



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

COUNSELS

Archbishop Gallagher to UN: Put People First

“Pope Francis never tires of insisting on people first”

- ‘Focusing on People, Striving for Peace and
Decent Life on a Sustainable Planet

SEPTEMBER 26, 2017 / JIM FAIR / HUMAN RIGHTS AND
JUSTICE

(source: zenith.org)

“Pope Francis never tires of insisting on people first, especially those who suffer, those who are excluded, marginalized and left behind,” Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, Vatican Secretary for Relations with States, told the United General Assembly on September 25, 2017 in New York.

In light of the theme of the session, “Focusing on People: Striving for peace and a decent life on a sustainable planet,” Archbishop Gallagher addressed several topics of vital interest to the Holy See. He noted the rights to life and to freedom of religion as forming the basis for other rights.

“Putting people always first means protecting, at every stage and in every circumstance, the dignity of the person, and its human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in a specific way, the rights to life and to freedom of religion from which all other rights flow and which are therefore the common foundation of the pillars of peace and security and integral human development,” Archbishop said.

In conjunction with these fundamental rights, he commented on several areas of special interest to the Holy See:

Sustainable Development: “With the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the international community committed itself to effective measures to eradicate the root causes of various evils and indignities that many people in the world today are facing.”

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The Ideal Son

THEME: We grow in holiness when we focus our minds on what God wants us to do.

WORD: Ez 18:25-28 ~ Ps 25:4-5,6-7,8-9
Phil 2:1-11 ~ Mt 21:28-32

ORDER: **“Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory.. have... the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus.”** - Phil 2:3,5

“Go out and work in the vineyard today.”
- Mt 21:28

REFLECTION:

The first reading for this Sunday tells us that each one of us is responsible to God for our conduct. Since God gave us free-will, we should not blame anyone else for any of our wrongdoings because we will stand alone before Him and we will be judged accordingly.

In the second reading, St. Paul urges us to live in the unity of love and mutual charity. To do this, we must put on the mind of Christ. We should humbly serve others as He did, and look to their interest rather than to just our own (Phil 2:3-5).

The parable of the two sons in Matthew's Gospel reveals very important facts about the condition of the human person after original sin, and the possibility of conversion from sin and death to virtue and life. This parable was primarily addressed to the Jewish leaders and chief priests, to show how they stood in relation to God and the Kingdom. Being God's Chosen People, they took pride in their strict observance of the Mosaic Law and saw no need for their own conversion. They resisted God's call to change

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Promise of the Week

“If the wicked turn from the wickedness they did and do what is right and just, they save their lives.”

- Ez 18:27

The following was the contrition from the Corporate Worship last Friday. It was a truly moving prayer and is included in this CN issue in hopes that it once again touches those who were there and already heard it, and those who will read it here for the first time:

WHO AM I?

Who am I? Where do I come from? Where am I going? These are basic questions for every Christian. Everything I possess - my being, my life, will and memory - all were given to me by God, so ultimately, all belong to Him. Before I was born all the things I now see around me were already here. The sun, moon, mountains and rivers, plants and animals were already proceeding at their appointed ways under the watchful eyes of Divine Providence. As for me, I was not here. Everything was happening without me. Nobody was thinking of nor imagining me, because I did not exist.

And You, my God with a wonderful gesture of love drew me from nothingness and gave me life and being, a soul with all the faculties of my body and spirit. Though having absolutely no need for me, You created me. So You are my Master and I am Your creature. I can do nothing without You. Indeed if at any moment You withdraw Your support for me, I will slip back to nothingness. But life goes on and because of Your undying love there is hope.

Now as I approach the evening of my life, when I look back through the years and look inside of me, I see how dirt has accumulated along the way. In many ways, I feel inadequate and helpless, and fear envelopes me. I see the need for penance. These are the moments I feel small. And when I place myself in front and face to face with You, I am reduced to nothing. Truly I can do nothing without You. Father God, please forgive me for not acknowledging Your blessings; for not counting the abundant graces You have poured upon me, my family, community, and friends; for not realizing that even in trials and tribulations, You were there.

Often, I also grumble, pointing out that there were many times when I offered up to You, sincere prayers, my immense gratitude, my achievements in life, and that I had already done numerous things for the Church, the community and my family. But 1 Cor. 4:7 says *“What do you possess that you have not received.”* If I really thought about it, there is really nothing to boast about.

Where do I come from and where am I going?

Father God, for the sake of your name, pardon my guilt and in your love, remember me.

I AM A CoG

“Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Mt 18:3)

I am a millennial and as such, I now have gadgets and apps to help me in my daily living. I’ve now also grown used to the many acronyms that folks use in social media and even in conversations.

One night during practice, one of the other choir members was asking what I meant by TO. But I couldn’t remember saying TO in any of our group chats. So, I went and checked my posts. It turns out that what I said was OT. I told the group that OT meant “off topic” since I was saying something that was out of the context of what we were discussing. Don’t you find it very common in your workday to be drowning in acronyms as shortcuts to represent or mean something

- you IM your manager
- the CIO is handing in a change in direction
- the CEO just announced the earnings for the quarter
- I need to complete the ITSM for Wed
- I have a slew of ITPAMs, CTRK, EURCs to fill
- you tell someone, BRB
- your emails are littered with BTW, IMO, THX

Seems that much of our world has been shortened to 3-4-5 letter abbreviations because we want to make everything quick; short and sweet so to speak.

This morning, I came across a new one – CoG. What does it mean?

CHILD OF GOD

Nice. Very powerful. Very millennial. Very true to my morning prayer. I hope I can be truly a Child of God

Abba Father, what does it mean to be a CoG? Can you please help me understand its true meaning so that I can act, think, speak, and love as one? Please open my heart and my mind so that I might truly be a CoG. Amen.



COUNSELS

(from page 1)

their lives, thus excluding themselves from gaining entry into God's kingdom. This should explain why the tax collectors and prostitutes were entering the Kingdom before them. Even though such people initially lived in opposition to holiness, they heeded the Gospel message as preached by John the Baptist and Jesus. As a result, they were promised a share in the kingdom of God.

The readings are intended for all of us to answer the call for conversion. When God calls us from this life, what defense shall we present to Him at judgment time? Conversion of the heart is what Jesus sought to bring about in us if we are to enter the Lord's Kingdom.

Let us take note of the father's request to his two sons to **"go out and work in the vineyard today."** (Mt 21:28) He said TODAY, not tomorrow or some other time. They must have seen the father's command as a constraint on their freedom. Often, this is how we view our Lord and His Church's teachings, where our desire for unrestricted freedom causes us to do whatever we want without regard to what God wants us to do. So, we postpone attending the encounters, LSS and spiritual renewal retreats until the children are grown up and we are retired. But when we retire, we still have to fulfill a "bucket list" filled with our self-serving agendas. Brothers and sisters, we have to decide now!

Neither son in the parable was perfect. Both fell short of accepting the father's will and acting upon it timely and in humble obedience. Nevertheless, both sons offer us a lesson in reality. Like all of us, they are flawed with sin. The sudden change of heart of the son who initially said no to his father's request shows us that no one is beyond conversion, and that God's grace can overcome any hardness of heart. This conversion is based on humble recognition of sinfulness and a sincere desire to repent and make amends.

To live lovingly with one another in Community requires self-emptying and of stripping oneself of rights, honors and privileges. There is so much to be done in Community and we count on one another to accomplish all these tasks in a timely manner. Action must accompany words of commitment. →→



→ Since every role in ministry is vital to the well-being of the Community, it is critical that we pursue a high moral Christian standard in the work that we do. Let us be guided by Psalm 101:7, **"No one who practices deceit can remain within my house. No one who speaks falsely can last in my presence."** Only by making the humility of Jesus Christ our own could we love and support one another in a manner worthy of our being called Christians.

Let us aim to be someone who immediately and willingly carries out the Father's will. Not only shall we gain entry into the Kingdom, but doing so will bring us great rewards even while here on earth, in terms of growth in holiness, peace and joy. Jesus said in Mt 7:21, **"Not everyone who says 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven."** Let us imitate Jesus, the "ideal Son," as St. Paul puts it in Phil 2:7-8, **"he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave... he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross."**

Directions:

1. Accept God's call to serve in community and in the larger Church.
2. Serve in humility and selfless love.

NEWS

(from page 1)

Care for our Common Home: "This call for responsible stewardship finds particular urgency before the deteriorating conditions of our common home and an often purely utilitarian worldview concerning the things that surround us."

Preventive Diplomacy and Responsibility to Protect: "The duty to prevent wars and violent conflicts is an essential component of the Responsibility to Protect."

Migrants and Refugees: "Our common humanity impels us all, as Pope Francis has proposed, to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate those who flee from such adverse conditions."

Trafficking in Persons: "At the heart of this evil, however, is the utter loss of respect for human dignity and the total indifference to the sufferings of fellow human beings."

Nuclear Disarmament: "Without greater international and regional cooperation, especially among weapons-producing States, to control and limit strictly the production and movement of weapons, a world free of wars and violent conflicts will surely remain an illusion."

THE LOST LUGGAGE

“What woman having ten coins and losing one would not light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until she finds it? And when she does find it, she calls together her friends and neighbors and says to them, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost.’” (Lk 15:8-9)

Three parables in Luke chapter 15 describe how God delights over one sinner who repents and returns to Him; of the three, the Parable of the Lost Coin is often overshadowed by the other two. Losing a coin seemed relatively less interesting to me, but my view changed when three weeks ago, my husband and I arrived in Israel for a pilgrimage with my luggage missing. We had prepared for this trip months in advance and I had meticulously arranged things so that it would be easy to select the clothes for each day. When we found out about our lost luggage, I couldn't believe it. It was the one with all my clothes, shoes and personal items. The pilgrimage was just starting and I didn't have clothes for it, including what I was to wear the next day for a renewal of vows in the Church of the Wedding Feast in Cana.

During our bus ride from the airport all I could think of was my lost luggage. What do I need to buy first? Where am I going to buy it? Our daily itinerary was packed, but could I ask that we stop so I can go shopping? As I looked out at the window, I felt panic and my mind was in turmoil. How could this happen when all I wanted to do was to bask in the Scriptures and focus on Jesus? But as I was going deeper into self-pity, somehow I heard our pilgrimage's Spiritual Director, Fr Joseph, start our morning prayer; and in it, he was repeatedly saying, *“Thank you Jesus, thank you Jesus.”* Although I was upset, his words soon pulled me out of my melancholy.

As soon as we arrived at that first evening's hotel, we called the airline, but there was no news. To complicate things, our trip entailed moving from hotel to hotel, so we had to tell the airline our daily destinations so that they'd know where to deliver the luggage should they find it. So I started to concede that I might not see it any more.

Before dinner that night, there was a knock at our room's door and one of our group members handed us a bunch of clothes. I was so touched by the gesture and happy that at least, I had clothes for the next day. As we came down to eat, others gave us shirts; and then another and then another. Before the end of the night I actually had clothes to last me the entire trip. It was a humbling experience; at the same time I was overwhelmed by the care, generosity and love from everyone. I truly believe that God had provided, but that He was also teaching me to focus on what's really important. →→

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	\$ 1,337	\$ 51,946
Love Offerings	\$ 1,975	\$ 48,536
Mission Collections	\$ 135	\$ 4,503

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Life in the Spirit Seminar #48
October 13-15, 2017
Salubangan is on Sept. 1, 2017
Contacts: Earl & Flo Mangulat



John 6 Crossing #18
October 6 - 8, 2017
Fellowship Deaconry
Basking Ridge, NJ
Contacts: Tony & Marlene Brillantes

Marriage Encounter #49



November 17-19, 2017
Hotel Executive Suites
30 Minue St, Carteret, NJ

Please contact: **Efren & Yollie Cruz**

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Oct 6	Evangelization
		Oct 13	Formation
		Oct 20	Management
		Oct 27	Mission

→ The following day, my husband and I renewed our vows among our loving ME classmates and family. It was a most beautiful scene and I will treasure it forever. As we looked into each other's eyes and professed our commitment in front of our Lord, it didn't matter what I was wearing, or even...whose clothes I had on.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways.” (Is 55:8). When I thought that God already answered my prayer through other's generosity, He had something more. When we arrived at our next hotel, my husband asked if there was any news. My heart was pounding as I saw him go to look inside another room; then he turned to me with a smile on his face, and my luggage beside him! I started running, laughing and hugging everyone. The joy that I felt was indescribable.

Now I can empathize with the woman who lost that coin, and when she found it felt great joy. My own experience of losing and then recovering my luggage gave me an insight into how Jesus must be delighted when a sinner repents and then goes back to Him. I can now imagine how all the angels and saints rejoice with Him when one lost sheep is found.

Thank you Jesus, thank you Jesus!