



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 23 Issue 41

Bulletin Edition

October 13, 2017

NEWS

COUNSELS

BLD Newark members attend three events this past weekend

This past weekend, three special BLD sponsored events were held in three different states! In New Jersey, the latest members of BLD Newark's John 6 Ministry graduated as part of the Class of Crossings #18. In New York, solo-parents from as many as seven East coast BLD districts participated in an Inter-District Conference hosted by BLD Rockland. And in Pennsylvania, about twenty received the baptism of the Holy Spirit at an LSS in Easton, PA. Many members from BLD Newark were in attendance at each of the events! Below (and on the next page) are pictures and reports from two of them.

John 6 Crossings #18: Alive with God!



The John 6 Ministry held a crossing retreat at Fellowship Deaconry, Basking Ridge, NJ on October 6-8, 2017. Ten candidates, ages 11-15 attended. All of them listened and heard from the teachings and sharers. They heard about the ways that God is present in their lives. They witnessed how His presence changes who they are and how their relationship with Him is filled with His grace and mercy. And that He grants salvation and new life. ...Continued on page 2

We Are Invited to the Feast

THEME: We grow in holiness when we heed God's invitation to commune with Him.
WORD: Is 25:6-10a ~ Ps 23:1-3a,3b-4,5,6
Phil 4:12-14,19-20 ~ Mt 22:1-14
ORDER: ***"Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find."***
– Mt 22:9

REFLECTION:

In the Gospel for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, we find a description of a wedding feast where only invited guests may come. In the book of Isaiah, this banquet is described as ***"a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines."*** (Is 25:6b) Such imagery symbolizes the kingdom of heaven, a celestial banquet of God's salvation and eternal happiness.

The parable being narrated by Jesus focuses on two things: first is His invitation to the kingdom of heaven, and second is our response. It is out of God's benevolence and graciousness that we are invited to be in His kingdom. He calls those who are invited to understand that the kingdom of God is a feast, a celebration, and to come without delay so as not to miss the joy and the holiness offered to those who answer the call. Such is as our community word for the month which says: *Obedience to God's will keeps us growing in holiness.* Our response is aptly stated in our theme for the week: We grow in holiness when we heed God's invitation to commune with Him.

...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." - Phil 4:19

BLD Newark members... (from page 1)

During the weekend, they had their share of fun though. It was full of dancing, singing, acting out skits and playing games, which all pointed to how a relationship with Jesus is full of joy, love, and peace.

The entire weekend would not have been the same without the help, guidance, and motivation from the wonderful moderators and understudies: Poochie Brilliantes, Karl Pepino, Joaquin Cariaso, Michael Rangel, Issa Somera, Rheanne Reyes, Julianna Yanto, Mary Kate Morales, Mick Estiller, and Kerry Regis. Sophia Ilagan and Gabriel B. de Leon were discerned as class shepherds of JC18. They were always present for the candidates and observed their progression as they began their renewed relationship with our Lord God. While Sophia and Gabriel are very excited and ready to serve (and somewhat overwhelmed), they know they will always have their adult Class Shepherds, Tito Raul and Tita Joy Wong, to hold their hands and guide them. The members of JC18 are: Mark Almario, John Galope, Kayla Gonzalez, Jana Anyanwu, Ralus Madubuko, John Mercelo, Chizzy Ezeanun, Kavia Manduva, Angel Pilleren, and Opemipo Adeyemo.

My experience with my retreat strengthened my love for my family and I truly started my intimate relationship with God. My faith continues to grow and I am humbled and full of gratitude everyday with all the love, grace and mercy that He gives me. As the JC18 theme song, "Alive" by Hillsong says, "You are alive in us. Nothing can take Your place; You are all we need; Your love has set us free" This crossings retreat was the beginning of God's plan to set the candidates free, and He is only just beginning.

BLD Allentown LSS

At that LSS in Easton, PA, many of the candidates came from the parishioners of St. Jane Frances de Chantal's, which is the Church where BLD-Allentown holds its weekly praise and worship. But all who were there, the candidates, as well as the auxies and prayer partners from BLD Newark and Allentown, were truly touched by the stories of the sharers and the new insights revealed in the powerful talks by Msgr. Paul Schetelick.

Early on, he exhorted everyone, not just the candidates, to stop sin from stealing our identities, but to instead reclaim our status as children of our loving God. Then, there was much healing during Saturday afternoon's segment on forgiveness. And once again, as in all of BLD's LSS seminars, ...*Continued on page 4*

Acknowledge Him

About a month ago, I received an invitation to go to the once-a-month Saturday afternoon BLD teachings. At first, I wasn't sure if I should go because there were so many things that were also happening that week-end, but in the end, I was glad that I went.

I found myself strongly relating to a story from one of the teachers. He told us about a ninety-seven year old man who, for decades, was a lapsed Catholic; but who, in his old age, had started to go to Mass again. After a particularly moving service, a priest saw the man, still in the Church pews, crying; so the priest started to talk to and comfort him. When he was asked why he was crying, the man's answer was that he was crying because of his regret at not returning to Church when he was much, much younger. How he was so remorseful because he kept Christ away during most of his adult life.

In Luke 12:8-9, Jesus says this, ***"I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others the Son of Man will acknowledge before the angels of God. But whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God."*** (from the Gospel reading for Saturday, October 21)

When I initially tried to think of a reason for the man to be crying, I first thought that it must have been tears of joy for having finally found Jesus. After hearing more of the story, and as I thought about it some more, it occurred to me that he was also crying because of all the years when he could already have known Jesus, and how, during all those decades that he did not acknowledge Him, his life would have been much better instead.

As a young man, I am guilty of thinking that I sometimes know more than my parents and other elders. But at that class that afternoon, I suddenly felt like I was given this huge gift of learning a true life lesson that I should heed now. That even at my age, I should really acknowledge Jesus. More than just attending Mass every Sunday, and even more than just going to BLD, I need to know Him more deeply, and in many other ways. I suddenly saw how the rest of my future years would be brighter and happier if I were to cling to Him... like a branch to the Vine.

The man seemed to lament about all the time he had wasted living without Christ, and I realized that I do not have to make the same mistake. But even more than that, acknowledging Jesus now, makes now, just so much better!

Then again, maybe it's not just a lesson for only young persons after all...



Although it's still over two months away, the reading from Romans chapter 4, for Saturday, October 21 reminded me about Christmas; it was because of verse 18 where it says, "*Hoping against hope.*" In those passages from St. Paul, he describes how Abraham believed, and this made me think of this particular Christmas greeting: **Peace on Earth.**

Despite the availability of instantaneous means for delivering electronic messages, each year, many people still send their friends and loved ones Christmas cards. I am one of them, and I always try to opt for cards with religious messages. And when it's for a friend who is non-Christian, I usually send them something that at least says "Peace on Earth."

Recent world developments seem to highlight how peace is so elusive, both on the grand stage of global politics, as well as on many domestic fronts where so much violence occurs daily. Yet, despite man's record with peace on earth, it's something that we should still wish and pray for. Same thing goes for ending world hunger, stopping terrorism, and a host of other problems that we collectively face. Prayer must not stop. Despite the seemingly overwhelming odds, we have to hope against hope, because the alternative is to give up and stop hoping; and to me, that is unacceptable.

But what's unacceptable aren't just with regards those big issues. Even on a personal level, we must continue to pray for that which seems impossible – such as the healing of someone who is terminally ill, or the reconciliation and forgiveness of hardened and estranged hearts of relatives and friends.

For things that seem impossible, the passive default is to stop praying, accept that impossibility and to give up hope. The active response is something we have to choose, to dynamically pray, expecting that God will help us when we choose His will.

Peace be with you. At Mass too, we say this, and it is something we should pray for and wish for each other. So I pray for world peace and I pray for personal peace. I pray that people not relegate Christ down to a secondary role in their lives, but choose Him first, for nothing can replace Him, because He is the source of True Peace and Hope.

As BLD members, we manifested our clear "Yes" to God's call when we: accepted the invitation to join the Life in the Spirit Seminar, the various renewal and encounter programs, the discipleship formation program and teachings; attend the weekly worship and word sharing circles; and participate in the various mission works for the poor. With steadfastness and complete trust in the Lord, we continue to journey in faith despite physical, emotional and financial obstacles and difficulties. All because God assures us in this week's promise: "*God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*" (Phil 4:19), and that we can do all things in Him who strengthens us (cf Phil 4:13). All are invited to enter the kingdom of God even the broken, frail and those with moral infirmities. The Church is a mixture of saints and sinners. Bad and good people alike are given the opportunity to respond to God's invitation, because, though we are all imperfect and undeserving, it is by His mercy and grace that He keeps heaven's doors open to all. He reaches out to us because He understands our human weakness. Jesus desires all people to be saved and to share in the glory of God.

But to be in the feast requires preparation, that is, there must be a personal conversion. As in the parable, to be dressed in a wedding garment means to change one's lifestyle, from worldliness to holiness, to accept that Jesus is the Son of God and our Savior, to believe in His resurrection, to live with moral and ethical values, and to follow His Gospel messages and be converted. Jesus wants our full conversion in complete acceptance of His mercy and love.



Sinners are invited but they are expected to repent, to turn away from sin and begin to live a transformed life doing good deeds. The "wedding garment" refers to a true discipleship in following Christ, rather than an uncommitted membership. Those who refuse to repent and change are left out in darkness, away from the light, hope and joy of messianic blessings. Our Lord Jesus searches even in the byroads, seeking for conversion of every person, even to the extent of dying on the cross so that the entrance to the heavenly banquet is opened.

BLD Newark members... (from page 2)

the Holy Spirit re-awakened His gifts upon all the candidates during the Baptism that followed.

On the morning of the next day, this was all supplemented by an excellent teaching and sharing on growth. After noon Mass at the Parish's Church, everyone reconvened at St. Jane's school hall for the segment on Transformation, and the LSS graduation and commissioning rites.



In his closing remarks, Msgr. Paul summed it all up, saying that Jesus is real, emphasizing that He is the "greatest recycling plant in the world" and that Jesus is the "ultimate power transformer." Msgr. Paul added that we each have been handed a "SPA" ticket which we should use all the time. It's a free ticket meant to rejuvenate our spirits by Study, Prayer and Action.

Congratulations to BLD Allentown and the members of their latest LSS seminar! And thank you to all who helped out... especially to our Triune God who makes absolutely everything possible.

COUNSELS (from page 3)

While in His infinite wisdom and love He respects our freedom, nonetheless He exhorts us – Trust in Me for I have the best plans for you!

Prayer: O loving Jesus, transform my heart that I may readily obey You when You call, to follow You without any hesitation, to trust in Your word even if I cannot fully understand, for Your word is truth and life. Today, like Mama Mary, I say "yes" to You, my Lord. I say "yes" to Your love and will for my life, knowing that only in obedience will I be able to journey well into holiness and rest in Your love and inner peace.

Amen.

Directions:

1. Bring the LSS to the other parishes.
2. Invite your family and friends to our encounters and retreats.

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	\$ 945	\$ 54,417
Love Offerings	\$ 1,053	\$ 50,323
Mission Collections	\$ 284	\$ 4,884

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

What is God's plan in our married life?
Join the...
Marriage Encounter Weekend #49
Nov. 17-19, 2017
Hotel Executive Suite
30 Minue Street
Carteret, NJ 07008
Please email us at mia@bldnewark.com

Teaching Calendar
Teachings for Saturday, October 21
- 1 to 6 pm:
* NCR / GIP (LSS 1-48)
* Gifts & Fruits of the Holy Spirit (LSS 1-47)
* Advanced Intercession (LSS 1-46)

Community Event:
2000 Hail Marys
Saturday, October 28
Start - 8:30am
DMP Library


Support the BLD Newark 2017 Fundraiser!!!
Enter to win a trip for 2 to go to the Holy Land!

Tickets are just \$2 each.


Raffle date: Friday, November 10, 2017

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Oct 20	Management
		Oct 27	Mission
		Nov 3	Pastoral
		Nov 10	Evangelization


Update # 2 (of 9): Spiritual Program for the Unborn



Week 3
You Can See Her Eyes and Ears.



Week 6
She has Fingers and Toes.



Week 6 - 11
She Will Grow 5 Times in Size.

Prayer for the Unborn

Jesus, Mary, Joseph
I love you very much
I beg you to spare
the life of the unborn baby
that I have spiritually adopted
who is in danger of abortion.