



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 1

Bulletin Edition

January 6, 2012

## COUNSELS

## NEWS

### **Becoming A Blessing To Others**

**THEME:** We are a blessing to others when the glory of the Lord shines through us.

**WORD:** Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 11-13; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

**ORDER:** *“Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem, your light has come....”* (Is 60:1)

**REFLECTION:**

As we start the New Year 2012, the word for the month of January - Obeying the will of God makes us a blessing to others- reminds us who the disciples of Jesus Christ are. They are those who follow the will of God our Father just as Jesus did, (Jn 5:30). As we obey God's will, we will not lack in anything; we will fear no harm; and only goodness and love will pursue us all the days of our life, (Ps 23). By our obedience to God's will, other people will also be blessed when they witness the peace and joy of Christ within us whatever circumstance we are in. They will recognize our generosity by how much we share our time, talent, and treasure with the poor and those around us. Even when we are beset with problems, we are open to help and compassionate to others who are also undergoing trials in their life. When they are in the midst of suffering, they can approach us to pray with them and for them. Slowly, as they open their hearts to Jesus because of our witnessing, they too will be blessed with the presence of Jesus in their lives.

When we follow God's will by being faithful to His Commands in word and in *Continued on page 3*

### *Promise of the Week*

*“Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overthrow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought you.”* (Is 60:5)

### **POPE SPEAKS OF CHRISTMAS CHILD AS GOD WHO SAVES**

**Says Pride Locks Us in a Maze; Call to God Is First Step Out**

VATICAN CITY, DEC. 25, 2011 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- Before giving the traditional Christmas blessing to the City of Rome and the world ("urbi et orbi"), Benedict XVI today reflected on the Child of Bethlehem as Savior.

"He was sent by God the Father to save us above all from the evil deeply rooted in man and in history: the evil of separation from God, the prideful presumption of being self-sufficient, of trying to compete with God and to take His place, to decide what is good and evil, to be the master of life and death," the Pope said in his address, following this morning's Christmas Mass.

The Holy Father said that human beings cannot save themselves from this sin, "unless we rely on God's help, unless we cry out to him: 'Veni ad salvandum nos! -- Come to save us!'"

He affirmed, though, that "the very fact that we cry to heaven in this way already sets us aright; it makes us true to ourselves: We are in fact those who cried out to God and were saved."

The Bishop of Rome spoke of God as the physician, while we are the infirm. And to realize this, he said, "is the first step towards salvation, towards emerging from the maze in which we have been locked by our pride. To lift our eyes to heaven, to stretch out our hands and call for help is our means of escape, provided that there is Someone who hears us and can come to our assistance."

"Jesus Christ is the proof that God has heard our cry," the Pope declared. "And not only this! God's love for us is so strong that He cannot remain aloof; He comes out of Himself to enter into our midst and to share fully in our human condition. The answer to our cry which God gave in Jesus infinitely transcends our expectations, achieving a solidarity which cannot be human alone, but divine. *Continued on page 4*

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

## I FOUND THE LORD



Bishop Fulton J. Sheen once said, “Even if a man denies water he still thirsts. So too, even if a man denies God, he still searches.” The longing for God is a reality present in all people. We

are finite creatures, weak, broken, and bound by time and space. There is a significant piece to the human puzzle that can never be filled with the things of this world. We will always want more, that missing piece necessary to make us whole. And in the absence of God we will try to fill this void with every passing pleasure or trend. The truth is that we can only be made whole by God, the one who is infinite, perfect, and beyond the limits of this world. It is God who has made us and it is God who calls us back to Himself. Only in Him can we find what we have always been searching for: fulfillment and happiness.

In chapter one of John’s Gospel we get a glimpse into the longing of the people of Israel. People are coming from all over to see John the Baptist and hear his message. They are starved for something to fill them up. This was not a new phenomenon in ancient Palestine. Prophets and false prophets were a dime a dozen in the ancient world. Then, as in our culture now, people were hungry for answers and for fulfillment. John the Baptist does something really remarkable in John’s Gospel. He directs his followers to someone else, to Jesus Christ. **“Behold, the Lamb of God!”** (Jn 1:36) John sees Jesus for who He is and points others to Him. Immediately after leaving to follow Jesus, Andrew looks for his brother to tell him, **“We have found the Messiah.”** (v. 41)

For both John the Baptist and Andrew the first reaction to their encounter with Christ was to share it with others. Their enthusiasm was overflowing and could not be contained within themselves. Jesus Christ is the longing of their hearts and ours, too. The love of God is so significantly more powerful than anything this world can offer that we can not help but include others. It is only in Him that we find what we have all been looking for. He alone fills up where we are lacking, heals where we are broken, and gives us the fulfillment and happiness that we all search for. Once we recognize this truth we follow along with John the Baptist and Andrew and declare that **“We have found the Messiah!”**

## The Gift of Choice

***“Here, then, I have today set before you life and prosperity, death and doom. If you obey the commandments of the LORD, your God, which I enjoin on you today, loving him, and walking in his ways, and keeping his commandments, statutes and decrees, you will live and grow numerous, and the LORD, your God, will bless you in the land you are entering to occupy. If, however, you turn away your hearts and will not listen, but are led astray and adore and serve other gods, I tell you now that you will certainly perish; you will not have a long life on the land which you are crossing the Jordan to enter and occupy. I call heaven and earth today to witness against you: I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the LORD, your God, heeding his voice, and holding fast to him. For that will mean life for you, a long life for you to live on the land which the LORD swore he would give to your fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”*** (Dt 30:15-20)

Moses reminded the people of Israel to pay close attention to the covenant they had made before the Lord. Moses said that Israel had to choose! He is referring to the blessing and cursing. He also gave them the summary of the covenant conditions and consequences, namely:

- a. The responsibility - to ‘love the Lord’, ‘walk in His ways’ and ‘keep His commandments’
- b. The consequences of obedience- that ‘you may live’, ‘you may multiply’, ‘your God may bless you’
- c. The condition and consequences of disobedience- ‘if your hearts turn away’, ‘if you will not obey’, idolatry, ‘you shall surely perish. You shall not prolong your days.’

Moses also emphasized the needs to pass on the covenant history and responsibilities to the next generations. God’s covenant demanded an initial and a continual faith, love, obedience, and perseverance.

As people of faith and members of a covenant community, we also have the same choices to make everyday, our choices show who we are! How we respond to life’s inexplicable “ins and outs” reveals our spiritual orientation. We have been given by the Lord the right and responsibility to make choices. This free gift of choice must be responded to and maintained in accordance to His will.

Let us then remain faithful to our covenant, and persevere to fulfill our responsibilities to God, family, and community, so that we may continue to experience the blessings from our God.

***“So choose life, then, in order that you and your descendants may live.”*** (Dt 30:19)

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

deed, we should continue to share ourselves to others, be a blessing to them, and follow the Order of the Month: ***“Say to them: ‘The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!’”*** (Nm 6:22-26).

The following **Weekly Themes and Promises for the Month of January 2012**, exhort us to follow the ways by which we can be a blessing to others.

### **Week #1 (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)**

**Theme:** We are a blessing to others when we are humble and obedient like Mary.

**Promise:** ***“So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir, through God.”*** (Gal 4:7)

### **Week #2 (The Epiphany of the Lord)**

**Theme:** We are a blessing to others when the glory of the Lord shines through us

**Promise:** ***“Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought you.”*** (Is 60:5)

### **Week #3 (3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

**Theme:** We are a blessing to others when we heed God’s call to evangelize and testify.

**Promise:** ***“God raised the Lord and will also raise us by His power.”*** (1 Cor 6:14)

### **Week #4 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

**Theme:** We are a blessing to others when we reform our lives and believe in the Good News.

**Promise:** ***“Come after Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*** (Mk 1:17)

### **Week #5 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

**Theme:** We are a blessing to others when we speak God’s word with authority.

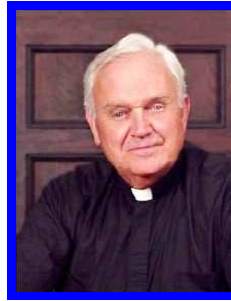
**Promise:** ***“I will raise up for them a prophet like you among their kin, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him.”*** (Dt 18:18)

### **DIRECTION**

Pay homage to Christ by offering back to Him all our time, talents and treasures.

**Be a Living Word**

## *Fr. Paul Speaks*



As we begin a new year in BLD Newark, may I suggest a personal new spiritual emphasis for each of us in this community? It is important to notice the connection between the Incarnation, celebrated during this time of the year, and the Holy Spirit. The Spirit was responsible for the human nature of Jesus, our Savior. It

was the Holy Spirit who “overshadowed” Mary and made her conception of Jesus possible. As the Spirit began the human life of the Son of God, so the same Spirit equipped Jesus to begin His public ministry. It is proper to say that Jesus was baptized with the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of His cousin, John the Baptist, in the Jordan River when Jesus came to John to be baptized with water. Just as we are equipped to live the Christian life in a particular vocation to which we are called, so Jesus in His human form, needed to be equipped to enter into His ministry ending, with His salvific death and resurrection.

When we talk about the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we usually recall a particular experience in which the presence of God became tangible to us. This is the work of the Holy Spirit who reveals the deep reality of the mystery of God to those who open up to Him. Thus the connection between Christmas and the Holy Spirit.

There is another work of the Spirit that we may not often avert to, and that is the discernment or awareness of different “spirits” that may come into our experience. We have often made reference to “discernment of spirits” in the past especially during the retreat days and decision-making days that are soon coming upon us.

St. Ignatius of Loyola was one of the great teachers of discernment. Very simply, his steps to discernment can be summarized in three steps;

1. Awareness- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the different movements of the soul, the inner psyche, our spiritual moods. These include not only the good and bad internal leadings and emotions, but also the consequences of these emotions in the very center of our being.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you UNDERSTAND, to intellectually analyze these movements. Where do they come from, a good source or an evil source?
3. Take action – to consciously reject the evil and to accept to the power of the good.

This is a very limited and incomplete summary of a method to become aware of the action of the Spirit. May we begin by asking the Holy Spirit to reveal to us the mysteries of His revelation and the mystery of the personal revelation that He makes to each one of us.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 2000 Hail Marys for Medical Mission

Jan 14, 2012 • St. Bridget's Church • 7:30am-6pm  
followed by Eucharistic celebration  
372 Montgomery Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302

### BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20

The Stewardship and Management Services Ministry is sponsoring a contest for the logo that we shall use at our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary entitled BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20. The chosen entry will be notified and an appreciation gift will be awarded at our anniversary celebration. Please email your entry no later than **Jan 31, 2012** to [gcabunag@verizon.net](mailto:gcabunag@verizon.net)

## TEACHING CALENDAR

### Singles Retreat

Jan 14, 2012 • 9am-4pm • St. Mary's  
Grow in Christ, Grow in Life II & Discover Your Promise  
Contacts: Manny/Arlene Magalanzo [singles@bldnewark.com](mailto:singles@bldnewark.com)

Jan. 20 CDFP Overview – **ME 38, SPE 13**  
Teaching – **Mark 10, John 6, Youth**

Jan. 21\* New Creation Realities / Growth in Prayer  
– **LSS 1-37**  
Intercessory – **LSS 1-35**

Jan. 27 Teaching – **Intercessory Formation,**  
**Golden Years**

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ISAIAH 58 - REACHING OUT

#### Supervisor/Clerk Medical Office (Union, NJ)

One year experience working in a medical office, supervising office with two employees, duties include working as receptionist, biller, and patient scheduling. Likes talking on phone with insurance companies verifying benefits and following up claims. Good with details and knows Word and Excel. Computer literate to learn scheduling and billing system. Full or Part Time. Spanish speaking a plus.

#### Physical Therapist (Union, NJ)

Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility. Full/Part Time

For additional info contact: R/L Amarante [rubenluz@aol.com](mailto:rubenluz@aol.com)

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Youth Rally

Jan. 14 • 8am-7pm • St. Mary's Auditorium  
*Catholic Conference of Youth and Parents*  
"The Lord Made You a Blessing Forever"  
Contacts: Tony/Tatess Abad • 201.244.5744

### 2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro  
Contacts: Mosti/Ling Garcia [district@bldnewark.com](mailto:district@bldnewark.com)

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>2,649</b>	<b>173,538</b>
Christmas Love Offering		<b>2,833</b>
Fundraising (Golf & Dinner Dance)		<b>33,905</b>
Typhoon		<b>6,642</b>

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

Thank you for your continued support!

### POPE SPEAKS OF CHRISTMAS CHILD ... (from page 1)

Only the God who is love, and the love which is God, could choose to save us in this way, which is certainly the lengthiest way, yet the way which respects the truth about Him and about us: the way of reconciliation, dialogue and cooperation."

Specific needs

Benedict XVI went on to mention some specific regions of the world in need of God's saving grace.

He spoke of the Horn of Africa, with the peoples there suffering from hunger, in a situation aggravated by insecurity.

"May the international community not fail to offer assistance to the many displaced persons coming from that region and whose dignity has been sorely tried," he said.

The Pope spoke also of Southeast Asia, the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, the bloodshed in Syria, and the violence in Iraq and Afghanistan. "May He grant renewed vigor to all elements of society in the countries of North Africa and the Middle East as they strive to advance the common good," he said.

The Pontiff also remembered the situation in Myanmar, in the Great Lakes Region of Africa, and particularly in South Sudan.

"Dear Brothers and Sisters, let us turn our gaze anew to the grotto of Bethlehem," he invited. "The Child whom we contemplate is our salvation! He has brought to the world a universal message of reconciliation and peace. Let us open our hearts to Him; let us receive Him into our lives. Once more let us say to Him, with joy and confidence: 'Veni ad salvandum nos!'"



**May your  
spirit blaze  
with the fire  
of God's love.**

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# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 2

Bulletin Edition

January 13, 2012

## COUNSELS

### CHRIST-BEARERS

**THEME:** We are a blessing to others when we heed God's call to evangelize and testify

**WORD:** 1 Sm 3:3-10, 19; PS 40:2,4,7-10; 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

**ORDER:** "...Come, and you will see....." Jn 1:39

**REFLECTION:**

Whether we realize it or not, we are blessed with a yearning for God and a God who unceasingly draws us to Himself to fill our void.

God alone can satisfy this desire that He wrote into our hearts. Recognizing this, John the Baptist pointed his two disciples to Jesus: "Behold the Lamb of God!" Acting on their heart's yearning; the disciples followed Jesus, and asked him, "Where are you staying?" Drawing them to God, Jesus asks, "What are you looking for?" and then invites them, "Come and you will see."

They came and stayed with Jesus that day. Being with Jesus satisfied their hearts' hunger in a way that they never could have imagined. What was Andrew's response to this great blessing? He becomes God's instrument in drawing others to the Lord by being a blessing to others. He immediately looked for his brother Simon, announced to him that "We have found the Messiah," then brought him to Jesus.

As with Andrew, Simon's encounter with the Lord transformed him. This is signified in the new name Jesus gave him: Cephas, translated Peter. His new name stood for his new life, no longer merely a fisherman but a fisher of men, a disciple of Jesus, and after the Lord's death and resurrection, a Christ-bearer to others, a sharer in the Savior's life and mission.

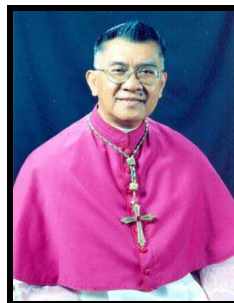
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### *Promise of the Week*

**"God raised the Lord and will also raise us by His power." (1 Cor 6:14)**

## NEWS

### Archbishop Lagdameo's Message for the Youth Rally 2012



I greet the youth participants, youth ministers, formators, facilitators and speakers on the occasion of your forthcoming Youth Rally 2012.

Pope Benedict XVI's Message for the 2012 World Youth Day of Peace (January 1, 2012) is very appropriate for your forthcoming Youth Rally 2012. The Pope's theme message is "Educating Young People in Justice and Peace." The Pope's message is also addressed to parents, families and formators of young people.

Education in peace and justice takes place first and foremost in the families with parents as the first formators. Christian values learned in the family lead to constructive and peaceful coexistence. From education institutions the young likewise learn to be socially and politically responsible.

Of course, the first and basic step in the education of youth is learning to recognize in every person the image of God the Creator, which leads to respect for everyone, he be a friend or enemy. Freedom is a precious, but fragile, value which the young must use responsibly.

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### Youth Answer to Start a Life with Jesus

Last Jan. 6, 2012, the BLD Youth Ministry began the shepherding process for the upcoming Youth Life in the Spirit Seminar #17 (YLSS17) scheduled for March 2-4, 2012. The event begins with the Salubungan, the traditional meeting of the Lamb and his/her Shepherd(s). The YLSS Salubungan was held at Divine Mercy Parish after the first Friday Healing Mass. The DYC's of

*Continued on page 4*

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

## HEED ME AND DELIGHT IN RICH FARE

***“Thus says the Lord; All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully; listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David”*** (Is. 55:1-3)

Participation in the bliss of God’s kingdom is a free gift God granted to all, on the sole condition that they thirst for God. The church sees this oracle fulfilled in the reign of God, which was initiated in this world by the Lord Jesus and will be fully accomplished in the world to come.

***“The eyes of all who look hopefully to you; you give them their food in due season.”*** (Ps. 145:15) The song of David and the prophecy of Isaiah are fulfilled in Jesus and the heavenly banquet He sets before us. For the Lord ***‘opens His hand and satisfies the desires of every living thing; ‘without paying and without cost.’*** (Is 55:1) all come to His table to eat.

***“You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat.”*** (Is 55:1) The “rich fare” the Lord provides cannot be bought with money, for the earthly food “fails to satisfy.” Only that paid for by the blood of the Son gives life; in His sacrifice we find the “everlasting covenant,” the union with God and with His love, which all our souls desire. And we know as St. Paul testifies that nothing ***“will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”***

Does Jesus not give witness to the love of God? Does He not show that ***“the Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all His works?”*** (Ps 145:9) For though ***“He withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by Himself,”*** (Mt 14:13) as He sought to be alone with His Father in prayer, when followed by the crowds He took pity and ***“cured the sick.”*** (Mt 14:14) And though He had been with them all the day and evening drew on, when the disciples urge Him to ***“dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves.”*** (Mt 14:15) Jesus responds; ***“There is no need for them to go away; give them food yourselves.”*** (Mt 14:16) And He feeds them, without cost and without discriminating between one and the next. All sit at His table; and we are told that ***“all ate and were satisfied.”*** (Mt 14:20) And why not? For the bounty of the Lord is indeed the richest fare.

Do we follow Jesus as diligently as this? We know He provides for us every day. And we have seen that ***“the Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.”*** (Ps 145:18) Let us partake well of this feast set before us, which gives us now a foretaste of heaven. Let us come to Him, and be fed by His holy hand. And our expectant souls shall be forever satisfied for His hand is always open.

## VICTORS IN CHRIST

***“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the father loves [also] the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who [indeed] is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”*** (1 Jn 5:1-5)

There are moments in our lives when we make wrong choices between good and evil. Before transformation, our humanity and our weaknesses cause us to fall from God’s grace and we sin. But God in His Goodness and Divine mercy brings light and strength to our faith. God, who is love, pure and holy, who is all knowing and wise, now guides our earthly existence to victory over Satan, the prince of darkness, a formidable enemy, because he is strong, powerful, and cunning. Yet, ***“When a strong man fully armed guards his palace, his possessions are safe. But when one stronger than he attacks and overcomes him, he takes away the armor on which he relied and distributes the spoils.”*** (Lk 11:21-22) The evil one continues to cause damage to people and society. He is working in this world to bring us with him to eternal damnation, because of his hatred of God and God’s kingdom.

The Bukas Loob sa Diyos Catholic community supports our struggle against evil by arming us with the knowledge of God’s Words and His promises. It helps us build our spiritual strength with teachings on a regular basis and our weekly community praise and worship nourishes our souls. Every time a solo parent leads in prayer during their own praise and worship, they feel an exhilarating sense of victory in overcoming the fears and hesitations that they may have harbored.

During community celebrations, the Solo Parents Ministry readily answers the call without hesitation, willingly and ardently, to serve the community for the greater honor and glory of our Lord, Jesus Christ. What else can we call this but victory over earthly excuses of being tired bodies and limited time? We have grown, not just in numbers but in our love for each other, sharing and caring for one another. As we repent for past sins, we pray for our salvation because Jesus Christ shared in our human nature and died on the Holy Cross, ***“Now since the children share in blood and flesh, he likewise shared in them, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who through fear of death had been subject to slavery all their life.”*** (Heb 2:14-15)

The battle continues as we await the second coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, Our Savior. The Catholic Church shares in the victory of Jesus over the devil, for Jesus has given to His disciples the power to cast out demons.

We, believers, know that that we have been called to struggle for the triumph of the good, and this battle will finish with victory on our side. ***“When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will [also] be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.”*** (1 Cor 15:28)

# Ministry Matters

## MARK 10

The name of our ministry is based on its foundation verse *“Let the children come to me, do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to them.”* (Mark 10:14) Every Friday while I serve this Ministry, I also learn how to become a child again. Here in this ministry, you can see that innocence in the kids’ faces, truly a face seen in God’s kingdom. The uninhibited laughter, answers that are so full of wisdom during gospel teachings, the readiness to forgive when someone asked for forgiveness, most of all the fullness of their trust that God is truly a good God - what a blessing to witness all of these every Friday worship!

Mark 10 accepts children between ages 4 -12 y/o. They are divided into the Cherubim group for kids aged 4 to 9 years old and the Seraphim group for those aged 9 to 12 years old. This was done to provide our children teaching appropriate to their age. Teachers vary depending on the availability of our Titos and Titas as well as the Kuyas and Ates from the Youth Ministry. The monthly teaching, usually every 3rd Friday of the month, consists of the parables of our Lord, the 10 commandments and basic catholic teachings. To illustrate, Seraphims has "my favorite saint" where a child is assigned to research about his/her favorite saint and then shares this knowledge to the rest of the group. The prayer worship is led by one child. This prayer in ACTS format is prepared by the child himself aided by the parent and is read during the worship supported by kid-friendly praise songs. The Cherubims on the other hand are taught how to pray. We also hold outings for Lent, summer picnics and a nursing home visitation.

When other children are learning worldly pleasures on Friday, our BLD Mark 10 children are learning about Godly ways that can bring them closer to our Lord and thus prepare them to face adult life with a strong faith, good moral values, a good conscience and a great hope for the future with God as their help and strength. Part of our community's goal is to arm our children to be good role models at home, or their community including the school.

I have served in this humble ministry for almost 3 years, I enjoyed being with our young ones, they helped me realize that life should be enjoyed in simple ways, bask in God's love and place my full trust in Him knowing that He is in control of my life, this world and thereafter. I invite anyone who wants to feel young again, come and serve God's favorite. Be a part of their Christian formation. Who knows you could be meeting our future saints!

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

This transformation from being a God-seeker to a Christ-bearer is a blessing that awaits all who believe in the Lord Jesus. We see this transformation in the contrast of answers when the question “Where are you staying?” is applied to the readings from the old and the new testaments. In the first reading, Samuel encountered God in the temple, a structure of rocks and stone. In the gospel reading, the disciples found God in the person of Jesus. In the second reading, Paul writes about the grace from Jesus’ death and resurrection: God is found in the heart of every believer.

*“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him...Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”* (1 Cor 6:15, 17, 19)

God has met our deepest yearning by the greatest blessing He can bestow on us: Himself. We are His home, His dwelling place! We have been given the priceless blessing of being in communion with our God. His promise is never to forsake or abandon us, to be with us until the end of the age. We have a foretaste of the ultimate blessing that awaits us in the heavenly Jerusalem, where God Himself and the Lamb will be our temple (Rev 21:22). We will be found in God forever!

How should we respond to such undeserved grace? Let us become a blessing to others by heeding God’s call to evangelize and to testify. The Scripture readings gave us models to follow: Samuel overcomes his desire for sleep by arising at every call of the Lord and declaring, “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening!” The psalmist professes (and prophesies the Messiah’s) obedience to God, “An ear open to obedience you gave me...Behold I come. To do your will, O my God, is my delight!” John the Baptist evangelizes by testifying to the Lamb of God. The two disciples and Peter hear and heed the call.

We are the body of Christ, the temple of the Holy Spirit. As members of our all-holy God, we are called to holiness, not immorality. Let us therefore glorify God in our body by living in His Son’s love and truth. We evangelize by proclaiming the person of Jesus. Therefore, we ourselves must be found in Jesus. People will find Jesus in us not because of our words, but because of the fruit of our communion with Him- our ongoing transforming in the power of the Holy Spirit as witnessed in our life and work.

Let us evangelize in the power of the Spirit who dwells in us! In every situation, let us bring the Gospel to those who have not heard, to those who have heard but who are struggling to listen, and to all who are searching for the Way, the Truth and the Life.

### DIRECTIONS:

- ❖ Be Christ-bearers to others
- ❖ Glorify God in your body...avoid immorality

## TEACHING CALENDAR

### Singles Retreat

Jan 14, 2012 • 9am-4pm • St. Mary's

Grow in Christ, Grow in Life II & Discover Your Promise

Contacts: Manny/Arlene Magalonzo [singles@bldnewark.com](mailto:singles@bldnewark.com)

Jan. 20 CDFP Overview – **ME 38, SPE 13**  
Teaching – **Mark 10, John 6, Youth**

Jan. 21\* New Creation Realities / Growth in Prayer  
– **LSS 1-37**  
Intercessory – **LSS 1-35**

Jan. 27 Teaching – **Intercessory Formation,**  
**Golden Years**

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ISAIAH 58 - REACHING OUT

#### Supervisor/Clerk Medical Office (Union, NJ)

One year experience working in a medical office, supervising office with two employees, duties include working as receptionist, biller, and patient scheduling. Likes talking on phone with insurance companies verifying benefits and following up claims. Good with details and knows Word and Excel. Computer literate to learn scheduling and billing system. Full or Part Time. Spanish speaking a plus.

#### Physical Therapist (Union, NJ)

Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility. Full/Part Time

For additional info contact: R/L Amarante [rubenluz@aol.com](mailto:rubenluz@aol.com)

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Youth Rally

Jan. 14 • 8am-7pm • St. Mary's Auditorium

*Catholic Conference of Youth and Parents*

"The Lord Made You a Blessing Forever"

Contacts: Tony/Tatess Abad • 201.244.5744

### 2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro

Contacts: Mosti/Ling Garcia [district@bldnewark.com](mailto:district@bldnewark.com)

*"I would like in particular to recall and recommend the ancient tradition of Lectio Divina..." -Pope Benedict XVI*

#### 5 Steps of Lectio Divina

1. READ: What does this passage say?
2. MEDITATE: What does the passage say to me?
3. PRAY: What do I say to God and what is God saying to me?
4. CONTEMPLATE: I accept God's invitation to rest quietly in Him.
5. ACT: I want to live out God's word practically.

**Embrace His Word. Listen to God.**  
**BE a Living Word.**

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>3,295</b>	<b>3,295</b>
Christmas Love Offering		<b>68</b>
Scholarship Of Hope		<b>860</b>
Typhoon		<b>475</b>

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

Thank you for your continued support!

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 2000 Hail Marys for Medical Mission

Jan 14, 2012 • St. Bridget's Church • 7:30am-6pm

followed by Eucharistic celebration

372 Montgomery Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302

### BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20

The Stewardship and Management Services Ministry is sponsoring a contest for the logo that we shall use at our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary entitled BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20. The chosen entry will be notified and an appreciation gift will be awarded at our anniversary celebration. Please email your entry no later than **Jan 31, 2012** to [gcabunag@verizon.net](mailto:gcabunag@verizon.net)

### Archbishop Lagdameo's ... (from page 1)

Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that "Peace for all is the fruit of justice for all, and no one can shirk this essential task of promoting justice, according to one's particular areas of competence and responsibility." "Let us pool our spiritual, moral and material resources for the great goal of educating young people in justice and peace."

God bless BLD Youth Rally 2012.

### Youth Answer to ... (from page 1)

Evangelization and Mission, Erika Danielle Flores and Justin Reyes announced the lambs and shepherds matching and led the shepherds to say their pledge. This year, we have 34 lambs matching with 45 youths serving as shepherds and co-shepherds. The lambs were divided into five flocks, named King of Majesty, Heart of Worship, Jesus My Best Friend, Joy of My Desire and Price of Peace. Each flock is led by a DYC and an adult couple coordinator.

We request the community to intercede and pray for our lambs that the shepherds will be able to show them the way to a starting a beautiful life with Jesus.





# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 3

Bulletin Edition

January 20, 2012

## NEWS

### ECSL's Message for the Youth Rally 2012



Shalom!

We are so grateful to our leaders and organizers in BLD Newark for initiating activities for the Youth in your District and for the effort of working

together in achieving the objective of finding ways to further strengthen the bond between parents and youth as Catholic Christian families.

Indeed, blessing comes through God's word as in the story of young Samuel when he uttered: "**Speak to us Lord, your servants are listening,**" (1 Samuel 3:10) Samuel always listened to God's message and he grew in knowledge until his last days, in a happy end and homecoming. The Lord Jesus himself, as the listener, speaks: "**What are you seeking for...come and see,**" (John 1:38-39) Your District's response to Christ's invitation is an assurance that He is with you always.

May our Lord Jesus Christ manifest His presence on all speakers, facilitators and participants in this one day rally as you tackle Christian values and relationship issues in our basic community - the family. May this initiative bring closer ties, openness of heart and mind, reconciliation, joy and love which surpasses everything; and we pray that all may cherish the kind of love that our Lord Jesus has sacrificially given to us.

Lastly, we pray that you will achieve the objectives of the Youth Rally 2012, responding to the encouragement of our Community Spiritual Director for BLD to be fruitful, inspired, renewed and empowered (BLD on F.I.R.E), as we bring our community Vision and Mission to realization. It is our fervent prayer that our Emmanuel, God with us, will always bless and prosper the work of your hands. To God be the glory!

## COUNSELS

### HIS URGENT CALL

THEME: We are a blessing to others when we reform our lives and believe in the Good News.

WORD: Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

ORDER: "**Repent and believe in the Gospel.**" (Mk 1:15)

REFLECTION:

The common thread that we see in Sunday's Readings is God calling to His people. **Come after me**, Jesus said to His first disciples. *Announce my message* to the city of Nineveh, the Lord instructed Jonah. And *time is running out* was the word that St. Paul had for the Corinthians.

St. Paul tells them further, **The world as we know it is passing away**. This urgency is echoed by Jonah who walked through the city saying, *Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed*. Then *the people believed God*, and they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth in repentance.

When we come to the awareness that it is God calling us, we realize in the intimacy of our hearts the need to do something, to act in a radical way like the Ninevites. We also see this happen with the early disciples. *Jesus called them, and they followed Him*. Simon and his brother Andrew abandoned their nets and followed Him. James and his brother John left their father and followed Him. What is our response to God's call? Having heard Jonah, *the people of Nineveh believed God*. The call is no less urgent to us whom the Lord brought to the BLD community. May He not see in us an *evil and faithless generation* who seeks a sign, as Mt 12 warns: **Continued on page 3**

### Promise of the Week

**Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.**  
(Mk 1:17)

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

## Look Into the Heart

Today, even in prayerful discernment, God's people are inclined to choose church leaders based on "outward appearance" such as academic degrees, the kind of cars they drive, even status in community. Prospective leaders themselves are busy working to polish their outward appearance, striving for what looks good to people and making sure they are recognized and visible in church activities. This explains why church communities do not seem to be fruitful in their ways. We have Church leaders who are not pleasing to God because their hearts are not completely God's. The LORD said to Samuel: ***“Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. God does not see as a mortal, who sees the appearance. The LORD looks into the heart.”*** (1 Samuel 16:7)

When David was chosen as the next king of Israel in place of Saul, God's priority on the heart showed forth clearly. He was handpicked by God, since his heart belonged to Him.

The kingdom of God is not of this world just as His church is not to operate according to the world's standards. Thus our choice of leaders should not be based on the material and temporal values that confuse us. When a community leader is selected just because he is a man of influence and is a friend of the pastor, we have looked no further than the "outward appearance". When we choose a leader just because he has put together a big number of church activities and can get people organized, then we have failed to look where God expects us to - at the heart.

In the next several months, we will be choosing new leaders for our community. In total surrender and deep prayer, we need to ask God for the grace to see the hearts of those whom He has emerged so that we may be led by people who belong to Him, who are committed to do His will, as David was. We need to earnestly pray for all elders who will separately discern the community's choice of leaders that they may be impartial and seek to see only whether the prospective leaders have hearts for God.

May we have the wisdom to recognize the leaders God has chosen for us and the grace to accept and live by them!

## Humility, Not Jealousy

It was a day of great celebration! Israel defeated the threat against their national security. Goliath was dead; his army defeated. Saul's army was victorious in battle and the women came to cheer the soldiers as they returned home. However, their song did not please the king. 'Saul has killed his thousands,' they said, 'and David his ten thousands!' Instead of rejoicing with the crowd at David's success, Saul's insecurity slowly made him jealous and paranoid.

Saul's jealousy opened up the road for the devil to work on his fallen nature. Since he did not have the right relationship with God, Saul was bothered when David was praised more than him. What the prophet Samuel told him, ***“The LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel”*** (1 Samuel 15:26) made him worry more. Saul's insecurity, borne of guilt, made him over-react to the praise and popularity given to David, to the point of being cunningly manipulative, even devising ways to eliminate him permanently. David, on the other hand, was not walking on a human level but in the Spirit, so the LORD kept him safe from his enemies, the Philistines, and from the “manipulative and stab-you-in-the back” enemies, like Saul.

When we are praised and popular, it is not wise to let it go to our head. Likewise, when we are under scorn and criticism, let it not crush us. A lot of us are corrupted by praise and popularity to the same degree as we are crushed by scorn and criticism. Because of what God built in David's field, David lived his life more for the LORD than for the people. It was not that David did not care about the people, but with God's grace, he was able to put the opinion of man in the right perspective because he cared more about the opinion of God.

David's wise behavior and high esteem were both closely linked to his humble heart. His mind and his heart were with Jesus. Because, he was a man after God's own heart, people could see the love, the wisdom, and the peace of God in him.

Today let us be content, with or without praise or popularity. Just like David, let us set our hearts on our Lord for our reward is from Him.

## Shepherd's Voice: "How do you meet God?"

The question, "How do you meet God?" can limit one's spiritual growth. It can also define our relationship with God. After more than 45 years, I found Percival, a classmate in the elementary, through the internet and agreed to meet him at Grand Central. When the agreed date and time arrived, I was at the Grand Central carefully looking at everyone passing by. After more than 45 minutes of waiting, I was about to leave, disappointed for not being able to see my classmate I knew 45 years ago. Suddenly I got a tap from my back. Turning around was a man who looks to be in his mid-sixties, introducing himself as Percival. I have seen him pass by me several times earlier but did not suspect he was the person I was waiting for. This happened because I was looking for the person I knew more than 45 years ago. But because his hair, face and voice have changed through time, I did not recognize him.

In our spiritual growth and our relationship with God, if we search for God instead of allowing God to look for us, we will miss God who could be right in front of us and who is so wanting to put His arms around us. If we are so focused in searching for a God we know, we miss the God we don't know and have never met - missing the grace that is ours to have. If we only search for the God we have met at our MEs, our teachings, class reunions, our worship, and from people we are friendly with, and not from a parishioner we don't know, a homeless, someone we are not comfortable being with, we could miss God Himself.

In his book, "How big is your God? - The Freedom to Experience the Divine", Fr. Paul Coutinho, SJ, says that the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius suggest that we should use all means to experience God and deepen our relationship with the Divine. He describes God as personal, a unique experience of the divine. He says that "the only way to meet God is through a kind of dying to self and letting God be God so that one can live the fullness of life." Dying to self is allowing God to find us and letting God be God, putting aside everything we know of God and simply expecting the unexpected. Doing this leads to living life to its fullness as God desires us to have - giving us everything He has.

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

*At the judgment, the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and there is something greater than Jonah here. This something greater is no other than Christ, our Savior and Master, who calls us. And He has the same urgent message that is **our Order for this week: Repent and believe in the Gospel.***

Mark 1:15 is known as the first theme in Christ's teaching when He began His public life. There are two distinct elements in it, and it profits us to reflect on them.

**Repentance** means much more than saying, "I'm sorry, God." It calls for a change of heart and conduct, a turning of one's life from rebellion to obedience towards God. To repent means the acceptance of the saving grace offered by God, manifested in Christ our Savior. Jesus said, *This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand.* Notice that repentance comes before belief, or faith. When we do not reject God's grace, but accept it, then we become predisposed and more open to **believe in the Gospel**, the good news of the kingdom of God.

The good news that comes from God is the fulfillment of His promise of the Messiah. Our response to the Lord's urgent call entails being aware of this good news, of God being now at work in His Anointed One, Jesus Christ. We are called to believe that our salvation has indeed arrived, and we are rescued from sin and death; that through Jesus we are made adopted children of God.

The Lord does not expect everyone to put on sackcloth or to abandon their families and livelihood. We are to continue before God in the state in which we are called. St. Paul urges us to be less concerned with changing our states of life than with answering God's call where it finds us. We are to go about our ordinary activities but in a manner different from those who are so immersed in them and unaware that they are but fleeting and transitory.

It is our vocation, not our occupation, that should define us. What matters to the Lord is not what we do, but who we are. Like priests, we lay members of BLD have our own vocations as spouses and parents; but most of all, we can define ourselves by the way we live, as disciples of Christ. Pursuing our vocation means being faithful

*Continued on page 4*

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Jan. 20	CDFP Overview – ME 38, SPE 13 Teaching – Mark 10, John 6, Youth
Jan. 21*	New Creation Realities / Growth in Prayer – LSS 1-37 Intercessory – LSS 1-35
Jan. 27	Teaching – Intercessory Formation, Golden Years

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ISAIAH 58 - REACHING OUT

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Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility. Full/Part Time  
For additional info contact: R/L Amarante [rubenluz@aol.com](mailto:rubenluz@aol.com)

### SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday at the Auditorium

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Pastoral Hour/DLC Meeting

Jan. 24 • 8pm • St. Mary's Library

Contact: Steering Committee [steering@bldnewark.com](mailto:steering@bldnewark.com)

### 2012 Medical Mission

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 • Paluan, Occidental Mindoro

Contacts: Mosti/Ling Garcia [district@bldnewark.com](mailto:district@bldnewark.com)

### COUNSELS (from page 3)

to the life that the Lord has assigned, even as we aspire to the whole new existence opened up by His call.

In this way, *we come to Jesus* and open ourselves to His promise, to *make us fishers of men*. It confirms the theme in our worship last week, that we are a blessing to others when we heed God's call to evangelize and testify.

#### DIRECTIONS

- Do not be reluctant. Follow the calling of the Lord.
- Always include the Lord in your discernment and decision-making.

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	2,610	5,905
Typhoon		1,234

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

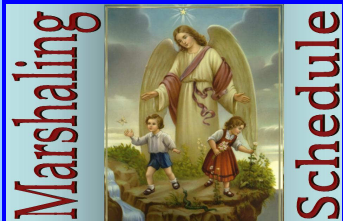
Thank you for your continued support!

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*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

	Date	Apostolate
	Jan. 27	Mission
	Feb. 03	Evangelization
	Feb. 10	Pastoral
	Feb. 17	Formation
Feb. 24	Management	

### Be a Living Word

#### BLD VISION

- We are a community of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about a world of justice, human development and true peace

#### BLD MISSION

In response to the challenges of our particular place, time and culture:

#### For our families:

- We will evangelize families and build communities of faith through encounters, Life in the Spirit Seminars and discipleship formation.
- We will give formation on personal and family prayer, pro-life values, Catholic social teachings and stewardship.

#### For our communities:

- We will actively participate in the life and mission of the Church in accord with our God-given gifts.

#### For our country:

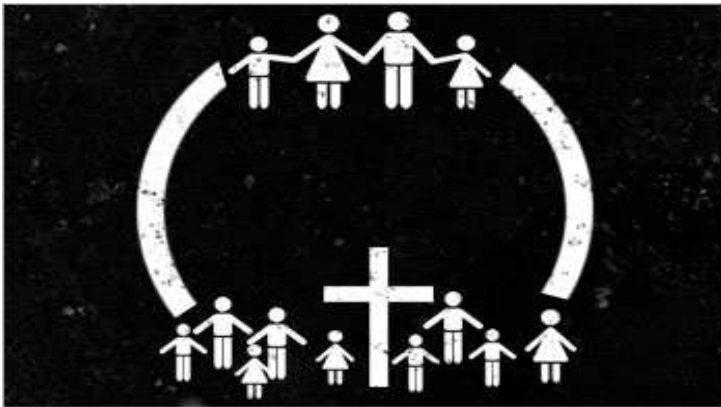
- We will work on poverty alleviation through scholarships, housing for the poor and advocacies for life, environment and good governance.



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

## Youth Rally 2012



*“...Come, and you will see.”* (John 1:39)

More than 130 youth and parents turned up on a cold Saturday on January 14 at the Divine Mercy Auditorium. Coming together for the Youth Rally 2012, participants explored ways to strengthen the bond between youth and parents as Catholic Christian families.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Raul and Mari Sison-Garcia, from the Executive Council of Servant Leaders, who read the messages from the ECSL and the Community Spiritual Director Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo, blessing the Youth Rally.

Dynamic speakers, which include Roger and Irma Santiago, and Richard dela Fuente, shared their insight on Christian parenting, giving emphasis on parents trusting and being present for their children, developing their children's potential, and communicating with the teens issues such as sex, drugs, and alcohol. Psychiatrist Dr. Rory Tiu talked about anxiety and depression, and how to address, and thereby, prevent them from becoming a problem for our teens. Msgr. Paul Schetelick admonished, ➤

*“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger...”* (Eph 6:4), tackling the responsibilities of Catholic parents.

Youth teachers showed wisdom beyond their years as Cathy Duma, Justin Lucero, Alissa Abad, Joe de Guzman, Jamie Pagdonsolon, Coleen Atienza, and Stevie Olaso discussed timely and pertinent topics with the youth that include: self-esteem, friends, and peer pressure; Christian dating, sex, and commitment honoring parents, prayer, worship, and spiritual growth, and surviving spiritually in college.

The Youth came up with a skit to dramatize issues confronting both youth and parents, to the delight of the audience.

The Fernando family (Lito, Elaine and Katrina) shared their struggles, and the triumph of Jesus in their family life.

Parents and youth became engaged in dialogue, and in small groups dealt with questions such as, “What do you dislike most about your parents?”, “Do you comment on your children's relationships?” They resolved to manage conflicts, traced mostly to generational gap, and even cultural differences, by communicating and being more open to one another.

In brief, Youth Rally 2012, superbly coordinated by the District Youth Council members Justin Reyes, Justin Lucero, Jamie Pagdonsolon, Erika Flores, and Olivia Felibrico, was a witness to the hand of God at work with those who prayed and interceded, and those who have come, spoken, shared, and labored. It ended with everyone thankful that they have “found what they were looking for”, while giving all glory and honor to God Almighty.

*Despite the challenges I encountered, I have learned the true meaning of humility, service, servanthood, discipleship and most of all faith.*

*This mother gave me a huge hug and said it was good to know they are not alone in their trials.*

*We had evangelized and testified through this event the call of God to bring families together through His Love and Mercy.*



*Despite the rigors of running the event and the cold outside and inside, the warmth of God's mighty presence was felt by all and from all.*

*Yes Lord, it is you and it is you alone that we are looking for, the Lamb of God, who redeems us from our sins. You are the Passover Lamb who delivered the Israelites in Egypt, who will also deliver us from everlasting death and destruction.*

*You are the "Word" that is true and ever lasting.*



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 4

Bulletin Edition

January 27, 2012

## NEWS

### Prayer leads to action

I went to mass recently and the priest said that we should strive to be in a state of constant motion in our lives because, if we are content with staying still, it will be more difficult to gather the momentum necessary to move when the time comes. At last year's March for Life, the community wanted to pray together and everyone seemed to vote for me to lead the prayer. To my embarrassment, I could not find the words, the courage or the heart to do so.

"Prayer always leads to action." Flip that phrase and it becomes "no prayer leads to no action." Which is exactly where I was. I hadn't made a decision to take an active stance in the pro-life movement. No wonder I was unable to find the words to pray. That humbling moment changed my life. It shed light to the many aspects where I was not moving and going nowhere. The solution was simple, "just start praying." God used my shame and curiosity to lead me to find the truth. Again, "prayer always leads to action."

I was so ignorant about politics. But now I've discovered we all have a political responsibility to make sure things are done right. That means taking a stand and being more informed when voting. I am proud to say that I am pro-life.

Being at the March for Life this year was not by accident, but because it is an issue I now feel very passionate about. I believe changes will happen and it will start with our humble prayers followed by spirit lead action.

Let us be united as one community in prayer and march together in even greater numbers next year till life in all its stages is protected.



## COUNSELS

### Christ: the Only Authority

THEME: We are a blessing to others when we speak God's word with authority.

WORD: Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95:1, 2, 6-9; 1Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

ORDER: "Oh that today, you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts..." (Ps 95:8)

REFLECTION:

"Authority" is the keyword for this Sunday's readings. The word "authority" is defined as "a power or right given or delegated." The etymology of this word comes from the Latin word "auctoritas", which means "a production or invention." "Auctoritas" comes from the word "Auctor," which means producer, father, creator, and maker. The Lord wants us to see the source of our authority, what is expected of those who are given such authority, and the pitfalls and consequences when those with authority abuse, distort and claim it for themselves and their own purpose. Authority is not a birthright, but something "given" or "delegated" to the leader.

In the first reading, the book of Deuteronomy provides the laws governing Israel's appointment and regulation of community and religious leaders. Moses revealed the source of his authority when he told the Israelites what God said to him "...I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin, and will put my words into his mouth, he shall tell them all that I command him." (Dt 18:18) In the subsequent verses, Moses likewise revealed that using the Word of God for our own interest and agenda does not only greatly displease God but deprives those who listen and follow us of the grace, love and healing that God wishes to give to His people. The authority and empowerment that we receive from God are for one purpose only: to bring salvation to all who come to listen. Psalm 95 exhorts us to stay steadfast with those given such authority, and when put to the test, to continue to be faithful to God. "Oh, that today you would hear his voice; do not harden your hearts as at Meribah, as on the day of Massah in the desert..."

Continued on page 3

### Promise of the Week

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you among their kin, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him." (Dt 18:18)

## WE ARE FAMILY

We in BLD often refer to our community as our second family. Much like our own family, the relationships we develop in community through the times we worship, serve, or minister to one another, build among us bonds so strong that we know that these friendships will stand the test of time.

Throughout human history, the family has been the foundation of society. Within a strong, well-functioning family our physical and emotional needs are fulfilled. Strong family ties provide us the love and security we need for a happy and stable life. However, the reality is that the ravages of sin have broken down the core of the human family. We come to this community from families damaged by divorce, adultery, lack of love, deep-seated division and unforgiveness; but God in His mercy has called us once more to knit us together and give to us the relationships that will bring us closer to Him and to our spiritual and biological brothers and sisters.

***“Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”*** (Mark 3:34-35) By these words, Jesus enables us to understand the foundation of a Christian family. It is our service, love, faith and obedience to the will of the Father that brings us into a relationship with Jesus.

We were called into community early in our married life our children were young when we began our walk with God. They grew up in community blessed with the love and support of other like-minded families, where faith is practiced and everybody tries to live by the Word of God. However, it was not till we attended the Family Encounter after many years in community that we learned how self-willed and unloving we had been in the care of our children. Somehow, those years of teachings and spiritual formation have failed to reach our hearts and create in us true Godly parents. Without the prayer covering and the loving and spirit-filled environment of the weekend, we would not have been open to accepting our shortcomings and our children would not have had the opportunity to share with us their feelings, to describe to us the pain and unforgiveness they have kept in their hearts for the lack of opportunity to speak out.

God poured upon our family and all the other families that weekend His loving mercies. He turned hearts of stone into hearts of flesh, He built bridges where there were chasms, and brought healing where there was pain. That encounter weekend was God’s way of making sure our family remains strongly intact. It brought to my mind clearly that we are so broken that it is only God’s grace that carries us through, and that His work in us is constant.

Jesus, the firstborn among many brothers (Rom 8:29) continues to guide, intercede, encourage all of us in community, restoring relationships and strengthening bonds of Christian unity so that in time He may proclaim to the Father, “here are my brother, and sister and mother.”

## Believe It!

Mark 16:15 is called the "universal apostolic mandate" (paralleled by Matthew 28:19-20 and Luke 24:46-48). This is an imperative command from Christ to His Apostles to preach the Gospel to the whole world. This same apostolic mission applies, especially, to the Apostles' successors, the bishops in communion with Peter's successor, the Pope. This mission extends further: the whole Church was founded to spread the Kingdom of Christ over all the Earth for the glory of God the Father, to make all men partakers in redemption and salvation. Every activity of the Mystical Body with this in view goes by the name of “apostolate”. The Church exercises it through all its members, though in various ways. The whole body achieves full growth in dependence on the full functioning of each part (Ephesians 4:16). A member who does not work at the growth of the body to the extent of his possibilities must be considered useless both to the Church and to himself.

In the Church there is diversity of ministry but unity of mission. To the Apostles and their successors Christ has entrusted the office of teaching, sanctifying and governing in His name and by His power. The laity are made to share in the priestly, prophetic and kingly office of Christ; they have in the Church and in the world, their own assignment in the mission of the whole people of God. God acts directly on each person's soul through grace, but it is Christ's will that men should be an instrument or vehicle of salvation for others.

Verse 16 teaches that faith and baptism are indispensable pre-requisites for attaining salvation. Conversion to the faith of Jesus Christ should lead directly to baptism, which confers on us the first sanctifying grace, by which original sin is forgiven, and which also forgives any actual sins there may be; it remits all punishment due for these sins; it impresses on the soul the mark of the Christian; it makes us children of God, members of the Church and heirs to Heaven, and enables us to receive the other sacraments.

Christ is the one mediator and way of salvation; He is present to us in His body which is the Church. He Himself explicitly asserted the necessity of faith and baptism (Mark 16:16; John 3:5). Men enter the Church through baptism.



## COUNSELS (cont.)

When the Israelites reached Mount Horeb, they ran out of water and were very thirsty. They blamed Moses and became impatient with everything, and quarreled among themselves. They even questioned the presence of God “...*Is the Lord in our midst or not?*” (Ex 17:7) He called the place Meribah, which is Hebrew for “quarreling” and those days where they questioned the presence of God as Massah, which is Hebrew for “testing.” God’s ways are different from our ways. We like to take the highway, but the Lord sometimes wants to take us through rough roads and narrow paths. He does this to test our will, our faith, and more importantly to develop our strength. Let us not create our own Meribah. Let us instead offer our praises and thanksgiving to the Lord for preparing us to do greater work when He puts us to a test. .

The Second Reading, taken from St. Paul’s 1<sup>st</sup> Letter to the Corinthians, mentions the consequences when we do not set our priorities properly and stay on course as followers of Christ. Division within the church at Corinth was a big problem. This reading emphasizes that Christian life starts at home. It is important for husbands and wives to be united in their priorities in bringing up their families based on the authority given them by Christ, for as they step into the outside world, their unity through Christ becomes the foundation upon which communities and nations will be formed.

Finally, the Gospel taken from Mark points out to us that Christ as the Son of God, has power and authority over all things, including the devil, and that the primary source of many our struggles with each other and with ourselves come from the dark forces that roam the earth. It is important that we acknowledge Christ as the sole authority over all things as given to Him by His Father.

The Readings for this Sunday, focused on “Authority,” are based on the fact that our liturgy is now entering into a period when the Church was being built after Christ commissioned the apostles to spread the Good News. It is no coincidence that our community is once again entering a similar period—a period of emergence. Through us He will give our community one voice and will emerge the servants who will be given the authority to lead us to continue His works.

In this call, let us not be distracted by human relationships, our personal preferences, and human-defined leadership quality. Let us not make one’s popularity, visibility, knowledge and intellect be the standards for our choice. Instead, let us pray unceasingly and empty ourselves of all our preconceptions, bitterness and judgment of others. Let us open our whole being to the Holy Spirit. In the emptiness and silence of our hearts, humbly accept the authority and will of our God who will command us to pick the names of those He has chosen to lead our community into a new era, a new field, deeper waters for evangelization and mission.

When we listen to God, we let **His** will be done. When we die to ourselves and obey His command to emerge the servants He chooses to lead our community, we can claim His promise because by our obedience, we have →

## Right to Life

Life, in essence, is a precious gift from God. God did not have to create humanity, yet He called our souls from eternity into existence. Each and every one of us was made in His likeness and image. The fact that our hearts beat is nothing less than a miracle. From first to last breath, we are sustained by His mercy. Isn’t it amazing? Out of pure love, our Father freely granted us our lives and everything in this world. We are God’s own beloved children. Without God, we are nothing and without Him, we can do nothing! Once you have fully grasped the magnitude of this truth, you can’t help but be humbled and grateful for all His blessings and for all that He has done. As we marvel at the wonders of His love, we are moved to seek His face and desire His will above all else. We lift up our hearts in praise and worship, and offer our entire lives to God in love and service.

God has a purpose for each of us. In the words of John Piper, “We were made to be prisms refracting the light of God’s glory into all of life.” Unfortunately, it seems our society is suffering from an identity crisis. People are lost in a desperate search for meaning in their lives, when the answer lies in each of us. All of creation points to a Creator. God has already revealed Himself through humanity in the form of Jesus, yet the majority has forgotten or refuses to believe in Him. Blinded by ignorance and selfishness, they fail to recognize their true worth as sons and daughters of God. As many lose sight of God’s plan, an awe for the sacredness of life is being replaced with a disregard for the value of each human being. The weak and vulnerable – the unborn, sick, elderly- are seen as a disposable “burden.”

Who are we to determine who deserves to live? Who are we to determine the quality of life for another human being? Who are we to deny someone the abundance and fullness of life in Christ Jesus? That judgment belongs to God alone. He calls us to respect the life and dignity of each human being. It is our duty to protect each person, from conception to natural death. He has given us the great responsibility to care for and love one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. He made us His hands and feet for His purpose to love and be loved. Despite the pain, suffering, and evil in the world, no reason or excuse can justify interfering with God’s beautiful plan.

He gives us free will, but this freedom of choice is often abused. The fallacy of our thinking has misled us to think and act as if we alone are in control and can solve any problem. In reality, we are limited. The power to give and take solely belongs to God, but our governments do not honor His life-giving authority as evidenced by our laws. The gift of life has become a right to defend as countless innocent lives are victimized in abortion, euthanasia, and the death penalty. As a result, a culture of death has insidiously permeated our society. What is morally wrong and unacceptable is becoming socially prevalent. It is an injustice!

*Continued on page 4*

become an authority.

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Adhere to the Lord without distraction.
2. Do not be anxious about the things of the world.

## Right to Life (cont.)

No matter what side you're on, we all have a decision to make. Bottom line is, it is really choice between life and death, between God's way or our own will. It is God's will for us to do what is right, but He does not force it upon us. It seems like we're fighting an uphill battle, but hope is not lost. Even for those that have crossed that line, there is forgiveness, healing, and redemption. God is on our side. Choose to be proactive. Be a light in the darkness. Be a voice for the helpless. It is never too late to give back to God what truly belongs to Him.

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Jan. 27	Teaching – <b>Intercessory Formation, Golden Years</b>
Feb. 03	Basics of Prayer - <b>ME 38, SPE 11-13</b>
Feb. 04*	Basic Bible Study - <b>LSS 1-37</b> Service Orientation - <b>LSS 36</b>
Feb. 17	Teaching – <b>Mark 10, John 6, Youth</b>
Feb. 18	Post Covenantal • <b>“Faith or Good Works” – Covenanted Disciples</b>
Feb. 24	Teaching – <b>Intercessory Formation, Golden Years</b>

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Youth LSS #16

Mar. 2-4 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Youth Tricord @ [ycs@bldnewark.com](mailto:ycs@bldnewark.com)

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place **every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday** at the Auditorium

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20

The Stewardship and Management Services Ministry is sponsoring a contest for the logo that we shall use at our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary entitled BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20. The chosen entry will be notified and an appreciation gift will be awarded at our anniversary celebration. Please email your entry no later than **Jan 31, 2012** to [gcabunaq@verizon.net](mailto:gcabunaq@verizon.net).

## PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

Feb 11, 2012 • 10-1pm • St. Mary's Library

All community adult members are invited to attend the awareness session on Protecting God's Children given by Deacon Serge. This is an important Diocesan requirement for adults who come in contact with children. Let us continue to maintain a child-safe BLD environment.

## EMERGENCE: Nomination Day

Please reserve **Mar 10, 2012**. Time and venue will be announced as soon as they are available.

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>3,957</b>	<b>9,862</b>
Typhoon		<b>2,154</b>

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

Thank you for your continued support!

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

<b>Marshaling</b>		<b>Schedule</b>	Date	Apostolate
			Feb 03	Evangelization
			Feb 10	Pastoral
			Feb 17	Formation
			Feb 24	Management
			Mar 02	Mission

## Be a Living Word

### Bible Trivia

- 1) Who was "a mighty hunter before the Lord"?  
a-Nimrod b-Gideon c-Goliath d-David
- 2) Who was "an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron"?  
a-Jesus b-Tubalcain c-Abraham d-Jacob
- 3) What was Luke's profession?  
a-Physician b-Lawyer c-Tax Collector d-Tentmaker
- 4) What was Paul's profession?  
a-Blacksmith b-Tentmaker c-Physician d-Lawyer
- 5) What was the occupation of Joseph, the earthly father who adopted Jesus?  
a-Farmer b-Blacksmith c-Carpenter d-Fisherman
- 6) What was Nehemiah's occupation?  
a-Cupbearer b-Priest c-Soldier d-Smith
- 7) What was the occupation of Alexander who did much evil to Paul?  
a-Tentmaker b-Coppersmith c-Lawyer d-Mason
- 8) What was the occupation of David, under Saul?  
a-Cupbearer b-Armor bearer c-Musician d-Carpenter
- 9) Philip was sent to speak to an Ethiopian eunuch who held what position in the court of Candace, queen of Ethiopia?  
a-Cup bearer b-Scribe c-Astrologer d-Treasurer

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

## CN 3 ERRATUM

"What are you seeking for...come and see," was incorrectly referenced to (John 2:38-39) it should have been (John 1:38-39).

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 5

Bulletin Edition

February 3, 2012

## NEWS

## COUNSELS

### **Pope's advice on ecumenism: be patient, don't miss a single opportunity**

**Says Christian Unity Is Important for Whole Human Family**

ROME, JAN. 26, 2012 ([Zenit.org](http://Zenit.org)) - Benedict XVI says that despite our divisions, Christians must look to the future with hope, accepting that victory happens in "God's timeframes."

The Pope offered this invitation Wednesday as he closed the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with vespers at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

"Despite experiencing in our days the painful situation of division, we Christians can and must look to the future with hope insofar as the victory of Christ means the overcoming of all that prevents us from sharing the fullness of life with him and with others," he said.

The Resurrection confirms that God's goodness is stronger than evil and love overcomes death, the Holy Father reminded.

"The presence of the risen Christ calls all of us Christians to act together in the cause of the good," he said. "United to Christ we are called to share his mission, which is that of bringing hope where injustice, hatred and desperation dominate."

Benedict XVI declared that the goal of complete unity among Christians "has importance for the good of the human family" and is not a "secondary victory."

This is because "our divisions dim the luminousness of our witness to Christ," he suggested.

Alluding to the theme of this year's Week of Prayer, which centered on victory, the Pope noted: "In today's dominant culture the idea of victory is often associated with an immediate success. In the Christian perspective, however, victory is a long -- and in the eyes of us men --

*Continued on page 4*

### **Following Jesus' Ways**

**THEME:** The Lord keeps His covenant with those who follow His ways.

**WORD:** Job 7:1-4, 6-7; Ps 147:1-6; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39

**ORDER:** *"Praise the Lord, for he is good' sing praise to our God for he is gracious."* (Ps 147:1)

**REFLECTION:**

In three weeks time, on February 22, Christians all over the world will observe the beginning of the Lenten season with Ash Wednesday. And how appropriate are the messages of the readings on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary time in preparing us for this very important event in our Christian life and setting the tone for our personal conduct and guiding our spiritual disposition. There are three important factors to consider in making the Lenten season more meaningful to us and for our relationship with the Triune God.

First, we must realize that trials and challenges will continue to face us as we go about our day-to-day activities. And if our mindset has a defeatist attitude, then we become like Job who at the outset could see no 'light at the end of the tunnel' when he declared, "When shall I arise?"

Second, this negative mindset keeps us from coming to terms with our community vision and mission, which is to proclaim the Good News of salvation, Jesus Christ. And if and when we do proclaim it, we find our motivation suspect, tinged with pride and arrogance and self-serving, aimed at grabbing the credit for ourselves,

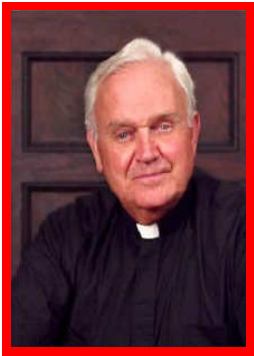
*Continued on page 3*

### **Promise of the Week**

*"The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; the dispersed of Israel he gathers. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."* (Ps 147:2-3)

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

## Fr. Paul Speaks Justification



On February 18<sup>th</sup>, I will be teaching on “Faith and Works” with Deacon Serge. The topic may seem very theological, but it has very practical implications. One of the reasons the Protestant reformation happened was the discussion (disagreement) as to whether we can merit our salvation by the good things we do, and eventually heaven itself.

One of the interesting and fascinating things that have happened over the years is the *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification*, published in 1984 by a Joint Commission of the Lutheran World Federation and the Catholic Church. The amazing thing that has come into our common consciousness is the underlying agreement between the churches and their conclusions. It is unfortunate that the atmosphere of the 1500’s was not the same as it is today.

The joint declaration means we are able to articulate a common understanding of our justification (being saved and made holy) by God’s grace through faith in Christ. The original problem centered around the spiritual value of the good things we do like prayer, good works, etc. The Protestant reformers set no value on these elements apart from the fact that they are proofs or evidence that we have been saved. It seems now that the change in thinking flows from a quote from Ephesians 2:8-9: “***For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works.***” The document continues: “Together we confess: By grace alone, in faith in Christ’s saving work and not because of any merit on our part, we are accepted by God and receive the Holy Spirit, who renews our hearts while equipping and calling us to good works.” (3.15)

Thus we are completely dependent on the saving grace of God for our salvation, not as an action arising from our innate human abilities. Our renewed life, following upon our conversion, comes forth from being constantly dependent on the work of our gracious God. Good works made possible by grace and the working of the Holy Spirit, contribute to growth in grace. These works are actually “gifts” from God. These gifts and the first step in our walk with the Lord are all the result of grace. We are always →

## Teach Me Your Ways

***“Blessed are you O Lord; teach me your statutes. I find joy in the way your testimonies more than in all riches.”*** (Psalm 119:12, 14)

King David’s words of adoration expresses his profound admiration of the King of Kings and his humble desire to be like the Lord. For his adulterous affair and the murder of his lieutenant, David repented, then blessed God for what He has revealed to him and wrought in him; he praised Him with every breath and depth of holy wonder that he can muster.

We can all relate to the psalmist’s reverence as our very own expression of love for God and what He has done to us. By, with, and in His Word, we learn and imitate His life of righteousness. We are blessed to extend the same blessings to others.

As a community of disciples, we need to live up to our calling as learners and followers. God is the master leader of those who are His. He knows them because they are governed by His love. It is He who changes our character and reawakens the desire in us to know Him more. He opens the path to His Kingdom even before we set out in our journey. He stands by us that we may not stumble; holds our hands that we may never fall. He keeps our footsteps firm to walk the narrow road; He gives us the truth and the light to understand the fullness of life with Him and in Him.

Let us bless the Lord for He is the perfection of holiness. He teaches us love long before we know what love is. He teaches us what perfect obedience is even if it meant stripping Himself of His divinity to take the form of a slave. He brings God to us, the very essence of heaven on earth. He gives us His precepts that we may rejoice and experience true freedom and peace. He lays down His life for all of humanity. In Him, we find our greatest treasure and inheritance more than in all riches.

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utterly dependent upon the saving work of God, merited for us by the death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The beauty of this doctrine is that this grace is always there. We open up to that grace when we humbly pray and offer ourselves in complete submission to the saving work of God. How humble and yet how trusting this beautiful truth should make us!

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

failing to realize that it is the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit that enable us to do our mission.

Third, we should realize that our relationship with our God is always based on constant communication with Him. The readings tell us that Jesus always found time to isolate Himself from the crowd or mission work, to go to a deserted place to pray and commune with his Father. If we occasionally find ourselves in unpleasant situations, it is because we are remiss in our prayer life.

Based on the above, what should we be doing in order to free ourselves from the clutches of the evil one?

First and foremost, we really need to establish a regular prayer life and consistent communication with our Triune God and in all things give Him thanks, not only during the Lenten season, but everyday of our lives and through all the liturgical seasons of the year. In so doing, we can accomplish the following... first, we will eradicate the Messianic complex that hinders us from fully grasping the mercy, forgiveness and love that Jesus has shown in His passion, death and resurrection. Indeed, we are reminded that it is not by might or by strength, but by the Spirit of the Lord that we are made into the person He wants us to become.

Likewise, we are to fully commit to ourselves to our covenant with the Lord when we said 'Yes' to becoming Committed or Covenanted disciples of the Lord in BLD. We made the promise to faithfully exercise the gifts and fruit of the Spirit given to us and our 8-point Pledge. Likewise, we are to check and recheck where we are in the mission/vision of our Community. We are not to be selective in doing our mission work, as exemplified by Jesus himself when he obeyed the will of the Father, even unto death, recognizing that we are all children of God, and can do all things in Christ Jesus by the power of His Holy Spirit.

That, when all is said and done and we meet our Creator face to face, we may be humble enough to say, 'Lord, dispose of us as you will, we have done our best!'

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Continue to search for Jesus in prayer and in reading His word daily.
2. Preach the gospel; become all things to all to save at least some.
3. Do corporal and spiritual works of mercy (gather the dispersed, seek the lost, sustain the lowly, set free the captives of sin; heal the sick and the broken-hearted; feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, etc.)

## Just Have Faith



Time really flies! Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year. And now it is 2012! Last year found us in a world full of uncertainty, unpredictability. The weather was strange and became too changeable. In October, we watched a foot of snow fall on trees full of green leaves. This

created some of the greatest destruction and power outages in our lifetime in NJ. Last year also was a record year for destructive tornadoes, flooding and wild fires in US. The stock market rises and falls and the economy remains weak. Many in corporate America face the prospect of layoffs. The world, especially in the Philippines, is aflame with demonstrations, riots, and unrest.

Personally, I am still grieving from the loss of a son 6 years ago, and recently losing my mom, two aunts and a brother-in-law within a span of 2 weeks. The pain of having lost loved ones got more aggravating on special occasions like the past holiday season. I still feel the pain whenever I see the incompleteness of my family. My heart is pierced whenever I think of everything my late son never experienced: being with us to grieve and bury my mother, his grandmother.

With the world suffering and my heart mourning, how can I ever go on living and serving God and His people cheerfully and compassionately? Simple: Just by having faith and holding on to God's words. Jesus Christ's encouraging words would always cause me to pause and meditate. ***"Do not be afraid any longer, only believe."*** (Mk 5:36) In the midst of turmoil and my heartaches, I invariably find peace knowing that no matter what happens, I am secure and I can have eternal life with God (together with my son and loved ones) just by having faith in Jesus' promises. With faith, I can begin to build new memories and become strong again. With faith, I can start seeing things in new ways and in new light – the light of God.

Holding on to my faith requires that I see things as they truly are but bathed in God's gentle love and care. Now I think differently: I have faith that we can be unified, I have faith that everyone can give appreciation rather than complaints, hope not despair, and simplicity rather than extravagance. What we believe in, what we hope for and what our faith is, create the world we live in. Our faith will carry us through!

**Pope's advice on ecumenism: ... (from page 1)**

not an always linear process of transformation and growth in the good. It happens in God's timeframes, not ours, and it demands of us a profound faith and patient perseverance."

"Even our expectation of the Church's visible unity must be patient and confident," he said. "Our daily prayer and efforts for the unity of Christians have their meaning only in such a disposition."

Nevertheless, the Pope clarified, "The attitude of patient waiting does not entail passivity or resignation but a prompt and attentive response to every possibility of communion and fraternity that the Lord grants us."

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN**

Feb 11, 2012 • 10-1pm • St. Mary's Library

All community adult members are invited to attend the awareness session on Protecting God's Children given by Deacon Serge. This is an important Diocesan requirement for adults who come in contact with children. Let us continue to maintain a child-safe BLD environment.

**DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY**

Please reserve **Feb 25, 2012, 8-6pm** for our next Disciples Assembly. All committed and covenanted disciples are highly encouraged to attend. RSVP to Secretariat for valid excuses.

**EMERGENCY: Nomination Day**

Please reserve **Mar 10, 2012, 9-2pm** @ St. Mary's

**Make the Covenant News part of your Covenant Life**

**LORD'S PROVISION**

**PREVIOUS WEEK'S**

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>2,894</b>	<b>12,756</b>
Typhoon		<b>4,848</b>

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)  
Thank you for your continued support!

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<b>Marshaling</b>		<b>Schedule</b>	Date	Apostolate
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			Feb 17	Formation
			Feb 24	Management
			Mar 02	Mission
	Mar 09	Evangelization		

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**TEACHING CALENDAR**

- Feb. 03 Basics of Prayer - **ME 38, SPE 11-13**
- Feb. 04\* Basic Bible Study - **LSS 1-37**  
Service Orientation - **LSS 36**
- Feb. 17 Teaching – **Mark 10, John 6, Youth**
- Feb. 18 Post Covenantal • **“Faith or Good Works”**  
– **Covenanted Disciples**
- Feb. 24 Teaching – **Intercessory Formation,**  
**Golden Years**

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**Youth LSS #16**

Mar. 2-4, 2012 • St. Mary's Auditorium  
Contact: Youth Tricord @ [yyc@bldnewark.com](mailto:yyc@bldnewark.com)

*Be a Living Word*

**MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ISAIAH 58**

**REACHING OUT**

**Supervisor Clerk Medical Office (Union, NJ)**

One year experience working in a medical office, supervising office with two employees, including reception duties, billing and patient scheduling, talking on the phone with insurance companies to verify benefits and follow-up claims. Must be Detail-oriented, computer literate in Word and Excel. Willing to learn the scheduling and billing system. Full or Part Time. Spanish speaking a plus.

**Physical Therapist (Union, NJ)**

Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility. Full/Part Time

**Accounting Clerk (Edison, NJ)**

Full-time job opportunity for an accounting clerk in an IT consulting company. Some experience in billing and office administration required. Starting salary in the mid 30s. Computer literate and motivated to learn.

For additional info contact: R/L Amarante [rubenluz@aol.com](mailto:rubenluz@aol.com)

**Wellness Program Volunteers Needed**

Nurses for Blood Pressure & Sugar Screening Doctors  
Contact: R/L Amarante [rubenluz@aol.com](mailto:rubenluz@aol.com)

**ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY**

**Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check**  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

**MISSION**

**Nursing Home Visit**

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.  
**Feb 11, 2012 • ME 34 • Nong/Tricia Bustos**



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 6

Bulletin Edition

February 10, 2012

## The Paluan Medical Missions Experience

On January 29, 2012, we met with volunteers at Cubao's Ali Mall at 5:30am. Two Ro-Ro (roll on, roll off) buses drove to Nasugbu, Batangas. At the harbor, we boarded the ferry's upper deck while our buses boarded the lower. Upon reaching Occidental Mindoro, we boarded the bus for the two-hour ride to Paluan. Some members of the Surgical Team disembarked at Mamburao where the Provincial Hospital is located.

A surprise met us upon reaching Paluan! We were greeted by young dancers who placed homemade leis on us made of twigs and palms. We were treated to dances by the youth that depicted rice threshing. Next, a welcome by the Honorable Mayor Abe Pangilinan followed by a snack made of local delicacy. A band played as we ate. We were escorted to our host families and a few to a beachside hotel.

From January 30 to February 2, we had the clinics at Paluan that included triaging of patients, medical and pediatric consultations, dispensing of medications and counseling by nurses for prescriptions, diet and lifestyle modifications. There were services in dentistry, optometry, limited laboratory work-up and chest X-ray. In Mamburao, the surgical team performed major and minor cases. Some days, the surgeries lasted into the late evening.

Daily, we attended Mass. We had breakfast with our team so we could get to know one another better. Vigils started at both places as soon as the clinics opened. The first day was dedicated solely for Mangyans, the indigenous tribe that has lived in Mindoro before the Spanish colonization. On the 3 days that followed, families from the lowlands came. Most of the children had URI. Many adults suffered from high BP. Those who were well were given care packs.

Town officials trained volunteers who assisted us and made patient flow efficient. In the evenings, we went to the Playa Hotel, a nice place by the bay for dinner. On the last evening, the governor and mayor treated us to a dinner with roasted cow and pig. There were acknowledgements, music and dancing. The following morning, we attended Mass and headed home. We thank Our Lord for everything He has blessed us with.

In total, there were 7,288 adults and children seen, 59 minor surgeries and 40 major surgeries performed.

## COUNSELS

### Following and Leading

THEME: We follow God's ways when we lead others to Christ

WORD: Lev 13:1-2, 44-46; Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11; 1 Cor 10:31-11:1; Mk 1:40-45

ORDER: *"Whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God."* (1 Cor 10:31)

REFLECTION:

Our theme for this week's worship reads: **"We follow God's ways when we lead others to Christ."** Indeed, it is a big challenge to lead others to Christ and the big question is: how do we do this? I often ask the same question to myself and I know it is a difficult one to answer. I, myself, am struggling to follow Jesus and so how can I even think of leading others to Him?

This Sunday's Gospel offers some encouragement for all of us. In Jesus' time, leprosy was seen as punishment for sins involving speech or language such as gossip and slander. Leprosy could also affect fabrics and houses and since it was thought that persons or objects with leprosy could contaminate others, they were separated from the community for the good of all. Quarantined from healthy members of society, lepers were forced to live apart from family, friends and the community. But one such leper dared to approach Jesus and humbly beg to be healed.

From the leper's actions, we can deduce his frame of mind and his inner attitude. St. Bede, one of the great Doctors of the Church, writes in one of his commentaries about this Scripture passage: "He (the leper) falls on his face, which is a gesture of lowliness and of shame. However, his shame did not stifle his confession; he showed Jesus his wounds, and begged for medicine, for he refers the power to heal to the

*Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*"Blessed is he whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered."* (Ps 32:1)

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

## *“the evil within”*

**“...unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile.” (Mk 7:21-23)**

Actions reveal attitudes. Ever noticed how radiant individuals appear when they are in love? They manifest what’s going on in their hearts, just by looking at their faces.

At the beginning of Mark’s Gospel chapter 7, the Pharisees with some scribes gathered around Jesus; confronted him about his disciples’ ritual purity. They emphasized strict observance of the law—some of which didn’t even come from God and therefore they lost sight of God’s desire for mercy, justice, and love.

Jesus responded abruptly and forcefully to their misguided priorities and directed his disciples to look at the state of their hearts before considering their actions. He admonished that nothing that enters from the outside defiles a man. True defilement comes from within a man. Jesus used the intake of food which passes through the stomach and is eliminated and thus purifying all foods. He described that which causes true defilement - *that which comes out of a man. Evil which proceeds from the heart of man.*

Our heart has a problem. It is the source of much evil. Evil thoughts lead to true defilement. It is the root of various evils which follow. Evil thoughts generated in our heart unite with our will to produce evil words and actions. Unchastity [*ang mga pangangalunya*], an illicit sexual relations by a married person, is an example mentioned.

As we are enslaved to the power of sin (Rom 7:18-20), which brings about spiritual death (Rom 6:23), so must we accept Jesus’ offer of true freedom from the guilt of sin (Jn 8:31-32, 36). And let us look back at our Baptism, where we initially receive the remission of original sin and continually live through prayer. When we ask for help, there is strength from the indwelling Spirit (Eph 3:16, 20-21).

*“Lord Jesus, I look for your movement in your Church and in my heart. Move powerfully to transform my life radically. I invoke the Holy Spirit to search me today and help me to see how I can respond to God more deeply and love one another more genuinely. Let go of anything that binds me to the world so that I can freely live for you each day. Let me be a shining witness to your kingdom. Amen.”*



## *Am I a Hypocrite?*

**“This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts.’ You disregard God’s commandment but cling to human tradition.” (Mark 7:6b-8)**

We say that the best things in life are free. Like our God given talents and charism. For these we give thanks and praises to our God. Yet as we continue our journey, we sometimes forget the path that we really have to walk through.

Along the way, when we are given accolades for tasks we do, we forget that what we are doing is for His glory alone. Human precepts teach us that it is false humility not to acknowledge the job well done. Am I a hypocrite? Are we? We tend to focus on what we do within our ministries. To maintain good rapport with other community members sometimes become difficult since our minds are set on finishing the job. Thus having a tendency to become insensitive to their feelings and take away their dignity. Oh Martha! Martha!

We behave in a condescending manner thinking that our views are much better than theirs. **“*Can anything good come from Nazareth?*”** (John 1:46) This verse is fulfilled in our own time. We judge by our own prejudice, not from evidence.

Am I a hypocrite? Let us try to contemplate on what the Lord really wants us to do. Is my heart attuned with His precepts? Or do I do these things to feed my ego and be a witness to all by wearing the mask of righteousness.

Our Lord’s command is to love one another, yet, we create a circle of brethren in an exclusive fashion. Is it not that the church, which is the body of Christ, supposed to be inclusive (universal)? For it is one, holy and apostolic. Am I a hypocrite? I used to belong to a prayer group where our elders refused to walk in the spirit of transparency and avoided talks about fraternal correction and conflict resolution, for fear of alienating membership. They kept the problems “under the rug”. The result was “exodus” among members.

The Lord knows our hearts and we do not have to be striving for His attention, just let the splendor of charity which is kindness, to reign in our hearts. For love, compassion and humility help build our Community.



## COUNSELS (from page 1)

will of the Lord.” So, despite being treated as an outcast from society, and despite what other people might think or say, the leper had the courage and the humility to approach Jesus and ask to be healed. We can also surmise that he had the devotion, faith, and trust in Jesus that he would be “made clean.”

We can all relate to the leper because much worse than being physically “unclean”, we were once spiritually tainted with the **leprosy of original sin**. But by virtue of our Baptism, and only because of God’s compassion and love for us, we too have been made clean, even though, like the leper, we don’t deserve it. The leper humbled himself, acknowledged his “uncleanness”, and begged to be healed, but unlike the leper, what do most of us tend to do? We succumb to the prodding of the Prince of Lies, the Devil, convincing us that we are unworthy and undeserving of God’s love and healing mercies. And so, instead of coming to the Lord for “medicine,” we distance ourselves from Him and from His people and would rather wallow in our sins.

But our story does not end here. Everyone that Jesus healed or was touched by Him was forever changed and they let everyone know about their encounter with the Lord. However, in the leper’s case, what did he do after Jesus heals him and **sternly warns him** to “*tell no one anything... (v. 44)*”? St. Mark’s Gospel says, “*The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter (v. 45).*” The leper did not even follow the Mosaic Law and show himself to the priest as was the custom at that time. Was the leper being disobedient right after receiving healing from the Lord or was he too excited and could not wait to tell others about the miracle?

Again, St. Bede has a simple explanation: “Jesus ordered it to be kept secret, because He wanted His disciples, following the example of His teaching, to wish that in the great things which they would be doing, they should remain concealed, even though unwillingly, and eventually, these things would be brought to light for the good of others.” In other words, Jesus was warning His followers against the sin of pride: “Hey, look at me. I can perform miracles!” Here, we are reminded of the Lord’s teaching in Matthew 6:1: “*Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father*”.

As Baptized Christians, let us strive to live according to our calling, always mindful of our own brokenness yet fully trusting in God’s healing love and mercy so that as we live as true followers of Jesus, we too may lead others to Him. ➔

## Bread for the Soul

“*They ate and were satisfied*” (Mk 8:8a)

Hunger is arguably the most horrible condition that man can experience. We need food & water to survive and if this physical need is not satisfied we will die. But we also experience



a different kind of hunger and we know that no matter what we do, nothing of this world can satisfy that hunger, only Jesus can. It is no coincidence then that in the celebration of the Eucharist, He calls us to partake of His Body & Blood or that He is called “*the Bread of Life*” and “*the Living Water*”.

In Saturday’s gospel we see Jesus perform the miracle of “feeding the four thousand”. Although the main message of this miracle is that Jesus alone can satisfy our hunger and there are also other lessons we can derive from this story.

Though He can, our Lord did not have the loaves & fishes miraculously appear out of thin air. Instead, He asked His apostles to surrender what little food they had and when they did, He used that to perform His miracle. His apostles knowing that whatever they had was not enough even for them but instead placed their trust in Jesus and surrendered everything to Him. Therein lies the lesson for us all.

By asking the apostles to surrender everything they had, Jesus is calling them, and calling us, to be participants in this miracle as well.

How often have we been called to surrender what little we have so the Lord can perform His miracle again and again, whether in our homes, at work, in our own parish, or even in our own BLD community, and yet have told ourselves, “I’m not good with words when I try to explain my faith so I’ll just keep my mouth shut”, or “I haven’t studied my faith enough so I can’t be a Catechist at my parish”, or “I’m too busy at work, how can I be expected to give my time to my assigned ministry or attend P&W every Friday”...“I can’t do this because...”

During those times we need to remember that from what little the apostles had to offer, our Lord was able to feed thousands. The great thing about it was that not only was it enough for everyone including the apostles, but after “*they ate and were satisfied*”, there was still a lot more left over.

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Be imitators of Christ.
2. Receive the sacrament of reconciliation regularly.

## IMMERSION ASSIGNMENTS

**Mark 10** - Art & Yen Arnan, Keith & Kat Davis, Earl & Flo Manguiat and Mel & Anjou Martinez

**John 6** - Willie & Amor Ferrer, Louie & Kles Hernandez and Mario & Carmen Olazo

**Youth** - Jun & Ma'an Lomibao, Robert & Emily Padoginog, William & Mary Sumandal and Mat & Precy Yap

## NEW MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS

Ed & Armi Bayudan - **LSA** Nelson & Rose Manzo - **Service**

*Be a Living Word*

## TEACHING CALENDAR

- Feb. 17 Teaching – **Mark 10, John 6, Youth**  
 Feb. 18 Post Covenantal • **“Faith or Good Works”**  
 – **Covenanted Disciples**  
 Feb. 24 Teaching – **Intercessory Formation,**  
**Golden Years**

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Youth LSS #16

Mar 2-4, 2012 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Youth Tricord @ [ycs@bldnewark.com](mailto:ycs@bldnewark.com)

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ISAIAH 58 - REACHING OUT

#### Supervisor Clerk Medical Office (Union, NJ)

One year experience working in a medical office, supervising office with two employees, including reception duties, billing and patient scheduling, talking on the phone with insurance companies to verify benefits and follow-up claims. Must be Detail-oriented, computer literate in Word and Excel. Willing to learn the scheduling and billing system. Full or Part Time. Spanish speaking a plus.

#### Physical Therapist (Union, NJ)

Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility. Full/Part Time

#### Accounting Clerk (Edison, NJ)

Full-time job opportunity for an accounting clerk in an IT consulting company. Some experience in billing and office administration required. Starting salary in the mid 30s. Computer literate and motivated to learn.

For additional info contact: R/L Amarante [rubenluz@aol.com](mailto:rubenluz@aol.com)

### ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

#### Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

### MISSION

#### Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

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## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>3,708</b>	<b>16,464</b>
Typhoon		<b>4,948</b>

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

Thank you for your continued support!

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ST. MARY'S SECURITY ALERT

The door to the school was found unlocked, again. **PLEASE BE CAREFUL.** Each of us has a responsibility to help keep things safe and secure. Anyone entrusted with the Parish Center keys, is responsible to ensure it is locked afterwards. There are times a door is left open because it didn't get a gentle pull or push to be sure that it is locked. Please remember to take the extra step. We all need to be very vigilant in order to ensure the **SAFETY** and **SECURITY** of everyone.

## PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

Feb 11, 2012 • 10-1pm • St. Mary's Library

All community adult members are invited to attend the awareness session on Protecting God's Children given by Deacon Serge. This is an important Diocesan requirement for adults who come in contact with children. Let us continue to maintain a child-safe BLD environment.

## BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20

The Stewardship and Management Services Ministry is sponsoring a contest for the logo that we shall use at our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary entitled BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20. The chosen entry will be notified and an appreciation gift will be awarded at our anniversary celebration. Please email your entry no later than **Feb 21, 2012** to [gcabunag@verizon.net](mailto:gcabunag@verizon.net)

## DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY

Please reserve **Feb 25, 2012, 1-5pm** for our next Disciples Assembly. All committed and covenanted disciples are highly encouraged to attend. RSVP to Secretariat for valid excuses.

## EMERGENCY: Nomination Day

Please reserve **Mar 10, 2012, 9-2pm @ St. Mary's**

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A. [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Feb 10	Pastoral
		Feb 17	Formation
		Feb 24	Management
		Mar 02	Mission
		Mar 09	Evangelization

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# COVENANT NEWS

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Volume 18 Issue 7

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February 17, 2012

## A Vocation Story

People ask me all the time, "Gino, when was the exact moment you heard your call to the priesthood?" Truthfully, I have a hard time answering that question. I can't recall the moment when I "heard" the call from the Lord. It's something that just happened. Like many things in life, it was a certain hunch, an urge, a feeling that this was exactly what I was meant to do. And I couldn't ignore it. It all started when I was eight years old. I met a priest who influenced me through his great love for God and other people. I never knew a person could be so fulfilled in life and it was through this Salesian priest, Fr. Jun Lingad, that I discovered my priestly vocation.

Since I wanted to be a priest at such a young age, I began seriously discerning my vocation at Cathedral Preparatory Seminary, the high school seminary for the Diocese of Brooklyn. Considering that Cathedral Prep is one of the only high school seminaries left in the U.S., I can look back and say that it was Divine Providence that led me to that school. It was at Cathedral where I saw the daily heroism of the priesthood personified through the priests on the faculty. It was also there where I asked Our Lord if this was truly the path He wanted me to follow. The answer I received was a stronger feeling of assurance that this was my life's calling.

After high school, I began priestly formation at the Cathedral Seminary Residence in Douglaston, New York. During my time there, my vocation strengthened through daily Mass, spiritual direction, conferences, classes at St. John's University, and solid friendships with other seminarians. It was at "Douglaston" where I met great friends who helped shape my vocation. Eventually, I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy in May 2008. Upon college graduation, I was assigned by the Bishop of Brooklyn to complete my formation at the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

Four years have passed since being assigned to Rome, and I sit here to write these words. And as I do so, here in my room on a snowy day in Rome, I can happily announce my Ordination to the Priesthood on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 in Brooklyn, NY. I can honestly say that it has been an incredible journey, one with absolutely no regrets. This journey in my life shifts in a different way this summer as I approach the altar of God, finally, as a priest. I know that I would not be at this point today if it were not for continuous prayers from my friends and family in the BLD community. ...Continued, page 4

## COUNSELS

### Christ Centered

THEME: We follow God's ways when we share the plight of the poor.

WORD: Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25; Ps 41:2-5, 13-14; 2 Cor 1:18-22; Mk 2:1-12

ORDER: **"Rise, pick up your mat and walk."** (Mk 2:9)

REFLECTION:

**"When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Child, your sins are forgiven.'**" (Mark 2:5)

At Capernaum, a lot of people flocked to Jesus upon learning that He was at home. But a helpless paralyzed man could not join the crowd, as he just lay there watching people pass him by. Until, that is, some of his friends cared enough to pick him up and bring him to Jesus. But then they encountered a problem, the crowd was so thick that they could not get their friend through the door. At that instance, they could have just given up and brought the poor man home. But they were more determined than that. They climbed and hoisted him up on the roof, opened a hole, and lowered him down in front of Jesus.

"When Jesus saw their faith," (Mark 2:5), Jesus turns to the paralyzed man and tells him that his sins are forgiven. The paralytic man and the friends who carried him believed that Jesus is God, or at the very least, a mighty man of God who has the power to heal and help their friend. This strong belief manifested itself in resolute, persistent, conspicuous way. This faith of his and great compassion, since they had gone to such great lengths, not for themselves, but for their ill afflicted friend. On the other hand, the paralytic man opened himself up with faith and belief that Jesus can heal him.

Many times, God sends in our life people or opens up opportunities that can help us. ...Continued, page 3



## Promise of the Week

**"Blessed is he who has regard for the lowly and the poor; in the day of misfortune the Lord will deliver him."** (Ps 41:2)

## Perfect Faith

Usually when someone says “**GOD is good!**” it gets an almost automatic response, “**All the time!**” One thing for sure, when things in life go in our favor, this phrase is freely expressed without reservation. OK, how about when someone experiences the “trials” during his/her spiritual journey? Will we be as swift to express/respond with this answer?

*“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.”* (James 1:2-4)

I personally like the scriptural verses from the book of James which I find to be the most enlightening and encouraging words in the Bible, especially for those who are experiencing trials in their lives. This passage teaches us that trials should not be viewed as foes but instead welcome them with a joyous attitude. God chooses what we go through; we choose how we go through it. Trials work for our good and God’s glory. As we journey through life we can expect these tests of our faith but they are only passing experiences and do not come to stay. Trials are very purifying experiences if we properly respond to God’s purposes for them.

There is a reason, as well as a need for them. Enduring trials makes us what we are. At times we hear people say that they hope their children don’t have to experience the hardships they went through. In our human nature, I guess it is completely understandable but again those hardships made you what you are. Every trial that finds its way into our lives comes with an intentional purpose. But that part of the emphasis that James is concerned with is how we as saints can persevere and make the most of them - how we can gain the most as well as demonstrate the genuineness of our faith.

We are privileged to have our faith tested. We are also privileged to suffer because it draws us closer to the Lord. They produce proven faith and strengthen us. We are to submit our whole being to God as there is no other way but to cling to Him and He will show the way out. We will see the glorious future because we’re drawn into sweet communion with the Father and are enriched in the fellowship of the sufferings of Christ. God allows trials to create a greater endurance, for a greater usefulness and for greater trials.

True believers are held by the Lord, but the true believers also hold on to the Lord. They persevere through trials. In the midst of trials, they demonstrate the validity of their faith by the validity of their love - by whether or not they hold fast to that faith. If they bail out in the middle and walk away from God, or deny or ignore God, then they show themselves to have “dead” faith. On the other hand, if no trials or tribulations can destroy their trust in God then they show themselves in that trial to have living, saving faith, spiritually mature - equaling PERFECT FAITH!  
...**GOD is good! All the time!**

## Accept Your Cross

*“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.”* (Mark 8:34-35)

Sometimes I ask myself how life would be without the cross: pain, trials, and tribulations. Then I remember what my religion teacher in 6<sup>th</sup> grade used to remind us: “without the cross, there is no redemption.” The Son of God redeemed us from original sin and restored heaven to us by becoming man and dying on the cross, and He invites us to follow Him through the cross. We believe that trials, uncertainties, and all kinds of obstacles bring us closer to God, deepen our faith, strengthen our trust in Him, and make us totally dependent upon His love and mercy, for *“Everything is possible to one who has faith.”* (Mark 9:23)

How can we bear our cross? By ourselves, we can’t. But through Him, nothing is impossible as we seek Him in everything we do. Prayer is a powerful way of connecting with God. With humility, we beg for forgiveness, guidance, and the grace to surrender to His will. When we focus on Him and allow Him to take control of our lives, our cross becomes light and joyful.

Spending time in silence with the Lord is another powerful source of strength. We have to listen to His message. Oftentimes, I start my day by hearing mass. I meditate and reflect on the scriptures and His goodness. I count His blessings. Finally, I ask Him to take charge. I believe that God answers prayers in the midst of our burdens. I have learned that through them, we experience His love, and that in His time, He always provides what is best for us. A faithful relationship with God that is translated in the way we live and relate with people around us, such as our families and coworkers, gives us security - which brings brightness, peace, and tranquility to our spirit. As we do this, we soon realize that God in His almightiness lifts our cross, for He doesn’t leave us to carry it alone. *“I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me.”* (Philippians 4:13)



## COUNSELS (from page 1)

He uses other people to be the intermediary, or a proxy, to show His great love for us. However, we too have to be open vessels and let the power of God work in us. However, at times our hearts are so hardened by so many worldly things that just like the Pharisees, we get consumed by man-made titles and practices that mislead and lay heavy burden to people.

But sometimes, due to our physical ailment or limitations, we do not have the strength to make a positive act of faith resulting to an utter condition of spiritual paralysis. As in the Gospel, because of his paralysis, the faith of the paralytic man's friends stood in proxy for his own. His friends, therefore, were the instruments who stood in the gap. They served as the intercessors for that poor sick man.

Whenever we're being used to be instrument of God's love to others, we, ourselves, with our own faith, stand as proxy between that individual and God. Similarly, during the baptism of an infant, the faith of parents and godparents, in unity with whole church, are proxies for the infant who is incapable of faith. From this also flows our continuing duty to steward our children to have the faith that we have as their parents. We bring them close to God by bringing them to church to worship the same God that we love and serve.

The same roles of stewardship and acting as intercessors apply to community setting, such as BLD. Your class shepherd, your Ministry coordinators, are helping to bring you, the class, their lambs, closer to God. They also stand in the gap between you and God when they pray for you, or intercede for you and for other people that they lift up to the Lord. They witness to Jesus whenever they exhort you or teach you to know God through His Word in scriptures, do kind deeds, say a prayer, or be a witness of God's love to others, even to your friends, co-workers, or fellow BLD members. But let us be reminded that when we stand in the gap for those who ask for healing prayers, there should exist in that person asking us for prayers an openness or willingness to be healed, to be saved. He or she must have the desire to yield to the Spirit for healing to work.

Many times in the gospel accounts of healing, when Jesus does something, as to heal and forgive of sins, the Pharisees would object and see this action as blasphemous. For the Pharisees, Jesus appears to usurp God's power to wipe out a person's sinful past and give him a brand new start (Is 43:18-25). Being God Himself, however, He simply demonstrates His authority and power to heal. Jesus does not say "yes" to our spiritual needs and say "no" to our earthly needs (2 Cor 1:18-22). He created us body and soul and desires that we have fullness of life, and have it abundantly (John 10:10).

So a tormented man had to be carried to Jesus who by His grace, walked by himself bearing his own mat and wandered away freely. It would never have happened if his friends had not shown deep compassion to risk ridicule and even anger especially from the owner of the ruined roof, but they had such faith, the courage and determination to bring him to Jesus at all cost. However, it would not have happened if the paralytic man did not first manifest his belief that Jesus has the power to heal and his great desire to be healed. As we steward our family and other people that God has entrusted to our care, we too must always be open vessels to receive

...Continued, page 4

## Forgiveness, Healing and Wholeness

Can you remember a time when you really... really messed up? I'm not talking about the times we bump into someone or spill our coffee on someone's table cloth and say, "I'm sorry." I'm talking about those times when our actions have brought about major hurt or disappointment or anguish to someone.

There is something inside each of us that does not want to look at the ways we have hurt others. It makes us squirm inside to think about ways we have contributed to someone else's pain. It's called denial. We would just as soon forget about:

- a broken vow
- a promise not kept
- a friendship betrayed
- a life damaged



In fact some people find it almost impossible to bring themselves to say the words, "I was wrong," or "Forgive me." I have a simple little formula of six words I use in wedding ceremonies when I promise a couple a good start on a fail safe marriage. "Look into each others eyes and repeat after me," I say to them and then make them say the words, "**I am sorry, I was wrong!**"

As the years go by, we find those words more difficult to speak. The Twelve Step program of Alcoholics Anonymous, which is now used by a number of self-help and recovery organizations has been a powerful tool for many people in their recovery from addictions and other destructive behaviors. It is very significant that seven of those twelve steps have to do with self examination, a willingness to admit wrongdoing and a commitment to change behavior. In other words, the heart of this program of recovery has to do with forgiveness. Without this component of the program, there is no recovery from the disease.

Perhaps some of you are familiar with the 12 steps. Listen to steps 4 through 10: We -

4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

Do you see what the program is saying? There is no health apart from dealing with the issue of sin and forgiveness. Nowhere in the New Testament are the two themes of forgiveness and healing brought together more dramatically than in today's gospel lesson. May the lesson always be engraved on our hearts.

## COUNSELS (from page 3)

God's healing mercy and grace.

*Lord Jesus, my savior, my friend, teach me your ways, guide me in your path, show me your truth that I may possess such great faith to bring others to you, by words I speak, by deeds I do - to be a true witness of your love and faithfulness to everyone, In your mighty name I pray, Amen.*

Directions:

1. Take to heart the new translation of the Roman missal.
2. Be vessels of physical and spiritual healing and reconciliation for others.
3. Observe fasting and abstinence, and receive the sacraments in preparation for Lent.

## A VOCATION STORY (from page 1)

And I truly ask that those prayers continue; that I may persevere, like St. Paul, running the race for the crown of righteousness "which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to all who have longed for his appearing." (2 Tim 4:7-8).

No matter how old you are, for any man that is searching for their life's calling, consider carefully what I am about to tell you: **We need more heroes.** We live in a world that is broken by Satan's worldly oppression. And this is attacking us harder than ever before. We need soldiers for Christ. We need more men willing to give up their lives - as priests - so that souls can make it to Heaven. As beautiful as this life is, this world is not forever. The Kingdom of Heaven lasts forever, and it is no fairytale.

If you think you may have a priestly vocation, be generous with yourself, and notice how God will outdo you in His generosity! Our God is such a loving and generous God that way. People in this world hunger for Him. The priest acts as the bridge for their encounter with Christ. To bring people to God, to make an unquestionable difference in someone's soul, to be another Christ in the world, and to lead souls to Heaven by the sacraments we celebrate - it's worth every human sacrifice. Our real reward someday will be in Heaven.

If you enter the seminary and discover that this is not your vocation, you will have lost nothing for trying. God will only be so proud if He sees your full attempt to give Him your entire life. The discipline of the seminary teaches any man priceless values about fidelity, commitment, and selflessness. These are characteristics of a real man. And before a seminarian becomes a priest, he must first learn how to be a real man, like Jesus. One's time in the seminary is never in vain. It can only help your relationship with God and others provided that you are willing to discern wholeheartedly if this is the work that you are called to do. Know that there are literally millions of people around the world praying for you and your response to God's invitation.

**May God bless you and Mary guide you!  
Let us pray for each other too.**

*Gino is a 25 year-old transitional deacon, now in his fourth year of theology at the Pontifical North American College in Vatican City. He is a member of BLD Newark, class of YLSS 6, YE#7, and FE#8. He will be ordained to the Priesthood this summer on June 23<sup>rd</sup> by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Bishop of Brooklyn. Fr. Gino will celebrate his First Mass of Thanksgiving on the following day in Douglaston, New York.*

**Please notify the Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)**

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>2,850</b>	<b>19,314</b>
Typhoon		<b>5,148</b>

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

Thank you for your continued support!

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Feb. 17	Teaching – <b>Mark 10, John 6, Youth</b>
Feb. 18*	Post Covenantal • <b>“Faith or Good Works” – Covenanted Disciples</b>
Feb. 24	Teaching – <b>Intercessory Formation, Golden Years</b>
Mar 03*	Encounter with Jesus – <b>LSS 1-37</b>
Mar 16	Teaching – <b>Mark 10, John 6, Youth</b>

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ST. MARY'S SECURITY ALERT

The door to the school was found unlocked, again. **PLEASE BE CAREFUL.** Each of us has a responsibility to help keep things safe and secure. Anyone entrusted with the Parish Center keys, is responsible to ensure it is **locked** afterwards. There are times a door is left open because it didn't get a gentle pull or push to be sure that it is locked. Please remember to take the extra step. We all need to be very vigilant in order to ensure the **SAFETY** and **SECURITY** of everyone.

### DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY

Please reserve **Feb 25, 2012, 1-5pm** for our next Disciples Assembly. All committed and covenanted disciples are highly encouraged to attend. RSVP to Secretariat for valid excuses.

### EMERGENCE: Nomination Day

Please reserve **Mar 10, 2012, 9-2pm @ St. Mary's**

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Youth LSS #16

**Mar 2-4, 2012 • St. Mary's Auditorium**

Contact: Youth Tricord @ [ycs@bldnewark.com](mailto:ycs@bldnewark.com)

### LSS #38

**Apr 13-15, 2012 • St. Mary's Auditorium**


Contact: LSA @ [lsa@bldnewark.com](mailto:lsa@bldnewark.com)

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION - Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ  
Every 4th Sat. of the month.

**Feb 25 • SPE# 13 • Contact Angie Valeroso**

<b>Marshaling</b>		<b>Schedule</b>	Date	Apostolate
			Feb 24	Management
			Mar 02	Mission
			Mar 09	Evangelization
			Mar 16	Pastoral



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 8

Bulletin Edition

February 24, 2012

## NEWS

## COUNSELS

### Another busy weekend at St. Mary's

Saturday, Feb. 18, was another busy day at St. Mary's. Though attendance was sparse in the beginning, the teaching on "Faith or Good Works" for covenanted disciples started promptly at 1 p.m. As the afternoon progressed more attendees trickled in. Fr. Paul and Deacon Serge expressed the importance of good works that go hand in hand with faith. The interactive session was well-received by those present. Many pressing questions were answered, and the participants' faithful attendance was rewarded, as their thirst was quenched by the Giver of all good gifts. We pray that future post-covenanting sessions may be blessed with better attendance and that both covenanted and non-covenanted members may take advantage of these enlightening teachings in our community.

In another area within St. Mary's, the Youth Ministry was *ablaze*, busily planning and preparing for the upcoming Youth LSS #16. What a beautiful sight indeed it was to witness our young community members taking time from their schedule to work hand-in-hand with the adult members for this very important weekend event. Some of the young adults had traveled back home from their respective colleges/universities just so they could participate in the preparation. The hallways were buzzing with excitement as the young adults of the community exchanged shepherding techniques and discussed the logistics of the weekend itself. The presence of the Holy Spirit indeed was within each of the Youth Ministry members. God speed as the ministry gets ready for another Spirit-filled weekend.

**Ignorance of the Bible is Ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!**

### ALONE WITH GOD

**THEME:** We follow God's ways when we heed His call for true repentance.

**WORD:** Gen 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

**ORDER:** "*Repent and believe in the gospel.*" (Mk 1:15)

**REFLECTION:**

This week, we are encouraged to follow God's ways by heeding His call for true repentance. The response for this Sunday's psalm, "*Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant*" (cf Ps 25:10), sheds light on what keeping a covenant entails. A "covenant" is a written agreement or promise under seal between two or more parties, especially for the performance of some action. Clearly, a covenant cannot be held by just one person, it must be at least two. The same is true of our covenant with God through BLD. Whether we are committed or covenanted disciples, we choose to be renewed and be guided by our BLD covenant with God, knowing that we have to perform some action.

In this Sunday's first reading, God established the covenant with Noah and His sons, but stretched it to their descendants and with every living creature that came out of the ark with them. He promised this: "*never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood and there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth.*" (Gen 9:11) God also vowed that He would set His bow (rainbow) in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between Him and the people of the earth. Noah and his descendants, on the other hand, must keep their covenant to be fertile and multiply and to follow God's commands.

St. Peter, in the second reading, related the flood to baptism, which saved Noah and his descendants who had once been disobedient. *Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

"...the Lord...shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, He teaches the humble his ways." (Ps 25:9)

## Humility That Comes From Wisdom

***“Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show his works by a good life in the humility that comes from wisdom.” (Jas 3:13)***

Life in community is laden with human jealousy, selfishness, unforgiveness. The key word here is *human*. It is our mere humanness, our inherent attachments to our earthly desires and agenda that create problems for us. Yet, it is precisely because of this, and our acute awareness of our wretched human nature, that we seek to be in community; we seek the Lord in humility that we may bathe in His living waters and be healed. This is humility that comes from wisdom. It is nothing that we strived for or earned. It is a gift from God, God’s grace given to us freely because He loves us.

As we struggle to live, work, and love each other in community, we are guided by Jesus’ words and actions. We look to the Book of Wisdom, the Holy Scriptures, that our minds may be transformed and our decisions and actions be informed by the Lord’s commands and precepts. We look to Jesus’ life that we may imitate Him, who is pleasing and perfect in the eyes of Our Father. We look to each other in community (because we are the body of Christ) for support through intercessory prayers, teachings, and pastoral care. We endeavor to shepherd each other as the Good Shepherd has shown us. We lift up our eyes in prayer, because through Scripture, He assures us that if two or three are gathered in His name, He will grant us whatever we pray for. We teach each other, not so much through words, but through actions.

This brings to mind one recent community initiative. A few months ago, our leaders launched Marshaling at Divine Mercy Parish every Friday to ensure the safety of our members, especially our children, while we worship. This did not come from mere folly, nor whim, but was guided by the scriptural readings during one of our Pastoral Hour reflections. The impetus was our elders’ desire to maintain a safe and orderly place for worship, but the inspiration was the Lord’s.

One of the fruits borne from marshaling is that new friendships are being forged and old ones strengthened among the volunteers who brave the cold, directing parking lot traffic and walking around to secure the surroundings. Because of their humility, God is blessing them with the fruits of unity and brotherly love!

As a community, let us continue to *listen* and *hear* the Lord’s words as He whispers into our hearts. Let us continue to seek to serve Him in humility... humility that comes from **His** wisdom.

***“But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.” (Jas 3:17-18)***

## HEALING THROUGH PRAYER

Many Catholics are confused over the issue of prayer and healing. Is God there when affliction enters our lives? Do miracles of healing still happen, or do we just read about them in the Bible? Do we just rely our healing solely based on faith and not do anything from our end?

At times individuals seem to lose hope when their health seems to deteriorate even after multiple times of being prayed over. This triggers their unbelief. ***“I do believe, help my unbelief!”***(Mark 9:24). One must never doubt the power of God and should have the patience for his/her prayers to be answered only in God’s time. It is vital for the individual to have a strong faith in God in order to receive His healing power, a grace that only comes from above. ***“...Everything is possible to one who has faith.”*** (Mark 9:23).

***“...Why could we not drive it out?”*** (Mark 9:28) The disciples of Jesus may not have been properly prepared for such a scenario or were just trying to accomplish the task relying on their own human limitations. Likewise, the person who conducts the pray-over must acknowledge that he/she is only an instrument of the Lord and should be in a state of grace. The gift of healing is not of our own doing and we should never take ownership. As it was written from the Parable of the Talents (Mk 25:28), the master took the talents away for the one who purposely hid them. Therefore, all our God-given talents, such as the gift of healing, should be shared with others and without compromise.

On another note, some suggest that the use of doctors and medicines indicates a lack of faith. This claim disregards the testimony of the Bible as well as that of personal experience. Medicine is a gift from God. When King Hezekiah was ill, Isaiah offered a medical prescription and said, ***“Bring a poultice of figs and apply it to the boil for his recovery.”*** (Is 38:21). God had also pointed out to Ezekiel the purpose of the wonderful stream. ***“Every month they will bear fresh fruit because the waters of the river flow out from the sanctuary. Their fruit is used for food, and their leaves for healing.”*** (Ez 47:12). In 1 Timothy 5:23, because of Timothy’s stomach ailment and an impure water supply, Paul prescribed the medicinal use of wine. God is not limited in His miraculous power. He directs us to avail ourselves of all the proper medical prescriptions/procedures that are being offered to us for He had created these human agencies to help us with our ailments.

We are invited to share all life’s experiences with God no matter what the circumstances we are in. With the same Spirit of faith, let us all persevere in prayer and lift one another to our God so that HE will raise us up in glory with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. For our God is a faithful, merciful and, most importantly, a loving God! Today, tomorrow and forever. To GOD be the glory!



## Ministry Matters: John 6

The John 6 Ministry (ages 12-14) was created to solve the large range of ages served by both the Mark 10 and Youth Ministries. These young people are a special class by themselves due to the physical, emotional, and mental development peculiar to their age group. Their needs have to be met in their particular stage of the growth process.

The name of John 6 was inspired by the Gospel of John chapter 6 which narrates the story of how a young lad offered his own provision of bread and fishes to Jesus. We saw this as a significant inspirational story for young people – offering themselves and their talents to bring honor and glory to our Lord.

The Friday program consists of worship similar to the format in the Youth Ministry. They have a word sharing circle which is done right after the readings and which is in the middle of the worship format. The children share their own reflections on the Sunday readings. They also have teachings every third Friday of the month ranging from the Ten Commandments to the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Before joining the John 6 Ministry, the children usually attend a weekend Crossing Retreat which prepares them for a closer encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ. The Crossing weekend is a live-in weekend where the children can experience true intimacy with our Lord and discover the many wonderful things that they may not be aware of because of their youth and the peer pressures that they experience in their daily lives. It is also a natural progression of the fruit of the Spirit – the love, the joy, and the peace that they will experience and share with the other children at the Crossing. It is hoped that the Crossing will also be a cornerstone that can build a strong foundation for their own *future* domestic church, their families.

Other activities include sponsoring the adult mass worship twice a year in partnership with the Mark 10 children where they will serve as Praise, Readers, Alter Servers, Intercessors, Ushers, etc.; the Crossing Grand Reunion, where they can bond with their classmates and share the love of Jesus in their lives; Nursing Home visitation, where the kids show off their talents to brighten the lives of the elderly residents; the Annual picnic or excursions, where they are given the opportunity to be with their BLD friends and spend quality time with their parents if they want to join in; the Christmas party, where they can bond and have fun with their classmates; and any other activities that are deemed appropriate.

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

St. Peter, in the second reading, related the flood to baptism, which saved Noah and his descendants who had once been disobedient. He also believed that baptism was *"not only a removal of dirt from the body, but also an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ"* (1 Pt 3:21) the Righteous One who suffered and put to death in the flesh for sins of the unrighteous that He might lead them to God. That said, how then do we appeal to God for a clear conscience after our baptism?

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus was driven out into the desert by the Spirit, where He remained for forty days tempted by Satan. It shows us that although Jesus is True God, He is also True Man. In His human form, Jesus demonstrated how He was subjected to Satan's temptations and how He overcame them and remained sinless. He also showed us that because He went through the same experience, He can very well identify with us when we call on Him for help. *"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin."* (Heb 4:15)

Jesus went out into the desert alone, driven to engage His first of the many battles with Satan. As His followers, we too will be tempted but we should not be afraid because we can call on our High Priest, Jesus, for strength and refuge. Rather, we should face temptation squarely for it gives us an opportunity to progress in our interior life. God permits us to be tempted, so that we may be more detached from the things of the earth, to make us more ardent in our desire to behold Him in Heaven. God also wants us to better understand our own sinfulness and weaknesses and to look up to Him for grace to prevent us from falling. Our recourse to the Lord renews our determination to die, rather than offend God. We are humbled and take refuge in the arms of our Savior Jesus, thus enabling us to acquire more spiritual strength to unite us more closely to God, our Father.

The First Sunday of Lent affords us, followers of Christ, to look for a quiet place and be alone to confront the "negative spirits" that dwell within us. These are the things that give us divided hearts and stand in the way of God's love. We might be grieving from the loss of someone we love and we need time alone to confront the pains and the sufferings from such loss. Our lives and/or our relationships might be in chaos that we might need time alone with God to ask for direction. We might want to go on a retreat, to check on our spiritual growth. Let this be the moment to be alone with God to appeal for a clear conscience, repent and ask: "What would You really want me to do in order to proclaim the Gospel?"

Repentance, forgiveness, and faith are central to this season of Lent. To proclaim the Gospel from our hearts, we must turn from *Continued on page 4*

## COUNSELS (from page 3)

our sinful ways, forgive others as we ask forgiveness from them, and express our faith by saying "yes" to God's will for us. None of these are easy to do, which is why repenting, believing and proclaiming the Gospel is a lifelong mission. This is why we need Lent: to make sure that our journey is headed towards the right direction, that we follow God's ways when we heed His call for true repentance.

### DIRECTIONS:

- ❖ Live our baptismal vows.
- ❖ Be dead to sin and alive in the Spirit.
- ❖ Remain steadfast in honoring our covenantal pledges with the Lord in and out of community.

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Feb. 24	Teaching – <b>Intercessory Formation, Golden Yrs</b>
Mar 03*	Encounter with Jesus – <b>LSS 1-37</b>
Mar 16	Teaching – <b>Mark 10, John 6, Youth</b>
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Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

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Mar 2-4, 2012 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Youth Tricord @ [ycs@bldnewark.com](mailto:ycs@bldnewark.com)

### LSS #38

Apr 20-22, 2012 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Life in the Spirit Apostolate @ [lsa@bldnewark.com](mailto:lsa@bldnewark.com)

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ISAIAH 58

#### In Need of Wellness Program Volunteers

Doctors (General Practice) and Nurses for Blood Pressure and Sugar Screening

Contact: Isaiah 58 Ministry @ [isaiah58@bldnewark.com](mailto:isaiah58@bldnewark.com)

### ISAIAH 58 - REACHING OUT

#### VB .NET/ASP .NET Developer (Classic ASP and VB6)

Skills: ASP, VB 6.0 (DLLs, NT Services), ADO, VB Script, JavaScript, HTML, XML, DB2, ASP .NET, VB .NET, ADO .NET, Visual Studio 6.0 or .NET 2008, .NET framework 2.0, IIS 5.0 or greater, ODBC

A minimum of 5 yrs. experience on the required technology working on distributed/mainframe systems with emphasis on dynamic SQL. The role requires designing, analyzing and developing applications as needed to support the business. Knowledge of financial/brokerage applications a plus.

Contact Isaiah 58 @ [isaiah58@bldnewark.com](mailto:isaiah58@bldnewark.com)

### MISSION

#### Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ

Every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month.

Feb 25 • SPE# 13 • Contact Angie Valeroso

## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,339	22,653
Typhoon		5,148

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Thank you for your continued support!

## Stewardship – It's a way of life!

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ST. MARY'S SECURITY ALERT

The door to the school was found **unlocked**, again. **PLEASE BE CAREFUL**. Each of us has a responsibility to help keep things safe and secure. Anyone entrusted with the Parish Center keys, is responsible to ensure it is **locked** afterwards. There are times a door is left open because it didn't get a gentle pull or push to be sure that it is locked. **Please remember to take the extra step. We all need to be very vigilant** in order to ensure the **SAFETY** and **SECURITY** of everyone.

### DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY

Please reserve **Feb 25, 1-5pm** for our next Disciples Assembly at St. Mary's Connell Hall. All committed and covenanted disciples are highly encouraged to attend. RSVP to Secretariat @ [secretariat@bldnewark.com](mailto:secretariat@bldnewark.com) for valid excuses.

### Women's Commission Day of Reflection

Mar 3, 8-4pm • Seton Hall University


The Women's Commission of Archdiocese of Newark will be hosting the Women's Commission Day of Reflection. 30 volunteers needed for this event, your presence is greatly appreciated. Sign up now and support this day of reflection. Additional info Parish Ministry @ [parish@bldnewark.com](mailto:parish@bldnewark.com)

### EMERGENCY: Nomination Day

Please reserve **Mar 10, 9-2pm** @ St. Mary's Auditorium

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

<b>Marshaling</b>		<b>Schedule</b>	Date	Apostolate
			Mar 02	Mission
			Mar 09	Evangelization
			Mar 16	Pastoral
			Mar 23	Formation
Mar 30	Management			

## Be a Living Word

**May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!**

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# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 9

Bulletin Edition

March 2, 2012

## First 2012 Disciples Assembly Convenes

With attendees numbering 114, the first Disciples Assembly for 2012 was held at Connell Hall of Divine the Mercy Parish on Sat., Feb. 25. Five topics in the agenda were presented and discussed after the opening worship.

The first topic was the 2012 General Emergence that would be held on Mar. 10 from 9-3 pm at Connell Hall. Fr. Paul Lehman will celebrate mass at St Mary's Church in the morning prior to the actual discernment of nominees. Deacon Joey Viola, Head of the District Council of Emergence Overseers (DCEO), discussed the procedures to be observed when filling up ballots, non-compliance of which might lead to votes invalidation. Deacon Joey also emphasized that this is a Holy Spirit-led undertaking and everyone is enjoined to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in selecting the right nominees and the respective apostolate for them.

Tackled next was the Protecting Our Children Program which the community is adopting soon. Sam and Rory Olaso of the Pastoral Ministry did the presentation. Protecting our children is everyone's business, our responsibility is to the law but most especially to God. Children should be protected from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. The Prayer Counseling Office's Emergency Intervention Team is tasked to look at all cases that belong in this nature of exploitation.

Three other topics were taken up. They were Ablaze@20, fund-raising events, and the House of Worship Funds. Cezar and Pinky Calingo of Stewardship and Management Services discussed the extent of the preparations for BLD Newark's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which is slated to be held on August 11, 2012 and is rightfully dubbed as "Ablaze@20". They also presented various ideas to raise funds other than the usual Dinner Dance and Golf Outing. Also presented to the assembly by the DCS was the House of Worship Funds to determine whether it should stay status-quo or be freed up for other mission-related purposes.

Proving to be a lively, relevant and a Spirit-filled one, the assembly adjourned at exactly 5:30pm.

## COUNSELS

### Listen to Jesus

THEME: We obey Jesus when we seek to know Him.

WORD: Gen 22:1-2, 9, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15, 16-19; Rom 8:31-34; Mk 9:2-10

ORDER: *"This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him."*  
(Mk 9:7)

REFLECTION:

In the first reading, we recall the obedience of Abraham to the command of God to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. As Abraham was about to carry out God's command, God stopped Abraham from laying his hand on Isaac. Instead, God provided a ram for the sacrifice. The second reading tells us that because of Jesus' sacrifice on Calvary - his suffering and death on the cross for our sins - we have been justified and can now ask the Father for every grace we need. In the Gospel, God tells Peter, James, and John, that Jesus is His Beloved Son and that they should listen and obey Him.

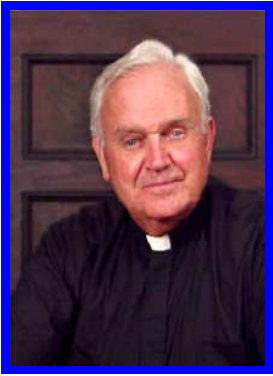
As human beings, it is quite natural for us to follow only those persons we know and can trust. The better we know a person, the more we can trust and follow that person, if indeed we have found that person to be truly trustworthy. It is then obvious, that if we have truly encountered Jesus and enjoy a personal relationship with Him, we can faithfully obey Him, put our trust in Him, and begin to get to know Him more and more. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we have encountered Jesus during our Marriage, Singles, Solo Parents, or Youth Encounters, and more convincingly, during our Baptism in the Holy Spirit. There, we resolved to follow and know Him more.

*Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*"... all the nations of the earth will find blessing, because you obeyed my command." (Gen 22:18)*

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*



We have now completed over a week of Lent, the most important time of the year. Perhaps, the resolutions you made at the beginning of Lent have already been compromised. Even this compromise or failure can be part of the process of reawakening to our need

for God and His saving grace. The biggest obstacle to the Christian life is a sense of defeat in the face of the reality of our weaknesses. A humble and contrite attitude is the entrée into eventual spiritual healing, not a pity party in which we feel sorry for ourselves. This pity party is nothing more than another form of spiritual pride.

Historically, Lent was time for the two categories of Christians, the public sinners doing public penance for their sins and the catechumens, preparing for Baptism. We belong spiritually to both categories. Even if our sins are not “public”, all sin affects the whole body of the Church. When we do something about our sin, we do one another a favor. Both sin and sanctity affect the whole body of the Church. When you perform an act of virtue you do me a favor, even if I am unaware of your blessing for me. This is true even when we are not explicitly praying for one another. On the other hand when you sin, it wounds the whole body of the Church, much like a wound in our physical body poisons the whole system. On Ash Wednesday when ashes were placed on our heads, we were reminded that we now go public with our sins, and that we are ready to do something about them. It is time to ask the Lord for a revelation not just of the reality of the sins themselves, but the underlying root which often remains hidden from our inner spiritual eyes.

When we consider the category of catechumens, we realize that even though we were baptized only once, we can renew the grace of that Baptism over and over again. We do this officially and publicly when we renew the vows of our baptism during the Easter Masses. Those who were baptized in the Spirit during the LSS weekend remember how we renewed the vows of our Baptism before we prayed for the Baptism of the Spirit. Thus, we join the ranks of the newly baptized and share with them the renewed graces of that most important Sacrament. →

Jesus teaches us to know, believe and act on what is right in our relationship with God and our fellowmen. We must do to our neighbor that which we ourselves acknowledge to be fit and reasonable. In our dealings with others, we must imagine ourselves in the same circumstances as those with whom we have to interact accordingly.

Is there a thing we would like our neighbor to do to us? The way we treat others is not to be determined by how we expect them to treat us or by how we think they should treat us; we should treat them instead according to the way we want them to treat us. This is an all-inclusive rule of action. It bids us to consider the interests of others as well as our own. It sets our neighbor next to our own self so that we can think of him as having the same rights that we have, and require from us the same treatment that we give to our self.

Matthew 7:12 states, ***“Do to others whatever you would have them do to you.”*** The application of this rule, the “Golden Rule”, commands us to consider our neighbor first and question our own heart before doing anything. It would put a stop to all thoughtless and hasty actions. It will eliminate all selfishness for it would make us regard our neighbor’s interests as exactly equal to our own. It would lead us to honor others, and would put us on the same plane. To practice this rule would also put a stop to all injustices and wrongs for none of us would do injustices or wrongs to ourselves, and to our neighbor if we were to treat them just like how we would treat ourselves.

The thorough application of this Golden Rule would end all strife in families, in communities and among nations. The perfect love of the heavenly Father is most reflected in us when we treat others as we ourselves wish to be treated.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, let us apply the ‘Golden Rule Test’ – let us ask ourselves whether the action we think is beneficial to others is actually one we would want to receive ourselves!

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Use this bulletin reminder to motivate yourselves to renew and continue the struggle. Just as Jesus began his ministry with a struggle against the evil one, so we join with him and his saving graces to move toward the glorious feast of Easter, spiritually renewed and refreshed.

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

The way to know Him better is by reading the bible, which is the word of God. ***“Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”*** (Luke 11:28) The word of God in Scriptures tells us of the importance of spending private time in prayer with Jesus, especially when we are burdened or troubled. For it is in stillness and solitude that God touches us and slowly transforms us. In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus 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.”***

We need to begin our reading of His word with prayer. Jesus spent time in prayer communing with His Father. In Luke 6:12, Jesus went up to the mountain to pray before choosing His 12 Apostles. On another occasion, he was transfigured before his disciples. ***“...Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; His face shone like the sun and His clothes became as light.”*** In Matthew 6:6 he tells us, ***“When you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret.”***

Reading the Bible helps us to follow Jesus and understand that we are saved through Him. John 3:16 tells us, ***“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.”*** And John 6:40 says, ***“For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day.”***

When we obey the call of Jesus to deny ourselves, we allow Him to take away our craving for material things and human adulation. When we take up our cross, we learn to be humble, patient, and meek like Him. We learn to live peaceful lives, to love our neighbor (even our enemies) as ourselves, to do good and expect nothing back in return, to be merciful, to serve without counting the cost, and to forgive those who have hurt us and ask for forgiveness from those whom we have hurt. (Luke 6: 27, 35, 37) The Word of God confirms that when we commit sin and are repentant, we can beg for forgiveness through the sacrament of reconciliation. We are assured of the mercy

*Continued on page 4*

## Jesus Delivers

When faced with the most harrowing and devastating of circumstances, life seems to become a blur. We live through the pain, mostly for the sake of the loved ones who depend on us.

Can we truly survive and move on with life when our soul and being is not of the Lord? It is our belief in the Lord, fomented in the mind and heart that truly carries us through. It is with God's love and grace that allow us not only to survive past pain but also makes us thrive in the fullness of the very gift of life which He bestowed upon us. It is in faith and trusts in His all encompassing and everlasting love that we can rest, assured that the Lord will grant us the grace to ease our protracted pain and calm our lingering fears. ***“I sought the Lord, and He answered me, delivered me from all my fears.”*** (Ps 34:5)

Only when our hearts are open and full of God's grace can we finally find deeper meaning and solace. We should never lose the perspective and reality that Jesus loves us from the beginning of time as He is eternal with the Father. His love is so complete, that He offered His own life to free us not only from our original sin but also from the despairs, which exists in those who do not believe in His grace and the life He meant for us to live.

Hence, we should not falter. We should forever look into the Lord, who delivers! We do not have to soul-search far and beyond for He has given us the answer in His own sacrifice. It is only by grace, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and good works can we be saved knowing that He loves us and has died for us, despite our sins and failures to temptation. In Him, we should place our utmost



confidence and trust in His promise to deliver us from the depths of loss and fear, since it is Jesus Himself who defeated death by His Resurrection that we may all see a renewal of our lives and thrive in His grace. ***“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”*** (Mt 11:28)

***God's Steadfast Love Endures***



## COUNSELS (from page 3)

and forgiveness of God, for Jesus has already paid the price for our sins. Psalm 103:12 tells us, *“As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us.”*

As we come to know Jesus better by reading the bible and as we become doers of His Word, we will realize that Jesus is the Good Shepherd whom we can truly trust to take care of us. He will guide us in every area of our lives, even as we traverse the dark valleys, for only goodness and kindness will follow us all the days of our lives. (Psalm 23) And those of us who obey Jesus can claim the Promise for the Week, which says: *“...all the nations of the earth shall find blessing, because you obeyed my command.”* (Genesis 22:18)

### DIRECTIONS

1. Listen to God through daily prayers and meditation on His word, frequently receiving Him in the Eucharist and visiting Him in the Blessed Sacrament.
2. Imitate Christ by denying yourself, taking up your cross and following His ways.

## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>3,620</b>	<b>26,273</b>

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)  
Thank you for your continued support!

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### EMERGENCY: Nomination Day


Please reserve **Mar 10, 9-2pm @ St. Mary's Auditorium**

### Catholic Men's Conference

**Mar 10, 8:30-4pm • Seton Hall University**

Men of all ages and walks of life are invited to explore new ways to renew your faith. Committed BLD brothers are requested to support this conference. For more info contact Parish Ministry @ [parish@bldnewark.com](mailto:parish@bldnewark.com)

### God's hand delivers us

	Date	Apostolate
	Mar 09	Evangelization
	Mar 16	Pastoral
	Mar 23	Formation
	Mar 30	Management
	Apr 13	Mission

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Mar 03*	Encounter with Jesus – LSS 1-37
Mar 16	Teaching – Mark 10, John 6, Youth
Mar 17*	Encounter with Jesus – LSS 1-37
Mar 23	Teaching – Intercessory Formation, Golden Years

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

## Be a Living Word

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### LSS #38

**Apr 20-22, 2012 • St. Mary's Auditorium**

Contact: Life in the Spirit Apostolate @ [lsa@bldnewark.com](mailto:lsa@bldnewark.com)

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ISAIAH 58 - REACHING OUT

**VB .NET/ASP .NET Developer** (Classic ASP and VB6)

**Technology:** ASP, VB 6.0 (DLLs, NT Services), ADO, VB Script, JavaScript, HTML, XML, DB2, ASP .NET, VB .NET, ADO .NET, Visual Studio 6.0 or .NET 2008, .NET framework 2.0, IIS 5.0 or greater, ODBC

Minimum of 5 yrs. experience on the required technology working on distributed/mainframe systems with emphasis on dynamic SQL. The role requires designing, analyzing and developing applications as needed to support the business. Knowledge of financial or brokerage applications a plus.

### Part-time Bilingual School Social Worker

**Qualifications:** NJ DOE School Social Worker certificate required; school experience preferred. Per diem rate.

### Pre-school Disabilities Educational Assistant

**Qualifications:** Associate of Arts degree or two years of college. Salary/Benefits: In accordance with negotiated agreement. 10-month position.

### Part-Time Pre-school Teacher Of The Handicapped

**Qualifications:** NJ P-3 & Teacher of Disabilities certificate required; Preschool Disabled experience preferred; familiar with creative curriculum a plus. Salary/Benefits: In accordance with negotiated agreement. Part-time position.

Contact Isaiah 58 @ [isaiah58@bldnewark.com](mailto:isaiah58@bldnewark.com)

## ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

### Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

### MISSION

#### Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

**Mar 10 • ME 37 • Contact: Ency/Baby Alberto**



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 10

Bulletin Edition

March 9, 2012

## Youth Holds Open Retreat

On the weekend of March 2-4 2012, thirty-five lambs were reborn in the Spirit of God during YLSS#17. Guiding them into this new life was spiritual director, Father Paul Lehman. The lambs listened to the personal experiences of sharers, Gerard Rangel, Jay Ymbong, Jamie Pagdonsalon, Justin Reyes, and the family sharers, the Calingos. Their sharing truly moved the Spirit within the lambs as they listened to the healing power of God to touch, save, and transform the lives of many. We praise the Lord for how successful the Baptism of the lambs was. Many of them received the blessed gifts of tongues and the gift of healing was very strongly present within one of lambs who experienced a miraculous recovery of an injury she had sustained before coming to the retreat. This retreat once again re-established God's infinite love towards us. From the lambs and shepherds to sharers and auxies alike, the retreat was a much needed renewal that further increased the spiritual depth needed to continually reaffirm God's will. Praise and thanks to the God who works wonders among His peoples!

## RCAN Women's Day of Reflection

What an awesome blessing we received last Saturday! The Women's Commission in the Archdiocese of Newark held its Day of Reflection on March 3, 2012 at Seton Hall from 8 am-4 pm.

The conference was ably supported by our Parish Mission Ministry along with some volunteers from Solo Parents and other ministries. They were instrumental in keeping the attendees informed and organized, enabling the conference to be held smoothly and timely, despite the switching of rooms for the English and Spanish tracks.

Together with approximately 1,000 women, we gathered, prayed, laughed, cried, learned and reflected--enhancing our Lenten journey.

Tomorrow, Mar. 10, the men take their turn! We encourage all the men who are not participating in tomorrow's Emergence to consider attending the Men's Conference at Seton Hall. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information visit [www.rcanmenscommission.org](http://www.rcanmenscommission.org).

## COUNSELS

### Living In Obedience

THEME: We obey Jesus when we live His commandments.

WORD: Ex 20:1-17; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

ORDER: Take to heart the ten commandments.

REFLECTION:

The readings for this third Sunday of Lent bring to light the true purpose of God's Law. This revelation clearly shows the love and wisdom of God are at the heart of His *Ten Commandments*; their blessings far outweigh the effort required to follow them. As the promise says, "*The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eye.*" (Ps 19:9)

After their exiles from Egypt, the Israelites were scattered tribes and clans, without a nation. They wandered aimlessly in the desert, fighting one another, worshipping strange gods. Forgiveness, concept of right or wrong did not exist; they were enslaved to sin. However, God wanted them to live an abundant life where faith, hope, and love are prosperous, so He offered them a covenant and gave them His *Ten Commandments*. Through the **Decalogue**, God revealed His very own nature and character: "*I will take you as my own people, and you shall have me as your God...*" (Ex 6:7) "*Be holy, for I, the LORD your God, am holy.*" (Lv 19:2)

The Israelites' knowledge of God was manifested through their obedience to the *Ten Commandments*. This was the high point of Israel's history -- the time when they became one nation under God. They became *Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*"The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eye."* (Ps 19-9)

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

# SHEPHERD'S VOICE

## Mankind's Free Will

After the fall of Adam and Eve, God's only desire is for mankind to come back to Him, as his children. To achieve this, He made many covenants, sent great prophets like Elijah for mankind to know Him. Made laws like those He gave to Moses to guide us in our journey. He even sent His only begotten son, Jesus, to show us the way to our transformation and conversion.

It is not too late to have a change of heart. We are again in the Season of Lent. It is that time of the year when we can reflect on all the things God is doing to lead us back to him, to be his children once again.

Why can't God just do it for us? With a simple miracle this can be done, do not forget, however, that God gave us free will. He desires love from the heart because God is love.

Life is a journey. A journey where we have the covenants, prophets, the laws, the Beatitudes and Jesus Himself, His life, passion, death and Resurrection as guides and on the other side there is Satan enticing us to fail.

This brings us to the Gospel of Mark 1:12-13 *"The Temptation of Jesus"*. ***"At once the Spirit drove him out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him."***

In Mark, the OT and NT are intertwined, 40 days alludes to the Exodus motif; 40 years of Israelites in the wilderness, 40 day Jesus is with "wild beasts" in the desert, like Adam in the Garden surrounded with wild beasts. Jesus, unlike Adam, is victorious over Satan, restoring harmony to creation.

Each one of us has the free will to choose between the narrow road to Heaven or the wide road to hell. Our journey is full of temptations. We may be able to resist some or most of them but may fail in others. The goal is not to fall like Adam but be victorious like Jesus. We are privileged and blessed to have a very loving and forgiving God, who is always willing to give us everything and anything to win our love. He gives us Lent--the Spirit of Penance-- that in any which way we undertake it, is the directed to changing our hearts and renewing our lives.

## An Altruistic Servant

In Jesus' time, the Pharisees and Scribes were the religious and secular authority figures of society. Their knowledge the Mosaic Law gave them the authority to strictly enforce it and coerce people to follow it. They also elevated themselves into "Princes" and "Judges" over the ordinary people. ***"They tie up heavy burdens [hard to carry] and lay them on people's shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them. All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues, greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation 'Rabbi.'"*** (Matthew 23:4-7)

Culturally, Filipinos were brought up to respect authority figures. In our hierarchical society where there still exist servants, members of the upper class families are always addressed as "Sir" and "Ma'am". In the offices, supervisors and managers are addressed in the same way. Deference to the person of high stature gives that person a feeling of self-importance and respect without the need to earn it. In our day to day struggles in this land we call our new home, we have given our best and deservedly gained status and leadership. Some of us are professionals with titles: doctors, engineers, accountants, lawyers, which give us supervisory or managerial positions to oversee others in the workplace.

The hypocrisy of the Pharisees did not escape the notice of Jesus. As disciples serving the community, we become susceptible to the devil's trap of self-importance. We sometimes forget we serve only one Lord, who shows us the example of true service. Without recompense, Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, quenched the thirsty, and taught a way of life, selflessly sacrificing even His very life for the glory of God, the Father. As followers of Jesus, we truly serve Him only if we throw away our pride and gratefully acknowledge that everything we accomplish comes from His saving grace. We should redirect the focus from *"I, me, and myself"* to *"you, him/her and them,"* the people of God whom we serve.

We should be guided by our Lord's own words: ***"The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."***



## **COUNSELS** (from page 1)

a shining nation to their pagan neighbors, showing them how human society should be like and what it means to *“love God with all our hearts, souls and minds; and to “love our neighbor as ourselves”*. People saw the Truth in them because they took God’s Word to heart and faithfully reflected God’s very own character.

The *Ten Commandments* are as valid today as it was in the past, directing us to know God in a personal and intimate way, that His blessings may be upon us all. By our witnessing of Jesus, we within, and those outside our community may also know, accept and believe in Him. Due to our sinful nature, we freely choose the ways of this world. In the Cleansing of the Temple, Jesus displays strong indignation as He drives the money changers and vendors away for turning the House of God into a marketplace. We are like these vendors, violating our body, the temple of the Holy Spirit, when we sin, defiling the very character of Jesus.

Not unlike the people of Old, we make our own interpretation of the *Ten Commandments* to satisfy our personal interests. Like the Pharisees, we demand signs and clever arguments before we follow. We obey simply to earn a righteous standing in God’s sight, a reflection of our belief when it suits us, ignoring the moral value of the commandments in our lives.

Today, the *Ten Commandments* remain more relevant and needed than ever before in our nation’s history. As we face the challenges of the moral issues of our Catholic faith and religious freedom, we should conform more than ever to the character of God, by whose grace, we become enlightened and see the truth, and *“do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord.”* (Dt 6:18) As Catholics, we must promote our Catholic values and teachings. Our Christian stewardship requires our nourishing, protecting our faith with prudence and vigilance, and rejecting all that are opposed to it.

This Lenten season, let us make a sincere commitment to fulfill what Jesus requires of us: consistency and faithfulness in *living His Commandments* to live for Him and in Him alone in everything that we do, *‘no reservations, no excuses, no impure intentions’*. To mirror the image of Jesus in us, we should accept His truth, walk His way, and follow His life. Let us pray incessantly for God’s grace, reflect on His Word daily, participate in community fasting and prayer, and receive frequently the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. This way we can be certain His Love will make us →

## **Our Homecoming**

*“He got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. ‘Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.’ Then the celebration began.”* (Lk 15:20, 23-24)

How many times have we fallen in our lives? It’s an unending cycle and pride gets in our way. By the grace of God, we are able to get up and go back to Him. As Christians we need to embrace Him through the sacraments and prayers.

Although our family left the BLD 9 years ago, we returned to be sharers in the recent youth rally. Due to my pride and conflict with BLD, my family decided to be more active within our own parish, with the mistaken belief we don’t need BLD. Then we dropped out of our church, too. Those 9 years were “lost,” not unlike the prodigal son who wisely decided to return “home.” However, our own home was no refuge. We experienced much suffering because of me. My pride prevented me from seeking or listening to advice in handling a rebellious teenager. But I never gave up, knowing that the Lord will never abandon us. My family decided to return “home” to BLD. We felt the love of and a sense of belonging to a family once again. Just like the Prodigal Son’s father, BLD “ran” to welcome us with open arms.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son talks about the older son’s reaction, but not much of the younger son. Was he grateful? Did he go back to his old ways? I see myself in the Prodigal Son. Through the sacraments, daily prayer and community’s help, I was able to focus on the Lord. Just like the prodigal son’s father, God invites us to a feast at His Table of Reconciliation – the healing grace of forgiveness. With grateful hearts for God’s love and providence, our family now enjoy life knowing that God will always love us no matter where we have been or what we have done. Through repentance can we truly feast in His Kingdom.

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whole. *“For this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, as you heard from the beginning, in which you should walk.”* (2 Jn 1:6)

### **DIRECTIONS**

1. Zealously pursue advocacies promoting pro-life values, Catholic social teachings and stewardship.
2. Heed and support the call to pray and fast against attacks to Catholic faith and religious freedom.

## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,100	29,373

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

Thank you for your continued support!

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ST. MARY'S SECURITY ALERT

The door to the school was found **unlocked**, again. **PLEASE BE CAREFUL.** Each of us has a responsibility to help keep things safe and secure. Anyone entrusted with the Parish Center keys, is responsible to ensure it is **locked** afterwards. There are times a door is left open because it didn't get a gentle pull or push to be sure that it is locked. **Please remember to take the extra step. We all need to be very vigilant** in order to ensure the **SAFETY** and **SECURITY** of everyone.

### EMERGENCY: Nomination Day

Please reserve **Mar 10, 9-2pm @ St. Mary's Auditorium**

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

### BLD VISION

- We are a community of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about a world of justice, human development and true peace.

### BLD MISSION

In response to the challenges of our particular place, time and culture:

#### For our families:

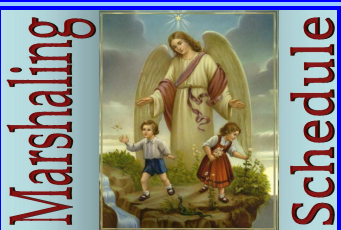
- We will evangelize families and build communities of faith through encounters, Life in the Spirit Seminars and discipleship formation.
- We will give formation on personal and family prayer, pro-life values, Catholic social teachings and stewardship.

#### For our communities:

- We will actively participate in the life and mission of the Church in accord with our God-given gifts.

#### For our country:

- We will work on poverty alleviation through scholarships, housing for the poor and advocacies for life, environment and good governance.



Date	Apostolate
Mar 16	Pastoral
Mar 23	Formation
Mar 30	Management
Apr 13	Mission
Apr 20	Evangelization

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Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

*Be a Living Word*

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### LSS #38

Apr 20-22, 2012 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Life in the Spirit Apostolate @ [lsa@bldnewark.com](mailto:lsa@bldnewark.com)

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ISAIAH 58 - REACHING OUT

**VB .NET/ASP .NET Developer** (Classic ASP and VB6)  
**Technology:** ASP, VB 6.0 (DLLs, NT Services), ADO, VB Script, JavaScript, HTML, XML, DB2, ASP .NET, VB .NET, ADO .NET, Visual Studio 6.0 or .NET 2008, .NET framework 2.0, IIS 5.0 or greater, ODBC

Minimum of 5 yrs. experience on the required technology working on distributed/mainframe systems with emphasis on dynamic SQL. The role requires designing, analyzing and developing applications as needed to support the business. Knowledge of financial/brokerage applications a plus.

#### Part-time Bilingual School Social Worker

**Qualifications:** NJ DOE School Social Worker certificate required; school experience preferred. Per diem rate

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**Qualifications:** Associate of Arts degree or two years of college. Salary/Benefits: In accordance with negotiated agreement. 10-month position.

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Contact Isaiah 58 @ [isaiah58@bldnewark.com](mailto:isaiah58@bldnewark.com)

### ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

#### **Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check**

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

### MISSION

#### **Nursing Home Visit**

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055  
 Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

**Mar 10 • ME 37 • Contact: Ency/Baby Alberto**



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 11

Bulletin Edition

March 16, 2012

NEWS

COUNSELS

## Holy See Calls Attention To Needs Of Rural Women

### Addresses United Nations Commission



NEW YORK, MARCH 7, 2012 ([Zenit.org](http://Zenit.org)).- The Holy See drew attention to the needs of rural women in a speech delivered on Tuesday. Speaking at the United Nation's Commission on the Status of

Women, the Holy See's delegation said it is important to recognize that rural women make up a large portion of the world's population. "Rural women oftentimes work in deplorable situations against odds that defy imagination," the Holy See warned.

The speech mentioned some of the problems experienced by rural women: hunger, poverty, long hours of unpaid work, unhygienic situations, limited access to health care, discrimination and exposure to violence. Then, the women who migrate to urban areas or to other countries also face the risk of exploitation.

Improving the lives of rural women will not only help them, but their families and the local community, the Holy See affirmed.

"Education and training, the provision of resources, service delivery, access to financial systems and communication technology are just some areas which demand ongoing attention as they lead to realization of the right to development," the address continued. "Women, and in particular rural women, should be given the recognition that is due to them and they should be able to make an impact on the world around them," they declared. "The Secretary-General rightly indicated in his report that the advancement of rural women and girls is an essential part of the solution to today's most serious global challenges," the Holy See concluded.

## Christ Lifted Up

THEME: We obey Jesus when we believe that we are saved through Him.

WORD: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-6; Eph 2:5-10; Jn 3:14-21

ORDER: **"Live in truth by believing in the name of the only Son of God."** (Jn 3:17-18 pp)

REFLECTION:

Jesus said to Nicodemus: **"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."** (John 3:14-15)

This is the Old Testament story which is told in Numbers 21:4-9. On their journey through the wilderness, the people of Israel complained and regretted that they had ever left Egypt. To punish them, God sent them a plague of deadly, fiery serpents; the people repented and cried for mercy. God instructed Moses to make an image of a serpent and to hold it up in the centre of the camp; and those who looked upon the serpent were healed. So long as Moses lifted up the serpent, they believed on Him who commanded Moses to act thus. It was not the serpent but God who healed them. The bronze serpent was only a symbol for the Israelites to turn their thoughts to God; and when they did that, they were healed.

St John took that old story and used it as a kind of parable of Jesus. He says: The serpent was lifted up; the people looked at it; their thoughts were turned to God; and by the power of God in whom they trusted, they were healed. *Continued on page 3*

### *Promise of the Week*

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

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

## INFINITE MERCY (77X)

***“Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?”*** (Mt 18:21)

Where did Peter come up with the “seven times” figure? In the Jewish belief system, “seven”, the perfect number represented completion. Therefore, forgiving someone seven times “completed” your obligation to forgive, no more were required of you.

However, Jesus emphasized ***“...not seven times but seventy-seven times,”*** (Mt 18:22) The number is immaterial. What matters is our willingness to offer forgiveness every time someone asks for reconciliation.

Jesus isn't talking about people who remain unremorseful and make no effort to reconcile. Jesus is referring to those truly sorry for their wrongdoings. Jesus reminds Peter that forgiveness knows no limits because God in his infinite mercy forgives us an unlimited number of times.

In the "Parable of the Unforgiving Servant" Jesus wants us to view our human affairs from God's perspective. Forgiveness relates to mercy. None of us deserve God's love and forgiveness, but HE forgives us anyway. His forgiveness is complete; He washes away all our sins so we can start with a clean slate.

In the parable, the debt has been cancelled. This is the way we should treat our brethren. We need to cancel their debt but with accountability to help them overcome their past and become the people God wants them to be. It is certainly easier to forgive someone who admits to wrongdoing than to pardon someone who continues to offend without any hint of remorse. Our human nature leads us to believe that forgiveness has its limits. Needless to say, Christians are to follow Jesus' ways, that forgiveness like mercy has no pre-determined limits.

Christ wants us to have a forgiving heart. In fact, Jesus even goes so far as to say that if you're not willing to forgive others, you can't experience the fullness of God's forgiveness in your life. ***“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)

The lesson here is that along with forgiveness comes accountability. We learn what true forgiveness really is. All of us fail again and again, yet God continues to forgive us again and again. Never forget how much God has forgiven you and share that forgiveness with others. →

## A WOODEN HEART



***“If today you hear His Voice, harden not your hearts.”*** (Ps 95:7-8)

Cold, hard, stony heart, no! Warm, pliant wooden heart, yes!

A few days into their exodus from Egyptian slavery, the Israelites could not believe their eyes the unforgiving desert they were led to live. With fast dwindling provisions, they complained and heaped insults on Moses. They lost their confidence on his leadership saying, “Does our leader know the way? We've never done it this way before! What was so bad about Egypt?” But it was in the wilderness, not the Promised Land, that the big transformation took place. God handed down the Ten Commandments.

***“Listen to my voice; then I will be your God and you will be my people.”*** (Jer 7:23) The strugglers did exactly what was forbidden them to do, disobey to the extent of defiling the house of Lord. They did not listen, covered their ears so as not to hear, and turned their backs on Him. In His wrath, God swore that His people “shall not enter His rest” unless they call upon Him, fear Him and love Him.

Moses calls the Israelites to praise and worship God, trust Him and put their faith in Him. He assures them God will surely hear their cries and provide for them as He promised. ***“Israel I will feed with the finest wheat, I will satisfy them with honey from the rock.”*** (Ps 81:17) Only then did the Israelites listened, relented and repented. Their hearts, after all, were not hard as stone but pliant as wood, soaked in the rain of God's love and mercy. Although it took 40 years to reach the Promised Land, God made good His promise of the land of milk and honey for all generations of Israelites.

I can relate to the anger, faithlessness, distrust and disobedience of the Israelites. I went through the same attitude when I was in the “dumps” of my life. Fortunately for me, my parents did not give up on me. The heavens opened up when I married my devoted wife. Joining the BLD community sealed my faith in God. He directs me where to go; He tells me to hope in hopeless or helpless situations; He steadies my feet so I don't fall; He searches my heart and purifies my soul. Yes, I too have a warm wooden heart! I have changed.

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As Christ said, ***“Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful.”*** (Lk 6:36). AMEN!

## Ministry Matters – Intercessory Ministry



Often the Intercessory Ministry (IM) has been described as the “heart and soul” of our BLD Community. The many prayers and petitions offered up to the Lord each week at our Friday night worship service truly reflect this. As intercessors we recognize Jesus’ presence each time we gather as the Body of Christ. Jesus tells us in Matthew 18:19-20, ***“Again, [amen] I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”***

We know from our study that the word “Intercession” comes from the Latin word “intercessio”, i.e. “to come between”. Webster defines intercession as “the act of interceding, meditating, pleading and praying on behalf of others.” As we come together as intercessors and offer up our petitions to the Lord, we are responding to the Lord’s command in Matthew 7:7-9 to ***“Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”***

The Intercessory Ministry is comprised of Core members and Solo Parents/Marriage Encounter members who undergo the "Immersion" process. Each week they sort into nine categories the petitions dropped off in the basket. The sorted petitions are then assigned to IM members, each of whom prepare a written prayer and scripture that will be distributed to the rest of the Intercessory Ministry members and District Leaders to be used as part of the IP (Intercessory Petitions) of their daily prayers. During Friday evening worship, the IM serves as rosary reciters and prayer warriors who sit on all four corners of the church, interceding for the worship leaders, Praise Ministry and the congregants. During Lent, IM also leads the Stations of the Cross. Like the blind man in this week’s Gospel, may we be examples in witnessing the healing power of Jesus in our lives as we come before the throne with our daily supplications and petitions, Amen!

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

This event was prophetic in nature as it represented what was to come in the days of the ministry of the Lord Jesus on earth. The bronze serpent was an image of Christ. As it was raised and put on the pole, Jesus was also raised and nailed to the cross. So that when we set our eyes and turn our thoughts to Him, and believe in Him, we too will be saved from all our sins and through faith in Him find eternal life.

There was a double lifting up in Jesus’ life- the lifting up on the cross and the lifting up into glory at the time of ascension into heaven. And the two are inextricably connected. The one could not have happened without the other. For Jesus, the cross was the way to glory.

In this passage, there is the phrase which speaks of ‘believing in Jesus’. It means at least three things.

1. We must believe that God is as loving as Jesus declared Him to be. “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”. It was the world that God so loved. It was not a nation; it was not just some few people; it was not only the good people who loved Him; it was the world. The unlovable, the unlovely, the lonely, those who love God and those who never think of Him. As St Augustine says: ‘God loves each one of us as if there was only one of us to love.’
2. We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that in Him is the mind of God, that He knew God so well, was so one with God, that He could tell us the absolute truth about Him.
3. We must believe that what Jesus says is true. Whatever He says, we must do; whatever He commands, we must obey. Every smallest action in life must be done in unquestioning obedience to Him.

Another great phrase is ‘eternal life’. God invites us to taste this life in the bread and wine of the Lord’s table where He lavishes upon us the immeasurable riches of His grace. Eternal life is the very life of God himself. To have eternal life envelops every relationship in life with peace.

1. It gives us peace with God. We are at home with our Father.

*Continued on page 4*

## COUNSELS (from page 3)

2. It gives us peace with one another. If we have been forgiven, we must be forgiving
3. It gives us peace with life. If God is Father, God is working all things together for good.
4. It gives us peace with ourselves. It is not we who live but Christ who lives in us.

As we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, let us continue to look up to Jesus lifted up on the cross that we too may be lifted out of darkness into light, out of despair into hope, out of isolation into friendship and community, out of the self-centered, self-serving worlds we create, into God's own life; a life full of kindness, a life shared with God and with one another.

### DIRECTIONS:

- Share the light of Jesus with others, especially with those who do not know Him.
- Repent. Avail ourselves of the sacrament of reconciliation.
- Boast not, for everything comes in the name of the Lord.

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Mar 16	Teaching – Mark 10, John 6, Youth
Mar 17*	Encounter with Jesus – LSS 1-37
Mar 23	Teaching – Intercessory Formation, Golden Years

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### LSS #38

Apr 20-22, 2012 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Life in the Spirit Apostolate @ [lsa@bldnewark.com](mailto:lsa@bldnewark.com)

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ST. MARY'S SECURITY ALERT

**PLEASE BE CAREFUL.** Each of us has a responsibility to help keep things safe and secure. Anyone entrusted with the Parish Center keys, is responsible to ensure it is **locked** afterwards. There are times a door is left open because it didn't get a gentle pull or push to be sure that it is locked. **Please remember to take the extra step. We all need to be very vigilant** in order to ensure the **SAFETY** and **SECURITY** of everyone.

### Witness Development Workshop

April 14, 1-5 pm @ St. Mary's

Invitation to follow. Contact [witness@bldnewark.com](mailto:witness@bldnewark.com)

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)

## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>4,033</b>	<b>33,406</b>

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)  
 Thank you for your continued support!

### Stewardship - It's a way of life!

Marshaling	Schedule	
	Date	Apostolate
	Mar 23	Formation
	Mar 30	Management
	Apr 13	Mission
	Apr 20	Evangelization
Apr 27	Pastoral	

## Be a Living Word

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ISAIAH 58 - REACHING OUT

**VB.NET/ASP.NET Developer** (Classic ASP and VB6)

**Technology:** ASP, VB 6.0 (DLLs, NT Services), ADO, VB Script, JavaScript, HTML, XML, DB2, ASP .NET, VB .NET, ADO .NET, Visual Studio 6.0 or .NET 2008, .NET framework 2.0, IIS 5.0 or greater, ODBC

Minimum of 5 yrs. experience on the required technology working on distributed/mainframe systems with emphasis on dynamic SQL. The role requires designing, analyzing and developing applications as needed to support the business. Knowledge of financial/brokerage applications a plus.

**Part-time Bilingual School Social Worker**

**Qualifications:** NJ DOE School Social Worker certificate required; school experience preferred. Per diem rate

**Pre-school Disabilities Educational Assistant**

**Qualifications:** Associate of Arts degree or two years of college. Salary/Benefits: In accordance with negotiated agreement. 10-month position.

**Part-Time Pre-school Teacher Of The Handicapped**

**Qualifications:** NJ P-3 & Teacher of Disabilities certificate required; Preschool Disabled experience preferred; familiar with creative curriculum a plus. Salary/Benefits: In accordance with negotiated agreement.

Contact Isaiah 58 @ [isaiah58@bldnewark.com](mailto:isaiah58@bldnewark.com)

### MISSION Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark, NJ  
**Every 4th Sat.** of the month.

Mar 24 • ME 30 • Contact: Norie/Miriam Abes

### SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place  
**every 4th Friday** at St. Mary's Auditorium



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 12

Bulletin Edition

March 23, 2012

## US Bishops Promise Continued Fight for Religious Freedom

### Clarify What Contraception Mandate Debate Is Really About

WASHINGTON, D.C., MARCH 14, 2012 ([Zenit.org](http://Zenit.org)).- The U.S. bishops say they are "strongly unified and intensely focused" in opposition to threats against religious freedom, specifically the threat posed by the federal government's plan to mandate abortifacients and sterilizations in health insurance coverage.

The Administrative Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, gathered today in their March meeting, released a statement titled "[United for Religious Freedom](#)."

The declaration responds to the Health and Human Services mandate originally released in January, and then slightly modified in February, which would require Catholic institutions to pay for contraception, abortifacients and sterilizations in their employee health care plans. These "services" are included under the banner of "preventive care," the label used for treatments such as vaccinations and cancer screening.

Amid the media flurry surrounding the issue, the bishops' statement today proposed: "[W]e wish to clarify what this debate is—and is not—about. This is not about access to contraception, which is ubiquitous and inexpensive, even when it is not provided by the Church's hand and with the Church's funds. This is not about the religious freedom of Catholics only, but also of those who recognize that their cherished beliefs may be next on the block. This is not about the Bishops' somehow 'banning contraception,' when the U.S. Supreme Court took that issue off the table two generations ago.

"Indeed, this is not about the Church wanting to force anybody to do anything; it is instead about the federal government forcing the Church—consisting of its faithful and all but a few *Continued on page 4*

## COUNSELS

### Amazing Paradox

THEME: We obey Jesus when we die to ourselves for His sake

WORD: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

ORDER: *"Oh that today, you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts..."* (Ps 95:8)

REFLECTION:

*"...unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be."* (Jn 12:24-26) This Sunday's Gospel reading says three things which are all variations of one central truth, the amazing paradox at the heart of Christian faith and life.

- Jesus says that only by death comes new life. This truth has been very clearly shown in the history of the Church when the blood of martyrs became the seeds of faith of the early Church that grew and brought forth much fruit. It is because men have been prepared to die that great things have lived. In personal terms, when a man buries his personal aims and ambitions, that is when he begins to be of real use to God. By dying to personal desires and ambitions, a man becomes a servant of God.
- Jesus says that only by spending life do we retain it. The man who loves his life is moved by two aims, by selfishness and by the desire for security. Jesus has repeatedly said that *Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*"Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life."*  
(Jn 12:25)

## THE DOCTOR'S ORDER

You want to be healed right? This is what we hear from the doctor when we come to their offices? Of course, we answer yes as it is our desire to get well. The doctor then examines us and orders a series of tests to help them find out what ails us. This is the modern medicine that we all come to know. With new technology and cutting edge medicine, they can see the interior of our hearts in a blip.

In the first century in Jesus time, it is quite different. In Jerusalem, there is a pool at the Sheep Gate called Bethesda in Hebrew. This is where the sick, the lame, the cripple and the blind make pilgrimages to receive the healing benefit of the waters. One of them was a paralytic man who had been invalid for thirty eight years. On a Sabbath day, Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been ill for a long time. He said to him, **“Do you want to be well?”** (John 5:6) The man desperately answered that no one will assist him into the water while it is being stirred and someone else gets there before him. Why did Jesus asked this proving question? He knows the man needed help and was stuck in his hopelessness of ever getting into the water for a chance to be healed. Jesus said to him, **“Rise, take up your mat, and walk.”** (John 5:8)

Immediately the man became well, took up his mat, and walked. The man went to the temple to thank God for his healing and to offer appropriate sacrifices. Jesus found the man and said to him, **“Look, you are well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse may happen to you.”** (John 5:14) Why did Jesus singled out this man to be healed? Maybe he alone expressed a desire and the faith to be healed or it could be that Jesus wants to show the man that one can experience the most exciting miracle and still not be saved if he continues to sin. At the temple, Jesus warned him that he has to turn away from sin and truly seek God's forgiveness to be spiritually healed. He had been lame and now he could walk. He intended for the man to understand that sin has more serious consequences than physical illness.

The Lord manifested His power and saving grace to those who genuinely desire to be changed. As we begin our journey this Lenten Season, let us pray with a burning desire to be freed from the power of sin and be transformed into His holiness.

## The Witness

Are you frustrated when you try to invite a friend, a work colleague, or even a family member to one of our many encounters or Life in the Spirit seminars? Or how do you feel when you are rejected by a person whom you are trying to bring to the Lord or to the Catholic faith?

In John chapter 5, Jesus was experiencing a similar situation. After He had healed the paralytic by His life-giving Word on a Sabbath (Jn 5:1-18), the Jews, instead of believing in Him wanted to kill Him for violating Jewish law and for claiming to be the Son of God.

Let's examine how Jesus was trying to convince the Jews of his claim. The Jewish legal tradition required that for a claim to stand in court, it must be substantiated by 2-3 witnesses (Dt 19:15). In John 5:31-47, Jesus lists the following 5 “witnesses,” going way beyond the legal requirements:

1. John the Baptist (5:33)
2. the deeds that He works (5:36)
3. the Father (5:37)
4. the Scriptures (5:39)
5. Moses (5:46)

In giving them credible proofs, Jesus was able to prove His claim of divine son-ship and satisfy the legal requirements without testifying on his own behalf (Jn 5:31). The Jews, nonetheless, refused to accept the evidence.

Sometimes, we too may act like the unbelieving Jews. Everyday, Jesus surrounds us with His love and works miracles in our lives and yet we still doubt His presence. In a way, the ancient Jews were “more blessed” than we because they had Jesus physically present, walking, healing, and preaching among them. We, on the other hand, have the gift of faith, the Magisterium of the Church, the sacred scriptures, and the testimony and witness of the many who have gone before us.

In this season of Lent, let us fast from doubt and unbelief. Let us place our trust in Jesus alone. Let us cast away our worries, fears, and frustrations. Instead, let us live our lives as true Christian disciples and witness for Jesus for He alone is *The Way, the Truth, and the Life*.

***Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!***



## Like Father, Like Son

When Jesus heals on the Sabbath in John 5, his opponents first argue that Jesus is breaking the law to rest on the Sabbath. Jesus responds to this confrontation by stating, ***“My Father is still working, and I also am working”*** (John 5:17). This verse is significant for two reasons: first, it gives us a glimpse into the essence of God. Second, it indicates aspects of our identity as children of God.

### The God of Life at Work

Jews and Christians believe that God as Creator begets and sustains all life. In one sense, this means that God never rests, for there is never a moment when God is not working by creating or sustaining life. John’s Gospel builds on this understanding of God as Creator by telling us that Jesus shares in his Father’s life-giving work: through Jesus we have life (1:4), and all who receive Jesus and believe in His name receive power “to become children of God” (1:12).

This means that in this healing story (5:1-18), Jesus is proving true the axiom “like Father, like Son.” Like his Father, Jesus must give life and sustain it by healing the sick and afflicted, by drawing others to believe in him, and by offering himself as “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (1:29) and as the Bread of Life (6:35). But another dimension of this story emerges when we consider the theme of adoption, for faith in Jesus makes us all children of God (John 1:12, Romans 8:14-17, Galatians 4:5-6, Ephesians 1:5, 1 John 3:1).

### Imitating Christ: Working in Humility for God’s Glory

As we reflect on the significance of John 5:17, we must recall the template Paul sets for us in a beautiful hymn: we are to have the same mind as Christ (Philippians 2:5-11). This hymn tells us the value of humility and obedience, which for Jesus results in the bestowal upon him of “the name that is above every name” (2:9). To cultivate humility, desire to participate in God’s work, and to ask for the grace to do God’s will, we can return to one great prayer by St. Ignatius Loyola:

*Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me 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 labor and not to ask for reward, save that of knowing that I do your will, Amen.*

## COUNSEL (continued from page 1)

the man who hoarded his life must in the end lose it and the man who spent his life must in the end gain it.

- Jesus says that only by service comes greatness. In the modern world, the idea of service is in danger of getting lost. Many people are in business for what they can get out of it. They may well become rich but they will never be loved and love is the true wealth of life. The people whom the world remembers are the people who serve others.

Jesus came with a new view of life. The world looks on glory as conquest, the acquisition of power, the right to rule and control. Jesus looks at life as a cross-dying brings life, spending life to retain it, only by service comes greatness- Christ’s amazing paradox.

***“It was for this purpose that I came to this hour...Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.”*** (Jn 12:27, 31-32) It was on the Cross that He pinned His hope because He knew love will live long after He is dead. He received the Cross obediently because he knew that all those who love Him will be drawn up to Him, will be lifted up with Him which meant changing death to life and suffering to redemption.

Their insignificant and hidden daily sufferings will redeem them and heal their wounds. Their acceptance of pain, sorrow, sickness, old age or death itself will be a participation in the mystery of Redemption, a gift of Christ’s life and love to everyone. These sufferings of those who love Him will be a communion between them. ***“Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.”*** (Heb 5:8-9).

Are we ready to listen to the pain and needs of the people around us? Are we ready to serve one another including the homeless.

To serve Him is to follow Him to His death on the Cross, a death He fully accepted because He loved us, a sacrificial kind of love to lay down a secure foundation for His eternal Kingdom.

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Adhere to the Lord without distraction.
2. Do not be anxious about the things of the world.

**US Bishops Promise** (continued from page 1)

of its institutions—to act against Church teachings. This is not a matter of opposition to universal health care, which has been a concern of the Bishops' Conference since 1919, virtually at its founding. This is not a fight we want or asked for, but one forced upon us by government on its own timing. Finally, this is not a Republican or Democratic, a conservative or liberal issue; it is an American issue."

**At issue**

The statement then offered three points the bishops see at the heart of the debate:

-- An unwarranted government definition of religion. The statement explained that the mandate implies the federal government defines what constitutes a religious employer: "employers who, among other things, must hire and serve primarily those of their own faith."

"We are deeply concerned about this new definition of who we are as people of faith and what constitutes our ministry," the bishops wrote. "We are commanded both to love and to serve the Lord; laws that protect our freedom to comply with one of these commands but not the other are nothing to celebrate."

-- A mandate to act against our teachings. "Those deemed by HHS not to be 'religious employers' will be forced by government to violate their own teachings within their very own institutions. This is not only an injustice in itself, but it also undermines the effective proclamation of those teachings to the faithful and to the world."

-- A violation of personal civil rights. "The HHS mandate creates still a third class, those with no conscience protection at all: individuals who, in their daily lives, strive constantly to act in accordance with their faith and moral values. They, too, face a government mandate to aid in providing 'services' contrary to those values—whether in their sponsoring of, and payment for, insurance as employers; their payment of insurance premiums as employees; or as insurers themselves—without even the semblance of an exemption."

The bishops assure that they are going to continue in their efforts to oppose the mandate, including by pursuing "legislation to restore the same level of religious freedom we have enjoyed until just recently." →

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)

**LORD'S PROVISION**

**PREVIOUS WEEK'S**

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>3,681</b>	<b>37,087</b>

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

Thank you for your continued support!

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Witness Development Workshop**

April 14, 1-5 pm @ St. Mary's

Invitation to follow. Contact [witness@bldnewark.com](mailto:witness@bldnewark.com)

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**LSS #38**

Apr 20-22, 2012 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Life in the Spirit Apostolate @ [lsa@bldnewark.com](mailto:lsa@bldnewark.com)

**MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MISSION**

**Soup Kitchen**

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ  
Every 4th Sat. of the month.

Mar 24 • ME 30 • Contact: Norie/Miriam Abes

**SECRETARIAT**

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place every 4th Friday at St. Mary's Auditorium

**TEACHING CALENDAR**

Mar 23 Teaching –Golden Years, Intercessory Formation

Apr 20 Teaching – Mark 10, John 6, Youth

Apr 27 Teaching – Golden Years, Intercessory and Service Formation

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

<b>Marshaling</b>		<b>Schedule</b>	Date	Apostolate
			Mar 30	Management
			Apr 13	Mission
			Apr 20	Evangelization
			Apr 27	Pastoral
May 04	Formation			

They concluded, though, by exhorting the faithful to prayer and penance "for our leaders and for the complete protection of our First Freedom—religious liberty—which is not only protected in the laws and customs of our great nation, but rooted in the teachings of our great Tradition."



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 13

Bulletin Edition

March 30, 2012

## Movie tackles Pro-Life issues

Movie Review: "October Baby"

Amidst the hoopla surrounding anticipated movies this past week-end, a Pro-Life movie quietly opened in a limited nationwide release (and, in the entire state of New Jersey, on only one screen at only one theater). The movie is "October Baby." And it is truly something special – well acted, entertaining, touching and moving. I highly recommend that you go and see this movie (it is appropriate for teens and older).

The film is about Hannah, who at 19, found out that she was the result of a "failed abortion" (oxymoron intended – because where life prevails should never be called a "failure"). This came up because of recurring health and emotional issues, that were potentially linked back to circumstances surrounding her birth. She finds herself wondering who she is, feeling rejected and trapped. She asks many "why's?" - the most painful of which was, "Why did my birth mother not want me?" So Hannah embarks on a quest to find her birth mother, and eventually, she does.

Along the way, the movie also explores her relationship with her adoptive parents and with her friends. It bravely, and in quite a refreshing and humorous way, touched on the issue of sex before marriage. It unashamedly promotes life. The movie's ultimate beauty though, is its message of healing and forgiveness – from and amongst ordinary people, and... forgiveness from God.

As I watched the movie, I found myself laughing... I found myself crying... As its ending credits were rolling, I found myself, together with the rest of the audience, applauding. In this extremely excellent film, that surpasses even just the entertainment value of many, many others, I think I found God too, smiling 😊.

**God**  
**is**  
**Pro-Life**



## COUNSELS

### The Spirit of Palm Sunday

**THEME:** We are assured of everlasting life when we allow the Lord to sanctify us through suffering.

**WORD:** Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; 2 Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1-15:47

**ORDER:** "Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will." (Mk 14:36)

**REFLECTION:**

The observance of Palm or Passion Sunday is a reenactment of history. We gather to act out a kind of drama which makes vivid, the lessons of faith, found so abundantly in the Gospel accounts of the last week of Jesus' life. More often

we simply reflect upon the great events of salvation and use signs and symbols to make their meaning more real. But in Holy Week we actually place ourselves in the events of that last week.

On Palm Sunday, we reenact, above all, the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem. This marked the solemn entrance of Christ into His passion, death and resurrection - the events which will bring about His victory over sin and death and Satan. With the freedom of the King, Jesus advances toward His death. With great willingness and love He enters on the path which will lead to the sacrificial offering of laying down His life for friends.

The life and death of Christ is not just some recorded bit of history of the past, rather it is for all men, not Christians only, a fact which basically affects man's purpose in life. There are millions today, who through no fault of their own have not heard of God's infinite love for them. *Cont'd page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*"The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced." (Is 50:7)*

## To Delight in God's Will



Anyone who says “*I delight to do God's will*” should first clear their mind of all preconceived notions about it. One needs to have an open attitude and an understanding of God's will.

An important tool in order to have an understanding of this will (other than God's daily Word) is prayer. God promises to answer all our prayers, but we must truly seek His will and obey it. At times our prayers are answered, “no” or “not yet” – still we should accept this answer with all our heart, mind and spirit. Despite the many instances when we may have displeased God with our actions, He continues to love us. Seeking God's will can help us to overcome these displeasing actions and then we can truly be blessed with answered prayers.

In the case of Adam and Eve, they chose not to follow God's will (*don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*), and from this, “original” sin came to be. How about the great adversary of God (Lucifer or Satan)? He thought that by subverting Adam and Eve he had successfully ended the will of God for human beings; but he did not count on God's grace and His great love for us. We can still be part of God's Kingdom and be saved from eternal death - by accepting His Son. “*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.*” (Jn 3:16) Grace would be given to those who follow Jesus and obey the will of God.

Jesus delighted to do His Father's will. He fully understood the presence of God and His authority. He delighted in the fear (awe) of the Lord and came down to earth to give up His own life as a ransom for all of us, without reservation, because that was the will of the heavenly Father.

As Christ's imitators and followers, are we ready to really submit to Christ with our entire heart? Are we ready to live the life that God has planned for us?

Let us not be intimidated by others and compromise what we know God has planned for us. As the psalmist said, “*To do your will is my delight.*” (Ps 40:9) Can we do what God asks us to do? Can we follow Jesus' example out of awe, worship, gratitude, and humility.

To obey the Father's will is to receive His love, to delight and rejoice in the beauty, perfection and security of God's yearnings for our welfare. God loves us so much that He grants us free access to His infinite wisdom and goodness. Obedience is love made real. It is burden-free when we know that we are being guided by our God Who is perfect!

## Remain in My Word - Lectio Divina

“*Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples.*” (John 8:31)

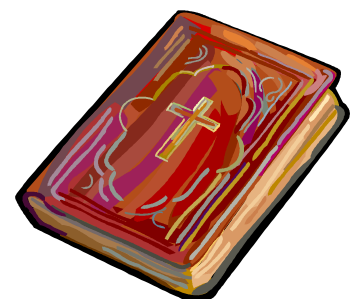
We often conveniently forget that there is more to being human than our mere physical existence. All Christians are disciples of Christ (or, at least, ought to be). Jesus reveals in John 8:31 and 35 that if we detach ourselves from God, Who is present in Jesus Christ, we do not gain freedom, but instead enslave ourselves to worldly demands. Freedom does not always justify what one wants to do. Sin begets slavery and every sin is “pro-choice” - an act of the will that contradicts the basic goodness “to be and to do.”

The Jews in John's gospel based their freedom on being descendants of Abraham but did not follow him as their Father in Faith. By wanting to kill Jesus, they cannot be God's children either (Jn 8:42) for they are not imbued with His truth and love, not fully trusting Him, and not living in His virtues. True human freedom results from faithfully abiding within this context of God. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (2 Cor 3:17) The more free a person is, the more the virtues of Christ in him will grow. Virtue is a power that makes a person beautiful as a human being, more loving, more giving and more forgiving.

As disciples of Jesus, we need to set aside time daily, earnestly talking with God and listening in faith to His guidance. Sacred Reading or Lectio Divina, is one essential way - where we encounter the Word of God, Christ our Lord; and where we develop a vital and living relationship with Him. As we **read** and **meditate** on the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit illumines the mind to move beyond an intellectual study of the text, allowing it to become a part of meeting Jesus in the Scriptures. We are then led into a loving conversation with God in **prayer**. In silence we simply rest in His Word (**contemplation**), listening, at the deepest level of our being, to Him Who speaks within us. The Holy Spirit leads the soul to union with God in love, and the benefits of His grace, delivered through His gifts, gradually transform us from within.

This transformation has a profound effect in the way we actually live - a test of the authenticity of our prayer.

We must take the Word of God into our daily lives, for with It, we determine our eternal destiny.



## COUNSELS (from page 1)

There are millions too who have heard the Good News but refuse to believe or act according to it. But for ourselves, professed followers of Christ, who during Holy Week will be reminded daily of what God has done and is continuing to do for us, our only answer is to beat our breasts in humble contrition like some of the crowds returning from Calvary on that first Good Friday.

We know we are utterly unworthy of the unfathomable love that God has shown for us. When we look at the crucifix and see the Son of God's hands and feet nailed to that cross, slowly shedding His heart's blood for us, what can we do but bow our heads in shame? If we did not mock Him openly as the Pharisees did that day on Calvary, we do so indirectly - by our coldness, our forgetfulness, and worse still, by our many deliberate sins against God and neighbor. Pilate condemned the innocent Christ for fear of the Jews; Judas betrayed him for 30 pieces of silver; the Pharisees forced Pilate to crucify Him because of their pride. If we look into our past, how often have we offended Him and condemned Him for similar reasons? ...We are less excusable than these people were.

By reconciling ourselves with God, we have reason to hope and not despair. At the most extreme point of His agony on the cross, our loving Savior uttered a fervent plea to His heavenly Father, asking for forgiveness for all those who caused His agony and death. The words "**Father forgive them for they know not what they do**" (Lk 23:34) is timeless and inclusive, if we avail of it.

When tempted, tested by bodily pain or mental suffering, worried to death perhaps by our own needs, stop and think of Jesus' humiliation and sufferings. His death was the salvific path for us to Heaven. How light is our cross compared to His, how easy is our Calvary. The cross we carry may seem unbearable, but it is this very cross that sanctifies and prepares us for the promise of everlasting life in God's Kingdom.

Holy Week will be truly holy when we repent of our sordid past and turn to our loving God. Our attitude must be Christ's. We must empty ourselves, practice humility, and accept our sufferings with joy - for He has given us this encouragement: "**The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced.**" (Is 50:7)

- Directions:
1. Evangelize and be a witness of God's love so that many will be transformed.
  2. Sustain your spiritual life through prayers, daily reading of God's word, receiving the sacraments of confession and communion, and doing works of mercy.



## The Annunciation

Do you listen to voices other than God's Voice? ... His Voice should supersede all.

We cannot comprehend the Annunciation without fully reflecting on the drama in the Garden of Eden. God created humanity to share His fellowship and develop a full and deep relationship with us as His sons and daughters.

God gave Adam and Eve the choice to obey or disobey Him. God had every right to demand their obedience, yet He gave them free will to choose, and even made them parents of all nations. In the third chapter of Genesis, Adam and Eve declared their independence from God by listening to the serpent's voice, rather than obeying God's instructions about the forbidden fruit. As Christians, we also come against great challenges when we believe we can find greater blessings outside of God's grace. Wisdom is granted when we obey God. Obedience to God keeps us from harm.

In Genesis 3:15, God said to the serpent: "**I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; they will strike at your head while you strike at their heel.**" It was due to a woman's disobedience that mankind became separated from the life of God. In His wisdom, God chose a woman to be the vessel to restore human life back to Him, separating us from the serpent. He chose Mary.

From the moment of her conception, Mary was granted a life full of grace and was preserved from all stain of original sin. God predestined her to be the Mother of the Incarnate Word. In the fullness of time, God fulfilled His promise and sent His Son to receive His human nature from Mary's immaculate womb.

In Luke 1:30-31, the angel announced to Mary that she found favor with God and that she will conceive in her womb and bear a Son to be named Jesus. Mary was greatly troubled for she did not understand what was being asked of her. She was told not to be afraid for the Holy Spirit will come upon her and the power of the Most High will overshadow her "**...for nothing is impossible with God.**" (Lk 1:37) Mary responded humbly, joyfully, accepting and surrendering her will to God.

Mary is the best example of faith, humility and obedience. Like Jesus, she was attuned to the Spirit and to God's plan. Full of virtue and grace, she dedicated herself totally as the "**handmaid of the Lord**" (Lk 1:38) committing to work with Jesus in His work of salvation. With God's grace and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may we strive to emulate her life of virtue.

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,100	40,187

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)  
Thank you for your continued support!

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Witness Development Workshop

April 14, 1-5 pm @ St. Mary's  
Invitation to follow. Contact [witness@bldnewark.com](mailto:witness@bldnewark.com)

### ST. MARY'S SECURITY ALERT

**PLEASE BE CAREFUL.** Each of us has a responsibility to help keep things safe and secure. Anyone entrusted with the Parish Center keys, is responsible to ensure it is locked afterwards. There are times a door is left open because it didn't get a gentle pull or push to be sure that it is locked. **Please remember to take the extra step. We all need to be very vigilant** in order to ensure the **SAFETY** and **SECURITY** of everyone.

## SAVE THE DATE



BLD Newark –  
*Ablaze @ 20*  
Saturday,  
August 18, 2012

Also, please support these other Ablaze @ 20 events and projects:

- Concert after First Friday Mass on May 4, 2012 - BLD Davao's **Songspell** Choir – visiting BLD Newark as part of their 2012 US Concert Tour (*free-will love offerings to be collected to help our brethren in Davao*)
- Dinner Dance – Saturday, September 22, 2012, at the VFW Hall in Manville, NJ
- 20th Anniversary Book to be published in December featuring BLD history, as well as the many ways the Lord has utilized our Community to bring everyone closer to Him.

### ... A Haiku for the Lord...



Ablaze at Sunrise  
Simply just because  
Of days to be spent with You  
At sunrise, we smile

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

<b>Marshaling</b>		<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Apostolate</b>
			Apr 13	Mission
			Apr 20	Evangelization
			Apr 27	Pastoral
			May 04	Formation
	May 11	Management		

Please notify the Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Apr 20	Teaching – Mark 10, John 6, Youth
Apr 27	Teaching – Golden Years, Intercessory and Service Formation

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LSS #38

Apr 20-22, 2012 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Life in the Spirit Apostolate @ [lsa@bldnewark.com](mailto:lsa@bldnewark.com)

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ISAIAH 58 - REACHING OUT

#### Part-time Bilingual School Social Worker

**Qualifications:** NJ DOE School Social Worker certificate required; school experience preferred. Per diem rate

#### Pre-school Disabilities Educational Assistant

**Qualifications:** Associate of Arts degree or two years of college. Salary/Benefits - in accordance with negotiated agreement. 10-month position.

#### Part-Time Pre-school Teacher of the Handicapped

**Qualifications:** NJ P-3 & Teacher of Disabilities certificate required; Preschool Disabled experience preferred; familiar with creative curriculum a plus. Salary/Benefits – in accordance with negotiated agreement.

#### Sales Counselor for Catholic Cemeteries

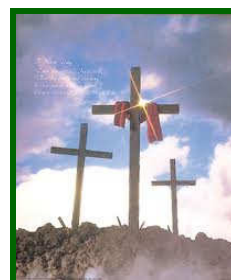
**Qualifications:** Highly motivated self-starter with superior communication skills. NJ driver's license with a clean driving record and reliable personal transportation. Practicing Catholic with a strong commitment to the overall Mission of the Archdiocese of Newark.

#### Administrative Manager for Catholic Cemeteries

**Qualifications:** Strong communication skills necessary. Able to establish objectives and goals and the ability to follow through with the implementation of same. Must have strong analytical skills. Strong computer skills in Excel and Word. A college business/finance degree required. Some experience in field a plus.

Contact Isaiah 58 @ [isaiah58@bldnewark.com](mailto:isaiah58@bldnewark.com)

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000



**NO WORSHIP ON  
FRIDAY, APRIL 6**  
**HAVE A BLESSED  
HOLY WEEK &  
HAPPY EASTER**



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 14

Bulletin Edition

April 13, 2012

## Pope Reviews Mexico-Cuba Trip And Gives Advice for Living Sacred Triduum

VATICAN CITY, APRIL 4, 2012 ([Zenit.org](http://Zenit.org)).- Benedict XVI dedicated his remarks during this morning's general audience to his recent trip to Mexico and Cuba by which, he said "I sought to embrace the entire continent, inviting everyone to live together in hope in concrete commitment to united progress towards a better future."

The Pope noted how his visit had been characterized by "the extraordinary, festive and vivacious welcome" of Mexicans, a sign of "the warm embrace of an entire people". He noted how he "underscored the need to recognize and protect fundamental human rights, among which religious freedom is particularly important", and gave guarantees of his "closeness to those who suffer social ills such as conflicts, old and new, corruption and violence".

Regarding the Cuban leg of his journey. "I went there", he said, "to support the mission of the Catholic Church, which is committed to the joyful announcement of the Gospel, notwithstanding limited means and despite the difficulties which still have to be overcome before religion can offer its spiritual and educational services in the public arena".

"I also gave assurances that the Pope carries the concerns and aspirations of all Cubans in his heart, especially those suffering due to restrictions on freedom," he said.

During Mass on Sunday morning, the Pontiff recalled, "I reminded everyone that Cuba and the world need change. This will only come about if everyone opens to the integral truth about man (an indispensable premise in order to achieve freedom) and decides to spread reconciliation and fraternity. ... I also underlined the fact that the Church does not seek privileges, but asks to be able to proclaim and celebrate the faith, also in public, bringing the Gospel's message of hope and peace to all sectors of society". In this context, Benedict XVI expressed his appreciation for the

*Continued on page 4*

## COUNSELS

### Believe That You May Have Life In His Name

THEME: We are assured of everlasting life when we believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

WORD: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31

ORDER: 1. ***Do not be unbelieving, but believe.***" (John 20:27b)  
2. ***Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.***" (John 20:23)

REFLECTION:

One week after the Jesus, our Resurrected Lord appeared before the apostles, they were once again gathered together in prayer and fellowship. Although the doors were locked, this time, the feeling of awe and joy permeated the apostles. They had seen Jesus, with the wounds of His suffering, stark and visible on His body but alive, completely healed and glorious.

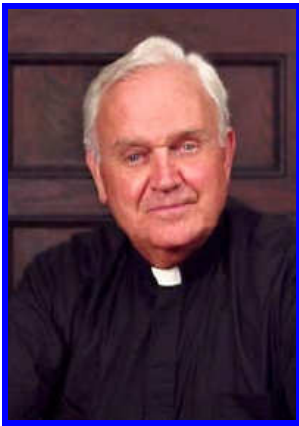
However, Thomas called Didymus was not with them then and he had adamantly stated that ***"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."*** (John 20:25)

Thomas' statement was a contradiction of all that he had learned from Christ in the three years that Jesus was with him and the other apostles. There was something in his mind that blocked his faith from proclaiming that he believed all along, as Jesus had said, that He would rise again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day. Was it fear that left him feeling he was out of control and that he needed proof to believe? *Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

***"...through this belief you may have life in his name."*** (John 20:31b)

## FR. PAUL SPEAKS



We are entering the glorious 50 days of Paschal time with the second Sunday of Easter, Divine mercy Sunday, directly ahead of us. *Pascha* is the Greek word for Passover, for Jesus Christ, our Passover has been sacrificed and is risen.

It is important to keep the mysteries of the two seasons of Lent and Easter (Paschal) time joined in our understanding of the two events in the life of Christ, his death and Resurrection. There are two Scripture quotes in the gospel of John, which give us the very positive effects of Jesus' death and Resurrection. ***"When you have lifted up the Son of man, then you will know that I am."*** (John 8:28) This "lifting up" can refer to the physical nailing of Jesus to the cross, or to his Resurrection and Ascension into heaven. The reality is that our sins have nailed him to the cross. But this nailing was also part of His Divine plan to redeem us. Thus the very pain that we inflicted upon our glorious Savior becomes the very means He uses to forgive the sins that brought Him to the cross. When we look upon the cross with sincere repentance, we are not only forgiven, but we also come to know that Jesus is the "I AM", the very reality of the same God revealed to Moses in the burning bush.

In John 12:32 we read ***"When I am lifted up I will draw all to myself."*** Here Jesus talks about His divine magnetism, that merciful drawing that brings all who are open to him into divine intimacy. It reminds me of the beautiful poetic exaggeration which the church proclaims during the Easter vigil: "O happy fault, O truly necessary sin of Adam which merited so great a redeemer." Our sins drew him to this earth to become one of us, and in that human condition died and rose to bring us to Himself in that one act of outpouring love.

The devotion to the Divine Mercy is a modern devotion, revealed to us by Jesus through the revelations given to us by St. Faustina. But this modern devotion echoes the message of the gospel. The gospel message is God's wisdom as well as His love. It can be discerned only by prayer and daily contact with God's word. Allow the divine magnetism of God's mercy to gently lead into the peace that is Jesus' Easter gift to us.

## Compelled to Witness

I still remember my profound encounter with the Lord 17 years ago during my Baptism in the Holy Spirit. I was far removed from the faith...a cafeteria Catholic as most people would say. I had many questions... many doubts. Shepherding sessions took hours and still I was left unsatisfied. The Life in the Spirit seminar weekend came. I listened intently. I empathized with the witnesses. I participated in the Eucharistic celebration and offered my broken self to the Lord. During the moments leading up to the anointing, I surrendered. After wailing and crying out my inner hurts and pains, I rested in the Spirit. Robed in dazzling white, the Lord came and cradled me... I felt my burdens lifted up and like the mist, He vanished... It was an unforgettable encounter with Jesus. And life as I knew it then, has never been the same. ***"It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard."*** (Acts 4:20)

I felt a strong desire to share this unspeakable joy in my heart! Even at work, I wanted to use every conversation to extend God's love to those who were ready to listen. I had a thirst to know Him more. The words in Scripture touched me deeply and my heart was burning inside, as how the disciples who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus described it. Assured of God's unconditional love for me and lavished by the gifts of His most Holy Spirit, my cup has been filled to overflowing. This is what moves me to action... to go and serve in mission and live out the great commission. ***"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."*** (Matthew 28:19)

But the Lord's command is not an easy task to accomplish. Jesus must be heard in the words I say. Jesus must be seen in the way I act. Jesus must be felt in the way I reach out. Yes, an effective witness goes beyond one's words. A true witness glorifies the Heavenly Father by his actions so that God's light will shine. A Christian witness lives by what he preaches. As St. Francis would put it.... ***"Proclaim the gospel.... use words if you must."***



HE  
IS  
RISEN



## Woman, Why are You Weeping?



*“As she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been. And they said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’”* (John 20:11b-13) What a strange question! Of course, she was weeping!

For Mary Magdalene, the last three days had been the saddest and most terrifying of her life. *“When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him.”* (Mark 16:1) She had followed Jesus for months, filled with hope and expectation, but now she was coming to anoint His body for burial.

Mary of Magdala is first mentioned in the Gospel of Luke. Jesus was teaching throughout Galilee. *“Accompanying him were the Twelve and some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ... and many others who provided for them out of their resources.”* (Luke 8:1-3) Seven demons! Mary must have laughed and danced with gratitude on the day she met Jesus.

Then the awful day came when Jesus walked the rocky path to Calvary, stumbling under the weight of the cross, and Mary Magdalene was among the few who stood by Him while so many others fled. *“Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.”* (John 19:25) *“They remained into the evening, keeping watch until Joseph of Arimathea wrapped the Lord’s body in clean linen and laid Him in a tomb. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb.”* (Matthew 27:59-61)

*“Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb.”* (Mark 16:2) With sadness, the women retraced the steps of Jesus as they left the city carrying the pungent spices to the place where His body had been lovingly laid to rest. Finding the stone rolled away and the tomb empty, Mary ran back to get Peter and John. They examined the tomb and the burial

*Continued on page 4*

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

From the time we were born, we have delegated authority over to our minds, which attempt to stay in control. If you remember, when we were baptized anew in the Spirit during our LSS, what was the first thing we thought when we received the gift of tongues? Did we not initially feel that we were just fooling ourselves? When we surrendered ourselves to the Lord during our Baptism in the Spirit, our old carnal mind received a death blow but refused to die. The bible says, *“For, although we are in the flesh, we do not battle according to the flesh, for the weapons of our battle are not of flesh but are enormously powerful, capable of destroying fortresses. We destroy arguments and every pretension raising itself against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive in obedience to Christ...”* (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

We have strongholds in our minds that choose to exert themselves, presenting arguments and contradicting the knowledge of God. Our first and truest warfare is against ungodly ways of thinking, for our minds can block the action of the Holy Spirit in us. Jesus was symbolically crucified on the “mind of man”, actually on the hill of Golgotha, meaning the skull or the residence of the brain. Therefore, the spiritual gifts such as praying in the spirit, tongues, words of knowledge, etc. are tools given to us by the Holy Spirit to break down the control of our carnal mind in order that we may **“take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”** God gave us a prayer language which our mind cannot manipulate, compose or articulate and cannot be judged against human standards as proper, correct or beautifully spoken. In the spirit language all of us are equal, it is the Holy Spirit who draws from us the prayer to bring to the Father. We communicate with the Father at a level beyond our human comprehension and control. Another way to overcome strongholds is by the sword of the Spirit. It is the Word of God, the power of truth, which is capable of breaking down the fortresses of the mind.

God called us into community not only to be faithful believers but also to be **active** believers of Christ. To actively believe in Jesus is to live by His Word. The second Reading clearly shows the dynamic flow of faith that creates our relationship with God the Son and God the Father, *“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who*

*Continued on page 4*

**Woman, Why ...** (from page 3)

cloths. *“Then the disciples returned home. But Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping.”* (John 20:10-11) When Mary looked up, she saw Jesus standing nearby; but in her grief, she didn't recognize Him. *“Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ ”* (John 20:16) In that moment everything changed. Jesus spoke her name, and her weeping ended. Jesus spoke her name, and she believed.

Jesus still calls us by name. He dries our tears, restores our faith and revives our hope. With Mary Magdalene, we joyfully proclaim, *“I have seen the Lord.”* (John 20:18)

**Pope Reviews ...** (from page 1)

progress made by the authorities in Cuba and highlighted the need to continue this process until achieving complete religious freedom.

The Holy Father concluded the general audience with a mention of the Easter Triduum, the culmination of the liturgical year which begins tomorrow with the Mass of the Last Supper. "Each of us", he told the faithful, "was loved by Jesus 'unto the end'; that is, unto the giving of Himself on the cross, when He cried: 'It is finished'. Let us allow ourselves to be touched by this love, let us allow ourselves to be transformed, so that the resurrection can truly be achieved in each one of us".

**COUNSELS** (from page 3)

*loves the father loves also the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments ... whoever is begotten by God conquers the world.”* (1 John 5:1-4) The early church believers lived this life and overcame their differences and needs to be in control of their own destinies. They acted with one heart and mind and obeyed the commandments of God and great favor was accorded them all.

Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, in order to give man the Spirit of Counsel, Might, Understanding, Knowledge, Fear of the Lord, Judgment and Truth. He is the presence of Jesus among us today. He is capable of bringing us to the victory that conquers the world, so that we may proclaim with our conviction of faith that **“Jesus is my Lord my God!”**

**DIRECTIONS:**

- ✓ Be generous in sharing your time, talent and treasure.
- ✓ Trust in the generosity and mercy of our Lord.

**TEACHING CALENDAR**

Apr 20	Teaching – Mark 10, John 6, Youth
Apr 27	Teaching – Golden Years, Intercessory and Service Formation

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**LSS #38**

Apr 20-22 • St. Mary's Auditorium

Contact: Life in the Spirit Apostolate @ [lsa@bldnewark.com](mailto:lsa@bldnewark.com)

**ME #39**

May 18-20 • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA

Contact: Married Life Apostolate @ [mla@bldnewark.com](mailto:mla@bldnewark.com)

**SPE #14**

Jun 22-24 • Ramada Limited Hotel

2989 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Contact: Frank Lim @ [spstewards@bldnewark.com](mailto:spstewards@bldnewark.com)

Applications available at the fellowship after worship.

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

**MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY**

**Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check**

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

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

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,849	44,036

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

Thank you for your continued support!

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Witness Development Workshop**

April 14, 1-5 pm @ St. Mary's

Invitation to follow. Contact [witness@bldnewark.com](mailto:witness@bldnewark.com)

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

<b>Marshaling</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Apostolate</b>
		Apr 20	Evangelization
		Apr 27	Pastoral
		May 04	Formation
		May 11	Management
		May 18	Mission

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 16

Bulletin Edition

April 20, 2012

## NEWS

## COUNSELS

### BLD-Newark Welcomes New Covenanted Disciples



Last Friday, April 13, 2012, two couples from ME 27 were presented to the community as BLD-Newark's four newest covenanted disciples. Jules and Emily Laput and Francis "Bebot" and Rebecca "Becca" Soquite pledged in front of their BLD brethren to give themselves to faithfulness

and submission to the Lord; they solemnly promised to offer themselves to the service of the Lord, thus sealing their covenant with God. The couples were blessed by Rev. Robert Lamirez, in the absence of our Spiritual Director, Fr. Paul Lehman. The ceremony was concluded with the anointing of the couples by members of our DCS.

It was a bittersweet "welcome and farewell" for the Laputs, as it was also announced on the same night that they will be relocating to another state shortly after.

The community expressed their joy, praising the Lord for His works, as they welcomed these new disciples with rousing applause. On behalf of the community, we wish the Laputs Godspeed. May their discipleship be fruitful wherever the Lord leads them, and may they know that there will always be a place at the table for them here in BLD-Newark.

*Ignorance of the Bible is  
Ignorance of Christ  
Read your Bible daily!*

### Called to Be His Own

**THEME:** We are assured of everlasting life when we open our minds to understand the word of God and act on it.

**WORD:** Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9; 1 John 2:1-5a; Luke 24:35-48

**ORDER:** *"Repent and be converted."* (Acts 3:19)

**REFLECTION:**

Our theme for the week states: **"We are assured of everlasting life when we open our minds to understand the Word of God and act on it."**

In the first reading, St. Peter tries to help us understand the disposition and character required to read and comprehend God's word and to exercise our faith.

First, we are to witness to Jesus Christ's resurrection. And as witnesses, we too have been anointed to do ordinary and extraordinary deeds, provided we are guided and inspired by His word and enabled by the Holy Spirit. Jesus showed Himself to His disciples as proof that He is risen indeed, and that He is alive. In the same manner, He is alive in each of us, and calls us to be His own. St. Peter stresses that it was Jesus' life in him that gave him power to heal. Neither can we claim success in our daily endeavors without attributing it to the resurrection of Jesus and acknowledging that He is alive in us through the power and presence of His Holy Spirit.

Second, it is important for us not to lose faith, or be discouraged when we experience the triumph of evil, be it in our lives or in the lives of others. Instead, we should trust in the love of God to conquer evil in the end.

What further proof do we need of His redemptive power and might than the Risen Christ? Jesus passed

*(Continued on page 3)*

### *Promise of the Week*

*"Whoever keeps his word, the love of God is truly perfected in him." (1 John 2:5a)*

## *It is I*

***“The sea was stirred up because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they began to be afraid. But he said to them, ‘It is I. Do not be afraid.’”***

(John 6:18-20)

In Saturday’s gospel reading we find the apostles in the middle of rough seas and upon seeing Jesus walking on the sea did not recognize Him and I thought that didn’t make sense especially since the apostles saw Him perform the miracle of the loaves that very same day (John 6:1-15). Jesus had to assure them by telling them, ***“It is I, do not be afraid.”*** (John 6:20)



About 14 years ago my wife and I decided to move from California to Dallas Texas in the hopes of finding a better life. I had been bouncing from one low level dead-end job to another and California was just not working out. By some miracle I found a great job despite having practically no “on-the-job” experience. Not only was this a great job but the company was moving me and my whole family to San Francisco, a city I’ve always wanted to live in. To this day I am still awe-struck at how this happened to me and can only attribute it to Divine Intervention.

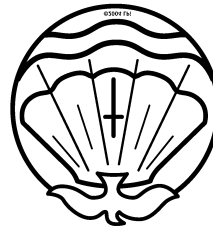
Life was pretty good...I thought. But unfortunately that wasn’t the case. My temper was starting to take a toll on our marriage and my wife was getting fed up. To the point that when my company decided to move me to the New York office some years later she was seriously considering staying behind and moving back to Los Angeles.

Throughout all this time my sister-in-law has been relentlessly inviting us to attend a marriage encounter but both of us said “no” every time and for very different reasons. I thought we didn’t need it even though I can sense that things are not going well while my wife thought it wouldn’t help.

Fast-forward 14 years later, my wife and I are still together, happily married of course. Needless to say that we finally said “yes” to a marriage encounter weekend and have been a part of BLD since.

Looking back I realized that, just like the apostles, I too failed to recognize Jesus coming to me, inviting me to be closer to Him, and this during a time in our marriage when, the sea was stirred and a strong wind was blowing. Even though at the time I had just experienced a miracle in my own career, just like the apostles experiencing the miracle of the loaves. →

## **Rebirth**



For Catholics, what does it mean to be reborn or born again? Is it one moment in time? Is it solely intellectual or solely experiential?

In Jesus’s dialogue with Nicodemus, he teaches that Baptism is necessary for salvation when he asserts that ***“...no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.”*** (Jn 3:5)

The word “*Baptism*” in its Greek origins means “*immersion*.” Immersion in water is known to be a sign of death while emersion out of the water means new life. When Jesus was baptized, He was not purified; rather, He cleansed the waters. His Baptism was a sign for all human beings to die to themselves to do God’s will. While the Sacrament of Baptism is how we establish a new life with God, we are constantly called to turn to Christ for cleansing so that we may truly experience the love of God.

There are many days when we repeat the same sins, when we fall short in overcoming the daily struggles, or when the busyness of our lives keep us self-centered. There are also many days even when we are most conscious of our desire to be better and do God’s will, we still falter and fatigue. It is in these various moments that we should recognize that while we may have run out of our personal resources, Christ is there to wash our feet, cleanse us from the dirt of the day, and grounds us in the knowledge that ***“You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.”*** (Col 2:12)

Christ raises us up from our sinfulness and allows us to experience the steadfast and constant nature of God’s love for His sons and daughters. Through the vigor and zeal that instilled in us from such pure love, mercy, and generosity, we are better able to encounter the same struggles, weaknesses, and people who hurt us in the way to which God calls us.

Our baptism into the life, death, and resurrection of Christ was not an isolated moment in time. In fact, we are constantly ‘*reborn*’ with our daily commitments to the God who loves us so. May we always be reminded of the dignity and glory of our baptism, whether it is through the virtuous lives we seek to live or the simple sign of the cross from holy water font.

I guess the lesson for me and maybe for all of us is learning how to recognize Jesus coming to us through the various people we encounter whether it’s a friend, a co-worker, a stranger, or even a sister-in-law.

from death to a new life. It is the same journey, the same path we all travel. Death has lost its sting because we know death to be the way to enter into new life in Christ Jesus. Dying indeed is so much gain as we experience the love of God and find in our conversion, the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus showed us the way to live a new life. All of us, no matter how evil our motivations and deeds may be, are given many chances to seek forgiveness and to atone for our sins through Jesus Christ because the love of God is encompassing and eternal. Psalm 32:5 says, ***“I confess my faults to the Lord, and he took away the guilt of my sin.”***

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, St. John reminds us that not everyone who shouts “Lord, Lord” is assured of eternal life. Many of us hear the word, but are not doers of the word of God. An example could be when we continue to be deaf or blind to the call of our leaders to go out on mission, using flimsy excuses or because we feel unworthy, ill-equipped, full of fear, doubt and agitated when asked to go. St. John labels these persons liars. Yet, we cannot deny that we at times fall into this category. But whatever our reasons may be, the only way we can know we are in union with Jesus is – ***“whoever claims to abide in him ought to live as Jesus did,”*** (1 John 2:5) And that means ***“to release those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke, setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke, sharing our 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,”*** (Isaiah 58:6-8) The disciples of Jesus are classic examples of men who were worldly and full of themselves, yet Jesus was able to convert their minds and hearts of stone into S.W.I.T.C.H. (Sharers, Witnesses, Intercessors, Teachers, Counselors and Healers)

In the gospel, St. Luke tells us that we should first seek the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit to understand the word of God, because on our own, we are not equipped go deeply enough, and it is in this limitation that foments fears, doubts and confusion. Look at what the two disciples experienced as they journeyed to Emmaus. Fear, doubt and astonishment gripped them because they never really understood or put into heart what the Lord was telling them all along, despite the many miracles Jesus performed in their presence. Today, we exercise prudence or reservation in acting upon our faith, and this stops us from being on F.I.R.E. (Fruitful, Inspired, Renewed, Empowered.)

For this reason, we have our regular weekly worship service and Word Sharing Circles to help us through our sharings and the power of the Holy Spirit to understand, discern and appreciate what our Risen Lord expects of us as individuals, or as members of →

## Shepherd's Voice

### What the Lent and Easter Season Mean to Each One of Us?

As we enter the Lenten season, we are reminded by the words of Jesus Christ, ***“This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”*** (Mark 1:15)

What does “repent” mean? It means to recognize the evil in our lives and to turn our backs on it. It means admitting our mistakes, asking forgiveness and changing for the better. We are aware of the evil tendencies that occasionally mess up our lives. For example, we are aware of promoting our self-interests that put our self ahead of Jesus (i.e. others). We are aware of our pride that keeps us from admitting our faults. We are aware of judging others for which we do not have any right (this is the sin that has the habit of always creeping up in our lives).

The second point is believing in the Gospel. This means to believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He came to save us. It means to seek out Jesus especially in the sacrament of Reconciliation and to receive from Him forgiveness and healing. It means turning to God for help.

Lent and Easter will be meaningless if we fail to heed these words of Jesus Christ, ***“Repent and believe in the Gospel.”*** (Mk 1:15b) What is happening nowadays is people do not admit they are sinners. They rationalize and justify their actions. In effect, they put themselves first rather than Jesus Christ. Thus, if they do not recognize themselves as sinners, they will not have the complete presence of Jesus Christ in their life. They will not be able to celebrate the mystery of Christ's Resurrection in joy if they do not recognize in sorrow that they themselves are sinners.

Let us imitate Saint Paul who admitted his sins when he said, ***“For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. The willing is ready at hand, but doing the good is not. For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want....”*** (Romans 7:18-19). Let us look within ourselves and search if there is anything that Jesus is saddened. If there is any trace of evil, let us seek and be reconciled with Him. Let us make this Lenten and Easter season more meaningful by always making Jesus our priority, abiding in His words and giving Him our utmost love through our relationship with our brothers and sisters.

\*\*\*\*\*  
an apostolate or ministry.

**Direction:** Keep His commandment.

## BLD VISION

- We are a community of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about a world of justice, human development and true peace.

## BLD MISSION

In response to the challenges of our particular place, time and culture:

### For our families:

- We will evangelize families and build communities of faith through encounters, Life in the Spirit Seminars and discipleship formation.
- We will give formation on personal and family prayer, pro-life values, Catholic social teachings and stewardship.

### For our communities:

- We will actively participate in the life and mission of the Church in accord with our God-given gifts.

### For our country:

- We will work on poverty alleviation through scholarships, housing for the poor and advocacies for life, environment and good governance.

## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	4,073	48,109
Easter Envelopes		1,159

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)  
Thank you for your continued support!


*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ST. MARY'S SECURITY ALERT

**PLEASE BE CAREFUL.** Each of us has a responsibility to help keep things safe and secure. Anyone entrusted with the Parish Center keys, is responsible to ensure it is **locked** afterwards. There are times a door is left open because it didn't get a gentle pull or push to be sure that it is locked. **Please remember to take the extra step. We all need to be very vigilant** in order to ensure the **SAFETY** and **SECURITY** of everyone.

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Apr 27	Pastoral
			May 04	Formation
			May 11	Management
			May 18	Mission
			May 25	Evangelization

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Apr 20	Teaching – <b>Mark 10, John 6, Youth</b>
Apr 27	Teaching – <b>Golden Years, Intercessory and Service Formation</b>
May 4	Intro to Intercession – <b>LSS 38</b>
May 5*	Christian Parenting I – <b>ME 38, SPE 11-13</b> Encounter with Jesus – <b>LSS 1-37</b> Shepherd's Training I – <b>LSS 1-35</b>
9-5pm	Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit, New Creation Realities, Growth in Prayer – <b>Singles Ministry</b>
May 18	Teaching – <b>Mark 10, John 6, Youth</b>
May 19	Ignatian Discernment – <b>Covenanted Disciples</b>
May 25	Teaching – <b>Golden Years, Intercessory and Service Formation</b>

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### ME #39

May 18-20 • Radisson, Carteret, NJ

Contact: Married Life Apostolate @ [mla@bldnewark.com](mailto:mla@bldnewark.com)

### SE #28

June 8-10 • Graymoor Spiritual Center, Garrison, NY

Contact: Singles Ministry @ [singles@bldnewark.com](mailto:singles@bldnewark.com)

### SPE #14

Jun 22-24 • Ramada Limited Hotel

2989 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
Contact: Frank Lim @ [spstewards@bldnewark.com](mailto:spstewards@bldnewark.com)  
Applications available at fellowship after worship.

### FE #19

Jul 20-22 • Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA

Contact: Family Life Apostolate @ [fla@bldnewark.com](mailto:fla@bldnewark.com)

## SAVE THE DATE



**BLD  
Newark**

**Ablaze @ 20**

**Saturday,  
August 18, 2012**

### Please support other Ablaze @ 20 events and projects:

- May 4 - Concert after first Friday's Mass - BLD Davao's **Songspell** Choir – visiting BLD Newark as part of their 2012 US Concert Tour (*free-will love offerings to be collected to help our brethren in Davao*)
- Sept. 22 - Dinner Dance at VFW Hall in Manville, NJ
- 20th Anniversary Book to be published in December featuring BLD history, as well as the many ways the Lord has utilized our Community to bring everyone closer to Him.

Please notify the Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 16

Bulletin Edition

April 27, 2012

## Gloriously Triumphant Weekend

*“In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised holy Spirit, which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s possession, to the praise of his glory.”* (Ephesians 1:13-14)

LSS 38 weekend was again a witnessing of God’s bountiful harvest in His vineyard. Our Lord Almighty has manifested His Power so we may attest that He is with us when we serve in His vineyard. Our Risen Lord has led us in His victorious ways and that He reigns forever. As one Singles graduate states, *“We all heard those sweet whispers and felt the powerful embrace of our Savior. I will be forever hungry for the Lord. This LSS weekend strengthened my faith a thousand-fold.”* Affirmations were bestowed to everyone that was a part of the LSS.

As shown on the faces and actions of the graduates, they all sang to the Lord, lifting their hands for He is gloriously triumphant. As faithful servants, we must love and feel the joy to serve Him to the best of our abilities, for it is in offering our best that we can relate to His Perfection.

We welcome our new brother and sisters in Christ: **ME 38:** Buhain, June & Editha; Cabrera, Norman & Marie; Dela Cruz, Archie & Carol; Palafox, Jesse & Ofel; Pepino, Mike & Emma • **SINGLES:** Bautista, Joey; Benito, Anne; Bernal, Rosedy; Brillantes, Marc; Cruzada, Mary Jane; De Guzman, Joseph; Duque, Gaby; Falcao, Wesley; Francisco, John; Gongob, Kevin; Gorospe, Veejay; Ibarra, Melissa; Loreto, Carlo; Magnaye, Karyle; Pana, Matt; Posadas, Jasper; Posadas, Paolo; Tan, Maricel; Tin, Alaric; Umahon, Maverick; Valeriano, Ashley; Viruet, Jeremy • **SOLO PARENTS:** Aquino, Teresa; Gatmaitan, Asuncion.

Praise and thanksgiving be to God for a blessed LSS weekend. **TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**

## COUNSELS

### Dying To Self For Others

**THEME:** We are assured of everlasting life when we lay down our life for others.

**WORD:** Acts 4:8-12; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29; 1 John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18

**ORDER:** *“Beloved, see what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.”* (1 John 3:1)

**REFLECTION:**

Pope Benedict XVI in his recent 2012 Lenten message, proposed a few thoughts in the light of a brief biblical passage drawn from St Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews: “Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works.” He exhorted us to be ever-mindful of living a life of “love and good works” together with our brothers and sisters and to sustain a life shaped by the Gospel, by participating in liturgy and community prayer, always mindful of the eschatological goal of full communion in God. He presented a succinct, valuable and ever-timely teaching on the three aspects of Christian life: concern for others, reciprocity and personal holiness.

He invited all to be ‘concerned’ for one another, not to be indifferent and disinterested to the fate of a neighbor, which may be born of selfishness masked as a respect for privacy. He encouraged us to be guardians of our brothers and sisters and to establish relationships based on mutual consideration and attentiveness to the well-being of others.

“The great commandment of love for one another demands that we acknowledge our responsibility towards those who, like ourselves, are creatures and children of God. Being brothers and sisters in humanity and, in many cases, *Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*“There is no salvation through anyone else... (but only) in the name of Jesus Christ.”* (Acts 4:10 & 12)

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

## ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST Patron Saint of Notaries

by Rita Yglesias



**K**nown as the “Faithful Apostle,” St. Mark was the author of one of the four gospels and has an intriguing story behind his spiritual journey and his emblem.

Most of our knowledge of St. Mark comes from the New Testament, where he is sometimes referred to as John Mark. His mother, Mary and he were highly esteemed in the early Church, and their house was often a meeting place for Christians. In fact, St. Peter escaped from prison to their house. St. Mark had a close relationship with St. Peter. He acted as secretary or interpreter, and St. Peter affectionately called him “son” in his writings. He traveled extensively on missionary journeys throughout his life. He founded the Church of Alexandria in Egypt and served as the first bishop there. He began writing his gospel for a Gentile audience. He translated it into Greek for Gentile converts to Christianity.

He is represented by a lion in sacred images because of the symbolism in the prophet Ezekiel’s vision of four winged creatures guarding and supporting the throne of God. One had the face of a man, another the face of a lion, the third the face of an ox, and the fourth the face of an eagle. Since the 4<sup>th</sup> century, Christians have interpreted these creatures to be the authors of the gospels. Because St. Mark’s gospel begins in the wilderness, where St. John the Baptist is preaching, his emblem is the winged lion. St. Mark was arrested on Easter Sunday in the year 68 during Nero’s persecution of the Church, and he died a brutal and cruel death.

St. Mark teaches us two important lessons that we could all use in our daily mission to represent Jesus: the Lord gives a second chance to those who fail and being a Christian requires a commitment to the Truth—even when it is painful or disconcerting. Despite abandoning his fellow brothers on their journeys (as in Acts 13:13 and 15:37-38), he succeeded in his efforts to share the Good News. St. Mark was blunt about the weaknesses and failures of the Apostles in his gospel and even revealed an embarrassing detail about his own life: he indirectly identifies himself as the young unnamed man at Jesus’ arrest. (Mark 14:51-52). All obstacles aside, St. Mark showed us through his actions and teachings how to faithfully walk in the footsteps of Christ. May God grant us the grace to do the same. →

## An Instrument of Faith

**H**as the Lord ever asked you to do something that is simply beyond your capabilities, perhaps something that at first glance seems foolish or dangerous? If so, how did you react? Did you dismiss the idea as too foolish or dangerous? Or in deep prayer did you tell God your concerns and listen for and heed His response?

In Acts 9, Ananias is before the Lord in prayer, when he hears the Lord tell him to do something that is beyond his capabilities, something that could land him in prison or worse. The Lord tells him to “Get up and go” to Saul, a notorious persecutor of Christians, to pray over him and baptize him. Ananias lays out very logically his concerns to the Lord, **“I have heard from many sources about this man, what evil things he has done to your holy ones in Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to imprison all who call upon your name.”** (Acts 9:13-14) Importantly, Ananias doesn’t stop there and doesn’t rationalize his way out of the difficult task to which the Lord is calling him. Instead, he listens for the Lord’s reply and, just as importantly, he heeds it. **“Go, for this man is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles, kings, and Israelites”** (Acts 9:15) the Lord tells him.



As disciples, we need to have our feet on the ground, to be firmly rooted in common sense, not running off on a whim to serve the Lord in ways He has not called us. But tempered by common sense, as individuals and as a community, we need to be people of deep prayer and intimacy with Him, who are open to hearing Him ask us whatever He wants to ask us, even when it is beyond our capabilities. We must be people who converse with Him deeply each day, who not only speak to Him but hear Him speak to us, people who discern and heed His voice. As Ananias shows us, when we get up and go, God’s will is accomplished and His Kingdom comes to earth. Are we on our knees in deep prayer, listening to the voice of the Lord? Are we willing to keep listening while telling Him our concerns if what He is asking seems ridiculous to us? Finally, are we ready to act... to “Get up and go”?

“God our Father, you helped St. Mark the Evangelist with your grace so that he could preach the Good News of Christ. Help us to know you well so that we may faithfully live our lives as followers of Christ. Amen.”



## **Works of Mercy**

As I reflect on, John 6:26-29, I recall the many years following our spiritual renewal through the BLD community. After 8 years serving in different ministries, we were discerned to serve in the Mission Ministry as one of the councils. When my husband passed away, I was asked to be the pastoral liaison coordinator for the Amazing Grace Ministry, our Nigerian BLD-assisted community based in Newark.

***“Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life which the Son of Man will give you.”*** (John 6:27)

It was a difficult assignment from the Lord without couple power. How can I minister to them? I recall imploring the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I found myself praying more and more with a deeper relationship with our Lord. Feeding off His word was what gave me the strength, motivation and encouragement to serve the ministry. Indeed our Good Lord never left me alone. He had provided for all my needs each time I talked or met with them, including my rides to the venue, as I am unable to drive long distances.

There were times when I got surrounded by spiritual darkness. Why am I here? I miss my friends and fellowship in the community. At other times, I was overcome by frustrations as I witnessed the disunity, the lack of commitment, and the declining attendance of our members due to reasons valid or otherwise.

When I realized I was not alone, God shattered that darkness around me. He reminded me of the purpose, why I was there, which was to completely serve Him. I need to keep my head and endure hardship because this is exactly where God wants me to be.

To this day, I continue to gladly minister to our Amazing Grace brethren alongside our BLD Mission Stewards as well as our brothers and sisters from the teaching ministry. The Lord has favored the ministry with a new venue and better ministry organization. Members have continued to participate in our community's encounters especially the recent Youth LSS.

***“This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent.”*** (John 6:29)

**Rest your faith on Me.  
Remain in My word.**

## **COUNSELS** (from page 1)

also in the faith, should help us to recognize in others a true alter ego, infinitely loved by the Lord. If we cultivate this way of seeing others, solidarity, justice, mercy and compassion will naturally well up in our hearts.”

“Concern for others entails desiring what is good for them from every point of view: physical, moral and spiritual.”

Authentic concern for others will naturally flow to a gift of reciprocity which we witnessed in the lives of our Lord's early disciples. United with Him through the Eucharist, they lived in a fellowship that bound one to another as members of a single body. It meant that the “other” is part of me, and that his life and his salvation, both concern my own life and salvation which situation highlights the profound aspect of communion: our existence as related to that of others, for better or for worse.

Concern for others, reciprocity and communion stir a response in love and good works as the community walks together in holiness. In this way the Community herself continually grows towards full maturity in Christ.

Sadly, there is always the temptation to become lukewarm, to quench the Spirit, to refuse to share the talents we have received for the good of others. All of us have received spiritual or material riches meant to be used for the fulfillment of God's plan, for the good of the Church and for our personal salvation. Yet, all this can only transpire in our midst if we decide to allow the Holy Spirit to pervade our lives and fill us with the full power to die to self.

Today, amidst God's call to be concerned for others, to be a man for others, I can only positively respond if I start to believe that this life is not about me but all about Him. It's about what I can do to glorify Him. It's giving all of my will to Him and putting His will in its place. I need to put Him first above all things.

I have become His servant that I might glorify Him in everything I do. This means I became His and I chose Christ as my Lord and Savior. I chose to give up my will for His. It is no longer me that lives but Him who lives in me. It is no longer my emotions that rule this temple, but His that rules. My anger, lust, envy, pride, voice, and everything else has come under His control. If I choose to be His servant, then I must die to self not just daily, ***Continued on page 4***

## TEACHING CALENDAR

- Apr 27 Teaching – **Golden Years, Intercessory and Service Formation**
- May 4 Intro to Intercession – **LSS 38**
- May 5\* Christian Parenting I – **ME 38, SPE 11-13**  
Encounter with Jesus – **LSS 1-37**  
Shepherd's Training I – **LSS 1-35**
- 9-5pm** Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit, New Creation Realities, Growth in Prayer – **Singles Ministry**
- May 18 Teaching – **Mark 10, John 6, Youth**
- May 19 Ignatian Discernment – **Covenanted Disciples**
- May 25 Teaching – **Golden Years, Intercessory and Service Formation**

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### ME #39

May 18-20 • Radisson, Carteret, NJ

Contact: Married Life Apostolate @ [mla@bldnewark.com](mailto:mla@bldnewark.com)

### SE #28

June 8-10 • Graymoor Spiritual Center, Garrison, NY

Contact: Singles Ministry @ [singles@bldnewark.com](mailto:singles@bldnewark.com)

### SPE #14

Jun 22-24 • Ramada Limited Hotel

2989 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Contact: Frank Lim @ [spstewards@bldnewark.com](mailto:spstewards@bldnewark.com)

Applications available at fellowship after worship.

### FE #19

Jul 20-22 • Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA

Contact: Family Life Apostolate @ [fla@bldnewark.com](mailto:fla@bldnewark.com)

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

## SAVE THE DATE

### Prayer Counseling

Jul 21-22-Prayer Healing 1 • Jul 28-29-Prayer Healing 2

Venue to be announced

Contact: Sam/Rory Olaso @ [pastoral@bldnewark.com](mailto:pastoral@bldnewark.com)



## BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20

August 18, Saturday

### Please support other Ablaze @ 20 events and projects:

- May 4 - Concert after first Friday's Mass - Davao's **Songspell** Choir – visiting BLD Newark as part of their 2012 US Concert Tour (*free-will love offerings to be collected to help our brethren in Davao*)
- Sept. 22 - Dinner Dance at VFW Hall in Manville, NJ
- 20th Anniversary Book to be published in December featuring BLD history, as well as the many ways the Lord has utilized our Community to bring everyone closer to Him.

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)

## COUNSELS (from page 3)

but every hour, minute, and second. Today as I respond to God's call into deeper waters, in imitation of my Good Shepherd, I need to be concerned of others and constantly die to self.

Lord God, You are my Father, my creator, my Master and Savior, my guide and counselor! There is no better hope for me but to die to self so I may live with You for I am assured of everlasting life when I do so and lay down my life for others in your Name!

### DIRECTIONS

1. Develop awareness amongst all membership of the community's thrust to support the Catholic Church's initiatives to protect our religious freedom.
2. Strengthen our pastoral care program in relation to protecting God's children program.
3. Expand our works of mercy by supporting our Divine Mercy's soup kitchen.

## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>2,864</b>	<b>50,973</b>

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

Thank you for your continued support!

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ISAIAH 58

**In Need of Wellness Program Volunteers**  
Doctors (General Practice) and Nurses for Blood Pressure and Sugar Screening

Contact: Isaiah 58 @ [isaiah58@bldnewark.com](mailto:isaiah58@bldnewark.com)

### ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

**Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check**  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

### MISSION

### Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

May 12 • Singles Ministry

Contact: Manny/Arlene Mangalonzo [singles@bldnewark.com](mailto:singles@bldnewark.com)

## Stewardship - It's a way of life!

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		May 04	Formation
		May 11	Management
		May 18	Mission
		May 25	Evangelization
		Jun 01	Pastoral



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 18

Bulletin Edition

May 11, 2012

## NEWS

### Songspell Blazes into BLD Hearts

BLD Newark kicked off its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration - "Ablaze @ 20" - last Friday, May 4, at the Divine Mercy Church in Rahway with a concert by Songspell, a cultural singing group from Davao. BLD disciples and guests were treated to a rousing performance by this group of talented youngsters. From their opening song filled with harmonious "Alleluias," to their flag waving concluding tribute to the Philippines, Songspell captured many BLD hearts and entertained all who were present with a truly delightful show.

Children and young adults, from ages 5 to 20 years old, wowed everyone with song, dance, costumes and choreography; their showmanship and enthusiasm warmed the hearts of those who were there. Soon after the first song, the audience found themselves clapping in rhythm to upbeat show-stopping numbers. After a brief intermission, the group regaled BLDNewark with a variety of Filipino songs that brought laughter to many, and more than a few tears to some eyes.

The concert was just one of the many stops on Songspell's 2012 US Concert Tour, raising money for the Davao foundation that bears its name. BLD members did their part, generously opening wallets for this good cause. Many kudos to the kids who obviously have worked so hard to transform and fuse their God-given gifts together into a great, joyous celebration, a tribute to the home country of most of us in BLD... a tribute to God Who is the Father of us all.

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

## COUNSELS

### Are You In Love?

**THEME:** By the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, in faith, we can love one another.

**WORD:** Acts 10:25-26, 34, 35, 44-48; Psalm 98:1-4; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17

**ORDER:** *"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you."* (John 15:12)

**REFLECTION:**

Today's readings focus on love. St John's gospel had highlighted the three components of love: the first is the love of the Father for the Son; the second is the love of the Son for us; and the third is our love for one another. *"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love ... This is my commandment: love one another as I love you."* (John 15:9-12)

The first component, which is the love between the Father and the Son, was explained by St. Augustine to be the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, which is indeed 'Love', was poured upon non-Jews (First Reading), which St. Peter discovers and proclaims that "the Lord has revealed to the nations His saving power" (our Responsorial Psalm).

The second component is the love of the Son for us. Jesus loved us with the greatest love of all, as He Himself told us: *"No greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."* (John 15:13) Moreover, *"while we were still sinners Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8). This type of love is "agape" or

*Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*"If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love."*

(John 15:10)

## THE PEACE HE GIVES US

In Galatians, Paul writes about the fruit of the Spirit and third on the list is “*peace*” (Gal 5:22-23). Peace is provided by the power of the Holy Spirit; however, without warning, something can happen that will change our lives forever and rob us of our peace.

- An accident/illness disables a loved one.
- A marriage falls apart.
- A loved one is killed.
- A baby is born sick, disabled or dies.
- Our home destroyed by fire, flood, earthquake and you lose belongings.
- An injury disables you and forces you to give up your career.
- Your children stray and choose not to follow Jesus.

In the midst of such difficulties, you may ask “Why did this happen to me?” “God, where are You?” “What good can come out of this?”

Pain and suffering have had a purpose in my life and helped me mature emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. I believe God worked to create grace and wisdom out of the chaos and pain. He has a purpose for every difficulty we encounter. Although this purpose is seldom obvious at the time, God does not want to destroy us through adversity; instead He shapes us for His glory and to conform us to the image of Christ.

I do not look forward to conflicts, confrontations, or suffering, but when I encounter them, I know that God is in control. Through the years, I have seen numerous examples of His faithfulness. Jesus has filled me with His supernatural love and patience. During times of serious physical illness, I have clung to our Savior for strength and peace. And in the midst of watching loved ones die, the Lord has sustained me.

None of these experiences were pleasant at the moment they were happening. However, when we follow the biblical command to love, trust, and obey God, He has a way of turning tragedy into triumph.

Jesus gave this wonderful promise, “*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid*” (John 14:27) After 60 years of walking with my Lord and Savior, I can confidently say He is faithful to His promises. Because He is, we can experience His peace no matter how difficult our circumstances may be.

## The Just Yoke, The Living Cross

*“And God who knows the heart, bore witness by granting them the Holy Spirit just as He did us. He made no distinction between us and them, for by faith He purified their hearts.”* (Acts 15:8)

I have been given an epiphany on what makes Catholicism different. We follow and love Christ accepting that we have to follow through the trials, bearing our cross. Each Sunday, I hear the priests say this in many different ways but I must not have had ears to hear, or a heart that would listen. God is so good because He really does give us the chance to say “yes” to Him, -- through trials in our lives. That’s not an original thought -- that was the priest’s homily today. I sat there and marveled how these priests are so wise, they can reach into our hearts and show us the wisdom of God, so far above the wisdom of men. Yet sitting there I realized, too, it is not merely because they are wise, but because they are blessed with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, connected to God in a very real sense, and with this they are able to witness to us and to encourage us to be witnesses, too.

But back to the trials, each trial is a choice – to love and serve the Lord and accept the pruning that we need; or to refuse to change. Then again because God is a mystery, it seems to me there is no choice. As Saint Paul said, “*If I do so willingly, then I have my recompense, but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a stewardship.*” (1 Corinthians 9:17). Having read this, I realized God was saying that I really couldn’t say no, as it was part of my covenant with the Lord. But “*God is faithful, and by Him you were called to fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord*” (1 Corinthians 1:9); and as He gave me the chance to say yes to Him, He also provided the means. I am so ashamed that I was not as faithful as He is, because if I was then I would not have worried and would have been filled with His peace, knowing that He had a plan.

*“Why then are you now putting God to the test by placing on the shoulders of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear?”* (Acts 15:10)

When I struggled, I felt that the yoke upon me was unjust. I judged the people that I needed to help to be undeserving for “*they are free of the burdens of life; they are not afflicted like others.*” (Psalm 73:5) Yet the Lord reminded me that He loved me when I was so undeserving of His love, and to follow Him I must do the same.

# My Emmaus Experience

If Christ never resurrected from the dead and made Himself known in the breaking of the bread, what would have been the fate of His disciples? If Christ did not appear in the locked room where the two disciples were recounting their Emmaus experience, would the remaining disciples have believed that Christ rose from the dead? Like Thomas who doubted, I bet there are many doubting Thomases among us. I must confess – I, too, was once a doubting Thomas.

I was born into a Catholic family. I attended Mass regularly, and was a mass server in my youth. Yet, going to mass every Sunday, was a routine. Even in those bleak moments, Christ never gave up on me. He was patient with me, just as He was with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

When I went to the Deanery 18 LSS at Blessed Sacrament, Newark, little did I know it was the beginning of my “Emmaus Experience.” My wife and I were the first couple with no Filipino ancestry to attend a BLD Newark ME. BLD teachings were so enriching, allowing the “Emmaus Experience” to become clearer. Through another LSS with our ME class, I was burning like the two disciples were, when they met Christ on their way to Emmaus. For me, that LSS morning was my Emmaus experience. Jesus was so gentle, and continued to be. I am His.

Christ’s call to be His servant was something I could not run away from. I was lost. Like a prodigal son, I realized that I needed to be home. Realizing that I have to enter the deeper waters for a greater revelation, I had no choice but to answer “yes” to His call to the Archdiocese of Newark Deaconate program. Christ welcomed me with open arms. Through four years of Theology, as a married Catholic, I am humbled to be one of the last 35 men called to the Sacrament of Holy Orders, thanks to BLD, their love and teachings directed towards an “Emmaus Experience,” and a call to a deeper relationship with Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Today, I humbly serve in His altar as a Deacon in the Archdiocese of Newark, and continue to experience Him daily as I serve His Church.

Christ continues to do whatever is necessary to regain a lost soul. No matter where we are, Jesus will meet us there. Christ assures us that He is always there with us, even in the deepest pits, seeking to regain the very soul He paid a great ransom for. Remember, He went to the grave to defeat death and hell. He is our Savior, our Lord, our King, the Almighty, the Alpha and Omega, and our all and all.

*Continue on page 4*

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

“sacrificial” love that we learned from our CDFP. This is the root of all our Christian dignity, the root of our divine calling as “children of God” and root of all our joy.

The third component is our love for one another. When Jesus commanded us to love, He did not say, “Love me as I have loved you,” but “**love one another as I love you.**” (John 15:12) This is our New Commandment, the new law of Love (Gospel) and it applies to everyone. This is the mark of Christ living among us.

The Lord knows that it is not easy to love. Love is a theological virtue that we cannot fully accomplish by our own strength. It is an infused virtue that we cannot acquire by repeated acts of our own. Love is a supernatural virtue that needs sanctifying grace to come alive in us. This is the reason why He sent us the Helper and Advocate, the Holy Spirit. *By the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, in faith, we can love one another* (our Theme). The Lord also instituted the Sacraments to be a visible sign of the presence of His sanctifying grace, for us to remember how He loved us... This is a special gift, especially for us Catholics, when we participate in the sacrifice of the Mass, and obey when He said: “do this in remembrance of me”.

In our community, you can usually tell when a person is in love, when the person feels loved and when the person loves in return. The persons in love seem to be glowing always. There is a communicable joy in their presence. Members want to be in their ministry and enjoy their company. They are always uplifting with lots of encouraging words. Conversely, however, we can usually tell when someone is not in love, because the person is always gloomy, irritable, critical, bitter, and negative. Members are uncomfortable with them. They tend to focus more on the bad points rather than on the virtues and gifts they do have.

For our exercise, let us use Saint Paul’s great index about how those who are in love behave. “**Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7) To measure how much we are in love, let us substitute our name for the

*Continue on page 4*

## TEACHING CALENDAR

- May 18 Teaching – **Mark 10, John 6, Youth**  
 May 19 Ignatian Discernment – **Covenanted Disciples**  
 May 25 Teaching – **Golden Years, Intercessory and Service Formation**

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

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Contact: Married Life Apostolate @ [mla@bldnewark.com](mailto:mla@bldnewark.com)

### SE #28

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For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

## SAVE THE DATE

### LSS #1 (BLD Las Vegas)

Jun 1-3 • St. Joseph School, Las Vegas, NV

LSS is still opening for relatives & friends of BLD members.

Contact Rene/Sally Castaneda @ [Cast823@aol.com](mailto:Cast823@aol.com)

### Prayer Counseling

Jul 21-22-Prayer Healing 1 • Jul 28-29-Prayer Healing 2

Venue to be announced

Contact: Sam/Rory Olaso @ [pastoral@bldnewark.com](mailto:pastoral@bldnewark.com)



## BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20 August 18, Saturday

### Please support other Ablaze @ 20 events and projects:

- Sept. 22 - Dinner Dance at VFW Hall in Manville, NJ
- 20th Anniversary Book to be published in December featuring BLD history, as well as the many ways the Lord has utilized our Community to bring everyone closer to Him.

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

Marshaling



Schedule

Date	Apostolate
May 11	Management
May 18	Mission
May 25	Evangelization
Jun 01	Pastoral
Jun 08	Formation

## COUNSELS (from page 3)

word love in this litany. Are we patient and kind or are we envious, boastful, arrogant, rude, irritable, and resentful? Do we bear all things or insist on our own way? Would those with whom we live and work agree with our assessment?

Let us always remember that we need the help of the Holy Spirit to be able to love one another... we cannot do it by our own strength.

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Show no partiality.
2. Speak blessings and err on the side of love.

## My Emmaus Experience (from page 3)

Never lose hope. Jesus loves you and He never gives up on any of His. But He gives us free choice. Like the prodigal son, even when we ask for our share of our inheritance and go about squandering everything, like a loving Father, Christ is always willing and ready to welcome us with open arms, put on us a new robe, a ring on our finger, and a pair of sandals on our feet. He restores us fully to His Kingdom. He never recounts our past. All erased! We start on a new slate. What a grace! I ask you my dear brother and sister, what is your "Emmaus Experience"? Tell it to the world for Christ's Kingdom to prevail. Evangelize. Return home. A big feast is waiting for you. Our Father wants all of us home. Christ's door is a revolving door. However, do not be on the outside when He shuts the door permanently – at the hour of death, which neither you nor I know the hour or day. Peace.

## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,006	58,940
Songspell	535	
Medical Mission	1,101	from Most Rev Archbishop Myers

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

Thank you for your continued support!

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

#### Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

### MISSION

#### Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

May 12 • Singles Ministry

Contact: Manny/Arlene Mangalonzo [singles@bldnewark.com](mailto:singles@bldnewark.com)

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 19

Bulletin Edition

May 18, 2012

## CANADIAN BISHOPS OFFER DEFENSE OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Pastoral Letter Speaks of 'Disturbing Trend'

OTTAWA, Ontario, MAY 15, 2012 (Zenit.org).- Canada's bishops on Monday released a major pastoral letter on the issue of religious freedom. The statement addresses the "disturbing trend" of threats to freedom of conscience and religion at an international and national level. It speaks of the threats to freedom "experienced by those who suffer from bias, prejudice, hate propaganda, discrimination and persecution because of their religious beliefs."

"The Catholic Church fosters and defends these freedoms which are grounded in Sacred Scripture and supported by rational reflection. In championing them, she finds common ground with everyone, regardless of their religious affiliation," the bishops affirm. The letter frequently recalls that the appeal to defend religious freedom is not directed only to religious believers, but to all citizens, as the violation of this freedom affects everyone.

The bishops explain the distinction between freedom of conscience and the broader freedom of religion. They clarify: "Like religion itself, religious freedom has a personal, individual dimension, but it also has a communitarian, public dimension. Since human beings think, act and communicate through their relationships with others, this freedom is expressed through concrete actions, whether individual or collective, both in religious communities and in society at large. Believers must therefore be allowed to play their part in formulating public policy and in contributing to society as a way of living their faith in daily practice. When this right is truly acknowledged, religious communities and institutions can operate freely for the betterment of society through initiatives in the social, charitable, health care, and educational sectors, which benefit all citizens, especially the poorest and most marginalized. Furthermore, religious freedom entails the right of religious communities to set the qualifications judged necessary for those running their own institutions."

## COUNSELS

### In The World But Not Belonging To The World

**THEME:** By the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, we build up the Body of Christ as we exercise His gifts.

**WORD:** Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20; 1 John 4:11-16; John 17:11b-19

**ORDER:** *"Come to know and to believe in the love God has for us."* (1 John 4:16)

**REFLECTION:**

As we celebrate the end of our Easter celebration this Sunday we should all find comfort in the words of the prayer of Jesus about our status as members of His family – the assurance that although we are in the world, we do not belong to this world because we are destined to go to another place that is reserved for those who are faithful to Him. Knowing that His hour is coming, our Savior pleaded with His Father to keep us away from the evil one – who will use this world to detract and discourage us from our destiny and inheriting the kingdom promised to us by our Lord Jesus Christ. Being an all-knowing God, he knows that his disciples do not have the necessary equipment to ward off the snares and cleverness of the evil one. So he sends the Holy Spirit for the Church to blossom across the nations and generations – and we are beneficiaries of the protection, blessing and anointing of the same Holy Spirit. It is our reliance on the Holy Spirit's power and grace that enables us to continue in our spiritual journey as stated in our theme for the week.

*Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*"Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us."*

(1 John 4:12)

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

## WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

*“Believe in the Lord Jesus and you and your household will be saved.”* (Acts 16:31)



Paul did a lot of travelling in establishing the Church of Christ. He was in Asia Minor when in a dream a vision came into him telling him to go to Macedonia. He went to Philippi and started preaching. He converted a woman named Lydia and baptized her household. It was in this place where he got the ire of some business people who asked the authorities to punish and jail Paul and his friend Silas for, they say, “advocating customs” against the Roman law.

It was while inside the jail while Paul and Silas were singing hymns and praying to the Lord that a severe earthquake occurred. The big jolt freed them from their chains and when the jailer came to inspect saw that the doors were open and the chains unlatched. Due to remorse for not taking care of his prisoners, the jailer tried to kill himself. Paul intervened and this is where the jailer asked, *“What must I do to be saved?”* (Acts 16:30b) In which Paul replied *“Believe in the Lord Jesus and you and your household will be saved.”* (Acts 16:31) The jailer followed Paul’s recommendation.

How often have we been in this condition, i.e., returning to God when all seems lost. How easy it is to forget Him and yet ask His help when confronted with insurmountable problems. How ungrateful are we, how pathetic. And yet God in His great love for us always hears us and simply wants us to believe in Him and everything will fall into place. And to Him this is enough. As a loving Father, He only wants His children to cling to Him and follow Him.

But we can do more. Didn’t Jesus say, *“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.”* (Matthew 25:35-36) He wants us also to love and care for our fellowmen. For *“whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”* (Matthew 25:40b)

For this is the foundation of our faith, believe in the Lord and unconditional love for our neighbor. →

## Oneness In The Lord

Differences among us Christians exist—either regionally, culturally, racially, or socially. These are compounded by our ambition, jealousy, greed and pursuit of fame, all manifested by individual behavior that seems to be attributed by the erosion of our Christian moral values. Whether we are rich or poor, we are all one body in the Lord as one large family of God unified by His love and bonded strongly by the Holy Spirit in our Baptism. In the epistle of St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:13 *“For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.”*

As we are one body in the Lord, we receive the same love from Christ as well. On the eve of the crucifixion, Christ said in the passage John 13:34, *“I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.”*

While Jesus was dying on the cross, He uttered, *“I am thirsty...”*... He was thirsting for us to repent, respect and love one another. Father God demonstrated to all of us His unselfish love by sacrificing His only begotten Son. In John 3:16 it says, *“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.”*

Despite the divisions, frictions or differences of ideas that exist among members of the BLD community today, we are, after all, united in faith, one body in the Lord.

As a married couple serving in the community, I can say that we are a living testament of “oneness in the Lord.” For my spouse being a member of the United Methodist religion was never a factor in our happy marital relationship. We are able to focus on what unites us rather than what divides us. We always have Jesus Christ as the center of our lives, as a family that respects and loves one another, just as said in Ephesians 4:5-6, *“one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”*

The whole 10 commandments are centered in these two central themes. Isn’t He awesome, He not only died to save us but also gave us the means to be with Him in heaven!



## JOY IN PAIN

*“Those who sow in tears will reap with cries of joy”*  
(Psalm 126:5)

In John 16:21-22, Jesus uses the analogy of a woman giving birth to explain that there will be an end to pain and that it will be followed by a joy so great that it overwhelms the former sorrow, and this joy cannot be taken away. For those who have had the pleasure of experiencing childbirth, especially those who were not fortunate enough to have medication to ease the pain, know the suffering one must endure to bring a life into the world. While this is physical, let's examine another pain that we, as a community of believers, endure on a constant basis in this life of servitude.

Acts of obedience are not easy because it wrestles with our human nature of pride, fear, and timing; we often get frustrated over God's timing. In James 1:2-8, he talks about resolve through trials and to “consider it (trials) all joy” because the process of testing, perseverance, and being perfect and complete signifies the steps to becoming spiritually mature and prepared for the coming of Christ. Whenever the community prepares for a weekend encounter, those involved come upon a plethora of struggles: lack of time and sleep; coordinating around everyone's varying schedules; and spiritual warfare, just to name a few. Yet, the stresses induced by the trials are replaced with joy when we hear the personal testimonies during graduation.

God has called all of us to a life of relentless work, continual growth, and persistent confession and repentance. He asks this of us in order to become holy and claim our birthright to be with Him. His agenda for us is to give us the tools we need in order to produce holiness in us. He is willing to compromise our worldly happiness in order for us to become like His son, Jesus Christ, whom He sent to suffer so we would know the way. When we experience trials in our lives, there are times that we feel rejected or even abandoned by God. Our enlightenment through the Holy Spirit allows us to see that God is not working for our comfort and ease, but rather to help us grow in His likeness. Change is necessary if we want to experience the joy that God truly intended for us, and He is always at work in order to complete this process in us.

*“For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.”* (2 Corinthians 4:17) We are here on earth but for a brief moment in God's time. Let us try to see how each trial is a new opportunity for us to reach this attainable ethereal joy waiting for us when we are called home to be with Him.

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

Jesus also knows our enemy will stop at nothing to detract us from the light, and individually we cannot withstand these attacks, so his prayer centers on unity for His followers – that they may be one just as He and the Father are one.

The United States is the most accommodating nation in the world, people here espouse the principle of tolerance, we do not discriminate against any person, creed or belief. It is this toleration that the evil one has used to exploit and destroy the Christian values that this country was founded upon. For the sake of a few, our liberal judges, the media and politicians have sacrificed the rights and the principles of the many. We do not have to look hard to see what has happened. It just took one atheist to take the Name of God out of our schools but it did not end there. Anyone wishing to express their Christian faith in any form was banned – like Christmas plays or displays of the Nativity scene. Christian students are not even allowed to gather in prayer because it might offend those of other faith or those with no faith. Easter, our holiest holiday commemorating the Resurrection became commercially overshadowed by the Easter bunny and the Easter egg hunt. Whoever takes a stand on Christian values are being accused of being intolerant, extremist, right wing or out of touch conservative. Sadly even in our churches we do not hear enough from the pulpit about the attack on our Christian principles – pastors and clergy cannot speak about the evils of contraception, abortion, homosexuality and same sex marriage not only for legal reasons but also because he might offend those members in favor of this life style. The latest and most dangerous initiative against Christianity in the HHS mandate that forces Catholic schools and hospitals to implement procedures that violates our conscience. This has awakened and galvanized our bishops to take a firm stand. Perhaps this is the answer to the prayer of Jesus, that we may be one, just as the Father and He are One. We cannot leave our bishops to fight this by themselves, as members of the lay faithful we can no longer stand on the sidelines as we have in the past and allow this evil to breakdown the foundations of our faith. Our BLD community and our parishes must heed to this clarion call for unity so we do not reap the Lord's Word in Deuteronomy 28:14-15 *“If you do not hear the voice of the Lord your God, to keep and do all his commandments, all these curses shall come upon you.”*

### DIRECTIONS

1. Strive to work together in the spirit of love and unity
2. Let us pray for all those who have been accorded the authority to lead and to serve.

## TEACHING CALENDAR

- May 18 Teaching – **Mark 10, John 6, Youth**  
 May 19 Ignatian Discernment – **Covenanted Disciples**  
 May 25 Teaching – **Golden Years, Intercessory and Service Formation**
- Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### SE #28

Jun 1-3 • Graymoor Spiritual Center, Garrison, NY  
 Contact: Singles Ministry @ [singles@bldnewark.com](mailto:singles@bldnewark.com)

### SPE #14

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 2989 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
 Contact: Frank Lim @ [spstewards@bldnewark.com](mailto:spstewards@bldnewark.com)  
 Applications available at fellowship after worship.

### YE #19

Jul 13-15 • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA  
 Contact: Youth Ministry @ [YCS@bldnewark.com](mailto:YCS@bldnewark.com)

### FE #19

Jul 20-22 • Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA  
 Contact: Family Life Apostolate @ [fla@bldnewark.com](mailto:fla@bldnewark.com)

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

## SAVE THE DATE

### LSS #1 (BLD Las Vegas)

Jun 1-3 • St. Joseph School, Las Vegas, NV  
 LSS is still opening for relatives & friends of BLD members.  
 Contact Rene/Sally Castaneda @ [Cast823@aol.com](mailto:Cast823@aol.com)

### Prayer Counseling

Jul 21-22-Prayer Healing 1 • Jul 28-29-Prayer Healing 2  
 Venue to be announced  
 Contact: Sam/Rory Olaso @ [pastoral@bldnewark.com](mailto:pastoral@bldnewark.com)



**BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20**  
**August 18, Saturday**

### Please support other Ablaze @ 20 events and projects:

- Sept. 22 - Dinner Dance at VFW Hall in Manville, NJ
- 20th Anniversary Book to be published in December featuring BLD history, as well as the many ways the Lord has utilized our Community to bring everyone closer to Him.

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)

## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>3,575</b>	<b>62,515</b>

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)  
 Thank you for your continued support!

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION

### Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ  
 Every 4th Sat. of the month.

May 26 • Teaching Ministry

Contact: King/Arlene Rigor @ [teaching@bldnewark.com](mailto:teaching@bldnewark.com)

### SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place  
**every 4th Friday** at St. Mary's Auditorium

**May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!**

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ST. MARY'S SECURITY ALERT

**PLEASE BE CAREFUL.** Each of us has a responsibility to help keep things safe and secure. Anyone entrusted with the Parish Center keys, is responsible to ensure it is **locked** afterwards. There are times a door is left open because it didn't get a gentle pull or push to be sure that it is locked. **Please remember to take the extra step. We all need to be very vigilant** in order to ensure the **SAFETY** and **SECURITY** of everyone.

## Be a living Word!

Marshaling	Schedule	
	Date	Apostolate
	May 25	Evangelization
	Jun 01	Pastoral
	Jun 08	Formation
	Jun 15	Management
Jun 22	Mission	

*"We see a glimpse of the Kingdom in our community when we love God and trust completely in His divine providence, when we conduct ourselves with selfless love for others, and when we serve Him with all our heart through the various ministries in BLD."*



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 20

Bulletin Edition

May 25, 2012

## BLD Newark Welcomes ME-39

On May 18-20, 2012 at Carteret, NJ, BLD-Newark hosted ME 39. The ME weekend was a big success in all ways. Congratulations to all who participated – from the twelve couples \*Allan & Jen Almazar, Art & Carol Cruz, \*Denny & Baby Dizon, \*Angel & Nilda Doria, Dru & Romainne Luis, Ernie & Zennie Mendoza, \*Romy & Ella Merluza, Joe & Fe Rangel, Sat & Jackie Rombo, Michael & Jean Serrano, Darwin & Ellen Sorio and Ed & Tes Ugaddan, to the Pastoral Team made up of Msgr. Paul Schetelick, Spiritual Director and the sharers – Alan & Tess Cam and Carlito & Arlene Claricia, to ME #38, the sponsoring class, the MLA and Praise members and to all the auxies. \*Coordinators

With our brokenness and selfishness, we are seldom happy if we can consider it that. We find it difficult to forgive those who offend us, although we expect to be forgiven for our own offenses or shortcomings. As a result, we have no JOY; we have no Peace!

The ME weekend showed us the key to unlock and let loose of this difficulty – Jesus in us! Yes, Jesus in us loves and forgives everybody! And only God's Grace brings us Peace and Joy. The first lively virtue, Humility makes us more, not less.

One sharing worth noting was from a couple among the candidates: they rushed to be married in the church within days before the ME weekend. When they broke the news to their son who was 14 years old, the son's reply was, "You mean you are not married yet?" The priest who officiated the wedding advised the couple that the reason they marry is not BLD but the need to receive the sacrament.

Msgr. Schetelick gave a *90-day guarantee* to the candidates – to keep their dialogue open to assure their improved spiritual married life, using the five elements to dialogue towards marriage spirituality, adopting what he called WEDS (write, exchange, dialogue, select) method, they will be assured of a better marriage.

## COUNSELS

### Testify to Love

**THEME:** By the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, we proclaim the Gospel of Christ

**WORD:** Acts 2:1-11; Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12, 13; John 20:19-23

**ORDER:** *"Peace be with you, as the Father has sent me so I send you."* (John 20:21)

**REFLECTION:**

This Sunday, we will be celebrating Pentecost. The origin of its name is taken from an event that comes fifty days after Easter. This Sunday's readings references three events that took place where the apostles were all together praying – the arrival of the Holy Spirit, being baptized in the Spirit and of being sent to proclaim the Word of God.

The arrival of the Holy Spirit was affirmed in Acts 2:2-4: *"And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim."* Being baptized in the Spirit was affirmed in 1 Corinthians 12:13: *"For in one spirit we were all baptized into one body"*, and finally, being sent to proclaim the Word of God was likewise, affirmed in the Gospel story, as Jesus appeared to the apostles and declared, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you". Thereafter, He breathed on them and said, *"Receive the Holy Spirit."* (John 20:21-22).

Strengthened by the grace of the Holy Spirit, these first disciples did exactly what Jesus told them to do – to know God more deeply and to share that knowledge and love with others. *Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*"When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth."* (Psalm 104:30)

## Ministry Matters

### YOUR TREASURY MINISTRY

A community like BLD is immersed in activities proper to its calling: Evangelization to bring the Good News to the world, Mission work to serve those in need, and the Formation and Pastoral care of its members. To accomplish these goals and objectives, it needs a Management structure in order to efficiently and effectively use the resources given to it by the Lord.

Included in this last segment of the BLD organization is the Treasury ministry, which reports directly to the Management Steward. Currently here in Newark, a couple coordinates the work of 3 active couple members to attend to the financial needs of the district. Other members help out as their circumstances allow, including volunteers whose primary service is elsewhere.

The busiest time for the ministry is after worship every Friday. It counts, classifies and prepares the weekly collections for immediate deposit. It also receives all requests for disbursements and ensures that standards of approval and documentation are followed. At their homes during the week, the members prepare the checks to be released the next Friday. We use the Quickbooks accounting software for non-profit organizations for bookkeeping and reporting to the community. An independent auditor examines the prepared statements and renders his opinion of our compliance with accounting standards in his audit report.

As with the rest of the community, Treasury anchors its service in the love of the Lord. We seek to grow and abide in the Lord through faithfulness in our Friday worship, during which we reflect and share on the Word. Although the work keeps the ministry from joining fellowship and other post-worship activities, we are happy and content in serving our brethren, in anonymity and as best we can.



## Father They Are Your Gift To Me

*“Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world.”* (John 17:24)

Like the early disciples, we too are gifts by our Heavenly Father to our Lord Jesus when we listen only to His voice.

Let us forever treasure His prayer that we too will be with Him some day in His holy dwelling place. Let this prayer penetrate deep into our hearts and truly feel our Lord’s unending love for us.

When we become disciples through the anointing of the Holy Spirit, we are also entrusted to care for the spiritual and maybe even physical well being of others, including but not limited to our ministry members, lambs and everyone we meet when we go on a mission assignment. They include those whom we may consider as challenges to our ability to minister to them. We may have the fear of failure because we feel unqualified.

We have to realize that our Lord does not necessarily call the qualified but rather He qualifies those whom He calls. This is done through the most precious fruit of the Holy Spirit which is “love”. We are all capable of loving as in the words of Mother Teresa ... “Love is a fruit in season at all times, and within reach of every hand.”

Our great commission is to love God and neighbor. Our Lord describes our neighbor in the parable of the “Good Samaritan”. Our neighbor includes those who look unlovable. They are those who need love the most; those who are weak spiritually and/or physically, the needy, the sick, the homeless, the marginalized, the less fortunate.

They are the ones whom our Lord refers to in Matthew 25:40 *“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”*

The joy of serving God can only be realized by caring for others the way our Lord cares for us. As the Lord made a difference in our lives, we too can make a difference in the lives of others.

We need to be humble enough to accept others as God’s gift to us. Only then can we love and pray for them the way our Lord loves and prays for us.

## COURAGE... BE BOLD

*“Take courage. For just as you have borne witness to my cause in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness in Rome.” (Acts 23:11)*

This is the promise and order that God gave to Paul while he was in prison. First and foremost, to be bold and courageous in proclaiming the kingdom of God. And secondly, to go to the “center of the world power in Rome” and there to spread the cause of Jesus.

Just like St. Paul, we as BLD members are to do “the holy work of evangelizing and shepherding other persons, couples and families towards a personal relationship with God”. During our LSS baptism we have been given the Holy Spirit that emboldens us to talk and invite other people to join us. We also supplement this by being living witnesses to the cause. For “we are a community of disciples... living witnesses...to bring about a world of justice, human development and true peace.” (BLD Vision and Mission)

Imagine St. Paul spreading Jesus’ cause while in prison. He knew no bounds. No physical or spiritual chains can stop him. There he was inside and where better to start spreading the word but with people around you. And he was not confined to the prison walls but his letters traversed its boundaries and went to the outer regions of Rome. Paul may have been bounded but his message cannot be tied down. One can just picture St Paul surreptitiously sending the letters through people who visited him. Those letters are a source of inspiration for people at that time but also to each one of us.

All of St Paul’s actions are not possible without God’s help. For He stands by him just as He stands by us. When we make a commitment to Jesus, He makes a commitment to us! Hebrews 13:5-6 “...for he has said, “I will never forsake you or abandon you.” Thus we may say with confidence: “The Lord is my helper, [and] I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?” It is then with conviction that we go to our neighbor and invite him to join us in Jesus’ name. Let us be bold for He is with us.

Psalm 56:3b-4 *“O Most High, when I am afraid, in you I place my trust.”*

*Ignorance of the Bible is  
Ignorance of Christ.  
Read your Bible daily!*

## COUNSEL (continued from page 1)

Just as He did at Pentecost, Jesus is also breathing to us God’s energy into our hearts every day. In spite of our sinfulness, the Holy Spirit’s might keeps us on-course, strengthens and reveals Jesus to us, and moves us to serve, transforming us from ‘everyday people’ into ‘extraordinary people’ as our Lord dwells in our hearts. This is what Pentecost is all about! The spiritual enthusiasm that was present during the first Pentecost to come together as a church, as one body, seeking out holiness, still is at work today. The same Holy Spirit opens our minds so that we may well know Jesus, who in turn, reveals to us the Father’s love. It is that same Holy Spirit that enflames our hearts, so we have the yearning to share God’s love with others. What an amazing gift from the Holy Spirit!

The task is ours to spread the Good News, like Peter, Paul, James, John, Andrew and the first disciples. Just like them, each of us is called by God. Baptized in the Spirit, we all are entrusted to tell future generations of Christ’s victory in our own lives, not only believing in Jesus as our Lord and personal Savior, but also being willing vessels of His presence through our words and actions. We are the very presence of Christ himself through the words we speak, through the kindness and love we show, and through the service and care we offer to one another.

We could as well have been any of the apostles whom Jesus commissioned to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria and to all the ends of the earth. The presence of the Holy Spirit moves us to go out and preach, and when doubt or fear tends to freeze our faith into silent submission and despair, the Holy Spirit warms us up and empowers us to go out there and make a difference.

The Holy Spirit reminds us, that we have a mission to tell everybody of the good news that God is our loving Father. In spite of all the visible differences in language, culture and social status, we all are one big family and should therefore live as brothers and sisters. Our mission is to break the barriers between "us" and "them," between male and female, between rich and poor, between black and white, between First World and Third World, and to bring all people to speak the one universal language of ‘brotherly-sisterly love’, which is possible only through the working of the Holy Spirit. Brothers and sisters, let us all ask our Father God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and clothe us with holiness of His Son Jesus Christ as we witness to all the ends of the earth.

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Give testimony to the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit by serving in our community’s mission fields.
2. Keep the fire of spirit ablaze in our hearts each day and make use of our gifts for evangelization and building up the Body of Christ.

## TEACHING CALENDAR

- May 25 Teaching – **Golden Years, Intercessory and Service Formation**
- Jun 02\* Christian Parenting II - **ME 38, SPE 11-13**  
 Gifts and Fruits of Holy Spirit - **LSS 1-37**  
 Understanding Corporate Worship/Prayer Leadership - **LSS 1-35**
- Jun 16\* Shepherds Training II - **LSS 1-35**  
 Christian Parenting I (Part 1) - **LSS 1-38**
- Jun 22 Teaching - **Mark 10, John 6, Youth**
- Jun 29 Teaching - **Golden Years & Intercessory Formation**

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

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For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
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May 29 • 7:30pm • St. Mary's Library

### LSS #1 (BLD Las Vegas)

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 Every 4th Sat. of the month.

**May 26 • Teaching Ministry**

Contact: King/Arlene Rigor @ [teaching@bldnewark.com](mailto:teaching@bldnewark.com)

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*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Jun 01	Pastoral
	Jun 08	Formation		
	Jun 15	Management		
	Jun 22	Mission		
	Jun 29	Evangelization		

## Be a living Word!

### BLD VISION

- We are a community of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about a world of justice, human development and true peace.

### BLD MISSION

In response to the challenges of our particular place, time and culture:

#### For our families:

- We will evangelize families and build communities of faith through encounters, Life in the Spirit Seminars and discipleship formation.
- We will give formation on personal and family prayer, pro-life values, Catholic social teachings and stewardship.

#### For our communities:

- We will actively participate in the life and mission of the Church in accord with our God-given gifts.

#### For our country:

- We will work on poverty alleviation through scholarships, housing for the poor and advocacies for life, environment and good governance.



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 21

Bulletin Edition

June 1, 2012

## Newark's new servants anointed

May 25, 2012 – Friday night on this date proved to be a big BLD corporate event. It saw the anointing of the newly emerged District Servant Leaders (DSL) and District Council of Stewards (DCS) who will hold office for the next 3 years starting July 1st. Fr. Lehman led the blessing and anointing ceremony supported by the rest of the DCS.

The new DSL couple is **Noel/Letty Trillana**, while the five DCS couples and their respective apostolates are:

<b>Ceazar/Vicky Rasalan</b>	<b>Evangelization</b>
<b>Bong/Merle Encarnacion</b>	<b>Formation</b>
<b>Manny/Arlene Mangalonzo</b>	<b>Management</b>
<b>Alan/Tess Cam</b>	<b>Mission</b>
<b>Sam/Rory Olaso</b>	<b>Pastoral</b>

Also announced was the appointment of the Shepherd for the District Clusters (SDC) for the West Coast, **Chito/Aileen Ciocon** who were unavailable Friday, due to family reasons.

Prior to this, Fr. Lehman, on behalf of the outgoing DSL, Richard/Lee dela Fuente (who were out of town), addressed the outgoing DCS, thanking and blessing them for having faithfully served the last 3 years. They are: Manny/Judy San Luis – Evangelization; Ollie/Annie Felibrico – Formation; Noel/Letty Trillana – Management; Mon/Bingle Chan – Mission; and Roger/Irma Santiago – Pastoral.

Before the anointing rites, members of the Singles, Solo Parents, Youth, Mark 10 and John 6, who had their respective prayer meetings were called to witness the event. The community was jubilant in welcoming the new set of servant leaders and stewards who have been called by God to administer the governance, care, vision and mission of the District Community. All members are exhorted to pray for them - that they may exercise their functions with discipline, wisdom and perseverance. Praised be God forever!

**Other Anointing:** Also blessed and anointed prior to the DSL/DCS rites were the new Class Shepherds for upcoming encounters: for SE #28, Dhemi and Dhevine Alba; and for YE #19, Cy and Mavil Loreto.

## COUNSELS

### Divine Unity

**THEME:** The unity of the Blessed Trinity empowers us as one community.

**WORD:** Dt 4:32-34, 39, 40; Ps 33:4, 6, 9, 18-20, 22; Rom 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20

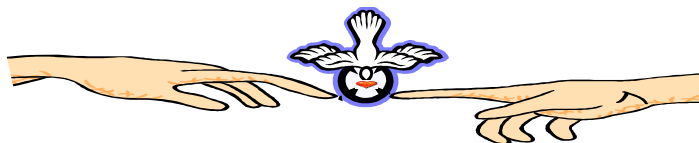
**ORDER:** *“Go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit ....”* (Mt 28:19)

**REFLECTION:**

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we believe in One God in Three Divine Persons, the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. The Council of Florence (1442) confirms that the Blessed Trinity is Divine Unity. Everything in them is One, there is no opposition of relationship. Because of that Unity, the Father is wholly in the Son and wholly in the Holy Spirit; the Son wholly in the Father and wholly in the Holy Spirit; and the Holy Spirit is wholly in the Father and wholly in the Son. (CCC 253, 255)

All of us, who are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, have been given the grace to live in that Divine Unity thereby empowering us to be one community. As one community, we can bring the Divine Unity of the Blessed Trinity to others by following our community's Order of the Month: *“Go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit ...”* (Mt 28:19)

The Theme for the First Week is: **We are empowered as one community when,** ...Continued page 3

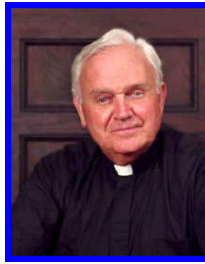


### Promise of the Week

*“I am with you always, until the end of the age.”*  
(Matthew 28:20b)

## *Fr. Paul Speaks*

### **Religious Freedom**



I would like to draw your attention to a document published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), in its March 2012 meeting - **“A Statement on Religious Liberty.”** We perhaps have heard the dilemma of institutions being forced to fund contraceptive and abortive services in violation of religious freedom and individual conscience. You can access the complete document on the USCCB webpage. Beside this HHS mandate for these services, there are other attacks on religious freedom that touch other religious denominations as well. The first example that has received wide attention is this HHS mandate. It is a matter of whether religious institutions may be forced to provide coverage for contraception and sterilization, even if it violates their religious beliefs. This is primarily a legal not a moral issue, not a vote as to statistics of those who may or may not use contraceptives. The morality element has to do with being forced to violate conscience.

A second area of freedom violation is state immigration laws. Several states have recently passed laws that forbid what the government deems “harboring” undocumented immigrants - what the Church deems Christian charity and pastoral care.

“Altering Church structure and governance” - In 2009, the judiciary committees of the Connecticut legislature proposed a bill that would have forced parishes to restructure according to a congregational model redefining “religious minister” and “religious employer.”

“Christian students on campus” - In its over 100 year history, the University of California Hastings College of Law has denied organization status to only one group the Christian Legal Society - because it required its leaders to be Christian and to abstain from sexual activity outside of marriage.

“Discrimination against Catholic humanitarian services” - Notwithstanding years of excellent performance by the USCCB Bishop’s Migration and Refugee Services, the federal government requires us to provide for or refer contraceptive and abortion services.

The bishops are suggesting a great “hymn” of prayer for our country during the fourteen days from June 21<sup>st</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>. Dioceses and parishes around the country could choose a date in that period for special events that would be part of this great national campaign. We are all invited to join our fellow Catholics, to participate in this urgent prayer time (however, at this printing I am not aware of any plans to implement this suggestion in any of the dioceses of New Jersey). Not only is this a religious matter, it’s about religious freedom - which for this country, has always been intrinsic to its very being.

## *Imperishable Seed*

Everything seems to be working out well since my husband and I joined the community. I look forward to the Friday worships and have started to feel comfortable with sharing my reflections on the weekly readings (which used to be a source of anxiety to me). I’ve started to read the scriptures. Friendships made in the ME class have evolved to the point that we now treat each other like family. And, as the years passed, although most of my classmates faded away, I, together with my husband, have continued our spiritual walk. We made the commitment and are now covenanted members.

But lately it has been uphill. Work is getting busier and more demanding; in addition, I’ve decided to pursue my master’s degree. Lately, worlds seem to collide and I’ve felt myself fading away. After six years in the community, I asked myself, “why am I still here?”

Jesus addressed this question to His disciples. ***“Do you also want to leave?”*** (Jn 6:67) Several of them left and Jesus let them go and did not stop them. Will I be one of those who will leave? The world pulls us, seduces us and promises us all manner of reward. I have my own blindness, in the many things I do not see or do not wish to see. I have my own leprosy, in some of the less pleasant and pleasing aspects of my behavior. I have my own demons of pride, jealousy and aggression. The question that Jesus asked His disciples has become a personal question from God to me. ***“Will you also go away?”***

***“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life!”*** (John 6:68)

The Lord has given me a new life through this community. He has shown me the path. And though I know the journey will become harder and arduous, that there will be more trials and disappointments along the way, I have to continue my walk no matter the cost for my sake, for my husband, for my children and for the greater glory of our Lord, Jesus.

As it was with Peter - who answered, ***“Lord to whom shall we go?”*** - He also reminds me that ***“my birth was not from any mortal seed but from the everlasting Word of the living and eternal God.”***

Let the Eternal Word, in all its richness, find a home in me.

***“When we are whom  
we are called to be,  
then we will set the  
world ablaze”***  
***St. Catherine of Siena***





# Passport to Heaven



When we travel to a different country, we carry a passport that shows our citizenship. St Paul identified our citizenship, which is that of Heaven (Ph 3:20). St. Peter however, explained where we are and gave us a warning in 1 Pt 2:11 “...*you are foreigners and temporary residents [in the*

*world], I'm encouraging you to keep away from the desires of your corrupt nature.*” We are therefore ‘citizens of heaven’ who are temporary residents, or with just tourist visas, here on earth.

How can we go home to Heaven someday? This was the question of the rich man in the Gospel: “*Good Master, what shall I do to inherit the kingdom of heaven?*” (Mk 10:17) Jesus responded: “*Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone!*” Jesus does not want us to focus on ourselves but rather to focus on God, because what is of utmost importance is to do God’s Will. Then Jesus affirms: “*You know the commandments: You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.*” It is important to observe that Jesus is again directing the rich man’s attention to those Commandments affecting our neighbors and that he did not include those affecting our relationship with God. We can therefore say that love of neighbor is very important in maintaining our citizenship in Heaven.

When the rich man said that he had observed all of these commandments Jesus asked him to sell everything, share with the poor and follow Him. But the rich man went away sad because he had a lot of riches. After he left, Jesus commented: “*How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God... It is easier for a camel to pass through [the] eye of [a] needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.*” (Mk 10:23) The disciples were astounded and asked themselves: “*Then who can be saved?*”

Like the disciples and the rich man, many of us may have been observing the commandments without fail, or may have already abandoned many goods. We may think that our deeds are enough to reach Heaven. However, we must make sure that during our temporary stay here on earth, we “must not be out of status,” and our passports must be validated daily by ‘our love of God and love of neighbor.’ We must finally have the ‘affidavit of support’ from Jesus our Lord and Savior, Who says, “*Impossible for man but not for God. For God, everything is possible.*”

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

as God’s children, we bear witness. As we are one in our faith in the Blessed Trinity, we can therefore witness to others that we follow God’s Commandments in word and in deed. We love God with all our heart, with all of our mind, and with all our strength and we love others as ourselves. We also witness that as we seek His Kingdom, we will not be afraid or be anxious about our present circumstance or the future, for God is with us; for the Promise for the Week says: “*I am with you always, until the end of the age,*” (Mt 28:20b).

The Theme for the Second Week is: **We are empowered as one community when we are regularly nourished by the Holy Eucharist.** Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist to enable us to be mindful always of His supreme sacrifice on the Cross for the love of us. As we regularly go to mass and receive His Body and Blood, we renew our commitment to be His disciples. As we thank Him constantly for His Love and sacrifice, Jesus will nourish and strengthen our body, soul, and spirit. He will strengthen our resolve to follow His commandments. And we are assured of the Promise of the Week: “... *those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.*” (Heb 9:15)

The theme for the third Week is: “**We are empowered as one community when we draw people to the Kingdom of God.**” As we follow the gentleness and humility of Jesus in our lives and in how we relate to others; as we walk by faith and not by sight even when beset by problems, we will draw people to the Kingdom of God. The Promise of the Week admonishes us to persevere in our walk with God: “*They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.*” (Ps 92:14)



The Theme for the Fourth Week is: **We are empowered as one community when we prepare for the Lord’s second coming.** Just as St. John the Baptist prepared the first coming of our Lord Jesus by giving His people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins, so must we prepare ourselves daily for the gift of Eternal Life and for the second coming of Jesus. As we seek more, heavenly things rather than idolize the passing allures, honors, and adulation of this world, we will have the Promise of the Week: “... *my reward is with the Lord and my recompense is with my God.*” (Is 49:4)

Directions:

1. Do not doubt.
2. Keep the statutes and commandments of the Lord and teach our children to follow suit.

# LORD'S PROVISION

## PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>3,555</b>	<b>69,846</b>

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

Thank you for your continued support!

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Jun 02*	Christian Parenting II - <b>ME 38, SPE 11-13</b> Gifts and Fruits of Holy Spirit - <b>LSS 1-37</b> Understanding Corporate Worship / Prayer Leadership - <b>LSS 1-35</b>
Jun 16*	Shepherds Training II - <b>LSS 1-35</b> Christian Parenting I (Part 1) - <b>LSS 1-38</b>
Jun 22	Teaching - <b>Mark 10, John 6, Youth</b>
Jun 29	Teaching - <b>Golden Years &amp; Intercessory Formation</b>

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### SPE #14

**Jun 22-24** • Ramada Limited Hotel  
2989 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
Contact: Frank Lim @ [spstewards@bldnewark.com](mailto:spstewards@bldnewark.com)  
Applications available at fellowship after worship.

### YE #19

**Jul 13-15** • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA  
Contact: Youth Ministry @ [YCS@bldnewark.com](mailto:YCS@bldnewark.com)

### FE #19

**Jul 20-22** • Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA  
Contact: Family Life Apostolate @ [fla@bldnewark.com](mailto:fla@bldnewark.com)

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ISAIAH 58

**In Need of Wellness Program Volunteers**  
Doctors (General Practice) and Nurses for Blood Pressure and Sugar Screening. Contact: Isaiah 58 @ [isaiah58@bldnewark.com](mailto:isaiah58@bldnewark.com)

## SAVE THE DATE

### Fr. Gino Patugalan's Mass

You are cordially invited to attend masses being celebrated by Fr. Gino. Fr. Gino is a BLD Newark alumnus of YLSS 6, YE 7 & FE 8

**Jun 24, 12:30pm** • Douglaston Seminary Chapel  
7200 Douglaston Pkwy, Douglaston, NY (**His first mass**)  
**Jul 6, 8:30pm** • St. Mary's Church, Rahway, NJ

### Prayer Counseling

**Jul 21-22-Prayer Healing 1 • Jul 28-29-Prayer Healing 2**  
Venue to be announced

Contact: Sam/Rory Olaso @ [pastoral@bldnewark.com](mailto:pastoral@bldnewark.com)

Parables: 1-a, 2-a, 3-c, 4-c, 5-d, 6-c, 7-c, 8-c, 9-c, 10-b  
Trivias: 1-c, 2-a, 3-d, 4-b, 5-a, 6-c, 7-b, 8-d, 9-c, 10-c

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Jun 08	Formation
			Jun 15	Management
			Jun 22	Mission
			Jun 29	Evangelization
Jul 01	Pastoral			

## BIBLE TRIVIA

Which of these parables did Jesus teach?

1. **a**-lost sheep **b**-hurt sparrow **c**-wild lion **d**-mighty bear
2. **a**-prodigal son **b**-intelligent scholar **c**-worrisome father **d**-invincible warrior
3. **a**-thirty scholars **b**-twenty soldiers **c**-ten virgins **d**-forty housewives
4. **a**-gold of the rich **b**-food of the farmer **c**-light of the world **d**-clouds of the sky
5. **a**-lily pad **b**-currant bush **c**-cypress tree **d**-mustard seed
6. **a**-sky and the earth **b**-tree and the grass **c**-sheep and the goats **d**-snake and the bird
7. **a**-lost shoe **b**-lost box **c**-lost coin **d**-lost urn
8. **a**-ice on the water **b**-rotten berry **c**-ten talents **d**-dirty table
9. **a** -wise Ninevite **b**-foolish gladiator **c**-good Samaritan **d**-thoughtful wine-bibber
10. **a**-soiled jewel **b**-pearl of great price **c**-spotless diamond **d**-smooth stone

1. What does Jesus' other name, "Emmanuel", mean?  
**a**-He is God **b**-Anointed One **c**-God with us **d**-Son of God
2. When Joseph first discovered that Mary was pregnant?  
**a**-No longer wished to marry her **b**-Rejoiced **c**-Beat her **d**-Tore his robe
3. Why did Joseph and Mary go to the city of David?  
**a**-To seek the prophet Simeon **b**-To celebrate their wedding **c**-To visit Joseph's parents **d**-To pay taxes
4. With what did Mary wrap newborn Jesus?  
**a**-Blanket **b**-Swaddling **c**-Joseph's cape **d**-Scarf
5. After Jesus was born, where did Mary lay Him?  
**a**-In a feeding troth **b**-She held him **c**-On the ground **d**-In a pile of hay
6. What did the angel tell the shepherds?  
**a**-The location of the newborn Savior **b**-To not be afraid **c**-All of this **d**-How to recognize the newborn Savior
7. Who visited Joseph, Mary, & Jesus on the night He was born?  
**a**-Wise men **b**-Shepherds **c**-Shepherds & wise men **d**-Shepherds, wise men, & those dwelling in Bethlehem
8. How many wise men brought gifts to Jesus?  
**a**-None **b**-Three **c**-Two **d**-The Bible never says
9. What was Jesus' approximate age when the wise men presented Him with gifts?  
**a**-6 years old **b**-Infancy **c**-2 years old **d**-12 years old
10. To where did Jesus' family flee from Bethlehem?  
**a**-Greece **b**-Nazareth **c**-Egypt **d**-Samaria

A soft copy of this CN can be found at [www.bldnewark.net](http://www.bldnewark.net), click on Covenant News.



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 22

Bulletin Edition

June 8, 2012

## BLD Newark welcomes SE 28 graduates

All the glory and honor to God, the Almighty. Our Lord was victorious this past weekend when twenty-nine candidates said yes to our Lord's call of love and attended Singles Encounter 28. We welcome our new brothers and sisters in S.E. 28. Alissa Abad, Mark Alegria, Anne Marie Almaria, \*Jeremy Buhain, Brian Calingo, Ryan Camposagrado, Cherry Ann Castillo, Golda Catalon, Jaime Ciocon, Jeremy Cuevas, Felwin Custodio, \*Harvey Demegillo, Dave Dinglasan, \*Cathy Duma, Gerald Estrella, Jude Facura, Jeddi Gorospe, \*Luis Guillen, \*Everly Marquez, Charlie Masisado, \*Willy Montemayor, Samantha Olaso, Adrian Osias, Fredy Palaguachi, \*Christine Pena, Carl Punla, JV Reyes, Anthony Rinon and \*Nico Sta. Ana. Dhemie and Divine Alba are the Class shepherds.

Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the talks and powerful sharing and witnessing of the Spiritual Director, Deacon Serge Bernachez; Facilitators, Alyssa Sta Ana, Carl Maandal, Ron Bernal and Pauline Montemayor, the hearts of the candidates were profoundly touched by God.

The Singles Ministry Coordinators together with the fifth facilitator Ditto Fernando and his shadows Melissa Martinez, and Jen Ompod tirelessly served with the sponsoring class SE 27 and Class shepherds; Praise Ministry; Intercessors, auxies and the Witness Development ministry coaches were all part of this God given occasion to serve and magnify the Lord through their humble servanthood.

The Eucharistic celebration highlighted the joyful graduation ceremony with the presence of over 100 parents, relatives and friends.

The BLD Newark Singles Ministry warmly welcomes our new brothers and sisters with loving arms. One thing must be stressed, though: God's love did not end this past Sunday for SE 28. God's love was and is always there. SE 28 was just made aware of how much His love surrounds us. We wish them all the best and pray that God showers them with His grace.

\*Class Coordinators

## COUNSELS

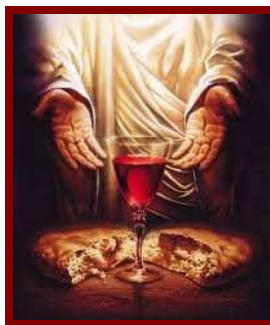
### Blood of the Covenant

**THEME:** We are empowered as one community when we are regularly nourished by the Holy Eucharist.

**WORD:** Exodus 24:3-8; Psalm 116:12, 13, 15-18; Hebrews 9:11-15; Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

**ORDER:** *"Take it, this is my body. Drink it, this is my blood of the covenant."* (Mark 14:22-24 paraphrased)

**REFLECTION:**



The book of Revelations authored by St. John has baffled generations of Bible readers with its beast and angels, and many symbolisms. Scholars tried to figure out what this book meant and thought they could unlock its mysteries. However, from the beginning, our earliest Church Fathers had agreed that one of the most important revelations of Jesus to St. John in the island of Patmos was the Eucharistic Liturgy. Similar to the revelation that St. John sent to the Seven Churches of Asia Minor, which includes the hidden Manna.

The Book of Revelation conveys the Mass and the hidden manna, the real presence of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, the sacrificial Lamb of God. There are many other parallelisms with the Holy Mass, including the fact that the "Lamb of God" was mentioned only twice in the Gospel of John but is mentioned 28 times in Revelations.

For more than two thousand *Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*"... those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance."* (Hebrew 9:15)

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

# Ministry Matters

## What Is "Isaiah 58"?



"Isaiah 58" is a confidential program of assistance of the Bukas Loob sa Diyos Covenant Community of Newark District. Its thrust is to find ways and means to help members of the community in their time of extreme need.

This program of assistance stands on the foundation of the Community's obedience to God's Word found in Isaiah 58:6-7 which states: ***"This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; 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."***

### WHAT KIND OF ASSISTANCE DOES ISAIAH 58 PROVIDE?

#### A. BEREAVEMENT

**B. HARDSHIP** - consists of outright monetary assistance for purposes of hospitalization, funeral expenses, prolonged joblessness, damage to property due to calamities, and other circumstances that lead to extreme financial needs. As a stopgap solution to an emergency situation, up to a maximum of \$1000 is given per meritorious case.

### WHO CAN REQUEST HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE?

Members of the BLD Newark community (graduates of any community-sponsored encounter or Life in the Spirit Seminar). Preference will be given to first-time applicants and those who regularly attend BLD Newark worship services and serve in Ministry.

### HOW IS A HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE REQUEST PROCESSED?

1. The member, through their Class shepherd or Ministry/Apostolate coordinator, submits a written request addressed to the Isaiah 58 ministry stating his/her specific circumstances or situation and the amount being requested.
2. The Ministry/Apostolate Coordinator endorses the request to the Isaiah 58 ministry for evaluation. If approved by the Isaiah 58 Ministry with the concurrence by the DCS, the Treasurer releases the funds to the beneficiary.

## There Is More to Faith

***"Make every effort to supplement your faith with virtues, virtue with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with devotion, devotion with mutual affection, mutual affection with love."*** (2 Peter 1:5-6)

Who better exemplifies the virtues St. Peter admonishes the Christians of Asia Minor to amplify their faith with than Job? The Book of Job is a study of one man's indomitable faith in the face of the misfortunes befallen him. He remains a good, decent and pious man.

Of the many characters on the big stage of the Old Testament, Job alone suffered the most hellish life through no fault of his own, but on a wager between God and Satan. By all accounts, Job is a paragon of moral rectitude and discipline. God testifies, thus: ***"Have you noticed my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him, blameless and upright, fearing God and avoiding evil."*** (Job 1:8) To Satan, Job's God-fearing has more to do with losing his wealth -- take it all away and it won't be long for Job to ***"surely ... curse you (God) to your face."*** (Job 1:10) The challenge is on!

Job lost everything: his land and livestock, his home, his children and his own health (boils all over his body). Job's three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar offered their counsels, then turned against him with a veiled accusations of "no ills befall the righteous," meaning Job must have gravely sinned, hence he deserves his misfortunes. Swearing to his innocence, accepting his suffering, Job reacted with self-control and endurance, never abandoned his core values and continued a spirit-filled life. To his friends, Job remained devoted by praying to God to show mercy for their foolish words. Without bitterness and rancor in his heart, Job maintained his integrity, credibility, self-control. He acknowledged he has no right to second-guess God's plan. Job won the bet for God by not cursing Him. For his unwavering faith and steadfast trust, the Lord gave back all that Job lost.

The beginning and end of our link with God is FAITH. No faith, no connection, no love. To faith must be added Godliness, knowledge, perseverance, kindness, and ultimately love. Such qualities of life will keep us effective and productive in our knowledge of God and Jesus Christ. ***"If these are yours and increase in abundance, they will keep you from being idle or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*** (2 Peter 1:8)

## Race to the Finish

I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the course,  
I have kept the faith.  
— 2 Timothy 4:7

St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy, Chapter 4, verse 7 recalls that at the close of his life he could testify to the accomplishment of what Christ Himself foretold concerning him at the time of his conversion, **"I will show him what he will have to suffer for my name."** (Acts 9:16)

Like St. Paul, the day will come for each of us to come home after our short spiritual journey in life. When the world is judged at the *parousia*, all who have eagerly looked for the Lord's appearing and have sought to live according to His teachings will be rewarded.

It may be compared to a race. It can go well and then go wrong - our souls are restless until we come to the place where we can rest in the embrace of God's unconditional love. Like running - running with God - we are challenged to live life with intensity. We have to occasionally catch our breath to sustain ourselves in order that we may be able to cross the finish line in the race - *not so much to finish first but finishing it well*. We need to remain focused to finish well by *fighting the "good fight," finishing our work and being faithful to Christ* - like Saint Paul, who started poorly but finished well. Let's not be like Judas *who started well but finished poorly*.

So often we think that what we do is what matters most. It does matter. But what God wants to do in us matters even more - *that if you contemplate Him frequently in meditation, your whole soul will be filled with Him, you will grow in His likeness, and your actions will be molded on His*.

*Lord Jesus, I invoke upon your mighty spirit as I set to run the race today and tomorrow. Enable me that I may always remember your wonderful and magnificent deed with St. Paul, who lived his life through sharing sufferings after conversion, his heartbeat of persecuting Christians, and his big hope for the future. Let me realize that with you Lord, I, too, can fight the good fight, run the race and keep the faith. With you Lord, I can truly run well now and finish strong tomorrow! Amen.*



## COUNSELS (from page 1)

years, the Holy Eucharist has been celebrated all over the world. The real presence of our Lord is with us everyday. The Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, had humbled himself to be present among us in the form of a "Bread" in fulfillment of the Lord's Covenant to man.

As disciples of Christ in BLD, we too are called to serve and fulfill a covenant with the Lord. As a Covenant Community, serving the mother Church, we must fulfill our vows to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this world. This is a clarion call to all, to be good witnesses of the presence of Jesus in our lives. We must be constantly guided by His Words and be empowered as one community by receiving the Holy Eucharist regularly (our theme).

The discerned order for this worship is for us to take the body and drink His blood of the covenant. Unless we take it, we have no life in us. The life that God has given us is to have a purpose and that is to be the hands and feet of God to others, through the Mother Church. Most of us may not know how or have difficulties in serving due to our limited time and resources. Many of us have not availed of the miracle of "life within us" that partaking the Holy Eucharist gives. Many of us are barely alive in our spiritual life because we do not believe. We do not avail of the 'unmerited favor' that we should have received - grace;

The Eucharist taken daily is a wellspring of living water that fills us. It is the Living Bread that will sustain us in our journey. The Eucharist is like a savings deposit if you may, whereby, when we are in a predicament and do not know what to do, that saving grace bestowed by the Eucharist intervenes to guide and help us. In the same manner, when we feel afraid of a new assignment or a new and fearful situation, the Eucharist enables us to cope.

Lord Jesus Christ, son of the living God, we are your disciples, willing to come close to you, willing to receive You daily in the Eucharist. Please help us fulfill this desire for our benefit, for our community, for Your Church. Amen.

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Be in the state of grace always.
2. Die to self and call upon the Name of the Lord.

**His Begotten Son!**



## TEACHING CALENDAR

- Jun 16\* Shepherds Training II - LSS 1-35  
Christian Parenting I (Part 1) - LSS 1-38
- Jun 22 Teaching - **Mark 10, John 6, Youth**
- Jun 29 Teaching - **Golden Years & Intercessory Formation**

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### SPE #14

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*Be a Living Word*

## SAVE THE DATE

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You are cordially invited to attend masses being celebrated by Fr. Gino. Fr. Gino is a BLD Newark alumnus of YLSS 6, YE 7 & FE 8

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**Jul 6, 8:30pm** • St. Mary's Church, Rahway, NJ

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**Jul 21-22**-Prayer Healing 1 • **Jul 28-29**-Prayer Healing 2  
Venue to be announced  
Contact: Sam/Rory Olaso @ [pastoral@bldnewark.com](mailto:pastoral@bldnewark.com)



## BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20 August 18, Saturday

### Please support other Ablaze @ 20 events and projects:

- Sept. 22 - Dinner Dance at VFW Hall in Manville, NJ
- 20th Anniversary Book to be published in December featuring BLD history, as well as the many ways the Lord has utilized our Community to bring everyone closer to Him.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ST. MARY'S SECURITY ALERT

**PLEASE BE CAREFUL.** Each of us has a responsibility to help keep things safe and secure. Anyone entrusted with the Parish Center keys, is responsible to ensure it is **locked** afterwards. There are times a door is left open because it didn't get a gentle pull or push to be sure that it is locked. **Please remember to take the extra step. We all need to be very vigilant** in order to ensure the **SAFETY** and **SECURITY** of everyone.

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)

## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>1,932</b>	<b>71,778</b>

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)  
Thank you for your continued support!

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

**Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check**  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

### MISSION

#### Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed

**Jun 9** • John 6 Ministry

Contact: Ernest/Nellie Sun @ [john6@bldnewark.com](mailto:john6@bldnewark.com)

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Jun 15	Management
			Jun 22	Mission
			Jun 29	Evangelization
			Jul 06	Pastoral
			Jul 13	Formation

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

## Stewardship Prayer

Lord God, You alone are the source of every good gift, of the vast array of our universe, and the mystery of each human life. We praise You and thank You for Your great power and tender, faithful love. Everything we are and everything we have are your gifts, and after having created us you have given us into the keeping of Your Son, Jesus Christ

O Lord, forgive our fears that so stifle our stewardship. Forgive our giving in and our giving up instead of giving ourselves to Christ's mission of love. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. Fill our minds with His truth and our hearts with His love, and in His spirit may we be bonded together into a community of faith, a parish family, a caring people. In the name and spirit of Jesus, we commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, to share our time, our talent, and our material and spiritual gifts as an outward sign of the treasure we hold in Jesus. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen.



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 23

Bulletin Edition

June 15, 2012

## PHILIPPINES: DOOR TO ASIA

## COUNSELS

### Priest Tells of Church's Strengths, Challenges

### Growing God's Kingdom in Us

ROME, JUNE 8, 2012 (Zenit.org).- The Philippines are the door to the Far East for the Catholic Church. The first missionaries arrived in 1521 and today, with close to 100 million inhabitants – 80% of whom are Catholics -- it presents a very different picture to the rest of Asia.

Johannes Habsburg interviewed Father Jan Thomas Limchua for the weekly program "Where God Weeps," in cooperation with Aid to the Church in Need.

THEME: We are empowered as one community when we draw people to the Kingdom of God.

WORD: Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:2, 3, 13-16; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10; Mark 4:26-34

ORDER: " ... *Walk by faith, not by sight.*" (2 Corinthians 5:7)

REFLECTION:

In this Sunday's reading from Ezekiel, when he prophesied that the Lord would take a sprig from a tree and turn it into a noble cedar, the people recognized that the **growth** of the people is always in God's hands. God causes our growth. In the modern times, the farmer creates the best environment for growing, but it is God who causes our growth.

Psalm 92 is clearly associated with the way it refers to the faithful who have been planted in God's house: they flourish, they grow, they bear fruit and are vigorous and sturdy. Such metaphors capture the experience of many Christians who have known in a personal way how God's loving care has established us in the church through baptism, and nourishes and watches over us through the sacrament of salvation.

Although the passage from 2 Corinthians fits well with the notion of the gradual, hidden nature of the Church's growth. Paul says "*we walk by faith, not by sight,*" (2 Corinthians 5:7) and affirms that our present existence is not complete in itself. Rather, we eagerly await the final judgment when we will "go home to the Lord" and when divine "recompense" will set all things right. The Christian Church continues to pray "Thy kingdom come," knowing full well that we have not yet reached the full attainment of God's promised reign. As St. Paul is always keenly aware of the ethical implications of his teachings, he is quick to point out that therefore we must always remain "courageous" and "aspire to please" God. **Continued page 3**

### Promise of the Week

"They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God." (Psalm 92:14)

**Q:** Is your vocation an isolated case or are there vocations to the priesthood and the religious life in the Philippines?

**A:** The Philippines is a country where there are so many Catholics, there are also so many young people who respond to the call to the priesthood, to religious life, and also to consecrated life. The seminaries are full of young men who know how to respond to the Lord's call.

**Q:** The Philippines is the door from which the mission begins, not only for Asia but for the whole world.

**A:** Yes, there are many priests, for example, here in Europe, who are in charge of the pastoral care of migrants. They work in the dioceses here, because of the vocational difficulty here in Europe and also in the US.

**Q:** Asia is a continent of hope for the Church. It is a very young and incipient Church in the majority of countries. What do you think is the role of the Philippines in the evangelization of Asia?

**A:** We can say that it is a mission not only for priests but above all for the laity. There are no many Filipinos working outside the country seeking to help their families. However, they also leave the country with the intention of living the faith. When they work, they also share the faith. For example, here in Rome, and in many parts of Europe, there are Filipinos who work in homes and look after children, taking care of families, they teach children how to pray. Faith is not just about receiving, it is also about giving. And these Filipinos who have also received the gift of faith from their parents, share the faith with the other people.

Full article is able at: <http://www.zenit.org/article-34941?l=english>

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

## St. Barnabas, Apostle

On June 11, we celebrate the feast day of St. Barnabas, the Apostle, one of the most notable disciples in the early days of the Church. Barnabas is described as a “good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith” (Acts 11:24). It was through his help that Paul, formerly known as the persecutor Saul, became accepted among the original apostles. Barnabas and Paul became a formidable team of missionaries who opened the door of faith to other nations. Together, they proclaimed the Gospel in synagogues and testified in the name of Jesus, successfully turning the hearts of the Gentiles from false idols to belief in the one and only living God. They were instrumental in the evangelization and conversion of many Gentiles, who, unlike the Jews at the time, received the good news of salvation with joy. They were “set apart” (Acts 13:2) by the Holy Spirit; it is for this special ministry that they were called. Without their commitment and perseverance, Christianity would not be where it is today.

The same Holy Spirit that empowered St. Barnabas lives in us now and calls each of us to be bold and faithful witnesses for Christ. Although the social and political climate has dramatically changed, we are still fighting the same battle. We were made to be courageous and influential like the early Church. We are to be in the world, but not of the world, to continue their important mission of expanding the Kingdom. Our service is not just reserved for family and friends, nor for retreats and medical missions. After each mass and worship, we are sent forth to minister to our brothers and sisters that we encounter everyday beyond the walls of Divine Mercy. As Catholics, we are constantly under scrutiny and challenged by a secularized society full of “Gentiles” that are hungry for change and thirsting for truth. Like Barnabas, let us prepare ourselves with prayer and fasting to meet this rising need. Let us remain vigilant and stay immersed in the truth of God's Word so that we may discern His voice above the cacophony of lies and deceit. Let us share the love of God with others in the face of hostility, opposition, and persecution. Let the Lord refine us with His holy fire so that we may grow stronger against temptations, and overcome the dark forces that threaten to take away our religious freedom. Let us not be afraid to lead by example, and reflect Jesus' message of hope and redemption in our lives. Let Jesus shine through us for we are the light this world needs to see. May the Lord continue to bless us with His grace and use us to reach out and win over souls for His glory.

## WHY?



While looking for inspiration for this reflection, I googled “asking why” and found 43 million sites with advice from businessmen, doctors, psychologists, architects, educators, and parenting experts. But I didn't want opinions. I wanted something deeper, richer. When you're looking for wisdom...the Word always beats the Web. So I turned to Luke 2:41-51 and read the story of the Holy Family's journey to Jerusalem for Passover. Jesus was a young man of 12 and had celebrated the annual festival with His family and relatives; but in the busy preparations for the journey home to Nazareth, His parents didn't realize that He had not joined the caravan. Scripture doesn't describe their frenzied search for Him or how they retraced their steps through the streets of the city, asking every person they met, “Have you seen our son?” He was only 12. Where could he be? Three long days they searched, praying that He was alright. When they finally found Him in the temple, He was “sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard Him were astounded at His understanding and His answers.” (Luke 2:46-47) His mother's first question was “Why?” “Son, why have you done this to us?” (Luke 2:48) Being the good mother that she was, I'm sure she had a lot more she wanted to say to Him! But His strange reply surprised His weary parents. “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?” But they did not understand what He said to them.” (Luke 2:49-50)

Why? Mary had wanted to ask that question so many times before. Ever since the angel had greeted her with the title, “Full of Grace,” she had seen and heard amazing things about her precious child. First it was her cousin, Elizabeth, then the shepherds in Bethlehem and the song of the angels, then the magi with their extravagant gifts, Simeon and Anna in the temple, and now the boy, Himself. Why? Mary didn't understand, but she **“kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart”** (Luke 2:19) as she held on tightly to her faith in God. **“The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear Him.”**(Luke 1:49-50) She had proclaimed those words from her heart, and she trusted in the goodness and mercy of God. She would need that powerful faith many more times in her life. When we ask “why,” we question the providence and compassion of God. Mary's quiet trust should be a shining example for us who have been so slow to learn **“that all things work for good for those who love God.”** (Romans 8:28)



# Shepherd's Voice

## Sacred Heart of Jesus



In 1677, Jesus appeared in a vision to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a French nun, and revealed His Sacred Heart.

The Church promotes devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as supported by Scripture. Jesus says:

***"Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart." (Matthew 11:29) "One of the soldiers pierced His side with a lance; and immediately there came out blood and water." (John 19:34).***

Essentially, this devotion is a response to the Person of Christ. The Christian faith is a response to Christ as a living, loving person. The heart of our faith to honor and love God can be expressed through our devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Jesus loves us with a human and Divine love. Love is symbolized by the heart. In the Bible, the heart stands for a person's whole interior life, that is, his sentiments, memories, thoughts, reasoning and planning. Jesus used the word "heart" in this sense when He says: But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile. For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, unchastity, theft, false witness, blasphemy. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile. (Matthew 15, 18-20)

The person of Christ and His work can be summarized in love. He is our savior. He proved His love by dying for each one of us. Love is the reason for our existence. It is why God sent His Son to redeem us, to be with Him forever. However, whenever we commit sin, we not only fail to return His love, but we also cause Him hurt. Jesus Christ has the most perfect human feeling and perception. He feels the sting of man's ingratitude. He feels the severity of being rejected.

In spite of the rejection, He continues to love us. He doesn't force us to love Him. Every sin is in some way a rejection of Christ's love. Our failure to love Him as we should, not only hurts us, but also hurts Him.

In the vision, He told St. Margaret Mary that the ingratitude of man for His love was worse than His physical sufferings. We need to console Him and do reparation, for all our sins. We console Him by placing our faith and trust in Him, following His commandments, being faithful to our daily duty, honoring His Sacred Heart, loving God and our neighbor.

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

The most striking feature of the parable in the gospel reading is the contrast between the tiny mustard seed and what it goes on to produce. The 'Kingdom' Jesus announces is not a worldly triumph (something we need constantly to be reminded of); of its nature it has beginnings which are unimpressive and obscure by human standards. But in the end it initiates the realization of the final achievement of God.

A favorite explanation of the parable suggested that the mustard plant at that time was considered an invasive weed that farmers didn't want to find growing in their fields. So often we miss the point of Jesus' parables because the comparisons He uses either aren't part of our daily life or because we see them differently. But if the mustard plant was not welcome to the farmer, it was a blessing to the birds of the air that could nest in its branches. (Come to think of it, those birds wouldn't be much welcomed by the farmer either.)

But what can mustard seeds teach us about the kingdom of God? God's kingdom works in a similar fashion. It starts from the smallest beginnings in the hearts of men and women who are receptive to God's word. And it works behind the scene and causes a transformation from within. Just as a seed has no power to change itself until it is planted in the ground, so we cannot change our lives to be like God until God gives us the power of His Holy Spirit. The Lord of the Universe is ever ready to transform us by the power of His Spirit. The kingdom of God produces a transformation in those who receive the new life which Jesus Christ offers. When we yield to Jesus Christ, our lives are transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. St. Paul the Apostle says, ***"we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us."*** (2 Corinthians 4:7)

The Kingdom of God in us will grow if it is nurtured with our time and talent. As one family, we must never waiver to support our community's ministries and outreach efforts. Our every word or action is like a seed planted in our hearts, in our spirits, and in our minds.

As we go about our daily living in the Church, let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us plant seeds of goodness, forgiveness, joy, trust, and faith that will enable us and our children

***Continued on page 4***

## TEACHING CALENDAR

- Jun 16\* Shepherds Training II - LSS 1-35  
Christian Parenting I (Part 1) - LSS 1-38
- Jun 22 Teaching - Mark 10, John 6, Youth
- Jun 29 Teaching - Golden Years & Intercessory Formation

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### SPE #14

Jun 22-24 • Ramada Limited Hotel  
2989 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
Contact: Frank Lim @ [spstewards@bldnewark.com](mailto:spstewards@bldnewark.com)  
Applications available at fellowship after worship.

### YE #19

Jul 13-15 • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA  
Contact: Youth Ministry @ [YCS@bldnewark.com](mailto:YCS@bldnewark.com)

### FE #19

Jul 20-22 • Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA  
Contact: Family Life Apostolate @ [fla@bldnewark.com](mailto:fla@bldnewark.com)

## Be A Living Word

### SAVE THE DATE

#### Fr. Gino Pattugalan's Mass

You are cordially invited to attend masses being celebrated by Fr. Gino. Fr. Gino is a BLD Newark alumnus of YLSS 6, YE 7 & FE 8

Jun 24, 12:30pm • Douglaston Seminary Chapel  
7200 Douglaston Pkwy, Douglaston, NY (**His first mass**)  
Jul 6, 8:30pm • St. Mary's Church, Rahway, NJ

#### Prayer Counseling

Jul 21-22-Prayer Healing 1 • Jul 28-29-Prayer Healing 2  
Venue to be announced  
Contact: Sam/Rory Olaso @ [pastoral@bldnewark.com](mailto:pastoral@bldnewark.com)



### BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20 August 18, Saturday

#### Please support other Ablaze @ 20 events and projects:

20th Anniversary Book to be published in December featuring BLD history, as well as the many ways the Lord has utilized our Community to bring everyone closer to Him.



### Dinner Dance 2012

Sept 22, 8-12pm @ VFW in Manville, NJ  
Contacts: Adela 201.665.6880,  
Me-Anne 973.366.6690  
For details and ticket purchase

***"Pray without ceasing."***  
**(1 Thes 5:17)**

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)

## COUNSELS (from page 3)

to grow more and more into our identity as sons and daughters of God.

In summary, the readings clearly tell us about how God works – with and without us. In another sense, we could say they remind us that God's work will be carried out whether we cooperate or not. If we choose not to cooperate, God's plans will not be frustrated but we refuse His grace.

### DIRECTIONS

1. Be fruitful in the Lord in all seasons.
2. Pray for our new lead servants and be united in serving God's community.

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,207	74,985

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

Thank you for your continued support!

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ISAIAH 58 KOMAPET

(Kotse Mo Alay Para sa Ekonomiya at Talinto)  
Cars for economic & skills development aide. Donate your cars & get a tax deductible receipt; free towing. Proceeds will be used to break the yoke of poverty: Save a School Child & Scholarship Program. Contact: Isaiah 58 @ [isaiah58@bldnewark.com](mailto:isaiah58@bldnewark.com)

### MISSION Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ  
Every 4th Sat. of the month.  
June 23 • ME 34 • Contacts: Nong/Tricia Bustos

### SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place  
**every 4th Friday** at St. Mary's Auditorium

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

Marshaling	Schedule	
	Date	Apostolate
	Jun 22	Mission
	Jun 29	Evangelization
	Jul 06	Pastoral
Jul 13	Formation	
Jul 20	Management	



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 24

Bulletin Edition

June 22, 2012

## POPE BENEDICT ANNOUNCES NEXT CONGRESS TO TAKE PLACE IN THE PHILIPPINES

DUBLIN, Ireland, JUNE 17, 2012 (Zenit.org) - Thunderous applause erupted at Croke Park Stadium as Pope Benedict XVI addressed those present at the closing Mass of the 50<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin today via video screen. He greeted all the participants and reflected on the theme of the congress: *Communion with Christ and With One Another*, saying that the notion of *koinonia* (communion) has been central to the understanding of the Church, its relationship with Christ, and in the sacraments, particularly, the Eucharist.

The pope also spoke of the congress coinciding with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Second Vatican Council that promoted a deepening appreciation of the sources of the liturgy and promoted the full and active participation of the faithful in the Eucharistic sacrifice.

Towards the end of his statement, the pontiff announced that the 51<sup>st</sup> International Eucharistic Congress in 2016 would be held in Cebu City, Philippines. As the announcement was made, thousands of participants from the future host nation waved their flags and applauded with joy.

“To the people of the Philippines I send warm greetings and an assurance of my closeness in prayer during the period of preparation for this great ecclesial gathering. I am confident that it will bring lasting spiritual renewal not only to them but to all the participants from across the globe,” he said. The pope concluded his message by imparting his Apostolic Blessing to all present.

Archbishop Diamuid Martin, archbishop of Dublin also congratulated the diocese of Cebu City on their selection as host city of the next Eucharistic Congress. “We pray that the Congress *Continued on page 4*

## COUNSELS

### A Voice in the Wilderness

**THEME** We are empowered as one community when we prepare for the Lord’s second coming.

**WORD** Isaiah 49:1-6; Psalm 139:1-3, 13, 14, 14-15; Acts 13:22-26; Luke 1:57-66, 80

**ORDER** *“Be a light to the nations, so that God’s salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”* (Isaiah 49:6 paraphrased)

**REFLECTION:**

In this Sunday's gospel, St. Luke recounts the miraculous birth and naming of St. John, the Baptist. At his birth, his parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth, rejoiced with their neighbors and relatives for this tremendous blessing of a child bestowed by God upon this righteous, aging and barren couple.

When the mute Zechariah’s mouth was opened and his tongue was freed, he spoke blessing God. The neighbors were overcome with fear and they wondered, *“What, then, will this child be?”* (Luke 1:66) With the birth of John, God began the fulfillment of His promise of salvation for mankind. God in His great mercy, graciousness and compassion sent John to the world with the mission of preparing mankind for the first coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

John received the empowerment of the Holy Spirit even while he was still in his mother’s womb. The fire of the Holy Spirit continued to dwell in him and to prepare him for his mission as the forerunner of the coming Messiah. He was led into the wilderness by the Spirit, in accordance with the divine plan. He was tested and he grew in wisdom. *Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*“... my reward is with the Lord and my recompense is with my God.”* (Isaiah 49:4)

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

## **"GO THE EXTRA MILE"**

What does it mean to be a Christian? Jesus gives us part of the answer in Matthew 5:41: ***"Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two miles."***

No other reward could possibly equal the joy that comes from knowing God is pleased with you and what you have done in your life. To sense God's affirmation and pleasure in the present life and to know that he has eternal rewards waiting in the next life is to experience a prize of immeasurable value. No earthly treasure can compare with it. The scriptures provide numerous examples of men and women who received God's blessings by going the extra mile.

At the end of his life, Paul said, ***"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith, in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing."*** (2 Timothy 4:7-8) Paul epitomizes the true reward for a Christian who did the first mile and went for the extra mile. Such a person can expect the reward of God's affirmation and the satisfaction of a calling fulfilled.



There is a second reward for one's faithful service to God. It is the satisfaction of knowing you have accomplished God's will and purpose for your life. God calls people to serve Him according to His plans for them; and He equips those whom He calls. Those who fail to follow God's will are not able to experience what God has in store for them. St. Paul said, ***"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."*** (Philippians 3:14) His ambition was to follow God's will unwaveringly. There is something enormously satisfying in knowing that one has reached his maximum potential in life. At the close of Jesus' life, He prayed to His heavenly Father, ***I glorified You on earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.*** While Jesus hung on the cross, about to breathe His last, He shouted in triumph, ***"It is finished."*** (John 19:30) Jesus did not say *I am finished*. He received the most difficult assignment ever given and He obeyed till ➔

## **My Singles Encounter Experience**



On June 1-3, 2012, I attended Singles Encounter #28 at Graymoor Spiritual Life Center in Garrison, NY sponsored by Bukas Loob sa Diyos (Open to the Spirit of God), a covenant community and private lay association of the faithful in the Archdiocese of Newark.

My three day retreat focused on how I can get closer to God and develop new friendship with other singles who have decided to put God in the center of their lives. We sang songs of praise and worship, learned the word of God and prayed to be touched by the Holy Spirit. It also meant waking up at 5am, a little too early for me but it's always good to make time for God.

At first I wasn't so excited to go to this singles encounter because I didn't know anyone in the community. As I entered Graymoor, I was welcomed with open arms by the warm-hearted singles encounter sponsors and by other candidates as well. The Singles Praise ministry sang beautiful worship songs. At first I was shy to sing out loud but after two days into the retreat, I felt like I could sing my heart out and not worry about anyone judging me even if I sang off key. We even raised our hands in praise.

I also got to confess my sins and start a fresh clean slate. It was an amazing fruitful weekend; but my journey is just beginning. This encounter is made stronger by Friday worships and bible studies by the competent Teaching ministry. I can't say enough of this weekend. I have gained a lot from this experience and learned how to make God a priority in my everyday life. God is good! All the time!!!



the end. Jesus went the extra mile.

We all have our calling to serve God but often we feel inadequate to face the challenges that go with it. But if we let go and allow God to work in us and put our faith in His guiding hands, He will provide us the grace that leads us to do things we never thought possible. Then one day, God will award us with a life of immeasurable joy for going that extra mile.

## Eyeing Treasure

*“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be... If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light; but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be in darkness.” (Matthew 6:21-23)*

Have you ever closed your eyes, wishing that things would just go away? Only to open them and see that the things around you are still the things around you? Many times, I have. And my lament had been, “Why couldn’t the world change? Why couldn’t the people around me change?” Seems I had a “bad eye”...



But it’s not so much my actual eyesight that was bad, but more the way I viewed the world. It was a view that led to a two year dark depression almost exactly six years ago. One that was fueled because what I treasured most was me.

But early on, somehow, we found BLD. And unbeknownst to me, something must have been working (aka – the Holy Spirit) because at the end of those two years, by His grace I was cured.

And it has been such an overwhelming healing that has made me realize that it’s not the world that needs to change – it’s me and how I approach and view it. That I can not really change others, but I can instantly change me.

Sometimes, I think of then and now, and in a sense, nothing around me has changed: house I lived in during those two years is still the home I live in today; places I’d go to are still the places I go to; my family back then is still my family (only now bigger because of our growing BLD family); things I feared doing are still the same things I now “just do.”

No, the challenges of life have not gone away. There are still frustrations, occasional quarrels with family, money woes ...and I still have not grown any new hair. But now, I feel that I’ve been transformed and I’ve learned to try to always realize, that what these challenges are, are colored by how I see and view them. That if in my life, my treasure is in praising God – this brings the proper perspective that makes my eye sound, and fills my entire being with light.

And I pray that this, I never forget.

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

He began speaking the word of God to the people of Israel and fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy of a voice in the wilderness, crying: **“Prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!”** (Isaiah 40:3) John's life has been devoted to one burning passion- he testified to the light of Jesus and pointed Him out for others as the Lamb of God. He heralded the coming of the Kingdom of God and emphasized the requirements of citizenship in it. He warned them about the ultimate judgment and like the Old Testament prophets, he roused them from their complacency and called their attention to their unfaithfulness to God. He tried repeatedly to instill true repentance in them, that they may recognize and wholeheartedly receive Jesus when He came.

Our theme is very appropriate: “We are empowered as one community when we prepare for the Lord’s second coming.” John’s birth, life and message are as relevant to our lives now as it was in his time. On this feast day of the Solemnity of the birth of St. John the Baptist, Jesus is telling us to emulate John and adopt his role today as the precursor who will prepare the way for the day of the Lord, the great and terrible day- the Lord's second coming. The Holy Spirit has already begun His work in each and every member of the BLD community for He has empowered us, to be renewed in our Catholic faith regularly through the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist and through our prayers, praise and worship, teachings and spiritual programs. With the BLD as His instrument, the Lord strengthens our faith with the other theological virtues of Christian hope and love. Like John, we should take to heart, the Lord's call, to repent and prepare to receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit and be transformed into a people fit for the Lord.

We need to bring about the renewal of our minds, hearts and souls. We need to be truly repentant, praying for the forgiveness of our sins and receiving the Lord's forgiveness through the sacrament of reconciliation and be reconciled with God and our fellowmen. We are to help prepare others by becoming authentic witnesses to the love and self-emptying sacrifice of our Lord on the Cross, upholding the dignity of the human person and preserving the sanctity of life. We must become a counter-sign to everything where secularism and moral relativism has a death grip. **“Do not conform yourselves to this age but be** *Continued on page 4*

## POPE BENEDICT ANNOUNCES... (from page 1)

will bring the same special blessing to that city and diocese and nation as this Congress has brought to Dublin and Ireland. I am told that in the monsoon season you can produce rain storms which equal or even surpass the ones we experienced in these last days.”

(for full transcript of the news item please go to <http://www.zenit.org/article-35024?l=english>)

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Jun 22	Teaching - <b>Mark 10, John 6, Youth</b>
Jun 29	Teaching - <b>Golden Years, Intercessory Formation</b>
Jul 07*	New Creation Realities, Growth in Prayer, Christian Maturity Program I (Part 2) – <b>LSS 1-38</b> Apologetics - <b>LSS 1-35</b>
Jul 20	Teaching - <b>Mark 10, John 6, Youth</b> Sienna Gift Test - <b>LSS 35</b>
Jul 27	Teaching - <b>Golden Years</b>

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

## SAVE THE DATE

### Fr. Gino Pattugalan's Mass

You are cordially invited to attend masses being celebrated by Fr. Gino. Fr. Gino is a BLD Newark alumnus of YLSS 6, YE 7 & FE 8

**Jun 24, 12:30pm** • Douglaston Seminary Chapel  
7200 Douglaston Pkwy, Douglaston, NY (**His first mass**)

**Jul 6, 8:30pm** • St. Mary's Church, Rahway, NJ

### Prayer Counseling

**Jul 21-22**-Prayer Healing 1 • **Jul 28-29**-Prayer Healing 2  
Venue to be announced

Contact: Sam/Rory Olaso @ [pastoral@bldnewark.com](mailto:pastoral@bldnewark.com)



## BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20 August 18, Saturday

### Please support other Ablaze @ 20 events and projects:

20th Anniversary Book to be published in December featuring BLD history, as well as the many ways the Lord has utilized our Community to bring everyone closer to Him.



### Dinner Dance 2012

**Sept 22, 8-12pm** @ VFW in Manville, NJ  
Contacts: Adela 201.665.6880,  
Me-Anne 973.366.6690  
For details and ticket purchase

**“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.”** (Matthew 6:33)

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)

## COUNSELS (from page 3)

*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)

As one community empowered by one Spirit, let us pray to Jesus Christ that He will move us with one heart, one wisdom and one mind, in harmony, and in unison to proclaim the coming of the Kingdom of God in our hearts. Let us testify to the light and become ourselves, the salt and light of the world, a city set on a mountain that cannot be hidden, a light set on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house. May that light shine before others that they may glorify our Heavenly Father (Matthew 5:13-16).

### DIRECTIONS

1. Be a counter-sign to anything that is against the sanctity of life.
2. Herald the coming of Christ by being an authentic witness to Christ.

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>3,737</b>	<b>78,722</b>

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)  
Thank you for your continued support!

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION

### Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ  
Every 4th Sat. of the month.

**June 23** • ME 34 • Contacts: Nong/Tricia Bustos

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### YE #19

**Jul 13-15** • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA  
Contact: Youth Ministry @ [YCS@bldnewark.com](mailto:YCS@bldnewark.com)

### FE #19

**Jul 20-22** • Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA  
Contact: Family Life Apostolate @ [fla@bldnewark.com](mailto:fla@bldnewark.com)

*Be a Living Word*

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Jun 29	Evangelization
		Jul 06	Pastoral
		Jul 13	Formation
		Jul 20	Management
		Jun 27	Mission



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 25

Bulletin Edition

June 29, 2012

## Solo Parents Encounter (SPE14) Weekend

*“Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm.”* (Psalm 89:29)

Truly, the Lord is ever faithful not only to David but also to generations to come. His kindness endures forever. He had invited candidates to come and rest awhile with Him at the Solo Parents Encounter Class #14 held last June 22-24, 2012 at Ramada Limited in South Plainfield. Despite the threat of thunderstorm on Friday and the weekend heat wave, 28 candidates responded. The class includes: Maria Aguaiza, Arlene Bernardo\*, Aguinaldo Cabe, Raphael Cadavillo, Ernesto Canque, Jr., Melanie Carpio\*, Annie Casino, Nelson Cespedes, Shirley Concepcion, Tess deGuzman, Winnie Demegillo, Nanette Evangelista, Caroline Flann, Blanca Francisco, Antonio Francisco, Antonia Froehlich, Ma. Asuncion Gatmaitan\*\*, Angelica Gonzaga, David Johnson, Claire Macknowsky, Christian Mariano, Joseph Neron, Rebecca Parawan, Maria Peralta, Francisco Quebral, Ericka Sanchez\*, Charlotte Santiago\* and Saneeta Somai.

What a joy to behold the beaming and glowing faces of the candidates on Sunday morning - a dramatic change from the serious and worried faces we encountered on Friday evening. The sweltering heat in the conference room due to air-conditioning problems was overpowered by the fire of God's love and the presence of the Holy Spirit who enthused and inspired everyone to be open to receive and acknowledge the Lord's faithfulness and kindness. The activities flowed along smoothly and the weekend was blessed with the Spirit-filled teachings of our spiritual director, Msgr. Paul Schetelick, as well as the powerful witnessing from the sharers. The sponsoring class encounter teams and "auxies" all served with their willing hands and joyful heart.

We praise and thank the Lord for another bountiful harvest for our BLD Solo Parents family. To God be the glory!

\*coordinator \*\*head coordinator

## COUNSELS

### Faith and Healing

THEME: We demonstrate faith in the Good Shepherd when we exercise our gift of healing.

WORD: Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24; Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13; 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15; Mark 5:21-43

ORDER: **“Do not be afraid; just have faith.”**  
(Mark 5:36b)

REFLECTION:

Faith and Healing are two seemingly inseparable words. Putting them together, “faith healing” refers to healing through spiritual means, where believers assert that a person's healing can be brought about by religious faith, often through prayer, through the Sacraments of the Eucharist, reconciliation, or other practices. We share the belief that God heals through the power of the Holy Spirit. Faith has been called *‘the very nature of God’, and is defined as “the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.”* (Hebrews 11:1) It is important to distinguish between the faith of seeking healing and a cure, and the actual divine source of healing. Therefore, faith is trusting and surrendering in God who heals. Faith, therefore, is not holding on to your healing but on God who does the impossible.

In all accounts of the gospel, we see our Lord Jesus curing various ailments well beyond man's time. (Jesus' ministry of healing is to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: **“He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by His wounds we were healed.”** (Isaiah 53:5) Two of the most remarkable stories are detailed in St. Mark's account on this Sunday's gospel reading. The first story involved the 12-year old daughter of Jairus, a local church official, who was so sick, that she died even after her father pleaded for Jesus' help. The second story involved an old woman

**Continued on page 3**

### Promise of the Week

**“...your faith has saved you.”** (Mark 5:34)

## STOP JUDGING

Why do I find this very powerful command from the Lord so easy to ignore? In fact, I have violated this directive over and over again.

Oftentimes, I ask myself, *why am I so quick at judging people?* What triggers me to do this unkind behavior repeatedly? Is it because of my deep-rooted insecurity, my negative perspective of myself and life in general, or is it because I always think of myself as perfect, incapable of making similar mistakes, and different from others that I become overconfident and self-righteous? Whatever the reason is, I had made several judgments against others inwardly and outwardly that it became natural for me to think about people and judge them unconsciously.

It is so hypocritical because numerous times I have claimed to be a follower of Jesus. But how can this be true if I always have a pre-conceived negative image of myself, causing me to focus on people's negative qualities, which is contrary to God's law? Conversely, how can I claim to be a child of God, if I consider myself 'perfect' and 'different'? Do all God's children desperately need Jesus to deliver them? Don't I also depend on God's mercy to be forgiven constantly for mistakes I continually make and sins I persistently commit, because like them, I also do things that annoy, disappoint, and anger people? I had humbly approached the mercy seat and pleaded for God's grace many times, so how can I deny others any measure of the grace I so desperately desire for myself?

If I truly desire to be God's true disciple, I need to stop completely, get down on my knees and ask the Lord to forgive me, and pray that He will give me the grace to always see people in His own eyes. It is not easy to break an acquired pattern of behavior that often occurs automatically and subconsciously, but by God's grace, I believe I will be released from this bondage.

Thus, I must pray for His grace constantly and reflect on His life persistently, so I will always be reminded of His unconditional love, for this is the only perfect way I can love others unconditionally; and loving people His way is the only way I can become His true follower.

*Lord, please forgive me for the many times I have made judgments against my neighbors and I ask You to replace my judgmental thoughts and feelings with a heart full of love for You and Your children. Grant me the grace so I may help others with encouraging words instead of dragging them down by finding fault.*

## By Their Fruits You Will Know Them

*"A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit." (Matthew 7:18)*

When my wife and I first started coming to the Friday Praise and Worship many years ago the first thing I noticed about our community was how warm and welcoming everybody is. I felt that they were really happy to see us. Having just moved here from a different state, we literally did not know anyone and yet everyone made us feel right at home. It felt like we have been part of the community for a long time. When folks greeted us and asked how we were doing I felt they were actually interested in what is going on in our lives and how we are really doing. It was not just your standard "perfunctory" greeting.

Everyone also treated everyone else the same. There was no distinction because of what you do, where you live, how you look, or even where you came from. You were treated like a brother or a sister in Christ, nothing more, nothing less. Everyone also exuded a certain sense of humility that I found quite uplifting.

And then there are the personal sharing like the word sharing circles on Fridays where people share their prayer life, their experience of God, as well as their struggles with sin and temptation. The couples who share the innermost depths of their personal lives during ME and LSS weekends, baring all, stripped naked spiritually and emotionally in front of everyone, just so that someone like me might be able to find some comfort and healing from my own demons. I have never experienced anything like this anywhere else and it is great. I am truly grateful that God chose me to be a part of this community.

I can cite many more examples of how wonderful it is to be part of BLD but my point in all this is that although our community is not perfect it has produced many good fruits in its members. I cannot tell you how many times I have heard someone share his or her transformation from sinner to becoming a true witness of the Faith.

I think we truly have a great community that by the grace of God and despite all its imperfections, and even after 20 years, has borne and still continues to bear countless good fruits as evidenced by all of us. Amen!

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*May I see every person I encounter everyday as Your precious possession, who, like me, is in desperate need of Your mercy and grace. This I pray. AMEN.*



# Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul

By Paul Vibar

This feast day commemorates the martyrdom of the two great Apostles - *Saints Peter and Paul*. It is celebrated yearly on June 29 starting in the year 67. *Both* had been imprisoned in the famous Mamertine Prison of Rome and both had foreseen their approaching death. Saint Peter was crucified upside down; Saint Paul, a Roman citizen, was beheaded.

St. Peter lived in the town of Bethsaida by the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus spent most of His time teaching & healing. I thought maybe that was why he was chosen as the Lord's Vicar. As I continued to read on, I have noted that he was chosen because he was candid, eager, and loving. Peter was also a bold follower of the Lord. Our Lord Himself chose Peter and prepared him to be the Rock on which He would build His Church, His Vicar on Earth, the Head and Prince of His Apostles, the center and indispensable bond of the Church's unity, a unique channel of all spiritual powers, the guardian and unerring teacher of His truth, also called the Petrine ministry. It is only after Pentecost when he stands out in the full grandeur of his office.

Ten years after our Lord's Ascension, Saint Peter transferred his apostolic capital to Rome, the center of the Roman Empire, from where he sent Saint Mark, his valued secretary, to establish the Church of Alexandria in Egypt. He was crucified by order of Emperor Nero and is buried on Vatican Hill, where now the Basilica stands which bears his name.

Some of you might not yet know this, but St. Paul used to be called Saul of Tarsus. Saul was a Pharisee who persecuted the early disciples of Jesus. He also oversaw the stoning of Saint Stephen. On the road to Damascus, a light struck him. He heard the voice of God then went blind. He saw the light of day again, when he did what the Lord has commanded him to do. And he saw the brilliance of the full truth for the first time, as a new creature in Jesus Christ. He is perhaps the most influential early Christian leader. His writings form a considerable portion of the New Testament. He traveled extensively forming and guiding the early church. He was a skilled tent-maker and where ever he went he organized collections for the poor.

Saints Peter & Paul both trusted the Lord and they did great things. ***"The time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith."*** (2 Timothy 4:6-7)

I hope that one day I would be like St. Peter or St. Paul who competed well and kept the faith. In my young mind I fear dying, because I do not know what will happen. But I have to hold on and follow what St. Peter and Paul have done, that one day when God called me I will be ready to meet Him in His heavenly kingdom. Loving Father, my life belongs to You. Help me not to fear but to offer myself to You today and always.

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

woman who had been hemorrhaging for 12 years. In the first story, Jairus, with expectant faith, purposely followed Jesus to beg Him to lay His hands on and cure his dying daughter. Later, when the grim news came from another official that his daughter died, Jesus defied expectations and reassured the girl's father not to fear but to have faith. Despite the unplanned delay along the way, the moment was chosen to glorify God, because our Lord raised the girl up in front of her parents and His inner circle of apostles, for everyone else to see. People came expecting a healing and instead saw someone raised from the dead.

The hemorrhaging woman was most likely ostracized from society, an outcast everywhere she went, as she was considered 'unclean' due to her illness. After suffering for twelve years, she was desperate for a cure for her lingering condition; yet had the faith in our Lord that He could do wonders for her. Thus, she took the greatest of chances to just touch the hem of Jesus' garment, because she would break the law if she did touch Him physically. It was her faith and resilience that allowed our Savior to heal and reaffirm her. ***"Daughter, your faith has saved you, go in peace and be cured of your affliction!"*** (Mk 5:34)"

We saw that, in both stories, the manifestation of the healing miracles of the Lord started with expectant faith and rightful surrender – the belief that supernatural healing would occur was a prerequisite to Christ's victory over a lingering illness and even death. Death was never God's plan for us, and neither is suffering. (As the first reading tells us: *Death was not God's doing, he takes no pleasure in the destruction of the living ... it was the devil's envy that brought death into the world ... Both suffering and death entered the world because mankind, through the temptation of the devil, turned away from God.*)

The Lord asks the sick to believe first. He allows them to touch Him, and then touches them Himself in the sacraments to heal. (CCC1504) Thus, it takes faith to decide to return to, to hope and have confidence in, and to surrender to God. Even when we doubt or fear, or have little faith, we are told that it can be enough to move mountains. It is up to us to surrender our hopes, fears, doubts to the Lord, because with Him, everything is possible. We will witness the Lord's healing, if He wills it, done in His time and in a manner He so chooses.

Jesus is thus, teaching us:

- That there is no need to fear anything when we relinquish control of our lives to God through Jesus
- His grace and love go with us even and especially amidst our lives' storms
- Those who come to Christ in faith will receive much more than they ask for, but only if they surrender their lives to Him.

Where are we with our expectant faith? Do we believe in the healing power and mercy of our Lord who took our sins and bore our diseases?

***Continued on page 4***

## COUNSELS (from page 3)

Have we surrendered our needs and anxieties to the Lord, our healer? Have we shared or testified about how He has healed our disease, our illness, our memories, our relationships?

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Build your faith by reading the word of God every day and meditating on it.
2. Do not be afraid to proclaim the victory of Christ in your own healing by sharing it with others.
3. Excel in the gracious act of giving Christ to others so that out of your poverty they may also be equally enriched.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

### St. Mary's Church Renovation

Effective **July 1**, all future mass and adult prayer meetings will be held at the auditorium until further notice.

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Jun 29	Teaching - <b>Golden Years &amp; Intercessory Formation</b>
Jul 07*	New Creation Realities, Growth in Prayer, Christian Maturity Program I (Part 2) - <b>LSS 1-38</b> Apologetics - <b>LSS 1-35</b>
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Jul 27	Teaching - <b>Golden Years</b>

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

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Contact: Youth Ministry @ [YCS@bldnewark.com](mailto:YCS@bldnewark.com)

### FE #19

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Contact: Family Life Apostolate @ [fla@bldnewark.com](mailto:fla@bldnewark.com)

## SAVE THE DATE

### Fr. Gino Pattugalan's Mass

You are cordially invited to attend masses being celebrated by Fr. Gino. Fr. Gino is a BLD Newark alumnus of YLSS 6, YE 7 & FE 8

**Jul 6, 8:30pm** • St. Mary's Church, Rahway, NJ

### Prayer Counseling

**Jul 21-22**-Prayer Healing 1 • **Jul 28-29**-Prayer Healing  
St. Mary's School • 2<sup>nd</sup> floor & Connell Hall  
Contact: Sam/Rory Olaso @ [pastoral@bldnewark.com](mailto:pastoral@bldnewark.com)



### Dinner Dance 2012

**Sept 22, 8-12pm** @ VFW in Manville, NJ  
Contacts: Adela 201.665.6880,  
Me-Anne 973.366.6690  
For details and ticket purchase

## BLD VISION

- We are a community of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about a world of justice, human development and true peace.

## BLD MISSION

In response to the challenges of our particular place, time and culture:

### For our families:

- We will evangelize families and build communities of faith through encounters, Life in the Spirit Seminars and discipleship formation.
- We will give formation on personal and family prayer, pro-life values, Catholic social teachings and stewardship.

### For our communities:

- We will actively participate in the life and mission of the Church in accord with our God-given gifts.

### For our country:

- We will work on poverty alleviation through scholarships, housing for the poor and advocacies for life, environment and good governance.

## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>3,047</b>	<b>81,769</b>

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

Thank you for your continued support!

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ISAIAH 58

**In Need of Wellness Program Volunteers**  
Doctors (General Practice) and Nurses for Blood Pressure and Sugar Screening.

Contact: Isaiah 58 @ [isaiah58@bldnewark.com](mailto:isaiah58@bldnewark.com)

### MISSION

#### Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

**Jul 14 • Singles** • Contact: Singles @ [singles@bldnewark.com](mailto:singles@bldnewark.com)

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Jun 29	Evangelization
		Jul 06	Pastoral
		Jul 13	Formation
		Jul 20	Management
		Jul 27	Mission

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# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 26

Bulletin Edition

July 6, 2012

## THOUSANDS ATTEND CLOSING MASS OF 'FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM' AT WASHINGTON BASILICA

*Archbishop Chaput: Religious Liberty Is a Foundational Right*

WASHINGTON, D.C., JULY 4, 2012 (Zenit.org).- Thousands of people packed the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. for the closing Mass of the Fortnight for Freedom.

Organized by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the Fortnight for Freedom was a period of prayer, study, catechesis and public action. The USCCB has openly protested a mandate within the Affordable Care Act that would require religious institutions to cover sterilization, contraception and abortifacient drugs.

The archbishop of Philadelphia, Archbishop Charles Chaput, gave the homily, focusing on the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus tells the Pharisees and Herodians to render unto Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.

"Once we understand this, the impact of Christ's response to his enemies becomes clear. Jesus isn't being clever. He's not offering a political commentary. He's making a claim on every human being. He's saying, render unto Caesar those things that bear Caesar's image, but more importantly, render unto God that which bears God's image -- in other words, you and me. All of us," the archbishop said.

Contemplating the relationship between religious faith and secular authority, the archbishop stated, is important. Though Catholics in the United States have obligations of charity and justice with their fellow citizens, the former archbishop of Denver said that Christ's message in the Gospel was uncompromising. "We should give Caesar nothing of ourselves," he said.

"But God made us for more than the world. Our real home isn't here. The point *Continued on page 4*

## COUNSELS

### Living In His Grace

**Theme** We demonstrate faith in the Good Shepherd when we proclaim God's message without fear.

**Word** Ezekiel 2:2-5; Psalms 123:1-4; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Mark 6:1-6

**Order** Fix our eyes on Jesus.

**REFLECTION:**

They said: "Where did he get all this? What kind of wisdom is he endowed with? How is it such miraculous deeds are accomplished by his hands? Isn't this the carpenter, the son of Mary, a brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters our neighbors here?" They found Him too much for them.

This was how the people of authority looked at Jesus. He was treated with great reproach and did not receive the respect He deserved. They could not accept Jesus and all the good works He shared with everyone. The truth and the wisdom that He brought upon them were met with great question and sarcasm for they could not believe that such a lowly and poor man could ever be endowed with such gifts. Their hearts were filled with disgust. How can Jesus teach with great wisdom and authority when He did not even come from the elite class of learned people; neither was He brought up among the wealthy and the rich as the best that He had was a manger for His birthplace. Jesus was a mere carpenter. What good could come out of Him.

That was how people treated Jesus during His time. Today, thousands of years later, it is very discouraging to note that man *Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

## WISDOM TO THE SIMPLE

**W**hen we pray “Lord grant us your wisdom” do we really know what we are asking for? Do we understand that the wisdom of the All Knowing, Omniscient God is mysterious, hidden? 1 Corinthians 2:7 and, in Proverbs 3:19a, it says, the Lord, by wisdom founded the earth. To ponder on these is to understand that there is such tremendous power in wisdom. Therefore, is this power worthy to the simple, the poor, the little, the blind, the sinner?

Wisdom is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

Our past dark life which was guided by our own broken understanding was certainly void of this gift. This is when life was overflowing with enmity, greed, insensitivity, violence and everything that only leads to ruin and hurt. This was my world too. But, this is not His Divine plan. In our misery, God reveals His wisdom which conveys that, rather, His marvelous plan to all of creation is for all to belong to Him and be glorified with Him in heaven.

In our pilgrim life, our goal is to hunger and thirst for this wisdom of God and in our BLD community, can we honestly look at ourselves and say that we are in the direction towards fulfilling this wisdom? Our walk is never easy, but, we are in this community to accomplish this Divine wisdom with the fire and inspiration of the Holy Spirit to translate it into words and works towards each other and even to the stranger and non-believers we meet along our way.

Let our guide be His words. ***“The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The decree of the Lord is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.”*** (Psalms 19:8) His words are the foundation of truth and life. He is the origin of wisdom which is a grace that the “simple” to be rich must elect, otherwise, life is naught. His wisdom He has made known and He is inviting us to be co-heirs to His glory. Let us then act now without delay. Let none be left behind and prepare ourselves and others to see ***“What eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him.”*** (1 Corinthians 2:9)

How generous, loving and kind our heavenly Father is. Seek Him in our midst. His wisdom is our strength and power.

## JESUS is the Capstone

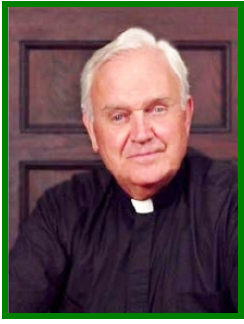


Ever feel like your whole world is collapsing under your feet? Life as you knew it will never be the same and you feel totally lost? Left to our own devices we could easily fall into an emotional, physical and spiritual downward spiral. The wonderful news is that ***“you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone. Through him the whole structure is held together and grows into a temple sacred in the Lord; in him you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”*** (Ephesians 2:19-22) Jesus Christ is with us and within each and every one of us. He is the capstone that holds our life together. If we are with Him, He will transform us and we will become a holy temple, a dwelling place of God our Father in the spirit.

Yet it is very difficult for us to yield to the will of our Lord, after all this is America, land of the free. Freedom is very important to all of us, and yet we fail to realize that we are slaves to fashion, technology, entertainment, cars, money and countless other things without giving it much thought. When we have a problem, we will quarrel with our brothers or turn to vices to take away the pain and self medicate. ***“The gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction.”*** (Matthew 7:13)

I have seen and experienced what our modern day freedoms has wrought within my immediate and extended families. With the trials that I have encountered along with my awakening to the love and compassion of my Heavenly Father, I know that the Gospel is true. Through my time in community I have been emboldened share the word of our Lord as well as rely more on our Lord God to lead me along the narrow path and hold my hand during treacherous times. My Lord Jesus Christ is the capstone of my life, for He sustains and holds me together for without Him, I am nothing.

## Fr. Paul Speaks



We are all excited over the priestly Ordination of father Gino Pattugalan. I would like to use this occasion to look more closely at the gift of Holy Orders that Jesus has given to His church. Historically the Old Testament priesthood came into existence after the idolatrous worship of the golden calf during the chosen people's journey through the desert. Previous to that disaster, the father head of the family was a priest one who led his family in worship. After the incident of the golden calf, the tribe of Levi was designated as a priestly tribe.

Jesus the Incarnate Son of God is the fulfillment of the Old Testament priesthood. When He died on the cross, He became the New Testament priest who offered the sacrifice of His body and blood for the salvation of the human race. Those who by Baptism become part of the Church become also a "priestly people" by being incorporated into the Mystical Body of Christ. ***"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own ..."*** (1 Peter 2:9) Thus we are all priests of Christ through the consecration of our Baptism. Particularly when we go to Mass, we are exercising our Priesthood, by offering with Jesus' sacrifice our own gifts and sacrifices. Without this foundation, the Priesthood of Holy Orders would have no basis. Holy Orders exist to serve the foundational Priesthood of the baptized.

The Sacrament of Holy Orders is an exercise of the ministerial priesthood. In other words we are servants. This Sacrament really has three parts. The fullness of the Priesthood is found in the bishop. The bishop along with the other bishops throughout the world also form a "college", with the exercise of leadership in the Catholic Church along with the holy father, the pope. The priest is the servant leader of the Church, ministering particularly by the celebration of Sacraments. The deacon does not receive priestly orders, but is the one consecrated to minister to the priest and people.

As we all instinctively respect the priest, we should be reminded that an excessive veneration of the priest could lead to his isolation. We respect the priest because of his relationship to Christ, not so much because he is superior in holiness, even if we rightly expect him to be a model of holiness. We congratulate Fr. Gino and pray that he will become a priest after the heart of Jesus Christ.

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

has not changed. As such God comes to us with His exhortation that when dealing with our fellow worker in His vineyard, we should look into the goodness that is in him rather than at his faults. We should not look at how one started in life but how one has led his life in pursuit of God and His ways. We should not be concerned if one came into the world with a silver spoon or if one came from a family that has been destitute for generations. All we should consider is the goodness of a man and how he has glorified God in his life.

As we are all broken and sinful, we are susceptible not only to judge others based on our opinion of their faults, especially those who wound our feelings or those who conflict with our own way of thinking and acting. While we give little or no consideration to their good points, we may judge them based on what we perceive them to be and their social standing: who they are in society, what their achievements are, how great their influence is, but most importantly, how thick their pocketbook is. In other words, the more a man exudes with the elements of the world, the more people are likely to accept him and give him credence as a son of God.

Is this how Jesus wants us to treat each other? Given some degree of authority within God's family, is this how we will address our co-workers and those who endeavor to work for Him?

Jesus was looked down upon by the church elders and this hampered His fruitfulness. As Scripture says, *"He could work no miracle there, apart from curing a few who were sick by laying hands on them; so much did their lack of faith distress him."* If we discriminate a fellow worker in Christ, we hamper not only his ministry but also his spiritual growth and we are therefore answerable to God.

If ever we are set aside in the manner Jesus was treated, let us not be fearful of weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints for the sake of Christ; for when we are weak, that is when we are strong. That is when Christ dwells in us and His grace is sufficient for us.

*Lord Jesus, You are the fulfillment of all our hopes and desires. Your Spirit brings us grace, truth, life, and freedom. Fill us with the joy of the gospel and inflame our hearts with love and zeal for You and for Your will. Heavenly Father, when we chance to see a co-worker do something* **Continued on page 4**

## COUNSELS (from page 3)

seemingly imperfect, give us the grace to see the goodness in the person and credit him with the good intentions he no doubt possesses because he is one of Your children whom You love as well. In Jesus, we hope and pray. Amen.

### DIRECTIONS

1. Exhort the whole community to nourish their spiritual life through daily prayers, discipline of intimacy with God.
2. Be content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints for the sake of Christ.

## THOUSANDS ATTEND CLOSING ... (from page 1)

of today's Gospel passage is not how we might calculate a fair division of goods between Caesar and God. In reality, it all belongs to God and nothing -- at least nothing permanent and important -- belongs to Caesar. Why? Because just as the coin bears the stamp of Caesar's image, we bear the stamp of God's image in baptism. We belong to God, and only to God."

### Freedom and religious liberty

Archbishop Chaput called on the faithful to live their lives in the true freedom that comes from living according to God's intention for us.

"This is the freedom of the sons and daughters of God. It's the freedom of Miguel Pro, Mother Teresa, Maximilian Kolbe, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and all the other holy women and men who have gone before us to do the right thing, the heroic thing, in the face of suffering and adversity," he said.

"This is the kind of freedom that can transform the world. And it should animate all of our talk about liberty -- religious or otherwise."

Citing religious liberty as foundational right, the archbishop of Philadelphia said that it is necessary for a good society that allows for people to live in a more profound freedom that is the discipleship in Jesus Christ.

Archbishop Chaput concluded his homily, calling on all Christians to be witnesses of the truth and the necessity to speak out not only for freedom and religious liberty but also for the sacredness of life and the dignity of the human person.

"When we leave this Mass today, we need to render unto Caesar those things that bear his image. But we need to render ourselves unto God — generously, zealously, holding nothing back. To the extent we let God transform us into his own image, we will – by the example of our lives – fulfill our duty as citizens of the United States, but much more importantly, as disciples of Jesus Christ," he said.

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## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>3,090</b>	<b>85,148</b>

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

Thank you for your continued support!

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Jul 07\* New Creation Realities, Growth in Prayer, Christian Maturity Program I (Part 2) – LSS 1-38  
Apologetics - LSS 1-35

Jul 20 Teaching - Mark 10, John 6, Youth  
Sienna Gift Test - LSS 35

Jul 27 Teaching - Golden Years

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-5pm @ St. Mary's

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### YE #19

Jul 13-15 • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA  
Contact: Youth Ministry @ [YCS@bldnewark.com](mailto:YCS@bldnewark.com)

### FE #19

Jul 20-22 • Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA  
Contact: Family Life Apostolate @ [fla@bldnewark.com](mailto:fla@bldnewark.com)

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

#### Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

### MISSION

#### Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

Jul 14 • Singles • Contact: Singles @ [singles@bldnewark.com](mailto:singles@bldnewark.com)

## SAVE THE DATE

### Prayer Counseling

Jul 21-22-Prayer Healing 1 • Jul 28-29-Prayer Healing 2

St. Mary's School • 2<sup>nd</sup> floor & Connell Hall

Contact: Sam/Rory Olaso @ [pastoral@bldnewark.com](mailto:pastoral@bldnewark.com)



### Dinner Dance 2012

Sept 22, 8-12pm @ VFW in Manville, NJ

Contacts: Adela 201.665.6880,

Me-Anne 973.366.6690

For details and ticket purchase

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Jul 13	Formation
		Jul 20	Management
		Jul 27	Mission
		Aug 03	Evangelization
		Aug 10	Pastoral



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 27

Bulletin Edition

July 13, 2012

## NEWS

### Fr. Gino celebrates first BLD mass

Last Friday evening, as the Community celebrated its First Friday Healing Mass, we were privileged to welcome home Fr. Gino Pattugalan. Fr. Gino is a member of BLD Newark, class of YLSS#6, YE#7, and FE#8. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 23, 2012 by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Bishop of Brooklyn. On Friday, in spite of the record-breaking heat, St. Mary's auditorium was over-flowing with joy as Fr. Gino celebrated his first Mass for the BLD Newark community. It was touching to see one of our own con-celebrating with Fr. Paul and Fr. Robert and assisted by our deacons: Eme Anyanwu, Serge Bernatchez, Rene Perez, Rudy Santos and Joey Viola.

Directly following the Mass, the community welcomed 9 newly-committed disciples: Cinderella Alegria from SPE 13, Seg Ogang and Tep Rigor from Singles; Lenon & Anne Ceria, Tonio & Sandy Saint-Jean and Rick & Isabel Yglesias from ME 37. In addition, there was also the installation of the new Singles Core Servant Leaders: Pepa Mendiola (Evangelization), Walter Wade (Formation), Melissa Martinez (Management & Mission), and Pauline Montemayor (Pastoral) as well as the new Youth Core Servant Leaders: Jay Ymbong (Formation), Sean Olaso (Evangelization), Nikko Tolentino (Management), Monica San Agustin (Mission), Kypsi Quevada (Pastoral), and Erika Flores (DYCA-District Youth Council Adviser).

In an article that he wrote for the February 17, 2012 issue of the Covenant News (available on the BLD web site), Fr. Gino spoke of his appreciation for the love and support of BLD Newark: "this summer...I approach the altar of God, finally, as a priest. I know that I would not be at this point today if it were not for continuous prayers from my friends and family in the BLD community." His appreciation became clear during one of the highlights of the evening, the opportunity to receive a blessing from Fr. Gino. Undaunted by the length of the line and the oppressive heat, Father graciously took his time with all who came forward as he prayed for their needs and blessed each one. *May God continue to bless you in your priesthood, Father Gino.*

## COUNSELS

### For God's Glory Alone

THEME: We demonstrate faith in the Good Shepherd when we respond to His call with enthusiasm.

WORD: Amos 7:12-15; Psalm 85:9-14; Ephesians 1:3-10; Mark 6:7-13

ORDER: "*Be holy and without blemish before God.*" (Ephesians 1:3)

REFLECTION:

In the first reading Amos was commanded by God to prophesy to the people of Israel. Amos was not a regular prophet, he was a shepherd and a pruner of sycamore trees. By qualification Amos was not prepared for his new job. However, God as always chose the simple and the ordinary to do His work. Amos was an ordinary man who responded to God's call to bring the people of Israel closer to God. He was sent by God to reveal to the people of Israel the injustices and deceit that is happening in their place. He protested strongly against the religious abuses and lack of religion in Israel. He emphasized on the truth that religious worship without a morally good life had no value in the eyes of God. Just as any prophet, Amos was expelled from his place, "*Off with you, seer, flee to the land of Judah ...*" (Amos 7:12) And the people of Israel was destroyed, exiled ... this would have been prevented if the people listened to Amos.

In the gospel reading Jesus sent his 12 disciples on their first mission. He sent them out two by two. As in couple power! His instructions were clear: to stay focused on what they are to do. "*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.*" (Mark 6:8-9)

*Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

"Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land." (Psalm 85:10)

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

## Steadfast Faith In Trials

God created everything with the purpose of glorifying, worshipping and serving Him. He created the land, the sea and the sky and everything in them for us to use. He created us in His likeness and image.

However, we have abused our options and freedom of choice. He gave us His spirit because of His steadfast trust and faith in us, His beloved people. We preferred, though, the bad spirit to rule our lives because it is easier. This has caused us to drift away from God. In spite of our unfaithfulness, He unconditionally forgave our sins. He even gave up His only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in order to save us and give us eternal life.

I have experienced the healing love and faith of the Lord in my life. Before BLD, I was part of the old world who does not know God. I ignored and disrespected God by not praying, not receiving the Eucharist and not loving anybody. In 2006, my spouse was diagnosed with stage four colon cancer. This episode in our life hit us real hard. We blamed God for punishing us of our sinfulness. One day, one of our close friends from BLD persuaded us to join the BLD community to find comfort, peace and solution to my spouse's physical disease. In our desperation, we decided to seek comfort and refuge from the Lord whom we abandoned for a long time. I believe that this situation is God's way of reminding us of His steadfast faith in us and our option to change our ways.

Since we joined the community and started our new spiritual journey, we re-discovered God's love and righteousness. Our life revolved around prayer and service to others. For five years, my spouse was in and out of the hospital undergoing chemotherapy and other medical procedures. We both open-heartedly accepted these trials with a steadfast faith in the Lord's will.

In 2011, with a renewed spirit and steadfast heart, Mila, my spouse accepted death with a smile. The Lord took away only her mortal body. He saved her soul and granted her eternal life. I witnessed God's work in my spouse's life. To my brothers and sisters who are undergoing the same kind of suffering, let us all be reminded to turn to Him, who has called us to His eternal glory in Christ. He, Himself, will restore us and make us strong, firm and steadfast in our faith. Amen.

## Fellowship in Suffering

***"The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!"*** (Mt 10:24-25)

No disciple would ever want to surpass Jesus as a Teacher or as a Master. In fact Jesus says it is enough for any disciple to be just like the teacher or the master. A disciple is a "learner", a student, and he should be content to be like his teacher and walk in his footsteps. Being like Jesus is the highest and the only goal of any disciple. It is the highest honor to be identified with Jesus, given the degree of difficulty in emulating Him. But this honor entails a very tough challenge.

*"If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household?"* In this verse lie both our encouragement and our challenge. For when we are persecuted by the world, even to the extent of being called "Beelzebul", because we follow Jesus' commandments, teachings and ways, then we are sure that we have become like our Teacher and Master, Jesus. And if we could not accept that we might be hated for it, then our commitment to Jesus becomes questionable.

***"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you... If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also."*** (Jn 15:18-20) The truth in John's words convicts us that if we are true disciples, we are members of Jesus' household, and we share in His sufferings.

A disciple need not go out into the world to feel hated for following Jesus' ways and teachings. Even in community it is possible to feel persecuted by way of being ostracized simply because one applies the Word of God strictly, while others around him may persist in applying their worldly wisdom as if it came from above. They could block the truth of God without their knowing, believing that they know better. If it happens, we should not resist them, let us pray for them, and let us continue to love them, as Jesus taught us to love those who persecute us.

Given the hardship that goes with discipleship, are we content just to be like our Teacher and Master or do we want to be greater than He so we can be immune from all sufferings, from all persecutions? Of course not, for there is no joy in it for us who want to love and serve Jesus and our neighbor. If we are true followers of Jesus, we must be content to fellowship with Him in His suffering so that we may rejoice and be counted worthy to suffer dishonor for His Holy Name.

Let our prayer then be that of St. Paul: that we may know Jesus ***"and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that we may attain to the resurrection from the dead."*** (Phil 3:10-11)



## **Ministry Matters** — *With an Appeal and Invitation*

**The Golden Years Ministry (GYM)** – What is it?

Before expounding about the Ministry, let's remember St. Matthew's gospel, chapter 16, verses 13, 16. "**Jesus asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?'** **Simon Peter said in reply, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'**"

St. Peter's response reverberates in all **BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY** members, distinctively those pursuing Christian Discipleship Formation Program. Yet, not everybody realizes the challenge associated with it – *to faithfully contemplate on Jesus, on one's lifetime journey so the soul will be filled with Him, to grow in His likeness, and to possess the ability of ever becoming holy until one is with Him for all eternity.*

The Ministry's vision: *We are a community of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about faith, hope and love with God and with one another.*

The Golden Years Ministry is an association of people of faith, retired from active work and personally established in life, enjoying physical, mental and emotional soundness to freely live out the Gospel demands and pursue spiritually meaningful life.

### **OUR APPEAL**

Dear brethren in **BLD**, allow us to take this great opportunity to solicit your help and support. Join us, become a **Gymer**, and let us be one mind and heart sharing faith:

- "Joining the **GYM** taught me to praise and worship God. Being so much a part of this "extended family" felt so secured and safe to be interceding for others and almost forgetting about myself."
- "Learned to speak words of blessing rather than my usual bad talks. Taught me tithing, and placed me in the Special Ministers of Communion. Accorded me perseverance to seek the crown of righteousness with Jesus."
- "Being in Ministry taught me appreciation of things in life, found myself sharing faith with brethren, and learned forgiveness even towards my enemies."
- "Never in my dreams did I realize I would be a part of the Philippine Medical Mission, where charity and humility abounds - a big accomplishment in my life. Thanks to my Ministry affiliation."
- "Serving in Ministry had strengthened my faith. Working with the **Gymers** provides me so much joy."

**NOTE: Our prayerful expectation is to have the 1<sup>st</sup> GYM Encounter this coming June 29-30, 2013.**

*Lord Jesus, I pray for those who have lost their zeal and fervor for You. Stir up their faith and commitment to You. Enkindle within them the fire of Your Holy Spirit that they may pursue the love that they have in You. Amen.*

## **COUNSELS** (from page 1)

Jesus told the apostles to "travel light" with little or no provision. "Poverty of spirit" frees us from greed and preoccupation with possessions and makes ample room for God's provision. "**My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.**" (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Jesus wanted the 12 apostles to preach repentance, drive out demons, cure the sick. In other words, Jesus wanted us to transform our world into God's kingdom, to transform our world into heaven. When we do God's will we help establish God's reign here on earth, our earth now becomes heaven!

God's will or plan for us is to have everlasting life with Him. But when sin entered our world due to Satan's envy and our disobedience, death came to humankind. Our Father in heaven then, because of His love for us, sent His only son Jesus Christ to save us from death. We have sinned against God. The greatest offense could not be justified by a mere human sacrifice. We need Jesus' blood, the Son of God, to appease God's justice. He suffered for us so that we can receive eternal life again. This is God's message to us in the second reading (Ephesians 1:3-14). May we accept this God's greatest gift. Let us choose LIFE. Let us choose GOD. Let us follow His will and His commands. When we chose Him - we then chose the path of righteousness in Jesus, for it is the **ONLY WAY** to God the Father. So, let us be bold to respond to God's call. A call that is so imperative that **NO ONE** should refuse it- to proclaim to every human being that there is a God, that He is near when we call on His name, that our purpose here on earth is not to accumulate wealth and power and prestige for ourselves. We are not God, we are His servants, commanded to bring everyone closer to Him, **FOR GOD'S GLORY ALONE!** When we work in His vineyard, we find fullness and contentment in our lives. Jesus gives us the strength to live a life of purpose.

Jesus warned His apostles that there will be some people who will resist God's kingdom, who will not have faith in Him, "**Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them.**" (Mark 6:11) When we answer God's call to serve Him, be it in our **BLD** community, our home and in our workplace, like Jesus and His disciples, expect to meet resistance. Jesus commanded us to stay focused on Him, we should stay focused on our mission, and there is only one mission, to establish God's reign. It is indeed an awesome thought that Jesus entrusts His mission to us, "with our own power and talent we can do little; with the authority with which Jesus invests His disciples we can do much." (Living Liturgy, p. 170)

### **DIRECTIONS**

1. Go prophesy to my people.
2. Because we are chosen and destined for God's purposes, let us respond boldly to His call, trusting that He will accomplish all things according to His will.
3. Let our existence be only for the praise of God's glory.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

### St. Mary's Church Renovation

Effective **July 1**, all future mass and adult prayer meetings will be held at the auditorium until further notice.

**"My house shall be called a house of prayer."**  
(Isaiah 56:7)

Please conduct all business and fellowship outside. Even thoughtful whispering gathers to a noisy din when done by many disciples all at once!

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Jul 20 Teaching - **Mark 10, John 6, Youth**  
Sienna Gift Test - **LSS35**

Jul 27 Teaching - **Golden Years**

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's



### Moments

*Happy moments* Praise God  
*Difficult moments* Seek God  
*Quiet moments* Worship God  
*Painful moments* Trust God  
*Every moment* Thank God

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### FE #19

Jul 20-22 • Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA  
Contact: Family Life Apostolate @ [fla@bldnewark.com](mailto:fla@bldnewark.com)

## Be a Living Word

## SAVE THE DATE

### Prayer Counseling

Jul 21-22-Prayer Healing 1 • Jul 28-29-Prayer Healing 2  
Venue to be announced  
Contact: Sam/Rory Olaso @ [pastoral@bldnewark.com](mailto:pastoral@bldnewark.com)



## BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20 August 18, Saturday

**Please support other Ablaze @ 20 events and projects:**  
20th Anniversary Book to be published in December featuring BLD history, as well as the many ways the Lord has utilized our Community to bring everyone closer to Him.



### Dinner Dance 2012

Sept 22, 8-12pm @ VFW in Manville, NJ  
Contacts: Adela 201.665.6880,  
Me-Anne 973.366.6690  
For details and ticket purchase

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## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>3,810</b>	<b>88,958</b>

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)  
Thank you for your continued support!

### Five (5) W's of community life

- 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.
- Word** – know the LORD through reading and reflecting on the Gospel. Seek direction and guidance through the words in the Scripture.
- Witness** – let others see Jesus in you – see Jesus in every person you meet.
- Work** – giving a full day's work for a full day's pay – exercising Christian values and ethics.
- 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.

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ISAIAH 58 /SERVICE MINISTRY

**Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check**  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

### MISSION

#### Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

Jul 14 • Singles • Contact: Singles @ [singles@bldnewark.com](mailto:singles@bldnewark.com)

## Stewardship - It's a way of life!

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Jul 20	Management
			Jul 27	Mission
			Aug 03	Evangelization
			Aug 10	Pastoral
			Aug 17	Formation

### Family Prayer

*God made us a family. We need one another. We love one another. We forgive one another. We work together. We play together. We worship together. Together we use God's word. Together we grow in Christ. Together we love all people. Together we serve our God. Together we hope for heaven. These are our hopes and ideals. Help us to attain them, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 28

Bulletin Edition

July 20, 2012

## BLD Newark welcomes YE 19 graduates

Today, July 20, 2012 marks the first day that our community welcomes with open arms and joyful hearts the beaming graduates of our Youth Encounter #19, which was held this past weekend in Pine Hill Retreat House, Canadensis, PA. The YE 19 class comprised of youth from BLD Charlotte, BLD Newark, and even some newcomers to BLD. The spiritual director for this weekend was Msgr. Paul Schetelick; the Pastoral Team members were John Estrella, Justin Lucero, Olivia Felibrico, and Ianna Abad,

With the power of God's most overwhelming grace, one weekend transformed each of these youth, individuals from many walks of life, into one family with the Father's love set as the cornerstone in their hearts. They are: Dustin Alba, Thomas Algenio, Eric Bautista, Kirk Bautista, Kristine Demagajes, Fernando Faura, Kyle Dominic Flores, Ehaj Joeyce Furigay, Genisse Gabriel, Ruth Ann Gonzales, Christian Guinto, Kimberly Labaso, Zachary Larobis, Sophia Lavell, Jean-Luke Libunao, Matthew Libunao, Julienne Lomibao, Anthony Lucero, Alonzo Magsino, Kaylin Malinit, Melanie Manalo, Rad Manongo, Lauren Meneses, Joseph-Benjamin Mutuc, Isabella Ntigbu, Andrew Olazo, Alyssa Pascoguin, Joanna Pepino, Michael Pepino, Kristian Quevada, Jen Reyes, Rhen Ivan Reyes, Bianca Salamat, Isabella Syquia, Jose Antonio Syquia, Mikayel Toomey, Chrisdelle Villanueva, Christian Villanueva, Michael Villavicencio and Peter Wong.

Throughout the course of the YE 19 retreat, a phrase came about, and it took great significance in not only the candidates, but also the auxies. This expression, uttered many times, by many people with deepest sincerity is, "I love you, and God loves you unconditionally." For many, this is the soul of the Youth Encounter, finding the love of God through one's peers, and seeing God's love in and around oneself. *Continued on page 4*

## COUNSELS

### The Key to Good Shepherding, to Good Leadership

**THEME:** We demonstrate faith in the Good Shepherd when we minister with compassion

**WORD :** Jer 23:1-6; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 2:13-18; Mk 6:30-34

**ORDER:** *"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while."* (Mark 6:31)

**REFLECTION:**

We live in a divided and broken world brought about by the contrasting attitudes of the different sectors of society and the political views that they embrace. It is a world in which a lot of our leaders have been more of dividers than unifiers. The Sunday readings invite us to meditate on the value of good leadership that is in accord with God's will.

The first reading begins with a strong condemnation of the leaders who worked for their own interests and benefits, instead of caring and protecting the flock entrusted to them. God sent the prophet Jeremiah to denounce corruption and usher in a new hope. God promised to appoint another leader, a good shepherd, righteous and just, who will govern wisely and who will show true concern for the people.

The Psalm speaks of our absolute trust in God to care for us, while the second reading talks about the reconciling work of Christ achieved by His death and resurrection. He is the bond of unity, unifying Jews and Gentiles into a single religious community imbued with the same Holy Spirit and worshipping the same Father.

The Gospel account presents Jesus not only as a good shepherd whose heart is moved with pity for the people entrusted to Him by the Father, but also as the one who truly cares of them. *Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*"I will appoint shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear and tremble; and none shall be missing."* (Jeremiah 23:4)

## WHAT GOD DESIRES

We grew up in a very traditional Catholic Family, where attending Sunday masses are sacred and considered a family affair. Reciting the rosary and the Angelus, and joining the May flower procession singing 'Dios De Salve' for Mama Mary are must dos. Our Holy Week To Do list is long as well : on top of abstinence and fasting, we attend to all the church services on Ash Wednesdays, Maundy Thursdays, Good Fridays and the Salubong (Dawn Mass) on Sundays, we do the 'Visita Iglesia' on all 14 churches, and kissing the cross on Fridays. Added to that, I got married to a man, whose family tradition includes attending to their patron saint, St John the Evangelist, a major participant during Holy Week. We go thru the town procession on foot from Wed until the Sunday Dawn Mass. Preparing St John for the occasion is a feat in itself, from dressing him up to preparing his lights and his carriage and its decorations through-out the whole affair. All other personal activities are set aside in honor of St John.

The above list is not something that the Good Lord does not like. He just prefers for us to ***“Wash yourselves clean! Put away your misdeeds from before my eyes; cease doing evil; learn to do good. Make justice your aim: redress the wronged, hear the orphan’s plea, defend the widow.”*** (Is 1:16-17) However, you cannot take away tradition from celebrating our faith. So how do we reconcile the two?

1. **Praying.** Reciting the rosary or the Angelus or doing a 9-day novena is a chance for us to renew constant communication with the Lord. We set aside a certain time of the day to be in touch, to listen to His Words, and to offer my day as a celebration of God’s presence in our lives.
2. **Doing Good.** We try to emulate the things He has done when He was man in order for people to see His face in us. When we do something good to others, we should try to remind ourselves that we are doing this for Jesus. We should be living witnesses to our God. Attend to the needs of the less fortunate.
3. **Wash Ourselves Clean.** Imagine yourself doing the Holy Week tradition and yet deep in our hearts there is hatred! Our sacrifice of praise becomes so hard to bear. We need to constantly remind ourselves that living a life with Jesus means turning away from sin and living His word.

*Create in me a clean heart and renew in me a steadfast spirit. Lord, only by Your grace will I be able to face everybody around me, carrying the love and peace that is only coming from You. Let me be truthful and faithful to You always, In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.*

## Lean on Me

All my life I have thought that the best formula for success is perseverance, hard work, dedication, patience and lots of luck. As they say, “No retreat, no surrender.” I also strongly believe that if you have faith in God, whatever you ask from Him, He will give you.

In every major decision of my life, I always prayed to God for guidance, a for sign, and I always heard Him whispering in my ear to go ahead. I believed that God gave me special gifts to develop and use; so I would gear up, and focus my time, energy and skills on the task at hand. ***“As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”*** (1 Peter 4:10)

When I finished college, I immediately landed a good job and started moving up the ranks, switching jobs until I was able to reach top management positions. All my hard work was paying off. I thought God was so good to me and that life would only get better. I was in control of my destiny, or so I thought.

I then decided to migrate to the U.S. with my family and chase the American dream. I believed I had made the right call, but one day I woke up to see the life that I learned to love and embrace was slipping away. I felt so scared and worried because this was the first time I had ever failed. I started blaming people around me for my misfortunes and God for abandoning me. I tried talking to Him again but I just couldn’t hear Him anymore. At times I couldn’t find the courage to pray because I thought He wasn’t listening anyway. For me, it had been so easy to praise and thank God when I had everything but very difficult when those things were taken away.

***“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest.”*** (Matthew 11:28) One day while reflecting on my misfortune, it dawned on me: I was actually trying to regain control of my life without His guidance. I realized that although God had given me gifts to use, I still needed Him to guide me through. ***“For my thoughts are not your thoughts nor my ways your ways.”*** (Isaiah 55:8) It took me some time to be able to let go and offer myself to God and to make Him the center of my life. I started praying again and offered all my problems to Him. I learned to surrender all to Him without any reservations. ***“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”*** (Matthew 11:29-30)

These days, my life is still a struggle. The big difference today is Jesus. Now I am confident that my burden is light because Jesus is there to help me carry it. I seek His Will not mine. I have learned to completely surrender to Him and let Him be in control. I now look at life in a different way. I am more positive and always joyful to find Jesus back in my life. And I am grateful that He led me to BLD, which has helped me a lot in my new journey.

## EUCCHARIST AS SACRIFICE

This is a portion of the Lord's Supper narrative according to Matthew: *"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.'" (Matthew 26:26-28)*

This is the Self-offering of the Father in the gift of the Son. God so loved the world that He sent His only son. This is God's offering of Himself: Father, Son and Spirit, to humanity because of Love. The very nature of God is revealed in this offering of Himself for humanity's sake. It is a unique response of the Son, in His humanity, to the Father. There is only one perfect sacrifice: Jesus' sacrifice at Calvary. His sacrifice is a once-and-for-all sacrifice. *"For this reason he is mediator of a new covenant: since a death has taken place for deliverance from transgressions under the first covenant, those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance."* (Hebrews 9:15) The Eucharist is a memorial in the Hebrew sense of a re-presentation of a specific event. The Eucharist re-presents both the sacramental and spiritual nature of Jesus' sacrifice; believers draw spiritual nourishment from this memorial. Jesus' ultimate sacrifice does not need to be repeated, but remembered and celebrated. *"But now once for all he has appeared at the end of the ages to take away sin by his sacrifice"* (Hebrews 9:26b)

*"For this reason, when he came into the world, he said: 'Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight in.' Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, Behold, I come to do your will, O God.' First he says, 'Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in.' These are offered according to the law. Then he says, 'Behold, I come to do your will.' He takes away the first to establish the second. By this 'will' we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."* (Hebrews 10:5-10)

The Father is most revealed in the suffering and crucified Savior, Jesus Christ in the EUCCHARIST AS SACRIFICE. In receiving the Eucharist we as Christ's body, the Church, echo His obedience, "Behold, I come to do your will, O God."

As a true leader, Jesus empowered His apostles by sending them on a mission (cf Mk 6:7-13) to continue what He has started and to bring the good news of salvation.

When they came back, the apostles gave an account of what they have done and taught. To come back to the Lord means coming back to the source that gives us strength and guidance to keep working wisely and compassionately. It is recognizing that we are not the self absorbed leaders, but the servants who have to put into action what the master has recommended. Any servant who fails to sincerely account "his actions and his accomplishments" with the Lord runs the risk of following human logic in assessing his work only in terms of success, statistics and conquests. That is why the apostles who *gather together* around Jesus and review with Him what they have done, represent the community that keeps constant touch with the Lord. It is important to stop, ponder in silence, and pray about what we do. Otherwise we will keep doing it for the Lord, but without the Lord. Jesus said, *"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."* (John 15:5) Without the continuous contact with Christ, those who work for Him can easily become mere workers, devoid of love and compassion.

Also upon their return, we find Jesus taking His apostles out into a deserted place. He removes His apostles from the distractions and concerns they experienced while at work. They needed a break. *"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest for a while."* (Mark 6:31) They needed to rest and find tranquility while reflecting on their actions. Just like the apostles, we could only achieve the serenity of resting in the Spirit while we are in the love and the divine peace of Jesus Christ.

*"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack."* (Psalm 23:1) Lord Jesus Christ is The Good Shepherd, the One who leads us back home to our Father in heaven. He leads us with compassion because He suffers for us. He knows and understands what is in our hearts, our wants and needs. Above all, Jesus brings us the gift of wholeness in our brokenness, unity in place of division, loving concern for others out of our self-concerns, and holiness in place of our sinfulness. *"His heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd."* (Mark 6:34)

Pity and compassion are qualities found in these our great leaders, Mother Teresa *Continued on page 4*

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

**"My house shall be called a house of prayer."**  
(Isaiah 56:7)

Please conduct all business and fellowship outside.  
Even thoughtful whispering gathers to a noisy din  
when done by many disciples all at once!

### Petition Slip Guidelines

1. **Use only one Petition Slip for each petition type.** For example, when requesting for the Spiritual, Financial, and Miscellaneous, fill out and complete 3 separate petition slips. The reason is **9 petition types are segregated** and **assigned to separate intercessors** to prepare the Community's Intercessory Petitions.
2. **Print Clearly and Legibly.**
3. It is highly recommended to complete the Petition Slips at home prior to coming to worship. Forms are available at [www.bldnewark.com](http://www.bldnewark.com) click on **Petition Slip**.

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Jul 20 Teaching - **Mark 10, John 6, Youth**  
Siena Gift Test - **LSS 35**

Jul 27 Teaching - **Golden Years**

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**LSS #39**

**Oct 5-7 • St. Mary's, Rahway, NJ**

Contact: Life in the Spirit Apostolate @ [lsa@bldnewark.com](mailto:lsa@bldnewark.com)

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION

### Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ  
Every 4th Sat. of the month.

Jul 28 • Treasury • Contact: Treasury @ [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)

## Be a Living Word

## SAVE THE DATE

### Prayer Counseling

Jul 28-29 - Prayer Healing 2

St. Mary's School • 2<sup>nd</sup> floor & Connell Hall

Contact: Sam/Rory Olaso @ [pastoral@bldnewark.com](mailto:pastoral@bldnewark.com)



### Dinner Dance 2012

Sept 22, 8-12pm @ VFW in Manville, NJ

Contacts: Adela 201.665.6880,

Me-Anne 973.366.6690

For details and ticket purchase

## COUNSELS (continued from page 3)

of Calcutta and Pope John Paul II. Think also of those unpublicized great people in your own lives. Their hearts were all grounded in the virtue and the power of pity and compassion. Compassion is the key to good shepherding leading to good leadership. Listening with understanding, on the other hand, is the key to compassion and to having a compassionate heart

All of these gifts are given to us, as they were given to His apostles, not only for our own salvation, but for the healing salvation of others. Apart from Him we cannot accomplish anything much at all. But with Him, along with those apostles, we can work miracles of healing in this fractured and divisive world of ours.

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Follow the Community pastoral structures in shepherding and being shepherded.
2. All of us who are called by God to minister to others should emulate Jesus, the Good Shepherd, in taking care of them.

## ... YE 19 graduates (continued from page 1)

Those involved with YEs come to see that God's love truly is unconditional and His presence, unwavering. Candidates, facilitators, auxies and sponsoring class members alike were unified in this way, in pure, unapologetic worship and praise for the Lord. This unification results in the vibrant, dynamic, and most importantly, God-centered Youth family. The Youth Ministry wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and hard work in support of this memorable weekend.

*"We love, because He first loved us."* (1 John 4:19)

## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,177	92,135

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

Thank you for your continued support!

## Stewardship - It's a way of life!

Marshaling	Date	Apostolate
	Jul 27	Mission
	Aug 03	Evangelization
	Aug 10	Pastoral
	Aug 17	Formation
	Aug 24	Management

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 29

Bulletin Edition

July 27, 2012

## NEWS

### Nine Families Respond to God's Call

July 22, 2012 – Nine families responded to God's call and made Family Encounter #19, which took place on July 20-22 at Malvern Retreat House in Pennsylvania, a true gift. We praise and thank the Lord for His goodness and mercies and for making the weekend a great success. He is truly our Good Shepherd - Who guided us all, through each stage of the FE, from its initial preparations to the weekend's joyous conclusion Sunday afternoon.

The families responded to God's call to put Him in the center of their households and partake in loving, affirming discussions and interactions with one another. The graduates of FE#19 are the Afante, Cadavillo, Ferrer, Pepino, Richard, Salar, San Agustin, Sumandal, & Yap families. They will be shepherded by the Brillantes family.

The weekend's pastoral team included Spiritual Director Father Larry Tan, SDB, and the Loreto and Olasso families. The sponsoring class was FE18, all of whom worked tirelessly to bring about God's victory.

This amazing experience of service and communion with the Lord, together with other families, through good witnessing and sharing of His gifts, made this week-end truly a faith-transforming experience! Let us join together as one community to welcome anew, these families into our midst, and let us all recommit to fulfill these words from Joshua 24:15 -



"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

## COUNSELS

### Have Faith

THEME: We demonstrate faith in the Good Shepherd when we rely on His provisions.

WORD: 2 Kgs 4:42-44; Ps 145:10-11, 15-18; Eph 4:1-6; Jn 6:1-15

ORDER: *"Live in a manner worthy of the call you have received."* (Ephesians 4:1)

REFLECTION:

The resounding message of today's gospel is "Have faith. Give to the Lord what He has given us - the five barley loaves and two fish, and He will give us back all that we need and so much more; the people had their fill plus they



filled 12 baskets from leftover fragments." To paraphrase a common saying "Give the Lord an inch and He will give you back a mile."

The readings for today could very well mirror the history of BLD Newark. This year we will be celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of BLD Newark. Twenty years ago, 3 couples, prompted by the Holy Spirit and their desire to share the love of the Lord with their neighbors, started Marriage Encounter number 1. They were the five barley loaves and two fish, or as is said in the 2<sup>nd</sup> book of Kings 4:42 - *"first fruits and fresh grain."* Of course, just like Philip, they too must have asked the same question when 19 couples and one nun showed up for ME # 1, and then they looked at their budget. *"Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little bit."* (John 6:7)

One of the founding fathers had related to me the story of how they were so short on funds – only five barley loaves and two fish – that the first marriage encounter was set up, purely on faith alone  
...Continued, page 3

### Promise of the Week

*"The hand of the Lord feeds us; He answers all our needs."* (Psalm 145)

## Who Is Like You?

***“Who is a God like you, who removes guilt and pardons sin for the remnant of His inheritance; Who does not persist in anger forever, but instead delights in mercy.”*** (Micah 7:18)

Yes Lord, WHO IS LIKE YOU!!! You are my Beginning, my Bread of Life, the Author and Perfector of my faith; You are the Governor of my soul.

When I greedily ran away with your riches, sinfully squandered all You gave Your life for, to earn my deliverance, You did not abandon me but rather, You sat at the door waiting and hoping that I will safely come back home for You to celebrate my home coming. You are the Everlasting Father, the Friend of Sinners; You are my God!

It is Your love and forgiveness that brought me out of the darkness – (my sinfulness), not Your judgment Lord, WHO IS LIKE YOU! You are the Horn of my Salvation. I will forever love You, Lord, for when my soul was in turmoil; You gave me peace, my Comforter, You comforted me.

You delivered me from the hands of the roaring Lion; You turned my darkness into light. You are my Day Star, Lord, and when I was lost, You sought me out, found me and gently drew me back to Your side (through BLD); You are my Good Shepherd ... WHO IS LIKE YOU! When I was rejected, You allowed me, the sheep of Your flock, to be accepted into Your barn, You are the Gate for the sheep.

Receive all glory and all honor, Lord, for when my pain caused me to run away, far, far away from You – You peacefully guided me back to You, without condemning me.

You brought healing, peace and hope into my life. You changed my desolation into consolation. You, Oh Lord of mercy, have turned my darkness into light and death into life for my household – all for Your glory. Who is like you, my Lord, my God?

When my heart grew so heavy and so weary – You gave me Your own strength ... sometimes You even carried me up into Your own strong arms. May You be praised!

When I deserved death and condemnation for my sins against You – You forgave me, consoled me and gave me new life in You. WHO IS LIKE YOU!

You, Oh Lord, lifted me up. You wiped my tears away. You filled my heart with joy and You turned my feet into dancing; exchanging my shame for Your grace, WHO IS LIKE YOU!!! There is none like You. You are God who removes guilt and pardons sin for the remnant of Your inheritance. You do not persist in anger forever, but You, Oh Lord, rather, delight in clemency. I worship You, Lord of my Salvation. All glory, praise and thanksgiving are forever Yours and I know I can face tomorrow – because You live! You are my Personal Savior!

## *After the Sorrow*

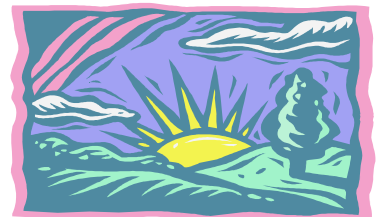
***“I will turn their mourning into joy, I will show them compassion and have them rejoice after their sorrows.”*** (Jeremiah 31:13b)

Everybody seems to agree that grief is dominated by sadness, but why? Why do we become sad? Similar questions were percolating in my head after my Dad was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. Three weeks before he was diagnosed we were on a family vacation. Dad was perfectly fine. He was his normal self, cracking jokes and playing with his grandchildren; then came this news.

I questioned God, “Are you telling me Lord that my Dad has six months to live? Why take him so soon? You also know Lord that my Dad had just made a “Bucket List” of the 10 things he most wanted to do, now that he was finally ready to retire. So why now Lord?” The sadness that I felt was strangely noiseless, as if my heart was silently breaking in two. I kept myself busy, feeling that if I brooded on it, it would crush me.

***“So you also are now in anguish. But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.”*** (John 16:22) God is NEVER happy to see anyone in sorrow. Even us human parents do all we can to keep our children from anything that would make them sad. How much more our loving caring, all-powerful Father? If we ever find ourselves full of sorrow we need to know that God wants to put an end to that sorrow. Our sorrows come from the enemy and from our own wrong choices in life. But whatever may be the source of it, God’s promise to us is that He will turn our mourning into joy - a joy that lasts.

***“For his anger lasts but a moment; his favor a lifetime. At dusk weeping comes for the night; but at dawn there is rejoicing.”*** (Psalm 30:6)



Even if the sorrow and pain have come from God’s chastening rod, He has promised that it will end with the new day. The new day is NOW. Although we may experience pain and sorrow, God has a promise for all of us. We are all His children; trust Him and receive by faith His promise of “JOY AFTER SORROW”. God says you have mourned long enough, and He says it is time to laugh and rejoice again. Why continue in sorrow? He is with us now! Your Comforter says “stop crying”, listen and receive the joy He offers you now!

*My Father, the Giver of joy, I thank You for Your promise of joy after sorrow. I receive by faith the joy You offer me in the Name of Jesus Christ my Lord, Amen.*



## St. James the Apostle

The feast of St. James the Apostle, son of Zebedee, is celebrated on July 25. He is not to be confused with the other apostle James, son of Alphaeus, to whom some scholars attribute authorship of the book of James in the Bible.



### A Loving Brother

Interestingly, on all of the 15 occasions when the Gospels mention James, John, his brother, is always mentioned alongside him. This suggests that James had a very intimate brotherly relationship with John. ***“How good and how pleasant it is, when brothers dwell together as one.”*** (Psalm 133:1)

### A Man of Faith and Zeal

When Jesus called him, James immediately left his boat and his father to follow Jesus (Mark 1:20). How many of us would be willing to leave our possessions and family to follow Jesus?

In Luke 9:54, James, along with John, indignant at the Samaritans who didn't receive Jesus, asked if they should call for fire to come down from heaven upon them - only to be rebuked by Jesus. On special occasions, James was among the 3 apostles chosen by Christ to be with him – at the transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9), at the raising from the dead of Jairus' daughter (Mark 5:37-43), and at the garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:33-35). It is not surprising that James is always among the first three names whenever the 12 apostles are listed in the Gospels; Peter being the first and Judas the betrayer being the last.

### A Man who Sought Glory

James and John made a request to Jesus that they be seated at His right and left hand in His glory (Mark 10:35-41). Jesus, however, indicated that such glory would only be obtained through suffering; by “drinking the cup” that Jesus would drink. Indeed, James drank this cup, and was martyred for his faith (Acts 12:2). We can easily see ourselves in James, because we too seek glory. But the gospel of Christ teaches us that such glory is obtained only through patiently enduring sufferings as a disciple, as the apostle Paul says – ***“We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.”*** (2 Corinthians 4:8-9) ***“For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.”*** (2 Corinthians 4:17)

***St. James, pray for us that we may imitate your faith.***

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

How many times have we heard the Lord say this phrase “Your faith has saved you”? In the story in Matthew chapter 9 verse 22 - of the hemorrhaging woman who was cured after touching the cloak of Jesus - Jesus tells the woman, ***“Courage daughter. Your faith has saved you.”*** In Luke 7:50 - in the story of the pardoning of a sinful woman in the house of a Pharisee - the Lord said to the woman ***“Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”*** After curing the blind Bartimaeus in Mark 10 verse 52 - the Lord told him, ***“go your way, your faith has saved you.”***

With our founding fathers' hearts full of faith, BLD Newark was born. Twenty years later, we now see the fruits of both our communal and personal faith. The five barley loaves and two fish have produced miracles of multiplication: we now have Marriage Encounter # 39, Solo Parents Encounter # 14, Singles Encounter # 28, Youth Encounter # 19, John 6 Crossing # 13, Life in the Spirit Seminar # 38, and thirteen plus districts born out of BLD Newark and growing, each with their own encounters and Life in the Spirit Seminars - and all of a sudden, we are feeding ***“about five thousand in number.”*** (John 6:10)

All of us are glowing examples of how, after we offered in faith our lives in service to the Lord, we find ourselves blessed with the Lord's abundance. Each one of us has our own miracle stories of the Lord's provisions - some big, some small - of illnesses cured, jobs found, relationships healed and many more. Who would have dreamed that before you joined BLD, before you undertook your own personal renewal, that you would find yourselves on a Friday night, making a long drive to attend praise and worship? The work of the Lord is made even more dramatic when we go to the praise and worship of the children in the Mark 10 & John 6 groups, the Youth, the Singles and the Solo Parents. In the land of the free - on a Friday night when they could very well be somewhere else - our youth and singles, and all our different groups, have made a free choice to gather to praise the Lord in prayers and songs. The miracle of multiplication of the loaves and fishes happens here in the community every time.

After the Lord has blessed us with abundance - ***“So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat”*** (John 6:13) - we are further instructed to be prudent stewards of the Lord's blessings as we are told to ***“Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted.”*** (John 6:12) Maybe this explains why our parents would constantly remind us not to be wasteful or throw away extra food, but rather, to keep it because these are blessings from the Lord. In hindsight, our practice of bringing home the excess food after ...***Continued, page 4***

## COUNSELS *(from page 3)*

a social event - or "take-home" or "bring-home" as we would call it - is a very Christian way of living our faith.

*"Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted"* (John 6:12) is also telling us that the blessings of time, talent and treasure that we have received from the Lord should not be wasted, but rather, be put to good use in the service of the Lord and our neighbors. The next time you are called to serve in the various ministries and activities of the community, do not worry that you think that you are not able or capable, because you only have five loaves and two fish. Have faith. Offer them gladly and wholeheartedly to the Lord and He will return this back to you a thousand fold.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

*"My house shall be called a house of prayer."*  
(Isaiah 56:7)

Please conduct all business and fellowship outside. Even thoughtful whispering gathers to a noisy din when done by many disciples all at once!

### Petition Slip Guidelines

1. **Use only one Petition Slip for each petition type.** For example, when requesting for the Spiritual, Financial, and Miscellaneous, fill out and complete 3 separate petition slips. The reason is 9 petition types are segregated and assigned to separate intercessors to prepare the Community's Intercessory Petitions.
2. **Print Clearly and Legibly.**
3. It is highly recommended to complete the Petition Slips at home prior to coming to worship. Forms are available at [www.bldnewark.com](http://www.bldnewark.com) - click on **Petition Slip**.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LSS #39

Oct 5-7 • St. Mary's, Rahway, NJ

Contact: Life in the Spirit Apostolate @ [lsa@bldnewark.com](mailto:lsa@bldnewark.com)

## SAVE THE DATE



*"When we are whom we are called to be, we will set the world ablaze!"*

- St. Catherine of Siena

BLD Newark *Ablaze @ 20*

Saturday, August 18, 2012

St. Andrew's Church and Schoolgrounds  
125 Broadway, Bayonne, NJ

Please go to [BLDNewark.com](http://BLDNewark.com) to RSVP ("Yes" / "No") by July 31

A soft copy of this CN can be found at [www.bldnewark.net](http://www.bldnewark.net), click on *Covenant News*.

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Jul 27 Teaching - **Golden Years** (after worship)

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>2,656</b>	<b>94,791</b>

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)  
Thank you for your continued support!

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

## BLD VISION

- We are a community of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about a world of justice, human development and true peace.

## BLD MISSION

In response to the challenges of our particular place, time and culture:

### For our families:

- We will evangelize families and build communities of faith through encounters, Life in the Spirit Seminars and discipleship formation.
- We will give formation on personal and family prayer, pro-life values, Catholic social teachings and stewardship.

### For our communities:

- We will actively participate in the life and mission of the Church in accord with our God-given gifts.

### For our country:

- We will work on poverty alleviation through scholarships, housing for the poor and advocacies for life, environment and good governance.

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ  
Every 4th Sat. of the month. **Jul 28 • ME 25**  
Contact: Gerry/Dimples Canlas @ [gcanlas@optonline.net](mailto:gcanlas@optonline.net)

## Be a Living Word

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Aug 03	Evangelization
			Aug 10	Pastoral
			Aug 17	Formation
			Aug 24	Management
			Aug 31	Mission



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 30

Summer Edition

August 3, 2011

## 2012 PRAYER HEALING SEMINARS WELL-ATTENDED

The BLD-Newark's Pastoral Ministry sponsored its annual Prayer Healing seminars I and II recently, on July 21-22 (Prayer Healing I) and on July 27-28 (Prayer Healing II.) Both seminars were held in the second floor library of Divine Mercy Parish school @ St. Mary's in Rahway, NJ.

Exercising good stewardship, the Prayer Healing II seminar was shared with other DIPs. Among the 55 seminar attendees were members from BLD-Charlotte (6), BLD-Phoenix (8) and BLD-Newark. Local attendees were primarily from Solo Parents (31), Singles (2) and ME graduates (12.)

The weekend seminar's teachers were also from different DIPs, namely: BLD-Newark's Richard and Lee de la Fuente, Noel Trillana, and Aimee Pena; BLD-Charlotte's Bert and Lith Golanco. The purpose of this seminar is to enhance the pastoral healing gifts of our members and to develop more prayers counselors for the community. One of the foundational verses for this weekend's seminar was taken from **Luke 6:42**, "*Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinters in your brothers eye.*"

These two seminars are an excellent preparation for shepherding and we encourage all of you *shepherds* and *shepherds-to-be* to partake of this enlightening teaching when it becomes available again next year. Stay tuned.



## COUNSELS

### Eternal Life

**THEME:** Jesus the living bread is our way to eternal life.

**WORD:** Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15; Psalm 78:3-4, 23-25, 54; Ephesians 4:17, 20-24; John 6:24-35

**ORDER:** "*Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.*" (John 6:27)

**REFLECTION:**

Eternal life with Christ consists of union with God Himself. God's faithful people begin to experience this union even while on earth. This serves as a promise and foretaste of the goodness of life in Christ, NOW.

Reflecting on this truth, St. Thomas Aquinas has this to say: "*It is in eternal life that man is first fully united with God. The union means the perfect fulfillment of desire, for there each blessed soul will have what he longed and hoped for. All that brings delight will be found in superabundance. For, if all delights cause desire, here we have the supreme and perfect delight that flows only from God because He is the supreme good.*"

**Week 1: Eternal life is believing in Jesus as the true bread from heaven.**

We believe that the bread in the tabernacle is the body of Christ. Jesus is fully present, not only to remind us of our new covenant but also to welcome us whenever we come to pray. He comes to deepen our love for Him as the Bread of Life who meets our spiritual needs. Manna sustained the physical needs of the Jews' in the desert, *Continued on page 2*

### Promise of the Week

*"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."* (John 6:35)

## COUNSELS *(from page 1)*

but Jesus sustains us unto eternal life through the Bread He provides in the Eucharist. Just as we take food to nourish our physical bodies, so too, does taking Christ into our life sustain our spiritual well-being as He unites Himself with us.

### **Week 2: Eternal life is to live and love as Jesus did.**

Christ's commandment of love is simple: we are to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our minds and with all our strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. Most of us really want to fulfill this commandment of love, but we are weak and often falter in the face of worldly attachments and life's challenges. Our love is a need, His is a gift. We need to see goodness in ourselves in order to love ourselves and others, whereas God does not love us not so much because we are good, but because God is love. The foundation of our love should be not so much the will to love God, ourselves and others, but the faith that we are loved by God, regardless of our worth or lack of worth.

God's love is such a powerful force that no matter how intense the hurt we feel, with God's love we realize that our spirit need not be destroyed by it. We know that God will help direct our life and guide us in the right path. He wants to show Himself to us so that we have no reason to doubt Him.

### **Week 3: Eternal life is living according to God's word and will.**

Jesus is the Bread of Life and He wants to feed us with His abundance. Saturate your mind with the word of God. Let the Holy Spirit fill you with life-giving spiritual bread. Above all, receive Jesus, the Bread of Life, in the Eucharist and have a heavenly feast. We need spiritual food to satisfy our longing for heaven itself, Jesus offers His body and blood as true food – the food that will bring us to everlasting life. Our ultimate purpose in life is to trust in God's word and seek only to do His will.

### **Week 4: Eternal life is to believe that Jesus is the Holy one of God.**

Through Jesus, we can know the Father because God lives wholly in Jesus and Jesus, is wholly in God. In Him is the fullness of God; He is God himself. And no one can love as perfectly as God does, for God is love itself. Jesus is God's Word to us, present among us. He makes the invisible God and God's infinite qualities visible to us in His person. Through His sacrifice on the cross, Jesus has made us members of God's family, children and heirs of God's kingdom. ↗

CN archives are available at [www.bldnewark.com](http://www.bldnewark.com).

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,426	98,217
Financial details are available to all members through <a href="mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com">treasury@bldnewark.com</a>		
Thank you for your continued support!		

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LSS #39

Oct 5-7 • Divine Mercy Parish @ St. Mary's, Rahway, NJ  
Contact: Life in the Spirit Apostolate @ [lsa@bldnewark.com](mailto:lsa@bldnewark.com)

## SAVE THE DATE

**BLD Newark *Ablaze @ 20***


**Aug 18 • 10am (mass) • St. Andrew's**  
To RSVP click here: [YES](#) / [NO](#)

## Inter-District Conference (IDC)

**Aug 19 • 9am • St. Andrew's**  
Click here to [register](#).

St. Andrew's address - 125 Broadway, Bayonne NJ

## Be a Living Word

	Date	Apostolate
<b>Marshaling</b>  <b>Schedule</b>	Aug 10	Pastoral
	Aug 17	Formation
	Aug 24	Management
	Aug 31	Mission
	Sep 7	Evangelization

The biggest challenge we all face is to let go and let God, and simply receive from Him. It is never easy to surrender control, but God promises that as we yield our will to His, He will take over and enable us to accomplish things that we otherwise cannot do on our own. The Holy Spirit wants to show us how much more exciting and fulfilling life can be when we surrender to Him and let Him lead us. Just remember --- the One who is asking for this surrender is Jesus Christ, the Holy One of God. As the Bread of Life, He is lavish and generous with His love and grace.

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Receive Jesus in Holy Communion frequently.
2. Testify to the good works of the Lord in your life.
3. Strengthen the poverty alleviation program of your District.



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 31

Summer Edition

August 10, 2012

## NEWS

## COUNSELS

### Amazing Grace!

Today, August 8, 2012, we laid to rest one of our own. Even in our grief, we celebrated. *“This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him.”* (2 Tim 2:11) St. Stanislaus in Sayreville was packed with family, friends, relatives and the BLD community to thank God for the life of Grace on earth. With 13 priests concelebrating the mass, we bid Grace “good-bye” and prayed for the angels and the saints to accompany her into the Father’s house.

It seemed surreal and we all felt a certain sadness. Grace had been an active member of the BLD Newark community for 19 years. When she first came to community, she was a shy person. Through the years, everyone saw her blossom and grow in spirituality and in her God-given gifts. She was bold in her praising and singing. She was nurturing and caring as an ME class shepherd. She was humble and selfless as she led the Praise Ministry into service. She is God’s true witness.... not so much in words... but where it matters most.... in action.

Our community suffers a great loss here on earth but we rejoice as heaven welcomes another soul in Grace. We pray that she is now in one of the many rooms in Heaven promised to those who love, serve, and are faithful to God. Her journey of faith on earth has ended but her passing strengthens and inspires us to look to what is above.

Our Lord has taken Grace unto Himself but the memory of Grace will live on forever in our hearts... her smile... her laughter... her gentle touch... her kind and encouraging words... her music... “The Prayer”....

Amazing Grace! Thank you Lord for the gift of Grace!

### Empowered by His Body and Blood

- THEME:** Eternal life is to live and love as Jesus did.  
**WORD:** 1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 24:2-9; Ephesians 4:30-5:2; John 6:41-51  
**ORDER:** So be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love as Christ loves us.  
**REFLECTION:**

Today, our hearts agree that we all want to imitate Jesus and follow His witness, but the world around us appears to be shrouded in dark shadows, shaken by tragic events and shattered by man’s sinfulness that being a mere instrument of God has become a great impossibility.

We all want to live and love like Jesus and we in community all want to do good to our neighbor. We evangelize. We even go into mission to bring the love of our Lord to the impoverished, the marginalized, the sick and the elderly. However, at times, we despair like Elijah, who once uttered: “This is enough, O Lord! Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers.” We realize that we are doing something wrong and our best efforts just don’t cut it. We conclude, rightly or wrongly, that we were not afforded the opportunity as individuals and as a community to mature in the life and love of Jesus.

According to Pope John Paul II, the foundation of Catholic social teaching *“is a correct view of the human person...of his unique value... as man is the only creature on earth which God willed for itself.”* God imprinted his own *Continued on page 2*

### Promise of the Week

*“The Lord encamps around those  
who fear him, and delivers them.”*  
(Psalm 34:8b)

## COUNSELS *(from page 1)*

image and likeness on man (cf. Gen 1:26), conferring upon him an incomparable dignity" (*Centesimus Annus* 11). It follows that people are always more important than things, never to be treated and abused for a given purpose. Every man that constitutes community is equal in dignity and rights as they are all children of the one and same God. As such, it is everyone's responsibility to confer on all the dignity that each one deserves so that all may mature in the likeness and ways of His Son, so that God's community may reflect the marks of the Catholic Church: one, holy catholic and apostolic.

Human dignity entails respect for the rights of man as God's creation whom God calls to Himself. These rights must be recognized as they are the basis of the moral legitimacy of every authority. Refusing to recognize them or seriously circumventing the implementation by a higher authority undermines what the Church teaches. To have dignity, empowerment is necessary! Without dignity, growing in the life and love of Christ may not be forthcoming! Without empowerment, we will not be the disciples and the community God wants us to be.

God is community and makes community. Our community was made in the likeness of a Trinitarian God – a community of persons in perfect relationship. Our perfection as children of the Father is linked to the dignity we all receive in community- dignity that flows from our empowerment to grow in the life, the love and the work of Christ.

The principle of empowerment or subsidiarity in the Church concerns how participation and decision-making are organized within a body. It teaches that responsibility should be kept as close as possible to a local operating district. Since they will be the people most directly affected by a decision or policy, then they should have a key decision-making role in it. The higher authority may intervene but only to support in case of need and where necessary, to coordinate activities with those of other districts to promote the common good. It is from this aspect of help offered by larger to smaller groups that the term subsidiarity should be applied in community which comes from the Latin *subsidium*, meaning help or assistance.

Today, as we tend our wounds and imperfections, let us be consoled that when we gather around the table and break bread in Christ, when we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus, we are transformed, individually and as a community. We, being people of different ages and races with different backgrounds ➔

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>2,491</b>	<b>100,708</b>

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

LSS #39

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## SAVE THE DATE

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Aug 18 • 10am (mass) • St. Andrew's  
To RSVP visit [www.bldnewark.com](http://www.bldnewark.com)

**Inter-District Conference (IDC)**

Aug 19 • 9am • St. Andrew's  
Contact Nong/Tricia Bustos [nong601b@aol.com](mailto:nong601b@aol.com)

St. Andrew's address - 125 Broadway, Bayonne NJ



**Dinner Dance 2012**

Sept 22, 8-12pm @ VFW in Manville, NJ  
Contacts: Adela 201.665.6880,  
Me-Anne 973.366.6690  
For details and ticket purchase

## Be a Living Word

Marshaling	Schedule	
	Date	Apostolate
	Aug 17	Formation
	Aug 24	Management
	Aug 31	Mission
	Sep 7	Evangelization
Sep 14	Pastoral	

and histories, although there are many of us, become One Body for we all share in the One Loaf. Being One in Christ, we are empowered as we empower, as we become the living Christ- taken, blessed, broken and given to the world. We become living witnesses of God's immense desire to bring all peoples and nations together as one family of God Who empowers us to live and love as Jesus did because we trust Him, abide in Him and receive Him as the Living Bread that came down from heaven for the life of the world.

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Be a good witness for Christ to others.
2. Be kind, compassionate and forgiving to others.



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 32

Summer Edition

August 17, 2012

## NEWS

## COUNSELS

### 2012 Youth Inter-District Conference

The Youth Inter District Conference (YIDC) on August 10-12 hosted by BLD Youth Rockland, was held in Graymoor Spiritual Center, Garrison, NY. The districts that came to participate in the YIDC were representatives from San Francisco, Toronto, Trenton, Rockland, Long Island, St. Catharines (Ontario), and Newark (with an approximate total of 150 youth delegates.) BLD-Newark was represented by 18 youth delegates. They were Avery Abad, Ianna Abad, Samantha Aglibut, John Cam, Erika Flores, Allen Garcia, Kevin Larobis, Kate McSpedon, Francis Muyalde, Sean Olaso, Stevie Olaso, Mikey Ompod, Gerard Rangel, Marvee SanAgustin, Monica SanAgustin, James Santiago, Nicko Tolentino, and James Ymbong and an adult chaperon. *Continued on page 2*

### Fired-Up Once More

"We learned so much this weekend!" said one participant. "The Archbishop was inspiring!" said another. "Thank you for a wonderful and refreshing conference," someone else commented.

On August 11-12, 2012, a warm and sunny weekend in Los Angeles, CA, 124 members from 5 different BLD districts (Corpus Christi, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Reno, and San Francisco) in the West Coast Cluster gathered together at the St. Joseph's Center in Alhambra, CA, to participate in the first Regional Inter-District Conference in the West Coast.

The theme of the conference was "BLD on FIRE Again!" Our guest speaker was none other than our beloved BLD Global Spiritual Director, Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo, whose inspirational talks challenged the participants to become more: Fruitful (and Faith), Inspired (and Integrity), Renewed, and Empowered for Evangelization. Chito and Aileen Ciocon, West Coast Cluster SDC, together with Jun and Alice De Guzman, BLD LA Pastoral DCS, helped to facilitate the 1-1/2 day conference which ended with some agreed-upon action items. *Continued on page 2*

### The Living Bread

THEME: Eternal life is living according to God's word and will.

WORD: Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:2-7; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

ORDER: Try to understand what is the will of the Lord.

REFLECTION:

Jesus said to the crowds: "*I am the living bread that comes down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.*" (John 6:51)

The Eucharist is the true presence of Christ, substantially present under the appearance of bread and wine. As we receive it, we are transformed spiritually, reflecting more into His image. The Eucharist is a proof that Jesus loves us unconditionally and continually offers Himself for our salvation.

A scientist from Buenos Aires, Argentina by the name of Dr. Ricardo Castanon, was asked by one of the Cardinals of the Church there to investigate what had happened at one of the parishes. A Host had fallen to the floor and the priest did what is often times the proper procedure, he picked up the host and placed it into a container of water. But after 5 or 6 days, the priest noticed something interesting, instead of the Host being dissolved, it was showing red stains, he and other priests noticed that the stains were growing. Dr. Castanon took the samples to a lab in California. He did not tell anyone at the lab where the sample had come from as he wanted them to conduct a blind test. The lab came back with the results that the sample is a muscle from the heart, and to be specific, it was a muscle from *Continued on page 2*

### Promise of the Week

"... the Lord heard and saved me from all distress." (Psalm 34:7)

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

the left ventricle. This is a consecrated Host that started bleeding. The answer for those who believe is obvious: the heart is alive because Jesus is alive.

Believe, doubt no longer. And act of faith then has to be taken to a higher level. The Holy Eucharist is the source of all sacraments and graces and guarantees that Christ will raise us up on the day of judgment. We know that the ordinary common-place bread sustains our natural life. What a better way for Jesus to make us understand that He is the "Living Bread". What He offers us will have the same function in sustaining our divine life through the sacrament of baptism. If we go to Mass, go to confessions and receive Holy Communion regularly, we have greater resistance against sin and evil habits. The image of the banquet is often used in sacred scriptures to describe the joy and happiness found in union with God. Jesus is life eternal, the supernatural grace that works in us because the Spirit of God is within us.

The bread and wine are not the only things being transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ. We too are changed in this sacramental event. Christ is made present in the world through us and in those we meet who need our love. The whole realm of our attitudes, our convictions, our character, and the way we treat other people are transformed to be Christ-like. We become one body in Christ, a community of one faith.

The nourishment offered at God's sacramental banquet is beyond limits. Christ immeasurable love for us insures that we are united with one another in receiving God's greatest gifts in the Eucharist. We are enjoined to live our life in humility, in truth, in goodness and justice, working for a world that reflects the beauty of God despite trials and hardships along the way.

We should totally commit ourselves to share Jesus' vision, ideas, and values through spirit of adoption acted upon by our own BLD Vision and Mission. It is to be enriched by His Word through the Scriptures and have our lives directed by it. His flesh and blood being so closely related with His suffering and death, we too should die to ourselves in total self-giving. We carry our cross and follow Him through acceptance of His will, even to sufferings which we may endure in life.

The Holy Eucharist is a celebration of the most beautiful and precious gift that Father God has given us, Jesus Christ Himself. May we find His peace and joy in receiving the Body and Blood of Christ. Today as ever, Jesus is inviting to partake of Him through the Eucharist and heed his call to come and follow Him.

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Read the Scriptures daily.
2. Go to Mass and receive Holy Communion in humility

CN archives are available at [www.bldnewark.net](http://www.bldnewark.net), click on Covenant News.

## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	4,178	104,886

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

Thank you for your continued support!

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### LSS #39

Oct 5-7 • Divine Mercy Parish @ St. Mary's, Rahway, NJ  
Contact: Life in the Spirit Apostolate @ [lsa@bldnewark.com](mailto:lsa@bldnewark.com)

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

### Flood Victims AID

As Christ's disciples, we are called to share our blessings and come to the aid of those who are in need. There is an urgent and vital need for financial assistance for the victims affected by severe flooding that have ravaged Metro Manila and outlying areas. A separate collection basket will be available until Aug. 31. *May the Lord bless your generous hearts!*

### Stewardship - It's a way of life!

Marshaling		Date	Apostolate
		Aug 24	Management
Aug 31	Mission		
Sep 7	Evangelization		
Sep 14	Pastoral		
Sep 21	Formation		

## 2012 Youth Inter District Conference (from page 1)

The theme of this weekend was, "Love for Creator, Love for Creation." For this YIDC, the participants learned to appreciate God's creation which was made for man's use. We are able to appreciate more nature, that reminds us that God is our creator and that everything He made was beautiful and perfect. What I really enjoyed about this experience, was meeting the youth from other districts and seeing what they had to offer. It was fun meeting them and knowing that they share the same faith us. We would all like to thank the BLD Newark Community for sending us to this beautiful event.

## Fired-Up Once More (from page 1)

Thanks be to God for a grace-filled and blessed IDC weekend! We also thank the BLD Los Angeles community and its Spiritual Director, Fr. Bill Delaney, for hosting the conference. "We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly." (1 Thess 1:2)

May the FIRE of the Holy Spirit continue to burn brightly in our hearts as we strive to serve God and His Church through our communities!





# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 33

Bulletin Edition

August 24, 2012

## NEWS

### **BLD Newark Celebrates Ablaze @ 20**

Saturday, August 18, 2012 - In a somewhat fitting end to BLD Newark's ABLAZE@20 celebrations, seems even God had to send the Bayonne Fire Department to bring the festivities to a close.

In a day filled with: inspiring words and hearty humor from BLD Global Spiritual Director Angel Lagdameo; - sharings about their BLD journey from members of Youth, Singles, Solo Parents, and recent and veteran ME's; - from the life and forgiveness message of the movie "October Baby", to the successful Book Exchange and mini-fair, the very entertaining Ministry presentations, the historical look back highlighted by BLD Newark's very beginnings, to the evening's Luau-Fiesta and dancing of course...BLD celebrated 20 years, praising God every step of the way. Many thanks to the many workers are due, but ultimately... really - His hand guided everything all along.

Attendance peaked at an estimated 500 people. Although scheduled to end at 10pm, at about 9:30, maybe because there was a BLD Inter-District Conference to be held the next day at the same venue - St. Andrew's in Bayonne (thanks to Monsignor Paul Schetelick) most everyone were sent happily home after a smoke detector set off the fire alarms in the St. Andrew's School basement hallway (no real physical cause was found).

And the next day was a resounding success too, with over 150 people from various BLD Districts addressing how we are to tackle issues relevant to us all - our Vision and Mission.

Yes it was time to celebrate...but the work continues: onward for Abba God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit... ABLAZE in the next 20 years & beyond. PRAISE GOD!

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY  
BLD - NEWARK**

## COUNSELS

### **SUBMISSION TO CHRIST**

**THEME:** Eternal life is to believe that Jesus is the Holy One of God

**WORD:** Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-18b; Psalm 34:2-3, 16-21; Ephesians 5:21-32 or Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32; John 6:60-69

**ORDER:** Serve the Lord, for He is our God

**REFLECTION:**

The second reading for this coming Sunday, taken from Ephesians 5:21-32, talks about the relationship between husbands and wives. It is an excellent guideline for a married couple's relationship because it is paralleled to the relationship of Christ to the Church. Unfortunately this is also the passage that has caused misunderstanding and sometimes controversy because it is misinterpreted.

Ephesians verses 22 and 24 state that wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything. Some husbands interpret this as being superior to their wives. This is not so. Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord and also as the church is subordinate to Christ.

What is meant by submission? In its simplest form, the wife allows her husband to be head. In other words it would be difficult for a husband to carry out his God-given headship with a wife who questions his authority.

The Holy Catholic church teaches through scripture and tradition that the husband is head of his family and has a God-given authority over his wife and children. This gift of authority does not give a husband a greater dignity or

*Continued on page 3*

### *Promise of the Week*

*"The Lord is close to the broken hearted, saves those whose spirit is crushed." (Psalm 34:19)*

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

superiority over his wife. Both are equal members of the marital covenant, as is reflected by God creating woman from the side of man. Instead this order of authority reflects the Divine order between God, Christ and man. God blessed the marital covenant with this order to maintain peace and harmony in the family. Just as Christ is the head of the Catholic Church so the husband is head of his family. In 1 Corinthians 11:3, it says **“But I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and a husband the head of his wife, and God the head of Christ.”**

Ephesians 5:25b-27 says **“Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”** This passage is a description of the love of God for the church.

We all know that Christ loved the church so much that He died for her. He purchased her with His own blood. In doing so He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him. When we obey the Gospel, we are added to the Lord’s church. How do we know this? By the Word. In 1 Peter 1:22-23, it says **“Since you have purified yourselves by obedience to the truth for sincere mutual love, love one another intensely from a [pure] heart. You have been born anew, not from perishable but from imperishable seed, through the living and abiding word of God”.**

The intensity of Christ’s redemptive work on behalf of the church cannot be imitated by the husband, but Paul seems to be teaching that just as Christ works to present His church to Himself as a bride in a marriage, so should the husband work to make his wife glorious in their marriage. The husband’s love, like Christ’s, is to be beneficial to his wife just as Christ’s love for his church is beneficial to it.

So husbands, Christ did all this for the church. Giving your life for your wife may be asking too much, but at least you should be willing to do whatever is good and right for her. She is the partner of your life, the mother of you children, the spring of your joy. Bind yourself together not by threats and subjugation but by love and gentleness.

Ephesians 5:28 says **“So [also] husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.”** Seeing that Christ loved the church so much that He gave himself up for her, men ought also to love their own wives as they do their own bodies. This is what Paul calls Agape—love that considers what is best for the one loved. Agape means selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love. Only when this kind of love is present can a husband love his wife as his own body. In general we want what is best for our own physical bodies. When sick, we seek medical attention, when hot or cold we seek comfort, when hungry we obtain food. Because it is very natural to love ↗

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)

## LORD’S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK’S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>3,275</b>	<b>108,161</b>
Typhoon	<b>1,617</b>	<b>3,200</b>

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

Thank you for your continued support!

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Oct 5-7 • Divine Mercy Parish @ St. Mary’s, Rahway, NJ  
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## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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Sept 14-16, If you have friends and relatives in the LA area that you would like to invite, please contact Chito and Aileen Ciocon at [chitoaileen@fastmail.fm](mailto:chitoaileen@fastmail.fm)

### Stewardship - It’s a way of life!

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Aug 31	Mission
			Sep 7	Evangelization
			Sep 14	Pastoral
			Sep 21	Formation
			Sep 28	Management

ourselves, Christ used this as a standard by which we are to love our neighbor. Just as all of us who are thinking rationally seek the best for ourselves, the husband who truly loves his wife will seek the best for his wife.

So husbands, love your wives as Jesus Christ loves His church. As Christ lived and died for his church so husbands must be willing to live and die for their wives. Together we serve the Lord for He is our God.

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Be faithful to your personal, conjugal and family prayers.
2. Love and serve one another, as Christ loves the Church.



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 34

Summer Edition

August 31, 2012

## NEWS

### BLD Newark Aim\$ High

- with an ABLAZE@20 Raffle

August 31, 2012 – To supplement weekly tithes and love offerings, this past July, BLD Newark launched the **ABLAZE@ 20** Raffle fundraiser. Recognizing that times are tough, rather than turning to our usual sources (i.e. – members) for solicitations for journals and golf sponsorships - this raffle, which is duly licensed in the State of NJ, aims to generate funds by recruiting everyone as raffle ticket vendors instead. Members are not precluded from purchasing tickets, but all are encouraged to sell, especially to non-members; this way, new sources are tapped to help fund God’s work that gets accomplished through our beloved Community.

Money is always a difficult subject to address, especially for a nonprofit like BLD - which is why it is the easiest thing for the enemy to target. If God's work is not funded, it does not get done. Just as His work is ongoing, so is the need for prayers, good stewardship, and... well... fundraising.

To make things affordable, tickets are just **\$2** each (\$20 for a booklet of 10). Please sell as many booklets as you can. ***The Community is counting on everyone!***

Stubs for tickets sold and monies collected can be turned in to the Treasury Ministry, Fridays’ after worship. Everyone is encouraged to do so as often as possible. Because the raffle date is **October 19**, by **September 10**, we are asking that you email us to let us know how you are doing, so we can assess if tickets need to be re-deployed. (Inquiries can be directed to Vino/Beth at [dvguiang@msn.com](mailto:dvguiang@msn.com) or Cez/Pinky at [cezpinky@yahoo.com](mailto:cezpinky@yahoo.com)).

There is a time for everything... This time, it’s time to work for the Lord: ***“Be strong, all you people of the land... and work!”*** – Haggai 2:4

#### **Ablaze @ 20 Raffle Prizes**

- 1st Six day Mexico trip for two to attend the Feast of Guadalupe**
- 2nd 64 GB MacBook Air**
- 3rd iPad**
- 4th Three 4th prizes - Kindle Fire**



## COUNSELS

### Spiritual Exercises

**THEME:** We obey God’s word when we keep ourselves unstained by the world.

**WORD:** Dt 4:1, 2, 6-8; Ps 15:2-5; Jas 1:17, 18, 21, 22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14, 15, 21-23

- ORDER:**
1. Be doers of the Word and not hearers.
  2. Humbly welcome the Word that has been planted in you.

**REFLECTION:**

In Mark 7 verse 6 of the Gospel, our God who looks into hearts and knows our thoughts called the Pharisees hypocrites. He said, *“From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile.”* (Mk 7:21-23) Nothing is hidden from our God and so He spoke these very strong words and rebuked the Pharisees for their hypocrisy. As we reflect on the Gospel this 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time let us pray that God reveals to us those areas of our lives where we are most like the Pharisees: where arrogance may cause us to be judgmental of others, setting a double standard – one that is harsher on others than on ourselves; where we like to appear holy but actually lack mercy and fail to do deeds of charity; where feelings of anger may still cause us to have thoughts of revenge and getting back at others. Indeed, a heartfelt and sincere reflection can show us the defilement in our hearts and only by the forgiving hand of God and the grace we receive through the sacraments, can we be cleansed.

*“Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls.”* (Jas 1:21b)  
Humbly we need to welcome ... *Continued on page 2*

### *Promise of the Week*

*“...hear the statutes and decrees I am teaching you to observe, that you may live.”* (Dt 4:1)

## COUNSELS *(from page 1)*

Jesus and His commandments in our lives so that we may be saved. We need to be humble and ask Jesus to be with us in every moment, in every thought and in every situation. Immersing ourselves in the Word of God and in prayer is essential for us to mature as Christians. It is the spiritual sustenance we need to fight the fight of faith. Our spiritual lives depend on it.

Like the athletes of the Olympic Games, we need to engage in spiritual exercises. Like physical exercises which build strength and stamina, our daily prayer, our sacramental life, community praise and worship, and mission service to others, build us up. As for me, each day, by expressing my desire to be more self-aware and transparent with our Lord, I am able to take control of my inner self. With spiritual exercises, we too will grow in our ability to reflect throughout the day, where we will recognize our dominant attitudes, and the common ways we respond to situations and to others. We become more spiritually alert, placing us in conversation with the Lord most, if not all the time. In the background as we make decisions, as we express our reactions to events and people, we are doing so in God's presence and company. Sometimes, we might just be saying "Thank you, Lord," expressing gratitude for what has just transpired. At other times, it becomes a reflection on how we can be a good steward of the gifts He has entrusted to us. With careful, consistent practice, this inner attitude of prayer and reflection becomes a habit, and then a way of life, a life in the Spirit of God. It takes great desire to sustain a routine of reflection and prayer, an intimate conversation with God. It takes discipline and total dependence on our Lord. Never looking back on the world and its lies, always keeping our hearts focused on the prize - that is life everlasting.

When we translate the commandments of our Lord into deeds, into life-giving acts of charity, when we become a brother or a sister to others, we become doers of the Word and not hearers only. When we keep our inner selves unstained by the world - we do not delude ourselves; we are not deceived by the evil one. We treasure the perfect gift from above coming down from the Father of lights - Jesus in our hearts and mind.

***"One who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord."*** (Psalm 15) A doer of justice lives in the presence of the Lord. A doer of the Word thinks the truth in his heart and slanders not with his tongue. A doer of the Word honors those who fear the LORD and harms not his fellow man. Brothers and sisters in Christ. ***"He willed to give us birth by the word of truth."*** (Jas 1:18a) We are born again Catholics. ...➤

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>2,986</b>	<b>111,147</b>
Typhoon	<b>895</b>	<b>4,095</b>

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*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

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## Be a Living Word

Marshaling		Date	Apostolate
		Sep 7	Evangelization
Sep 14	Pastoral		
Sep 21	Formation		
Sep 28	Management		
Oct 5	Mission		

God used and is using this community, and its simple programs, to regenerate our hearts and thoughts as He draws us to Himself. We have a Father that desires to be with His children all the time, not just by lips but by spirit. To God be the glory!

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Read scriptures daily and apply it to daily life.
2. Be living witnesses of the Word.
3. Practice Christian speech by being REAL – Respecting, Encouraging, Affirming and Loving



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 35

Bulletin Edition

September 7, 2012

## NEWS

## COUNSELS

### **BLD's Global Spiritual Director requests for Total Consecration**

In his letter dated August 2, 2012, Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo, BLD's Global Spiritual Director, asked BLD members to make Total Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary a regular personal or common prayer. His Grace suggested and the Executive Council of Servant Leaders exhort you and your family to have the Total Consecration prayer printed (see page 4) and be prayed daily.

Archbishop Lagdameo has also recommended and approved BLD's support to the nationwide and global movement for TOTAL CONSECRATION to Jesus through Mary which will make men ONE with God and each other and will bring about a New Earth of Love, Peace and Joy. This movement is spearheaded by Marie Borromeo Cancio. It aims for the Total Consecration of every Filipino and as a Nation by December 8, 2012 as an offering to the Blessed Trinity through Mama Mary.

All BLD members are exhorted to support and do the Total Consecration. Refer to their website for more details <http://www.newearthoflovepeaceandjoy.com/index.html>.

### **Flood victims thank BLD Newark**

BLD Manila reported that efforts to provide assistances to members of our community in Malolos, Bulacan was successfully conducted on August 20, 2012. Our brethren whose homes were flooded, were met in small groups of five where their physical, spiritual and financial needs were addressed in a loving and dignified way. The ECSL and the beneficiaries thank BLD Newark and the other districts in North America for the untiring efforts to help our brothers and sisters in the Philippines. They extended their love, thanks and blessings to those who have shared their gifts from the Lord.

### **Jesus Makes Us Hear and Speak**

**THEME:** We obey God's word when we practice the gift of healing in and out of Community.

**WORD:** Isaiah 35:4-7; Psalm 146:7-10; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37

**ORDER:** 1. Be strong, Fear not! Here is your God.  
2. "Ephphatha!" that is, "Be opened!"

**REFLECTION:**

Mark offers no explanation why Jesus left Tyre and went through Sidon as on his way back to the Sea of Galilee (V.31). Some bible scholars actually go as far as to question whether Mark knew his geography, because it seemed illogical for Jesus and his disciples to travel to Sidon, which is north of Tyre, on his way to the Sea of Galilee which is south of both Tyre and Sidon. In effect, what happened was that Jesus went north to go south. But Mark was right because there was a mountain range between Tyre and Galilee and there was no trade route between these two regions, while a trade route linked Sidon to the Sea of Galilee. That is why Jesus went north to go south.

How long this journey took is not explained. Some bible scholars suggests that Jesus took this longer route to give him quality time with his disciples, so he could teach them and explain to them the deeper meaning of the parables he had been preaching. More importantly, his intention was to prepare them for the challenges that lay ahead, which will culminate in the greatest event in the history of mankind. In the case of the deaf man who was brought to Jesus, it is common knowledge that persons suffering from deafness also suffer from some speech impediment that could cause them embarrassment. By taking the man aside, Jesus not only showed compassion, but consideration for the plight of the deaf man who *Continued on page 3*

### **Promise of the Week**

**"Here is your God ... he comes to save you."**

(Isaiah 35:4b)

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

## POWER OF GOD

Reflection on 1 Corinthians 2:3-5

Saul, later known as St. Paul, in the New Testament was chosen by God to spread the Gospel. Saul was a feared and powerful man from Tarsus who violently and zealously persecuted the followers of Christ- the Early Church. By a miraculous and life-changing event (**Acts 9:1-9**) God changed his name to Paul, and instructed him to start anew, working with an even more vibrant zeal to demonstrate the power of God.

In **1 Cor 2:3-5** St. Paul later writes, *“I came to you in weakness and fear and much trembling, and my message and my proclamation were not with persuasive {words of} wisdom, but with demonstration of spirit and power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.”* Through St. Paul, God tells us that it is in our weakness that He is able to demonstrate His power, that we may rest our faith upon Him.

Paul went to Corinth full of fear, full of apprehensions and doubt. The city of Corinth was a challenging place in which to minister. Preaching was difficult for Paul in Corinth because of the forceful opposition that he encountered. It was a struggle for him; he was filled with inner doubts and daunted by the uncertainty he faced. He responded in a totally human fashion. But, by the Lord’s Divine Providence, St. Paul’s problems were resolved. Through a mystical experience, he was encouraged to remain in Corinth. *“One night in a vision the Lord said to Paul, ‘Do not be afraid. Go on speaking, and do not be silent, for I am with you. No one will attack and harm you, for I have many people in this city.’”* (**Acts 18:9-10**)

Paul was filled with the power of the Spirit. In **1 Cor 2:5** St. Paul explains that the power of God is the word of the cross {cf. 1:18}. Note the contrast- the wisdom of men versus the power of God. Believe in the power of God! Like St. Paul, the Holy Spirit is in us, and guides us. It is precisely through difficult moments that the Lord is able to show His power and transform us.

Like Paul, we live and serve in a difficult environment. We want to serve Christ and speak up for Him but sometimes it can be downright scary, you never know what to expect. Nonetheless, we continue on. Even when we find ourselves tongue-tied or just forget what we are supposed to say, we must strive to preach and spread the word. Let us ask the Lord that He would grant us the opportunities to preach His Word. Let us pray for boldness, for a willing heart to walk through an open door (**Col 4:3**). Let us pray that those we speak to will be receptive. May God bless us all!

## I’m a Sinful Man

*“When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, ‘Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.’”* (Luke 5:8)

Olga was a mass murderer, Matt was an extortionist, Cal was an embezzler, Vladimir was a rapist, Chris was a devil-worshipper, Pat was a worshipper of false gods, Gus was a heretic, hedonist & womanizer, Olaf was a pirate, murderer & thief, Iggy was a gambler, womanizer & egotist, Frank was a worldly spendthrift & playboy, Tommy was a hedonist, Camillus was a con man, Phil was an adulterer, Matty was an alcoholic, Gene was a scoffer, Mo was a gang leader, Giles was a Satanist, Paul was a murderer, etc, etc, etc....

If you’re wondering who these people are, they are part of a very long list of people who led scandalous, sleazy, and immoral lives before they became Saints. I got these names from a book I read many years ago on “Saints Behaving Badly”. Several on this list are some of our greatest and most famous saints who have founded religious orders, became a doctor of the Church, Archbishop and even Pope.

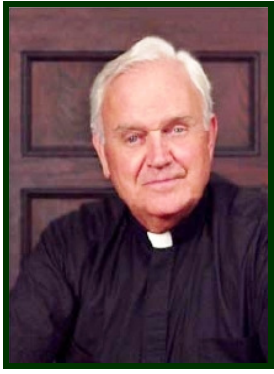
You have Francis of Assisi who was a spendthrift and womanizer who later renounced his wealth and founded the Franciscan order, Ignatius of Loyola, a gambler, womanizer, & egotist, who founded the Jesuits, Christopher, a devil-worshipper who became the patron saint of travelers, Augustine who was a heretic, as well as a womanizer, who is a doctor of the Church, Patrick who became the patron saint of Ireland, Callixtus, an embezzler who became Pope, and of course Thomas Beckett, a hedonist or seeker of worldly pleasure, who at one time, despite his immense wealth refused to give his cloak to a man freezing to death on the street but who became Archbishop of Canterbury, essentially the head of the Church in England.

And then you come to two of the greatest saints of the Church, Matthew, a tax collector which in Jesus’ time is really another word for extortionist, but who became an Apostle, and Paul who persecuted Christians but after his conversion was considered by many as the single most instrumental Apostle in bringing the faith to the Gentiles. Without Paul we might still be pagans today.

I guess the point is, when Peter said to Jesus, “depart from me Lord for I am a sinful man”, He didn’t. Instead from the time of Peter, Jesus continues to call everyone to come follow Him. Saints are not born, they are made and only through the grace of our Lord are we able to pick up our cross daily and follow Him. It is comforting to know that there’s hope for us all no matter what.

*Lord, grant us the grace to be Your humble and faithful disciples. AMEN.*

## Fr. Paul Speaks



I know we have often talked about Ignatian discernment in the past. We gave a teaching to the community last May on this most important subject. However, I believe it deserves more exposure and analysis, and perhaps reaching a wider audience through CN. So I would like to summarize again the process found in St. Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises. St. Ignatius refers to decision making in a number of sections of his teaching. The method we use most often, even unconsciously, is to line up the pros and the cons in our minds and apply common sense in determining if a particular decision is a logical one, and more importantly if it is God's Will. This is quite legitimate, but Ignatius wants to draw our attention to the inner workings of our souls. Often emotions and attractions are going on inside of us, but we don't pay attention to them. So, his first direction is "BE AWARE". Is there inner turmoil, confusion, an attraction to less than Godly things, a sense of separation from God (even if in reality we may be closer to the Lord than we think)? Ignatius calls this "spiritual desolation", distinct from the emotional moods we sometimes experience. Or is there a sense of peace and closeness to God, an upbeat attraction to the things of God with a feeling of tranquility. This he calls "spiritual consolation". This first step is very important. Be aware of the inner, often times unconscious, workings of our inner faculties, both positive and negative.

Secondly he would say: "UNDERSTAND". Try to analyze the source of these feelings. Where do they come from? What is causing them? Desolation can come from our own negativity, or even directly from the devil. A tragic situation could trigger these feelings, and cause an attack on our faith. Sometimes we may be getting spiritually lazy, and open ourselves to this attack. We might be getting careless in prayer, the source of protection against the onslaughts of the evil one. This desolation is never from God, and always distinct from the dryness we experience during prayer and meditation.

Finally "TAKE ACTION". Do the opposite to the feelings. Pray more when you do not feel like praying. Ask yourself if you are getting careless or tepid in your walk with the Lord. Get advice from a spiritual director or close friend. Realize that holiness does not directly flow from feelings whether consolation or desolation. Obviously it is easier to deepen our relationship with the Lord when we feel good. But we can prove our spiritual worth and love for the Lord when we act against a downward sense of the spiritual blahs. God's love and grace are constantly there. This earthly life on the way to eternity will always have hills and valleys.

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

had difficulties communicating with others. Remember that sign language was non-existent in those days. The passage tells us that Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears, then spit, touched the man's tongue with his spittle, and looking up to heaven with a deep sigh, said to him, "**Ephphatha!**" which means "**Be opened**" (vv.33-34). At that point the poor man's ears were opened, his tongue loosened, and he spoke.

Gregory the Great, one of the Fathers of the Church in the 6th century explains this miracle thus: "*The Spirit is called the finger of God. When the Lord puts his fingers into the ears of the deaf mute, he was opening the soul of man to faith through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.*" What was also significant was Jesus' action of looking up to heaven. It was not just to implore the aid of the Father, but also to acknowledge that his power flows from the Father. When the deaf man spoke, the crowd could only sigh with amazement. This brings us to the third situation - the people themselves, who witnessed the miracle and exclaimed, "**He has done all things well**" (v.37.) This could actually be equated with the events relating to the creation of the world in Genesis when God looked at everything and said: "It is good."

The question we should be asking ourselves is: Have we been touched by the finger of God? How have we been living our lives after we have been touched by the Holy Spirit? Can we say that we have been saved from our sins? (Mk 16:15). Can we also honestly say our souls are at rest? (Matt 11:28). Are we now at peace (Jn 14:27) or are we still in the world? If we are still struggling with our relationship with God, perhaps we should look into our hearts. Is it possible that we are laboring through the practice of our faith because our hearts and minds are distracted by concerns that hinder us from developing a deeper relationship with our Creator? Often, we are like the deaf man, oblivious to of the Gospel of Christ. We go to mass regularly, but our minds wander. Some people even grumble that they get nothing out of it, anyway! Imagine trying to withdraw money from a bank where you have made no previous deposit. It is the same with our spiritual lives. We need to invest time, talent and treasure in order to harvest the blessings that come from the source of all good.

Nothing is impossible for the Lord (Gen 18:14), but a lot depends on how open we are to his grace, and to the promptings of the Holy Spirit who showers us not only with his spiritual gifts but brings us to new life in Christ (2 Cor 5:17).

Jesus has shown us that like Peter, we too, can walk on water but only if we have faith. Like Lazarus, our spirits and souls can be

*Continued on page 3*

## COUNSELS *(from page 3)*

raised back to life if we draw closer to him who is the source of life. We can hear God's word and proclaim it to the world, only if we will allow the Holy Spirit to move and take control of our lives. Then and only then can we say that Jesus has done all things well in our lives, as we stand ready to open our eyes to see the beauty of his salvation and proclaim the glory of His Kingdom to all.

### DIRECTIONS

1. Show no partiality as you adhere to the faith.
2. Do not judge.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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### ME #40

Nov 9-11 • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA  
Contacts: Marc & Emma Belmonte @ [mia@bldnewark.com](mailto:mia@bldnewark.com)  
Gary & Mil Camacho @ [camachocpa@comcast.net](mailto:camachocpa@comcast.net)

### SE #29

Nov 9-11 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garison, NY  
Contacts: Jennifer Mendiola [jennifer.mediola1@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.mediola1@gmail.com)  
646.238.7043, Dhemi & Divine Alba [dhevine@aol.com](mailto:dhevine@aol.com)  
646.431.0350 or any single ministry member.

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

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### Petition Slip Guidelines

1. **Use only one Petition Slip for each petition type.** For example, when requesting for the Spiritual, Financial, and Miscellaneous, fill out and complete 3 separate petition slips. The reason is **9 petition types are segregated** and **assigned to separate intercessors** to prepare the Community's Intercessory Petitions.
2. **Print Clearly and Legibly.**

It is highly recommended to complete the Petition Slips at home prior to coming to worship. Forms are available at [www.bldnewark.com](http://www.bldnewark.com) click on [Petition Slip](#).

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,408	114,555
Typhoon	334	4,429
Raffle Ticket (Ablaze@20)	1,176	1,176

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

Thank you for your continued support!

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Sept. Christian Parenting I & II – ME 1-39, SPE 14  
15\* Basic Bible Study - LSS 1-38  
CMP 2 - LSS 1-37

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION

#### Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

Sept 8 • ME 20 • Contact: Roger & Pina Coquia

#### Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ  
Every 4th Sat. of the month.

Sept 22 • SPE 14 • Contact: Angie Valeroso

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Sept 14	Pastoral
			Sept 21	Formation
			Sept 30	Management
			Oct 05	Mission
			Oct 12	Evangelization

## Be a Living Word

### Total Consecration

*(by St. Louis de Monfort)*

I, (your name), a faithless sinner, renew and ratify today in Thy hands, the vows of my baptism.  
I renounce forever Satan, his pomps and works and I give myself entirely to Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Wisdom, to carry my cross after Him all the days of my life and to be faithful to Him as I have never ever been before.

In the presence of all the heavenly court,  
I choose Thee this day as my Mother and my Queen.  
I deliver and consecrate to Thee as Thy slave, all my goods, both interior and exterior-leaving to Thee the entire and full right of disposing of me and all that belongs to me, without exception, according to Thy good pleasure, for the greater glory of God, in time and in eternity, Amen





# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 36

Bulletin Edition

Sept. 14, 2012

## NEWS

### **BLD Newark welcomes new Coordinators, Covenanted and Committed Disciples**

BLD Newark was *ablaze* last Friday with the anointing of forty-six new Covenanted disciples, eight new Committed disciples, and the new Ministry Coordinators of two ministries.

Anointed on Sept. 7, 2012 were the new Pastoral and Treasury Ministry coordinators Nong and Tricia Bustos, and Vino and Beth Guiang respectively.

These are the new covenanted members of our community: **Singles:** Eric Cruz • **SPE 9:** Au de Castro • **SPE 10:** Elizabeth Carpio, Portia De Jesus, Ces Florentino, Margarita Ocasio, Erlinda Pedutem, Carmelita Perez, Leah Samson • **SPE 11:** Rameses Bautista, Malou Blankas, Norma Calara, Maris Fandino, Clair Mariano, Gladys Vicari • **SPE 12:** Joseph Appel, Fe Chenet, Miles Dionisio, Dinah Encarnacion, Violet Meneses, Anna Marie Vales, Lucille Vizcayno • **ME 25:** Rollie Castillo • **ME 31:** Marcelo and Michelle Mijares, Mary Anne San Agustin • **ME 32:** Efrain and Wanda Ortiz, Jude and Maricel De los Reyes, George and Sarita Rodriguez • **ME 33:** Ed and Armi Bayudan • **ME 34:** Art and Yen Arnan, Willy and Amor Ferrer, Jhun and Maryann Lomibao, Mario and Carmen Olazo, William and Maria Sumandal, Mateo and Precy Yap.

The **ME 37** new Committed disciples are Rey and Daphne Cobarrubias, Jon and Mariel Lambino, Vic and Bebot Osias, and Bong and Vina Regis.

*“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!

## COUNSELS

### ***Set Like Flint***

**THEME:** We obey God’s word when we deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him.

**WORD:** Is 50:5-9; Ps 116:1-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

**ORDER:** *“Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me.”* (Mark 8:34)

**REFLECTION:**

Take a closer look at verse 7b of Isaiah chapter 50 in Sunday's First Reading. How do we receive this half-verse in light of our community Order for this week? *“I have set my face like flint”* (Isaiah 50:7b) seems to indicate a steely determination not to be deterred, discouraged or pushed off our chosen course --- in this case, to follow the Order which is to take up the Cross as we follow Christ.

In the words of our Lord, we have to deny ourselves and take up our cross if we are to come after Him. This is the mindset of one who follows Christ, and it is a basic lesson for the BLD disciple in our formation program. Mark 8:34 is an essential condition of Christian discipleship.

What does “to deny oneself” mean? The word denial quickly connotes refraining from material sensations and earthly possessions, which is good and helpful. But it will merit us greatly if we also practice abstinence, in the spiritual sense, refrain from such things as evil thoughts, gossiping, a quick temper, love of comfort and lustful desires.

In Mark 8:34, it says that even before we can accept the cross and bear it patiently, we must first deny ourselves. For who can carry the cross if one is weighed down by other things? Who can indeed serve two masters?

*Continued on page 3*

### ***Promise of the Week***

*“For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.”* (Mark 8:35)

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

# Behold Your Mother

*“Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.” (John 19:27)*



When you hear the word ‘mother’, what are some of the things that come to mind? Caring, loving, gentle, kind, giving, etc. may be some characteristics. Maybe you picture a mother holding her baby. Travel around the globe and in every country, every culture, from the wealthiest, most prestigious nation to the most private tribe in Africa, the word ‘mother’ will always have the same connotation. Mom, madre, mommy, ma, nanay... even animals instinctively look to their mothers the same way. When you think of your own mother, what are some of the things that come to mind? For me, I think of someone who puts her children before herself- a great example of unconditional love.

Now think about how much more all these things apply to our Heavenly Mother. In His great love for us, just a few moments before He died, our Lord and Savior gave us His Beloved Mama Mary to be our Mother as well. These three simple words about our spiritual adoption, “*Behold your mother,*” play a significant role in our faith. How blessed are we to be able to look to Mary as our Mother, the same woman who nurtured our Lord Jesus Christ? How loved are we by our God that He would share His own Mother with us? Our Mama Mary is a constant source of compassion and affection toward us. As one of the most powerful intercessors, she is dedicated to praying for the souls of her children. Furthermore, Mary exemplifies the kind of faith and obedience we ought to possess. We should not only look to her for her intercession, but really look to her as inspiration and encouragement in choosing God and following His ways and His plan for our lives.

I’ve never really reflected on the magnitude of having Mary as our Mother until now. You could even say that I’ve taken her for granted. And so I pray that we all learn to turn to our Heavenly Mother more often for her guidance and prayers, as well as for a model of trust and willingness to bring glory and praise to our Lord God.

# Expect Nothing Back

Is it a surprise to any of us that as we continue to celebrate this “Ordinary” time in the Church’s Liturgical calendar, we are challenged by the Lord’s teaching in Luke 6:27-28, “I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you”? My cultural training and the way I was brought up totally contradicts this way of living, of treating others the way that Jesus is directing us to do. In the urban area where I was born and raised, I was not to love my enemies nor do good to those who hated me. In the “streets” you learned how to defend yourself, your family, and your property against your enemies.

Yet, if we want to be a follower of Jesus, Saint John Chrysostom tells us that “Being a disciple of Christ means being meek and gentle. We draw this meekness whenever we are mindful of our sins, whenever we grieve and weep for them. A soul which habitually feels such contrition does not permit itself to become vexed and angry.” Likewise, we are told by Jesus to “give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back.”(Luke 6:30). We ought to love them as though they are our friends and not our enemies. With this comes Jesus’ promise of a great reward, becoming children of the Most High, “for He Himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked”. (Luke 6:35)

It is so often that we reach out to God the Father to ask for mercy and forgiveness for our sins and each time, without fail, He offers us His compassion, reconciliation and unconditional love. This eternal model of forgiveness and mercy is what God offers to us each and every day of our lives. Through the **Power of the Holy Spirit**, let us try to embrace this new way of life, of loving all especially our enemies and the least of our brethren, and “expecting nothing back”.

Grant us the spirit of **Wisdom**- that we may not unduly attach ourselves to perishable things and aspire ever more for things that are eternal

The spirit of **Understanding**- that Divine Truth might enlighten our mind

The spirit of **Knowledge**- that we may see all things in the light of Divine Revelation

The spirit of **Counsel**- that we may always choose the surest way of pleasing God

The spirit of **Fortitude**- that we may bear our crosses with courage

## Ministry Matters - Mission (Parish Ministry)

Here is a very brief background of the BLD Newark Mission –Parish Ministry. The mission started out in the late 90's as Deanery 20 Outreach, Newark. BLD volunteers went to different parishes of St. Antoninus, Blessed Sacrament, St. Charles Borromeo, Benedictine Abbey, and St. Ann, to conduct weekly prayer meetings to a highly diverse group. The volunteers brought God's love and joy with the Sunday Masses, ethnic festivals, barbecues, fundraisers they have sponsored in these different churches. They eventually earned the love and trust of both priests and parishioners alike. A Solo Parents Encounter was held in Maplewood, followed by a Life in the Spirit Seminar in Blessed Sacrament, Newark. The Deanery 20 Outreach evolved into the Ecclesial life Apostolate (ELA). Later, the first Marriage Encounter was successfully held.

Our collaboration with the churches of Newark bore good fruit. Many non-Filipinos subsequently joined the ME, SPE, YE, FE weekends. One ME graduate is now a deacon, and he, together with his wife are active servant leaders of the Amazing Grace prayer group. A parishioner from St. Antoninus continues to invite many couples, solo parents, and young people to join in the encounters and LSS. A young man who joined the first LSS returned a decade later with his wife to attend a recent ME and both are now active in the community.

Presently, the group is called "Mission (Parish)". It is a part of the BLD Newark Mission Ministry, together with the Mission (Institution), Mission (Medical), Gawad Kalinga, Divine Mercy parish outreach, Amazing Grace prayer group outreach, Districts in Process (DIP's), Scholarship of Hope, and March for Life.

Ministry members are being sent out to the different parishes in Essex, Hudson, Union, and Bergen counties to serve as active witnesses of BLD in the Archdiocese of Newark. BLD missionaries lovingly and joyfully witness the mission and vision of BLD Newark to other prayer groups and non-Filipinos. We also support the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Pentecost celebration, recollections, Life in the Spirit seminars and other activities that will draw people of all colors, the poor and the marginalized, closer to Jesus Christ.

The ministry helps in the annual Women's Conference and Men's Conference of the Office of Evangelization of the archdiocese. A couple spearheads BLD involvement in the March for Life, Washington DC.

*Continued on page 4*

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

How can we be devoted to God and at the same time love worldly pleasure, wealth and power? Rather, making the choice to follow God or pursue mammon would entail hating and despising the other (Matthew 6:24). To follow Jesus cannot be a hollow and empty choice; it requires a clear and constant commitment. We get a clear picture of this in the 9th chapter of Luke's Gospel which describes "The Would-be Followers of Jesus". There the Lord tells a disciple, "***No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God.***" (Luke 9:62)

Why would a loving God require the bitter cup of suffering and impose the Cross on someone who would be His follower? When we dwell on this question, we cannot help but contemplate Christ's own passion and death. Our prayerful reflection would also lead us to rediscover the beautiful truth announced in John 3:16, which has been called the "theme verse" of the Bible. It tells us that "***death, even death on the cross***" (Philippians 2:8) is God's chosen instrument to redeem us from sin and eternal damnation.

The First Reading wonderfully complements our theme for this week which is found in the Gospel. In it is one of four passages known as the "Suffering Servant" poems, foreshadowing the redemptive Passion of our Savior. The prophet says, "***I have not rebelled, have not turned back (from) buffets, spitting and beatings.***" (Isaiah 50:5-6 paraphrased) As BLD disciples, can we identify with Isaiah in our personal circumstances as we live out our Christian calling? Grace will help us understand the prophet's words, "***I have set my face like flint***" and with utter confidence, say with him, "***I shall not be put to shame.***" (Isaiah 50:7) The reason for this comes from the inoperative belief that, "***The Lord God is my help. I am not disgraced; who will prove me wrong?***" (Isaiah 50:9a)

The very next verse in Mark's Gospel following our Order is the Promise for this week, giving us joyful hope. In verse 35 Jesus tells us, "***For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.***" Certainly, martyrdom is a glorious offering that honors God and enriches His Church. But for many of us, to lose our life in this way is simply to "***put away the old self of our former life***" (Ephesians 4:22). It is to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus.

### DIRECTIONS

1. Demonstrate your faith through good works.
2. Do corporal works of mercy.

## Ministry Matters *(from page 3)*

Another couple spreads devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary through the propagation of the Holy Rosary and 2000 Hail Marys. Two couples attend monthly meetings with the Filipino CCR Pastoral team under Fr. Bill Halbing to implement programs that will immerse Catholics in God's Word and truth, strengthen spiritual growth and foster formation of prayer groups.

*"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."*  
(Matthew 28:19-20)

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### LSS #39

Oct 5-7 • Divine Mercy Parish @ St. Mary's, Rahway, NJ  
Contact: Life in the Spirit Apostolate @ [lsa@bldnewark.com](mailto:lsa@bldnewark.com)

### John 6 Crossing #13

Oct 19-21 • St. Peter's Retreat House, Belleville, NJ  
Information and application are available online at [BLDNewarkJohn6.weebly.com](http://BLDNewarkJohn6.weebly.com) or contact Ernest & Nellie Sun @ [BLDNewarkJohn6@yahoo.com](mailto:BLDNewarkJohn6@yahoo.com)

### ME #40

Nov 9-11 • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA  
Contacts: Marc & Emma Belmonte @ [mla@bldnewark.com](mailto:mla@bldnewark.com)  
Gary & Mil Camacho @ [camachocpa@comcast.net](mailto:camachocpa@comcast.net)

### SE #29

Nov 9-11 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garison, NY  
Contacts: Jennifer Mendiola [jennifer.mediola1@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.mediola1@gmail.com)  
646.238.7043, Dhemi & Divine Alba [dhevine@aol.com](mailto:dhevine@aol.com)  
646.431.0350 or any single ministry member.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Petition Slip Guidelines

1. **Use only one Petition Slip for each petition type.** For example, when requesting for the Spiritual, Financial, and Miscellaneous, fill out and complete 3 separate petition slips. The reason is **9 petition types are segregated** and **assigned to separate intercessors** to prepare the Community's Intercessory Petitions.
2. **Print Clearly and Legibly.**

It is highly recommended to complete the Petition Slips at home prior to coming to worship. Forms are available at [www.bldnewark.com](http://www.bldnewark.com) click on **Petition Slip**.

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)

## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,494	118, 050
Typhoon	9	4,438
Raffle Ticket (Ablaze@20)	940	2,116

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

Thank you for your continued support!

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

## TEACHING CALENDAR

- Sep 15\* Christian Parenting I & II – ME 1-39, SPE 14  
Basic Bible Study - LSS 1-38  
Christian Maturity II (Part 1) - LSS 1-37
- Sep 21 Basis of Prayer – ME 39, SPE 14  
Teaching – Mark 10, John 6
- Sep 28 Teaching - Golden Years
- Oct 06 Christian Maturity II (Part 2) – LSS 1-37
- Oct 19 Teaching – Mark 10, John 6
- Oct 20\* Growth in Prayer - LSS 1-39  
Encounter with Jesus - LSS 1-38

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

### Aspirant's Retreat

Oct 26-28 • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION

### Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ  
Every 4th Sat. of the month.

Sep 22 • SPE 14 • Contact: Angie Valeroso

## Be a Living Word

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Sep 21	Formation
			Sep 30	Management
			Oct 05	Mission
			Oct 12	Evangelization
			Oct 19	Pastoral

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

*"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose hope is the LORD. He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream: It fears not the heat when it comes, its leaves stay green; In the year of drought it shows no distress, but still bears fruit."* (Jer 17:7-8)



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 37

Bulletin Edition

September 21, 2012

## NEWS

### Pope Benedict Calls for Church to be “Sign of Peace That Comes From God”

Ecumenical Meeting Gathers Representatives of Lebanon’s  
Diverse Religious Landscape By Ann Schneible

ROME, SEPT. 17, 2012 ([Zenit.org](http://Zenit.org)).- In his journey to Lebanon, a country wounded by religious conflict, Pope Benedict XVI was welcomed as a messenger of peace and reconciliation, furthering ecumenical dialogue among the many churches rites and denominations that flourish throughout the country.

During his ecumenical meeting, held Sunday at the monastery of Our Lady of Deliverance, the Holy Father addressed patriarchs, bishops and representatives of Protestant communities of the country. This monastery, as the Pope noted, is of particular importance to the Syrian Catholic Church of the Antiochian tradition, of which Ignace Joseph III Younan is the Patriarch....

Addressing the various leaders of faiths, Pope Benedict asked those present to respond to the call of Christ *“that all may be one.”* (John 17:21) “In these unstable times,” he said, “so inclined to the violence which your region knows so well, it is even more necessary that Christ’s disciples give an authentic witness to their unity, so that the world may believe in their message of love, peace and reconciliation. This is a message that all Christians, and we in particular, have been commissioned to hand on to the world, a message of inestimable value in the present context of the Middle East.”

Pope Benedict petitioned religious leaders to work toward “full communion with each other.” Through common prayer, he said, “we must constantly return to our one Lord and Saviour. For, as I wrote in the Apostolic Exhortation ‘Ecclesia in Medio Oriente’ which I have the pleasure of consigning to you, ‘Jesus draws into unity those who believe in and love him.’”

Turning to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Pope Benedict asked her to “intercede with her Son for us, so that we may be delivered from every evil and from all forms of violence, and so that the Middle East may at last know a time of reconciliation and peace,” concluding: “May the words of Jesus that I have so often cited during this journey, *‘My peace I give to you’* (John 14, 27), be for all of us the common sign that we will give in the name of Christ to the peoples of this beloved region, which longs to see those words fulfilled!”

On ZENIT’s Web page: Full text: [www.zenit.org/article-35545?l=english](http://www.zenit.org/article-35545?l=english)

## COUNSELS

### The Simplicity of a Child

THEME: We obey God’s word when we practice servanthood within and outside of the Community.

WORD: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20; Psalm 54:3-7; James 3:16-4:3; Mark 9:30-37

ORDER: *“Be the last of all and the servant of all.”* (Mark 9:35)

REFLECTION:

The first reading describes the 'ungodly' as planning to torture the righteous because he has condemned their way of living. The 'righteous,' or just man has much in common with the Suffering Servant of God and his Triumph, as depicted by Isaiah in chapter 52:13. Jesus of course, is the model for the just person, the one referred to in the Gospel who *“is to be handed over to men and they will kill him.”* (Mark 9:31a) The good ending to Jesus' death is when he rises again in three days, verse 31b. Because of his total reliance on God, the just man will be vindicated, for *“God will help him and deliver him from the hand of his foes.”* (Wisdom 2:18)

The second reading tells what constitute a 'just' man and a 'wicked' man. Wickedness comes from jealousy and selfish ambition which will only lead to conflict, war and death. The 'just' man, on the other hand, finds inner peace because he gets his power and wisdom from above. This wisdom is *“first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, sincere, full of mercy and good fruits.”* (Jas 3:17) Wisdom is the participation in God's way of seeing things. We know what God wants of us. Our passions can energize us if properly ordered in the right direction and drive us to a focused-directed given purpose. Genuine prayer strengthens and deepens our friendship with God who will re-shape and re-form our desires and motives.

Both readings connect with the biblical background that Jesus is using in the gospel to teach his apostles about the 'just' man and the 'Suffering Servant.' But his apostles

*Continued on page 3*

*Promise of the Week*

*“... the Lord sustains my life.”*

(Psalm 54:6)

# BIG, LOUD , EMPTY BANG

***“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.”*** (1 Cor 13:1)

The word “love” as above is a modern translation of the Greek word “agape”, which the Catholic Church has traditionally rendered as “charity”. ***“Charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God”*** (CCC 1822). “Charity upholds and purifies our *human* ability to love, and raises it to the supernatural perfection of *divine* love” (CCC 1827).

This is why the apostle Paul speaks of charity in the context of spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12, 13 and 14), because it is “infused by God into the souls of the faithful” (CCC 1813) and not acquired by human effort. Paul teaches that charity is the greatest of the theological virtues (1 Cor 13:13) and urges us to make it our aim and (*then*) to earnestly desire the spiritual gifts (1 Cor 14:1).

1 Cor 13:1 tells us how we are when we speak without charity. We are like empty vessels that make a lot of noise and have a negative impact on the people that we speak to, even if we are speaking the truth. A truthful rebuke hurts (Prov 27:5-6), but it hurts even more when we are not “speaking the truth in charity” (Eph 4:15) as we should. When we hear a loud bang, we tend to shut up our ears because we cannot bear it; that is exactly what people do when we they perceive that we do not have any love for them but only empty words which often reflect our own self-righteousness more than anything else.

Often, people judge not only our message but us. If we speak to them a message of God’s love but we ourselves show no evidence of God’s charity abiding in us, we discredit our own message and turn people away from God. As Paul says ***“Because of you the name of God is reviled among the Gentiles”*** (Rom 2:24). Therefore, we must be compassionate, kind, lowly, meek, patient, forbearing and forgiving (Col 3:12-13); but above all these, we must ***“put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.”*** (Col 3:14).

O Lord, help us grow in charity. Amen.

# Who Are Called?

My physical age almost qualifies me for Medicare while my spiritual age is still like an infant. Jesus called Matthew, a tax collector, with a face to face direct command... *“follow Me”* (John 1:43). Fast forward two thousand years later, how do I know that I am being called? I wish learning the meaning of the verse from Matthew 9:13, *“Go and learn the meaning of the words, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ I did not come to call the righteous but sinners”* came earlier into my life. I was not baptized until the age of 28 as a pre-requisite for marriage to my ex-wife. But being born a non-Catholic and coming from a third generation Chinese Filipino does not excuse me from being called. The Lord must have called at numerous times and at different stages of my life and I did not know it. Was it a call when I was born and raised as a neighbor to the resident of the Cebu Archbishop’s Palace? Archbishop, then Cardinal Rosales was tolerant when I was “harvesting” his Tambis fruit trees. Was it a call when I came from a family of nine and the only one to attend a Catholic seminary high school and a Catholic university? Was it a call when the jeepney I normally rode with an oil company representative to a Samar logging company fell in a ravine killing the driver with his lone passenger and I was spared?

The door to BLD Friday night worships opened shortly after my ex-wife of 34 years left. The divorce proceeding was the most stressful time of my life as I was under duress. The dissolution of the marriage was not justifiable as I was not unfaithful. Neither was I a gambler nor an alcoholic. I was not given a chance for marriage counseling or even a face to face communication. She chose to hide behind her lawyer and the divorce law of the state. The Lord helped me in my distress. I was invited to attend LSS 35 and LSS 37 weekends where I experienced God’s unwavering love. My shepherds’ witnessing through prayers, sincerity and faithfulness to the Lord, showed me

the way to salvation. I may not have been ready at my previous calls, but when the fruit was harvested at its full ripeness after my LSS, it tasted the sweetest. It was only then that I realized and understood the grace and blessing of being called to draw near to God. A corollary to Matthew 9:13 in the Old Testament is from Hosea 6:6: ***“For it is love that I desire, not sacrifice, and knowledge of God rather than holocausts.”***... for to know Him is to love Him.



## Shepherd's Voice: The Legacy of San Lorenzo Ruiz



We are celebrating this month the feast day of San Lorenzo Ruiz. Nothing much was written about his holiness during his life in the Philippines except that he was an altar boy and educated by the Dominican friars. He was an ordinary person like you and me.

San Lorenzo Ruiz was a Chinese-Filipino who grew up in Binondo, Manila in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. He was working as a calligrapher at Binondo Church when he was implicated in a crime. His Dominican superiors

believing in his innocence shielded him from the authorities by bringing him along on a missionary expedition to Japan. Upon landing, he and his companions were immediately arrested and tortured to renounce their faith. From his lips came this reply, "I will never do it. I am a Catholic and happy to die for God. If I have a thousand lives to offer, I will offer them to God." He was also offered to be safely sent home and be reunited to his family but he strongly remained faithful to his belief and love of God. Finally, they slit his temples and while hanging upside down, he slowly bled to death.

Filipinos are now scattered all over the world trying to make a living as nurses, doctors, nannies, domestic help, and other professional workers. Most of us would not be in foreign lands if we had a better life in our own country. However, I believe this is not the main reason because there must be a greater reason. A relevant fact to consider is of all the many countries in Asia, the Philippines is the only Christian and Catholic nation. In our own quiet way, we show our faith wherever we go and thus become involved in Church activities mostly as choir members or Eucharistic Ministers. A friend of mine travelling in the Middle East commented, "if you are looking for a Catholic Church or where Mass is celebrated on a Sunday in any place in the world, just follow the Filipinos and they will lead you to one." We also become good witnesses of our faith to the families (especially the children) we work for, patients in the hospitals, co-workers in offices, and friends in our communities. We may not be tortured or killed for our faith but we certainly carry with us the legacy of San Lorenzo Ruiz in being credible witnesses for Jesus Christ in every corner of the world.

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

could not grasp the meaning of what Jesus was saying. They had come to believe that Jesus was the promised Messiah, therefore he would overcome all enemies and set up a worldly kingdom; not believing of his coming tortures and death before even accomplishing this task. They began disputing with one another as to which of them would have the highest place of honor in the earthly messianic kingdom that they envisioned, with a desire to turn it into an earthly welfare state rather than into a preparation for heaven. This conflict was sensed by Jesus but not openly admitted to by the apostles. How worldly but human they were! We must not forget though, that they were not yet really Christians. They needed the death and resurrection of Christ to make them what they became-his true followers and loyal disciples.

Christ did not rebuke his disciples for their worldliness but told them that his kingdom would be one of service. He said, "***If anyone would be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.***" (Mark 9:35) This means that the way to the peace of Christ is first, humility. Humility is not bowing our head so low; rather, it is acknowledging one's limitation and dependence on divine providence. To illustrate his teaching, Jesus chooses a child, a symbol of simplicity and powerlessness, exemplifying our need for humble dependence on God, as the child depends totally on his or her parents. Jesus says, "***... whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.***" (Mark 10:15)

It is a basic violation of the Christian code to concentrate on self to the exclusion of fellow-Christians and fellowmen. Our world seems not to have embraced the idea of leadership and service, for the self-serving notion of leadership still fuels the passion of nations. War is rampant; greed and other injustices abound. Those who speak of peace, of recognizing the value of every human being, of trying to find ways to achieve understanding among all people are seen as fools; that there is nothing to be gained by being selfless and doing what is just does not make you rich or famous.

Jesus exhorts us to listen to him today: to put aside all our games of self-promotion and self-deception and live according to God's deepest desire for us. Let us aim to create a situation in the Christian community where every member acts as the servant of everyone else, so that the power, motive, and relationships of superiority and inferiority are abolished altogether. Those who humbly serve the ones of least importance in the world and helping them to realize that they are loved for who they are, not for what they have or what they can offer are rewarded with the presence of Christ himself and of his Father. (Mark 9:37)

Brothers and sisters, let us be guided by wisdom from above, so as to become more humble, serving one another in love, thus making this world a better place.

**DIRECTION:** Heed the Lord's call to serve.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### LSS #39

Oct 5-7 • Divine Mercy Parish @ St. Mary's, Rahway, NJ  
Contact: Life in the Spirit Apostolate @ [lsa@bldnewark.com](mailto:lsa@bldnewark.com)

### John 6 Crossing #13

Oct 19-21 • St. Peter's Retreat House, Belleville, NJ  
Information and application are available online at  
[BLDNNewarkJohn6.weebly.com](http://BLDNNewarkJohn6.weebly.com) or contact Ernest & Nellie  
Sun @ [BLDNNewarkJohn6@yahoo.com](mailto:BLDNNewarkJohn6@yahoo.com)

### ME #40

Nov 9-11 • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA  
Contacts: Marc & Emma Belmonte @ [mla@bldnewark.com](mailto:mla@bldnewark.com)  
Gary & Mil Camacho @ [camachocpa@comcast.net](mailto:camachocpa@comcast.net)

### SE #29

Nov 9-11 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garison, NY  
Contacts: Jennifer Mendiola [jennifer.mediola1@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.mediola1@gmail.com)  
646.238.7043, Dhemi & Divine Alba [dhevine@aol.com](mailto:dhevine@aol.com)  
646.431.0350 or any single ministry member.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

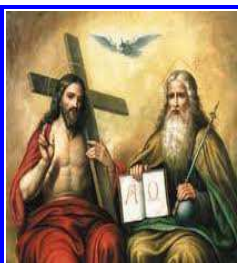
### Community Notice

One of the community's resident was very upset and angry about the noise level at the parking lot and the gymnasium entrance after 10pm last Friday. It was mentioned that people hanged out by the parking lot laughing, screaming at each other. It was also mentioned that we could be heard even if we are inside the gym especially when the gym doors are left open. It was **demande**d that nobody hang out by the parking lot, to keep our voices down and always keep the gym door closed at all times especially after 10 pm.

### St. Mary's Security Alert

**PLEASE BE CAREFUL.** Each of us has a responsibility to help keep things safe and secure. Anyone entrusted with the Parish Center keys, is responsible to ensure it is **locked** afterwards. There are times a door is left open because it didn't get a gentle pull or push to be sure that it is locked. **Please remember to take the extra step. We all need to be very vigilant** in order to ensure the **SAFETY** and **SECURITY** of everyone.

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000



### Moments

*Happy moments* Praise God  
*Difficult moments* Seek God  
*Quiet moments* Worship God  
*Painful moments* Trust God  
*Every moment* Thank God

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,092	121,142
Typhoon		4,438
Raffle Ticket (Ablaze@20)	1,624	4,439

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)  
Thank you for your continued support!

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Sep 21 Basis of Prayer – ME 39, SPE 14  
Teaching – Mark 10, John 6  
Sep 28 Teaching - Golden Years  
Oct 06 Christian Maturity II (Part 2) – LSS 1-37  
Oct 19 Teaching – Mark 10, John 6  
Oct 20\* Growth in Prayer - LSS 1-39  
Encounter with Jesus - LSS 1-38  
Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

### Aspirant's Retreat

Oct 26-28 • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS


### MISSION

### Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ  
Every 4th Sat. of the month.

Sep 22 • SPE 14 • Contact: Angie Valeroso

## Stewardship - It's a way of life!

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Sep 30	Management
			Oct 05	Mission
			Oct 12	Evangelization
			Oct 19	Pastoral
			Oct 26	Formation

## Five (5) W's of community life

- 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.
- Word** – know the LORD through reading and reflecting on the gospel. Seek direction and guidance through the words in the Scripture.
- Witness** – let others see Jesus in you – see Jesus in every person you meet.
- Work** – giving a full day's work for a full day's pay – exercising Christian values and ethics.
- 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.





# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 38

Bulletin Edition

September 30, 2012

## NEWS

## COUNSELS

### Newark Youth Hosts Inter-District “Battle of the Classes”

On September 22, 2012, approximately 95 BLD youth members from several BLD Districts gathered at Divine Mercy Parish to compete in this year’s Battle of the Classes (BOTC). The event was organized and hosted by BLD Newark. The other districts - Long Island, Rockland, and Trenton - brought their A-games competing in the day’s various events and activities. The Districts, each armed with banners, single-color themed attires, and hearts of determination, were ready to have fun, meet new friends, and share their love of the Lord!

As early as 8 AM, Long Island, Rockland, and Trenton were already present at the gymnasium, mentally and physically prepared. To properly orient the exciting day, the newly appointed DYC of Newark (Sean Olaso, Kipsy Quevada, Monica San Agustin, Nicko Tolentino, and Jay Ymbong) started things off by leading a short worship. Then, the fun festivities began! Games such as basketball, relay races, and tug-of-war helped bring everyone closer together as one family.

The best part of the day, however, was that in the afternoon, we were able to go to the holy mass as one body of the Youth Ministry. Father Robert (the celebrant) had mentioned that the community was blessed to have the Youth present that day! This made everyone feel even more - a connection, a oneness, a UNITY - with one another.

The DYC then announced the Battle’s results, reminding everybody that we were all winners in God’s eyes. Lastly, a praise jam put the cherry on top of the action-packed day. By the end of the event, members of each of the Districts felt like they had already known each other for many years!

Even days after the BOTC, everyone was still feeling as excited about it as they had felt that day. The Youth not only bonded with their own groups, but also met new faces. And all praised God as one. This was truly an event no one will ever forget!

### Encourage One Another

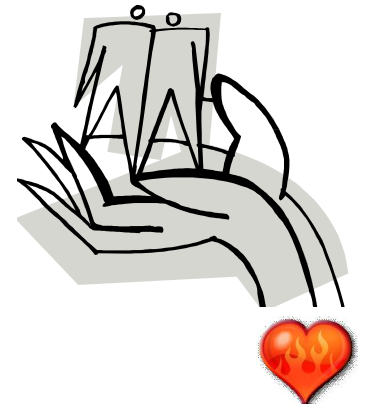
THEME: We obey God’s word when we help those who are in need.

WORD: Numbers 11:25-29; Psalm 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14; James 5:1-6; Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

ORDER: Do not prevent anyone who performs a mighty deed in My name.

REFLECTION:

This Sunday’s readings focus on one challenging mission and purpose: **help and encourage one another to grow in love for God and others.** This task is challenging because even God’s own disciples found it difficult to follow His tenet and instruction.



In the first reading, Joshua begged Moses to stop the two men from prophesying (Nm 11:28) and in the Gospel, John challenged Jesus to prevent someone from driving out demons in His name (Mk 9:38). Both Joshua and John love God, but why did they desire to stop their fellowmen from doing something extraordinary for God’s sake? What could they have done differently? Should they have encouraged others to use their gifts and, at the same time, helped them nurture these gifts for God’s glory? Would positive reinforcement and support from Joshua and John have made them better stewards of God’s graces, and consequently, would they have received God’s blessings? (1 Pt 4:10) But why didn’t they rejoice in the good of others? Could it be because of their feelings of envy, rivalry, or suspicion?

However, both Moses and Jesus ... *Continued, page 3*

### Promise of the Week

“Anyone who gives a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ ... will surely not lose his reward.” (Mk 9:41)

## Seize the Day

***“Do not withhold any goods from the owner when it is in your power to act. Say not to your neighbor, “Go, come back tomorrow, and I will give it to you,” when all the while you have it.”*** (Prv 3:27-28)

Have you ever felt so helpless and felt that there was no other alternative but to cry for help? If not, then you have not experienced how it is to swallow your pride and muster some courage to ask for help from the first generous person who comes to mind. You would not know the feeling when that person says come back tomorrow, when you need help on that very day.

This scripture reminds us to be loving and generous as God is. God gave us His only Son and Jesus showed His generosity by giving His life for us. As disciples of Christ, we are called to follow Him. We have to follow His light and strive to be a shining light to all the nations. We have to be generous with our time, talent and treasure for His greater honor and glory. If we reveal His light and share what we have, God will provide what we need all the more generously. Blessing is a by-product of generosity.

Let us ask ourselves these questions:

- ✓ *Do I have a generous heart?*
- ✓ *Do I rejoice when I give?*
- ✓ *Do I give legalistically?*
- ✓ *Do I give grudgingly?*

If we find ourselves lacking in generosity and not giving from our hearts, let us pray harder to our Great Provider, because He alone changes hearts. ***“God loves a cheerful giver.”*** (2 Cor 9:7) Let us be reminded that everything we have is God’s and only what we share with others will have eternal significance.

Let us not wait for tomorrow, if we can help today. If we are asked to help, let us look at it as a God-given opportunity to witness to God’s love and generosity. God brings us to certain situations in order to use us to bless others, so we must not delay.

As a community, let us see how we can share our time, talent and treasure with the big Church and help in spreading God’s light to others. Let us trust the Lord for our needs, while helping meet the needs of others today, not tomorrow.

## *Just Passing Through*

“Vanity of vanities...” In Ecclesiastes, this sums up the sacred author’s assessment of the things of the world and the fruits of human endeavor. Included among the latter is the acquisition of a superficial type of knowledge or wisdom that is clearly at odds with what we know from experience. This part of the book is devoted to showing that the type of wisdom man is bent on acquiring is of no use at all.

If one looks around, one gets the impression that everything in the world forms part of one continuous cyclical movement in which one can never expect anything new to happen: things that seem new are not new at all (Eccl 1:3-11). If the elements of nature, with their sometimes tedious movement, change nothing in the established order of things, man likewise will change nothing in his life, despite all his strivings (vv. 3-8). The reasonable thing to do is to put one’s trust in God, for all the wisdom of this world is in vain.

***“...Christ, in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”***  
(Col 2:2-3)



According to Saint Basil, the book of Ecclesiastes explains the failure of seekers after wisdom, to go to the root of the problem. It shows and makes clear to us the vanity of many of the things of the world, so that we might come to understand that the passing things of this life are not worth hungering for; that we should not devote our attention on useless things or fix our desires on any created thing.

True wisdom and the fear of God – have been perfected in the New Testament message. True wisdom is in ***“Christ, in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”*** (Col 2:2-3). And the fear of God should be understood as love, not servile fear, because God is our Father. That conviction should govern what we do: ***“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment and he who fears is not perfected in love.”*** (1 Jn 4:18)



## My Guardian Angels



**St. Michael**, **St. Gabriel**, and **St. Raphael** are three Archangels of God. They share September 29 as their feast day. We honor them in many of our prayers and also during mass. Their names each have special meanings.

**Saint Michael** is the patron saint of grocers, paratroopers, police, and sickness. His name means “Who is like to God” and he is honored as patron and protector of the Church at the time of the Apostles. He protected heaven - when Satan and his followers attacked Heaven, **St. Michael** led an army of angels to fight Satan. Eventually, the angels won the battle.

**St. Michael** today watches over all of us, protecting us from sin and Satan. He watches over the police, marines, and paratroopers keeping them safe from attacks and harm.

**Saint Gabriel** is the patron saint of communication workers. His name means “Man of God,” or “God has shown Himself mighty.” In the Old Testament, **St. Gabriel** explained to Daniel the prophecy of the Ram and the He-goat (Dn 8: 16-26) and the Seventy Weeks of Years (Dn 9:20-27). In the New Testament, he appeared to Zachariah and told him that he and his wife Elizabeth were going to have a son -- St. John the Baptist. (Lk 1:13) He was also sent by God to Mary to let her know that she would conceive a son by power of the Holy Spirit, and that he will be called the Son of the Most High, Jesus Christ. (Lk 1:31-32)

**St. Gabriel** protects us and brings secret messages to God’s chosen ones. He helps communication workers keep up communication in the world.

**Saint Raphael** is the patron saint of travelers, the blind, happy meetings, nurses, and physicians. His name means “God heals.” In the Old Testament, **St. Raphael** disguised himself as a traveling companion to Tobias, son of Tobit, on his journey to retrieve his father’s wealth. Tobit’s blindness was also cured from a fish that **St. Raphael** and Tobias had caught during this journey.

**St. Raphael** today watches over travelers and makes sure they have safe trips.

These three archangels are our guardian angels. We rely on them and should pray to them to protect us and keep us safe from evil and sin. They are my favorite angels because they do big things. We pray that **St. Michael**, **St. Gabriel** and **St. Raphael** will protect us and keep us safe from evil ones and from sin.

*(This article was written by one of the children in the Mark 10 Ministry)*

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

did not entertain their intolerant behavior. Moses emphasizes equality in God’s eyes by saying, “... **the Lord might bestow his spirit on them all.**” (Nm 11:29) Every human creature is God’s masterful workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works. (Eph 2:10) Jesus emphasizes ‘belongingness’ by saying, “... **whoever is not against us is for us**” (Mk 9:39). These two verses warned Joshua and John against exclusivity, for the Lord did not want them to show partiality as they held their faith in Him (Jas 2:1).

In our world today, competition, discrimination and favoritism reign supreme. In fact, it has become an acceptable way of life, even by those who claim to know Jesus and strive to follow Him. This is due to our sinful broken nature. Sometimes, we act out of selfish ambitions and impure intentions driven by our feeling of envy, our desire to compete, and our inability to trust, as stated in Philippians 1:15-17, “**Some preach Christ from envy and rivalry, others from good will. The latter act out of love ... the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not from pure motives.**” Sometimes, we exclude people because they do not meet our high standards and expectations, or simply because we do not like them. Because of our own pride and desire to outdo others, we do not encourage people to do something good, so we can outshine them. Sometimes, we stifle people’s gifts by not using them, because we have reservations and lack confidence in their own abilities.

Certainly, these self-centered behaviors and judgmental attitude are sure signs of disobedience to God’s Word, for in 1 Thessalonians 5:11, we are commanded to “**Encourage one another and build one another up...**” Besides, they can only stunt one’s own spiritual growth and maturity for there is no greater obstacle to God’s design and our own happiness than we ourselves.

In the gospel, Jesus talks about sin and the burden of its serious consequence and our capacity to influence others to sin. In the second reading, St. James talks about our profound love for worldly wealth, which draws us away from God causing us to be insensitive to the needs of others (Jas 5:1-6). Whereas, the Psalmist reveals to us our fallen nature and our great need for Jesus’ love and mercy in order to become innocent of serious sins. Further, the readings emphasize that if we continue to act out our negative behaviors and succumb to temptations and sins, we are doomed to eternal perdition and death.

Thus, as followers of Christ, we are called upon to help and encourage one another to live a holy and fruitful life, not to dissuade. This can be achieved by doing the following: accepting all people we ... **Continued, page 4**

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### LSS #39

Oct 5-7 • St. Andrew's @ Bayonne, NJ

Contact: Life in the Spirit Apostolate @ [lsa@bldnewark.com](mailto:lsa@bldnewark.com)

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### ME #40

Nov 9-11 • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA

Contacts: Marc & Emma Belmonte @ [mla@bldnewark.com](mailto:mla@bldnewark.com)  
Gary & Mil Camacho @ [camachocpa@comcast.net](mailto:camachocpa@comcast.net)

### SE #29

Nov 9-11 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garison, NY

Contacts: Jennifer Mendiola [jennifer.mediola1@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.mediola1@gmail.com)  
646.238.7043, Dhemi & Divine Alba [dhevine@aol.com](mailto:dhevine@aol.com)  
646.431.0350 or any Singles' ministry member.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Community Notice

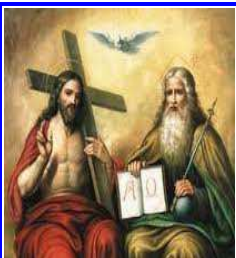
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### St. Mary's Security Alert

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### Moments

<i>Happy moments</i>	<b>Praise God</b>
<i>Difficult moments</i>	<b>Seek God</b>
<i>Quiet moments</i>	<b>Worship God</b>
<i>Painful moments</i>	<b>Trust God</b>
<i>Every moment</i>	<b>Thank God</b>

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

## COUNSELS

(from page 2)

encounter for who they are and where they are (Rm 15:7), giving one another our time and attention (1 Thes 2:8), expressing our gratitude and appreciation for one another (1 Thes 3:9), teaching one another (Mt 28:19-20), helping one another nurture and use our God-given gifts and talents (Rom 12:6-8), praying for one another (Phil 1:9-11), and loving one another as Jesus loves us (Jn 15:12).

As we strive to be good servants of the Lord, let us ask the Lord to draw us near to the throne of grace, so we will be able to help one another grow in love for Him. Let us always remember that **"Every one in need has a claim on us because they belong to Christ and they bear the image and likeness of Christ."**, and when we help the needy, we lend to the Lord, and as Jesus promises in Mark 9 verse 41, any kindness shown and any help given to His people will by no means lose its reward.

**Direction** Encourage and support each other to help and serve.

## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>3,511</b>	<b>124,653</b>
Ablaze Raffle Tickets	<b>2,940</b>	<b>8,620</b>

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Encounter with Jesus - **LSS 1-38**

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

**Aspirant's Retreat**

**Oct 26-28** • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION

#### Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

Oct. 13 • **ME 30** • Contacts: Norie and Miriam Abes

Marshaling	Schedule
	Oct 5 Mission
	Oct 12 Evangelization
	Oct 19 Pastoral
	Oct 26 Formation
	Nov 2 Management



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 39

Bulletin Edition

October 5, 2012

## NEWS

### Pope Benedict XVI to Reflect on Social Networks for Communications Day Message

Theme of Celebration Looks at 'New Spaces for Evangelization'

VATICAN CITY, OCT. 1, 2012 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- The Vatican's communications council announced Saturday that Benedict XVI's annual message for World Communications Day will consider the phenomenon of Facebook, Twitter and other social networks, reflecting on them as "new spaces for evangelization."

"One of the most important challenges facing the task of evangelization today is that which is emerging from the digital environment," a communiqué from the Pontifical Council for Social Communications noted.

The 47th World Day will have the theme: "Social Networks: portals of truth and faith; new spaces for evangelization"

"The theme suggests a series of important points for reflection. During a time in which technology has emerged as part of the fabric of connectivity of human experiences, such as relationships and knowledge, we need to ask: can it help men and women meet Christ in faith? It is not enough to find an adequate language, but rather, it is necessary to learn how to present the Gospel as the answer to that basic human yearning for meaning and faith, which has already found expression online," the English-language communiqué stated.

"Such an approach, which will serve to create a more dynamic and humane digital world, requires a new way of thinking. It is not simply a question of how to use the internet as a means of evangelization, but instead of how to evangelize in a context where the lives of people find expression also in the digital arena.

*Continued on page 2*

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

## COUNSELS

### Submit to God's Authority

THEME: We submit to God's authority when we maintain childlike obedience and humility.

WORD: Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 128:1-6; Hebrew 2:9-11; Mark 10:2-16

ORDER: *"Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."* (Mark 10:14b)

REFLECTION:

God calls us to keep His commandments and reminds us that His laws are not hidden from us or beyond our reach. We can expect oppressions as we submit to God's authority. To guard against these pressures, we must rely on God for strength and pray to Him daily for wisdom to see through these deceptions.

The community word for the month of October **"The kingdom of God belongs to those who submit to His authority"** shows that every believer must have their hearts set on God's authority, because of our of our imperfections. Stunted spiritual growth and fruitlessness are but the consequences of a careless disregard of God's authority. God never grants further light to one who ignores the light he already has. God will not show us the second step unless we take the first. The steps of a (good) man are directed and established by the Lord and God has promised guidance to those who submit to His authority. As expressed in our Community Order, **"Blessed are you who fear the Lord, who walks in his ways."**

Our theme for the 1<sup>st</sup> week says: **We submit to God's authority when we maintain childlike obedience and humility.** *Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*"For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored."* (Psalm 128:2)

## THE STRENGTH OF MY FAITH

*“The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord.” (Job 1:21)*



he Lord has recently led me to yet another adventure in my life when after leaving my comfortable job of 8 years, I accepted a position with a large accounting firm in New York City.

The Lord has recently led me to yet another adventure in my life when after leaving my comfortable job of 8 years, I accepted a position with a large accounting firm in New York City.

To my grave disappointment, this new chapter of my life was fraught with challenges and difficulties. I have had the misfortune of being assigned to a manager who is very difficult to work for, to say the least. Everyone that has worked for this person has either been fired or left on their own after 3 months. My days were filled with constant anxiety, sleepless nights and tremendous stress. I tried to interview for other jobs to get away from my predicament but was unsuccessful. I prayed every day for wisdom and guidance from the Lord and somehow I feel that he is keeping me where I am for reasons that will be revealed to me later in His time.

I prayed daily for perseverance to not give up and with the hope that things will change for the better. My faith and daily prayers during mass were the only source of my strength that has kept me going. Now after a year on the job I have received glowing reviews from senior management and have earned the respect of my peers. My boss has lightened up as I have proven my capability to do the job and now there are occasions where I am the one pointing out her mistakes.

Thanks be to God for my unwavering faith has saved me once again. If not for my faith in the goodness of the Lord I would have given up on a good job with a great company.

---

### Pope Benedict XVI to ... (from page 1)

"In particular, we need to be attentive to the emergence and enormous popularity of social networks, which privilege dialogical and interactive forms of communication and relationships."

World Communications Day is celebrated in most countries on the Sunday before Pentecost (05/12/2013).

## “I Call On You, LORD!”

I see myself pouring tears before the Blessed Sacrament. No words to say, I can only hear my own sobs. I was inconsolable except by my God, the only One who can understand me. This scenario kept on repeating – in front of my altar, in the corner of the room or inside a church. But I feel He listens to me more when I am in front of Him in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. My eyes cannot see the light. I cannot see a way out on the web of problems I have created. It seems that it is the end of the line. However, I know that my Lord will never abandon me. I will call on Him and trust that He will rescue me.

Man has a tendency to rely on his own resources and intelligence. But a true believer knows, one trusts only the Lord. With arms outstretched, I ask for His forgiveness for the sins I have committed. I plead for His I ask help, surrendering to Him the burden that I carry. Down on my knees, I ask for His mercy.

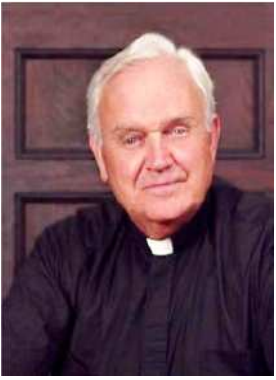


As true disciple of Jesus Christ, only in Him do I cling to. In Psalm 31:2-5, *“In you, LORD, I take refuge, let me never be put to shame. In your righteousness deliver me; incline your ear to me; make haste to rescue me! Be my rock of refuge, a stronghold to save me. For you are my rock and my fortress; for your name’s sake lead me and guide me. Free me from the net they have set for me, for you are my refuge.”* My faith never wavered that the Good Lord will always be beside me. Sin will always be around me as the enemy will always try to ensnare me in his trap, or in a split second of forgetfulness I stumble on sin. I know my Lord will extend His hand and save me. With the Lord beside me, I will rise when I fall.

I keep to my heart the words of Jesus in Luke 11:9, *“...ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you...”* I have to be faithful and stay the course.

Abba Father, I firmly believe that You will never leave me. I ask that you always let Your holy angels surround me and be on guard to help me fight the enemy. Let me not succumb to fall into his trap when trials and storms come my way. In You, I will stay faithful. Use me always as a vessel to bring people closer to Your kingdom. Let me be a blessing to others and let them see Your face in me. In Jesus Name, I pray. Amen.

## Fr. Paul Speaks



We hopefully are all aware of the recent communication from Archbishop Lagdameo regarding “total consecration” to Jesus and Mary. At first glance it may seem like an ordinary reminder to say our prayers to Mary and not forget how important she is in our Catholic devotional life. But it is much more profound than that, and is a deeper opening up to us of the mysteries of Mary’s part in our redemption, both at the foot of the cross, and our present experience of salvation, mediated to us by Jesus.

There is no question that Mary was God’s instrument in assuming a human nature. Every Christian knows that the angel Gabriel asked Mary to cooperate in God’s plan and offer her body as the vehicle for the Incarnation, God’s becoming a man. What is often discussed is Mary’s explicit role in cooperating with Christ in achieving our salvation. We admittedly have to be very careful here. Only Jesus redeems us.

But Mary through her identity with the will of her Son, by her “yes” to His death and resurrection, became the “Co-redemptrix”, a cooperater in a way is different from our cooperation in the redemption of Jesus. She is obviously subordinated to the redemptive work of Jesus, but by God’s plan uniquely involved in it. In the application of the graces won by Jesus she is now in heaven praying for the human race and thus mediating in a unique but subordinate way the merits won by Jesus. Thus it is proper to call her the “Mediatrix” of graces. These realities are the theological foundations for total consecration to Mary.

If these realities are true then the consecration recommended makes logical sense in our Christian life. It makes explicit what is already taking place in the plan of salvation. Jesus comes to us through Mary, both past and present. We go to Jesus through Mary. St. Louis de Montfort called this true devotion to Jesus and Mary. There are formulas for doing this. They involve a basic renewal of our baptismal vows, and a total surrender to Mary of every thought word and action of ours, along with the good value that may be attached to our works. But formulas are secondary even if they help. I strongly recommend reading “True Devotion to Mary” by St. Louis de Montfort. Go to Mary today. Offer yourself to her. Let her take charge of your life. You will fall more deeply in love with Jesus.

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

What qualities of children make them so open to God? In their helplessness, powerlessness and vulnerability, children are by nature trusting, guileless, and totally dependent. The heart of a child is a loving sanctuary of the Holy Spirit. We are exhorted to present ourselves before God in the same manner. Faithful followers of Christ allow themselves to be childlike in relating to Him, fully trusting that His ways and plans, His power and providence are in their best interest. They put their faith in His words. To be totally surrendered to God, we are therefore to be childlike in obedience and in following the footsteps of Christ, and live as He lived His life on earth.

Our theme for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week says: **We submit to God’s authority when we share our blessings with those in need.** To do good to others and our neighbors is an expression of our love and concern for them. What Jesus did on earth, doing good and sharing God’s goodness with all, should serve as our inspiration, as we endeavor to make our life fruitful and pleasing to God. The following verses assure us: **“Helping the poor touches the heart of Jesus,”** (Psalm 41:1-2). Compassion for the sick touches the heart of Jesus, (Matthew 20:34). **“He who has compassion on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his good deed,”** (Proverbs 19:17).

Our theme for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week is: **We submit to God’s authority when we become the servant of all.** Jesus told James and John – **“You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?”** Matthew 20:22 In effect Jesus is asking us if we are ready to be *rejected and despised for continuing His work. Would we able to stand by Him when they hurl against Him false accusations and malicious intrigues? Would we still trust and tread His footsteps if the cross were to be laid on our shoulders?* Jesus was telling His disciples that greatness lies in our ability to suffer with Him and for Him. To be great is to be of service to Jesus and His flock. Greatness is not about power or authority, but about service, being responsible, and fulfilling one’s responsibilities with love. Greatness is not about holding an exalted position, or having people under one’s control. It is not about lording over them, or dominating them. Greatness is the ability to serve, and the readiness to be of help. Greatness is bearing one’s burden without complaint or strings attached, but with loving commitment and concern. Jesus tells the apostles (and us) that bringing His redemption into the lives of people is part of the **Continued on page 4**

## COUNSELS (from page 3)

mission of discipleship. We are to be partners with Christ in spreading the work of His redemption, and that entails suffering – “of the cup I drink, you shall drink” says the Lord. Any of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy can be a mission statement of a Christian life.

Our theme for the 4<sup>th</sup> week is: **“We submit to God’s authority when we take courage to witness to our faith.** In the gospel Jesus calls Bartimaeus and asks him, “What do you want me to do for you?” Similarly, Jesus is asking each of us, “what do you want of me?” He longs to see us cast aside anything that limits our vision and expectations. Jesus has marvelous plans for our lives. He wants to heal our hearts and fill it with the fire of His love. Like Bartimaeus, we too can be blind. Our blindness may be compared to those of the crowd who rebuked Bartimaeus, telling him to be silent (v.48). Sometimes we keep quiet and silent when we ought to be speaking out against what is morally and legally wrong. Likewise, we often turn a blind eye to what is good in other people, and are quick to notice their mistakes, even at times discrediting those who are more effective, more acceptable, and more credible than we are. If we cannot see these bad traits in ourselves, then we are spiritually blind. Let us thank God for the gift of sight and resolve to take care and respect not only the gift of physical sight, but the greater gift of moral insight called “conscience” and the gift of spiritual sight called “faith”.

### DIRECTIONS

1. Teach your children the ways of the Lord.
2. Be faithful to your marital vows.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### John 6 Crossing #13

Oct 19-21 • St. Peter's Retreat House, Belleville, NJ  
Information and application are available online at [BLDNewarkJohn6.weebly.com](http://BLDNewarkJohn6.weebly.com) or contact Ernest & Nellie Sun @ [BLDNewarkJohn6@yahoo.com](mailto:BLDNewarkJohn6@yahoo.com)

### ME #40

Nov 9-11 • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA  
Contacts: Marc & Emma Belmonte @ [mla@bldnewark.com](mailto:mla@bldnewark.com)  
Gary & Mil Camacho @ [camachocpa@comcast.net](mailto:camachocpa@comcast.net)

### SE #29

Nov 9-11 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garison, NY  
Contacts: Jennifer Mendiola [jennifer.mediola1@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.mediola1@gmail.com)  
646.238.7043, Dhemi & Divine Alba [dhevine@aol.com](mailto:dhevine@aol.com)  
646.431.0350 or any Singles' Ministry member.

## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,221	127,874
Raffle Ticket (Ablaze@20)	4,080	12,700
Typhoon Collection	333	4,711

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

Thank you for your continued support!

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Oct 06 Christian Maturity II (Part 2) – LSS 1-37

Oct 19 Teaching – Mark 10, John 6

Oct 20\* Growth in Prayer - LSS 1-39

Encounter with Jesus - LSS 1-38

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

### Aspirant's Retreat

Oct 26-28 • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA

### Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden

Nov 17 • St. Mary's @ Divine Mercy Parish

**“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!

## SAVE THE DATE

### DLC Meeting

Oct. 22, 8pm-till, St. Mary's @ Divine Mercy Parish

**May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!**

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION

#### Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

Oct. 12 • ME 30 • Contacts: Norie and Miriam Abes

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Oct 12	Evangelization
			Oct 19	Pastoral
			Oct 26	Formation
			Nov 02	Management
			Nov 09	Mission

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# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 40

Bulletin Edition

October 12, 2012

## NEWS

### A Victorious Life in the Spirit Seminar #39!

Truly, the greatness of our God is more than we can ever envision, for He has blessed us, yet again, with a **victorious, grace-filled LSS!**

The presence and warmth of the Holy Spirit were felt by many. The gifts of tongues, vision and prophecy were among many blessings received by candidates. Signs of transformation were already evident as candidates joyfully lifted their hands in praise, heartily sang to the Lord and used their gift of tongues, and openly expressed their gratefulness to God for His Mercy and Forgiveness.

However, this deep personal encounter with the Holy Spirit was just the beginning of their intimacy with God. In order to remain and grow deeper in His love, Fr. Paul Lehman, our LSS Spiritual Director, exhorted all graduates to put Christ at the center of their lives by praying daily, reading the Scriptures regularly, and receiving the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation as often as possible.

Irrefutably, the Lord was the Master of this event! He did not only give us a perfect place to hold this very important occasion, but He also anointed all participants, workers and candidates; and these have made the LSS 39 an awesome and memorable experience, which will surely be remembered by many, especially our LSS Graduates.

#### Welcome our LSS #39 Graduates:

**12 ½ ME Couples:** Allan & Jen Almazar, Paul & Stephanie Anciano, Noli & Rose Chavez, Art & Carol Cruz, Noel & Madeline De Leon, Denny & Baby Dizon, Angel & Nilda Doria, Ernie & Zeny Mendoza, Romy & Ella Merluza, Michael & Jean Serrano, Darwin & Ellen Sorio, Ed & Tess Ugaddan and Marife Rangel.

**9 Solo Parents:** Aguinaldo Cabe, Raphael Cadavillo, Annie Casino, Shirley Concepcion, Tess De Guzman, Winnie Demegillo, Marie Evangelista, Charlotte Santiago, Corazon Silverio. *Continued on page 4*

## COUNSELS

### Lacking in One Thing

**THEME:** We submit to God's authority when we share our blessings with those in need

**WORD:** Wisdom 7:7-11; Psalm 90:12-17; Hebrew 4:12-13; Mark 10:17-30

**ORDER:** *"Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."* (Mark 10:21b)

**REFLECTION:**

The Gospel reading for the 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time depicts the story of the young man, who could not give up his possessions, and the disciples, who left everything for Christ's sake. Between the two scenarios Jesus emphasized how difficult it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God. The "rich" Jesus is referring to are those who tightly hold on to their possessions, regardless how large or small those possessions might be.

People may be wealthy without clinging to their goods. Scriptures reveal such men. Abraham was a very wealthy man, yet God neither criticized him for it nor required him to sell off his livestock. The same was true for Joseph, Jacob, Isaac and Job, to name a few. On the other hand, people may be poor and are unwilling to give up what little they have. But what really counts here is how one considers his possession in relation to his spiritual life and God. That he shares with others who have nothing what big or little possession one has is of the essence to Jesus Christ.

The rich young man was saddened and walked away when Jesus told him, *"Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come follow me."* (Mark 10:21b).

*Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*"There is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age ..."* (Mark 10:29-30a)

## WHAT IF GOD SAID, "DON'T BOTHER ME"

My children always ask me for what they want or things they like to have. Oftentimes, my answer is "No, you cannot have it." They, in turn, ask me why they cannot have it. I do not always have the answer as to why I cannot give it to them. Sometimes, it is because they really do not need it or it is mainly due to financial reasons. However, because of their persistence and my love for them, I always find ways to grant their wishes. Sometimes, I wait for a special occasion to give them what they want.

I, oftentimes, like my children, ask God to give me what I want, and like my children, I expect to have it right there and then, but to my frustration, I do not always get the desire of my heart. But because of my persistence through prayer and by humbly asking the Lord for His mercy, He answers my prayer in His own way and when I least expect it. During my reflection, He makes me realize that He has already given it to me.

Indeed, our Lord is a loving and gracious God. He will never say to us "do not bother me". Sometimes, we do not receive what we pray for because we really do not need it or because God has other plans for us at that moment. We really need to humble ourselves and persistently pray for it. As in Luke 11:13, it says, "***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.***"

The Lord God always reminds us to knock and the door will be opened or ask and it will be given to us, and whoever ask in His name through His Son Jesus Christ will not be forsaken or forgotten.

*Lord God, please forgive me for sometimes doubting Your love for me. Thank you for always being there for me when I needed You. Thank You for giving me Your Holy Spirit to be with me at all times. You always remind me that You will be there until the end of time. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.*



## Gather or Scatter?

***"Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."*** (Luke 11:23)

The teaching method that Jesus used included many parables, examples taken from the everyday life of His time. People understood because they were familiar with the things He used in His stories. Jesus was also very knowledgeable of the Scriptures and often quoted them.

In Luke 11, when Jesus stated that "***whoever does not gather...scatters,***" He may have been referring to Ecclesiastes 3:5 which tells us there is "***a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them.***" If you read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, you will see that life is full of opposites, and God has set an appointed time for each one. For example, there is a time in every life to be born, to laugh, to dance, to plant and build up, a time for love and for peace. On the other hand, we all experience a time to die, to weep, to mourn, to uproot and tear down, a time for hate and for war.

We are all familiar with these things, both good and bad. When Jesus asks if we will gather or scatter, He is asking us to choose the good. He is asking if we are on His side or not, if we will learn from His parables or not, if we will do the will of God or not. Jesus gathered. Crowds formed around Him because of all the good things they saw and heard. He healed the sick and cast out demons. He taught them about the love of God and the path to eternal life. Those who gathered around Him heard the Word of God and witnessed miracles, but those who could not believe scattered.

It is up to each of us to choose whether we will gather or scatter. We are gatherers when we do the will of God, when we reach out to our neighbor, when we are faithful to the teachings of the Church, when we are kind, patient, and loving. We scatter when we bring unrest, division, discord and unforgiveness to our home or our parish, to our workplace or neighborhood. If we are not with Jesus, we are against Him. There is no neutral ground. What will you choose... gather or scatter?



## DISTRICT MINISTRY

The District Ministry is one of the outreaches of the Mission Apostolate. In other BLD Districts, it is in the same umbrella with the Poverty Alleviation Ministry. In BLD-Newark its main role is the medical mission where all other districts are invited to join forces to alleviate the sufferings of the impoverished and disadvantaged children of God. The Bukas Loob SA Diyos-Newark Medical Mission is an annual community activity. It has been in operation for more than a decade and is conducted in a place in the Philippines through a venue selection process.

It was started just as a free medical consultation during its inception, now the medical mission has grown to a wider scope and has included various disciplines of medicine, as other health specialists came on board. The number of volunteers has increased over the years, as more members from other districts and friends of BLD have been inspired by the experiences of those who have given so much to become witnesses of His unending love, especially for the poor & lowly, the sick, and the infirm.

Contrary to common belief as a norm for medical missions, BLD medical mission is not mainly for medical affiliated professionals as majority of our volunteers are not in the medical field, serving as prayer warriors and support group and assisting in the distribution of thousands of reading eyeglasses. Medical mission activities are founded on God's Word and are in response to His call to love and serve the needy. It is a mission of hope, a mission of love. A part of our objective is spiritual awakening and healing, opening the hearts and minds of everyone to the Spirit.

Physical healing is our primary path toward that goal. Our medical, surgical, pediatric, gynecological and dental services will be offered free to all the poor and needy in the appropriate venue selected. Any discerned venue is an avenue to express the fruits of the Holy Spirit present in us, bringing the love and joy of Christ's presence, generosity to share our time and talents. This sharing of personal blessings and personal gifts, the caring and giving make the medical mission become one of the community's instruments in attaining its vision. It is based upon our belief that the medical mission is our Lord's mission and we are called by Him to share our God-given talents in caring for the sick and the poor.

## COUNSELS (continued from page 1)

Like the young man, despite our knowledge of God and the Christian values we have accumulated through the years with the community, we can still find it difficult to fully detach ourselves from our possessions -- be it material, physical or behavioral in nature. ***"You are lacking in one thing."*** (Mark 10:4) Yes, like the young man, we can be good in observing all of God's Ten Commandments, but we can also be lacking in sharing the burdens of others. In short, we can be guilty of the sin of omission. We do not commit sin, but we can omit giving love to those who need it. In Philippians 2:4-5 St. Paul exhorts, ***"Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus"***.

God's Word penetrates and judges our innermost attitudes, the attitudes that are most hidden from the world. The Word discerns our soul that perhaps still clings to earthly things and is unwilling to give them up, while the spirit ultimately is "willing" (Matthew 26:41). We cannot by our own accord ultimately penetrate our attitudes; but God's Word sees everything lying "bare and exposed" before it. We are accountable only to that Word, for only through the Word can we gain insight into our selves. (Hebrew 4:13)

Initially, Jesus employs words to speak of ***difficulty***, then He uses the image of the eye of a needle to point out the virtual impossibility that the man who is unwilling to renounce his possessions can enter the kingdom of God. Seeing how shocked his disciples are, in Mark 10:27, ***"Jesus looked at them and said, for human being it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God."*** For Jesus, the accumulation of riches has nothing to do with our ability to love and serve God and our neighbor, the requisite acts of goodness that open the gates of heaven for us. However, an uncontrolled desire for riches often lead us in the opposite direction of holiness, making it difficult for one who worship the glitter of gold to enter the eternal kingdom of heaven.

Are we ready to abandon our loved ones or our possessions for Jesus' sake and the sake of the Gospel? The answer will depend on how prepared our heart is. Jesus allows us to know him better and showers us his blessing. He guides us in our faith journey and patiently waits for us to respond with the same love and generosity to our neighbors as He did to us. Jesus said that those who sacrifice greatly will receive "a hundred times more now in this present age", along with "eternal life in the age to come". As disciples of Christ, what are we willing to give up in order to follow him?

Let our prayer be: ***"Lord, may your gracious care be ours; prosper the works of our hands for us! Fill us with your love so that we can sing for joy!"*** (Psalm 90:16-17)

**DIRECTION:** Continue to support mission initiatives and poverty alleviation projects, Scholarship for Hope, Gawad Kalinga, and Medical Mission

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### John 6 Crossing #13

Oct 19-21 • St. Peter's Retreat House, Belleville, NJ  
 Information and application are available online at  
[BLDN NewarkJohn6.weebly.com](http://BLDN NewarkJohn6.weebly.com) or contact Ernest & Nellie  
 Sun @ [BLDN NewarkJohn6@yahoo.com](mailto:BLDN NewarkJohn6@yahoo.com)

### ME #40

Nov 9-11 • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA  
 Contacts: Marc & Emma Belmonte @ [mla@bldnewark.com](mailto:mla@bldnewark.com)  
 Gary & Mil Camacho @ [camachocpa@comcast.net](mailto:camachocpa@comcast.net)

### SE #29

Nov 9-11 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garison, NY  
 Contacts: Jennifer Mendiola [jennifer.mediola1@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.mediola1@gmail.com)  
 646.238.7043, Dhemi & Divine Alba [dhevine@aol.com](mailto:dhevine@aol.com)  
 646.431.0350 or any Singles' Ministry member.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Community Notice

One of the community's resident was very upset and angry about the noise level at the parking lot and the gymnasium entrance after 10pm last Friday. It was mentioned that people hanged out by the parking lot laughing, screaming at each other. It was also mentioned that we could be heard even if we are inside the gym especially when the gym doors are left open. It was **demande**d that nobody hang out by the parking lot, to keep our voices down and always keep the gym door closed at all times especially after 10 pm.

### St. Mary's Security Alert

**PLEASE BE CAREFUL.** Each of us has a responsibility to help keep things safe and secure. Anyone entrusted with the Parish Center keys, is responsible to ensure it is **locked** afterwards. There are times a door is left open because it didn't get a gentle pull or push to be sure that it is locked. **Please remember to take the extra step. We all need to be very vigilant** in order to ensure the **SAFETY** and **SECURITY** of everyone.

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000



### Moments

*Happy moments* Praise God  
*Difficult moments* Seek God  
*Quiet moments* Worship God  
*Painful moments* Trust God  
*Every moment* Thank God

*Make the Covenant News  
 Part of Your Covenant Life*

## NEWS

**24 SE:** Alissa Abad, Golda Catalon, Cathy Duma, Jeddi Gorospe, Faith Ikalina, Ruby Jao, Everly Marquez, Jocelyn Mendiola, Samantha Olazo, Jeremy Apostol, Brian Calingo, Chris Capili, Harvey Demegillo, Gerald Estrella, Jude Facura, Gerwin Gabriel, Luis Guillen Jr., J.Ryan Jao, Charleston Masisado, Willy Montemayor, Adrian Osias, Carl Punla, Freddy Palaguachi, Anthony Rinon.

**9 Infillers:** Lito & Elaine Fernando, Chito & Josie Magahis, Christine McSpedon, Al & Mariter Ompod, Vener & Estrel Santos

## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,107	130,981
Raffle Ticket (Ablaze@20)	7,110	19,810

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](http://treasury@bldnewark.com)  
 Thank you for your continued support!

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Oct 19 Teaching – **Mark 10, John 6**  
 Oct 20\* Growth in Prayer - **LSS 1-39**  
 Encounter with Jesus - **LSS 1-38**

Note: On Fri: after worship, \*Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's  
**Aspirant's Retreat**

**Oct 26-28** • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA

Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden

**Nov 17** • St. Mary's @ Divine Mercy Parish

## SAVE THE DATE

### DLC Meeting

**Oct. 22, 8pm-till**, St. Mary's @ Divine Mercy Parish

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION

#### Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055  
 Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.  
 Oct. 12 • **ME 30** • Contacts: Norie and Miriam Abes

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Oct 19	Pastoral
		Oct 26	Formation
		Nov 02	Management
		Nov 09	Mission
		Nov 16	Evangelization



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

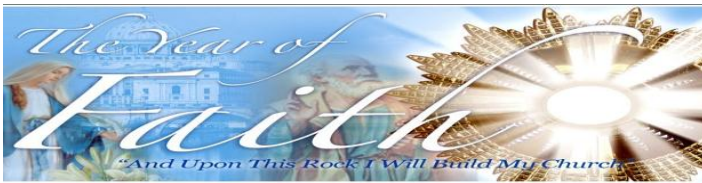
Volume 18 Issue 41

Bulletin Edition

October 19, 2012

## NEWS

*“Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.” Heb 11:1*



Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, declared the **“Year of Faith”** which began on October 11, 2012, ending on November 24, 2013. What is also a notable milestone in this announcement is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Second Vatican Council.

In his Apostolic Letter, “Porta Fedei”, our Supreme Pontiff states that the **“door of faith”** (Acts 14:27) is always open for us. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that we are able to enter into this Trinitarian relationship by way of the Sacrament of Baptism. It is by way of this sacrament of initiation that we attain the gift of sonship and cry out “Abba Father”.

Let us recall that by the faith and utterance of our Blessed Mother, **“Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”** (Lk 1:38), she became the instrument by which humanity was able to access that heavenly ladder. Our salvation, in fact, is wrapped up in the “Hail Mary”. It is also by this theological virtue of faith that the Apostles, Church Fathers, and Martyrs were able to witness and gave their lives for the sake of the gospel. We too must **“repent and believe in the gospel”**. (Mk 1:15) When we believe, faith is strengthened.

As Catholics, we are beckoned to a deep spiritual renewal and conversion to our Savior. We are summoned to stand firm in what we believe in, **The Creed**. So as we profess our faith during mass, let it be authentic and full of zeal. **“I believe”** is our response to God’s call. Faith is the beginning of the promised beatific vision. Our partaking in the liturgy and the sacraments strengthens faith. In particular, it is in the Eucharist where we receive the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is the “source and summit of the Christian life” (CCC 1324-27).

*Continued on page 3*

## COUNSELS

### Servanthood

**THEME:** We submit to God’s authority when we become the servant of all.

**WORD:** Is 53:10-11; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; Heb 4:14-16; Mk 10:35-45

**ORDER:** **Serve as Jesus served!**

**REFLECTION:**

Servanthood is a goal and ideal that all of us want to obtain as followers and disciples of Jesus Christ. As the Chief Financial Officer of my company, I often would find accounting errors that needed to be corrected by my staff. Rather than gloss over the errors of my employees, I would often say to them “that’s why God made erasers”. As a disciple of Christ, I also hear the Lord say to me as I daily fail to meet the expectations of the Gospel, “that’s why I made erasers”. No matter how many times I wanted to imitate Christ and succeed and “win the race”, I always somehow would falter, fall down and never reached the goal line in the way that I or God had originally planned.

In my Christian walk, my goals and ideals of following Christ have changed the older I get. Following Jesus Christ in my life hasn’t been perfect. I have found that my servanthood often fails when I place too much emphasis on “what” I am doing and not on “why” I am doing it. When the focus of my servanthood is on **me** rather than the **other person**, I then lose sight of the direction for this week to “serve with humility without counting the cost”. This is similar to the situation that Jesus confronted with Martha and Mary. Martha was too consumed on what she was doing as compared to Mary who was consumed with the “Master”.

When we read and reflect on the scripture readings for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary time and especially the Gospel reading from Mark, I am surprised by the request of the sons of Zebedee, James & John, that one sit on the right side of Jesus and one on the left side of Jesus when they reach “glory”.

*Continued on page 3*

**Promise of the Week**

**“The eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear him, upon those who hope for his kindness...”**

**Psalms 33:18**

# THE FIRST INSTALLMENT



*“In Him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised holy Spirit, which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s possession, to the praise of His glory.” Ephesians 1:13-14*

*“There is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. Therefore 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.” Luke 12:2-3*

My first realization of the Holy Spirit was at my Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS) where I was literally lifted up in the air, fell hard and sideways on the ground, and was unable to move. When I finally regained my senses, I felt an inner peace; peace that only those who themselves have been touched can understand or relate to. From that moment on, I was transformed.

Before BLD, I solely relied on my own wisdom and capabilities. I believed and had convinced myself that all I accomplished and achieved was from my acquired worldly wisdom and hard work. I knew of God but did not know God.

I have learned and witnessed, if one is with the Lord, nothing is impossible. In 1 Corinthians 10:13 it says *“No trial has come to you but what is human. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it.”* These days everything I do, whether it is at the office, BLD community, parish or family activity, I pray to the Father through Jesus, for a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit. I pray for wisdom, strength, humility, patience, whatever it is that I may need at that moment. With the Spirit dwelling within, my tasks at hand are simplified and accomplished with ease. New gifts and blessings are realized.

All I can share is my own conversion. Yes, I still get frustrated, impatient and lose my temper. I am still a SINNER. However all these negative behaviors are short-lived. I do not and cannot allow them to linger on, I simply ask for a fresh anointing by praying. Our Lord and Savior has convicted me to become a better spouse and parent, a better person than I was before. I am humbled to be considered a disciple of Christ, able to work in His vineyard and use His given gifts and talents. I am proud to witness and share His love with others and proclaim to them of His merciful and unconditional love. I am truly glad that I am where I am now in this stage of my life. The flip side would have been unimaginable.

Thank you Lord for showing me the light, for seeking and inviting me back into Your fold. To You be all the glory!

**Prayer:** *Dear God, fill and replenish us with Your loving presence, speak to us as we speak on the precious sacred hiding place and that we cannot hide from You, but we can hide in You.*

All of us have been invited into this community by a friend, relative or a loved one. We differ in many ways as we come from different walks of life. But there is a single thread that connects us with each other and that is, we are broken and anonymous sinners.

We have been sought by God who had so longed for our homecoming. Our desire is that our Lord will not rediscover us back where He first found us.

Living in a Christian Community does not make us invincible from the lures of the world, the flesh and the devil. We struggle as we are innately concupiscent and we succumb to temptation and fall victims of sins. Even St. Paul himself could not escape the reality of human frailties, as he struggled doing what he knows is good and avoiding what is bad. And we do it so foolishly and ridiculously as if we can hide ourselves from God.

Were it possible for us to hide our sins from our brethren, our leaders, our Spiritual Director, our Deacons, our parents, our children, our spouses - were it possible, it is still impossible to commit any sin that is not under the search light and radar of God Himself.

Nothing is hidden from our all-knowing and all-searching immanent God. Everything that we see, hear, and say, every place we go, every work of our hands is constantly witnessed by Him who created and love us, who gave Himself for us and who is coming back for all of us. Sin will be found says in Number 32:23 (NABRE) *“You can be sure that the consequences of your sin will overtake you.”*

It may come out a different way.



## JESUS KNOWS OUR PAIN



The Bible is God's way of entering into our souls. Hebrew 4:12 describes the process of reading the Word as, a living power, sharper than any knife, cutting deep into our innermost thoughts and desires...it exposes us, and we cannot hide from the Spirit. This is the God to whom we must explain all that we have done.

Yet, many do not avail themselves of this power of communion with God. We ignore His voice by ignoring His means of communication. Let us let the Holy Spirit operate on our souls as we read God's Word with great vulnerability, allowing our sins to be exposed: it's a practical form of therapy. When we read and study it, we find that we must have a means to perpetually have our many sins forgiven-- we need an advocate to represent our dark, but repentant, hearts before the purity of God.

Paul says that Jesus becomes our Great High Priest of the New Covenant. Furthermore, "This High Priest" of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin. In other words, "**Jesus Knows Our Pain!**" He has been there and faced up to whatever we face in life. He enjoyed a feast at the home of his dear friends, Lazarus, Mary and Martha; but later, he wept at the news of Lazarus' death. Finally, he suffered an extremely painful agony upon the Cross. Hebrews 2: 18 says, "*Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.*" A similar theme is found in Paul's letter to the Church at Corinth where he said, "*For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.*" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Jesus not only "Knows Our Pain", but he is able to cure our pain by removing our problem. Here again the analogy between a sharp knife operating on our souls is important because while the Holy Spirit is inside our souls, he is able to cure what ails us.

We are called to not only identify with Jesus on the Cross, but to become a reflection of Christ for others as we feel their pain within the fellowship of believers. Additionally, each of us is called to share in the evangelistic extension of Christ to all people everywhere. Each of us shares in the privilege of a Priesthood of All Believers and has a calling to minister to others. The challenge to us is that as we hear His nudging, will we begin to say 'yes'?

## COUNSEL (continued from page 1)

Didn't these apostles understand what Jesus was trying to convey to them and everyone else about the Kingdom of God and especially the message that He came to serve and not to be served and that they too should follow His example? Where were these apostles during those times when Jesus humbled himself so many times during his three years of active ministry? Am I too harsh in my observation if I wonder aloud the question in my mind for the Apostles James & John, "did you have any clue at all about what Jesus was about or were you too consumed by the miracles of Jesus and only saw the power and the miraculous"? Then I think of my own life and wonder if I really have understood Jesus message as clear as I should have these past thirty-nine years since I accepted Him as my Lord and Savior. Do I still seek the "Glory" of my office and servanthood? Do I humbly seek always what Jesus would want me to seek? Do I shepherd those in my care as Jesus would want me to? Do I truly follow what Jesus taught and preached about when he says at the end of the Gospel, "*For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.*"? (Mk 10:45)

Finally, in his book entitled, "The Forge", St. Josemaria Escriva states that "when you start out each day to work by Christ's side and to look after all those souls who seek him, remember that there is only one way of doing it: we must turn to the Lord. **Only in prayer, and through prayer,** do we learn to serve others."

With the Grace of God and by the Power of the Holy Spirit, am I ready to be a true servant of God? Am I ready to give my life for the flock? Am I ready to "serve with humility without counting the cost"? Am I ready to "open my heart to the call of service in community"? Am I truly ready to say in my heart, mind, and soul, Yes Lord! Yes Lord...Yes...Yes...Yes...Lord? Amen!

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Open your hearts to the call of service in community.
2. Serve with humility without counting the cost.

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## YEAR OF FAITH (continued from page 1)

When *faith* is nourished with grace, *hope* blossoms, the culmination of which is *charity*. Without the works of charity, faith cannot bear fruit. "*Charity is the soul of faith, it gives it life, without love, faith dies.*" (Saint Anthony of Padua).

In this "Year of Faith" our Holy Father calls us to reflect and study the Vatican II documents and the Catechism of The Catholic Church. Our community is replete of such resource to deepen our personal knowledge and relationship with God. Let us avail our formation teachings and retreats. Let us treasure Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, & The Magisterium. They all ascend to the truth, our destiny, and our one divine dignity, **The Trinity**.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### ME #40

Nov 9-11 • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA  
 Contacts: Marc & Emma Belmonte @ [mla@bldnewark.com](mailto:mla@bldnewark.com)  
 Gary & Mil Camacho @ [camachocpa@comcast.net](mailto:camachocpa@comcast.net)

### SE #29

Nov 9-11 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garrison, NY  
 Contacts: Jennifer Mendiola [jennifer.mediola1@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.mediola1@gmail.com)  
 646.238.7043, Dhemi & Divine Alba [dhevine@aol.com](mailto:dhevine@aol.com)  
 646.431.0350 or any Singles' Ministry member

## Be a "Living Word"

### BLD VISION

- We are a community of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about a world of justice, human development and true peace.

### BLD MISSION

In response to the challenges of our particular place, time and culture:

#### For our families:

- We will evangelize families and build communities of faith through encounters, Life in the Spirit Seminars and discipleship formation.
- We will give formation on personal and family prayer, pro-life values, Catholic social teachings and stewardship.

#### For our communities:

- We will actively participate in the life and mission of the Church in accord with our God-given gifts.

#### For our country:

- We will work on poverty alleviation through scholarships, housing for the poor and advocacies for life, environment and good governance.

### Five (5) W's of Community Life

- 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.
- Word** – know the LORD through reading and reflecting on the gospel. Seek direction and guidance through the words in the Scripture.
- Witness** – let others see Jesus in you – see Jesus in every person you meet.
- Work** – giving a full day's work for a full day's pay – exercising Christian values and ethics.
- 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.



St. Michael and our guardian angels, defend us and our families, in battle against all the evil ones that roam the earth.

## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,601	134,652
Raffle Ticket (Ablaze@20)	15,350	35,170

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

Thank you for your continued support!

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Oct 19	Teaching – <b>Mark 10, John 6</b>
Oct 20*	Growth in Prayer - <b>LSS 1-39</b> Encounter with Jesus - <b>LSS 1-38</b>
Nov 03*	Encounter with Jesus - <b>LSS 1-38</b> Understanding Corporate Worship - <b>LSS 1-37</b> Sienna Gift Inventory – <b>LSS 1-35</b>
Nov 16	Teaching – <b>Mark 10, John 6</b>
Nov 23	Teaching – <b>Golden Years</b>
Nov 30	Intro to the Word/CDFP Overview – <b>LSS 40</b>
<b>Time:</b> Friday: after worship, Saturday: 1-6 pm	
<b>Venue:</b> Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ	

### Aspirant's Retreat

Oct 26-28 • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA

### Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden

Nov 17 • Divine Mercy Parish Gymnasium, Rahway NJ

## SAVE THE DATE

### DLC Meeting

Oct. 23, 7:30 pm -11 pm

Divine Mercy Parish School Library, Rahway, NJ

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION

### Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ  
 Every 4th Sat. of the month.

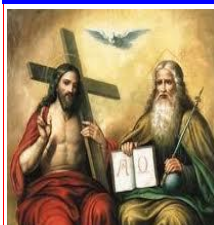
Oct. 27 • **Singles** • Contacts: Emil and Baby Canlas

### Stewardship - *It's a way of life!*

 Marshaling Schedule	Date	Apostolate
	Oct 26	Formation
	Nov 02	Management
	Nov 09	Mission
	Nov 16	Evangelization
	Nov 23	Pastoral

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000



### Moments

Happy moments	Praise God
Difficult moments	Seek God
Quiet moments	Worship God
Painful moments	Trust God
Every moment	Thank God

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## BLD welcomes

### 33 John 6 Crossing grads

John 6 Crossing #13 was held at the St. Peter's Retreat House in Belleville, NJ on Oct. 19–21, 2012. The weekend retreat served as an entry point for the children to experience true intimacies with our Lord through the teachings, their peers, and sharers. They experienced many wonderful things that they may not have been aware of at a young age. It is hoped that they will build upon this experience a strong foundation for their family, with Jesus Christ as the center of their lives.

The weekend was not without its challenges. The evil one will always try to disrupt anyone who is trying to get closer to our Lord, but our God will not allow this. *“If God is for us, who can be against us? In all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us.”* (Romans 8:31, 37) Jesus stood victorious, apparent by the openness of these young candidates that left not a dry eye in the seats many times. Jesus abundantly blessed John 6 Ministry with 33 candidates, through the selfless works of the servants of the Lord led by Fr. Paul Lehman, as the Spiritual Director, Fr. Robert Lamirez for assisting with the confession, the adult core, moderators, understudies, sponsors, auxies, and sharers, Avery Abad, Dustin Alba, Marc Cipriano\*, Zach Larobis, Adi Loreto, and Monica San Agustin.

Let us all now welcome the new members and embrace them in our John 6 Ministry and community, and let us pray that they may continue their walk in faith, trust, and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. May the Lord's blessings always be upon them and their families.

Congratulations to **Chibundu Anyanwu, Emily Avisado, Charlene Balmaceda\*, Mariella Brillantes, John Paul Castillo, Francesca de la Paz, J. Angela Dominguez\*, Bobby Emmanuel, Sherwin Fabe, Spencer Fabe, Alexia Nicole Flores\*, Kathryn Guiang, Noelle Hermsen\*, Hiari Isekenegbe, Zesita Isekenegbe, Jomar Lucky Javier\*, Brandon Kennedy, Louise Labang, Therese Lumapas\*, Alexandra Manacop, Amy Belle Molina, Regeena Rose Molina, Allyson Nisay, Emmanuel Omokha, Karl Mikel Pepino, Sabrina Ramirez, Jamie Ramos, Anais Rangel, Michael Rangel, Kerry Regis, Rheanne Reyes, Nicole Sambilay\*, and Isabella Somera. (\*Trenton)**

*“Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”* (Mark 10:14)

## COUNSELS

### JESUS IS CALLING YOU

**THEME:** **We submit to God's authority when we take courage to witness to our faith.**

**WORD:** **Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 126:1-6; Hebrews 5:1-6; Mark 10:46-52**

**ORDER:** *“Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you.”*  
Mark 10:49b  
*“Go your way; your faith has saved you.”*  
Mark 10:52a

#### REFLECTION:

The story of Bartimaeus, the blind man, is an instructive account and a reminder of our calling as disciples of the Lord. He was not only blind, he was also a beggar. He was so poor yet so rich because he earned God's favor over the rich young man who was a prisoner of his material possessions. Bartimaeus' story teaches us how to see, not with our physical eyes, but with our eyes of faith.

Bartimaeus' call to discipleship can be compared to that of the fishermen, Peter, James and John, who, upon hearing Jesus' call, threw their nets away to follow Him. This time, Bartimaeus, who was by the roadside, threw aside his dirty cloak, his only possession, and followed Jesus.

A number of Gospel accounts in the lives of Christ's disciples run parallel to the story of Bartimaeus. One such account is when Jesus asked His disciples. *“What do you want me to do for you?”* (Mark 10:51), the purpose of James and John's response was for a position of prominence in His Kingdom. In stark contrast when asked the same question, Bartimaeus' response was that he simply wanted to see. Then again, we see Peter who declared to Jesus, *“You are the Messiah, Son of the Living God!”* (Matthew 16:16), *Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*“... I will lead them to brooks of water, on a level road, so that none shall stumble.”* (Jeremiah 31:9)

# DIVINE MERCY

## Grace: An Undeserved Gift



*“But God who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ, (by grace you have been saved), raised us up with Him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come, He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.”* Ephesians 2:4-7



*“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God.”* Ephesians 2:8

God’s grace is that which God does for His people as an unearned favor because He loves them. It is totally free and a gift from God that cannot be earned. It means getting the good that we do not deserve, i.e., eternal life instead of death.

Through the gift of grace, we enjoy His gift of salvation. God gave us Jesus, His only begotten Son so that we may have forgiveness of our sins and the promise of eternal life through Him. And it is given to us who have faith in Him. *“Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.”* (Hebrews 11:1) Grace happens because of faith expressing itself through love. (Galatians 5:6b)

Every believer is a child of grace. Noah, by faith and in reverence, prepared an ark for the salvation of his household. When Abraham was tested by God, by faith, he offered up Isaac, his only son, even if God promised that in Isaac his descendants would be as many as the stars in the sky and the sands in the seashore. By faith, too, Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, passing through the Red Sea into the Promised Land. Mary became the first disciple when she willingly said YES that her womb be the Ark of the New Covenant, Jesus.

We are all recipients of this gift of grace... undeservedly. Personally, I experienced the power and beauty of God’s grace intensely when my first born son passed away 7 years ago. I was in shock and disbelief when I saw my son lying lifeless on a cold steel stretcher in the hospital. He was just trying to break a fight between two warring young adults. I did not know how to take it. My world crumbled. My grief and pain were excruciating. I thought I would die. But God cradled me in His bosom. Through everyone’s prayers, I felt Jesus was carrying me all along, making me feel the gift of God’s presence.

The Gospel reading on the day my son left this world was the Beatitudes that said *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”* (Matthew 5:9) I realized it was God’s way of saying my son was with Him, assured of a place in His Kingdom. Because of God’s grace I was able to accept my son’s leaving us at a young age of 27, burying him instead of him burying me later as his parent. I know that my family and I were able to move on with our life again **by God’s grace alone because He loves me**. It is not because of my works!

Since 2005, many life changing events occurred in my life somewhat every year thereafter. It left me emotionally paralyzed, brokenhearted, confused, physically drenched, and lost. I really didn’t understand at first why it was all happening to me; oftentimes, people just try to reassure me and said that God will never give us anything that we cannot handle in life. I often thought then of how much a person can endure and when will it ever be enough?

I lost my mother and my husband only seven months apart. Our mom battled a long progressive deterioration of her heart most of her adult life. I always asked God to be merciful and let her go in peace to end her suffering, but she lived long enough to be worthy of God’s salvation.

When my husband’s unexpected death occurred, I found myself in a totally different situation. I was so brokenhearted and helpless. My children were so devastated and lost and looked up to me for strength; but my feeling of isolation intensified and I became bitter. My quivering faith turned cold; I stopped going to church, and even the simplest prayer was difficult to utter. My anger blinded me from holding on to my faith and trusting in the Lord. I was in complete solitude until I decided to find myself in God’s mercy once again. I went back to church, and with such a repentant heart, I asked the Lord for His divine mercy and forgiveness. I cried and begged Him to please take me back, His lost lamb that had gone astray. I was seeking for HIM to fill that void I had created in my heart. As I was leaving the church, I was invited to join the Solo Parent ministry and accepted without hesitation.

My life since BLD has opened up my eyes to understand all of God’s plans for us. As we are all broken and sinful, we learn that HE is the only fulfillment we need and depend on to face all our weaknesses. It is through our weaknesses that we find our greatest strength in the midst of our trials. I have finally found the inner peace of God’s presence in my life.

*Continued on page 4*

# *Sign of the Times*

## **COUNSELS** (from page 1)

In Luke 12:54-56, ***“Jesus said to the crowds, ‘When you see a cloud rising in the west you say immediately that it is going to rain—and so it does; and when you notice that the wind is blowing from the south you say that it is going to be hot—and so it is. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky; why do you not know how to interpret the present time?’”***

Breaking news: “A young student shot five people in a high school today. This is horrific!” “A college student jumped off the GW bridge. He was gay. This is atrocious!”

Why are these things happening? Why now?

As a society we are ignoring Christian values. We are not teaching our children about God. We are not nurturing our faith. We are losing hope.

In *Humanae Vitae*, Pope Paul VI told us what would happen if we accepted and practiced contraception:

It “could open wide the way for marital infidelity and a general lowering of moral standards.” Man “may forget the reverence due to a woman” and “reduce her to being a mere instrument for the satisfaction of his own desires.” Abortion could increase to avoid responsibility and if the sexual partner is an instrument for pleasure, it could be a member of the same sex.

Yes, disasters are here! We are seeing today gay marriage, abortion factories, prostitution, and indecency.

In Revelation 6:8, we read that at the end of times, one of the four horsemen, Death, and Hades ***“were given authority over a quarter of the earth, to kill with sword, famine, and plague, and by means of the beasts of the earth.”*** Can we not interpret the present time?

The public authorities are imposing contraception and pushing abortion. Fetal tissues are being misused, indecency is all over our screens and our books, and gay marriage is at our door. Now even our religious freedom and liberty of conscience are at risk!

Are we not in the end of times? Can we not hear the horses of Revelation riding?

Shall we let the wrath of God destroy us like Sodom and Gomorrah?

Or shall we not be converted like Nineveh? ***“Who knows? God may again repent and turn from his blazing wrath, so that we will not perish.”*** (Jonah 3:9)

We know that ***“The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in mercy.”*** (Psalm 145:8) Now is the time to be on our knees praying for God’s mercy.

but was quick to deny Him three times when confronted by the crowd because he was pressed and blinded by fear. Bartimaeus, on the contrary, remained undaunted before a very unruly crowd. He was courageously resolute and could not be stopped as he cried out in a loud voice “You are the son of David!” The disciple Thomas, whose vision was clouded by a haze of doubt, struggled to believe, despite seeing virtually Jesus’ nailed scarred hands. But Bartimaeus, the wretched man, despite a crippling blindness, never wavered from his belief; he believed and lived an exemplary life of blessedness. ***“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”*** (John 20:29)

In the light of our calling as disciples, we are challenged to respond to the same question Christ posted ***“What do you want me to do for you?”*** (Mark 10:51)

Will we respond with desires for position of prominence, for things to do in order to earn God’s favor? Are we blinded by what we own, blinded by the correctness of what we believe and know, blinded by our own needs and security? Are we blinded by our inadequacies that we lose sight of how God sees us? Do we bypass our own transgressions and see only our brethren’s trespasses?

Mark 7:20 reminds us ***“But what comes out of a person, that is what defiles.”*** It is what is within us that hardens hearts and makes us blind.

We are as blind as the beggar in Jericho road until, like Bartimaeus, we open our eyes and take our discipleship seriously.

God has never left us in the dark. He is with us. Pope Paul VI’s writing *Lumen Gentia* (Light of the Word) illumines us. “In the depths of his conscience, man is summoned to love and avoid evil, the voice of conscience speaks to his heart to do this, shun that”. The Temple of the Holy Spirit is our most secret core and sanctuary. There, we are alone with God, whose voice echoes and reveals in our depths to love Him and our neighbor. It is the Light of Christ that shines upon us and allows us to see with clarity, purpose and love.

With his Apostolic Letter of October 11, 2011, *Porta Fidei*, Pope Benedict XVI declared this month a “Year of Faith”. We are invited once again to an authentic and renewed conversion to the One Savior of the world. The beauty of our faith’s journey is that Christ’s call and our opportunity to respond is not a one-time event, but a series of chances to go deeper into relationship with Him. The invitation has been handed again to us and we are called to open it again, walk through it, and rediscover and renew our relationship with Christ.

*Continued on page 4*

## COUNSELS (from page 3)

We can be like Bartimaeus, the blind man who begged for God's mercy. He received an amazing grace that saved him; he was blind and now can see. He is no longer a beggar but a disciple. He was called and sent.

Jesus is calling us again.

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Be a witness of God's love and mercy in your life.
2. Be ready when God calls you to serve Him.
3. Be persistent in prayer.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### ME #40

Nov 9-11 • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA  
 Contacts: Marc & Emma Belmonte @ [mla@bldnewark.com](mailto:mla@bldnewark.com)  
 Gary & Mil Camacho @ [camachocpa@comcast.net](mailto:camachocpa@comcast.net)

### SE #29

Nov 9-11 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garrison, NY  
 Contacts: Jennifer Mendiola [jennifer.mediola1@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.mediola1@gmail.com)  
 646.238.7043, Dhemi & Divine Alba [dhevine@aol.com](mailto:dhevine@aol.com)  
 646.431.0350 or any Singles' Ministry member.

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ  
 Oct 27 • Singles • Contacts: Emil and Baby Canlas

### 2013 Medical Mission

Feb 18-21 • La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines  
 Volunteers' acceptance will be on a first-come-first-serve basis.  
 Sign up as soon as you have decided. Submission deadline  
 Dec 15, 2012. For online application form click here: [BLD  
 Medical Mission 2013: Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet](#)  
 Contact Mosty/Ling Garcia @ [district@bldnewark.com](mailto:district@bldnewark.com)

## YEAR OF FAITH

October 11, 2012 – November 24, 2013



**It is not too late!**

**Sign up now** to have a small portion of the Catechism of the Catholic Church emailed to you each day.

*"His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, has placed a great emphasis on having a systematic knowledge of the Faith, with the Catechism of the Catholic Church as a "precious and indispensable tool."*

**It's FREE! Do it!**

<http://flocknote.com/catechism>

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)

## DIVINE MERCY (from page 2)

A year after my husband died, I lost my youngest child from a horrific, senseless tragedy. I lost my home and everything that I owned when my house was set ablaze along with her. The loss of my child was excruciating, unbearable, and unimaginable. It was God's tender mercy for me and His loving kindness that made me feel that I was not alone in my sufferings. I was weak and vulnerable. At times I asked the Lord to walk us through our lives to find our inner strength through His love and compassion, so that we may see the light once again in our moments of darkness. God has bestowed on us immeasurable blessings and unconditional, merciful love.

We have to be willing to forgive and fully understand that forgiveness is what God taught us when He had given up His own Son to forgive our sins. It creates an inner peace in our hearts, and redemption of our soul. I thank God each day for the gift of life, for Christine's 20 beautiful years of life with us. I have forgiven those that have caused us great affliction; Christine's now resting in peace. Forgiveness is a selfless act of mercy. God's divine merciful intervention will be our saving grace for our own salvation. Let us all learn to live and follow God's perfect will.

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,291	137,943
Raffle Ticket (Ablaze@20)	11,280	46,450

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)  
 Thank you for your continued support!

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Nov 03\* Encounter with Jesus - LSS 1-38  
 Understanding Corporate Worship - LSS 1-37  
 Sienna Gift Inventory – LSS 1-35  
 Nov 16 Teaching – Mark 10, John 6  
 Nov 23 Teaching – Golden Years  
 Nov 30 Intro to the Word/CDFP Overview – ME 40  
**Time:** Friday: after worship, \*Saturday: 1-6 pm  
**Venue:** Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

### Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden

Nov 17 • St. Mary's Library @ Divine Mercy Parish

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Nov 02	Management
			Nov 09	Mission
			Nov 16	Evangelization
			Nov 23	Pastoral
Nov 30	Formation			



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

## BLD Holds **Ablaze** Raffle Drawing

Friday, October 19, 2012 - **E**xcitement filled the air at the Divine Mercy auditorium last Friday night after Worship, as the winning stubs of the Ablaze raffle were drawn. In a fun filled half hour, started off (and concluded) by the **Singles Ministry Praise**, many thanks were expressed: to all who bought tickets and to those who sold; to the sponsors who had contributed funds for the raffle prizes; to the DCS and to all who supported this fundraiser. And, many times, to our Good Lord, whose blessings guaranteed its success.

Father Robert Lamirez took on the task of drawing the winning stubs, assisted by DSL Noel Trillana, and Mission Steward, Alan Cam. Tito Alan, as most of us refer to him by, once again proved that he may have an additional calling as a talent/game show host – as he skillfully added drama and humor to each drawing (*for the list of winning ticket numbers and prize winners, see reverse side*).

The raffle fundraising results, once again proved: that the winning formula includes - many helping hands, along with God's graces, as essential key ingredients to success:

- The various encounter groups, sold booklets and booklets of tickets, highlighted by the various SPEs, and by members of Newark's newest couples in ME 39.
- Sponsors donated funds for the prizes - thanks go out to: **Nolette Tours** (trip to Guadalupe); **JFK Medical Center** (MacBook Air); to **Merry Heart Health Care Center** and **Seven-Seven Corporate Group** (i-Pad and Kindle Fire HDs); and to the **Somerville Metro Lions Club** (Kindle Fire HD).
- The Treasury Ministry ably and reliably accounted for all tickets and dollars raised.
- Many members prayed.

The funds generated (net of about \$43k) will go a long way to supplementing 2012's weekly tithes and love offerings. But the raffle (this year) only took the place of what had been BLD's other traditional fundraising activities, the Dinner Dance and Golf Outing. As we explore alternatives such as this, the need to fund the spiritual battle that we as BLD engages in, continues - for the rest of the year and beyond... for our MEs, SPEs, SEs, YEs, FEs, J6 Crossings, Medical Mission, Seminars, Teachings, Retreats, Soup Kitchens, Friday worships, etc, etc, etc.

Everyone's tithes and love offerings continue to be needed...Just that now, for a brief moment, we can all pause a while and simply pray – **"THANK YOU!!!"**

...And always: **"PRAISE GOD!!!"**



# BLD NEWARK ABLAZE @ 20 RAFFLE

NJ LGCCC ID #: 409-3-39143

Municipal RL #: RA-12-29

## **Bukas-Loob sa Diyos Foundation, Inc.**

		<i>Retail Value</i>	
1st	Six Day Trip to Mexico for Two to attend the Feast of Guadalupe	\$2,598	11200
2nd	64 GB MacBook Air	\$999	
3rd	iPad	\$499	
4th	Three (3) 4th Place Winners - Kindle Fire (1)	\$199 Each	

Oct. 19, 2012 *BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20* 10:30 PM

PRICE: \$2.00

Location of Drawing: Divine Mercy Parish • 232 Central Ave., Rahway, NJ 07065

Raffle proceeds will go towards funding of Mission, Pastoral, Formation and Evangelical activities and projects  
No substitutions of the offered prize may be made and no cash will be given in lieu of prizes. Taxes not included.

## AND THE WINNERS ARE . . .

**VIVIAN ROZ**

**Ticket # 22392**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Six day trip to Mexico for Two to attend the feast of Guadalupe

**EDITH RAAGAS**

**Ticket # 11829**

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize- 64 GB MacBook Air

**TESS BOOC**

**Ticket # 12468**

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - iPad

**THELMA TY**

**Ticket # 29949**

4<sup>th</sup> Prize – Kindle Fire HD

**SALLY CONDE**

**Ticket # 23211**

4<sup>th</sup> Prize – Kindle Fire HD

**MARCELO & RUBILITA DAVID**

**Ticket # 06621**

4<sup>th</sup> Prize – Kindle Fire HD

# Thank You !



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 43

Bulletin Edition

November 2, 2012

## 39 disciples aspire to covenant

*"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."* (John 15:5)

The seed that was planted 20 years ago in Newark has grown and spawn more branches as 39 aspiring disciples from BLD Allentown, Charlotte, Long Island and mother district Newark responded to the summons of our Lord and came to the Aspirant's Retreat held at Pine Hill Retreat House in Canadensis, PA last Oct. 26-28, 2012.

The retreat was directed by our Spiritual Director, Fr. Paul Lehman, and facilitated by Teaching Ministry with support from Praise, Technical and Witness Development Ministries.

Sharers from our brothers and sisters in the Community opened up and surrendered themselves as they shared their experiences on: Discipleship – Frank Mendonez, Cost of Discipleship – Angie Valeroso, Test of True Discipleship - Emil Canlas, Community - Eric Cruz, Rewards of Discipleship – Bing Ymbong.

The candidates who professed the renewal of their covenant to know, love and serve the Lord are: **Rey & Cora Guerra, Prudence Meuser, Mark & Edith Quiteles** (Allentown); **Charlie & Loreen Ragnanan** (Long Island); **Cora Cortez, Elizabeth Dy, Beth Oliveira, Tomas & Erlinda Siaton** (North Carolina) and from Newark: **Mel & Anjou Martinez, Robert & Emily Padoginog, Jojo & Bing Gabriel, Jean & Marie Richards, Jun & Camille Viernes, Franklin Lim, Lilia Manlapaz, Lito Pasturan, Vivian Roz, Ron Bernal, Justin Bustos, Darleen Calotes, Vanessa Fabe, Chris Gonda, Louie & Carol Lomuntad, Melissa Martinez, Jennifer Mendiola, Pauline Montemayor, Jen Ompod, Alyssa Sta Ana, and Walter Wade.**

They felt rejuvenated and were eager to immerse themselves in the Word of the Lord and live the holy work of evangelization.



*Ignorance of the Bible  
is ignorance of Christ.  
Read your Bible daily!*

## COUNSELS

### LOVE OF GOD & NEIGHBOR

**THEME:** The Kingdom of God belongs to those who love God and neighbor.

**WORD:** Nov 4: Dt 6:2-6/Ps 18:2-4, 47,51  
Heb 7:23-28/Mk 12:28-34

Nov 11: 1 Kgs 17:10-16/Ps 146:7-10  
Heb 9:24-28/Mk 12:38-44

Nov 18: Dn 12:1-3/Ps 16:5,8-11  
Heb 10:11-14,18/Mk 13:24-32

Nov 25: Dn 7:13-14/Ps 93:1-2,5  
Rv 1:5-8/Jn 18:33-37

**ORDER:** *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength....You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."* (Mk 12:30-31)

### REFLECTION:

Doubtless, some members of the Bukas Loob sa Diyos Covenant Community may have problems instantly calling to mind the Ten Commandments, as they once could. These were very much part of the basic Catechism of the Catholic Church that we learned by heart growing up. However, few of us today can fail to instantly name the two greatest commandments of all: to love God above all, and our fellowmen as ourselves.

The month of November allows us to re-focus and reflect on these two greatest commandments as declared by our Lord in the Gospel, and to answer the question posed by the scribe, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" And Jesus' unequivocal reply, which served as the basis of our Community Order this month, as discerned by the Executive Council of Servant Leaders (ECSL): *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength...You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."* (Mk 12:30-31)

*Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*"...keep... all his statutes and commandments... and thus have long life...observe them that you may grow and prosper."* (Dt 6:2-3)

## **LIVE OR DIE: A WIN-WIN SITUATION**

***“For to me life is Christ, and death is gain. If I go on living in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. And I do not know which I shall choose. I am caught between the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, (for) that is far better. Yet that I remain (in) the flesh is more necessary for your benefit.”*** (Philippians 1:21-24)

To understand why St. Paul wrote these words, one needs to picture the circumstances he was in during that time. He was bringing a gift from the gentile churches to Christian converts in Jerusalem when he was met with dissension by some Jews. He was falsely accused of treason and brought to Rome as a prisoner under house arrest. It was while he was awaiting trial by Caesar that he was able to communicate with the Philippians and preach more about the gospel.

St. Paul’s state of mind at the time of his imprisonment was one of an anxious nature, not a hapless fearful consideration of what could happen, but a more contemplative discernment of the good that could come out of his fate, whether he lived or died. But if he could choose, which would be the better choice?

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, in her final days, underwent a period of desolation akin to Christ’s feeling of destitution while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. The media depicted her as one “doubting the existence of God.” But Fr. Joseph Langford, MC, author of the book, *Our Sunday Visitor, Mother Teresa’s Secret Fire*, explained that, “*contrary to press reports, Mother Teresa did not suffer a crisis of faith ... but rather, a loss of feeling of faith. What had been her usual consolation in prayer abruptly ended. Though she would not understand it until later, she was being asked to share the same inner darkness, the same trial of belief suffered by the poor and destitute -- and to endure it for their sake and for the love of her Lord.*”

Perhaps, St. Paul experienced a similar form of desolation while a prisoner in Rome, but he did not welcome physical death as a gateway or escape from the laborious, and oftentimes, thankless ministry of serving Christ’s people. To die would mean a glorious reunion with Christ, but to live would also mean an opportune and extended time to make the most of sharing Christ and witnessing to non-believers. St. Paul knew there were not many like him during his time who could serve and preach the gospel of Christ. For whatever sentence he was going to get, there was an equal amount of satisfaction to gain. To him, death or life was a win-win situation. So should it be with any disciple who wishes to follow Christ.

### **TO HURRICANE SANDY VICTIMS:**

***“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.”*** (James 1:2-4)

## **From TWO to ONE**



In this day and age, it is a challenge and a rarity for marriages to last as evidenced by this research article from the U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, D.C. The title of the article is

Number, Timing, and Duration of Marriages and Divorces: 2009. The researchers' data were collected by the Survey of Income & Program Participation (SIPP). SIPP is one of few data sources that can provide a comprehensive look at both current and historical marital patterns in the U.S. So how long do marriages last? The marital experience of the population as of 2009, shows that first marriages, which ended in divorce, lasted a median of 8 years for both men & women. As one can see, this is a dismal picture of what marriage is. Most importantly, behind these statistical numbers are lives of people that have been very sadly affected by these events.

Ephesians 5:31 ***“For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”*** St. Paul wants to make the people from Ephesus understand, and in so doing, reach out to us, the here and now, the importance and impact of this sacred passage in our lives as believers of our Lord Jesus Christ. As a husband loves and takes care of his wife, so too does Christ loves and treasures His church. Marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman. But God gives the “ **blessing** ” that seals the unbreakable bond between the two so that they are now one body and one spirit in Christ. From this time on, the two shall have a new life and start a new chapter called, a family, which is the smallest church ever assembled by Christ and with Him in the middle of it. He will always love and nurture them, guide them and watch them grow. He will create new souls because of the union of man and woman. As these souls multiply all over His creation, He will be present within each family.

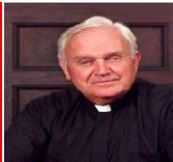
So my brothers and sisters, let us not be a statistic. Let us be aware that when our marriages hit a hiccup on the road of life, we should strive harder and look for God’s mercy and help. Let us not give up on our family because as you can see, there are innocent people involved, our children, the hope of this community and of this world.

### **ALL SOULS’ DAY!**



***God the Father, as we remember in our prayers all of our loved ones who have died, we pray that they will have received the promise of eternal life and that they are with You in experiencing the joy of heaven. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen***





## FR. PAUL SPEAKS

I am overjoyed that the community has embarked on an education and faith deepening program to follow up on the “Year of Faith” that began on October 11<sup>th</sup>. This date was chosen, because the second Vatican council began on that date fifty years ago. It is also the twentieth anniversary of the promulgation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. But what does “faith” mean?

Faith can be defined as a summary of the doctrines and teachings that identify what Catholics profess and believe. This summary can be found in the catechisms and the teaching manuals officially published by the Vatican and on the local scene, by the national council of the bishops of a particular country. This definition is confined to the intellect. It is a result of study and reading. It is possible to be very acquainted with the teachings of the church, and yet, unfortunately, be missing the internal content of relationship with and awareness of God. Study, however, is a necessary consequence of a conversion moment that every Christian should have experienced. I find that many good people just don’t know enough about their religion and cannot be good witnesses to what they believe. Thus the importance of our teaching programs!

Faith can also be defined as a “fiduciary” belief, which is very closely connected with the virtue of hope. We believe and trust that the good Lord in his mercy has forgiven us our sins and restored us to a living graced relationship with Him. It is an opening up to a deeper experience, deeper even than the concepts of the intellect. This faith awareness often precedes the deepening study of our faith. After this initial experience of God, which often takes place in a prayerful environment or encounter, we should follow up with the apologetic and intellectual content of what we have experienced in prayer. In some cases, however, many have come into the Church as a result of study, especially the study of the history of Christianity. For some, the experience precedes the intellect. For others the intellect leads in to the experience.

Faith can also be experienced as a contemplative awareness of the presence of God. Since faith is something supernatural, it cannot be understood by the intellect or even by some “experience”, no matter how profound. An awareness of the presence of the Holy Trinity, with a desire just to be with this infinite God, without concepts, words, or imaginings, is one of the deeper experiences of faith. This goal is a gift, and is given to those who remain faithful to their prayer life.

We pray that all of us will grow in all of these aspects of our faith during this “Year of Faith.”

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

The message of Jesus is clear and demands that our love for God encompasses our whole being. It is not to be a half-hearted response, but a full surrender and abandonment of our lives to Him - our heart, our soul, our mind and even our strength. We are to offer all that we are in an all-consuming love that makes us stop living for ourselves and begin living for Jesus Christ.

The love of God can only be expressed in our love of neighbor. **“If anyone says ‘I love God’ but hates his brother, he is a liar”** (1 Jn 4:20). Love for God requires loving those whom God loves. **“This is how all will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.”** (Jn 13:35). To love one another is an important aspect of our community life and an integral part of our Community Prayer for BLD members.

### Week 1 (31st Sunday in Ordinary Time)

For the first Sunday, we are reminded to be mindful of God’s word, obeying it without reservations. Our theme for the week is: Those who love God and neighbor take to heart and obey God’s word. We are to do exactly what God wants us to do, and that is to love Him in the full measure of our being. This stands side-by-side with the command to love our neighbor as Jesus loved us. Jesus died on the cross to free us from eternal damnation. **“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”** (John 15:13) Who among us would be willing to die for someone else for love of that person? Following Jesus is not easy, but doing so comes with a beautiful promise for this week: **“... keep... all his statutes and commandments...and thus have long life...observe them, that you may grow and prosper.”** (Dt 6:2-3)

### Week 2 (32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Our theme for the 2nd week focuses on the spirit of generosity: Those who love God and neighbor give their all. Two widows are depicted in the readings. Both are poor, but their act of giving conveys a strong message of generosity and faith. Would you have responded to the knock at your door in the same way the widow Serephath did in the First Reading, giving up the very last meal she had saved up for herself and her son? This is exactly what she did, placing her complete trust in God in an act that did not go unrewarded.

Let us look at the other poor widow, this time, in the gospel. Would you part with the last centavo left in your wallet and give it, as a love offering to the Lord? Would you have placed God’s Church over and above your own personal needs, sacrificing even your own livelihood? In these two readings, both widows demonstrate amazing acts of self-giving and tremendous faith in God. This is what is being asked of us BLD members as followers of Jesus,

*Continued on page 4*

## COUNSELS *(from page 3)*

a total abandonment of our lives to Him. It comes with a promise that is full of assurance: *"The Lord keeps faith forever, secures justices for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets captives free."* (Psalm 146:7)

### Week 3 (33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Our readings for this 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, a part of what is often referred to as the 'apocalyptic literature', puts the commandment of love of God and neighbor in its proper perspective as it focuses on Judgment Day. Our theme is an exhortation to remain watchful and ready for the coming of the Lord: Those who love God and neighbor stay vigilant for the Lord's coming.

When, as followers of Jesus, we feel discouraged on encountering trials as we go about obeying His commandments, our readings for this Sunday give us hope to carry on. The 1st Reading speaks of the wise, shining brightly like stars. This message is repeated in the Gospel when, at the Last Judgment, the Son of Man will come in the clouds. We are reminded to be alert and watchful, for we do not know the day or the hour of His coming. But, as promised in Dn 12:3: *"... the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever."*

### Week 4 (Solemnity of Christ the King)

The last Sunday of the liturgical year is marked by the Solemnity of Christ the King, which is widely celebrated throughout the Church. It calls to mind God's kingdom of love, justice and peace on earth of which Jesus is the anointed King. We are to take part in building this kingdom, by testifying to the truth, as our theme for this last week tells us: Those who love God and neighbor testify to the truth in Christ.

The 1st Reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel speaks of a vision of the Son of Man receiving dominion, glory and kingship. His lordship is further proclaimed in the book of Psalms, which declares Jesus as King. From the Book of Revelation in the 2nd Reading, Jesus is hailed as the *"Alpha and Omega...the one who is and who was and who is to come..."* (Rev 1: 8). And finally in the gospel, Jesus himself proclaims His kingship as not of this world, nor political in nature.

As humble BLD disciples, we are tasked to testify to the truth by making God our top priority at all times and by placing our full trust in Him. The essence of lived testimony is to love all - men and women - created by Him in His image and likeness, and called to be His children by divine grace (cf. Catechism 2069).

Christ the King Sunday ends the liturgical calendar and marks, on the following Sunday, the beginning of the season of Advent. We leave the period of Ordinary Time blessed with a strong promise from the Lord:

*Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)*

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,102	141,045

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

Thank you for your continued support!

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Nov 03\* Encounter with Jesus - LSS 1-38

**C A N C E L L E D**

Sienna Gift Inventory - LSS 1-35

Nov 16 Teaching - Mark 10, John 6

Nov 23 Teaching - Golden Years

Nov 30 Intro to the Word/CDFP Overview - ME 40

Time: Friday: after worship, \*Saturday: 1-6 pm

Venue: Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

### Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden

Nov 17 • St. Mary's Library @ Divine Mercy Parish

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### ME #40

Nov 9-11 • Pine Hill Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA  
Contacts: Marc & Emma Belmonte @ [mla@bldnewark.com](mailto:mla@bldnewark.com)  
Gary & Mil Camacho @ [camachocpa@comcast.net](mailto:camachocpa@comcast.net)

### SE #29

Nov 9-11 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garrison, NY  
Contacts: Jennifer Mediola [jennifer.mediola1@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.mediola1@gmail.com)  
646.238.7043, Dhemi & Divine Alba [dhevine@aol.com](mailto:dhevine@aol.com)  
646.431.0350 or any Singles' Ministry member.

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION

### Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ  
November 24 • Word Ministry • Contacts: Fil and Hum Flores

### 2013 Medical Mission

Feb 18-21 • La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines  
Volunteers' acceptance will be on a first-come-first-serve basis.  
Sign up as soon as you have decided. Submission deadline:  
Dec 15, 2012. For online application form, click on this link:  
[BLD Medical Mission 2013: Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet](#)  
Contact Mosty/Ling Garcia @ [district@bldnewark.com](mailto:district@bldnewark.com)

## COUNSELS

*"His Dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away, his kingship shall not be destroyed."* (Dn 7:14b)

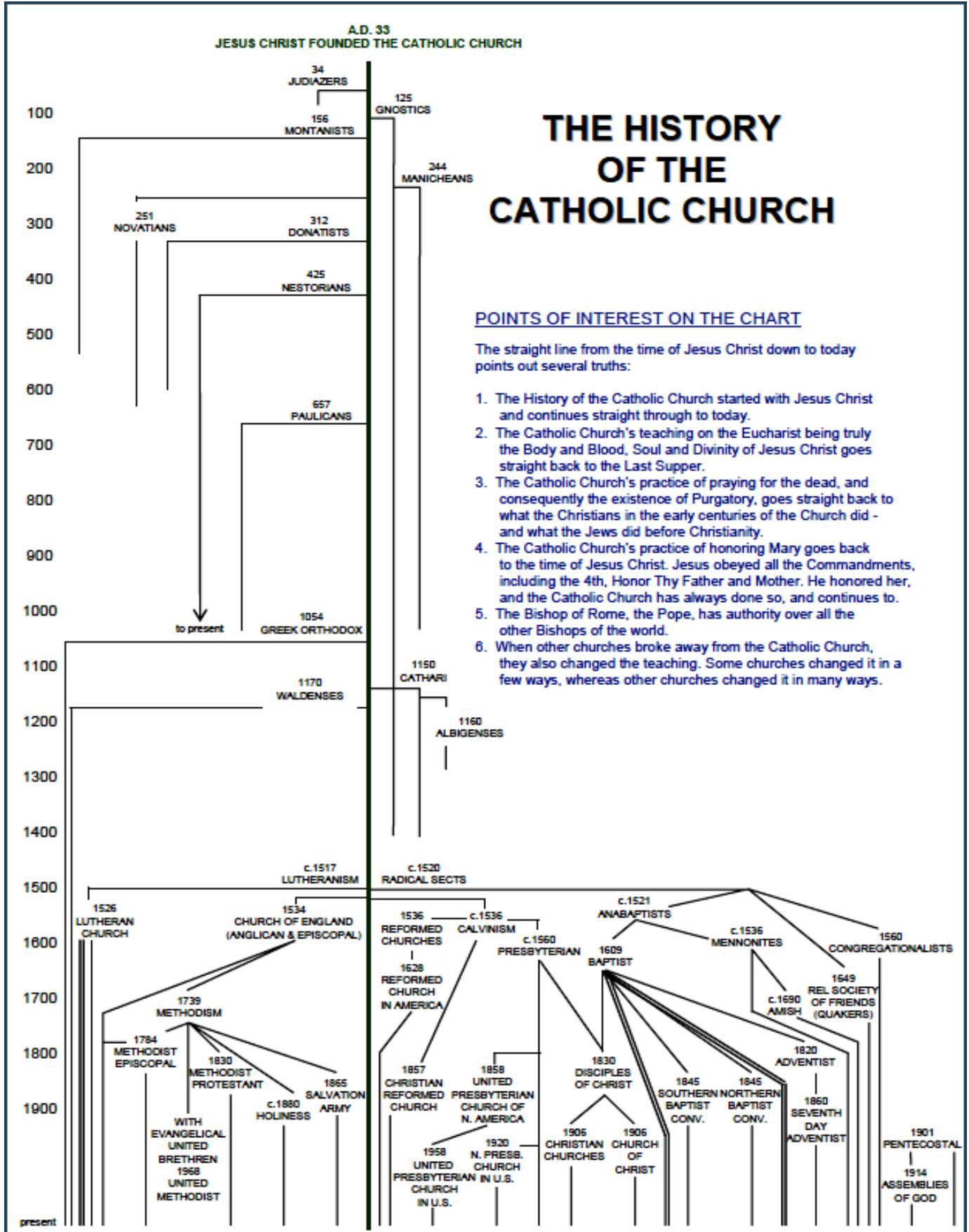
### DIRECTIONS:

1. Prepare yourself for God's calling by being in the state of grace always.
2. Read the word daily and put into action God's message.
3. Live your [five \(5\) BLD Commitment](#) or [eight \(8\) BLD Covenant Pledges](#).

# YEAR OF FAITH

October 18, 2012- November 24, 2013

For more information on the History of the Catholic Church, please click [HERE](#)



## THE HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

### POINTS OF INTEREST ON THE CHART

The straight line from the time of Jesus Christ down to today points out several truths:

1. The History of the Catholic Church started with Jesus Christ and continues straight through to today.
2. The Catholic Church's teaching on the Eucharist being truly the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ goes straight back to the Last Supper.
3. The Catholic Church's practice of praying for the dead, and consequently the existence of Purgatory, goes straight back to what the Christians in the early centuries of the Church did - and what the Jews did before Christianity.
4. The Catholic Church's practice of honoring Mary goes back to the time of Jesus Christ. Jesus obeyed all the Commandments, including the 4th, Honor Thy Father and Mother. He honored her, and the Catholic Church has always done so, and continues to.
5. The Bishop of Rome, the Pope, has authority over all the other Bishops of the world.
6. When other churches broke away from the Catholic Church, they also changed the teaching. Some churches changed it in a few ways, whereas other churches changed it in many ways.

*Branched to 35,000 churches*



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

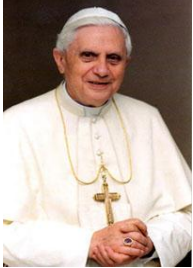
Volume 18 Issue 44

Bulletin Edition

November 9, 2012

NEWS

COUNSELS



## Holy Father sends message to Barack Obama Assures Reelected Leader of His Prayers to Carry Out Duties to the Nation

By Junno Arocho

VATICAN CITY, Nov. 7, 2012 ([Zenit.org](http://Zenit.org)).- Fr. Federico Lombardi, director of the Holy See Press Office, told journalists today that Pope Benedict XVI has sent a message to US President Barack Obama, congratulating him on his reelection. The telegram was sent through the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, DC.

The Holy Father expressed his best wishes to President Obama and assured him of his prayers to carry out his duties to the country and the international community.

The Pope also conveyed his hope that "the ideals of freedom and justice that has guided the founding fathers of the United States of America continue to shine forth as the nation progresses."

Commenting on President Obama's reelection, Fr. Lombardi stressed the immense responsibility that the US President has not only for his country, but as well to the rest of the world, "given the role of the United States in the international [community]."

Fr. Lombardi concluded his statement expressing his hope that President Obama will respond to the expectations of his fellow citizens "for the good and development" while promoting a culture of life and religious freedom.

The director of the Holy See Press Office also stated his desire that the reelected President "may find the best ways to promote the material and spiritual welfare of all, as well as effectively promote the integral human development, justice and peace effectively in the world."

## Faith in God's Generosity

**THEME:** **Those who love God and neighbor, give their all.**

**WORD:** 1 Kgs 17:10-16 / Ps 146:7-10  
Heb 9: 24-28 / Mk 12: 38-44

**ORDER:** *"Contribute from your poverty."*  
(paraphrased from Kings 17:13)

### REFLECTION:

When our LORD Jesus was told that His mother and brothers wish to see Him, and speak with Him, Jesus replied, *"Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?...Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God, my heavenly Father, is my brother, and sister, and mother."* (Mt 12:48-50). In Luke 8:21, Jesus says, *"My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it."* (Lk 8: 21) and in John 15:14, He says, *"You are my friends if you do what I command you"*. Therefore, if we truly recognize and accept the LORD Jesus Christ as our Saviour and King, and if we profess that our ultimate goal in our spiritual journey is to be with Him in heaven, then we must hear His word, accept His will and live it.

When a rich man asked our LORD Jesus what he has to do, besides observing the commandments, to inherit eternal life, Jesus replied, *"You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to [the] poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."* Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, *"How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"* Peter began to say to him, *"We have given up everything and followed you."* Jesus said, *"Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or*

Continued on page 3

## Promise of the Week

*"The LORD keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets captives free."* Psalm 146:6-7

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

## Come Dine with Me

*“Blessed is the one who will dine  
in the kingdom of God.” (Luke 14:15)*

My life is lost and I cry to You, dear Lord, and You answered me with an invitation, **“Come dine with me.”** How can I say no when I was asked to write on this. “Come” is one of the greatest words in the Bible. It is a simple invitation that comes with a great reward. I heeded His call when my spouse and I said ‘yes’ to join the Marriage Encounter in November 2004, after declining ten years of invitation because we were entirely occupied with our own affairs and cared less about our own salvation.

That weekend encounter saved our 28-year marriage. During those two days spent dining with the Lord, He gave us His graces and His forgiveness. Our lives were greatly touched by Him during that weekend as we felt His graces being showered upon us. This is the reward I will never forget for the rest of my life. I wish we had answered His call sooner.

God has prepared a great banquet and readied everything for us. God has already done everything necessary to make salvation available when He sent His Only Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. **“Come, everything is now ready.”** (Luke 14:17) He is ready, and He wants us to come to Him. All we need to do is accept His invitation. Often times, we choose to ignore His call and tend to give all sorts of lame excuses.

Jesus showed urgency when he told the servant to bring in the crippled, the poor and the blind, to show them that His house will not be empty, and that there’s more room in the banquet to fill. He summoned other people to come till the room is full; but many rejected His invitation. He then said, **“I tell you, none of those men who were invited will taste my dinner.”** (Luke 14:24) It is a sentence filled with hurt and anger. Imagine, our Lord being offended each time we sin and rebel against Him? How many times have we made excuses when we were told to do something for the Lord? We may be able to convince ourselves that we have valid reasons for saying “no”, but way too often, our excuses are insults to God. The Lord has prepared a large table for all of us and He won’t stop giving us His mercy and forgiveness, until His house is completely full, until all of us are saved and can dine in His Kingdom.

God invites each one of us to His banquet that we may share in His joy. Are you ready to feast at the Lord’s banquet table?

## HUMILITY, HOLINESS AND CHARITY

*in the New Evangelization*

“Why is there a strong wave of secularization, a storm of antipathy or plain cold indifference towards the Church in some parts of the world necessitating a new wave of evangelization programs?”

The new evangelization calls for new humility. The Gospel cannot thrive in pride. When pride seeps into the heart of the Church, the Gospel proclamation is harmed. The task of new evangelization must begin with a deep sense of awe and reverence for humanity and her culture. Evangelization has been hurt and continues to be impeded by the arrogance of its messengers. The hierarchy must shun arrogance, hypocrisy and bigotry. We must punish the errant among us instead of covering up our own mistakes. We are humans among our human flock. All our beauty and holiness we owe to God. This humility will make us more credible new evangelizers. Our mission is to propose humbly not to impose proudly.



Secondly, the new evangelization must be done by new saints and we must be those saints. The great poverty of the world now is the poverty of saints. Whether we come from the first world or third world countries, everybody is looking for models to inspire and emulate. Our youth need models to inspire them. They need living heroes to ignite their hearts and excite them to know Jesus and love Him more. Our experience in the Third World tells me that the Gospel can be preached to empty stomachs but only if the stomach of the preacher is as empty as his parishioners.

Lastly, the new evangelization must be a call for new charity. We will be credible bringers of Gospel joy if the proclamation is accompanied by its twin messenger of charity. The charity of Jesus is the gift of Himself. The charity of the new evangelization must be the gift of Jesus.

The new evangelization needs a new humility; a renewal in holiness and a new face of charity for it to be credible and fruitful.



*Philippine representatives to the current Synod of Bishops in Rome speak, 13 October 2012, Archbishop Socrates B. Villegas, Lingayen Dagupan, Philippines*

## Stewardship and Management Services Ministry



The most recent addition to BLD Newark's Management Apostolate is the Stewardship and Management Services Ministry (SaMS). While the

concept for such a ministry had been around for a number of years, it was not until 2011 that it was formally instituted. It was at that time that the functions of the Stewardship Committee were integrated in with the broader goal of improving the management of BLD resources. Stewardship is the Ministry's main goal. It aims to focus our efforts on being good stewards of the gifts that the Lord has bestowed upon BLD. We see the ministry as working with everyone as ad hoc members – be it in fundraising and tithing efforts, or in projects assigned by the DCS through the Management Steward.

Among the first things on the Ministry's plate was the search for venue alternatives for BLD functions and retreats. The initial search has resulted in a compilation of several potential places, along with pertinent features and cost comparison information. By itself (not counting the other BLD districts in the area), BLD Newark holds about 10 encounters and retreats each year. As the challenge to contain venue costs continues, the Ministry welcomes suggestions of sites from everyone. We will then follow-up to assess appropriately.

Recently, SaMS had been tasked with spearheading BLD Newark Ablaze@20 events. Thus far, BLD Newark has had: the much applauded Songspell Concert at Divine Mercy Parish last May; the well attended 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in August (highlighted by the presence and the blessings from Archbishop Angel Lagdameo); and the successful Ablaze@20 Raffle Fundraiser three weeks ago (co-sponsored by the Treasury Ministry). Each event was only made possible because of: the Lord's graces; AND, the many, many helping BLD hands - contributions of other ministries, as well as individual efforts from numerous community members.

In the coming days, months and years, we look forward to working with everyone on some of the stewardship and management challenges that the community faces. Should you have a management background (accountants, auditors, managers, business writers, etc.) or even if you do not, please consider volunteering, (email us at [managementsvcs@bldnewark.com](mailto:managementsvcs@bldnewark.com)). Together, let us view these for what they too are – opportunities to serve the Lord, so that we too may one day say to Him, ***“Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.”*** (Mt 25:20)

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

*father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come”.* (Mk 10: 21, 23, 28-30)

In Matthew 6:19-21, Our LORD Jesus teaches ***“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal”.*** Further, in Luke 12:15,33, our Lord Jesus said to the crowd, ***“Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions.....Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy.”*** It is, therefore, His will that we take care of His people, especially the poor. As we surrender our will to Him, He will use us mightily in His mission of evangelization, the propagation of His Word, and the realization and faithfulness of His love. Our God shows no partiality, because He made the great, as well as the small. He provides for all alike, and He judges everyone impartially, according to each one's works, for all were created by His powerful love, and all were ransomed from their sins by the same precious blood of our LORD Jesus Christ. (CCC 153)

In Matthew 16:17, when St. Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, Jesus declared to him that this revelation did not come from “flesh and blood”, but from “My Father who is in heaven”. Faith is a gift of God, a supernatural virtue infused by Him. By faith, we believe in God and all that He has revealed. By the same faith, we have complete trust in what the Holy Church proposes for us to believe. By hope, we desire and, with a steadfast trust, await eternal life and graces to merit it. By charity, we love our God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves, for the love of Him.

***“...A little with righteousness is better than abundance with wickedness. It is better to give alms than to store up gold, for almsgiving saves one from death and expiates every sin. Those who regularly give alms shall enjoy a full life.”*** (Tob 12:8-9)

***“Give alms from your possessions. Do not turn your face away from any of the poor, and God's face will not be turned away from you. Son, give alms in proportion to what you own. If you have great wealth, give alms out of your abundance; if you have but little, distribute even some of that. But do not hesitate to give***

Continued on page 4

## COUNSELS

(from page 3)

*alms; you will be storing up a goodly treasure for yourself against the day of adversity. Almsgiving frees one from death, and keeps one from going into the dark abode. Alms are a worthy offering in the sight of the Most High for all who give them.*" (Tob 4:7-11)

Today's gospel is a proclamation in praise of faith and it demands a response: **What are our priorities? Where does our security lie?** If our relationship with God is not our first concern, what is? Are we willing to give our lives, our all for Jesus Christ and the gospel?

To live the discipleship that Jesus asks of us, we must share the cross of Jesus by carrying the burden of the weak and the poor. As a consequent, we perceive their problems as our own problems.

If we truly have faith, then we will respond to the gospel. If we have but complete trust in God and His providential care, we will let go of the fear that there will not be enough for us. It must be our firm belief and conviction that when we share out of our poverty, both material and spiritual, we will have more than we need.

**Praise be the LORD!!!**

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Give until it hurts.
2. Live out your faith with generous giving of your time, talent, and treasure.

## BLD VISION

- We are a community of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about a world of justice, human development and true peace.

## BLD MISSION

In response to the challenges of our particular place, time and culture:

### For our families:

- We will evangelize families and build communities of faith through encounters, Life in the Spirit Seminars and discipleship formation.
- We will give formation on personal and family prayer, pro-life values, Catholic social teachings and stewardship.

### For our communities:

- We will actively participate in the life and mission of the Church in accord with our God-given gifts.

### For our country:

- We will work on poverty alleviation through scholarships, housing for the poor and advocacies for life, environment and good governance.

*"We must pray without tiring, for the salvation of mankind does not depend on material success; nor on sciences that cloud the intellect. Neither does it depend on arms and human industries, but on Jesus alone."*

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

**YEAR OF FAITH 2012**

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)

## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Collections	Collections
<b>T I N O C O L L E C T I O N S</b>		
	Offering	Offering

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

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Nov 16 Teaching – **Mark 10, John 6**

Nov 23 Teaching – **Golden Years**

Nov 30 Intro to the Word/CDFP Overview – **ME 40**

**Time:** Friday: after worship, \*Saturday: 1-6 pm

**Venue:** Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

\*\*\*\*\*

### Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden

Nov 17 • St. Mary's @ Divine Mercy Parish

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION

#### Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ  
November 24 • **Word Ministry** • Contacts: Fil and Hum Flores

#### Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.  
Nov 10 • **SPE 14** • Contacts: Angie Valeroso

### 2013 Medical Mission

**Feb 18-21** • La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines  
Volunteers' acceptance will be on a first-come-first-serve basis. Sign up as soon as you have decided. Submission deadline Dec 15, 2012. For online application form, click here: [BLD Medical Mission 2013: Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet](#)  
Contact Mosty/Ling Garcia @ [district@bldnewark.com](mailto:district@bldnewark.com)

### Stewardship - It's a way of life!

<b>Marshaling</b>		<b>Schedule</b>	Date	Apostolate
			Nov 16	Evangelization
			Nov 23	Pastoral
			Nov 30	Formation
			Dec 07	Management
			Dec 14	Mission

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000



### Moments

<i>Happy moments</i>	<b>Praise God</b>
<i>Difficult moments</i>	<b>Seek God</b>
<i>Quiet moments</i>	<b>Worship God</b>
<i>Painful moments</i>	<b>Trust God</b>
<i>Every moment</i>	<b>Thank God</b>



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 45

Bulletin Edition

November 16, 2012

## ME #40 reels off



**Praise the LORD!** Last weekend's Marriage Encounter, which was held at St. Peter's Retreat House in Belleville, New Jersey, has blessed our community with ten (10) couples and two (2) nuns. *Continued on page 4*

## COUNSELS

### The Lord is Coming Again

**THEME:** Those who love God and neighbor stay vigilant for the Lord's coming.

**WORD:** Dn 12:1-3 / Ps 16:5,8-11;  
Heb:10:11-14,18 / Mk 13:24-32

**ORDER:** Be vigilant for the Lord's second coming.

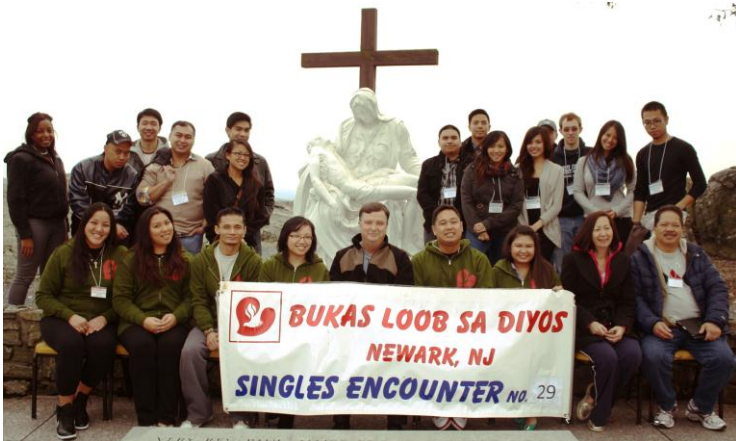
#### REFLECTION:

The fall season of the year prepares us for the great death of nature about to come. It is the time of "The Last Rose of Summer" left blooming alone. All of its lovely companions are faded and gone. During this nostalgic season, the church invites us for several Sundays to meditate on the great themes of the end. Death will come for all of us. There will be a final judgment.

Is this a message that shocks us? Is the Gospel reminding us of the end, good tidings? Yes, since we, Christians, know that whatever happens, no destruction is final. New roses will bloom on the same apparently dead bush. The seed dies in the soil in order to bear new life.

*"He will send out the angels and gather His elect from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky."* (Mk 13:27) On that Day *"the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky."* (Mk 13:25) On that Day, we *"will see the 'Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory."* (Mk 13:26) It will be a time unsurpassed in distress, but everyone who is found written in the book of Life shall escape (Dn 12:1); all His chosen He shall rescue. For He will not "suffer His faithful one to undergo corruption, but show him the path to life and give him fullness of joys in His presence. (Ps 16:11) *Continued on page 3*

## SE #29 brings love to BLD Newark



A glorious Singles Encounter #29 weekend has taken place at the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement Spiritual Center in Garrison, N.Y. on November 9-11, 2012. God has shown His mighty power upon the class of 14 strong-spirited individuals who bonded as a family.

*Continued on page 4*

### Promise of the Week

*"But the wise shall shine brightly like the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever."* (Dn 12:3)



## **I FORGIVE YOU, PLEASE FORGIVE ME**

**“Heavenly Father, help me to forgive”.**

One of the challenges we face as a disciple of Christ is to take the responsibility to forgive. The ramification of the original sin had been passed on for generations. The cascading consequences of negative relationship have piled up to the point that most of us experience emptiness and feeling of abandonment or perhaps, just plain insensitive.

There are many factors that stifle our action to take accountability for mistakes made. We often fear that act of forgiveness may not be received positively by the other person involved. When we embrace resentments, it becomes a stronghold to forgiveness. It fuels negative emotions, and the longer we take the step to forgive and ask for forgiveness, the greater the chance that it will arise to a more irrational anger and hatred.

**Are you disappointed? Are you angry? I am sure you are.** Emotions, such as these, are good as long as we use it for God’s purpose. It helps us recognize the problem and gauge the necessary action to take. We need to infuse the power of the Holy Spirit to work in us in order for us to go through the process of forgiveness, more so, when we struggle from within, feeling empty and dry.

God uses His Word, people and circumstances to mold us in the likeness of Christ. He gives us the Word to know the truth, people to gain support, and circumstances to live an environment that would give the opportunity to put our total reliance on the Triune God. It is a time to supernaturally let go of our limited capacity and letting God do the rest. However, we have to put our heart and mind in the right disposition, that is, “sincere repentance”.

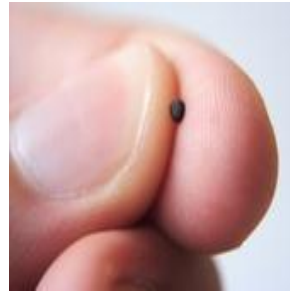
As Mother Teresa said, **“It is in my dryness that it heightened my appreciation for my heroic love for God”**. By abiding with His Word, our loving Father will soar and sail our free will to choose what is right and just, **“to forgive and be forgiven”** (Lk 17:3-4).

When we look at our negative encounters in the same light as Mother Teresa, it gives us the opportunity to build our character. The human (and divine) dimension of Jesus Christ has given us a perfect model to follow. He endured pain and difficulties through His humility and His constant love for God.

In Proverbs 4:23, it tells us that the heart is the source of life. Therefore, let us guard our heart in obedience, so it will shape up our life for the Gospel: to love God with all our heart, mind and soul and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

**“I love you, I forgive you, please forgive me.”**

## **Faith Brings Hope**



The apostles said to the Lord, **“increase our faith!”**; and the Lord said, **“if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, ‘be uprooted and be planted in the sea’, and it would obey you”** (Luke 17:5-6).

The illustration of the obedient mulberry tree may be a hyperbole or a description of the apostolic power that they were to receive. To possess FAITH is to have HOPE, as faith expects success and victory no matter the odds. Faith in God can accomplish anything that God intends for anyone who believes.

With hope comes motivation and ingenuity; with God’s empowerment, an open mind follows. Solutions and alternatives emerge as prayer and belief converge in one’s life. When we hope, we renew not only our faith in ourselves, but more importantly, our faith in the Almighty, Who leads us on the right path. The things that take away our hope and challenge us to do better are not always what they seem to be. When the world around us crumbles, we grasp at hope and find the strength within ourselves borne on faith that God gifted us to pursue what will be best for us.

God, through our faith, can make us move mountains and trees and even our own hearts for His glory. Faith is so powerful because Christ, upon Whom faith is anchored, is powerful. Such is the faith which relies on Jesus, His love and His strength. This kind of faith enables us to rise above the most threatening of circumstances and brings hope to all. As St. Paul once said, **“I have the strength for everything through Him Who empowers me.”** (Phil 4:13)

Today, our hearts may seem to say “Increase our faith!” as we realize that our faith in Jesus is weaker than it ought to be. Let us ask Him to make our belief stronger and our doubting, less.

Amidst the turbulent times of our lives, when we lack confidence, Jesus is worthy of our trust. It takes a powerful faith to make powerful and successful disciples. We need great faith because we are saved by faith (*Ephesians 2:8*) and we live by faith (*2 Corinthians 5:7*). Faith is the foundation of our hope (*Hebrews 10:22-23*) and is the victory that overcomes the world (*1 John 5:4*).



Nov. 21 ~ Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
**“We never give more honour to Jesus than when we honour his Mother, and we honour her simply and solely to honour him all the more perfectly. We go to her only as a way leading to the goal we seek - Jesus, her Son.”**  
Saint Louis Marie de Montfort

# SHEPHERD'S VOICE

## AUTHENTIC WORSHIP



In the Old Testament, Deuteronomy 6:4-6, Moses said to the people; **Sh'ma "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone! Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with all**

**your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today".**

"Sh'ma" is the Hebrew word for listen as in "Hear, O Israel". These sacred words from Deuteronomy express the fervent faith in one God and love of God with one's whole heart, soul, and strength. They are so sacred that Deuteronomy mandates that they should be worn by the people on their wrist and forehead and posted at the doorpost of every Jewish home.

Again in the New Testament, Mark 12:29-30, we hear Jesus saying; **"Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.**

Jesus echoes the same words from Deuteronomy, calling them the first and greatest commandment. However, when a sympathetic scribe asked Jesus a very sincere question while in front of the temple, Jesus gave him an authentic response. Authentic Worship is not only that we believe in God, but also, that we love Him body, mind and soul. Our love remains flat, however, unless we do the second leg of love, that is, love of our fellow man. On that day, Jesus gave the scribe and all of us the first and second greatest commandments: love of God first and love of fellow men second.

Authentic Worship is twofold: **love of God and love of fellow men.** How can we love God whom we do not see and our fellow men that, most of the time, we hate? Jesus did not only command us to follow His commandments, He also demonstrated to us the true meaning of Authentic Worship when He offered His own life on the Cross, all because of His great love for God and us. Jesus' example is not to scare or frighten us, rather, it is meant to strengthen us.

Strength, as mentioned in Psalm 18:2a, **"I love you, LORD, my strength."** Jesus is our strength! With Jesus as our strength, we can truly love God and our fellow men with the love of Jesus.

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

Brothers and sisters, the Lord has taken His seat forever at the right hand of God; now He waits until His enemies are made His footstool. Though "He has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated" and "there is no longer offering for sin", the time is yet to be fulfilled for all His chosen to partake of His "one sacrifice for sins" (Heb 10:12-13) He, who is our "allotted portion and our cup", must be drunk to the full by all His elect, must be made perfect as He by joining in His sacrifice. And though He is near at the gates, ready to break in upon our world in His time and according to His ways, yet, **"this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place"** (Mk 13:29-30): all the tribulations must come upon the earth, and all His children must be made ready for His Day.

Brothers and sisters, the Lord holds fast our lot and with Him at our right hand we shall not be disturbed. **"Heaven and earth will pass away, but His words will not pass away."** (Mk 13:31) and it is in His word that we put our whole trust.

So let our hearts and souls rejoice and our bodies abide in confidence, for **"the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament"** on the day of the Lord's return. We must not join those who "shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace", but we "shall live forever in the light of His face". If we hear the word of the Lord and receive it in our hearts; see the signs before our eyes, join ourselves to His holy sacrifice, we shall know "the delights at His right hand forever" in heaven where He now reigns.

### DIRECTION:

❖ **Let your witnessing be the light that will lead many to justice.**

#### ACT OF FAITH

O my God, I firmly believe all the truths that the Holy Catholic Church believes and teaches; I believe these truths, O Lord, because You, the infallible Truth, has revealed them to her; in this faith I am resolved to live and die. Amen.

#### ACT OF HOPE

O my God, relying on Your promises, I hope that, through the infinite merits of Jesus Christ, You will grant me pardon of my sins, and the graces necessary to serve You in this life and to obtain eternal happiness in the next. Amen

#### ACT OF LOVE

O Lord God, I love You above all things and I love my neighbor for Your sake because You are the highest, infinite and perfect good, worthy of all my love. In this love I intend to live and die. Amen.

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

## ME #40 *(from page 1)*

The candidates felt the presence of the Holy Spirit through the sharing of the Pastoral team, headed by Chito & Aileen Ciocon and Casey & Malyn Tanseco, and Spiritual Directors, Fr. Paul Lehman & Fr. Dave Sison.

We sincerely thank the hardworking class of ME#39, members of various ministries; and families and friends from the community, who served and interceded for the success of this weekend.

We offer our warm welcome to the graduates of Class ME #40, headed by their shepherds, Casey & Malyn Tanseco: Pedro & Maria Castano, Jose Jr. & Luz Duenas, Jun & Tess Galvez, Sr. Remedios Guerrero, William & Carol Lagrada, Orlando & Marichelle Lizardo\*, Sr. Vima Orejola, Archie & Lelet Quevada, Jose & Julieta Songco, Carl & Nanita Sulit, Hermenegildo & Mila Leonora Tindoy\*, and Michael & Carmen Weiner\*. (*\*class coordinators*)

Let us pray incessantly for these couples, our new brothers and sisters in the community. May each one of us be a continuous source of support and prayer for their needs and spiritual journey. **To God be the Glory!**

## SE #29 *(from page 1)*

It was truly quality over quantity as personalities complimented and lives intersected, forming new relationships molded by God's love. God granted them the strength to attend a retreat dedicated to strengthening their spiritual lives and increasing the clarity of His love for each one of us.

The BLD Community welcomes: Carl Keven Chang, Kevin Col, Andrew J. Dowding, Jeremiah Esguerra\*, Gerwin Paul Gabriel, Joseph Ryan Jao, Kate Miguel, Stephanie J. Olasso\*, Anne Lauren P. Olaya\*, Timothy Ramon Ombrete, Patricia R. Philippeaux, Robinson Pintor, Rhuwell Samano\*, and Nikki L. Velasco with open arms and hearts. (*\*class coordinator*)

Hard work and effort with heart-warming talks and impeccable leadership were put forth by facilitators: Ditto Fernando, Vanessa Fabe, Dana Alburo, Rico Cairme, Pauline Montemayor, and Jen Ompod. The sponsoring class, SE #28, auxies and class shepherds worked together to provide an enlightening experience for the candidates.

Deacon Serge Bernatchez served as our Spiritual Director, who shared his wise and relatable stories, and Fr. Michael Fugee as our energetic and wonderful Eucharistic celebrant during the Sunday Mass.

The BLD Newark Singles Ministry is blessed with promising new faces of unique individuals, who will be guided by Class Shepherds, Danny & Me-Anne Sta. Ana.

**God bless us all!**

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	2,373	143,417

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

## TEACHING CALENDAR

Nov 23 Teaching – **Golden Years**

Nov 30 Intro to the Word/CDFP Overview – **ME 40**

**Time:** Friday: after worship, \*Saturday: 1-6 pm

**Venue:** Divine Mercy Parish School Classrooms, Rahway, NJ

## Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden

Nov 17 • St. Mary's @ Divine Mercy Parish

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ

November 24 • **Word Ministry** • Contacts: Fil and Hum Flores

### 2013 Medical Mission

Feb 18-21 • La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines

Volunteers' acceptance will be on a first-come-first-serve basis. Sign up as soon as you have decided. Submission deadline Dec 15, 2012. For online application form click here: [BLD Medical Mission 2013: Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet](#)  
Contact Mosty/Ling Garcia @ [district@bldnewark.com](mailto:district@bldnewark.com)



### DECEMBER 2012 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Date	Apostolate
Dec 07	Eucharistic Celebration
Dec 14	ME & Ministry Worship
Dec 21	Community Worship
Dec 28	Family Worship



March For Life **January 25, 2013**

If you wish to join, please contact,  
Ray/Tess Salmo: [parish@bldnewark.com](mailto:parish@bldnewark.com)



Date	Apostolate
Nov 23	Pastoral
Nov 30	Formation
Dec 07	Management
Dec 14	Mission
Dec 21	Pastoral

*Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

## BLD ALLENTOWN NEEDS HELP

For:	LSS #2
When:	December 1-2, 2012
Where:	Barnabite Spiritual Center, 4301 Hecktown Road, Bethlehem, PA 18010
Contact	DIP Shepherds - Gerry & Dimples Canlas
Persons:	(201) 693-6119/ <a href="mailto:gcanlas@optonline.net">gcanlas@optonline.net</a>

## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS OF ST. PAUL

The letters of St. Paul were written prior to the first written Gospel around 48-62 AD. Understanding the destination, purpose and themes of each letter will help us grow stronger in faith through a deeper insight on St. Paul's Holy Spirit inspired works: what God has done in Christ and how Christians are to respond.

The Canonical Order: Divided into two groups; arranged to size - larger letters first

- Letters to Churches: Romans, I & II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Thessalonians
- Letters to Individuals: I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon

St. Paul worked as the leader of a missionary team, preaching the Good News in his three missionary journeys in the Mediterranean World, founding churches in urban commercial cities and towns: Ephesus, Colossae, region of Galatia (now modern Turkey), Corinth, Thessalonica and Philippi (now Greece).

The book of Acts fills out the picture of Paul's three missionary Journeys: First (Acts 13:1-14:28); Second (Acts 15:36-18:32); Third (Acts 18:23-21:15), but no such itinerary is discernible from Paul's letters, which make no reference to distinctive trips. Neither Paul's letters nor the book of Acts provides exact dates that designate when the events to which they refer took place. St. Paul speaks often of the "gospel" (euangelion, literally "good news") that has been revealed to him by God. It is a dynamic force that Paul identifies as the "power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Rom 1:16; cf, 1 Cor 1:18).

Let us learn more about each of his letters.

### INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS

**Destination:** Colossian Church, written by Paul between 60 A.D.- 62 A.D., when Paul spent two years under house arrest in Rome (Acts 28:16,30). Most biblical scholars put Colossians, together with Ephesians, Philippians and Philemon as letters written by Paul when he was in captivity.

The city of Colossae was built along the Lycus River in the Roman province of Asia, now western Turkey. It was once a thriving industrial center positioned on a major trade route that stretched across Asia Minor from the western city of Ephesus to the eastern city of Tarsus. Paul neither founded nor visited the Colossian Church (2:1).

A Colossian named Epaphras was converted while Paul was preaching in Ephesus and brought the gospel to the Colossians. Paul considers Epaphras' missionary work among Gentiles an extension of his own (1:70-8). Despite an established Jewish population in the region, the Colossian Church was comprised mainly of uncircumcised Gentiles (2:13).

#### **Purpose and Themes:**

Epaphras traveled to Rome to update Paul on church growth as well as their struggles. He informed Paul that certain agitators were planting doubts in the minds of the Colossians about their new faith. Paul wrote to address this danger and to reassure these believing Gentiles of their Christian inheritance (1:12, 21-22). Paul is addressing also the growing friction between Jewish and Christian communities in Colossia. The letter confronts false teachings that are making inroads into the local Church, confusing the minds of many young converts.

Colossians is engaged in constructive apologetics, clarifying the truth of Christian doctrine. Towering above every theme in Colossians is the doctrine of Jesus Christ's preeminence over all things: the Supremacy, Divinity of Christ, and the Ruler of the Universe. He is not just the Savior of humanity but also the one who reconciles all things in heaven and on earth. The person of Christ is described as one who is "the image of the invisible God" in whom "all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell". The work of Christ includes his traditional role as God's agent of redemption but is expanded to include serving also as God's agent of creation: all things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, were created "through him and for him" (1:14-20; 2:9).

Colossians reminds us that the crucified Christ has triumphed over the entire army of demonic spirits (2:15) and we need not be concerned about rules or practices that will make us more acceptable to God, for Christ has already reconciled them with God through the blood of his cross (1:20), and he will present us to God as "holy and blameless and irreproachable" through his death. (1:22).

Now, if we are in Christ, then, we are complete and sufficient because Christ is God. Since we have a new life in Christ, let us set our minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth (3:1-2). We and the Colossians are challenged to conform our lives to the gospel and let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts (3:5-17).

Peace is one of the great blessings that Jesus Christ has given to the world (Jn 14:27). It is rooted in our reconciliation with God (Lk 2:14; Rom 5:1). It is an inward peace (Rom 15:13; Gal 5:22) that can branch out to establish peace between individuals, families and even nations (Eph 2:14-18).

Do we allow Jesus to transform our homes and our community into places of love, forgiveness, harmony and peace? (3:18-4:1)

**NOVEMBER 30, 2012 CN 47 ISSUE:**

**Introduction to the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians and the first letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians.**



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 46

Bulletin Edition

November 23, 2012

## NEWS

### BLD retreat immerses 22 in the humility of Christ

*A Call to Servanthood in the Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden Retreat*

Twenty-two community members: married couples, solo parents and singles, responded to God's call and attended the "Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden Retreat" at Divine Mercy Church on November 17, 2012.

The day began with praise and worship, led by Norie and Miriam Abes from the Service Ministry. The whole event was spirit-filled, even the cold temperature could not dampen the warm spirits of all retreatants.

Father Chris Panlilio served as the Retreat Director. At the retreat, there were eight movements, each consisting of teachings and sharings. The speakers shared how the grace of God transformed and inspired them to serve others generously and with humility; how to love and respect the sacred unique individuality of each person; how to see God's will in suffering; and how to accept and trust God in what He tries to accomplish in our souls. The Holy Spirit touched and moved each participant as retreatants prayed and interceded for one another. The solemn atmosphere during the practicum led to each participant's encounter with the Lord, which gave them joy and thanksgiving as evident in their reflections when they shared at the retreat's concluding Eucharistic Celebration.

The retreat was sponsored in a spirit of cooperation by the Teaching, Intercessory and Service ministries.

*"So when he had washed their feet and put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, 'Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master', and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet.'" (Jn 13:12-14)*

*"He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will, but as you will.'" (Mt 26:39)*

## COUNSELS

### The Solemnity of Christ the King



**THEME:** Those who love God and neighbor testify to the Truth in Christ.

**WORD:** Dn 7:13-14/Ps 93:1-2,5  
Rv 1:5-8/Jn 18:33-37

**ORDER:** Listen to my voice and testify to the truth.

**REFLECTION:**

This Sunday, we look forward to the coming of our Savior, when Christ will come in all His glory and His Kingship is made known to all, as we celebrate the **Solemnity of Jesus Christ the King**. Our scriptures are from the last Sunday of the Liturgical Cycle - the end of our church year. By concluding the year with this feast, we are proclaiming our faith that Jesus Christ is the One and Only King over all seasons, all peoples, and all of creation.

Fundamentally, when we proclaim Jesus as the King of kings and Lord of lords, we claim that there is no higher authority. His reign over all things is absolute and permanent. God the Father raised Him from the dead and placed Him over all things, *"far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and above every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the Church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way."* (Eph 1:21-23).

Tonight, we listened to the prophet Daniel as he is granted a vision of the "Son of Man", *Continued, page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*"His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, his kingship, one that shall not be destroyed." (Daniel 7:14b)*

## Invest in God's Blessings

*"I tell you, to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."* (Luke 19:26)

Why would God give more to people that already have, and take away from people who don't? Is God referring to possessions of this world or of your spiritual richness? God simply put it in terms everybody can relate to - for those who have faith in Jesus, blessings will be given to; but for those who do not, demonstrated by their constant fears and anxieties, nothing will be given to them and all will be taken away.

In this context, it makes sense. People who welcome God are going to accept the blessings He offers, and be able to build on them to get more. People who reject God aren't going to be able to keep the spiritual blessings. Our spirituality is either growing or shrinking... it can't just sit. The Latin Vulgate version adds, *"and he shall abound, or shall have abundance"*. (Mt 25:29)

Perhaps, this principle applies to every man's individual gifts from God - his talents. In the Bible, it is clear that everyone is given "gifts" - a unique mix of abilities.

Jesus fashioned you for a particular purpose. To everyone is committed some special endowment, for which he will be held responsible by the Lord.

We are entrusted by God to use all our gifts wisely and unselfishly. The talents are distributed to every man according to his several abilities that he may add to them by wise investment. Even if one has but a single talent, if used well, will lead to more - if the talents are not buried, they will gain yet other talents.

Understand, that the gains we receive are not our own. The entrusted capital is to be used, and when the returns are made, they are still the Lord's property. We have no right to hoard these talents.

God blesses us with these gifts and expects us to use and "invest" them. However, if you, like the third servant, bury your gift out of selfishness or fear, if you do not share the profits they generate, you will be held accountable. You see, you have been given gifts for the purpose of serving God.

Faith is not being passive while others are active, waiting while others are busy, or stalling while others are resolving. Instead, faith maximizes our talents to glorify God. Amen!

From the children of John 6:

## What is Thanksgiving to Me?

*"Thanksgiving isn't just a period when Pilgrims crossed over on the Mayflower to America or a meal that we share with others because it's a holiday. Thanksgiving is more than that."* Isabella

*"Thanksgiving is a day we acknowledge all God gives us."* Michael

*"Thanksgiving is a sign of love to me. It's when we thank the Lord for what He has done for us. We thank Him for the things He has given to us such as our family, shelter, and other things we have. We praise and honor Him for His great glory. Thanksgiving is when we say many prayers! It's a day when we express our gratitude and feel blessed for every small good thing that has happened to us in our everyday life."* Poochie

*"Thanks and giving make up Thanksgiving. You might ask yourself, "Give thanks for what?" For everything God has given you."* Paul



## "Thank you Lord for..."

*"I'll give thanks for BLD, where I've grown up in the light of God, where I've met wonderful people that help me grow, where I hope to be every Friday."* Paul

*"I would like to thank God for blessing me with such wonderful and caring parents. Despite of all the trials, by His grace, we are still together supporting and caring for one another."* Isabella

*"We often forget the true meaning of Thanksgiving and just remember it as a day to be with family. However, we also must know that God has brought us into this world and gave us all these wonderful things. We must acknowledge that God always gives abundantly and we must do our best to give back to Him."* Michael

*"The most special gift He gave us is His son, Jesus Christ. We thank God for sending Him from heaven to save us from sins."* Poochie

*"We hope and pray to be witnesses of God's love to others in all our actions and in our lives. To God be the Glory and the honor and the Thanksgiving!"* Isabella

***"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; His mercy endures forever."***

(Psalm 107:1)



***"Thanksgiving is acknowledging that we don't deserve anything but God blesses us anyway."***

Kevin Martineau

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

a figure representing the kingdom of God's holy ones "on the clouds of heaven," that is, from God. His reign, being celestial and divine, is different from that of earthly powers. The Son of Man receiving "*dominion, splendor, and kingship; all nations, peoples and tongues will serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, his kingship, one that shall not be destroyed.*" (Dn 7:13-14) This prophecy is directly about the Lord Jesus Christ, the One to receive universal dominion and power, precisely because of the blood He shed upon the cross.

We are also given a rare passage from the Book of Revelation on the second reading that is simply beautiful. Let its message and words move our hearts with joy and gratitude: Jesus has freed us from darkness and blessed us all to be "priests for His God and Father," all because He loves us. He is the One "Son of Man", Who has joined us all together into a kingdom to reflect God's holiness and love.

As we conclude our church year and look forward to the new one, and as we celebrate this ending, we are also aware that Jesus is the Beginning, and that beginning comes again for us, drawing us back into the cycle of His birth during Advent and His resurrection during Easter, returning in glory.

John's Gospel emphasizes that Jesus' kingdom is not of this world, not of this universe of time and space, not a world of limits and changeability. Rather, His kingdom is founded on his Sonship with His Father and founded on personal relationship, knowledge, and love; a kingdom of heaven that is available to us right now, here on earth. Jesus gave us ways to participate in His kingdom of heaven here on earth, as in the Beatitudes, "*Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*" (Mt 5:3) and in the two great commandments. In our BLD Community, we are called to help build up God's kingdom by loving Jesus in our poorest brethren, through our mission apostolate, nursing visitations and soup kitchens.

The Gospel takes us to Jesus' crucifixion, in contrast to the glory of His kingship. We know what had happened to Him in order to bring about the kingdom. He referred to a kingdom that does not belong to this world, as He said, "*If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants (would) be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews...*" (John 18:36) Jesus revealed that the Kingdom of God is not about political power, rather, it is the power of conversion that is taking place in the hearts of His people - to each one of us, you and I, who hear and listen to His Truth.

The concluding dialogue between Jesus and Pilate gave proof that those who know His Truth will recognize Jesus as King. Yet His Kingship was unknown *Continued, page 4*

## IT'S QUIZ TIME

### This is a test... only a test.

Below are 20 quotes. The challenge is to correctly answer this question:

### Is it in the Bible or Not?



B/N?

Quote

- \_\_\_ 1. It is not titles that honor men, but men that honor titles.
- \_\_\_ 2. Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the old.
- \_\_\_ 3. It is a divine privilege always to be less the beloved than the lover.
- \_\_\_ 4. A man wrapped up in himself makes a very small bundle.
- \_\_\_ 5. Whatever you do, do from the heart.
- \_\_\_ 6. Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom, nor the strong boast of his strength, nor the rich man boast of his riches.
- \_\_\_ 7. To be able to give away riches is mandatory if you wish to possess them. This is the only way that you will be truly rich. Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.
- \_\_\_ 8. Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span? Why are you anxious about clothes?
- \_\_\_ 9. The love you take is equal to the love you make.
- \_\_\_ 10. Be strong and do not slack off, for there shall be a reward for what you do.
- \_\_\_ 11. Almsgiving with righteousness is better than wealth with wickedness.
- \_\_\_ 12. For small creatures such as we, the vastness is bearable only through love.
- \_\_\_ 13. By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread.
- \_\_\_ 14. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.
- \_\_\_ 15. I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do.
- \_\_\_ 16. Test everything; retain what is good.
- \_\_\_ 17. All men are by nature equal, made all of the same earth by one Workman; and however we deceive ourselves, as dear unto God is the poor peasant as the mighty prince.
- \_\_\_ 18. If you search for him, he will be found.
- \_\_\_ 19. Make straight the way of the Lord.
- \_\_\_ 20. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

(see page 4 for answers)



*Ignorance of the Bible  
Is ignorance of Christ?  
Read your Bible daily!*

## COUNSELS (from page 3)

to many, and only those chosen who have the eyes of faith are able to see. As His disciples, we struggle at times, to recognize Jesus as King. This Sunday's Gospel invites us to see with those eyes of faith, to recognize that Jesus, through His crucifixion and death, is indeed King and Savior of all!

We claim this Truth, the Kingdom of God, as we submit ourselves in obedience to our Lord as King. We allow Jesus to reign over all aspects of our lives; whatever God asks of us becomes our first consideration and priority. And yet, how does God rule over us? He never forces or coerces us, He gives us free will to accept or reject His grace. In affording us choice, the Lord asks us to see His law, with the capacity to do what we ought. His yoke is easy and His burden is light, if only we give ourselves over to Him and claim His kingdom, "a kingdom of truth and life... of holiness and grace... of justice, love and peace."

Now, it is Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, that we, as Christians, and a community of faith, owe our ultimate allegiance to, but do we know what we prize most in our lives? As committed or covenanted disciples in the BLD Community, we pledge to give our ultimate allegiance to Jesus Christ. We prize Him the most and glorify Him in our lives!

On this feast of Christ the King, we might ask ourselves: How do we spend our time, energy and resources so we can have a deeper commitment to Jesus? Do we spend them in prayer and service to others? Or are we simply absorbed in ourselves?

As we know Jesus better, we let our relationship with Him become a priority in our lives, and we rise to a new transformed existence with Him. Jesus is our Lord, our Word and King! He sacrificed to atone for sinners and "*God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 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, to the glory of God the Father.*" (Phil 2:9-11) He is "*the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word.*" (Heb 1:3). He is our Lord in that He demands our ultimate allegiance and He is our Word of God – the image of the invisible God among us. His Word calls us to ongoing conversion to have a "change of heart," to remove our selfishness and turn to God for an ever deeper discipleship with Jesus.

On this feast, I pray to God our Father to empower us to recommit ourselves to Jesus Christ and His mission in the world today. I pray that God will continue to bless us abundantly this Thanksgiving, as we give thanks to Him for all our blessings and the gift of one another through our BLD Community.

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead and Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him, Who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, Who has made us into a kingdom, priests for His God and Father - to Him be glory and power forever and ever. Praised be Jesus Christ our King now and forever! Amen.

**DIRECTION:** Love God with all your heart, and all of your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,238	146,655

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)  
Thank you for your continued support!

## TEACHING CALENDAR

### Intro to the Word/CDFD Overview – ME 40

Friday, November 30, 2012, after worship  
Divine Mercy Parish School Classroom, Rahway, NJ

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION: Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ  
November 24 • Word Ministry • Contacts: Fil and Hum Flores

### 2013 Medical Mission

Feb 18-21, 2013 • La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines

Volunteers considered on a first-come-first-serve basis.  
Sign up as soon as you have decided. Sign up deadline - **Dec 15, 2012**.  
For online application, click:

[BLD Medical Mission 2013: Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet](#)

(link also available at [BLDNewark.com](http://BLDNewark.com))

Contacts: Mosty/Ling Garcia @ [district@bldnewark.com](mailto:district@bldnewark.com)



January 25, 2013, Washington D.C.

If you wish to join, please contact,  
Ray/Tess Salmo: [parish@bldnewark.com](mailto:parish@bldnewark.com)

### BLD Allentown needs help for LSS #2

Dec 1-2, 2012 @ Barnabite Spiritual Center, Bethlehem, PA  
Contacts: Gerry & Dimples Canlas  
(201) 693-6119/[ORallentown@bldnewark.com](mailto:ORallentown@bldnewark.com)



### DCS/DLC PASTORAL HOUR

Tuesday, November 27, 2012 at 7:30 PM  
Divine Mercy Parish Library

## ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Not-Machiavelli / [2. Bible-Lv 19:32](#) / 3. Not-CS Lewis / 4. Not-B Franklin / [5. Bible-Col 3:23](#) / [6. Bible-Jer 9:22](#) / 7. Not-Muhammad Ali / [8. Bible-Mt 6:27-28](#) / 9. Not-McCartney / [10. Bible-2Chr 15:7](#) / [11. Bible-Tb 12:8](#) / 12. Not-C Sagan / [13. Bible-Gen 3:19](#) / [14. Bible-Mt 6:21 + Lk 12:34](#) / 15. Not-da Vinci / [16. Bible-1 Thes 5:21](#) / 17. Not-Plato / [18. Bible-1Chr 28:9](#) / [19. Bible-Jn 1:23](#) / [20. Bible-Heb 13:8](#) (Sources: [Bible - NABRE](#)/Non Bible - BrainyQuote.com)

## Schedule for the Rest of the Year

Date	Worship	Marshals
Nov 30	ME & Ministry Worship	Formation
Dec 07	Eucharistic Celebration	Management
Dec 14	ME & Ministry Worship	Mission
Dec 21	Community Worship	Evangelization
Dec 28	Family Worship	Pastoral

Please notify the Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)





# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 47

Bulletin Edition

November 30, 2012

## NEWS

## COUNSELS

### Six new cardinals created at consistory



**POPE: "THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE CHURCH FLOWS FROM THE UNIVERSALITY OF GOD'S UNIQUE PLAN OF SALVATION FOR THE WORLD."**

By Ann Schneible

ROME, NOV. 26, 2012 ([Zenit.org](http://Zenit.org)).- Pope Benedict XVI created 6 new cardinals during Sunday's consistory in the Vatican.

Each of the six new cardinals hails from a non-European continent: Archbishop Luis Tagle of Manila, Philippines; Lebanon's Maronite Patriarch of Bechara Rai; US Archbishop James M. Harvey; head of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, Archbishop Baselia Cleemis Thottunkal of India; Archbishop John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan of Nigeria; and Archbishop Ruben Salazar Gomez of Colombia.

During his homily at the consistory Mass, Pope Benedict focused on the meaning of the word "catholic", a word, he said, "which indicates an essential feature of the Church and her mission."

"What makes the Church catholic is the fact that Christ in his saving mission embraces all humanity. While during his earthly life Jesus' mission was limited to the Jewish people, 'to the lost sheep of the house of Israel' (Mt 15:24), from the beginning it was meant to bring the light of the Gospel to all peoples and lead all nations into the kingdom of God."

It is by following Jesus, the Holy Father continued, "by allowing oneself to be drawn into his humanity and hence into communion with God, that one enters this new kingdom proclaimed and anticipated by the Church, a kingdom that conquers fragmentation and dispersal."

"The universality of the Church flows from the universality of God's unique plan of salvation for the world. This universal character emerges clearly on the

*Continued on page 3*

### A Day of Justice and Peace

**THEME:** We prepare for the coming of Christ when we do what is right and just.

**WORD :** Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5,8-9,10,14  
1 Thes 3:12-4:2/Lk 21:25-28,34-36

**ORDER:** "Increase and abound in love for one another and for all." (1 Thes 3:12)

*"Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man."* (Luke 21:36)

#### REFLECTION:

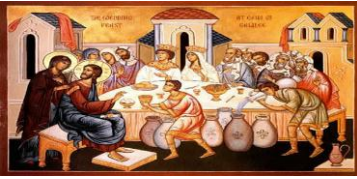
Once, under the great King David, Israel had been a formidable political and military power; however, with Jerusalem destroyed and the temples in ruin, the prophet Jeremiah was called to proclaim the promise of God. He offered the people something to grasp at, a hope to which they could cling to. *"I make a just shoot spring up for David; he shall do what is right and just in the land."* (Jer 33:15) These chapters of Jeremiah are called the Book of Consolation or the Book of Comfort. (1)

The people need this consolation. In any age and any situation of great suffering, many whose pain and loss are so great, cannot imagine a future. Why look to the future, they might ask, if life holds the potential for so much pain? And yet, in the midst of communal depression, the prophet speaks a word of hope, a promise of what is yet to be. Jeremiah doesn't say that things might get better, or could be better, or that we should be optimistic about future possibilities. The prophet says that *the days are surely coming* – and you can count on it because God is the one making this promise. This day will be *a day of justice when all of God's children will live in peace*. The one who is yet to come, the one we await, will bring this justice and righteousness. (1) *Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*"Good and upright is the Lord; thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, he teaches the humble his way."* (Ps 25:8-9)

## AN INVITED GUEST



*“Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” (Rev 19:9)*

Returning home from work, at the top of the To Do list is to check on the mail that arrived. We sort through the mail, removing those classified as junk and setting aside the important bills or notices. One of those items that we set aside is invitations to special events, such as parties or weddings. Whenever we receive these invites, we check the occasion and from whom the invitation came. We write down the date and check our calendar to see our availability. We then send the confirmation of our attendance stating how many are coming to the wedding.

As in any wedding celebration, members of the family or friends of the bride and the groom are those who receive the invitation. No walk-in guests are welcome. There is somehow intimate knowledge between the guests and the celebrants.

In the case of God’s invitation for us to attend His wedding banquet, wouldn’t there be joy in our hearts if we intimately knew Him? Our discussions with Him would be so animated if we knew who He really is and in the same way that He knows who we really are!

But suppose that, like other party givers, God is expecting a confirmation be sent for our attendance because His parties are for invited guests only. We would need to bring with us the invitation that He sent, and show it to the gate keeper to prove that we were indeed invited. The gate keeper would check in his logbook to see if we are on the list of invitees. If so, he lets us in. Then, how eager we would be to enter and enjoy the party. In the same way, wouldn’t we be terribly sad if we somehow forgot to bring the invitation with us or if the gate keeper couldn’t seem to find our names on the guest list?

What a blessing to know that we are indeed friends of the Groom, that Jesus Himself has delivered God’s invitation for us to join His wedding banquet. And that invitation is wide open. He welcomes us with warm, open arms to come in and celebrate with Him. There is no limit to the number of attendees.

*Lord God, let me always keep in my heart the invitation that You have sent me. Let me know You intimately so that I can look forward to our discussions during the banquet. Let me be included in the list of the blessed guests at Your wedding feast.*

*In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.*

## *I am the Lord's and Proud of It!*

*“Then I looked and there was the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads.” (Rev 14:1)*

In today’s society and culture, it is often easy to identify what is important to a person based on what they choose to wear on the exterior of their body. For example, people can often indicate their favorite sports teams by the hats they are wearing or by the logos on their clothing. This alone can help others to see whom a person follows or takes pride in. Although sports teams and fashion designers can easily be represented on one’s body, how easy is it to advertise that we are followers of Christ? It’s not like every day you see hundreds of individuals wearing hats and clothing that represent Jesus or Christianity. It’s often rare to find this in an everyday crowd. Perhaps fear of ridicule or persecution may stop people from openly displaying their faith on their exterior - but why fear representing what is most important to us?

As Christians, we know that we do not belong to this world (Jn 15:19), but rather, we belong to the Lord. This is something that we should take the greatest pride in and not be afraid to show the world. We do not belong to the sports teams we root for or the fashion designers whose clothing we wear; rather, we belong to God alone. This is what we should show the world, not just through our clothing or exterior, but even more so through our words, our actions, and the love we share with others. We should constantly reflect our faith in God and our love for Him. There is so much that we can do to show others who we follow and whom we love, and that is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Let us continue to represent His kingdom and His church. Let us continue to stand up for our faith and beliefs. Let us continue to spread the love He has given us and make known the sacrifice He has made for us. Let us gladly and proudly show the world that we belong to God and His church, and that we will continue to stand firm in our love for Him and for each other. Let us show the world who matters the most in our lives – our God!

**Our God is  
an awesome  
God!!!**

# A JUST REWARD

*“By your perseverance you will secure your lives.”*  
(Luke 21:19)



I once heard a Priest say in his homily that it is more important how we finish the race than how we start it. This gave me such great comfort because I want to forget the sins of my past since they offended our Lord so deeply. The more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ that I experienced after the Marriage Encounter and LSS Retreats allowed me to keep focus on Jesus in my renewed daily life. Because of the sinfulness of the world we live in, I find myself doing things now that are very countercultural and persevering in search for the truth about God our Savior, and The Holy Mother Church. We must continue to follow The Magisterium even if it may not be popular or politically correct to do so. And even much more so now that the government is finding ways to intrude on our religious liberty. We must not waver in our faith and beliefs because this is how we will secure our eternal life with Jesus and share in His beatific vision.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux explains so well in her autobiography, *The Story of a Soul*, what a just reward is. *“I once told you how astonished I was that God does not give equal glory in heaven to all His chosen. I was afraid they were not at all equally happy. You made me bring Daddy’s tumbler and put it by the side of my thimble. You filled them both with water and asked me which was fuller. I told you they were both full to the brim and that it was impossible to put more water in them than they could hold. And so, Mother darling, you made me understand that in heaven God will give His chosen their fitting glory and that the last will have no reason to envy the first. By such means, you made me understand the most sublime mysteries and gave my soul its essential food.”*

Though we may have started our race to heaven offering Jesus only a small thimble, let us work on getting the greatest **reward** in **Heaven** and present Jesus with the biggest tumbler through our perseverance.

## DIRECTIONS:

1. **Conduct yourselves to please God.**
2. **Prepare your hearts this season by receiving the Sacraments.**

## COUNSEL (continued from page 1)

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, the Thessalonians, despite having had a shortened catechesis due to Paul’s rapid departure, had an abundant and growing faith; but they were unclear about the Second Coming and the Resurrection of the Dead. Paul wrote his letters to them in order to answer their questions. For example, God is our Father and Jesus is our Lord, the Holy Spirit converts us and *“Jesus Christ who was raised from the dead will come to judge the living and the dead.”* (2 Tim 4:1) One key point is the verse that comes directly after today’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading (1 Thes 4:3): *“This is the will of God, your holiness: that you refrain from immorality.”* (2)

All Christians, therefore, are called to holiness, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading challenges us to increase and abound in love or charity. For charity to “increase and abound” requires prayer and practice on our part. Charity is not the same thing as human love. Charity is supernatural love, a love that is given first out of love for God, to love God above all else and flowing from that love comes love of neighbor, regardless of how loveable that neighbor may or may not be. St. John Chrysostom taught that, *“Loving one person and showing indifference to others is characteristic of human affection but St. Paul is telling us that our love should not be restricted in that way.”* And he connected charity with holiness: *“It is charity, it is love which makes us blameless.”* St. Josemaria Escriva tells us, *“Don’t say that person bothers me. Think: that person sanctifies me.”* Each occasion that we are called to practice love, especially when it is inconvenient or difficult, is an occasion to grow in holiness. (2)

In the gospel of Luke, those who persevere in faith will eventually be vindicated with the coming of the Son of Man. In faith, He is with us even now to strengthen us in our conviction to live accordingly to the Gospel and not succumb to the temptations of the world. The immediate rewards of faith are often not as attractive; but what counts is that they have eternal relevance, whereas the world’s promises are empty when it comes to eternity. (3)

We cannot afford to fall asleep in our struggle to live our faith today, or we will find the devil taking advantage of our sleepiness to convince us of half-truths, or worse, even outright lies. We need to choose a life of discipleship according to the Gospel in order to counteract the pressures and temptations constantly set upon us by the world. The same was true in previous generations and will still be true in the future. (4)

May this hope, as promised by the Prophet Jeremiah, keeps us vigilant and ready for the coming of God this Christmas.



Sources: (1) <http://www.ucc.org> (2) <http://media.cssprogram.net>  
(3) <http://thedaily-scriptures.blogspot.com> (4) <http://kerygmfamily.com>

**NEWS** (continued from page 1)

day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit fills the first Christian community with his presence, so that the Gospel may spread to all nations, causing the one People of God to grow in all peoples. From its origins, then, the Church is oriented kat'holon, it embraces the whole universe."

In light of Pentecost, the Pope continued, the universal mission of the Church "does not arise from below, but descends from above, from the Holy Spirit: from the beginning it seeks to express itself in every culture so as to form the one People of God. Rather than beginning as a local community that slowly grows and spreads outwards, it is like yeast oriented towards a universal horizon, towards the whole: universality is inscribed within it."

Apostles and disciples of the early Church "set off without any human security, purely in the strength of the Holy Spirit, the Gospel and the faith. This is the yeast that spreads round the world, enters into different events and into a wide range of cultural and social contexts, while remaining a single Church."

"The Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic, she reflects in herself the source of her life and her journey: the unity and communion of the Trinity."

Speaking with regard to the consistory, Pope Benedict explained that "the perspective of the Church's unity and universality is the College of Cardinals: it presents a variety of faces, because it expresses the face of the universal Church."

"I want to highlight in particular the fact that the Church is the Church of all peoples, and so she speaks in the various cultures of the different continents. She is the Church of Pentecost: amid the polyphony of the various voices, she raises a single harmonious song to the living God."

Speaking to the cardinals, Pope Benedict concluded: "From now on, you will be even more closely and intimately linked to the See of Peter: the titles and deaconries of the churches of Rome will remind you of the bond that joins you, as members by a very special title, to this Church of Rome, which presides in universal charity. Particularly through the work you do for the Dicasteries of the Roman Curia, you will be my valued co-workers, first and foremost in my apostolic ministry for the fullness of catholicity, as Pastor of the whole flock of Christ and prime guarantor of its doctrine, discipline and morals."

**Advent 2012 begins on December 2<sup>nd</sup>!**

**Advent is often the busiest time of the year. And yet, we are called to make time and space to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.**

**Prepare the way for the Lord!**

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

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**MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**


**MISSION**

**Soup Kitchen**

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ  
December 22 • **Mission** • Contacts: Audie/Vulet Chong

**2013 Medical Mission**

**Feb 18-21** • La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines  
Volunteers' acceptance will be on a first-come-first-serve basis. Sign up as soon as you have decided. Submission deadline Dec 15, 2012. For online application form click here: [BLD Medical Mission 2013: Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet](#)  
Contact Mosty/Ling Garcia @ [district@bldnewark.com](mailto:district@bldnewark.com)



**March For Life** January 25, 2013, Washington D.C.  
If you wish to join, please contact,  
Ray/Tess Salmo: [parish@bldnewark.com](mailto:parish@bldnewark.com)

Date	Worship
Dec 07	Eucharistic Celebration
Dec 14	ME & Ministry Worship
Dec 21	Community Worship
Dec 28	Family Worship

**For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.**

[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

Date	Apostolate
Dec 07	Management
Dec 14	Mission
Dec 21	Evangelization
Dec 28	Pastoral
Jan 04	Formation
Jan 11	Management

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**ADVENT PRAYER**

*Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ, our Savior, and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of His coming may find us rejoicing in His presence and welcoming the light of His truth. We ask this in the Name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.*

## INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS

**Destination:** The Philippian Church

The Philippian Church was the first to be established on European soil. Paul and his companions founded the Church on his second missionary journey 50 A.D. (Acts 16:11-40) and made one or more return visits on his third missionary journey (Acts 20:1-6).

Philippi, “the birthplace of Western Christianity” (4:15), was the leading city of eastern Macedonia (Northern Greece) in the 1st century, strategic in location on Via Egnatia, the Roman road that stretched from the Bosphorus Strait across modern-day Bulgaria, Greece, and Albania to the Adriatic Sea. It was named after Philip II of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great and made a Roman military colony by Caesar Augustus in the 1st century B.C. Its inhabitants were mainly retired army veterans and a small Jewish population.

**Purpose and Themes:** It is a letter of thanks and encouragement to a congregation of dear friends. Paul expresses throughout the letter his gratitude for their generosity. The Philippians supported the imprisoned Paul through their constant prayers (1:19), as well as financial assistance by the hand of Epaphroditus (4:18). The Philippians had come to Paul's assistance several times this way, acquiring for themselves a reputation as one of his most gracious congregations (4:15-16).

Paul sent this letter back to them by the same messenger, Epaphroditus, to thank them for their gift, to update them on personal matters and assure them of God's rich blessings in return. (2:25-30; 4:19). Paul addresses them also to resolve a personal conflict between two Philippian women (4:2-3) and be on guard against Judaizing missionaries who, should they make their way to Philippi, would pressure them to receive circumcision (3:2-3).

The letter to the Philippians is marked by a joyous and personal tone. The letter challenges the Philippians to grow in spiritual maturity by imitating both their Savior and their founding apostle.

Jesus, the servant, is the model of humility and selfless love. The example of Christ comes in 2:1-11, where Paul admonishes them to serve one another in the Lord. To overcome pride and disunity, he summons them and us to live like Jesus by putting our neighbors' interest above our own through a spirit of sacrifice and humility (2:4). Inspiration for this is drawn from a poetic account of the humiliation and exultation of Jesus, “The Christ Hymn” (2:6-11). A similar inheritance awaits all believers who tread the same path of suffering and obedience marked out by our Lord (2:12-18).

Paul, the servant, is likewise a worthy model for imitation (1:14;3:17;4:4-7;4:9). The secret of Paul's serenity is in the Lord, who sustains his spirit, even in the most trying times of life. He shares this secret with the Philippians and us, urging all believers to follow his lead by taking everything in stride, be prosperity or persecution, trusting that Jesus will supply the needed strength to live every moment for the glory of God (4:10-13).

Do you think you are growing spiritually in Christ? Do you have complete trust on Jesus, as your God and Savior?

## INTRODUCTION TO THE FIRST LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS

**Destination:** Thessalonian Church

Thessalonica was a commercial city founded in 316 B.C., made provincial capital of Macedonia (northern Greece) by the Romans in 146 B.C. The location of the city was ideal for trade. Paganism and idolatry was the dominant religious environment. Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy (1:1) founded the Thessalonian Church on the second missionary journey (Acts 17:1-9) in 50 A.D.

**Purpose and Themes:** First Thessalonians is a pastoral letter to the recent converts who were left alone when Paul and other missionaries were unexpectedly forced out by certain Jews who incited riots against the missionaries, as Jews, Greeks and leading women were converted after several weeks of preaching. The community, who had abandoned idolatry for Christianity, was a target of persecution and the constant pressure of paganism.

Paul sent the letter in his place to strengthen them (3:3-5), to encourage them to be chaste and charitable (4:1-12) and to console the bereaved among them with the hope of resurrection (4:13-14). Paul affirms them for their spiritual growth in faith, hope and love. Paul was teaching them concerning the end of mortal life (eschatology), that Christ will come again in glory (Parousia) to give us the final “salvation” for which we hope for (5:9).

This teaching was of importance to some who are anxious about the fate of their deceased relatives and friends. Paul assures them that, as God raised Jesus from the dead and carried him to heaven, so too he will raise the righteous at the end and escort them into glory (4:14-18). Paul challenges them and us to stay awake both morally and spiritually in anticipation of the Second Coming because the last day will “come like a thief”; otherwise, we will be caught unprepared (5:1-11). This letter is saturated with prayer, and it describes prayer as a continuous activity (5:17). Paul envisions prayer as an attitude and a lifestyle, not simply a verbal activity.

Faith, love and hope of salvation should govern our lives for that is the will of God Christ Jesus for all. Are we ready for His second coming?



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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## MESSAGE

### **Arch. Lagdameo sends his Advent and Christmas message**



This Year of Faith (2012-2013) is a rich opportunity for us in BLD to profess our faith, to live and share our faith through our professional, economic, social, political and moral life. It is our answer, in fact, the Church's answers to the "profound crisis of faith that affects many people" as

well as the "grave difficulties of the time with regards to profession of true faith and its correct interpretation" (cf. Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Letter on Faith, *Porta Fidei*, no. 2 and 5).

This Year of Faith invites us or challenges us "to rediscover the joy of believing and the enthusiasm for communicating the faith" (PF, no. 6). **The goal of this Year of Faith is the new Advent of Christ in our life that we may know Christ more intimately, love Christ more ardently and follow Christ more closely.** It means a continuing renewal of our conversion to and acceptance of what God wants to communicate about himself, and about being the persons He wants us to be.

The center or focus of the Year of Faith is the promotion of the New Evangelization, which Blessed Pope John Paul II has been talking about 30 years ago in his Encyclical *Redemptoris Missio*, and which Pope Benedict XVI recalls, renews or re-proposes in *Porta Fidei* in the midst of serious crisis of faith. This call for New Evangelization is new, not in the sense of new doctrine, which is as old as two millennia, but "new in its ardour or fervor, new in its methods, and new in its expression" (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, no. 12).

With the use of new methods and expressions with new fervor, it is hoped and envisioned that many lapsed and nominal Catholics will be brought to participate in the mission of the Church and in animating the temporal order with the Spirit of Christ.

*Continued on page 4*

## COUNSELS

### ESSENCE OF CHRISTMAS

**WORD:** Disciples of Christ prepare with vigilance and rejoicing for His coming.

**ORDER:** "Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man."  
(Lk 21:36)

### ECSL'S MONTHLY REFLECTION:

December is the month when the Christian world brims over with excitement and anticipation at the birth of the Saviour. It is a very special and momentous occasion, one that invites preparations well ahead of time, including gift buying for loved ones, family and friends, putting up the Christmas tree, the lights and the decorations, and buying ingredients for the traditional *Noche Buena* (Christmas Eve dinner), not to mention other holiday parties and festivities.

But what does Christmas really mean to each one of us? When we were kids, we looked with great anticipation to the coming of Christmas. It meant receiving gifts, having new toys, new clothes, new shoes. We were enthralled by the glow of Christmas lights, and enticed with sumptuous food on the table. But as childhood gave way to adulthood, the burden of responsibilities, the demands of family traditions and cultural expectations shifted over onto our shoulders. This meant stress and pressure, because now it is our turn to give gifts.

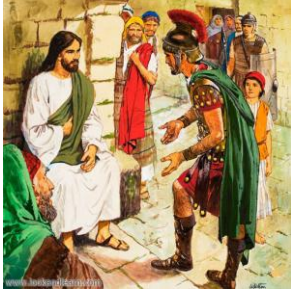
But that is the worldly and materialistic view, and distorts the real meaning of Christmas.

*Continued on page 3*

### *Promise of the Week*

*"Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." (Lk 3:5-6)*

# Unworthiness



A Roman centurion and John the Baptist were given great missions in the world. Both were touched by Jesus during their lifetimes. Realizing they were in the presence of someone who was mightier than they were, they displayed great humility and faith in Him (Matthew 8:8, Luke 3:16). Jesus could only respond to their virtue by healing the centurion's servant and by allowing John to baptize Him. The Church reminds the faithful of the importance of humility and faith during Liturgy of the Eucharist right when, before we receive Jesus sacramentally, the congregation says: ***"Lord, I am not worthy to have You come under my roof; but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."***

God calls everyone to serve him in their state of life. Like the centurion and St. John the Baptist, we each have a mission to proclaim the Gospel in humility and great faith: proclaim the Word, be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient, convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.

Jesus is present with all who struggle to grow in knowledge and holiness. Hardships and frustrations, whether in the form of juggling family needs, career, job loss, may test one's humility, faith and trust in God. I am called to proclaim God's truth and be persistent, whether it is convenient or not. Many times, I feel the hardship as I often need to balance my teaching ministry with family needs. ***"But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry."*** (2 Timothy 4: 5)

What does it mean to be self- possessed? For one, it means understanding one's beliefs and goals, separating frustration from God's truth so as not to abandon the mission. The Roman centurion and John the Baptist experienced much more hardships and frustrations in their mission compared to mine, yet, they were persistent and received recompense. What is comforting to know as I proclaim the Gospel is that, although I am neither worthy nor perfect, Jesus loves me and my continued faith in Him combined with my efforts will one day be rewarded.

At Mass, I repeat what the centurion spoke 2000 years ago. It is my own soul that will be healed of my personal faults. Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Holy Eucharist and God's mercy, I am cleansed and sanctified. My desire is to remain faithful and persistent to fulfill my ministry, continue running the race and compete well for the crown of life waits for all who persevere.

# CHILDLIKE



***"At that very moment, he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "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."*** (Luke 10:21)

In Luke 10:17-20, Jesus had just received the seventy disciples back from the limited commission. In their work, they had a measure of success and they were making a report to Jesus concerning these things. Jesus was happy with their success and offered a prayer of thanksgiving to God in this regard.

Jesus prayer of thanksgiving is twofold. First, He gives thanks that God has hid these things from the "wise" and "understanding." Second, He gives thanks that these things have been revealed to the childlike.

Why does Jesus say such a thing? Is Jesus saying that "the wise" cannot understand God's word?

I do not believe that the passage *"you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned"* is referring to a person's understanding of the verse as much as it is referring to one's acceptance of the word of God. Those who are wise in their own eyes are not going to accept the words of Jesus Christ, because they think they have within themselves the capacity to solve all of their problems. Whereas those who are "childlike", as Jesus calls them, acknowledge their dependence upon God to provide for their salvation and are willing to humbly submit to God's will.

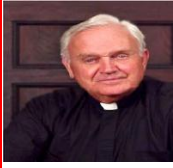
Jesus is not speaking directly about what it takes to understand the message, but rather, the attitude of those who do versus the attitude of those who don't. In order to accept this, one cannot filter it through one's own earthly wisdom. One must humbly acknowledge his or her dependence upon God as would a child's dependence upon his mother.

To grow in Christ, our childish attitude, such as jealousy, self-pity or revenge, should no longer be part of our new self, instead, our **"child-like"** quality should prevail where our complete obedience, trust and love for God above all exemplifies what we say and do.

I believe that to be a child of God, one must completely trust and love God above all!



~ December 8<sup>th</sup> ~  
**Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**



## FR. PAUL SPEAKS

Advent brings us around to another beginning. These few short weeks before Christmas bring us a combination of the beginning and end. The BEGINNING weeks bring us to the END, the end of the world as we know it. This ending in Scripture is couched in very “apocalyptic” language, sometimes very frightening and dramatic. The important part of this message is “Do not be afraid.”

The beginning of the ministry of both John the Baptist and Jesus was the encouragement not to fear, for the kingdom of God is here. There is a place in the Christian life for a healthy fear. God is to be feared, not because He is all powerful and will “get us” when we are bad. God is to be feared in the sense of ‘awe and reverence’. The new translation of the Mass introduces a new sense of reverent adoration and awe at the almighty presence of God in Word and Sacrament. This kind of fear is compatible with deep trust and love of God’s transcendent mercy. As the song, “Amazing Grace” reminds us: “Grace taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved.”

The ENDING weeks of Advent bring us to the BEGINNING and give us reason not to fear. They bring us to the beginning of God’s plan to redeem the human race. The Incarnation, God becoming one of us humans, is the basic reason we should not be afraid or terrified. God approaches us with the good news of salvation and mercy. A little baby is hardly a threatening figure. We can all bring forth reasons why we should be afraid. Fear in the sense of avoiding self- destruction is a normal part of our human nature. Many were afraid during Sandy, the hurricane that made us all realize how vulnerable we are to the forces of human nature. Many who were afraid gratefully realized afterwards the physical protection of God in the midst of chaos.

We are called not to fear the power of our own sins. God forgives. We are told not to fear our weaknesses because as St. Paul so beautifully put it: “When I am weak, I am strong.” Why? Because we are challenged to rely upon God’s power and strengthening presence even in the midst of what can seem like an overwhelming trial. Your confidence, peace and reassurance can be a real consolation for so many who spend so much time running from problems and consequent fear. Each day we are faced with new reasons to be afraid: unemployment, wars, financial instability, perhaps a distressing habit of sin. But, “I will not be afraid.”

## COUNSELS (continued from page 1)

The first Sunday of Advent exhorts us to “*be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.*” (Lk 21:36) It is clear that our preparation should be geared towards holiness, rather than mere superficial preoccupation with partying, gift-giving and fleeting fun. The birth of Jesus into this world is truly an awesome event, an occasion for joy because salvation has come to us. The gift we give should reflect love and not compulsion, because the objective of our gift-giving should be to express our love for Jesus.

In 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13, St Paul says, “*May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all...so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones.*” The birth of Jesus is just the beginning of our journey to new life. The message conveyed to us by this first Sunday and the following Sundays of Advent is awareness of end times and our future destiny, eternal life with God. We are all asked to be vigilant that we may be able to stand the test and trials of life by acts of mercy and love towards our brethren. Our motivation for giving gifts should be love, not obligation or personal gain. If our motives are pure when we share the gift of our time, talent and treasures, God is pleased because He sees what is in our hearts. The sense of fulfillment we experience as we give of ourselves in love will be incomparable, because Jesus our Lord is our justice (Jer 33:16); He is our reward.

Let our Community Word, Order, Theme and Promise for each week, Directions and Prophecies (refer to the Community Word for December 2012), be our guide and personal message from Christ as we endeavor to best apply the real message of Christmas to our daily living:

### **We prepare for the coming of Christ:**

**Week 1** – when we do what is right and just.

**Week 2** – when we strive for peace, unity and love.

**Week 3** – when we rejoice with gladness and are renewed in His love.

### **We celebrate the coming of Christ:**

**Week 4** – when we believe, like Mary, in God’s word.

**Week 5** – when we honor and obey the commandments of God.

Aside from exchanges of gifts from among individuals, ministries and apostolates, let us look into the welfare of each member.

- Let us be more sensitive to the needs of the sick, the afflicted, and the oppressed.

*Continued on page 4*



## THIS WEEK'S THEME

**We prepare for the coming of Christ when we strive for peace, unity and love.**

### **COUNSELS** *(continued from page 3)*

- Let us stretch out our hands and give of ourselves to those who need our prayers, comfort those who are lonely, emotionally distressed, or need help in healing broken relationships.
- Let us also support our mission programs and be a source of life in community.
- Let us keep a happy and hopeful disposition. Let our rejoicing be felt by each one as we share our blessings in response to God's call.

Let us be more vibrant in love, for our community is God's gift to each one of us.

**A Blessed and Merry Christmas to all!**

#### **Prayer:**

*Lord Jesus Christ, as we celebrate Your birthday once again, cause each one of us to always be mindful of why You were sent to us... for You are the reflection of God's love. May we respond to this love by reverencing, emulating and sharing Your love with everyone You send our way. Amen.*

### **MESSAGE** *(continued from page 1)*

In this New Evangelization, we urgently need the participation and involvement of the laity in the mission of the Church, the laity who in many parts of the Church may be like "a sleeping giant". The work of New Evangelization is neither the work of the clergy alone, as it might have been in the first millennium, nor the work of the laity alone, as it might be expected in modern times. But there should be an intense and urgent collaboration and partnership of clergy and laity in the New Evangelization, integrating new models of being Church as well as various Charismatic Movements within the mission of the Catholic Church.

Launched at the descent of the Holy Spirit two millennia ago, the work of the New Evangelization has begun at the outset of the Third Millennium. The big question which I propose, whose answer we should not avoid or neglect, is "What are we expected now to do?" (Let BLD now reflect to answer it.)

*I want to end with a "teaser": "If you pray for rain, bring an umbrella!" That is FAITH.*

<b>LORD'S PROVISION</b>		
<b>PREVIOUS WEEK'S</b>		
Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	<b>3,845</b>	<b>153,708</b>
Financial details are available to all members through <a href="mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com">treasury@bldnewark.com</a> .		
<b>Thank you for your continued support!</b>		

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION **Soup Kitchen**

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ  
December 22 • **Mission** • Contacts: Audie/Vulet Chong

### **2013 Medical Mission**

**Feb 18-21** • La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines  
Volunteers' acceptance will be on a first-come-first-serve basis.  
Sign up as soon as you have decided. Submission deadline:  
Dec 15, 2012. For online application form, click:  
[BLD Medical Mission 2013: Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet](#)  
Contact Mosty/Ling Garcia @ [district@bldnewark.com](mailto:district@bldnewark.com)



**January 25, 2013, Washington D.C.**

#### **Departure Place & Time:**

**1st Pick-up @ 5:30 am -  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Nutley, NJ  
2nd Pick-up @ 6:30 am -  
Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway, NJ**

**If you wish to join, please contact,  
Ray/Tess Salmo: [parish@bldnewark.com](mailto:parish@bldnewark.com)**



#### **DECEMBER 2012 SCHEDULE**

Dec 14	Corporate Worship BLD Christmas Program
Dec 21	Corporate Worship BLD Christmas Program
Dec 28	Family Worship



Date	Apostolate
Dec 14	Mission
Dec 21	Evangelization
Dec 28	Pastoral
Jan 04	Formation
Jan 11	Management

### **LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR TYPHOON PABLO VICTIMS**

*Loving Father, You are our Shelter and our Strength.  
In Your Love and Mercy, we come to You with hearts  
full of trust and hope.  
We lift up to You all the victims of Typhoon Pablo. May  
You comfort them and hold them close to Your heart,  
especially those who are grieving for the loss of their loved  
ones. May those who have lost homes find shelter, enough  
food, and clean water. Bless those who are sick and  
injured that their health may be restored completely.  
As they travel through this dark valley of sorrow, may  
Your love, peace, and joy be felt, especially on Christmas  
day! Give them the faith, the hope and the love to carry on.  
This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says  
the LORD, plans for your welfare, not for woe! plans to  
give you a future full of hope." Jeremiah 29:11*

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS

**Destination:** Thessalonian Church, written by Paul probably A.D. 50 or 51.

In New Testament times, the region that is now known as Greece consisted of two provinces: Macedonia in the north and Achaia in the south. The cities of Thessalonica and Philippi were in Macedonia, while Athens and Corinth were in Achaia.

**Purpose and Themes:** Paul sent 2 Thessalonians as a follow-up letter to 1 Thessalonians to correct the way certain believers were thinking and living in light of Christ's expected return. Paul never claimed in 1 Thessalonians that Jesus would return immediately, only that he would come suddenly (1Thes 5:2).

Some of the Thessalonians are shaken by an alarming idea, based on a misunderstanding of his first letter and reinforced by another letter forged in Paul's name (2:2), that the end times have arrived and the Second Coming of Jesus is just around the corner. Paul considers this a deception (2:3) because Christ will not return in glory until a whole series of events have taken place first. Paul insists that a "man of lawlessness", an agent of Satan, must first be allowed to spread confusion throughout the world and impress the wicked with signs and wonders of his power. This villain has yet to arrive because a mysterious force restrains him from showing his face until the appointed time.

Only after this period of turmoil and tribulation will Christ come again as the divine Warrior and Judge to slay the offender and condemn the ungodly (2:7-8). Paul tells the congregation that God loves them and "chose them from the beginning to be saved through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth and to stand firm and hold on to the gospel to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2:13-15).

Some in Thessalonica were so convinced that Jesus would return at any moment that they had quit their jobs and stopped working for a living. There were some in the congregation who became free-loaders who live on the charity of others to support themselves, and busy bodies, who started meddling in the affairs of everyone else. Paul has nothing good to say about this behavior but morally exhorts that they should return to work, earn their own living, and mind their own business. Paul urges the Church to get involved in correcting this problem by warning such brothers and if necessary, shunning them if they refuse correction (3:14-15).

Let us always be on guard of false teachings, live our lives in prayers and always be reconciled to God. Do we live our lives in faith?

## INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE GALATIANS

**Destination:** the Churches of Galatia.

The Roman Province of Galatia was established in 25 B.C. in the central territory of Asia Minor, now modern Turkey. Paul and other missionaries established churches in South Galatia on his first missionary journey (Acts 14:1-23) and churches in North Galatia in his second missionary journey (Acts 16:6). If the letter was intended for South Galatia, then the letter was penned as early as 48 A.D.; if for North Galatia, then was probably written in the early or mid 50s. Suffice it to say that Paul was addressing Christians who lived somewhere in the province of Galatia.

**Purpose and Themes:** Paul wrote this letter to defend the Gospel against other missionaries called Judaizers, who came during Paul's absence, causing trouble among the Gentile converts. They were preaching a false gospel (1:6-7) that pressured Gentile Christians to embrace circumcision and the ceremonial laws of the OT as a necessary requirement for salvation and that the ritual observances of the Mosaic Law will make the gospel preached by Paul be complete. Because of the success of these Judaizers, Paul not only exhorts them against such requirements as a form of spiritual slavery (2:4;5:1), but also gave them stern warnings against such false teachings and appealed to the Galatians to distance themselves from these false teachers. There is a very strong apologetic tone of this letter, at times, even combative and Paul perceived the Galatian crisis as a great spiritual threat against the truth of the gospel.

Circumcision was the main issue of this letter and Paul was attacking it. Paul says that this was true before the coming of Christ that this rite of circumcision was a gateway into God's covenant with Abraham (Gen 17:9-14). Paul says that Christ crucified marks the turning point in covenant history and all liturgical and ceremonial rituals promulgated by Moses are now set aside to give way to the divine blessings of the New Covenant as "new creation in Christ" (6:15). Paul uses the Scriptures and says that this new life in Christ was ratified by Jesus and fulfills the covenant blessings through Abraham for all nations even as it ends the Mosaic covenant that was confined to the one nation of Israel.

Paul says that whoever believes in Jesus in faith (3:6-9) and receives Baptism (3:27) becomes a spiritual descendant of Abraham and an adopted child of God (4:1-7). There is neither Jew nor Gentile but one body in Christ Jesus. Paul says that our faith alone is insufficient to justify the sinner but faith working through love and be servants of one another. Paul alerts believers that a hidden war is in us, a struggle between the Spirit and our flesh and we should enable the Spirit to dominate, work powerfully in our lives by living and walking by the Spirit (5:16-25).

Galatians is a very strong defense of the good news, a solemn declaration for all time that our salvation comes only by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ working through love, the love of God and love of neighbor since neither precept can be observed unless the other is observed.

It is important to examine our lives before God and not to compare ourselves with others because in the end, everyone is responsible for his own actions and will give an account to the Lord. Do you love your neighbor as you love God? Are we sowing in the Spirit and living our creed yesterday, today and forever?



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 49

Bulletin Edition

December 14, 2012

## NEWS

## COUNSELS

### Pope Benedict XVI:

#### 'CHRISTIANITY AND MONOTHEISM IS OF VIBRANT RELEVANCE'

Pontiff Addresses International Theological Commission

By Junno Arocho

VATICAN CITY, DEC. 7, 2012 ([Zenit.org](http://Zenit.org)) - Pope Benedict XVI received the International Theological Commission in audience this morning at the conclusion of their Annual Plenary Assembly.

The Holy Father greeted all participants present. The Pope expressed his joy at the pilgrimage made by the commission to the Basilica of Saint Mary Major to entrust to the Virgin Mary their work on the final message of the commission. The message builds upon themes established in the document "Theology Today, Perspectives, Principles and Criteria".

"It illustrates very well the specific way in which theologians, faithfully serving the truth of faith, can participate in the missionary efforts of the Church", the Holy Father said.

"Taking note of the vitality and diversity of theology after Vatican II, this document aims to present, so to speak, the genetic code of Catholic theology, that is, the principles that define its identity and, therefore, guarantee its unity in the diversity of its achievements. To do this, the text clarifies the criteria for a truly Catholic theology and therefore, one is able to contribute to the Church's mission to proclaim the Gospel to all men."

Pope Benedict also noted the document's mention of the importance that theologians must pay to *sensus fidelium*, or 'the sense of the faithful'. According to the Holy Father, "It is very useful that your Commission has also focused on this issue which is of particular importance for the reflection on the faith and life of the Church."

"Today, however, it is particularly important to clarify the criteria used to distinguish the authentic *sensus fidelium* from its counterfeits. In fact, it is not some kind of public opinion of the Church, and it is unthinkable to mention it in order... *Continued on page 4*

### The Greatest GIFT

**THEME:** *We prepare for the coming of Christ when we rejoice with gladness and are renewed in His love.*

**WORD:** Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6  
Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

**ORDER:** "Rejoice in the Lord always...rejoice! (Phil 4: 4)

#### REFLECTION:

In our readings tonight, we are called to be joyful because the Lord, our Mighty Savior, the One Who gives us peace, is in our midst. It is easy to lose the true meaning of this when we are surrounded by tinsel and overplayed Christmas music everywhere. The manic energy from shopping mall crowds only fuels the buying frenzy. Oftentimes, these things have caused us to shift our focus.

Every year we wait for the Black Friday mishap to happen somewhere. Every year we face the ghost of Christmas past - last year's credit card bills still not paid! Our hearts can be weighed down by many anxieties and unnecessary things that we leave no room for Jesus in our hearts: to prepare for and eagerly await His coming. We exemplify instant communication and immediate gratification. We want it now! The warehouses of the world are no match for our insatiable American Consumerism. While everyone would like to give and receive the perfect gift, is it the answer?

In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist speaks to the representatives of the government, the tax collectors despised by the Jewish people and the oppressive Roman soldiers. To the tax man he says, "**stop collecting more taxes than prescribed**" (Lk 3:13). When John was asked by the Roman soldiers what they should do, he didn't mince words. He told them, "**Do not practice extortion!**" *Continued on page 3*

#### Promise of the Week

"Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:7)

# HE PROMISED!



During the season of Advent, the Church turns again and again to the Book of Isaiah. Considered the greatest of the Old Testament prophets, Isaiah was called by God in a vision that opened his eyes to the glory and majesty of the Lord. He humbly accepted his mission, ***“Here I am...send me.”*** (Is 6:8) Perhaps it was the dramatic nature of this vision that inspired Isaiah to speak out so boldly before the kings and people of Judah. ***“They will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.”*** (Is 35:2c) ***“Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm.”*** (Is 40:10a) Centuries have passed, and yet these words still stir our hearts, still give us hope.

Of all the writings that have come down to us from Isaiah, those that most inspire the hopeful yearnings of Advent are the ones that foretell the coming of the Messiah. They are full of poetry and images of the glorious kingdom that God has promised. Isaiah spoke with such vigor and conviction that the words almost jump off the page. ***“On that day the deaf shall hear...and out of gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see.”*** (Is 29:18) ***“And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy.”*** (Is 35:10). He offers a vivid account of God's eternal plan and His promise to raise up a New Jerusalem. ***“Every valley shall be lifted up, every mountain and hill made low.... Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.”*** (Is 40:4-5a) ***“The tyrant shall be no more... all who are ready for evil shall be cut off.”*** (Is 29:20) ***“They shall not harm or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea.”*** (Is 11:9).

Isaiah's words are full of hope, full of promise as he reveals to us the Messiah who will come to set His people free. ***“The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD.”*** (Is 11:2) ***“He will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces.”*** (Is 25:8a)

When you hear the Old Testament read at Mass, let Israel's greatest prophet speak to your heart. Take hold of the hope he offers, and listen closely to the promises. After all, they are God's promises; and all we have to do this Advent is claim them for ourselves, our loved ones, and our world. Listen closely and claim the promises.



## Our Lady of Guadalupe

Many believe in the importance of December 12, 2012. For the Mayans, it is the end of their calendar year. For others, it is the end of time. And still for others, it is the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Whether this day is considered a doomsday or a day of hope and faith, I will reflect on the latter...***“no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father”*** (Mk 13:32) when the end is near.

God has chosen Mary to lead us to Jesus. If it were not for Mary, the Mayans would not know her Son. They are grateful to Our Lady of Guadalupe, who appeared to Juan Diego, an Indian convert. On December 9, 1531, Juan Diego was going to attend Mass. As he was passing Tepeyac Hill, he saw a brilliant light and heard a feminine voice. She made known to him her desire that a shrine be built there and to tell the Bishop of her wish.

The Bishop was reluctant to believe Juan Diego's story. He asked that the Lady give him a sign. On December 12, the Lady told Juan Diego to return to Tepeyac Hill to gather flowers. Juan Diego did as he was told though he knew no flowers had ever bloomed there. Instead, he discovered a garden of fresh blossoms which he cut, and the Lady rearranged in his tilma cloak. When Juan Diego stood before the Bishop, he opened his tilma and the flowers cascaded to the floor and in their place was a colored portrait of the Blessed Virgin.

To this day, the tilma is displayed in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Here we remember the words of Our Lady: ***“Know for certain, least of my sons, that I am the perfect and perpetual Virgin Mary, Mother of the True God through whom everything lives, the Lord of all things near and far, the Master of heaven and earth. It is my earnest wish that a temple be built here to my honor. Here I will demonstrate, I will exhibit, I will give all my love, my compassion, my help and my protection to the people. I am your merciful mother, the merciful mother of all of you who live united in this land, and of all mankind, of all those who love me, of those who cry to me, of those who seek me, of those who have confidence in me. Here I will hear their weeping, their sorrow, and will remedy and alleviate all their multiple sufferings, necessities and misfortunes.”***

No wonder the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe is one of the most visited Marian Shrines. She is the Mother of Hope, the Mother of Love and Compassion, Protectress of the unborn children.... Patroness of the Americas.

**BLD Assisted Parish:  
DIVINE MERCY**

*“Proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths. But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry.” (2 Timothy 4:2-5).*

When we accepted God’s call to serve in this ministry, I asked myself these questions: “What is our mission here?” What does the Lord expect from us?

As a couple, we obeyed and continued to seek His will as we accomplish our task in the parish. Meeting non-encountered brethren and parishioners is one of our weekly activities. We fellowship with them on a regular basis through meetings, CCD parent formation program, soup kitchen, Altar server’s program, youth choir and many more. We opened ourselves in any capacity to help as long as we are available. I found myself reaching out to the parishioners who are hungry for the love of God and need someone to hold their hands while they seek the Kingdom of God in their lives. They are thirsty for the Word, but unable to comprehend and follow His will because their knowledge of Christ is limited.

*“But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news!’” (Romans 10:14-15).*

During our LSS weekend 7 years ago, I clearly remember the commissioning of the Lord for us to go out to the world, proclaim His Good News and share His love with every person we meet. Indeed, spending time with Divine Mercy parishioners regularly has been given us many opportunities to fulfill God’s purpose for our lives. Through preaching, teaching, serving, sharing our time, talent and treasures, we are able to follow the path of Christ’s mission here on earth. We know with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we will be equipped to do His works. When challenges arise, we will take it as an opportunity to grow and spend time in prayer to seek His guidance.

However, keeping up with the demands of the parish is not easy. We need continued physical and spiritual nourishment. We need to commune with the Lord daily.

As we continue to serve in Divine Mercy Parish, we pray that the Lord will sustain us with His steadfast love, for we cannot give what we don’t have.

**COUNSELS** (from page 1)

*Don’t falsely accuse...and be satisfied with your wages!” (Lk 3:14)* Like the tax collectors and Roman soldiers, we too need to hear these words because we tend to become so materialistic.

Greed has had a long and storied existence in the human family. Two out of the three groups John addressed represented the governmental authorities. Can we really say things have changed much? The third group is the unidentified crowd. That could be us! To them he advises whoever has two cloaks should give one, and whoever has food should do likewise. (Lk 3:11) These are basic tangible goods asked of by common people. They are practical gifts. Many here tonight have given these to family, friends and strangers, to the afflicted of Hurricane Sandy and Typhoon Pablo. However, have we always shared what we have, despite our current difficult circumstances?

John was only the messenger as he said, *“...one mightier than I is coming” and “He will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”* (Lk 3:16) He will shake the chaff from the wheat, *“but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”* (Lk 3:17) That is both a warning and a promise. In Luke 11:46, Jesus rebukes the Pharisees, the leaders of the people, when He says, *“they heap burdens on the back of the people and they don’t lift a finger to help them.”* Are there moments in our lives when we act like them?

The first reading states, *“The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, He will sing joyfully because of you.”* (Zep 3:17) Indeed, the Lord loves us; He wants to give us the greatest Gift, just like we want to give the best at Christmas. But His Gift does not perish; it keeps on giving, His Son Jesus Who gives meaning and joy to our lives! Like God the Father, are we willing to bring kindness and joy to others so they too may feel God’s love?

The Advent season is a time for us to rejoice as we await His coming. At the same time, it is a time to re-examine our commitment to spreading the legacy of Christ through our personal lives, within our families and the greater community we live in. Have we learned to make life more pleasant for others with a simple smile, a friendly remark or a word of praise? Have we learned to think less of ourselves, worry less about our own affairs and discover the joy of opening ourselves to other people’s needs? The happiness they see in us may lead those close to us to the Source of all true happiness-Christ our Lord and Savior!!!

**DIRECTIONS:**

1. *“Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.”* (Phil 4: 6)
2. Make your kindness known to all.

## BLD VISION

- We are a community of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about a world of justice, human development and true peace.

## BLD MISSION

In response to the challenges of our particular place, time and culture:

### For our families:

- We will evangelize families and build communities of faith through encounters, Life in the Spirit Seminars and discipleship formation.
- We will give formation on personal and family prayer, pro-life values, Catholic social teachings and stewardship.

### For our communities:

- We will actively participate in the life and mission of the Church in accord with our God-given gifts.

### For our country:

- We will work on poverty alleviation through scholarships, housing for the poor and advocacies for life, environment and good governance.

## NEWS (from page 1)

*to challenge the teachings of the Magisterium, because the sensus fidei cannot grow authentically in the believer, except to the extent in which he or she fully participates in the life of the Church, and this requires a responsible adherence to her Magisterium."*

The Holy Father also applauded the commission's study on the "Triune God, unity of mankind", which clarifies that the sense of the faith could, at times, lead to strong reactions against monotheistic religions because of the claim that they advance the existence of a universal truth. Such reactions, the Pope continued, would lead some to believe that a "polytheism of values can guarantee tolerance and civil peace and conform to the spirit of a pluralistic democratic society."

"Christianity and monotheism is of vibrant relevance," Pope Benedict said. "The Lord attests to a radical rejection of all forms of hatred and violence in favor of the absolute primacy of agape."

Concluding his address, Pope Benedict XVI invoked the graces of the Virgin Mary, so that the commission may continue to serve the knowledge of the faith with joy.

"Renewing my profound gratitude for your service to the Church, I assure you of my constant closeness in prayer and cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing on all of you", the Pope concluded.

## JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!

*What gift would you give Jesus for His birthday?*

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)

## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	2,497	156,205
Typhoon Pablo	1,875	***

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

**Thank you for your continued support!**

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION

### Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ  
December 22 • Mission • Contacts: Audie/Vulet Chong

### 2013 Medical Mission

Feb 18-21 • La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines  
Volunteers' acceptance will be on a first-come-first-serve basis. Sign up as soon as you have decided. Submission deadline Dec 15, 2012. For online application, form click here: [BLD Medical Mission 2013: Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet](#)  
Contact Mosty/Ling Garcia @ [district@bldnewark.com](mailto:district@bldnewark.com)



January 25, 2013, Washington D.C.

Departure Place & Time:

1st Pick-up @ 5:30 am -

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Nutley, NJ

2nd Pick-up @ 6:30 am -

Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway, NJ

If you wish to join, please contact,  
Ray/Tess Salmo: [parish@bldnewark.com](mailto:parish@bldnewark.com)



### DECEMBER 2012 SCHEDULE

Dec 21

Corporate Worship  
BLD Christmas Program

Dec 28

Family Worship

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Dec 21	Evangelization
			Dec 28	Pastoral
			Jan 04	Formation
			Jan 11	Management

### ADVENT PRAYER

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to Your Promises and ever close to Your Church: the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to His return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which His presence will bestow, for He is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.





# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 50

Bulletin Edition

December 21, 2012

## NEWS

### BLD Newark reaches out to Pablo victims

December 21, 2012 – Another superstorm pounded the Philippines earlier this month, inflicting heavy damage and loss of life. Typhoon Pablo hit hardest in the areas of Agusan and Davao, devastating the lives of tens of thousands, including children and elderly, Muslims, Christians and nonbeliever alike. The following day, BLD Newark members began setting aside dollars earmarked for the victims of the havoc caused by Pablo’s wrath. Many BLD districts in the Philippines and North America have, likewise, started efforts to help those stricken.

The Newark Community has now sent \$4,000 from member offerings to the ECSL. The resulting ₱160,000 is to be divided among four priests serving some of the most adversely impacted towns in Compostela Valley and Coastal Davao Oriental. Msgr. Patricio Alo, Fr. Edgar Tuling, Fr. Romeo Castillo, and Fr. Boyet delos Reyes have asked that their gratitude be conveyed to all.

The enormity of recovery and reconstruction is daunting. Much prayer and financial help are needed. As always, we must turn to God in supplication.

Four thousand dollars is by no means small, but it is dwarfed by the material and spiritual damage caused by Pablo. The ECSL continues to call on both local and global districts for compassion and assistance. If you can still set aside money for the needy, please do so. Pray, too, and offer up to Him our little (sometimes bigger) inconveniences here in New York/New Jersey – in order that there, on the other side of the world, His Christmas Hope remain always with all those who are struggling, our brothers and sisters in Christ.



## COUNSELS

### Faith from the Heart

**THEME:** We celebrate the coming of Christ when we believe, like Mary, in God’s Word.

**WORD:** Mi 5:1-4/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19  
Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

**ORDER:** Come and do the Father’s will.

**REFLECTION:**

Our faith includes our belief that God knows not only what we say and what we do, but also what is in our hearts and minds; that He is an all knowing God. Faith that comes from the heart drives us to do something that puts a smile on God’s face. And when that happens, there is joy in our hearts. Therefore, true joy comes when we give glory to God by doing His will through the purity of our faith in Him.



Our Blessed Mother was chosen to bear in her womb the Child Jesus because of her openness and obedience that come from her unconditional faith and trust in God. Because of her faith, she listened and she believed that what was spoken to her by the Angel Gabriel would be fulfilled. She did what she was told to do; not just to give birth to the Child Jesus but also to bear witness and suffer with Him during His crucifixion and death. Yet, she never complained nor wavered in her faith. And through her faith, our salvation through Christ is fulfilled.

Like Elizabeth and the child in her womb, who leaped for joy when our Blessed Mother visited her with the Child Jesus in her womb, we too, have felt the joy of our Lord’s presence - in jubilation as we celebrate miracles in our lives, but also, as He is in our midst at times of hardships and trials. We should feel the joy of His presence among us as we gather to praise and worship Him in preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus.

*Continued, page 3*

### Promise of the Week

“Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” (Lk 1:45)

## God Is with Us

*“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel.”* (Mt 1:23)

When I was a child, there were days that I envisioned God as a punishing God - only to be feared. I thought that our elders believed that God lived only in Church, just like our ancestors in Jewish history did. And that after Church, everyone could live their same lives and return to old ways; that everything was alright, as long as they remained pious in Church.

But this changed for me and for all of us because of a simple Nazarene, Whose birth changed the course of mankind - and our hearts and minds. His name is Emmanuel, **“God is with us.”**

I am in awe and I am overwhelmed that God loves us so much, that the birth of His Son Jesus fulfilled His promise for our salvation. Definitely, He is not the God I thought of as a child, but He is our God, Who loves us like His own Son.



Ephesians 1:10 in the New Jerusalem Version of the Bible says, *“We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus for the good works which God has already designated to make up our way of life.”* I find this Catholic English version of Douay-Rheims more beautiful because it shows how God has carefully painted us individually - just like a painter who uses different strokes, defining our individual attributes, but most especially, our strengths and weaknesses.

Knowing how much God loves me helped me deal with the difference of the Old Testament God to be feared from the New Testament God, Who, after His Son’s birth, is now our Father, slower to anger, and Who separates our sins, as far as the East is from the West. He is a God Who is not confined to a temple or church for worship, but ONE Who lives inside our entire being where He is worshipped in spirit and in truth.

As we spend the next few days preparing for Jesus’ birth, let us take the time, away from this busy materialistic world, to go to a quiet space, to pray unceasingly, and to listen intently. Let us ask ourselves, *“How many times do we fail God when He calls us to Him and we do not respond?”* Let us, instead, open ourselves up to Him and heed His call.

During this advent season, let us, with contrition and humility, make room for Him in our open hearts and our entire being. Let Him take control of our lives, giving up any preconceived notions of how our life should and will be. Let us submit everything to our ever merciful and loving God. The very same Father Who has dwelt inside us since the birth of His Son Emmanuel. Indeed, God is with us! It’s the very same name referred to at the end of the gospel where the risen Jesus assures His disciples of His continued presence *“... I am with you always until the end of the age.”* (Mt 28:20)

We are all assured a destiny of eternity with Him.

## YES LORD!!!

*“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”* (Lk 1:38)

Many years ago, I had a chance to watch Richard Pryor do stand-up comedy in San Francisco. One thing he had said struck me. He said that since the breakup of his first marriage, he learned to avoid saying “yes” because he knew that somehow, it’ll cost him. He wasn’t sure how or when, but one way or another, it was definitely going to “cost him”. It is much better, he said, to say “no.”

Until recently, I thought that this was pretty funny. But now, as I reflect on Mary’s response in this verse from Luke’s gospel, I no longer think that what Pryor said was funny. I now feel quite ashamed of myself.

As a member of BLD, I now participate in my assigned ministry as well as volunteer my time with other ministries. I attend Friday Worship as often as I can, and have even served as LSS shepherd. I do my best to take part in other BLD activities. I am more active in my parish, attend Mass several times a week, and am no longer uncomfortable discussing my faith with others. Because of BLD, I feel that I have become closer to God.

So why, despite the progress that I’ve made in my spiritual life, do I feel ashamed? Because like Richard Pryor, I have a fear of saying “yes”. I am still afraid to really put myself out there, fearing that I’ll be asked to take on new assignments, be it in my parish or BLD, and I will have to say “yes”. I am afraid to say “yes” to a commitment I’m really not prepared to make.

I’m ashamed because I feel I can do more for my Faith, and because I know that I have yet to fully share my “talents”.

I see Mary, at a very young age, giving everything to God, saying “Yes” with no hesitation, with no doubt, and with complete surrender. I, on the other hand, find myself more like that young man in Mark’s gospel, who had done everything prescribed in the law, but went away sad when Jesus asked him to do more and to come follow Him (Mk 10:17-22). And yet, it was saying “yes” to join an ME retreat years ago that got me started on this wonderful journey.

I don’t know if I’ll ever be able to completely overcome my fear and the struggle to say “yes”. But I do know that I will have to look to Mary’s example on that night of the Annunciation to give me the strength to say “Yes Lord!”

But when Jesus said, *“It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you”* How can you say “no” to Him?....Say “Amen!”



## COUNSELS (from page 1)



*"...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.'" (Lk 1:41-42)*

We answered God's call for us to be one community of faith because we believe. And because we believe, we obey and do the work of ministry that we are asked to do by sharing His love for all. Our faith is the driving force to make others feel that we are a loving and caring community. It is this faith that should drive away any fear of serving the only God we worship and adore.

We care for those who are spiritually and/or physically weak when we travel to distant places to help build BLD communities like ours. We want to make a difference in the lives of others by helping them feel the joy of being close to God. We want the seed of God's love that is implanted in us to bear much fruit by sharing it with others.

We are ready and willing to care for others by feeding the hungry, the homeless, and the less fortunate; by caring for the poor and the sick, even in distant lands. We have the courage to care for others, even the most difficult and unlovable, because we realize that they are the ones who need love the most. We choose to take the only route - the path to righteousness because it is the only way that will lead us to our Divine Creator someday. Although we encounter difficulties and challenges along the way, we are not afraid because we believe that God is with us!

We have to expect and be prepared to handle struggles in serving God because this is the cost of discipleship; and most of all, it is our manifestation of our faith in Him. We need to pray for strength and guidance since there are other voices that will always try to distract and/or prevent us from doing the will of the Father. Let us adopt the simple rule that our choices or decisions should always be based on our love for God and others. Let us not only proclaim His name as our God and Savior but also commit ourselves to do His will. *"Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" (Heb 10:7)*

As a way to embrace the proclamation by the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, of "The Year of Faith", we are encouraged to emulate the lives of saints and that of our Blessed Mother. Most of all, let us always remember and be inspired and guided by the way our Lord Jesus lived a life filled with unconditional love and humility - from the cave in Bethlehem to the cross in Calvary. Only then can we live a lifetime of faith and feel the joy of His presence.

### Direction:

**Emulate our Blessed Mother's faith and obedience.**



## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

### To Our Brothers and Sisters in the BLD Community:

*"... 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)*

To rejoice this **Christmas** is ever so challenging as we join the nation in mourning the loss of innocent lives in senseless violence in Connecticut. Likewise, we continue to bear the destructions and hardships brought about by hurricane *Sandy* here, and typhoon *Pablo* in the Philippines.

But let us have the faith that Christ Jesus is Emmanuel; that this Christmas, as always, **He is in our midst**, and He will come before us, helping us get through our miseries and struggles.

Let **Christmas** be the **light of Jesus** that unites us in one community of faith, as we join the heavenly angels to welcome Him in singing **O Come All ye Faithful** and rejoice as we proclaim **Joy to the World**.



We lift up our ways of faith and witness the **One** Who came to set us free.

On behalf of the entire BLD Community, we wish you and your families the **Message of Jesus** this Christmas - **His Peace, His Joy and His Love**.

Sincerely,

- **the District Council of Stewards (DCS)**

**Caesar & Vicky Rasalan**  
(Evangelization)

**Sam & Rory Olaso**  
(Pastoral)

**Bong & Merle Encarnacion**  
(Formation)

**Alan & Tess Cam**  
(Mission)

**Manny & Arlene Mangalonzo**  
(Management)

## News & Comment

### World doesn't end on December 12, 2012

... likely to go on past December 21 too...

December 15, 2012 - Entering 2012, one had to have been bothered, or at least, mildly annoyed by the story that the Mayan calendar had predicted the end of the world this December. Storms, both here – Sandy, and in the Philippines – the August monsoons and typhoon Pablo, seemed to indicate that God had indeed had enough of mankind. But, on December 13<sup>th</sup>, people survived to see the sunshine of yet another day.

However, the very next day, the world was indeed inextricably changed – it ended for 28 people in Connecticut, and dimmed the understanding of God for the rest of us. “Where was God?” some of us may have already asked.

Once again it's so tempting and convenient to blame Him, especially when we believe in our own science fiction that a forcefield can somehow be created by Him to stop bullets in mid-air. But is the fault His...or ours? Collectively, as a society, it must be ours but individually?


“Yes” individually too. “Why?” you might ask.

I imagine that the CT shooter did what he did because he was miserable and frustrated by his misery – and he wanted others to be just as miserable as he was. Had there been stricter gun control, would he have been just as despondent? Probably...and in the name of personal freedom, we would have respected his God-given right to be so. Would he have found some other way to inflict pain on others? Seems the answer is still yes.

So, “*What then should we do?*” (Lk 3:10)

The answer, simple as it might sound, is for us to help God provide His alternative to misery. As a society, so hung up on live and let live, we have all but abandoned the search for Divine Happiness. It is time to battle back. People do not have to be miserable and it is the responsibility of those who understand this to evangelize those blinded in the spiral and eventual frustration of self-absorption.

If we are too afraid to preach good values in the name of others' personal freedoms, how could those who abuse that so called freedom avoid the pitfalls they fall into, when the responsibility that comes with that becomes too heavy a burden to bear? It becomes so easy to believe individual fantasies and just wallow in indifference that can boil over into violence.

It doesn't have to be... And it won't... if we make it a point to reach out, and be a witness to God's love working in us, proving that His Happiness, the most we can hope to attain in our lifetimes, is readily 

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## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	2,791	158,996
Typhoon Pablo	487	2,362

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

**Thank you for your continued support!**

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 2013 Medical Mission

Feb 18-21 • La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines



*May the light of Christ shine on all involved in this extraordinary task, and that they all come together for the sole purpose Christ is bringing them there. May God be praised! AMEN*



January 25, 2013, Washington D.C.

**Departure Place & Time:**

1st Pick-up @ 5:30 am -

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Nutley, NJ**

2nd Pick-up @ 6:30 am -

**Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway, NJ**

**If you wish to join, please contact,  
Ray/Tess Salmo: [parish@bldnewark.com](mailto:parish@bldnewark.com)**

**For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.**

**[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000**

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Dec 28	Pastoral
			Jan 04	Formation
			Jan 11	Management
			Jan 18	Evangelization

### ADVENT PRAYER

*Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to Your Promises and ever close to Your Church: the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to His return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which His presence will bestow, for He is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.*

available - that it is as near as the person beside you, as close as the next smile, as immediate as in the next moment.

Violence has reached a new low - the world did end this December as the Mayans had predicted. I pray that it did. I pray that a new world emerges, where we all seek God and our experience of joy and happiness revolves around Christ, for “*according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*” (2 Pt 3:13)



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 18 Issue 51

Bulletin Edition

December 28, 2012

## Hope re-visits GK village

December 24, 2012, Cabiao Nueva Ecija – Before sunrise this morning, the GK families of BLD-Fr. Paul Lehman and UST Med Class 76 Villages thanked the Lord in a simple celebration of the Hope of Christmas. The morning started with a light breakfast and fellowship, praying of the Holy Rosary, followed by presentations from the young and the adults, and distribution of Christmas gifts for the villages' one hundred families.

Each family, some speechlessly, but with enormous gratitude, expressed their thanks to BLD, the UST 1976 Med Class, the caretakers and Mayor Baby Congco – not only for the 25 kilos (about 55 pounds) of rice they received, vegetables, and canned goods – but for the love of Christ these offerings brought into their homes, their families, their lives.

While here in the US, the gifts may seem like nothing much, costing just a few dollars at the supermarket, there on the other side of the world, it highlighted how the simplest of things are part of the Feast of Life that our God provides. They are provided by Him, through the goodness and kindness of those who have. In the words of GK volunteers, Lito and Netchie Saturnino, "Words could not describe the joy in the hearts of our GK families for the kindness and generosity that you have showered upon them. The birth of our Savior is given true meaning for your unwavering support to our GK brethren."

Specially remembered, in a brief celebration that morning, was Floro Yepes, who passed away two days before. Mang Floro's life had epitomized what it means to be a true GK Champion. And although he will be missed, the spirit of GK he advocated will surely grow and live on.

Everyone in BLD Newark and the UST 1976 doctors are thanked and prayed for. Let us, in turn, thank the Lord for His blessings upon us, and support and pray for the continued success of the GK movement.

## COUNSELS

### THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

- THEME:** We celebrate the coming of Christ when we honor and obey the commandments of God.
- WORD:** Sir 3:2-6,12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:41-52
- ORDER:** "*Over all these* (compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, bearing and forgiving one another) *put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.*" (Colossians 3:14)

**REFLECTION:**



This Sunday, we commemorate the Feast of the Holy Family. This is the only Feast of the Liturgical Year in which we venerate Jesus, Mother Mary, and St. Joseph as a single unit, the family. Our Catholic tradition teaches that family is the domestic Church, the basic building block of the Body of Christ. The theme of our

readings is: We celebrate the coming of Christ when we honor and obey the commandments of God, with special emphasis on the fourth: Honor your mother and father. The readings all resound with the same message: obedience.

The first reading, from the prophet Sirach, teaches us about the authority of parents over their children. As children we often struggle with this commandment and find it hard to follow. We must simply read the first sentence carefully and it is clear: God sets a father in honor over his

*Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

*"Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walk in his ways. For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork, blessed shall you be, and favored."*

(Psalm 128:1-2)

*Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!*

## SHEPHERD'S VOICE

### Do Not Stop Growing In Holiness

I heard somebody jokingly say to his friend, "Are you not getting tired with what you are doing? You might overshoot heaven." Should we be worried we would overshoot heaven? No, we should not. On the contrary, what we should worry about is if we undershoot heaven. Only God knows whether or not we are going to heaven. He also knows where we are



in our journey, so we try our best to be worthy through the way we live our life.

We are created by God to be with Him eternally in heaven. While in this world we have to love, worship and serve/obey God.

We show our fervent love by having a genuine relationship with Him and loving our neighbor. We worship Him in spirit and in truth. We give reverence, adore, and honor Him through a total surrender of oneself and keeping holy the day of the Lord. We serve Him by being compassionate and making our self and our interest subordinate to the needs of other people. We obey Him by following the teachings of Jesus Christ. We serve God by bringing the good news of His love and salvation to other people through the witness of our love, kindness, and forgiveness.

In doing all these things, we become holy. Our self and our pride decrease to make room for the increase of Jesus Christ inside us. We do not stop growing in holiness. We do not stop running the race because we are after the prize. We do not stop or be complacent we have done our job because in so doing, we may be overtaken by the world. There is a continuous struggle between body and soul and we must not let the body win. The body wants to enjoy the fruits of its labor. In the first place, its enjoyment will not last. Secondly, it will be for nothing. And thirdly, it could open us to temptation and sin. If we have found the hidden treasure or the pearl of great price, we must do our best to get it. It does not mean we cannot enjoy our journey because there is always peace and joy in loving, serving and obeying God. It is the peace that the world cannot give. Always remember that the greatest spiritual adventure is growing in union with God. St. Augustine summarized it best when he said, "**My soul will not rest until it has rested in Thee.**"

## Knowing Jesus

Reflection on 1 John 2:3-4



By God's justice and standard, we might as well call ourselves a liar for we have disobeyed Him in one way or another. It is almost always guaranteed that after your last confession, somehow and somehow we will all fall into sin again. And that is where we have Jesus Christ as our advocate, for He is the expiation of our sins. But how can we avoid offending the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus again?

According to St. Ignatius, "It is not hard to obey when we love the one whom we obey". So let us ask ourselves, if we truly love God, then why do we disobey? Yeah sure, fallen nature, we've all heard that before. But do we really make the effort not to offend Jesus anymore? Have we given enough examination on what are the roots of our disobedience and avoid them at all cost?

Our society today is in a steep decline in moral values. Moral relativism and spiritual indifference are rampant. Some Catholics, devout or not, do the very same things that the teachings of the Catholic Church are opposed to. We are poorly catechized and don't read the bible, even in the Charismatic renewal. And yet, we call ourselves Catholic. We go to mass, without getting anything, and easily get bored when the homily doesn't interest us. It is no wonder that this world does not believe in what we profess. We are obsessed with materialism, violence, sexuality, shopping, liberal media, TV, magazine, news, sports and celebrities. We spend more time with our worldly desires than with our God. Let's us take an inventory of our daily lives and see how much time we spent with God versus everything else and compare. Finding the time to exercise our spiritual muscles in our busy lives can be a challenge, but it is not impossible. If we truly love God, we will find time to know Him, in the sacraments especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation, in the Scripture, in our prayer, in the Church and in our brothers and sisters. Ask the grace to find your **first love**. Ask our Lady, to bring us closer to the heart of Jesus and to know Him deeply. Once you find Him, everything else will flow and other virtues will follow, and that includes obedience. And remember, ignorance of the Scripture is ignorance of Christ. There is no way around it, even if you are a Catholic. "**But whoever keeps His word, in him truly love for God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in Him.**" (1 John 2:5)

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

children. It is God Himself (not any worldly power) who grants us parents the authority over our children. The Fourth Commandment, given by God Himself on Mt. Sinai, states very clearly: honor your father and mother. We are taught that the Fourth Commandment is the only commandment with a promise: that life will go well with us and that we will live a long life in the land our Lord has promised us (Sirach 7:27-28). In honoring our parents, we in turn, honor our Heavenly Father.

As children, how must we honor our parents as well as our Heavenly Father? The second reading gives us the correct attitude: ***“Put on as God’s chosen ones heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.”*** (Colossians 3:12-14) In this holiday season, we are immersed in a counterculture that promotes spending excessive amounts of money towards the giving of material gifts. Instead, let us look deep within and share the Love of Christ, the greatest gift of all and the *bond of perfection* that holds all families together.

The Psalm response is: ***“Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in His ways.”*** (Psalm 128:1) When we think about the word “fear,” immediately we come to think of anxiety or dread. As children we come to fear parental punishment when we misbehave. St. Thomas Aquinas makes it clear that Fear of the Lord *is not the fear of punishment by God*. Fear of the Lord is better described as Wonder and Awe, Respect and Reverence. St. Thomas describes Fear of the Lord as the *fear of separating oneself from God*.

In the Gospel, we hear the familiar story of the Finding of Jesus in the Temple. Perhaps, this fear of separating from God is what Mother Mary and St. Joseph felt when they were separated from Jesus. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple is the fifth Joyful mystery of the Rosary. What better word than Joy to describe the feelings of a mother upon finding her lost son? What better word than Joy to describe the feeling of finding Jesus in our lives? I can testify to this because I have encountered Christ through my experiences in the various Life in the Spirit Seminars, Youth, Singles and Family Encounter weekends of this community. When we find Jesus, we are filled with Joy. We are filled with Fear of the Lord: Reverence, Respect, Wonder, and Awe.

The Holy Family is the perfect model of obedience. ➤

## What Santa Means to Me and His Origin

My name is Catheryn Duarte and I’m going to tell you what Santa means to me and where he came from. Santa Claus, also known as Saint Nicholas, Father Christmas or simply “Santa”, is a figure with legend or myth. Santa Claus lives in the North Pole, with a lot of magical elves, who helps him make toys and flying reindeers, who helps him deliver these toys. He brings gifts to the homes of the good children during the very late evening and overnight hours of Christmas Eve, December 24.

Although, Christmas isn’t about presents or gifts, it is about what children like me have to do so we can get a gift from Santa. He brings presents to the children of the world because it reminds us that when in Jesus’ time, He Himself was a gift to all the people before Him. So when we hold a gift it brings to mind how Jesus was a gift to all of us. In addition, without Jesus being born and given to mankind, then there would be no Santa Claus or no Christmas, just as there would be no Church or people who look up to our Savior. Santa Claus also helps us in being good because we all do not want to be on the naughty list and we also do not want to be bad in Jesus’s presence. Nonetheless, we should remember Christmas is a time to love and celebrate Jesus’s birth, because without Him we will not have Christmas and Santa. Jesus in Santa Claus is the one who reminds me what Christmas is all about. Merry Christmas to all and a very Happy Birthday Jesus!

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St. Joseph obeyed the angel’s instructions: first, to take Mother Mary (with child) into his home, and second, to flee into Egypt, a foreign land, during Herod’s massacre of the newborns.

Our Blessed Mother is an even greater example of obedience. She is the New Eve whose obedience reversed the fatal disobedience of the first Eve. Though Immaculate, preserved from the stain of original sin, Mother Mary was still human, endowed with free will. When the Angel Gabriel announced God’s plan to bring the Savior into the world, her human nature caused her to question. But the angel encouraged her, ***“For nothing will be impossible with God.”*** (Luke 1:37) Being human, Mother Mary had every right to say no but she trusted in God’s plan and answered with a resounding and beautiful YES; in Latin, it is known as Mother Mary’s *Fiat*. She exclaims with obedience, ***“I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your Word.”*** (Luke 1:38)

*Continued on page 4*

# 2012 BLD NEWARK EVENTS

## End of Year Report

### 1st Quarter 2012

Singles Retreat: Grow in Christ, Grow in Life II & Discover Your Promise	January 14
Youth Rally: Catholic Conference of Youth and Parents	
2012 Medical Mission	Jan 30-Feb 2
Youth LSS # 17	March 2-4
BLD Emergence: Nomination Day	March 10

### 2nd Quarter 2012

Adult LSS #38	April 20-22
Marriage Encounter # 39	May 18-20
Singles Encounter # 28	June 1-3
Solo Parents Annual Retreat	June 9
Solo Parent Encounter # 14	June 22-24

### 3rd Quarter 2012

Youth Encounter #19	July 13-15
Prayer Counseling: Prayer Healing 1	July 21-22
Prayer Counseling: Prayer Healing 2	July 28-29
Family Encounter # 19	July 20-22
Youth Inter-district Conference	August 10-12
BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20 Celebration	August 18
BLD Newark Ablaze @ 20: Inter-district Conference (IDC)	August 19
Youth: Battle of the Classes	September 22

### 4th Quarter 2012

Adult LSS # 39	October 5-7
John 6 Crossing # 13	October 19-21
Aspirants' Retreat	October 26-28
Singles' Soup Kitchen	October 27
Mark 10 Parade of Saints	November 2
Marriage Encounter # 40	November 9-11
Singles Encounter # 40	
Washing of the Feet / Agony in the Garden Retreat	November 17
Youth Nursing Home Christmas Carols	December 15
Christmas Ministry/ME Class Presentation	Dec 14 & 21

### Recurring Events

Mission: Nursing Home Visit	Every 2nd Sat (monthly)
Mission: Soup Kitchen	Every 4th Sat (monthly)
Teachings	Every 1st & 3rd Sat (except summer months and December)
Discipling Session	Every 4th Sat (monthly)

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call 410-676-6000

<b>Marshaling</b>		<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Apostolate</b>
			Jan 04	Formation
			Jan 11	Management
			Jan 18	Evangelization
			Jan 25	Formation

Please notify Word Ministry if you have not been receiving your soft copies by emailing: [word@bldnewark.com](mailto:word@bldnewark.com)

## COUNSELS (from page 3)

Finally, Our Lord Jesus Christ is the greatest example of obedience. He is the New Adam whose obedience enabled us to enter paradise once more. Though he was God incarnate, He never failed to recognize and respect the parental authority of St. Joseph and Mother Mary. He submitted to the parental authority of God, the Almighty Father. In Philippians 2:6-8 we read the beautiful words, "*Christ Jesus, Who, 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 death/ even death on a cross.*"

The Holy Family was not immune to suffering. However, they continued to be faithful and obedient to God's will, despite their trials and hardships. Therefore, they are the paradigm of family love.

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Honor your father and mother.
2. Wives, be subordinate to your husbands; husbands, love your wives.

## LORD'S PROVISION

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections	Actual	YTD
Tithe/Love Offering	3,227	162,223
Typhoon Pablo	576	2,938
Christmas Offering	746	***

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

**Thank you for your continued support!**

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 2013 Medical Mission

Feb 18-21 • La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines



*May the light of Christ shine on all involved in this extraordinary task, and that they all come together for the sole purpose Christ is bringing them there. May God be praised! A.M.E.N*



January 25, 2013, Washington D.C.

**Departure Place & Time:**

1st Pick-up @ 5:30 am -

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Nutley, NJ**

2nd Pick-up @ 6:30 am -

**Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway, NJ**

**If you wish to join, please contact,  
 Ray/Tess Salmo: [parish@bldnewark.com](mailto:parish@bldnewark.com)**



## INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

**Destination:** The city of Ephesus is located in what is now western Turkey, across the Aegean Sea from Athens. The book of Acts says that Paul paid a brief visit to Ephesus on his second missionary journey (18:19-21) and returned on his third journey (19:1-41; cf. 20:17-38) to spend between two and three years there (19:10; 20:31). Many biblical scholars often describe Ephesians as a circular letter that Paul intended for several churches in Asia Minor, now Turkey. The Church of Ephesus was only one of several churches Paul expected to receive the letter.

Ephesians is remarkably similar to the letter of Paul to the Colossians, in fact, the two epistles have been called “literary siblings”. Also, noteworthy in Revelation 2:1-7, a brief letter to the church in Ephesus is found, which portrays the Christian community there as orthodox and faithful but lacking in the love and works that it had exhibited “at first”.

**Purpose and Themes:** Through this letter, St. Paul wanted all believers to contemplate and articulate in a more reflective way, God's saving work in Jesus, hoping that a deeper appreciation of God's blessings will lead all believers to a more mature commitment to the Gospel.

To be noted in Ephesians is the panoramic view of Salvation that stretches from the past (election, 1:4), to the present (adoption 1:5) and to the future (1:10). Paul has organized his benediction (1:3-14) around the work of the Trinity (CCC 257-58), meaning, The Father chooses us (1:4-6), The Son redeems us (1:7-10) and The Holy Spirit seals (sanctifies) us (1:13-14).

The predominant theme of Ephesians is the “mystery of Christ”, once concealed but now revealed (1:9; 3:4, 9). St. Paul sets before us a vision of Christ reigning in Heaven (1:20) and renews the earth through his Church (3:10). Paul reflects that the PDR of Jesus Christ are events for the redemption of Israel and Gentiles alike (1:7; 2:16; 5:2), in order to restore peace between the Father and the human family, and are not confined to the past but rather the Resurrection, Ascension, and Enthronement of Christ are saving mysteries that will continue to grace our lives and souls in the present, making all believers participants in Christ's royal, priestly, and prophetic mission to the world (2:4-6; 5:2).

This is the new unity of humanity Christ has created.

Further, the mystery of Christ is also the mystery of his ecclesial body (CCC 777), His Bride (CCC 796), the Church which is nothing less than God's new creation in Christ (2:10,15; 2 Cor 5:17; CCC 810)

Ephesians gives us The Four Marks (characteristics) of the Church, inseparably linked with each other:

1. The **Church is ONE** because she has one source, The Blessed Trinity, and is unified in her faith, worship, and leadership, “One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all”. (Eph 4:5-6)
2. The **Church is HOLY** because Christ has separated her from sin and consecrated her to the Father “that she might be holy and without blemish”. (Eph 5:27)
3. The **Church is CATHOLIC** because she bears within herself the fullness of grace and she embraces all nations, “So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.” (Eph 2:19)
4. The **Church is APOSTOLIC** because she was founded upon the apostles, she preserves their apostolic doctrine, and she perpetuates a direct line of apostolic succession that stretches back to those first appointed by Christ, “built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord.” (Eph 2:20-21)

All believers are incorporated into the Church. (Eph 2:22; 1 Pt 2:5) The “church” in Ephesians is synonymous with “all people who have been reconciled with God through Jesus Christ”. Ephesians seems to regard the Christian household as a miniature version of the church (“household of God”). The intimacy or the relationship of a husband and wife may be construed as a living metaphor for the loving union of Christ and the church (5:31-32). Also, the husband and wife relationship is set within the context of mutual submission (5:21).

Through mutual respect predicated with God's love for his church (us), the members of the Christian household must witness to non-believers by living a life worthy of our calling and a life with others in a community that functions as a single entity. Since we are integrated into the bride of Christ, the church, through the Sacrament of Baptism, we share in the priesthood of Christ, in his prophetic and royal mission, CCC 1268. We must profess before men the faith we have received from God through the church and participate in her apostolic and missionary activities CCC 1270.

With regard to this world, St. Paul is exhorting all of us believers to walk and live, actively moving toward the goal of holiness which is our destiny:

1. As a new creation in Christ, “put off the old man that belongs to our former manner of life and put on the new man, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” (4:22-24)
2. Taking up the whole armor of God to fight evil (6:13)
3. We must exert extra effort at maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace and love in our households and in community life (4:3)
4. We must be faithful in prayer (6:18)
5. We must be dedicated and be deliberate about leading a life in faith, to be worthy of the promises of Christ (4:1-2)