



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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February 8, 2019

NEWS

COUNSELS

Pope's Morning Homily: Conversion Heals, Creates Us Anew

**During Mass at Santa Marta, Francis Reminds
Jesus Wants Us to Follow in His Footsteps**

February 7, 2019 16:26 • Deborah Castellano Lubov • Pope and Holy See, Pope's Morning Homily

We are all in need of healing. To do so, convert, heal and be made anew...

According to Vatican News, Pope Francis stressed this during his daily morning Mass at Casa Santa Marta as he reflected on the conversion and healing we all need.

Today's Gospel, Francis recalled, tells of how Jesus sends his disciples into the world to bring healing, just as He Himself came into the world to heal, "to heal the root of sin in us," "the original sin." Healing, the Pope said, is a bit like "creating from anew."

"Jesus recreated us from the root and then allowed us to move forward with his teaching, with his doctrine, a doctrine that heals" he said. Yet, the first requisite, he noted, is that there be conversion.

Conversion 1st Step

"Conversion," he said, "is the first step of healing in the sense that it opens the heart so that the Word of God may enter." The Pope compared it to seeking to be cured from a medical doctor saying that "if someone is sick and refuses to go to the doctor he will not be healed."

As Christians, the Pontiff pointed out, we may do many good things, but if our hearts are closed, it's only a façade. In order "to proclaim so that people may convert," the Holy Father reminded, "one requires authority" that comes from being like Jesus.

In the Gospel, he said, Jesus instructs the Apostles to "to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick

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We Are Called to Be Fishers of Men

THEME: We proclaim God's love when we respond to His call to be fishers of men.

WORD: Is 6:1-2a,3-8 ~ Ps 138:1-2,2-3,4-5,7-8
1 Cor 15:1-11 ~ Lk 5:1-11

ORDER: ***"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch."*** (Lk 5:4b)

REFLECTION:

In the Call of Simon the Fisherman (Lk 5:1-11), Simon Peter, James and John were amazed by the miraculous catch of fish that resulted from following Jesus' order to ***"lower their nets for a catch."*** Jesus then used that moment to tell them, ***"from now on you will be catching men."*** Their astonishment then led them to leave everything and follow Him. Just as it was with the Apostles, when Christ catches us, we step into the boat with Him and we embark on a new life with Him.

This reading is very applicable to our Community for it shows us practical ways to become fishers of men, especially during this time when it's becoming harder and harder to bring others to Christ through BLD. We are constantly faced with these daunting questions that we must answer:

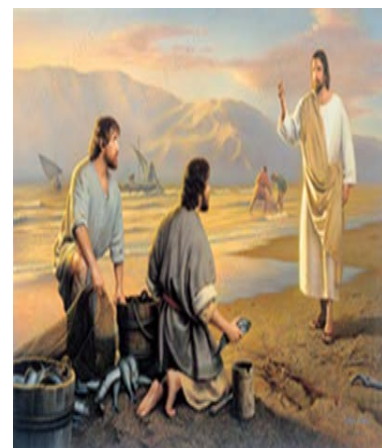
- How to fish? - Where to fish? - Who to fish?

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Promise of the Week

The Lord will complete what he has done for me.

- cf. Ps 138:8a



NEWS

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– no food, no sack, no money in their belts.” In essence, he noted: poverty.

The apostle must be a pastor, he said, “who does not seek sheep’s milk, who does not seek sheep’s wool.” Referring to the concept as expressed by Saint Augustine, he explained that “the shepherd who seeks milk seeks money, and the shepherd who seeks wool likes to dress with vanity.”

Francis invited Christians – as Jesus had told the Apostles – to follow a path of “poverty, humility, meekness.”

“If an apostle, an envoy, one of us goes, with his nose in the air, believing himself superior to the others or because of self-interest looking for some human interest,” the Argentine Pope explained, “he will never heal anyone, he will never succeed in opening anyone’s heart, because his word will have no authority.”

When the Apostles called for conversion, “the Twelve drove out many demons,” they could because they had the authority. This authority comes from being interested in the people, not by speaking down to them, the Pope said.

Even Demons Flee

Since demons “cannot bear that sins be healed,” Francis said, they “flee before humility, before the power of Christ’s name with which the apostle carries out his mission.”

All Christians, Francis said, can bring healing, not only priests and bishops, since: “each of us has the power to heal his brother or sister.”

Pope Francis concluded, reminding: “We all need to be healed, and we can all heal others if we are humble and meek: with a good word, with patience, with a glance.”



Pope Francis @Pontifex · 6 Feb

This Visit to the United Arab Emirates belongs to the "surprises" of God. So let us praise Him and His providence, and pray that the seeds sown may bring forth fruits of peace. #ApostolicJourney #UAE

4330 23845 Twitter

My First Meal in the Morning

In one of the resurrection episodes in the Gospels, Jesus invited the Apostles, “*Come, have breakfast.*” (Jn 21:12)

You’ve probably heard people say that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. It makes sense on a lot of levels, especially when you think of how you will need energy for the next 8-16 hours. Often, dinner is the biggest meal, but all that really does is to make you sleepier and off to bed quicker.

A couple of years after my family had joined BLD, I started going to daily Mass. At first, I’d go from work to a Church that was close to the office. I used to think that I wouldn’t have time to do that, but one day I realized that it really wasn’t that hard to carve thirty minutes out of my lunch hour to go receive the Eucharist. There were days, however, when work deadlines prevented me from going out at all, and on those days I just felt incomplete.

Soon I found a solution that worked for every day, because, as it turned out, the local Church close to home had a 7 am Mass. So, with the help of an alarm clock, I was able to get up in the morning, shower and get dressed; and then before anything else was to happen during the day, even before breakfast, I’d already have received Christ. And I’d feel so blessed.



In a very real sense, it’s my first meal in the morning, and just as breakfast gives me energy for the rest of my activities during the day, His Word at Mass and Christ’s very self in Communion have a way of providing spiritual sustenance that guides me in everything I do. From saying “hi” to people I meet, to tackling tasks on my to-do list, to enhancing relationships both at work and at home, His Spirit within me brightens everything I do. It really has supplanted breakfast, as well as lunch and dinner, as my most important nourishment of the day.

But there’s also this added bonus. Over the years, I’ve gotten to know a number of the thirty or so people who regularly attend the 7 am daily Mass. And I have discovered that the smile I give them each morning is always rewarded by a multiplication of smiles that are given to me in return. I believe that it’s Jesus’ way of making even more wonderful, the smile that He lights up in my heart as I start each of my days with Him.

PETER'S DISCIPLESHIP

I wonder how Peter knew
That the promised Messiah was You
Could it be because of Your words
that were truer than true?
Or was it because of the miracles he saw
that left him so much in awe?

Somehow in his heart he knew
For he gave up his life to follow.

How did Peter know
To have complete trust in You?
As he faced the uncertainty of tomorrow
Would there be feast or famine,
he didn't know.

But heel to heel, and toe to toe
He ditched his fisherman's cap
to follow.

At first Peter did not have a clue
What his decision would enable him to do
Till he worked miracles, gathered crowds
And became a gifted speaker just like You.

And when Your holy Church was still new
Ultimately, he gave up his body and blood too
He sacrificed it all to follow.

When Christ called him
he became a true fisher of men
By his holy life and example
St. Peter made it quite possible
For us to reach heaven.

He taught the world to follow
And for all of us today, the answer remains
that just like him...

Christ, we must truly follow.

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

"While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret." (Lk 5:1) As you could see from this Gospel episode, the first thing we need is the Word of God. By what Jesus did, Luke makes it explicitly clear what's needed to attract crowds of people, Jesus had brought the word of God. This tells us that to be fishers of men our works should always start with what the Lord has actually already given us, the best we can ever find, His Word in the Holy Bible.

From the Bible we learn that to be an effective fisher of men, we need a heart and a life filled with the fruits of the Holy Spirit which are, *"love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control"* (Gal 5:22-23). Most of all, we need a heart and life filled with love, for, as St. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 13:8, *"Love Never Fails."*

After getting into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon to put out a short distance from the shore. Then Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from there. Why did He want to move away from the shore? This was in order for Jesus to be heard and seen by more people than just those crowding in around Him. So in a sense, the boat became a tool for evangelization.

This boat is a lot like BLD. This is telling us that we should effectively use our resources of time, talent and treasure as tools to gain a vantage point and a platform for evangelization that reaches out.

Who are these people that we should reach out to? In our fishing guide, the Bible, they were ordinary people such as fishermen like Andrew, Peter, James and John; tax collectors like Matthew; those engaged in politics and anarchy like Simon the Zealot; even a traitor like Judas. Also in the Bible, Mary Magdalene's sinful past was forgiven, as well as that of the good thief at the side of Jesus, who was given a last chance. St. Paul, before he became an Apostle, was the foremost persecutor of Jesus' followers. And don't forget the sick, blind, deaf, mute, lepers, and even those possessed by demons. In other words, we are called to fish for everyone.

In Luke 5:4, Jesus asked Simon to *"put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch."* Simon said in reply, *"Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets."* (Lk 5:5) This interchange between them was the prelude to the display of Jesus' power and authority. You and I might also question anything that doesn't seem to make sense, especially if we're asked to repeat something ...*Continued on page 4*

COUNSELS

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that we've already tried several times before. Simon said that they had already been at it all night long, so he must have been asking himself, "Why would a carpenter be teaching me how to fish?" But Simon followed anyway, **"at your command, I will lower the nets."** This clearly shows us the attitude needed, along with what we must have to be effective fishers of men – we must have complete trust and faith in God. Jesus asks us to go into deeper water, even when our brains say otherwise or when it's outside our comfort zones. We believe in Him, not because of the dictates of our intelligence, but because of our faith in Him.

"When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing." (Lk 5:6) The catch of fish was so amazing and utterly unprecedented, in a location that had seemed hopelessly unproductive the night before. This tells us that all our efforts will be futile if we do not have Jesus in our boat. But if we have Jesus by our side and we remain obedient to and have complete faith in Him, our blessings will be abundant and bountiful.

In his astonishment at the miracle, Simon said, **"Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man."** (Lk 5:8) We now come to one of the most difficult requirements to be an effective fisher of men, humility. Humility is to tell the Lord that all my bright ideas, my well researched plans, my time-tested processes and procedures did not work because they did not include Him; and to tell Him, "I'm sorry," for I should have done it His way, not mine.

What is God's way? Back again to our fishing guide, the Bible. Matthew 25:35-36 teaches us what we must do: **"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me."** Then, John 13:14 gives us the Lord's example when He washed the Apostles' feet, **"If I therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet."**

Yes, almost 2,000 years later, Jesus' words and the instructions for us to become fishers of men remain absolutely trustworthy and true.

Directions:

1. Bring others to Christ by being a living witness of His love and mercy.
2. Be courageous in inviting people from all walks of life to our encounters and retreats.

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 991	\$9,160
Love Offerings	\$ 775	\$3,722
E-Giving	\$ -	\$380
Mission	\$ 3,872	\$6,087

Financial details are available to all members through treasury@bldnewark.com

Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Teaching Calendar

Teachings for Saturday, Feb 16, 1-6 pm DMP School Building

- Basic Bible Seminar (LSS 1-50 / ME 47,49,50 / SPE 20)
CMP II, Part II (LSS 1-48 / ME 48 / SPE 19)

BLD NEWARK MEDICAL MISSION

JOSE PANGANIBAN, CAMARINES NORTE

FEBRUARY 11 - 14, 2019

YLSS #24
Youth Life in the Spirit Seminar
March 1-3, 2019
Divine Mercy Auditorium

Contacts:
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William and Maria Sumindal (732-500-3908)
Arlene and Loliet Quovada (732-910-7085)
Email address: dyc@bldnewark.com

LSS # 51

Salubungan – Friday, March 1
LSS Weekend: Friday, April 5 - Sunday, April 7
Contact: Earl/Flo Manguiat,
bldnewarklsa@gmail.com

INSTALLATION OF REV. FR. ALEXANDER T. CRUZ AS PASTOR

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019 - 4:00 PM
DIVINE MERCY PARISH, 232 CENTRAL AVE
RAHWAY, NJ

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Feb 15	Evangelization
		Feb 22	Formation
		Mar 1	Management
		Mar 8	Mission