

Archbishop Appeals for Tsunami Aid

Archbishop John J. Myers has appealed for voluntary donations to assist in relief services in the aftermath of the tsunami along the Asian coastline.

In support of the Archbishop's appeal, V. Rev. Robert Emery, Vicar General, wrote, "During this time of tragedy it is important to come together in prayer for our brothers and sisters throughout Asia and Africa. For them this is sadness beyond comprehension. May our prayers and sacrifices express our Christ-like care and compassion during this holy Season when the Son of God humbled Himself to come into our midst."

Donations may be made at any Catholic parish, or sent to: **Catholic Relief Services, P.O. 17220, Baltimore, MD 21298-9663**. Please mark the donation "**Tsunami Emergency**".

Blessings A Thousand-fold!

The past Christmas season holds fond memories of God's blessings to our community.

We were treated to delightful songs and dances by our various ministries after the Christmas Mass on December 17. We delighted in Mark 10's dance rendition of "Christmas Shines". The Youth, John 6 and Solo Parents portrayed the true meaning of the season with a motley mix of Christmas songs and meaningful skits. The Praise Ministry capped the evening with a heart-warming and enchanting "Everlasting Light" songs, filling us with awe and wonderment at the meaning of this "Season of Light."

On December 19 and January 2, the Praise Ministry brought warmth and ecstatic flavor to four other parish communities' celebration of the Eucharist through their stirring renditions of "Everlasting Light" songs. Our Mission apostolate brought great joy to the elderly residents of Parkway Manor Nursing Home in South Orange with their medley of Christmas carols, followed by distribution of Christmas gifts.

As we herald the New Year, may we be filled with the fine work of eliminating even the small sins while noticing the smallest details of God's blessings.

COUNSELS

The Baptism of the Lord

Word: Is. 42: 1-4, 6-7; Ps. 29: 1-4, 9-10; Acts 10: 34-38; Matt. 3:13-17

Order: Become a light for the nations to those who live in the darkness.

Reflection: Today is the official conclusion of the Christmas season. For many of us, it may be a rather sad time. Gone are the brilliant lights on homes and trees that added warmth and lightheartedness to our lives. Gone also are the pleasant aromas of special meals cooking, the greetings of love, peace and joy. It is now time to go back to ordinary life. But we do not go back the same way we were before. We now have new gifts to enjoy, new clothes to wear. We may also have made New Year resolutions that call for a change in our lives. While in some ways today is the end of the Christmas season, it is also a beginning.

Today is the celebration of the Baptism of Jesus. The Gospel account describes extraordinary occurrences. The heavens open and the Spirit of God descends like a dove; a voice from heaven identifies Jesus as "*My beloved Son.*" (Matt. 3:16-17). Most theologians agree that this episode inaugurates the public ministry of Jesus. John's baptism was a devotional ritual that symbolized repentance and a willingness to reform. John realized that Jesus had no need for this kind of a baptism, and initially he objected. But Jesus insisted that it was important to proceed "*to fulfill all righteousness.*" (Matt 3: 15). John was the one who prepared the way. Jesus made this connection with John; then under the power of the Holy Spirit, He would move into His own ministry. *(cont'd on page 4)*

God's Promise for the Week

My servant..... upon whom I have put my Spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations." (Is. 42:1)

Feasts of 2 American Saints

Jan 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Born in wealth and privilege in 1774 to a New York Episcopalian family, Elizabeth found in her parents examples of personal holiness, love and service to others. Her marriage to William Seton met adversity as the husband battled tuberculosis. They went to Italy and stayed with a Catholic family, by whose example Elizabeth was drawn to the Catholic faith. Widowed after 10 years with 5 children, she opened the first parochial school in Baltimore and founded the Sisters of Charity, the first community of religious women in the US. She died in 1821 and was canonized in 1975, the first American-born saint.

From St. Elizabeth, we learn the value of personal prayer, faithful reading of Scripture and a firm belief in the Real Presence. She also teaches us perseverance for she faced rejection from much of the society she had grown up with after converting to Catholicism. Two of her counsels follow:

"The first end I propose in our daily work is to do the will of God; secondly, to do it in the manner He wills it; and thirdly to do it because it is His will."

"In every disappointment, great or small, let your heart fly directly to your dear Savior, throwing yourself in those arms for refuge against every pain and sorrow. Jesus will never leave you or forsake you."

Jan 5 – St. John Neumann

Another study in perseverance, St. John Neumann was not ordained after completing his theological studies because of his sickness and the overabundance of priests in his native Bohemia. He walked most of the way to France, then set sail for America. His desire to be ordained and work with emigrants was answered when, arriving in 1836 in Manhattan, he was happily welcomed by the Bishop who had a mere 36 priests ministering to 200,000 Catholics in New York and New Jersey.

Born in 1811 to German and Czech parents, John was a gifted student in the sciences but was receptive to religious life. He answered his calling with both stamina and austerity. He lived in a small rural log cabin, rarely lit a fire, slept little, subsisted on bread and water, and walked miles to visit his flock. Not for him was the parsimonious pittance of time and talent to God, but a heroic offering of his whole self and entire life. He became bishop of Philadelphia, where parochial students grew from 500 to 9,000. He opened almost 100 schools and built 50 churches and started building a cathedral. He wrote two catechisms and many newspaper articles. St. John died in 1851 in Philadelphia, and in 1977 became the first American man to be canonized.

Why We Should Aid The Victims of Tsunami

(Adapted from an article by Rick Warren - Why your church should help a church in Asia immediately)

1. It teaches us to bear spiritual fruit

"Let our people too learn to devote themselves to good works to supply urgent needs, so that they may not be unproductive." Titus 3:14

2. It proves our love for God

"If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him?" 1 John 3:17

3. It is pleasing to God

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have; God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind." Hebrews 13:16

4. It is as if we have done it for Jesus

"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me!" Matthew 25:40

5. It is a powerful witness to the world

"If you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday." Isaiah 58:10

Prayer to End Abortion

Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life,
And for the lives of all my brothers and sisters.
I know there is nothing that destroys more life than abortion,
Yet I rejoice that you have conquered death by the Resurrection of Your Son.
I am ready to do my part in ending abortion.
Today I commit myself
Never to be silent,
Never to be passive,
Never to be forgetful of the unborn.
I commit myself to be active in the pro-life movement,
And never to stop defending life
Until all my brothers and sisters are protected,
And our nation once again becomes
A nation with liberty and justice
Not just for some, but for all,
Through Christ our Lord. Amen!

Call to Mission and the Needy

Mission is top priority in community as it reflects the true character of Christ among His people.

The beginning of every calendar year is always a great time to assess how we are doing in our mission work. It is a time to celebrate what God has accomplished through us in the past year. It is also a good time to learn about opportunities for engagement in the months to follow, a time to set priorities, a time to drop some while we take on something new, a perfect time to go on retreat to seek God's will and pray for the grace to abide by it.

A review of our community's financial resources would show that a great amount was allocated and used by our mission apostolate as it served as our link to the world of needs. Each year, each one in community has a chance to support a short-term missionary service. Last year, like recent years was no different. Through everyone's faithfulness to our Lord and our Lord's generous blessings, we are able to conduct several key missions.

In 2004 we had: the Annual Medical Mission, Feeding of Homeless, Parish-assisted Communities and Nursing home Visitations. We were also able to bring the joy of our Lord's first coming to the poorest of the poor, the aged and the infirm.

In the life and death of Jesus, we see the missionary character of God. Today we need to ask ourselves how much of our Lord's missionary character is in us and in community. How impressive or acceptable is the level of mission work we do in community vs. the work we devote towards satisfaction of our internal needs?

Are we excited about our faith in Jesus and what He has done in our lives that we feel compelled to review our affairs, even forego some programs in order to redirect our resources to those in deep need? Are we still keeping sight of the goal of sharing God's Good News?

To do less is to give up the very reason for our existence! Without our hearts in authentic giving and mission work, we can lose our vision of Christ, become inwardly focused, unknowingly nit-pick ourselves, as we entice our own spiritual death!

Beware of being like the rich man in Luke 12:16-21 whose land was very productive and who found reason in tearing down his barns to build larger ones, instead of sharing his harvest with others. Let us give more of ourselves and of the resources entrusted to us by the Lord to help alleviate the *(next bottom column pls.)*

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Shepherds' Training after worship. *Tonight* at the church basement. Parts 2 & 3 at Boland Hall on *Jan 14 and 21*.

January Teachings

Jan 15:

LSS 22: Encounter with Jesus Part 3: Luke, John; Introduction to Commitment
LSS 23: New Creation Realities; GIP: Praise and Worship

Jan 21:

Singles: Encounter with Jesus: John
John 6: Teaching
Mark 10: Teaching

Jan 25:

Service Ministry: Christian Servanthood
Intercessory Ministry: Teaching

ME 24 Reunion January 22, Claricia Residence 581 Turtle Hollow Drive in Freehold NJ 1pm.

Medical Mission 2005 is set for Feb 14 to 18, 2005 in Malolos, Bulacan. *Volunteers and donations?* Please contact Nong and Tricia Bustos.

Youth LSS #10 March 19-20 at Consolata in Somerset, NJ.

- Applications available at www.bldnewark.com. Deadline is January 28.
- *Salubungan* after Feb 4 healing Mass at St. Leo.

Purity is so pleasing to God that his divine Son, having resolved to become man by the operation of the Holy Spirit, wished to be born of a virgin mother.

We all know what an abundance of grace and with what extraordinary purity God was pleased to adorn the body and soul of Mary. Thus he made her a dwelling worthy of the Word who was to become flesh in her chaste womb.

So if we wish to induce the Incarnate God to be born spiritually in our souls, we must secure purity of conscience for ourselves. The right way to accomplish this is to banish from our hearts even the smallest faults and cultivate in them all the virtues.

O radiant Lily of Mary, come to dwell in my soul. However unworthy it be, never leave it again, O my good Jesus. (Bl. Mary of the Angels)

suffering of God's people, in our home country and other Southeast Asian countries.

The call to mission has always been made but God's people need our continued support and generosity!

The words attributed to God call to mind the words of the prophet Isaiah found in today's first reading. They not only identify Jesus as the chosen servant of God; they also lay bear the character of His ministry. He will bring justice, but He will accomplish this with gentleness rather than through the strength of arms. He will be particularly sensitive to the weak and vulnerable and His example will be a "light to all the nations" to follow. (Is. 42:6b)

The feast of the baptism of the Lord is an apt time for us to consider our own baptism, the time when we too became beloved children of God. The Son of God came to serve those whom society discarded. He came for all those who were broken and suffering, those who were physically and spiritually blind, those who were imprisoned. Jesus came especially for all those people who were easily pushed to the margins, beyond our view, where the circumstances of their lives will not trouble us; the homeless, the unemployed, the abandoned children, the elderly and the chronically ill.

These are all the people whom we are called to now serve. By virtue of our baptism, we do not only become children of God, but we also inherit the ministry of Jesus through that same baptism. We all share in the responsibility in declaring the Gospel to all nations without showing any partiality. It is now through us that God will recreate new societies. By doing this we also fulfill this week's theme, which is; "We pay homage to God when we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit." The Christmas season ends with us facing our challenge to be participants in the servant messiah-ship of Jesus.

Baptism is the most precious gift we have received. As with our Christmas gifts, it is now the time for us to make use of its treasures. We have been clothed in the Spirit. It is now time for us to put on these new clothes and live new lives in that Spirit.

Directions: Fulfill all righteousness by showing no partiality, fearing God and acting uprightly.

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

<u>COLLECTIONS</u>	
12/03	\$3,326
12/10	5,004
12/17	4,129
Wkly avg	3,790

<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Weekly average \$4,342	

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January 22 ME24 Reunion (see Announcements)

May the blessings of the Lord be upon you....

BIRTHDAYS

- 1/01 Sally Castaneda, LSS4
Jamie Ciocon, YCR4
- 1/02 Tricia Bustos, LSS14
Chichi Obi, LSS23
Lirra Tolentino, YE9
- 1/04 Orange Avisado, LSS15
Ted Briones, LSS8
Leni de Guzman, LSS19
Elaine Francisco, LSS22
Becky Napenas, LSS19
- 1/05 Step Ikalina, YE8
Lita Abes, LSS10
Emil Canlas, LSS7
Evelyn Laguatan, ME23
- 1/06 Mel Hernandez, LSS20
Charie Paule, LSS22
- 1/07 Romy Chan, LSS16
Nonong Punzalan, LSS10
- 1/08 May Tolentino, YE 8
- 1/09 John Alonzo, LSS19
- 1/10 Gilda Briones, LSS8
Luz Talag, LSS8
- 1/12 Trif Col, LSS9
- 1/13 Nonoy Catelo, LSS17

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1/03 Ed & Tess Eusebio, LSS4
Jean & Marie Jean-Bart, LSS22
Bong & Blandie Montemaryor, LSS5
Nick & Island Raagas, LSS6
Benny & Fanny Rodriguera, LSS19
- 1/06 Eddie & Nene Gutierrez, LSS19
Tony & Letty Luna, LSS9
Atong & Ningning Reyes, ME23

Kudos & complaints?
wordministry@bldnewark.com

Thank you for your generous help to the Aurora typhoon and flood victims!
A total of \$5,000 in cash donations from the community will be turned over to the ECSL next week for the benefit of the victims of the typhoons and floods in Aurora, Quezon. Special love offering envelopes for the Aurora typhoon and flood victims are available with the Secretariat for those who would like to help.



ECSL cites new covenanted disciples

In its bulletin last January 11, the Executive Council of Servant Leaders welcomed 30 newly covenanted members, exhorting them “to grow and multiply in good works, to spread the Word of Jesus, and to nurture the love of each other in Community.

We embrace our new brethren in covenant and pray for their growth in the Lord!

Antonio N. Abad	Buenafe B. Isidro
Therese Abad	Jaime Luardo
Alan Cam	Generosa Luardo
Maria Teresa Cam	Ver Nacion
Milmarina M. Camacho	Diana P. Nacion
Leodegario Q. Camacho	Helen T. Navarro
Romy Chan	Jose Navarro
Lenita Chan	Danilo Palomares
Melvin Dela Cruz	Grace Palomares
Lourdes I. dela Cruz	Manolo Romero
Roberto Q. Guerrero	Carmelita R. Romero
Carmelita M. Guerrero	Cecilia T. Salonga
Pablo R Ibarrola	Mario C. Salonga
Pauline B. Ibarrola	Allan R. Villanueva
Rogelio D. Isidro	Naida H. Villanueva

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Eph 3:17-19)

TSUNAMI VICTIMS

The need is great, their sorrow unrelenting. Please keep the Tsunami tragedy in mind. Let us continue to offer *prayers and financial help*. Special love offering envelopes are with Secretariat.

COUNSELS

Homage and Service

WORD: Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4,-10; Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

ORDER: Behold the Lamb of God!

REFLECTION:

Homage and service are two vital expressions of our relationship of life and love with God. That relationship, begun with our baptismal acknowledgement of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and ever-deepened by the sanctifying grace of the Holy Spirit, binds the two expressions together into a complementary unity. Both are acts of worship, the love of God made manifest in our love of our neighbor. Both are indispensable facets of the life of the faithful – *“Whoever loves God must also love his brother”*. (1 Jn 4:21)

In feudal societies, homage was given by the vassal to his lord, and service was rendered by a slave to his master. Their relationship was defined by a rigid caste, between an inferior person and a superior person. Jesus’ Cross in Calvary forever changed the meaning of homage and service. In Christendom, homage is sharing the Lord’s life; service is sharing His ministry. The underlying relationship was also forever changed. We are not a caste, but a family whose dignity is unassailably founded in Christ. Therefore, we give God homage as His sons and daughters, as brethren to the Son, and as heirs of the Holy Spirit. We serve others as God’s co-workers, who are instruments of His will and channels of His grace, through whom He will show His glory.

We are, however, in the midst of a raging spiritual warfare. The secularized world is trying to separate

(cont'd on page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

“I will make you a light to the nations.” (Is 49:6)

Corinthians 1: Power and Beauty

Through most of the Sundays of Lent, we shall be listening to what is generally regarded as the greatest of the writings of St. Paul. It was addressed to the church that he founded in AD 51 in Corinth, then the capital of Greece and a center of traffic, excitement, wealth, vice and loose living. Its profligacy was such that its infamous temple of Venus had a thousand female devotees dedicated to a life of shame.

Into this great pagan city came the apostle, “in weakness, and fear, and much trembling.” He had just suffered persecution and rejection in Athens, but acted in obedience to a vision he received. He preached in the synagogue every Sabbath and was earnest in testifying that Jesus is the Christ. He stayed there for 18 months, converting many mostly among the Gentiles. He returned to his headquarters in Ephesus, from where this Epistle was written about AD 57.

By degrees the news reached Ephesus that some of the Corinthians were drifting back into their former vices. The accounts which he received caused him great anxiety. Abuses and bickerings had grown up amongst them, and tolerance of sins of impurity, including a scandalous case of incest. Worst was the party strife that divided the community: “I am of Paul; I am of Apollo; I am of Cephas; I am of Christ.” Whereas Paul had purposely confined himself to solid catechetical instruction, many intellectual Greeks favored the eloquent Apollo; those from the East who had seen St. Peter prided themselves in belonging to the Prince of the Apostles. Still others boasted of direct communication with Christ, being endowed with spiritual gifts. This spirit of pride was pervasive, and disciples sought to put themselves above their fellows, instead of humbly thanking God for the grace of being Christians.

The Epistle brings much wisdom to the disciple and the community with the variety and importance of its doctrinal teaching. The first 6 chapters deal with faults and correction of abuses. In the remaining 10 chapters, Paul lays down various regulations for conduct and deals with questions on sanctity, marriage, church decorum, the Eucharist, *charismata*, collections for the poor, unity and authority.

The magnificence and beauty of First Corinthians, its striking similes, figures of speech and telling sentences have passed into the literatures of the world. St. Paul’s genius has produced work on which rules of rhetoric are based. Scholars of all schools are loud in its praise. Chapters 8 and 9 are considered among the most sublime passages, not only in the Bible but in all literature.

“Do not be afraid. Go on speaking, and do not be silent, for I am with you.”
(Acts 18:9-10)

Our Global Prayer Intercession

Have you noticed lately the spate of prayer requests, coming not only from our local (Newark) members but also from Manila? Some view this as an assault or oppression from the evil one on God’s people. Along with the recent calamities of great magnitude that have befallen many people, this way of looking at death, sickness and other misfortune in our community may not be unwarranted. And we turn to God in the face of such evil, seeking protection or patience and strength amid adversity.

Our mission statement states that our worship, instruction and pastoral care are meant to raise an army of disciplined prayer warriors. As part of our early formation for discipleship, we go through a period of serving in the Intercessory ministry, lifting up the petitions and needs of our community and giving thanks for all answered prayers. This attitude of prayer and full trust in the Lord, once acquired, will stay with us as we grow in love for God and our neighbor in need.

We offer our petitions at Mass and our Friday worship. We raise individual intentions or lift a “communal” supplication to God for the written slips collected in our petitions basket. We pray as a community, in our ministries, as families and individually.

The practice of “standing in the gap” keeps us humble, docile and trusting in the Lord. We find it many times in Scripture, as in Abraham’s persistence to save Sodom from God’s wrath (Gen 18); Moses’ pleading with the Lord for mercy on His people (Ex 32); and the church’s praying for the imprisoned apostle Peter (Acts 12).

With the advent of technology, the use of email has facilitated and probably enhanced the intercessory practice in our community. Within hours of an accident or sudden serious illness, a petition arrives at our mailbox. An impending surgery is prayed over before or during the procedure. We pray for brethren in need from the West Coast or in a district in the Philippines. A simple message from our ECSL Secretariat in Manila generates pleas to God for the success of a weekend Encounter or LSS.

It is easy to put aside such a message, and despite best intentions forget about it or the immediacy of the need. It is good to address the need right at the moment, closing our eyes and visualizing the petitioner if possible. An intercessory request often includes its own prayer. In saying it, we truly join in spiritual communion, united in intention and meritorious vocal prayer. Surely, the Lord is pleased with our faithfulness in prayer, especially when accompanied by some mortification. And it is no less praiseworthy when we remember to thank God for all favors granted.

Thoughts From Mother Teresa



People are often unreasonable and self-centered.

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you.

Be honest anyway.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous.

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough.

Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and your God.

It never was between you and them anyway.

- Mother Teresa -

January Teachings tomorrow

Tommorow Jan 15, St. Antoninus 1-6 pm

LSS 22 Encounter with Jesus Part 3: Luke, John; Introduction to Commitment

LSS 23 New Creation Realities; GIP: Praise and Worship

Jan 21, St. Leo after worship

Singles Encounter with Jesus: John

John 6 Teaching

Mark 10 Teaching

Jan 28, St. Leo after worship

Service Ministry: Christian Servanthood

Intercessory Ministry Teaching

Ministry Announcements

MagnifiKid (Magnificat for Kids) Feb-Mar issue now available for pickup. Contact Amy Guiao of Mark 10 at 908-405-6490.

Medical Mission still has open slots. It is set for Feb 14-18 and departs Feb 9. For airfare and related info, please contact Nong and Tricia Bustos.

Youth LSS10 March 19-20 at Consolata in Somerset, NJ.

- Applications available at www.bldnewark.com. Deadline is January 28.
- *Salubungan* after Feb 4 healing Mass at St. Leo.

LSS24 April 2-3 also at Consolata

- Open to all encountered singles, couples and solo parents.
- Contact: Tony-Linda Avisado, Vic-Dee Lim.

SOUP KITCHEN SCHEDULE. Please note your 2005 assignments – date and Mission contact person.

Feb 12	ME1, Singles	Alberto
Feb 26	ME15, 23	Anyanwu
Mar 12	ME18, 22	Bolcer
April 9	ME20, 21	Calilap, Campomanes
Apr 23	ME14, 7	Bustos
May 14	ME16, Youth	Venadas
May 28	ME2	Centeno
Jun 11	ME8, 11	De Luna
Jun 25	ME3, 13	Escobinas, Opinion
Jul 9	ME5, 19	Garcia
Jul 23	ME12, 18	Nano
Aug 13	ME17	Santos
Aug 27	ME6, 24	Zoleta
Sep 10	SPM	Alberto, Calilap
Sep 24	ME9, Youth	Bustos, Venadas
Oct 8	ME20, 22	Bolcer, Escobinas
Oct 22	ME21, 23	Campomanes, Opinion, Nano
Nov 12	ME4, 10	Garcia, De Luna
Nov 26	ME18, Singles	Anyanwu, Zoleta
Dec 10	Mission (Christmas Party For Homeless) -	Centeno, Santos
Dec 11	ME19 (Christmas Party For Children) -	Abes

Community Retreat Family Healing and Deliverance with Father John Hampsch. *Reserve the date!* April 30 Saturday 9am-7pm at St. Antoninus church. All members, from Youth to Golden Years ministries, are invited.

The Lord's Provisions

COLLECTIONS:

01/07 \$3,544
2004 wkly avg 3,738

*Thank you for
your generosity!*

EXPENSES:

Week 1 \$1,282
2004 wkly avg 4,342

Counsels *from page 1*

homage from service through legislation and litigation. It would have us believe that homage, represented by prayer, worship and other visible signs of religion, has no place in the service or public arena, and is to be kept only in the privacy of one's home or the confines of one's church. This is clearly an assault on our faith, an attempt to shackle the Great Commission. To succumb to their bullying could be likened to the apostles after Jesus' arrest, hiding in fear behind closed doors in Jerusalem. Except that in their case then, they had not met the Resurrected Christ, and in our case now, we have met and received Him through His Holy Spirit! To succumb to their bullying is to fail in our discipleship. Jesus led a life devoted to homage and service - night and day, in the mountains or the plains, alone or with great crowds. We, as Christ's disciples, should not waver in following His example faithfully.

Remember, we are not alone to fight this battle, nor dependent only on our own strength. "*Behold, the Lamb of God!*" The Word of God proclaims that Jesus is present here and now, as He was 2,000 years ago. Jesus is with us, just as He promised: I will never forsake you or abandon you. He is in nature, in the Eucharist, in Scripture, in His people, in our hearts and minds.

We behold the Lamb of God not with our outward eyes but with our eyes of faith. Faith enables our inner eyes to perceive His loving presence every moment of our life. Our life thus becomes worship, with every moment given to the homage of our God. Jesus' presence is the light that helps us to notice signs of His work in people and in nature. Our life then becomes a ministry which honors Christ's presence in others by humbly serving both the lovable and unlovable, the rich and the poor, the good and the bad. His presence is the light that removes darkness from our minds, allowing us to discern God's purposes in both good and difficult situations. His presence is the anointing Spirit who equips us with the capacity to obey and to serve His will on earth.

Christ in us gives us the strength to stand up to those who are at war with His teachings. With Jesus, the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against us!

Behold the Lamb of God! Christ in us is the Homage we give to the Father and the Service we render to His people.

DIRECTIONS

- Maintain awe and reverence in the church at all times.
- Be bold in witnessing the goodness of the Lord in our lives.



COVENANT NEWS: A PART OF YOUR COVENANT LIFE.

Community Calendar

January 16	ME15 Reunion, Reyes Residence, Jersey City
January 21	Youth Shepherds Training, Boland Hall after worship
January 22	ME24 Reunion, Claricia Residence, Freehold 1pm
January 22	Rockland ME1 Grand Reunion, St. Anthony's Shrine 2-6pm
January 29	DLC Meeting, Boland Hall 1-4pm

BIRTHDAYS

1/14	Letty Luna, LSS9 Gen Mangasi, LSS19 Francis Vargas, Mk 10 Rose de Castro, SPE3
1/15	Manny Ausan, YE10
1/16	Baby Arambulo, LSS3 Lyd Borbe, LSS11 Mark Ong, LSS22 Haydee Chizan, SPE5
1/17	Ray Chan, YE9 Chay Pangilinan, YE4 Robert Tiukinhoy, LSS23 Johah Lizzie Velasco, Mk 10
1/18	Ryan Manguiat, YE4 Susan Borja, LSS12
1/19	Tina Almonte, LSS3 Remy Policarpio, LSS14

ANNIVERSARIES

01/14	Sundee and Neneng Ikalina, LSS12
01/15	Flory and Gen Mangasi, LSS19
01/16	Sonny & Bren Solema, LSS20



***The greatest honor
God can do a soul is
not to give it much, but
to ask much of it.***

(St. Therese of Lisieux)



Pope leads reflection and prayer

At his general audience, Pope John Paul II stressed the theme of this year's observance, "Christ, the Only Foundation of the Church." The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity runs from Jan 18-25 and aims to bring the world's 2 billion Christians together for prayer and reflection.

Noting the Catholic Church's firm and irrevocable charge for ecumenism, the Pope called the theme "a fundamental truth for all ecumenical commitment."

Quoting Vatican II, he explained: "Given that the reconciliation of Christians surpasses human powers and capacities, prayer gives expression to hope that does not disappoint, to trust in the Lord who makes all things new.

"But prayer must be accompanied by purification of the mind, the feelings and the memory. Thus it becomes an expression of that 'inner conversion,' without which there is no true ecumenism.

"In a word, unity is a gift of God, a gift to be tirelessly implored with humility and truth."

The Pope added, "I also ask you to pray so that the whole family of believers may attain, as soon as possible, the full communion desired by Christ.

"These are extremely opportune days of reflection and prayer to remind Christians that the restoration of full unity among them, according to the will of Jesus, involves every baptized person, both pastors as well as the faithful."

The Holy Father sounded optimistic, saying that the "desire for unity is spreading and deepening, touching new environments and contexts, arousing fervor for works, initiatives and reflections.

"Recently the Lord has also enabled his disciples to engage in important contacts of dialogue and collaboration. The pain of separation is felt with ever greater intensity, given the challenges of a world that awaits a clear and unanimous evangelical testimony of all believers in Christ."

(Zenit.org, Jan 19, 2005)

COUNSELS

Unity In God's Kingdom

WORD: Is. 8:23-9:3; Ps. 27:1,4,13-14; 1Cor. 1:10-13,17; Mt. 4:12-23

ORDER: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!

REFLECTION: The coming of the Son of God which Isaiah predicted approximately 750 years before the birth of Christ was fulfilled in today's Gospel of Matthew. Christ came and changed the world as man lived in the darkness and hopelessness of paganism.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." (Is.9:1) Matthew compared the coming of Jesus to the coming of a great light to a people who had been living in deep darkness. Jesus' first message to God's people was so powerful. He exhorted them to "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Mt.4:17), as He invited His first disciples, *"Come after me and I will make you fishers of men."* (Mt.4:19) His still resounds today as He calls each one of us to walk in his light and live in it by becoming a source of light to others.

Human nature has not changed much through all the centuries. The first generation of Christians formed factions and divisions in the church of Corinth. as pride prevailed in their hearts. As such St. Paul made the call for unity, "He urged them, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose." (1Cor. 1:10) He reminded them that Christ Himself instituted the church and He is the head. (Col. 1:

continued on page 4

God's Promise for the Week

"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Mt 4:19)

In the Spirit of Transparency

Rebuilding Community

Building community as a Private Lay Association of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Newark is our major task for this year. As we respond to our anointing, we need to open the doors of community to new developments, new perspectives, new approaches and opportunities to serve God's people through the archdiocese.

Not long after the birth of our community in the summer of 1992, we found families flocking to our fold as God used us to touch His people through the gifts which were poured on community and which we continue to faithfully and generously share with everyone. After more than twelve years of evangelic work, we found ourselves deeply entrenched in our local area and the far west. What started as a flock of encountered couples has grown to include the whole family.

The thrust to win territories for our Lord has allowed us to bring the joy of being with the Lord to countless souls. Along with it came innumerable lessons about peoples, relationships, living our faith amidst adversities, building God's church. We were blessed with a full realization that sharing Christ with others is one best way of having more of Him as He comes back to us, a thousand fold, through our brethren. The more we share Christ, the more we have of Christ!

As we begin the New Year, the plan to build a new BLD Newark necessitates a re-design of the new community vision and a plan to achieve our set goals and mission.

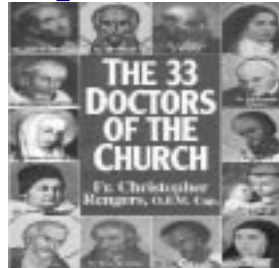
The work ahead of us is not for a plan to accommodate growth in terms of new communities but one that would bring about change in the way we do things and conduct our affairs as a Private Lay Association of the Faithful.

To effect legitimate change in community, we must pray incessantly and practice mortification for the benefit of our communion. We must pray for all our leaders that they widen their perspectives to see the beauty of God's plan for us. We must ask God for His grace so that we may continue to burn with a missionary spirit and expand our community not only in terms of new BLD communities but through the poorest of the poor, to proclaim the gospel as *"there is no other name under heaven given to men, whereby we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12).

It is only self-sacrifice and a firm resolve to give more of ourselves that will rebuild our community. If we wish to honor our Lord and remain under His blessing, we must not neglect what He has planned for us. We must not only seek change in our ways according to the character of Christ, but rebuild the affairs of our communion, be one in our vision and charism, and remain united in mission!

Visit our website at www.bldnewark.com

Doctors of the Church: St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Francis de Sales



"O blessed doctor, light of holy Church and lover of God's law, pray to the Son of God for us."

This antiphon underscores the connection of a Doctor of the Church with light and love, with God's law, with the Church and with

the Son of God. The term "doctor" originally derived from the Latin word *docere*, "to teach." Doctors of the Church are people who have seen the glory of Jesus Christ, full of grace and truth. Their teaching brings health to the human heart and soul. (The 33 Doctors of the Church by Fr. Christopher Rengers, O.F.M. Cap.)

St. Thomas Aquinas (feast day January 28th): Priest, philosopher, theologian, patron of Catholic universities, colleges and schools, the Angelic Doctor. He is the preeminent spokesperson of the Catholic tradition of reason and faith. His thoughts were the synthesis of Aristotle and St. Augustine. His work was a result of his holy obedience and his intense will to teach us the truths that would lead us to know, love and serve the Lord. His greatest and most famous work, *The Summa Theologica* (Summary of Theology) embodies his teachings that real understanding of important, fundamental truth must come from our love of God and acceptance of His divine love. Our love of neighbors will then lead us to share His divine love and communicate our understanding and faith with others. He had an outstanding devotion and love for Jesus and is especially devoted to the Holy Eucharist. His writings on the Eucharist, such as the benediction hymns *Pange Lingua Gloriosi* (Sing, My Tongue, the Saviour's Glory) and *O Salutaris Hostia* (O Saving Victim) move our minds and hearts to silent adoration and worship in heartfelt praise and thanksgiving.

St. Francis de Sales (feast day January 24th): Bishop of Geneva, spiritual director, patron of writers, editors, journalists and the Catholic press, patron of lay spirituality and lay apostolate, the Gentleman Doctor. He was ordained and elected provost of the Diocese of Geneva, then a center for the heretical Calvinists. He made remarkable success in converting the Calvinists back to Catholicism by hand printing and distributing little pamphlets explaining true Catholic doctrine. His two well-known books, the *Introduction to the Devout Life* and *A Treatise on the Love of God* written with his characteristic gentle spirit are addressed to lay people. He writes: *"In all of your affairs, rely on the Providence of God through which alone you much look for success. Strive quietly to cooperate with its designs. If you have a sure trust in God, the success that comes to you will always be that which is most useful to you, whether it appears good or bad in your private judgment."*

The Conversion of St. Paul

"I know whom I have believed." (2 Tm1: 12)

St. Paul, named Saul at birth, was born in Tarsus, Turkey around the year 3, from a wealthy family. As a young man, he was a brilliant student of the Hebrew religion and followed the Jewish law zealously. When he grew older, he persecuted Christians, dragging them out of their homes to prison. Saul watched approvingly as Christians were stoned, as he strongly believed at that time that Christianity should be destroyed. Saul lived at the time of Christ but he had not met Him.

One day, on his way to Damascus to hunt down more Christians, an extraordinary event occurred, changing his life completely. A great light shone all around him, blinding him. *He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" He said, "Who are you, sir?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting."* (Acts 9: 4-5). Shocked, confused, weak and trembling, Saul asked, "What do you want me to do?" Jesus told him to continue on to Damascus and there he would be told what to do. At that moment, through the power of God, Saul in his blindness saw the "Truth". He had a change of heart. His companions led him into Damascus where he was baptized, regained his eyesight and set forth to carry Jesus' Word. He relied on the wisdom received from the Spirit and taught from the abundance of his heart. He became a great apostle of Jesus, dedicating himself to preaching and founding churches. He wrote epistles, or letters to his Christian communities urging them to follow Christ's teachings. He led countless people to Christ but suffered tremendously in the hands of the enemies who disagreed with his teachings, proclaiming Jesus, as our Lord and Savior. He was stoned, scourged, shipwrecked and imprisoned but nothing could stop him. St Paul was happy to sacrifice everything for Christ. In the year 65, he died a Christian martyr in Rome.

Our world today is filled with pressures of everyday life. We ask St Paul to teach us how to overcome obstacles and be strong and joyful in our faith. Like St Paul, we must have a true conversion of heart, keeping Christ in the center of our lives, glorifying Him and loving Him in our service to others.

"I urge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose." (1Cor.1:10)

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

01/07 \$ 3,544
01/14 2,957
2004 wkly avg 3,790

*Thank you for your
generosity!*

EXPENSES
2004 wkly avg \$ 4,342

Ministry Announcements

Teaching Schedule

Jan 25 St. Leo after worship

Service Ministry: Christian Servanthood
Intercessory Ministry Teaching

Feb 5 St. Antoninus, 1-6pm

LSS 1-20: Catechism Part 1
LSS 21-22: Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit (Pneumatika;
Charismata; Diakonia; Fruit of the Holy Spirit)
ME24: Intro to the Word; Basics of Prayer; CDFP
Overview

Feb 11 St Leo after worship

LSS21: Motivational Gift Inventory

Feb 18 St. Leo after worship

Singles: Gifts of the HS
John 6 Teaching
Mark 10 Teaching

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LSS 23: Basic Bible Seminar (Book of Books;
Approaches; Word of God; Response)
LSS 20: Advance Intercession; Orientation to
Spiritual Warfare

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Intercessory Ministry Teaching

Medical Mission still has open slots. It is set for Feb 14-18 and departs Feb 9. For airfare and related info, please contact Nong and Tricia Bustos.

Youth LSS10 March 19-20 at Consolata in Somerset, NJ.

- Applications available at www.bldnewark.com. Deadline is January 28.
- *Salubungan* after Feb 4 healing Mass at St. Leo.

LSS24 April 2-3 also at Consolata

- Open to all encountered singles, couples and solo parents.
- *Orientation*: Jan 21 and 28 after worship, small conference room at church basement
- Contact: Tony-Linda Avisado, Vic-Dee Lim.

Community Retreat Family Healing and Deliverance with Father John Hampsch. *Reserve the date!* April 30 Saturday 9am-7pm at St. Antoninus church. All members, from Youth to Golden Years ministries, are invited.

Counsels *from page 1*

18) and that, “*There is only one Lord, one faith, one baptism*” (Eph.4:5). St. Paul proclaimed that Christ died for all of us and as such should not be divided. As such the Church His, body must not have any divisions.

Christ brought the true freedom and light of faith to Galilee more than 2000 years ago. Through our baptism, we are now walking in the full light of the knowledge of God’s infinite love for us and of God’s eternal plan for our unending happiness.

When Jesus said in Luke 17:21, “*Behold, the Kingdom of God is among you,*” he was not speaking of the afterlife. Rather, He was referring to His divine purpose to establish His kingdom on earth but its culmination and perfection would be in heaven. Thus, in the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:10 says, “*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as in heaven.*”

The Kingdom of God is much more a way of relating to others. Every person has dark places where old hurts, hatred, painful memories and fears are locked away. People in authority may sometimes bring immense darkness into the lives of people by harsh and oppressive ways. We ourselves can cause darkness to others in our own broken ways. But Jesus comes only as a friend. His light brings healing, not hurt; freedom, not oppression; life, not death.

So many of us have encountered Jesus in darkness and came out bathed in light. It is the will of God that all human beings live in this world in peace and unity with one another. That is why He sent his only Son to accomplish a mission; to show us how to live and to show us the way to the Father’s Kingdom. “*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.*” (John 8:12) People walking in the light must be united in Christ’s love.. He proclaimed this kingdom of love and light, lived it and died for it. Today He asks all His followers to proclaim it, to live it and if necessary, even to die for it.

To be honest, responsible and mature followers of Jesus, we must know His will, abide by it and accomplish the mission He has set for us. As fishers of men, we should bring more to His Kingdom. As the Light of the world, we need to bring His light to all who are in darkness. Let us bring faith to the doubting, hope to the fearful, strength to the weak and comfort to the oppressed. This is a task that is entrusted to every Christian. But unless our own lamp illumines, unless we live a true Christian life, we will not be able to enlighten anyone. We must reform our lives and unite with our fellow Christians in bringing Christ’s light to the rest of mankind.

DIRECTIONS:

- Pray for unity.
- Let there be no division and rivalry among us.
- Be passionate in bringing Christ to friends and family through our community encounters.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January 21	Youth Shepherds Training, Fellowship Hall after worship
January 22	ME24 Reunion, Claricia Residence, Freehold 1pm
January 22	Rockland ME1 Grand Reunion, St. Anthony’s Shrine 2-6pm
January 29	DLC Meeting, Boland Hall 1-4pm
January 29	ME23 Reunion, Cruz Residence, Floral Park NY 1-4pm

BIRTHDAYS



1/15	Ricky Santos, LSS21	1/25	Imma Anyanwu, LSS15
1/17	Boy Dacasin, LSS20		Aileen Ciocon, LSS6
	Leonie Mariazeta, LSS20		Paby Ibarrola, LSS17
1/21	Purie Salar, LSS18		Marie Lazaro, LSS9
	Sherry Eballo, Singles		Iheanyi Ekweghari, Mk10
1/23	Tony Brillantes, LSS23	1/26	Neil Clarin, YE10
	Davina Avant, SPE1	1/27	Jaja Nacion, YE9
	Oliver Orosa, YE11		

ANNIVERSARIES

1/02	Ricky & Nardz Santos, LSS21
1/21	Bong & Merle Encarnacion, LSS8
1/22	Gerry & Dimples Canlas, LSS7
	Marc & Therese Disla, LSS23
	Rey & Pen Perez, LSS13
1/23	Bert & Lita Guerrero, LSS17
	Boyie & Stella Huelgas, LSS1
	Greg & Tess Tope, LSS20
1/24	Joey & Linda Viola, LSS6
1/25	Tony & Fely Carrera, LSS13

SOUP KITCHEN SCHEDULE. Please note your 2005 assignments – date and Mission contact person.

Feb 12	ME1, Singles	Alberto
Feb 26	ME16, Youth	Venadas
Mar 12	ME18, 22	Bolcer
April 9	ME20, 21	Calilap, Campomanes
Apr 23	ME14, 7	Bustos
May 14	ME15, ME23	Anyanwu
May 28	ME2	Centeno
Jun 11	ME8, 11	De Luna
Jun 25	ME3, 13	Escobinas, Opinion
Jul 9	ME5, 19	Garcia
Jul 23	ME12, 18	Nano
Aug 13	ME17	Santos
Aug 27	ME6, 24	Zoleta
Sep 10	SPM	Alberto, Calilap
Sep 24	ME9, Youth	Bustos, Venadas
Oct 8	ME20, 22	Bolcer, Escobinas
Oct 22	ME21, 23	Campomanes, Opinion, Nano
Nov 12	ME4, 10	Garcia, De Luna
Nov 26	ME18, Singles	Anyanwu, Zoleta
Dec 10	Mission (Christmas Party For Homeless) -	Centeno, Santos
Dec 11	ME19 (Christmas Party For Children) – Abes	



BLD Youth Eyewitness Report

Pro-Life Advocates Protest Roe v Wade

Over 250,000 pro-life advocates of all ages and from all walks of life converged on the Capitol City on January 24 for the 32nd annual March for Life. The March protests the January 23, 1973 Supreme Court ruling in the *Roe vs. Wade* case that legalized abortion.

The day began with a Mass, a youth pro-life rally at the MCI Center, and a telephone address from President George W. Bush. Other speakers also addressed the marchers, exhorting the crowd to persevere in the struggle to end abortion. Afterwards, the advocates gathered along Constitution Avenue for the march to the U.S. Supreme Court. They clutched their signs and banners and waited eagerly to begin the march.

As the vanguard made its way down Constitution Avenue, the marchers filtered onto the street and converged behind the leading banner. Many cheered and joined in pro-life chants, while others prayed the rosary. Outside the Supreme Court building, several women bearing signs that read "my abortion hurt me" and "women deserve better than abortion" cried and sang hymnals.

The previous night, thousands of Catholics gathered at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for the annual Vigil Mass for Life celebrated by Cardinal William Keeler of Baltimore.

"We gather to protest yet again the tragic miscarriage of justice that was the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade* and to recommit ourselves to the dismantling of *Roe*," said Cardinal Keeler

Philippine Disaster Relief

Our collection for the Philippine typhoon victims has been acknowledged by the ECSL Secretariat with the following note:

"We thank you and your whole community for your \$5,000 donation for the typhoon victims of Aurora, particularly for our brothers and sisters of BLD Baler, which we received thru Bro. Noel Trillana. May you continue to receive blessings upon blessings for your generosity and compassion."

COUNSELS

Living the Beatitudes

WORD: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13; Ps 146:6-10;
1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12

ORDER: Seek the Lord and obey His commands

REFLECTION: In the beatitudes, Jesus sets forth the behavior pattern necessary for us to achieve the Father's will of blessedness. The beatitudes fulfill the promise made to the chosen people by ordering them no longer merely to the possession of a territory, but to the kingdom of heaven. Jesus however cautioned the disciples in Matthew 7:21 saying, "*Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.*"

As children of God, we should take these attitudes to heart and follow them assiduously. These, however, run counter to the norms of society where we are expected to exhibit or boast of our talents and fortunes in order to be recognized. If we want to be wealthy, we must emulate and idolize the rich and famous. We cannot afford to be patient; we must hurry because time is money. We cannot afford inconveniences or setbacks. We are taught to cry foul and to seek revenge. We can see that the teachings of our Lord are under attack, not just in our country, but all over the world.

Nonetheless, as Christians, we must not be deterred by the world's opposition. We ought to live the beatitudes not because they are good but because in doing so, we will heed the Father's will. Romans 12:2 tells us, "*Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,*" page 4 ☞

God's Promise For The Week

"Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in Heaven." (Mt 5:12a)

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple and The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Forty days after the birth of our Lord, the Most Blessed Virgin went to the temple to offer her first-born Son to God according to the ordinance of the Jewish law and, after the custom of Hebrew women, to purify herself after childbirth.

Our Blessed Mother, the purest of virgins, had not conceived in sin; therefore, she was not subject to the law of purification. Yet in humility and obedience, she honored God by every prescribed observance and act of religion, placing herself with her divine Child among sinners in order to fulfill the law. With modesty, devotion and profound humility, she made her offerings of thanksgiving and expiation and presented her beloved Son to His Eternal Father.

Through the words of the prophet Simeon, she was made fully aware of all the torments which her Son was to endure: *“Behold this Child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”* (Lk 2:34, 35) She knew that with Him, her own blessed soul would also be sacrificed. Nonetheless, she consented to all with faithfulness, filling even the angels with astonishment. Mary consented to His death, and God willed that on this day, she should make a solemn sacrifice of herself, by offering her Son to Him in the temple, giving up His precious life to divine justice.

What great sacrifice! Mary offered her beloved divine Son to save us who were lost by sin, and to deliver us from eternal death. Thinking little of herself, she wished to be so regarded to teach us such virtues as the supreme adoration of God, obedience to His will, true humility and a spirit of sacrifice. She submitted to live out every detail of God’s law and accomplish all its exterior requirements. She obeyed not only in its essential points but in all its circumstances as well.

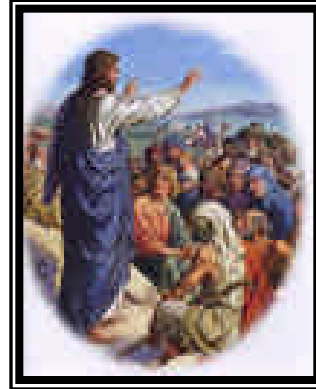
What a perfect model for us! Mary is exceedingly difficult to emulate, but if we persevere in doing so, we will be offering an act of love that will be pleasing to God for all eternity.

O Blessed Mother, you unselfishly offered to death the dearest object of your heart, your beloved Jesus. Open our eyes and purify our hearts so we may fully submit to the will of our Heavenly Father and give ourselves to Him without reserve, always

ready for any sacrifice He may ask of us. By your example, may we carry our cross daily with humility and great fidelity to His holy will.

Sermon on the Mount

It is God’s intention that we spend our life with Him sharing His joy forever.



While Jesus lived on earth like us, He taught us how to defeat evil as He did. The Sermon on the Mount gives us the practical lessons we should all treasure. In it, Jesus taught us the Beatitudes – the call to “blessedness.”

The Beatitudes are God’s invitation for us to be:

- *Poor in spirit* – trusting only in God.
- *Mourners* – sharing others’ sorrows.
- *Meek* – humble and not boastful
- *Hungry and thirsty* for righteousness – working for holiness and justice.
- *Merciful* – forgiving, kind.
- *Clean of heart* – honest, modest, prayerful.
- *Peacemakers* – helping people settle differences.
- *Experiencing persecution* for the sake of righteousness – willing to stand up for what is right.

They are Jesus’ way of life that would enable us to live and grow in His wisdom and love. With the Beatitudes, God invites us to allow Him to transform us in humility, meekness, total dependence and unwavering recognition of His supremacy. When we approach life as students, eager to learn the lessons God wants to teach us, we gain true wisdom and discover new joy in being a child of God. As we grow with the beatitudes, we learn to cope with our world. As to early Christians, God offers us today His strength and inspiration amidst the persecutions and challenges in our lives.

As Jesus taught and prayed on the mountain, we too need to pray. Prayer is a place of transformation. That’s where God takes our experiences and reveals the spiritual treasure they contain. Prayer is where we grow in God allowing Him to touch and transform us in His likeness. It is where we could obtain His Spirit of openness and submission. In prayer we can express our willingness to *let go* of ourselves and *let God*. As we do, He opens our eyes, ears and hearts, filling us with His Spirit of life-giving wisdom. Live the beatitudes and live with God.

Contemplative Vigil

After our last Marriage Encounter Weekend in November, our Spiritual Director Father Paul Lehman shared with us his desire “to open up our BLD prayer forms to a greater contemplative dimension, especially during the vigils when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed. God is in all things by His essence, by which He is more present and more near to us than we are to ourselves.

It is true that the weakness of our understanding or want of experience may prompt us to *make use of creatures* in our contemplation. Yet there is a kind of contemplation which is very fruitful, good and real, and possible to all. Whether meditating on the creature or the Creator, every man may reach the point at which he finds all his joy in his Creator. God, One in Trinity, kindles the fire of divine love in Himself and in others, so as to merit eternal life.”

In Father Paul’s words, we use “creatures,” that is, words and songs as stepping stones into the realm of the “Uncreated.” When we remain in the realm of the created and do not transcend them, or better put, allow the Lord to transcend them, we remain on the surface of prayer and occupied with the prayer forms instead of allowing the Lord to bring us more deeply into the *wordless sense of His presence*. Ongoing verbal recitation, while not bad, can end up being a hindrance to a deeper form of prayer which is available to all of us, weak though we are. Thus, Father Paul suggested that we develop *a more contemplative vigil*.

We experimented with this during the first Rockland ME in December by adding a 15-minute quiet time during the vigil. Although at first our minds wandered and we were restless, as we disciplined ourselves in quiet reflection upon the Blessed Sacrament and attentive listening, we were able to sense the true peace of His presence. Gazing expectantly upon the host, we opened our hearts to the embrace of the Master. Faith came to us by meditating upon the liturgical readings for the day. In communion with our Lord, the Word made Flesh, we were able to identify with the needs of others and lift up their burdens. Through contemplation of the Holy Scriptures, the Word that was present at the creation of the universe now spoke to us and touched us personally. Only the language of the Spirit could express the affection for Jesus that we felt and our desire for the grace to live the words reflected upon in that short quiet time.

With joy, we anticipate this new vigil experience in our upcoming Encounters and Life in the Spirit Seminars.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DLC meets tomorrow. Please keep our leadership in prayer.

FEBRUARY TEACHINGS

Feb 4 Church basement after worship
Intercessory: ME20 Special Teaching

Feb 5 St. Antoninus, 1-6pm

LSS 1-20: Catechism Part 1

LSS 21-22: Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit (Pneumatika; Charismata; Diakonia; Fruit of the Holy Spirit)

ME24: Intro to the Word; Basics of Prayer; CDFP Overview

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LSS21: Motivational Gift Inventory

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- Orientation tonight after worship - small conference room at church basement

- Contact: Tony-Linda Avisado, Vic-Dee Lim.

Community Retreat. Family Healing and Deliverance with Father John Hampsch. *Reserve the date!* April 30 Saturday 9am-7pm at St. Antoninus church. All members, from Youth to Golden Years ministries, are invited.

Counsels (from page 1)

that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.”

The radical devotion and dependence on God which Jesus summoned His would-be followers to practice, and His call for them to be meek, to not retaliate, to go beyond the letter of the law to its spirit, to do what is right when only God is looking, to rely on God for their needs, to pursue His interests rather than their own, and to leave spiritual measurements of others' hearts to God, are all part of the Father's will.

Christians are therefore confronted with decisive moral choices. God invites all to purify their hearts of worldly attachments and to seek His love above all else. True happiness is not found in riches or well-being, in human fame or power, or in any human achievement - however beneficial it may be, whether in science, technology or art - or in any creature. It is found in God alone, Who is the source of every good and of all love. In short, the people of Christ's kingdom live for God, not for themselves.

Let us consider our calling (1 Cor 1:26). We are called to spiritual poverty, to acknowledge that we are nothing without God. We are to live diligently, making the most of opportunities to do good in these trying days of ours: *“Watch carefully then how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise, making the most of the opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not continue in ignorance, but try to understand what is the will of the Lord.”* (Eph 5:15-17)

In living the beatitudes, we need only look at our Lord Jesus Christ, our perfect example. Although He is God, Jesus gave up His lordship and became man for our sake. The ultimate example He gave us was when He was on the cross, suffering from hunger, thirst, exhaustion, humiliation, derision, and pain from the beatings and the nails in His body. He cried out to the Father, *“Forgive them for they know not what they are doing.”* His compassion did not stop there. Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us, in us and around us so that we would not despair.

Our focus on the Lord Jesus and our individual and collective aspiration to diligently and assiduously obey His will, particularly in reaching out to those in need are manifestations of the beatitudes at work in us. This week's Word promise is made to those who are truly humble and meek. They shall fulfill the Father's will and inherit the kingdom of God.

DIRECTIONS

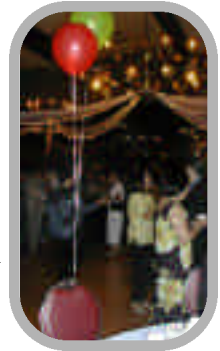
- Be humble and boast only in the Lord.
- Do no wrong and speak no lies.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- January 29** DLC Meeting, Boland Hall 1-4pm
January 29 ME24 Reunion, Claricia Residence, Freehold 1pm
January 29 ME23 Reunion, Cruz Residence, Floral Park NY 1-4pm

birthdays

- 1/22 Geoff Canlas, LSS12
1/23 Jen Canlas, LSS21
1/28 Lisa Abrusia, SPE2
1/30 Juliette Llagas-Cruz, SPE1
1/31 Luz Amarante, LSS10
Mila Manangha, LSS16
2/01 Nanie de los Reyes, LSS9
2/02 Boyet Miranda, LSS5
Chris Francisco, YE8
2/03 Emma de Borja, LSS13
Omar Santos, ME24



anniversaries

- 1/28 Angel & Aida Calilap, LSS14
1/29 Henry & Aida Koryan, LSS2
1/30 Eddie & Amy Olegario, LSS3
1/31 Roger & Pina Coquia, LSS6

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Collections

01/07	\$3,544
01/14	2,957
01/21	2,307
3-wk avg	2,936

Thank you for
your generosity

Expenses

3-wk average \$1,108

Holy Father's Intentions for February

General: For the sick, especially those who are poor: may they receive care and treatment worthy of their human dignity.

Missionary: For missionaries: may they grow in fervent love, indispensable for proclaiming the Gospel with conviction.

Good WORKS are
LINKS that form a CHAIN
of Love

— Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta



Let us pray for the Pope

Pope John Paul II was rushed to the hospital last Tuesday night when his flu condition deteriorated with an inflammation of the throat. At 84, the Holy Father has been in poor health, wrestling with complications of Parkinson's disease. He also suffers from crippling knee and hip ailments.

The move was described as precautionary, and by the next morning the Pontiff's condition had stabilized enough for him to participate from bed in a Mass celebrated in his room.

Calls for prayers were made worldwide. The US bishops' conference president, Bishop William Skylstad of Spokane, Washington, said: "I ask Catholics and others to join with the bishops of the United States in prayer for our Holy Father's comfort and health. He is a beloved figure who especially loves the church in the United States."

District Leadership Conference report

The DLC had a full afternoon of work and deliberations last Saturday at Boland Hall and tackled these issues:

- * Approved the proposal to authorize the Board of Trustees to invest and grow the House of Worship funds in real property.
- * Welcomed the invitation of Fr. Halbing for BLD to worship weekly at St. Antoninus which will be studied.
- * Reiterated the need to review the guidelines for re-entry and covenant resealing of members who are inactive, or on sabbatical or leave of absence.
- * Ratified the policies to pray for our dear departed brethren for a full year and to use only the English language during our worship and prayers.
- * Heard reports on the following:
 - BLD Trenton has applied for full-fledged district status.
 - The results of last year's fund-raising.
 - The creation of a web group discussion board to improve DLC communications.
 - A task force progress report on our mission strategy as an Association of the Faithful.

COUNSELS

We are Salt and Light

WORD: Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-9;
1Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

ORDER: *Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.* (from Mt 5:16)

REFLECTION: Many of us who consider ourselves His disciples may not find easy what the Lord Jesus Christ teaches us in this Sunday's Gospel reading, to relate His message to concrete and specific situations of our lives. We are made to think not only about salt, but salt that does not lose its taste; to dispel the dark and give light not only to all in the house, but to the whole world.

Let us then try to gain from the Readings a closer understanding of the man who is a light in darkness, in his being and in his doing. He *is gracious, merciful and just; he does not fear an evil report; his heart is steadfast, trusting the Lord. Such a man conducts his affairs with justice; he lends and gives lavishly to the poor.* (Ps 112: 4-9) The apostle St. Paul unabashedly holds himself up for our example in bringing the light of the Gospel to many, *proclaiming the mystery of God, not with self-assurance but in weakness and fear and much trembling; not with sublimity of words or of wisdom but resolved to know nothing except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.* (1 Cor 2:1-3)

Psalms 112 describes those who remain close to God by obedience to the commandments. Living a life close to the Lord appears to be essential, not only to give His light but also to receive it. *The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.* For one may choose not to go near the light, preferring the darkness. We who are in community have been blessed with ears that heard the call (☞ Page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

"If you remove from your midst oppression, false accusation and malicious speech; if you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday." (Is 58:9b-10)

Next Wednesday's Ash Wednesday

On February 9, we observe the "Day of Ashes" commencing the 40-day preparation period leading to the glorious event of the Resurrection of Christ. Our foreheads are crossed with ashes in affirmation of our faith that we are children of God. This spiritual seal imitates the sacrament of Baptism by which we are delivered from sin and the devil.

Ash Wednesday calls us to the conversion journey of prayer, fasting, almsgiving and penance by which we are purified and sanctified by the Lord who wants us to share in His sufferings and His glory (Rom 8:17).

The liturgical use of ashes originates in the Old Testament times. In Jeremiah 6:26, the prophet calls for repentance, "*O daughter of my people, gird on sackcloth, roll in ashes.*" After Jonah's call to repentance, the city of Nineveh proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, led by the king who rose from his throne and sat in the ashes (Jon 3:5-6). The rite reminds us of our inevitable fate as mortal beings, "here today and gone tomorrow" - a reminder of the real meaning of man's existence and the principle of nothingness. "*You are dust and to dust you shall return.*" (Gen 3:19), echoing Abraham's confession, "*I am nothing but dust and ashes.*" (Gen 18:27)

We are also called to repentance: "*Repent and believe in the Gospel.*" (Mk 1:15) Cardinal O'Connor's emphasis of Ash Wednesday being that life is a pilgrimage, gives us a true sense of human destiny, a primacy to the soul and the reality that literally at any moment we can be facing the Almighty God for all eternity, as was true of those who perished in the catastrophic South Asia Tsunami and other sudden disasters.

"*Return to the Lord, your God.*" (Jn 2:13) We "rend our hearts not our garments" on this day of atonement for all our sins. We pray and cry like the psalmist, "*Create in me a clean heart, O God, a steadfast spirit renew within me.*" We are called to inner change, an authentic call of transformation from within — mysteriously inspired by His grace, offering only ourselves to a deeper intimacy with Him, who is Perfect Love, Infinite Goodness, Boundless Mercy and Incomprehensible Beauty.

It was in His absolute love that Jesus came on earth to seek us poor, miserable and broken creatures. Having suffered and died, He remains constantly hidden in the tabernacle asking for our love; even as, at an earlier time, he sat on the curb of Jacob's well and said to every soul coming into this world what He said to the Samaritan woman, "*I thirst.*" (Jn 19:28) "*Give me a drink.*" (Jn 4:7)

Saint Scholastica



Saint Scholastica, twin sister of Saint Benedict the founder of the Benedictine order, was consecrated to God at a very early age and grew up devoted to Jesus. When Benedict established his monastery at Monte Cassino, Scholastica founded a convent

about 5 miles away in Plombariola. The convent is said to have been under the direction of her brother, thus she is regarded as the first Benedictine nun.

The siblings were quite close. The respective rules of their houses prohibited either entering the other's monastery. According to Saint Gregory, they met once a year at a house near Monte Cassino monastery to confer on spiritual matters, and were eventually buried together, probably in the same grave. Saint Gregory says, "So death did not separate the bodies of these two, whose minds had ever been united in the Lord."

Saint Gregory tells the charming story of the last meeting of the two saints on earth. Scholastica and Benedict had spent the day in the "mutual comfort of heavenly talk" and with nightfall approaching, Benedict prepared to leave. Scholastica, having a presentiment that it would be their last opportunity to see each other alive, asked him to spend the evening in conversation. Benedict sternly refused because he did not wish to break his own rule by spending a night away from Monte Cassino. Thereupon, Scholastica cried openly, laid her head upon the table, and prayed that God would intercede for her. As she did so, a sudden storm arose. The violent rain and hail came in such a torrential downpour that Benedict and his companions were unable to depart.

"May Almighty God forgive you, sister," said Benedict, "for what you have done." "I asked a favor of you," Scholastica replied simply, "and you refused it. I asked it of God, and He has granted it!"

Just after his return to Monte Cassino, Benedict saw a vision of Scholastica's soul departing her body, ascending to heaven in the form of a dove. She died three days after their last meeting. He placed her body in the tomb he had prepared for himself.

We often turn to God only for momentarily important matters. God's love, however, is so great that he wishes to give us every good thing. Nothing is too great or too trivial to share with our Father. Everything we are and have come from His bountiful goodness. Saint Scholastica is obviously one of those who learned the lesson of her own helplessness. May we too learn to always turn to God with all our hopes and dreams and needs.

In the Spirit of Transparency

When Others Do Not Measure Up

In every community, there are rules and norms. Rules are guidelines for human behavior intended primarily to institute order in community, without which chaos will prevail. Norms are patterns of human behavior that reflect the spiritual values of a community. Without norms, its vision and purposes will be unrealizable. Together, they form a set of expectations against which individual members and the community as a whole are measured.

It is natural to expect uniform conformance to our rules and norms. Human frailty, however, makes this impractical, even from gifted and mature disciples. The reality of human weakness is best expressed by St. Paul in Romans 7:15: "*What I do, I do not understand. For I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate.*" While acknowledging this truth in His teaching and discipling of His followers, Jesus Christ would not accept human frailty as an excuse for mediocrity, commanding them: "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Mt 5:48) But how does a creature weakened by sin become perfect just like his Creator?

Hebrews 2:10 clues us in to the answer: "*For it was fitting that He, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the leader to their salvation perfect through suffering.*" Our perfection lies in our persevering willingness to suffer for the sake of Jesus, for the sake of His gospel and His love. Suffering comes in various forms, like forgiving those who have offended us, encouraging those who have failed us, aiding those who are helpless and struggling, bearing the burdens and pains of those who suffer. These are essential companions in our journey to perfection in Christ.

We should therefore never give up on ourselves, on others, and on our community- even in the face of failure to measure up to rules and norms. The gospel is filled with examples of how Jesus dealt with His disciples who did not measure up. In Luke 22, Jesus prophesied on the eve of His crucifixion that Peter will deny Him: "*Simon, Simon, behold Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail; and once you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers,*" In spite of His foreknowledge of Peter's denial, Jesus' love for him did not waver. The Lord prayed for him, expressed His confidence that Peter will return to God, and charged him with the task of strengthening his fellow disciples when he did return!

"Have peace in Me. In the world, you will experience trouble. But take courage, for I have conquered the world." (In 16:33)

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our worship next Friday, Feb 11 starts at 7pm at Our Lady of Victories in Jersey City (directions are posted in our website). Specific venues are as follows:
Adults and solo parents – in Church
Youth and John 6 - Chapel below the church
Mark 10 – Rectory basement
Singles – School auditorium
Fellowship at 10:30pm - School auditorium
Please follow parking marshals' directions.
Questions? Contact Rene & Ditas Tolentino

FEBRUARY TEACHINGS

Tomorrow, Feb 5 St. Antoninus, 1-6pm

LSS 1-20: Catechism Part 1

LSS 21-22: Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit
(Pneumatika; Charismata; Diakonia; Fruit of the Holy Spirit)

ME24: Intro to the Word; Basics of Prayer;
CDFP Overview

Feb 11 St Leo after worship

LSS21: Motivational Gift Inventory

Feb 18 St Leo after worship

Singles: Gifts of the HS

John 6 Teaching

Mark 10 Teaching

Feb 19 St. Antoninus, 1-6pm

LSS 23: Basic Bible Seminar (Book of Books; Approaches; Word of God; Response)

LSS 20: Advance Intercession; Orientation to Spiritual Warfare

Medical Mission is set for Feb 14-18. *Please keep in prayer* everyone who will be traveling and serving and those who will be ministered to during the mission.

Youth LSS10 March 19-20 at Consolata in Somerset, NJ.

Salubungan after Feb 4 healing Mass at St. Leo.

LSS24 April 2-3 also at Consolata

- Open to all encountered singles, couples and solo parents.
- *Orientation*: tonight after worship, at church basement
- Contact: Tony-Linda Avisado, Vic-Dee Lim.

Community Retreat Family Healing and Deliverance with Father John Hampsch. *Reserve the date!* April 30 Saturday 9am-7pm at St. Antoninus church. All members, from Youth to Golden Years ministries, are invited.

www.bldnewark.com

Counsels from page 1

during an Encounter or LSS. A heart that remains open to God is no less a blessing, desiring the growth in habitual worship, prayer and Sacraments, Scripture reflection and fellowship with like brethren. Thus we hear Christ clearly, saying, *Your light must shine before others.*

The Lord, desiring to lift us up, wants us to rid ourselves of *oppression, false accusation and malicious speech* and all sinful and worldly things that would dim or block out His light. Being so equipped, "Your light must shine before others." We are to look after our neighbor, addressing their basic human needs with corporal works of mercy: *Do not turn your back on your own. Clothe the naked when you see them, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted. (Is 58:7-8)*

To give us hope and strength, the Lord holds His promise before us: *Then light shall rise for you in the darkness and the gloom shall become for you like midday.* His protection will be with us: *Your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.* In faith, we believe that He will not leave us alone: *Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer, you shall cry for help, and he will say: Here I am!*

The blessings of the Lord abound in the just man. *He shall never be moved; the just one shall be in everlasting remembrance. An evil report he shall not fear; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord... his justice shall endure forever; his horn shall be exalted in glory.*

The Lord Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to our aid, whose light and presence we continually invoke to bring us His enabling gifts. *Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful! Enkindle in them the Fire of Thy divine Love!* He is the Source of all that we need in the gathering force of the Renewal. *Send forth Thy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth!*

Truly, such a mission requires a faith that rests *not on human wisdom but on the power of God. (1 Cor 2:5)* And we need sublimity of purpose, the right intention in carrying the light of Jesus. It is not the glamour of a spotlight that the disciple craves, in order to attract human respect and adulation. Rather, we are content to be but a flicker that the Spirit will set ablaze if He so wills. We become and we do to others, that *they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.*

DIRECTIONS

Commit to heart and liveout: **Isaiah 58:7-8** and **1Corinthians 2:5**

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Feb 11	Friday worship at Our Lady of Victories, Jersey City
Mar 12	FE reunion, Cafeteria 1-5pm
Mar 19-20	Youth LSS 10, La Consolata
Apr 2-3	LSS 24, La Consolata
Apr 30	Family Healing and Deliverance (see announcement)

May the blessings of the Lord be upon you. . .



BIRTHDAYS

2/4	Elise Espinosa, Mk 10
2/5	Mary Anne Kochut, SPE4 Perri Concepcion, Mk 10 Maribelle De La Cruz, YE 4
2/6	Dory Bonifacio, LSS8 Andy Ruaya, LSS7 Michelle De La Cruz, YE 8
2/7	Albert Chan, LSS20 Tina Avisado, YE 9
2/8	Kosisochi Ekweghariri, Mk 10
2/9	Gayle Alejandro, LSS18 Onwuka Anyanwu, LSS23 Charlie Claricia, ME24 Mark De Leon, YE 7 Devin Halaby, Mk10
2/10	Norma Bernal, LSS7 Eileen Chooljian, LSS21 Eydie Unay, ME24 Efe Osemeha, Mk 10

ANNIVERSARIES

2/6	Ed & Susan Fabe, LSS19
2/7	Mosty & Ling Garcia, LSS20

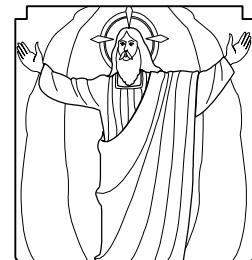
THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

1/14	\$2,957
1/21	2,307
1/28	4,079
4-wk avg	3,222

EXPENSES

4-wk avg	\$2,382
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Thank you for your generosity!

Let us learn from the Holy Virgin, no less modest in speech as in person, to be chaste in all respects.

(St. Ambrose)

**COVENANT NEWS:
A PART OF YOUR COVENANT LIFE.**



YLSS Salubungan Initiates Journey

“Your presence, O Lord, do I seek.” With these words, thirty-eight youth initiated their journey to experience the Holy Spirit through the Tenth Youth Life in the Spirit Seminar. The Salubungan was held last February 4 (also Blessed Rabanus Maurus’ feast day) after the healing Mass, where the lambs met for the first time with their shepherds.

This YLSS is scheduled for March 19-20, with the added blessing of March 20 being Palm Sunday. The YLSS team will be headed by the District Youth Council, Elaine Canlas, David de la Fuente, Grace de Luna, Stephanie Ikalina and Mart Razal, along with the team of shepherds, sharers and auxies.

Blessed Rabanus Maurus once said, “You are the king of kings... you, the loving protector of your sheep.” Together, we pray that the King of Kings will protect these lambs for the next two months: *Christopher Alonzo, Cecile Anderson, Emerson Anyanwu, Melvin Arcangel, Michael Arcangel, Amor Ausan, Melanie Biason, Ronick Biason, Marc Brillantes, Jillian Bustos, Jeffrey Campomanes, Erica Canlas, Angeline Casino, Daniel Dayer, George del Fierro, Bec Espina, Tiffany Eusebio, Noelle Fernandez, Cherrie Francisco, Leanne Galvez, Kevin Gongob, Melissa Garcia, Kara Joson, Clara Lagarde, Louise Lazaro, Athena Lim, Daven Lopina, Jackie Mollongo, Jeffrey Narciso, Charisse Ompod, Awe Opeyemi, Oliver Oroza, Stephanie Rigor, Joseph Roldan, Josh Tan, Melissa Tan, Mica Tolentino and Margo Tolentino.*

With faith in the promise that “He who began a good work in us will be faithful to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus,” let us pray that the Holy Spirit may flow through these lambs and the YLSS team and continue to guide them and work in them.

*Behold, now is a very acceptable time;
behold, now is the day of salvation!
(2 Cor 6:2b)*

COUNSELS

Emerge Victorious During Temptation

WORD: Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-6, 12, 13, 17;
Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

ORDER:

1. *“One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.”* (Mt 4:4)
2. *“The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.”* (Mt 4:10)

REFLECTION:

Lent is not only a season for repentance and forgiveness, but also of grace and expectant gladness. It prepares us for the greatest event of our lives -being reunited with our God, through His Son Christ Jesus.

The Gospel of St. Matthew teaches us ways to emerge victorious after our forty days of Lent, as Christ emerged victorious against the devil during His forty days in the desert. It tells us that we must know and obey the Word of God so we can receive God’s forgiveness, avoid falling back into sin and thus, remain in His grace. In our community, we do our Living Word Group and Word Sharing Circles, so we can understand better God’s Word and be able to discern its application to our daily lives.

The first temptation, where the devil urges Jesus to change stone into bread, was a temptation of the flesh. But Jesus, even after a rigorous fasting, depended on God, trusting Him for sustenance. *“One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the Lord.”* (Dt 8:3b) This powerful

(cont'd on page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

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

The Servites

The Servites, also known as the Servants of Mary, are a religious order that pledges to renounce the world and live solely for God. Despite facing a crisis in which suppression of the order was an issue, the Servites enjoyed great growth and still exist today.

On the feast day of the Assumption in 1233, the Blessed Virgin appeared to seven youths in the city of Florence. She bade them to focus solely on God and to spread the Gospel. The following month, the Blessed Virgin appeared to the seven again, this time appearing on the feast of her birth. In the vision, she said to them, "I have chosen you to be my first Servants, and under this name you are to till my Son's Vineyard. Here, too, is the habit which you are to wear; its dark color will recall the pangs which I suffered on the day when I stood by the Cross of my only Son. Take also the Rule of St. Augustine, and may you, bearing the title of my Servants, obtain the palm of everlasting life."

These seven became known as the Seven Holy Founders of the Servites. An Eighth Holy Founder arose in St. Philip Benizi, who was born on that August when the Blessed Mother first appeared. The order quickly spread throughout Europe, and by the end of the 13th Century, the Servites had houses in Germany, France and Spain despite being threatened by the ruling of the Fourth Lateran Council, which ordered the suppression of all mendicant orders not yet approved by the Papacy and forbade the formation of new religious orders. They also spread to Hungary, Bohemia, Austria, Poland, Belgium, Crete and India.

Devotion to the Passion of Christ and the Seven Sorrows of Mary help define the Servites, who hope to sanctify souls through these two devotions. There are three orders of the Servites: the First Order of Servite fathers, the Second Order of cloistered nuns, and the Third Order of Mantellate, which occupies itself with active works after the example of its foundress, St. Juliana Falconieri. Several Servites are canonized saints: St. Philip Benizi (Aug 23), St. Peregrine Latiosi (April 30), St. Juliana Falconieri (June 19), and the Seven Holy Founders (February 17).

Today, Servite houses or convents can be found in Italy, Canada, France, Germany, Spain and England. In the United States, many Servites can be found in the diocese of Sioux City in Iowa. There are also convents in the dioceses of Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee and Denver.

The foundation, the state, the perfection of wisdom is knowledge of the Holy Scriptures.
(St. Rabanus Maurus)

Lent: A Call To Deeper Commitment

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life". (John 3:16)

We must value Jesus' death for us. We must give Him our heart and life in return. Our whole life must be a true expression of our gratefulness to Him.

Lent is about conversion, turning our lives completely over to Jesus and His ways. Jesus loves us and wants us to experience peace and joy – abundant and eternal. But there must be a genuine desire of our hearts to be in union with our Lord and to answer His call for a deeper commitment. We start by repenting and confessing our sins and turning away from evil deeds. Sin is a potent poison, making our lives utterly joyless. Sin infects our soul and eventually causes spiritual death. Our fellowship with God is then broken. The worst effect of sin is to make us think that God has abandoned us and has stopped loving us. No, Jesus is forever waiting for us to come back to Him so He can forgive us and give us a new life of joy and peace. We must pray with greater devotion, asking God to strengthen us in overcoming the guiles of the evil one.

Reflecting on God's perfect love for mankind as manifested in Jesus' passion and death that released us from the debts of sin, we in turn should show kindness and forgiveness to others. We must aim to live in peace with one another, radiating God's love to all we encounter. We must be willing to release everyone who has hurt us or wronged us from the bondage of our own unforgiveness. *"There must be no limits to your goodness, as your heavenly Father's goodness knows no bound."* (Mt 5: 48) We must care for our neighbors as the bible tells us: *"Setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless, clothing the naked when you see them and not turning your back on your own."* (Is. 58: 6-7)

When we walk devoutly in Christ, we experience the great joy of Easter everyday and we joyfully anticipate being citizens of heaven. *"In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am, you also may be."* (Jn 14: 2-3)

"Prepare to meet your God." (Amos 4:12)

In the Spirit of Transparency

We Need To Confront Issues

When we were growing up as a community, the cry was “evangelize.” The focus was to bring family and friends into our fold to experience the joy of encountering Christ. It was not about power or influence. It was about giving and sharing of self as God built more BLD communities in this land of milk and honey.

A number of us boast in the Lord about what He had allowed to evolve within our midst. The community’s selfless work and generosity brought about countless conversions and caused new BLD churches to rise in the northeast and the far west. After years of outreach inactivity, our Lord renewed our evangelical spirit. Last year BLD gave birth to a new church in Rockland, New York, even as we continue to guide the existing districts-in-process under our care: Albany, Washington DC and Trenton.

As we prayerfully plan our affairs as a covenant community, a Private Lay Association of the Faithful and mother and administering district of new BLD communities, the need to review our community processes has become eminent, as fraternal relationships seem to have been impaired, even though we claim fruitfulness in our work for the Lord.

While we believe that we are one body that seeks to build one and the same church of Christ, we should be transparent and ask ourselves where we failed and why the seeming breakdown of relationships. We must discuss and tackle issues without assigning blame, but in terms of our own accountability, realizing that our actions, attitudes and dispositions help rebuild or destroy community.

It is not a matter of winning but rather the ability to work together to resolve differences.

To do this, we must be sincere in our interactions and be able to facilitate honest dialogue. Everyone has to be heard to resolve whatever is in peoples’ hearts.

In the spirit of transparency let us decide to act on what is causing division within community. We need to act now as inaction destroys community. Aggressive feelings, denied or avoided, caused by indecision and conflict avoidance will have no recourse but to surface in many ways. “*Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known.*” (Mt 10:26) Whatever is kept in our hearts will flow into our words and deeds. We need to confront issues not with the use of power and authority, arrogance and intimidation, but in the spirit of love and understanding of Christ. And “*if possible, live at peace with all.*” (Rom 12:18)

Let us be more discerning and prayerful but most importantly, forgiving as forgiveness is the heart of every caring community that embraces conflict for its benefit.

Ministry Announcements

FEBRUARY TEACHINGS

Tomorrow, Feb 11 St Leo after worship

LSS 21: Motivational Gift Inventory

Feb 18 St Leo after worship

Singles: Gifts of the HS

John 6 Teaching

Mark 10 Teaching

Feb 19 St. Antoninus, 1-6pm

LSS 23: Basic Bible Seminar (Book of Books; Approaches; Word of God; Response)

LSS 20: Advance Intercession; Orientation to Spiritual Warfare

Feb 25 St Leo after worship

Service Ministry: Christian Servanthood

Intercessory Ministry Teaching

Medical Mission is Monday to Friday next week. *Please keep in prayer* our mission team, those who will help them and everyone they will minister to.

LSS 24 April 2-3 at La Consolata in Somerset, NJ. Salubungan is on Feb 25. Invocation Mass on April 1.

Community Retreat Family Healing and Deliverance with Father John Hampsch. *Reserve the date!* April 30 Saturday 9am-7pm at St. Antoninus church. All members, from Youth to Golden Years ministries, are invited.

The Lord's Provisions

COLLECTIONS:

01/21 \$2,307

01/28 4,079

02/04 3,725

5-wk.Avg 3,324

*Thank you for
your generosity!*

EXPENSES: 5-wk.Avg \$2,115

Moments

Happy moments - Praise God.

Difficult moments - Seek God.

Quiet moments - Worship God.

Painful moments - Trust God.

Every moment - Thank God.

If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

Counsels *from page 1*

verse urges us to hunger for God's Word not human satisfaction, to seek to serve God not earthly power, and to work for eternal life not material glory. As community members, we should act for the good of our brothers and sisters and never for our own gratification.

The second temptation was on pride. The devil asked Jesus to throw Himself down because being the Son of God, the angels will bear Him up. Jesus answered him, "*You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.*" (Dt. 6:16) In our respective ministries, we will surely be tempted by Satan to choose our will over God's. When he fails to make us renounce our faith or commit sin, he will then try to get us to make choices that divert us from what God wants for us.

Jesus steadfastly rejected Satan's temptations. Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, was always connected in prayer with the Father and fought His adversary not with His own strength but relied on the power of the Holy Spirit. He also fed on His Father's Word and found strength in doing His Father's will.

The devil then tempted Jesus on power, promising Him all the kingdoms of the world and all its wealth and worldly power, if only He would worship him. Jesus said to him, "*Get away, Satan! It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'*" Jesus made clear that His Kingdom does not belong here nor is measured in these ways. It comes through corporal and spiritual works of mercy, non-violence, generosity and compassion. Therefore, our sole purpose in life is to worship and serve the Lord. We should not be blinded by the attractions of and be slaves to riches, power and glory. Can we identify with Jesus by obedient service in the community? We should at all times proclaim with our speech and our actions that Jesus is our Lord by untiringly serving Him in community and by reaching out without reservation to our marginalized brothers and sisters in Mission. And as brothers and sisters in Christ, we must be reconciled with each other, as we have been reconciled with our God. Only then will our work and service in community be able to bear fruit and glorify the Lord.

DIRECTIONS

- Remind the community to fast and abstain during the season of Lent, especially on Fridays and during our community activities
- Remind the community to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation every Friday during the season of Lent.

Community Calendar

Feb 14-18	Medical Mission, Bulacan, Philippines
Mar 12	FE reunion, Cafeteria 1-5pm
Mar 19-20	YLSS 10, La Consolata, Somerset NJ
Apr 2-3	LSS 24, La Consolata, Somerset NJ
Apr 30	Retreat with Fr. Hampsch St. Antoninus 9am
Jun 24-26	SPE 7, Edison Ramada Inn

BIRTHDAYS

1/03	Brian Vista, ME23
1/05	Evelyn Laguatan, ME23
1/23	Tony Brillantes, ME23
2/09	Onwuaka Anyanwu, ME23
2/16	Atong Reyes, ME23
2/11	Baby de la Cruz, LSS17 Marissa Rangel, LSS19
2/12	Tony Abad, LSS17 Yollie Cruz, LSS7 Tessie Mijares, LSS16 Bernadette Bonjoc, SPE4 Augustine Ukeachu, SPE2 Avery Abad, Mk 10 Tyler Muslija, Mk 10
2/13	Beth Baluyot, LSS3 Benny Santiago, LSS13
2/14	Ding de Borja, LSS13
2/15	Margo Tolentino, YCR3
2/16	Atong Reyes, ME23
2/17	Reggie Avisado, LSS15 Nora Inos, LSS11 Kevin de la Cruz, YCR3 Juliet Mabalot, LSS20

ANNIVERSARIES

1/06	Atong & Ningning Reyes, ME23
1/09	Gene & Alice Bautista, ME23
1/10	Jojo & Chi-Chi Velasco, ME23
1/22	Marc & Therese Disla, ME23
2/01	Phil & Ghe Songco, ME23
2/14	J.R & Judy Garcia, LSS23 Vic & Becky Napenas, LSS19 Ramon & Angie Vargas, LSS22
2/17	Charlie & Weng Larobis, LSS18



Cardinal Vidal Speaks: Missionaries Need Love for Christ

Without a love for the Lord, “all effort to proclaim the Gospel is drudgery and onerous work,” said Cardinal Ricardo Vidal of Cebu. His comments relate to the Pope’s missionary intention this month, that missionaries “may have a passionate love for Christ, indispensable for proclaiming the Gospel with conviction.”

“Only through a passionate love for Christ is it possible to transmit the Gospel in an effective and convincing manner,” because the “Gospel itself is a call to love and a proposal of love offered by Christ himself,” Cardinal Vidal added. “We who are sent to announce it cannot convey its meaning unless we experience and share that love within ourselves.”

“In the heart of every missionary must burn a fire which moves him to proclaim the Lord. It is the same love which the prophet Jeremiah speaks about: ‘If I say, ‘I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,’ there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary holding it in, and I cannot.’”

“The Gospel brings us to a deeper appreciation of God who loves us in the way he wants us to love him: ‘He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it.’”

The “challenge of every missionary is to articulate this message in a way that can be understood by the world. There is no way it can be articulated except to live it in one’s own life.”

COUNSELS

Suffering for the Gospel With Strength from God

WORD: Gen 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5,18-20, 22;
 2Tim 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

ORDER: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; LISTEN TO HIM.”(Mat 17:5)

REFLECTION:

The worship theme for this Friday is “*We are salt of the earth and light of the world as we bear our share of hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God.*”

As we approach the Second Sunday of Lent, let us reflect on the Second Letter of Timothy [2 Tim. 1:8b-10], which comes as a reminder that God calls each and everyone of us. God wants us to become holy, reminding us that we have received our life and immortality through the Gospel. Therefore, we are called to “Join... in suffering for the gospel...” [2 Tim. 1:8b]. Even as Christ himself and our forefathers suffered for the Gospel, we too, are called to share in the sufferings of the Body of Christ. When suffering, we should share the words of St. Paul; “I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of His Body, that is, the Church.” [Col. 1:24] (C.C.C. # 1508)

In our sufferings, “we are called to rely on the power of God.” [2 Tim. 1:8b] When Paul appealed to God about his suffering, the Lord answered, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” [2 Cor. 12:9] (C.C.C. # 1508) Following in the footsteps of

continued on page 4

God's Promise for the Week

“I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you. All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you.”(Gen 12:2,3b)

The Chair of St. Peter

On Feb. 22, we celebrate the feast of the “chair” of St. Peter. It seems very strange to be celebrating a “chair”. Perhaps it would be more understandable if we celebrated a throne. Yet even thrones and magnificent chairs just don’t seem to fit into the fabric of American society. We look upon chairs as merely practical assists in sitting down, relaxing or eating. Some collect chairs as antiques, and can pay great deal of money for a rare Victorian chair.

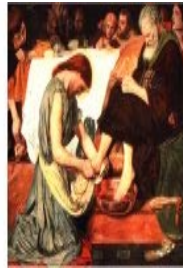
What the Church is emphasizing in this feast is the Chair as a symbol of authority, in this case the authority of St. Peter, the first pope, and his successors who have inherited the authority given to Peter. That is why we often refer to a directive from the Vatican as coming from the “Holy See”. “See” in this case means “sedes” which is the Latin word for chair.

Every one who is baptized and professes the Catholic faith is truly a member of the Church. But therein is only one unique and charismatic gift, the papacy. The role of the pope is not one of power, but a sign of unity and service to the whole church community. This guarantee was personally given to Peter by Jesus himself when he said to Peter: “You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld will not prevail against it.” This guarantees not personal holiness for an individual pope, but a protection against error in matters of faith and morals.

In the first reading of this feast, St. Peter himself reminds the “presbyters” (priests) not to lord it over the flock assigned to their care, but to show them the example of holiness. Bishops and priests even though they do not have the charism of the papacy, do have a role of authority over the flock that is assigned to their care. In our own BLD community, this passage is read when new shepherds and leaders are assigned the task of leadership. It points out that authority and leadership are responsibilities that we all share in some degree. The shepherding system in the community is a beautiful example of love and concern that we should all have for one another.

Authority is strongest when connected to an example of holiness. Fortunately our present holy father is an example of holiness to the Church, and refuses to give in even in the midst of physical illness and criticism. May we all imitate the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for us, the sheep. May our love and service be reflected in the continued loving concern we have for each other, and the personal striving for personal holiness.

Servanthood and Prayer



A Christian evangelist once said that, “the most eloquent prayer is the prayer through hands that heal and bless.”

The world’s wisdom of greatness is measured in terms of power, prestige and position. However, Jesus turned this world’s value upside-down when He said,

“Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all.” (Mk 10:43-44) The way to greatness in God’s kingdom begins with servanthood.

The life of Jesus on earth can be summed by up His service. “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.” (Mat 20:28) Jesus did menial tasks such as washing His disciples’ feet, serving the lepers and helping the children.

The foundation of effective prayer is to abide and remain in Christ, which can be achieved through faithful service. Servanthood flows out of a heart totally devoted to God. The more we get to know God and understand His ways, the more we will love Him and desire to serve Him. Our mission in life is expressed in service, nourished by prayer and listening to the Word of God. *To serve is to reign with Christ.*

In the 8 months stint of our ME class with the Service Ministry, I have learned that the best way to serve is to serve with love (Gal 5:13) and humility (Acts 20:19). I have learned to focus on the Lord, whom I am serving through the community.

Let us dedicate ourselves to serving God by generously giving our time and using our talents for His honor and glory. “Whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.” (1Cor 10:31) Let us commit to following God’s will by leading a prayerful life and a desire to love and serve Him. “The Father will honor whoever serves me.” (Jn 12:26) So when we meet the Lord at the end of our pilgrim journey, He can say to us, “Well done, my good and faithful servant.” (Mat 25:23)

A prayer of St. Theresa of Avila sums up what servanthood is all about:

*“Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
You are the eyes through which He looks
compassion on the world*

*Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good
Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world.”*

Let us ask God for grace to give us a “servant heart” so we can do His will and plan in our lives by serving Him through others, through our Church and through our community. Let our prayer be, “I want to serve you, Lord.”

In The Spirit of Transparency

Honesty, Transparency and Accountability

As a covenant community, we bound ourselves to the principles of integrity, transparency and accountability in all matters affecting community life. What constitutes integrity, transparency and accountability?

Our parents inscribed the phrase “*honesty is the best policy*” in our hearts as we were growing up. They wanted the assurance that they could trust what they were hearing from us. Those who were consistently truthful were thus trustworthy and were called persons of integrity.

In our community, trust is essential; therefore integrity is essential. There is no room for “white” lies, which are “shades of the truth” or “window dressings” and hence are not truth. God’s Word says: “*Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD.*” (Prov 12:22) God calls us to witness the truth, so that others may come to know Jesus, who is *the Way, the Truth, and the Life!*

Transparency and accountability are vital complements to integrity. Transparency requires full and timely disclosure of the truth. Lack of disclosure has the effect of withholding the truth. Accountability requires willing acceptance of the responsibility to live in the truth. A lack of accountability reflects a deficiency in commitment to the truth.

Our past several years’ experience of tardy budgets and tardy, unaudited financial reports highlights the area where these norms are urgently needed. We recognize that work overload and operational inefficiencies caused these, but they are not acceptable excuses. Our calling compels us to respond to standard regulatory accounting practices designed to ensure conformity to specified requirements by government, church and general membership. We must be prudent in the application of community funds by putting good controls in place. We must practice proper resource allocation and budgeting in community and mission programs. We must provide a full accounting of receipts and expenses, assets and liabilities in a timely manner.

We must seek to respond to self-evaluative questions to help us realize God’s calling for us. For example: *How well are we accomplishing our mission?* Our self-evaluation should aim for the continuing improvement of evangelization and mission programs and should be consistent to a “value-added” approach that seeks greater fruitfulness in our ministries and mission.

Integrity, transparency and accountability - all rolled
continued ¶

Ministry Announcements

FEBRUARY TEACHINGS

Tonight at St Leo after worship

Singles: Gifts of the HS

John 6 Teaching

Mark 10 Teaching

Tomorrow, Feb 19 St Antoninus, 1-6pm

LSS 23: Basic Bible Seminar (Book of Books; Approaches; Word of God; Response)

LSS 20: Advance Intercession; Orientation to Spiritual Warfare

Feb 25 St Leo after worship

Service Ministry: Christian Servanthood

Intercessory Ministry Teaching

LSS 24 April 2-3 at La Consolata in Somerset, NJ. *Salubungan is next Friday*. Invocation Mass on April 1.

Community Retreat Family Healing and Deliverance with Father John Hampsch. *Reserve the date!* April 30 Saturday 9am-7pm at St. Antoninus church. All members, from Youth to Golden Years ministries, are invited.



“If people do what I tell you, many souls will be saved and there will be peace.”

Our Lady of Fatima asks for prayers, reparation for sins and consecration to her Immaculate Heart. Learn more: visit www.fatima.org.

Pray for Sister Lucy of the Immaculate Heart, who died last February 13 at age 97.

Honesty, Transparency....

into one - should be a way of life. This way of life can only be achieved if we abide by God’s Word which says: “*Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.*” (Phil. 4:8-9)

Counsels *from page 1*

St. Paul, we too should state, "So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong." [2 Cor. 12:9-10] In other words, through physical sufferings, we are spiritually strengthened in our daily communion with Christ.

The three readings for this week actually remind us that the Heavenly Father sent His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, so we may be saved through the grace and mercy of a loving God who never abandoned us to sin and death. Before we were created, the Lord God called us with a holy calling. [2 Tim. 1:8] Through Christ, He showed us the way, the truth and the life. [Jn. 14:6]. Instituted by Christ Himself, the Holy Catholic Church commands us to prepare ourselves for the great Feast of Easter that approaches, so we may be holy on that day as Jesus is holy. We are called to repent of our sins and receive the Sacrament of Confession. Then, having been made righteous in Christ, the Lord God will no longer remember our sins. And having been raised to a state of holiness, we will all qualify to join together in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Easter Sunday.

DIRECTIONS:

- Bear your share of hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God.
- Encourage members to provide input on how to make their ministries/apostolate more fruitful for 2005.

New Pastoral Servant Leaders Named

In a letter dated February 7, 2005, His Excellency Angel N. Lagdameo, BLD Global Spiritual Director and Archbishop of Jaro, announced the appointment of Jun and Rita Eala as members of the Executive Council of Servant Leaders (ECSL) in charge of the Pastoral Apostolate. The Ealas are replacing Dodo and Pauline Javier, who have resigned from the ECSL.

The Ealas served as Head Servant of the previous Council of Servant Leaders. In a still earlier Council, they served as Servant Leader for Mission. Tito Jun is a retired surgeon who has dedicated his life to the service of the Lord through BLD. Tita Rita is a retired educator and head of a college in Laguna.

Tito Jun visited the district over a year ago for the Teachers Development Program and Circle Shepherds Training. The couple taught the Catholic Evangelization Program in the district several years ago.

The Ealas will serve with the current ECSL until the end of its term in July 2006.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February 26	DLC meeting
March 12	FE reunion, Cafeteria 1-5pm
Mar 19-20	YLSS 10, La Consolata, Somerset NJ
Apr 2-3	LSS 24, La Consolata, Somerset NJ
Apr 30	Retreat with Fr. Hampsch, St. Antoninus 9am- 7pm
Jun 3-5	ME 25, Easton PA
Jun 24-26	SPE 7, Edison Ramada Inn

*May the blessings of the Lord
be upon you!*

BIRTHDAYS

2/18	Anthony Isidro, YE6 Aida Calilap, LSS14 Aldo Pangilinan, LSS13
2/19	Bellie Narvaez, LSS16 Joey Reyes, LSS15
2/20	Au Elope, LSS17 Tess Eusebio, LSS4 Seb Gubor, LSS23 Claire Macalintal, LSS11
2/21	Daven Lopina, YE11
2/22	George del Fiero, LSS4 Maribel Jarapa, LSS23 Gigi Munante, LSS5 Joey Reyes, LSS18
2/23	Miriam Abes, LSS2 Lilibeth Zandueta, LSS3
2/24	Mon Arceo, ME23 Sundee Ikalina, LSS12



ANNIVERSARIES

2/22	Mon & Bingle Chan, LSS2
2/24	Totie & Elaine Salonga, LSS17

Playing in 2005: *"Somebody's
Praying Through Me"*

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

01/28	\$ 4,079
02/04	3,725
02/11	2,505
6-wk avg	3,188

*Thank you for your
generosity!*

EXPENSES

6-wk average \$ 2,798



First report on Medical Mission

Our Mission Steward shared how our members contributed joyfully their time, talent and treasure in making last week's Medical Mission in Bulacan a truly memorable one. "The Lord allowed us to see His face among the poorest of the poor," he said as he sent in this report from a member.

"The first day of the mission was in the remote island of Pamarawan, accessible only via a 45-minute boat ride from Malolos. It is a depressed fishing village declared a mission parish by the diocese. We went so to speak on a house call, since we were the ones who went to their local church instead of people coming to us at a hospital facility. Only our medical team went to this venue, the members of the surgical team staying in Baliuag to do some surgeries. We did not have a dental team this year.

"One of these days we can relate to you the touching encounters that we experienced in this place. We saw approximately 450 medical patients and finished at around 6:30 in the evening. Our way home was a little scary since it was stark dark and the boat drivers had to use flashlights.

"Those of us who have joined earlier missions all agreed that our experience in Pamarawan was different from previous years. We were all so touched by those whom we met. Their kindness in spite of their poverty was unbelievable. On our way home, people stood on the river banks waving goodbye and shouting *Salamat po* and asking us to come back some day.

"From Tuesday to Thursday, we all served at the District Hospital where we saw an average of 700 medical patients a day. These were very busy days. Our surgical team had about 100 minor surgeries and 20 major ones."

A battle is raging!

(See today's Insert.)

Please help uphold the Sanctity of Life.

COUNSELS

Sharing The Gospel Freely

WORD: Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9;
Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42

ORDER: Worship God in Spirit and truth. (Jn 4:23)

REFLECTION: In our Readings, we see the Israelites thirsting for water in the desert. We also hear St. Paul tell us that the love of God has been "poured out" into our hearts and then in the Gospel, we hear the story of the "woman at the well."

In the first Reading, we witness a serious confrontation between Moses and the unruly, thirsty people he is leading through the desert. The real problem is that the people doubt that God will be with them in their need, thus, they ask a question that echoes in the heart of every believer who has undergone severe temptation or suffering. "Is the Lord with us or not?"

The words Massah and Meribah mean "quarrel" and "testing." It is a fact of life that we doubt and question, especially during difficult times. This reading acknowledges our weakness, yet demonstrates that the Lord does appear among us.

As people of faith, we are reminded that we should make a determined effort to pray when we feel like complaining, which only raises our level of stress. Prayer quiets our thoughts and emotions and prepares us to listen.

The second Reading urges us to scrutinize ourselves and seek God's help in overcoming whatever is weak, defective or sinful in our lives and in strengthening what is upright, strong and good.

Paul also discusses how we have been justified by the saving action of God in Christ, the result of God's love for us. On our own, we can do nothing to

(Page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

"Whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up eternal life."

(Jn 4:14)

A Model of Evangelization

In this chance encounter between Jesus and the woman by a well in Samaria, we read an account of sensitive, compassionate evangelization. We trace five steps in the conversion of the woman who eventually became an evangelizer herself.

1. *Create a trust situation* (verses 7-9). Jesus asks for a drink of water, and the Samaritan woman brings up the cultural and religious hostility between her people and the Jews. We might imagine her remarks, *You physically avoid us as though we were lepers. You claim to love God but despise us!* The Lord leads her from her inner anxieties to openness.

2. *Recognize the other person's need* (vv 10-12). Jesus listens to her spiritual longings and offers her the living water of God. But taking Him literally, she notes that He has not even a bucket. Loosening up, she asks if He thought He were a better man than Jacob who built the well. Seeing something likeable in this Jew, her potential for change is growing - the second step in her conversion.

3. *Become more directive* (vv 13-15). The Lord now talks of an everlasting water that will quench her spiritual thirst. She understands what Jesus says and asks, *Sir, give me this water.* In this third stage, she asks for the waters of initiation into a community of love, to belong to faithful and trustworthy people. This is not explicit in her mind but it is the substance of her desires.

4. *Confront the person with the decision to be moral* (vv 16-18). Jesus now asks her to face her immoral choices: she has had five husbands and now lives with a man who is not her lawful husband. She equivocates but Jesus remains firm yet gentle. Only when she was ready to give up her infidelities will she discover true love and experience God. She sees in Jesus a prophet who can read her mind and her past. Her journey continues, as she cautiously enters the fourth step of moral conversion.

5. *Invite the person to faith* (vv 20-26). Jesus neither intimidates nor reviles her for her sins. He simply places a mirror before her soul for she sees well enough what is there. Jesus has no interest in making the sinner feel miserable, but only in helping her to believe in God's merciful love. When she speaks of the Messiah, Jesus reveals Himself: *I am He, the one who is speaking with you.*

In this fifth stage of her conversion, the sinner arrives at total commitment to Christ, to community, morality and evangelical witness. She leaves her water jar at the well, going back to her town and preaching the Good News.

God's Love Poured Out

I was driving down the parkway on a gloomy, cold rainy day, on my way to a meeting to make a go of a new business venture. My spirits were low, and so were my funds. My lucrative high tech projects had run out; I had tried other things but was now losing hope. I had prayed for relief but there was no answer. I felt that God had abandoned me and started to hide from Him. I was not at peace and was tempted to go back to my old ways and trust only to my own devices to regain material wealth.

As I played my Praise CD my Lord began to speak to me in the words that struck me. My tears started to flow as freely as the streaking rain on the windshield.

Even in my darkest hour, I will sing, I will praise.

*Even though I have not lost my faith,
it is hard for me to pray...*

The song evoked passages from the Scripture. Trust in me. I am with you always. (Mt 28:20) My heart was heavy, but as I began to sing along, I felt God's reassurance. I praised the Holy Spirit for the gift of tears and thanked my Lord for all His mercy and forgiveness. *"The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us."* (Rom 5:5)

I have learned to face pain and suffering with resignation. *Have your way*, the song from that afternoon goes. As I face my life's afflictions, I am yet ready to boast in His glory. "Affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope." (verse 3) Through my trials, my Maker is molding me, shaping my character and giving me endurance so that my hope in Him will increase. In His own time and according to His will, He will grant me what I pray for.

The lyrics, *I will put my trust in you knowing that you died to set me free*, bring me to His Word: "Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access (by faith) to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God." (vv 1-2)

In my darkest hour, God has reminded me that He has poured out His love for me. He has restored my peace thru His graces. I belong to Him, and there is no turning back from my Lord.

Visit our website at:
www.bldnewark.com.

DCSpeak

Are there members of the community whom you miss because you have not seen them in a while?

The reasons for their absence are many: personal, work schedule, broken relationships etc. But whatever it is, our duty is to find out and invite them back to our community. Scripture reminds us of our role as disciples of Christ, our Chief Shepherd, to continue caring for His flock: *"I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and witness to the sufferings of Christ and one who has a share in the glory to be revealed. Tend the flock of God in your midst, (overseeing) not by compulsion but willingly, as God would have it, not for shameful profit but eagerly."* (1Peter 5:1-2)

In community, the tasks of looking after the 'sheep' belong to those who have pastoral authority over the members. These are the circle/class/LSS shepherds, and ministry/apostolate coordinators with the help of the members' friends, sponsors and relatives.

Bringing back to community those who have been away is not an easy task. The first step is to reestablish contact, using such means or steps as telephone calls, short notes or email; birthday or anniversary greeting cards; copies of Magnificat or our Covenant News; inviting them to Community Day, reunions and parties; or their children to join community programs.

Our members' non-attendance in our Word Sharing Circles and Living Word Groups is an early indication of the need to reach out to them. The circle shepherd or the coordinator can find out if there's any problem with a simple phone call immediately after the Friday worship. The ministry then addresses the problem once it is identified, and has recourse to the Pastoral Ministry as needed.

How do we welcome them back? We should avoid expressions such as: ***Where have you been? I have not seen you for ages. Long time no see! It's been a while; we thought you were dead!***

We encourage everyone to be careful and sensitive when meeting our newcomers and members who come back after a long absence by expressing our love and saying words such as: ***We are happy to see you. We miss you so much.*** Or just kiss and hug them tight (even without saying anything).

We therefore exhort everyone to look after each other, especially those who are given the task to shepherd the flock. We have to do everything to bring those who have not been attending back to the fold. Our ultimate example is Jesus, our Chief Shepherd who said in John 10:11: ***"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."***

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DLC meets tomorrow. Please keep our leadership in prayer.

March Teachings

March 5 St Antoninus, 1-6 p.m

LSS 1-20: Catechism Part 2

LSS 19: Shepherds Training I

LSS 21- 22: CMPI Part 1 (Love, Faith, Renewing the Mind, Overcoming World/Flesh/Devil)

March 18 St Leo after Friday worship

Singles: Fruit of the Holy Spirit

John 6 Teaching

Mark 10: Teaching

March 19 St Antoninus, 1-6 pm

LSS 19: Shepherds Training 2

LSS 21-22: CMPI Part 2 (Walking in the Spirit, Body and Blood, Service, Community)

LSS 24: Christian Parenting Part 1

LSS 24 April 2-3 at La Consolata in Somerset NJ. Invocation Mass on April 1.

Community Retreat Family Healing and Deliverance with Father John Hampsch. *Reserve the date!* April 30 Saturday 9am-7pm at St. Antoninus church. All members, from Youth to Golden Years ministries, are invited.



Therese makes it to New Jersey!

(The movie, that is.)

It is now showing at the Hawthorne 5 Cinema.
Call 973-427-2828.

**COVENANT NEWS:
A PART OF YOUR COVENANT LIFE.**

Counsels from

achieve ~~pass~~ salvation. Recognizing this truth should lead to joy, wonder, gratitude and love of the God who has loved us so much.

Saint John reminds us that Jews and Samaritans have nothing to do with each other. However, towards the end, notice how the Samaritans come to Jesus and beg Him to stay awhile. While these startling expressions of reconciliation between groups known for their mutual hatred are not the central point of John's account, the story is laced with it from start to finish. By speaking with a Samaritan woman in public, Jesus is breaking another taboo. Keep in mind the reconciling power of Jesus' presence as we hear Him tired from His journey, ask for a drink of water and then reveal Himself as the Messiah. Only one other time do we hear Jesus speak of His thirst – when He was lifted up on the cross and drew all the world to Himself.

In the Gospel, the Samaritan woman speaks of water and Jesus turns the conversation to living water. The woman refers to Jacob, giver of the well, the source of the water, and Jesus makes it clear that He is greater than Jacob for He has a different kind of water to offer. The woman brings up the disagreement about where one should worship God, and Jesus explains that God is spirit and can be worshiped anywhere by one with a truthful heart.

Even the disciples provide Jesus with an opportunity to speak of deeper matters. When urged to eat something, Jesus speaks of bringing the Father's work to completion as the food that sustains Him. Finally, Jesus speaks of the gratuitous gift of God, Jesus Himself. There is no need to sow, for the harvest is provided. God has done the work, and here is the ultimate payoff. The woman spreads the Good News. The Samaritans come to hear Jesus and they move from hearsay belief to personal faith. The striking point is that the Gospel is for every person, there is no partiality to one's race, social position or past sins.

The Gospel emphasizes further that Jesus' mission is universal and as such, we, His followers, must be prepared to share this Gospel at any time and in any place. Jesus crossed all barriers to share the Gospel, and we who follow Him must do no less if we would like to be salt of the earth and light of the world.

DIRECTIONS

- Witness the victory of the Lord in your life through Word sharing circles and everyone you meet.
- If you hear His voice, harden not your heart.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Feb 26	DLC meeting
Mar 12	Disciples' Assembly
Mar 12	FE reunion, Cafeteria 1-5pm
Mar 12	ME 23 reunion, Africa Residence, Garden City NY
Mar 19-20	YLSS 10, La Consolata, Somerset NJ
Apr 2-3	LSS 24, La Consolata, Somerset NJ
Apr 30	Retreat with Fr. Hampsch, St. Antoninus 9am
Jun 3-5	ME 25, Easton PA
Jun 24-26	SPE 7, Edison Ramada Inn

May the blessings of the Lord be upon you. . .



BIRTHDAYS

2/25	Eve Alcruz, LSS1 Athena Lim, YE11 Vicki Cruz, LSS11 Beatrice Daniels, SPE1	3/1	Audie Chong, LSS20 Pedro Martinez, LSS23 Magalis Balanquet, LSS23 Jennifer Mendiola, LSS21 Rosing Romualdo, LSS19 John Michael Cam, Mk 10
2/27	Samantha Aglibut, YCR4 Nenette Arceo, LSS19 Christian Francisco, YCR4 Samantha Olaso, YCR3	3/2	Serge Bernatchez, LSS10 Milagros Arzaga, SPE4 Henry Koryan, LSS2 Myrna Magadia, LSS19
2/28	Mike Reyes, LSS23 Nilda Milite, SPE3	3/3	Edith Celebria, LSS8 Angie Sion, YE11 Estela Francisco, SPE1

ANNIVERSARIES

3/1	Carding & Rosing Romualdo, LSS19
3/2	Marvin & Jennifer Daclan, LSS22 Tony & Alice Yanza, LSS13

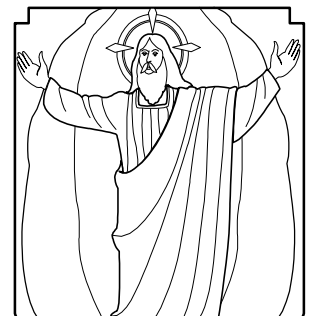
THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

2/04	\$3,725
2/11	2,505
2/18	3,083
7-wk avg	3,173

EXPENSES

7-wk avg	\$2,767
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Thank you for your generosity!

**“GK isn't just *Gawad Kalinga*.
It is a part of *God's Kingdom*
in this world.”**
(Dylan Wilks)



Pope Hopes for Development Policies That Are Sensitive

John Paul II this month is praying in a special way that development policies around the world pay special attention to the oppressed.

The Apostleship of Prayer announced the Pope's intention for March. Millions of faithful around the world join the Holy Father in offering prayers and sacrifices for the intention. The general intention for March is "That governments of every nation, in their policies and development plans, should always take into account the poor, the marginalized and the oppressed." When it presented the intention, the headquarters of the Apostleship of Prayer in Rome published a commentary prepared by the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum."

The commentary explained that a "particularly sensitive and attentive ear is needed to recognize their true needs and find the courage to consider them true protagonists, worthy of being at the center of the stage. Besides, they need to be trusted and provided with the instruments necessary for them to play a central role, especially in the programs and projects which concern their life."

"Genuine development policies must involve the whole of the social fabric, so as not to create tears that are difficult to mend," stated the pontifical council. "Their objective is to provide a supplementary impulse to those who cannot keep up with others' pace, and to succeed in getting those in the lead to support those who grow weary."

Every month, the Holy Father also offers his prayer for a missionary intention. In March it is "That each individual Church should be aware of the ever greater urgency of preparing holy Christians, capable of confronting challenges to the new evangelization."

COUNSELS

The Coming of Light into the Darkness

WORD: 1 Sam.16: 6-7, 10-13a; Ps.23: 1-6; Eph.5:8-14; Jn.9:1-41

ORDER: *Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness.* (Eph.5:8b & 11)

REFLECTION: The Fourth of Sunday of Lent is also the second of the scrutiny Sundays. The principle theme today is seeing. Although physical sight is very important, in both the first reading and the Gospel such sight is really the point of entry into a much deeper theme, that of religious insight.

From the beginning of his Gospel, John speaks of the coming of God's Word into the world as that of the light which enlightens everyone and which the darkness can refuse to accept. (Jn.1:5,9-10). The cure of the man born blind shows Jesus in the exercise of this mission (Jn.5:17) for which the Father sent him. Such is the meaning of the miracle. There is no place here for questions about the causes of the man's condition. "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents?" (Jn.9:2) The question is whether or not we recognize in Jesus "the light of the world", and this is a question that remains asked of all the readers of the Gospel.

But how is Jesus the light? How can we recognize Him? The answer is found in John's Gospel given by Jesus himself. To those who say, "If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly," Jesus answers back, "The works I do in my Father's name testify to me" (Jn.10:24-25). These works are a greater testimony than any human can give, even John the Baptist himself. Jesus often comes back to this point, going as far as saying, "If I do not

(Page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

"Only goodness and kindness follow me all days of my life." (Ps.23:6a)

On Community Planning

A plan of a spiritual community is a product of the minds and hearts of its members joined together under the guidance of the Spirit. It comes to fruition after the prayerful deliberation of its members and executed by a body that is of one heart, mind and spirit. It expresses how we see ourselves in the mission God gave our community.

In order for a plan to work, priorities are set and regular review of the plan is made against actual results. Just like navigation, planning requires knowing where one was, where one is and where one is going. Otherwise, planning could be a waste of time. Of course, adjustments are necessary along the way. If errors were committed, they are recognized not to assign blame but to think of ways to avoid them and make them work for the greater benefit of community.

Although everything is done in prayer and with great dedication to God's Word, the resultant plan may not necessarily be the optimum design God has for us. As such, the need to keep revisions ought to be set in proper perspective. While periodic review is commendable, sudden change in strategies is not recommendable, unless one is sure that they are not working or there are real changes in the underlying assumptions to action plans.

Whenever the success of a plan is assessed, a practical analysis of the reasons for the variance is conducted coupled by prayerful discernment of one's circumstances using God's Word. Most importantly, those in governance disclose and communicate to the general membership how the community progressed with its plans. Everyone is given an opportunity to freely share their thoughts about community. Cooperation and collaboration with one another are encouraged in order to achieve objectives.

During the Disciples Assembly of March 13, 2004, the DCS presented the overall 2004 plans, which presumably set the direction and pace of community affairs. In the spirit of honesty, transparency and accountability, all of us need to review how we contributed to the present state of affairs of community. We need to ask what worked and didn't work in 2004, what changes took place in our community in our vision and mission that require us to amend our plans.

After we answer these questions, let us update our plans, set new budgets and milestones, and periodically review them. If we remain open to change and improvements, we will discover that maintaining a proactive plan gives us better understanding of our affairs and our work for the Lord. If we combine this with increase in prayer, continuous discernment and waiting on the Lord, we are assured of a better plan that embodies God's voice and will.

World Youth Day 2005

In this year of the Eucharist in which Pope John Paul II has called us to take a greater devotion to the "vital source that nourishes our faith," the young people of the Church have a golden opportunity to unite and celebrate their faith through the Eucharist. In August 2005, the youth of the Church from every diocese of the world will gather in Cologne, Germany, for the 20th World Youth Day. The theme of this year's gathering is derived from the tale of the three magi in Matthew chapter two, who boldly traveled to adore the newborn Savior and proclaimed that "*we have come to worship Him.*" (Matt 2:2)

Pope John Paul II noted that just as the Magi did not hesitate to leave anything behind to follow the star that they had seen in the East, so we are to "set out on a journey from every region of the world to go to Cologne". He further declared that we too must offer "the gold of our lives, the incense of our fervent prayer, and our myrrh" as an offering of our freedom to follow Him out of love, to praise Him, and to show our complete gratitude to Him "who loved us to the point of dying on Golgotha."

The first World Youth Day was held in 1986 on the diocesan level. The first international celebration of WYD was held the following year in Buenos Aires, Argentina. WYD has since been held yearly, with every other year being held on the international level. Cardinal Francis Stafford, the president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, describes the goal of WYD as "the discovery of the concrete norm of human life, the eternal Word of God whom John had seen, heard and touched."

The festivities will take place from August 11 to August 21. The first five days are spent in the Diocese, while the last week is dedicated to the international celebration of World Youth Day. It includes Eucharistic celebrations, reconciliation services, festivals of music, and catechesis. The festivities culminate with mass celebrated with the Holy Father.

In his message to the Youth of the world, the Pope proclaimed: "Dear young people, the Church needs genuine witnesses for the new evangelization: men and women whose lives have been transformed by meeting with Jesus, men and women who are capable of communicating this experience to others. The Church needs saints. All are called to holiness, and holy people alone can renew humanity."

The complete Papal message, as well as additional information on WYD, can be read here: http://www.vatican.va/gmg/documents/gmg_2005_en.html

“I was ill and you cared for me...”

“Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ (Mt.25:34-36)

This is part of the reading on February 14th, the day our medical mission started. It is indeed an inspiring message from Him at the start of our mission and it provided us with the strength and the joy to serve the less fortunate.

There are countless memories that are worth sharing and this is just one of them.

A middle aged woman came to our mission hoping to be cured of her breast cancer only to be told by our volunteer doctor that we could no longer accommodate her due to over booking of surgical cases. The doctor jotted down her name and address and told her that someone would get in touch with her to follow up on her medical needs. Maybe she felt heart broken and hopeless on her way back home.

The Sunday after our mission ended, the mission stewards of BLD Malolos were able to track her down in a remote area of a town in Bulacan. As the mission stewards were introducing themselves and telling her of their mission, the woman was dumbfounded, astonished, and tears started to well down from her eyes and those of her neighbors who were with her at that time. These are tears of hope for a joyful ending of one’s painful struggles. All of them could not believe that we came true to what we told her. Since then, arrangements have been made for her to be brought to the PGH to take care of her urgent medical needs.

This is just one tale of those mission memories that are forever etched in our minds as they touched our lives. All of these can be summarized simply by the words of the parish priest of Pamarawan when he said that we have given them hope by making them realize that God has not abandoned them. By allowing ourselves to be willing instruments of God’s love, we have made others, especially the less fortunate, realize that God is alive and among us all.

Like this story which is still an open case, the main mission of our community remains unfinished and we need to go on and be inspired by His word in Matthew 5:16 - *“Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”*

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

March Teachings

Tomorrow, March 5 St Antoninus, 1-6 p.m

LSS 1-20: Catechism Part 2

LSS 19: Shepherds Training I

LSS 21- 22: CMPI Part 1 (Love, Faith, Renewing the Mind, Overcoming World/Flesh/Devil)

March 18 St Leo after Friday worship

Singles: Fruit of the Holy Spirit

John 6: Teaching

Mark 10: Teaching

March 19 St Antoninus, 1-6 pm

LSS 19: Shepherds Training 2

LSS 21-22: CMPI Part 2 (Walking in the Spirit, Body and Blood, Service, Community)

LSS 24: Christian Parenting Part 1

YLSS 10 March 19-20 at La Consolata in Somerset NJ. Invocation Mass on March 18.

John 6 Outing. Tuesday March 29, Sight & Sound Theater in Strassburg PA. \$15 tickets, \$38 if above 18 (adults). Reservation/questions: Reggie-Orange Avisado.

LSS 24 April 2-3 also at La Consolata. Invocation Mass on April 1.

Community Retreat. Family Healing and Deliverance with Father John Hampsch. Reserve the date! April 30 Saturday 9am-7pm at St. Antoninus church. All members, from Youth to Golden Years ministries, are invited.

ME 25 June 3-5 in Easton PA.

Holy Father’s Intentions for March

General: For governments: when adopting development plans and policies may they take into account the poor and the excluded.

Missionary: For the local Churches: may they realize the need to form Christians to face the challenges of new evangelization.

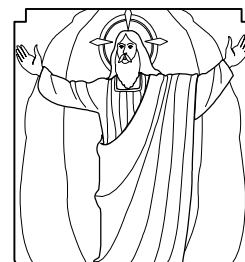
THE LORD’S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

2/11	\$2,505
2/18	3,083
2/25	3,449
8-wk avg	3,207

EXPENSES

8-wk avg	\$2,862
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visit our website at: www.bldnewark.com.

Counsels from page 1

perform my Father's works, do not believe in me; but if I perform them, even if you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may realize that the Father is in me and I am in the Father" (Jn.10:37-38). Truly, the works He accomplishes are the decisive credentials that show Him to be the one sent by the Father as the Light of the World. Those who do not see must ask themselves whether or not they are blind.

It is we who must unceasingly question ourselves anew. How do we read Scriptures and hear them in the liturgy and preaching? Do we seek confirmation for their ideas or even their prejudices? Do we accept the challenge the Scriptures bring when they unmask the "works of darkness" which we as "children of light" still perform? These are serious questions that all of us must regularly face to avoid falling imperceptibly into a tragic blindness. The saints became saints because they never ceased to allow themselves to be questioned by Christ and the Gospels. Without such searching, tepidity threatens.

The light of Christ enables us to recognize good wherever it is, to unhesitatingly identify it and finally, to see God at work in it. But we often refuse to do this, or we dare not express our opinion, like the parents of the cured man (Jn.9:20-21). The man Jesus met was very simply cured of his blindness: a little mud applied to his eyes and afterwards washed in the Pool of Siloam. By contrast, it was little by little, progressively, that his inner eyes were open, that he was brought to faith. John makes no mention of anything the blind beggar might have done to attract Jesus' attention. But who could say why, one day, one makes a gesture, dares one step that will set in motion a whole chain of events? Must we not recognize that we unknowingly were moved by an initiative of God?

In Him and through Him, we become "children of light" and can, like Him, perform works that are pleasing to God. It is a marvelous transformation that turns a blind person into one who lives by light and is called to walk from light to light.

DIRECTIONS:

- 1: Do not judge from appearance.
- 2: Learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Be Christ to one another.
- 3: Hate the sin, but not the sinner.
- 4: Be bold in witnessing God's work in your life.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Mar 12 Disciples' Assembly
- Mar 12 FE reunion, Cafeteria 1-5pm
- Mar 12 ME 23 reunion, Africa Residence, Garden City NY
- Mar 18 YLSS 10 Invocation Mass
- Mar 19-20 YLSS 10, La Consolata, Somerset NJ
- Apr 2-3 LSS 24, La Consolata, Somerset NJ
- Apr 30 Retreat with Fr. Hampsch, St. Antoninus 9am
- Jun 3-5 ME 25, Easton PA
- Jun 19 BLD Foundation Day (Global Community's 20th Anniversary)
- Jun 24-26 SPE 7, Edison Ramada Inn

Come tomorrow!

Learn more about the Catechism.

Grow deeper in Christian maturity.

Become a shepherd in the footsteps of Christ.

***We have beautiful* TEACHINGS TOMORROW**

(see Ministry Announcements)

May the blessings of the Lord be upon you. . .



BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3/4 Ed de los Reyes, LSS9 | 3/8 Jeff Pagdonsolan, YCR4 |
| Dory Param, LSS17 | Arlene Claricia, ME24 |
| 3/5 Rita Santos, LSS18 | Marc Disla, LSS23 |
| 3/6 Grace Baquilod, LSS2 | Jane Enciso, LSS17 |
| Francia Edquilag, LSS17 | Joan Maniego, LSS23 |
| Chidi Obi, Mk 10 | Mina Mantes, LSS11 |
| 3/7 Stella Huelgas, LSS1 | 3/9 Jennifer Daclan, LSS22 |
| Genevieve Guzman, YCR3 | Danny Palomares, LSS17 |
| Patrick Salmo, Mk 10 | Joven Soriano, LSS15 |
| Tiffany Pineda, Mk 10 | 3/10 Girlie Aliparo, LSS17 |
| Michael Rangel, Mk 10 | Maryann Mcgehrin, LSS20 |
| | Vicki Montesa, SPE6 |

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3/4 Tony & Linda Avisado, LSS8
- Ver & Diana Nacion, LSS17
- Bert & Helen Pie, LSS6
- 3/6 Jerry & Tina Almonte, LSS3
- 3/8 Gerry & Elma Garcia, LSS3
- Mario & Tess Lopez, LSS23



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A PART OF YOUR COVENANT LIFE.**

Kudos & complaints?

wordministry@bldnewark.com



We give thanks!

John Paul II made a surprise appearance at a window of the Gemelli Polyclinic and blessed the faithful gathered outside the hospital, which included a group of about 80 children from two schools in the province of Milan.

The Pope had just celebrated Mass, with the participation of some of his doctors, and was still wearing the purple chasuble.

Shortly before, from his room on the 10th floor, the Holy Father heard the cheers and songs of hundreds of pilgrims gathered on the hospital grounds, since today would be the usual day for the Pope's general audience at the Vatican.

The general audience was suspended, following the tracheotomy John Paul II underwent Feb. 24 to ease a breathing problem.

The pilgrims outside the hospital responded with loud applause when they saw the Pope's figure. It marked the third time he appeared at the window since his latest hospitalization. On the two previous occasions he appeared after the Sunday recitation of the Angelus.

A delegation of five children was welcomed on the 10th floor by aides of the Pope, who received drawings, letters and a crucifix from them as gifts for John Paul II.



After his daily morning visit to the Gemelli, Vatican spokesman Joaquín Navarro Valls reminded

journalists that a new statement will be issued Thursday on the progress of the Pope's recovery.

Our community is blessed with the gift of vocations, not only from that of our own young people but also by the presence of Filipino seminarians who are finishing their studies here in Newark. We have articles from two of them on page 2.

COUNSELS

Believing and Living in Christ

WORD: Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

ORDER:

"Believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the One who is coming to the world." (Jn 11:27)

REFLECTION:

"Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died." (Jn 11:21) These words express a whole lot of differing sentiments. They could mean resentment, despair, hurt, or even dependence to or belief in God. We all have been through life with its ups and downs, confronting problems in so many different ways. One may face his or her difficulties with fear or self-pity, another with boldness, and yet another with an open mind. A small and simple problem to one may be a giant Goliath to another. However it comes, each of us must carry our own share of burdens.

This Sunday's Gospel tells us of the dramatic raising of Lazarus from the tomb. This miracle is a sign of Christ's power to give life to those who believe. *"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live... will never die."* (Jn 11:25).

In the first reading, the prophet Ezekiel used vivid images of dry bones coming together by God's power, *"I will put my spirit in you that you may live."* (Ezekiel 37:14a) This signifies the release of the Jews from the captivity and slavery of Babylon and the rising from their graves to return to a new life in their homeland. It exemplifies God's power to restore the nation from exile.

St. Paul's letter to the Romans refers to those living according to the flesh as spiritually dead, while those

(cont'd on page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

"If you believe, you will see the glory of God."

(Jn 11:40)

A Lenten Discipline

Why Frequent Communion

Becoming one with Christ is an effect of receiving Communion, and the reason behind exhorting its frequent reception, said the Papal Household preacher, Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, in a Lenten meditation.

Father Cantalamessa's sermon, held in the Redemptoris Mater Chapel in the Apostolic Palace, was attended by members of the Roman Curia and other cardinals, bishops and religious close to the Vatican. John Paul II, who has been hospitalized for the past eight days, was unable to participate in the meditation.

He added that the Eucharist is the "presence of the incarnation and memorial of Easter" and went on to point out the viewpoints of 2 giants of Scripture.

"The Pauline perspective emphasizes the idea of sacrifice and immolation, making the Eucharist the proclamation of the Lord's death and the fulfillment of Easter. (see 1 Cor 11:26 and 5:7)

"The Johannine perspective emphasizes the idea of the Eucharist as banquet and communion. (See Jn 6:55)

"One explains the Eucharist from the paschal mystery, the other from the incarnation... The two dimensions of the Eucharist — as sacrifice and sacrament — are reconciled, which are not always easy to keep together.

The Gospel of John does "not say that he was made in the flesh, but, repeatedly, that he became flesh, to show his union ... So that whoever eats the sacred flesh of Christ has eternal life: the flesh has, in fact, in itself the Word, which is life by nature.

"Whoever eats the flesh and drinks the blood of Christ is united and merged in him, as wax united to wax. As leaven makes the whole dough rise, so a small portion of Eucharistic bread fills all our body with divine energy. He is in us and we in him, as leaven in the dough and dough in the leaven. Thanks to the Eucharist we make ourselves 'corporeal' with Christ.

"The practical consequence of all this is an urgent exhortation to frequent Communion," stressed the papal preacher.

In the Eucharist, we "taste the sweetness" of Christ. The best summary of this sweetness is in the liturgy of the feast of Corpus Domini: "How good, Lord, is your spirit! To show thy tenderness to your children, you have given them a delicious bread brought down from heaven, which fills the hungry with good things and leaves the weary rich empty."



Away from my "comfort zone"

*"Go and preach to all nations."
(Mk.6: 7ff)*

I did not expect that one day I would have the fortune of coming to Newark, New Jersey.

I graduated with a Theology degree from St. Vincent School of Theology, Quezon City in March 2004. Shortly after graduation, I went into deep discernment, asking God whether I should push through my application to the Archdiocese of Newark or just stay put and continue my seminary formation. With the encouragement of my BLD shepherd and ME255 classmates, I decided to send my application and was accepted! And so the preparation for my trip to New Jersey began and was in full swing in due time.

I arrived in this land of plenty on January 17, 2005. Coming to America, I had anticipated a brighter life, more fulfilling than what I had back home. But three days after my arrival I got sick with flu. I was hit with a terrible cold and the fever was making me weak. My body was perhaps shocked by the sudden change in temperature for I was freezing since the day I arrived. In my feverish condition, I was suffering physically and emotionally and was missing home. I remembered how back home, I would be well taken care of and nursed back to good health by relatives. I blamed myself for an erroneous decision to come to Newark.

Back home, I was already done with my Theology course and was in a pre-deaconal program. Also as a seminarian in a predominantly Catholic country, I have been enjoying a great sense of security and pride because people love the seminarians and have a high regard for priests. These thoughts continued to upset me and made my sickness worse. I was confused and lonely. I was indeed at the point of giving up. I prayed to God for enlightenment and for a deeper faith. There and then, I realized that my sickness was part of my journey- my journey for the Lord. I thought of the first disciples who dared preach the Gospel to all nations in the midst of winter carrying nothing but relied solely in the Divine Providence (cf. Mk.6: 8ff). Realizing that, I regained the fervor of committing myself to the service of God's people here in Newark.

I trust that whatever challenge I will encounter here in America, as long as I let God work in me, I can hurdle it. A genuine vocation to follow Christ means the willingness to accept the challenges along the way and be ready to leave behind one's 'comfort zone'. The cross-cultural experience might be tough and difficult, but I am ready.

Playing in 2005:

"Somebody's Praying Through Me"

Lenten Reflection

Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart.” (Joel 2:12)

For us, what is really the meaning of Lent? What are we suppose to give up for Lent? During this time as we reflect on our relationship with Christ, is it growing or waning? How well do we live the values of Christ?

Lent is a time of renewal. The word Lent comes from its Germanic meaning, “springtime”. In Latin, the season of Lent is called, “Quadragesima”, literally meaning “40 days”. Lent is set in the springtime of the year when we see signs of rebirth all around us. Just as in spring when we see those things that were once dead come back to life, Lent marks the time when we, as Christians, turn away from our sinfulness and refocus our lives toward Christ. It is the right time to reform and turn away from those things that hinder our relationship with our Savior. It is about improving our relationship with God, recentering all our values to His values. Ideally this is what we should be doing throughout the whole year.

Lent is a time for tuning our ears, for listening carefully, for discerning the quality of our own habits, for attending to God’s call amidst the noise of cultural pressures, the burdens of life, and our own self-limiting actions. We may need to look back to our uncontrolled vices. We may need to mend the pieces of a broken relationship or we may need to take some of the time we hoard so tightly for our work and lavish it instead on our families, friends and relatives. We may need to cultivate a more rhythmic pattern of prayer to bring the Scriptures into clearer focus in our daily life. We may be called to respond to the cry of the poor, to feed the hungry, to shelter the homeless, or to visit the prisoner. All these can rightly be discerned as God’s prompting to a fuller life.

Lent is a time of intense spiritual preparation. Preparation for what? We prepare our hearts and souls for the coming great celebration of Easter—“the Feast of all feasts”. God sacrificed His only Son so that our sins would be forgiven and we are made new again. By making our own sacrifices during this season, we remain mindful of the suffering Christ endured at His crucifixion for our sake. Therefore, let us take this time that the Church gives us to embrace that cross we were marked with last Ash Wednesday, so that as we journey with Christ to Good Friday, we may rejoice with Him at EASTER!



COVENANT NEWS:

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Ministry Announcements

March Teachings

March 18 St Leo after Friday worship

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Mark 10: Teaching

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Community Retreat. Family Healing and Deliverance with Father John Hampsch. Reserve the date! April 30 Saturday 9am-7pm at St. Antoninus church. All members, from Youth to Golden Years ministries, are invited.

ME 25. Share the joy of the Encounter with other couples you care about! Invite them to ME 25 on June 3-5. Contact Tony-Linda at 908-835-1622 or Nick-Island at 908-688-8614. Application forms also available at our website www.bldnewark.com.

The Lord's Provisions

COLLECTIONS:

02/18 \$3,083

02/25 3,449

03/04 3,260

9-wk.Avg 3,213

*Thank you for
your
generosity!*

EXPENSES:

9-wk.Avg \$2,747

Visit our website

@

www.bldnewark.com

Counsels from page 1

belonging to Christ as spiritually alive – a reference to the resurrection to a life of unending glory for those who were loyal and obedient to God. The thought of this glorious future should never be far from our minds. It is this thought that would enable us to face our giant Goliaths with joyful hearts. It is this hope of eternal happiness that should stimulate ordinary women and men, like us, to keep going and never give up. It is by bearing our burdens, by welcoming and seeing God's will in all life's ups and downs that we can attain this promise of unending glory. We then must take each day as an offering to God with its joys and sorrows, its honest pleasures and pains, its sunshine and showers. It means: living in peace with God and with our neighbor.

In our community, we have had our share of trials. We have learned that the trials we encounter do not end in misery, but rather as Christ's victory in our lives. We hold on to the promise that in any adversities, the glory of God prevails, so that like Martha, we would not only say, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (Jn 11:21) but also declare, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God." (Jn 11:27)

When Jesus commanded Lazarus to come out, he came out, "tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth." (Jn 11:44) When we live in the flesh, the power of sin binds our hands and feet and our worldly concerns suffocate and stifle the Spirit from working in us. We need to unwrap the burial bands, arise from our sinfulness, and come out to the light so that we may witness to Christ's victory in our lives. Jesus wants us freed from the tomb that traps and prevents us from doing our work in the community. Let's roll away the stone that has kept us in darkness so that the light of Christ can come in and the stench of stagnation and complacency can dissipate. Let's live as children of light and pray that the light of Jesus will shine on everyone.

DIRECTIONS

- Glorify the Lord at all times, even in times of adversities and sufferings
- Live in the Spirit, and fear not physical death

"The Pope is the living witness that a hospital bed can perfectly be an altar on which one continues to offer oneself."

— Archbishop Francisco Javier Martínez
Fernandez, Granada (Spain)

Community Calendar

Mar 12	Disciples' Assembly
Mar 12	FE reunion, Cafeteria 1-5pm
Mar 12	ME 23 Reunion Africa Residence, Garden City NY
Mar 18	YLSS 10 Invocation Mass
Mar 19-20	YLSS 10, La Consolata, Somerset NJ
Apr 2-3	LSS 24, La Consolata, Somerset NJ
Apr 8-10	Aspirants' Retreat
Apr 30	Retreat with Fr. Hampsch St. Antoninus 9am
Jun 3-5	ME 25, Easton PA
Jun 19	BLD Foundation Day (Global Community's 20th Anniversary)
Jun 24-26	SPE 7, Edison Ramada Inn

BIRTHDAYS

3/5	Gep Espejon, YE9
3/9	Kirk Inocencio, YE10 Alan Laxina, YE8
3/11	Mol Barredo, LSS22 Aiko Raagas, YCR4
3/12	Cherrie Francisco, YE11 Peter Obi, Mk 10
3/13	Larry Ibarrola, LSS23 Mat Talag, LSS8 Kelli Anyanwu, YE9 Jennali Reyes, Mk 10
3/14	Tet Almazan, LSS3 Mille Constantino, LSS22 Randy Trinidad, LSS10
3/15	Ike Alimario, LSS17 Angelica Perez, SE13 Deng Trillana, LSS7
3/16	Art Nano, LSS18 Faith Ikalina, YCR3
3/17	Fred Atienza, LSS10



ANNIVERSARIES

3/14	Dan & Beth Alip, ME23
3/16	John & Beth Alonzo, LSS19 Ed & Nanie de los Reyes, LSS9

Kudos & complaints?
wordministry@bldnewark.com.



1st 2005 Disciples Assembly Held

The community held its first disciples assembly last Saturday at St. Leo's Boland Hall with about 50 covenant and committed disciples in attendance. The assembly started with DCS-led worship, followed by Word reflection by some of the attendees.

The first part of the meeting was the report by the stewards on the work accomplished by the Lord through the community in 2004. The stewards presented the key achievements of the community's ministries and apostolates, covering the general areas of community-building and mission service.

This was followed by a presentation on the community's structure of authority and nature of decision-making. The discussion on authority centered on the differing roles of the DCS, DLC and Board of Trustees in the community, while the discussion on decision-making covered the principle of unanimity and the community norms of discernment, consultation and consensus. (See box below for brief summary).

Afterwards, the Treasury Coordinator presented a pre-final version of the 2004 Financial Report. The Medical Mission team then presented a video of their fruitful mission work in Bulacan last February. The Association of the Faithful Task Force provided a progress report on their work to develop a strategy and plan to share in the life and mission of the Church. The Management Stewards reported on their meeting earlier in the day with Fr. Bill Halbing and his parish council to discuss how BLD can support the development of St. Antoninus as the charismatic center in New Jersey.

District Structure of Responsibilities

DCS: Discernment – direction, goals, strategy, policies/guidelines, appointments; Pastoral care, mentoring, witnessing, teaching

DLC: Community operations, inter-ministry coordination, DCS consultations

Board of Trustees: Foundation operations – legal compliance, financial oversight, fund-raising

Decision-making Goal : Seek and heed- with one heart and mind- the Lord's will and directions for the community

COUNSELS

The Light of the Cross

WORD: Is 30:4-7; Ps:22: 8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14-27:66

ORDER: Take and eat; this is my body. (Mt 26:26b) Proclaim the name of Jesus to our brethren. (Ps 22:23)

REFLECTION:



“Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Phil 2:6-9) There are

no words or sentiments to describe the sacrifice that Jesus Christ our Savior took upon Himself to gain victory for us. His supreme sacrifice destroyed the power of sin and death, at the cost of His own blood, blood that was spilled on the streets of Jerusalem and fully shed in Calvary. Why did it require such a sacrifice for us to gain salvation? Because our collective sin is tremendous,

In this Holy Season of Lent and everyday of our lives, we must consciously put the cross of Christ between us and every decision and action we take so that we may not forget the worth of our existence. We must face the reality that Jesus, the sinless one, took on the punishment that we, the sinful ones, deserve. Our shortcomings are made visible to us by the grace of God. When we empty ourselves of our

continued on page 4

God's Promise for the Week

“The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.” (Is 50:7)

The Easter Triduum

A number of times in the gospel of John Jesus refers to his “hour”. At the marriage feast of Cana when Jesus worked his first miracle, he said to his mother, “*My hour has not yet come*”. In John 12:27 Jesus is quoted as saying: “*My soul is troubled now* (John’s parallel to the agony in the Garden), and what should I say—Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this that I came to this hour.” At the beginning of the washing of the feet episode in the 13th. chapter, we read, “*Before the feast of the Passover, Jesus realized that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to the Father.*”

What is this *hour* that is referred to? It cannot mean 60 minutes. Rather it refers to the whole process of redemption that was accomplished by his suffering and resurrection. In other words, the events of those last three days of Our Savior’s life, his death, burial and resurrection are designated as an “*hour*”, a moment in time when we would be freed from sin and death. That is what the Church celebrates during the “*triduum*”, the last three days of Holy Week. Officially Lent ends with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday. The *paschal*, or Easter, celebration has begun.

When we think of celebration, we instinctively think of partying. But we can celebrate in a solemn way that includes deep sorrow for our sins, but also great joy that we have been set free. The liturgy of Holy Thursday also includes the “*Chrism*” mass which is celebrated only once by the Bishop of the diocese in his cathedral. The evening Mass of the Last Supper interestingly does not include the gospel of the the institution of the Eucharist. Rather the gospel of the washing of the feet from John is proclaimed.

The Good Friday liturgy is quite simple. The liturgy begins with three readings, one of which is the passion narrative. This is followed by prayers for every category of mankind, the unveiling of the cross, and finally the reception of Holy Communion from hosts that were consecrated during the Mass of the Last Supper the night before.

The most important night of the year is the *Easter Vigil*, celebrated after sunset on Holy Saturday evening. This night is so important that a separate article is being prepared. My encouragement to all of you is to participate in each one of these special holy days. We can truly experience in sign and sacrament the great events of the past which are made present now for our continued growth in holiness.



*May the light of Christ, rising in
glory, dispel the darkness
of our hearts and minds.*

Easter Vigil Liturgy

The Easter Vigil is a most beautiful liturgy in the Roman Catholic Church that marks the beginning of Easter. It is divided into four parts:

Service of Light. With the holy water fonts drained, all the lights out and the tabernacle empty, a new fire is lit and blessed outside the church. A *Paschal Candle* is processed through the church, with everyone lighting their candle from it until the whole church is alight. The glorious Easter song of the Catholic Church, the magnificent Hymn *Exultet*, is then sung by the deacon, inviting those present to join in the invocation of the blessing of God. This Hymn is the Easter proclamation in praise of the Paschal candle which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World.

The *Exultet*, joyful yet solemn, draws a parallel between the Passover of the Old and the New Covenants. The language of the liturgy rises into heights to which it is hard to find a parallel in Christian literature, bringing us into the warmth of the deepest mysticism, to the region where, in the light of Paradise, even the sin of Adam may be regarded as “*truly necessary and a happy fault.*” The Hymn ends with a general intercession for those present, for the clergy, for the pope.

Liturgy of the Word. Nine readings, seven Old Testament and two New, are provided (*see page 3*) to help us meditate on the wonderful works of God for his people since the beginning of time. Not all 9 are required to be read, but at least 3 Old Testament readings, and always Exodus 14. The Gloria is sung before the reading of the Epistle of the Romans, and the Alleluia is sung before the Gospel.

Liturgy of Baptism. The Easter water is blessed, new members are brought into the Church through baptism, and the faithful are blessed with water and renew their baptismal promises. From the earliest days of the church, the Easter Vigil was primarily a means of preparing new converts for baptism into the Christian Faith. This baptism celebrates not only Jesus’ resurrection from death to life, but also the *New Life* that God has brought through the death and resurrection of Jesus to individual believers.

Liturgy of Eucharist. The Mass resumes, with the special prayers inserted during the Eucharistic Prayer. The whole church is called to join at the sacrificial table that Christ prepared for us through His death and resurrection. The Mass ends with the glorious

The Mass is ended, go in peace.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Easter Vigil intends to celebrate the newness, the fresh possibilities, new beginnings out of old endings that Jesus’ Resurrection embodies.

Liturgy of the Word at the Easter Vigil

There are 9 Readings called “*Lessons*” appointed for use on the Great Vigil of Easter. They provide a crucial link between the revelation of God in Christ and the creation of the church, with God’s past revelation of Himself and the creation of His people Israel. This important emphasis on the continuity of the church with the Old Testament’s witness to God helps define the nature of the church and its mission in the world, thoroughly grounding it in the ongoing work of God in history.

The **1st Reading** (Gen 1:1-2:2) is the story of creation. Seven times we hear, “*And God saw that it was good.*” Indeed, all of creation must be very good, serving a purpose in the Divine progressive plan.

The **2nd Reading** (Gen 22:1-18) reminds us of Abraham’s sacrifice of Isaac. Because of his obedience, the life of his son was spared at the last minute and he receives God’s promise of numerous offspring by whom all the nations of the earth shall gain blessings.

We hear in the **3rd Reading** (Ex 14:15-15:1) Israel’s deliverance at the Red Sea; a picture of how we would be freed from the slavery of sin through our faith in Jesus and the Sacrament of Baptism.

The **4th Reading** (Is 54:5-14) recounts the promise of the Lord God to have compassion for us, that He would be our Redeemer.

The **5th Reading** (Is 55:1-11) is an invitation to abundant life. Salvation is offered freely to all.

The **6th Reading** (Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4) reminds us to walk in the way of God so we may live in peace forever. Wisdom is the Commandments of God; the law that endures forever and brings righteousness and life.

The **7th Reading** (Ezek 36:16-17a, 18-28) contains God’s promise to sprinkle clean water upon us; to put within us a new heart, a new spirit and His indwelling Spirit to help us obey His commandments.

The **8th Reading** (Rom 6:3-11) reminds us that through the Sacrament of Baptism, we died with Christ, we were buried with Him, and we have been raised with Him so that we may walk in the newness of life.

Finally, the 9th Reading (Mt 28:1-10) gives us an account of the glorious Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. *He has been raised from the dead!*

“*O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord’s Resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*” (Collect before the Epistle)

Ministry Announcements

ME 25: ACT NOW!

- Do you remember the joy of your Marriage Encounter?
- Have you been planning to invite another couple but have never gotten around to doing it?
- Has the couple been delaying (like you did perhaps)? Is it time to ask them again?
- Will you do this for the Lord Who will enrich and bless a marriage with His presence?

Share the joy of the Encounter with other couples you care about! Invite them to ME 25 on June 3-5. Contact Tony-Linda at 908-835-1622 or Nick-Island at 908-688-8614. Application forms are also available at our website www.bldnewark.com.

Teachings tomorrow, March 19 St Antoninus, 1-6 pm
LSS 19: Shepherds Training 2
LSS 21-22: CMPI Part 2 (Walking in the Spirit, Body and Blood, Service, Community)
LSS 24: Christian Parenting Part 1

YLSS 10 is going on this weekend. *Please pray for all the candidates and those who serve.*

MagnifiKid subscribers. Please pick up your April-May issues from the Mark 10 Ministry. Contact person: Amy Guiao (908) 405-6490.

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THE LORD’S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

2/25	\$ 3,449
3/04	3,260
3/11	3,466
10-wk avg.	3,239

Thank you for your generosity!

EXPENSES

10-wk avg. \$ 3,015

Counsels *from page 1*

defenses, self-righteousness and pride, we can begin to see the sin structures that motivate us. None of us is perfect. No one is more worthy of heaven than the other, it is therefore with this knowledge that we must approach God, our ministry, and the conduct of our lives.

Each of us has the power to influence, persuade, exhort others to good or bad. Each of us can speak words of encouragement or ill-feeling- knowingly or unknowingly, willfully or not. We must subject this power to the Cross of Christ. It is the Church's and our responsibility to discern spiritual powers at work in our midst. The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to recognize these powers and to understand their hostility to the way of Christ. We must gain the sensitivity to perceive the spirits undermining God's work in us. St. Paul says that *our warfare is not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers, for beyond flesh and blood there are powers that seek to work against unity and against love.*

Collectively we have the ability to do good. Collectively we can allow the powers of darkness to be enthroned in our hearts. Jesus shows us that only sincere humility and obedience to God's will enables us to break the stronghold that the enemy has established in our lives. We must be able to bring to the light of Christ all our actions and decisions.

Jesus Christ called us to be His people. He wants us to grow us in faith and fellowship with Him. The directions for this week speak deeply to the members and leadership of this community. The Lord gave us His words in anticipation of the trials and temptations that may mar our efforts at spiritual cleansing in observance of the season.

Speak to the weary with words of encouragement. What have we said or done in anger, frustration, or judgment that may have offended others? How did we react to words we judged offensive? Are we feeding to the spirit of negativism — wearying and scattering His people? Be humble as Christ humbled Himself to the cross. We must humble ourselves to the point of pain; we must all acknowledge that we have been proud and arrogant. Only sincere humility can wash away the effects of pride. *“Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test.”* Jesus in His humanity recoiled from death as a penalty for sin. He asked His Father if the cup of suffering may be taken away. Nevertheless, His “Yes” to the Father's will set in motion the final torturous steps in the redemption of mankind.

Let us come before the Lord to present to Him our woundedness and sinfulness. Let us acknowledge our weaknesses and hardheartedness. We know that to walk
continued on next column

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

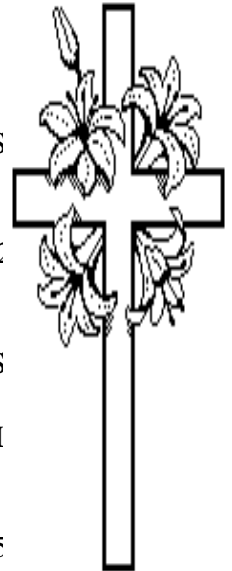
- Mar 19-20 LSS 10, La Consolata, Somerset NJ
Apr 2-3 LSS 24, La Consolata, Somerset NJ
Apr 8 Aspirants' Retreat
Apr 30 Retreat with Fr. Hampsch, St. Antoninus 9am
Jun 3-5 ME 25, Easton PA
Jun 19 BLD Foundation Day (Global Community's 20th Anniversary)
Jun 24-26 SPE 7, Edison Ramada Inn
July 15-17 Newark FE 12, Malvern PA
Jul 22-24 Trenton FE 3, Malvern PA



*May the blessings of the Lord
be upon you!*

BIRTHDAYS

- Mar 18 Dan Alip, ME23
Letty Chua, LSS13
Menchee, Tibayan, LSS
Mar 19 Joe Baluyot, LSS3
Eugene Briones, YE9
Mar 20 Lito Constantino, LSS2
Mar 21 Angelo Calilap, LSS23
Gon Dauilo, LSS23
Jerry Pagdonsolan, LSS
Kristle Navarro, YCR4
Mar 22 Perpetua Ekweghariri, I
Katrina Vasquez, SE13
Mar 23 Fely Carrera, LSS13
Mar 24 Imma Anyanwu, LSS15
Emerson Anyanwu, Y



*This is the day that the Lord
has made. Rejoice in the Lord!*

Counsels

the road of discipleship will require us to constantly seek His mercy, guidance and strength. Obedience to the will of God demands a sincere and humble heart. Only then can Jesus' victory on the cross be truly ours.

DIRECTIONS:

- Speak to the weary with words of encouragement.
- Be humble as Christ humbled Himself to the cross.
- Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test.
- Be obedient to the will of God.



Life in the Spirit Seminar # 24

"I will bring spirit into you, that you may come to life." (Ezk. 37:5). "It is the Spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." (Jn. 6:63). By these words were blessed the graduates of the Life in the Spirit Seminar held at the La Consolata Mission Center, Somerset, NJ on April 2-3, 2005. The seminar re-awakened the participants' personal relationship with the Lord by releasing the spiritual gifts that have been bestowed upon them at baptism, as emphasized by Fr. Pete Literal, Spiritual Director for the seminar. He was joined by covenanted members of the community who shared God's victory in their lives: Rey/Sylvia Duma (**God's Love**), Joey/Linda Viola (**New Life**), Noel/Letty Trillana (**Healing**), Rene/Sally Castaneda (**Growth**) and Joe/Beth Baluyot (**Transformation**).

The **BLD-Newark** graduates of **LSS#24** are: Joe/Trudy Aboyme, Lennie Agdaba, Ma. Ciela Alviedo, Ed/Grace Badiola, Carlito/Arlene Claricia, Peter/MaryRose Cruz, Adeline Clesca, Mariuxi Diaz, Gus/Jane Enciso, Zer/Charlotte Florentino, Larry/Carmen Larobis, Louie Mendoza, Arthur/Josie Punla, Phil/Ghe Songco, Vic/Blanca Tan, Dondon/Hermie Tenchavez, and Ed/Eydie Unay.

Graduates from **BLD-Rockland** who are now **LSS#1-Rockland** are: Karen Bergonio, Raquel Darca, Art/Aileen Del Prado, Romy/Rose Dinsay, Bobby/Baby Rigor, and Victor/Vivian Vuelva.

Conclave to Elect New Pope Begins April 18

VATICAN CITY, APRIL 6, 2005 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- The conclave of cardinals to elect a new Pope, which must take place 15-20 days after a Pope's death, will begin Monday, April 18. During the conclave, cardinals younger than 80 before John Paul II's death (those who are older cannot participate) will reside in Domus Sanctae Marthae, a resident building inside the Vatican. They will vote in the Sistine Chapel.

The cardinals will live in isolation. They will not be able to speak with anyone outside the conclave, nor communicate by phone or Internet, or listen to the radio or watch television.

COUNSELS

Finding Jesus in Today's World

WORD: Acts 2:14, 22-33; PS 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

ORDER: Conduct yourself with reverence during the time of your sojourning realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct with the precious blood of Christ."
(1 Pt 1: 17b-19a)

REFLECTION:



Let us imagine ourselves as part of the crowd listening to Peter at the top of his voice proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah. Is this the same Peter who denied knowing Jesus three times? How can we be like Peter, bold in witnessing to the miracles, signs and wonders Jesus has done in his life? Remember that Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit at the time he spoke.

In the gospel we see two disciples fleeing from Jerusalem in distress "on that same day", the day of the resurrection. They express their sadness at the death of Jesus. Their yearning for a messiah was shattered with the death of Jesus because they were hoping He would set Israel free. They were expecting Jesus as a mighty warrior or a great political leader who would liberate them from Rome. They failed to recognize Jesus, despite the fact that He was walking along with them because of their wrong perception and expectation of why God became man in the person of Jesus.

These disciples on the road to Emmaus also did not believe that Jesus had already resurrected. They were skeptical of the women's report about an empty tomb.

(continued on page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

"You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever." (Ps 16:11)

Integrity In Filing Income Tax Returns

Most everyone is negative about taxes. No one likes to pay them. Rich or poor, everyone believes that each has the right not to pay and come across with any tax. Justified or not, what should be the Christian's attitude toward paying taxes? Is taxation itself moral?

Today the issue that hangs over everybody's head is whether strict tax compliance is the ethical obligation of an honest person or entity. As such, if one misrepresents his tax return, is that tax avoidance or tax evasion? Is riding on an imperfect system morally acceptable or is it another form of cheating?

The custom of law in our land has been and will always be rooted in a moral code. Since our nation's historical foundation is western European, we inherited a legal system that is based on the morality system used in the European continent - the moral code of the Catholic Church.

In both the Old Testament (Genesis 41, 47; Nehemiah 5:4) and the New Testament (Matthew 17:21-27), we find systems of personal tax being levied against individuals within a given nation. The bible is quite explicit with regards our duty to civil authorities as it says *"It is necessary to be subject not only because of the wrath but also because of conscience. This is why you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Pay to all their dues, taxes to whom taxes are due, toll to whom toll is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due"* Romans 13:5-7. As such, every Christian has the responsibility in human society to submit to the government and pay taxes.

Taxation may take away peoples' money but for a good cause to benefit society. Since well before the Roman Empire, some form of taxation has been acknowledged as unavoidable - to defend the shores, enforce contracts, and keep the peace and order.

All of us are free to oppose taxes and to vote for people who will cut them, but we are not free to be dishonest in our taxes, much more evade them. Paying our fair share of taxes is one of the promises we make to each other under the social contract. Just as we need to tithe and support our community, we also must give our full support to the government. Cheating on that promise is no different from stealing from the neighbor's well.

Jesus paid temple tax that could have been used for His own destruction. We pay taxes for our own benefit. The principle is very simply, honesty.

God's Call to Unity

What should we do when internal conflict, confusion and division plague a Christian community? The apostle Paul showed us in Ephesians 3:13-21 what is best under the circumstances when he prayed to God to strengthen His flock with the power of His Spirit in their inner being, so that Christ may dwell in the hearts of all.

God has called us into a fellowship with Himself and with one another so that He may be present in all of us, so that we are able to recognize Jesus in others, even in their brokenness and shortcomings, so that we may respond to situations according to the ways and principles of Jesus, our Lord and Savior!

God's community is the venue where we can love and pray without constraint - not to accuse or be accused, not to judge and be judged.

God has blessed us with a community so that we become more prayerful, our lives transformed into a prayer and offering. If we miss our primary vocation to pray, we find ourselves in a state of disarray.

Going into deep prayer, we ought to pray for one another and ask for God's grace - for the aggrieved, to be merciful and forgiving, to accept the shortcomings of God's people and for the imperfect person that we all are, to be equally humble, seek reconciliation and find ways to alleviate the hurt that seems to destroy the good disposition of people. In every way, we ought to step down from our thrones of pride and arrogance, as God is not happy to see a flock that is at odds with one another.

Prayer can break down barriers, defense mechanisms, cold and indifferent hearts as God's indwelling presence in us makes us authentic and sincerely humble. We are able to die to self amidst the pain in our hearts, the life of our Resurrected Christ upon us, the gloom of a winter morning erased and with the promise of a renewed life in Easter springing up to flow into our hearts.

With prayer we have power! With the Holy Spirit we can resolve all issues! With God in our hearts, everything is possible!

Let us remember St. Paul and his exhortation to the church in Ephesus, *"...putting away falsehood, speak the truth, be angry but do not sin; no foul language should come out of your mouths, do not grieve the holy Spirit of God. All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, be kind, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ."* Ephesians 4:25-32

Come to the Retreat!

Family Healing and Deliverance



The Master of the Retreat of the upcoming Retreat on Saturday, 30th of April to be held at St. Antoninus Church from 8:30-5pm is Father John H. Hampsch. Ordained as a Catholic priest in 1952, Father Hampsch is a member of the Claretian Missionaries. He has served as parish priest, seminary professor and rector, college professor, lecturer, magazine writer, newspaper columnist, editor, retreat master, hospital, prison and campus chaplain and Cursillo.

He earned degrees in Philosophy from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and from Notre Dame University, with postgraduate work at the University of Southern California and the Dominican House of Studies in River Forest, Illinois, in Ascetical and Mystical Theology. He served as former president of the Catholic Philosophical Association.

Father Hampsch is a member of the Catholic Communicators Association of Southern California, a psychological consultant to the National Broadcasting Company, a member of the Association of Christian Therapists, and former director of suicide prevention programs in Texas and California. Besides his poetry and articles in popular magazines, his more scholarly works have been published in such periodicals as the Journal of Neuropsychiatry.

Widely traveled in 56 countries and in all 50 United States, Father Hampsch calls himself an "itinerant preacher-teacher." with special emphasis on **teaching and healing services in the Charismatic renewal**, working in the ecumenical ministry and conducting parish missions and retreats.

His primary interest is **in bringing Jesus to the hearts of people** through the mass media, with his weekly TV program, "Send Forth Your Spirit," and by his frequent role as a TV and radio panelist. Published by the Claretian Tape Ministry, his audio and videotapes constitute one of today's largest Catholic tape ministries, with its proceeds supporting the Claretian foreign Missions. His 13 books and 74 booklets are often used as discussion material for study groups and for private home retreats.



Follow Christ! He does not promise illusory happiness; on the contrary, so that you will be able to reach true human and spiritual maturity, He invites you to follow His demanding example, making your own His chosen commitments. (Pope John Paul II)

Ministry Announcements

Aspirants' Retreat, ongoing this weekend, April 9-10. Please keep in prayer our members who are aspiring for covenant membership, and all who will be serving this weekend.

No DLC meeting tomorrow. The DLC is tentatively set to meet next on Friday, April 29 after worship.

Youth Teaching, April 15 after worship: Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit.



ME 25: ACT NOW!



- Do you remember the joy of your Marriage Encounter?
- Have you been planning to invite another couple but have never gotten around to doing it?
- Has the couple been delaying (like you did perhaps)? Is it time to ask them again?
- Will you do this for the Lord Who will enrich and bless a marriage with His presence?

Share the joy of the Encounter with other couples you care about! Invite them to ME 25 on June 3-5. Contact Tony/Linda at 908-835-1622 or Nick/Island at 908-688-8614. Application forms are also available at our website www.bldnewark.com.



Community Retreat. There will be a retreat on Saturday, April 30, beginning at 8:30 at St. Antoninus Church given by Father John Hampsch on the topic "Healing Through Deliverance". It ends with a Healing Mass at 5:00 pm. Father Hampsch is a member of the Claretian Missions in California and has written 13 books and 74 booklets. Please bring your own lunch/provisions and your bible, paper and pencil.

Prayer Counseling course with practicum May 21-22. Overnight stay (shared rooms) included in \$50 fee. *All DLC members please plan to attend.* More details to follow.

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

3/11	\$3,466
3/18	3,581
4/01	3,806
12-wk avg	3,313

Thank you for your generosity!

EXPENSES

12-wk avg	\$3,595
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Counsels from page 1

This is evidenced in their use of the words “tale” and “vision” referring to what the women told them about the body of Jesus which could no longer be found and the angels’ news that Jesus was still alive. Jesus said to them “*oh how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory? Are we not as foolish and slow of heart just like these two disciples to recognize Jesus’ presence in our lives*”?

What is our perception, belief and expectation of Jesus? What is He to do in our lives? Are we expecting silver or gold or worldly honors from Jesus?

Today, as disciples of Christ, we too, from time to time feel abandoned by God when we focus on the negative things that happen in our lives. Like the two disciples in the Gospel on their way to Emmaus, we too will not recognize Jesus Who always walks with us when we flee from our Jerusalem - our church, our community.

Through our community we study and learn the word of God. “*Were not our hearts burning inside us*” as the scripture is explained to us in our community teachings. “*Were not our hearts burning inside us*” as we reflect on the scripture and share God’s victory in our lives within our word sharing circles? “*Were not our hearts burning inside us*” when we attended the marriage encounter weekend? “*Were not our hearts burning inside us*” when we attended the life in the spirit seminar?

In our individual road to Emmaus, it is very important to recognize Jesus through the scripture and the breaking of bread. Like the disciples in the gospel, we too will be able to recognize Jesus “in the breaking of bread.” Like Peter we will become bold witnesses when we recognize Jesus’ mighty deeds, wonders and signs in our lives. We should be bold witnesses to the miracles, wonders and signs in our lives. We should witness to healings, both physical and spiritual, and most of all, the healing of relationships between husbands and wives, parents and children, friends and relatives.

We witness to the resurrection of Christ as we recognize Jesus’ mighty deeds, wonders and signs in our life.

DIRECTIONS

1. Let the Word of God burn in our hearts.
2. Be bold in witnessing Christ’s presence in our lives.
3. Be generous in sharing Christ’s blessings with others.



**Christ our light (*Lumen Christi*)
Thanks be to God (*Deo gratias*)!**



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Apr 8-10	Aspirants’ Retreat
Apr 9	YLSS 10 Reunion, Boland Hall 2-6pm
Apr 30	Retreat with Fr. Hampsch, St. Antoninus 9am
May 21-22	Prayer Counseling (DLC members)
Jun 3-5	ME 25 Easton PA
Jun 3-5	SE 14 Garrison NY
Jun 19	BLD Foundation Day (Global Community’s 20 th Anniversary)
Jun 24-26	SPE 7, Edison Ramada Inn
July 15-17	Newark FE 12 Malvern PA
Jul 22-24	Trenton FE 3 Malvern PA



*May the blessings of the Lord
be upon you!*

BIRTHDAYS

4/8	Lori Ann Chelborg, SPE6 Maria Daulo, LSS23 Cora Pidlaon, LSS3 Zeke Newton, YCR5 Ben Florentino, YCR5
4/9	Ed Eusebio, LSS4 Daisy Pabatao, SPE6
4/10	Jeff Magadia, YE10
4/11	Keem Espejon, LSS7
4/12	Judy Ratcliffe, LSS22 Renzi Razal, LSS22 Fred Salar, LSS18 Allen Veluz, SE13 Kim Solema, YCR5 Che-che Solema, YCR5
4/13	Lita Alfaro, Singles
4/14	Nick Feliciano, LSS8



ANNIVERSARIES

4/8	Nonong & Soc Punzalan, LSS10 Mario & Cecil Salonga, LSS17
4/12	Joe & Cecil Canlas, LSS6 Tom & Norie Derowitsch, LSS22
4/14	Babot & Tess Farinas, LSS6 Rey & Cora Guerra, LSS22





A Call for a Bold Church, as Pope Wished



VATICAN CITY, APRIL 11, 2005: Cardinal Camillo Ruini, vicar of the Rome Diocese, called for a Church as John Paul II wished: not “timid,” but burning with love for Christ and for every person.

The president of the Italian bishops’ conference made his appeal Sunday during the homily at the Mass for the repose of the Pope’s soul, concelebrated in St. Peter’s Basilica with the clergy of Rome.

The president of the Italian bishops’ conference made his appeal Sunday during the homily at the Mass for the repose of the Pope’s soul, concelebrated in St. Peter’s Basilica with the clergy of Rome.

“In his suffering and death, just as throughout his life, John Paul II was an extraordinarily effective witness and herald of Jesus Christ crucified and risen from the dead, like the Apostles Peter and Paul, from whom he received the great Christian and human heritage,” the cardinal said.

Because of this, “the days of his funeral rites became for Rome and for the whole world days of extraordinary unity, of the soul’s openness to God and of reconciliation,” Cardinal Ruini added.

“In this way, the Mass for the deceased Pope in St. Peter’s Square was ... a particularly eloquent symbol not of the ‘clash of civilizations,’ but rather of the great ‘family of nations,’” he said.

Lastly, Cardinal Ruini encouraged the faithful to await the election of a new pope in an atmosphere of prayer.

“Let us not be, vainly, too curious to know ahead of time who he will be,” the 74-year-old cardinal said. “On the contrary, let us dispose ourselves in prayer, trust and love to the one the Lord wishes to give us.” ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).

Aspirant Retreat

April 8-10, 2005 Ramada Inn, South Plainfield, NJ

Thirty-five aspirants reaped God’s love and wisdom as they joyfully shared in the victory of Christ during the
(continued on page 4)

COUNSELS

Be a Good Shepherd to One Another

WORD: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b-6; 1Pt 2: 20b-25, Jn 10:1-10

ORDER: *Repent in the Name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. (Acts 2:38)*

REFLECTION:



This Sunday is often called “The Good Shepherd Sunday” because in all the three years of the Bible reading cycle, the Gospel selection for this day is always from John 10 wherein Jesus, preaching during the Jewish holiday called Hanukkah, compared Himself to a shepherd.

Shepherds didn’t always have a good reputation. As portrayed in *Ezekiel 34*, they were such a lazy, selfish and irresponsible lot, that God told the prophet that He will get rid of them and come and shepherd His sheep himself.

Since then and throughout the Old Testament, God is featured as the shepherd of his people : providing for their every need (Ps 23), leading them to safe pasture, and seeking out each one who has gone astray. And, in the fullness of time and in a supreme act of generosity, He sent Jesus, His Son, the true and good shepherd.

As a good shepherd, Christ leads His flock through the power of His voice. In contrast to cowboys who rouse and drive their herd, shepherds lead simply by calling out to their sheep, stepping ahead of them to clear their path, and guiding them to green pastures and later to the

(continued on page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

“I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved”. (Jn 10:9)

Association of the Faithful: Conditioning Our Hearts & Minds

We wish to commend the task force, which recently completed its charter to recommend a strategy and a plan of action for BLD Newark to follow as association of the faithful in the Archdiocese of Newark. While we await the opportunity to review the task force's recommendations, let us allow the Word of God from 2 Cor 8:1-8 to condition our hearts and minds to the glorious future that awaits us in Christ.

"We want you to know, brothers, of the grace of God that has been given to the churches of Macedonia..." (v 1). Our establishment as an association of the faithful is a grace of God, through a decree by Archbishop John J. Myers, the Shepherd of the Church in Newark.

"For in a severe test of affliction, the abundance of their joy and their profound poverty overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part..." (v 2). The grace we received comes with responsibilities entailing sacrifice, which we must embrace with joy, humility, obedience, reliance on God, and generosity of spirit. We who have nothing will be used to give others God's everything.

"For according to their means...and beyond their means, spontaneously, they begged us insistently for the favor of taking part in the service to the holy ones..." (vs 3,4). Our primary responsibility is to serve the Lord's Church in Newark in accord with the gifts and capabilities He has given us, to the point of self-transcendence. By allowing us to participate in the service of His holy people, God is doing us favor, not the other way around.

"They gave themselves first to the Lord and to us through the will of God..." (v 5). We can not undertake our responsibilities without first giving ourselves totally to God and His bishop, and submitting ourselves to His will. This means surrendering to Him our fears, concerns and insecurities, and truly walking in faith.

"Now as you excel in every respect, in faith, discourse, knowledge, all earnestness, and in the love we have for you, may you excel in this gracious act also..." (v 7). God has given us gifts and spiritual maturity, helped by our formation program. They are not for us; they must be used to serve others. The measure of the excellence of our gifts is in their loving service of the Gospel.

"I say this not by way of command, but to test the genuineness of your love by your concern for others..." (v 8). The authenticity of our love for God is demonstrated in our love for others. Our love of Christ compels us to seek and to meet the needs of His Church.

"Lord, You know what I need. Please take over..."

Weeks before the LSS 24 weekend, my staff and I were in the midst of delivering a daunting major project, and everyday was peppered with new challenges. For three long months, we burnt both sides of the candle. A week before the LSS, the kinks of the project were finally being worked out, and we were beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

On Friday, April 1, I scheduled my confession at a nearby church during lunch break, in preparation for the LSS. Moments before lunchtime, an application we have recently implemented ran into complications. Everyone looked grim and worried, expecting another long day ahead, and long hours over the weekend. For me, this would have meant missing the LSS altogether. I took a deep breath, closed my office door and started praying. I informed my staff that I would be out for lunch, and they were amazed at how calm I was. At this point I have resolved to attend the LSS no matter what. I have already put this disaster in His hands. "Lord, You know what I need. Please take over..."

After confession, I headed back to the office. I proceeded to draw a diagram on the whiteboard, mapping out the issues. As I was doing this, the solution became clearer. I was stunned at how easily the solution came up all of a sudden. It was then that I became aware that God has provided me with the answer, clearing the path for me to attend the LSS.

I spent the whole weekend in prayerful anticipation. When the room was dimmed, I focused on the Blessed Sacrament. I started to feel warm inside me. I listened to Fr. Pete's words as I anxiously waited for the Holy Spirit to descend upon me. I watched as the Blessed Sacrament approached and soon as it passed me, I started sobbing uncontrollably. I felt a gush of relief all over me. I closed my eyes and at this point we were prompted to stand and raise our hands. Before I knew what had happened, I felt something has taken over my body and lifted me off the floor. I remember hitting the floor hard, but I did not feel any pain. I felt as if a big cross has been lifted from my chest. I knew that God's Divine Mercy has just poured out upon me, and I felt reconciled with Him. It was then I became aware of my deceased mother's presence. At this very moment, I felt my dear mother's forgiveness come over me. My heart has finally been softened, which allowed the Holy Spirit to enter and dwell upon it. Such were my blessings on that glorious weekend.

Authority Is A Matter of Trust

The culture in most spiritual communities shows that less people anchor their faith in the authority of law. While the importance of rules, boundaries and governance within a community are not minimized, people come together as one body united in Christ when relationships are built on trust, decision-making a shared responsibility, and leaders, vulnerable and open. They abide by instituted authority once they sense the presence of God and the empowerment by the Spirit. Otherwise, they are more drawn into community by informal relationships built on a loving attitude, transparency, humility and wisdom of leaders who are open to corrections and to other peoples' ideas.

The word "authority" may be understood as the ability to "author," to name and effectively address issues on community life. As such, submission to authority comes from the recognition of that ability and trust in the person or body that possesses it. Recourse to authority of trust, which is a matter of the heart, is what members and other spiritual leaders prefer, more than the authority of law.

Authority in spiritual leadership, which includes those in governance, is solidly built when relationships are founded on trust. It is in its proper place when members honestly believe that their stewards and leaders are concerned with their well-being and want to share community work and mission with them. They willingly consult and defer to them for key policies and empower them to make decisions in community affairs.

Authority is a matter of trust. This is the reason why leaders should let members exercise their gifts and encourage them to contribute to God's work in the community. Authority is trusting and empowering members to bear fruit in our Lord's Name. It is not human power or influence but God's grace that sets the order in a community. It is the submission of each one to another in fulfilling God's plan for the community.

Stewards and leaders of communities are asked not so much to make day to day operating decisions but to discern the directions the community should take, guide and pastor the flock, and enable the faith community to do the ministry of the Lord. Since authority and related responsibility, can never be absolute on one person or body but equally shared by all, trust in one another and recognition of each other's roles are key elements in building community.

Only God has full authority over His people, the church and the community. Authority founded on law may appear "absolute" but it is authority borne on God's Word and received through His presence in all of us that is total and final, the one that builds and completes community. It is trust in God and for one another!

Ministry Announcements

TEACHINGS – APRIL & MAY

Tonight at St. Leo after worship

- * Singles - CMP1 (Christian Love)
- * Youth - Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- * John 6- John 6 Teaching
- * Mark 10 - Mark 10 Teaching

April 16 St. Antoninus 1-6pm

- * LSS 23 - Encounter with Jesus (Road to Emmaus, Jesus in the Old Testament, Making of the Gospel)
- * LSS 24 - Christian Parenting II, Introduction to Intercession
- * LSS 17-18 - Apologetics I (Prayer, Church, Sacramentals)

April 22 St. Leo after worship

- * Service Ministry Teaching; Christian Servanthood
- * Intercessory Ministry Teaching

May 7 St. Antoninus 1-6pm

- * LSS21 & Singles - Agony in the Garden/Washing of the Feet Retreat
- * LSS18 - Apologetics II (Mary, Trinity, Salvation)

May 20 St. Leo after worship

- * Singles - CMP I (Christian Faith)
- * John 6 Teaching
- * Mark 10 Teaching

May 21 St. Antoninus 1-6pm

- * LSS23 - Encounter with Jesus (Mark & Matthew)

May 27 St. Leo after worship

- * Service Ministry Teaching; Christian Servanthood
- * Intercessory Ministry Teaching

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Our Friday worship and other activities take us deep into the night. Even as we always entrust our safety and those of our brethren to the Lord, there are some practical measures we should keep in mind:

- Park only in the church parking lots (not on the streets).
- Move in numbers, never alone.
- Be vigilant and aware of your surroundings.

Priests for Life Prayer Intention:

That youth leaders have the courage and creativity to speak about abortion.

Counsels from page 1

sheepfold, their home. This is the Jesus we, in the community, know and love.

It is no coincidence that this Sunday is also the 4th Sunday of Easter, a time characterized by *mystagogia*, the Greek term for postbaptismal catechesis. *Mystagogia* is the process by which the newly baptized reinforces his conversion with an ongoing formation, not just on an intellectual level but on the level of lived personal experience.

We have two groups in the community who can be considered as on this stage: those who finished their LSS 24 earlier this month and those who just came out of the Aspirants' retreat last weekend. Both groups underwent a process of cleansing and renewal and now primed with newly minted zeal and the grace of a supernatural epiphany.

Just like the 3,000 newly converted persons in the First Reading, they are asking: "What are we to do, my brothers?" Some answers are offered in the Second Reading: be patient and don't threaten when you suffer for doing what is good; have no deceit in your mouth; live for righteousness and commit no sin; don't return an insult with an insult; and above all, follow in His footsteps.

This advice applies as well to each of us in the community, both as a doer of and as a witness to our Lord's example. While we are undergoing our own formation (our formation never really stops), we, particularly those who have been covenanted for a while, are looked upon by our upcoming brothers as models of how to live in the name of Jesus. Let us become then like the Good Shepherd who only wants what is good for his lambs even to the point of self-sacrifice and constantly be engaging ourselves with guiding His flock to the fullness and abundance of life with the Lord.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Learn to recognize the voice of the true shepherd by being familiar with the Scriptures.
2. Learn and practice the community teachings on discernment.

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

3/18	\$3,561
4/01	3,806
4/08	3,426
13-wk avg	3,321

Thank you for your generosity!

EXPENSES

13-wk avg \$3,441

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Apr 24	LSS 24 Reunion, Boland Hall 12-4:30pm
Apr 30	Retreat with Fr. Hampsch, St. Antoninus 8:30am-5:00pm
Apr 30	ME 23 Reunion, 1-6pm, Casino Residence, Jersey City, NJ
May 21-22	Prayer Counseling (DLC members)
Jun 3-5	ME 25 Easton PA
Jun 3-5	SE 14 Garrison NY
Jun 19	BLD Foundation Day (Global Community's 20 th Anniversary)
Jun 24-26	SPE 7, Edison Ramada Inn
July 15-17	Newark FE 12 Malvern PA
Jul 22-24	Trenton FE 3 Malvern PA



May the blessings of the Lord be upon you!



BIRTHDAYS

4/15	Max Cristobal, YE10	4/17	Boy Navarro, LSS17
4/16	Gene Reyes, ME22	4/17	Erika Reyes, Jn 6
4/16	Mark Serrano, SE13	4/18	Elgy Garcia, LSS22
4/16	Randall Cruz, Jn 6	4/18	Eddie Olegario, LSS3
4/16	Liz Perez, YE5	4/20	Angie Vargas, LSS22
4/17	Libby Gutierrez, LSS18	4/21	Jose Vibar, Singles
4/17	Remy Hernandez, LSS20		

ANNIVERSARIES

4/16	Emil & Willy Tan, ME23
4/18	Lawrence & Joy Anyanwu, LSS21
4/19	Ed & Grace Badiola, LSS24



Aspirant Retreat from page 1

weekend. Father Paul Lehman, who officiated the weekend, described the aspirants as "obedient and reflective."

We give glory to our Lord as we welcome our newest committed disciples from the district of Newark: Oliver & Marissa Rangel, Larry and Leni De Guzman, Sal & Marie Russo, Tony & Juliet Mabalot, Chito & Josie Magahis, Rex & Bobot Gongob, Nonie & Imelda Acuna, Ed & Susan Fabe, Ed & Myrna Magadia, Ed & Nene Gutierrez, John & Betty Alonzo, Nestor & Nora Lopez, Rene & Madonna Razal, Benny & Fanny Rodriguera, Art & Mel Nano, Ed & Wilma Antonio, Joey & Gemma Reyes and Yen Arnam.



Somebody's Praying Me Through

"It is necessary to awaken again in believers a full relationship with Christ, mankind's only savior. Only from a personal relationship with Jesus can an effective evangelization develop." Pope John Paul II

Our community has the responsibility and challenge to spread the word of God. BLD-Newark's undertaking of the musical production titled "Somebody's Praying Me Through" is a means of conveying to the world the importance of keeping a personal relationship with the Lord, the power of PRAYER and the virtue of PRAYERFULNESS. It serves as a vehicle to proclaim His great love and faithfulness to us, as manifested through the many answered prayers of this community.

As we undertake this evangelization project using the talent and resources that the Lord has blessed this community, we ask that we be united in prayer, and seek your wholehearted support to be one as a community in His call for us to be "fishers of men" through this project. As Pope John Paul II taught us, *"Every parish should intensify prayer in order to evangelize."*

"Somebody's Praying Me Through" is set to be shown in November 13, 2005 (Sunday) at Felician College in Lodi, NJ. It will include a matinee and regular showing. Auditions for castings will be announced shortly. Further details on the production will be provided in the near future.



Follow Christ!

He does not promise illusory happiness; on the contrary, so that you will be able to reach true human and spiritual maturity, he invites you to follow his demanding example, making your own his chosen commitments.
(Pope John Paul II)

**Thank you Lord for John Paul II!
Bless our new Pope, Benedict XVI!**

COUNSELS

The Way, The Truth, The Life

Word: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19;
1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

Order: *"Have faith in God, do not let your hearts be troubled."* (Jn 14:1)

Reflection: Our Gospel reading is part of the Last Supper Discourse. Having revealed to the disciples His impending death, Jesus told them that soon He was going away. The disciples could not comprehend, even after so many years of formation under Jesus, why He was going away, why He was leaving them. They were afraid, disturbed, and confused. Their hope that Jesus would restore David's earthly kingdom was starting to crumble. The disciples were fearful of being like sheep without a shepherd, as the metaphor of last week's Gospel of the Good Shepherd suggested.

The feelings of the disciples are somehow familiar to most of us. Even after many years of being part of BLD, with our formation and teachings, with our weekly praise and worship, with our reunions and fellowship, our faith is likewise shaken when big problems and difficulties come to our lives. Whatever those difficulties are, be it relationship problems, material needs, failing health, low self-esteem, and many others, our Gospel has many promises that each of us can count on.

During times of troubles, our Good Shepherd who knows His sheep comforts us. He said, ***"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in Me."*** Jn 14:1. For those who have doubts and are beset with fear of the end of this life's journey, He said, ***there are many rooms in His Father's house, and He is preparing one for us. He will come and take us there.***

(cont'd on page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

"Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father." (Jn 14:12)

St. Louis Marie de Montfort

There is a dual aspect to the glorious career of every saint. One, is that of the achievements realized in his time and the other is that of the beneficial results with which later generations are richly blessed from his holy works. Such is the case of St Louis Marie

Louis Marie Grignion was born on January 31, 1673 at Montfort, France. At age 12, he entered the Jesuit College at Rennes, where under the guidance of some priests there, he began his devotion to the Blessed Virgin. He also developed his desire to preach missions.

While in college, he felt the call to priesthood. He was ordained priest at the age of 27 and was assigned as chaplain to a hospital that was a work-house where the very poor were incarcerated to keep them off the streets. He labored tirelessly to comfort the ill-treated inmates, denying his own needs to allow better portions for them. In the course of his reforming efforts to improve the lamentable state of these poor inmates, the authorities resented him and they accused him of pride and self deception. He left the place but other unjust complaints continued to mount against this brilliant and holy priest, that eventually the local bishop forbade him to say Mass.

Undaunted, Louis moved on. To him, the priesthood was to be a total servitude and self sacrifice to God. So complete was his abandonment of worldly attachments that he loved nothing more than to suffer calumnies and persecution for his Master.

Wherever he went, he found that he was greeted with suspicion and contempt. But unflinching, he would leave behind miracles and conversions and fervent devotions to Jesus through Mary. From his able preaching, he was successful in furthering devotion to the Blessed Virgin through the Rosary. He also founded 2 congregations: Sisters of Wisdom, devoted to hospital work and instructions of poor girls, and Company of Mary, composed of missionaries.

Through one of his popular books, 'True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin', Pope John Paul II began to discover the immense riches of Marian devotion, as a means to bring us closer to our Lord Jesus. He became a faithful devotee to our Blessed Mother, taking the motto Totus Tuus- totally yours.

St Louis wrote, "It is through the most Virgin Mary that Jesus came into the world, and it is also through her that He has to reign in the world... It was through Mary that the salvation of the world was began, ... Devotion to Our Blessed Lady is necessary for salvation...He who has not Mary for his Mother has not God for his Father."

He died on April 28, 1716.

Father Hampsch

The spiritual director of the upcoming Retreat from 8:30am-5pm on Saturday, April 30 at St. Antoninus Church is Fr. John H. Hampsch. Ordained as a Catholic priest in 1952, Father Hampsch is a member of the Claretian Missionaries. He has served as parish priest, seminary professor and rector, college professor, lecturer, magazine writer, newspaper columnist, editor, retreat master, hospital, prison and campus chaplain and Cursillo director.

Fr. Hampsch earned degrees in philosophy from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and from Notre Dame University, with postgraduate work in ascetical and mystical theology at the University of Southern California and the Dominican House of Studies in River Forest, Illinois. He served as former president of the Catholic Philosophical Association.

Fr. Hampsch is a member of the Catholic Communicators Association of Southern California, a psychological consultant to the National Broadcasting Company, a member of the Association of Christian Therapists, and former director of suicide prevention programs in Texas and California.

Besides his poetry and articles in popular magazines, his more scholarly works have been published in such periodicals as the Journal of Neuropsychiatry.

Widely traveled in 56 countries and in all 50 United States, Fr. Hampsch calls himself an "itinerant preacher-teacher." with special emphasis on teaching and healing services in the Charismatic renewal, working in the ecumenical ministry and conducting parish missions and retreats.

His primary interest is in bringing Jesus to the hearts of people through the mass media, with his weekly TV program, "Send Forth Your Spirit," and by his frequent role as a TV and radio panelist. Published by the Claretian Tape Ministry, his audio and video tapes constitute one of Largest Catholic tape ministries today, with its proceeds supporting the Claretian foreign Missions. His 13 books and 74 booklets are often used as discussion material for study groups and for private home retreats.

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

4/01	\$3,806
4/08	3,426
4/15	3,819
14-wk avg	3,746

EXPENSES

14-wk avg	\$3,443
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Thanks for your generosity !

Thank you for your generosity

ECSL Confirms New Coordinator Appointments

COMMUNITY BULLETIN CSL CIRCULAR NO. 04-2005-017

DATE: APRIL 19, 2005
TO: THE PRESIDING STEWARD NEWARK DISTRICT
COUNCIL OF STEWARDS
CC: DISTRICT SERVANT LEADER

FROM: EXEC. COUNCIL OF SERVANT LEADERS

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Resolution No. 05-0419-02

Series of 2005

As recommended by the Newark District Council of Stewards and as endorsed by the District Servant Leader of Newark Cluster, the Executive Council of Servant Leaders is of one heart and one mind in appointing the following as District Ministry Coordinators for the BLD Newark District:

Dens & Mina Mantes Pastoral Ministry Coordinator
Bennie & Sally Santiago Word Ministry Coordinator
Tony & Cely Rosal Golden Years Ministry Coordinator

May the Lord who sees all our actions empower you with all the gifts of the Holy Spirit as you fulfill the task ahead of you.

"Tend the flock of God in your midst, (overseeing) not by constraint but willingly, as God would have it, not for shameful profit but eagerly. Do not lord it over those assigned to you, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive the unfading crown of glory." (1 Peter 5:2-4)

FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF SERVANT LEADERS,

(original signed per attached)

MON & NENE LIM

Presiding Servant Leader

Pope Benedict XVI's First Public Greeting

"Dear Brothers and Sisters,

After the great Pope, John Paul II, the Lord Cardinals have elected me, a simple, humble worker in the Lord's vineyard. I am consoled by the fact that the Lord is able to work and act with insufficient instruments and, above all, I rely on your prayers.



In the joy of the risen Lord, confident of his permanent help, let us go forward. The Lord will help us. Mary, his Most Holy Mother, is on our side. Thank you."

MINISTRY ANOUNCEMENTS

ME 25. "Come and see the works of God, awesome in the deeds done for us." (Ps 66:5) **Share the joy of the Marriage Encounter** with other couples you care about! Invite them to our ME 25 on June 3-5 in Easton PA. Contact Tony-Linda at 908-835-1622 or Nick-Island at 908-688-8614; or visit our website at www.bldnewark.com.

We need everyone's cooperation. Please exercise due diligence in using Boland Hall, the cafeteria and all St Leo facilities.

- Use the venues and all properties with extreme care.
- Keep away from unauthorized areas.
- Keep to the time schedules requested and approved.
- Do an inspection after each activity to make sure that no food and trash remain.
- Refrain from bringing extra food. Our Service ministry works hard to plan and serve the food during fellowship.

Let us remind each other. Remind our young people. Remind ourselves! Thank you.

TEACHINGS – APRIL & MAY

April 22 St. Leo after worship

- * Service Ministry Teaching; Christian Servanthood
- * Intercessory Ministry Teaching

May 7 St. Antoninus 1-6pm

- * LSS21 & Singles - Agony in the Garden/Washing of the Feet Retreat
- * LSS18 - Apologetics II (Mary, Trinity, Salvation)

May 20 St. Leo after worship

- * Singles - CMP I (Christian Faith)
- * John 6 Teaching
- * Mark 10 Teaching

May 21 St. Antoninus 1-6pm

- * LSS23 - Encounter with Jesus (Mark & Matthew)

May 27 St. Leo after worship

- * Service Ministry Teaching; Christian Servanthood
- * Intercessory Ministry Teaching

Community Retreat. Family Healing and Deliverance with Father John Hampsch. *Reserve the date!* April 30 Saturday 9am-7pm at St. Antoninus church. All members, from Youth to Golden Years ministries, are invited. **Prayer Counseling** course with practicum May 21-22. *All DLC members please plan to come.* Other disciples will be accepted if space allows.

YE 12 on July 22-24 in Easton PA. Deadline to apply is July 15; forms available at the BLD website.

**MAKE COVENANT NEWS
A PART OF YOUR COVENANT LIFE.**

Counsels from page 1

Jesus reminds us to trust in Him even when it seems that we are all alone, and everything else seems dark and hopeless. He is asking for faith not only during good times but also during times of difficulties. Have faith in Him, all the time, and count on His promise that **He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.** (Jn 14:6)

For those who are lost and confused and have tried many roads leading to dead-ends, He said: **“I am the way...** As though He is saying, “I’m not just going to show you the way, or tell you the way, or write out the instructions on how to get there. I’m going to come and carry you on my shoulders like a shepherd carries his lamb, and bring you to My Father’s house, which will be your home forever.”

For those who have been disappointed in following the lies that the world had offered and have become enslaved by material things in life, He said, **I am the truth ...** listen to me, **I am the true shepherd who lay down his life for his sheep,** my Words are truth, and **the truth will set you free.** (Jn8:32)

For those who have found their lives meaningless and filled with despair, with seemingly no hope for tomorrow, He said, **I am the life...** believe in me. **I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me, will live even if he dies; and he who lives and believes in me will never die.** (Jn11:25-26).

As we continue to rejoice during this Easter Season, the Acts of the Apostles is teaching us how Jesus transformed His disciples into leaders of the community. If we continue to have faith in Jesus, we too can be transformed like the apostles. We have to focus beyond our individual weaknesses and imperfections, and form together as a community of the faithful. BLD must not forsake meeting together, faithful to our mission of making disciples of men and truthful to our calling to be a **“chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of His own, so that you may announce the praise of Him who called you out of darkness in to His wonderful light.”** (1Pt2: 9)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Devote yourselves to prayers and the ministry of the Word.
2. Do not neglect the needs of the least of your brethren.
3. Invite your friends and relatives to Christ who is the way, the truth and the life.

Visit our website at www.bldnewark.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Apr 30 Retreat with Fr. Hampsch, St. Antoninus 9am
- Apr 30 LSS 24 Reunion, Boland Hall 12-4:30pm
- May 21-22 Prayer Counseling (DLC members)
- Jun 3-5 ME 25 Easton PA
- Jun 3-5 SE 14 Garrison NY
- Jun 19 BLD Foundation Day (Global Community’s 20th Anniversary)
- Jun 24-26 SPE 7, Edison Ramada Inn
- July 15-17 Newark FE 12 Malvern PA
- Jul 22-24 Trenton FE 3 Malvern PA
- Jul 22-24 YE 12 Easton PA

May the blessings of the Lord be upon you....



BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 4/22 Cielo Arribe, LSS21 | 4/26 Pearl Antonio, ME23 |
| Allan Bautista, SE13 | Alan Cam, LSS17 |
| Bong Montemayor, LSS5 | Teresa Nwaneri, LSS22 |
| Kristine Duma, YE3 | Ditas Saberón, LSS9 |
| 4/23 Gigi Cabunag, LSS6 | Triff Col, YE3 |
| Maggie Lim, Jn 6 | Jeff Campomanes, YE11 |
| Juliene Martin, Jn 6 | 4/27 Zita Cruz, LSS14 |
| April Santos, YE8 | 4/28 Olive Encarnacion, LSS9 |
| 4/24 Ruby David, LSS16 | Evelyn Francisco, LSS10 |
| Rudy Luyao, LSS8 | Michelle Lim, Jn 6 |
| Jeffrey Narciso, YE11 | |
| 4/25 Vic Lim, LSS9 | |
| Linda Viola, LSS6 | |
| Neil Lopez, Jn 6 | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- 4/22 Serge & Mahyeen Bernatchez, LSS10
- 4/24 Bong & Ruby David, LSS16
- 4/28 Dodee & Susan Aglibut, LSS12
- Trif & Effie Col, LSS9

Proverb 14:15-16 says, *“The prudent man measures his steps. The wise man is cautious and shuns evil.”* Our Friday worship and other activities take us deep into the night. Even as we always entrust our safety and those of our brethren to the Lord, there are some practical measures we should keep in mind:

- Park only in the church parking lots (not on the streets).
- Move in numbers, never alone.

Be vigilant and aware of your surroundings



New Pope's first general audience

Benedict XVI Explains Choice of Papal Name

Addressing more than 20,000 people gathered last Wednesday in St. Peter's Square, the Holy Father explained that his name was inspired by Benedict XV as well as by St. Benedict of Nursia.

His first words were to express his "awe and gratitude to God, who surprised me first of all, in calling me to succeed the Apostle Peter." He confessed his "interior trepidation before the enormity of the task and responsibility that have been entrusted to me," for which he requested the "insistent prayer" of believers.

The former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger recalled the figure of Benedict XV, who promoted reconciliation during World War I, as "a courageous and authentic prophet of peace... Following his footsteps, I wish to put my ministry at the service of reconciliation and harmony among men and nations, profoundly convinced that the great good of peace is, first of all, a gift of God, a fragile and precious gift to be invoked, defended and built day after day with the contribution of all."

The Pope explained that his name also evokes St. Benedict of Nursia, founder of Western monasticism and patron of Europe together with Saints Cyril and Methodius. "The gradual expansion of the Benedictine Order founded by him has had an enormous influence on the spread of Christianity on the whole continent.

"At the beginning of my service as Successor of Peter, I pray to St. Benedict to help us to hold firm the centrality of Christ in our life. May he always be first in our thoughts and in all our activity."

Benedict XVI announced that in the upcoming general audiences he will continue with the commentaries on the Psalms and canticles of vespers that Pope John Paul II had prepared and that were suspended after Jan. 26 because of his illness.

Inside: Two articles from our "adopted seminarians".

COUNSELS

Keeping the Commandments and the Spirit in Us

WORD: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20; 1 Pet 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

ORDER: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (Jn 14:15)

REFLECTION:

This saying of Jesus calls our attention to something important: His use of the word "my." Our Lord did not speak of "the", the traditional, Ten Commandments. They are still valid, of course, but Jesus goes beyond them. It is *His* commandments we are to keep. And there is really only one, and that is the commandment to love: to love God with all our heart and soul, with all our mind and strength; and to love others as Jesus loves us. What does this encompass?

We are to recognize Jesus in the most needy, the poor, the sick and in those most difficult to love. We are to be agents of healing and reconciliation in an imperfect world or imperfect community like ours. We do not find these explicitly in any of the Ten Commandments. But in telling us to keep His commandments, our Lord wants us to care for and reach out to each other in love and service, not just to be law-abiding Christians taking care of themselves or their ministry. To love Jesus means to trust Him and His radical teaching about an ideal of unselfish loving.

"If you love me..." Our love for Jesus is a response to His love for us. He loved us first, and placed His love in our hearts. But how are we able to love and keep His

(continued on page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

"Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father." (Jn 14:21)

Year of the Eucharist and BLD



“I am now pleased to announce a special Year of the Eucharist. It will begin with the World Eucharistic Congress... (Oct 10-17, 2004 in Guadalajara, Mexico) and will end with the next Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, that will be held in the Vatican from 2 to 29 October 2005 and whose theme will be: ‘The Eucharist: source and summit of the life and mission of the Church.’” (John Paul II)

What is the significance of the Year of the Eucharist to our community? The answer to this question derives from the above theme of this universal celebration. As a charismatic covenant community and an association of the faithful, BLD’s life, communion and mission draw from and find their highest expression in the Eucharist.

The Eucharist gives us life in its fullest: *“I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”* (Jn 6:51) Only Jesus satisfies the hunger of human beings in every time and place. He desires to do so: *“Give them something to eat”* (Lk 9:13); *“Feed my lambs...tend...feed my sheep.”* (Jn 21:15-17) The Eucharistic food He gives us is the food that does not perish but endures for eternal life (Jn 6:27).

The Eucharist is the foundation of our unity: *“The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.”* (1 Cor 10:16-17) Thru the Eucharist, our community enters into communion with the Universal Church, and with all of creation. Wherever it is celebrated, John Paul II said that *“The Eucharist is always in some way celebrated on the altar of the world. It unites heaven and earth. It permeates all creation.”*

The Eucharist is the source of our fruitfulness in mission: *“Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.”* (Jn 15:5) Our communion with Jesus in the Eucharist empowers us to become missionaries of His passion, death and resurrection: *“As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until He comes.”* (1 Cor 11:26) The Eucharist builds the people we reach out to into communities: *“No Christian community can be built up unless it has its basis and centre in the celebration of the most Holy Eucharist.”* (*Presbyterorum Ordinis*)

May 5th

Feast of the Ascension



“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” (Mt 28:18-20)

With these words, the Risen Christ meant to console, protect, help and heal His disciples and give them comfort. With His Ascension, Jesus made His final departure from earth and went up into Heaven, taking His place at the right hand of the Father.

My reflections on this glorious event do not end with sadness at the Lord’s departure. For He is able to come back to me and be with me, closer than He was with the disciples when they were traveling with Him. When He sent them off in mission, He couldn’t go with each one of them, being limited by time and space, as we are. But having gone through death, risen and ascended into glory, Jesus can be close with each one of us – not just alongside us but in the Spirit. He has sent his own Spirit to be with us and in us.

Ever since I was young the images of the Resurrection and particularly the Ascension of Jesus have given me the inspiration that there is always HOPE for me and everyone else. Everyday is a day of hope. Jesus always reminds me not to be afraid because I am assured of His love. This may be the reason why I was called to my vocation – to proclaim the good news of the Lord. My life is to serve Him; my every breath is a gift from God. His every gift is a task, a call to serve.

At His final moment on earth, Jesus clearly commanded us: to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. In our celebration of the Ascension, we are called to reveal Christ’s presence in the world.

“Draw us into Your triumphant march, O glorious and all powerful Conqueror! Make us live in heaven by faith and hope and love. Help us to detach ourselves from the fleeting things of earth in order that we may seek the true and lasting goods of heaven!”

My Early Vocation

"Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"

"Here I am, send me!" (Is 6:8)

I grew up with my grandparents, devoted Catholics who went to daily Mass. We prayed the Angelus and the Rosary every day. Their piety kindled my attraction to the priesthood. As an altar boy, I would accompany our parish priest for the barrio Masses. This exposure to the life and works of a priest instilled in me a desire to be a priest someday. I nourished it through constant prayers and active participation in the parish.

After high school, my family could not meet the financial costs for me to enter the seminary so I went instead to a Catholic college and took up Psychology. My parents in the meantime encouraged me to keep my dream and vocation alive. We somehow knew that if God is really calling me to be a priest, He will make a way for me.

I lived in a nearby parish as a working student to earn my food and lodging. After my college studies, I decided to work in my profession. This served as a period of patient waiting whether seminary life was really meant for me.

Though I enjoyed my work and the company of friends, I felt unfulfilled with something missing in my life. I went through a period of discernment and prayerful reflection. I visited the tomb of my former Spiritual Director, an Irish missionary to our Diocese, praying in the Church where he used to be the parish priest. We used to read the Gospel passage: *"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."* (Mt 16:25) I remembered how he offered his life for the Diocese until he died of heart attack in his early 50's. He was instrumental in the establishment of parishes and the building of schools especially the college where I graduated. He died alone in his room, away from friends and loved ones.

My reflections and prayers convinced me to pursue my childhood dream to become a priest. After 6 years of Philosophy, Theology and Pastoral exposure, I applied to the Archdiocese of Newark, again moved by the good example of my Director. He was faithful to Christ's call to go and preach the Gospel to all nations. Like him, I commit myself wholeheartedly to the service of the Gospel, leaving my loved ones back home for the sake of God's people. *"Everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life."* (Mt 19:29)

Ministry Announcements

ME 25. *"Come and see the works of God, awesome in the deeds done for us."* (Ps 66:5) **Share the joy of the Marriage Encounter** with other couples you care about! Invite them to our ME 25 on June 3-5 in Easton PA. Contact Tony-Linda at 908-835-1622 or Nick-Island at 908-688-8614; or visit our website at www.bldnewark.com.

Community Retreat. Family Healing and Deliverance with Father John Hampsch is tomorrow April 30, Saturday at St. Antoninus church. We start at 9 a.m. *Please come on time.*

St. Antoninus Charismatic Mass with Archbishop John Myers presiding, May 8 Sunday 10 am. *We are all invited; please come!*

New Ministry Coordinators. Alan-Tess Cam, Youth Mission; and Benny-Sally Santiago, Word. *Let us pray for our community servant leaders.*

MAY TEACHINGS

May 7 St. Antoninus 1-6pm

- * LSS21 & Singles - Agony in the Garden/Washing of the Feet Retreat
- * LSS18 - Apologetics II (Mary, Trinity, Salvation)

May 20 St. Leo after worship

- * Singles - CMP I (Christian Faith)
- * John 6 Teaching
- * Mark 10 Teaching

May 21 St. Antoninus 1-6pm

- * LSS23 - Encounter with Jesus (Mark & Matthew)

May 27 St. Leo after worship

- * Service Ministry Teaching; Christian Servanthood
- * Intercessory Ministry Teaching

Prayer Counseling course with practicum May 21-22. *All DLC members please come.* Other disciples will be accepted if space allows.

YE 12 on July 22-24 in Easton PA. Deadline to apply is July 15; forms available at the BLD website.

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

4/08	\$3,426
4/15	3,819
4/22	3,610
15-wk avg	3,374

Thank you for your generosity!

EXPENSES

15-wk avg	\$3,328
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Counsels from page 1

commandments? Knowing well that we cannot do so alone, Jesus promised His disciples, "And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always." (Jn 14:16) Another Advocate? Yes, because the first one is Jesus Himself who interceded and continues to intercede for us with the Father.

The promised Advocate - the precious gift of the Holy Spirit - was freely given to all people after Jesus' Resurrection. His presence is more intimate and powerful as He now dwells within us. As we allow the Spirit to work in us and through us in our spiritual journey, we can have the courage to face great difficulties in life. The same Spirit will be our help and refuge when we find ourselves overwhelmed by stressful problems in our family, work community or ministry assignments. "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." (Jn 14:18) He is the Paraclete, our Counselor who is the divine and powerful Spirit of Truth who guides us and teaches us how to love in all the circumstances of our lives.

Let us take comfort in John 14:21, "Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him." The Promise is for all of us - no one is excluded, no one is abandoned. The work of the Holy Spirit is always to reveal Jesus, that we may live as He lived and be a witness for Him.

As we strive to remain faithful to our Lord in speech and action, our obedience will not consist of mere adherence to a set of rules. Rather, Christ Himself is our rule of life. The sign that we are in the Spirit is that we obey His commandments, for love of Him Who loved us unto death. As we do so, His Spirit will live and remain in us always.

DIRECTIONS

- Always be ready to witness to our faith with reverence, gentleness and a clear conscience.
- Exhort one another to remain faithful to *the 5 W's of community life*: Word, Worship, Witness, Work and Warfare.



The Eucharist helps us to understand more fully the significance of mission. It leads every individual believer, the missionary in particular, to be 'bread, broken for the life of the world.' (Pope John Paul II)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Apr 30	Retreat with Fr. Hampsch, St. Antoninus 9am-pm
Apr 30	LSS 24 Reunion, Boland Hall 12-4:30pm
Apr 30	ME 23 Reunion, Casino Residence, Jersey City 1-6pm
May 8	Charismatic Mass with Abp John Myers, St. Antoninus 10am
May 21-22	Prayer Counseling (DLC members)
Jun 3-5	ME 25 Easton PA
Jun 3-5	SE 14 Garrison NY
Jun 19	BLD Foundation Day (Global Community's 20 th Anniversary)
Jun 24-26	SPE 7, Edison Ramada Inn
July 15-17	Newark FE 12 Malvern PA
Jul 22-24	Trenton FE 3 Malvern PA
Jul 22-24	YE 12 Easton PA



May the blessings of the Lord be upon you!

BIRTHDAYS



29-Apr	Paul Vibar, Mk 10	2-May	Gerry Canlas, LSS7
	Flory Mangasi, LSS19		Cora Guerra, LSS22
	Lourdes Reyes, LSS22		Danny Labung, LSS15
	Amor Ausan, YE11		Arnold Solema, YE9
30-Apr	Mila Macaisa, LSS23	3-May	Joanne Domingo, Singles
	Steph Rigor, YE11	4-May	Elaine Obligacion, Singles
	Marizela Perez, Jn 6		Mei Martin, Singles
1-May	Leni Chan, LSS16		Nathan Osemeha, Mk10
	Efren Cruz, LSS7		Carina Ibarrola, LSS23
	Joe Pascoguin, LSS20	5-May	Bryan Rigor, Mk 10
	Ningning Reyes, ME23		Dee Lim, LSS9
	Camille Avestruz, YE9		Angel Luis Matos, LSS23
2-May	Matt Cruzada, Singles		Naida Villanueva, LSS17

ANNIVERSARIES

30-Apr	Frank & Atet Mendonez, LSS20
	Aldo & Meg Pangilinan, LSS13
1-May	Romy & Leni Chan, LSS16
	Gil & Lucille Jose, LSS21
2-May	Mon & Jhan/Neth Arceo, ME23
3-May	Ben & Letty Chua, LSS13
5-May	Rey & Sylvia Duma, LSS9
	Rene & Ditas Tolentino, LSS15



**MAKE COVENANT NEWS
A PART OF YOUR COVENANT LIFE**



LSS#24 Holds Reunion


April 30, 2005 marked a special date in the spiritual journey of the members of LSS 24. As the graduates gathered for their reunion in St. Leo's Boland Hall, love, hope, and joy lit up everyone's eyes. Attendees included members of ME #24 & 17 graduates, their Class and LSS shepherds, Praise Ministry, and the LSS 24 Team. The spirit-filled celebration commenced with a mass celebrated by Fr. Noel Morales joined by our praise ministry. Over lunch, grateful graduates beamed as they reunited with their shepherds, sharing stories of their own encounter and growth with the Holy Spirit, each one fortifying the other's blessings. Through this we are humbly reminded of two scriptural passages:

"The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice." Jn 10: 3-4

"I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Jn 10: 11

The weekend event was capped by insightful teachings on Romans 8 and Colossians 3. The lambs pored over thought-provoking questions followed by a group discussion. There was much jesting and laughter as our wrong answers were revealed. Amidst all of these, though, was a somber realization that we have just truly begun. Indeed, walking with the Lord is not going to be easy, but the rewards will be bountiful.

Healing Through Deliverance

Once again, God's bountiful love and mercy was manifested in the "healing through deliverance" retreat given by Rev. John H. Hampsch last weekend. The retreat commenced with a healing mass last Friday, April 29th at St. Antoninus Church. A series of talks highlighted the weekend retreat and culminated with a Eucharistic celebration on Saturday. People from as far as Long Island and Maryland  page 3

COUNSELS

A Community United in Prayer


WORD: Acts: 1:12-14; Ps.27:1-4, 7-8;
1Pt.4: 13-16; Jn.17: 1-11a

ORDER: *Pray with one accord.* (Acts 1:14)

REFLECTION: The readings for this Sunday, which tells of Jesus' Ascension, are anticlimactic. One chapter in the story of salvation has closed but another has yet to open. It was before His Ascension when Jesus asked His apostles to remain in Jerusalem until they were clothed "with a power on high", the Holy Spirit.

The nucleus of the first ecclesial community is the group of "the twelve". They are the messengers of Jesus to the twelve tribes of Israel. Jesus succeeded in uniting into a community of faith and love, personalities like Matthew, the tax collector who had collaborated with the Romans, and Simon the Zealot, whose name indicated his passion for the Jewish Law.

In this Sunday's first reading, Luke showed us the prayer of the early community. He emphasized the unity of their prayer, "*they all devoted themselves with one accord to prayer.*" (Acts 1:14) It was a prayer in anticipation of the Spirit, an opening of hearts to His coming.

In today's Gospel, Jesus prayed for His people. His prayer known as "the Priestly Prayer" or a "Prayer for the Unity of Christians" was His last prayer and is at the heart of the Gospel according to John. This prayer has the Trinitarian structure of all liturgical and Eucharistic prayers: to the Father, through the Son, in the Spirit. It moved uninterruptedly from thanksgiving to intercession, leading always to the Father, through the Son, in the Spirit. It becomes the perfect model  page 4

God's Promise for the Week

"I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living." (Ps.27:1)

Transubstantiation

One of the greatest gifts the Lord has given His Church is the gift of the Eucharist. Our faith recognizes this ineffable “real” presence of the Lord Jesus in this wonderful Sacrament. In explaining such great a gift, we must be careful with the words we use. Words as we well know, can say too little or not enough. For instance when we use the word “real” in reference to the Eucharist, we may tend to think that the other “presences” in the Church are in some way “unreal”. Thus, we are saying too much.

Jesus is “really” present in us, the Church, His people. We are blessed to have the very Trinity abiding within us through sanctifying grace, and since we are the Mystical Body of Christ, we can really say that Christ dwells in us, His Church. Jesus is also present in His Word, the Bible, which is solemnly proclaimed and becomes real to the listeners at Mass. Jesus is also present in a unique way in the priest who acts “in persona Christi”, in the person of Christ. We also know that Jesus acts in all the Sacraments. He is the one who baptizes. He is the one who confirms. He is the one who forgives sins in the Sacrament of Penance, and thus in all the Sacraments.

The Eucharist is unique among all the Sacraments because Jesus remains present even after the Eucharist has been sacrificially offered at Mass. In explaining this reality, the Church uses the technical term, “transubstantiation”. The thing that makes bread as bread ceases to exist. The substance of the bread, that which makes bread as bread, no longer exists after the words of consecration. The substance of the body of Jesus is now the reality under the appearance of the bread and wine. The body that is now on our altars is the risen heavenly body, not the physical flesh body he had while he lived here on earth.

His real and sacramental presence makes our relationship with Him more “real” than if we were to be physically present at the Last Supper, as wonderful as that might have been. In fact, it is only through the mystery of the resurrection that can make available to us the unique, real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Jesus then is body and blood, soul and divinity truly present under the appearances of bread and wine. This is truly a symbol, but not just a symbol, because the symbol of the Eucharistic not only points to the heavenly reality, but actually contains what it points to.

(We will continue to discuss, in future articles, the different questions that will surface on this very sacred subject.)

Renounce Worldly Principles to Accept the Truth

Secular and human solutions are very temporal and not the ultimate in resolving key issues in community. Great dependence on Scripture and our God Who is portrayed within its pages should be our guiding principle when we seek answers to pressing needs and issues in community “Put no trust in princes, in mere mortals powerless to save. When they breathe their last; their planning comes to nothing.” Psalm 146:3-4

Scripture shows that first-century Church had many of the same problems that we have in community. Yet they did not preoccupy themselves in building a church on human wisdom and intellect. Their efforts were focused on faithfully articulating the Gospel and leading lives that demonstrated the reality of their faith.

A Christian community to be founded on faith, hope and love, needs to discard the inclination to adopt human means and rid ourselves of worldly solutions. We need to seek God’s will through His Word as we go into deep prayer and confront our problems in prayerful discernment. *“If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31-32.*

We must guard against trying to satisfy our community’s spiritual and mundane needs by relying only on human wisdom and strength. If we did, we would be placing too low a view on the power of our sovereign God and too high a view on the ability of man. When we are carried away by worldly solutions, we will, over the long haul, fall short of our ideal.

Since the underlying ingredient of our communion is spiritual, then our means to resolve our concerns should also be spiritual. We need to let the supreme action of the Holy Spirit penetrate our affairs to achieve the best for God’s flock.

Today, let us be guided by Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, who once said to Traudl Wallbrecher of the Integrierte Gemeinde, a Catholic community in Munich and to Johann Christoph Arnold in June 1995 that *“the church must renounce worldly principles and standards in order to accept the truth. It is important for us to realize that we cannot bring about unity by diplomatic maneuvers. The result would be a diplomatic structure based on human principles. Instead, we must open ourselves more and more to God. The unity that God brings about is the only true unity. Anything else is a political construction, and it will be as transitory as all such constructions are. This is the more difficult way, for in political maneuvering, people themselves are active and believe they can achieve something. But we must wait on God, and we must go to meet him by cleansing our hearts.”*

“SOMEBODY’S PRAYING ME THROUGH” – A Sharing

When our son joined the U.S. Marines Infantry, we, together with our loved ones and members of this community, unceasingly prayed for him. Through everyone’s prayers we found peace, comfort and love.

We prayed harder as our son was deployed to Afghanistan and now, Iraq. God answered our prayers. Our son’s company was pulled from its battalion and was given safer assignments in the U.S. embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan and then Al Asad Airbase in Iraq.

A friend commented, “You must have the right connections to people in high places”. We can’t agree with him more. We have a “personal connection” with the Highest Authority. He knows our son, and our son knows Him, too.

We praise and thank God for He hears all our prayers, especially when we pray for others.

From page 1..Fr. Hampsch

came to hear Fr. Hampsch talk about prayers, repentance and forgiveness as essential components of healing and deliverance. He touched on the effects of ancestral sins, generational bondage, healing of the family tree and the need to pray for the deceased.

It was truly inspiring and comforting to hear of God’s eternal love for us. Ultimately, Fr. Hampsch’s message was... “we can only find deliverance in the healing wounds of Jesus Christ.”

Rev. Hampsch, a member of the Claretian missionaries, has written 13 books and 74 pamphlets and served as a parish priest, seminary professor, lecturer, retreat master, hospital, prison and campus chaplain and cursillo director

We need everyone’s cooperation. Let us exercise due diligence in using Boland Hall, the cafeteria and all St Leo facilities.

- Use the venues and all properties with extreme care.
- Keep away from unauthorized areas.
- Keep to the time schedules requested and approved.
- Do an inspection after each activity to make sure that no food and trash are left behind.
- Refrain from bringing extra food. Our Service ministry works hard to plan and serve the food during fellowship.

Let us remind each other. Remind our young people. Remind ourselves! Thank you.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marriage Encounter. “Come and see the works of God, awesome in the deeds done for us.” (Ps 66:5) Share the joy of the Encounter with other couples you care about! Invite them to our ME 25 on June 3-5. Contact Tony-Linda at 908-835-1622 or Nick-Island at 908-688-8614; or visit our website at www.bldnewark.com.

From Long Island BLD: An Invitation to a **Day of Healing**-Saturday, May 7 from 10AM to 4PM in Farmingdale, NY. Contact persons, Albert and Denia Meneses (albertmeneses@hotmail.com)

Pentecost Vigil on May 14: Starts at 7:30PM at St. Aedan’s Church, Jersey City. This is sponsored by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of NJ. Our community will render the finale Praise and Worship to be led by Rene and Sally Castaneda. You are all invited. Please contact Norie/Miriam Abes (normir01@aol.com) or Tony/Zeny Garcia (azgarcia@comcast.net)

Prayer Counseling Seminar and Live-in Workshop, May 21-22 at Ramada Limited. All DLC members please plan to come. Other disciples will be accepted if space allows. Attendance for whole duration of seminar/workshop is required. For more information on fees and lodging, contact Dens and Mina Mantes (pmantes@psands.com)

Reminder: Next DLC meeting will be on May 14, Saturday 2PM to 6PM (Venue to be announced)

TEACHINGS

May 7 St. Antoninus 1-6pm

- * LSS21 & Singles - Agony in the Garden/ Washing of the Feet Retreat
- * LSS18 - Apologetics II (Mary, Trinity, Salvation)

May 20 St. Leo after worship

- * Singles - CMP I (Christian Faith)
- * John 6 Teaching
- * Mark 10 Teaching

May 21 St. Antoninus 1-6pm

- * LSS23 - Encounter with Jesus (Mark & Matthew)

May 27 St. Leo after worship

- * Service Ministry Teaching; Christian Servanthood
- * Intercessory Ministry Teaching



Visit our website at
www.bldnewark.com.



Counsels from page 1

for all Christian prayer and liturgy when believers place before their very own eyes the mystery of salvation in its totality.

According to Jesus, to give glory to God is to accomplish His work. This highlights our theme for the week. **“His Spirit will live and remain in us as God’s work is accomplished through us.”** To give glory to God in Jesus’ footsteps is likewise to reveal to our brothers and sisters the love of the Father. It is to lead them to recognize that the love of God is at the root of our existence.

How can we reveal the Name of God to our brothers and sisters? To give glory to God is to recognize in ourselves that the love of God is at the root of our very being. We exist each moment in the Father’s sight as a reality of His love.

Can we see God’s love in everyone in community? Do we see it in the marginalized of our society? If we cannot discover God’s love in everyone, how can we reveal it to others?

This is why we need to fellowship and share God’s Word, His love and understanding through community. It is not only to help us in the ordinary experiences of our lives. We need a community of believers with whom we can pray, who will understand our spiritual aspirations. We need brothers and sisters who will support us in our Christian commitment, who will lovingly correct us when we stray from the right path. We need companions on our journey who experience the same struggles to be faithful in a world that does not share the same values or insights.

Jesus passed from this world to His Father in prayer that gave thanks to God for the work accomplished. We too should imitate our Lord’s life of prayer.

Let us pray following the examples of the disciples gathered together in the upper room, while waiting for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Prayer blesses God, who chose us to make known to the whole world, “the only true God”, and the one whom He sent, Jesus Christ. It gives thanks for Christ’s heavenly glory and the gift of faith that makes Him known to those who faithfully keep His word.

Prayer allows us open to Him, suffer with Him and for Him. With Him and in Him, we shall experience joy and gladness when His glory is revealed.

DIRECTION: Embrace the cross with joy.

**MAKE COVENANT NEWS
A PART OF YOUR COVENANT LIFE.**

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- May 21-22 Prayer Counseling (DLC members)
- Jun 3-5 ME 25 Easton PA
- Jun 3-5 SE 14 Garrison NY
- Jun 19 BLD Foundation Day (Global Community’s 20th Anniversary)
- Jun 24-26 SPE 7, Edison Ramada Inn
- July 15-17 Newark FE 12 Malvern PA
- Jul 22-24 Trenton FE 3 Malvern PA
- Jul 22-24 YE 12 St. Francis Retreat House, Easton PA

May the blessings of the Lord be upon you. . .

BIRTHDAYS

- 6-May Jing Bucu-SE5
- Rory Olaso-LSS2
- Jaymee Racho-SE 14
- 7-May Aileen Escobinas-SE4
- Ricky Maniego-LSS23
- 8-May Angel Mijares-LSS16
- Jen Ompod-YE9
- 11-May Geng Bustos-LSS22
- Charm Opinion-SE 8
- Renier John Gallofin-John 6
- 9-May Chito Magahis-LSS17
- Glen Golamco-SE 9
- 10-May Tony Avisado-LSS8
- Frank Venadas-LSS14
- Em Catelo-LSS17
- 12-May Frank Belarmino-LSS3
- Veluz Eguia-SE 11
- Armi Santiago-SE 10
- Bobo Luardo-LSS17
- Nicolo Santiago-SE 5
- Freddie Salimbango-SE 16
- Beth Valeriano-LSS18



ANNIVERSARIES

- 6-May- Danny & Cora Labung-LSS15
- Reggie & Fil Malabanan-LSS21
- 7-May- Nim & Maco Col-LSS23
- 9-May- Casey & Malyn Tanseco-LSS6

The NJ Charismatic Renewal Movement under the Archdiocese of Newark invites the BLD community to renew the gift of the Holy Spirit at the **PENTECOST VIGIL** to be held on **SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2005, ST AEDAN’S CHURCH, JERSEY CITY.**

- Program:
- 7:00 - 7:30 PM - Praise and Worship (NJCCR Prayer Group)
 - 7:30 - 8:30 PM - Mass (NJCCR Prayer Group)
 - 9:00 -11:00 PM - Praise and Worship (NJCCR Groups.)
 - 11:00- 12:00 PM- Praise and Worship(BLD)

THE LORD’S PROVISIONS

<u>COLLECTIONS</u>		<u>EXPENSES</u>	
4/15	3,819	16-wk avg	\$3,639
4/22	3,610		
4/29	3,153		
16-wk avg	3,360		



Thanks for your generosity!



Agony In The Garden/ Washing Of The Feet Retreat

Twenty-eight members including 13 from our Singles Ministry answered the Lord's call to a week-end of reflection, realization and conversion. Indeed the retreat deepened their commitment to prayer, intercession and humble service.

The day began with worship followed by the exhortation on the Gospels of Matthew (Mt 26:36:46) and John (Jn 13:1-20) led by Father Paul Lehman and Deacon Bong David. Each teaching was made more reflective and solemn by the personal witnessing by our sharers from the different ministries. The Teaching Ministry, Praise Ministry, Singles Ministry and class shepherds served in this spirit-filled event that culminated with a Eucharistic celebration.

On Mother's Day

John 6 express their love

Our children were asked, "What will I thank God for my Mom?" Here are some of their answers:

- for giving me and my sisters our life through our mom.
- she gives me confidence & encourages me.
- my mom buys my food and gave me birth.
- she is always there and willing to help me. she guides me in my faith.
- for letting me live, giving me children, having good friends.
- for all my mom has done for me. she feeds me, dresses me, buys me things.
- for my mom going to work everyday for me
- for mom loving me and raising me. she helped make me what I am today.
- she works so hard just to take care of us
- for the blessing of my mom who is so hardworking and full of kindness, consideration and love.
- for my mom giving birth to me.

COUNSELS

Enabled By The Spirit

WORD: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

ORDER: "As the Father has sent me so I send you." (Jn 20:21b)

REFLECTION: When we go out on Mission, we are blessed with the many tools that come from the many years of experience of serving and doing the will of the Lord. The founders of this community depended on the power of the Holy Spirit to put it together and to make it grow and propagate. We follow in their steps and rely on the same power, knowing that our teachings, programs and decisions would be of small or no consequence if God did not breathe life into them through His Holy Spirit.

As we celebrate Pentecost, we focus on the third Person of the Blessed Trinity. Let us see the Holy Spirit as a Person, and not as a power source that is invoked upon like a cosmic force to fall onto this community. He is a Spiritual Being (Jn 4:24); He is the Comforter (Jn 14 & 15) and our Intercessor (Rom 8:26-27). The Holy Spirit, like the Father and the Son with whom He is co-equal, is personal and spiritual.

"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." (Jn 14:9) Christ who revealed the Father to us also gave us the Holy Spirit. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (Jn 20:21-22).

Pentecost is the Jewish feast to celebrate the "first-fruits of the harvests" (Deut 16:10). Whereas, in
(cont'd on page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

"When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth."
(Ps 104:30)

Pentecost

Fifty days after the Resurrection of Christ, we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and Mary, the mother of Jesus, who were gathered in the Upper Room. This event marks the beginning of the Church as described in Acts 2. The Apostles received the Gift of Grace to fulfill the mission that Jesus had given to them. *“The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in My Name – he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.”* (Jn 14:26)

“What the soul is to the human body, the Holy Spirit is to the Body of Christ, which is the Church. To this Spirit of Christ, as an invisible principle, is to be ascribed the fact that all the parts of the body are joined one with the other and with their exalted head; for the whole Spirit of Christ is in the head, the whole Spirit is in the body, and the whole Spirit is in each of the members. The Holy Spirit makes the Church ‘the temple of the living God.’ Indeed, it is to the Church herself that the Gift of God has been entrusted... In it is in her that communion with Christ has been deposited, that is to say: the Holy Spirit, the pledge of incorruptibility, the strengthening of our faith and the ladder of our ascent to God... For where the Church is, there also is God’s Spirit; where God’s Spirit is, there is the Church and every grace.” (CCC 797)

We were initiated into the Life in the Trinity in the Sacrament of Baptism, making us members of the Body of Christ. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit gives us the wisdom, courage and strength to be witnesses of Christ, to spread and defend the faith by word and deed. The Life in the Trinity is sustained in us when we receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist often, when bread and wine become the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit. When we receive Jesus Christ, we receive the Father and the Holy Spirit in the Eucharist. United to Him, we are united to all the faithful.

Pope John Paul II wrote: “Receiving the Eucharist means entering into a profound communion with Jesus. *‘Abide in me, and I in you.’* (Jn 15:4) This relationship of profound and mutual abiding enables us to have a certain foretaste of heaven on earth. Is this not the greatest of human yearnings? Is this not what God had in mind when he brought about in history his plan of salvation?”

St. Matthias

“It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you.”
(Jn 15:16)

May 14 is the feast of St. Matthias who we know little about except that he was chosen by the remaining eleven Apostles to replace Judas Iscariot who betrayed the Lord. He is known as the patron saint of carpenters and those battling alcoholism.

St. Matthias was one of the original disciples of Jesus who had been with Him from the baptism of John until His Ascension to heaven. It was Peter, the Vicar of Christ, who proposed to the 120 assembled disciples that they choose one who *“accompanied us and went among us”* to now become *“a witness to Christ’s resurrection.”* Two disciples of equal merit were selected - Joseph, called Barsabbas also known as Justus, and Matthias, whose name in Greek means “gift of Yahweh.”

“Then they prayed, ‘You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place.’ Then they gave lots to them, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted with the eleven apostles.” (Acts 1:15-26)

St. Matthias first preached the Gospel in Judea where he was persecuted by both Jews and Gentiles, and then went to Ethiopia. All further information concerning his life and death is vague and contradictory. None of it is in the canonical New Testament. One tradition states that like the other Apostles who died a martyr’s death, he died by crucifixion in the hands of the barbarians in Ethiopia. Another tradition maintains that in the year 63 AD, he was stoned in Jerusalem by the Jews and then beheaded. Still another tradition says that St. Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great, brought his relics to Rome in a church bearing his name.

Although we have little information about St. Matthias’ life, his calling reminds us all that vocation is always a divine choice and not ours; it is not born of good desires or great aspirations. The Apostles did not choose our Lord as Master but the Lord had chosen them. *“It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain..”* (Jn 15:16) St. Paul adds, *“(God) saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design.”* (2 Tim 1:9) At the same time, we need to heed God’s call whatever the circumstances. It is through our faithfulness to His calling that God will grace us with true happiness and meaning in our lives.

Unity in Community, as in Marriage

A passage from Mark's Gospel (10:1-12) teaches us that marriage is a divine institution and not a human invention. The Gospel relates how the Pharisees tried to trap Jesus by getting him to state that he supported divorce. The Pharisees saw divorce as a legal issue rather than spiritual. They were not thinking about what God intended for marriage, but had reduced it to a legal structure that could be terminated on a whim. Today, we see the sanctity of marriage being torn apart by a secular society that bases beliefs in humanism. The idea of a covenant between God and the man and woman is almost non-existent in much of today's world. It is rather seen as a contract synonymous to an acquisition of a good or service which, when not delivered or performed in accordance with the contract, is rejected or returned. This analogy is strikingly similar to that of divorce.

Mark's Gospel tells us that God never intended for man to separate what he has joined together. Women were often treated as property and marriage and divorce were treated as transactions similar to buying and selling land. Jesus condemned this attitude and practice then, just as He does today. God's intention on marriage is oneness. Jesus held up God's ideal for marriage and told His followers to live by it.

Marriage is also a symbolic relationship between Christ and the Church. In Ephesians 5:25-32, Paul admonishes us on the duties of husbands and wives and he speaks of these in a Christian manner, setting the church as an example of the wives subjection and Christ as an example of love in husbands. "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the Church and handed himself over for her. Husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.*"

He directs our thoughts from the unity of marriage to what it symbolizes in community. Paul says that there is a mutual submission that Christians owe to one another, condescending to bear one another's burdens, not advancing themselves above others, nor domineering over one another. We must be of a yielding and submissive spirit, always ready to serve each other. We must strive for unity and harmony, to overcome our differences and to complement one another so that our community will prosper and grow. As Christ has loved us, we ought to love one other.

Kudos & complaints?

wordministry@bldnewark.com.

MINISTRY ANOUNCEMENTS

DLC meets tomorrow 2-6pm at Boland Hall.

Please keep our leadership in prayer.

Last call for ME 25! June 3-5 in Easton PA. Share the peace that Christ brings to a marriage, for *blessed are the peacemakers*. Invite that special other couple you care about! Contact Tony-Linda at 908-835-1622 or Nick-Island at 908-688-8614; or visit www.bldnewark.com.

Pentecost Vigil tomorrow starts at 7:30pm. We are all invited to St. Aedan's church in Jersey City. The Vigil will be led by different charismatic groups, including BLD with the final segment. Contact Norie-Miriam Abes or Tony-Zeny Garcia

MAY TEACHINGS

May 20 St. Leo after worship

- * Singles - CMP I (Christian Faith)
- * Youth – Gifts and Fruit of the Spirit
- * John 6 Teaching
- * Mark 10 Teaching

May 21 St. Antoninus 1-6pm

- * LSS23 - Encounter with Jesus (Mark & Matthew)

May 27 St. Leo after worship

- * Service Ministry Teaching; Christian Servanthood
- * Intercessory Ministry Teaching

Prayer Counseling Seminar and Live-in Workshop May 21-22 at Ramada Limited in S. Plainfield NJ. *DLC members are expected.* Other disciples accepted if space allows. Attendance for the duration of the seminar is required. Contact: Dens-Mina Mantes. **Magnifikid subscribers.** The June-August issue may now be picked up from the Mark 10 Ministry. We're now open for renewals and new subscriptions. Contact Amy Guiao at (908) 405-6490.

Somebody's Praying Me Through

I was 15 when, having just come out of an amazing YLSS, I had to undergo surgery to remove a growth. My relationship with God was strong, and the BLD community was praying with me. When the surgery turned up a malignancy, it seemed as though our fervent prayers went unanswered, but God has a plan for me. The cancer could have been worse, or the surgery unsuccessful. A speedy recovery soon followed and the worst is now behind. Indeed, the Lord answers my prayers. His ways may be shrouded in mystery, but I trust His loving mercy and power.

MAKE COVENANT NEWS

A PART OF YOUR COVENANT LIFE.

Counsels from page 1

Christ's death and resurrection, Jesus had been the fulfillment of the Passover Lamb, Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to prepare us for the last days. It allows us to know the role of the Holy Spirit and His ministry in the salvation of man.

In the story of the tower of Babel, God reached down to punish man for his pride. In Pentecost, God through His Holy Spirit reaches down to open our eyes to our sins. This Counselor would "*convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation*" (Jn 16:8) that we might be saved. He unites us so that we will have the power as one body to bring all to Christ. "*For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.*" (1Cor 12:13)

We share a common theme in our community's global worship: **His spirit will live and remain in us as we manifest God's power in our readiness to forgive.** In this power of forgiveness we can all come together and bring others before Christ for our salvation. Forgiveness is designed both ways: to forgive and, equally important, to ask forgiveness. Both demand from us not only the verbal and mindful enunciation of the words, but also a deep sincerity and conviction that wipe out all judgments, malice and grudges from every corner of our hearts toward those who offended us, and those whom we have offended.

The Word fills us with joyful hope in the midst of the violence, death and darkness in our world – see this week's Promise. In Ezekiel 37:9-10 we read, "*He said to me: prophesy to the spirit, prophesy, son of man, and say to the spirit: Thus says the Lord God: From the four winds come, O spirit, and breathe into these slain that they may come to life. I prophesied as he told me, and the spirit came into them; they came alive and stood upright, a vast army.*" As we look to this promise of restoration in the Spirit, we ask that He guide us with His wisdom and knowledge, healing and mercy, love and light, joy and peace, that we may be whole in Christ Jesus as we continue to serve Him through this community.

DIRECTIONS

- Keep alive the gifts of the Holy Spirit that you received in living your new life.
- Encourage and affirm one another by using spiritual gifts for the benefit of the community.

Visit www.bldnewark.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May 18	ME 23 Reunion, Brillantes Residence, Edison NJ
May 21-22	Prayer Counseling (DLC members)
Jun 3-5	ME 25 Easton PA
Jun 3-5	SE 14 Garrison NY
Jun 19	BLD Foundation Day (Global Community's 20 th Anniversary)
Jun 24-26	SPE 7, Edison Ramada Inn
Jun 25	ME 23 1 st Anniversary Celebration/ Reunion, Onwuka/Obioma Anyanwu Residence, Maplewood NJ
July 15-17	Newark FE 12 Malvern PA
Jul 22-24	Trenton FE 3 Malvern PA
Jul 22-24	YE 12 St. Francis Retreat House, Easton PA

May the blessings of the Lord be upon you....



BIRTHDAYS

5/13	Flor Baculio, LSS20	5/15	Kristian De La Cruz, Mark10
	Fely Escobar, LSS16		Allan Ebor, LSS17
	Reggie Malabanan, LSS21		Dodong Demegillo, LSS11
	Fatima Refuerzo, SE8		Winnie Feliciano, LSS8
	Carol Manguiat, SE10	5/16	Precy Narciso, LSS8
	Bobbie Kurtzhals, LSS16	5/17	Flor Maqueda, LSS22
5/14	Lory Jacobo, LSS23	5/18	Susan Aglibut, LSS12
	Rowena Sy, SE13		Boboy Guzman, LSS18
	Sabrina Guiao, Mark10	5/19	June Bustos, LSS22
	Kevin Larobis, Mark10		Dens Mantes, LSS11
			Chris Racinez, LSS16

ANNIVERSARIES

5/14	Larry & Leni De Guzman, LSS19
5/17	Joel & Lani Hernandez, LSS19
5/18	Charlie & Arlene Claricia, LSS24

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

4/22	\$3,610
4/29	3,153
5/06	3,555
17-wk avg	3,371

EXPENSES

17-wk avg	\$3,806
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Thank you for your generosity



DLC Meeting: Love For One Another

The DLC held a meeting last Saturday, May 14th, at St. Leo's Boland Hall.

Raffy Obrera, "PLAFTask Force" member, presented their Proposed Plan of Action to integrate parish activities with BLD works, an update on status of BLD as Association of the Faithful.

Ruben Amarante presented a Comparative Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for 2004 and 2003. After presenting the 2005 Budget, he announced that any request for cash reimbursements must now be made in advance through e-mailed vouchers.

Jun Entrada, on venue search, informed the body that BLD was given a one-year lease extension on the Milburn Office. He added that the Immaculate Heart Church in Maplewood, according to Father Lehman, is a potential BLD venue.

Noel Trillana, DCS, mentioned that the proposal to update the BLD LSS to be in sync with the LSS for Catholics is being further evaluated. He also requested the BLD members to pray for the two-day Prayer Counseling for the DLC on May 21st and 22nd.

The meeting ended with an exhortation and prayer from Richard de la Fuente, DSL. He reiterated God's order for the disciples to love one another. He said that we should not be content with where we are right now, but have to be ready to move to the next level, which is a much deeper relationship with the Lord. In order to be a true servant of the Lord, we must embrace His invitation to this next level willingly and lovingly.

In the bread and wine, becoming in the Holy Mass the Body and Blood of the Lord, the Christian people find the nourishment and support to journey on the path to holiness, the universal vocation of all baptized. (Pope Benedict XVI)

COUNSELS

Encouragement, Agreement And Peace

WORD: Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9; Daniel 3:52-56; 2Cor 13:11-13; Jn 3:16-18

ORDER: "Mend your ways; encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace." (2Cor.13:11-12)

REFLECTION:

On the day of His resurrection, Jesus passed through locked doors and challenged His disciples to come out of their fear and reluctance. He offered them the power to transcend their limitations. He invited them to move beyond their false security into a life of freedom, responsibility, transformation and risk. This week, Jesus passes through another door and opens us into the mystery of God's love. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son so that every one who believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (Jn 3:16)

God's whole plan of salvation is a manifestation of His love. God gave us His Son, the Good Shepherd who will lead us to rich pastures, to restful waters, to repose and refreshment, who will refresh us so that we might have the strength and courage to face and overcome life's difficulties. Like Peter's preaching on the day of Pentecost, Jesus challenges us to overcome our inclination towards mere maintenance of the flock and to become true instruments of growth. He admonishes us not to be like

(continued on page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

"For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life." Jn 3:16

The Cost of Discipleship

“Anyone who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me.” (Mt. 10:38)

In the business world, reward is quantified into the amount realized as return on investment. Thus, investment is the cost or sums you put in to reap the intended return. The greater the risk on your investment, the more return is expected. One can gain, or go bust.

On the other hand, our faith offers a much certain conclusion. Its foundation rests upon the fact that *“God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life.”* (John 3:16) Our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and died on the cross as expiation for our sins. He has gained for us our victory over sin and death.

Therefore, our response to His call to discipleship must be at all cost. The Lord’s call is clear: *“Come and follow me and I will make you fishers of men”*. His order is straight forward, *“Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them all that I have commanded you.”* (Matthew 28:19)

To faithfully heed His call, we must overcome our delimiting nature and the dictates of our daily grinds and chores. In Romans 6:13, it says *“surrender your whole being to Him to be used for righteous purposes”*. Discipleship may be inconvenient, hard, embarrassing, or even scary, but our model, inspiration and source of strength is Jesus, who gave up all for us. We must follow Him and if called to, share in His suffering.

“Friendship with God is reserved for those who revere Him.” (Psalm 25:14a) His friends are those who feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give solace to the weary, serve the least of our brothers and sisters, for in doing so, we do the same to Him. When we perform our work in whatever ministry God has given us, we fulfill the call to discipleship. The assignment of a task is an opportunity to grow into servanthood. *“Whoever wants to be great must become a servant.”* (Mark 10:43)

Our business investment could go sour, but our “investments” in the Lord offer the certainty of immeasurable return- eternal salvation. For He said, *“I, the Lord, am with you always, until the end of the world.”* (Matthew 28:20) *“Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.”* (John 12:26)

Excerpts from PLAF Task Force Report Imperative:

Balance Communion & Mission

On June 3, 2003, the Most Reverend John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark, established the community as a Private Lay Association of the Faithful, meaning that as lay organization we are to serve in the life and mission of the local churches in diocese. On December 30, 2004; 18 months after the establishment as a Private Lay Association of the Faithful, the DCS designated a Task Force to review and promulgate plans to integrate community into the life and mission in the local churches of Newark.

Current situation: The community is more focused on the work of building communion than mission. Therefore, community mission is short in meeting the diocesan & parish service expected of a lay association of the faithful.

Recommendations: (1) Restructure functions of apostolates and their ministries to achieve balance in communion and mission without changing fundamental organization and structure. (2) The ministries under the different apostolates will develop a united character towards the achievement of above goal.

Strategy: Match and prioritize community strengths, gifts, capabilities and resources with needs of diocese.

Plan of Action: BLD- (1) Identify BLD members who are active in their respective parishes. (2) Identify assignments/workloads of members. (3) Distribute loads proportionately to covenanted and committed members. (4) Enjoin members to know job description of a given task to ensure effective delegation of functions and avoid burnout. (5) Review and adjust processes, if needed, for proper and faithful implementation of plans and functions.

Archdiocese/Parishes- (1) Identify parishes for development. (2) Coordinate/collaborate with identified parishes. (3) Identify needs to be supported. (4) Organize church ministry to BLD planned activities. (5) Communicate/guide parishioners to do the tasks.

Next steps: (1) Develop operational plan. (2) Obtain feedback/support of membership. (3) Present plan to Archdiocese.

A Single’s Sharing: Somebody’s Praying Me Through

I was 21 when I first entered the Singles Ministry. I made many friends in my SE class, and later on in the singles community. I enjoyed being with my new friends because we prayed together as a group. After I took the LSS, I learned

(continued on page 3)

Blessed Trinity & Prayer

I begin my sharing on the Blessed Trinity with a quote from St. John of the Cross, one of the great teachers on contemplative prayer and the mystical life. *“By the soul’s union with the Word, it enters into the cycle of the Triune life and participates in the divine operations. It breathes the Holy Spirit by grace as the Word does by nature.”*

Our contact with the Trinity is through the Incarnate Word- through Jesus. We enter into contact with Jesus when we are baptized, and through Him we are brought into life-giving contact with the Blessed Trinity. In other words, it is only through the human nature of Jesus that we can approach the invisible divine reality of the Trinity. When we surrender to Jesus, He gives us to His Father and to the Holy Spirit. That is why even though Jesus is the Word, the second person of God, we always approach God through our union with Jesus.

The great mystics are able to understand the mystery of God through their deep and prayerful contact with God. It is possible that a great theologian may be better able to abstractly explain the Trinity, but it is only the saint who can experience and understand in a deeper manner the mystery of God. In the quote above, it is “natural” for Jesus to “breathe” the Holy Spirit. When we “breathe” the Holy Spirit, we do it because of a supernatural gift we call grace. We are elevated beyond our natural capacity and are able to know and love this Trinitarian God as God knows and loves Himself!

This self awareness of what God has done for us by this supernatural elevation, is the basis of our prayer life, and the foundation of the deepest possible union with God. When we let go and yield to the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we are in a sense allowing God to do great things in us. Since holiness is gift, we freely and graciously accept this gift, and become indwelt with the whole Trinity. It is obvious that when we talk about “breathing” the Holy Spirit, we are not talking about breathing air.

The word spirit means breath, and in this instance the breath is the life and power of God flowing through our souls. One of the evidences that a human person is alive is his ability to breathe. The only evidence that a person is spiritually alive is that he possesses the breath of God, the Holy Spirit. When prayer becomes difficult, shift into a quiet mode, and sense our Triune God living and truly dwelling in the center of your souls. Rest in Him, and let Him love you.

Ministry Announcements

DLC Seminar this weekend. Prayer Counseling Seminar and Live-in Workshop May 21-22 at Ramada Limited in S. Plainfield NJ. *Please pray for our leadership.*

ME 25 June 3-5 in Easton PA. Please note: *we now have our full complement of auxies.* We serve too, while staying in our homes, through our fervent prayers for the candidates, pastoral team and those who will be working at the venue.

TEACHINGS

Tonight, May 20 St. Leo after worship

- * Singles - CMP I (Christian Faith)
- * Youth – Gifts and Fruit of the Spirit
- * John 6 Teaching
- * Mark 10 Teaching

Tomorrow, May 21 St. Antoninus 1-6pm

- * LSS23 - Encounter with Jesus (Mark & Matthew)

May 27 St. Leo after worship

- * Service Ministry Teaching; Christian Servanthood
- * Intercessory Ministry Teaching

Magnifikid. We’re now open for renewals and new subscriptions. Current subscribers please pick up your copies for June-August. Contact Amy Guiao at (908) 405-6490.

YE 12 July 22-24 in Easton PA. Deadline is July 15 for candidates 15-19 years old. Contact Mario-Cecile Salonga (516-5616854), Aldo-Meg Pangilinan (718-4770374) or Elaine Canlas (201-2624632); or www.bldnewark.com.

A Single’s Sharing: *from page 2*

the power of prayer through praying in tongues. As time went on and my prayerful ways grew, I began to see His blessings poured upon me. God blessed me with a girlfriend, who I love so dearly. Then, after my family attended the FE, He blessed me with a closer family relationship. To make things even better, I was blessed with a job as well. God knew that deep down inside all I wanted were close friends that had the same interest in prayer as I did; a really cool family; and a girlfriend whom I could pray with. God has definitely listened to my prayers, and answered them.

THE LORD’S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

4/29	\$3,153
05/06	3,555
05/13	2,934
18-wk avg	3,347

Thank you for your generosity!

EXPENSES

18-wk avg	\$3,706
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Counsels from page 1

meek sheep which hide in silence when the wolves appear but rather seek to explore other pastures.

And those who indeed follow the footsteps of Jesus find that it is a very untidy trek. It is not a comfortable journey for those who are obsessed with good order, with clarity, with the absence of ambiguity. So often, we go to great length to avoid life's messiness and those who cause the mess. Discipleship means getting involved in the pain and dirt of life, whether at home, at work or in community. This is how we grow. That is how discoveries, new advances are made – in the grit of dirt and messiness of our lives.

You may remember in our Biology class Alexander Fleming, a British biologist. In 1928, a speck of dust settled and contaminated one of his uncovered plates. He noted that a certain mold in the culture destroyed the lethal bacteria. His observation led to the development of modern antibiotic and a Nobel Prize in 1945.

Years later, Fleming was touring a new state-of-the-art research laboratory – sterile, dust free, air conditioned where scientists carried out their experiments. His guide remarked: *what a pity you didn't have a place like this in which to work, Dr. Fleming. Imagine what you could have discovered in such a place.* Dr. Fleming smiled and said quietly: *Yeah, I certainly would not have discovered penicillin!*

Jesus invites all of us to be His disciples in our untidy world. In His teachings and parables, He says that Christian life will be difficult. This is one of the truths that Jesus taught us. We pay so much attention to our own hurts that we fall short in being like Christ to one another: in caring for each other, in offering one another a direction in life.

This week's Word order: *"Mend your ways; encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace"* calls our attention to how we should behave in community. *"We though many are one body in Christ"* (Romans 12:5). In the words of St. Paul, we find the teaching of Jesus Himself, which reveals the mystical unity of Christ with His disciples and the disciples with each other, presenting it as an image and extension of the unity of the Father to the Son, and the Son to the Father in the bond of love, the Holy Spirit. Jesus refers to this same unity in the image of the vine and the branches: *"I am the vine, you are the branches"* Jn 15:5. It is an image that sheds light not only on the deep intimacy of the disciples with Jesus but also on the necessity of a vital communion of the disciples with each other. All are branches of the single vine.

(continued on next column)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May 21-22	Prayer Counseling (DLC members)
Jun 3-5	ME 25 Easton PA
Jun 3-5	SE 14 Garrison NY
Jun 19	BLD Foundation Day (Global Community's 20 th Anniversary)
Jun 24-26	SPE 7, Edison Ramada Inn
Jun 25	ME 23 1 st Anniversary Celebration/ Reunion, Onwuka/Obioma Anyanwu Residence, Maplewood NJ
July 15-17	Newark FE 12 Malvern PA
Jul 22-24	Trenton FE 3 Malvern PA YE 12 St. Francis Retreat House, Easton PA

May the blessings of the Lord be upon you!

BIRTHDAYS

5/22	Kimberly Samonte, SE13	5/24	Kevin Gongob, Jn 6
	Rose Zoleta, LSS6	5/25	James Cuevas, LSS22
	Rachel Japson, Singles		Oscar Joson, LSS22
5/23	Adrian Arias, Singles	5/26	Vulet Chong, LSS20
	Yen Cruzada, LSS7		Aimee Pena, LSS2
5/24	Sylvia Duma, LSS9		

ANNIVERSARIES

5/22	Obioma & Onwuka Anyanwu, LSS23
5/23	Mon & Dulce Samonte, LSS23
5/25	Nes & Hermie de la Cruz, LSS23
	Zaldy & Bing Espinosa, LSS12
5/26	Vic & Gigi Munante, LSS5

DIRECTIONS :

We are one body, one spirit united by one common mission of Christian Discipleship. We are to serve each other by:

- Our willingness to put ourselves last for the sake of others.
- Bearing the sufferings of others in order to bring the life of God where we live and move and have our being.
- Seeking our own peace and joy in helping others find their peace and joy.
- Greeting one another with a holy kiss as a sign of peace, love, unity and forgiveness.



T Newark holds Prayer Counseling Seminar

HERE WAS A HUGE TURNOUT OF BLD Newark class shepherds and coordinators at the special live-in seminar at the Piscataway Ramada Inn last weekend sponsored by our Teaching and Pastoral ministries and conducted by the Prayer Counseling Team. The Newark District Leadership Conference (DLC) was joined by participants from Albany, Rockland, Trenton and Washington. In all, about 120 community leaders attended the seminar on Prayer Counseling which had a two-fold objective: to enhance the members' pastoral and healing gifts through prayer counseling; and to develop more prayer counselors for the community.

The intensive 2-day seminar steeped the participants in the principles for prayer healing that are based on Elijah House modules on Christian Counseling. The Prayer Counseling Team was made up of Lee de la Fuente, Lith Golamco, Aimee Pena, Noel and Letty Trillana, who are all graduates of Elijah House.

The engrossing teachings were interspersed with workshops wherein small groups of 3 or 4 applied their newly-learned skills in actual prayer counseling sessions. These involved interviewing, active listening, prayer and the healing process seeking the order of the Holy Spirit. In the end, Teacher Letty Trillana and a volunteer counselee demonstrated a riveting, real-life counseling session before the hushed assembly.

Father Paul Lehman led the concluding Eucharistic celebration and partaking of the Divine Healer that provided a cleansing, invigorating end to the retreat, after which certificates of completion were handed out.

Did you know...

There are at least three saints for almost every day, but the official Roman calendar of feast days for celebration by the Universal Church, does not have a saint's feast day every day. Saints to be celebrated worldwide are carefully chosen. They must have a message for the church as a whole.

Religious orders, countries, localities, and individuals are free to celebrate the feast days of saints not listed on the universal calendar but are important to them.

COUNSELS

Real Presence, Bread of Life


WORD: Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; 1 Cor 10:16-17; Jn 6:51-58

ORDER: "Do not forget the Lord Your God." (Dt 8: 14b)

REFLECTION: This week, we honor and celebrate the central mystery and truth of our faith which Mother Church proclaims everyday: the "Real Presence" of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. Instituted in 1264 by Pope Urban IV, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, or *Corpus Christi*, reminds us of the ineffable gift of God's spiritual nourishment. In love, He has remained with His people in order to feed and strengthen us that we may not feel alone while journeying in this passing world.

The Scripture Readings draw from the central message of afflictions and sustenance needs of desert travelers. Moses reminds his people that their forty years of wandering in the wilderness was God's test of their obedience amid afflictions of hunger. That hunger was filled by the Lord with manna that He sent down with each morning dew, bread-food unknown to the Israelites until then (Dt 8:2-3). The wanderings of Israel are the image and symbol of Christ's pilgrim Church today. We, too, journey on in our earthly desert towards the heavenly home while facing the affliction of spiritual trials in our daily lives.

How can we cope? At Capernaum, following the miraculous feeding of the crowd with five barley loaves, Jesus reveals to the crowd the means with which He will sustain the life of His Church long after His Ascension to the Father: by the Bread of Life that comes down from heaven (Jn 6:33). He then declare Himself as this bread from heaven: "The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." (v51) He proceeds to astound them further with the explicit, radical command, "Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life

page 4 

God's Promise For The Week

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; who ever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." (Jn 6:51)

How the Feast Came About

From early age, St. Juliana, who grew up to become an Augustinian nun in Liege, Belgium, had a great veneration of the Blessed Sacrament and longed for a special feast in its honor. Whenever she knelt in prayer, a brilliant moon continually appeared before her with one small portion obscured and invisible. She tried to ignore the vision, but our Lord Himself came to explain it to her. He said it was to show that the ritual year of the Church would remain incomplete until the Blessed Sacrament had a feast of its own. He wished it to be instituted for the following reasons:

- That Catholic doctrine might receive aid from the institution of this festival at a time when the faith of the world was growing cold and heresies were rife.
- That the faithful who love and seek truth and piety may draw from this source of life, new strength and vigor to walk continually in the way of virtue.
- That irreverence and sacrilegious behavior towards the Divine Majesty in this adorable Sacrament may, by sincere and profound adoration, be extirpated and repaired.

Christ bade her to announce to the Christian world His will that this feast should be observed. Juliana made known her vision to the Bishop of Liege, Robert de Thorate, and to Jacques Panaleon, at the time Archdeacon of Liege and who later became Pope Urban IV. Bishop Robert de Thorete ordered that the feast be celebrated in his diocese. In 1264 Pope Urban, having extolled the love of Our Savior as expressed in the Holy Eucharist in a papal bull, sanctioned the annual celebration of Corpus Christi for the whole Church.



The procession on Corpus Christi to honor the Holy Eucharist was not mentioned in the decrees, but had become a principal ritual by the faithful, a tradition solemnly yet joyfully observed.

“Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you do not have life in you.” (Jn 6:53) Whereas many of the disciples walked away, Peter and the other apostles believed the words of their Master without hesitation. They received the promise that He would give them His real flesh to eat and his real blood to drink. With full faith, Peter declared, *“You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.” (vv 68-69)*

Follow Christ! He does not promise illusory happiness; on the contrary, so that you will be able to reach true human and spiritual maturity, he invites you to follow his demanding example, making your own his chosen commitments. (Pope John Paul II)

Growing Good Corn

In his book, *How To Talk Well*, James Bender relates the story of a farmer who grew award-winning corn. Each year he entered his corn in the state fair where it won a blue ribbon.

One year a newspaper reporter interviewed him and learned something interesting about how he grew it. The reporter discovered that the farmer shared his seed corn with his neighbors.

“How can you afford to share your best seed corn with your neighbors when they are entering corn in competition with yours each year?” the reporter asked.

“Why sir,” said the farmer, “didn't you know? The wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbors grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbors grow good corn.”

He is very much aware of the *connectedness of life*. His corn cannot improve unless his neighbor's corn also improves.

So it is with our lives. Those who choose to live in peace must help their neighbors to live in peace. Those who choose to live well must help others to live well, for the value of a life is measured by the lives it touches. And those who choose to be happy must help others to find happiness, for the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all.

The lesson for each of us is this: if we are to grow good corn, we must help our neighbors grow good corn.

In community, we can look at 2 contrasting attitudes:

- **ENTHUSIASM** - good, sincere witnessing at our Word sharing circles; commitment and concern in ministry work will inspire and upbuild other members.
- **LUKEWARMNESS** - absence, tardiness, lack of contribution may bring down morale, spread doubt, suspicion and “degrade” good works in ministry.

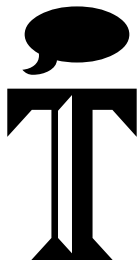
We pray then that, as we help sow and grow small seeds of love and unity in our circles, the Lord will grant the increase in our personal growth as well.

Prayer of St. Augustine

Late have I loved Thee, O Lord; and behold,
Thou wast within and I without, and there I sought Thee.
Thou wast with me when I was not with Thee.
Thou didst call, and cry, and burst my deafness.
Thou didst gleam, and glow, and dispell my blindness.
Thou didst touch me, and I burned for Thy peace.

For Thyself Thou hast made us,
and restless our hearts until in Thee they find their ease.
Late have I loved Thee, Thou Beauty ever old and ever new!
Thou hast burst my bonds asunder;
unto Thee will I offer up an offering of praise.

Toward Proper Direction in Financial Reporting



THE PRIMARY MEANS OF FINANCIAL REPORTING to the community has been the income and expense statement. Broken down by apostolate and ministry expenses, it is also a budgeting tool. As the community has grown, there has been recognition of the need for a full balance sheet.

However, since there had been no official balance sheet produced in the past, there was a need to validate beginning balances or starting figures - a daunting task, as it required going back over records the past 10 years. Several years ago, internal auditors were appointed, but they were unable to complete the task. The current practice of producing income and expense reports was turned over from one Treasury Ministry, DCS and BOT to another over the course of the past twelve years.

Recent efforts to move in the proper direction with regard to our financial reporting have included the establishment of a technical ministry to inventory assets, which in the past may have been stored in members' basements and for which we didn't have a full accounting. In the middle of 2003, when a new DCS was emerged and new coordinators took over the Treasury Ministry, our accounts were set up in QuickBooks and we were slowly able to produce more timely reports. In addition, all ministries are now required to have an approved budget for any event before cash advances will be released. All ministry members are encouraged to surrender all receipts and reconcile budgeted versus actual expenses for each event within a month so that advances can be closed properly.

There are still procedures to be decided upon to be able to get a truer picture of our Assets, Liabilities and Retained Earnings and at the same time produce financial statements that conform to accounting principles:

- Long- term treatment of receivables from Outreaches and Isaiah 58.
- Central Purchasing and/or Inventorying of supplies or direct expensing (ministries may be holding a thousand dollars worth of supplies at the end of the year.)
- Filing of 1099's for priest and sharer stipends, etc.
- Filing of W2 and payment of Social Security, Unemployment and Workmen's Compensation for St Leo's security guards who qualify as part time employees.

Task Force Volunteers Needed

We must commit the will and resources to be able to produce a balance sheet once and for all. A task force of qualified individuals is needed to work with the Treasury Ministry to make recommendations and provide a timeline for completion. Anyone with an accounting background who has the time and commitment to make this their highest community priority at this time is requested to contact the DCS.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ME 25 June 3-5 in Easton PA. Please note: *we now have our full complement of auxies.* Let us remember to serve too, while staying in our homes, through our fervent prayers for the candidates, pastoral team and those who will be working at the venue.

FE 12 July 15-17 in Malvern PA. "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." (Jos 24:15) A wonderful, memorable and spirit-filled weekend awaits the family in a very beautiful and serene environment. Pray, laugh, play and spend uninterrupted time with your loved ones! Contact Nick-Island Raagas, Oddi-Jho Martin or Fidel-Leggie Lim. Forms are at our website.



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Somebody's Praying Me Through!

MY WIFE AND I WERE ASKED TO SHARE in testimony to the Dominican Sisters of Hope. I found difficulty in my preparation and kept putting it off. During my train commute, I would usually pray and read from a book. On that particular day, I prayed for guidance and was utterly amazed to read a chapter, "A Place to Belong"

which made me recall an event that affected us spiritually. That night, the Lord filled us with enough thoughts as we started composing our witnessing. When we presented our sharing, I was able to overcome my initial nervousness and fear. It was like magic as the Lord's presence took over! The flow of ideas came like a stream of water continually feeding us with thoughts. We praise the Lord! This was indeed an answer to a prayer, and God reminded us that believing in Him gives us strength to overcome any difficulty that lies ahead.

SPMT

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Collections

05/06	\$3,555
05/13	2,934
05/20	3,332
19-wk avg	3,346

Thank you for your generosity

Expenses

19-wk average \$3,805

Counsels *(from page 1)*

within you,” and the solemn promise that whoever so eats and drinks, *“I will raise him on the last day.”* (v 53-54)
At the Last Supper, the Lord institutes the giving of Himself into the sacrament of the Eucharist.

Well did the Lord know about the murmuring and quarrel in disbelief by the Jews at that time. Today, the world is not much different. It’s no shock that non-believers would scoff at the Catholic doctrine of Christ’s Real Presence in the Eucharist. But caught in the secularism of the world are many Christians who doubt, if not disbelieve outright, this teaching. Worse, many Catholics may believe but no longer follow the requisites of state of grace and sacramental Reconciliation before receiving Holy Communion.

We have been called by the Lord to deeper spiritual waters through this community. By our personal encounter with Jesus, our lives have been renewed, transformed. In the abiding presence of His Spirit, our Paraclete, Advocate and Teacher, we persevere in our spiritual growth. In honoring this week’s solemn feast, let us remember to ask the Holy Spirit to move and inspire us to be faithful to the teachings of the Church Magisterium. May we remain firm believers in the real, true and substantial Presence of Christ’s humanity and divinity in the Eucharist, for in partaking of the sacred Banquet, we are fed with the finest wheat and sweet honey of regenerating grace (Ps 81:17).

This is the Year of the Eucharist, proclaimed by the late Pope John Paul II. Let us always accept the offer of Jesus. Let us partake of the One Loaf, broken so we will participate in His Body. We bless the Cup, to participate in His Blood (1 Cor 10:16). To refuse His invitation and command is to miss life, to choose to die in both this world and the world to come. Finding life with Him in this world, we will find glory in the next life! Remember His solemn promise to those who faithfully receive His Most Holy Body and Blood: *“I will raise him on the last day!”*

Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

DIRECTIONS

- Avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation more often.
- Faithfully partake of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, observing reverence, fasting and proper reception of the Eucharist.

Oh, Immaculate Heart!

Help us to conquer the menace of evil, which so easily takes root in the hearts of the people of today, and whose immeasurable effects already weigh down upon our modern world and seem to block the paths towards the future!

(John Paul II)

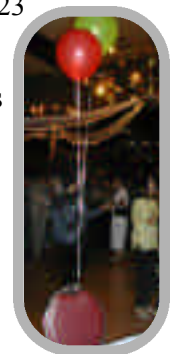


COMMUNITY CALENDAR

June 3-5	ME 25 Easton PA
June 3-5	SE 14 Garrison NY
June 19	BLD Foundation Day (Global Community’s 20th Anniversary)
June 24-26	SPE 7 Edison Ramada Inn
June 25	ME 23 1st Anniversary/Reunion, Anyanwu Residence, Maplewood NJ
July 15-17	Newark FE 12 Malvern PA
July 22-24	Trenton FE 3 Malvern PA
July 22-24	YE 12 Easton PA

birthdays

May 28	Fidel Lim, LSS21 Mely Romero, LSS17 Timothy Talbot, Mk 10
May 29	Nancy Hernandez, LSS23 Mario Salonga, LSS17 Casey Tanseco, LSS6 Anthony Duma, Singles Christine Ogboma, Jn 6
May 30	Maris Guzman, LSS18
May 31	Angel Calilap, LSS14 Island Raagas, LSS6
June 1	Nong Bustos, LSS14 Carmen Soto, LSS14 Bianca Reyes, YE9
June 2	Rose Cruz, LSS24 Blandie Montemayor, LSS5 Jansen Nacion, YE7



anniversaries

May 27	Oscar & Sandy Joson, LSS2 Bobi & Genie Luardo, LSS17 Mon & Leonie Mariazeta, LSS20
May 28	Tony & Marlene Brillantes, LSS23
May 29	Ray & Tessie Salmo, LSS22
May 30	Jerry & Tonette Pagdonsolan, LSS20

Last week’s Prophecies:

- Let love reign in your hearts. For love endures forever.
- Open up to the Holy Spirit. Seek more and receive more of Me.
- Go out and be My witnesses. Go out and share My gifts.



Diocese of Rome formally opens sainthood cause of Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Diocese of Rome formally opened the sainthood cause of Pope John Paul II, asking Catholics around the world to present evidence “for or against” his reputation for holiness. The edict signed by Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar of Rome, launched the information-gathering stage of the late pope’s cause. In mid-May, Pope Benedict XVI waived the normal five-year waiting period and said work on the sainthood cause of his predecessor could begin immediately. Cardinal Ruini’s announcement was published May 31 on the front page of the Vatican newspaper, *L’Osservatore Romano*, and was ordered posted on the doors of church offices in Rome and in Pope John Paul’s native Poland. The request for information was expected to prompt an avalanche of testimonials from Catholics and could also bring to light unpublished letters and other writings of the late pope.

(Lifted from American Catholic News)

Catholic schools said to play ‘vital role’ in church’s mission

WASHINGTON (CNS) — “Catholic schools play a vital role in the evangelizing mission of the church,” says a statement that the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will be asked to adopt in June. The nation’s bishops are to meet in Chicago June 16-18. The proposed statement on Catholic education is titled “Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium.” “Our young people are the church of today and tomorrow,” it says. “It is imperative that we provide them with schools ready to address their spiritual, moral and academic needs.” The statement says, “We are convinced that Catholic schools continue to be the most effective means available to the church for the education of children and young people. ... We must continue to give all parents the choice of an education which no other school can supply — excellent academics rooted in sound Catholic values.” *(Lifted from American Catholic News)*

COUNSELS

God Desires Mercy and Compassion for Sinners

WORD: Hos 6:3-6, Ps 50:1,8,12-15;
Rom 4:18-25; Mt 9:9-13

ORDER: *Follow Me. Strive to know the Lord*

REFLECTION: During the time of Jesus, tax collectors were among the despised people in all of Israel. They were seen as traitors, for though they were Jews themselves, they collected taxes for the Roman oppressors. They often overcharged people in order to make a better living for themselves.

St. Matthew was a reviled tax collector, despised as a sinner and outcast, because he was a Jew who sold his services to the Roman conquerors, collecting taxes for them from his own countrymen. Jesus, who was well aware of this, was still willing to give him a second chance by extending an invitation to follow him.

St. Matthew had a clear idea of how much it would cost to follow Jesus, yet he did not hesitate for a moment. For some other disciples, there was always fishing to return to, but for Matthew, there was no turning back. By his action he was given a new life, and his God-given skills of record keeping and attention to detail was given new purpose.

When God calls us to follow him, do we do it with such abandon as Matthew? Sometimes the decision to follow Christ requires difficult or painful choices. *(continued on page 4)*

God's Promise for the Week

“To the upright I will show the saving power of God” Ps 50:23b

Anger

I have encountered anger in many ways; in raised fists and even brandished weapons. I have seen it shown in slamming doors, screaming and yelling, even furniture flying, resulting in breakup of relationships. In community I have seen anger arise from disagreements, intolerance, possibly someone lording it over another. When anger is not handled well, it can lead to disenchantment or loss of a member even in community.

Must we show our anger when we do not agree with one another? Are we to confront or rebuke each other on every occasion? Do we always speak our minds much like we see in the corporate world. Is there a place for anger in the Christian realm?

Throughout most of my life, I thought it was a sin to be angry. However, in what seems to be a contradiction, Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:26 *“Be angry and do not sin”* How can this be?

Throughout scripture we see anger, wrath, temper, indignation, fury expressed by God. (Jeremiah 30:23-24, Rev. 19:14-15). However it is important to realize that God’s anger, in all cases, is not toward the person but at sin.

In ministry I once encountered intense disagreements with an older member. I felt, together with other members, that certain items were being inappropriately handled resulting in bad fruit. My initial reaction was of unbelief followed by anger. The anger increased as we tried to ‘confront’ the member and utter disbelief ensued from his unyielding stance. Our confrontation however was done in a manner that showed our love for each other as members of the body of Christ. Whatever differences we had, we reconciled in Christ’s love as Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:23-24, *“Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”*

We show more love when we try to correct another rather than letting things slide, because it will most likely lead to shoddier things later on. In Scripture, the word often used is “rebuke”. We see correction in one of the most stunning exchanges between Jesus and Peter in Mark 8:33 *“But turning and seeing His disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan’!* For you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men”. Peter was wrong and Jesus confronted him.

When we approach one another in fraternal correction, we can only show anger, not at the person, but at the deed or sin. More importantly, anger should not be the last thing remembered, but rather love.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary

“My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God.” From May 13 to Oct 13, 1917, Our Blessed Mother appeared to three shepherd children, Jacinta, Francisco & Lucia in Fatima, Portugal. She told them, *“to save poor sinners by prayers and penance... God wishes to establish in the world devotion to her Immaculate Heart.”*

Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is primarily based upon Sacred Scriptures. In St. Luke’s Gospel, there are two references to it, *“Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart.”* (Lk 2:19) and *“His Mother kept all these things in her heart.”* (Lk 2:51). It was her Immaculate Heart which expressed her “fiat”-- to God. By her faithful obedience she conceived Jesus, first in her heart, then in her womb.

Mary’s Heart denotes her love in all its fullness--love of God and of men in the quality of a mother. In her appearances in Fatima, she announced herself, *“I am the Lady of the Rosary. Continue always to pray the rosary everyday.”* Praying the rosary demands meditation on the mysteries of the life and death of Our Lord Jesus, through the eyes of our Lady. It cannot be a purely mechanical prayer. The devotion of the rosary is related to obtaining peace for the whole world and other blessings for humanity. It doesn’t mean only a continual invitation to prayers for conversion or reparation for offenses, outrages, and sacrileges against Our Lord, but to all prayers of intercession and supplication through the Immaculate Heart of Our Lady for all the needs of the people of the world.

Jacinta, one of the seers in Fatima said, *“tell everybody that God grants us graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”*

On March 25, 1984, the late John Paul II consecrated the whole world to her Immaculate Heart. He said, *“The rosary is and will always remain a prayer of gratitude, of love and faithful entreaty, the prayer of the Mother of the Church.”* Since then, the world has witnessed the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and eventually the downfall of Communist Russia. The people of God still hold on to the Virgin’s promise, *“In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph.”* Our Lady looking very sad asked of us, to *“pray, pray very much and make sacrifices.”* In all her apparitions, she has constantly called us to “metanoia”--a going back to God.

Our Lady is the faithful spouse of the Holy Spirit overshadowing her and granting her an immense and inconceivable degree of grace thus making her the sole custodian of His treasures and dispenser of His graces.

The Brighter Side of Conflict

From time to time, we find our community in one form or another of controversy and conflict. A lot of us wonder why this transpires in a communion of Christian believers whose main preoccupation is to love God above all and our neighbor as ourselves. Although it may appear negative, we should all grow in awareness that conflict has always been present in the life of the church and that properly handled, conflict can be positive, even generative!

Conflict that is confronted and addressed can only encourage invigorating relationships within our community structure. The expression of differences can promote a continuing process of change and betterment of how we conduct our affairs as God's flock duly anointed to bring His love to all men. Conflict management in the Christian perspective of love and forgiveness aligns the integrity of our community with that of the Gospel, and as such takes people and their idiosyncrasies more seriously.

Conflict has always been present in all human relationships as men are all imperfect beings with their own set of hurts and shortcomings. It is a normal and integral aspect of relationships and of living together. Since we apply the Gospel in our daily lives, we are able to live more fully in our relationships. When we accept conflict as a tool for community building and we work on our differences that at times may dominate our affairs, with the guidance of the Spirit, we are blessed and we become fruitful.

As the Body of Christ, bound by the same love for God and united in heart, mind and spirit in our vision, mission and charism, we should be able to renew and reconcile our relationships without suppressing our differences, without anyone becoming more dominant, without having any losers or winners but just have one body that seeks to please God above all.

Wherever two or three are gathered, there is the need for organization. Where the two or three become two or three hundred or even a thousand, conflicts are bound to arise and the need for a more precise and effective organization becomes a necessity. But in all these, let us remember that when two or three are gathered in prayer and in Christ's Name then He is amongst them.

The brighter side of conflict comes about only if resolution is done in prayerful discernment and complete surrender to the Father's will!

The brighter side of conflict – change, unity, spiritual growth, deepening of loving relationships - will be upon us if we bring glory to God by demonstrating the reconciling love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marriage Encounter 25 and Singles Encounter 14 are going on this weekend. *Please pray* for all candidates, pastoral team, facilitators, sponsoring classes and all others who will be working at the venues in Easton PA and Garrison, NY.

June Teachings

June 17 St. Leo after worship

Singles - CMP I (Renewing the Mind)

John 6 teaching

Mark 10 teaching

June 18 Saturday, St. Antoninus 1-6pm

LSS24 - NCR, GIP (Prayer, Praise and Worship)

LSS23 - EWJ (Luke, John)

June 24 St. Leo after worship

Service Ministry: Formation

(Christian Servanthood)

Intercessory Ministry Teaching

FE 12 July 15 - 17 in Malvern, PA. "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." (Jos 24:15) A wonderful, memorable and spirit-filled weekend awaits the family in a very beautiful and serene environment. Pray, laugh, play and spend uninterrupted time with your loved ones! Contact Nick-Island Raagas, Oddi-Jho Martin or Fidel-Leggie Lim. Forms are at our website.

Somebody's Praying Me Through
November 13, 2005 (Sunday)
Felician College, Lodi, NJ
Showtimes: 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm



YE 12 July 22-24 in Easton PA. Deadline is July 15 for candidates 15-19 years old. Contact Mario-Cecile Salonga (516-5616854), Aldo-Meg Pangilinan (718-4770374) or Elaine Canlas (201-224632); or www.bldnewark.com

In the bread and wine, becoming in the Holy Mass the Body and Blood of the Lord, the Christian people find the nourishment and support to journey on the path to holiness, the universal vocation of all baptized. (Pope Benedict XVI)

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

5/13	\$2,934
5/20	3,332
5/27	3,072
20-wk avg	3,333

*Thank you for
your generosity!*

EXPENSES

20-wk avg	3,995
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Counsels from Page 1

Like Matthew, we must decide to leave behind those things that would hinder us from following Christ.

The same is true when Jesus welcomes the other tax collectors and sinners to come and join Him and His disciples for dinner. To befriend and eat with a tax collector was considered not only socially unpopular, but also religiously impure. The fact that Jesus befriended and ate with tax collectors and sinners scandalized the religious leaders. They were more concerned with their own appearance of holiness than with helping people; with criticism than encouragement; with outward respectability than practical help.

“Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do.” Mt. 9:12 God is concerned for all people, including the sinful and hurting ones. His gift is not power or privilege but healing and forgiveness. Only those who know their need for such things are able to welcome Him. Others who are scandalized at His generosity seem to have fallen into the trap of self-righteousness. Jesus cites an oracle of the prophet Hosea: **“I desire mercy, not sacrifice.”** This implies that a compassionate outreach to sinners outweighs any legalistic insistence on the letter of the law.

God’s love is radical, personal, and unending. What God wants from us more than anything is our hearts. God wants nothing less than total commitment to Him and His covenant. Sacrifices are empty, meaningless rituals when conversion of heart is absent. If the sacrifices we offer are with expectations of God’s favors, then this is not what He wants, but our thanksgiving and love, not our selfish manipulative maneuvering.

Jesus challenges us to not be afraid to reach out to our brothers and sisters with love and mercy, because everything He did for us revealed Him as a God of love and mercy. He teaches us that the meaning of the law is love and that this love is intended for everybody, especially those who are lost, most especially the sinners. This is because He looks beyond what we are, to what we can be; He is more interested in our possibilities than our liabilities.

Are we doing the same mistakes as the Israelites in the time of Jesus, offering sacrifice in the temple rather than reaching out in mercy to our brothers and sisters?

- Who is the “tax collector,” “sinner,” social outcast” in our life?
- What have we done to draw them closer to God?
- As one body united in God, who do you think is in need of our immediate attention?

(continued on next column)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Jun 3-5	ME 25 Easton, PA
Jun 3-5	SE 14 Garrison, NY
Jun 4-5	Teachers Development Program S.Plainfield Ramada Inn
Jun 11	YE 11 Reunion, Orosa Residence
Jun 19	BLD Foundation Day (Global Community's 20th Anniversary)
Jun 24-26	SPE 7, S.Plainfield Ramada Inn
Jun 25	ME23 1st Anniversary/Reunion, Anyanwu Residence, Maplewood NJ
July 15-17	Newark FE 12 Malvern PA
July 22-24	Trenton FE 3 Malvern PA
July 22-24	YE 12 St. Francis Retreat House, Easton PA

*May the blessings of the
Lord be upon you. . .*



BIRTHDAYS

6/3	Ed Unay, LSS24	6/6	Ahmed Diaz, LSS24 Val Valonzo, LSS22	
6/4	Ann-Ann Alejan, YE9 Alyssa Alcudia, YE9	6/7	Bebot Baquilod, LSS2 Mark Bustos, LSS23	
6/5	Tony Nwaneri, LSS22 Chuck Tanseco, LSS23 Kat Pormento, YE Kathy Carmen, YE11 Jacqueline Purisima, Jn 6	6/8	Brian Basa, LSS23 Vic Malantic, LSS20 John Rafanan, SE13 6/9	Bong David, LSS166/3

ANNIVERSARIES

6/3	Ad & Nancy Hernandez, LSS23	6/6	Jun & Zeny Isidro, LSS15	
	James & Malou Minano, LSS23	6/8	Benru & Elsa Etcubanas,	
6/4	George & Cathy del Fiero, LSS4	LSS5		
6/5	Audie & Vulet Chong, LSS20	6/9	Joven & Lisa Soriano, Mel & Remy Hernandez, LSS20	LSS15

Counsels

- Have we made that extra effort to reach out or just even say hello to them?
- Are we so comfortable being with our group in the community that we totally neglect to reach out and share the overflowing grace that we receive to others not in the community?
- What are we doing to know the Lord more?

Hosea emphasizes the love and knowledge that God seeks, not empty sacrifices. It is not through bargaining with God, but through forming a real relationship with Him that we will, as the psalmist prays, see the saving power of God.

Directions: Reach out to members of the community who may have been gone for a while. Spend more time communing with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.



WE welcome you, our ME25 brethren, in the Name of the Lord Jesus!

Dhemie & Divine **Alba**, Ray & Susie
Atienza, Shane & Charo **Badiola**,
Tom & Dorie **Beary**, Marc & Emma

Belmonte, Mark & Angela **Brancato**, **Gerald & Nell
Cabildo, *Rolly & Nila **Castillo**, Romy & Lyn **Castillo**,
Cel & Gia **Cueto**, Jessie & Ossie **David**, Resty & Sonia
De Leon, *Ramie & Emmy **Espina**, Luis & Samantha
Facundo, Rudy & Evelyn **Gabat**, *Mario & Winnie
Magparangalan, Nelson & Rose **Manzo**, Oscar & Miriam
Masias, *Gene & Connie **Mesina**, *Arnold & Cely **Ocaya**,
Duke & Meg **Okoli**, Pete & Precy **Pajela**, Bian & Olga
Paraguay, Dennis & Linda **Redoblado**, Don & Irene
Rodriguez, Miguel & Dina **Roque**, Al & Edith **Rosales**,
*Riel & Gina **Sabale**, Erwin & Marie **Santos**, Ricky &
Armi **Sion**, *Bernie & Novie **Soluta**, Nes & Cecile
Vasquez, and Father Gil **Suaybagnio**.

* 7 Coordinators ** Head Coordinator

The BLD Newark Community conducted its 25th Marriage Encounter on June 3-5, 2005 at the St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, PA with the Pastoral Team of Fr. Tito Ignacio, Mita & Boyet Miranda and Lito & Erin Fune. The ME 24 sponsoring class, by their unselfish offering of themselves, along with those of Praise and other auxies, ensured a smooth, focused Encounter experience for the participants.

The 32 couples (and one priest candidate) listened, reflected and dialogued on the great themes that opened their hearts and minds to the awesome power and love of the Lord Jesus Who, centered in their marriage, would continue their transformation. *"Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do every thing in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."* (Col 3:17)

June 3-5, at Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garrison, NY

39 Candidates took the Singles Encounter #14

Moderator - Fr. Paul Lehman; **Class shepherds** - Art/Yen Arman. **Facilitators** - Glenn Canlas, Jean Tolentino, Eugene Malabanan, Kim Castaneda.

WE CONGRATULATE AND WELCOME: Jeremy **Alarva**, Trisha **Arias**, Crystal **Bahia**, Dennis **Baquiran JR**, Manuel Jason **Barrera***, Rodnelle **Calim**, Darvi **Calotes**, Victoria **Carino**, Andrea **Cheddie**, Megan **Clarín***, Christine **Constantino**, Carlo **Constantino**, Monica **Constantino**, Jaelyn **Drilon**, Julie **Drilon**, Raymond **Encarnacion***, Wilson **Guinto**, Rowena **Jaico**, James **Koryan***, Jeffrey **Larobis**, Loreto **Larobis**, Fil James **Lao**, Cecilia **Li***, Katie **Lin**,

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COUNSELS ♥

Wanted: Workers in the Vineyard

WORD: Ex 19:2-6a; Ps 100:1-3,5; Rom 5:6-11; Mt 9:36-10:8

ORDER: *"Serve the Lord with gladness"* (Ps 100:2)

REFLECTION: As Jesus went about teaching, preaching and healing, He saw the pitiful situation of the people. They were wandering around without proper direction and were like a flock of sheep without a shepherd. The Levite priests who were supposed to guide and tend them were behaving more like hired hands, twisting and circumventing the law of the Lord to their benefit and putting burdens on them that they themselves would not carry. In Ezekiel's prophecy 600 years earlier, we read the following message from the Lord. *"Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed off their milk, worn their wool and slaughtered the fatlings. You did not bring back the strayed or seek the lost but you lord it over them harshly and brutally. I will come against these shepherds and I will claim my sheep from them. I myself will pasture my sheep. I will tend them and give them rest"*.

Jesus did not use His all-powerful nature to change the situation at once because that was not part of the Father's plan. Instead He told His disciples to *"ask the Master of the Harvest to send laborers to His vineyard"*. After a long night of prayer He named 12 of His followers to be His apostles. They were not powerful or important; they were ordinary people who responded faithfully to the grace of their calling – leaving behind everything to follow Him. After a period of training and teaching He sent them out with clear instructions to not to go among the Gentiles or enter no Samaritan town, but go first to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

When we look at the present we could see that the situation has not changed much and perhaps has become much worse than the time of Jesus. Our generation has seen the erosion of many Christian values, from contraception to abortion, from homosexual pride to same sex marriage. Creation took a back seat to evolution in our school curriculum. Now, there is legislation passed allowing embryonic stem cell research whose eventual end will be to clone human beings.

page 4 ☞

God's Promise For The Week

"If you hearken to my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my special possession, dearer to me than all other people." (Ex 19:5)

Saint Anthony of Padua

Anthony of Padua was born in the year 1195 A.D. at Lisbon, Portugal to young parents who were of Portuguese nobility. He received in baptism the name Ferdinand. Young Ferdinand was known for his quick and agile memory that allowed him to recall extensive passages from the Bible. He studied in Lisbon and joined the canons of St. Augustine at age 15. Two years later he transferred to Coimbra and deeply devoted himself to study and prayer.

In 1220, when the Portuguese king brought the relics of the first Franciscans who had been martyred in Morocco to Coimbra, Ferdinand was inspired to join that order, inflamed with the desire of martyrdom. He joined the Order of Friars Minor taking the name of Anthony. Now a Franciscan, he started for Morocco but a severe illness compelled him to sail back to Portugal. However his ship was overtaken by a terrible storm and ended up in Sicily. He remained here until he got back his health. Then he set forth to Assisi to take part of a general chapter but no one noticed him or his vast theological knowledge. However while he lived at Montepaolo, it happened that Anthony was commanded to preach during an ordination since no one else would do it, each one saying he was not prepared. Anthony compelled by obedience, spoke hesitantly at first but soon found himself speaking with fervor and zeal. He began to explain the most hidden sense of the Holy Scripture which such profound understanding that all were struck with astonishment. This was the beginning of his public career. St Francis gave him the mission to preach throughout Italy.

Anthony was a magnetic preacher, allowing the Holy Spirit to put the appropriate words in his mouth for the occasion. He was able to persuade many listeners to reform their ways and live more devoutly. He became the first friar to teach Theology to the other friars. He was so energetic in defending the truths of the Catholic Faith that many heretics were converted. Because of this, he was called the Hammer of the Heretics.

In 1230, he retired to the convent at Padua and on June 13, 1231 A.D. he died at the age of thirty-six.

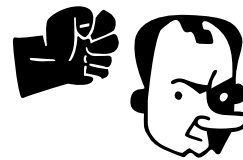
Pope Gregory IX, calling him "The Ark of the Covenant" enlisted him among the saints in the next year. In 1263, Padua built him a temple, where his relics were transferred. Everything was dust, but his tongue was still red and alive. St. Bonaventure took it in his hands, kissed it and exclaimed: "O Blessed Tongue that always praised the Lord, and made others bless Him, now it is evident what great merit thou hast before God."



Retaliation

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on (your) right cheek, turn the other one to him as well." (Mt. 5:38-39)

Resentment, bitterness and hurt egos are main catalysts for vengeance. These feelings make men and women seek retaliation and forget about the teachings of our Lord. One is expected to become angry when he is wronged as anger is a very human reaction, but we must not linger in it nor make it a reason to retaliate at the person who caused us pain. When we allow this anger to turn to vengeance then evil prevails and God's love and peace no longer dwell in our hearts. We continue to agonize over the wrongdoing and we are troubled and distressed. We think retaliation will solve this feeling of anguish but clearly, Jesus, in the Gospel of Matthew 5: verses 38-42, told us to be kind, understanding, compassionate and forgiving to those who have inflicted pain in our lives. So let us instead settle our differences through dialogue and accept each other's failures, forgive one another and strive to live in peace and harmony.

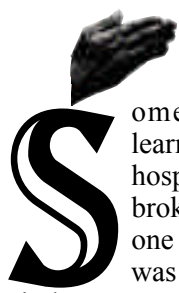


It is not our place to judge our enemies, but we leave it up to our Heavenly Father who knows and sees all things. As disciples of Christ, we are to forgive those who trespass against us. This is very difficult! But if we truly love God and believe in His teachings, then we must not retaliate but rather pray for the Holy Spirit to help us heal our hurts and woundedness. We must constantly pray for a forgiving heart by praying for those who hurt us, and asking God to bless them anyway. This is the only way we can win our battle over the hurts and pain. When we forgive as we have been forgiven, we are restored in peace and we remain safe in His presence. Let us always remember that it is only by living our Lord's passion every moment of our life that we become victorious in defeating the evils, the hurts and trials. When people see the goodness of our hearts, our ways of treating people who hurt us with humility and understanding, they in turn would be led to goodness because they had witnessed the joy and peace of Jesus in our actions. God's graces will not only flow in us but will also flow to those around us as we reflect our Lord's love and compassion to them.

Heaven awaits all those who obey His commandments.

Follow Christ! He does not promise illusory happiness; on the contrary, so that you will be able to reach true human and spiritual maturity, he invites you to follow his demanding example, making your own his chosen commitments. (Pope John Paul II)

Somebody's Praying Me Through



Sometime last year, we were saddened to learn that my wife's nephew was back in the hospital with exacerbation of leukemia. It broke our hearts because we all thought that if one passed a five year remission, the disease was completely gone and this was already his ninth year. We were wrong. He had to undergo a second round of chemotherapy and another bone marrow transplant. There was nothing we could do but to pray. We included him in all our prayers, offered nine-day-devotions for him, and prayed the rosary. Since Lent was around the corner, I told God that I was going to fast for forty days as a sacrifice. This meant no breakfast nor lunch. I did my share of almsgiving and more prayers. In the middle of the Lenten season, I had a bout with flu but I continued to fast. After two weeks, I came out of the doctor's office with a lot of prescriptions for my medication that needed to be taken with food. I had no choice but to stop fasting. A few days later, we learned that our nephew passed away. I was so heartbroken. I kept asking God why it had to happen. Why did He not answer my prayers? Was it because I did not finish my fasting?

A relative asked me to do the eulogy on the last day of the wake. I accepted but as I reflected on what I had to say, it became very difficult for me. I couldn't even get an answer to my questions and now I was going to tell everybody that it's okay, death is inevitable, don't be sad, and move on with your life. I decided to go to a local church for an hour of adoration to clear my mind. As I fixed my eyes on Jesus, I heard a voice deep within saying, "I had answered your prayers but you did not want to accept it because my answer was not what you wanted. I had other plans for your nephew and it was for the best." So God did answer my prayers! What God was trying to tell me all along became clear to me. I felt peace and my sorrow lightened, as I accepted His answer and His plan for my nephew and with this; I was able to convey a eulogy full of hope.

How true is the saying that goes:

- When God answers your prayers immediately, He is testing your faith.
- When He answers your prayers after a long wait, He is testing your patience.

When He doesn't answer your prayers the way you want Him to, He has other plans for you.

Somebody's Praying Me Through

November 13, 2005 (Sunday)
Felician College, Lodi, NJ
Showtimes: 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm



MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEEN DEPRESSION Seminar

Friday, June 17, 2005
at 9:30 PM – 10:30 PM

Boland Hall, Saint Leo's Church

- Learn How to Recognize Depression
- Know the Treatment Options

Sponsored by

YOUTH FORMATION MINISTRY
BLD, Newark, New Jersey

Speaker:

Dr. Danilo Campos

Director of Psychiatry, Mountainside Hospital

FE 12 July 15-17 in Malvern PA. "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." (Jos 24:15) A wonderful, memorable and spirit-filled weekend awaits the family in a very beautiful and serene environment. Pray, laugh, play and spend uninterrupted time with your loved ones! Contact Nick-Island Raagas, Oddie-Jho Martin or Fidel-Leggie Lim. Forms are at our website, www.bld-newark.com.

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Singles - CMP I (Renewing the Mind)
John 6 teaching
Mark 10 teaching
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LSS24 - NCR, GIP (Prayer; Praise & Worship)
LSS23 - EWJ (Luke, John)
- June 24** St Leo after worship
Service Ministry: Formation (Christian Servanthood)
Intercessory Ministry Teaching

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Collections

05/20	\$3,332
05/27	3,072
06/03	2,768
21-wk avg	3,306

Thank you for your generosity

Expenses

21-wk average \$3,635

Volunteers needed for LSS in California on August 12 to 14, 2005. For details, Please contact Joey or Linda Viola at joelin77@sbcglobal.net or 203-461-9737

Counsels *(from page 1)*

We are back in the Garden of Eden succumbing to the serpent's lie that we could be like God.

What are we to do? Ask the Master of the Harvest to send more laborers into the vineyard? But we are those laborers, called upon to give freely what we freely received. It does not matter that we are just plain ordinary people. The Master did not ask for resumes, the same way as the Lord is not calling only those qualified by human standards. By our baptism and confirmation we share in the priesthood of Christ and the missionary duty of every believer. And we could be assured that the Lord will not give us a cross that we cannot carry. He will be there to help us.

Often we are asked why BLD does not open its doors to people of other faith. We could only surmise that in their wisdom our elders want us to be like the early disciples, asking us to go after our lost Catholic brethren first. Catholics account for the largest religious group in the U.S. The second biggest group is not the Baptists or Methodists. It is the fallen away Catholics. These are brothers and sisters who do not practice the faith because of dissatisfaction, lack of knowledge or alienation from the Church. We are in a race to bring them back to the fold. From the records of the Assemblies of God, ex-Catholics make up 70 to 80 percent of their congregation.

Brothers and sisters, we can no longer watch on the sidelines and wait for something good to happen. In chapter 20 of Matthew, the Lord gave another teaching on the vineyard about the householder who kept going out hour after hour and hiring anyone who could help in the harvest. He told them **"You too go into my vineyard"**. Today we are hearing this invitation again.

Directions:

- 1) Encourage and support the religious vocation within the community.
- 2) Witness to others the joy of encountering the Lord.

39 Candidates *(from page 1)*

Aileen Shena **Malilang***, Erica **Mendoza**, Natasha **Montesclaros***, Nicole **Narciso**, Emily **Ong**, Daniel **Pena**, Heather **Perez**, Rachelle **Perez**, Randolph **Perez**, Rosalina **Romero**, Edd Richard **Roy**, Marc **Rubiano**, Michael **Sheaver**, Jedlyn **Tordecilla*** and Kristine **Ventura**.
*(*coordinators)*

Teachers Development Program Seminar

The Teaching ministry of BLD Newark successfully conducted its first locally run Teachers Development Program which was attended by 53 aspiring teachers from Newark and all its Districts in Process, Albany, Rockland, Trenton and Washington. The seminar which was held at the Ramada Inn, South Plainfield, NJ on June 4-5, 2005 was led by Richard de la Fuente and Nestor Tambor together with our community instructors George and Cathy del Fierro, Rene Castaneda and Noel Trillana. A series of inspiring talks including tools for effective teaching was presented.

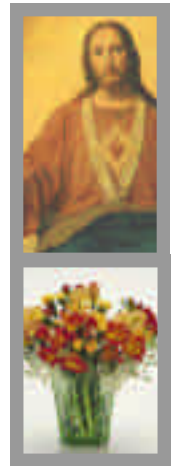
It was a Christocentric filled week, with Jesus acknowledged as the only Master Teacher, the only One that every teacher must imitate.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- June 19** BLD Foundation Day
(Global Community's 20th Anniversary)
- June 24-26** SPE 7, S. Plainfield Ramada Inn
- June 25** ME 23 1st Anniversary/Reunion,
Anyanwu Residence, Maplewood NJ
- July 15-17** Newark FE 12 Malvern PA
- July 22-24** Trenton FE 3 Malvern PA
- July 22-24** YE 12 St. Francis Retreat House, Easton PA

birthdays

- June 10** Ricky Sion, ME 25
Cheryl Guinto, LSS22
Alex Panganiban, LSS22
Manny San Luis, LSS4
- June 11** Trina Cam, YE7
Bobut Gongob, LSS19
Alinoel Navia, John 6
- June 12** Charlene Paule, MK10
Josie Magahis, LSS17
- June 13** Demelina Valonzo, MK10
Tony Yanza, LSS13
Chi, Ekweghariri, YE9
- June 14** Leonida Cruz, LSS11
Benson Del Rosario, SE13
Vicki Rasalan, LSS2
Jerome Garcia, YE2
Tess Santos, SE
- June 15** Cris Manaois, LSS10
- June 16** Frank Mendonez, LSS20
Vera Ong, SE
Paulo Luardo, John 6



anniversaries

- June 10** Nong & Tricia Bustos, LSS14
Gary & Mil Camacho, LSS17
Danny & Grace Palomares, LSS17
Patrick & Eunice Ukaegbu, LSS19
- June 11** Jovy & Emily Lucero, LSS13
- June 12** Richard & LeeDe la Fuente, LSS1
- June 13** Manny & Judy San Luis, LSS4
Allan & Naida Villanueva, LSS17
- June 14** Ike & Ely Alimario, LSS17
Lando & Dory Bonifacio, LSS8
Emil & Precy Narciso, LSS8

**MAKE COVENANT NEWS
A PART OF YOUR COVENANT LIFE**



Farewell to a BLD son & brother LUIGI SANTIAGO

Luis Paolo (Luigi) Santiago, 27, eldest son of our beloved Roger & Irma Santiago, was killed on June 8, 2005 in Makati, as he tried to pacify certain people who were in a fight. ***“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God “(Mt 5:9)***

We share the Santiago family’s anguish over Luigi’s tragic death. At this time of tragedy, we turn to the Lord, who knows our suffering and longs to give us his comfort and peace. ***“God did not make death, nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living. For he fashioned all things that they might have being; and the creatures of the world are wholesome, (Wis 1:13-14a).***

Luigi is remembered for his calm, peaceful and loving spirit. Since 1993, he served with his family as FE sharers. As a youth and singles ministry member, he shared in encounters, shepherded in LSS and was a worship leader. Luigi was good-hearted, intelligent, gifted in drama and music. He was an obedient, loving and thoughtful son, a supportive and generous brother, and a sincere and humble friend. Truly, Luigi was a beacon of love and goodwill to our singles and youth members.

After graduating from Tisch School of the Arts at NYU, he pursued his dream of filmmaking and went to Manila in 2002. He became the director of a hit TV series. He inspired colleagues by his belief that one day Filipinos will achieve the quality of Hollywood TV/ movies. He hoped for a better future for the Philippines. He had strong faith in God and in people.

To everyone, Luigi instilled a sense of family. An actor recalls that Luigi calmed their jitters by saying *“Whatever happens, remember that we are a family. All of you, you support each other.”* His Friendster profile reads: *“Who I want to meet? JESUS in people.”* He lived with Jesus in him! We are therefore comforted by **Mt 10:32** ***“Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly father.”***

(cont’d on page2)

COUNSELS

Jesus Christ is Lord!

WORD: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35; Rom 5:12-15; Mt 10:26-33

ORDER: *“Do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.” (Mt10:31)*

REFLECTION: In calling us to Himself, God presents us with clear choices: good or evil, life or death, light or darkness... and in this Sunday’s Gospel, *acknowledgment or denial.* It is God’s dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who speaks these words to us: *“Everyone who acknowledges me before others, I will acknowledge before my Heavenly Father.” (Mt 10:32)* We are to recognize His authority, for He is Son of God Most High, our Almighty Creator. To Him we express our gratitude and obligation, for we have been redeemed at a high price. He deserves to be the center and ruler of our lives. Truly, each one of us can say that Jesus Christ has a genuine and valid claim to be Lord of my life, Lord of my heart and soul, Lord of my whole being.

In His abounding and unconditional love, God desires for us to be with Him and wants us to make the right choices. He does not impose His will on us, having created us with free will. He has sent us His Son to overcome sin and death so that the grace of God may overflow for the many. Salvation comes from God alone, (CCC 169) and it is the faith infused by God upon our souls that makes us capable of acting as His children and meriting eternal life. It is the pledge of the presence and action of the Holy Spirit on our human faculties that enables us to serve and witness confidently of our life in Christ.

This recognition of Jesus as our Lord may happen in a powerful moment of conversion or over a lifetime of growth in the tremendous grace given us at our baptism

(cont’d on page4)

God’s Promise for the Week

“Everyone who acknowledges me before others, I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father.”

(Mt 10:32)

ME 25: A Bountiful Harvest

"You are a people sacred to the Lord, your God: he has chosen you from all the nations on the face of the earth to be a people peculiarly his own. It was not because you are the largest of all nations that the Lord set his heart on you and chose you, for you are really the smallest of all nations."
Deuteronomy 7: 6-7

As the ME 25 weekend approached, we were filled with mixed emotions. We were excited and apprehensive at the same time. My husband and I remember our own wonderful ME weekend experience, and we desperately wanted the ME 25 candidates to experience the same. Our ME 24 family spent countless hours of preparation over several months discussing the meticulous details of the weekend. We earnestly prayed for the ME 25 weekend to be a success. What came out was something more magnificent that we could imagine. God truly showed us His power and majesty through the bountiful ME 25 harvest, which yielded 32 couples and a priest.

As the weekend unfolded, we were surprised with the creativity, leadership, humility, and devotion of our ME 24 classmates. We were a mere 8 couples, but empowered by God's love, it seemed that there were 800 of us! Their love for the Lord was manifested in their servant-heartedness, from getting up early to wake up the candidates, preparing and serving meals, making sure the conference room, hallways and bathrooms were in top shape, praying countless hours in the vigil room, finalizing the ME 25 directory, and much more. All these tasks were performed quickly, efficiently, humbly, and with love. Surely we saw Jesus in each other as we faithfully served that weekend.

The Holy Spirit worked powerfully on our candidates, who tearfully listened to the couple sharers, Lito and Erin Fune, and Boyet and Mita Miranda. The crowd alternately broke into laughter and tears as they listened to the engaging talks of the spiritual director, Fr. Tito Ignacio. Many other unnamed angels showed up to help.

At the conclusion of the weekend, we were rewarded with 65 smiling faces, who have rekindled their love for each other, and in the process rediscovered Jesus' faithful love for them. The labor may have been hard, but the bountiful harvest was most rewarding. My husband and I cannot wait to serve as auxies in the next ME!

Few but Strong in the Lord

"Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest". Matthew 9:37-38

As early as the second ME 24 class reunion, our fate has been sealed. The incoming ME 25 class shepherd suggested that my husband and I were suited to be members of the Action Team. When we got home, I reviewed the responsibilities of the Action Team. It made my head spin. I felt that we were given a tall order by the Lord Jesus!

We soon found out the challenges of sponsoring a marriage encounter. We needed to be in constant prayer, for oppressions were plentiful. We needed to balance the demands of work, family and community. Our fuses tended to be short and easy to ignite due to lack of sleep. Our list of things to do seemed to get longer. Our weekends were mostly devoted to class meetings to prepare for the encounter.

From the onset, we knew that it would be an uphill battle. There were only eight servant couples in our class to minister to the needs of 32 couples and a priest. The eight couples had to be split across 3 teams, and each of these teams had demanding tasks. The Lord Jesus called on workers from ME22 and ME23 to help out, who responded with openness and love. With the help of the Holy Spirit, together we served in the vineyard of the Lord Jesus.

Thanks be to God that we were able to finish our tasks. We know that the ME25 class will serve with similar joy and humility when their time comes. At the end of the encounter, we still had much energy and enthusiasm to present a dance and song offering to the ME 25 class. God's grace is truly amazing!

To this date, the sponsorship work is not completed as yet. There is still the matter of reconciling all the monies that were spent during the weekend. After completion of this work, is this the end? No way! As the song in one of the talks said, it is just 'The Beginning'.

My dear Lord, guide me in the path that you want me to take. Show me the way that I may be a good worker in Your vineyard. Lead me to glorify You more. I will serve you Lord Jesus!

(from page 1)

Luigi's life is a message of God's love, peace and joy. He is a son and brother, and he will remain alive in our hearts. ***"But the souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction. But they are in peace."*** (Wis 3:1-3b)

A More Profound Understanding of Marriage

It was raining as we pulled into the driveway of the Saint Francis retreat house. We were greeted with a warm welcome and overwhelming hospitality. Our luggage was carried for us, we were shown where to register, our picture then was taken and we were escorted to our room.

Once in our room, I said to my husband, "they took our keys" and he responded, "there is no TV in here". We knew why our keys were taken, and it is not because of limited parking. Time that would have been spent watching TV was replaced with dialogues of truth, heartfelt reflections and healing through the love and forgiving grace of God.

We experienced the love of God as told in the heart-warming sharings of Erin & Lito and Mita & Boyet. We were touched by their joys and sorrows, as we all had tears in our eyes and tissues close at hand. We were awed by their strength and courage in sharing with us the most personal and intimate trials of their lives. We appreciated their deep faith in God, and we realized how our Lord is faithful to us even during our times of weakness and disobedience. Our hearts were opened, allowing us to examine our own transgressions, hurts, disappointments and anger. We were reminded too of God's love through all of our blessings and joy. The sharers' selflessness will not be forgotten.

We were blessed by the refreshing gift of Father Tito, whose humor, teachings, preaching and guidance kept us Christ centered. His knowledge of the scriptures connected us to the biblical principles we follow.

Spiritual and relational healings took place that weekend. In time, we will hear of emotional and physical healings as well. Father Tito said that Christ did not come down off the cross because it was too difficult, but because He loves us and is obedient to the will of God. We too are called to be obedient to God's will.

I have never had a more profound understanding of the meaning of the sacrament of marriage. Marriage is a journey of love through trials.

Thank you my Lord and my God for giving me the insight into what love is; what it truly means to love. How beautiful love is: in sickness and in health, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, 'til death do us part.

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS	EXPENSES
5/27 3,072	22-wk avg \$3,320
6/03 2,768	
6/10 3,182	
22-wk avg \$3,300	



Thanks for your generosity!!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FE 12 July 15-17 in Malvern PA. "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." (Jos 24:15) A wonderful, memorable and spirit-filled weekend awaits the family in a very beautiful and serene environment. Pray, laugh, play and spend uninterrupted time with your loved ones! Contact Nick-Island Raagas, Oddie-Jho Martin or Fidel-Leggie Lim. Forms are at our website, www.bldnewark.com.

YE 12 July 22-24 in Easton PA. Deadline is July 15 for candidates 15-19 years old.

Contact Mario-Cecile Salonga (516-5616854), Aldo-Meg Pangilinan (718-4770374) or Elaine Canlas (201-2624632); or www.bldnewark.com.

Teachings:

June 18 Saturday, St. Antoninus 1-6pm
LSS24 - NCR, GIP (Prayer; Praise & Worship)
LSS23 - EWJ (Luke, John)

June 24 St Leo after worship
Service Ministry: Formation (Christian Servanthood)
Intercessory Ministry Teaching

Somebody's Praying Me Through (a sharing from Youth Ministry)

In high school, I've found that everyone, including myself, is lost as to what to do in the future. So my friends and I pray together to Mama Mary and Jesus to get us into that dream college, and also to show us how best to serve Him. My future is a little fuzzy to me, but I'm sure God has a great plan for me. Whatever problem life throws my way, I know He will be with me every step of the way comforting me, giving me strength, and guiding me to the right direction.

Somebody's Praying Me Through Concert

November 13, 2005 (Sunday)

Felician College, Lodi, NJ

Showtimes: 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm

June 8-10 at Meadowlands Hotel & Convention Center, East Rutherford, NJ

All BLD youth members are invited- For details, please contact Alan & Tess Cam at atetscam23@hotmail.com or 201-659-5417, or Grace De Luna at gmgd811@optonline.net or 908-922-6237.

Note: No Youth worship on July 8. Those not attending the convention will worship with John 6 at the Cafeteria.

Memorial Mass for Luigi Santiago at St. Mary's Church in Dover, NJ on June 21 (Tuesday) at 8:00pm. The community of St. Mary's would like to express their love and support for the Santiago family and to honor the short but meaningful life of Luigi. Fr. Richard Bey (and/or Msgr. Richard Rusconi) will be concelebrating with Fr. Paul Lehman. Call Sam and Rory Olaso for directions.

Counsels from page 1

tism. Ours is not a temporal Lord: Jesus Christ is Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. We profess our belief in the eternal and exalted truths about Jesus each time we recite the Creed. Our knowledge of the Lord will grow when we commit to a deeply intimate and personal relationship with Him. In His encyclical *Ecclesia in America*, Pope John Paul II cited the certain means by which we grow in knowledge and love of our Lord: Sacred Scripture, meditation and prayer, the sacred Liturgy and the Sacraments especially in the Eucharist. We will find Him in other people especially the poor with whom Christ identifies Himself; through the powerful agency of the Holy Spirit, and by the mediation of Mary and all the saints.

Christ's Lordship is not something we are to keep for ourselves, but to proclaim to the entire world. We are called to be heralds of the Good News and to carry out the special mission of building up His Church, to which end the Lord confers upon us the necessary power (Mt 28:18).

Do we "speak in the light (and) proclaim on the housetops" as Christ asks us to do? (Mt 10:27) In our modern materialistic world, the uniqueness of the role of Jesus in the salvation of all of mankind is often not acknowledged. It is easy to "water down" the gospel and soften the challenge given us by the Lord, in such areas as birth control and sexual morality; false ecumenism that equates all religions as leading to the same place; the reality of hell and eternal damnation; and relativism that redefines conscience as what I think and decide to be true rather than a quest for objective truth.

God exhorts us not to be afraid to acknowledge Him before others. Hardship and persecution lay ahead of us who follow Christ, but in Him we take courage. "Terror on every side! But the Lord is with me, like a mighty champion." We call on the Lord "who probes mind and heart: To You I have entrusted my cause." We acknowledge our mighty God Who "has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!" (Jer 20:10-13) If we do not remain constant in our faith and focused on Him, we shall end up denying our Lord.

To follow Jesus is to have the boldness and perseverance to acknowledge Him above all, and despite all. When we do so, we have His awesome promise that He will acknowledge us before His heavenly Father.

DIRECTIONS

- * Do not be afraid to let Christ enter fully into your life.
- * Witness the victory of the Lord in your life at all times.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Jun 19	BLD Foundation Day (Global Community's 20th Anniversary)
Jun 24-26	SPE 7, S. Plainfield Ramada Inn
Jun 25	ME 25 Grand Reunion, St. Antoninus Parish Hall (Sat. 10am-4pm)
Jun 25	Discipling Plenary Meeting, St. Leo's Annex Bldg. (Sat. 1-5pm)
Jun 25	ME 23 1st Anniversary/Reunion, Anyanwu Residence, Maplewood NJ
July 15-17	Newark FE 12 Malvern PA
Jul 22-24	Trenton FE 3 Malvern PA
Jul 22-24	YE 12 St. Francis Retreat House, Easton PA

BLD 9TH Annual Golf Outing - Suneagles Golf Course
Sept. 18 Sunday, 1:00 PM-Shot gun Tee Start
Tinton Ave, Fort Monmouth, NJ. For details, please contact: Vic & Dee Lim, Paby Ibarrola or Fidel Lim. Info also available in BLD website.

May the blessings of the Lord
be upon you....

BIRTHDAYS

17-Jun	Zaldy Espinosa, LSS12	20-Jun	Feli Africa, LSS23
	Kellyne Mendoza, LSS23		Fely Cruz, LSS11
18-Jun	Norie Derowitsch, LSS22		Ver Limtian, LSS14
	June Occhiuzzo, SPE6	21-Jun	Janet Rodaje, LSS11
	Boy Parker, LSS11		Emil Tan, ME23
19-Jun	Annalyn Alcruz, SE		Ogechi Ukaegbu, Jn6
	Charles Masisado, Jn6	22-Jun	Jonathan Tan, Mk10
	Joey Viola, LSS6		

ANNIVERSARIES

18-Jun	Tony & Teresa Nwaneri, LSS22
	Tim & Charie Paule, LSS22
	Roy & Judy Ratcliffe, LSS22
19-Jun	Nieto & Nora Lopez, LSS19
	Randy & Beth Trinidad, LSS10
20-Jun	Lito & Millie Constantino, LSS22
	Ed & Eydie Unay, LSS24
	Erwin & Marie Santos, ME25
21-Jun	Ver & Addie Limtian, LSS14
22-Jun	Ed & Francia Edquilag, LSS17
	Frank & Beth Valeriano, LSS18
23-Jun	Marion & Fe Pakula, LSS14
	Manolo & Mely Romero, LSS17
	Pete & Precy Pajela, ME25

Volunteers needed for LSS in Chino Hills, California on August 12 to 14, 2005.
For details, Please contact Joey or Linda Viola at joelin77@sbcglobal.net or 203-461-9737.



Pope Mourns Death of Cardinal Jaime Sin

Benedict XVI said he was “deeply saddened” by the death of Cardinal Jaime Sin who died last Wednesday at the age of 76.

The Philippine cardinal, who headed the Archdiocese of Manila for almost three decades until he retired in 2003, was hospitalized on Sunday and succumbed to multiple organ failure related to sepsis. His long struggle with kidney problems and diabetes had prevented him from taking part in the conclave that elected Benedict XVI. With his death, the College of Cardinals now numbers 181 members, including 115 electors.

The Holy Father recalled “with gratitude Cardinal Sin’s unflinching commitment to the spread of the Gospel and to the promotion of the dignity, common good and national unity of the Philippine people.

“I join you in praying that God our merciful Father will grant him the reward of his labors and welcome his noble soul into the joy and peace of his eternal Kingdom.”

Philippine President Arroyo declared a period of national mourning to “express the Filipino people’s debt of gratitude for his legacy of freedom and democracy, and deep loss and mourning for the passing of Cardinal Sin with loving prayers for his eternal peace.”

Cardinal Sin headed the archdiocese of Jaro (like our BLD Spiritual Director, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo) from 1972 until 1974 when Pope Paul VI named him archbishop of Manila. He received Pope John Paul II in 1981 and 1995 in the Pontiff’s 2 pastoral visits to the Philippines.

The cardinal’s capacity to have people follow him won him the nickname of “divine commander in chief.” He headed peaceful protests which led to the fall of President Marcos in 1986. He played the same role in 2001 when he appealed to the people to put an end to the corrupt government of Joseph Estrada.

COUNSELS

God Has Priority In Our Life

WORD: 2 Kgs 4:8-11,14-16a; Ps 89:2-3,16-19;
Rom 6:3-4, 8-11; Mt 10:37-42

ORDER: “Take up your cross and follow after me.” (Mt 10:38)

REFLECTION: In an increasingly complex and



fast-paced world, we are faced with so many things to do in so short a time. We have to make many difficult decisions and set priorities, weighing or choosing which is more important. These decisions may be about work, aspirations, goals, principles, financials, family and more importantly, relationships not only with others but also with God. Decisions, decisions. . . . what to do?

In our readings this Sunday, Jesus Christ reminds us that if we love our mothers and fathers more than Him, then we are not worthy of Him. At first, we may be shocked because it seems we are encouraged to hate our family. But careful reflection shows how the Lord simply leads us into a clear prioritization of our values. Our love for God must take precedence over any other. God must always be first, without condition, compromise or caveat. It takes a very great amount of discipline and practice to remember that Jesus should always be in the equation. And then, make it a point that we consider Him first before anything or anyone else.

We should guard against thinking only of ourselves
(continued on page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.” (Mt 10:40)

Saints Peter and Paul



Saints Peter and Paul are the principal pillars of the Catholic Church. Peter was Christ's first vicar; he was endowed with the keys of the kingdom of heaven (Mt 16:13-19) and charged shepherd of Christ's flock (Jn 21:15-17).

Jesus called Peter the "Rock" (Mt 16:18) and told him to leave everything and follow Him (Mt 4:19). Peter's faith was imperfect but growing. He rebuked Jesus' Passion (Mt 16:22), would not let Jesus wash his feet (Jn 13:8) and thrice denied association with Jesus (Lk 22:34).

Peter and Paul exemplified different approaches to discipleship. Peter learned slowly, made mistakes, but always experienced Jesus' passionate forgiveness and encouragement. Paul's faith grew immediately, and he never put aside his zeal for Christ. An educated Jew, Pharisee and Roman citizen, he persecuted the Christians, but was converted to the faith (Acts 9:4). He was selected to bring Christ's name to all people (Acts 9:15) and established Christian communities by witnessing to the Risen Jesus.

Peter was martyred as the first bishop of Rome. His successors are given a primacy of honor and jurisdiction as Supreme Pontiff. Like Peter, we fail but should persevere. Discipleship can be difficult, but it is the Lord who chooses the weak and makes them strong in His name.

Paul brought the Gospel to the Roman Empire where he was beheaded and martyred. His letters form many of the writings of the New Testament. Paul shows us to always be on fire for the Lord, proclaiming Him to everyone in every situation.

The letters of both Apostles are filled with exhortations and admonitions on being true Christians. We can minimize imperfections in our lives and in community by focusing on the Lord, leading a prayerful life and studying Scripture. *"When you come to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for trials. Be sincere of heart and steadfast. Cling to him, forsake him not."* (Sir 2:1-3) Trust in the Lord and love each other as He loves us. Hammer out difficulties to bring peace in the community. Apply the principles of God's Word and not just hear them, teaching and obeying His commandments.

We must focus, persevere and serve the Lord. Think not only of our own salvation but also of others. Put aside all idiosyncrasies and seek to build relationships through sharing, communicating and caring for each other. Be flexible in the management of all community activities, and not always be rule-oriented. Covenanted or not, we are all equal in the eyes of the Lord. Let us be authentic and sincere disciples of Christ; otherwise we indulge in hypocrisy.

Judging Others

In Matthew 7:1-3, Jesus was speaking to men and women who were eagerly seeking to follow Him, whom He called "blessed", "salt of the earth", "light of the world". We too seek to love Him with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength. But the Lord warns us to always guard against destructive pride. It would profit us well to reflect on the words of Christ, to examine ourselves and see how judgments form quickly in our hearts.

Perhaps we consider ourselves as more advanced in the spiritual life than others, or write off a neighbor as hopeless who doesn't think the way we do. We may be so accustomed to such attitudes that we do not even realize what we're doing. In any case, it is pride that causes us to judge others. *"We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves; let each of us please our neighbor for the good, for building up."* (Rom 15:1-2) We are called by God to love, correct and admonish our neighbor, but the goal must always be their growth and edification, not their embarrassment or humiliation.

As servants of Christ, we are called to deeper knowledge and understanding of ourselves, that we may be liberated from self-deception and delivered from the tyranny of judging others. As we come to know our own faults, we can begin to love others unconditionally and be released from the driving need to reform others before we can love them. But we cannot attain this freedom through our own strength; we need to constantly ask our Heavenly Father for His abundant grace. As we allow the Holy Spirit to search our hearts and heal us, we can be confident that He will enable us to live as Jesus commands us. He will teach us how to truly love our brothers and sisters without reserve, despite their many faults and weaknesses.

Those of us in ministry need to fix our eyes on Jesus. The Suffering Servant embraced all pain and weaknesses of God's people even to the point of death on a cross. His last breath was not an appeal for our punishment but a prayer for our forgiveness. Jesus swallowed up the darkness of self-love with the light of His self-giving. He can empower us to do the same.

With His grace, we will continue to serve all whom God puts in our path. We should continually seek purification of our heart that leads to deeper repentance and healing. *"Search me, O God and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any wicked way in me."* (Ps 139:23-24)

Let us embrace the lives of Peter and Paul for what they believed – their labors, sufferings, preaching and confession of faith.

Two Hard Teachings in our CDFP

There are two teachings in our Christian Discipleship Formation Program (CDFP) that are very important tools in our growth: Handling Conflict and Taming of the Tongue. It would be difficult to be a 'community' if we are not aware of these teachings, and we must learn them by heart and practice them. They are necessary for us to continue to be peacemakers who will see the face of God (Mt 5:13).

Handling Conflict

Mt 16:15-17 says, "If your brother sins, go and reprove him in private..." This is not easy to do but we are required to go directly to the person and in a loving way, discuss in private the issue. We have to speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15-16), being careful to 'save the other's face', avoid hurting his pride, and help the person deal righteously with the issue (Jas 5:19-20). It is very tempting to tell and 'broadcast' the issue to other people, but we will be breaking the rule that says 'private'. As a last resort, go only to outside authority when direct method is ineffective. In our community, this next step is taken to the pastoral head of the member, which is usually the ministry coordinator or the class shepherd.

When we go directly to the person in private, our attitude should be towards peace and reconciliation. We focus on the action, and not on the person. We can say: "I do not know if you realize that you hurt my feelings when you (*specify the issue/incident*) but I want you to know that I felt... (*express your feelings*) and I want to understand where you are coming from." Remember that this is just the beginning. Just like any hurt, be it a bruise or open wound, we should allow healing to begin and to continue over time.

Taming of the Tongue

Most of the time, our carelessness in speaking becomes a big hindrance in our community life. We believe that one of the main fruits of our weekly praise and worship is to learn how to 'tame our tongue'. After learning how to praise and bless God, we should also learn how to praise and bless the people around us. This is hard to do, as Jas 3:7-8 relates: "Every form of life, four-footed or winged, crawling or swimming can be tamed, and has been tamed by mankind; the tongue no man can tame. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison."

These teachings are both hard to practice, but God's grace is always sufficient (2 Cor 12:9). Let us all be doers of the word, not hearers only (Jas 1:22).

Ministry Announcements

Family Encounter #12 in Malvern PA, July 15-17. "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." (Jos 24:15) A wonderful, memorable and spirit-filled weekend awaits the family in a very beautiful and serene environment. Pray, laugh, play and spend exclusive time with your loved ones! Contact Nick-Island Raagas, Oddie-Jho Martin or Fidel-Leggie Lim.

TEACHINGS

June 24 St. Leo after worship
Service Ministry - Christian Servanthood
Intercessory Ministry teaching

July 2 St. Antoninus 1-6pm
LSS23 - Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit
LSS24 - Basic Bible Seminar (Book of Books, Approaches, Word of God, Response)



13th AFCCPC National Convention (Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities). July 8-10 Meadowlands Convention Center, East Rutherford NJ. All BLD youth members are invited. Contact Alan-Tess Cam atetscam23@hotmail.com 201-659-5417; or Grace De Luna gmgd811@optonline.net 908-922-6237. (Note: No Youth worship on July 8. Those not attending the convention will worship with John 6 at the cafeteria.)

Seminar on Teen Depression July 15 Boland Hall 10-11pm after worship.

- Learn How to Recognize Depression
- Know the Treatment Options

Sponsored by YOUTH MINISTRY

Speaker: Dr. Danilo Campos

Director of Psychiatry, Mountainside Hospital

YE 12 for youth 15-19 years old. July 22-24 in Easton PA. July 15 deadline to apply. Contact Mario-Cecile Salonga (516-5616854), Aldo-Meg Pangilinan (718-4770374) or Elaine Canlas (201-2624632).

Seminar: Protecting God's Children. July 30 (time, venue TBA). An archdiocesan requirement for all members working with our young people in Mark 10, John 6 and Youth ministries. Contact: Reuben Vibar (908) 283-3041 & Cherry Vibar (908) 283-0411. A certificate will be issued by Serge Bernatchez (certified Metuchen instructor) after completion of the 3-hour seminar. All BLD members are welcome.

Counsels from page 1

and not caring about the interests of other people. We should guard against letting our pride, selfishness, self-centeredness or self-righteousness affect our decisions. We should always desire the good of others. We must not let any attachment, desire, comfort and satisfaction cloud our love for the Lord. We should not rigidly follow our principles, disciplines and objectives without consideration for the hurt they may incur to other people or the community. All of these are about denial of self and this is what Jesus referred to as our daily cross if we wish to come and follow Him.

Using our God-given talents with a spirit of selfish ambition helps us achieve power, prestige and riches. Enjoying this success is what we may call, having “the life.” Jesus knew that if we put our interests before His, we may not have “the life” we desire here on earth. So He said, “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Whoever receives you receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives the One who sent Me.” (Mt 10:39-40) He is telling us not to worry, for He has a greater reward for us - eternal life with Him in the kingdom of His Father. He is the life and He is our great reward. This reward is also highlighted in the first reading when the gift of life in the form of a baby son was given to the woman of influence and her spouse who were kind and thoughtful of other people.

We are all blessed because we have the key to unlock the mystery or meaning of life, which is no other than our Lord Jesus Christ. We must emulate His life and His works. We must listen to His words. He gave up His life that we may live, and this is the supreme example of putting the interests of others ahead of one’s own. He tells us that if we follow Him, we will have the good life, the happy life, the meaningful life. This is aptly described in John 12:24, “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a single grain of wheat, but if it dies, it produces much fruit.”

DIRECTIONS

- Share the rewards you received in your new life.
- Encourage and support fellow servants in the community.

THE LORD’S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

6/03	\$2,768
6/10	3,182
6/17	5,115
23-wk avg	3,379

Thank you for your generosity!

EXPENSES

23-wk avg	\$3,301
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Jun 24-26 SPE 7 S Plainfield Ramada Inn
- Jun 25 ME 25 Grand Reunion, St. Antoninus Parish Hall 10am-4pm
- Jun 25 Discipling Plenary Meeting, St. Leo Annex Bldg 1-5pm
- Jun 25 ME 23 1st Anniversary/Reunion, Anyanwu Residence, Maplewood NJ
- July 15-17 Newark FE 12 Malvern PA
- Jul 22-24 Trenton FE 3 Malvern PA
- Jul 22-24 YE 12 St. Francis Retreat House, Easton PA



May the blessings of the Lord be upon you!



BIRTHDAYS

- 24-Jun Adrian Bautista, SE13
- Tita Valonzo, LSS11
- Jamie Pagdonsolan, Mk10
- Danny Tan, Mk10
- Tiffany Anyanwu, Mk10
- Steve Banom, YE9
- 25-Jun Melissa Lim, YE9
- Mario Lopez, LSS23
- Jan-Beatrice Almazan, Mk10
- Hans Sison, SE
- Annie Javellana, SE
- Woodley Jean-Bart, YE11
- 26-Jun Jerome Capistrano, SE
- Grace Badiola, LSS24
- Hum Flores, LSS18
- Sandy Talbot, LSS23
- 27-Jun Babie Alberto, LSS1
- Ruben Amarante, LSS1
- Marlene Brillantes, LSS23
- 27-Jun Daniel Dwyer, LSS22
- Soc Punzalan, LSS10
- Lally Reyes, LSS19
- Srinivasa Monica, John6
- 28-Jun Golda DelaMerced, SE
- Tony Cifra, SE
- 29-Jun Jenny Perez, SE
- David Marconi, SE
- Benrubs Austria, SE
- Jovs Aguila, SE
- Oleen Solon, YE10
- Rhia Eusebio, YE10
- Patrick Arcales, YE
- Peter Cruz, LSS24
- Gerry Garcia, LSS3
- Pauline Ibarrola, LSS17
- Missy Mendonez, LSS22
- 30-Jun Coco Canlas, YE8
- Jonathan Ciocon, Mk10

ANNIVERSARIES

- 24-Jun Angel & Tessie Mijares, LSS16
- 25-Jun Tony & Tates Abad, LSS17
- Eddie & Pearl Antonio, ME23
- Jun & Jane Entrada, LSS4
- 26-Jun Joey & Cynthia Reyes, LSS15
- 27-Jun Ency & Babie Alberto, LSS1
- Pedro & Chona Martinez, LSS23
- 28-Jun Ray & Lucille Ermita, LSS13
- Boboy & Maris Guzman, LSS18
- Ronnie & Mila Macaisa, LSS23
- 29-Jun JC & Mol Barredo, LSS22
- Larry & Carina Ibarrola, LSS23
- Fidel & Alegria Lim, LSS21
- Resty & Sonia De Leon, ME25
- Miguel & Dina Roque, ME25
- 30-Jun Gene & Lally Reyes, ME22





ME 25 Gives Thanks

Twenty-three couples and a priest made it to the ME # 25 Grand Reunion last Saturday, June 25, 2005, at St. Antoninus Hall. After the worship service, the class served lunch to its distinctive guests - the sponsoring class, auxies, the pastoral team and other members of the community. The guests were entertained by the new ME graduates with song and dance numbers.

The reunion was a perfect occasion for the class to bond with one another and to encourage each other through their intimate and personal sharings. Recognizing their oneness from shared weaknesses and struggles, the class lifted each other in hopeful prayer and offered homage to the Lord Jesus Christ, singing heartily, We give thanks!

Solo Parents Encounter Christ

The Solo Parents Ministry welcomed back their adopted foster father, Msgr Paul Schetelick, who served as the spiritual director of the Solo Parents Encounter #7.

Beginning the weekend encounter with his teaching, *"Only you know what you want"*, he exhorted the candidates to respond to God's invitation and take responsibility because only they know what they want out of the encounter. It was truly a spirit filled weekend. Candidates who were too shy to stand up in front of everyone to introduce themselves participated in the Bible Drama without inhibition.

The witnesses to God's grace, mercy and love were: Nemia Ibanez, Sol Cruz, Aurea Bandilla, Marie Lazaro, Niki Tolentino-Nacion, and Ramon Gatchalian.

We welcome the 29 graduates of SPE#7: Lennie Agbada*, Aimee Alcantara, Virginia Alcantara, Joe Bainlardi, Mennen Castillo, Celia Crisostomo*, Susan De Pol, Felicia Eguh, Becca Espina, Vilma Hernandez, Linda Hilario, Lorraine Jolly, Lorna Lintag, Peggy Lopez*, Carla Matos*, Andrea Medina, Merce Mendoza, Phyllis Mosley, Jane Okpala, Naty Perez*, Gloria Rada, Mylene Ramos-Toral, Josephine Robertiello*, Marilyn Rodriguez, Liliana Soto, Lorie Tamayo, Arlene Tiamzon, Violeta Trani, Christine Tucciarone. The class shepherds are Elma and Gerry Garcia.

*coordinators

COUNSELS

"Come To Me, All You Who Are Weary"

WORD: Zechariah 9:9-10; Psalm 145:1-2,8-11; Romans 8:9,11-13; Matthew 11:25-30

ORDER: "Come... and learn from me."

Mt 11:28-29



REFLECTION:

This Sunday's Gospel tells us of the mystery of the kingdom of heaven. It also records Jesus' thanksgiving to His Father upon the return of those He sent on mission. It is Jesus' experience as a teacher that inspires this thanksgiving (Mt11:1). He stumbled against the lack of comprehension on the part of many who took offense at him (Mt 11:6). The people who lived in the cities along the Lake of Galilee where He performed many of His miracles, painfully disappointed Him (Mt 11:20-24).

Jesus exclaims, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth" (Mt 11:25), for "the childlike" who have welcomed the revelation which remained hidden from "the wise and learned." The childlike are the disciples and all those whom Jesus has declared blessed (Mt 5:3-12). These little ones delight in Jesus; they know the Father and the mysteries of His kingdom, an admirable manifestation of God's kindness and a proof of the absolute gratuity of the gift of faith. Jesus' prayer expressed the special intimacy He has with the One He calls "Father."

(continued on page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves." (Matthew 11:29)

My Life's Struggle

It has been five years since I had a momentous encounter with my spouse, my Lord, and myself in an ME weekend. Though the encounter continues to give my spirit the fire to endlessly seek God and His will, I cannot rightly say I've been entirely transformed. Sure, I attend weekly worship as much as I can. I've never missed the food line and the fellowship that has somehow encouraged me to hang on as I see others change before my eyes. But if there is something that really sends butterflies to my stomach, they are reflections; and those mini-worships at reunions are simply too lengthy when the best I could do was an "Our Father" or simply a Hail Mary!

In the past, my life hardly made room for God. I didn't even try to get to know Him, much less draw closer to Him. Even as I opened my heart to my new found life in God, at times, my past pagan-ish life seems to persist. *"What I do, I do not understand. For I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate. For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want"* (Rom 7:15, 19).

However, as I open my heart to God in our worship, I feel God's love pierce my heart as tears stream down my cheeks unimpeded by embarrassment as I feel His warm embrace cover my whole being. How proud I am of that short-lived communion with Him, yet humbled by the underserved love and attention towards me, a sinner. Intoxicating rivers of peace overwhelm my being as His love and serene presence penetrate my heart.

Ah, the realities of being human. Confusion abounds. Once removed from the confines of our worship, frailty rears its ugly head. Priorities suffer. My prayer life fails. Have I not witnessed enough of His love and compassion? Why am I so intoxicated by the world?

Today amidst my inner struggle to be with God, my faith may still falter at times but with a community that loves, supports and prays with me, I am emboldened to face my days and years ahead that someday I will be the man who truly serves God and His people with my whole heart, mind and spirit.

I may have not competed well. I may not have finished the race. I struggle with my faith but *"the Lord stood by me and gave me strength. He rescued me from the lion's mouth, from every evil threat and will bring me safe to his heavenly Kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen."*

In the bread and wine, becoming in the Holy Mass the Body and Blood of the Lord, the Christian people find the nourishment and support to journey on the path to holiness, the universal vocation of

Give Without Cost

By our very nature, we equate efforts with rewards. In our everyday dealings, we find that we do things only because of what we get in return. Sometimes we become exacting in our kind gestures and sacrifices, expecting that the same be accorded to us. And if this does not happen, we cease to do good and hold back on our generosity and care. We quit serving others when we feel that we have given so much yet are not appreciated. But the Lord firmly tells us: *"Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."* (Mt 10: 8)

Yes, the Lord has given us so much, everything that truly matters in this life to the next. The Lord has been so generous to us, to our families that we owe our very life to Him. Most importantly, undeserving as we are, He cleansed us from all our sins and allowed us to claim eternal salvation. So how are we to give thanks to our Lord?

We ought to proclaim His great Name to everyone we meet. We should bring His love to other people, most especially the poor, the sick and the outcasts. We take to heart a genuine compassion for all of God's people. In humble and loving service we give without cost and share our time, talent and treasure with every needy person. We share Jesus in us, giving hope and courage; giving God's joy and peace.

Our goal is to see God face to face and inherit His Kingdom after this life. We prepare ourselves by living the life of Christ and obeying His commandments. Only by the grace of God can this be done and not through our efforts!

Let us pray and ask God to guide our actions, sustain us when we are discouraged and enable us to be humble and cheerful givers as a proud man can never serve his neighbor. We must regularly confess our sins and receive the Holy Eucharist so that God's grace may enrich our spirit, goodness will flow through us and we will never grow weary in our works of charity!

Give Without Cost!

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

6/10	3,182
6/17	5,115
6/24	3,512

*Thank you for
your generosity!*

EXPENSES

24-wk avg \$3,624

Volunteers needed for LSS in Chino Hills, California on August 12 to 14, 2005.

For details, please contact Joey or Linda Viola at joelin77@sbcglobal.net or 203-461-9737.

The Bleeding Woman

To understand the plight of the woman suffering hemorrhages for twelve years, we have to understand the Mosaic Law in Leviticus 15:19-30. A woman was considered unclean for seven days during her menstrual period. Anyone and anything she touches were considered unclean. During her period of uncleanness, she was a virtual outcast to her own husband, family, and society until she completed the prescribed ritual purification.

Similarly, a woman with chronic menstrual flow was considered unclean for as long as this condition persisted. Such was the woman suffering hemorrhages: she was isolated from and avoided by her own townspeople and kin for 12 years.

In dire need of help, she does the unthinkable by touching Jesus' cloak. The law said that Jesus' cloak, even Jesus Himself, would have been unclean because of her touch. But she believed in her heart that a different outcome would result. She touched the tassel of the Lord's cloak, signifying her allegiance to God's word. (Tassels are ornamental cords worn on Jews' clothing to remind them to keep the Lord's commandments). Most importantly, she believed that the person of Jesus was greater than any affliction, and that a simple touch and closeness to our Lord would result in her healing and purification. The Lord did not disappoint her. He turned to her and addressed her directly. There was no better way to signal that she was no longer an outcast to be avoided like a plague, that she was now welcome, when Jesus spoke, "*Courage my daughter. Your faith has saved you.*" What lessons can we derive from this gospel narrative for our community?

In today's world, illnesses tend to unite rather than separate people from those who are suffering. It is the diversity, weaknesses, inadequacies and shortcomings of man that tend to give rise to misunderstandings, conflicts, and breaks in relationships. What has been constant throughout human history is the pain and suffering that a human being experiences when he perceives that he is not loved or appreciated, that he is not wanted or does not belong, that he is a member apart from the body.

Avoidance, isolation, alienation, enmity, separation - these are the "hemorrhages" that could drain the life from the body of Christ. Ex-communication from the body, whether self or group initiated, is like death (John 15:6).

Thanks be to God for sending us His only Son, who "is our peace, who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity" (Eph 2:14). The woman touched Jesus' cloak, was healed and became part of His body! "Now, we are Christ's body, and individually parts of it" (1 Cor 12:27). In Jesus, we, His body, will find our communion, wholeness and life.

Ministry Announcements

TEEN DEPRESSION Seminar
Friday, July 15, 2005 at 10:00 – 11:00 PM
at St. Leo's Boland Hall



- * Learn How to Recognize Depression
- * Know the Treatment Options

Sponsored by **YOUTH FORMATION MINISTRY**
BLD, Newark, New Jersey
Speaker: **Dr. Danilo Campos**
Director of Psychiatry, Mountainside Hospital

FE 12 July 15-17 in Malvern PA. "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15). Contact Nick-Island Raagas, Oddie-Jho Martin or Fidel-Leggie Lim. Forms are at our website, www.bldnewark.com.

YE 12 July 22-24 in Easton PA. Deadline is July 15 for candidates 15-19 years old. Contact Mario/Cecille Salonga (516-561-6854), Aldo/Meg Pangilinan (718-477-0374), Elaine Canlas (201-262-4632), and Cherrie Francisco (973-857-1826). GREAT JOB Cherrie !!!

"Protecting God's Children Seminar" July 30, Saturday (2 to 5 PM at St. Leo's Annex Building) - A must for core members serving in our Youth, John 6 & Mark 10 ministries. This is an archdiocesan requirement for those who look after our minors. Please RSVP: Reuben Vibar (908) 283-3041 & Cherry Vibar (908) 283-0411. A certificate will be issued by Serge Bernatchez (certified Metuchen instructor) after completion of the 3-hour seminar. All BLD members are welcome.

"Mark 10 Family Picnic" July 31, Sunday -10 AM-5 PM at Van Saun Park, Paramus, NJ. Food games & prizes! Directions to follow. Please call: Reuben Vibar (908) 283-3041 & Cherry Vibar (908) 283-0411 for more information.

July Teachings



July 2, Saturday at St. Antoninus, 1-6 pm
LSS23 - Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit.

LSS24 - Basic Bible Seminar.
July 8, Friday at St. Leo's after community worship
LSS22 - Motivational Gift Inventory.

July 15, Friday at St. Leo's after community worship
Singles - CMPI (Overcoming the flesh/world).

John 6 and Mark 10 teachings.
July 16, Saturday at St. Antoninus, 1-6 pm

LSS19 - Prayer Leadership
ME25 - Intro to the World, Basics of Prayer, CDFP overview.
LSS20 - Healing and Deliverance.

Visit us at
www.bldnewark.com.

Counsels from page 1

The prayer of thanksgiving is followed by a pressing and warm call to become His disciples, to take His yoke that is believed to be "easy" because Jesus is "meek and humble of heart." This passage is very important to us. Jesus addresses Himself to those who "labor and are burdened." As believers, when we read this passage, we may fear the demands of the Gospel and find it hard to carry out what is asked of us. Our fragile faith may be shaken. But we should not be discouraged for with Jesus in our hearts, the burden will never be heavy.

Jesus is "meek and humble of heart". We must therefore not be afraid of becoming His disciples. He does not lay crushing, intolerable burdens upon us. He has accomplished what He asks us to do.

Matthew emphasized Jesus' compassion. He is the opposite of a hard and stern master who would not take his servants' weakness into consideration.

This Sunday's gospel reminds us that Jesus fulfilled in His actions what was proclaimed through Isaiah. *"Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased. Upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching"* (Is 42:1-4).

DIRECTIONS:

- ❑ Invite the Spirit, who raised Jesus from the dead, to dwell in us.
- ❑ Learn to bring your burdens to Jesus daily and He will give you rest.
- ❑ Look after those who are burdened with various problems.
- ❑ Do not live according to the flesh.
- ❑ Practice the values and norms of community in all relationships and interaction.

Leaders must lead in humility.

BLD Albany sponsors LSS #7

The scorching heat wave that hit Albany last week did not deter 8 LSS candidates from coming to St. Helen's Church, Niskayuna, NY and have a memorable encounter with the Lord. Spiritual Director, Fr. Tito Ignacio teamed up with presenters: Toto and Sandra Reyes, Joel and Edith Lague, Leni and Tita Tiongson, Joey and Bles Nuqui and Manny and Vicky Basa. We praise and thank God for the harvest and give a warm Christian welcome to: Aleli Biazon, Michael Dacoco, Sarah Javier, Jasmin Martin, Veronica Regino, Noni and Rosel Sarosa, and Frank Tan.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

July 15-17 Newark FE 12 Malvern PA
Jul 22-24 Trenton FE 3 Malvern PA
Jul 22-24 YE 12 St. Francis Retreat House,
Easton, PA

BLD 9TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

SunEagles Golf Course

September 18, 2005 (Sunday)

Shotgun Tee Start - 1:00 p.m.

Tinton Ave., Fort Monmouth, NJ.

Contact: Vic & Dee Lim, Paby Ibarrola or Fidel Lim. Other info available at www.bldnewark.com



May the blessings of the Lord be upon you!

BIRTHDAYS



7/1 Mica Tolentino, YE8	7/4 Larissa Gonzalez, SE
Ernest Ramos, SE	Roselyn Encarnacion, SE
Mitch Perez, SE	Eric Cosio, SE
Dennis Aldover, SE	Julita Trillana, LSS7
Mosty Garcia, LSS20	7/5 Erwin Eusebio, Mk10
Ling Garcia, LSS20	Ernest Eusebio, John6
7/2 Ency Alberto, LSS1	Zachary Larobis, Mk10
Nelda Dwyer, LSS22	Zeny Isidro, LSS15
Abigail Casals, YE8	Marie Jean-Bart, LSS22
Leilani Solema, John6	Al Pena, LSS2
7/3 Nikkie Narciso, YE2	7/6 Jim Ferrara, LSS15
Emma Belmonte, ME25	Pauline Montemayor LSS23
Raul Gutierrez, Mk10	Elmer Nietes, SE
Nicole Lopez, MK10	Kara Asuncion, SE
Ei Malimban, SE	7/7 Victor San Luis, YE3
Ling Garcia, LSS20	Josh Tan, YE11
Alice Bautista, LSS23	
Cora Fadri, LSS2	
Choly Relucio, LSS10	

ANNIVERSARIES

7/1 Gus & Jane Enciso, LSS24
7/4 Tom & Dorie Beary, ME25
Gerald & Nell Cabildo, ME25
Emil & Baby Canlas, LSS7
Rolli & Adel Camposagrado, LSS18
7/6 Frank & Malou Venadas, LSS14



ALLIANCE OF FILIPINO CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITIES

AFCCPC, 13th National Convention from July 8-10 at Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel, East Rutherford, NJ. All BLD members are invited.

Contact: Alan & Tess Cam at atetscam@hotmail.com (201-659-5417) or Grace De Luna at gmdg811@optonline.net

***No Youth Worship on July 8th. Please attend John 6 @ cafeteria..**



URGENT PRAYER FOR OUR SUFFERING REPUBLIC

Excerpts from Circular No. 133/20/2005

Protocol No. 5309/2005 June 30, 2005
To: The Reverend Clergy, Religious Communities and Pastoral Councils

Contrary to the protestation that ours is a “strong” Republic, what we have been experiencing is a suffering Republic: financial crisis, jueteng scandal and jueteng expose, VAT imposition and implementation, spiraling prices of commodities, widespread corruption and latest, the wiretapped recording of conversation between our President and a Comelec Commissioner which indicates alleged cheating in May 2004 elections.

Our country is passing through a dark tunnel. Every group proposing a solution seems to be right.

Whatever solution any group may propose, we must strongly reject the path of violence and revolution.

But “Revolution of the Heart,” Yes! And we mean personal genuine conversion of people in governance. At this point in time in the midst of so many solutions being proposed, discussed and challenged, while waiting for the solution inspired by God, LET US PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY,

- ◆ That our politicians, both in the administration and opposition, may put their act together in favor of the good of our country;
- ◆ That President Gloria Arroyo may be open to the true solution of “lost credibility” dictated by God in the light of emerged and emerging circumstances;
- ◆ That the people may respond to evolving political scenario with sobriety, calmness, wisdom and discernment and not be swayed by heightened emotional reaction.

(Continued on page 4)

COUNSELS

Hearing and Living the Word

WORD: Is 55:10-11; Ps 65:10-14; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23

ORDER: “*Hear the Word with your ears and understand with your hearts...*” (Mt 13:23)

REFLECTION:

The parable of the Sower deals with how we hear and receive the Word of God and how the Word changes our lives. The story reveals to us a glimpse of Christ’s humanity, His love and compassion especially towards those who open their hearts and listen to the Word of God. The Gospel unfolds in 3 related parts. Jesus tells the parable, explains why He speaks in parables, then explains the parable.

The disciples did not understand the parable and asked Jesus for an explanation of both the meaning of the parable itself and why He even taught in parables at all. His answer to the question indicated that it was a move to separate those who were spiritually hungry from those who were not (Mt 25:32-33).

He then explains the parable itself. The seed is the Word of God. It is likened to a seed because the Word of God has life in itself and produces fruit after its kind. As a seed must find a favorable condition to germinate and grow, so thus the Word of God must find a receptive heart in which to grow. As followers of Christ, we are the sowers. But the main emphasis in the parable is the soil. Jesus compares the soil with the condition of our hearts in relation to receiving the Word of God. He wants us to have a listening and a welcoming heart, to hear His word and to hear it well. Christ says, “*Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*” (Mt 13:9) *(Continued on page 4)*

God's Promise for the Week

“My word that goes forth from my mouth shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.” (Is 55:11)

Our Family Encounter (FE) Weekend

A Daughter's Sharing: At first I was skeptical to take the FE retreat. I'm an only child, so I thought a whole weekend with just my parents would be so awkward and uncomfortable, not to mention boring! Since I don't have siblings that could relate with me, I knew that a bulk of the weekend would be spent confronting issues, particularly with my mom, and I was really hesitant to bring those issues to the open.

But God really works in mysterious ways. When we got to the FE, it was like something inside told me, this is the time to open up. The retreat was the right opportunity to talk with my parents about just anything. It allowed us to bring to light so many of the things left unresolved for a while, causing undue burden in our relationships. It was such a huge relief to forgive and to be forgiven. I can't stress the importance of learning to forgive each other enough. Now my parents have become a lot more understanding and trusting of me, and I've learned to appreciate them so much better.

This retreat isn't just one of those where you feel enlightened for a few days and then afterwards things return to old ways. Up to this day, you can still see how much FE improved our relationship and it only continues to do so. I'm so amazed with how our fights have drastically decreased, which sometimes used to be everyday to now practically none. FE was one of the best things we ever did together, and I really hope that other families experience this wonderful retreat as we did.

A Mother's Sharing: The FE was one of the best gifts, if not the best, we gave one another as a family.

We were there with other families with same desires and hopes: To better understand one another, to forgive and be forgiven, and be able to resolve family conflicts and misunderstandings. That it was held in a congenial and neutral venue; not in the house where parents rule and not in the dorm where the child reigns or any public place for that matter, made it more conducive to an open and loving (yes, loving) discussion of issues. I knew that the Holy Spirit was there guiding us because right from the start, all three of us expressed our desire to know the roots of our frequent conflicts and ways to resolve them. We listened carefully as each family member articulated issues and problems. My heart gave way to understanding making it easy to forgive and to ask for forgiveness. What a heavy load off my heart!

No other activity could compare with what we joyfully experienced during that weekend. We were like sponges, soaking up the graces of the Lord and allowing Him to work in us, bringing about the desired changes. I hope that many families will have this same rewarding experience that we had.

Come to Me all you who labor...

In my ministry, I am often assigned to certain tasks for God's greater glory.

I, called to this task? I, of little faith? I, who is constantly struggling with the perplexities of life? I, who still fall into the lures and trappings of the enemy in my unguarded moments? I ask myself, have I been really fulfilling the task I have been called for? What about the covenant I had signed? It wasn't just a piece of paper but a pact with my Lord and Redeemer that I must live my life faithfully in His service, doing it with utmost love and enthusiasm.

Many times, worldly demands and the rigors of daily living with all its challenges often weigh us down and life becomes too heavy to carry. We then lose track of our real purpose in life, as we become discouraged, joyless and burdened.

Christ Jesus, the gentle Master says, "*Come to me all you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart, and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy and my burden light.*" (Mt 11: 28-30)

In cheering voice He tells me: God must be the center of my thinking and feeling. Believe that God loves me and knows what's best for me according to His divine plan. I must trust that in His time He will put things into their proper perspectives bringing rest and harmony into my life.

But these blessings can only come when grace resides in our hearts. We must therefore repent of our sins. "Remorse opens one's heart to God". We should surrender everything to God, dedicating our whole life to Him. This involves offering prayers and selfless service starting at home, extending to our community and neighbors.

As I humbly realized how greatly God loves me, in return, I cannot close my eyes and ears to those who are in need in the community. I cannot simply say, "I got chores to finish and all the stuffs at home" and all those selfish excuses. Thinking of my own convenience has to stop. There is no more room for pride and self-centeredness as I seek His wisdom in overcoming the evils that pervade my surroundings.

With God's grace, we can manage any hardships and can live in fruitfulness. We rest in God's assurance that He is with us till the end of age. His love will carry us through any storm, any trial and any adversity. We are safe in Jesus! For under His infinite mercy, everything is possible.

Childlike but not Childish Attitude

In Matthew 11:25, Jesus said: *“I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike.”* Here we see the importance of having a childlike attitude in order to receive revelation from God. While spiritual practices should be approached with intense commitment and resolve, they should not be a cause for too much severity. Rather, we must be like a child full of innocence, wonder and trust. When we look through the eyes of a child, we see a beautiful world full of promises and an exciting life surrounded with love and no worries. If only we step aside from our adult wisdom and interpretations and assume this childlike attitude, we can readily live and serve God according to His divine will. For it is written: *“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the learning of the learned I will set aside.”* (1 Cor 1:19).

In our ministries, we know we have to be humble and obedient to what we are called to do. But when our duties are seemingly maligned by other members and our efforts pushed aside to give way to our leaders’ directions, do we resort to a childlike or childish attitude? If pride is still very much in us, we either refuse the work assigned to us or quit altogether. This is the childish attitude, letting our ego soar high and thinking that our human wisdom is sufficient to guide us. We must learn to humble ourselves and be childlike asking God for a pure heart. We must always pray to the Holy Spirit to empower us to discern with humility on “duty to know” matters, to be kind even in our disappointments and to exercise fraternal correction and self evaluation, for our spiritual transformation.

As we go through our ministry work, there are many instances that we may act childish but not recognizing it due to one’s pride. Only when our hearts are heavily burdened that we later realize that we had let pride and malice got into our actions. A childlike attitude on the other hand, makes us feel free and happy, enriching our relationships with the community and most especially with God.

“Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” (Mt18:3-4)

Let us ask the intercession of our Blessed Mother, the most humble handmaid of the Lord to teach us humility and may her childlike attitude shine in all of us.

Ministry Announcements

TEEN DEPRESSION Seminar

Friday, July 15, 2005 at 10:00 – 11:00 PM

The Boland Hall, St. Leo’s Church

Speaker: Dr. Danilo Campos

Director of Psychiatry, Mountainside Hospital

FE 12 July 15-17 in Malvern PA. “As for me and my house we will serve the Lord.” (Jos 24:15) A wonderful, memorable and spirit-filled weekend awaits the family in a very beautiful and serene environment. Contact Nick-Island Raagas, Oddie-Jho Martin or Fidel-Leggie Lim. Forms are at our website, www.bldnewark.com.

YE 12 July 22-24 in Easton PA. Deadline is July 15 for candidates 15-19 years old.

Contact Mario-Cecile Salonga (516-561-6854), Aldo-Meg Pangilinan (718-477-0374) or Elaine Canlas (201-262-4632); or www.bldnewark.com.

July 30, Saturday (2-5 PM at St. Leo’s Annex Building) **Seminar “Protecting God’s Children”** This is an archdiocesan requirement for those who look after our Youth, John 6 & Mark 10 ministries. Please RSVP: Reuben Vibar (908) 283-3041 & Cherry Vibar (908) 283-0411. A certificate will be issued by Serge Bernatchez (certified Metuchen instructor) after completion of the 3-hour seminar. All BLD members are welcome.

July 31, Sunday “Mark 10 Family Picnic” 10 AM-5 PM at Van Saun Park, Paramus, NJ. Food games & prizes! Directions to follow. Please call: Reuben/Cherry Vibar for more info.

July Teachings

July 8, Friday, St. Leo’s after community worship
LSS22: Motivational Gift Inventory

July 15, Friday, St. Leo’s after community worship
Singles: CMPI (Overcoming the flesh/world)
John 6: Teaching
Mark 10: Teaching

July 16, Saturday, St. Antoninus, 1-6 PM
LSS19: Prayer Leadership
ME25: Intro to the Word, Basics of Prayer and
CDFP Overview
LSS20: Healing & Deliverance

Counsel

Continued from page 1

Basically Jesus tells us that different kinds of people respond to the Word of God in different ways. Some do not understand the Word. The pathway in their heart is too hard for the seed to bury itself and develop roots. So the seed is snatched away by the birds that come along. Because of sin and pride, the devil easily snatches the Word of God. Their hearts are hardened as they hear but do not understand.

Some receive the Word with joy but the soil of their heart is too rocky. They do not develop roots and soon they are scorched. They start with a big beginning in their faith and slowly drift away. They are like plants that sprout quickly and at the same time die quickly. They do not have the will to persevere. They succumb to the flesh; they are willing to hear the Word of God but trials and tribulations cause them to stumble.

Still others, Jesus tells us, allow the living Word to be choked out by the cares of this world, by the lure of wealth or power or prestige. Sadly they permit the details of daily lives to crowd out the Word of God.

And then of course there is the good soil, the heart that hears the Word and understands it will bear and yield the fruit. In a rich and mellow soil the heart will allow the Word of God to take deep roots and produce a harvest that will honor our Lord. St. Paul speaks to us of the fruits of the Spirit which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and gentleness. Against such things there is no law. (Gal 5:22-23) The good soil accepts Jesus as our Messiah and Redeemer and wholeheartedly, lives by the truth of the Scripture.

What kind of soil are you? How do you respond to the seed that is cast into your life? God wants us to examine the condition of the soil of our hearts. He is calling us today to look into our lives and to note where the resistance lies to the seed of God. Indeed we are able to see all four situations in our lives, all four responses to our Lord's Gospel message. How we respond to the Word of God is the key to how fruitful the gospel is going to be in our lives. But it is up to us to stop and reflect on a regular basis where our journey of faith is heading. It is our task to nurture the soil. We can change the soil that we are, even from a sandy and rocky to the richest kind of soil.

DIRECTIONS:

- ◆ Be faithful in reading the Holy Scriptures daily.
- ◆ Share the Word not only within but also outside the community
- ◆ Be not hearers only but also doers of the Word.
- ◆ Live in the Spirit and not in the flesh.

The Lord's Provisions

COLLECTIONS

6/17 \$ 5,115
 6/24 \$ 3,512
 7/01 \$ 2,939

COLLECTIONS

25-wk avg \$ 3,367

EXPENSES

25-wk avg \$ 3,659

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Jul 15-17: Newark FE 12 Malvern PA

Jul 22-24: Trenton FE 3 Malvern PA

Jul 22-24: YE 12 St. Francis Retreat House, Easton PA

Aug 13: BLD Newark Community Day
Johnson Park, Piscataway, NJ

Aug 19-21: Rockland ME 2

Don Bosco Marian Shrine, Haverstraw, NY

Birthdays

8-Jul Weng Larobis, LSS18

Diana Nacion, LSS17

Isabel Relevo, LSS23

Melvin De Leon, YE8

9-Jul John Demegillo, YE10

Arthur Butulan, Jn6

Christian Ikalina, Mk10

10-Jul Benjamin Cruz, Mk10

Lando Bonifacio, LSS8

11-Jul Michael Etcubanas, YE3

12-Jul Bernie Visto, SE

Mameng Angbetic, LSS7

13-Jul Vic Napenas, LSS19

Ray Salmo, LSS22

Ian Laxina, YE9

Gordon Bautista, Jn6

Lauren Lopina, Jn6

Erika Flores, Mk10

Lauren Lopina, Mk10

14-Jul Raul Dy, SE

Anniversaries

8-Jul Victor & Vivian Vuelva, LSS24

10-Jul Rudy & Evelyn Gabat, ME25

Tino & Aida Garcia, LSS8

11-Jul Edgar & Carlota Casals, LSS12

12-Jul Lito & Gigi Vibar, LSS1

14-Jul Mario & Winnie Magparangan, ME25

Urgent Prayer ...

Continued from page 1

Let there be much prayer offered for our SUFFERING REPUBLIC. I encourage Holy Hour to be made at the direction of the Parish Priests: the more regular the better, until some light in the dark tunnel of our situation is seen. Let there be, if feasible, penitential processions. Let religious communities volunteer to do some fasting.

Prayer...prayer...before God-inspired course of action.

At present, we don't seem to have a clear solution. And so we pray. And pray we all must. *Our hope is in the Lord.* It was He who led Israel by opening the ocean for his beloved people to safely pass through. We are the people whom God has saved through two non-violent transition of government. We are confident God will see us through.

Our Lady, Mediatrix of All Grace, pray for us.

Sincerely yours,

+ ANGEL N. LAGDAMEO - Archbishop of Jaro




BLD Youth Host Bo Sanchez

Fresh off of the electrifying experience of the Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities' National Convention (see news on page 3), the BLD Youth Ministry sponsored a night with Brother Bo Sanchez at Our Lady of Victories Church in Jersey City on Tuesday night.


Brother Bo Sanchez is a well-known speaker from the Philippines and the founder of several charities, such as Anawin. He is also involved with Gawad Kalinga. He was one of the featured speakers at the AFCCPC Convention. During the Convention, Brother Bo spoke with the youth on the topic "Does God hear me?" His humorous stories entertained the youth, and his engaging, sincere, and emotional sharing touched their hearts as well.

The church was filled with BLD adults and youth from Newark and Trenton and a large contingent of guests. It was not long until the church was filled with praising as well. After a brief worship led by the Youth Ministry, Brother Bo Sanchez began his talk. He read the story of James and John, sons of Zebedee, from the Gospel of Mark, in which they ask to sit at the left hand and the right hand of Jesus. Jesus replied "*whoever wishes to be first among you must be the servant of all.*" This served as the focal point of his talk. He mixed humorous anecdotes of his first attempts to serve the poor with a sincere and moving sharing of what he considers to be his four greatest achievements: loving his wife, loving his sons, loving his parents, and loving the poor. All four of these are acts of servanthood.

To conclude the night, he led the community in pledging to truly be servants. He urged all to serve in every aspect of life. Let us pray that we will continue to serve one another.



Somebody's Praying Me Through
 November 13, 2005 (Sunday)
 Felician College, Lodi, NJ
 Showtimes: 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm



COUNSELS

Patience and Perseverance


WORD: Wis 12:13, 16-19; Ps 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43

ORDER: "Whoever has ears ought to hear ..."

REFLECTION: The kingdom of God is a mystery that will be revealed only to those who persevere in their faith. Perseverance and faith are, therefore, the essential ingredients for someone to know or experience the kingdom of God. We need the right attitude of mind to believe that all things work together for good. Worry, fear and other negative feelings will certainly not help us to persevere in our faith. In addition to God's words in the scripture, Jesus, being aware of our weaknesses and frailties, gave us the Holy Spirit to be our advocate! The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness. Whoever has ears ought to hear!

What did we hear or learn in the parable of the weeds among the wheat? In the parable of the mustard seed? In the parable of the yeast? These parables teach us about small things making a big difference. God's reign on earth started small, taking place among ordinary people. Jesus healed, taught and welcomed the outcast. Patience and perseverance are Jesus' characteristics, and they are characteristics of Jesus' community. God is teaching us that we all can make a difference;

Who are the weeds and the wheat in the parable of the weeds among the wheat? Are we the weeds or the wheat? God knows what is in our hearts. We all have ears, therefore, we ought to hear what Jesus is telling us. The Father is very patient with us, giving everyone the opportunity for repentance. In the parable, weeds and wheat were allowed to grow together, for the reason that "...if you pull up the weeds, you might uproot the wheat along with them." It is not our role to uproot the weeds.

page 4 

God's Promise For The Week
"The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father." (Mt 13:43)

The True Family of Jesus—

Spiritual Family

“Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, “*Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother.*” (Mt. 12: 48-50).

In this scene, Jesus once again is teaching us a very important lesson. This time He wanted to explain to His disciples what He could truly call His family. Here He emphasized that doing God’s will meant more to Him than any physical relationship, that it meant much to Him that His mother, His brothers and followers love His Father. His words may have seemed to minimize Mary’s place in His life. The truth is, Jesus knew His mother better than anyone else. He knew Mary faithfully loved God and obeyed His will – “*Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word*” (Lk 1:38).

“Whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother.” Here our Lord sets the standard of how we could build a true relationship with Him - how we could be a brother, a sister, and a mother to Him. Here He showed us that He prefers to see a family, a community united by the love God and His will, and not a family doing pharisaical, hypocritical and outward things instead of inward holiness of heart.

Attending Mass each Sunday, fasting each Lent, singing high praises are all fine, as long as they are understood as the means to holiness, not holiness itself. Holiness is interior, it is the love of God, love of our neighbor and the embrace of His holy will as expressed in His commandments.

Holiness is understanding what loving God is all about, that it is about trusting and understanding Him even when He seems to overlook and hurt us, even when He lets us suffer many failures and humiliations. And when all these adversities He sent us were humbly and fully accepted as His Divine Will, only then can we truly understand what loving God is all about. Holiness is facing the many dark moments, pains and trials to forge in our souls faith, trust and courage. It is the soul’s growth in the divine life of grace and charity. A holy person is the true brother, sister or mother of Jesus. The great God is our Father.

*** In the bread and wine, becoming in the Holy Mass the Body and Blood of the Lord, the Christian people find the nourishment and support to journey on the path to holiness, the universal vocation of all baptized. (Pope Benedict XVI)**



St. Mary Magdalene

St. Mary was given the name “Magdalene” because she lived in the town of “Magdala”, near the Sea of Galilee. She was very beautiful and very proud, but was also branded as a sinner. However, after she met Jesus, she felt great sorrow for her sinful life.

From then on, together with the other holy women, Mary humbly served Jesus and His apostles. Other than the mother of Jesus, few women are more honored in the Bible than Mary Magdalene.

Because her gratitude and humility are equal to her unparalleled love, she was given a special title of “penitent”. That is the way she is referred to in the Church’s liturgy, and that is the way we lovingly remember her. She was a sinner, yet Jesus forgave her. He could see that she loved Him much.

When our Lord was crucified, she was there at the foot of His cross. She stayed with the Blessed Mother and St. John, unafraid for herself and thinking only of His sufferings. Mary Magdalene represents those who have loved much because much has been forgiven them.

After Jesus’ body had been placed in the tomb, Mary went to anoint it with spices early Easter Sunday morning. When she did not find the Lord’s body, she informed the disciples. After they came and saw the tomb, they too believed what Mary had told them. The disciples returned home, (Jn 20:10) but Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping (Jn 20:11). Seeing someone whom she thought was the gardener, Mary asked him if he knew where the Body of her

beloved master had been taken. But then the person spoke in a voice she knew so well: “Mary!” (Jn 20:16) It was Jesus, risen from the dead! She was the first witness of Christ’s resurrection. The Gospels show Mary as being sent by the Lord himself to announce the Good News of the resurrection to Peter and the apostles. “*I have seen the Lord.*” (Jn 20:18) Accordingly, she is referred to in early Christian writings as “the apostle to the apostles.”

St. Mary Magdalene zealously exemplified her great love for Christ. For though the disciples left the tomb, she remained. She was still seeking the one she had not found. And while she sought, she wept, burning with the fire of love. And so it happened that the woman who stayed behind to seek Christ was the first one to see him. Let us be apostles of faith by loving and serving God with all of our heart, mind and strength. Let us tell everyone the Good News which St. Mary Magdalene was the first to proclaim. Christ is Risen! In Truth He is Risen!



God's People Gather at Convention

"You shall be my people, and I will be your God." Jer 30:22

Two thousand Catholics, representing various prayer groups, flooded the Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel to participate in the Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities' (AFCCPC) 13th National Convention on July 8-10. Many adult members and 45 members of the Youth Ministry represented BLD at this year's Convention. This is the second AFCCPC Convention that the YM has participated in, the first being in 2003 at the Hilton in New Brunswick, NJ

The weekend began with holy mass followed by the Festival of Praise involving 14 praise ministries. The BLD Youth Praise Ministry sang the energetic worship song "King of Majesty." Our Youth had an integral part in the youth program. They sponsored the afternoon session and led the afternoon praise and worship. Father Bill Halbing gave a talk on the topic "Have I seen any of God lately?" Kerwyn Velasco of the Youth followed with a personal testimony on the same topic.

Three bishops and several priests gave talks and workshops throughout the Convention: Bishop Oscar Solis of Los Angeles, Bishop Joel Baylon of Masbate, Bishop Sam Jacobs of Louisiana, Msgr. Cecilio Rotor, Father Bill Halbing, Father Ed Abano, Father Vic Paloma, and many others. They were joined by many well-known speakers: Brother Bo Sanchez, Brother Bob Canton, Sister Nancy Keller, Dr. Junie Irizari, Brother David Bisono and others.

The weekend was a fun and spiritual experience that allowed youth from different areas of the country to converse with each other and to worship the Lord together. The convention was well attended by children, youth, and adults. All participants affirmed that they are God's people, and that they will go and bring God's name to the ends of the earth!

The next AFCCPC Convention is in Los Angeles, California in 2007. Maybe the youth ministry can hop on a bus for a road trip there! Are we there yet?

Archbishop Lagdameo Elected CBCP President

Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo of Jaro, Iloilo- who is also the BLD community spiritual director, was elected president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines during its 91st Plenary Assembly on Saturday. He was the CBCP vice president.

We praise and thank the Lord for Archbishop Lagdameo's election. Let us pray for him as he leads the CBCP through these stormy times in the Philippines. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide his actions and imbue him with the Lord's wisdom and strength.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEEN DEPRESSION Seminar

Friday, July 15, 2005 at 10 - 11 PM

Boland Hall, Saint Leo's Church

Speaker:

Dr. Danilo Campos

Director of Psychiatry, Mountinside Hospital

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TEACHINGS

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Singles - CMP I (Overcoming the flesh/world)
John 6 teaching
Mark 10 teaching

July 16, 2005, Saturday, St. Antoninus, 1-6 PM
LSS19 Prayer Leadership
ME25 Intro to the Word, Basics of Prayer, CDFP Overview
LSS20 - Healing & Deliverance

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Collections

06/24	\$3,512
07/01	2,939
07/08	2,768
26-wk avg	3,342

Thank you for
your generosity

Expenses

26-wk average \$3,343

Counsels *(from page 1)*

It is God's command that we wait till harvest time, at the time of the Lord's choosing.

It is God's work to establish His kingdom. Our responsibility is to have faith and perseverance to recognize and to receive it. Judging from the lessons we learn from the parables of Jesus, are we hearing what Jesus wants us to hear? Are we patient with one another? Are we forgiving and loving with one another? Are we quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger? Do we have patience to wait for the harvest? Do we have patience to wait for the mustard seed to grow? Do we have patience to wait for the leaven to produce a huge amount of dough?

Knowledge of the teachings of the Church is vital for the growth of our community members. In areas beyond the reach of human reason, we need faith and perseverance to discern the will of God. The fruits of our labor in our community will confirm whether we have properly discerned the will of God for our community. Jesus showed us how to persevere; Mother Teresa also showed us how to persevere.

Our Church has persevered from trials and tribulations. The early Christians were persecuted. Our church had also experienced divisions, and lately, experienced purgation and cleansing in the sex scandals among our clergy. The death of Pope John Paul II and the election of Pope Benedict XVI is a confirmation from God that Jesus (the stone the builder rejected) is the Foundation of our Church.

Our community too persevered. It was only 13 years ago when three couples started our community. Yes, we too have our share of troubles, but because of our faith and perseverance, we grew like a mustard seed. Can we continue to persevere? Do we have faith to persevere? Our flesh is always impatient. Reliance on our God and waiting on the Lord is a must for our community to withstand the test of time. We don't have a shortage of good ideas on how to run our community. We thank our Lord God for blessing us with so many talented and well-intentioned members who have contributed a lot to the growth of our community. However, we should learn to wait on the Lord! We must await His command. Let go, and let God have control of our community!

Directions:

1. Be patient and loving with one another.
2. Be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. Jm 1:19
3. Learn to persevere to wait on the Lord

* Pope Benedict XVI said "marriage and the family are irreplaceable and admit no other alternatives. To give a truly human face to society, all nations cannot ignore the precious good of the family, founded on marriage. The marital alliance, by which a man and a woman constitute between them a consortium for life, ordered by its very nature to the good of the spouses and to the procreation and education of offspring, is the foundation of the family, patrimony and common good of humanity."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- July 15-17** Newark FE 12 Malvern PA
July 22-24 Trenton FE 3 Malvern PA
July 22-24 YE 12 St. Francis Retreat House, Easton PA
August 13 BLD Newark Community Day - Johnson Park, Piscataway, NJ
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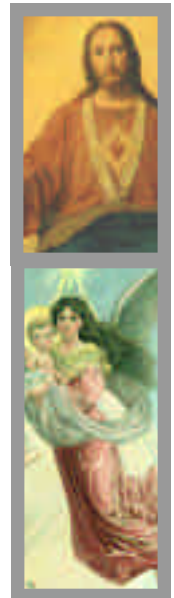
BLD 9TH Annual Golf Outing - "Suneagles Golf Course"

Sept. 18 Sunday, 1:00 PM-Shot gun Tee Start
Tinton Ave, Fort Monmouth, NJ.

For details, please contact Vic & Dee Lim,
Paby Ibarrola or Fidel Lim. Info also available in
BLD website, www.bldnewark.com.

birthdays

- 15-July** Charo Badiola, ME25
Precy Pajela, ME25
16-July Riel Sabale, ME25
Helen Madrigal, LSS13
Chibundu Anyanwu, Mk10
17-July Mely Cajulis, SPE6
Jay-Jay Castaneda, LSS6
Genie Luardo, LSS17
Koy Torralba, LSS23
Jill Bustos, YE11
Jeremy Munante, Mk10
18-July Ed Badiola, LSS24
Sol Cruz, LSS10
Jun Enriquez, ME21
Mila Malantic, LSS20
Florence Fudalan, SE
19-July Dading Cuy, LSS10
Boyie Huelgas, LSS1
Theresa Murante, Mk10
Joanne Garcia, SE
20-July Ding Fadri, LSS2
Mel Nano, LSS18
Ditas Reyes, LSS15
Jun Schroth, LSS23
Ferd Chan, SE



anniversaries

- 15-July** Benny & Sally Santiago, LSS13
16-July Tito & Anne Cruz, LSS23
21-July Bian & Olga Paraguya, ME25



15 Families Encounter Jesus

BLD Newark held its 12th Family Encounter at the reposeful St. Joseph's Retreat House nestled in 125 acres of beautiful grounds in Malvern, PA. The 15 families slowly but surely found healing and the beginning of a Christ-centered family life under the passionate direction of Father Pete Literal. They related to the stories and experiences from the bold witnessing of the Almonte and Canlas families of the Lord's glorious victory as He led them to healing and transformation.

The **Martin** family, Oddie-Jho, JR and Julienne will shepherd FE 12, assisted by 4 coordinator families who were also discerned: **Badiola** Edgar-Grace, Carlo, Katrina & Patricia; **Cruz** Peter-Rose, Carlo & Marella; **Cruz** Tito-Anne, Randy & Mitchell; and **Rigor** King-Helen, Stephany & Boy. The rest of the families are: **Baquilod** Bebot-Grace, Joreen & Jocef; **Bautista** Gene-Alice, Jan, Jay & Eric; **Brillantes** Tony-Marlene, March, Molly, Pochie & Reese; **Cruz** Boyet-Zita, Rosavida, Josh & Jethro; **Jose** Gil-Lucille, Angeline, Justin & Mae; **Lazaro** Marie & Marie Louise; **Madrigal** Joe-Helen, Joseph & Justin; **Minano** Janes-Malou, Harvey & Harley; **Reyes** Joey-Jemma, Jayvie, Justin & Jen; **Schroth** Jun-Luchie, Janice & Jayne; and **Tenazas** Rene-Marilou, Bryan, Gino & Vanessa.

It was a weekend of prayers, instruction, reflection and dialogue. Masses and the Sacraments were made available to further nourish the spirits of the families, who were encouraged to stay close as a unit but at intervals also interact with the rest, including the Saturday night "Celebration."

The working team of the sponsoring FE11 class and other volunteers cheerfully served the needs of the candidates, and continuous adoration and intercessory prayers before the Blessed Sacrament in the Vigil Room lifted up the spiritual needs of each moment to the Lord. As each family went home, they looked to rebuild their house "set solidly on rock" (Mt 7:24-27).

COUNSELS

The Precious Pearl Of Divine Union

WORD: 1Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Ps 119:57, 72, 76, 77, 127-130; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52

ORDER: "Ask something of me and I will give it to you." (1Kgs 3:5)

REFLECTION: True joy is the treasure of every human soul and lies in the fulfillment of the spirit - the "Beatific Vision," seeing God face to face. "They will look upon his face, and his name will be on their foreheads." (Rev 22:4) It is found only in God's Kingdom, which is present in Jesus Christ. Therefore, we must seek Christ in order to find our true treasure.

By virtue of our baptism in Christ, we are children of God with a special call and mission, the ones God specially chose long ago, and intended to become true images of His Son, those he called and justified and with whom he shared his glory (Rom 8:29-30). As God's chosen people, we are expected to search and find our joy in Christ and share it with others.

People have always been searching and treasure hunting, looking for something to make them completely happy. The goal is legitimate but we look in the wrong places. We work hard to acquire material things, but then find that riches and worldly pleasures only bring anxiety. It is wisdom that brings peace of mind. We have to ask ourselves where our heart is. What is it that we love, that we pursue with all our hearts? "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." (Mt 6:21)

Christ compares the Kingdom of God to a rare pearl or a priceless treasure, worth everything we have.

(cont'd on page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

"All things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

(Rom 8:28)

The Better Part

“Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.” (Lk 10:41-42)

Have you ever complained and felt exhausted from doing ministry work? Are your lives overbooked, making you feel spiritually dry and undernourished? Can you barely hear God’s voice above the busy noise?

We can labor so much for the Master that we forget the Master of our labors, and our acts of service run counter to the Lord’s purposes. We want to do it all for the Lord, like Martha, but we should rather discover what God has given us to do. If Jesus wanted Mary in the kitchen, He could have so let her know. The Lord wants to work in us through His Word. Of course, there is a time for anointed action. We should not sit around and learn when He is calling us to stand up and act. We need to be sensitive to the moving of the Spirit. Don’t run off and try to do something for God, especially something you don’t particularly enjoy, if the Spirit prompts us to sit at the feet of Jesus. But on the other hand, we should not be passive when God calls us to action, thinking that hearing the Word is enough.

Following Mary to the feet of Jesus and having the energy to serve God is not easy. We need to maintain balance in our spiritual life. No man can be spiritually healthy who does not meditate and commune with Jesus; on the other hand, everyone is called to be active and diligent in His holy service. If we neglect the spiritual for the sake of the external, we would be throwing away gold to gather to ourselves iron.

While we ought to abound in service and do good abundantly to our fellow men, yet we must not fail in worship, in spiritual reverence, meek discipleship and quiet contemplation. We can be practical like Martha but also, like Mary, sit down in quietude and nourish our souls with divine truth. We look to the Savior to rejoice in the Spirit and say “Father, I thank you.” For it is not our thoughtless service, performed while our souls are half asleep that Jesus accepts, but it is that which we do for Him with hearts that overflow with fervent love, showing reverence with our adoring souls.

Such fervent, intense, and thoughtful service is the “better part.” It was available to both Martha and Mary, and likewise to each one of us, regardless of our gifting or personality. It is a choice we each can make.

Trust The Lord



“We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body.” (2 Cor 4:8-10)

I worked in the remote bush areas of Africa, naive of the cultural background of the people. There was mostly very hot weather and no electricity. Water was rationed, food was scarce, drinking water boiled and filtered. All these made me feel desperate and abandoned, like carrying a heavy cross for the six years that I worked there. In the darkness I would look at the stars and ask, “Oh Lord, what have I done to myself?” I tried to look for greener pastures but failed.

I am a believer, but my faith was not strong. Doubts clouded my mind the times I would ask, “If there is God, where is He when I am walking alone through these troubles?” I expected Him to come every time I needed Him. I did not realize that God knows all my needs and is always there, watching with fatherly care. The question really is, have I really cared what God commands me to do? Did I see His provident hand that gave me the opportunity to travel and discover a new world?

In my loneliness, I heard the Lord’s voice telling me, “*Look at the sky and you will see me shining upon you. Do not be afraid, I am the Lord your God.*” Shaken, I wanted to hold on to my Lord but He was nowhere to be found. Still, I found myself physically and mentally strong as I started to spend my non-working hours helping build a small Catholic church in the village. I began to feel comfort and peace with the beauty of my surroundings - the mountains and plains, the birds and baobab trees and all of God’s mighty creation.

I was contrite for having doubted and strayed. I needed to put all my trust and fully commit to the Lord, seeking His heart’s desire for my life. “*I shall walk before the Lord in the land of the living.*” (Ps 116:9) I now seek to live according to His Word that will nourish and sustain me. My dark episode in a strange land served to strengthen my faith and made me grow in the love of the Lord.

How beautiful is God’s promise! “*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not. In all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths.*” (Prv 3:5-6)

In the Spirit of Transparency

Embracing Dispossession

What does the Lord Jesus Christ require His disciples who are sent out to mission?

“Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two.” The Lord entrusted the mission of building up His kingdom to His Church, and it is clear that He desires to see His disciples perform His work as a community. Jesus empowered disciples to work by twos toward the mission of sharing His life and love to others. By sending out a community to mission and arming it with His authority, the Lord demanded that His disciples be of one mind and heart, and that they be present to one another.

“He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick - no food, no sack, no money in their belts. They were however to wear sandals but not a second tunic.” The Lord asked His disciples to embrace His example of dispossession to affirm their reliance on God. Jesus does not ask His disciples anything that He Himself did not do. His was the ultimate dispossession: although He was God Himself, He emptied and humbled Himself by taking the form of man and by becoming obedient to death on the cross (Philippians 2:6-7). He became poor that we may become rich (2 Cor 8:9). Jesus brought nothing for His journey on earth.

As Jesus has done, so must His disciples (John 13:13). His disciples must leave behind everything that is not of the Lord and must depend only on God's grace. Worldly dispossession reflects our love of God (1 John 2:15ff) and our poverty of spirit. The latter is a beatitude that carries the supreme promise: possession of God Himself in Christ (Matthew 5:3). This is what St. Paul means when He said *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens”* (Ephesians 1:3). When the Lord blesses us with His strength, no task is impossible.

“Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them.” The Lord's disciples must not let rejection, opposition or difficulties discourage, slow or stop them. They are not to feel sorry for themselves, nor take offense against their tormentors. These negative feelings are to be shaken off like the dust from our feet through fraternal correction and reconciliation. Nothing that the enemy will throw our way should prevent us from obeying the call of the Lord. The Lord rewards obedience with fruitfulness: the apostles “went off and preached repentance” and as a result “drove out many demons and healed the sick”.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

YE 12 is going on this weekend. *Let us keep our youth in prayer!*

Protecting God's Children July 30 Saturday 2-5pm St. Leo Annex. Seminar required by the Archdiocese for all who serve the Youth, John 6 and Mark 20. RSVP Reuben (908) 283-3041 or Cherry Vibar 283-0411. Serge Bernatchez will issue certificate of completion. *All BLD members are welcome.*

Mark 10 Family Picnic July 31 Sunday 10am-5pm Van Saun Park, Paramus NJ. Food, games & prizes! Contact Reuben or Cherry Vibar.

BLD 9th Annual Golf Outing

Suneagles Golf Course, Fort Monmouth NJ

Sep18 Sunday 1pm Shotgun Tee Start

Contact: Vic & Dee Lim, Paby Ibarrola or Fidel Lim.

Or visit www.bldnewark.com

Surviving Teen Depression: A Catholic Approach. Youth Ministry teaching by Fr. Paul Lehman, August 12 at St. Leo.

LSS Chino Hills CA Aug 12-14. *Volunteers needed!* Contact Joey-Linda Viola at joelin77@sbcglobal.net or 203-461-9737.

Somebody's Praying Me Through

Concert November 13 Sunday

Felician College, Lodi NJ

Show times: 2pm & 7pm



* **W**hen Mary exclaims: “My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior”, she already bears Jesus in her womb. She praises God “through” Jesus, but she also praises him “in” Jesus and “with” Jesus. This is itself the true “Eucharistic attitude”. (John Paul II, from “Ecclesia de Eucharistia”)

* **U**ndertake with determination the path of that spiritual ecumenism, which in prayer opens the doors to the Holy Spirit, the only one who can create unity. (Pope Benedict XVI)



**MAKE COVENANT NEWS
A PART OF YOUR COVENANT LIFE.**

Counsels from page 1

The concept of the Kingdom of God is as simple as knowing the meaning of life and how to live it. We should ask God in prayer for the gift of true wisdom; the wisdom to regulate the way we live, allowing us to direct our earthly lives according to God's laws; according to justice and charity. The one who sees with the heart is the one who has wisdom. The ability to see is what opens the door to the Kingdom of God, that world of interlocking relationships between God, human beings and our world, which brings to all security, happiness and peace. The one who has wisdom knows how to cope with the situations of life, whether they bring ease or difficulty, pain or joy.

In community, we all have the sincere desire to do the work for our Lord. Yet, we must discern whether what we think is good for the community is our own or the Lord's desire. As with the greater Church, our community is made up of all kinds of people and we are duty-bound to accept everyone especially "the poor and the crippled, the blind and the lame" (Lk 14:21); and to lead them to the treasure and the pearl of great price. We must be willing to do whatever it takes to accomplish His will and give Him glory.

We must detach ourselves from anything that would hinder us from being true disciples of Christ. When Jesus told the rich young man to sell all his possessions and follow him in order to possess eternal life, the man went away sad because he was very wealthy (Mt 19:16-22). Not being open to the gift, he got only what he paid for.

The one happy ending for the story of our life on earth is the attainment of heaven. All of God's plans for the human race are for the happiness and perfection of men. He made it possible to attain eternal life thru the Incarnation, which made us brothers of Christ and adopted sons of God. Christ's passion, death and resurrection opened the doors to heaven but we still need to do our part to reach our true home. Are we on the right track in our search for the precious pearl? Do we love God and are we true followers of Christ?

The "pearl of great price" is within our reach. It is being held out to us free of charge. But to take it, we have to have empty hands.

DIRECTIONS

- * Love, follow and observe the Lord's commands. (Ps 119:127-129)
- * Recognize and renounce all attachments that hinder our relationship with God.

Visit our website at www.bldnewark.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Jul 22-24 YE 12 Easton PA
- Aug 13 BLD Newark Community Day
Johnson Park, Piscataway, NJ
- Aug 19-21 BLD Rockland ME 2
Don Bosco Marian Shrine,
Haverstraw, NY

May the blessings of the Lord be upon you....

BIRTHDAYS

- 22-Jul Sal Russo, LSS13
- 23-Jul Louie Relucio, LSS10
Ariana Abad, Mk10
- 23-Jul Grace Palencia, Jn6
Geraldine Uy, Jn6
- 24-Jul Lalan Guinto, LSS22
- 25-Jul Roel Casino, LSS23
Ditto Fernando, SE
- 26-Jul Carlo Francisco, SE
Alissa Abad, Jn6
- 27-Jul Magdalena Camacho, LSS18
Baby Canlas, LSS7
- 28-Jul Apollo Poblete, SE
Elsa Etcubanas, LSS5
Madonna Razal, LSS19
Rennie Razal, LSS19
Jovie Tee, SPE6



ANNIVERSARIES

- 22-Jul Carlos & Fe Masisado, LSS21
Glen & Luz Santos, LSS19
- 24-Jul Tony & Zeny Garcia, LSS5
- 25-Jul Angel Luis & Evelyn Matos, LSS23
Ramie & Emmy Espina, ME25
- 26-Jul Efren & Yollie, Cruz, LSS7
- 27-Jul Omar & Arlene Santos, ME24
- 28-Jul Rene & Sally Castaneda, LSS4
Rolly & Nila Castillo, ME25

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS		EXPENSES	
7/01	\$2,939	27-wk avg	\$3,629
7/08	2,718		
7/15	3,272		
27-wk avg	3,339		



Thanks for your generosity!!

* We need this bread to cope with the toil and exhaustion of the journey. To be nourished with the Eucharistic bread is a need of a Christian, who in this way can find the necessary energy for the journey to be undertaken." (Pope Benedict XVI)



YE#12~A Bountiful Harvest

This past weekend, the BLD Youth Ministry was blessed with 46 new members as they completed Youth Encounter 12 at St. Francis Retreat House in Easton, Pennsylvania under the spiritual guidance of Fr. Paul Lehman. The outcome of the weekend proved that God would, time and time again, exceed any and all expectations. Through a series of interactive lectures and activities, the candidates strengthened their bond with the Lord through each other. Affirmation and prayer life were key topics in the speakers' messages, while the candidates themselves were able to share a part of their personal and spiritual lives in group activities. Dynamic group workshops and interactions were conducted by the following facilitators: Elaine Canlas, Stephanie Ikalina, Nick Punzalan and Mart Razal. The adult class shepherds are Joey and Cynthia Reyes, while their youth shepherd counterparts are Ian Laxina and Ann~Ann Alejan.



Welcome and congratulations to our latest YE graduates: Alissa Abad, *Ann Marie Almaria, Edward Almaria, Reciel Arribe, Monica Avisado, Joreen Baquilod, Rodney Casino, Jeniffer Castillo, Jean Castillo, Stephen Chan, Kevin Col, Carlo Cruz, Dustin DeGuzman, Stephanie Duma, Cathy Duma, Danny Dwyer, Chika Ekweghariri, Chiamaka Ekweghariri, *Chiemeka Ekweghariri, *Julian Encarnacion, Roxanne Entrada, *Faith Ikalina, Karlyne Jimenez, Oludolapo Liyele, Ronel Manzo, Mary Eleanor Manzo, Patrick Merlos, Samantha Olaso, Steven Oliveira, Justin Orendain, Clarissa Ornillo, Kirsten Pacia, Jes Pacia, Jeff Pagdonsolan, Ivan Payumo, Isaac Punzalan, Nicaluz Raagas, Jana Ramiro, *Stefan Rosales, Christopher Rubio, James Sabale, Mikko Serrano, Chris Tanglao, Matthew Trinidad, Mathiew Yap, and Michael Yap.
*class coordinators

COUNSELS

"With Faith Nothing is Impossible"

WORD: Isaiah 55:1-3; Psalm 145:8-9,15-18; Romans 8:35,37-39; Matthew 14:13-21

ORDER: "Come to me heedfully; listen, that you may have life." Is 55:3

REFLECTION:

Jesus had just heard the distressing news that His cousin, His friend and precursor, John the Baptist, had been put to death. He got into a boat and went to a deserted place by himself. A crowd followed him, hungry for spiritual and corporal nourishment. Moved with pity, he taught them, healed their sick, and fed them. Even in His sorrow and grief, Jesus reached out to the crowd.

This Sunday's Gospel brings to mind a question: "Does the crowd have more faith than Jesus' disciples? One may seem to think so. After all, they heard the call of Isaiah in the First Reading - to come, eat, and drink without cost. They brought their ailing family members and friends with faith that our Lord could heal them. And indeed, He did. Their faith in Him was such that they followed him into the desert no matter how their bellies growled in hunger, and when He told them to sit down for a meal they did so with faith that He would feed them just as He has healed their sick. They relied on the Lord to provide for their needs.

The disciples, on the other hand, had another preoccupation. They were concerned about the lack of food. After watching the Lord heal so many, after hearing His teachings and having His parables explained to them, still they asked the Lord to send the people to the towns to buy food. Did they lack the faith that the crowd had? Did they think Jesus would not be able to feed the crowd?

(continued on page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

*"The eyes of all look hopefully to You, and You give them their food in due season; You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing."
(Ps 145:15-16)*

Great is Your Faith

In Mt 15:21-28, the Canaanite woman cried out to Jesus *"Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon."* Jesus seemed unmoved by his silence and his disciples asked him to send her away. Jesus replied, *"I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."* [Did Jesus say that he came only to save the Jewish people?] The woman said *"Lord help me."* Jesus replied, *"It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs."* [Did Jesus say that he could only help the chosen people and not the unbelievers?] She said, *"Please Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of the masters."* Jesus finally replied, *"O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."*

The words spoken by Jesus in this Gospel appear to be contradictory to His teachings. In His silence, Jesus allowed the disciples to reveal their thoughts. Jesus seemed to agree with the reactions of his disciples. The Jewish people believed that they were the chosen people of God.

In this paradox Jesus challenges our way of thinking. The Canaanite woman, a pagan, recognized that Jesus is the Messiah (Son of David), while most of the Jews did not have the same belief. She humbly pleaded with Jesus for help. And Jesus replied that the believers should receive grace. She expressed acceptance for even a small amount of grace. *"Through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus."* (Gal 3:26)

In times of trials and tribulations, our Lord sets our faith to a test, not because He doubts our faith, but because He wants us to persevere and to perfect our faith. *"Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. And let perseverance be perfect so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. But he should ask in faith, not doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed about by the wind."* (Jas 1:2-4,6)

We must profess our faith, not by words alone, but also by deeds. Jesus calls us to love and serve one another. Be sensitive to the needs of others and be selfless in giving. Give praise and thanksgiving to God for all that we have and all that we are. *"Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone in good spirits? He should sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the church and they should pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven."* (Jas 5:13-15)

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

7/08	2,718
7/15	3,272
7/22	3,341
28-wk avg	3,386

**Thank you for
your generosity!**

EXPENSES

28-wk avg \$3,876

A Question of Faith

The Gospel reading for August 4th leaves us with a profound question that Jesus posed on His disciples. First He asked, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" (Mt 16:13). The disciples' reply, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." Jesus then asked, "but who do you say that I am?" Peter is quick to reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God." Jesus blessed Peter for his answer and faith in Him, for after following Jesus and witnessing His miracles and teachings, Peter knew by faith this was the Savior of the world.

If Christ asked us the same question, what would our answer be? Maybe our response would be, "You are Lord, who cares for me in my of need, who answers my prayers for healing and forgiveness." Or maybe our answer might be, "You are the Beloved Son who has restored my relationship with the Father through ME, SE, SPE, YE or LSS."

Whatever our answer maybe to Jesus, it is faith that helped us reach the conclusion. It is by faith that each of us was called to this community. All of us learned through our teachings and retreats that Christ can be in our lives. Like the apostles who followed Jesus, we also need to dedicate our lives to Him, listen to His word, and receive Him in the Eucharist, to truly be able to answer: "but who do you say that I am?"

Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things unseen" (Heb.11:1). This was how Peter answered Jesus, and also how we are called to believe. We should place our entire heart and being into loving God and all men and women especially those who share His love with us, those who follow the Commandments handed down to us, those who pray for man's salvation. One day we will be together breaking bread at the banquet promised to all of us, along with all the angel and saints praising the One Who is, Who was, and will always be the Son of the Living God, our Lord Jesus!

SOMEBODY'S PRAYING ME THROUGH

I have been witness to God's incredible greatness. From the biggest to the smallest needs, he has been with me all along as He had promised, never forsaking me. One of my greatest answered prayers was during the time when my daughter was at the height of her unmanageable behavior, and I was then the proud controlling parent. We had been bickering non-stop for quite sometime until one day, after an argument, she left and never came home that night. I called her acquaintances and waited for her in vain. In my despair, I prayed to God like I never did before. Intensely and with all my might, I cried out to Him for help, pleading not for solutions, but just to keep my beloved daughter safe. With strong faith in Him I surrendered the fate of my loved one. Through that incident, our Almighty God in His mercy and love reminded me that He is the most powerful God who helps those in need, for He has not only brought her safely back home, but most of all He comforted me and paved the way to a great change in me; changing my priorities and above all placing GOD at the center of my life.



About Our Venue Situation

"Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have their nest, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest His head", Mt 8:18.

The difficulty of finding a suitable venue for our community's worship service, teaching sessions, class reunions, other functions, came upon our community as we grew in numbers and programs. What started as a community of encountered couples has taken a family perspective that now includes Mark 10, John 6, Youth, Singles and even Solo Parents.

At inception in 1992, we started in a small library at the St Theresa's School in Kenilworth only to see ourselves move after a short while to St. Joseph's Church in West Orange.

As our Lord built His church, we found ourselves periodically in search of more suitable venue arrangements. He blessed us with CYO in Kearny, followed by the Blessed Sacrament Church in Newark and eventually St. Leo's Church in Irvington, not to forget the welcoming doors of St. Antoninus Church.

St. Leo's, our home for the past few years, has served most of our venue needs. Its ideal location makes it accessible to members, while varying needs of community are satisfied. Recent developments however within St Leo's caused them to rent out part of its facilities, the school building and gymnasium (Boland Hall), to the city's Board of Education. As such, we encountered serious venue problems. Difficulties arose in coordinating with the staff of St Leo's and the city's Board of Education that has only resulted in increased rental expense.

With some facilities not readily accessible to us, we made venue adjustments. Our singles ministry now holds its weekly worship service at Our Lady of Victories in Jersey City while our Youth Ministry and John 6 hold joint worship service.

Considering the complications of our current venue arrangements, we are moved to search for new venue arrangements.

During the last DLC meeting, our Management Apostolate presented St. Anne's School in Garwood, NJ as a venue alternative. A visual inspection showed that it is large enough to accommodate our regular worship needs and could even serve as a venue for our LSS weekends, teachings, meetings and Praise Ministry practice. With rental expense quite close to what we spend at St. Leo's, we have been led to seriously consider relocating our activities to St. Anne's. Efforts are underway to move forward with the project but not until the membership prays and agrees to the plan as we seek God's wisdom and guidance.

Let us be one in mind, heart and spirit, in seeking our Lord's will and blessing.

Our Intercessory Ministry will be distributing a "Venue Prayer" to the entire community, which we will pray as one body everyday and during our Friday worship service

Sublime humility and humble sublimity! That the lord of the universe, God and the Son of God, should humble himself to the point of hiding for our salvation in a piece of bread. (St. Francis)

Ministry Announcements

COMMUNITY DAY

**Saturday, August 13, 2005 at 9:00am
at Johnson Park, Piscataway N.J.**

Holy Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 am

These are the Team Colors based on Last Names:

A-C	are the RED Guardians
D-J	are the BLUE Angels
K-P	are the GREEN Friars
Q-Z	are the YELLOW Halo

Protecting God's Children July 30, Saturday, 2 - 5 pm at St. Leo's Annex Building - A must for core members serving in our Youth, John 6 & Mark 10 ministries. This is an archdiocesan requirement for those who look after our minors. Please RSVP: Reuben Vibar (908) 283-3041 & Cherry Vibar (908) 283-0411. A certificate will be issued by Serge Bernatchez (certified Metuchen instructor) after completion of the 3-hour seminar. All BLD members are welcome.

Mark 10 Family Picnic July 31, Sunday -10 AM-5 PM at Van Saun Park, Paramus, NJ. Food games & prizes! Directions to follow. Please call: Reuben Vibar (908) 283-3041 & Cherry Vibar (908) 283-0411 for more information.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR #25

October 7 - 9, 2005

**La Consolata Mission Center, Somerset, NJ
Orientation is on August 5 after worship.**

Surviving Teen Depression

A Catholic Approach. Teaching by Fr. Paul Lehman
Friday, August 12 at St. Leo Sponsored by the Youth Ministry.

BLD 9TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Suneagles Golf Course, Fort Monmouth NJ
September 18, Sunday 1pm Shotgun Tee Start
Contact: Vic & Dee Lim, Paby Ibarrola, Fidel Lim
Or visit www.bldnewark.com

LSS Chino Hills CA Aug 12th-14th
Volunteers Needed! Contact Joey-Linda Viola
Email: joelin77@sbcglobal.net or call
Tel #203-461-9737.

Somebody's Praying Me Through Concert

Nov 13 at Felician College in Lodi, NJ.
Show times at 2pm & 7pm



Word Ministry. Starting next issue and through August 26, we shall be in "summer mode."

The Covenant News will be a two pager.

**ALL AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES
ARE FOUND IN THIS ISSUE**

Counsels *from page 1*

The Lord was asking His disciples not to eat and drink, but to go and feed the multitudes. They could not believe that they could feed so many thousands of people given what they had. That was the kind of faith Jesus asked of His disciples. He asked them to do something that was impossible in their minds and hearts – to feed five thousand men, plus women and children, with a few loaves and fish. Yet when He instructed them to distribute the food to the crowd, the disciples obeyed without worrying whether there would be enough food for them all. Such was their faith on Jesus. Such was the kind of faith Jesus demanded of them – to go and do greater works.

Similarly, this is the kind of faith Jesus asks of us: faith to offer our time, talent, and treasure, our best efforts to Him and His people. He asks us not to worry what tomorrow may bring, inadequate or abundant, but to continue to act as His instruments. Jesus is asking us not to concern ourselves whether we will be good enough for the work He has planned for us. Being sufficient for an impossible task is not our job. It is to offer Him our loaves and fish, and to give them to whomever He sends us to. It is His job to multiply them. The impossible is God's job.

When we let ourselves be used in God's work, when we allow God to do impossible things through us and in us, that is not only our joy and our glory, but it is our way of contributing and participating in building His church and the kingdom of God on earth. The saints were called to do that. We, too, are called not only to be saints but also to do the impossible through the power of the Holy Spirit. For we, too, have been made children of God through the waters of baptism, confirmed and anointed with his own Holy Spirit, and sent just as Christ was sent. God Himself dwells within us, and sends us forth to do His own works. He sends us to witness our lives and our works that, though many things are impossible for us, with God's grace all come to pass! "Nothing is impossible with God." Lk 1:37

DIRECTIONS:

- Freely share your time, talents, and treasures.
- Encourage all members to serve in our mission apostolate.
- Trust in God's providence.



Discernment before the Eucharist

When there are significant moments in your life and you must make decisions, stay before the Eucharist, and try to reason with faith, as faith leads us to discern and to see in the piece of bread and in the wine the presence of Christ. (Spirituality of St. Francis)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

July 30	ME 25 Reunion, Sabale Home, Piscataway
Aug 13	BLD Newark Community Day Johnson Park, Piscataway NJ
Aug 19-21	BLD Rockland ME 2 Don Bosco Marian Shrine, Haverstraw, NY
Aug 20	YE 12 Grand Reunion, 1:00 p.m. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
Aug 28	FE 12 Grand Reunion, 2:30 p.m. St. Antoninus Basement



ANNIVERSARIES



July 30	Jun & Norms Luna, LSS16
Aug 1	Don & Irene Rodriguez, ME25
Aug 2	Reggie & Orange Avisado , LSS15
	Boy & Helen Navarro, LSS17
Aug 4	Rex & Bobut Gongob, LSS19
	Noel & Letty Trillana, LSS2
	Brian & Cheryl Vista, ME23
Aug 5	Joey & Jemma Reyes, LSS18
Aug 6	Vener & Strel Santos, LSS5
	Bebot & Grace Baquilod, LSS2
Aug 12	Gerry & Gigi Cabunag, LSS6
Aug 17	Louie & Choly Relucio, LSS10
Aug 18	Nonoy & Imelda Acuna, LSS19
	Emeruwa & Imma Anyanwu , LSS15
Aug 19	Manny & Arlene Magalonzo, LSS14
Aug 20	Bert & Isabel Relevo, LSS23
Aug 21	Larry & Carmen Larobis, LSS24
Aug 22	Ernie & Nellie Sun, LSS14
Aug 23	Cesar & Chie Francisco, LSS16
Aug 25	Dens & Mina Mantes, LSS11
Aug 26	Ahmed & Mariuxi Diaz, LSS24
Aug 28	Arthur & Josie Punla, LSS24
Aug 31	Seb & Evangeline Gubor, LSS23
Sep 1	Oddie & Jho Martin , LSS15

Happy Anniversary

The Charismatic Dimension

Open yourselves docilely to the gifts of the Spirit! Accept gracefully and obediently the charisms which the Spirit never ceases to bestow on us!

(Pope John Paul's cry to all Christians)

Kudos or complaints?



wordministry@bldnewark.com

MAKE COVENANT NEWS A PART OF YOUR COVENANT LIFE.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

7/25	Mikey Yap, YE12	8/11	Eugene Malabanan, LSS21	8/22	Richard De la Fuente, LSS1
7/26	Ali Abad, YE12		Vic Munante, LSS5		Caloy Tabora, SE
7/29	Diana Biasbas, SE		Anna Tomkowski, LSS10		Robin Capili, LSS23
	Alexandra Apostol, SE		Ouezie Ukaegbu, LSS19		Nemia Ibanez
	Sandy Apostol, LSS23	8/12	Imelda Acuna, LSS19		Nette Manguiat, LSS9
	Diana Biasbas, LSS21		Ollie Felibrico, LSS8		Claire Rementilla, John6
	Marcus Rivera		Kristina Hernandez, LSS23	8/23	Roger Coquia, LSS6
	Jasmine Retuta, SE		Josephine Vargas, Mk10		King Rigor, LSS18
	Mark Coquia, SE		Raelynn Sypher, John6		Phil Songco, LSS24
	Eleonor Apostol, SE		Alvin Yanza, John6		Nance Hwang, SE
7/30	Roel Casino, ME23	8/13	Grace Abes, Mk10		Kim Castaneda, SE
7/31	Ron Bernal, SE		James Abes, Mk10		Mel Canlas, SE
	Julian Encarnacion, YE12		Bill Talbot, LSS22		Cesar Francisco, LSS16
	Joseph Madrigal, YE9		PJ Tangkengko, SE	8/24	Bobby Fernandez, LSS12
8/01	Mark Brancato, ME25	8/14	Norby Gomez, LSS1		Charlie Larobis, LSS18
	Chie Francisco, LSS16		Joey Jose, LSS20		Jennifer Purisima, Mk10
	Joe Madrigal, LSS13		Arlene Magalonzo, LSS14		Justin Canillas, Mk10
8/02	Sandy Condron		Patricia Badiola, John6	8/25	Gerard Rangel, Mk10
	Helen Navarro, LSS17	8/15	Jocelyn Luy, SE		Lucille Jose, LSS21
	Caesar Rasalan, LSS2		Tonette Ling, SE		Emmy Obi, LSS23
	Marie Russo, LSS19	8/16	Bingle Chan, LSS2		Zelda Tangonan, LSS2
	Jo Maravilla, SE		Gil Jose, LSS21		Jojo Velasco, LSS23
	Joseph Murante, Mk10		Cel Cueto, ME25		Bong Garcia, SE
	Joreen Baquilod, YE12		Nes Vasquez, ME25		Benjamin Benedito, SE
8/03	Michael Arias, John6	8/17	Shane Badiola, ME25	8/26	Cherrie Cruz, LSS1
	Brandon Engracia, Mk10		Bing Espinosa, LSS12		Alegria Lim, LSS21
	Eddie Antonio, ME23		Raph Vibar, SE		Tessie Salmo, LSS22
	Nellie Sun, LSS14	8/18	Chinyere Young, SE	8/27	Kat Golamco, SE
8/05	Norma Luna, LSS16		Ray Africa, LSS23	8/28	Jean Tolentino, SE
	Fely Zuriaga, LSS5		Niki Nacion, LSS9		Theo Ancheta, LSS17
	Patricia Guiao, Mk10		Joseph Santos		Roy Ratcliffe, LSS22
8/06	Jordan Del Fiero, John6		Dustin De Guzman, YE12		Noel Trillana, LSS2
	Elma Garcia, LSS3		Freia Titland, John6	8/29	Jhan (Neth) Arceo, ME23
	Edith Reynante, LSS11	8/19	Elaine Chan, Mk10		Letty De Guzman, LSS5
8/07	Rollie Camposagrado, LSS18		Christine Dizon, John6		August Soto, LSS14
8/08	Ed Fabe, LSS19	8/20	Bong Encarnacion, LSS8		Rachel Chan, Mk10
	Kyle Flores, Mk10		Judy Garcia, LSS23	8/30	Aida Garcia, LSS8
8/09	Cathy del Fierro, LSS4		Eddie Gutierrez, LSS19		Tony Garcia, LSS5
	Carmen Larobis, LSS24		Rouinna Sypher, LSS23		Hector Mendoza, LSS16
	Todd Pangilinan, YE9		Jan Torralba		Ofel Paypon, LSS16
8/10	Arthur Punla, LSS24		Laila Fernando, SE	8/31	Grace Sevilla, SE
	Malou Venadas, LSS14	8/21	Cris Custodio, SE		Monica Huelgas, SE10
					Tates Abad, LSS17
					Mon Samonte, LSS23
					Mon Gatchalian, LSS9
					Helen Pie, LSS6





Building the Kingdom in our midst



They come to serve

At the healing Mass last Friday, 17 disciples who had completed the community's discipleship formation program sealed their covenant with the Lord. They will join those who continue the work of evangelizing and shepherding others through personal witnessing of Christian love, faith, service and worship. Upon them is now entrusted the mission of shepherding that Christ gave Peter and the other early disciples, to *"feed my lambs, tend my sheep, feed my sheep"* (Jn 21:15-17).

The assembly gave a warm welcome to these newly-covenanted disciples: Rollie/Adel Camposagrado, Libby Cruz, Filmore/Humbeline Flores, Libby Gutierrez, Charlie Larobis, Chito/Josie Magahis, Choly/Louie Relucio, King/Arlene Rigor, Fred Salar, Flory Santos and Rudy/Rita Santos.

Afterwards, a new District Youth Council was anointed and commissioned. Entrusted with helping lead their fellow Youth answer the call of our Lord and Savior are Marvin Venadas (Evangelization), Ian Laxina (Formation), Cherrie Francisco (Management), Dave de la Fuente (Mission) and Ann Ann Alejan (Pastoral). We praise and thank the Lord not only for our new DYC, but also for the outgoing DYC who served with love and passion for our Lord: Elaine Canlas, Grace de Luna, Stephanie Ikalina, and Mart Razal.

Last but not least, we join the global community in celebrating a milestone in the humble service to the Lord's flock of our BLD Spiritual Director, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo. Today, August 12 is his Silver Episcopal ordination anniversary. We ask the Lord to bless him abundantly and continue to shower him with His favor and grace.

As we are given the privilege to witness and be part of these happy events in community, we give thanks and praise to God for the mighty works He accomplishes in our midst.

"The Lord will make joyful... those who become his servants." (Sunday's First Reading)

COUNSELS

Lord Increase Our Faith

WORD: Is 56:1, 6-7; Ps 67:2, 3, 5, 6, 8; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

ORDER: *"Observe what is right, do what is just."* (Is 56:1)

REFLECTION:

"We have unwavering faith when we persistently beg for His grace." Our theme for this week uses the words 'Faith', 'Persistence', 'Beg' and 'Grace'. These are mighty words commonly used in the divine context.

Faith is belief and trust in and loyalty to God. **Persistence** is to be insistent in the repetition or pressing of an utterance. **Beg** means to ask earnestly, as a charity. And lastly, **Grace** is an *unmerited* divine assistance given for our regeneration and sanctification. Grace is the key to our reflection for this theme, for it speaks about regeneration, which is spiritual renewal or revival. It also speaks of sanctification, which is the state of growing in divine grace as a result of Christian commitment after baptism or conversion.

Taking our present qualification, we can all receive this Grace from God by virtue of our baptism and our Christian living. Our first reading this Sunday from Isaiah 56 tells us that participation in the future messianic salvation is offered to all who believe in the Lord and keep his commandments, regardless of origin or social condition. We all tend to fall astray and fail to live up to the commitment we make to Christ our Lord. But God, in His infinite mercy and love, does not give up on us as mentioned in Romans 5:20, *"Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more"*.
(Continued on page2)

God's Promise for the Week

"Great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." (Mt 15:28)

Counsel

Continued from page 1

“Then Jesus said to her in reply, ‘O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed from that hour.” (Mt 15:28) Christ assures us that if He listens and answers the pleas of those who do not follow Him but believe in Him, how much more for God’s children who devote their time, money and effort serving Him, and learning His teachings and commandments?

In spite of all the reassurance from the Lord, why do we falter and doubt Him? Why are we anxious, desperate and fearful? We try so hard to convince ourselves that God is present in every moment of our lives, directing and guiding us through the path of righteousness, yet we find it hard to keep an unwavering faith, to really believe that as we persistently beg for His Grace, He has already given it to us in abundance.

The act by which we exercise our theme is summed up in one word...PRAYER. It is the very essence of our being as Christians. There is a saying that goes, “No Christian is greater than his prayer life.” Our reflection reinforces what has been taught to us especially here in community, that praying is not merely a tool that that allows us to bring before God our petitions, our contrition and thanksgiving. More importantly, it is a privilege given by God for us to use as a direct line to constantly listen to Him as He reveals his answers to our begging and pleading. It is a toll-free line that allows us to mutually express our love for each other, as lovers would do. Through prayer, we come to know God more intimately, thus establishing a relationship and a bond with Him that allows us to receive His promise (see page 1).

We are all here in this community as renewed Catholic Christians committed to serving the Lord. Like any other group, we are not perfect, bound to step on each other in our eagerness to serve the Lord. We unintentionally hurt each other. We follow our own separate ways because of our differences, even as we seek the same goal: to serve Christ in others.

It is in our relationship with God through prayer where we can gain our salvation and achieve unity within our families and this community. We can find peace in our homes, our community and success in our ministry works. Through prayer we establish that strong relationship with Christ, recognizing Him as our total redemption, Whose outpouring of saving grace for us is beyond our comprehension.

DIRECTIONS:

- ◆ Be faithful to your covenant pledges.
- ◆ Be persistent in your prayers of petition and intercession.

Ministry Announcements

FE # 12 Grand Reunion:

August 28 Sunday, St. Leo basement 2:30pm.
Everyone’s invited to attend.

BLD 9th Annual Golf Outing:

Suneagles Golf Course, Fort Monmouth NJ
Sept. 18 Sunday 1pm Shotgun Tee Start
Contact: Vic & Dee Lim, Paby Ibarrola or Fidel Lim.
Or visit www.bldnewark.com

Somebody’s Praying

Me Through Concert:

November 13 Sunday,
Felician College, Lodi NJ
Show times: 2pm & 7pm



Teachings

August 19: Christian Service – Singles Ministry

September 9: Motivational Gift Inventory – LSS22

September 16 : Renewing the Mind – Singles Ministry,
John6, Mk10

September 17: Basic Bible Seminar, Book of Books,
Approaches, Word of God, Response – LSS24

Christian Parenting Part 1 – ME25

Shepherds Refresher Course – All Shepherds

CMPI Part I, love, faith, renewing the mind & world,
flesh and devil – LSS23



Community Calendar

Aug 13: BLD Newark Community Day

Grove #4, Johnson Park, Piscataway, NJ

Aug 19-21: Rockland ME 2

Don Bosco Marian Shrine, Haverstraw, NY

The Lord's Provisions

COLLECTIONS

7/22 \$ 3,341

7/29 \$ 3,464

8/05 \$ 3,222

COLLECTIONS

25-wk avg \$ 3,457

EXPENSES

25-wk avg \$ 3,942



Fun-Filled Community Day

504 members of all ages braved the heat alert to celebrate BLD Newark's 13th Community Day celebration at the Johnson Park in Piscataway, NJ. The day started with the Eucharistic celebration officiated by Fr. Ed Abano, who expressed amazement that the liturgical readings included a verse that seemed to embody the BLD family: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" Joshua 24:15. This is likewise a foundation verse for the Family Encounter.

God's blessings abounded, to the great delight of the members, who were feasted with delicious food, relaxed by the easy fellowship, and entertained by the rich talents of the community. The park sparkled with happy faces and rocked with joyful voices as Mark 10, John 6, Golden Years, Youth, Singles and Solo Parents provided their song, dance, and skit offerings.

The biggest crowd-pleasers were our pink-attired Golden Years Ministry members, whose Britney Spears "hip" swinging and line dancing routines served as nimble reminders of the youth that is in them. In the sporting events, the "Green Friars" team collected most points and won this year's top award. With the oncoming threat of thunderstorm, the community day organizers declared the festivities ended. Fr. Paul Lehman offered the closing prayers on behalf of a thankful and jubilant community.

World Youth Day Opens in Cologne

Expected participants to WYD 2005 on August 16-21 in Cologne, Germany-800,000 US Youth participants: 24,000 Excerpt from Pope John Paul II's prayer for WYD 2005:

My dear young people as you move forward in spirit towards Cologne, the Pope will accompany you with his prayers. May Mary, "Eucharistic woman" and Mother of Wisdom, support you along the way, enlighten your decisions, and teach you to love what is true, good and beautiful. May she lead you all to her Son, who alone can satisfy the innermost yearnings of the human mind and heart.

Go with my blessing!

(From Castel Gandolfo, August 6, 2004)

COUNSELS

Proclaim & Witness Christ's Love

WORD: Is 22:19-23; Ps 138:1-3, 6, 8;
Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20

ORDER: "Proclaim Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God." (Mt 16:16)

REFLECTION: In the first reading, the people of Israel had endured corruption and division from within as well as attacks from foreign enemies. God told his people, through the words of Isaiah, that He had had enough of the current political leadership. He proclaimed that He would remove the "master of the palace" and choose another who would be a good and faithful leader. He will "bind or loose" and "open or shut," and will act with the authority of the king himself. That was why, this important minister was said to have "the keys of the kingdom," the keys to the house of King David, who was the greatest of all their Kings.

"Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

What does this imply? That God has anointed Peter to pursue His work even as He continues to build His church on earth. Such anointing does not stop with Peter but remains to this day with the apostles' successors and priests whom He has charged to teach and witness Christ, who He is and what He really embodies.

In community, leaders are likewise called to teach and witness Christ. Brethren, authority, exercised outside the perspective of LOVE falls short of God's command. It meant that all our actions, words and motivations as we exercise authority in our lives - as distinct members of society, as parents in our own little church, as leaders of community should not only be premised

(cont'd on page 2)

God's Promise for the Week

"When I called, You answered me; you built up strength within me." (Ps 138:6)

Counsels from page 1

on the letter of the law but on the SPIRIT that is never consumed - the spirit of love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness.

When Jesus asked the important question of His disciples, "Who do you say I am?", we should ask ourselves the question, "Who is Jesus to me?". Since we proclaim who Jesus really is then what flows from whatever authority we have in His Name should embody Jesus, the New Covenant! Our Heavenly Father has deeply imbedded in our hearts the true Christ and Who He really is. We should proclaim His LOVE to make us worthy of our calling and the anointing He gave us.

Today, we ask you: "Who do you say Jesus really is?" The Spirit in our hearts will never miss who Jesus is and the Truth behind Him. He is law that sets our world in place. He is the peace that reigns in every man's heart that heals us. But most of all, He is mercy that overlooks our shortcomings, the LOVE that continues to forgive us and give us compassion.

In everything, we should have CHRIST and the Father through the gift of the Spirit as scripture says: "All from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more." In Jesus, we are all saved and forgiven.

Our actions and decisions will resonate in heaven if they are founded on LOVE Compassion should always be berthed in our hearts as the new order is upon us and the old has come to pass!

Authority is love and compassion - that of a good teacher, a healing doctor, loving parent, who only looks out for the good of the student, the patient or the child. This is the kind of authority that Jesus gave Peter and all believers. Peter received the authority and power that come with the positive spirit of the Gospel, that proclaim a kingdom where love, mercy, forgiveness and service to others reign.

We have all been blessed with authority. Let us pray for the grace to recognize God's duly constituted authority towards whom we are commanded to manifest our love by respecting each other, reconciling with one another and together professing that "Jesus Christ is

Directions:

* Love and respect one another and those who are in the position of authority.

* Be reconciled with one another.

**MAKE COVENANT NEWS
A PART OF YOUR
COVENANT LIFE**

Visit our website at www.bldnewark.com.

MINISTRY ANOUNCEMENTS

BLD Newark Cluster Leaders Recollection/Conference- August 27-28 Ramada Inn, South Plainfield, New Jersey Msgr. Paul Schetelick- Spiritual Director **FE # 12 Grand Reunion**, Aug. 28 (Sunday) in St. Antoninus church (basement) at 2:30pm. Everyone's invited to attend.

BLD 9th Annual Golf Outing

Suneagles Golf Course, Fort Monmouth NJ
Sept. 18 Sunday : 1pm Shotgun Tee Start
Contact: Vic & Dee Lim, Paby Ibarrola or Fidel Lim.
Or visit www.bldnewark.com

Somebody's Praying Me Through

Concert November 13 Sunday
Felician College, Lodi NJ
Show times: 2pm & 7pm



COMMUNITY TEACHINGS

- August 19 Christian Service – Singles Ministry
- September 9 Motivational Gift Inventory – LSS22
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- Christian Parenting Part 1 – ME25
- Shepherds Refresher Course – All Shepherds
- CMP I Part I, love, faith, renewing the mind & world, flesh and devil – LSS23

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Aug 19-21 BLD Rockland ME 2 Don Bosco Marian Shrine, Haverstraw, NY

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

7/29	3,464
8/5	3,222
8/12	4,158

31-wk avg \$3,479

EXPENSES

31-wk avg 3,861

Thank you for your generosity



TURN TO MARY

Let us ask the Virgin Mary to teach us the secret of silence that becomes praise, of recollection that is conducive to meditation, of love for nature that blossoms in gratitude to God. Thus, we will more easily be able to welcome the light of the Truth into our hearts and practice it in freedom and love.



Cluster leaders meet to discern

Forty two stewards, core group members and outreach shepherds from Albany, Newark, Rockland/NY, Rockville Center, Trenton and Washington DC - districts comprising the BLD Newark cluster- will meet for a two-day retreat/conference at the Ramada Inn in South Plainfield, New Jersey.

Msgr. Paul Schetelick will be the spiritual director of the weekend, whose theme is "Discern and Design the Kingdom of God in our Midst." The weekend objectives are:

- Seek the Spirit's vision and directions for His kingdom in our midst
- Understand the new leadership qualities and values required in His kingdom
- Share the lessons learned from our past 13 years of community-building in the US
- Agree on key strategies on collaborative community-building and mission-building

The agenda includes Msgr. Paul's teachings, individual and group spiritual exercises, prayers, the Eucharist and waiting on the Lord. Msgr. Paul's talks will draw from Scripture and expand on the theme. These are entitled: *Individual Spirituality, Communal Spirituality, Connections, Crisis in Community, Gospel Images to Help Design God's Kingdom in our Midst, and Breathing God's Breath Into Clay*. He will preside over the mass and direct the spiritual exercises on both days. *page 2* ☞

BLD NY/Rockland conducts it's ME-2 Weekend

"Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God." (Book of Ruth 1:16)

This excerpt from the Book of Ruth was the First Reading of the day when the 6 couples and a nun attended the ME-2 class, held at the Marian Shrine in Haverstraw, NY, on August 19-21.

The outpouring of God's love was manifested through the Pastoral team, headed by Fr. Paul Lehman, Chito and Aileen Ciocon and Rockland's very own, Boyet and Mita Miranda. The victory of the Lord was fulfilled through the dedication and selfless efforts of the sponsoring class (ME-1) and all the auxies. It was truly a spirit-filled weekend.

Congratulations to Ting and Rose Abelido*, Bernie and Fay Aurellado, Jim and Eileen Ferrara, Fred and Luhdy Isidro*, Sr. Lilia Mariveles, Alvin and Myreen Ramirez, and Richard and Lydia Smalley.

The ME-2 Class shepherds are Ralph and Lucy Almonte.
*class coordinators

COUNSELS ♥

Be aware of God's presence; be open to God's will

WORD: Jer 20:7-9; Ps 63:2-6, 8-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16: 21-27

ORDER: "Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me", Mt16: 24

REFLECTION: Our readings for this Sunday trace a path familiar to disciples of the community: the initial defiance, the tentative assent to and finally the full acceptance of the Lord's will. It is a life-long walk, with its ups and downs, ascent and backsliding, sunny days and storms.

In the first reading from the book of Jeremiah is a passage we seldom hear in Sunday masses when all thoughts go to glorifying the Lord. Instead Jeremiah accusatorily says: "You duped me, O Lord". What strong language for a prophet, even brazen, considering how it defies the Almighty.

But God isn't riled, just as He wasn't angered when Moses defended his people against God's judgment when they turned to the golden calf. Challenging authority is a tradition that dates back to the Book of Genesis. In fact, the word *Israelite* means 'the one who wrestles with God'. That Jeremiah can speak the way he did simply shows the respect God places on man's free will.

It also reveals that a relationship with the Lord requires tremendous strength and perseverance to break free of earthly strongholds and to withstand our own doubts and weaknesses and the insults and unbelief of others.

The second reading gives us a prescription on how to live according to God's will: by the renewal of our minds. Note that it doesn't say replacing our minds. It just asks us to make our minds new again, restoring it to its original state like in the times of our first parents who walked in the intimate presence of the Lord. They were fully aware of His will and the fact that their own wills lie within the

page 2 ☞

God's Promise For The Week

"Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Mt 16:25

Counsel (from page 1)

fold of their Creator's will. They breathe in the Lord's will and their very breath is the Lord's breath.

Renewing our mind today is possible only through an acceptance of our Lord Jesus as our Savior, for only by His death was our original sin erased. But our times are also different now; thus the admonition: "Do not conform to this age." Towards this, our first hurdle is the avoidance of sin.

What we need to work on is being more aware and open to God's presence in our lives. And God doesn't hide from us even if sometimes we may feel He is absent during certain critical times in our lives. However, what happens more often, perhaps out of guilt or shame, is that we are the ones hiding from Him.

Let's realize that whatever we may have done, God will always take us back. So let's stand out in the open and always lift our hearts and minds heavenwards. We cannot order God's presence and will in our lives. We can only be open to it and, when He presents Himself, submit with humility and trust. Let's truly surrender to His will with all the loving intentions of our hearts.

Surrendering to God is also at the heart of our Gospel. In establishing His ministry, the first thing Jesus asks of His disciples is to surrender and deny their former selves to Him and carry their crosses as He did. Our crosses don't have to be as big as Christ's. What matters is not the intensity of our suffering but, in reacting to it, our choice of God's way over our way; as in the midst of our suffering, acting as Jesus did, and choosing self-renunciation instead of self-preservation.

It is in our crosses, in the depths of our suffering that our transformation into Christ's disciples happens. It is on our crosses that we die to ourselves and are reborn into the abundant life of God's will and providence. It is in losing our self that we find our true self in the loving embrace of God.

And it is a daily struggle. Just as Christ's cross was between the good thief and the bad thief, so is our life with the Lord filled with opposites. We experience nurture and abuse, love and betrayal in our marriages and friendships, success and failure in our careers – all these are in the pattern of life. Through them we bear our crosses and follow Him.

As we do, something we could never imagine happens. Our loss becomes our gain, our end a new beginning and like St. Paul, we find strength in our weaknesses. This is what awaits us in a life with Christ.

DIRECTIONS: "Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind; that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect." Romans 12:2

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Collections

08/05	\$3,222
08/12	4,158
08/19	3,244
32-wk avg	3,472

Thank you for your generosity

Expenses

32-wk average \$3,803

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

YE12 Grand Reunion, Aug. 27 (Saturday) at 1:00pm
St. Leo's Annex Building

BLD Newark Cluster Leaders Recollection/Conference
August 27-28

Ramada Inn, South Plainfield, New Jersey
Msgr. Paul Schetelick- Spiritual Director

FE12 Grand Reunion, Aug. 28 (Sunday) at 2:30pm
St. Antoninus Church (basement)

Everyone's invited to attend.

BLD 9th Annual Golf Outing

Suneagles Golf Course, Fort Monmouth NJ

Sept. 18 Sunday 1pm Shotgun Tee Start

Contact: Vic & Dee Lim, Paby Ibarrola or Fidel Lim.

Or visit www.bldnewark.com

Somebody's Praying Me Through

Concert November 13 Sunday

Felician College, Lodi NJ

Show times: 2pm & 7pm

COMMUNITY TEACHINGS

Sept. 9 Motivational Gift Inventory – LSS22

Sept. 16 Renewing the Mind –
Singles Ministry, John6, Mk10

Sept. 17 Basic Bible Seminar, Book of Books,
Approaches, Word of God, Response - LSS24
Christian Parenting Part 1 – ME25
Shepherds Refresher Course – All Shepherds
CMP I Part I, love, faith, renewing the mind
& world, flesh and devil – LSS23

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

September 16-18 LSS Trenton

September 30 - October 2 Aspirant's Retreat

October 7-9 LSS25

ME Albany

October 21-23

John 6 Crossing

October 22

Dinner Dance

Cluster leaders (from page 1)

Noel Trillana, Newark Pastoral Steward, will present the pastoral situation and needs of the community in a talk entitled "Pastoral Imperatives to Achieve Vision."

The confirmed weekend participants are as follows:
Albany: Boy & Vicky Basa; **Newark:** Frank & Sally Belarmino, Noel & Letty Trillana, George & Cathy del Fierro, Rene & Sally Castaneda, Gerry Cabunag; **Rockland:** Mon & Bingle Chan, Ralph & Lucy Almonte, Poch & Vicky Gatchalian; **Rockville Center:** Albert Meneses, Romy & Joy Balagot, Jet & Edna Creus, Efren & Susan Bacani; **Trenton:** Popong & Maryanne Arias, Art & Agnes Monta, Nes & Es Tambor, Chito & Aileen Ciocon; **Washington DC:** Joe & Beth Baluyot, Mar & Rose Alipio, Jesse & Elaine de Leon, Manny & Liza Gaskell, Mel & Lolit Villegas.



FE 12 Grand Reunion

"I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me." (Phil 4:13)

Truly the Holy Spirit was upon the FE 12 families during their Grand Reunion held at St. Antoninus Church on Aug. 28, 2005. The day started with a beautiful praise and worship led by their class shepherds, Oddie, Jho Martin and family. The class was uplifted in seeing so many BLD members present aside from the FE 11 sponsoring class and the praise ministry. The attendance of the FLA members added joy to the occasion. The grateful FE 12 families presented a dance and two songs to the sponsoring class and the auxies. They sang, "We are the Families" and "Household of Faith".

Everyone was overflowing with joy and inspiration upon listening to the sharing of the families. It is not uncommon to experience struggle in bringing the reality of Jesus to our homes and other families around us. Only through prayer can we establish that strong relationship with Christ and recognize Him as our Total Redemption. With their sharing, one can joyfully picture that our Heavenly Father is molding each and every family to oneness as family members learn to trust in the Lord. Prov 3:5 tells us: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not."*

Indeed, the Grand Reunion set the FE 12 class out to a great start as these families, hand in hand, journey on to serve the Lord.

YE 12: Grand Reunion and other weekend activities

On Saturday, August 27, the graduates of YE 12 gathered together and re-kindled their faith in the Lord. The Grand Reunion started with praise and worship led by their class shepherds, Ian Laxina and Ann-Ann Alejan. The graduates joyfully participated in a special exercise where they learned to see themselves as special, unique members of God's family. After the hands-on exercise, Mike Punzalan taught them the fundamentals of Basic Bible Study. Then they presented a skit as a "thank-you" to the sponsoring class and the auxies.

(continued on page 4)

COUNSELS

LOVE IS CARING

WORD: Ez 33:7-9; Ps 95:1-2,6-9;
Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20



ORDER:

1. *"Owe nothing to anyone, except to love another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law."* (Rom 13:8)
2. *Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah."* (Ps 95:8)

REFLECTION:

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Rom 13:9). Love is the yardstick of all Christian conduct. Paul says that love does no wrong to others and by that very fact, guarantees the fulfillment of what the law asks of us in our relationship with one another. The kingdom of God is ruled by love and a Christian community that does not glow with love is unsatisfactory.

But what is love? Love is caring. Jesus asks of us to reach out beyond our families and friends and share our attitude of love to everyone we come in contact. We know that our concern and feeling to everyone is not the same, but slowly we can learn to avoid what is harmful to them and do what is helpful for them. Such a loving concern will sometimes also take the form of our willingness to address the fault of our brethren when the need arises.

Today's first reading touches on that responsibility. We are called to be the watchman whose task is to warn and dissuade the wicked man from his ways (Ez 33:9). The stress falls on the responsibility to admonish rather than on the response of the offender. The manner on how we remind our brethren should not be in passion to provoke the offender, but in compassion, to warn the wicked from his way, warn him to turn from it, that he may live. We should always be reminded of what is at stake: the health of our brethren. This is very important. *(continued on page 4)*

God's Promise for the Week

"If you warn the wicked man, trying to turn him from his way, you shall save yourself."
(Ez 33:9)

The Family Encounter 12 Weekend

Thanks, Lord. I Owe You One And Now We Are Six

A Daughter's Reflection



In my mind, I have always felt grateful to the Lord for giving me such a wonderful, closely knit family. So when my mom opened at our dinner table a forum on taking the Family Encounter #12, I thought: well, perhaps I wasn't grateful enough.

After that night, my daily prayer ended with: "Lord, thank you so much for my family. I already love them the best I could, so I don't think we really need to take this FE retreat. Lord, please help my mom get rid of the idea." I was not the only family member who went against the idea, but eventually they accepted it. I was the only one that stuck to disagreeing with it, even as I realized that I needed this retreat to help my parents understand me more (and vice versa). I simply did not feel ready. But after a few weeks, God - being the caring God that He is and wants only what's best for us - had His way.

As soon as I came through the doors of the retreat house, I was thinking to myself how useless this retreat would be. Sure, I'd love to worship with my family, but the idea of getting closer with my family members seemed pointless because I was already as close as I could get. I went into the retreat, admittedly, with closed ears, closed mind, and a closed heart.

My experience during the FE12 wasn't exactly the most memorable experience in my life, but it's on my Top 10. Many of the exercises we had to do weren't as hard as I thought, but some of them required a lot of thinking and opening up. I didn't cry much, but there were tears. Every family has its own skeletons inside the closet, and I thought I knew mine - all of them. At the end of the retreat, my siblings and I agreed that attending the FE12 was good for the family. For our family, it was a beautiful treat like a special extended after-dinner conversation. True - I talk to my family members about everything all the time, but it's not everyday I'm forced to sit down and actually talk to my family.

I'm glad to say that my mission of trying to understand my parents was completed. I learned during the family encounter that there are certain things parents feel that teenagers/adolescents can't comprehend or are too blind to see. I say with great joy that I am now more bonded with my family, which I never thought possible, but it's true. The FE made my family closer to God. Thanks, Lord. I owe you one.

A Parent's Reflection



Admittedly, I had mixed feelings joining the BLD-sponsored family encounter this year. We had just completed a major undertaking in our spiritual growth - the LSS and the call to serve in the recent ME weekend. I was asking myself: are we ready to embark on another endeavor? I asked the Lord too and He answered: 'Is there such a thing as being ready for me? Isn't it that when I call, you just come; no ifs and buts but just go?' Up to this point, I still was not listening. I tried the tactic of asking the kids if they are ready. The answer - a resounding NO! Huh - there I got an excuse for the Lord. It is not my being ready but making the kids ready. Their reasoning - our family does not need it. We already feel close to each other and we, the parents know "where our kids are at 10PM", so to speak. True. But somehow there was something missing. Then in the silence of my heart, I heard the Lord calling. By then, my 3 kids had changed their No to a resounding YES. What a turn-around!

Friday came and off we went. It was quite a trip. We were late leaving the house, the traffic was so bad going south and it was quite far. But, oh, what a place when we arrived! The retreat house was so tranquil, the food was good, and the rooms were big.

So what did I learn over the weekend?

- I am special because God created me in His image. He wants me to use what I have to teach the members of my family about Him.
- There is one God. Similarly, there should be oneness in my family.
- God has to be a member of my family. We need to invite Him over to participate in our family activities. He has to be the center of our lives.
- Reinforce the need to talk to each other as one family with openness and understanding.
- God gave us each other. We were not randomly picked from a box or a 'tambiollo'. There is a reason for us being together as one family.

After that wonderful weekend, we resolved to include Jesus in all our activities. Now we have an extra place for our Lord Jesus in our dinner table. We invite Him to join in our family discussions, arguments and laughs. Set across my husband at the other end of the table, will always be His place. We now dine together as *six*.

Always In The Spirit of Love

When a community decides to remain with the letter of the law because it missed its full meaning in the past and failed to strictly enforce it, its efficacy is diminished no matter how good the motivations are. It may lead to rigidity and bureaucracy.

This sounds like an argument against planning and effective decision making. Actually it's not. We all know that being aligned with policies is vital in order to move forward and progress. The problem occurs when upon our realization of an erroneous decision, we might still decide to be firm and stick to the letter of the policy. Implementation then could lack compassion and is carried without exceptions, to the detriment of relationships, the very core of any Christian community. Unaware, we miss to follow the way Jesus conducted His ministry where love and compassion transcend the spirit of the law.

While there are many concerns in implementing policies, we have to confront the call to greater order, which can make us less flexible. Amidst random and conflicting events moving around those of us in authority and the human concern of being judged, most of us may opt for the letter of the law. In such case, we inadvertently restrict the community affairs to evolve towards its vision, values, purpose, goals and priorities.

If we have never been there before, we will not really know what the best path is for our community. In our thirteen years as a community, we have been down this road quite a number of times. We have learned from experience that the path of righteousness is built on love and compassion, more than the letter of the law or at the very least, on its happy balance. It evolves as we get to each fork in the road and consult the people closest to the action to help make the most appropriate choices and decisions.

Today, amidst different approaches, we all need an unwavering commitment to seek God's will through continuous and deepening prayer and discernment. As we aim for more fruitfulness in our community, there cannot be room for emotional and haphazard decisions. We must allow God to permeate the deeper recesses of our hearts so that we may decide **from our nothingness** and accede to the indwelling presence of the Spirit. So that when posed with the question, *"is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?"* (Luke 6:9), love and compassion may resound in our actions and not the letter of the law.

As Pope Benedict XVI expressed, Christianity is a *"personal experience of God's love and not a burdensome set of rules."*

Ministry Announcements

Grandparents/Elderly Day - Sept. 9 Friday

"Honor your father and your mother." (Dt. 5:16)

The community will honor all grandparents and elderly...those who, in the past, have faithfully love and serve God and us.

All grandparents and elderly are cordially invited to attend, to be honored and to receive blessings.

Please contact Golden Years Ministry coordinators: Tony/ Cely Rosal at RClton@cs.com

BLD 9TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Suneagles Golf Course, Fort Monmouth NJ

September 18, Sunday 1pm Shotgun Tee Start

Contact: Vic & Dee Lim, Paby Ibarrola, Fidel Lim

Or visit www.bldnewark.com

September Teachings

BLD Newark and Outreaches

Sept 4 Orientation to Spiritual Warfare - Trenton

Sept 9 Motivational Gift Inventory - LSS22

Sept 16 Renewing the Mind - Singles, John 6, Mk 10

Sept 17 Basic Bible Seminar, Book of Books, Approaches, Word of God, Response - LSS24

Christian Parenting Part 1 - ME25

Shepherds Refresher - All Shepherds

CMPI, love, faith, renewing the mind, flesh & devil - LSS23

Sept 23 Service Formation - Service

Intercessory Formation - Intercessory

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sept 9 - 10 Albany YE 1

Sept 16 - 18 LSS Trenton

Sept 30 - Oct 2 Aspirants' Retreat

Oct 7 - 9 LSS 25

ME Albany

Oct 21 - 23 John 6 Crossing

Oct 22 Dinner Dance



THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

8/12 4,158

8/19 3,244

8/26 3,338

33-wk avg 3,468

Thank you brothers and sisters for your generosity!

EXPENSES

33-wk avg \$3,897



Counsels from page 1

What do we do as a Christian disciple when someone wrongs us? How do we respond?

Do we respond by complaining to someone else about our hurt feelings, anger, or frustration? Do we turn away in anger or resentment, seek revenge, or engage in gossip?

In today's gospel we were asked to respond differently. A three-step process of conflict resolution is presented: Confrontation, Negotiation, and Adjudication. This calls for a certain amount of courage within us to administer this process and should always be done out of love and be driven by a spirit of forgiveness.

Jesus' guidelines for dealing with those who sin against us were meant for Christians, not unbelievers, sins committed against us and not others, and conflict resolution in the context of the church, not the community at large. Jesus' words are not a license for a frontal attack on every person who hurts or slights us. They are not a license to start a destructive gossip campaign or to call for a church trial. They are designed to reconcile those who disagree so that all of us can live in harmony.

Our first step is direct confrontation in private, as difficult as that may be. It is our responsibility as Christian disciples to follow what is required of us. Any resentment or anger that is not addressed immediately to the other party is like a wound, which is most dangerous when it bleeds internally. If he will listen and agree to what you have said, then that is the end of it. Let no more be said of it, but let the falling out of friends be the renewing of friendship.

But few will immediately admit their guilt, and when this fails, negotiators are to go with the victim to try and settle the dispute. If this also fails, then the church or community should be involved. If he still persists in his own obstinacy, the final step is to "treat him as you would a Gentile or tax collector".

But if we look again to Paul's letter to the Romans, we find that they should be treated with love. Law, precepts and procedures must reflect love. Canon law, for example has validity to the extent that it regulates conduct in the church by clearly respecting the dignity and worth of each person. Love does not mean accepting everything a person does. It does mean accepting the person. We should hate the sin but love the sinner.

"Whenever two of you agree about anything you pray, it will be done for you" Mt 18:19. Thus, if all things fail, then prayers for peace for both the offender and the offended should always be offered to the Lord, and in His time will our prayers be answered.

Love as caring for one another draws us together to pray. Personal prayer is the breath of faith and community prayers are the lungs of the Church. God is love and where love is, there God is.

DIRECTIONS:

- Practice fraternal correction. Mt. 18:15-17
- Be open to fraternal correction.



BIRTHDAYS

- Sep 2** Richie Miranda, SE
Chrys Marzan, SE
Rafi Fernando, SE
JC Barredo, LSS22
Carolyn Trillana, Mk10
Sarah Marcial, Mk10
Justin Reyes, Mk10
- Sep 3** Emmie Manulat, LSS9/SE
Bulay Minano, YE10
- Sep 4** Nonoy Acuna, LSS19
Sally Belarmino, LSS3
Ben Chua, LSS13
Jessy Ogbonna, LSS19
Asia Raagas, YE8
AJ Mijares, SE
Tintin German, SE
Kristine Villanueva
Jesraye Flores, Mk10
Janella Llave, John6
- Sep 5** Angelo Lim, SE
Marji Gayanilo, SE
- Sep 6** Marilyn Bernante, LSS23
Nieto Lopez, LSS19
Stacy Ong, LSS21
Benny Rodriguera, LSS19
Malyn Tanseco, LSS6
Reuben Vibar, LSS2
Rochelle Castro, YE 11
Ken Cebedo, Mk10
- Sep 7** Daisy DeDote, SE
Manolo Romero, LSS17
Ditas Tolentino, LSS15
- Sep 8** Carlos Munoz, SE
Christian Buendia, SE

*May the blessings of
the Lord be upon you!
We bless you in the
name of the Lord!*



ANNIVERSARIES

- Sep 4** Mat & Luz Talag, LSS 8
- Sep 5** Luis & Sam Facundo, ME25
Ed & Myma Magadia, LSS19
Tony & Cely Rosal, LSS 10
Ted & Hilda Briones, LSS 8
- Sep 6** George/MaryAnn McGehrin, LSS20
- Sep 8** Romy & Norma Bernal, LSS 7
Daniel & Nelda Dwyer, LSS22

YE 12 from page 1

On Sunday, the Youth Praise members came together and used their talents to provide music for the 12:15pm Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church (OLMC) in Nutley. After the Mass, a very fruitful praise practice followed. The Youth Praise Ministry has been given the opportunity to spread their gifts and talents elsewhere aside from the BLD Community. They will be doing this every last Sunday of the month. Truly, God works in mysterious ways.

The Youth Praise Ministry will have a practice at the basement of OLMC on the last Sunday of every month. All Youth are welcome to join.

MAKE COVENANT NEWS A PART OF YOUR COVENANT LIFE.



New LSS season begins

A noise like a strong driving wind filled the entire house... And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2)

After the September Healing Mass last Friday, the *Salubungan* was held at St. Leo Church marking the start of preparations by candidates of BLD Newark's 25th Life in the Spirit Seminar. The *Salubungan* is the LSS lambs' initial meeting with their assigned shepherds. Thirty four couples and sixteen solo parents were grouped into six flocks. They will be joined by candidates from our Singles who met their shepherds the previous Friday.

The shepherds will help their lambs study and reflect on the great LSS themes of *God's Love, Salvation, the New Life* empowered by the Holy Spirit and His gifts. The Seminar and Baptism in the Spirit will take place on October 8-9 at La Consolata Mission Center after an Invocation Mass the night before at St. Leo.

The Life in the Spirit Apostolate urges both lambs and shepherds to fortify themselves for the LSS with fervent prayer, fasting and the sacraments. All shepherds are invited to attend a refresher course on Shepherding on September 17th at St. Antoninus. Finally, the whole community is requested to lift up in prayer the shepherding and other preparations for the Spirit's mighty anointing of LSS 25.

Pope says people called to model lives on Jesus

By Carol Glatz - Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — People are called to model their lives on Jesus, since he has the redeeming power that lifts humanity out of the darkness of sin, Pope Benedict XVI said in his weekly general audience.

Idolaters "exchanged the glory of the immortal God for the likeness of the image of mortal man" and became more and more like the lifeless objects they worshipped, he said.

To free themselves from this trap, the pope said people must continuously model their lives after the image of "the Son of God, since we have been freed from the power of darkness and transferred to the kingdom of his beloved Son," who offers redemption and the forgiveness of sins.

In order to model one's life after the "image of the Son of God," one must enter into Christ's "feelings, his will and his thoughts," the pope said in remarks apart from his prepared text.

COUNSELS

The Measure of Forgiveness

WORD: Sir 27:30-28:7; Ps 103:1-2,3-4,9-10,11-12; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

ORDER: "*Forgive your brother from the heart*" (Mt 18:35)

REFLECTION:

Conflict between brethren can easily turn into offense, causing the spiritual life of both parties to falter. Offenses often result when one or both individuals fail to forgive or extend mercy. Such may have been the situation when Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Peter may have thought he was being generous since some of the rabbis had said to forgive only 3 times. Jesus' reply must have shocked Peter when he answered not seven times but seventy-seven times."

Jesus elucidated the true ground upon which forgiveness is to be granted and the danger of cherishing an unforgiving spirit in our gospel parable in Matthew 18: 21-35.

Forgiveness is a decision; a matter of mercy and conduct. We decide to forgive. Forgiveness does not mean blotting out painful memories and not acting out of them. Forgiveness is not being filled with bitterness and resentment toward the offender. It is not having a different attitude toward the person, but wishing him well, not harm. It is being able to pray for him, showing compassion and mercy.

"If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another", Mt 10:8.

In the parable, when the debtor pleaded for mercy, with the promise, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you all," the whole debt was canceled. But he who had been so mercifully treated, dealt with his fellow laborer in an altogether different

(Continued on page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

"Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven" (Sir 27:2)

Exaltation of the Cross: Live the Christ Event

“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life”, Jn 3:15

In the Cross of Calvary, God accomplished through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, what is inconceivable to the human mind, what is utterly foolish to the wise of the world: the liberation of man from sin and death. How inscrutable are God’s judgments, that a symbol of man’s shame, a humiliating punishment for criminals, can become the instrument of man’s freedom and glory! That the cross of death can be at the same time the Cross of life!

We can only know the power of the Cross when we truly experience Jesus Christ. Knowledge of theological doctrines and concepts alone will not bring about real conversion and transformation. Only the experience of God does, and this is itself a grace that comes at our lowest point or greatest need: in moments of helplessness, emptiness, nothingness, humiliation and despair. Such are the moments when God, through Jesus on the Cross, identifies with us and our humanity.

When we recognize these moments of grace, the veil of self-pity is lifted so that we can see Jesus in the midst of our sorrow and pain. When we totally surrender ourselves to the love and mercy of God, our pit becomes the beginning of our summit, and we find our way from our brokenness to the freedom that is in God. When we realize that life is a pattern of sharing in Christ’s death and resurrection, and that this pattern of loss and renewal, of suffering and fulfillment, of *kenosis* and *pleuroma* is the pattern of life in Christ itself, then we will welcome the Cross and exalt it as our way of life.

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in His footsteps,” 1 Pt 2:21

It is the Cross of Christ that brings us to God when we are mired in our sins, failures and mistakes. We exalt the Cross by accepting what it means to be human and at the same time a child of God, and thus learn to forgive ourselves and others. The Cross of Christ is the point of reference where sin and grace, death and sin, humanity and God meet. We exalt the Cross by recognizing that Christian discipleship and community are about the Lord Jesus and total commitment to His will. It is through the Cross of Christ that we die to our self-centeredness and pride, and arise to His life and peace.

INTERCESSION

“In Luke 7: 6-9, A Centurion came to Jesus to ask for the healing of his servant. His great faith amazed Jesus. What made the Centurion humble himself to come to Jesus and seek intercession for his servant? Let us define ‘intercession’ in Christian parlance. Intercession may be defined as “love on its knees in prayer for others”. It is pleading to Father God on behalf of the needs of someone else. Another way of looking at intercession is standing in the gap for someone else.

That is identifying with the sins and concerns of those we pray for, asking God’s forgiveness and mercy on their behalf. Regardless of any definition, intercession simply means caring and loving someone else. This is the very reason why the Centurion humbled himself before Jesus. The most important factor that touched Jesus was the Centurion great faith. It teaches us that intercession requires expectant faith. We must truly believe that what we pray for has already been answered. In Lk 11: 9-10, Jesus assured us that if we ask, we will receive; if we seek, we shall find; and if we knock, the door will be opened.

Knowing that the Lord will always answer our prayers, how can we be effective prayer intercessors?

Pope John Paul II in his book, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, said that we are able to pray because the Holy Spirit allows it. Therefore, the first step in effective intercession is to seek the inspiration of the Holy Spirit before we start praying.

Earlier, we defined intercession as standing in the gap for someone else, asking God’s mercy and forgiveness. We simply cannot ask God’s forgiveness for others, if we ourselves cannot forgive. So we must be reconciled with the Lord through the sacrament of reconciliation. We must be focused on the Lord.

In our community, we have the opportunity to intercede for others through our weekly Intercessory Prayers as prepared by the Intercessory Ministry. When we make petitions for prayer requests for ourselves and others, we simply let the Lord know our total reliance on His grace and mercy. The perfection of God is manifested when we totally surrender our free will.

Intercession can be one of the most exciting, creative and rewarding experiences in our Christian life. Although intercessors are not often publicly rewarded or recognized for their service, they are a vital part of any growing church and its ministry. Their faithful dedication to intercession creates a foundation that allows the Lord to work in mighty ways.

SOMEBODY'S PRAYING ME THROUGH

It was May 29, 2000, my brother's wedding, when I heard the devastating news. Driving to the church, I received a phone call from my children's pediatrician who wanted to see Kathrina, my 3-year old. "She's about to walk down the aisle as a flower girl!"

Before then, my walk with God sparkled as thanksgiving filled my lips and awe beamed from my eyes. God was my only confidant who taught me many lessons. He showed me ever so gently how to quiet my soul and self-sacrifice until I saw Him everywhere and in everything. In the simplicity of this grace-filled state, I thought the world was going through the same experiences I was.

Katrina had Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Now instead of that beautiful walk with God I plunged in darkness. I cried out to him, but heard nothing. I was left with the lessons and the memory of the miracles He performed in my life, which I had to put to good use at this time.

I was 34 years old, the caretaker of my kids; Elmo had a full workload, commuting over an hour away, getting home late. Stephen was a baby. My mind had to focus on getting Katrina well. We went to our long clinic visits, administering chemo daily, fitting home schooling in, and trying to make their childhood, a happy one. Being so young, Katrina was not an easy patient. Every day she refused to take her medications, screaming and vomiting. She needed monthly spinal. Usually four nurses and I would try to hold her down, so she wouldn't hurt herself.

Imagine a child constantly telling me she loves me so much, that I'm her best friend. Now she would scream, "I hate you mommy", because she thought I was not protecting her. Imagine a child so athletic and happy, now depressed and asthenic. I felt so traumatized getting to know other patients and learning on our next visit, that they didn't make it; or when a sweet little Jewish boy, who had a rare incurable cancer, asked his mom's permission to die. This was the first time that I had to face the challenge of the test of my faith.

Leaving the Cancer Institute with my children, on our frequent visits, I felt empty; with an extremely weakened mind, body and spirit. How was I was standing?

Something was pulling me up. I was standing by grace, thru the prayers of my parish, BLD, my home school support group, and my family. Because of all of you, we made it thru! Katrina is now a happy, healthy, normal beautiful girl. Somebody was praying me through!

Ministry Announcements

Let us maintain
REVERENT SILENCE
at all times
INSIDE THE CHURCH.

Grandparents & Elderly Day

Tonight Sept. 9 Friday - Golden Years Ministry

The community will honor our grandparents and elderly...those who, in the past, have faithfully loved and served God and us. All grandparents and elderly are cordially invited to attend, to be honored and be blessed!

BLD 9th Annual Golf Outing

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November 13 Sunday

Felician College, Lodi NJ

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Christian Parenting Part 1 – ME25
Shepherds Refresher Course – All Shepherds
CMP I Part I, love, faith, renewing the mind & world, flesh and devil – LSS23
- Sep 23** Service Formation – Service
Intercessory Formation – Intercessory
- Sep 24** Apologetics Part I – Prayers, Church, Salvation – Washington LSS1
Encounter with Jesus Part 3 – Luke, John – Washington LSS4
Encounter with Jesus Part I – Road to Emmaus, Jesus in OT, Development of the Gospel – Rockland
Apologetics – Trinity, Mary, Sacramentals – Albany
- Sep 25** Shepherds Training Part 2 – Trenton

Counsel

Continued from page 1

manner. His debtor made an appeal similar to that which he himself had made to the king, but without the same result. He who had so recently been forgiven was not tenderhearted and pitiful. The mercy shown him, he did not exercise in dealing with his fellow servant. The small sum owed to him was all that the ungrateful servant kept in his mind. He demanded all that he thought was his due, and carried into effect a sentence similar to that which had been so graciously forgiven. How many in our world today are manifesting this same spirit?

If we refuse to forgive we will be casting away our own hope of pardon. In the prayer that he taught his disciples, Jesus said "*Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors*", Mt 6:12. We are to treat others just as we ourselves, in like circumstances, would wish to be treated.

In our first reading, Sir 28:2 we are called not only to forgive but also to overlook our brothers' wrongdoings. When they come to us with confession, we are not to say, "I do not think they are humble enough. I do not think they feel their confession". We do not have the right to judge them, as if we can read their hearts. The word of God says, "*If he repents, forgive him. And if he wrongs you seven times in one day, and returns to you seven times saying, 'I am sorry', you should forgive him*", Lk 17:3, 4. And not only seven times, but seventy times seven - just as often as God forgives you. Such is the measure of forgiveness.

In God's forgiveness, the heart of the erring one is drawn close to the great heart of Infinite Love. The tide of divine compassion flows into the sinner's soul and from him to the souls of others. The tenderness and mercy that Christ has revealed in His own precious life will be seen in those who become sharers of His grace, His disciples. *But "whoever does not have the spirit of Christ does not belong to him"*, Rom. 8:9. He is alienated from God, fitted only for eternal separation from Him. God's forgiving mercy is to be the measure of our own. "Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, even as I had pity on you?"

We are not forgiven because we forgive, but as we forgive. The ground of all forgiveness is found in the unmerited love of God, but by our **attitude** toward others we show whether we have made that love our own. Our Lord Jesus says, "*For as you judge, so will you be judged, and the measure with which you measure will be measured out to you*", Mt 7:2.

Let us therefore claim our promise by forgiving one another's injustice from the heart, so that when we pray, we too will be forgiven of our sins.

Directions:

- ◆ Think of the commandments. Love your neighbor.
- ◆ Remember the Lord's covenant and overlook faults.
- ◆ Be an instrument of healing and peace.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sep 16-18 LSS 6 Trenton
Sep 30 - Oct 2 Aspirants' Retreat
Oct 7-9 LSS 25
Oct 14-16 ME 9 Albany
Oct 21-23 John 6 Crossing
Oct 22 Dinner Dance

Birthdays

Sep 9 Leodie Perez, SE Angelo DelaFuente, SE Nile Solon, YE10 Rudy Chery, SE13 Susan Fabe, LSS19 Dominick Salar, Mk10	Sep 12 Phoebe Garcia, YE2 † Luigi Santiago, SE
Sep 10 Abigail Fabe, Mk10 John Alonzo, LSS19 Jean Velasco, YE9 Bong Baculio, LSS20 Edna Reynoso, LSS13 Jun Reyes, SE	Sep 13 Melissa Garcia, YE11 Louet Lazaro, YE11 PJ Magahis LSS22/SE5 Carlos Masisado, LSS21 Lisa Soriano, LSS15
Sep 11 Kris Borja, SE Romy Bernal, LSS7/ ME7 Annie Estalilla, LSS22/ SE12 Baby Rigor, LSS24/ME1- Rockland	Sep 14 Mark De Los Reyes, SE Michaela Arambulo, Mk10 Jonathan Reyes, John6 Sep 15 Janice DeVera, SE Taira Jean-Bart, YE11 Angela Brancato, ME25 Arnold Ocaya, ME25 Dom De La Cruz, LSS16 Meg Pangilinan, LSS13

Anniversaries

Sep 10 Ronnie & Mickee Pacia, LSS20
Sep 12 Paby & Pauline Ibarrola, LSS17
Rudy & Rita Santos, LSS18
Sep 13 Rene & Cielo Arribe, LSS21
Sep 15 King & Arlene Rigor, LSS18

The Lord's Provisions

<u>COLLECTIONS</u>	<u>COLLECTIONS</u>
8/19 \$ 3,244	34-wk avg \$ 3,487
8/26 \$ 3,338	<u>EXPENSES</u>
9/02 \$ 3,487	34-wk avg \$ 3,719

"My house shall be called a house of prayer." (Isaiah 56:7)

Please conduct all business and fellowship outside the church. Even thoughtful whispering gathers to a noisy din when done by many disciples all at once!



Disciples Assemble, Support Move To Administer BLD Phoenix

The BLD disciples met last Saturday, September 10, 2005 at St. Antoninus Church in Newark, New Jersey with a spirit-filled worship led by Randy and Beth Trinidad.

Rene Castaneda, Mission Steward, led the disciples to a reflection of the Scriptures to find out God's direction regarding the request of the ECSL for BLD Newark to administer BLD Phoenix. The overwhelming majority of the disciples affirmed the decision to accept the ECSL's offer. The DCS will continue their discernment on who to nominate as Outreach Shepherd to BLD Phoenix.

Richard de la Fuente, District Servant Leader (DSL), gave a brief account of the Cluster Leaders' Recollection held on August 27th and 28th at the Ramada Inn in Piscataway. Msgr. Paul Shetelick was the Spiritual Director of the event, which was attended by 42 leaders from BLD Albany, Newark, Rockland, Long Island, Trenton and Washington D.C. The recollection theme was "Discovering, Designing and Doing the Kingdom of God in our Midst". Richard mentioned that sometime in November, a similar Recollection will be done for the other disciples of the community.

Richard also gave an update of the final draft of the Statutes of the Bukas-Loob Sa Diyos Community sent by the Executive Council of Servant Leaders (ECSL), Manila for review. The disciples are requested to send comments to Richard by October 5 which he in turn will summarize and transmit to the ECSL on October 7. Copies of the Statutes are available through the DCS or DLC.

Vic Lim followed with an update on the Fundraising activities of the community. He explained that there are three fundraising projects this year to accommodate the wishes of the community members. Some want to play golf, some want to dance and some just want to donate; hence, the Golf Outing, the Dinner Dance and the Pledge of Love. Vic also mentioned that the Fundraising Committee suggested to have a Fundraising Ministry in order to have permanent workers on this endeavor.

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Welcome to our newly committed disciples

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life." (1Tm 6:12)

Twenty-one members of LSS 23 class, two members of the LSS 17 class and two members from Rockland sealed

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COUNSELS

The Generous Landowner

WORD: Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18;
Ph 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt: 20:1-16a

ORDER: *"Conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the Gospel of Christ."* (Phil 1:27a)

REFLECTION:

The readings for the twenty fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time focus our thoughts in our growth as disciples of Christ. The images offered to us in Isaiah and Matthew give us insight into the extravagant blessings, mercy and love God showers upon us freely and openly. This Sunday, God invites us to contemplate His divine goodness. God is the landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for His vineyard. Those whom He called were not chosen out of their own merit, they were not the best and the brightest. They were simply gathered out of the fullness of the His heart. He took each one whom He called into His vineyard and gave each one the opportunity to serve in His mission.

We are all called at different stages in our lives- some of us are called quite early while others are called much later into our earthly sojourn. Being as varied in character and disposition as the stars in the sky, we end up giving of our selves also at varying levels of commitment, sacrifice and service. Like the laborers in the vineyard we can easily be blinded by our own sense of justice and fairness. How easy it is for us to feel slighted when a high profile responsibility is entrusted to someone we perceive as less qualified. Dissatisfied grumblings often-times defile the spirit of a worthwhile endeavor. We commit uncharitable thoughts when we judge that someone is undeserving of praise and recognition in comparison to others. Are we those called early in the life of this community since we belong to an older ME class? Thirteen years feels like a lifetime for many of us, but in the

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God's Promise For The Week

"The last will be first, and the first will be last."
(Mt 20:16)

Generous Giving

"Take care then, how you hear. To anyone who has, more will be given but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away." Luke 8: 18. This verse deals with how we respond to God's word, concerning our use of His gifts of time, talent and treasure.

The life of Jesus and those of the saints reveal their generosity with their gifts. This generosity allowed them to work zealously for God's kingdom, in accord with His will, even to their last breath. Their example is what we call generous giving. St. Ignatius of Loyola's "Prayer to be Generous" says it all.

Time is a gift from God that measures duration while we are earth's exiles. Once we enter into eternity, time will be no more; it will be a now and forever life.


Talent means our natural and spiritual gifts, which God has given us according to our calling and needs. Among the natural gifts are our intellect and will that govern our body and soul. Supernatural or spiritual gifts are those that are infused to us by God's grace and by the workings of the Holy Spirit, as from baptism, when we were given the three theological virtues- faith, hope and love. These are gifts that strengthen our relationship with God. *Treasure* means our corporal gifts, like health, wealth, success, education, and work.

All these God-given gifts must be used, or we lose them. When used, they must help achieve our purpose in life, which is our salvation and God's greater glory.

In our community, we share our gifts in God's service, and pool our resources together, like the first Christians, in the form of tithes. *Tithe* means a tenth part, or a tax, or a contribution to a church. Tithing dates back to the Old Testament, when the Israelites gave a tenth part of their yearly harvest to God. In the New Testament, Jesus and the disciples, including the holy women, tithed. St. Paul applied the principle of equality regarding generous giving- "Whoever had much, did not have more, whoever had little, did not have less." Besides, God loves a cheerful giver.

As we worship, pray together, and share God's word and bounty, as our daily lives pass through the narrow gate- with increased deepening of our faith, and prayer lives, as we become totally dependent and trusting in God's providence and our wills are attuned to His, as we surrender all to the holy Spirit- and God becomes our main focus, our spiritual or charismatic gifts will abound, building up our community, with each one of us achieving a gradual transformation to spiritual growth and maturity in Christ.

This is how we are given more- more of God, more of God's blessings, that is, a plentiful and rich harvest. "If you remain in Me, you will bear much fruit." Like the seed that fell on good soil, that yielded thirty, sixty, some a hundredfold. Whatever Jesus did in His public ministry, He will enable us to do, because He lives in us and strengthens us. Philippians 4:13.

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Saint Matthew – And A Sharing

The name Matthew means "gift of the Lord". Matthew was a Galilean and was the son of Alphaeus and the brother of James the apostle. Matthew was a Roman tax collector at Capernaum for King Antipas and is also called Levi (which could have been his original name). Tax collectors in those days were social outcasts and considered traitors and hated by the Jews. He is one of the twelve apostles and is the author of the 1st gospel. The gospel of Matthew was written for both believers and non-believers. It serves as an encouragement in the trials to come. St Matthew's feast day is September 21.


Jesus called to Matthew while sitting at a tax collection post and said, "Follow me". Matthew got up and followed Him. He dropped everything, followed him and did not even have a second thought. He abandoned his earthly wealth and joined a band of men whose leader had, on Matthew's assessment, no riches at all. In this way Matthew would understand that Jesus, who was calling him away from his earthly possessions, had incorruptible treasures of heaven as His gift.

On the same day that Jesus called him, Matthew gave a feast to which he invited Jesus and His disciples, and his fellow tax collectors.

Jesus, the Almighty, the holy man, the miracle worker, a friend to the sinners, had chosen Matthew. *Follow me*: two simple words with a powerful meaning. People longed to be picked and chosen by Jesus. Praise the Lord for each of us has been called despite our sins.

A year and a half ago I attended a marriage encounter weekend with my husband. I did not know then that the Lord was the one who invited me. It was a very tough change in lifestyle for my husband, my two children and myself. We were invited to the BLD community when we had a full plate and really had no room for anything else. My desire from that weekend was to be closer to my husband with God's help. Then, we were asked to attend the BLD Friday worship. Again, I thought it was a one-day commitment. We adjusted our schedule so we can attend. Besides Mass on Sundays, this was the only other time that I praised and worshipped the Lord. I was in awe. I was in awe because everything was very strange to me. People lifted their hands to God, spoke in tongues, and were slain in the Spirit. I observed everyone and everything throughout the worship. During the next Fridays, I got the courage to ask my questions on anything and everything that was puzzling me. After a while, I looked forward to our Friday worships at BLD. Rain, snow, sleet, tolls and high gas prices will not keep us away from driving an hour and a half to go to worship.

I had wholeheartedly served the Lord in a variety of ways in the past. Now I have entered a new phase of being a committed disciple to God, the community and ministry. I am a sinner just like many, yet was nonetheless called by the Almighty Lord.

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"Ssssh, quiet! Jesus is here!" Are we an undisciplined community, "a stiff-necked people"?
Let us be open to gentle admonition, inclined to reverence and adoration.

Disciples (from page 1)

Cathy del Fierro, Formation Steward, read the Formation objectives and distributed copies of the Formation Program to help promote understanding of the program among all disciples. Cathy also clarified the roles and responsibilities of different formation agents and encouraged everyone to work for improved communication and collaboration among these agents.

Ruben Amarante, Treasury Ministry Coordinator, presented the BLD Income Statement, reminding all to review the hard copies that came as inserts in last week's Covenant News.

Welcome (from page 1)

their commitment to the Lord during the Commitment ceremony last September 2, 2005 after the Healing Mass.

Welcome to Fely and Ray Africa, Obioma Anyanwu, Gene and Alicia Bautista, Tony and Marlene Brillantes, Tito and Anne Cruz, Gon and Maria Dauilo, Therese Disla, Angel and Evelyn Matos, Ronnie and Mila Macaaisa, Ramon Samonte, Gene and Luchie Schroth, Jojo and Chichi Velasco of LSS 23 class; Zer and Charlotte Florentino, LSS17 and from Rockland, Bernie and Melba Angeles.

With much joy, we congratulate them as we pray that the Holy Spirit give them the divine determination to follow the life of Jesus, yielding to His will as they walk in faith.

Generous (from page 2)

"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly- whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."

Lord, teach me to be generous, to serve You as You deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to work and not to seek reward, except that of knowing that I do Your holy will, AMEN.

Saint Matthew (from page 2)

I thank thee, heavenly Father, for the witnessing of Your apostle and evangelist Matthew to the Gospel of Your Son our Savior. I pray that, after his example, I may have a ready will and heart to obey the call of our Lord to follow Him. I pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

SPMT

**Somebody's
Praying Me Through**

November 13, 2005 (Sunday)

Felician College, Lodi, NJ

Showtimes: 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Tickets available now during fellowship!



MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLD 9th Annual Golf Outing

Suneagles Golf Course, Fort Monmouth NJ

This Sunday - Sept. 18, 1 pm Shotgun Tee Start

Contact: Vic & Dee Lim, Paby Ibarrola or Fidel Lim.

Or visit www.bldnewark.com

ATalk on Peer Pressures:

Decision, Choices & Consequence

Guest Speaker: Jim Greene

September 23, 10:00 - 11:00 pm at St. Leo's

For more info, contact Emil/ Baby Canlas of Youth Ministry

Everyone is welcome.

Join Us in a Weekend Celebration of Faith!

"Spiritual Recollection On the Holy Eucharist"

(With Father Trevor Nathasingh)

October 15 -16 at St Antoninus Church

Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm,

Sunday 10:00 am Holy Mass

Please contact the Pastoral Ministry:

Dens/Mina Mantes (973-887-5904)

TEACHINGS

(BLD Newark and Outreaches)

September 16 • Renewing the Mind –
Singles Ministry, John6, Mk10

September 17 • Basic Bible Seminar, Book of Books,
Approaches, Word of God, Response - LSS24
• Christian Parenting Part 1 – ME25
• Shepherds Refresher Course – All Shepherds
• CMPI Part I, love, faith, renewing the mind &
world, flesh and devil – LSS23

September 23 • Service Formation – Service
• Intercessory Formation – Intercessory

September 24 • Apologetics Part I –
Prayers, Church, Salvation – Washington LSS1
• Encounter with Jesus Part 3 –
Luke, John – Washington LSS4
• Encounter with Jesus Part I – Road to Emmaus,
Jesus in OT, Development of the Gospel – Rockland
• Apologetics – Trinity, Mary, Sacramentals – Albany

September 25 • Shepherds Training Part 2 – Trenton

October 15 • Christian Parenting Part 2, Intro to
Intercession – LSS25
• CMP II Part 1, Discipline, Speech, Witnessing,
Giving – LSS21-22
• CMP I Part 2, Walking in the Spirit, Service,
Body/Blood, Community – LSS23
• Shepherds Training Part 1 – LSS20

Counsels (from page 1)

greater scheme of things with God looking on from eternity, what is the value of our contribution to the work in the vineyard in comparison to those who were persecuted, suffered and died for the cross?

It is amazing how God's love and mercy is given equally to all, not one receives more than the other for we have all been named co-inheritors of the Kingdom of Heaven. Such is God's generosity – His ways, His plans, and His wisdom is perfect and therefore incomprehensible to those who judge by earthly standards. He has revealed to us His Word, He has enabled us to share in His wisdom by the gifts we have received in our baptism of the Spirit. He has equipped us in order that we may see with spiritual eyes the narrow and blessed path that leads to eternal life.

In the second reading, God called us all to a "conduct worthy of the Gospel of Christ." (Ph 1:27a) How much do we value the Gospel of Christ? Many of us have fully dedicated our lives to Jesus. Many continue to make the effort to become disciples of Christ. We are blessed in community to have the privilege to participate in this lifetime commitment guided by the Holy Spirit and supported by our brethren. The Gospel of Christ is the call to live a life of love, the Christ kind of love.

Living the Gospel means we stand firm in One Spirit, faithful to the teachings of the Gospel. It is witnessing to the life in the Spirit that have been bestowed to us, proclaiming the Good News and working to bring about the conversion of hearts. It is giving of oneself to the point of pain, it is striving to be Christ-like in all our thoughts, words and deeds.

For obviously, God wants all of us to be in His vineyard. God's work throughout eternity is to bring people into the vineyard and allow them to joyfully participate in the harvest. Heaven is being part of God plan – gathering the fruit of the Kingdom.

Finally, we come to God's promise for this week that "The last will be first, and the first will be last." (Mt 20:16) We pray that God grant us the humility of heart to desire to be the last among our brethren and to be the least in the eyes of man. Seventy years is but a millisecond of eternity. Therefore let us all aspire to humility and self-sacrifice so that when the Lord of the Harvest comes He will find us waiting.

Directions:

- Be thankful to God for His generosity and share your blessings with others.
- Do not grumble and free yourselves of all kinds of envy.

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Collections

08/26	\$3,338
09/02	4,110
09/09	3,774
35-wk avg	3,495

Thank you for your generosity

Expenses

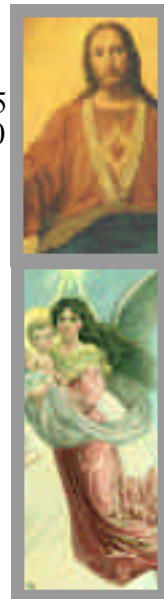
35-wk average \$3,959

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- September 16-18 LSS6 Trenton
- September 30 - October 2 Aspirants' Retreat
- October 7-9 LSS25
- October 14-16 ME9 Albany
- October 21-23 John 6 Crossing
- October 22 Dinner Dance

birthdays

- 01-Sept. Peggy Lopez, SPE7
- 03-Sept. Mirasol Mariano, SPE4
- 07-Sept. Ester Mendoza, SPE4
- 11-Sept. Pacita Dee Gosingco, SPE4
- 14-Sept. Maricel Arambulo, SPE1
- 15-Sept. Violeta Robbins, SPE4
- 16-Sept. Jun Luna, LSS16
Oddie Martin, LSS15
Romy Castillo, ME25
- 17-Sept. Christine Verzosa, LSS22
Marilyn Nepomuceno, SE
Rock DeOliveira, SE
Virginia Alcantara, SPE7
- 18-Sept. Lilly Irene De Silva, SPE4
Nora Lopez, LSS19
Sonny Solema, LSS20
Chi-Chi Velasco, LSS23
Zachary Pacia, Mk10
- 19-Sept. Genaro Abes, LSS8
Emily Lucero, LSS13
Carding Romualdo, LSS19
Ryan Garcia, SE
Stephanie Olasso, John6
- 20-Sept. Bernadette Ekedede, LSS15
Tonette Pagdonsolan, LSS20
Anita Ochotorena, SPE3
- 21-Sept. Ester Quintos, SPE4
Vic Tan, LSS24
Lilibeth Zanduetta, LSS3
Marko Luardo, Mk10
- 22-Sept. Romy Cuy, LSS10
Maris Manansala, LSS22
Vivian Tan, SE
Joel Nepomuceno, SE
Lanie Eborra, SE
Bong Tanseco, YE3
Stephanie Joson, John6
Barbara Gargaritano, SPE5



anniversaries

- 17-Sept. Ruben & Luz Amarante, LSS10
- 18-Sept. Keem & Gigi Espejon, LSS7
- 21-Sept. Ray & Feli Africa, LSS23



Newark Evangelization Commission

We congratulate Richard dela Fuente, our beloved District Servant Leader, on his recent appointment to the Newark Evangelization Commission. Richard views this “as a recognition of the people of BLD Newark and their contributions to the Archdiocese as well as a confirmation of the work ahead of us as an association of the faithful in the Archdiocese of Newark.”

The following is an excerpt of the Archbishop’s letter of September 9, 2005:

Dear Mr. de la Fuente:

In the name of the Archdiocese of Newark, I am pleased to appoint you as a member of the Evangelization Commission of the Archdiocese of Newark, effective immediately for a three-year term.

We all know that in this secularized society, the need to Evangelize is ever so urgent. The Mission of the Church and of every Christian is first of all that of proclaiming the Gospel of Christ to all peoples.

I thank you for accepting to serve on the Commission. Know that your contribution to the Office of Evangelization is very much appreciated. With this appointment, I offer my prayerful support as you assume this important role.

Signed: Most Reverend John J. Myers

Fr. Trevor’s Eucharistic Recollection at St. Antoninus Church

On October 14, 15 & 16 (Fri., Sat. & Sun), the St. Antoninus Parish will hold a Eucharistic Recollection led by Fr. Trevor Nathasingh. Held on the last month of the “Year of the Eucharist”, this weekend recollection promises to provide spiritual nourishment to all who wish to enter into a more intimate relationship with God at His Altar, through the Eucharistic Sacrifice of His Beloved Son, Jesus.

Having come from a Hindu/Moslem background and called by the Lord to a radical conversion to Catholicism, Fr. Trevor is an *(cont’d on page 3)*

COUNSELS

Love is Obedience to God’s Will

Word: Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-9;
Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32

Order: Be obedient to the Father’s will by being like Christ, humbly regarding others as more important than yourselves.

Reflection: In the reading from the prophet Ezekiel, we are given two contrasting situations that lead to life or death – first, of a wicked man who turns away from wickedness and does what is right and just, and second, of a virtuous man who turns away from virtue to commit iniquity. We who have experienced a life-changing encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have received adoption as sons and daughters of God, will readily identify ourselves with the man in the first situation.

In the parable of the two sons from the gospel of Matthew, we are given two contrasting situations that could likewise have life or death consequences. The first son refused his father’s command, but afterwards changed his mind and obeyed his father. The second son agreed to obey his father’s command but did not do so. We can in truth identify with both sons, for we have been variously obedient and disobedient to God’s will, as we struggle in our walk as sons and daughters of God. During the instances when we disobey God, we are like Ezekiel’s virtuous man who turns to iniquity.

Why do we struggle with obedience to God? Man’s fallen nature is a legitimate statement of our condition, but a poor excuse to sin for those who have encountered the Lord and received His Holy Spirit. The paradox of man is that we are both sinners and God’s

(cont’d on page 4)

God’s Promise for the Week

If a man turns from the wickedness he has committed, and does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life. Ex 18:27

TOTAL DEDICATION

He said, "Follow me." (Lk 9:59)

Encountering Jesus personally almost five years ago during the Marriage Encounter and the Light in the Spirit Seminar changed my whole life. It made me realize how much I have taken Him for granted all those past years. It started a process of healing and conversion that continues to this day. In the process, it led to a renewed enthusiasm for soaking in the Holy Scriptures, as I wanted to be nourished by His Word, as well as a renewed desire to serve the Church. I decided to be a faithful follower of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But what does it mean to be a true follower of Our Lord Jesus? I now believe it means ultimate devotion to Him above anyone and anything else. He wants to bring us to a deeper level of intimacy with Him, to actively seek His Divine Will at all times, yielding all to Christ Himself and to choose a life of service even if the road seems rough and narrow. The Blessed Virgin Mary's highest merit was her self-dedication to the Lord. She devoted herself unreservedly to God's Will when she said: "I am the handmaid of the Lord be it done to me according to Thy Word."

God's promise is, "*When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you.*" (Jer 29:13-14). We must therefore place God first in our daily lives. We must free our hearts from earthly attachments. He invites us to give ourselves entirely to Him. "*In the same way, everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.*" (Luke 14:33). Consequently, whatever takes us away from God must be given up. The love and desire for worldly wealth, fame or prestige, selfish ease and freedom from responsibility will lead us to destruction. We cannot be half the Lord's and half the world's. Acknowledging that the main purpose of our existence is to know, love, and serve God helps us to prioritize our time and activities. Saint Paul says, "Whatever you do, do everything for God's glory."

The call to discipleship draws within us the desire to evangelize—to proclaim the Good News of Salvation as well as the resolve to live a holy life-by becoming living and dynamic witnesses of God's Truth. Pope Paul VI said, "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses."

So we must choose to live, loving the Lord, obeying Him and holding fast to Him. (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).

TRUE GREATNESS

Lord, who is the greatest among us? Like Jesus' disciples, we aim to be "somebody" whom others admire rather than a "nobody." The longing for greatness is inbred in us. But the Lord says, "*The one who is least among all of you is the greatest.*" (Lk 9:48b) What does this mean?

In a worldly sense, we define "great people" as the ones who are well known, important, honored and respected by others. They are in charge of themselves and of others. They tell others what to do and not the other way around. They view their position as exempting them from doing service for others. In fact, they frequently use their authority to abuse and exploit those under their charge. Unfortunately, this misguided exercise of power and authority could be happening in the church as well as in our community. At work, or in the community, we sometimes exercise the power of leadership and authority over men instead of on behalf of men. Some of us think that being great is to be able to lord it over the rest; to be able to tell others what to do and that they should do it.

But is this what "True Greatness" is all about? In the Kingdom of God, in God's eyes, it is not how many people serve you but how many people you serve. It is not how much you're able to get others to do for you but how much you're willing to do for others. It is not the amount of sacrifice you extract from others to enrich your life but how much you're willing to sacrifice to enrich others' lives. It's not how many people you can get to dance to your tune because they're afraid of what you'll do if they don't but how many people give themselves away in love to others because you gave yourself away in love for them. This is what being great in the kingdom of God means.

In our community, we can be great men and women for the Lord, when we reach out to one another in humility, serve one another unselfishly, care for one another above oneself, help one another to build the kingdom of God and do what God has called us to do as one body, instead of exalting or promoting one area of ministry over the others. We should not focus only on our own ministry but rather, extend our hands to all our brothers and sisters in the community, whenever necessary. We must serve willingly, without reserve. The principle of preference and supremacy has no place... for true greatness is simply humility in service to others.

Visit our website at www.bldnewark.com.

Fr. Trevor from page 1

exceptionally gifted preacher. His source of inspiration and anointing is his work as pastor of three parishes in Fortin, Trinidad, where the Church is vibrant with God's Eucharistic presence, where many people come to adore the Lord through Holy Mass, novenas, healing crusades, prayer seminars and Eucharistic Adoration.

As a renowned international speaker, Fr. Trevor has preached extensively throughout the Caribbean, the USA, Canada and parts of Africa. Fr. Trevor was recently a speaker at the Ottawa Eucharistic Conference in April 2005 and has been a speaker at the Christ the King rally in Toronto, which drew what is recorded as the "largest crowd ever".

This is not the first time that Fr. Trevor will come to St. Antoninus. In October 2003, Fr. Trevor gave a weekend retreat that set many hearts on fire. As he boldly proclaimed the Word of God, it was as if "Holy Fire" came forth from the altar to purify the Body of Christ.

Fr. Trevor's Eucharistic Recollection at St Antoninus will start on Friday, October 14 at 8 P.M. with a Healing Mass and a teaching during the Homily. Three talks are set for Saturday, from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. On Sunday, Holy Mass will be at 10 A.M, with a last teaching during the Homily. (Written by T. Gerlinger)

For more information: please contact the Pastoral Ministry: Dens/Mina Mantes (973-887-5904)

SOMEBODY'S PRAYING ME THROUGH

Twelve years ago, we found my youngest brother in pain, throwing up and complaining of a terrible headache. His eyes went rolling separately and he had convulsions, so we rushed him to the hospital for suspected aneurysm. Tests showed a blood clot on his brain the size of a chico fruit and emergency surgery had to be performed. During the operation, the blood clot grew to the size of an apple. More blood vessels broke and almost a quarter of his brain was removed. We were told that the next 24 hours after the operation would be most critical.

I never prayed so hard in my life. I could not recall how many rosaries I prayed. I gave instructions to family members to just do one thing during the night –keep on praying. My Mom called our Parish Priest who, along with the church group, prayed to God for my brother's recovery.

God heard our prayers. My brother is off his medication now and the only visible effects of brain damage are some mood swings. (next column. pls)

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Talk on Peer Pressures: Decision, Choices & Consequence

Guest Speaker: Jim Greene
Tonight September 23, 10:00 - 11:00 pm at St. Leo's
For more info, contact Emil/ Baby Canlas of Youth Ministry. Everyone is welcome

John 6 Crossing #6 Retreat for children ages 12 to 14 yrs. Oct. 21-23 at Ramada Limited, S. Plainfield, NJ Contact: john6ministry@bldnewark.com

SE 15 Nov 4 - 6 Garrison NY.

For details, contact Bong and Blandie Montemayor at wpmont@hotmail.com

Airfare bids for the coming medical mission are now being accepted. For details, please see mission members or Nong & Tricia Bustos.



TEACHINGS (BLD Newark and Outreaches)

- September 23 Service Formation – Service
Intercessory Formation – Intercessory
- September 24 Apologetics Part I – Prayers, Church, Salvation – Washington LSS1
Encounter with Jesus Part 3 – Luke, John – Washington LSS4
Encounter with Jesus Part I – Road to Emmaus, Jesus in OT, Development of the Gospel – Rockland
Apologetics – Trinity, Mary, Sacramentals – Albany
- September 25 Shepherds Training Part 2 – Trenton

He graduated from college and is getting married soon. After twelve years, this part of my life still brings tears. But there is one thing I know, if you pray from your heart, God will listen and answer your prayers.

Counsels from page 1

children, fallen and saved. We have the mortal (body) and immortal (spirit), the human (our spirit) and the divine (the Holy Spirit), the old self (the "I") and the new self (Christ in us). Where the flesh or the "I" is dominant, self-love, self-interest and self-centeredness prevail. Then we will struggle in our relationships: with God, with our neighbors, with ourselves.

The paradox of our faith is that our weakness brings us to our strength in Christ (2 Cor 12:10). Our strength and capacity to overcome derive from our acknowledgment of our nothingness, and from our confident reliance on the power of God through the Holy Spirit. Such reliance disposes us to turn away from human or worldly wisdom, and to instead seek God's will through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus understood the human condition very well, yet he commanded us to be perfect *as the Father is perfect* (Mt 5:48). That command is doable because of God's lavish grace that is available to us.

This grace comes to us through a life-long process of transformation wherein the "I" decreases and Jesus increases in us. Because the old self refuses to go away, our transformation will be forged in the pattern of sin and forgiveness, failure and triumph, pain and joy, loss and renewal, humiliation and vindication, brokenness and wholeness, separation and reconciliation, death and resurrection. Each is necessary for the other. Each is an opportunity to grow in love. Each is a moment of grace. *Where sin abounded, grace abounded all the more* (Rm 5:20). *Grace comes from Jesus Christ* (Jn 1:17).

Without the Lord, we can do nothing (Jn 15:5); with Him we have the strength for everything (Phil 4:13). Obedience to God's will is possible only when we draw our obedience from Christ. Consider the Source of our obedience: as God's only Son, Himself divine, Jesus had power and authority. The Father's will was to reconcile sinful man to Himself. Jesus knew the cost required to fulfill the Father's will. Borne by the Son's love for His Father, Jesus obeyed the Father, unto death on the cross. He chose to do the Father's will from the side of weakness and pain, not strength and power, from the side of love and mercy, not fairness and merit.

Jesus summed up the law, the revelation of God's will, into the two greatest commandments of love. Love is the fulfillment of the law (Rm 13:10). Love is obedience to God's will. If we love God, we will love one another.

Directions:

- o Be not hearers of the Word but doers also.
- o Be faithful to our community covenant and ministry duties.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

September 30 - October 2	Aspirants' Retreat
October 7-9	LSS25
October 14-16	ME9 Albany
October 21-23	John 6 Crossing#6
October 22	Dinner Dance
November 4 - 6	SE 15

May the blessings of the Lord be upon you....



BIRTHDAYS

23-Sept.	Tony Arambulo, LSS8 Lino Bawalan, SPE6 Tony Rosal, LSS10 Allan Villanueva, LSS17 Megan Siojo, Mk10
24-Sept.	Ross Errazo, SE13 Nestor Laxina, LSS4 Tess Lopez, LSS23 Mark Reyes, SE Allison Faelner, SE Annie Dang, SE Christel Arribe, YE9 Don Rodriguez, ME25 Tita Lilibeth, John6
25-Sept.	MyJo Tesoro, SE Filmore Flores, LSS18 Bert Relevo, LSS23 Christian Arceo, Mk10 Michael Al Ompod, MK10
26-Sept.	Lullobrigida Leonor, SE Aurelia Camposagrado, SPE4 Mylene Ramos-Toral, SPE7
27-Sept.	Evelyn Nanola, SPE5 Oliver Santos, LSS17
28-Sept.	Abi Castaneda, LSS17 Kelly Concepcion, LSS13 Christine Masisado, YE9
29-Sept.	Miguel Roque, ME25

ANNIVERSARIES

27-Sept.	Norby & Way Gomez, LSS1
28-Sept.	Bill & Sandy Talbot, LSS22

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

9/02	4,110
9/09	3,774
09/16	4,719
36-wk avg	\$ 3,529

EXPENSES

36-wk avg \$ 3,876

Thanks for your generosity !



Perfect Golf Weather!

September 18 was a perfect day to play enjoyable golf for all the 113 players who participated in BLD's 9th Annual Golf Outing at the Suneagles Golf Course in Fort Monmouth, NJ. The fundraising event started at 10:30 AM with an inspiring Praise and Worship led by the Golf committee members, followed by the registration of the golf players. The tournament promptly began at 1:00 PM (Shotgun Tee Start). A sumptuous buffet dinner was held at 7:00 PM, followed by the awarding ceremony and the raffle. The participants left with huge smiles on their faces, evidence of the blessings of love and camaraderie they have received that day.

We thank the Golf Committee for their labor of love, which raised \$15,200 for the work of the community. We thank you, Lord, for the sponsors and all the participants that made this fundraiser a huge success.

"Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share." (1 Tm 6: 18)

Youth In Weekend Of Service

The Youth Ministry displayed their enthusiastic love for the Lord this weekend. On Saturday, many Youth members woke up bright and early to serve at the soup kitchen at the Missionaries of Charity in Newark. They mopped up the church floors, prepared the food, served food to the hungry and sang beautiful praise music while the people partook of the meal.

The next day, the Youth Ministry served as praise ministry at the 12:15 mass at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Nutley. This service was followed by a fruitful praise practice in which members of John 6 also took part. The Youth Ministry will serve at the 12:15 mass of that parish on the last Sunday of every month.

The eyes of the Lord must have been sparkling with joy at the sight of His beloved young people.

COUNSELS

Fruit of the Spirit

WORD: Is 5:1-7; Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

ORDER: *Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your request known to God.*"(Phil 4:6)


REFLECTION:

The Gospel reading for this Sunday is a parable that challenges us with the questions: As tenants of the Vineyard, what have we produced and what have our fruits been like? What changes are manifested and could be seen by others in us?

As LSS graduates, let us go through and use the Fruit of the Holy Spirit as an 9-point checklist for growth in spiritual maturity: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control. This is a very simple and straightforward checklist. We need to examine and understand the meaning of each part of the Fruit in our lives. If the Fruit of the Holy Spirit is not evident in our lives, or not growing in us, and hence not manifested in our actions, then it may mean that we have not yet become fruitful.

As we grow and develop, our Lord wants us to bear good and sweet fruit. Our fruitfulness is predicated on our total repentance, our rejection of worldliness and self-centeredness. Fruitfulness comes through a lifelong transformation.

John 15:16 says *"I chose you from the world to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last."*

 page 4

GOD'S PROMISE FOR THE WEEK

"Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of Peace will be with you." (Phil 4: 9)

Trusting Divine Providence

What do we think is the will of God for us? Is it not for our happiness? *“What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the holy Spirit to those who ask him?”* (Lk. 11:11-13)

The best analogy that we could use is the parent-child relationship. Parents obviously want the happiness, the fulfillment of their children. This is exactly what their children want too. What parent and child may disagree about is the means. Here, there is the question of who knows what means will best produce that desired state of happiness. Most of the time, when children are very young, parents do know what is best, if only children could be convinced that their parents really do want only their happiness.

Likewise, it would help us if we could really believe that what God wants is really our happiness, even when He challenges us with difficulties and asks us to endure failure or grief. The comparison between God and parents is somewhat valid, except that parents can be wrong in some of their judgments. God, by definition, is infinitely intelligent and infinitely loving. God is infallible, cannot be wrong. He is omniscient, knows much better than what we think will make us happy.

As Creator of heaven and earth, God places everything in the universe under Divine Providence, that is, under His protective care, His sovereign guidance and control. He has providence over our world and over human history, which we might call His “master plan.” He puts all His efforts toward accomplishing the greatest good imaginable, that creation is ordained to perfect good. Trusting in Divine Providence, to always do the will of God must be the deepest desire of our hearts.

We live most of our days under God’s general directive of making our lives an act of love. He asks us to use the unique gifts He has given to each one of us and to invest these gifts wisely and lovingly in the cause of God’s kingdom. There may also be times in our life when God will have a specific will, a call to something which is very definite. By seriously seeking and wanting God’s will, we can trust that God’s specific will can be found in our own deepest inclinations and attractions. We must want the will of God with all our heart in all things and at all times. Only by asking for and allowing the Holy Spirit of God to work in us and through us are we able to know and do God’s specific will for each one of us.

“And God, like a good father, will answer every prayer, if not with what we want, surely with all we need, the Holy Spirit.”

The Lord's Prayer

In Luke 11: 1-4, Jesus was praying to His Father, and when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, **“Lord, teach us to pray....”** Jesus was pleased to hear this request from them. He was glad when they could understand the utmost importance of prayer, of their willingness to learn.

And so He taught them a perfect prayer: *“This is how you are to pray: 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 today our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors...”*

“Our Father”

What our Lord taught us was more than a prayer, it was a revelation of His own deepest and most ardent feelings for God the Father. “Our Father” He said. Not just His or yours but ours. In this prayer, most important things come first: that the Father’s Name may be loved and praised by all, that His Kingdom, the Church, may be spread all over the world, and that His Holy Will may be done perfectly and cheerfully by all.

“Give Us Today Our Daily Bread”

Here, “Bread” means all our material and spiritual needs. We are to ask our Father, the only source of everything, for all of them. However, Jesus made it perfectly clear that we ask our Father for our needs for “this day” alone, that tomorrow is really not important. Here, again, He was not only teaching them how to pray, He is teaching them to trust. The God Who feeds us today will feed us tomorrow, that we must learn to live without anxiety and fear and to trust in His goodness and love.

“Forgive Us Our Debts As We Forgive Our Debtors”

Here, Jesus stressed one important spiritual gift to ask for: the grace of mercy and the bigness to forgive and forget. However many people help deceive themselves by re-defining forgiveness to be the control of hostile feelings instead of a merciful expression of love. Forgiveness is not a feeling but a decision to let go of hurt due to an offense and to express this by extending loving mercy to those who have hurt us. When we have mercy, we are not condoning sin but loving sinners. In fact, the more we love sinners, **the more we put our Father’s will over our own.** It is difficult, but we must follow the example of Jesus, the most abused Person Who has ever lived. The first thing He said while hanging on the cross: **“Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.”** (Lk 23:34).

St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis of Assisi was born in 1181, the son of Pietro Bernadone, a wealthy cloth merchant from Assisi, Umbria, Italy. Born during his father's absence, he was baptized as Giovanni by his mother, after St. John the Baptist. Upon his father's return, he was promptly renamed Francesco. The last thing his father wanted was a man of God; rather he wanted someone who would reflect his infatuation with France. Thus "Francesco" was akin to calling him *Frenchman*.

Francis grew up in a life of ease and leisure. From the beginning he was loved and pampered by everyone. He was always happy & charming—a born leader. In his youth he led a group of young people who spent much of their time in wild parties. Francis pursued wealth and the good life. He became a successful businessman and fulfilled his father's dreams.

In time, he wanted more than just wealth. He also wanted the glory and prestige of nobility. When Assisi declared war against Perugia, Francis became a knight. Many were killed, but the rich were spared for ransom. Francis was imprisoned for a year. After he was finally ransomed, Francis returned back to his life of comfort. A call for knights for the Fourth Crusade gave him another chance for self-glory. His father sent him off, robed in an armor decorated in gold and a magnificent cloak. Francis left, boasting to return a prince.

But God had greater plans for Francis. After traveling for a day, God spoke to him in a dream, telling him to return home. Francis did, and suffered his town's ridicule and his father's rage for wasting money on armor.

Francis' transformation did not happen overnight. God waited for him for 25 years and now it was his turn to wait. He started spending more time in prayer and contemplation. He went off to a cave and wept for his sins. Sometimes, he was overwhelmed with God's grace and filled with joy.

One day, Francis saw a leper by the road. Even as he was appalled by the leper, he stopped and kissed the leper's hand. A feeling of joy overcame Francis as the leper returned his kiss. Riding away, Francis turned to wave goodbye. Miraculously the leper had disappeared! Francis considered this as a test from God. In his continued pursuit for conversion, he visited a church in San Damiano. It was here that God spoke to him again, instructing him to "Repair my church". Francis understood this as an order to rebuild the dilapidated structure he was in. So he took cloth from his father's store and sold it to raise money. This act enraged his father, prompting him to drag Francis in front of the bishop and townspeople, demanding Francis to return the money and to denounce his right as an heir. The bishop told Francis to return the money; God will provide.

next column please...

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Spiritual Recollection On the Holy Eucharist" (With Father Trevor Nathasingh)

October 15–16 at St Antoninus Church

Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am Holy Mass

Please contact the Pastoral Ministry: Dens/Mina Mantes (973-887-5904)

John 6 Crossing

Retreat for children ages 12 to 14

October 21-23 at Ramada Limited South Plainfield, NJ

Contact: john6ministry@bldnewark.co

BLD Annual Fundraising Dinner Dance

October 22 Saturday

St. Demetrius Community Center, Carteret, NJ

For details, please contact Vic/Becky Napenas (201-320-7644)

"Somebody's Praying Me Through" Concert

November 13, Sunday

Showtimes: 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Felician College, Lodi, NJ

2006 Magnificat

We are now accepting group subscriptions for the 2006 Magnificat at \$15.00/person. Please submit your group's order and payment to Sally Santiago (cell: 201-724-2383) or Zita Cruz (cell: 908-265-7415) on or before October 28, 2005. Please make group's payment either in 'Cash' or with a single check payable to 'Cash' to facilitate the process of converting all payments into one check for Magnificat.

Airfare bids for the coming medical mission are now being accepted. For details, please see mission members or Nong & Tricia Bustos.

TEACHINGS (BLD Newark and Outreaches)

Oct. 15 Christian Parenting Part 2 - LSS25

Intro to Intercession – LSS25

CMP II Part 1, Discipline, Speech

Witnessing, Giving – LSS21-22

CMPI Part 2, Walking in the Spirit, Service, Body/

Blood, Community – LSS23

Shepherds Training Part 1 – LSS20

Oct. 21 Walking in the Spirit – Singles

At that very moment Francis was transformed from the son of his earthly father, into the son of his heavenly father. He quickly stripped himself of all his worldly possessions. It was when he had nothing, that Francis had everything.

St. Francis continued on to live a life of humility and obedience. He spent the rest of his life rebuilding God's Church. His many followers later became known as the Franciscan Order.

Counsels *from page 1*

One of the directions for this week is to “Remain in the Lord and be fruitful in your calling and in your ministry.” Where is the best place we could be fruitful in community? It is in our ministry. Why? Because God had placed people there who have experienced similar hardships and burdens that you are going through. It is also in your ministry where you usually find the person who is so difficult to deal with. This is not coincidence, but part of God’s plan for us to continue to grow and be fruitful. We should not go around asking to be moved to a different ministry because there’s someone we don’t agree with or like in our current ministry. Even if we do move, we can very well find that the same problems and issues followed us in our new ministry. Why? Perhaps we bring our own brokenness along with us wherever we go. Our fruits may not sweet yet, and may taste to others like “sour grapes”. The transformation we should seek should be ours, not of others.

Finally, for all of us striving to be fruitful disciples of our Master, we have to continue to acknowledge that Jesus is the cornerstone and provider of all good fruits. When we examine how the Fruit of the Holy Spirit is growing within us, we have to be patient and persevering, and always calling on Jesus: *“Have no anxiety at all but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving make your request known to God.”* (Phil 4:6)

Directions:

1. Lift up all our concerns to God, as individuals, families, and community, in prayer and thanksgiving
2. Remain in the Lord and be fruitful in your calling and in your ministry

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS		EXPENSES	
9/09	3,774	37-wk avg	\$3,834
9/16	4,719		
9/23	3,687		
37-wkavg	\$3,834		

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

September 30- October 2	Aspirants" Retreat
October 7-9	LSS 25
October 14-16	ME 9 Albany
October 21-23	John 6 Crossing #6
October 22	Dinner Dance

BIRTHDAYS

September 30

Jess Rementilla, John6

October 1

Mariel Deveza, SE;	Fr. Felix Enriquez, ME 12
Jun Adlao, SE 9	Bong Bernardino, LSS 18
Betty De la Cruz, LSS 2	Mariel Deveza, SE 5
Angel Macandile, ME 7	Mariz Obrera, LSS 16

October 2

Gary Camacho, LSS 17 Richie Escobinas, LSS 4

October 3

Ria Huelgas, SE	Theresa DeLosAngeles, SE
Matt Mance, John6.	Annie Casino, LSS 23
Chito Ciocon, LSS 6	Tessie Concepcion, LSS 13
Nina Huelgas, YLSS 1	Paul Ogonna, LSS 20
Gerry Policarpio, LSS 14	Dee Solon, LSS 13
Therese De Los Angeles, SE 5	

October 4

Auring Bandilla, LSS 9	Ping Chao, SE 9
Dolly Conterras, LSS 1	Nes De La Cruz, LSS 23
Jun Entrada, LSS 4	Evangeline Gubor, LSS 23
Fe Sales, ME 11	Cathy Duma, John6
Girlie De Guzman, FE 2	

October 5

Chiemezie Anyanwu, Mk10	Eme Castillon, Mk10
Dodee Aglibut, LSS 12	Anne Marie Almonte, LSS 5
Ian David, LSS 14	Manolet Dayrit, LSS 5
Gigi Espejon, LSS 7	Nando Garcia, ME 7
Fe Masisado, LSS 21	Heidi Paguio, ME 12
Sario Pecson, ME 12	Luz Ramirez, ME 7
Nardz Santos, LSS 21	Cindy Sison, SE 3
Wendy Tan, SE 4	Lito Villahermosa, ME 1

October 6

Joe Canlas, LSS 6	Wilma Castellano, LSS 11
Ann Conway, LSS 9	Pauline Enechukwu, SPE 8
Cris Escobinas, LSS 2	Mae Garcia, LSS 5
Cora Labung, LSS 15	Louie Mendoza, LSS 24
Roy Salalila, ME 10	Chris Sarmiento, SE 5

ANNIVERSARIES

September 30	Romy & Rose Dinsay, LSS24
	Vic & Dee Lim, LSS9
October 1	Gene & Fe Fabric, ME 4
October 2	Max & Jean Villamaria, LSS 18
October 4	Bernie & Melva Angeles, LSS 4
	Pete & Betty Clemente, ME 6
	Tony & Ida Evangelista, LSS 1
October 5	Albert & Bea Chan, LSS 20
	Freddie & Patring Pagdanganan, LSS 14
	Tonet & Joy Racaza, LSS 1
	Eddie & Cely Reyes, LSS 10
October 6	Gerry & Remy Policarpio, LSS 14



ASPIRANTS' RETREAT

After the spirit-filled teachings, sharing, praise and worships, and the Holy Eucharist, 25 aspirants from BLD Newark and Rockland resolved to pull out all the stops in their present spiritual walk with the Lord. Inspired by the Holy Spirit through prayers and talks of the weekend, they found greater courage and strength to move ahead to a life of deeper discipleship and service to the Lord.

The class members were very reverent and contemplative as they opened their hearts to the teachings on discipleship. They witnessed to a living example of true discipleship when Fr. Paul Lehman, Spiritual Director and the Aspirants retreat master told the class that he was peaceful with his discernment to be present to conduct the aspirants retreat even when he came to know that his gravely ill sister has passed away that very morning. His sacrificial love to be there for our aspirants was the weekend's most poignant witnessing of how we must follow Jesus.

We give glory to our Lord as we welcome our newest aspiring disciples: Bernie & Melva Angeles, Bong & Flor Baculio, Audie & Vulet Chong, Zer & Charlotte Florentino, Mel & Remy Hernandez, Vic & Mila Malantic, Flory & Gen Mangasi, George & MaryAnn McGehrin, Frank & Atet Mendonez, Vic & Becky Napenas, Ronnie & Mickee Pacia, Joe Pascoguin, and Ricky & Nardz Santos.

BLD YOUTH IN ACTION

This past Saturday, October 1, members of our Newark Youth ministry as well as some volunteers went up to Albany to attend the YE1 Grand Reunion. This group of 15 youth members and 5 adults packed into 3 vans and drove three hours to the venue. Once there, they joined in the Praise and Worship led by some graduates and their class shepherds. Our Youth Praise brought all spirits up high with praise jam, which later was followed by a comedy skit presented by the YE1 graduates. The class shepherds closed the reunion with a very beautiful presentation.

This Grand Reunion was nostalgic to our Youth group as they remembered the weekend of September 9-11 when they were invited to support the YE1 in Albany, NY. BLD Albany has been around for a while and has decided it was time to hold its first YE. So this same group heeded the call to mission and worked tirelessly to help make Albany's YE1 victorious in the Lord! That was a month ago and last Saturday what joy and happiness they felt in seeing same faces again but now more spiritually aglow in the Lord. We praise God for the fruitful missions of our youth.

COUNSELS

The Parable of Those Invited to the Wedding Feast

WORD:

Is. 25:6-10a; Ps.23:1-3a,3b-6;
Phil.4:12-14, 19-20; Mt. 22:1-14



ORDER:

Go out into the world and invite to the wedding feast of Jesus whomever you find.

REFLECTION:

The celebration of the Twenty-eight Sunday of Ordinary Time could be called, "a liturgy for time of crisis," wherein serious decisions must be made. The Word of God proclaimed today strongly reminds us of the urgency of these decisions. Today, we must obey God in action, not just in word. His call to partake of the meal prepared for those He loves resounds everywhere. Today, we are given the opportunity to take to ourselves "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just and pure, whatever is lovely and is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise" (Phil.4:8); to put into practice what we have learned and received from the Holy Gospel.

Today, amidst the growing challenges and temptations of the world, the need to heed God's call is more pressing. Servants in great numbers have been dispatched to human beings of all generations. Finally, Jesus came announcing that the kingdom of God is at hand. He has entrusted to His disciples the mission of proclaiming it (Matt10: 7). This message has already reached us since we are believers. We respond to the invitation each time we gather around the table to participate in the liturgy. "Happy are those who are called to His supper."

(continued on page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

"My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with His glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Phil.4:19)

Avoid Pretensions By Being God's Witness

Hypocrisy may be defined as 'play-acting' with the actor being fearful of what other people may think and therefore is desperate to look good to them. A man who really cares about how God thinks of him will never be a "play actor," a great pretender or charlatan in this life. He will never be caught in the never-ending trap of pretensions just to live up to other people's expectations.

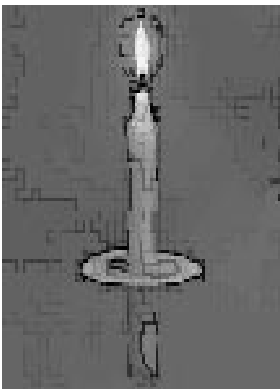
What is the best way to free ourselves of hypocrisy? Fear God and not man by living the life of a true witness—having the apostolate of a good and holy life and being steadfast in the principles of Christ and faithfully fulfilling one's obligations to both God and His people.

Prayer, sacrifice and self-denial are powerful tools in leading a holy life. A good and holy life sounds clearer and louder than a trumpet. It speaks for itself and comes with great authority. It is more powerful than the words of any persuasive charismatic speaker.

Today our Lord is telling us that our good actions should be made public to give our neighbor the example of good work, but at the same time by our intention, be directed only toward God to please Him alone in secret. There is a great difference between one who makes a big show of his good acts, hoping to call forth praise from others, gain a reputation for sanctity, and one who is acting with the intention of pleasing God alone. He wants us to be pure in our motivations as **"there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known."**

It is our duty both to God and our neighbor to edify others by our conduct. As Christians, we should never have any space for hypocrisy and play-acting but must always speak the truth in Christ's love. Nothing can be hidden from God as He knows all truth that **"whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed on the housetops"**. What should be foremost in our hearts is our sincere intention of drawing others to God.

Every man who lives to please God alone avoids



hypocrisy and will always be a good witness for the Lord anywhere, anytime. He is like a city seated on a mountain that cannot be hid. He is like a burning light set upon a candlestick that shines to all occupants in the house. His life with the Lord grows deeper with every passing day as his light shines upon other souls and draws them to God.

Is It For The Lord?

"Woe to you Pharisees! You love the seat of honor in synagogues and greetings in marketplaces. Woe to you! You are like unseen graves over which people unknowingly walk." (Lk 11:43-44)

At times, our human nature seeks for the attention and recognition of others. We long for the validation of our works and we measure our importance and our worth by the honors and praises we receive. We experience a sense of achievement, when we receive a pat in the back. Jesus warns us against unclean intentions and deeds.

"Woe to you, scholars of the law! You have taken away the key of knowledge. You yourselves did not enter and you stopped those trying to enter." (Lk 11:52)

We can easily deceive others and ourselves by our acts of self-glorification. The mask of self-deception is an act of self-love, closing us to the love of God and to the love of others. We often hear stories of individuals turned off by the hypocrisy of churchgoers. These deceptions lead us away from our Lord and create obstacles for those who seek the Lord. We clearly recognize that these acts are sinful, because they violate the commandments to love God above all and to love others as we love ourselves.

When we seek honors and praises for the deeds we have done, then these are the rewards we shall receive. *"Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father."* (Mt 6:1) *"When you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you."* (Mt 6:3-4) *"When you fast anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you."* (Mt 6:17-18)

To recognize our human weaknesses and failings, we need to examine our conscience, to unmask ourselves before God... to unveil our intentions, our motives. We need to bare our souls to the Lord... allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us, to lead us and move us ever closer to His Truth and Righteousness. The Sacrament of Reconciliation provides us with the Lord's grace to reveal to our minds and hearts how to purify our souls... to make us worthy to be children of God.

Jesus promises us the greatest reward when he said: *"Blessed are the clean of heart for they will see God."* (Mt 5:8)



Nurturing Others

How many times have we missed to help a person in need when the opportunity came along?

"Thus will it be for the one who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich in what matters to God." (Lk 12:21)

We have been reading a lot about the catastrophic devastation of the Hurricane Katrina, the thousands left homeless, their ordeal and struggle to stay alive, the grief and agony over the loss of loved ones. But did these horrific circumstances really move us to stop and listen to this utter desperation of our brothers and sisters? As true disciples of Christ- we have the responsibility to give them comfort and aid them in any way we can possibly do. This is one opportunity that we can say to our Lord, thank you for your gifts and blessings to my family and let me share these to my brothers and sisters who are suffering and in dire need of my assistance.

There are many situations although in a smaller scale that we must give of ourselves. In some families, small children feel neglected or abandoned because the parents are out working overtime or having 2 jobs. We oftentimes measure more income, more money as higher standard of life, equating this financial attainment as the prime importance of our existence. Unknowingly we become so entangled with hoarding more and more material possessions for our family and sadly we miss out on the many opportunities to nurture our children's emotional and spiritual growth.

The Lord is telling us to be rich in the things that matter and these are building strong Christian values to our children and to be ready to share our life to the service of all God's people. God gives us gifts to be shared. He never intended for us to keep these to ourselves. He blesses us with a good home so we can be more compassionate to the homeless. He blesses us with good health so we can attend to the frail and the sick. He blesses us with good fortune so we can lift up the less fortunate. He blesses us with talents so we can brighten someone's gloom. He blesses us with authority in our jobs so we can protect the oppressed and discriminated. He blesses us with a strong community to draw strength from, in nurturing a sick or broken brother back to wholeness again with our prayers and caring support.

Yes, Lord, we want to be rich only in the things that matter. Help us to acquire the desire to nurture others by our acts of charity and loving service to others. Teach us to live for others, in your name. Amen.



Ministry Announcements

BLD 9TH Annual Golf Outing

Many thanks again to those who supported this event. We deeply thank two more hole sponsors: Camacho & Camacho Certified Public Accountants and Bessie Wallie.

Spiritual Recollection On The Holy Eucharist

With Father Trevor Nathasingh

October 15-16 at St. Antoninus Church
Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am Holy Mass.

Please contact the Pastoral Ministry:
Dens/Mina Mantes at (973) 887-5904

John 6 Crossing#6

Retreat for children ages from 12 to 14 years old
October 21-23 at Ramada Limited, South Plainfield, NJ
Contact: john6ministry@bldnewark.com

BLD Annual Fundraising Dinner and Dance

October 22, Saturday at St. Demetrius Comm. Center,
Carteret, NJ. Contact: Vic & Becky Napenas (201) 320-7644.

Somebody's Praying Me Through

November 13, Sunday at Felician College, Lodi, NJ
Show times: 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm

2006 Magnificat Group subscriptions \$15.00/person

Please submit your group's order and payment to Word Ministry: Sally Santiago (C#201-724-2383) or Zita Cruz (C#908-265-7415) on or before October 28, 2005. Please make a single payment/group in "Cash" or check payable to "Cash". All payments received will be converted into one check for Magnificat.

Medical Mission

We are now accepting airfare bids for the 2006 medical mission. Contact: Nong & Tricia Bustos from the Mission Ministry.

Teachings (Newark and Outreaches)

- ***October 15** Christian Parenting Part 2, Intro to Intercession – **LSS25**
CMP II Part 1, Discipline, Speech - **LSS21-22**
Witnessing, Giving – **LSS21-22**
CMP I Part 2, Walking in the Spirit-**LSS23**
Service, Body/Blood, Community – **LSS23**
Shepherds Training Part 1 – **LSS20**
- **At St. Mary's School at 232 Central Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065*
- October 21** Walking in the Spirit – **Singles**
- October 22** Apologetics, Mary, Trinity-**Washington LSS1**
Sacramentals – **Washington LSS1**
CMP I Part I; Love; Faith -**Washington LSS4**
World, Flesh, devil; Renewing the mind –
Washington LSS4
Encounter with Jesus Part 2, Mark, Matthew –
Rockland
Apologetics, Church, Salvation – **Albany**

Counsels *from page 1*

However, we should not be misled that the parable of this Sunday does not concern us. Let us pay particular attention to the first ones invited to the feast. They simply ignored the invitation, as they were preoccupied with work ... "one to his farm, another to his business." Worldly anxiety and the lure of riches (Matt.13: 22) prevented them from seriously taking the Lord's invitation.

Do we sound just like the first invited guests? Do we say, "I don't have the time", "I am too occupied with my business or other obligations", or even "I am too tired." How many times have we uttered these excuses when the Lord's invitation is extended us? And yet we consider ourselves, followers of God. To the disciples gathered around Him on the mountain, Jesus proclaimed: "Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matt.7: 21)

The Gospel from Matthew 22: 6 tells us that those sent out to invite guests to the royal wedding were mistreated or even put to death. Does this thought scare us? If we truly abide by our covenant with God, then we fear not. Our community has been called to live the way God wants us to live, a joyous gathering of disciples who have accepted the invitation, and had chosen a faithful life in Christ. Let us turn our attention back to those people who have refused the invitation. Did they refuse because they are evil or because we, the servants whom the Master sent out to issue the invitations, did not do our part right? Perhaps our attitude, our superiority, our bad examples or our lack of joy served as walls that prevented them from seeing what the Good News is all about. We must tear down these walls and instead build bridges of true witnessing and caring.

As His disciples, we must actively share our faith. We, as the Church, have a foretaste of the heavenly banquet being prepared for us. We now must go to the crossroads in order to invite to the wedding feast all those we encounter. It is by accepting Jesus' invitation wholeheartedly that we will bear fruit. This requires that as Christians, we should present ourselves as "having put on Christ", attested by our good works and examples.

The Lord's table at liturgy is the privileged place where we, having acknowledged our once deafness to the Lord's call, return to God, trustfully entreating Him to keep us back to Himself and to grant us sincere and determined hearts, in joyful service for His glory.

DIRECTIONS:

- Witness and share to others how you accepted Jesus in your life.
- Accept the call of God wholeheartedly.

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

9/16 4,719

9/23 3,687

9/30 3,680

38-wk avg \$3,537

*Thank you
for your generosity!*

EXPENSES

38-wk avg \$3,976

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- October 7-9 LSS25
- October 14-16 ME9 Albany
- October 21-23 John 6 Crossing#6
- October 22 Dinner Dance

BIRTHDAYS



- Oct 7** Chuck, Bonham, LSS7
Julie Cruz, LSS 11
Elaine Fernando, ME 8
Eddie Flores, LSS 6
Eddie Macalino, LSS 9
Evelyn Matos, ME 23
Rose Sorreta, ME 14
Cherry Vibar, SE 1
Michelle Schleck-Tambor
Andrew Sun, Mk10
- Oct 8** Dennis Barrera, LSS 18
Genny Javellana, LSS 14
- Oct 9** Jessie De La Cruz, ME 16
Bubbles Fernando, LSS 9
Cora Reyes, SPE 6
Max Villamaria, LSS 18
Matthew Talbot, Mk10
Erica Canlas, YE11
- Oct 10** Ann Capili, YE10
Doyle Dionisio, SE 13
Marcia Galarrita, ME 2
Aida Gandhi, FE 6
Rose Manzo, ME 25
Emil Narciso, LSS 8
Kristian Espejon, John6
- Oct 11** Ging Atendido, LSS 5
George Castro, LSS 14
Lary De Guzman, LSS 19
Blanca Francisco, LSS 10
Lita Guerrero, LSS 17
Jose Ng, SE 9
Mart Razal, YE1
Kate Lyn Roy, SE 13
Jen Tulod, SE 4
Steph Duma, YE12
- Oct 12** Edith Asis, LSS 3
Corabel Dalena, ME 16
Gingging Dubouze, LSS 9
Kevin Harris, SE 12
Willy Leonardo, ME 4
Kathleen Marty, SE 13
Ria Rasalan, LSS 4
Pia Vargas, LSS 18
Jocef Baquilod, John6
- Oct 13** Michelle Guzman, Mk10
Jojo Almazan, LSS 3
Ed Edquilag, LSS 17
Eddie Gaerlan, ME 3
Robin Guiao, LSS 16
Rene Perez, FE 8
Arlene Rigor, LSS 18
Eddy Tajanlangit, LSS 1
Ardie Tansaco, YE 2



ANNIVERSARIES

- Oct 7** Ollie & Annie Felibrico, LSS8
Al & Annie Gatchalian, LSS10
- Oct 8** Harry & Irene Ducay, LSS17
Anne & Joel Melgar, LSS10
Sam & Rory Olasso, LSS2
- Oct 9** Joey & Cherrie Cruz, LSS1
Jun & Lucy Foronda, FE5
- Oct 10** Norie & Miriam Abes, LSS2
Gon & Maria Daulo, LSS23
Zer & Charlotte Florentino, LSS24
Fred & Purie Salar, LSS18
Willie & Evelyn Tinio, LSS2
- Oct 11** Eddie & Wilma Antonio, LSS18
DV & Jackie Del Valle, LSS12
- Oct 12** Buddy & Aida Arguilla, LSS15
Romy & Dading Cuy, LSS10
John & Diane Sheehan, ME12
- Oct 13** June & Geng Bustos, LSS22





LSS 25 Graduates Start Their New Life



“What are we to do, my brothers? Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized... and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit.’ And about three thousand persons were added that day.” (Acts 2:37-41)

The weeks of preparation with and by their shepherds culminated in the Baptism in the Spirit of 86 graduates of Life in the Spirit Seminar # 25 last weekend at La Consolata Retreat Center in Somerset NJ. (Their names are listed on page 2) The class was made up of 25 couples (23 from ME 25), 25 singles and 11 solo parents. The sponsors and auxies mirrored the composition of the class as the community showed unprecedented collaboration among the 3 groups of members who served selflessly during the weekend.

Father Paul Lehman led the Seminar and his teachings were brought to life by the bold witnessing of the sharers on the great themes of the LSS – God’s Love, Salvation, New Life, the Gifts, Baptism, Growth and Transformation. The fundamental change of stony hearts into softened “hearts of flesh” (Ezek 36:26) was again effected by the Lord God Who alone does wonders. Heeding the repentant cries of His children, He brought much healing. At the prophetic utterance of *“You are healed!”* groans and shrieks of deliverance from the shackling burdens of sin and unforgiveness emanated. Many times, the conference hall resounded with the convergent gift of tongues as the newly-baptised exuberantly praised Almighty God in the heavenly language. These and other gifts were showered by the Holy Spirit on the gathered assembly, who started to proclaim unabashedly the changes and graces of renewal that He has begun in their lives (see some of the sharings on page 2).

COUNSELS

We Are God's Coin

WORD: Is 45:1, 4-6; Ps 96:1, 3-5, 7-10;
1 Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21

ORDER: *“...repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” (Mt22:21)*

REFLECTION: During the past weeks our gospel readings talked about the Vineyard, the people of Israel. We were encouraged to look within and see how fruitful we are. We were made to reflect on our stewardship, on how have we been responding to the bountiful grace of the owner of the Vineyard, our Father. For this week, our theme reveals to us the key to bearing good fruit: We bear good fruit when we give to God everything due Him.

When Jesus was asked by those who were tricking him, He looked over the coin and said to them: *“Whose image is this and whose inscriptions?” They replied, “Caesar’s”. At that he said to them, “Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” (Mt 22:20-21)*

So what is Caesar’s? What do we have that belongs to our government? It is a reality that our government relies on a portion of its citizens’ income to function. A good Christian has a duty to the government in return for the privileges the government provides. If you enjoy Caesar’s benefits, you should pay Caesar’s taxes. This is why we have paved roads to drive on, protection by the police and fire department, and the security of knowing that our money in the bank will be there when we need it, etc. Giving to Caesar is the easy part of the question.

The harder part comes when Jesus finishes his answer with a much more involved directive: *“Give to God what is God’s.”* What is God’s? Everything is God’s! There’s

(Continued on page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

“The Lord is king; the world will surely stand fast, never to be moved. God rules the people with fairness.” (Ps 96:10)

My LSS 25 Weekend

These are the testimonies of some LSS 25 graduates.

“Awesome. Powerful. The Holy Spirit was upon all. A victorious weekend. There was rejoicing in heaven.”

I still tremble as I write, for the profound experience I just had. During the Baptism, I remember falling. My body was so light that I felt peace. I tried to clasp my hands in prayer, but felt a strength pulling them open. I could not resist IT and when I gave in, IT raised my arms higher and higher...then I sobbed for I knew that God wants me to glorify HIM in this manner. On Sunday, I saw my husband worship the Lord like never before, and I felt shame for thinking that God did not hear my prayers and cries, and did not see my misery. My LSS proved me wrong. Lord, please forgive me, and I love You! (O.P.)

Before the LSS weekend, we knew we would experience a range of emotions. Tears of sorrow and joy flowed freely all day Saturday. But our “Baptism” experience left us feeling confused and unsure. That changed on Sunday as the desire to praise God filled us both. We were touched deeply by the support of our shepherds, the witness of our classmates, the encouragement of Fr. Paul, and the wonderful music of the Praise Ministry. The richest moment was when classmates came from every direction to exchange a sign of peace; polite handshakes were replaced by loving embraces filled with the Peace of Christ. (I.R.)

Our shepherds guided us to that “lighted walkway” of Jesus Christ. We received the promised Holy Spirit. Before the Pentecost narrative was over, I was deep in prayer and yielded to the Lord. I felt tired and weak by the time the lights went out. With eyes closed, I could hear praise songs, prayers and exhortations to keep my hands open and mouth uttering *Alleluia* repeatedly. I felt a total blackout and as I tried to right myself, a flash of bright lights set in. I found myself lying on the floor. Was I touched by the Holy Spirit? I hope to see deep changes in my life, and am surrendered to the Lord granting them - in HIS time. (A.R.)

The strangest side effect seems to be giggling. I’m sure our son thinks we are completely nuts but joy is hard to contain.

Welcome, LSS 25 graduates! We rejoice with you as you start your New Life in the Spirit.

Jeremy Alarva; Dhemie/Divine Alba; Virginia Alcantara; Aileen Amalilang; Trisha Arias; Ray/Susie Atienza; Shane/Charo Badiola; Jason Barrera; Tom/Dori Beary; Marc/Emma Belmonte; Mark/Angela Brancato; Gerald/Nell Cabildo; Rodnelle Calim; Darvi Calotes; Rolly/Nila Castillo; Romy/Lyn Castillo; Megz Clarin; Jillian Cruz; Cel/Gia Cueto; Benson Del Rosario; Ramie/Emmy Espina; Dave Farinas; Ditto Fernando; Angelu Gonzales; Salvacion Hohenberg; Francis Isidro; Rowena Jaico; Dawn Jolly; James Koryan; Ricky/Evelyn Laguatan; PJ Lao; Lorna Lintag; Louie Lomuntad; Peggy Lopez; Nelson/Rose Manzo; Andrea Medina; Gene/Connie Mesina; Fanny Militar; Natasha Montesclaros; Arnold/Cely Ocaya; Pete/Precy Pajela; Bian/Olga Paraguaya; Natividad Perez; Randy Perez; Gloria Rada; Dennis/Linda Redoblado; Josephine Robertiello; Don/Irene Rodriguez; Sally Romero; Al/Edith Rosales; Kate Lyn Roy; Riel/Gina Sabale; Rey/Tessie Salmo; Erwin/Marie Santos; Mark Serrano; Bernie/Novie Soluta; Loreza Tamayo; Arlene Tiamzon; Jedlyn Tordecilla; Nes/Cecile Vasquez; Kristine Ventura

True Wealth

As members of a charismatic community, we can claim that we know what “True Wealth” is in the eyes of God. Our challenge is not in knowing but in understanding its true meaning and in staying focused on accumulating and storing it in heaven.

Knowing something is not the same as understanding its true meaning. For some, there is a misconception that God does not want us to get rich here on earth; that we have to give up our earthly possessions to enter His heavenly kingdom. This misconception provides some with an excuse to refrain from following God’s word, and to concentrate more in accumulating riches here on earth.

“Thus will it be for the one who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich in what matters to God.” (Mt.12:21)

Its true meaning can be found where our heart is. Is our heart’s desire to preserve or accumulate more worldly possessions, or is it to do God’s will? Only the individual person and God know the answer to this question.

“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” (Lk 12:34)

What our heart desires is our attachment. It is what is in our hearts that determines whether or not the wealth that we accumulate is the true wealth in the eyes of God.

The other challenge that we face is staying focused in doing God’s will. The very foundation of our faith in God is “love” and “humility”. One cannot exist without the other. And these two can be best manifested through prayer and service.

To love God with all our heart, with all our mind, and with all our soul is best exemplified in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Our mandate is to love God and our neighbors. We cannot claim that we love God without loving our neighbors. Every good deed that we do especially for the less fortunate is the true wealth that is stored in heaven. As Jesus said in Mt.25:40; *“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”*

We accumulate this wealth every time we offer ourselves as witnesses of God’s love to others. It is wealth that lasts forever and cannot be taken away. It is the only wealth that gives us real joy... and makes our good Lord smile.

The Power of Intercession

In the past, I went to the Lord in prayer only when I needed something, and normally at the 11th hour when I am holding on to dear life. My prayer was, Lord give me this, give me that.

As He made me feel His great mercy and love for me, He showed me how to give back love to others. In what I call His funny ways, the Lord put me in a ministry where our main function is to pray for others constantly. We prayed for others so much that I do not have time to pray for myself or my loved ones. As I stood in the gap for others, I felt God's mighty hand as I saw changes in people's lives and many, many answered prayers.

There were times during vigils that my body started shaking, tears started flowing like a bursting stream while I was *groaning with un-discernable sounds* (Rom 8:26b). Once when I was in this state, I felt intense pressure on a particular part of my head that I felt it would burst. I became scared but I continued to pray, trusting that the Lord will not let harm befall me as I did His works. After the vigil this pain disappeared.

I thank the Lord for letting me *bear someone else's burden* (Gal. 6:2). Later on, one of the seminar candidates who had a brain tumor testified that she felt release and that something was happening to her brain. I was amazed that the pain I experienced in the vigil room was at exactly the same location where she had her tumor. I felt shivers up my spine. The Lord has showed me His power. While I was interceding, He released that person from her pain and burden. He started healing her.

As I continued to intercede for others, the Lord slowly removed the callousness in my heart that was caused by sin. I started to feel for those I prayed for. I felt their worries, aches, anxieties and burdens. My hardened heart, incapable of receiving or giving love, was slowly replaced by a heart that feels. I became capable of feeling love and giving back love in return.

I now realize that when I interceded for others, others were praying for me as well. Thru His great mercy and love, somebody who cared for and loved me in Christ was praying me through.

The Lord's Provisions

COLLECTIONS

9/23 \$ 3,687
9/30 \$ 3,680
10/7 \$ 3,491

COLLECTIONS

39-wk avg \$ 3,536
EXPENSES
39-wk avg \$ 3,889

Ministry Announcements

Spiritual Recollection on the Holy Eucharist

(With Fr. Trevor Nathasingh) Oct 15-16 at St. Antoninus
Saturday 9 am to 5 pm, Sunday 10 am Holy Mass

Contact Pastoral Ministry: Dens/Mina Mantes (973-887-5904)

John 6 Crossing #6 Retreat (children 12 to 14 yrs.)

Oct 21-23 at Ramada Limited, S. Plainfield, NJ

Contact: john6ministry@bldnewark.com

BLD Annual Fundraising Dinner and Dance

Oct 22 Saturday, St. Demetrius Community Center, Carteret, NJ

Contact: Vic/Becky Napenas (201-320-7644)

2006 Magnificat Group Subscriptions \$15.00/Person

Submit group order/payment to Word Ministry: Sally Santiago (201-724-2383) or Zita Cruz (908-265-7415) on or before Oct 28. Group payment in 'Cash' or personal check payable to 'Cash'.

FE # 12 2nd Class Reunion

Oct 30 Sunday, St. Antoninus (Basement), 1:00 pm - 5:30 pm

We are now accepting Airfare bids for the coming medical mission.

Contact Mission Ministry members or Nong & Tricia Bustos.

Somebody's Praying Me Through Concert

November 13 Sunday, Felician College, Lodi NJ

Show times: 2 pm & 7 pm

Teachings

***Oct 15** Christian Parenting Part 2, Intro to Intercession – LSS25

CMP II Part 1, Discipline, Speech, Witnessing, Giving – LSS21-22

CMP I Part 2, Walking in the Spirit, Service, Body/Blood, Community – LSS23
Shepherds Training Part 1 – LSS20

* At St. Mary's School

* at 232 Central Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065

Oct 21 Walking in the Spirit – Singles

Oct 22 Encounter with Jesus Part 2, Mark, Matthew – Rockland

Oct 28 Service Formation – Intercessory

Nov 5 Encounter with Jesus Part 1, Road to Emmaus, Jesus in the OT, Development of the Gospel – LSS24

CMP 2 Part 2, Suffering, Discernment, Fraternal Correction, Handling Conflict, Repairing Wrongdoing – LSS21-22
Shepherds Training Part 2 – LSS20

Nov 18 Body and Blood – Singles

Nov 19 Agony in the Garden, Washing of the Feet Retreat – LSS22

Apologetics, Trinity, Mary, Sacramentals – LSS19

Counsel

Continued from page 1

nothing that we can name that is outside the realm of God. So if everything is God's, then we must measure everything – including the actions of our government and its laws – against God's will. Paying taxes doesn't go against that. But when God's and Caesar's do not agree, we have to follow God's will. From whom do we receive the blessings of our life, and to whom do we owe thanksgiving? God or Caesar?

Cesar's image is in his coin. God's image is in each and every one of us. In the beginning, God made many things, and called them good. Then, in Genesis 1:26, God said, "*Let us make humans in our image, in our likeness.*" How do we know what belongs to Caesar? They bear his image. How do we know what belongs to God? They bear His image! We are God's coins, God's valuables, bearing God's image in this world. We bear God's image; so we have to give our self back to God!

Everything we have and everything we are belong to God. We are mere stewards of these gifts, including our money. Properly managing our money means some of it is to go to the government, to groceries, and to pay the bills. But some of it must also go back to God as a way of giving thanks. Not that God needs our money. There is nothing God needs! God doesn't need our resources to fulfill his plans. The need is with us; we need to give. We give in order to develop a balanced life of giving and receiving. We give in order to combat the powerful influence of materialism in our lives. We give in order to enable the Church and our community to do God's work. Just think of what our community, BLD Newark, have accomplished in the past 12 years together: new communities all over USA, parish assisted programs, and our teachings twice a month, our great Mark 10, John 6, youth, singles, SPM, and GYM programs, our yearly medical mission trip to the Philippines, our soup kitchen, our ME, SE, YE, SPM encounters, LSS, and retreats. And just think what we will accomplish next year, as we crystallize our vision and put God's exciting plan for us into action. Your giving will make that possible. But most of all, we give because we have been given so much. We give to say thanks. And our level of giving should reflect our level of thankfulness to show that God is the true ruler of your life. We bear good fruit when we give to God everything due Him. We want you to make the most of your God-given life, by giving it back to God.

We are indeed the coins of God, bearing His image and likeness. The inscription of our coins is indeed – "In God We Trust. All our talents, time, and treasures belong to Him."

Directions:

- ◆ Live a balanced life: be a good steward of time, talent, and treasure.
- ◆ Be an advocate to support laws in accord to the will of God
- ◆ Be vigilant to oppose laws against the will of God.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Oct 14-16	ME9 Albany
Oct 21-23	John 6 Crossing #6
Oct 22	Dinner Dance

Birthdays

Oct 14	Oct 17
Elvie Agustin, LSS9	Margie Ruaya, LSS7
Boyet Cruz, LSS14	Vir Talaid, LSS14
Donna Ibanez, LSS12	Dingdong Tan, FE5
Jady Lantin, LSS10	Artemia Tandoc, LSS9
James Minano, LSS23	Edna Tiongson, ME13
Sam Olaso, LSS2	Yolly Vega, LSS10
Ernie Silva, LSS14	Oct 18
Oct 15	Rose Alipio, LSS2
Emeruwa Anyanwu, LSS15	Mike del Rosario, SE7
Beverly Datu, LSS7	Beth Felibrico, LSS11
Gerard De la Fuente, LSS4	Tessie Glorioso, ME12
Therese Disla, LSS23	Atet Mendonez, LSS20
Mariza Garcia, ME16	Mario Nieves, LSS9
Charlotte Luxton, SE5	Quito Sayo, ME10
Cholo Miranda, LSS13	Jojo Soriano, LSS15
Tony Pungot, LSS15	Oct 19
Dennis Redoblado, LSS25	Roger Besa, LSS17
Oct 16	Pol Dondiz, LSS10
Sally Diaz, LSS13	Joey Fallurin, LSS9
Rex Eclipse, FE5	Nene Gutierrez, LSS19
Ampy Escobinas, LSS2	Marietta Melgar, LSS8
Charlotte Florentino, LSS24	Jojo Tan, LSS 10
Eileen Hobayan, ME16	Sebastian Tomkowski, Jn6
Cecile Josue, LSS7	Oct 20
Flory Santos, LSS17	Jeanette Baluyot, FE1
Randy Aldea, SE	Dennis Enriquez, LSS4
Wilfred Montemayor, Jn6	Jun Fabella, ME4
Oct 17	Rose Holloway, LSS9
Theresa Almaria, LSS4	Susan Luna, ME15
Joe Arambulo, LSS4	Nim Ornillo, LSS14
Baby Cadavillo, LSS10	Pam Pascual, LSS22
Cristina Jacobo, SPE2	Vanessa Villegas, SE3
Madonna Razal, LSS7	Chidie Ukaegbu, Mk10


Anniversaries

Oct 14	Poch & Vicky Gatchalian, LSS2
Oct 15	Peter & Rose Cruz, LSS24
	Roland & Libby Gutierrez, LSS18
Oct 16	Boyet & Zita Cruz, LSS14
	Tony & Lourdes Dacanay, LSS3
Oct 17	Sonny & Vera Oliva, ME18
	Nolly & Luz Sormillon, LSS5
Oct 18	Mar & Rose Alipio, LSS2
	Oscar & Miriam Masias, ME25
	Joe & Cora Pring, LSS16
Oct 19	Rey & Lolit Rillo, LSS6



Spiritual Recollection On the Eucharist

“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said 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.” (Mt.26: 26-28)

The Catholic Institute of Discipleship with the cooperation of the BLD Pastoral Ministry celebrated the last month of the **“Year of the Eucharist”** with a spirit-filled retreat last October 14, 15 and 16 at the St. Antoninus Church in Newark with Father Trevor Nathasingh as the retreat master.  Father Trevor Nathasingh, an internationally known speaker is a convert Catholic from a Hindu/Moslem background, ordained in 1989, presently the pastor at St. Anthony’s in Point Fortin, Trinidad.

The retreat commenced on Friday with a Liturgy, Eucharistic Healing and Benediction. Then on Saturday the retreat resumed, starting with praise and worship led by our BLD members, followed by the inspiring talks on Real Presence, Eucharistic Apologetics and Fruitful Quiet Eucharistic Adoration. The real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ in The Holy Eucharist was made known once again- powerfully and dynamically by Father Trevor to the 120 retreatants. They were reminded that as Catholics, living the faith through the Eucharist is essential to spirituality, since the Eucharist is the sharing of life through the Body and Blood of Christ. Fr. Trevor encouraged each one to celebrate, live and teach its importance and meaning through good witnessing and sharing of truth. He instilled to the attendees that “knowledge and understanding of the divinity of the Holy Eucharist through the power of the Holy Spirit will adequately equip us in defending the Catholic faith with confidence and profound passion. It teaches us to become humble and obedient. It is the grace that enables us to sustain a faithful, loving and fruitful relationship with our Lord and Savior, as reflected in the life experiences witnessed by our brothers and sisters in Christ.” *(cont'd on page 2)*

COUNSELS

Love of God, Love of Neighbor, Love of Self

WORD: Ex 22:20-26; Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51; 1Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40

ORDER:

- (1) *“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Mt. 22:37)*
- (2) *“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mt. 22:39)*

REFLECTION:

Our Lord gives us a three-fold commandment on this Sunday’s Gospel: love of God, love of neighbor, love of self. Jesus is saying that every detail of our lives depends on love. St Francis de Sales wrote, “our God demands all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, all our strength, because our little hearts are not able to love God as He should be loved.”

But how do we love God? Do we love God by attending Sunday Mass and our Friday worship? By attending encounters and religious retreats? Do we love God by our service to our ministry or apostolate? Do we love God by reading the Bible and reflecting on His word? By raising our hands and singing praise songs? Yes indeed, the love of God could be found in every one of these actions; but it seems like the most immediate way to love God is to love a neighbor and many times this is not an obvious connection. *“If anyone says, “I love God,” but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.” (1 John 4:20)*

Love of God and love of neighbor are inseparable. 1 John

(continued on page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

“Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him and we will come to him.” (Jn 14:23)

Simon the Zealot and Jude Thaddeus

St. Simon was born in Cana, which is the site of Jesus' first public miracle (when Jesus turned water into wine during a wedding.) Simon was called 'the Zealot' to keep his name different from St. Peter and St. Simeon, the brother of St. James the Less. 'Zealot' is defined as someone who is very energetic and dedicated to a cause. St. Simon traveled all over the world, bringing the Word of Christ to the people after Christ's Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven. He deeply loved Jesus and was very determined to spread the Word of God. He died for Christ as he was martyred when he traveled to Persia.

St. Jude was the brother of St. James the Less and St. Simeon. He did not travel with St. Simon. Instead, St. Jude preached the Word of God in Judea, Samaria, Syria, and Mesopotamia. In 62AD, he went to Jerusalem to aid in the selection of a bishop. When his brother, St. Simeon was elected the new Bishop of Jerusalem, St. Jude returned to traveling and preaching the Gospel. He traveled to Armenia, a country that did not completely convert to Christianity for another 250 years, and was martyred there.

St. Simon and passionate and Christ. Luke 6:12-when Christ went pray to God. He praying, and when



St. Jude were fervent followers of 16 tells us of the story up to the mountain to spent the whole night day came, he chose twelve men, whom he named his apostles. Included in these twelve men were St. Simon the Zealot and St. Jude Thaddeus. God has given us these two great men as perfect models to imitate in witnessing to others. No matter what it took, up to their last breath, they were willing to sacrifice everything for the love of God.

Let us ask ourselves these simple questions, "Am I a true disciple of my Savior, Jesus Christ? How much do I really love Him?" On the reckoning day, shall not our Maker require an account of our "love" for Him? What shall we answer Him? How shall we excuse ourselves of our failures knowing that Christ the Son of God died on the cross to teach us how to be obedient to our Father in Heaven?

Father God, help us to be good followers of Your Son, Jesus Christ. May we in our own humble little ways, be able to serve You without reservations and complaints. Give us the grace to be obedient to Your will, no matter what it takes. Make us good disciples for the glory of Your Name. Amen.

Spiritual Recollection *from page 1*

In quiet communion and fellowship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit through the Holy Eucharist, we will be spiritually empowered to become the Body of Christ, worthy of His planned creation, for His glory and praise. Catholics must build a faithful relationship with the Lord by knowing Him (Bible reading), spending time with Him (prayer time) and developing a deep love for Him (Eucharistic Adoration).

On Sunday, the retreat was culminated with a beautiful Liturgy uplifting all the congregants, their hearts overflowing with love and hope in Christ Jesus "...the living bread that came down from heaven." (Jn 6: 51)

The Narrow Door

Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" He answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough." (Lk 13:23-24)

The Jews take pride in being God's chosen people. They assume that they are assured of admission into God's kingdom. After all, they know the laws and the precepts that must be followed as a sign of justification. When asked whether only a few will be saved, Jesus does not give a direct response. Instead, he warns his fellow Jews not to pin their hopes of salvation on their status as God's chosen people. Salvation is God's gift offered to all; nobody has exclusive rights to it; no one has absolute claims on it.

When one accepts God's gift, it is not enough to claim mere acquaintance or casual association with Jesus. Only those who make serious efforts can reach the goal of salvation. Our Lord tells us so by using the simile of the narrow gate. A Christian struggle must be unceasing, for interior life consists in beginning and beginning again. This prevents us from proudly thinking that we are perfect already. It is inevitable that we should meet difficulties on our way. We will always have to defend ourselves from those passions and self-defeating urges that pull us downwards.

What is this narrow door? It is Jesus himself. It is the door of faith and obedience, a life totally centered on him. It is the door of mercy and forgiveness.

Why is this door narrow? It's narrow because when we follow Jesus there are some choices in life that are simply off-limits. You see, as soon as we believe that God is speaking to us, the menu of choices changes into a call of obedience. God has revealed Jesus Christ as the One through whom we find life, and the way we must live, so that pretty much narrows down the options. Jesus didn't say I am one of the many possible options in life. He said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*" In one sense that opens up a world of new possibilities, but in another sense, it closes off lots of other options, the other ways of life.

So today, let us challenge ourselves to make a stand for Jesus Christ in our lives. Let us reject the immoral lifestyle the world is offering. Let us transform our lives in God's Wisdom and follow His Will even when it doesn't conform to our own opinions. The narrow door is a life of prayer, holiness, good works and purity of heart, that leads us to eternal joy!

In the Spirit of Transparency

Life in the Spirit

The other night, Fr. Paul exclaimed to me that the Holy Spirit never ceases to amaze him, for the great and small miracles that He unfailingly works in our LSS weekends. Fr. Paul then wondered: what if we can capture the Spirit of the LSS in the every day life of our community? Isn't that the Lord's intent when He gave us His Holy Spirit?

Why not? The Holy Spirit is the essential principle and enabler of Christian life. After His resurrection, Jesus Christ appeared to His disciples and breathed on them the Holy Spirit, the power of God Himself. Jesus knew that it is only by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit that we can follow Him. That is why Jesus enjoined His disciples to wait for the promise of the Father... "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8) St. Paul echoes this when he said "No one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit." (1 Cor 12:3)

By ourselves, we are incapable of leading fruitful and victorious Christian lives, because we will be relying on our human strength and wisdom. Without the Holy Spirit, we can do nothing. We must acknowledge our helplessness and proclaim our confident dependence on God's grace. Our attitude must be one of openness to the leadings and the workings of the Holy Spirit. We must continually seek His abiding presence in our lives, for it is through Him that we are empowered to a communion of life, love and unity.



Our glorious LSS and encounter weekends remind us of what daily life in the Holy Spirit will be like, if we allow Him to reign in our lives. Without the Holy Spirit, the apostles and disciples would have remained just a group of people who were locked in the safety of the upper room and friendly homes, fearful of their opponents, unable to perform the Lord's commission. 2,000 years later, the Lord continues to pour out His Spirit on all who call upon Him, to free us from our weaknesses and fears.

We must remain in Jesus, who alone can give the Holy Spirit. And only in the Holy Spirit can we come to Jesus. The Holy Spirit's presence in our community enables us to fruitfully accomplish our mission. In the LSS weekend, we invite His presence among and within us, by immersing ourselves in prayer, the sacraments and the Word, and by serving in obedience, humility, love and unity. The Spirit calls us to live in such a manner, every day of our life!

Ministry Announcements

John 6 Crossing #6

Retreat for children ages 12 to 14 yrs.

October 21-23 at Ramada Limited, S. Plainfield, NJ

Contact: john6ministry@bldnewark.com

BLD Annual Fundraising Dinner and Dance

October 22 Saturday

St. Demetrius Community Center, Carteret, NJ

For details, please contact Vic & Becky Napenas (201-320-7644)

Somebody's Praying Me Through Concert

November 13 Sunday

Show times: 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Felician College, Lodi NJ



2006 Magnificat Group subscriptions at \$15.00 /person

Please submit your group's order and payment to Word Ministry: Sally Santiago (cell: 201-724-2383) or Zita Cruz (cell: 908-265-7415) on or before October 28, 2005. Please make a single payment per group in 'Cash' or check payable to 'Cash'. All payments received will be converted into one check for Magnificat.

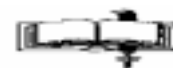
FE # 12 2nd Class Reunion

October 30, 2005 (Sunday)

St. Antoninus (Basement), 1:00 pm - 5:30 pm

We are now accepting Airfare bids for the coming medical mission. For details, please see mission members or Nong & Tricia Bustos.

TEACHINGS



- | | |
|-------------|---|
| October 21 | Walking in the Spirit – Singles |
| October 22 | Encounter with Jesus Part 2, Mark, Matthew – Rockland |
| October 28 | Service Formation – Intercessory |
| November 5 | Encounter with Jesus Part 1, Road to Emmaus, Jesus in the OT, Development of the Gospel – LSS24
CMP 2 Part 2, Suffering, Discernment, Fraternal Correction, Handling Conflict, Repairing Wrongdoing – LSS 21 & 22
Shepherds Training Part 2 – LSS20 |
| November 18 | Body and Blood – Singles |
| November 19 | Agony in the Garden, Washing of the Feet
Retreat - LSS22
Apologetics, Trinity, Mary, Sacramentals - LSS19 |

Counsels from page 1

3: 17 says, "If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him?" In short, to love your neighbor is to love God and to love God is to also recognize His likeness and image in every neighbor. And that is where most of us struggle...recognizing our Lord in those "neighbors" who won't transform into our own image no matter how hard we try. But one way we can show we truly love God and our neighbor is in our acts of patience, kindness, service, forgiveness and speaking well of others including our spouse, our children, our brothers and sisters in the community.

God's commandment is all about unwavering commitment. Love of neighbor means taking the neighbor's need seriously, treating it as our own. Where there is hunger, homelessness, loneliness, or any other need, it is not someone else's responsibility. It becomes ours because that is how God sees it. The truth is, we do not get to choose the neighbors we are to love. They choose us through their needs. And if we ignore our neighbor in need, we ignore God.

Love cannot be learned in isolation. God wants us to be in a regular, close fellowship with other believers like our community, so we can develop the skill of loving. We have to be around people - who could at times be irritating, frustrating, imperfect or simply difficult to love. But to love is to accept our brothers and sisters for who they are. To love is to pray for them, to not be the cause of their grief, hurt or disappointment by a thoughtlessly uttered word or an insensitive deed. We can love others not because they may be worthy of it... but for the love of God.

Jesus made it clear that we cannot love our neighbors if we don't love ourselves. And love of self is impossible without love of God. Paul tells us "For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."(Gal 5: 14) Only if our love of self is rooted in the love of God will it bear fruit for the salvation of others.

We love God when we choose His will and obey it. The power comes from God - the decision to love, is ours. We can be confident that as we seek to obey this command, God will fill us with the grace to love and care for those around us freely, generously, and without reservation.

DIRECTION: Be aware of your neighbors needs and be ready to help.

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS		<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>	
09/30	\$3,680		
10/07	3,491		
10/14	3,542		
40-wk avg	3,537	EXPENSES	
		40-wk avg	\$3,970

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

October 21-23 John 6 Crossing #6
 October 22 Dinner Dance

BIRTHDAYS

May the blessings of the Lord be upon you!



- 21-Oct. DanielGumarang, SE8
 FePakula, LSS 14
 Rudy Sugaste, LSS 21
 Marty Tan, LSS 6
 Tiongson Leni, FE 1
- 22-Oct. PeterFrancis Bonifacio, YLSS3
 ConnieCastillo, LSS 13
 Heidi Cristal, LSS 1
 MaiaErmita, LSS 16
 BecbecLaxina, FE3
 JR (Rey) Perez, LSS 15
- 23-Oct. GeraldCabildo, ME25
 Tess Cam, LSS 17
 AlDimatulac, ME5
 AlEspinass, LSS 13
 KristinFrancisco, YLSS3
 AnneGomez, LSS 15
 MaeGomez, LSS 15
 Ray Jose, John 6
 Bert Guerrero, LSS 17
 JeanneJavier, SE 11
 TeenaMerritt, ME 15
 Nits Oliveros, ME 15
 DimpleTupaz, SE24
 Teena Velante, SE 4
- Alice Yanza, LSS 13
- 24-Oct. Ruben Dalisay, LSS 8
 Raffy Obrera, LSS 16
 Jay Perez, SE 7
 Lito Vibar, LSS 1
- 25-Oct. Rob Capan, ME 12
 Nim Col, LSS 23
 Sally Dela Merced, LSS 14
 Meg Francisco, LSS 11
 Thomas Rossano, SE 12
 Gerald Cabildo, ME25
- 26-Oct. Nell Cabildo, ME 25
 Grace Encallado, SE 4
 Tony Loreno, ME 4
 Dennie Robles, SPE 6
 Roxanne Entrada, John 6
- 27-Oct. Bernie Estrellas, LSS 11
 Aida Gabat, LSS 19
 Floring Garcia, LSS 5
 Armi Gimarino, SE 5
 Bian Paraguya, ME 25
 Isaac Punzalan, YLSS 4
 Nicholas Arceo, Mk 10
 Ashley Canillas, John 6

ANNIVERSARIES

- 21-Oct. Butching & Edna Reynoso, LSS 13
 Sal & Marie Russo, LSS 13
 Jun & Bing Yulo, LSS 2
- 22-Oct. Joe & Loretta Farley, ME 16
 Filmore & Hum Flores, LSS 18
 Jayjay & Debbie Kierulf, LSS 3
 Boy & Mela Palencia, LSS 16
- 23-Oct. Ricky & Joan Maniego, LSS 23
 Romeo & Norma Suson, ME 5
- 25-Oct. Lito & Erin Fune, LSS 9
 Nestor & Becbec Laxina, FE 3
- 26-Oct. Tony & Bb Loreno, ME 4
 Caesar & Vicki Rasalan, FE 3
 Lee & Ludy Rosel, ME 17
- 27-Oct. Ricky & Evelyn Laguatan, ME 23





Spirit Fills John 6 Crossing Retreat

"Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it" (Mark 10:15)

The Lord shined His face on a joyous and triumphant John 6 Crossing Retreat last Oct. 21-23 at South Plainfield's Ramada Inn. Like all the little ones who came to Him during His public ministry, 45 of our children were nurtured and blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ. They were touched and inspired by cornerstone teachings from the Word of God given by the retreat director, Fr. Dave Sison, and by the sincere and blessed testimonies of the facilitators from Youth Ministry. They learned Christian values that must have put a big smile on the face of our loving Lord. The wonderful teamwork and dedication of those who served during the retreat manifested the power of the Holy Spirit, who anointed all participants with spiritual enlightenment and growth.

The John 6 Crossing Retreat #6 graduates are;

Ariana Abad, Anika Aquino, Jolo Aquino, Colleen Atienza, Michael Bautista, Spencer Bautista, John Cam, Jenna Castor, Marella Cruz, Sam Del Rosario, Eric Duma, Brandon Engracia, Romel Espina, Glendyll Fabe, Luigi Fernandez, Erika Flores, Christian Gaskell, Patricia Guiao, Michelle Guzman, Christian Hizon, Danielle Jose, Noelle Jose, Mae Lim, Melissa Linsao, Marco Luardo, Patrick Maulion, Harvey Minano, Francis Muyalde, Chichi Obi, Gabriel Pontipiedra, Kevin Ramos, Justin Reyes, Kobi Rigor, Kristopher Salada, Kathrina Salonga, Jerric Santos, Jack Santos, Bernard Soluta, Nataja Soluta, Andrew Sun, William Talbot, Kody Tolentino, Nathan Tomkowski, Carolyn Trillana and Kristine Villanueva.

May our children continue to discover the Lord Jesus in their life as they surrender their will and learn to trust Him for salvation and eternal life. May His Word increase their faith and understanding of the love that God has for them and for all mankind!

Fraternal greeting? Urgent ministry business? It doesn't matter: converse elsewhere. "(Jesus) drove them all out of the temple area... 'Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace.'" (John 2:15-16) Be mindful of the Eucharistic Presence. Be reverent inside the church at all times.

COUNSELS

The Greatest Are Servants

WORD: Malachi 1:14b-2; 2b, 8-10; Psalm 131:1-3
1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13; Matthew 23:1-12

ORDER: *"The greatest among you must be your servant." (Mt 23:11)*

REFLECTION:

"You have turned aside from the way." (Mal 2:8)
The prophet warns the priests of Israel; Jesus warns the scribes and Pharisees because these venerable religious leaders have turned away from God and God's way, and relied on their own way instead. If they could do so, so can we! The call to turn back to the Lord is for all of us.

Humility before God means realizing that all we have and all we are is a gift from God. We are God's children and should show Him our complete faith and trust. It also means realizing that God has a plan for each of us, and it is our duty to follow that plan, not to follow our own agenda. Each of us has been given unique talents that we can (and should) use to improve our lives and the lives of others.

Humility before men is a quality of being courteously respectful of others. It is the opposite of aggressiveness, arrogance, boastfulness, and vanity. It is the quality that lets us go more than halfway to meet the needs and demands of others. Jesus said that wealth, power, status and pride will count for nothing in the kingdom of God. Faith, humility and service to others are the qualities of a true Christian servant leader:

"The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." (Mt 23:11-12)

Being humble means focusing more on God and others than on ourselves. Acting with humility does not in any way deny our own self-worth. Rather, it affirms the inherent worth of all persons and our trust in God. Some would consider humility to be a psychological disorder that interferes with "success." page 4 ☞

God's Promise For The Week

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted." (Mt 23:12)

ALL SAINTS DAY and ALL SOULS DAY


"I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power" (Eph 1:15-19)

While the origins of this festival are uncertain, ALL SAINTS' DAY was celebrated as early as the 4th century. Originally a day set to remember martyrs. By the 7th century the feast had been extended to include non-martyrs as well.

On November 1st each year, we celebrate the lives of saints who have come before us. The feast of All Saints may be our most "Catholic" feast. Reflecting on the lives of saints, we see the path through life. Though it may be materially difficult at times, it has a built-in reward in that we can commune with peace and joy when we are in meditation. While a "saint" is often thought of as a person who has lived an extraordinary life committed to God and His word, the New Testament understanding reveals that a saint is a baptized person. It is in this way that All Saints' Day, as it is presently celebrated, is a celebration of the whole Church of God—a day to remember those who have preceded us, to give thanks for all those now with us, and to pray in hope for those yet to come.

Popularly identified as "ALL SOULS' DAY", November 2 is the day set apart in the Roman Catholic Church for the commemoration of the souls of the faithful dead. The tradition is said to have started in the 10th and 11th centuries and was based on the Catholic doctrine that "prayers of the faithful on earth may help purify souls in purgatory". The prayers and masses are solely for the repose of the souls who died not in the state of grace and are offered to ease whatever pain and suffering they are in. To complement such thoughtful cause, loved ones offer flowers and lighted candles. Flowers serve as a living memory reminding us that once these people had remained close to us and they, like us, had once been fascinated by the beauty and color of life. Lighted candles likewise signify that the love, hope and joy they shared with people they had left behind shall be kept forever burning and alive even though they may have found their destiny somewhere, hopefully in the arms of the Heavenly Father.

These two significant events in our lives truly show that God is always in our midst. As we are able to see ourselves as God sees us, we will better understand that we are unconditionally loved. Understanding that will change our daily lives, our relationships, our stewardship, because it is love that changes our lives for the better - not fear of punishment.

cont. 

Sharing God's Love

Before we can begin to know God's love and to share that love with others, we need to know God and know that He is living within us. The Holy Spirit fills us with the gift of God's love, enabling us to live our lives following the example of Christ. If we open our hearts to Him, we can learn to experience the love of God, to learn to share that love and, in our own lives, to give and take love unconditionally. Love is a precious gift; properly nurtured, it will grow within us to give us the strength to share God's life with all whom we meet as we go through life.

As the people of God, we listen for God to speak to us during our worship, even as our faith is nourished with God's gift of Holy Communion. We are a community of faith grounded in God's love, eager to share God's love with others. We are also a community of service, committed to acting as an instrument of God's healing love in a hurting world. Living God's Word means we don't just talk about our faith, but we put our faith into action in our daily lives.

"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." (1 John 4:8)

God is love and we must have faith and trust that His love will do the best for us. His love is complete, never ending and unconditional. It is the love of God in Christ that allows His disciples to give up their own lives for others. You, too, can experience this love and pass it on to others. That is why the greatest & foremost commandment is *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind."* And the second is *"you shall love your neighbor as yourself."* (Matthew 22:37-39) So let us love one another, for love comes from God and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

God loves us just the way we are. Can we share God's love to others? Remember that there is no partiality when it comes to sharing God's love. *"What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, it sets it on his shoulders with great joy."* (Luke 15:4-5) Go out and find that lost sheep, as this is exactly why God sent His only son Jesus Christ to humanity...to give His love to all.

All Souls Day

Knowing how much the Creator loves us strengthens us to faithfully live our baptismal covenant. Every Christian is called to be holy and follow the footsteps of our saints who in turn imitated Christ. As the saying reminds us: "We have a sinful past but definitely we have saintly future."

MAKE COVENANT NEWS A PART OF YOUR COVENANT LIFE.

DCSpeaks

St. Mary's Church of Rahway — Our New Venue

St. Leo's church has been our home for the past several years and BLD has been blessed by the use of the expansive facilities. However, last year the Archdiocese of Newark leased the school building and Boland Hall where our singles and Youth worshipped to the Irvington Board of Education.

When the 2004 school year began the Singles could no longer use the basement of the school because of documents being kept there. Our Singles took turns with the Mark 10, John 6 and Solo Parents sharing their venues. This became unwieldy with the many post worship activities and people who did not come each week not knowing where their particular group would be for that Friday. The Singles requested to worship separately at Our Lady of Victory in Jersey City.

At the end of the 2005 school year, the Board of Education no longer accommodated our requests to use Boland Hall and the Youth worship was moved to the cafeteria, compounding our venue difficulties since the Solo Parents had also been displaced from the church basement due to the Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The community began to pray in earnest and corporately each week for the Lord to guide us as we searched for a new venue where we could all worship together.

Among the generous offers of parishes to host us, the Lord opened the doors of St. Mary's Church in Rahway, NJ. The school has ample room for each BLD group, (Golden Years, Singles, Solo Parents, Youth, John 6 and Mark 10) to have their own worship venue. The Mark 10 can finally divide into two age groups the cherubim and the seraphim. Teachings, praise practice, reunions, ministry meetings and small retreats and storage rooms can all be accommodated at the same venue without having to haul our equipment and supplies around each week. Parking and public transportation is available.

The adults will have to sacrifice a bit and sit closer together as the church is smaller than we are used to. Our November healing mass will be celebrated in St. Mary's Church; however, future masses may have to be held in the gym to accommodate all. We have become comfortable at St. Leo's but the signs are to pull up our stakes and move on in the Lord. Transition, new life and growth do not come without pruning and the guiding hand of the vinedresser bending us uncomfortably towards the light. We truly thank the Lord for the blessings of St. Leo's in the past and that St. Mary's in Rahway is now able to provide the facilities that BLD Newark currently needs for our mission of renewal of families to safely flourish and bear much fruit.

Overheard: "It's disgraceful how the community explodes into noise and irreverent chatter after Mass or worship." Remember Who is present in the Tabernacle. Let us admonish each other, children and adults alike, to awe and silence. Such admonitions should be heeded promptly, not ignored or resented.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Somebody's Praying Me Through Concert

November 13 Sunday
Show times: 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Felician College, Lodi NJ

**2006 Magnificat Group subscriptions at \$15.00/person
Deadline: Tonight October 28, 2005.** Please submit your group's order and payment to Word Ministry: Sally Santiago (cell:201-724-2383) or Zita Cruz (cell:908-265-7415).

FE # 12 2nd Class Reunion

October 30, 2005 (Sunday)
St. Antoninus (Basement), 1:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Youth Praise Ministry will be singing –
October 30, 2005 (Sunday) at 12:30 pm Mass
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church
120 Prospect St. Nutley, NJ 07110

**Deadline: October 31, 2005 (Monday)
for Airfare Bidding for Medical Mission**
For details, please see mission members or Nong
& Tricia Bustos.

TEACHINGS

- October 28** Service Formation – Intercessory
November 5 **Encounter with Jesus Part 1, Road to Emmaus, Jesus in the OT, Development of the Gospel – LSS24**
CMP 2 Part 2, Suffering, Discernment, Fraternal Correction, Handling Conflict, Repairing Wrongdoing – LSS 21 & 22
Shepherds Training Part 2 – LSS20
November 18 Body and Blood – Singles
November 19 Agony in the Garden, Washing of the Feet Retreat – LSS22
Apologetics, Trinity, Mary, Sacramentals – LSS19

A Fund Raising Event

The 2005 BLD dinner and dance annual fund raising event was held last Saturday, October 22nd at the St. Demetrius Community Center in Carteret, NJ.

The event was attended by over 300 BLD members and friends. The proceeds from this successful event will help fund the community's various mission projects

Numerous donated door prizes were raffled off, including a \$200 cash prize. The grand prize was a round trip ticket for one to Guadalupe, Mexico, including a five-star hotel accommodation for five days.

We thank everyone who came and specially the organizers (ME19) for their time and effort. We also extend special thanks to the many generous donors who provided the prizes.

Most of all, we thank God, for all things work together for good to those who love and serve Him!

Counsels (from page 1)

However, wealth, power or status gained at the expense of others brings only anxiety - never peace and love.

Why did Jesus describe such a caricature of the Pharisees and such self-denial on the part of the Christian community? Obviously, Jesus did not reject leadership within the community. He acknowledged the leadership of the Pharisees as legitimate. And, he appointed apostles as leaders within the early Christian community. With leadership came titles and offices these leaders held.

Leadership is a gift, not a right. When leaders think they earned the office and its benefits, they see others only through selfish eyes. Then abuse follows. When leaders exercise their office as a gift, however, they see others through the eyes of the One who gave the gift (God) and act accordingly (serve others). True servants do not seek the glory of the world. They seek to help others see the glory of heaven.

Jesus criticized leadership style, not structure. His words like the fourth commandment ("Honor your father and mother"), call all people to obey and honor legitimate authority. Legitimate authority is obliged to respect the dignity of the human person. They should serve with an eye toward direct involvement by the people, help fulfill the needs of everyone and contribute to the common good. Ultimately, all authority should act as God's representatives, not their own.

When it serves in this manner, all are bound to cooperate with and through authority for everyone's benefit. Under these circumstances, all individuals who exercise their responsibility and serve the community at large perform acts of charity.

As Jesus stated in the gospel, neither leaders nor the faithful should seek self-promotion. When both cooperate for the common good, the community they serve will live in peace and harmony.

Let us ask ourselves: how have we exercised our responsibility to the community? How has our community duty and service helped the good of others? We all have moments and places where we exercise leadership and responsibility. Reflect on our leadership as a parent, worker, or in community this past week. What successes have we had? What failures? Let us thank God for our successes and pray for learning in our failures.

Directions:

1. Practice what you preach.
2. Help to bear one another's burden.

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Collections

10/07	\$3,491
10/14	3,542
10/21	3,586
41-wk avg	3,539

Thank you for your generosity

Expenses

41-wk average \$4,240

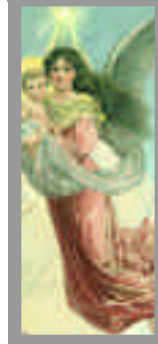
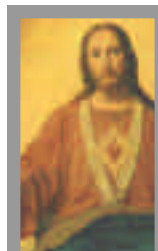
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- November 4-6** ME #26, Don Bosco Marian Shrine, Haverstraw, NY
 SE #15, Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garrison, NY
- November 20** LSS 25, Grand Reunion St. Mary's Church, 1-5pm

birthdays

- 04 Oct.** Cathy Duma, YE12
09 Oct. Erica Canlas, YE11
 10 Oct. Ann Capili YE10
14 Oct. Carlo Cruz, YE12
16 Oct. Irvin Aglibut, YE10
17 Oct. Justin Verzosa, YE9
21 Oct. Aimee Demegillo, YE10
22 Oct. Ron Biason, YE11
 Liz Encarnacion, YE8
23 Oct. Kristin Francisco, YE2
 Cecil Salonga, LSS17
26 Oct. Kan-Kan Entrada, YE12
27 Oct. Maryann Guinto, YE11
 Isaac Punzalan, YE12
 Kev Salmo, YE9
28 Oct. Suzanne Avestruz, LSS18
 Jojo Bustamante, SE2
 Tito Cruz, LSS23
 Anna Fe Dumandan, LSS4
 Bob Holloway, LSS9
 Malou Minano, LSS23
29 Oct. Fred Avestruz, LSS18
 Den De Guzman, FE2
 Christy Lindo, LSS16
 George McGehrin, LSS20
 Tito Mendoza, LSS16
 Tessie Mercado, FE1
 Ren Zulueta, LSS2
30 Oct. Jun Baltazar, ME4
 Lesley Calilap, LSS15
 Michael Chua, YE3
 Rupert Falcon, LSS1
 Bebe Fudalan, ME24
 Rey Gonzales, LSS8
 Mary Susan Lausell, LSS1
 Mike Vista, LSS5
 Crosby Cortez, John6
 Chris Alonzo, YE11

- 31 Oct.**
 Charlie Bolcer, LSS15
 Jan-Jan Cebedo, LSS14
 Mon Chan, LSS2
 Sharlane Lacsamana, SE2
 Bb Loreno, ME4
 Tina Perez, LSS22
 Cindy Torres, SE2
- 1 Nov.**
 Dimples Canlas, FE4
 Mel De La Cruz, LSS17
 Jun Escobar, LSS16
 Sami Muslija, LSS17
 Curt Labung, YE6
- 2-Nov**
 Novie Soluta, ME25
 Naomi Lopez, Mk10
 Michael Relucio, YE7
- 3-Nov.**
 Jayvee Pasturan, SE
 Chris Trinidad, YE5



anniversaries

- 29 Oct.** Romy & Libby Cruz, LSS 18
 Bert & Lith Golamco, FE 7
30 Oct. Rudy & Puring Ignacio, ME 16
 Andy & Margie Ruaya, LSS 7
31 Oct. Ernest & Margo Abad, ME 12



Somebody's Praying Me Through

Is "Somebody's Praying Me Through" a musical production only? Or is it a fund raiser? No, it is a gift. This undertaking has already achieved immeasurable blessings for the community even before it has been shown to the public. It has brought forth the community's God-given talents that span across the ages from Mark 10 and John 6, to Youth, to Singles, and to us parents and grandparents. It has inspired many to come forward with their talents to let us know that they too can sing, dance or play an instrument and be considered for a role in the musical. It has mobilized other members to contribute their marketing, organizational and technical skills to manage and run the show. There is also the added blessing of witnessing how this musical production has broken down the generational walls. It touches our hearts to see members of all ages singing and working side by side without prejudice of age.

"Somebody's Praying Me Through" is more than a musical. It is a prayer. Every song is a prayer. Every act is a prayer. This undertaking reflects the community's common vision that "We are a communion of families and a community of persons called together as one people of God to reconciliation and union with Him, by His Spirit and in His Son, through love and service of one another, by the gifts we freely receive and thus freely give."

What do we do with all these gifts and resources? God has given us this musical as a means of drawing others closer to Him. This is a gift from the Lord, in addition to the abundant blessings He has given us.

We appeal to our community to continuously promote this event, as the show date is coming closer. Let us not lose the opportunity of bringing more souls into a closer relationship with the Lord. Remember, when one sings praises, he is praying twice. Let us share this wonderful experience with our friends and loved ones.

COUNSELS

Be prepared for Jesus when He comes

WORD: Wis 6:12-16; Ps 63:3-8; 1Thes 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13

ORDER: "Stay awake for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Mt 25:13)

REFLECTION:

The Gospel in Mt 25:13, advises us to "Stay awake for you know neither the day nor the hour." We all believe that one day we have to leave this world and move on to the next. But being in this world oftentimes makes us too attached to worldly possessions and cravings. We get carried away with the demands of a successful career and of a society that feeds on power and grandeur. Some of us justify our own wants and passions and would rather nourish them than attend to one's spiritual growth and preparedness for God's coming. We want earthly fulfillment first, thinking that we still have plenty of time to do God's work later. Well, that chance might never come. And just like what happened to the five foolish brides in the Gospel—the gate could close on us. "Lord, Lord, open the door for us!" But he said in reply, "Amen, I say to you, I do not know you." (Mt 25: 11-12)

In our community, we find ourselves hesitating to accept an assignment because we feel we are not yet ready. In our local surroundings, we sometimes brush aside a needy person, unmindful that this opportunity to help might not pass our way again. We become so engrossed in achieving what the world can offer for our own personal interest that we miss the chance to offer

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GOD'S PROMISE FOR THE WEEK

"Whoever watches...shall not be disappointed."

(Wis 6:14)

Servant's Attitude

*"When you have done all you have been commanded, say, **We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.**" (Lk 17:10)*

Christian Discipleship can make no claim on Christ's graciousness. In fulfilling the exacting demands of discipleship, we are doing our duty to God. When all that is commanded is done, we have not earned or merited anything. We have simply done our duty as servants. Whatever reward we receive is due to grace, not merit!

In our community, when we were asked to do certain tasks in our ministry or assisted another in their ministry, we often expected something in return. We served because we wanted to be recognized, accepted, or liked. When we have fully discharged our obligations to God, we feel that we should congratulate and give ourselves a pat on the back. When we have completed an assigned task, we have simply done our duty. Because it is our obligation to serve Him, none of us, not even the best of us, can say at the end of the day, "What an excellent job I did!"

A lot of us in the community who consider ourselves "servants of need for the hard work and Sometimes, we we are God's have surrendered and who have cause, God owes God does not owe matter how much Lord, we are still servants". Whatever we have done was our duty as servants. Therefore, whatever reward we receive, it will be one of grace, not merit. What a wonderful grace that will be, to hear the Lord say to us at the end of time, "...*Well done, my good and faithful servant...*" (Mt. 25:21)

What is required of us is obedience to God. Our relationship to God is one of total obligation. We cannot put God in debt, no matter what we do, or how well we do it. God is our Creator and we are His creatures. We stand in a relationship of total indebtedness. Time and our very life are His gifts to us. Our labor and all its fruits are His. He is God! We have no claim on Him. When we accept that we were created for this reason and when we obey what God commands us to do, we surely have an attitude of a servant.

This is the servant's attitude, the disciple's calling. Perhaps, the words of John the Baptist say it best, "*He must increase; I must decrease.*" (Jn 3:30). May it ever be so in our lives!



Christ" feel a recognition for all sacrifices we do. think that because servants who our lives to Him sacrificed for the us something. No we do for the "unprofitable

Reverence in the church

He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money-changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." (Jn 2:14-16)

The Catholic Church teaches us that we must maintain reverence in the Church at all times for it is a holy ground consecrated to God where the real presence of the Holy Eucharist is housed in the tabernacle. All Catholics are taught to genuflect to the Blessed Sacrament when entering and leaving the church.

The Christian faithful are to hold the Most Holy Eucharist in highest honor, taking an active part in the celebration of the most august sacrifice, receiving this sacrament most devoutly and frequently, and worshipping it with the highest adoration. (Canon 898)

Sacrilege consists in profaning or treating unworthily the sacraments and other liturgical actions, as well as persons, things, or places consecrated to God. Sacrilege is a grave sin especially when committed against the Eucharist, for in this sacrament the true Body of Christ is made substantially present for us. (CCC 2120)

The celebration of Mass is a corporate act, an act of the whole assembly gathered for worship. All the particular ministries serve this corporate function. (GIRM no. 27) The liturgy is designed to bring about in all those who make up the worshipping assembly a participation of the faithful both in body and mind, a participation burning with faith, hope, and charity.(no.18)

There are certain parts of the Mass that are to be done by the whole assembly, the congregation of the faithful and all the ministers, in order to express the corporate nature of this act. These acts include:

- Listening with reverence to the readings of God's word (GIRM no. 29);
- Engaging in the dialogue of prayer through acclamations, greetings, and responses to spoken and sung prayers (no. 34-37) in a tone suitable to the text (no. 38);
- Joining in an action through common postures and gestures (no. 42);
- Participating in communal silence (no. 45);
- Participating in the greeting of peace as a sign of ecclesial communion and love for each other (no. 82);
- The prayer of humility before sacramental communion (no. 84);
- Participating in liturgical songs (no. 39)
- For those who are properly disposed (no. 80), full, active, and conscious participation is expressed in partaking in the Holy Communion of the Lord (no. 72.3).

Where is the Kingdom of God?

Without blinking an eye, a believer's answer to this question is "Heaven." And "Heaven" as we can only imagine, is that great place yonder where God resides with all the saints and angels, in eternal joy and peace. This Heaven is our final destination, our Home for all eternity, our supreme reward for a life fully lived in complete surrender to His divine plan.

But how can we reach this final destination? How can we attain this supreme reward of life everlasting? By living in the kingdom of God right here and right now. Where is this? The kingdom of God is where Jesus reigns, where He is honored and praised, where He is accepted and loved. When we acknowledge the true presence of Jesus in our lives and follow His Commandments, constantly asking Him to lead us to a holy life, then we have the kingdom of God in our hearts.

By practicing what God has taught us through our encounters, retreats, teachings and witnessing of community members, we carry the kingdom of God over to our brothers and sisters who are still reaching out for His saving hand. We are entrusted with the responsibility of leading the lost and desperate to the Lord. And when our life is solely motivated by love and gratitude to God, we can live our faith in spontaneous joyful service not only within our families and circles of friends but also to the poor and suffering.



Jesus wants all of us to realize that His kingdom is ours to take any moment, any time, any place. We just have to choose Him over sin. God gave us means to cleanse ourselves when we get stained from our human weakness. The Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist allow us to be back in the state of grace again and again. We are Christians and we share in the glory of our Lord Jesus. We should stand straight and dignified as we carry God's kingdom- our actions reflecting the light of Jesus within ourselves.

When God dwells in us, grace overflows and blessings are in abundance. In Jesus, we have all the strength we need to meet the challenges each day brings. We are at peace and our heart is restful knowing that He is alive, walking with us, protecting us from any harm or danger. Our life has nothing to fear, we feel safe and secure, and we can excitedly look forward to the final homecoming when we see Jesus face to face. The kingdom of God is indeed with us right here and now.

“...For behold, the kingdom of God is among you.” (Lk 17: 21)

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Somebody's Praying Me Through Concert

November 13, Sunday
Show times: 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Felician College, Lodi NJ



LSS 25 Grand Reunion

November 20 (Sunday) - 1 pm - 5 pm
St. Mary's Church
232 Central Ave., Rahway, NJ 07065
For details, please see LSA Ministry c/o Vic/Dee Lim

Medical Mission

January 23 to 26, 2006
Volunteers are welcome, both in the medical and non-medical fields.
For details, please see Nong & Tricia Bustos or Willy & Myrna de Leon

TEACHINGS

November 5

Encounter with Jesus Part 1,
Road to Emmaus, Jesus in the OT,
Development of the Gospel – LSS 24

CMP 2 Part 2, Suffering, Discernment,
Fraternal Correction, Handling Conflict,
Repairing Wrongdoing – LSS 21 & 22

Shepherds Training Part 2 – LSS 20

November 18

Body and Blood – Singles

November 19

Agony in the Garden, Washing of the Feet
Retreat – LSS 22

Apologetics, Trinity, Mary, Sacramentals –
LSS 19

Visit our website at www.bldnewark.com.



Kudos or complaints?

wordministry@bldnewark.com

Counsels from page 1

to God our time, talent and treasure in a way that is pleasing to Him. A driven person who builds earthly empires, having dreams of excessive wealth and power might one day wake up in front of God and realizes that he or she has done nothing of value to gain acceptance to God's kingdom. Sadly, all these treasures are for this world and they stay behind- worthless in the next life.

In Today's Gospel, we are strongly reminded to be vigilant and be ready for His coming, which could be any time, any day. Are we ready to meet Jesus? If yes, then we must continue to stay awake! We must lovingly embrace Jesus as our King every moment of our life. And for those who have not fully prepared, now is the day to repent and do good. Take to heart and heed the message from the First Reading, which gives the promise: *"Whoever watches... shall not be disappointed."* (Wis 6:14)

The best preparation begins with being in the state of grace. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we atone for our sins of omission and commission that have caused hurts and disunity to our family, at our workplace, within the community and among our neighbors. The Holy Eucharist makes us spiritually whole again. We must safeguard this wholeness by praying unceasingly and continually seeking God's wisdom. His will, not ours, must govern all our plans and goals.

This month of November, we especially remember the saints on All Saints' Day and our own dearly departed relatives and friends on All Souls' Day. None of them knew when they were to breathe their last here on earth. Were they prepared to meet our Lord? For the saints, yes... as they lived virtuous lives and by their exemplary examples led others to Jesus. For our relatives and friends who did the same, they too were prepared. But for those who might have kept postponing what God intended for them to accomplish while on earth, we beg for His mercy and compassion on them.

As we await our time, let us use every gift that the Lord has given us. God calls us to live in harmony and in service with others, to make what contribution we can, small or large, to the benefit of all. With our good deeds, not merely words, we must run and tell the world about the Lord's coming so we all can be ready for Jesus!

Directions:

1. Be vigilant by being in the state of grace through the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.
2. Be ready to accept any responsibility that will give glory to God.
3. Pray for our deceased brothers and sisters in the community, family members and the poor souls in purgatory.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

November 4-6

ME #26

Don Bosco Marian Shrine,
Haverstraw, NY

SE #15

Graymoor Spiritual Life Center
Garrison, NY

BIRTHDAYS

November 4

Carlota Casals, LSS 12 Ray Perez, SE
Eder Paraiso, SE

November 5

Sabel Baleos, LSS 13 Sandy Joson, LSS 22
Mikko Serrano, YE 12 Jane Cebedo, SE

November 6

Rose Ausan, LSS 21 Cely Rosal, LSS 10
Alan Yanza, YE 9 James Sabale, YE 12
Alice Pagaliluaun, SE

November 7

Carie Ciocon, LSS 7 Willy De Luna, FE 7
Cynthia Reyes, LSS 15 Hermie Tenchavez, LSS 24
Miguel De Leon, YE 11

November 8

Stever Chan, YE 12 Stephen Chan, John 6
Rachel Guerrero, LSS 14 Tim Paule, LSS 22
Rachel Guerrero, SE Mike Almonte, SE
AJ Flores, Mk 10

November 9

Dorie Beary, ME 25 Judy San Luis, FE 3
Cathleen Col, YE 2 Isabelle Encarnacion, YE 8
Stephen Salonga, Mk 10 Wesley Enad, John 6

November 10

Chito Encarnacion, LSS 9 Mickee Pacia, LSS 20
Leslie Mescallado, YE 11 Rachelle Camposagrado, Mk 10

ANNIVERSARIES

7-Nov. Fred & Suzanne Avestruz, LSS 18
Joe & Trudy Aboyme, LSS 18

9-Nov. Vic & Blanca Tan, LSS 24

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

10/14	3,542
10/21	3,586
10/28	3,597
42-wk avg	\$ 3,540

EXPENSES

42-wk avg \$ 4,325



ANOTHER VICTORIOUS WEEKEND FOR THE LORD

On November 4, 5 and 6, 2005 at the Don Bosco Marian Shrine Retreat House, in Haverstraw, New York, eighteen couples, two nuns and one single, experienced a life-transforming and spiritually enriching marriage encounter weekend where our Heavenly Father touched everyone's heart and mind by the outpouring of His great love, mercy and compassion.

The pastoral team for the weekend was composed of Fr. Paul Lehman, Richard and Lee de la Fuente, and Rene and Sally Castaneda. The grace-filled ministering of the team and the selfless and tireless service of the sponsoring class, the praise ministry, the intercessors and the rest of the auxies, moved and inspired the candidates to open their hearts and fully recognize the loving presence of God in their lives.

We praise our good Lord for a bountiful harvest as we joyfully welcome our newest brothers and sisters in the BLD community, the ME Class #26: *Teddy and Larissa Avisado, Danny and Norma Badiola, *Rudy and Blanche Bonifacio, Joe and Midai Costin, Ben and Marivic Del Rosario, Carlo and Zenny Dugenio, Albert and Melody Edradan, Marcos and Massiell Espinal, Boyet and Jaja Fajardo, Anton and Edna Flores, **Art and Jackie Garces, *Ray and Benny Garcia, Joe and Eunice Laurelli, Andy and Luz Mendoza, Renan and Naty Pineda, Val and Alia Valonzo, *Jun and Camille Viernes, Medy and Mila Yabut, Sr. Lina Dagoldogol, Sr. Doris Aguilor, and Aileen O'Hara. (Note: *coordinators and ** head coordinators of the class). The ME 26 Class Shepherds are Bebot and Grace Baquilod.

"Happy the chosen ones you bring to dwell in your courts. May we be filled with the good things of your house, the blessings of your holy temple!" (Ps.65:5)

SOMEBODY'S PRAYING ME THROUGH CONCERT

The most awaited musical is now playing this Sunday!

Please join us in this beautiful tribute to God for the answered prayers, sustained friendships and abounding love in our community. Bring your families, friends and neighbors! See you all at the Felician College Auditorium, Lodi, NJ Show times: 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm- Sunday, November 13 To God be the glory! Amen.

COUNSELS

Are We Fruitful Stewards?

WORD: Prov. 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31;
 Ps. 128:1-5,3b-6;1Thes. 5:1-6;
 Mt. 25:14-30

ORDER:

1. Be alert and sober.
2. Come share your master's joy.



REFLECTION:

The parable in the Gospel today shows us that God has given us a responsibility to work towards building His kingdom. We are called to use our God-given gifts to make known His mission for us to spread the Gospel- that Jesus is our Savior and that through our faith in Him we will find salvation.

In view of our being in the BLD community, this Gospel has come alive. Having been encountered by the Lord and born again by our Pentecost experience, we are able to discover who we are and what gifts we possess in order to do what God expects of us. Throughout our life God has given us various gifts and talents according to each one's ability. (Mt.25: 15) To name a few, we all have the gift of love, which by its very nature demands sharing of life to others; we all have the gift of light which calls us to an enlightened conduct, doing good and not evil. The gift of God's Word is so precious and powerful that we must preach and teach it. We have the gift of time and we are to use it not only on ourselves but also in the service of community. We all have the gift of money, some more, some less, which should be shared to the maximum instead of keeping it all for ourselves. We must live simply that others may simply live.

We are surely at different stages in relation to our gifts - a unique distinction given by God. Despite our tendency to always compare ourselves to others, the actual number or the quality of gifts is not important. *(continued on page 4)*

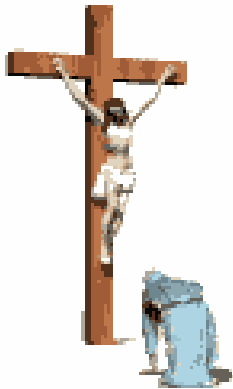
God's Promise for the Week

"For everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."(Mt. 25:29)

Inner Change By Outward Action

An experience beyond words, I can still recall with vividness my transformation from skepticism to complete surrender to Him on my LSS weekend. From that time on, I continued to sustain the Spirit of Jesus in my heart and mind through prayers and opening myself to His love.

As I make a journal of my spirituality through reflections on my consciousness, I have assessed a certain degree of progress in my path of devotion to the Lord. I was an angry person before. If things did not go my way, yelling ensued and there went my untamed tongue. Now, I have a significant control over this unsavory behavior through reading and contemplating the words of our Lord. After my spiritual awakening, I longed for His presence everyday. I began to realize that salvation is not only avoidance of sins and seeking forgiveness for sins committed but also doing God's works.



I became aware of my sinfulness and felt remorse from my wrongdoings. I began to love other people and eliminate any prejudice against them. Slowly creeping into my conscience was the forgiveness of injuries inflicted on me. Tolerance and trust in my daughters recently developed in my heart through the God-sent guidance of a BLD couple.

But even as I've turned my life over to the Lord, I am not yet fully like Zacchaeus. (Lk19: 5-8) I still hold on to trivial aspects of life distracting me from what should be the center of my existence. When can I set aside my needs to care for the needs of others? When can I accept with humility the idea that I might be wrong and another point of view might be valid? My arrogance, pride and independence get on my way sometimes. I pray for a total conversion like Zacchaeus' so that as I continue to work in God's vineyard, I can do quality service to the Lord, making retributions for past offenses and giving back what is due Him, not for rewards or recognition. *"Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over."* (Lk 19:8)

With the support and encouragement of BLD members whose deep spirituality shows in their service and authentic concern for others, someday I will be able to embrace the humility I need to open deeper ways of loving and respecting my brothers and sisters in and outside the community ... one mustard seed-sized gesture at a time.

Lord, help me to learn, recognize and discern the promptings of your Holy Spirit rising within me and to respond always. Upon this, I will have the peace, happiness and fruitfulness in serving you.

A Tree Is Known By It's Fruit

As time is ticking in this transitory world, let us be serious in our task as God's stewards. How can we bear good fruits, so as to inherit God's eternal kingdom? Will Jesus find us with a rich, luscious harvest, or a barren one that will drag us to the dungeon?

As covenanted members in this community, like the early disciples, we have become attached to Jesus, our personal Savior and King. Not only are we children of God and heirs to heaven, but we are now the branches, connected to Jesus, the true vine... the tree of life! He is divine, perfect, pure and holy! He is our all in all. What a bountiful covenant of love! God the Father, the vinedresser, prunes us as He sees fit, for He alone knows what is best for us. Some of us need to be pruned more often, according to our maturity and depending on our stubbornness. The process of molding us into better Christians may cause us more pain each time, but when we surrender to God's way of purifying us and patiently endure the suffering that comes with it, we will bear much fruit. And whatever we desire that is good for us will be done, for we belong to God, with whom nothing is impossible. When we remain in Christ, we will bear fruits that last. We must not allow ourselves to get entwined with false vines, in the form of sin and evil things, for apart from Jesus, we will wither and can do nothing. Our joining to the true vine, producing good fruits, and having an abundant life, can only happen when we cling to Jesus. When we are deeply rooted in His virtues, sustained by His grace that comes through the sacraments and our prayerfulness, we bear good fruits. When our thoughts, words, and actions exude the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit we know our fruits are good. When we constantly seek and obey the will of God the Father in every circumstance, our harvest will be rich and plentiful. In short, imitating Jesus is all we need to bear good fruits and in this, the Father is glorified.

"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil..." (Lk 7:43-45)

Lord Jesus, teach us to produce good fruits in our community and make our harvest ever plentiful for your glory. Amen.



FRUIT OF THE VINE



John 6 Crossing Reflections

Before I went to John 6 Crossing #6, I didn't know that it would change my life so dramatically- it was amazing. I didn't go to the retreat for much of a reason. I only went there because my friends were going. When the retreat began on Friday, I expected it to be a fun weekend just with my friends, but I was wrong. God was there the whole time. In the retreat, God touched me and changed my life for the better. The stories of the sharers made me cry and notice everything that I've done wrong. They made me realize how wonderful God's grace is. At confession, I had the same feeling that God was bringing me closer to Him. I didn't know how much fun you could have by just praising God. Tears of joy ran down my cheeks after the retreat, knowing that God has entered my life and will stay there. JC6 was a big change in my life that I will remember forever. – A.A.

What I learned at the John 6 Crossing is to be more truthful to God and to yourself. Also, to love everybody even the people you do not like. Another thing I learned is that I may not need my parents to look after me all the time but I do need them to love and support me. At the retreat, I proved to myself that I am responsible enough to take care of myself. The Crossing has changed me because now, at church and at BLD worships, I will be singing the praise songs instead of just standing or sitting there. Also, I will pray more often, not only at church but also at home, at school and everywhere I might be. The last day was both sad and happy for me. It was sad because I would miss the new friends that I have made and because I will probably not see them until the next time I go to the Friday worship or until we have a JC6 reunion. I was happy because I was going back home to my family and old friends.– A.S.

The John 6 Crossing retreat was an unforgettable weekend for me. I met a lot of people and made new friends. I got closer to God and learned that He will always be there for you. You can never hide from Him; He is always around. God knows everything. He knows your past, present, and future. I also learned that Jesus doesn't care what you've done before; He will always love and forgive you. I am thankful that Jesus died on the cross for me. "Jesus is my plus sign." I even cried to the sad stories of the sharers. I thought I wouldn't cry at all but once I started to listen to the sharing, I realized I was crying and tears were just pouring out of my eyes. I loved going to the retreat. Right now, I am more excited and always looking forward to go to the BLD worships since Crossing. *"My heart is restless until it rests in you."* Well to end this article, I'm going to say this, "I got a Savior and He's living in me!" - G.F.

Visit our website at www.bldnewark.com.



Ministry Announcements

LSS 25 Grand Reunion

November 20, Sunday; 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

St Mary's Church

232 Central Ave., Rahway, NJ 07065

Directions @t bldnewark.com

Details: LSA Ministry c/o Vic or Dee Lim

Medical Mission

January 23 to 26, 2006

Volunteers are welcome, both in the medical and the non-medical fields.

Details: Mission Ministry - Nong and Tricia Bustos or Willy and Myrna DeLuna

November Teachings

November 18 Body and Blood - **SINGLES**

November 19 Agony In The Garden - **LSS22**

Washing Of The Feet - **LSS22**

Apologetics, Trinity - **LSS19**

Mary and Sacramentals - **LSS19**

Somebody's Praying Me Through ...

I am a Corporal of the United States Marine Corps. On behalf of my comrades, I would like to thank you for your prayers that have carried us through our rough times... and back to our homes and loved ones. I was able to return home unscathed, greatly because of your prayers and God's blessing.

When the tragedy of September 11,2001 happened -just three weeks after my graduation from boot camp, I found myself preparing to go to war. We had to train hard and endure harsh conditions to get ready. In those rigorous times, I relied on God to carry me on when my whole body felt like giving up.

I was with Echo Co 2nd battalion 25th Marines, also known as "ECHO HARD." Besides the lack of shower and sleep, my platoon engaged in firefights but by God's mercy, none of the bullets ever caught us.

There was one incident after coming back from a mission, that our humvee was caught in the middle of a firefight among Iraqis. As we slowed down, we were receiving fires from both sides. There was no doubt in my mind that God was protecting us as we got back to our base with no casualties.

Thank you again for your prayers and please continue to pray for all our troops in the war zone and for their families as well. Please join me in prayers, for our fallen heroes and their grieving families. And let us pray also for the Iraqi people who have suffered severely in this war.



Counsels from page 1

We are only asked to make full use of what we have been uniquely given and to use them to serve God and humanity. In the community, no matter how big or how small a job is, we are to prudently use our talents to the fullest in accomplishing it.

God expects much from us, far more than lip service. Those who exert the most effort and take the biggest risks are given more grace to handle greater opportunities in building His kingdom. In so doing, they also share the Master's joy. (Mt. 25:21) On the other hand, hoarding their God-given abilities is not an option. God condemns those who squander or hide them. *"No creature is concealed from him, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account."* (Heb 4:13)

The community is a fertile ground for responding to God with faithful and loving service. Our talents either develop and grow with use or wither and become useless with neglect. We must then abide in Jesus in order to grow. John 15: 5-6 says, *"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned."*

The most important aspect of the parable is that the Master, in the image of Christ will eventually return and "settle accounts" with us. Let us make sure that we shall be given a favorable judgment. Let us be as wise as the woman who fears the Lord in Proverbs 31: 30 and make changes NOW while we have time. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the daily Scriptural readings should enlighten us to the right direction of what God wants of us.

If we are sober and vigilant, we are not to worry about when the end time will be. And if we continue to live in the light of the Gospel and lead our lives under the illumination of the true faith, we will be spiritually prepared for Christ's Second Coming when He will ask: "How well did you do, my child?"

DIRECTION:

Identify the gifts of members and nourish their fruitfulness and growth.



MAKE COVENANT NEWS A PART OF YOUR COVENANT LIFE.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BIRTHDAYS



- November 11** Sol Bool, LSS 13
Anne Almaria, YE 12
- November 12** Clarissa Ornillo, YE 12
Rodel Camposagrado, Mk10
- November 13** Pen Perez, LSS 13
Larissa Avisado, ME 26
- November 14** James Koryan ,YE 2
Jake Lopina, YE 9
Kaye Campomanes, SF
- November 15** Marvin Venadas, YE 8
Bert Pie, LSS 6
Gina Sabale, ME 25
Ghe Songco, LSS 24
Norms Suoribio, LSS 10
Joel Salonga, John 6
- November 16** Pina Coquia, LSS 6
Ed Magadia, LSS 19
- November 17** Unicel Flores, John 6
Boyot Fajardo, ME 26



ANNIVERSARIES

- November 3** Carlo and Zenny Dugenio, ME 26
- November 11** Tommy and Emmy Pattugalan, LSS15
- November 12** Matthew and Mercy Osemeha, LSS18
Jessie and Ossie David, ME 25
- November 15** Boyot and Mita Miranda, LSS 5
- November 16** Bernie and Novie Soluta, ME 25
August and Carmen Soto, LSS 14



THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS		EXPENSES	
10/21	3,586	43-wk avg	\$4,075
10/28	3,597	Thank you	
11/04	3,376	for your generosity!	
43-wk avg	\$3,535		

Kudos or complaints?

wordministry@bldnewark.com

A RESOUNDING SUCCESS IN THE LORD!!!

The presentation of Somebody's Praying Me Through – a musical by Karla Worley and Gary Rhodes and adapted by BLD Newark, was a resounding success last Sunday at the Felician College in Lodi, New Jersey.



The SPMT presentation was intended to be a vehicle for evangelization. Through God's grace, it overwhelmingly achieved this purpose, while unexpectedly bearing an extra fruit: a renewed, profound sense of community. Both shows: the sold-out 2pm matinee show (1,500 seats) and the 7pm show- which was also well-attended, received the spirited response of the audience.

The SPMT presentation started with a Front Act, a worship of songs and dances performed by a mostly-Youth ensemble. It was followed by the SPMT Main Act, which included exhortations from our religious leaders, personal and videotaped faith testimonies, angelic songs by the BLD choir and prayerful ballet dances by our female singles, youth and children. It ended with a Final act, an exuberant doxology based on Psalm 8 that extolled and exalted our Almighty God for His undeserved love for man.

(Continued on page 3)

COUNSELS

Enthroning Christ the King in our hearts

WORD: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; Ps 23:1-3, 5-6;1
Cor 15:20-26,28; Mt 25:31-46

ORDER: Tend to the flock that the Lord has given you.

REFLECTION: Today, very few of us have experienced being subject to or having seen a king. We can only imagine their grandeur and glory, and how the lives of their subjects centered and revolved around them. Traditionally, kings are powerful rulers of nations with strong and big armies, born of royalty and majesty and possessing great riches. Modern day kings and royalties, even if they govern, are not as powerful anymore.

There is only one King whose power, glory and honor have not been and will never be diminished. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords and His reign is everlasting. However, He is not like other kings in terms of the usual trappings of power, of all the things on which rulers depend to maintain their authority. These are absent in His kingdom.

He was of humble beginnings. Being the son of a carpenter, He toiled and worked for a living like all of us. He started His ministry of helping those in need and spreading God's love and mercy to all through His many miracles and teachings. He sacrificed His life in order to save us from eternal damnation. The cross became His throne. It became an object of love so intense it became the symbol of our salvation.

(Continued on page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Mt 25:40)

Thanksgiving

It is a Christian command to be “grateful for the blessings of God.” (Deut. 8:10). Our thanksgiving celebration is a wonderful reminder to “give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever.” (1 Chron. 16:34)

We celebrate Thanksgiving on the 4th Thursday of November. It is a holiday begun by the early settlers to express their gratitude to God for the bountiful harvest. The settlers who fled from England to seek for a better life came to America on board the Mayflower. They settled at Plymouth Rock where they planted seeds they brought with them and had a bountiful harvest on their first crops. The Pilgrims then instituted with the native Indians to have *Thanksgiving Feast* with the intent of praising God. Eventually, both religious and civil observance began to blend into the celebration with *turkey* as the holiday symbol, with an abundance of venison and fish, cranberries and pumpkin pie.

We have countless blessings we can be thankful for, so that everyday should be a thanksgiving day. For example, every day that we can get out of bed is a day to be grateful. Hence, thanksgiving is not reserved only when our family prepares a banquet. Everyday is a day of counting the gracious gifts of the Most High God. We thank the Lord for our safety, our health, and our comfort. We thank Him for the earth- our land and our home- which is so vast and so rich, which has the exuberance of life that fills it, of which we are a part. We thank Him for making us a part of the BLD community, where He strengthens our faith and love for Him. BLD has again been blessed with a bountiful harvest of the faithful who are committed to serve the community. The ME#21 and ME#23 were given the opportunity to serve the less fortunate in New Jersey on October 22, 2005.

Let us prepare our hearts for this celebration of Thanksgiving Day. Let us join all Christians in praising and worshipping the Lord for His blessings. We pray for this country, and for other nations around the world, especially those who are suffering, so that the Lord will sustain them and supply their needs. We ask Him to continue to bless us from heaven, giving us fruitful seasons and satisfying all our spiritual and physical needs. *May God bless us and keep us; the Lord will make His face shine upon us and be gracious to us; the Lord will turn His face toward us and give us peace. (Num. 6:24-26).*

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

Blest I Am

“You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends... You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives.” Lk 21:16-19

My wife and I attended the marriage encounter in June, 2004. We had no idea what we were getting ourselves into. Our life then was a routine. We go to work, tend to the kids, bowl on Saturdays, attend mass on Sundays and spend time with our relatives after church. We were blessed with loving friends and relatives.

After the marriage encounter and the Life in the Spirit Seminar, our life changed. Our priorities were juggled around. Our calendars are filled with community activities: monthly ME reunions, soup kitchen service, ME and LSS sponsorships, etc. It felt like we were in a never-ending crusade. We had to leave our two boys numerous times with relatives or friends to attend these community activities. We missed many of their sports and other activities.

At first, we asked ourselves these questions, “Why are we doing these things?” and “Why are we neglecting our responsibilities to our kids?” Our children asked us the same questions. After a while, our closest friends stopped calling, visiting and spending time with us because we are not “the same” anymore. At times I got into arguments when I tried to correct their perceptions. Yes, we are not the same people anymore! We are now God’s people! We felt an obligation to correct and comfort our friends.

As the months went by, the same friends would visit and call just to say hello. Some were more apt to listen. One close friend who is not Catholic opened up to me. This time, I did no correction. But I did “boast” of God’s wonderful presence in my life and the unbelievable things that He did to my family and me.

God answered our prayers for our friends and family. Recently, I learned that one of our friends from Chicago attended a weekend retreat. I wrote her a letter to congratulate her for answering God’s invitation. When we spoke, she mentioned that she had not gone to confession for so many years and was very glad that she did because she experienced God’s forgiveness. Great is our Lord of Mercy!

“Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven” I experienced heavenly things here on earth because God had been with my family and me. I can not thank Him enough for being here for us. Blest I am.

To God be the glory!

SPMT: Resounding Success!!!

"Every parish should intensify prayer in order to evangelize" - Pope John Paul II



The quality of the choir, choreography, casting, orchestration and production was impressive. The SPMT message and theme touched the audience to the core of their beings. Many attendees were moved to tears, their faith deepened and their conviction strengthened that prayer can break down walls and move mountains, especially when we pray for others.

The abundant gifts the Lord bestowed on the community were manifest in radiant unity last Sunday. The Lord made lofty vessels of good work out of everyone involved in the presentation: the cast- from the youngest of our Mark 10 & John 6 Ministries to the oldest of our Golden Years Ministry; the Production, Administrative, Sales, and Advertising Crew; the choir conductress and the show director. God showed us that our community has the gifts to organize a first-class musical and to present it as a powerful and creative evangelization tool that brings God's message of love to all.

Karla Worley and Gary Rhodes encouraged everyone to "...tell each other your stories. Listen, then pray and worship in response. Think of this gathering as a campfire, around which you will gather to sing, share and celebrate. Because we want you to hear what God is doing in the larger world."

Our Spiritual Director, Fr. Paul Lehman exhorts, "Prayer is the indispensable ingredient for our holiness to become a reality."



Ministry Announcements

LSS 25 Grand Reunion

November 20 (Sunday) - 1 pm - 5 pm
St. Mary's Church
232 Central Ave., Rahway, NJ 07065
For details, please see LSA Ministry c/o Vic/Dee Lim

Medical Mission

January 23 to 26, 2006
Volunteers are welcome, both in the medical and non-medical fields. For details, please see Nong/Tricia Bustos or Willy & Myrna de Leon

Teachings

Nov 18 Body and Blood – Singles
Nov 19 Agony in the Garden,
Washing of the Feet Retreat – LSS22
Apologetics: Trinity, Mary & Church – LSS19

Welcome! Singles Encounter #15

30 singles completed the SE 15 weekend at the Graymoor Spiritual Center in Garrison, New York last Nov 4-6, 2005. The pastoral team consisted of Fr. Jim Gardiner- spiritual director; Flo Fudalan, Carol Manguit, Eric Cruz & Glenn Canlas- facilitators; Richie and Aileen Escobinas- class shepherds. The SE 15 graduates are: Daniel Beup, Jason Bustos, Jeremy Bustos, Jason Casimiro, Stephanie Consul*, Michael Chua, Jamie Echon, Mary Grace Fondevilla*, Chris Gonda, Samuel Harcus, Aldrew Ignacio, Benjamin Imasa, Donald Kemp, Gillian Lamela, Mark M. Lamela, Allison Mangalonzao, Kristin Mapili*, Nikki Martin, Janette Mendiola, Nikolai Montesclaros, Jefferey Paredes, Michael Perez, Lauryn Podlaskowich, Mark Romero, Cathy Salvador, Veronica Santos, Daniel Tabao, Ericson Tablar*, Jay Tayco*, Raymond Vasquez* (*Coordinators)

**MAKE COVENT NEWS A PART OF
YOUR COVENANT LIFE**

The Lord's Provisions

<u>COLLECTIONS</u>	<u>COLLECTIONS</u>
10/28 \$3,597	44-wk avg \$3,541
11/04 \$3,376	<u>EXPENSES</u>
11/11 \$3,358	44-wk avg \$4,069

Counsel

Continued from page 1

How do we enthrone Jesus in our hearts? We can enthrone Jesus in our hearts by embracing the cross. It is in the cross, through the cross and by the cross that we will be able to feel Jesus' utmost love. Let us place our sufferings, our tears, and our pains before the throne of Jesus so that they can be converted into joy and peace. This heavenly feeling will continue to remain in our hearts as long as we obey and serve Him through helping other people in need.

This Sunday's readings confirm that Jesus is present in those people to whom service is given or denied and therefore, our behavior to them is our behavior to Jesus. The importance of helping other people is evident because there is no mention of any commandment being observed or violated. We will be condemned for not doing anything loving at all to the least of the brethren.

Hence, Jesus is saying if we really accept Him as king we should always have love in our hearts, irrespective of the response we get, because that is the way God treats us. We must be ready to sacrifice some comforts in life in order to help other people. It is not enough just to fulfill our obligations. We have to reach out in love especially to those who are hurting in life – the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the poor and naked, the sick and those in prison.

This is the way Jesus Christ the King wants to be served. He wants us to be filled with care and compassion for everybody especially those who are farthest from Him and those who are materially, socially, psychologically, morally and spiritually poor. In serving the various ministries of our community, each one of us is able to have the opportunity to bear our cross and help those who are in need. As long as we are faithful and sincere in serving and giving our heart without any grumbling or complaints, we will be the beloved sheep who will inherit the kingdom of God.

Philippians 2:10-11 says "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." This validates the majesty and kingship of Jesus Christ. Let us give Him all the glory and honor by building His kingdom in our family, in our community, in our midst and enthrone Him in our hearts.

Directions:

- ◆ Perform corporal works of mercy.
- ◆ Encourage members to serve in the soup kitchens, nursing homes and medical mission.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Birthdays

18-Nov.

Paul Anciano, LSS 16
Amy Guiao, LSS 16
Jovy Lucero, LSS 13
Bren Solema, LSS 20

19-Nov.

David De Borja, SE
Ryan Camposagrado, Jn 6
Chris Masisado, YE 9

20-Nov.

Dave De La Fuente, YE 8
Noel Alejan, LSS 7
Rene Arribe, LSS 21
Mil Camacho, LSS 17
Mario Salonga, LSS 17

21-Nov.

Glenn Canlas, SE

22-Nov.

Mark Chavarria, SE
Cecil Canlas, LSS 6
Anne Cruz, LSS 23
Ronnie Pacia, LSS 20
Fil Taino, LSS 18

Dee Solon, Mk 10

23-Nov.

Tom Beary, ME 25
Des Parker, LSS 11
Lovie Yap, SE
Kathy Kolendra, SE

24-Nov.

Neneng Ikalina, LSS 12
Addie Limtian, LSS 14
Merle Zwirblis, SPE 6
Olivia Felibrico, Mk 10
Dan Kavanagh, YE 11

Anniversaries

- 18-Nov.** Boy & Des Parker, FE6
19-Nov. Arturo & Ilona Montepara, LSS 21
20-Nov. Ding & Emma De Borja, FE 7
21-Nov. Joe & Barbara Pascoguin, LSS 20
23-Nov. Art & Mel Nano, LSS 18






On the Nigerian LSS— **Our Heartfelt Thanks**

The good Lord blessed our first Association of the Faithful evangelization effort in helping our brethren of the **Amazing Grace Prayer Ministries** in their first LSS this weekend.

We thank all those members from our different ministries and classes who served- their witness and service was truly appreciated. Only the Lord knows what you have all done and we know that He is pleased.

We share with you the following letter:

page 3 

Agony in the Garden/Washing of the Feet Retreat

Indeed it was a spirit-filled day for the 34 participants of the Agony in the Garden/Washing of the Feet Retreat, held last Saturday at St. Mary's school. The Holy Spirit orchestrated the whole event, gracing it with the refulgence of His bountiful blessings as the attendees learned and recognized that it is not success nor fame that gives meaning to life, but SERVICE.

Our vibrant retreat master, Msgr. Paul Schetelick, headed the retreat which started with a morning praise and worship led by Sundee Ikalina, followed by the sharing of the living testimonies of our beloved servants of Christ. Msgr. Schetelick emphasized on the power of intercession, to pray to Jesus who bridges the gap between God and us and to accept him as our Lord and Savior. He also added, "a heart of a TRUE SERVANT follows not his will, but God's." He encouraged everyone to understand that the moments of darkness in our lives give us time to grow spiritually.

As the retreat came to an end, one may have seen the bright faces of the participants feeling much alive and renewed by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. The retreat was concluded with a Eucharistic celebration.

Counsels

May He not come suddenly and find you sleeping!


WORD: Is 63:16-17,19; 64: 2-7, Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19, 1 Cor 1:3-9, Mk 13:33-37

ORDER: "Be Watchful, Be Alert"(Mk 13:33)

REFLECTION: The first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year. For most of us we become aware of it when we see the Advent wreath with 4 candles being blessed when we attend Mass this Sunday. We anticipate the coming of and celebrate the wonderful blessings that God is manifesting in the mystery of the Nativity. Unfortunately for many, this event marks a different agenda – the beginning of shopping binges, getting a head start on the presents we need to buy for our family and friends. Merchants attract customers with huge discounts and beautiful store displays – some even try to be politically correct by greeting them with "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas".

The glitter and glamour of the events during this season makes it difficult to hear the "still small voice of the LORD" as recorded in the Old Testament. By coming as a child born in a manger not many were aware of His coming. Only the poor shepherds were singled out to hear the announcement of the birth of Jesus, our Savior. And that is still so true today as many are enslaved and addicted to attachments that prevent us from hearing the voice of God. The loud noises and sounds of materialism and consumerism have drowned out the message given almost 2000 years ago.

Jesus is revealed in us when we watch and follow His ways is the theme for this week given by our elders.

page 4 

God's Promise For The Week

"He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 1:8)

St. Andrew the Apostle

St. Andrew, the son of Jonah and the younger brother of St. Peter was born at Bethsaida on the Lake of Galilee. Andrew was originally a follower of John the Baptist whose testimony first led him and John the Evangelist to follow Jesus. He at once recognized Jesus as the Messiah and hastened to introduce his brother, Simon Peter to Jesus. He was known as the "Protocletus" (the First Called) because he was one of the first apostles to be summoned by Jesus into His service.

One day, when he and his elder brother, Peter were about to set out in their boat to fish, Jesus went to the shore and called both to Him. They both asked, "What do you want of us, Lord?" He replied, "Come with me and I will make you fishers of men." And this time, they left their nets for good. They left all things to follow Jesus.

We learn from the fourth Gospel that on the occasion of the miraculous feeding of the five thousand, it was Andrew who said: "*There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fishes; but what are these among so many?*" (John 6: 9)

As one of the twelve apostles, he was very close to Jesus; he was present at the Last Supper; beheld the risen Christ; witnessed the Ascension; shared in the graces and gifts of the First Pentecost, and helped amid threats and persecution, to establish the Faith in many nations. He traveled through Asia Minor and Greece spreading the Gospel.

St. Andrew is said to have been put to death on a cross, by the Roman proconsul at Patras in Achaia, Southern Greece. He was tied to the cross, not nailed-prolonging his death. The diagonal shape of this cross is the basis for the Cross of St Andrew, the flag of Scotland. He is the Patron Saint of Scotland and his feast day is celebrated on the 30th of November. Legend suggests that a Greek monk called St Rule was warned in a dream that St Andrews remains be taken to the "ends of the earth" for safekeeping. St Rule dutifully followed the directions and took part of the saint's remains with him as far away as he could but he was shipwrecked in Scotland with his precious cargo.

Today, the voice of St. Andrew continues to call on all Christians throughout the world. His spirit beckons across the centuries proclaiming: "The Savior of the world has come! He is the Christ, the Son of God!"

Let us always invoke the strong faith of St Andrew that we may acquire courage and strength when our faith falters during trials and hardships.

Reliance on the Lord

"I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will." (Lk 10:21)

Christianity is a faith of paradoxes. To lose is to gain; to have is to let go; to live is to die to oneself and to grow up is to be childlike.

The Lord blesses us with His grace. And we bless Him in return when we receive His love and hear His word. He is our Father and we are His children. God plans to reveal His truth, grace and hope to the childlike, not to those the world classifies as wise and clever. If we belong to God, we must come to Him as His "*children*". "*Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.*" (Mk10:14)

The religious leaders in Jesus' time could not see or hear Him. In their own wisdom and understanding, they could not see the need for Jesus nor the gospel because they think they are self-sufficient. In order to accept the message of the gospel, we must acknowledge our dependence on God as a child would depend upon his parents.

Childlike reliance on God requires humility. "*Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*" (Mt 18:4) The ways of God are revealed to those who are pure and humble. It is to the transparent and humble heart that Jesus wants to give Himself. We need to humbly accept our total dependence upon God, because apart from Him, we can do nothing. Let us not rely on our own understanding and solve our problems with our own strength and wisdom.

The heavenly Father is omniscient, sovereign and unconditionally loving. God in His mercy provides us evidence that He is indeed trustworthy and so we are to believe Him with the simple, trusting manner of a child. He knows our needs even before we ask Him. He is a God Who has inscribed our names in the palms of His hands. He will never forsake us, so we have nothing to fear.

To depend on God like a child is to be confident of His absolute and loving control over every aspect of our existence. Let us totally rely upon the Lord in Whom we live and move and have our being. God's promise to us is that



He will give us the grace, wisdom and strength to enable us to live lives worthy of His calling, as He works all things for His glory and for our own good.

AWAKENING

(An excerpt of a prayer written by a member's grandfa-ther who passed away forty years ago in his early-seventies after a long battle with muscular atrophy that painfully ate away at his muscular tissues, rendering him immobile except for the use of his hands. She discovered this prayer just recently and would like to share it with the community in his loving memory.)

Oh my Lord! Give me a few more years of life. I am now beginning to see its eternal significance and its purpose for which You created me in time. Stir within me a longing for the infinite resources of Your spiritual treasure. A vast field of Holy Scripture lies ahead of me and I have a lot of reading and reflecting to do. Up to now, I have not lived a full life; I have only worked. Perhaps that was inevitable. But I am now beginning to truly live.

I am sick. I pine for recovery if it be Your Will. But be it recovery or not, which You have in store for me, I want to see Your Hand in each of my affliction so my sickness may bring forth abundant fruits in penance of which my soul has need. In itself, suffering has only a negative value. But, united to that of Your Divine Son, it participates in the merits of His Passion, and thus becomes most acceptable to You. Give me holy grace to view my suffering always in that light.

I committed a grave mistake of relying only on my insufficient light for the solution of my problems. I forgot that for every solution I could conceive within the frame of my feeble mind, there are million other solutions hidden in Your infinite Wisdom and which I failed to see because of my pride which I now find to have been the heaviest of my burden. Please forgive me.

To my children, open the treasure of Your grace ... Let them be not so hard pressed in the pursuit of such things as are necessary for the sustenance of life. Give them time for the expansion of their mind and inculcate into them the lesson that avarice and lust for possessions dissipate the spirit and constrain their victims to equate themselves with mere things. There are things and values infinitely more important.

Give me the will to rise above the visible world around me, and direct my gaze at the one that is unfolding – rich and sublime beyond words. Guide each of my steps to the full possession of that world, not indeed through my own personal merit which is insufficient, but through the super abundant prayer and intercession of my Blessed Mother and those of Your saints whose help I have consistently invoked. Thus, AWAKENING, I can sing to You even now in the sweetest canticle I ever read:

***“In order to arrive at knowing the All,
Desire to know nothing in anything.
In order to arrive at being All,
Desire to be nothing in anything.
In order to come to that for which
you have no taste,
You must go by the way of that for which
you have no taste.”
Through Christ our Lord, Amen.***

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Medical Mission

January 23 to 26, 2006

Volunteers are welcome, both in the medical and non-medical fields. For details, please see Nong & Tricia Bustos or Willy & Myrna de Leon

The Youth Praise will be singing at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel church in Nutley, NJ this Sunday, 11/27/05 at the 12:00 noon mass. You are most welcome to attend this mass.

Our Heartfelt Thanks *(from page 1)*



AMAZING GRACE PRAYER MINISTRIES

A BLD Assisted Catholic Family Community

15 Van Ness Place, Newark, NJ 07108

November 21, 2005

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We lack the appropriate words to truly express our heartfelt thanks for the mighty works the Lord did using all of you during the past weeks; and the manifestation of the Holy Spirit during the LSS weekend - Nov 18 -20, 2005.

We have neither silver nor gold to offer but our thanks and prayers for the Lord to continue to use you in His vineyard and abundant blessings from His infinite wealth and wisdom.

We Love you and we are forever grateful.

Yours in Christ,

Amazing Grace Prayer Ministries

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2005 GUIDELINES

- 1) Presentation must strictly adhere to the amount of time given.
- 2) Presentation must lift up the human spirit. Avoid making fun of human characters by such “skit” practices of:
 - a) “cross-gender roles (i.e. cross-dressings)”
 - b) making funny references to personal descriptions (i.e. obesity, baldness, or any other descriptions that put people down or on the spot)
- 3) All participants must be modestly attired, and should avoid revealing costumes.
- 4) Keep costumes /attire simple; nothing expensive.
- 5) All songs should be submitted in advance to:
 - a) avoid duplication of songs by different groups (therefore, first one to submit song will have “monopoly” of that song).
 - b) determine total amount of time of presentation

Counsels (from page 1)

To watch and follow the Master requires a lot of initiative and perseverance on our part and a lot of grace on God's part. In varying degrees we who were called through renewal have learned to detach ourselves from many worldly things. One sure way of knowing if you still have worldly attachment is to answer this question: what do I value or desire that I know do not conform to the Divine Will? These are the ones that exercise the greatest power over our soul.

Many of us realized that having much possession carry with them burdens that the poor do not have—the fear of losing them, the greed for more and the power they exert. Possessions bring a certain degree of happiness but not peace. They give a sense of security but not assurance, like a glow from a candle but not the brightness and radiance of light. Is detachment the answer to true freedom? No, because detachment is negative—it is to be without. The answer must be positive—I must replace what I have given up with something better. Only God can fill the void and emptiness that detachments vacate in our hearts. When the Lord dwells in us we gain the strength and fortitude to weather whatever storms come into our lives. But when sin comes in, we ease God out from His throne in our life and allow another spirit to reign and rule over us.

We are ordered to **Be Watchful and be Alert** always for we do not know the day nor the hour when the Master will come or call us to His presence. To be able to continue in our mission as disciples of the Lord, we need to persevere. The **direction** given by the DCS exhorts us to strengthen our commitment to the 5 W's of community life.

1. **Worship** – let us be faithful in giving honor and praise to the Lord by living out our pledge of personal, conjugal, family and community prayer.
2. **Word** – know the LORD through reading and reflecting on the gospel. Seek direction and guidance through the words in the Scripture.
3. **Witness** – let others see Jesus in you – see Jesus in every person you meet.
4. **Work** – giving a full day's work for a full day's pay – exercising Christian values and ethics.
5. **Warfare** – recognize that the enemy is like a roaring lion ready to devour, not sitting on the sidelines waiting for us to fall but aggressively seeking our destruction. Intercede daily for the needs and concerns of our family and community.

DIRECTION: Exhort members to strengthen their commitment to the 5 W's of community life—Worship, Word, Witness, Work and Warfare.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Christmas Program 2005-“Christmas Spirit of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow”

Dec 2- Bid \$\$\$ for your favorite BLD member to sing (proceeds will go to Soup Kitchen Christmas Cheers)

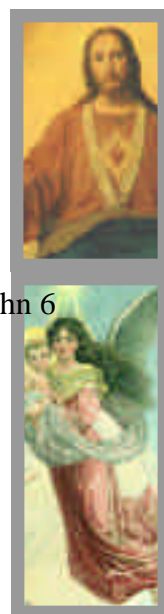
Dec 9- ME 24, ME 25, ME 26 and a surprise number

Dec 16- GYM, Solo Parents and Singles

Dec 23- Youth, John 6, Mark 10 and BLD Choir

birthdays

- 25 Nov** Lheena Jose, LSS 20
Rene Tolentino, LSS 15
Jen Castillo, YE 12
- 26 Nov** Jean Pagdonsolan, YE 9
Chona Martinez, LSS 23
- 27 Nov** Strel Santos, LSS 5
Rachel Natale, SE
Angenelle Estiler, Mk 10
Anthony Lucero, Mk 10
Andrea Morte, John 6
Wawie Espina, YE 11
- 28 Nov** Uchi Anyanwu, YE 11
Christine Mary Trillana, John 6
Nnamdi Obi, Mk 10
Bong Casapao, SE
Philip Gabat, LSS 19
Charles Paloma, ME 22
- 29 Nov** Ikoy Borja, LSS 12
Jane Entrada, LSS 4
Laureilyn Mijares, LSS 21
Joe Restaino, LSS 18
Eliza Lopez, SE
- 30 Nov** Lee De la Fuente, LSS 1
Kimberly Tolentino, John 6
- 01 Dec** Gerry Cabunag, LSS 6
Jillian Cruz, LSS 22
J.R.Garcia, LSS 23



anniversaries

- 28 Nov** Tony & Baby Arambulo, LSS 3
- 29 Nov** Joey & Lheena Jose, LSS 20
- 30 Nov** Celso & Gia Cueto, ME 25
- 01 Dec** Nick & Winnie Feliciano, LSS 8

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Collections		Thank you for your generosity
11/04	\$3,376	
11/11	3,358	Expenses
11/18	3,472	
45-wk avg	3,530	
		45-wk average \$3,791



Plenary Indulgence Attainable on Dec. 8

Papal Decision for 40th Anniversary of Close of Vatican II

Benedict XVI is offering the faithful a plenary indulgence on the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8, the 40th anniversary of the close of the Second Vatican Council.

The indulgence was announced in a decree published in Latin on Tuesday, signed by Cardinal James Stafford and Conventual Franciscan Father John Girotti, penitentiary major and regent, respectively, of the Apostolic Penitentiary.

The document establishes that when the Pope renders public homage to Mary Immaculate in Rome's Piazza di Spagna, he "has the heartfelt desire that the entire Church should join him, so that all the faithful, united in the name of the common Mother, become ever stronger in the faith, adhere with greater devotion to Christ, and love their brothers with more fervent charity."

"From here - as Vatican Council II very wisely taught - arise works of mercy toward the needy, observance of justice, and the defense of and search for peace," adds the decree.

For this reason, the decree continues, the Holy Father "has kindly granted the gift of plenary indulgence which may be obtained under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion and prayer in keeping with the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff), with the soul completely removed from attachment to any form of sin, on the forthcoming solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, by the faithful if they participate in a sacred function in honor of the Virgin, or at least offer open testimony of Marian devotion before an image of Mary Immaculate exposed for public veneration, adding the recitation of the Our Father and of the Creed, and some invocation to the Virgin."

The document concludes by recalling that faithful who "through illness or other just cause" are unable to participate in a public ceremony or to venerate an image of the Virgin, "may obtain a plenary indulgence in their

(continued on page 3)

(Please see inside for related article on Indulgences.)

COUNSELS

Repent and Forgive

WORD: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

ORDER: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths." (Mk 1:3)

REFLECTION:

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear of John the Baptist as the messenger and forerunner given the very important task of proclaiming the coming of the Messiah who turned out to be his first cousin, Jesus of Nazareth. He was a chosen bearer of this good news and the last of a long line of selfless individuals who prepared the people for the coming of the Savior. His was the voice, echoing Isaiah, which cried out in the desert, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths." (Mk 1:3)

What does John the Baptist mean by this, make straight His paths? What is the path that he is talking about? It is the path the Lord takes when He comes to gather and save the faithful. In anticipation of this, we have to make sure that the Lord sees us right away by being dressed in the whitest garb possible and that the road we're standing by is clear and straight.

To accomplish this, we have to repent and straighten our way of life. We must give up our sinful ways and turn to God and welcome Him as our Lord and Savior. "Come now, let us set things right, says the LORD: Though your sins be like scarlet, they may become white as snow; Though they be crimson red, they may become white as wool." (Is 1:18) *(continued on page 4)*

God's Promise for the Week

"The Lord does not delay his promise...but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

I Will Give You Rest

“... *Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.*” (Lk 11:28)

In the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, true blessedness is, “hearing God’s Word and keeping it.” What a great blessing it is to hear His Word and put it to practice! Isn’t this the very heart of true discipleship?

The Blessed Mother Mary is the first and perfect disciple of our Lord. Our Lady’s “Fiat” at the Annunciation revealed her blessedness in wisdom, strength, faith and trust in God’s Word. Her entire life is permeated by the certainty that God is near and showers her with His providential care. In her Magnificat she said, “... *behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and Holy is His name.*” (Lk 1:48-49)

Following the Word of God is in full harmony with the Father’s proclamation at Transfiguration, “*This is my Beloved Son,... listen to Him.*” (Mat 17:5) and the Blessed Mother’s advice to the servers at Cana, “*Do whatever He tells you.*” (Jn 2:5) Both the Heavenly Father and our Blessed Mother Mary point to the Incarnate Word and command us to obey Him.

The first effect of God’s word is to fill us with a vision of His own heart. By inviting us to come to Him, Jesus is introducing us to a relationship with the Father. No one knows the Son except the Father and no one knows the Father except the Son. The loving bond of the Father and the Son is the Holy Spirit who has the power to transform our hearts to become God’s children. Only as disciples can we hope to become adopted sons and daughters of the Father. This requires total dependence and childlike submission to His Holy Will.

Jesus gives us “rest”. This rest is neither laziness nor a restoration of energy. It is a way of life rooted in our relationship with “God as Father of All Humanity”. Such rest is the utmost trust actually lived out every moment of our lives. It means complete surrender to the Father as our Creator so we can become “wet clay in His hands” impressing upon us the form He chooses. Ultimately, the call to discipleship is above all our response to an invitation, to an intimate relationship with Jesus, taking up His offer to share in His yoke, which is easy and His burden light. It is a life centered on prayer, adoration and worship.

As we share our lives with the Lord, we are completely transformed to a new life, **a new creation**. Like St. Paul, we can say, “... *no longer I, but Christ lives in me...*” (Gal. 2:20)

A Call to Obedience

Mary said, “*Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.*” Then the angel departed from her. (Lk 1:38)



In biblical accounts there were only three significant events where Mary, as the Mother of Jesus were mentioned: (a) when the angel appeared to her in a dream and announced to her that she was the chosen one; (b) when Joseph and Mary were so forlorn looking for the missing Jesus and found Him in the temple, and (c) in His death, when Jesus entrusted His mother to John.

We Catholics are often criticized for our devotion to Mother Mary because the bible focuses on the Holy Trinity and not to Mary. However, for Catholics, there is no greater intercessor to Jesus but our Blessed Mother.

Immaculate Conception, which is celebrated on December 8th, is the day when Mary was conceived and preserved from the inheritance of the original sin passed on by Adam and Eve.

At the annunciation, the Angel Gabriel came down from Heaven and declared to her, “... *Hail, favored one! ...*” (Lk 1:28). Mary for her part, in spite of the obstacles that she will face, readily answered, “... *May it be done to me according to your word...*” (Lk 1:38)

If the angel of the Lord comes to us in a dream, would we not quiver in fear and think, ‘Is it true?’ Would we not dismiss it as just a dream and is so far from reality? Would we not doubt ourselves and ask, ‘Can I do it?’ Would we not fear the consequences of being ostracized and criticized for taking on such a huge task? Would we not go back to our comfort zones and declare that we are not worthy of being given the responsibility, and just go back to what we know we can do?

Mary, at the young age of sixteen has the maturity and the faith to go forward. May we be like her and say to God, ‘Yes, with your blessings O Lord, I can do it. I am grateful for choosing me, and I will carry out the task that you have assigned me to do.’ None of us can compare to her call to obedience. We know that we cannot measure up to her holiness. But by God’s grace and through her intercession, let us follow what she has shown us.

Lord Jesus, let us learn how to be obedient to Your Word. Let us understand the mission that you have assigned us to do and grant us the grace to do it with open hearts. Let us be the kind of servant like our Mother Mary, offering our lives to You in humble servitude. Amen.

What Is An Indulgence?

Our Holy Father has granted the gift of plenary indulgence on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Some of us might ask: what is an indulgence and what is plenary indulgence?

An indulgence is the extra-sacramental remission of the temporal punishment due, in God's justice, to sin that has been forgiven, which remission is granted by the Church in the exercise of the power of the keys. There are different kinds of indulgences: perpetual, which may be gained at any time, and temporary, which are available on certain days or within certain periods. Real indulgences are attached to the use of certain objects (crucifix, rosary, medal); personal are those granted only to a certain class of individuals like members of an order or confraternity.

The most important distinction, however, is that between plenary indulgences and partial. A partial indulgence removes a certain portion of the penalty canceling an amount of the purgatorial punishment thus shortening one's stay in purgatory. A plenary indulgence grants full remission of the entire temporal punishment so that no further expiation is required in purgatory.

The source of indulgences is the treasury of the superabundant merits of Christ and of the saints. This treasury constitutes an inexhaustible fund which is more than sufficient to cover the indebtedness contracted by sin: Jesus who shed His blood to redeem the whole humankind, and the virtues, penances, and sufferings of the saints and of our Blessed Mother. Jesus entrusted this treasure to St. Peter, the key bearer, and his successors, that they might distribute it to the faithful in full or in partial remission of the temporal punishment due to sin.

So, how can we obtain these indulgences? First we must be free from the guilt of mortal sin. For plenary indulgences, receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist are required, while for partial indulgences, one must have at least a contrite heart, although going to Confession is recommended and doing all the other actions asked by the Holy Father.

Let us avail of this treasure that will release us from or at least diminish the penalty incurred by our sins. In the Sacrament of Penance the guilt of sin is removed, and we are saved from eternal damnation but there still remains the temporal punishment required by Divine justice, and this requirement must be fully satisfied in the present life or in the world to come, that is in Purgatory.

Only God knows what penalty remains to be paid and what its precise amount is in severity and duration. An indulgence offers us the means of discharging our debt during our life on earth.

Thank you Lord, for Your mercy and kindness!

Ministry Announcements

Medical Mission

January 23 to 26, 2006

Volunteers are welcome, both in the medical and non-medical fields. For details, please see Nong & Tricia Bustos or Willy & Myrna de Leon



Christmas Program 2005 Guidelines

- (1) Presentation must strictly adhere to the amount of time given.
- (2) Presentation must lift up the human spirit. Avoid making fun of human characters by such "skit" practices of:
 - (a) "cross-gender" roles (e.g. cross-dressings)
 - (b) making funny references to personal descriptions, such as obesity, baldness, or any other descriptions that put people down or on the spot.
- (3) All participants must be modestly attired. Avoid revealing costumes.
- (4) Keep costumes /attire simple; nothing expensive.
- (5) All songs should be submitted in advance to:
 - (a) avoid duplication of songs by different groups (therefore, first one to submit song will have "monopoly" of that song).
 - (b) determine total amount of time of presentation.



Plenary Indulgence *from page 1*

own homes, or wherever they may be, if, with the soul completely removed from any form of sin, and with the intention of observing the aforesaid conditions as soon as possible, they unite themselves in spirit and in desire to the Supreme Pontiff's intentions in prayer to Mary Immaculate, and recite the Our Father and the Creed."

On Dec. 8, 1965, Pope Paul VI, in closing Vatican II, dedicated great praise to the Blessed Virgin who, as Mother of Christ, is Mother of God and spiritual Mother of all mankind. *(Source: Zenit 11/30/05)*

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

11/11	\$3,358
11/18	3,472
11/25	2,476
46-wk avg	3,508

Thank you for your generosity!

EXPENSES

46-wk avg	\$3,744
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Counsels from page 1

Through the baptism of repentance that John the Baptist preached, the people were transforming their lives, becoming righteous in preparation to receive the Lord Jesus. Similarly, when we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we cleanse our soul, mind, and heart and are made righteous in the eyes of God; thus earning the right to welcome the indwelling of Jesus in us through the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist.

With repentance comes reconciliation not only with our Lord but also with others whom we have hurt as well as those who have hurt or sinned against us. Only with this reconciliation can the Father's forgiveness come. *"If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions."* (Mt 6:14-15)

During this season of advent, the season of waiting and hoping for God, for the second coming of Jesus, we can also imagine just how much God is waiting and hoping for each of us to return to Him. So, let us ask ourselves is there anything keeping God and us apart? Is there sin of any kind in our lives keeping us away from God? During this season of waiting for the second coming of Jesus, let us probe our hearts thoroughly and truly, make amends with those with whom we're still not in peace and turn to God asking for forgiveness, resolving to always keep the path between our hearts and His straight and clean.

And as a community of encountered families, whose charism is to be witnesses to the Word that others may hear and understand, let us vigorously continue to prepare the way of the Lord by guiding our non-encountered friends and family members to the right path first, by witnessing to them through the way we conduct our own lives and by inviting them to join any of our programs of Christian encounters and Life in the Spirit Seminars.

Let us continue to assist our brethren in the community by addressing their pastoral needs whenever we're moved by the Holy Spirit and by sharing moments and opportunities for spiritual growth. Let us also pursue our other brothers and sisters in the community whom we have not seen or heard from for sometime and extend to them our sincere invitation to come and join us once again and renew their relationship of faith, hope and love with God especially in this season of advent.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Forgive and comfort one another.
2. Prepare the way of the Lord by availing of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Christmas Program 2005-"Christmas Spirit of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"

- Dec 2** - Bid \$\$\$ for your favorite BLD member to sing (proceeds will be used to bring Christmas cheers to the poor)
- Dec 9** - ME 24, ME 25, ME 26 and a surprise number
- Dec 16** - GYM, Solo Parents and Singles
- Dec 23** - Youth, John 6, Mark 10 and BLD Choir
- Dec 10** - DLC Meeting from 1:30 p.m to 5:30 p.m at St. Mary's Library, Rahway, NJ



BIRTHDAYS

- 2-Dec.** Emma Avergonzado, LSS 15
Manny Mangalonzo, LSS 14
Alie Marcial, LSS 21
Letty Trillana, LSS 2
Beth Trinidad, LSS 10
Justin Devery, YE 10
- 3-Dec.** Benru Etcubanas, LSS 5
Roland Gutierrez, LSS 18
Rosan Tan, SE
Kevin Col, John 6
Ken Reyes, YE 8
TK Col, YE12
- 4-Dec.** Gus Enciso, LSS 24
Jun Velasco, LSS 14
- 5-Dec.** Tess Farinas, LSS 6
Jho Martin, LSS 15
Chris Medina, LSS 22
Enya Tomas, LSS 4
Michelle Alto, SE
Katrina Salonga, Mk 10
Kirsten Joy Pacia, YE 12
- 6-Dec** Chiamaka Ekweghariri, YE 12
Marvin Daclan, LSS 22
Rey Duma, LSS 9
Khar Parra, SE 12
Sally Santiago, LSS 13
- 7-Dec.** Susie Atienza, ME 25
Flor Jovellanos, SPE 5
Mayet Delgra, SE
- 8-Dec.** Fil Malabanán, ME 21
Marie Francisco, YE9
Kat Camacho, YE10
Madeleine Camacho, YE10



ANNIVERSARIES

- 2-Dec.** Ricky & Armi Sion, ME 25
- 6-Dec.** Leni & Tita Tiongson, LSS 1
- 7-Dec.** Al & Aimee Pena, LSS 2
- 8-Dec.** Chito & Josie Magahis, FE 9
Paul & Christine Verzosa, LSS 22
Reuben & Cherry Vibar, LSS 5





No Room in the Inn

Fr. Frank Pavone

National Director, Priest For Life

"She wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7).

The fact that there was no room for Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in the inn at Bethlehem on the first Christmas should make us wonder, because the birth of Christ was foreseen and planned by God from all eternity. Hundreds of years before it happened, the prophets announced he would be born of a virgin (Is. 7:14) and that Bethlehem would be his birthplace (Micah 5:2). Many other details of his life and death were also foretold. Did God, then, forget to make room for his only Son? How is it possible that there was no room, when the child born at Christmas owns the inn, and Bethlehem, and the world, and every inch of room in the whole universe?

Obviously, God did this on purpose. There was no room in the inn, because this demonstrates that world has rejected God. The world makes no room for the God who created it. There was no room in the inn because God wanted to show that His Son comes as a Savior, to reconcile a world that is at enmity with God. Being turned away from the inn foreshadows the fact that the Savior himself will be rejected, despised, and ultimately crucified, and that all this was part of God's plan from all eternity. Ultimately, the lack of room in the inn symbolizes the lack of room we make for him in our hearts. When our hearts are filled with all kinds of other desires than God, we gradually crowd him out altogether.

No room at the inn also means that we fail to make room for our brothers and sisters. The first great commandment is to love God, and the second is like it: Love your neighbor. Christ willed to be left out, because he is always in solidarity with those who are left out, shut out, and crowded out. That is the position of the unborn children today. They are crowded out of the busy schedules of so many people doing so many good and important things, but who don't have a finger to lift to protect the lives of these children from abortion.

(continued on page 3)

COUNSELS

Christ is our Light

WORD: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

ORDER: *"Make straight the way of the Lord." (Jn1:23b)*

"In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thes 5:18)

REFLECTION:

When we go to Mass this Sunday, we shall hear the opening antiphon strike the thematic note of joyful expectation. We have reached the third Sunday, the mid-season of Advent. The penitential exercises proper to our vigilant preparation and hopeful waiting for the coming of our King are suspended for a while. *Gaudete in Domino semper*, we hear it proclaimed. Rejoice in the Lord always, for He is near!

As we remain united in worship with our global community, we continue our Advent theme of receiving the Father's assurance of His grace and faithfulness as we wait for the revelation of His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. This week we reflect on how **Jesus is revealed in us when we testify that He is the Light.**

Christ is our Light, for He alone can dispel the gloom of darkness and bring life-giving light and warmth to the entire world. He is the One sent to free us from the bondage of sin, for God remembered His holy covenant and has kept His promise of mercy.

(continued on page 4)

God's Promise for the Week

"The God of peace himself make you perfectly holy and entirely preserved blameless ... The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it."

(1 Thes 5:23a-24)

Commitment to Our Lord

What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.' He said in reply, 'I will not,' but afterwards he changed his mind and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, 'Yes, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did his father's will? They answered, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Amen I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him. (Mt 21:28-32)

Often times we experienced how quickly we agreed to do something but failed to follow through or refused to commit at first but would change our mind later. As Jesus explained in His Parable of the Two Sons, to make or not to make a commitment is a task that could always be a struggle because of our fallen nature. He understood very well that our tendency is to weigh God's will against our own, and fail often in this regard by preferring our own desires. However, in every struggle, God only ask we do our best without fear of failure and even if we fail many times, He would give us a chance to repent and be strong as in the case of the tax collectors and the prostitutes who in spite of their weaknesses kept their minds and hearts open ("bukas loob") for a seed of grace to enter.

The relationship between commitment and doubt is by no means an antagonistic one. Commitment is healthiest when it is not without doubt but in spite of doubt. We would continue having doubts and be puzzled at the things which God permit to happen. This is just part of our limitation. However, the most intelligent thing we could do is to let Him direct our life as He wills.

How about our individual commitment to a group effort, to our ministry, to our community? Following through with our individual commitment is what makes a team work, a ministry work, a community work.

We are not obligated not to fail, but we are obligated by our Lord to keep trying to do the best we can every single day. As General George S. Patton said, "Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the individual commitment of the men who follow, and of the man who leads, that gains the victory."

St. Lucy

The virgin and martyr St. Lucy was born of wealthy parents in the city of Syracuse. She was educated from her cradle in the faith of Christ. She lost her father when she was just an infant, but Eutychia, her mother, took care to furnish her with tender and sublime sentiments of piety and grace. Lucy secretly took a vow of virginity at a young age. Her mother arranged for her to be engaged to a pagan nobleman. She did everything she could to prevent the marriage but all her efforts were thwarted. When her mother was stricken with an illness that lasted for four years, Lucy persuaded her to go to Catana and offer up her prayers to God at the tomb of St. Agatha. Their prayers were answered.

St. Lucy disclosed to her mother her desire of devoting herself to God in a state of perpetual virginity, and of bestowing her fortune on the poor. Eutychia gave her liberty to pursue her pious inclinations. When Lucy's fiance found this out, he became enraged and he announced that she was a Christian. Since it was the height of Emperor Diocletian's persecution of Christians, Lucy was arrested and condemned to work as a prostitute in a brothel. But God rendered her immovable, so when the guards went to fetch her, they could not move her, even when they hitched her to a team of oxen. The governor ordered her killed instead. After being tortured, wherein her eyes torn out, she was surrounded by bundles of wood and set afire, which went out. Finally, she was executed by being stabbed to death with a dagger. She was martyred in the year 304.

We are always subjected to sufferings and temptations and the greatest weapon against these is the love of Christ and devotion to the Holy Eucharist. Our sufferings here on earth are opportunities given us to grow spiritually. This is God's way of fine tuning us so we can become more compassionate, caring, loving and more aware of others' pain.

Prayer:

St. Lucy, your beautiful name signifies light. By the light of faith which God bestowed upon you increase and preserve this light in my soul so that I may avoid evil, be zealous in the performance of good works, and abhor nothing so much as the blindness and the darkness of evil and of sin. By your intercession with God, obtain for me perfect vision for my bodily eyes and the grace to use them for God's greater honor and glory and the salvation of all men. St. Lucy, virgin and martyr, hear my prayers and obtain my petitions. Amen.

Actions Speak Louder than Words

Have you ever been upset and tried not to let anyone know about it? How about the time you went to church after having an argument with a family member? Didn't we try to put on our best face for church members? Yet we would not hide our displeasure when we are alone with our family member.

We communicate not only through our words but also through our facial expressions, our mannerism, our tone of voice, etc. We speak with our posture, our gestures, our face, our eyes, and our eyebrows. We speak with a sigh, with a touch, with a tone, with a shoulder shrug, with the distance we put between the other person and us, with almost any action we take. If we send two messages which contradict each other, people will tend to believe the nonverbal over the verbal.

I remember a homily in our parish: the priest asked for the definitions of "couch potato" and "pew potato". People gave the correct definition for couch potato, but not for pew potato. After the blessing, when the priest said, "Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord", the automatic reply was "Thanks be to God!" Did we really mean it? Or were we professing something by our words which we did not mean in our hearts?

It's easy to say, "I believe in God", but our life may say the opposite. It's easy to go to Church on Sunday, but not live up to what the Church teaches the rest of the week. It's easier to say, "I'm a Catholic" than to live a Christian life.

Our action must be consistent with our words. Christians will witness the gentleness of wisdom (James 3:17) when they immerse themselves in the person of Jesus Christ, when their thoughts are focused on Him and His Word, when they let Him capture their affection, when He is in control of our lives. When Christians walk the talk, they become effective witnesses of Christ to the world.

In 2 Corinthians 3:2, Paul called the Corinthians a letter known and read by all men. We are all living letters which the world reads daily. So then, what is your life saying to the world? Remember that action speaks louder than words!

No Room in the Inn *from page 1*

They are crowded out of legislative agendas, preaching schedule, career plans, and volunteer activities. There's just too much going on already; there's no room in the inn.

Christ comes at Christmas to change all that. Today, he does not seek an inn; he seeks room in our own hearts and lives. And he asks that as we welcome him, we welcome everyone whom he welcomes, including the children most defenseless and forgotten. We welcome the Divine Child, and in doing so, we welcome every child. As we celebrate Christmas, we sing in "O Holy Night" the words, "Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease." Amen! Let oppression cease and let Christmas come for the unborn!

Ministry Announcements

Dec 10 - DLC Meeting from 1:30 p.m to 5:30 p.m at St. Mary's Library, Rahway, NJ

Medical Mission

January 23 to 26, 2006

Volunteers are welcome, both in the medical and non-medical fields

For details, please see Nong & Tricia Bustos or Willy & Myrna de Leon

TEACHING CDFP 2006 SCHEDULE

January 7 - Newark

Shepherds Training Part 2 – LSS 20

New Creation Realities, GIP-Prayer, GIP-Praise & Worship – LSS 25

January 20 - Newark

Renewing The Mind, John 6, Mark 10, Singles

January 21 - Newark

Understanding Corporate Worship– LSS 21 & 22

Prayer Leadership – LSS 20

Encounter with Jesus Part II, Mark, Matthew, Intro To Commitment – LSS 24

Christmas Program 2005 Guidelines

- (1) Presentation must strictly adhere to the amount of time given.
- (2) Presentation must lift up the human spirit. Avoid making fun of human characters by such "skit" practices of:
 - (a) "cross-gender" roles (e.g. cross-dressings)
 - (b) making funny references to personal descriptions, such as obesity, baldness,
- (3) All participants must be modestly attired. Avoid revealing costumes.
- (4) Keep costumes /attire simple; nothing expensive.
- (5) All songs should be submitted in advance to:
 - (a) avoid duplication of songs by different groups (therefore, first one to submit song will have "monopoly" of that song).
 - (b) determine total amount of time of presentation

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

11/18	\$3,472
11/25	\$2,476
12/02	\$3,484
47-wkavg	\$3,509

EXPENSES

47-wk avg \$3,696

Thank you for your generosity!

Counsels from page 1

"In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace". (Lk 1:78-79)

John the Baptist was sent from God, and we do well to heed his example. *"He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him."* (Jn 1:7) We hear the Baptist calling us to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord in our own lives now, and to look for the fulfillment of his kingdom in the future.

"Go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins." (Lk 1:76-77) We are able to testify to the light only when we have learned to rise above the darkness. When we are blind, we cannot see, much less lead our neighbor. Sin is what brings and keeps us down in the realm of darkness. Our individual meditation will show us how pride, avarice, lust, anger, gluttony, envy and sloth – the capital sins or any sin, for that matter – dim, deflect or even shut off the light of Christ from shining through to our mind, heart and soul.

Difficult though it is, we need to persevere amid all temptation and trials, focusing as it were at a distant, solitary Light to navigate our way through the pervading darkness. With guidance from the Lord, we shall make our way through, counting on all the help He sends us – the Eucharist and other Sacraments, Scripture, constant prayer, recourse to Mary and all the saints, and the comfort and strength of being in community.

In community, we testify to the Light of Jesus as we answer the different calls to serve Him in our various ministries: as prophets who speak for God, shepherds to the lambs who are hungry for green pasture, praisers in song and worship, intercessors and prayer warriors, servants in our assemblies and our missions, humble leaders and meek followers alike. By our words and actions, we can lead others closer to the Lord.

We are not all called to shine as beacons but are content to be like flickers of light from a solitary candle, constant and steady which, when joined with others, bring light and joy to a suffering world.

We beseech Jesus Christ our Light to listen to our prayers, and by the grace of His coming, to enlighten our darkened minds.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Test everything and retain what is good and refrain from every kind of evil.
2. Praise and rejoice in all circumstances.
3. Continue to support our mission program to help the poor.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Christmas Program 2005-“Christmas Spirit of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow”

Dec 9 - ME 24, ME 25, ME 26 and a surprise number

Dec 16 - GYM, Solo Parents and Singles

Dec 23 - Youth, John 6, Mark 10 and BLD Choir



BIRTHDAYS

- 9-Dec. Zeny Garcia, LSS 5
Jack McWade, LSS 22
Cora Pring, LSS 16
Resty De Leon, ME 25
- 10-Dec. Divine Alba, ME 25
Cecille Vasquez, ME 25
Carlo Badiola, YE 9
Katrina Badiola, YE 9
Arvin Lugay, SE
- 11-Dec. Ed Eguia, LSS 13
Blanca Tan, LSS 24
Frank Valeriano, LSS 18
Connie Mesina, ME 25
Nicholas Talbot, Mk 10
- 12-Dec. Gene Bautista, LSS 23
Bea Chan, LSS 20
Felix Ekweghariri, LSS 20
Charles Paloma, ME 22
Marie Santos, ME 25
- 13-Dec. Rene Castaneda, LSS 4
Lucille Ermita, LSS 13
Jean Jean-Bart, LSS 22
Luz Santos, LSS 19
Rudy Santos, LSS 18
Luchie Schroth, LSS 23
Paul Verzosa, LSS 22
- 14-Dec. Kookie Besa, LSS 17
Manny Manguiat, LSS 9
Eddie Santos, LSS 15
Sarah Del Fierro, YE 9
Carmelle Fernandez, SE
William Talbot, Mk 10
- 15-Dec. Myrna De Luna, LSS 8
Ervin Manguiat, LSS 11
Amy Olegario, LSS 3
Leo Matanguihan, SE
Earl Manguiat, SE
Winnie Magparangalan, ME 25



ANNIVERSARIES

- 9-Dec. Nap & Lourdie Lapinid, ME 5
- 12-Dec. Roger & Irma Santiago, LSS 6Hk
- 15-Dec. Mel & Baby De La Cruz, LSS 17
Bing & Sue Duma, LSS 10





CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION: “Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow”

BLD Newark celebrates Christmas by having a Christmas presentation after worship each Friday throughout December. This year’s theme is “Christmas Spirit: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow”. The community has so much talent to share and these weekly Christmas presentations open the opportunity for different groups to offer their talents as a form of thanksgiving to God and as a present to the community.

Last December 2, week #1, we had a fun-filled activity that kicked-off the series of Christmas presentations. “Bid\$\$\$ for Your Favorite Crooner” program was very entertaining, as well as uplifting and the whole place glowed with the beautiful renditions of the crooners. It was very successful, not only for the warm fellowship



and spirit of joy that pervaded the air filling our hearts with cheers and goodwill but in the process raised some money for the poor. The amount (\$315) was added to the funds of the Christmas Cheer program, specifically allotted to the soup kitchen for the homeless managed by the Sisters of Charity in Newark, which this community supports year round.

Then came week #2- December 9, the class of ME#24 ushered the “official” start of the program. In keeping with the theme, the members gave testimonies, interspersed with songs, on how they prepared and celebrated Christmas before encountering Jesus. ME#25 had a profound presentation of how they celebrate Christmas now that they have developed a closer and more intimate relationship with Jesus. ME#26, the baby of the community, presented the community with the traditional icon of Christmas, the Manger. Lastly, our very own Golden Years Ministry, *(cont'd on page3)*

COUNSELS

Trust and Obedience

WORD: 2Sam. 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps. 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom. 16:25- 27; Lk. 1:26-38

ORDER: *Do not be afraid, you have found favor with God.* (Lk. 1:30)

REFLECTION: Our theme for this week tells us about what happens to people when they submit to God’s will. From the Gospel readings, we have the Annunciation to Mary of God’s plan and her ‘yes’. “*Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done unto me according to your word.*” (Lk.1:38) In the unfolding Christmas story, we also want to mention another important person who said ‘yes’: Joseph. Mary and Joseph are two ordinary people who were set apart because of their trust and obedience. They were the first to say ‘yes’ to submit to the will of God, through the angel, and Jesus was revealed to them.

Mary and Joseph, submitted to the will of God and were set apart to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 – “*the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.*” (Mt.1:23) The gospel narrative explained how the prophecies were fulfilled:

- 1) that Jesus has David as his ancestor since Joseph, a descendant of David, is his legal father (2 Sam. 7:12)
- 2) that Jesus will be born by a virgin, which is Mary (Isa. 7:14)
- 3) that the Child’s conception was miraculous, without the intervention of man but by the Holy Spirit (Lk.1:20)
- 4) that Jesus is in fact God-with-us, Emmanuel, because He was born by the power of God the Holy Spirit, through a woman, Mary.

The Gospel had shown us that even after the ‘yes’ of Mary and Joseph, those who were set apart by the Father for the sake of the Gospel are not exempted from trials and difficulties. *(cont'd on page4)*

God's Promise for the Week

“Nothing will be impossible for God” (Lk.1:37)

The Sanctity of Life

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Lk. 1:41-43)

This gospel narrates that the infant in Elizabeth's womb, who grew up to be called John the Baptist, recognized the holy presence of Jesus, the Son of the Most High, in Mary's womb and thus he leapt in joy. John's name means "Yahweh has shown favor", indicating his significant role in the salvation history. In the Old Testament, the angel proclaimed to Manoah's wife who was barren: "You will be with child and will bear a son. So take neither wine nor strong drink, and eat nothing unclean. For the boy shall be consecrated to God from the womb, until the day of his death." (Jgs 13:7)

These scripture passages tell us that each life in the mother's womb is destined for holiness, that we, His creations seek our Creator. Jesus, who was begotten and not created, leads us to our Heavenly Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

"You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works! When I was being made in secret, fashioned as in the depths of the earth. Your eyes foresaw my actions; in your book all are written down; my days were shaped, before one came to be. How precious to me are your designs, O God; how vast the sum of them! (Ps 139:13-17)

Pope John Paul II wrote in *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life):

At the dawn of salvation, it is the Birth of a Child which is proclaimed as joyful news: "I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord". (Lk. 2:10-11) He also wrote:" but Christmas also reveals the full meaning of every human birth, and the joy which accompanies the Birth of the Messiah is thus seen to be the foundation and fulfillment of joy at every child born into the world. "(cf. Jn 16:21).

Dear Lord, give us the wisdom to fully recognize that every child born into this world is a precious blessing from You. Help us in our Christian duty to protect each tiny life from any harm and increase our determination to safeguard the sanctity of life of every infant especially the unborn. Amen.

PRAY WITH CONFIDENCE

In Luke 1:13, Zechariah's prayer was heard and answered by the Lord. Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth were described as both righteous in the eyes of the Lord and observing all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly (Lk.1). Taking cue from this, our relationship with God should be similar. What He wants from us more than anything else is confidence in Him. And that confidence will accomplish everything. Full confidence in God is closely related to the faith that moves mountains. We must persevere in our prayers-day and night (Lk. 18:7)," without ceasing" (1 Thes. 5:17). This, of course, is taken with a grain of salt. Nobody could and should pray literally day and night, minute by minute for twenty-four hours. "Without ceasing" means that we must be aware of God's presence at all times and persevere in being pleasing before Him in all our actions.

Many times in our life, we make fervent resolutions to pray with perseverance but sadly we do not keep them. Confidence in God requires that we pray without ceasing and persevere in prayer; not just when we are in the right mood. We must not be discouraged when we do not get what we asked for. Only God knows what is best for us so He does not grant those wants that could be detrimental to our ultimate salvation.

But no prayer is said in vain and no confidence will be disappointed. Persevering in prayer will allow us to get to know God more in a personal way and thus develop a greater confidence in Him. Even in our relationships with our family and friends, we need to be close to them to know them well enough to trust them and have confidence in them. When there is confidence in one's friendship, there is that peace and joy knowing you have someone who will always be there for you. Confidence is one of the finest qualities and the most necessary in our human relationships. In Luke 18: 1-8 "*The Parable of the Persistent Widow*", Luke tells us about this widow who did not get discouraged when the judge ignored her knocking on the door again and again. She kept on and continued to persevere inspite of her seemingly hopeless situation as the judge was not interested at all to listen to her. But finally he gave in. In her heart, this widow had confidence that the judge will eventually grant her plea and indeed she got it.

Likewise, we must do the same – persevere in our prayers and pray with confidence. God loves us and cares for us and every prayer that we offer to Him in full confidence will be answered.



SUBMISSION TO GOD'S WILL

How much faith do you think Our Blessed Virgin Mary had, at the time she was asked by Our Heavenly Father to carry His only Begotten Son? Mary said, "*Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to unto me according to your word.*" (Lk. 1: 38)

I could recite this passage over and over in my limited wisdom, probably all throughout my lifetime, but I will never have the same of faith and wisdom, like our Blessed Virgin Mary's at the time it happened to her. Is this a question of my faith or a question of what I am willing to give up?

For Our Mother, she gave her whole self to be the vessel in giving life to Our Savior. As for me, what am I willing to give up? I likened my faith to the two columns of the bank statement, one for deposit and one for withdrawal. How much of it have I deposited and how much of it have I withdrawn?

When I joined BLD a year and a half ago, I did not hesitate to accept the invitation. My wife and I submitted the application, as if we were applying for a bank account.

We were clueless. All we had was our faith which was all that was necessary

for God to open us an account. We have no idea where the bends and corners of the road ahead would take us.

As for me, all I knew was what BLD stood for: BUKAS LOOB SA DIYOS. We would soon realize what the four words meant: give back to God what belongs to Him- our life, our time, talents and treasures. But as for my wife and me we just followed where our loving shepherds led us. We followed their directions and yielded to their guidance and advice each time we ventured elsewhere.

We sat in the church during worships, sometimes wondering what we got ourselves into. A year and a half later, we realized that as a couple we were actually moving further away from our old selves. We began to notice the changes in our ways, although traces of our old selves still surface once in awhile. However, now we anticipate going to the Friday worships because we have accepted that our lives and the lives of our kids belong to God. As the months passed, my wife and I realized our bank statement started to gain some interest. All our children except our 2-year-old daughter are just as enthusiastic to be where we want to be, in HIS HOUSE.

Now, it is rewarding to hear my kids ask, "Dad, are we going to the WORSHIP?"

Visit our website at www.bldnewark.com.

MINISTRY ANOUNCEMENTS

Medical Mission

January 23 to 26, 2006

Volunteers are welcome, both in the medical and non-medical fields. For details, please see Nong & Tricia Bustos or Willy & Myrna de Leon

TEACHINGS – CDFP 2006 Schedule

January 7- Shepherds Training Part 2 – LSS 20 Nwk

New Creation Realities, GIP-Prayer, GIP-Praise & Worship – LSS 25 Nwk

Encounter with Jesus Part II (Mark, Matthew) and Intro To Commitment – LSS 24 Nwk

January 20- Renewing The Mind - John 6, Mark 10, Singles Newark

January 21- Understanding Corporate Worship– LSS 21 & 22 Newark

Prayer Leadership – LSS 20 Newark

from page 1

who was originally scheduled for the following week yet, brought nostalgic memories of Christmas back home, through their presentation of traditional Filipino Christmas.

Though there was barely time to do serious preparations for these presentations, overall, last Friday's Christmas presentations reminded us that Christ is the real Reason for the Season, thus inspiring all of us to give focus and priority to the 'spiritual' preparation rather than the 'material', as we welcome Jesus this Christmas.

This Friday's Christmas program promises to be as heartwarming as the earlier ones with the John 6 and Solo Parents Ministries presentations and that little twist of a "surprise" number.



THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

11/25	2,476
12/02	3,484
12/09	3,023

48-wk avg \$ 3,499

EXPENSES

48-wk avg \$ 3,806 *Thanks for your generosity !*



Counsels from page 1

Those who are set apart by God will be tested. Likewise in our community life, even after we say 'yes' to BLD's commitment and covenant, trials and difficulties may still come our way. If we are to follow the examples of Mary and Joseph, we too, must rely on the same God's grace, which is always sufficient (2 Cor. 12:9) to those who said 'yes'. The Scripture reminds us that trials and difficulties will come even while we submit to God's will. But like Mary we must have courage: "Do not be afraid, you have found favor with God." (Lk. 1:30)

We, who are servants and disciples of Bukas-Loob Sa Diyos, should not forget what BLD means - open our hearts to God's Word. As members of BLD, we must be faithful to our covenant to read the Scriptures daily, to seek the will of God for us, and we must trust and obey its directions. Through our commitment and faithfulness to the covenant, we too can welcome Jesus into our hearts. We should be like Mary and Joseph in their obedience to faith in following the will of God in our lives.

Now that it is almost Christmas, some of us may need a reminder of who Emmanuel is. Some of us may be carrying heavy loads. Some may be having difficulties and trials. Whether it is a problem of relationship, financial problems, poor health, problems within the family, with spouse or children or friends, all of these are known to our Father. Let us remember that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to save us.(Jn. 3:16) Whatever difficulties we may be facing this time, no matter how hopeless our case may be, let us trust in our Lord's promise for us tonight: "Nothing will be impossible for God". (Lk. 1:37) Let us therefore rejoice because the Savior is coming. Let us adore the fulfillment of all prophecies and be hopeful that even though we suffer, 'our suffering now cannot compare with the glory that will be shown to us'. (Rm. 8:18)

Let us uphold the truth that Jesus who was born 2000 years ago is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 13:8). The same Emmanuel prophesied 3000 years ago, is with us today and forever. Jesus is Emmanuel, "God-with-us" (Mt. 1:23). He is not just God-with-us during Christmas season. Emmanuel is God-with-us all the time. God-with-you and I. Merry Christmas.

DIRECTIONS:

Be faithful to our covenant to read the Scriptures daily and trust and obey its directions

**MAKE COVENANT NEWS
A PART OF YOUR COVENANT
LIFE**

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Christmas Program 2005-"Christmas Spirit of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"

December 16 - John 6, Solo Parents and a 'surprise number'

December 23 - Youth, Mark 10 and BLD Choir

January 6-8, 2006 - SE #1, Trenton

January 14, 2006 - Youth Seminar, Newark

January 27-29, 2006 - YLSS #1, Washington, DC

BIRTHDAYS

- 16-Dec. Adel Camposagrado, LSS 18
Ramie Espina, ME 25
Annie Felibrico, LSS 8
Aida Koryan, LSS 2
Gene Mesina, ME 25
Cel Lactaoen, SE
Lette Delacruz, SE
John Allgood, SE
Acel Adriano, SE
- 17-Dec. Eric Alberto, LSS 17
Eric Amador, LSS 15
Rolly Castillo, ME 25
Eric Escobinas, LSS 4
- 18-Dec. Yollie de la Trinidad, LSS 21
Rach Rebanal, SE
Vivie Manulat, SE
Alissa Amador, SE
Justine Madrigal, John 6
- 19-Dec. Irma Alquiros, LSS 9
May Antonio, SE
Ver Nacion, LSS 17
Monica Avisado, YE 12
- 20-Dec. Maricris Mangasi, YE 8
Doy Adan, LSS 22
- 21-Dec. Grace Palomares, LSS 17
Mike Punzalan, LSS 22
Fanny Rodriguera, LSS 19
Sonia De Leon, ME 25
- 22-Dec. Celia Adan, LSS 22
Jun Isidro, LSS 15
Linda Monserate, LSS 8
Matthew Osemeha, LSS 18
Jes Pacia, YE12

May the blessings of the Lord be upon you....



ANNIVERSARIES

- 16-Dec. Jun & Luchie Schroth, LSS 23
- 17-Dec. Jon & Emy Cebedo, LSS 14
Jun & Fely Escobar, LSS 16
- 18-Dec. Gene & Connie Mesina, ME 25
- 19-Dec. Roel & Annie Casino, LSS 23
Bobby & Dolly Fernandez, LSS 12
Vic & Mila Malantic, LSS 20
- 20-Dec. Chito & Olive Encarnacion, FE 5
Manny & Nette Manguiat, FE 5
- 21-Dec. Ralph & Lucy Almonte, FE 2
Mauricio & Claudia, Paredes, LSS 21
- 22-Dec. Eric & Claire Macalintal, LSS 11



A Christmas Message from the DCS

To our brothers and sisters in BLD Newark:

“For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.” (Lk 2:11)

Like any other year, 2005 is almost coming to an end. As we look back at the blur of activities and events, we as a community are thankful that the LORD has continued to provide us with servant-hearted disciples and resources to labor in expanding His kingdom.

There are many milestones that we were blessed to achieve this year. The medical mission helped a lot of our poor countrymen. We were able to provide food for the homeless every other week at the Missionaries of Charity soup kitchen. Every class and ministry contributed time, talent and treasure to make Christmas a little bit brighter for the poor adults and children of Newark.

In our role as Lay Association of the Faithful, we were able to help in the programs and seminars in some parishes. This was capped by our assistance to the Amazing Grace Prayer Ministries LSS, a group of Nigerians, Haitians and other nationalities.

We are grateful to all of you who have made these things possible, and we pray that what ever labor, sacrifice and intercession you have given are recorded by the One Who knows and sees it all.

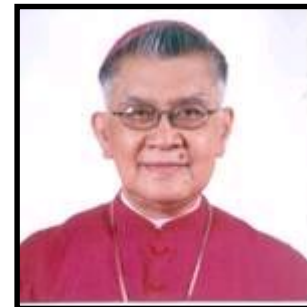
There are many other things and challenges waiting for us, but in this sacred time of Christmas, let us just take sometime to thank the LORD for all the blessings that He has bestowed upon our families and our community. Let us all pray for the grace to be able to truly appreciate the meaning of Christ’s coming to be our Savior. May He always be in the center of our lives.

Have a blessed CHRISTmas!!!



from the DCS

A Christmas Message of Love and Peace



Archbishop Lagdameo's 2005 Christmas Message

Bukas Loob sa Diyos Covenant Community

Food distribution among the squatters ended with a little girl receiving only a banana which she received with smiling gratitude. Having received the banana, the girl ran towards a little tent among the piles of garbage. Two younger brothers were waiting for her. She divided the one banana between the two; for herself she scraped the peelings of the banana and ate it. This story

(continued on page 4)

JESUS

is the

REASON

for the

SEASON

*Christmas Greetings from His Excellency,
The Archbishop of Newark*

Archdiocese of Newark
Office of the Archbishop

November 28, 2005

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



I am so very happy to greet each of you as we celebrate the commemoration of the Birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This singular event shows us God's love for us by sending His only Son so that we might have life and have it to the full.

As members of the Bukas Loob sa Diyos Community, you express your faith and trust in God by your good works of charity. I am grateful for your commitment to our Lord and in allowing Him to be born again and again in the heart of men and women because of your good work. When I am able to assist the poor because of your generosity, it is not you or I who act, but Christ Himself. When someone hears God's Word in a new way or even perhaps for the first time by the way you live your lives, it is not your action but Christ who moves his or her heart and invites that person to respond. What great witness you provide as you show Jesus Christ through your words and works!

I am grateful to each of you and wish to express my heartfelt gratitude as I wish each of you and your families a most happy and holy Christmas and a blessed New Year. May the Blessed Virgin Mary ever be your example of humble submission to God's Will in bringing Christ to the world.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely in the Lord,
(Signed)

+ Most Reverend John J. Myers
Archbishop of Newark



Fr. Paul Lehman's Christmas Message



During this Christmas season the Catholic press has been making us more and more aware of the gradual secularization of Christmas. This secularization often amounts to a hostility to anything Christian. The greetings that were popular years ago, like "Merry Christmas" and references to Jesus' birthday, have been reduced to "Happy Holidays" or "Season's Greetings".

In an effort to be broad-minded, non-Christian elements and festivals, like Hanukkah and Kwanza, are now assuming an acceptance among even our Christian people while non-too subtly, Christian symbols are being prejudiced against. I am not criticizing Jewish or African American celebrations. They have every right as we to celebrate their faith. However that does not mean that our Christian faith in the Incarnation should in some sense be minimized so as not to seem offensive to non-Christian brothers and sisters.

Some areas in which we can witness to our faith and love for Jesus could begin very simply by sending only Christmas cards and using Christmas stamps that depict the crèche or include the word Jesus or Christmas. We might also question stores that seem to avoid references to Christmas, as happened recently with a patron who challenged Wal-Mart. The response she received was nothing short of ludicrous.

More important than the political battle for the real meaning of the season, is our own personal awareness of what this season is all about. It should be more than a sentimental recall of the beauty of that first Christmas, as important as that may be. The yearly recall by the Church is a "making present now" of the historical moments of the life of Jesus. When we celebrate these events, we are not just remembering, but experiencing them as if we were physically present. The graces of these celebrations are just as fresh and available to us now as if we were really present at the moment Jesus was born. The earthly mysteries of the life of Jesus have entered into eternity, and are thus present in this moment of time. To do this, we have to "pray" them and not just think about them.

May our celebration of God's presence in this community be a constant reminder to ourselves and others that God is truly Emmanuel, God with us.

A Christmas Message from the ECSL

**BUKAS-LOOB SA DIYOS COVENANT
COMMUNITY**

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF SERVANT LEADERS

*"We are to be faithful to the Lord, and only to the
Lord because we are His servants."*

Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo, Spiritual Director

Brothers and Sisters of the BLD Global Community,

Today a Savior has been born to us!

The birth of our Lord is more than a remembrance of an event which occurred two thousand years ago. It is a celebration of the life He won for us!

In Christ Jesus, God has become one with us to restore us all to a true, full and everlasting life. What a wonderful truth to celebrate!

We have all once walked in darkness but now have seen the light as we opened our hearts to receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior. This is the message of



Christmas – that we can all be transformed by a living relationship with Jesus, and can know His consolation, forgiveness and salvation.

It is with great joy that the Executive Council of Servant Leaders brings greetings of peace and love to you and your loved ones.

We pray that you may all come to experience the grace, truth and faithfulness which our loving Father assures us as we together continue to live the new life which has been made available to each of us through the work of our Lord Jesus Christ. May Jesus live forever in our hearts, changing us and making us more like Him so that we can be instruments of His love and presence in the world.

A Blessed Christmas and a Spirit-Filled New Year to All!

In His Love,
For the Executive Council of Servant Leaders
(Signed)

Augusto "Boy" and Nena Salud
Presiding Servant Leader
December, 2005



Ministry Announcements

Medical Mission

January 23 to 26, 2006

Volunteers are welcome, both in the medical and non-medical fields

For details, please see Nong & Tricia Bustos or Willy & Myrna de Leon

Youth Ministry

February 17-19, 2006 - Newark, NJ

Interdistrict Conference of youth from North America (Seattle, Bay Area, Phoenix, Reno, Detroit, DC, Albany, Long Island, Toronto and Toronto)

For details, please contact Dave de la Fuente (david_reuben@hotmail.com)



TEACHINGS

CDFP 2006 SCHEDULE

January 7

Shepherds Training Part 2 – LSS 20 Newark
New Creation Realities, GIP-Prayer, GIP-
Praise & Worship – LSS 25 Newark
Encounter with Jesus Part II (Mark, Matthew)
and Intro To Commitment – LSS 24 Newark

January 20

Renewing The Mind - John 6, Mark 10, Singles
Newark

January 21

Understanding Corporate Worship– LSS 21 & 22
Newark
Prayer Leadership – LSS 20 Newark

January 27

Service Intercession

January 28

Christian Parenting – LSS 5-6 Washington
MGT, CMP 1- Body & Blood, Community –
LSS 4 Washington
Apologetics, Prayer, Trinity, Salvation – LSS
1-2 Washington

Christian Parenting – ME 2 Rockland
Encounter with Jesus, Luke, John, Intro to
Commitment – LSS 1 Rockland



Christmas Message of Love and Peace *from page 1*

converted an atheistic journalist that covered the event. In the midst of poverty and misery, life even among the squatters was shot through with love and care.

A little boy had his eyes fixed on a pair of slippers in the department store. He had no cover for his feet. A young man who happened to watch him invited the poor boy inside the store and had a pair of rubber slippers fitted to his naked feet. The surprised boy could not understand the action of the unknown benefactor who merely explained to him, "This season we celebrate the birth of Jesus our Savior. That is his gift to you. Merry Christmas." When they parted, the poor boy shouted back to the young man: "Hey, Sir, wait! Are you Jesus? Are you Jesus?" In the midst of multiple crises in our country, economic, political, social problems, this simple story contains a saving grace. I hope this story will be multiplied not only this Christmas season, but through the coming year. The power of love is stronger than the power of evil. No crisis is so great it cannot be solved with God. In the midst of misery and problems, life is shot through with sharing and sacrificing love.

We can transform our country through servant-leadership, whose core-trait is serving the people with integrity of heart, credible life-style and accountable and transparent disposition of resources.

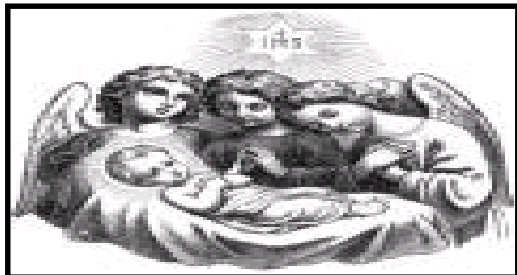
Our work for peace and order will not only be a gift of the Savior to us but also our gift to the Savior and to one another.

(Signed)

+ANGEL N. LAGDAMEO

Archbishop of Jaro and BLD Spiritual Director

December 9, 2005



THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

COLLECTIONS

12/02	\$3,484
12/09	3,023
12/16	2,686
49-wk avg	3,483

Thank you for your generosity!

EXPENSES

49-wk avg	\$3,815
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Christmas Program 2005- "Christmas Spirit of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"

Dec 23 - Youth, Mark 10 and BLD Choir



May the blessings of the Lord be upon you!

BIRTHDAYS

- 16-Dec. Jason Bustos, SE
- 23-Dec. Vicky Gatchalian, LSS 2
Kris Capili, YE 9
Nicolette Mabeza, John 6
- 24-Dec. Hermie De La Cruz, LSS 23
- 25-Dec. Ronnie Macaisa, LSS 23
Jess Olaso, LSS 11
Joshua Cruz, YE 10
Chris T. Tanglao, YE 12
- 26-Dec. Awe Opeyemi YE 11
Maria Theresa Montemayor, LSS 7
Rey Zoleta, LSS 6
Tess Montemayor, SE
Steve Golamco, SE
Ben Farinas, SE
- 27-Dec. Jemma Reyes, LSS 18
Gigi Vibar, LSS 1
Elaine Canlas, YE 8
- 27-Dec. Kevin Teves, John 6
- 28-Dec. Trudy Aboyme, LSS 24
Anna Motola, SE
Samantha Facundo, ME 25
- 29-Dec. Norie Eguia, LSS 13
Dolly Fernandez, LSS 12
Jojo Roldan, YE 11
Marianne Brillantes, John 6



ANNIVERSARIES

- 23-Dec. Alan & Tess Cam, LSS 17
Nonoy & Em Catelo, LSS 17
Dom & Jessie De La Cruz, LSS 16
- 26-Dec. Lou & Gayle Alejandro, LSS 18
Raffy & Mariz Obrera, LSS 16
- 27-Dec. Rod & Alma Soriano, LSS 17
- 28-Dec. Joe & Beth Baluyot, FE 1
Dodong & Loring Demegillo, LSS 11
Robin & Amy Guiao, LSS 16
- 29-Dec. Frank & Sally Belarmino, FE 1
Chichi & Emmy Obi, LSS 23



Greetings and Shalom!

On this the dawn of a new year, we give thanks to the Lord for blessing the community with another year of His boundless generosity and to our fellow disciples in the community for their selfless sharing of time and treasure and truly living up to what is said in 1 Peter 4:10: *“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”*

The coming year promises to be a challenging one with a new emergence of local and global stewards coming up in the 1st quarter of 2006 and the resulting changes in the headships of various ministries. Let us all pray that the emergence process be sanctified by the Holy Spirit with the gifts of discernment and wisdom and that any transitions in ministries and apostolates proceed only with the grace of peace and love for the Lord.

More opportunities to serve in His vineyard are also being opened by the Lord in 2006 as He tasks us with a new role as administering district for Phoenix and Los Angeles, just as the districts of Trenton and Washington DC are going through the last stages of coming out from under our wings. More and more we’ll be seeing ourselves deeply involved too in the evangelical initiatives of the Newark Archdiocese, partly as an off-shoot of our designation as Private Lay Association of the Faithful.

As we look forward to these and other assignments still in the closed palms of the Lord, we draw strength and inspiration from His promise that He will equip us for anything He wants us to do. But this promise asks something of us too: *“Commit your way to the Lord; trust that God will act and make your integrity shine like the dawn...”* (Ps 37:5)

In this brief period of resolution writing, let’s prove ourselves truly worthy of God’s love and bounty by resolving to live, as Archbishop Lagdameo exhorts, “credible lifestyles”, one that reflects our belief and commitment to His word in all the spheres we move in the course of our day, each and every day.

In all our intentions and transactions with anybody, let love and respect for the other be the operating principle. *“This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”* (John 13 v.35)

Maginhawa at Masaganang Bagong Taon sa Lahat!
A Healthy and Prosperous New Year to All!
The District Council of Stewards - BLD Newark

Counsels

Blessings of Peace

WORD: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21 (Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God)

ORDER: Invoke the name of Jesus upon His people.

REFLECTION: The Bible is a testament to God’s unfathomable and marvelously generous love, which is the fount of all His blessings. Genesis 1:27-28 says that *“God created man in His image, in the divine image He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed man and woman, saying: be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth.”*

At the heart of the New Testament are the gospel accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, God’s supreme blessing to mankind. Angels proclaimed His birth to shepherds with the blessings of peace. Through the Lord’s passion, death and resurrection, we receive the blessing of new life. His last public act was to bless His disciples who would continue His work: *“As He blessed them, He parted from them and was taken up to heaven.”* (Lk 24:51) At Pentecost, the Lord blessed His Church with the coming of the Holy Spirit. And in Revelation 22:14, the Lord reveals the new creation and His second coming with the promise: *“Blessed are they who wash their robes so as to have the right to the tree of life and enter the city through its gates.”*

Through blessings, the Lord communicates and touches us with His life and mystery. A blessing is a gift of God, a gift that goes beyond having, for it is more about being, of a life united with the life of God. To be blessed is to be in a state of favor with the Lord, like Mary, the Mother of God. In Luke’s

page 4

God’s Promise For The Week

“So shall they invoke My Name..., and I will bless them.” (Nm 6:27)

Pilgrims to Guadalupe

“Then He said to the disciple, ‘Behold your mother.’ And from that hour, the disciple took her into his home.” (Jn 19:27)

Several community members were blessed with the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the Shrine of our Lady of Guadalupe and other Marian shrines in Mexico this month. Like the apostle John prior to the Lord’s crucifixion, our discipleship prior to the pilgrimage was entirely focused on Jesus. We were unable to make room for Mary in our lives, believing that it is better to go directly to God. Our devotion to the Blessed Mother was as perfunctory as our un-mindful recitation of the rosary.

The Lord Jesus Christ gave His mother to the Church knowing that if we knew her like He did, we would love and honor her like He did. As His first, most faithful and model disciple, we have everything to gain from emulating her life of prayer, reflection, obedience and service. Looking back, we now realize that our pilgrimage was the Lord’s way of bringing us to a deeper relationship with His mother.

As we traveled to various Marian shrines in an air-conditioned bus, we came across hundreds, if not thousands of pilgrims, or peregrinos in Spanish, on their way to the Guadalupe shrine on foot and with nothing but sleeping and sparse food supplies. They were two or three days of walking away from the shrine. At night, we saw them encamped by roadsides, with only flashlights to illumine themselves.

In Mexico City, we were thrust into a sea of peregrinos from all over the world. Millions of them ascended to the Guadalupe shrine, which consisted of the Basilica, chapels and grottos built around Mt. Tepeyac, where four of the five Marian apparitions to San Juan Diego occurred in 1531. (URL: <http://www.sancta.org/>). It seemed as if every province, city, town, parish and school in Mexico had a delegation of peregrinos to represent them in Guadalupe.

The scene at the shrine reminded us of big town fiestas in the Philippines, with their fill of marching bands, cultural dances, singers, vendors, and tourists. Masses were scheduled around the clock at the Basilica, which teemed with people morning, noon and night.

p3 



BLD Newark to be Administering District of BLD LA(DIP) and BLD Phoenix (DIP)

**BUKÀS LOÒB SADIYÒS COVENANT COMMUNITY
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF SERVANT LEADERS**

“We are to be faithful to the Lord, and only to the Lord because we are His servants.”

Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo, Spiritual Director

Ref. 05-1207-52

December 07, 2005

For: The District Core, BLD Los Angeles DIP
Jojo and Malou Mirasol, DIP Shepherd – BLD LA
Cc: Richard and Lee dela Fuente, District Servant Leaders
BLD Newark District Council of Stewards
From: The Executive Council of Servant Leaders
Subject: Administering District of BLD Los Angeles DIP

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the peace and joy of Advent be with you!

As you may be aware, our Global Community is organized using the Cluster System with each cluster anchored on a Full Term BLD District and with representation in the Community Council of Servant Leaders (CCSL) through a District Servant Leader (DSL).

In the US West Coast, since there is no Full Term District, the BLD Districts there were grouped in three Sub-Clusters. As you know, BLD LA (DIP) and BLD Phoenix (DIP) are grouped as one Sub-Cluster under the care of Tony and Ness Camillo. When Tony and Ness resigned, the ECSL took a while in discerning how to proceed because of some issues that had to be resolved.

The ECSL has decided to request BLD Newark as a Full Term District to be the Administering District of both BLD LA (DIP) and BLD Phoenix (DIP). This means that BLD LA and BLD Phoenix will no longer belong to a West Coast Sub-Cluster, but will belong to the BLD Newark Cluster.

Further, the ECSL has decided to make an exception to the general policy of the DIP Shepherd normally coming from the Administering District. We have decided to retain Jojo and Malou Mirasol as the DIP Shepherds of BLD LA. As DIP Shepherds, Jojo and Malou Mirasol will report to the District Council of Stewards of BLD Newark through the Mission Steward.

We pray that this set-up will foster the spiritual growth of all the members of BLD LA, enabling them to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit and through their witnessing, bring the light of Christ to others. In the service of our Lord, Jesus Christ,

For the Executive Council of Servant Leaders



Augusto “Boy” and Nena Salud
Presiding Servant Leader

The Non-Territorial Jesus

Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life

"Teacher," said John, "we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us." "Do not stop him," Jesus said. "No one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us" (Mark 9:38-40).

To minister in the Lord's vineyard is a privilege, and we are used to hearing that the vineyard belongs to him. It is his work, his people, his Church, and his "turf." But, of course, that means that it isn't ours, and sometimes we forget that. We like to "own" our work, and are all too ready to "defend our turf" against those who, in our view, are intruding upon it.

This all too common tendency of fallen human nature is evident in the Scripture quoted above. John and the other apostles tried to stop someone from casting out demons. Why on earth did they do that? Isn't casting out demons a good thing, and don't we want as many demons cast out as possible?

Sure we do.

But the problem was that this unnamed man didn't work in the same office as John and the other apostles. He belonged to a different organization. The apostles fell into the "turf wars" trap. They forgot that God is sovereign, that the Spirit moves where he wills, and that you cannot imprison the Word of the Lord. We are called to do God's work; we don't control God's work.

The same "turf wars" temptation arose in the Old Testament. "Moses ... brought together seventy of their elders and had them stand around the Tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took of the Spirit that was on him and put the Spirit on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. However, two men, whose names were Eldad and Medad, had remained in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but did not go out to the Tent. Yet the Spirit also rested on them, and they prophesied in the camp. A young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' aide since youth, spoke up and said, "Moses, my lord, stop them!" But Moses replied, *"Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!"* (Numbers 11:24-29).

Jesus and Moses both teach us that true leadership means we are humble enough to affirm God's work when it's done through structures and channels other than the ones we control. True leaders do not feel threatened when those not under their direct authority are doing the same kind of work. Instead, they rejoice, because they want the work done more than they want the credit. And they trust that God knows better than they do.

K U D O S O R C O M P L A I N T S ?

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Medical Mission January 23 to 26, 2006

For details, please see Nong & Tricia Bustos or Willy & Myrna de Luna.

TEACHINGS –CDFP 2006 SCHEDULE

- January 7 **Shepherds Training Part 2** – LSS 20 Newark
New Creation Realities, GIP-Prayer, GIP-Praise & Worship – LSS 25 Newark
Encounter with Jesus Part II (Mark, Matthew) and Intro To Commitment – LSS 24 Newark
- January 20 **Renewing The Mind** – John 6, Mark 10, Singles Newark
- January 21 **Understanding Corporate Worship** – LSS 21 & 22 Newark
Prayer Leadership – LSS 20 Newark

Pilgrims *(from page 2)*

A steady stream of peregrinos, some walking on their knees, passed in the front of the main altar and through the automatic walkways where San Juan Diego's tilma (shroud) bearing Our Lady of Guadalupe's image can be viewed more closely. Simultaneous masses for special pilgrim groups were at the dozen or so chapels at the balcony of the Basilica.

On the eve of the feast, a nationally televised program to honor the Blessed Mother was held throughout the night in the Basilica. Every well-known Mexican singer, musician, artist and celebrity serenaded Our Lady, many of them speaking to her as though they were face to face with their own mother. It was clear that the peregrinos and the Mexican people were deeply in love with the Blessed Mother.

Our Newark pilgrims had their intimate moments with Our Lady as well. One was given a vision of a radiant light emanating from the face of Our Lady of Ocotlan. (<http://www.starharbor.com/santiago/ocotlan.htm>) Several others were healed through the intercession of Our Lady from past emotional and spiritual hurts. Many received a fresh anointing for prayer. Others discovered gushing wellsprings that will nurture their newly-discovered devotions to the Blessed Mother.

The Lord used the huge crowds, which could have been distracting to the serious peregrino, and our quiet moments of prayer, to convey the first but lasting lesson of the pilgrimage: God's love empowers our love relationship with the Blessed Mother. Our Newark pilgrims took Our Lady home, to begin a love relationship that will grow deeper over time, thanks to her Son who so graciously gave her to us.

Counsels (from page 1)

gospel, the archangel Gabriel pronounced God's blessing on Mary when he greeted her, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you!" Mary accepted this blessing by declaring, "For the Lord has looked upon His handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed." Forever, Mary will be called Blessed.

In Numbers 6:27, the Lord commands His priests to invoke His name, and He will bless the Israelites. In Luke 2:21, we are given the name to invoke- Jesus- when asking, receiving and giving God's blessings. Blessings are pronounced in the Lord's name, because it is God who blesses, who alone creates, gives and vivifies the goodness in the blessing. He has blessed us with the ultimate treasure- the Spirit of His Son Jesus who dwells in our hearts- but He wants us to desire Him and Him alone through the prayer of blessing. And with the blessing of Jesus comes His peace.

Peace is more than a tranquil life, or the absence of war and strife. Peace is God's empowering presence in life. Peace is the grace of fruitfulness, the grace of provisions to aid the needy and the poor. Peace is spiritual prosperity arising from right relationship with God. Peace is a state of well-being that comes from harmony with self, others and God. Peace is the assurance of Christ's victory over injustice, sin and death. Peace evokes a sense of profound gratitude and assurance that moves the creature to bless His Creator: "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens...*" (Eph 1:3)

As we enter our 14th year as a community in Newark, let us thank God for bountifully blessing us with His presence, peace and fruitfulness. Now that we are an association of the faithful, we are called upon to be a blessing not only to each other in community, but to the Church, the nation and the world at large, particularly to the poorest of the poor. As important as the words of blessing is the witness of life that we bless others with. Let us be Christ to others, that all may be blessed with His peace- in our community, among all peoples.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Reflect and emulate the role of Mary- her humility and service.
2. Continue to honor Mary and give due honor to the women of our community.

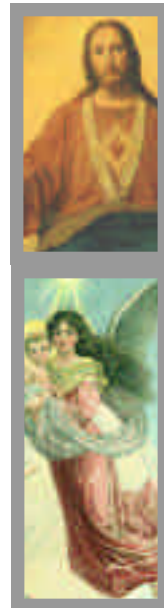
Lord God, clean us all through the sacrament of reconciliation to be worthy vessels of you, and please Lord, come and live and reign in our hearts.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- January 6-8** SE #1, Trenton
- January 14** Youth Seminar, Newark
- January 27-29** YLSS #1, Washington

birthdays

- 31-Dec** Linda Avisado, LSS8
Linda Cruz, LSS 10
- 1-Jan** Sally Castaneda, LSS 4
Jamie Ciocon, John 6
Alma Soriano, LSS 17
Tricia Bustos, LSS 14
Chichi Obi, LSS 23
- 2-Jan** Joy Agustin, YE 7
Lirra Tolentino, YE 9
Steph Ikalina, YE 8
- 3-Jan** Larry Larobis, LSS 24
Marcos Espinal, ME26
- 4-Jan** Orange Avisado, LSS 15
Ted Briones, LSS 8
Leni De Guzman, LSS 19
Elaine Francisco, LSS 22
Becky Napenas, LSS 19
Natasja Soluta, John 6
- 5-Jan** Emil Canlas, LSS 7
Lita Abes, LSS 10
Joy Anyanwu, LSS 21
Joy Castillon, LSS 7
Eric Cruz, LSS 17
Evelyn Laguatan, ME 23



anniversaries

- 30-Dec** Rennie & Madonna Razal, LSS 19
- 1-Jan** Ricky & Nardz Santos, LSS 21
- 2-Jan** Cora Pidloan, SPE 6
- 3-Jan** Ed & Tess Eusebio, LSS 4
Art & Jackie Garces, ME26
Jean & Marie Jean – Bart, LSS 22
Bong & Blandie Montemayor, FE 3
Duke & Meg Okoli, ME 25
Nick & Island Raagas, FE 10
Benny & Fanny Rodriguera, LSS 19
- 4-Jan** Nes & Cecille Vasquez, ME 25
- 5-Jan** Auring Bandilla, SPE 2

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Collections		Thank you for your generosity
12/9	\$3,023	
12/16	2,686	
12/23	3,267	
50-wk avg	3,478	
Expenses		50-wk average \$3,824