



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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Bulletin Edition

June 23, 2017

NEWS

COUNSELS

SE #37 yields 17



On June 16-18, 2017, at Graymoor Spiritual Life Center in Garrison, NY, seventeen individuals accepted God's invitation to the Singles' Encounter #37 weekend, and experienced the grace of His love and mercy. The facilitators of the weekend were Marielle Go (SE33), Ryan Camposagrado (SE28), Carl Caparros (SE 19 and Vanessa Fabe (SE20). They shared their past experiences with the new class of SE37. Deacon Serge Bernachez served as the retreat's Spiritual Director, complementing the sharings with his insightful teachings.

Many of the members of the SE 37 class came from the Youth Ministry; most were from YE18, along with those from YE16, YE17, YE19 and YE21, as well as new members coming into BLD for the first time through the Singles' Encounter. To help the class bond with each other, Tito Oliver and Tita Marissa Rangel accepted God's call to be the class shepherds; they will guide and help lead them in their spiritual journey. ...Continued on page 2

Like a Mighty Champion

THEME: We are strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit when we testify to others what Jesus has done in our life.

WORD: Jer 20:10-13 ~ Ps 69:8-10,14,17,33-35
Rom 5:12-15 ~ Mt 10:26-33

ORDER: ***"Do not be afraid... speak in the light."***
(Mt 10:26,27)

REFLECTION:

"But the LORD is with me, like a mighty champion" (Jer 20:11).

The reality of life, especially for us Christians, involves two basic aspects: the human dimension and the divine. Since we are born with many different tendencies, we may be prone to let our minds and actions shift from God's moral law towards the allures and deceptions of the world.

Christian life requires us to constantly be aware of His moral law, because we are given choice, the free will to choose what is right and what is of God. And there are many moments in our lives when we are challenged by conditions that hamper our obedience and our pursuit of true happiness. ***"It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God."*** (Acts 14:22)

We often say that it is easy to understand the Word of God and His instructions, and yet, it can take a long while before they reach our hearts. But in Phil 4:13, St. Paul assures us, ***"I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me."*** When we receive and use the gifts of the Holy Spirit, it makes it possible for Him to enter our hearts and for us to be strengthened by Him, thereby enabling us to accomplish what may ...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father." (Mt 10:32)

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

SE #37 yields 17

(from page 1)

In Matthew 6:7-15, Jesus said to his disciples:

"In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

"This is how you are to pray:

'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

*Give us today our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and do not subject us to the final test,
but deliver us from the evil one.'*

'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.'

In Matthew chapter 6 (9-13), in the middle of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives His disciples the prayer now known as the "Our Father." It is also called "the Lord's Prayer" because it is given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ.

In giving the Lord's Prayer to them, Jesus first admonishes them, *"do not babble like the pagans."* This refers to the pagan practice of reciting multiple names and titles for their gods, under the assumption that unless the proper wording and nomenclature was used, the prayer would be ineffective.

This contrasts with the way Jesus instructs us to pray to God. By addressing God as *"Our Father"*, we are using a name that is at once, both intimate in its familiarity and profound in its exaltation.

The Israelites had prayed to God as the Father of Creation and considered him the Father of the Israelite people. In 2 Samuel 7:14, God promises to be a father to David's offspring. At times God protected the Israelites from their enemies, and at other times He chastised them for betraying Him. But the relationship between God and His people was limited. Only the High Priest was able to "commune" with God by entering into the Holy of Holies, and only on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement (Lev 16).

God the Father and God the Son have existed eternally with the Holy Spirit, and when Jesus became man, God's fatherhood was made known to all. →→



Let us welcome the class of SE37 with open arms: Jan Bacus, Gil Balanzat, Krizzle Calbonilla, Jet Cruz, Joey Daguio, Otasowie Philip Edugie, Will Estiler, Matt Ferrer*, Queeny Gonzales, Adrian Loreto, Kaye Pepino, Kipsy Quevada*, Xanilyn Red, Daryl Santos, Mike Sumandal, Kevin Tam*, and Aggie Worou (* Class Coordinators).

This past SE was a glorious weekend, thanks to the hard work of the sponsoring class, SE36 and their class shepherds, Tito Cy and Tita Mavil Loreto, along with the Singles Ministry core, the Pastoral Stewards, Praise Team and auxies. The class of SE#37 proclaimed their joy and thanks to God, singing "Glorious" (by Citipointe Live).

Congratulations SE 37!

→ As Jesus says, *"No one comes to the Father except through me"* (Jn 14:6) and *"No one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him"* (Mt 11:27).

By praying to Our Father in Heaven, we proclaim God's power and righteousness, as He is the God Who created the universe, both heaven and earth. Jesus also invites us to an intimate relationship with God the Father. He has revealed the Father to us and has given us His words (Jn 17:8). When Jesus was preparing for His sacrifice on the Cross, He asks God the Father, *"Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are."* (Jn 17:11). By keeping us in His Name, which had previously been veiled in the Holy of Holies of the Temple, we are kept in God's presence and the Holy Communion of the Trinity:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

How Many Gospels Are There?

Last Saturday, the Teaching Ministry's line-up of classes included the Gospel accounts by St. Luke and St. John. That afternoon, this question was asked, "How many Gospels are there?"

Most of BLD has probably heard the answer to this before, but it is worth repeating:

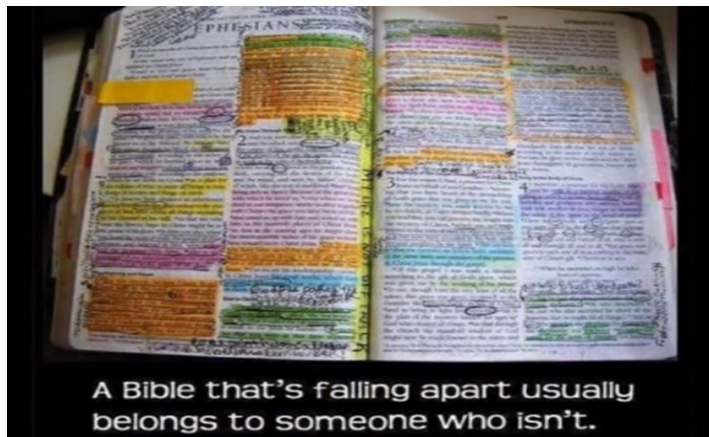
There is only One Gospel – that of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Then, of the One Gospel, there are four accounts written by the four evangelists.

The four Gospels are CANONICAL and all four share common features in their structure:

- * They center totally on Christ.
- * They present Him as both human (Son of Man) and divine (Son of God).
- * They present His work as both words (teachings) and deeds (miracles, signs).
- * They present His most important work as dying and rising from the dead (Mt 28; Mk 16; Lk 24; Jn 21).
- * They present Him as "Jesus", the Savior from sin, and "Christ" or "Messiah" ("promised one").
- * They begin no later than John the Baptist and end no earlier than the Resurrection.
- * They are written by eyewitnesses (Matthew, John) or those who interviewed eyewitnesses (Mark, Luke).
- * All four Gospels end with a:
 - Passion Narrative - Mt 26-28, Mk 14-16, Lk 22-24, Jn 18-20; and a ...
 - Resurrection Narrative - Mt 28, Mk 16, Lk 24, Jn 20-21
- * Historicity: In Second Vatican Council Dei Verbum #19, it says:

"Holy Mother Church has firmly and with absolute constancy held, and continues to hold, that the four Gospels...faithfully hand on what Jesus Christ, while living among men, really did and taught for their eternal salvation until the day He was taken up into heaven."

What an awesome faith we have! And we pray that its Truth be proclaimed with authenticity, always.



A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't.

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

have first seemed too difficult and unreachable.

In the midst of our human weaknesses the divine element imparts to us, an opportunity to touch and feel the intangible God. Look around us - family, work, school, friends and acquaintances; these are the people and places where we can welcome Him with open arms, by following His two greatest commandments:



We are now a new creation in which we become "children of God." We are summoned to a higher calling, to overcome the lures of the world, to see through to the reality of realities, our beloved Triune God. We are chosen, not for intellectual knowing, but for a deeper knowing, entering into a relationship where we affirm that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.

With great humility, we must accept our nothingness, stirring our hearts to enliven in them, the gifts we received through baptism in water and in fire. We fear no one but the Lord. If we do not cling to the charism of fear of the Lord, then our efforts to obey with a trusting heart are in vain. True humility serves as a channel to absolute dependence on God, with which we are able to build up in our hearts the three theological virtues of faith, hope and love.

As believers and members of **Bukas Loob sa Diyos** we are graced to live a sacramental life to ensure that we are constantly in tune and connected to Him, through the first and greatest of God's gifts: the Holy Spirit.

Do we have to be in despair just because of our sinful nature? No, by virtue of His great love for us, the kindness and mercy of God abounds even more. And we are strengthened by His words in Matthew 10:31, **"So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."**

...Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

(from page 3)

In the words of the famous poet, Oscar Wilde, *“The only difference between saints and sinners is that every saint has a past, while every sinner has a future.”* So in other words, there is hope. In the Gospel of John, verse 14:6, Jesus said these words that now guide us towards that hope, *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* To live a genuine Christian life, we must be connected to Jesus and most importantly, we must stay connected.

In Isaiah 7:14 God vowed that He will be with us, *“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son, shall name him Emmanuel.”* Emmanuel – God is with us.

Let us embrace His promise so that we may live our faith, enabling us to say, in good times, “I rejoice with the Lord,” and in times of difficulties, “I persevere with the Lord, because I know that *‘the LORD is with me like a mighty champion.’*” (Jer 20:11)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Witness the victory of the Lord in your life at all times.
2. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord.
3. Speak boldly in support of the advocacy of the Church.

LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,460	\$ 32,923
Love Offerings	\$ 898	\$ 30,877
Mission Collections	\$ 100	\$ 3,077

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ME 48 Grand Reunion Sunday, June 25, 2017
12-4 PM, Connell Hall

rsvp – charlie.claricia@bldnewark.com / arlene.claricia@bldnewark.com

DLC MEETING / PASTORAL HOUR

Divine Mercy Parish Library
7:30 PM, Wednesday, June 28, 2017

“We Walk Hand-in-Hand”
Disciples’ Assembly
Saturday, July 29, 2017, 1-5 pm
Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium

- Knowing current BLD trends and issues, and how the Community and its leadership move to worship and serve God
Contact persons: Lisa and Joven Soriano, Joy and Raul Wong, Tatess and Tony Abad, Fe and Sundee Ikalina, Nellie and Ernest Sun

YOUTH ENCOUNTER #24

“Come and Follow Me...”

July 7-9, 2017
Fellowship Deaconry
3575 Valley Road
Basking Ridge



Contact: dyc@bldnewark.com

FAMILY ENCOUNTER 24

July 14 - 16, 2017
Malvern Retreat House
Malvern PA

Submit Completed Applications to:

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

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

Marshaling	Date	Apostolate
	Jun 30	Formation
	Jul 7	Management
	Jul 14	Mission
	Jul 21	Pastoral



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)