



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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Bulletin Edition

July 7, 2017

NEWS

BLD celebrates 32 years of Evangelization and Mission...

“On June 19, 1985, the first covenants sealed by almost 100 couples took place at a Community Assembly. This has become the reckoning date for the BLD Anniversary.”

(source: BLD World website)



Manila 32nd Foundation
Message of Abp Angel
Lagdameo

MESSAGE

History covers the 32nd Anniversary of Bukas Loob sa Diyos Catholic Charismatic Covenant Community of Manila District: a history of blessings, graces and trials experienced and lived by the community, its BLD members and their families.

I hope that you will be able to put in words and pictures the history of BLD in your Districts for future generation to appreciate and thank God for.

The most important blessing is that you yourselves and your families enable Christ to be more tangibly present in our society today, in education, in work, in government as well as in politics. I would even support or recommend that some of you accept invitation to become members of the city or municipal councils.

The motive is that Christ may become better known and served. And you on F.I.R.E. (Fruitful, Inspired, Renewed, and Empowered).

God bless you all!

+ANGEL N. LAGDAMAEAO, D.D.
Archbishop of Jaro &
BLDCommunity Spiritual Director
June 7, 2017

COUNSELS

Reflection for July 2017

THEME: We bear much fruit when we surrender to God's ways.

WORD: Zec 9:9-10 ~ Ps 145:1-2,8-9,10-11,13-14
Rom 8:9,11-13 ~ Mt 11:25-30

ORDER: “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me.” (Mt 11:29)

REFLECTION:

“*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him, will bear much fruit.*” (Jn 15:5) Christ is the vine and we, His followers, are the branches. Our fruitfulness is determined not only by our connection to Jesus, but by the quality and authenticity of our relationship with Him. We validate this through our Community Word for the month of July which states – **True disciples of Christ bear much fruits.** The weekly themes and Bible promises (verses) for the 13th to the 17th Sundays in Ordinary Time challenge us to “*live in newness of life*” (Rom 6:4b) by walking in the Spirit, guided by God's word and equipped with unwavering faith to grow in the likeness of Christ throughout our lifetime.

The services we render in the Lord's vineyard would have no meaning if they are not rooted in our love and intimate relationship with Jesus. A lifetime of good works cannot be purposeful and fruitful unless these are done in loving devotion to Him. This is the theme for the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time – **We bear much fruit when our relationship with Jesus is the focal point of our lives.**

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Promise of the Week

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Mt 11:28)

CSL Message for BLD Manila and Global 32nd Anniversary



On June 19, 2017, we celebrate the 32nd Foundation Anniversary of Bukas Loob sa Diyos Catholic Charismatic Covenant Community, as we reminisce the founding of BLD Manila in 1985 that started off the establishment of 54 more districts globally. After 32 years, we praise and thank our Triune God that BLD remains united in vision and purpose.

Unity is the essence of our being in community. As faithful members, we fellowship with one another in our personal transformation and in pursuit of our evangelization and mission works. Celebrating the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ this Sunday, we are also reminded that we share in Christ's word and mission through the Holy Eucharist. Receiving the Eucharist is not only about entering into a personal relationship with Christ, but also in fellowship and communion with one another through Him. The Eucharist is the sacrament of love and unity which builds up and gives life to our community.

BLD Manila's celebration theme is "Being One is Fun...BLD Fun-dation Day." As the theme suggests, this day will be filled with activities that will promote camaraderie, friendly competitive games and most of all fun with one another, with our families and friends. Even in this occasion, we continue to celebrate the goodness of the Lord to live our community life in rest and recreation. More importantly, it is a celebration of our gratefulness to the Lord for giving us each other to love and enjoy.

With joy in our hearts, the Council of Servant Leaders joins BLD Manila, 54 global districts and several prayers groups and outreaches of BLD, in thanking our God Almighty for His benevolent graces and Spirit of faith, hope and love, allowing us to participate in building His Kingdom and making Christ known to more people.

May God grant us all more faithful and spirit-filled years of service!

COUNCIL OF SERVANT LEADERS

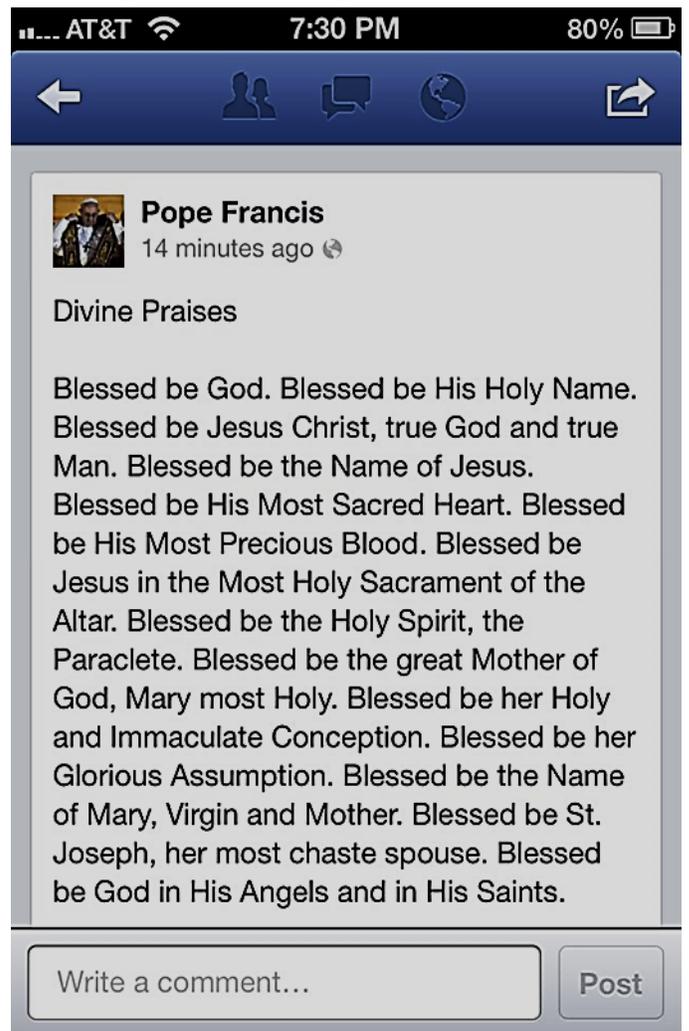
THE DIVINE PRAISES

The middle pages of the monthly Magnificat always contain about five pages dedicated to Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction. Since I am usually able to go to an Adoration Chapel once a week, one of the first things I do when I get there is to read through those pages, as a way of starting a Holy Hour with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Sometimes, particularly if I go late at night, I am the only one there. It's quiet and quite peaceful; it always seems like Jesus is talking to me. Recently, when I am alone there, I break the silence by reciting the Divine Praises aloud.

At first, my only initial thought was, "Why not?" After all, I wouldn't be bothering anyone else. But now, beyond the novelty of it, I've found that it enhances the wonderful feeling I get from praising Him.

The next time you are able to go to Blessed Sacrament Adoration, maybe this is something you could also do. Meanwhile, look below to see who has been using social media to praise Him too:



THE FRAGRANCE OF MY SONS

“As Jacob went up and kissed him, Isaac smelled the fragrance of his clothes. With that, he blessed him, saying, ‘Ah the fragrance of my son is like the fragrance of a field that the Lord has blessed.’”

- Gen 27:27

This scriptural verse quotes Isaac when he was about to bless, who he thought was his older son Esau, to be the leader of their tribe. As first-born, Esau was the rightful successor to Isaac. At first glance, this story seems to speak of deception within the family; and much worse, it appears that their mother Rebekah was an instigator of the scheme to get Isaac to bless their second son Jacob instead. Why would Rebekah favor Jacob more than Esau? As a mother, would one really love one child more than the other?

I have two sons just like Isaac and Rebekah. They are not twins but they grew up, pretty close in age to each other. We tried to teach them to not only to love each other, but for the younger one to show respect to his “Kuya” (older brother). I love them both for who they are, and regardless of any imperfections. I believe that a mother’s love for her children is the closest thing there is to unconditional love. So what was Rebekah thinking when she helped to deceive Isaac into handing Jacob what would have been Esau’s birthright? When Isaac smelled Jacob who was wearing Esau’s clothes and had his hands and neck covered with goatskins, he had no doubt that it was Esau.

I remember when my sons were young, and, just like Isaac, even if I were blindfolded, I could tell who was who, based on the “fragrance” of my sons. A mother also knows her children so well that she can almost feel what they are feeling. This special relationship is something that nobody else can replace, and nothing can duplicate. Isaac’s words captures this perfectly, *“Ah, the fragrance of my son is like the fragrance of a field that the Lord has blessed.”*

So did Rebekah deceive her husband Isaac and deny Esau of his birthright? Why would she do that? Does she care less for Esau? Somehow, I believe that she cared for them both. But an earlier episode from when they were growing up (Gen 25:29-34) relates how Esau made certain choices that would later have consequences. Genesis 25 concludes with this, *“So Esau treated his right as firstborn with disdain.”*

Rebekah too, knew something, even before her sons were born, that Jacob would succeed Isaac. For when she consulted the Lord, He answered her: →→

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

Our Lord wants us to share the love we have experienced with Him with others. Many may not appreciate or notice your work, or you might get rejected. But if your mission is motivated by your zeal for God, you should never be discouraged. The promise of Jesus this week from Matthew 10:40 – *“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me,”* will give us strength to persevere in bringing Christ to those we encounter in our faith journey.

The theme for the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time is – *We bear much fruit when we surrender to God’s ways.* One way to show that we truly love God is our act of obedience and submission to His holy will. He is absolutely perfect in all things and He knows our potentials, capabilities and our limitations better than we do. We need to completely surrender every area of our lives to Christ to maximize our fruitfulness. We have to give our all to Jesus, not only our plans and aspirations, but including our trails and pains that we experience while serving His people. Our encouragement comes from His promise this week – *“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”* (Mt 11:28)

The theme for the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time is – *We bear much fruit when our hearts become rich soil for the word of God.* A seed, in order to grow and bear fruit, needs to be sown in fertile soil. It is the same with the word of God; to work in our life, it should be nurtured in a receptive heart. A heart devoid of rocks of pride, weeds of selfishness, and thorns of worries is open to “hear and heed” the Holy Scriptures, the Word of Truth. This is a life spent in sowing salvation and bringing compassion and healing to others. A heart nourished in God’s word becomes an instrument in making others realize this promise – *“It shall not return to me empty, but shall do what pleases me, achieving the end for which I sent it.”* (Is 55:11b) Truly, God’s word never fails.

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→ *“Two nations in your womb, two peoples are separating while still within you; but one will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.”* (Gen 25:23) This biblical story may seem unjust, but her actions should be assessed with this in mind. Isaac was trying to uphold tradition, but the mother knew her sons; and from the scriptural context, more important than tradition, she was listening to the will of God.

COUNSELS

(from page 3)

For the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, the theme is – **We bear much fruit when our works of faith prosper the Kingdom of God.** Living out God’s purpose in our lives means fulfilling the great plan of building His kingdom on earth. The many blessings we receive, and the good things that happen to us while working to prosper His kingdom, manifest the Lord’s glory and hints at what He has prepared for us in heaven. For others, there may be doubts and questions: if we are going make it, if we can overcome challenges and become successful in our ways. The answer is expressed in the promise this week from Matthew 13:43 – **“The righteousness will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.”** There is no defeat, only victory for those who labor in the kingdom of God, seeking God first and following His teachings in the path of holiness.

Finally, for the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, the theme is – **We bear much fruit when we desire the kingdom of heaven as our treasured possession.** The kingdom of heaven is a priceless treasure to be desired above all else. Many of us have searched diligently for the kingdom of God before we found Jesus, our Savior. We struggle to get rid of anything that would hinder the reign of our Lord and King, and enable the power of His Spirit to lead and mold us. Still, there are times that we would falter and fall short of His glory. But St. Paul encourages us not to lose heart. He gives this promise – **“All things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.”** (Rom 8:28) As we experience trials and pains in the process of renewing our minds and souls, the Holy Spirit will renew His gifts in us and make us fruitful followers of Christ. And as we yearn to love God, all that we do for His greater glory will bring us closer to Him and someday be with Him in eternity.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Encourage all members to attend our formation program.
2. Adopt a discipline of daily Bible reflection.

THE TRUTH



Happiness does not define the Truth...
Because if it did, that would make the
Truth relative...

The Truth will always be the Truth
And it’s Christ’s Truth
That will lead to happiness.

A pdf of this Covenant News and more information about BLD are available online at BLDNEWARK.com

LORD’S PROVISION

Previous Week’s

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,841	\$ 35,854
Love Offerings	\$ 1,779	\$ 34,310
Mission Collections	\$ 184	\$ 3,315

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

“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

Save the Date

BLD Newark

August 19, 2017
Community Celebration at the
Divine Mercy Parish

August 20, 2017
25th Anniversary Dinner Dance

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Jul 14	Mission
		Jul 21	Pastoral
		Jul 28	Evangelization
Aug 4	Formation		