



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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Bulletin Edition

October 20, 2017

NEWS

COUNSELS

Holy Spirit blesses LSS #48

Citizens of Two Kingdoms



LSS #48 was held this past weekend at Divine Mercy Parish in Rahway, with 41 graduates from the latest ME class and members of the Solo Parents and Singles Ministries drawing closer to Jesus, made possible because of the Holy Spirit. The successful weekend was indeed blessed by the Holy Spirit with His guidance and motivation, spearheaded by contributions from: our Spiritual Director Father Paul Lehman and those who assisted him, Deacon Serge Bernachez, Father Robert Lamirez, Father Anusiem Boniface and Father John Opara; and by the inspiring sharings by: Mhyllanie Guinto, Vino/Beth Guiang, Miles Dionisio, Efrain/Wanda Ortiz, Richard/Lee de la Fuente, Sam/Rory Olaso, Jovy/Emily Lucero, Mon/Bingle Chan, Patrick McGrail and Manny San Luis.

Congratulations to all the graduates: Bambi and Tina Cabanig, Cirio and Tess de Jesus, Lito and Chery de la Cruz, Russ and Mel Monasterio, Patty Ajito, Boyet and Margie Trinidad, Eric and Mayjen Apiado Rodrigo and Perla Lipon, Jennifer Daclan, Father Anusiem Boniface, Baldwin Budiongan, David Corona, Rosa (Dulce) Marmol, ...Continued on page 2

THEME: We grow in holiness when we give others their due, just as we give God His due.

WORD: Is 45:1,4-6 ~ Ps 96:1,3,4-5,7-8,9-10
1 Thes 1:1-5b ~ Mt 22:15-21

ORDER: **Give to God what belongs to God.** (cf Mt 22:21)

REFLECTION:

“Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” (Mt 22:21)

I am awestruck by this very clever and swift answer by Jesus. It reminds me of His response when He was asked about the woman caught in adultery. ***“Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”*** (Jn 8:7) Keep in mind that the question posed to Him by the Pharisees and the Herodians was anything but simple and friendly. It was a deliberate tactic to entrap Him with this highly debated and divisive issue, whether or not it was lawful to pay the census tax. It was not an inquiry, but was more of a seemingly inescapable corner where any answer He gave would have faced bitter opposition that would serve as a catalyst for His arrest. Either answer, *Yes* or *No*, would offend one of the clashing parties, either the Herodians who were collaborators of the Romans, or the nationalistic Pharisees who hated the Romans and its collaborators.

Things started with flattery, ***“Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man... for you do not regard a person’s status.”*** (Mt 22:16). After hearing Jesus’ response, my guess is that they were left dumbfounded, speechless and scratching their heads as they went away. ...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“I have called you by name... It is I who arm you.”

- Is 45:4b,5b

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Mary Jane Cuzada, Lucie Mentor, Cherry Remata, Eileen Weeks, Mary Lou Koppin, Georgette (Daddy) Alexis, Marie Liberato, Teresita Depositor, Allyson Dia, Kristine Demagajes, Kevin Tam, Angelo Tigol, Adrian Loreto, Gil Balanzat, Philip Edugie, Jamie Pagdonsolan, Joy Penaso, Russel Dizon, Marc Brillantes, Paul Pineda and Carlo Pena. Thank you for spending your weekend attending the life and Spirit seminar. May you continue to grow, serve and proclaim the goodness and great Love that God has for everyone.

We were so blessed to be chosen by God to be the LSS Coordinators and especially, to lead the Sunday worship. The presence of the Holy Spirit was so powerful, as He led and guided us in the entire worship. He filled us with His great love, and we could feel His presence as people spoke in tongues and as everyone couldn't stop praising our God. It was a truly great feeling and we are so happy that we were able to serve. We give great glory and praise to our Lord Jesus.

Overall it was a very fruitful weekend with 41 candidates baptized and renewed, receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Many hands from the Community made it possible... Thank You to all, most especially to our Triune God for He showed His great love for all of us in this LSS weekend.

SPM of BLD Newark attend Third SPM East Coast Inter-district Conference

On Saturday, October 7, 2017, the Solo Parents Ministry of BLD Rockland hosted the third biennial SPM East Coast Inter-district Conference at St. Augustine Church (New City, NY). Solo parents from seven BLD districts attended: Rockland, Camden, Trenton, Charlotte, Rockville Centre (Long Island), Washington DC, and of course our own BLD Newark. More than one hundred solo parents were spiritually enriched by a full day of worship, teachings, reflections, and fellowship.

The spiritual director of the conference was Rev. Fr. Jim Worth, pastor of St. Joseph Church (Maplewood, NJ). The theme of the conference was God is with us and reveals that we are not alone in our SPM journey because we have a Father Who does not forget His children; we are one in faith, hope, and love to continually revive, restore, and renew our lives. The foundation verse

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Rich in What Matters to God

In the Parable of the Rich Fool (which is the Gospel reading for Monday, October 23; Lk 12:16-21), Jesus told the crowd that was with Him, that it was God Himself Who addressed the rich man as, "You fool." Was it because that very night, the man was going to die? Was it because, after all his efforts at accumulating wealth, ultimately, the possessions would all belong to someone else?

There are many banks in the world. There are big banks and there are small banks. They may be large commercial ones, and also smaller, but still, very important community institutions. Whatever their size may be, ultimately, banks are like the huge storehouse that the rich fool built. Banks are where most of us store our worldly assets.

Jesus didn't give a lesson we actually don't already know of... that any and all of our worldly possessions will someday belong to someone else. But too often, we need to be reminded that eventually, we can't take those possessions with us.

There is however, one bank where we need to make daily deposits into where He is the CEO:



We should make deposits into this bank, because life does have its ups and downs, and there will be times in our lives when we would have to make some withdrawals from it. As with money banks, deposits must be made whenever we can, so that when a withdrawal does need to be made, there'd be a credit balance to draw from.

Investment in the Bank of Hope has to be constant and consistent... daily Mass, partaking of the sacraments, doing good to others. Then, on that one day when it's time to make a final withdrawal, while entrance into heaven would still be entirely up to Father God, perhaps there'd be enough credits to ensure hope annuities for an eternal future.

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On the surface it seemed that Jesus' clever response was applicable only for the moment of encounter, yet there is a deeper and more profound message for us all today. There is an on-going assault to demarcate Church and state, religion and politics. Clearly Jesus affirms the role and vital functions of government, so we are bound to do our civic duties. On the other hand, a higher calling is incumbent upon us as baptized Christians to share in the trifold mission of Christ, as "Priests, Prophets, and Kings."

In the compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a section on "the duties of citizens" discusses CCC paragraphs 2238-2241 and 2255, and teaches that, "Those subject to authority should regard those in authority as representatives of God and offer their loyal collaboration for the right functioning of public and social life. This collaboration includes love and service of one's homeland, the right and duty to vote, payment of taxes, the defense of one's country, and the right to exercise constructive criticism." Our community theme, *holiness*, and direction, *respecting authority*, are intrinsic to Catholic social teachings.

It is erroneous, however, to adjudicate that human laws are independent of God's divine and natural order of things. Whose image was on the coin? Tiberius Caesar. If we gaze into a mirror, whose image are we made in? Genesis 1:27 reads that "**God created mankind in his image.**" So all of us, including the biblical and historical Caesars are stamped with God's image; therefore we all belong to Him. Everything comes from God and everything and everyone belongs to God.

Today, many governmental constituents seek to privatize religion. Take for instance the removal of prayers and the mention of God in our schools and in the workplace. God, the Creator and Author of life, is being muted by human ideologies. Furthermore, the meaning of marriage and the defense of human life are blurred and ridiculed.

Brethren, stand for the TRUTH as we swim upstream, notwithstanding the counter culture that we live in. Do not be afraid to be unpopular. Mother Teresa said, "God did not call us to be successful but to be faithful." →→

→ Through us, the message of the Gospel must resonate with clarity and enthusiasm, especially to those ears that no longer hear its message, but should. The media today feeds the people and our children with alarmingly flawed values of moral relativism. If we stop evangelizing the Church would cease to exist. The Caesars of the world will dominate.

In the first reading, Cyrus, the King of the Persians, knew nothing of God, yet was favored for his just actions. He liberated and then allowed the Jews to return to their homeland from Babylon. His decision was not independent, but was in accord with God's plan. Christian values and principles should guide and inform, rather than be shunned from the political arena. Our arbitrary freedom must not solely be based on natural human intelligence and reasoning, but rather, be deeply anchored in faith seeking understanding - *fides quaerens intellectum*. As BLD, we must be guided by this too, both individually and as a collective group. We too must conform to pastoral authority; and as members, we must support the Community by providing it with needed resources.

In closing, I would like to leave you with this thought: When you look deeply into your being, whose image do you see in yourself, Caesar's or God's?

Directions:

1. Respect authority that conforms to the order established by God.
2. Observe the social teachings of the Catholic Church.

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for the conference was taken from Isaiah, "**Fear not, for I am with you.**" (Is 43:5a)

After morning worship, Fr. Jim delivered his first reflection, reminding the solo parents that all trials are gifts from God. Although we may sin by not loving God or our neighbor, God always loves us and never abandons us. The retreatants then discussed with one another Fr. Jim's homily, and several even shared their reflections with the entire assembly. After lunch, he delivered a second reflection, and the participants had another opportunity to share with one another and the entire assembly. Afterwards, representatives from each of the seven attending districts presented the history and the current activities of their respective ministries. The SPM from our own BLD Newark was proud to have, by far, the largest, most active, and longest-serving ministry,

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with nineteen (and counting) annual encounters. The IDC concluded with Fr. Jim celebrating Vigil Mass.

The members of the SPM of BLD Newark received rich spiritual graces from the Lord through this conference, and we thank the SPM of BLD Rockland for hosting the conference. The SPM of BLD Newark is proud to have hosted the first biennial SPM East Coast Inter-district Conference in 2013, and the SPM of BLD Camden has now accepted the call to host the fourth biennial SPM East Coast Inter-district Conference in 2019.

Pope Expresses Sadness at Death of Cardinal Vidal; Gratitude for Cardinal's Untiring, Devoted Service to the Church

OCTOBER 18, 2017 / ZENIT STAFF / FRANCIS

Pope Francis said October 18, 2017, that he was "deeply saddened" to learn of the death of Cardinal Ricardo Vidal. And he noted the Cardinal's "untiring and devoted service to the Church, and for his constant advocacy of dialogue and peace for all the people in the Philippines."

The Holy Father's condolences were expressed in a telegram to Archbishop Jose S. Palma of Cebu. Here is the telegram:

The Most Reverend Jose S. Palma, Archbishop of Cebu

Deeply saddened to learn of the death of Cardinal Ricardo Vidal, I extend my sincere condolences to you, and to the clergy, religious and lay faithful of the Archdiocese of Cebu. Joining with you in expressing profound gratitude for the late Cardinal's untiring and devoted service to the Church, and for his constant advocacy of dialogue and peace for all the people in the Philippines, I commend his soul to the infinite love and mercy of our heavenly Father. As a pledge of consolation and hope in the Lord, to all who mourn his passing in the certain hope of the Resurrection, I willingly impart my Apostolic Blessing.

FRANCISCUS PP.

Cardinal Ricardo J. Vidal, Archbishop emeritus of Cebu (Philippines), was born on February 6, 1931 in Mogpoc, Philippines. He was ordained on March 17, 1956. Created and proclaimed Cardinal by St. John Paul II in the Consistory of May 25, 1985, of the Title of Ss. Pietro e Paolo in Via Ostiense (Sts. Peter and Paul in Via Ostiense). He participated in the conclave of April 2005, which elected Pope Benedict XVI. He passed away on October 18, 2017.

LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

| Collections: | Prior Week | YTD |
|---------------------|------------|-----------|
| Tithes | \$ 1,303 | \$ 55,720 |
| Love Offerings | \$ 778 | \$ 51,101 |
| Mission Collections | \$ 93 | \$ 4,977 |

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

Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DLC Pastoral Hour

Wednesday, October 25
7:30 pm at the DMP Library

Community Event:
2000 Hail Marys

Saturday, October 28, 2017
Start 8:30am DMP Library

Support the BLD Newark 2017 Fundraiser!!!



First prize: 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 27 | Mission |
| | | Nov 3 | Pastoral |
| | | Nov 10 | Evangelization |
| | | Nov 17 | Formation |

BLD Community's 2000 Hail Marys for 10/28/2017

Guidelines:

1. Opening and Cleansing Prayers are posted at the doors. Please pray these appropriately.
2. Prayer leaders are ALL members of the ministry/class assigned to the slot. Please follow the prayer leader's guide.
3. Everyone will please stand when each petition is being read, you may sit/kneel at the start of the 100 Hail Mary's.
4. There will be no break during the prayers, leave the prayer area quietly for personal needs. A short meditation might be observed before the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Prayer Leaders' Guide:

1. Coordinator/head says the petition number (Petition # ____). All together, members will read the petition on the screen including the class/ministry's intentions/supplications.
2. Members of the ministry /class will ALL TOGETHER pray the Hail Mary, not only by 1 person but by all members of the group. And the congregation will answer: Holy Mary...
3. The more members: the stronger, louder and livelier your group's Hail Mary's will be, prayed solemnly and in unison. So, come all!
4. After the 100th Hail Mary, pause, wait for the song.
5. During this song, the next ministry/class prepares for the next 100 Hail Marys. Please quietly vacate your seats, leave the Rosary beads in the chairs and move to the back for the coming group.

Ministry/Class Head:

1. Please come up with prayer intentions/supplications of your ministry/class. Ask the Holy Spirit what your class/ministry needs and as you lift these up, the BLD community will hear and pray with you, and say AMEN.
2. Those with 2 slots may have different prayer intentions.
3. Submit these brief intentions to Tito Dens Mantes at <pmantes@gmail.com> NOT LATER than Oct.23, Monday, for inclusion in the petition slides.
4. Upon arrival check by the door/ IM timekeeper-in-charge for the schedule/actual time while our 2000 Hail Marys is in progress.
5. Also check for the seating arrangement of your group. It will be the left or right side, facing the Eucharist as you enter the library.
6. We will be very thankful for food/snacks you voluntarily bring.

I am the Lady of the Rosary. - Our Lady of Fatima
Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us who have recourse to thee!