



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

COUNSELS

Pope sends message to Asian Youth Day in Indonesia

Calls them to respond to God's call with faith and courage

AUGUST 7, 2017 / JIM FAIR / Zenit.org

Pope Francis sent a message of encouragement to those attending the seventh Asia Youth Day, August 2-6, 2017, in Yogyakarta (Indonesia). The message was sent August 6 by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican Secretary of State, on behalf of the Holy Father.

"He prays that young people from across Asia will listen ever more attentively to God's call and respond with faith and courage to their vocation," Cardinal Parolin wrote on the Pope's behalf. "As they prepare for the next World Youth Day, His Holiness invites them to look to the Mother of the Lord as a model of missionary discipleship, to speak to her as they would to a mother, and to trust always in her loving intercession."

The message to Asian youth echoed the Pope's March 21, 2017, message to young people preparing for World Youth Day in Panama on 22-27 January 2019:

"Dear young people, God is also watching over you and calling you, and when God does so, he is looking at all the love you are able to offer. Like the young woman of Nazareth, you can improve the world and leave an imprint that makes a mark on history – your history and that of many others. The Church and society need you. With your plans and with your courage, with your dreams and ideals, walls of stagnation fall and roads open up that lead us to a better, fairer, less cruel and more humane world."

More than 2000 young people from 22 nations participated in this year's Asian Youth Day. Included were 160 Muslim youth representing organizations devoted to inter-religious dialogue. Indonesia is the world largest Muslim nation by population.

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Fear Not, I Am with You

THEME: We are transformed as we set our eyes of faith on Jesus.

WORD: 1 Kgs 19:9a,11-13a ~ Ps 85:9,10,11-12,13-14
Rom 9:1-5 ~ Mt 14:22-33

ORDER: ***"Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid"***
(Mt 14:27)

REFLECTION:

The Gospel narrative involving Jesus walking on water is part of Jesus' continuing lesson in faith, meant to deepen the faith of the apostles, as well as our faith today. Becoming a disciple of Jesus is usually a dynamic step-by-step process. It is learning through faith by trusting and following Him one step and one event at a time.

The event depicted was another boat incident wherein the apostles were battered by a storm (cf Mt 8:23-27), but this time, Jesus was not with them for He was alone praying on the mountain (cf Mt 14:22-33). In the dimness of the early dawn, however, they saw Jesus approaching the boat and He was walking on the sea. They thought they were seeing a ghost and cried out in fear.

In the face of apparent danger, like the apostles, we have to fully believe in the reality of Jesus, based solely on His words in Mt 14:27, where He says:

Take Courage, it is I, Do not be afraid

...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

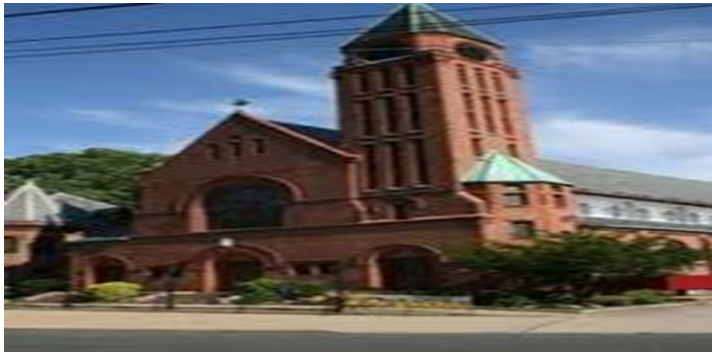
The Lord Himself will give His benefits; our land shall yield its increase. (cf Ps 85:13)

BLD Newark's 25th Anniversary Celebration

– What to expect on August 19 and 20

BLD Newark held its first Marriage Encounter in 1992, with the members of that group graduating as the Class of ME 1 on August 23rd of that year. It has been 25 years since...

This August 19th, at 1 pm sharp, we will start with the supreme part of our Silver Anniversary: a Eucharistic Celebration at Divine Mercy Parish Church.



→ Come EARLY; seats are limited!

From the get-go, as you drive in, you will be greeted by our anointed Sheriff of the Day and his deputies. Follow their parking directions. We encourage you to carpool!! Only cars with handicap signs will be allowed to get into and park in the DMP lot (but you may drive in to drop off lolos and lolas).

The *magnifi-cat(-cent)* coordinators of the Liturgical Ministry are in charge of the Mass, with our Praisers leading the music and songs. Bread and wine and baskets will be offered. You might ask, “what will be in those baskets?” Prayer kits for the unborn. Please SUPPORT the Spiritual Program for the Unborn!

Afterwards, our Presiding Steward will direct you to the auditorium and gym for a Community banquet and fellowship. Do not panic and rush, for we have enough food for a multitude, as prepared by our *unchoppable* BLD chefs of the Service Ministry. (Thanks for your RSVPs because they have helped with the planning for this... Just bring your lipitor with you.) Specialty booths will also be waiting to satisfy both your spiritual and physical needs... Mk10, Youth, Solo Parents, FLA, MLA, Singles, John 6, and an ME class will be there, eager to serve you. Someone suggested a contest for the best booth? Why not? So please visit them and scrutinize things (perhaps with the guidance of the Holy Spirit).

An hour and half is devoted for this, to fatten our hearts and bellies. Then our simple humble program begins around 3:30 pm. Our Mark 10 Ministry heads are coordinating all the events of the day (when it is divine...then it is a cultural show to die for!). We kept our promise not to burden our community with months

of practices, so prepare to be inspired by a show that is imperfectly **perfect**. Our speakers also have their messages ready, so we will need your listening hearts! And our faithful departed will never be forgotten, so they will especially be remembered too.

The rumor that's going around is that a Dynamic Duo (or Duel?) will be the emcees... So, the place will ROCK!! These two youthful BLD elders never say NO, and they will do anything for you!

A special edition of our CN will be distributed, with twenty pages to immortalize our God's love, made manifest through BLD. Our Word brethren are burning the midnight oil to publish it (serve them a cup of coffee when you see them). Holy kisses to many of you who contributed (verily, truly, really, very inspiring and moving).

What to wear? On the 19th, NO PRESSURE; wear light clothing to match our cultural theme, or the BLD 25th year shirts, or whatever makes you happy. We can be dressed differently, yet we all look like Christ now, after 25 years of being connected to each other. We decrease as He increases!

Then, after the formal program, wait and see what our DJ and music crew will have set up for you.

Let us pray for PERFECT weather. God is already showing signs that cool fall temperatures may be joining us for this celebration. Still, just in case it is needed, thanks to a few young volunteer members of our Community, the AC compressor at DMP is now clean and running (my wheezing disappeared). Now, you may have to bring your sweaters!

This part of the day will likely wind down in the late afternoon, but indeed, our God is full of surprises! (See the bottom of page 3 to find out what He has planned for later on that evening!) However, before heading out from the afternoon's festivities, please help out with the venue clean-up of DMP.

The next day, August 20, is when our Community Dinner Dance will be held, beginning at 3pm, at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Piscataway. ME 40 has been diligently making the arrangements for a truly memorable event. The menu includes a new musical that was put together by a truly talented couple (and volunteers, BLD veterans, as well as new), who already have had the previous success of two major BLD concerts! In it will be some original compositions... and a lot of praise! (I cannot wait!!!)

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What to expect...

(from page 2)

Then, there's dinner and line dancing!

It will be a time to have fun with our God Who changed our lamentation to dancing! Wear your best **formal attire** for our Lord Who is robed in majesty.

Our prayer is that we all come together as one, to receive our Eucharistic Lord and to fellowship together with the Holy Spirit. We acknowledge our imperfections; we are a wounded, bruised community, with our little stripes and scars. But we figured it out... in our weaknesses and troubles, we found the strength of God! So at these celebrations, we will remember God's faithfulness, kindness, generosity, mercy and love for us, for all of these 25 years. He was there for us and He will be with us until the end of times.

He said that... So please come, God will be there!

On behalf of our DCS, CS and our BLD 25th Anniversary Committee,

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU, AND ABOVE ALL, TO OUR FOREVER FAITHFUL AND LOVING GOD!

A Happy 25th year to our BLD Newark Community! Yes... 25 years... We have reached this far, only...

- BY HIS GRACE

This is a recent development:

BLD Newark invites you to a night of Praise & Worship led by Don Moen



By HIS Grace... We Worship
celebrating 25 years

8:00 pm - Saturday, Aug. 19, 2017

Doors Open at 7:00PM

Union County Performing Arts Center
1601 Irving Street • Rahway, NJ 07065



The event is free* so encourage your BLD family and friends to come! The first batch of tickets will be distributed after Praise and Worship, this Friday, Aug 11.

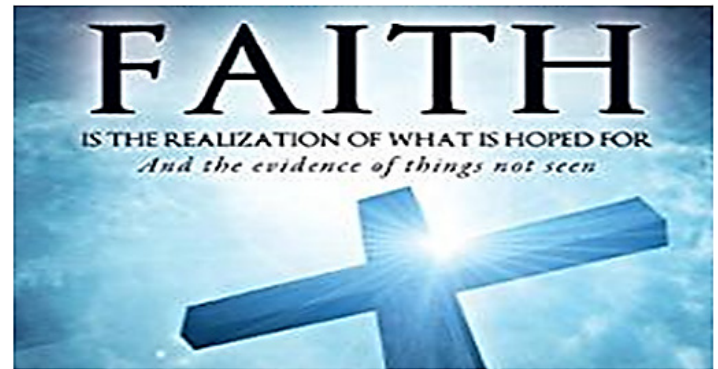
Please note: (i) Due to the fixed seating capacity of the venue, tickets are required; no one will be allowed in without a ticket. (ii) Please ensure that the tickets you get will be used and not be wasted. (iii) Send all other inquiries and ticket requests to: tickets@bldnewark.com

* In lieu of an admission fee, your free-will love offering will be graciously and cheerfully accepted.

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

Hebrews 11:1 defines faith:



While faith is the assurance of things hoped for, on the other hand, being convinced about things not seen involves courage and the ability to do something even if it frightens us. Faith and courage intertwine such that if our faith is strong, we will have the strength to go on. But if our faith is weak, we'll lack the courage we need to stand with conviction as God's children.

Jesus bade Peter, "Come," not only that he might walk on the water and know his Lord's power, but also as a test of his faith in Him. Peter is known for his great love for Christ, but he succumbed to fear because of his wavering faith.

How often do we hear God ask us to come to Him, but instead, we choose to fill our time with tumultuous schedules and unending to-do lists? How much faith do we show in our actions when we are told to come and serve at a weekend retreat or accept a ministry assignment, but leave things behind and undone?

When we turn away from Christ and instead look at the magnitude of the opposing winds of difficulties, we begin to fall; just as when Peter was frightened due to the turbulent winds, started to sink and had cried out, "Lord, save me!" But Jesus did not allow Peter to fail completely; he was saved to strengthen his faith.

Like the disciples, when we come to the Lord and faithfully surrender our worries and fears to Him, He will stretch out His hand and catch us. We need our Lord's perfect love to cast out fear and the negative thoughts and the pride that corrupt our minds; that make us doubt and become unbelievers. In 1 John 4:18a it says, **"There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear."** Let us also remember that... **"love is of God... for God is love."** (1 Jn 4:7,8).

It is not easy to always live in faith and put our total trust in God, especially when it means taking a risk, like walking on water. God understands how difficult it is for us to follow Him,

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Pope sends message (from page 1)

And while the Catholic population of Asia as a whole is relatively small the potential for growth is immense.

During the Pope's 2015 visit to the Philippines, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Archbishop of Manila, said Pope Francis had confirmed to him that "the future of the Church is in Asia."

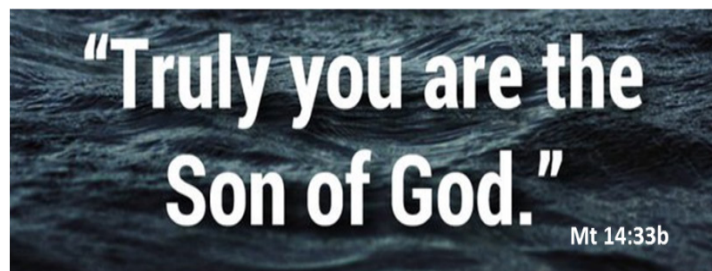
"It is not a matter of honor. Is it a challenge, a prophecy or a great calling? We do not know. But it is surely a matter of great responsibility, a great mission," the cardinal said.

COUNSELS (from page 3)

and so He assures us in Isaiah 41:10, ***"Do not fear, I am with you; do not be anxious; I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."*** Our Lord gives us the assurance that He is always with us, and that He is in control when we do His will. When we live in faith and come to Him, we allow our Lord to work and transform our lives. Our transformation takes place when we develop an intimate relationship with Him through our trust, unceasing prayer, true worship, and total surrender.

As we serve the Lord, we may encounter turbulent waves and ferocious winds in the form of family, community and personal trials. The Lord uses these trials and adversities in our daily lives to strengthen our spiritual muscles and deepen our faith to fully trust Him. As our faith is tested, we can then develop a profound sense of His nearness and we can build up the courage to face intimidating situations and roles.

Let us give our full trust in Him, for as we are told, ***the Lord himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase.*** (cf Ps 85:13). Then, as we come to Jesus as our only refuge, we can joyfully proclaim:



DIRECTIONS:

- Accept ministry assignments and trust that the Lord will equip you.
- Do not be distracted by the lures of the world, focus on Jesus.
- Deepen your prayer life.

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	\$ 1,144	\$ 42,648
Love Offerings	\$ 1,229	\$ 39,548
Mission Collections	\$ 72	\$ 3,768

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



BLD
Newark

Save
the
Date

August 19, 2017

Community Celebration at the
Divine Mercy Parish

August 20, 2017

25th Anniversary Dinner Dance

- (1) For Aug 19: if you haven't done so yet, but are planning to attend, please send in your RSVP for the Community Celebration. Also, for that evening, please see the special concert announcement on page 3 of this CN.
- (2) Regarding the 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance on Aug 20, please turn in ticket remittances to the members of the DD sponsoring class, ME 40, as soon as possible. They will have a table set up for this at fellowship.

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Aug 18	Mission
		Aug 25	Pastoral
		Sep 1	Evangelization
		Sep 8	Formation

From an old CN issue, here's something to consider:

Prayer Reminder via Computer

(CN issue was February 2, 2001)



If you use a password to turn on your computer or go online, why not use the name of a person you want to pray for? Be it a loved one, a relative, a prayer leader, a lamb or shepherd, make the occasion of typing the person's name and waiting for the computer connection, a time to: pray for that individual, think of how you relate to each other, and ponder what their prayer needs may be.

This practice, in an age of instant access and ever-faster connections, may slow you down a bit, but try to find some time for it. Through the years, in the course of simply changing passwords, you'll have the chance to truly and sincerely pray for many people, including those who matter to you most.