



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

COUNSELS

GK kids say:

"THANKS!"



The current schoolyear for 101 elementary students in the Fr. Paul Lehman-UST Med Class '76 Gawad Kalinga Village became much brighter last week. They were the happy recipients of the kindness extended to them by children halfway around the world, from BLD Newark's John 6 and Mark 10 ministries.

During fellowships back in February, Newark's kids collected \$639 in their "**Change for Change Project**" and the money was used to purchase school supplies for this schoolyear for the GK children in Cabiao, Nueva Ecija. Late last month, the children received the much needed supplies.

Already, the efforts to use education to break the yoke of Philippine poverty have resulted in the graduation of the village's first batch of college scholars. But even more than just that, and the decent living that a degree promises, many have observed the positive outlook for the future that the rest of the youth there now have.

The current college scholars from the village were on hand to help Bro. Lito Santiago distribute the supplies to the 101 students. The children ranged in age from kindergartners to 6th graders.

...Continued on page 2

Purifying Fire

THEME: We build God's kingdom when we rid ourselves of every sin and fix our eyes on Jesus.

WORD: Jer 38:4-6,8-10 ~ Ps 40:2,3,4,18
Heb 12:1-4 ~ Lk 12:49-53

ORDER: "*Persevere in running the race.*" (Heb 12:1b)

REFLECTION:

There are some passages in the Gospel that are difficult to understand or even seem to be contradictory. The reading this coming Sunday is one of them. Jesus shocked His disciples when He declared that He would cast fire and cause division rather than peace upon the earth. There are numerous encounters with His disciples when Jesus greeted them "*Peace be with you.*" After His death, when the disciples locked themselves in for fear of the Jews, Jesus appeared to them and greeted them, "*Peace be with you.*" He even repeated this peace greeting a second time. Now Jesus is telling His disciples that He would cast fire and cause division rather than peace upon the earth. What kind of fire did Jesus have in mind?

Fire in biblical times was associated with the presence of God, with His action in the world and in the lives of His people. We recall that when Moses went up the mountain, God spoke to Him through a burning bush that was not consumed. During Pentecost, the Holy Spirit appeared to the Blessed Mother and the disciples as tongues of fire. Fire also represents purification. In Zechariah 13:9 and Malachi 3:2-3, the prophets speak about the purification of Israel like purifying silver by fire. This then, was what Jesus meant when He said He wanted to set fire on earth. It is NOT a fire that causes destruction, as in a house fire, but rather His presence and our need to be purified.

...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

You will not grow weary and lose heart. (cf Heb 12:3b)

GK kids say "THANKS!"

from page 1



Pictured above are the GK school children, Kindergarten to 6th Grade (shown in order from left to right) who received the school supplies purchased with funds generated by the "Change for Change Project" of BLD Newark's John 6 and Mark 10 Ministries

Among the scholars who helped Bro. Lito was Gladys Brillante, whose future now looks much brighter as she looks forward to obtaining her Accounting degree in 2017. She had eagerly taken summer courses which accelerated her graduation date by a whole year!

The support from BLD Newark and the UST Medicine '76 Class has already produced three batches of college scholars. Besides Gladys, the fourth batch includes Pamela Alacon, former President of the Village's youth group. After marriage and a baby, Pamela, with the full support of her husband, returned to school and will now be finishing next semester. She will join Farissa Pineda (one of several previous scholars, who've already graduated and are now gainfully employed) among the ranks of teachers, educating and spreading hope and God's love, in children - *"the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven"* (Mt 18:4).

Although still young, the GK kids have already been inspired by Gladys, Pamela, Farissa and the other scholars of the village. Their accomplishments have produced hope that is proving contagious. All expressed their gratitude, both to the UST '76 Medicine class and to BLD, most especially our youngest members here in New Jersey, our beloved children in John 6 and Mark 10.

One is never too young (nor too old) to hope and dream. One is also never too young (nor too old) to help.



COUNSELS

from page 1

So God's fire purifies and cleanses, and is a sign of His presence. It inspires in us a reverent fear of God. Jesus regarded the coming of the kingdom of God as a time for judgment. It was meant for us to take seriously the consequences of our choices. We are either for or against God. Christianity is about loyalty to God. A loyalty that is second to none, even ahead of our loyalty to our family. The love of God makes it necessary for us to choose who will be first in our lives. A true disciple loves God above all else and should be willing to forsake all for Jesus.

We are now living in the age of computers. In many ways, that is good. Unfortunately, they also cause harm, and especially vulnerable, are the young in our society. You can now view pornography right on your TV, computer or even on your cell phone. Violence, materialism, and right to life, same-sex marriage and transgender issues can confuse us, especially the young. The gift of freedom given to us by God has become a source of division within families. Making the wrong choices can lead us to doom. →→

→ As parents, sometimes we are at odds with our children or grandchildren. We come from a different culture and grew up in a different age. Do you feel angry with them? Have you said to yourself, "I'm glad I'm not growing up now"? Whatever our feelings are, our attitude toward young people must be one of understanding, for the simple reason that they are growing up in a very difficult environment.

Ironically, despite this seemingly harsh environment, we are and will remain ahead of the struggle. Remember what Jesus Christ said, "**Take courage, I have conquered the world.**" (Jn 16:33) And although sin is present, all the more grace abounds. So, this is what the Gospel and the second reading are telling us. Let us focus on Jesus as we persevere and let His fire of love consume us.

This coming Monday is the feast of the Assumption. Of all of the mysteries of the Rosary, only two are not mentioned in the Bible. One of these is the Assumption. We Catholics, of course, believe that our Lady went to heaven body and soul.

...Continued on page 4

Youth Ministry encounter classes battle

*"Iron is sharpened by iron,
one person sharpens another."* - Prv 27:17

This past weekend, BLD's Youth Ministry hosted their yearly Battle of the Classes (BOTC). During one of the most anticipated events of the year, all the Youth Encounter classes were called to come together and compete in different sporting events. While each class battled against the others in friendly rivalry for first place, BOTC was essentially a competitive opportunity for the Youth to play with a lot of love and compassion towards one another. Everyone at BOTC had fun and enjoyed their entire day. They bonded with one another and became closer.

This year's events included relay races, tug of war, dodgeball, basketball, and volleyball. The YE classes that took part in BOTC were split into different teams: YE 23, YE 22, YE 21, 20 and YE 19 (and earlier). Each class was awarded points for winning events, and the class with the most points at the end of the day won. Additionally, different awards, such as most clean, most respectful, most spirited, and most helpful were also given out to the classes that had earned these special recognitions.

After an eventful day, the points tally resulted in a YE 19 triumph in first place, with YE 20 and 21 close behind in second; YE 22 was third, and YE 23 was at fourth place. However, no matter what the results were, most importantly, everyone bonded and really enjoyed →→



→ each other's company, which was the main purpose of the BOTC. The afternoon touchingly ended with a prayer thanking the Lord.

Thank you too, to all the participants, and to the adult core members and the supporters/volunteers of the Youth Ministry who helped make this event happen.

COUNSELS

from page 3

Our Blessed Mother loves her Son Jesus in a manner and intensity that our limited knowledge can never imagine. We just don't have the capacity to fully understand her love for her Son; however, we know and believe that her love for us is almost the same as her love for Him. How blessed are we! With this kind of love, we are secure. Let us rejoice for our names are already written in heaven.

Let us not grow weary and lose heart (cf Heb. 12:3b). Let us claim His promise and persevere in building God's kingdom; let us finish the race for God began His work in us, and we are His precious children.

The "Our Father" ...paraphrased

The following was submitted to the Word Ministry by a BLD Member who goes to Assumption Parish in Morristown, NJ. This was made available to Church-goers after the early morning Sunday Mass there (July 24, 2016). It is just one among many translations/paraphrases of the **Our Father** that have been made throughout the centuries. We are including this here, that it may spur deeper reflections, on a prayer one might think he already knows by heart.

PRAYER : OUR FATHER

Translation directly from the Aramaic, the language Jesus spoke, and what his listeners would have "heard or understood" the prayer was saying.

O Source of life you care for every being that moves in your light.	[Our Father who art in heaven.]
May we forever honor your Name, the source of all that is holy.	[Hallowed be thy name.]
Inspire us with your desire for a peaceful earth.	[Thy kingdom come.]
Let your empowering hope draw heaven and earth back to your original blessing.	[Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.]
Grant what we need each day, in bread and wisdom, to guide the work of our hands.	[Give us this day our daily bread.]
Break the cords of the mistakes that we have made, as we release the bonds we hold of others' guilt.	[And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.]
Don't let us give up on ourselves, but free us from what blinds us from our true purpose.	[And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.]
For truly the power of our prayer, from which your goodness flows, is sealed in your justice and truth.	[For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours both now forever. Amen.]
Amen	

LORD'S PROVISION

PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings	\$ 2,647	\$ 83,973
Mission Collections	\$ 94	\$ 5,085

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community Day - TOMORROW!

Mass @ 11:30 am



August 13, 2016
Johnson Park, Grove 4
Piscataway, NJ

Teaching Calendar

Teachings for Saturday, Aug 20 - 1 to 6 pm:
* Understanding Corporate Worship (LSS 1-43)
* Prayer Leadership

LSS 46-B - October 7-9, 2016
Now Open for Registration
Salubungan / Acquaintance - Friday, Sept. 2
Contacts: Lito.Vibar@bldnewark.com,
Earl.Manguiat@bldnewark.com, Flo.Manguiat@bldnewark.com

John 6 Crossings # 17

Retreat for children, ages 11-14.

October 7-9, 2016

Fellowship Deaconry, 3575 Valley Road,
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Contacts: Marlene.Brillantes@bldnewark.com
Tony.Brillantes@bldnewark.com

Mercy Merci Raffle Fundraiser

Drawing Date: Friday, October 14, 2016

"Unlocking the Mystery"

- Bible Study by Jeff Cavins

Divine Mercy Parish, Room 104 classroom
September 12 - October 31, 2016

8 Sessions every Monday Night from 8:15-10 pm
"A comprehensive and engaging journey through Salvation History provides the easiest way to understand the Bible."
"Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible makes the complex simple."
Please register by September 1, 2016 to prepare student booklets; student booklet: \$ 25.00

Contacts: Ray/Susie Atienza, BLD Assisted Parish Coordinators
Tel: 908-463-0449, Email: asentertainmentdj@yahoo.com

	Date	Apostolate
	Aug 19	Management
	Aug 26	Mission
	Sep 2	Pastoral
	Sep 9	Evangelization

Please note that a pdf of this Covenant News is also available online at BLDNEWARK.com