



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

COUNSELS

Santa Marta: 'Our God has Feelings'

The Weak Pay the Price of War

• February 19, 2019 16:07 • Anne Kurian • Pope's Morning Homily
Source: Zenit.org

"Our God has feelings," said Pope Francis at the morning Mass on February 19, 2019, in Casa Santa Marta in the Vatican. At a time that is no better than that of the Flood, he denounced: "it is the weak, the poor, the children ... who pay the price."

God "is not abstract," and he "suffers," Pope Francis said in his homily reported by Vatican News. He stopped on "the feelings of God, God's father who loves us – and love is a relationship – but is able to get angry, to get angry ... Our God has feelings."

"Our God loves us with his heart, he does not love us with his ideas, he loves us with his heart," the Pope insisted. And when he caresses us, he caresses us with his heart and when he reprimands us, he does it with the heart, he suffers more than us ... It's not sentimentalism, it's the truth."

"I do not think our times are better than at the time of the Flood," he said, referring to "people who die in war because bombs are thrown like sweets ... it's the weak, the poor, the children, those who have no resources to live, who pay the price. The calamities are more or less the same; the victims are more or less the same. For example, think of the weakest children. The number of hungry children, children without education: they cannot grow up in peace. Without parents, because they were slaughtered by wars ... child soldiers ... just think of these children."

Pope Francis invited listeners to ask "a heart like the heart of God ... a brother's heart with his brothers, a father with his children, children with their father."

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Forgiveness

THEME: We proclaim God's love when we forgive those who have wronged us.

WORD: 1 Sm 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23 ~ Ps 103:1-2,3-4,8,10,12-13 ~ 1 Cor 15:45-49 ~ Lk 6:27-38

ORDER: "**Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned.**" (Lk 6:37a,b)

REFLECTION:

Relationships can be messy, beset with misunderstandings, and often times, they can become a source of anxiety and disunity in family and in the community. People can be entirely insensitive and outrageous, what with their rudeness and disregard for their neighbors. They can be annoying with their grating personalities and their stubborn inflexibility. As such, grudges can be held, tempers can flare, and hot words can be exchanged. Hurts, perceived or inflicted, can be very real. That is why it is no exaggeration to say that forgiveness is necessary for relationships to thrive. One simply cannot relate to others without having to forgive, because at some point, one will somehow be wronged.

Our Lord was no stranger to strife. His own relatives even called Him mad. Not only was He scorned and mocked, but He was hunted and persecuted by the religious authorities, culminating in His most cruel rejection on the cross. His disciples were constantly bickering about the pettiest things. Though they were grown men, they frequently acted more like quarrelsome children. Despite this constant relational turmoil, Jesus forgave with patience and love. Even when He was being hoisted on the cross, He cried out to the Father, begging Him to forgive His executioners.

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Promise of the Week

"Forgive and you will be forgiven." – Lk 6:37c

The Psalm for the daily Mass today, February 22, is from Psalm 23. It is a favorite of many because of its comforting words which start with...



Psalm 23 is a beautiful psalm that speaks of the personal relationship that each of us has with God. When I read it I imagine Jesus as the Good Shepherd tending to all of us as sheep, and yet He tends to each of us individually. He loves us all.

“The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I lack.” (Ps 23:1) As the Good Shepherd, He anticipates the needs of His flock. He knows each of us by name. He always protects and provides for each of us, His lambs. He already knows what I need, which means that He knows everything about me. This means that He knows my deficiencies, weaknesses, and my sins, and that I am likely to stray from Him.

The reality is that the Lord alone is Who I need in my life and that I can do nothing without Him. I must trust Him to find me and bring me back to Him.

“In green pastures he makes me lie down; to still waters he leads me.” (Ps 23:2) He calls me to follow Him, to listen to His voice, and to seek Him out. I only need to search for Him and He will be there for me; ***“he restores my soul. He guides me along right paths for the sake of his name.”*** (Ps 23:3) He feeds my soul and I learn His ways through Scripture, the Sacraments, and the Holy Mass. I pray to Him for restoration and thanksgiving.

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me.” (Ps 23:4) These have been difficult days for many of us. Many of us have had to deal with pain, loss, illness, mental anguish, family strife, and fights with some inner demons. Indeed, life is a series of contrasts, like valleys and mountains, lows and highs, feasts and famine. For so many of us, we might feel that our lives are in that dark valley, facing an uncertain future, and we might be unable to see where all this will take us. But Who is always there to help us?

Our God, Amen!

...Continued on page 3

BIRTHDAY BREWS

I discovered many years ago that going to Mass in the morning is a good way to start any day and a perfect way to mark a special day, like a birthday or anniversary. But when you have a job to get to, or lunches to pack, or kids who need a ride to school, it's hard to squeeze Mass into your morning routine. Now that my husband and I are retired, we get up early and go to Church six days a week (unless there is a hurricane or a foot of snow in the driveway). Saturday is the one day we treat ourselves to a little extra sleep and spend most of the morning in our pajamas. But not this Saturday; this Saturday, March 2, is my birthday.

I remember one birthday, many years ago, when everyone was up and out of the house so quickly that I had time to go to Mass. Afterward, on the way out of Church, I met a dear, older friend, who, knowing it was my birthday, said to me, “And you came to Mass to thank God for His creation!”

To be honest, I hadn't thought about it...that my birthday was part of a much bigger picture. In those years, which we all like to refer to as “before BLD,” my faith was sincere but it was growing slowly. My friend's greeting made me realize that I needed to dig deeper.

Years passed, my kids grew up, and Marriage Encounter and LSS changed my life, but I never forgot my friend's words. So, this year, like so many before, when I attend Mass on my birthday, it will be to thank God for His creation and for my place in it, and for the full and blessed life He has given me. How fitting it is that the readings for this Saturday describe God as the creator, designer and architect of our lives. The First Reading, from Sirach 17:1-10, shows us that God did way more than just make us. He composed us and shaped us and filled us with wonder.

“God from the earth created man, and in his own image he made him.... He created for them counsel, and a tongue and eyes and ears, and an inventive heart...”

He created in them knowledge of the spirit; with wisdom he fills their heart...”

He...showed them his mighty works, that they might glory in the wonder of his deeds and praise his holy name.... An everlasting covenant he has made with them... his eyes are ever upon their ways.”

He gave us all these gifts and followed them up with a big promise, an everlasting covenant!

That should be reason enough to go to Mass and thank God for His creation...any day.

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

His forgiveness, both then and now, is infinite.

Jesus said, **“Forgive and you will be forgiven,”** (Lk 6:37c) and to St. Peter, He once said, **“not seven times but seventy-seven times”** (Mt 18:22), implying that we must forgive infinitely, without end. To reinforce the point, Jesus went on to tell the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant, who was forgiven an enormous debt, only to demand that he be paid back a much smaller debt from another servant. His lack of mercy got him thrown in prison and punished severely. The point was clear: We must give mercy if we want to get it, and forgive without condition and without end.



That is not to say that forgiveness is easy. Depending on the depth of the wound inflicted, it can be extremely difficult and it can take a great deal of time, effort, and prayer.

Forgiveness is so essential that Jesus tells us that we will not be forgiven by God if we do not forgive. The degree of mercy we receive will be in exact proportion to the amount of mercy we extend. If we want God to forgive us without end, we must forgive without end. We cannot expect great clemency if we ourselves do not demonstrate and grant it to others. **“As the Lord has forgiven you,”** says St. Paul, **“so must you also do.”** (Col 3:13b)

We all want others to forgive us and see the good intentions behind our actions. We might also expect full forgiveness and mercy from God for our sins and wickedness. Yet, despite these expectations, we often judge others severely, hold petty grudges, and think the worst of everyone.

As Christians, we are called to be in harmony with God and with our neighbor. We are called to commune with the Divine life, to share in the love and in the life of the Trinity. But it doesn't end there. We are also called to commune with our neighbor in love, no matter how annoying or hurtful they may be. For just as God restores our relationship with Him by forgiving our sins, we must restore communion with Him and with our neighbors by forgiving those who have hurt us.

Forgiveness makes us avoid sin, return good for evil that's done to us, and it gives others and ourselves a chance to re-consider our ways and have a change of heart. Rather than fight and condemn, we ought to forgive one another as forgiveness breathes life →→

→ into what is dead, it restores and heals what is broken. It is one of the most holy and God-like things we can do for each other.



When Jesus forgives, He shows that He believes in us. He helps us to discover our self-worth and lifts us up with dignity. When we forgive, we imitate God, and become children of God; we are loved by God, for God is love. To forgive is to be like God, Who showed His love for us despite our sinfulness.

Forgive because God does so. Always measure with love and forgiveness, **“for the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”** (Lk 6:38b) Let us resolve to always have hearts full of forgiveness, for he who extends great mercy without end will receive it in the same measure. Forgive!

Direction: **“Love your enemies and do good to them.”** (Lk 6:35a)

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD (from page 2)

He is the one Who leads us through it all. With complete trust in my Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd, I only need to hold on to Him and let Him completely lead me. His rod and staff guide and protect me. He sends me help through others. He gives me a peace that only He can give me.

“You set a table before me in front of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.” (Ps 23:5)

Dear Lord, You have anointed me, so that I can overcome. Your cup overflows with the blessings, graces and tender mercies that You have poured on me. As the Good Shepherd, You guide me along the right path for the sake of Your name.

“Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the LORD for endless days.” (Ps 23:6) This is why goodness and mercy follow us, because of His deep and eternal love for us. Anytime we turn to Him He is there to lovingly receive us, for God is here on earth with us.

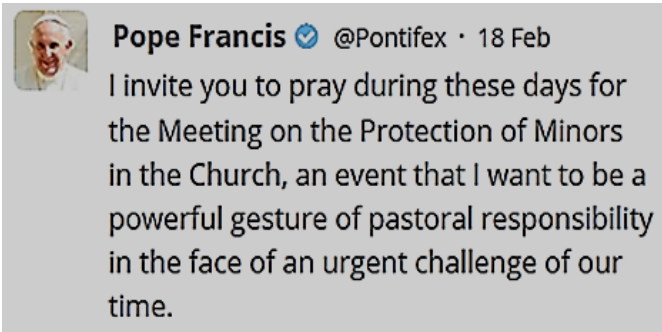
I praise and give glory to God, now and forever. I pray that all I do is pleasing to Him, and that I do not do anything to separate myself from God. Brethren, entrust yourselves to God, Who is all powerful, all faithful, all good, and all love. Amen!

NEWS

(from page 1)

A human heart, like that of Jesus, is a divine heart.” If God “is able to have trouble, we, too, will be able to have trouble before Him,” he added.

And he encouraged: “Let us think that the Lord is afflicted in his heart and approach us of the Lord and speak to him, speak: Lord, look at this, I understand you. Let us console the Lord: I understand you and I accompany you, I accompany you in prayer, in intercession for all those calamities that are the fruit of the devil who wants to destroy the work of God.”



Pope Francis @Pontifex · 18 Feb
I invite you to pray during these days for the Meeting on the Protection of Minors in the Church, an event that I want to be a powerful gesture of pastoral responsibility in the face of an urgent challenge of our time.

NEXT WEEK IN THE CN...

Medical Mission 2019



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

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,404	\$11,891
Love Offerings	\$ 462	\$5,060
E-Giving	\$ -	\$760
Mission	\$ 595	\$6,907

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Teaching Calendar

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

- Encounter with Jesus:
Mark/Matthew (LSS 1-50 / ME 47-50)
- Witness Development Seminar
- Shepherds' Training (LSS 1-48)



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

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Life in the Spirit Seminar #51
April 5-7, 2019
Salubungan is on March 1, 2019
Contacts: 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
			Mar 1	Management
			Mar 8	Mission
			Mar 15	Pastoral
Mar 22	Evangelization			