



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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## NEWS

### Thirty-four aspiring teachers answer the call.

*"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."* (Mt 28:18-20)

Last weekend, thirty-four aspiring teachers answered the call for the New Evangelization and completed their TDP (Teacher's Development Program) at Divine Mercy Auditorium. They were:

- from Newark: Marc Brillantes, Angel Doria, Amor Ferrer, Bing Frio, Jun and Tess Galvez, Manny and Arlene Mangalonzo, Melchor Martinez, Runnie Santiago, Rod and Alma Soriano, Ed and Tess Ugaddan
- from Rockland: Cesar and Elvie Abella, Josie Lat, Hyde Amane, Froilan and Joanne Quirante
- from Trenton: Ellen Epino, Jojo Legaspi, Gayle Mantes, Connie Mendoza, Gil and Annaliza Ocena, Keith Rodriguez, Roy Rubiato, Jeff Sarmiento
- from Washington DC: Mila Atienza, Dong and Tess Jomuad
- along with two other disciples who sat in to review the TDP: Rose Chavez, Vanessa Fabe.

It was a weekend of mentoring, discovering and exploring where everyone was given a chance to demonstrate their gifts of teaching, each in their own unique way.

We give thanks to many people:

- special acknowledgment to their shepherds for the encouragement they provided so that these aspiring teachers could progress in developing this gift

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## COUNSELS

### The Holy Trinity

**THEME:** We are strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit when we firmly believe in the saving power of God.

**WORD :** Ex 34:4b-6,8-9 ~ Dn 3:52,53,54,55,56  
2 Cor 13:11-13 ~ Jn 3:16-18

**ORDER:** *Believe in the name of the only Son of God, that you may not be condemned.* (cf Jn 3:18)

**REFLECTION:**

“Though the Holy Trinity is a profound mystery, it is a powerful Truth that all Christian believers must not doubt! If we deny that the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit are distinct, we deny God His inherent personal and relational characteristics. We must constantly pray to our Triune God that by His grace we may have full knowledge of His mighty power that saved us, and exalt Christ over all so that we will properly represent Him on earth.” - from the Counsels in last week’s Covenant News (from the CSL in Manila’s reflection for the month of June).

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Something from a Word Sharing Circle that we were in two weeks ago confirmed and affirmed our belief in the Holy Spirit. We were discussing what happened at Pentecost and how the Apostles were profoundly changed by that event.

Prior to that, even though they had seen Jesus Christ alive again after He was murdered in a very public and humiliating way, after His Ascension, they still avoided attracting any attention.

The Gospels only hint at His many, many reappearances as a flesh and blood resurrected person, but there is enough already ...Continued on page 3

### Promise of the Week

*“Everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.”* (Jn 3:16b)

## Thirty-four answer the call... (from page 1)

- great gratitude towards the five presentors: Ollie Felibrico, King Rigor, Charlie Larobis, Jovy Lucero and Noel Trilliana, who tirelessly shared their knowledge of the 5 main modules of the Teachers Development Program



- We also thank the DCS and the community teachers of Newark and teachers from other districts for their assistance and support; together with the Praise and Liturgical Ministries, and the all the auxies who served and shared their time, talents and treasures to make this a fruitful and Spirit filled weekend.

- Most of all, **THANK YOU Lord!**

Once again, everyone's participation showed that though we are many parts, we are One Body in Christ. Congratulations once again and many blessings to all. May The Master Teacher continue to guide each one of us as we continue to faithfully serve Him through our witnessing on this vocation of teaching.

*"MODERN MAN LISTENS MORE WILLINGLY TO WITNESSES THAN TO TEACHERS, AND IF HE DOES LISTEN TO TEACHERS, IT IS BECAUSE THEY ARE WITNESSES."*

- EVANGELII NUNTIANDI, POPE PAUL VI, DECEMBER 8, 1975.

Yes, it was all about your witnessing and the presence of The Holy Spirit in you that made this weekend very special.

***"He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." - Mk 16:15***



## THE GREATEST

Quickly now, when you hear the word "greatest" - if you're a boxing fan, Muhammad Ali comes to mind; Michael Jordan is the man if you're into basketball; and perhaps Babe Ruth, if you like baseball.

You being anointed as the greatest in the kingdom of heaven when you obey and teach? Are you serious?

***"Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven."***

(- from the Gospel reading for Wednesday, June 14, Mt 5:19)

So where do I begin, you might breathlessly ask. Getting to the kingdom of heaven is the supreme reward! But to be called "greatest" in the kingdom? Really?

How might we get there?

For starters, how's your personal relationship with Jesus? Lukewarm? Cold? Alive? Dead? Do you catch yourself confessing the same sins over and over again?

***"For whoever keeps the whole law, but falls short in one particular, has become guilty in respect to all of it" Ja 2:10***

We take sin and its ugliness for granted - *Oh it's only a small thing; it's only a white lie; it's only a venial sin.* Over time it becomes second nature, and without realizing it, we've developed our favorite little sins. A sin is a sin and we reject God every time we sin - we reject His love, we reject His grace, we reject His mercy.

What's holding us from becoming a true disciple of Jesus? Look no further. Complacency with little things hurt; it prevents us from improving our personal relationship with Him.

Once upon a time, there was a child who spared nothing, in order to grow up to be what he thought was a mighty king. Another child devoted his entire life loving and totally obedient to his father, obedient even unto death.

Which child are you? Who will be deemed by the Lord as ***the greatest?*** Which child will you be?





## COUNSELS

(from page 1)

in them. Just to name a few, there were the events at the tomb in all four accounts; the episode on the Emmaus road related in Luke; in John, the beach scene where Christ said, ***“Come have breakfast.”*** (Jn 21:12); and the time when He asked Thomas to touch His wounds. So why did they not immediately start to loudly proclaim that the world must believe in Jesus Christ?

Someone from our WSC pointed out that the Holy Spirit had not yet come down to them. Suddenly, I thought, ***“Now that makes sense!”***

Back then, even the very Apostles themselves needed the presence of the Holy Spirit in them, before they could boldly go out into the world to preach. This is despite all that they had seen Jesus do, including, come back from the dead. So, at that WSC, it was a definite ***“AHA!”*** moment that confirmed to us that the Holy Spirit was and is indeed a separate Person.

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Not in the First century AD, but in the ones soon after that, other ***“Gospels”*** besides the four canonical ones (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) were written. Archeological work in Israel and Egypt has discovered copies of some of them, some dating back to the third century. They are not canonical for a number of reasons, one of which is with regards how they differed from the Gospels in our current NABRE. But even among Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, there are distinct differences that seem to be at odds.

The cynic would be quick to say that this might cause one to question, ***“Why?”***; perhaps even if Jesus was a historical figure at all. Serious historians and biblical scholars however have argued that the discrepancies actually provide more solid proof to our belief that Jesus actually walked on this earth.

Simply put, if all the stories were exactly identical, then the story itself would instead be suspect.

The Canonical Gospels, despite their discrepancies, in telling about a historical figure, were corroborated - not only by writers with spiritual motives - but by separate accounts written by other ancient historians, Jewish, Greek and others. They too had recorded things about a Man Who was crucified and died, Whom a lot of people claimed to have seen alive again.

Ultimately, historical discussions are not the reason for our belief in Him as God, for, ***“Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.”*** (Heb 11:1)

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In the Gospel for Saturday, June 17, Jesus Christ said this: ***“Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’ Anything more is from the evil one.”*** (Mt 5:37). In the reading for Tuesday, June 13, St. Paul writes, ***“As God is faithful, our word to you is not ‘yes’ and ‘no’... but ‘yes’... in him.”*** (2 Cor 1:18,19)

We are living in precarious times on this planet, but there has always been this war against the LORD from non-believers and the evil one’s warriors. In Exodus, after the episode involving the golden calf, ***“Moses saw that the people were running wild... to the secret delight of their foes. Moses stood at the gate of the camp and shouted, ‘Whoever is for the Lord, come to me!’”*** (Ex 32:25-26). Then, all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him and the side of the Lord. At the siege at Jericho, Joshua asked a man who had drawn his sword, ***“Are you one of us or one of our enemies?”*** (Jos 5:13)

***“Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me, scatters.”*** (Mt 12:30).

Today, the same question is still being asked of us. We as brothers and sisters of Christ Jesus, need to stand up and faithfully proclaim which side we’re truly on and live by that faith. That’s the faith that the LORD has granted unto His elect, *the children of God*. Until the bitter end of our last breath in this valley of tears, we need to pick up our crosses and walk the walk with our Lord Jesus Christ. We need to say ***‘YES’*** to the Lord, and should not waver.

*O Lord God of hosts, please continue to remind us always that all that we do and see here in the world today, all that we accomplish, are for the pursuit of Your Truth, and must be for Your greater glory! May we always have You in the forefront of all that we do. We ask this in the precious name of JESUS, Your beloved Son and our Lord, in His name we ask and pray. Amen.*

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# COUNSELS

(from page 3)

As for Father God, the evidence that there is a Creator Who created everything and sustains life, including our very own, is right in front of us every day.

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So, there are Three Persons, in our Trinitarian God. Because there can be only one god, it actually makes sense for us to believe that they must be co-equal, Who together are the ONE GOD.

Beyond what logic dictates, however, it is not in the mind, but in the heart where He must live in each of us. We are truly strengthened when we believe in the saving power of our Triune God. And the peace and love that comes with that makes all the difference in the world for each of us... in this one and in the next one to come.

### Directions:

1. Encourage and nurture one another as we journey in faith.
2. Live in peace and love.

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From a sign outside the Grace Bible Church in Moscow Vermont: **Exercise daily...  
Walk with Jesus!**

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**BLD  
Newark**  
1992-2017

Save  
the  
Date

This year marks BLD-Newark's 25th anniversary. You are part of the beautiful tapestry the Lord has woven into this community's history, and we invite you to join us as we celebrate this important milestone.

Please save the following dates:

- August 19, 2017 - Community Celebration  
Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway
- August 20, 2017 - 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance

We look forward to reminiscing our yesterday, celebrating our today, and envisioning our future with you.

By His grace,  
The 25th Anniversary Committee

"May the LORD bless you and keep you! May the LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!"  
(Numbers 6:24-26)

# LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,582	\$ 30,236
Love Offerings	\$ 1,140	\$ 28,720
Mission Collections	\$ 40	\$ 2,892

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

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Teaching Calendar

- Teachings for Saturday, **June 17, 2017** - 1 to 6 pm:
- Healing and Deliverance (LSS 1-45)
  - Encounter with Jesus: Luke / John (LSS 1-46B)
  - New Creation Realities / Growth in Prayer (LSS 47)

### SINGLES ENCOUNTER #37

June 16-18, 2017

Graymoor Spiritual Life Center  
Garrison, NY 10524

Contacts:

Jutt Bustos - [jutt.bustos@bldnewark.com](mailto:jutt.bustos@bldnewark.com)  
Lita Alfaro - [lita.alfaro@bldnewark.com](mailto:lita.alfaro@bldnewark.com)

### Solo Parents Encounter Weekend #19

June 23-25, 2017

DAYS Hotel Conference Center East Brunswick  
195 Route 18 South, East Brunswick, NJ

Contacts: Cherry & Rueben Vibar  
(SPE18 CS)

### YOUTH ENCOUNTER #24

"Come and Follow Me..."

July 7-9, 2017

Fellowship Deaconry  
3575 Valley Road  
Basking Ridge



Contact: [dyc@bldnewark.com](mailto:dyc@bldnewark.com)

### FAMILY ENCOUNTER 24

July 14 - 16, 2017  
Malvern Retreat House  
Malvern PA

Submit Completed Applications for:

- \* Willy & Amor Ferrer
- \* Noel & Gale Deleon

As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord: Joshua 24:15

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Jun 16	Pastoral
		Jun 23	Evangelization
		Jun 30	Formation
		Jul 7	Management