for life did not deter them from death."*** The devil doesn't want us to drink of the blood of the Lamb nor eat the flesh of the Crucified.

That is why our participation in the Mass, and our frequent reception of Holy Communion, bring us the grace that Christ merited through His most painful sacrifice on the Cross. We also obey His command when He said ***"This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me"*** (Lk 22:19b). Frequent reception of the Eucharist takes us to a life of holiness.

Jesus embraced the cross, and by His great love He transformed it into an instrument of God's grace, an instrument of God's power, and an instrument of the

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**NEWS** (from page 1)

This implies making available the gifts that the Holy Spirit has lavished on us, so that the community can grow (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11). In addition, it is expressed in the sharing of material goods, so that no one is in need. This sharing and dedication to those in need is a style of life that God also suggests to many non-Christians, as the way of genuine humanity.

Lastly, let us not forget that by washing the feet of the disciples and asking them to do likewise, Jesus has also invited us to confess to one another our faults and to pray for one another to be able to forgive one another from our heart. In this connection, let us recall the words of the holy Bishop Augustine when he wrote: "The Christian must not disdain to do what Christ did. Because when the body bends down to the brother's feet, the heart is also enkindled, or if the sentiment of humility was already there, it is nourished [...] Let us forgive one another for our wrongs and let us pray for one another for our faults and thus in some way we will wash one another's feet" (In Jon 58:4-5). Love, charity, is service, to help others, to serve others. Last week I received a letter from a person who thanked me for the Year of Mercy. She asked me to pray for her so that she could be closer to the Lord. This person's life is to take care of her mother and brother: her elderly mother is bedridden, lucid but unable to move and her brother is disabled, in a wheelchair. This person's life is to serve, to help. And this is love! When one forgets oneself and thinks of others, this is love! And, with the washing of the feet the Lord taught us to be servants, more than that: servants, as He was a servant for us, for each one of us.

Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, to be merciful as the Father <is merciful> means to follow Jesus on the way of service. Thank you.

**DIVINE MERCY CHURCH** (from page 2)

property restored. That people would be bound to restore the land, personal and economic freedom and to totally be dependent on God. It was called Jubilee because it started with the blowing of the "yobhel" or rams horn (Lev 25).

*Indulgence* is defined in the *Code of Canon Law* (can. 992) and CCC (1471): "An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven." The Church prescribes certain conditions and works for gaining an indulgence, which can be acquired only once a day.

In order to gain the Plenary Jubilee Indulgence, for oneself or a soul, the faithful must personally visit a designated church (Holy Door), must have the interior disposition of *complete detachment from sin, even venial sin*; aside from being in the state of grace, must also perform one of the following deeds:

- 1.) Confession
- 2.) Participation in the Holy Mass and reception of Holy Communion
- 3.) Recitation of Prayers for the intentions of the Pope
- 4.) Fulfillment of Corporal Works (feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the prisoners, bury the dead and give alms to the poor.)
- 5.) Fulfillment of Spiritual works of Mercy (counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonishing the sinner, comfort the sorrowful, forgiving injuries, bearing wrongs patiently and praying for the living and the dead.)

Jubilee is a time of conversion and should not be taken for granted since it could be our last chance of repentance. **It is a year of freedom from the slavery of sin, and of starting the new life of Grace.**

Reference sources: usccb.org and www.im.va

**LORD'S PROVISION**  
**PREVIOUS WEEK'S**

Collections	Prior Week	YTD
Tithe & Love Offering	\$ 3,440	\$ 27,308
Mission Collections	\$ 59	\$ 2,662

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)

Thank you for your continued support!

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**LSS 46**

Invocation Mass: April 8

LSS 46: April 9-10

Contact: Lito/Gigi Vibar~ litogigi@vibar.com

**Marriage Encounter # 47**

June 17-19, 2016 Hotel Executive Suites  
30 Minue St, Carteret, NJ 07008

Contact: Efen.Cruz@bldnewark.com

**FAMILY ENCOUNTER 23**

When: July 15, 16, 17, 2016

Where: Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA

Submit Completed Applications to:

Mat & Precy Yap (973) 769-1426

June & Edith Buhain (973) 342-3276

Butch & Malou Morales

(908) 477-5125



**Disciples' Assembly**  
**Saturday, April 23, 2016**

**TEACHING CALENDAR**

Teachings for **Saturday, March 19** - 1 to 5 pm:

- Advanced Intercession / Orientation to Spiritual Warfare (LSS 1-43)
- Encounter with Jesus:  
The Gospels of Matthew & Mark (LSS 1-45)

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**COMMUNITY TEACHING, Saturday, April 2**  
**Eucharist: Source of Mercy**

<b>Marshaling</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Apostolate</b>
		Apr 1	Management
		Apr 8	Mission
		Apr 15	Pastoral
		Apr 22	Evangelization

**COUNSELS** (from page 3)

Spirit. So we too are called to carry our personal cross, united to the cross of Christ, and in our love we transform it and make it into a blessing, just as Jesus did. We can make our crosses redemptive, transforming and life-giving. Our cross is the pathway to our salvation.

**Directions:**

1. Receive the Eucharist daily or as frequently as you can.
2. Make sacrificial offerings of time, talent and treasure through community works.
3. Do corporal works of mercy to receive plenary indulgences.

# EUCCHARIST

## SOURCE OF MERCY

“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, saying the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, “Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.” -Mathew28:26-28

### JOIN US FOR OUR BLD NEWARK COMMUNITY TEACHING

*Where: Divine Mercy Auditorium*

*When: Saturday April 2, 2016*

*Time: 1pm-5pm*

*Holy Mass-5pm Divine Mercy Church*

#### **Program**

**Teachings by:**

**Fr. Paul Lehman**

**Deacon Serge Bernatchez**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Procession through the “Holy Doors”  
at Divine Mercy Church**

**Concluding with Holy Mass at 5pm**

