



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 24 Issue 18

Bulletin Edition

May 11, 2018

NEWS

COUNSELS

Cardinal, Archdiocese of Newark, sign the US Catholic Climate Declaration

May 2, 2018

Source: rcan.org

At the request of Bishop Richard Pates, Episcopal Liaison to the Catholic Climate Covenant, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark, and the Archdiocese have signed the US Catholic Climate Declaration.

The Declaration reads “As Catholic communities, organizations, and institutions in the United States, we join with state, tribal, and local governments, as well as businesses, financial institutions, and other faith organizations, to declare that we are still in on actions that meet the climate goals outlined in the Paris Agreement.”

In 2001, the U.S Bishops said that “global climate is by its very nature a part of the planetary commons,” and that prudent action must be taken to protect it (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good, 2001). On numerous occasions, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have called for an international climate change agreement.

“[A]t its core, global climate change is not about economic theory or political platforms, nor about partisan advantage or interest group pressures. It is about the future of God's creation and the one human family. It is about protecting both 'the human environment' and the natural environment. It is about our human stewardship of God's creation and our responsibility to those who come after us” (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good, 2001).

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Proclaim the Gospel

THEME: We make disciples of all nations when we open ourselves to God’s call in spreading the Good News.

WORD: Acts 1:1-11 ~ Ps 47:2-3,6-7,8-9
Eph 4:1-13 ~ Mk 16:15-20

ORDER: *“Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.”* (Mk 16:15)

REFLECTION:

The Ascension marks the end of Jesus’ earthly mission and ministry as He ascended to sit at the right hand of God the Father. Before He left them, Jesus gave His disciples this divine mission:



“Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.” (Mk 16:15)

This is the great commission which the risen Christ gives to the whole Church and to us, the people of God. All believers have been given a share in this task, which is to proclaim the Good News and to be exemplary ambassadors for Jesus Christ. Now Jesus, our all-knowing and loving risen Christ, had this all figured out. We have not been left alone, but as promised, He sent us the Holy Spirit, Who works in, and through us, to equip us for our mission in this world. The Lord’s call to proclaim the Good News is still valid today and indeed it is more urgent.

Further in the Gospel, Jesus said, *“These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents [with their hands], and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them.*

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Promise of the Week

“...you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you” (Acts 1:8a)

MARK 10 MINISTRY LEADS THE COMMUNITY IN CROWNING MAMA MARY



It was a special night last Friday at BLD. Since May 4 was a First Friday, a Eucharistic Celebration was already scheduled, and it was at that Mass that most of the Community first got to meet Fr. Alex Cruz, the current Parish Administrator for Divine Mercy Parish. He served as the main celebrant and delivered an impressive homily about how we are to evangelize, and what Jesus might have meant when He instructed His disciples to shake the dust off their feet at the houses and towns that did not welcome them. He interspersed humor into his message, making it memorable while eliciting many smiles from all who were there.

After the Eucharistic Celebration, the Mark 10 Ministry adult core started distributing flowers to everyone in the Church. Then, with Praise leading the Community in singing *Salve Regina*, the children of Mark 10 started walking up the Church's center aisle with flowers in hand to present to the statue of our Blessed Mother. Some were wearing First Communion outfits that added an even more festive atmosphere, and soon, many cameras and cellphones were taking pictures of the cutest members of our Community.

Then, after the children, the rest of the First Friday congregation joined the crowning ceremony. One-by-one folks walked up to honor Mother Mary by laying flowers at her feet. It was a truly joyous occasion and a sincere, heartfelt expression of the entire BLD Newark Community's love for our Dear Mother.

In the Gospel acclamation for the daily Mass on Tuesday, May 16, Jesus says, "I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always." (Jn 14:16) In many of the readings for next week, Jesus also talks about the Father being with Him and Him remaining in us. So, when one thinks about it, we won't ever have to be lonely again, even when we are alone! Because practically anytime and anywhere, we can be:

Partying with God

Whenever I think of God
I can't help but feel glad.

Whether I'm just by myself
or with others
Seems I want to raise my arms
and celebrate!

Then the other day,
As I sat alone in a room,
I realized
That He was
Actually with me
There, right beside me!

And as I raised my arms
and celebrated,
I knew that it was more
Than just the two of us,
For Jesus and the Holy Spirit
Came along with Him!

And the celebration in my heart,
Well, it was like

Partying with all of Them!

So this I pray
That at any given moment,
May you too
Be partying with God, Amen.

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” (Mk 16:17-18) Our Lord gave these signs for His believers. As He did then, He tells us today that if we are baptized and live the faith, we are going to be saved. He tells us that those who have this faith will be able to speak new languages, handle serpents, cast out demons, and be able to heal.

I know that by now, you might be asking yourselves this question, “If I can’t do those things, does that mean that I don’t believe?”

No. What it means is that there are gifts that have been given to some people that have not been given to others; and although each of us is created in God’s image, we each have different gifts. What matters is that we are vigilant, and steady in our faith, and that we resist the devil, because our opponent is prowling like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Also, the danger is that we might see these gifts as coming only from our own abilities, with a hidden agenda of self-glorification. Perhaps God does not grant us all His gifts because of this - because our pride would get in the way.

Then, there is also the trap of limiting our understanding of the Lord’s words to very literal interpretations, for there are deeper dimensions to what He said. If we are steady in our faith we could drive out demons by choosing what’s right and fighting the devil who destroys life. We can speak new languages by communicating with others in new and more compassionate ways. We can pick up serpents with our bare hands, or drink poison and not get harmed, by staying away from poisonous gossip that destroys friendships and communities. And we can cure the sick by making others feel accepted and loved. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, also exhorts us to avoid burying or hoarding these gifts that we have been given, because everyone needs to hear the Good News. We are to use our gifts to make others feel that they are loved also.

Because we are broken and sinful, one might wonder how we can respond to His calling. Let us not be discouraged because this incredible commissioning is possible even for simple folks like us!

**DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT YOUR BODY IS A
TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
WITHIN YOU, WHOM YOU HAVE FROM GOD?**



NEWS

(from page 1)

The historic Paris Agreement was accepted by 195 nations in December, 2015. The Vatican and the U.S. Bishops have voiced their support for it on numerous occasions. The Agreement provides a framework for the reduction of carbon emissions to limit the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees C above pre-industrial levels and to avoid the most dangerous effects of climate change.

On June 1, 2017, President Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the Paris agreement, the only nation to do so. In response, the U.S. bishops declared, “The President’s decision not to honor the U.S. commitment to the Paris agreement is deeply troubling” (USCCB Statement on the President’s Withdrawal from Paris Agreement, June 1, 2017). In signing the document, Cardinal Tobin stated: “The Archdiocese of Newark joins with other institutions from across American society to ensure that the United States remains a global leader in reducing emissions. We call for the Administration to join the global community and return to the Paris Agreement.”

The Cardinal also has urged all Catholic parishes, schools and institutions within the Archdiocese of Newark to sign on to the Catholic Climate Declaration individually.

To view the Declaration:

<https://www.tfaforms.com/4668211>

➔ In this passage from St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians, 1 Cor 6:19, he makes it clear to us that the Holy Spirit truly dwells in us, “... **and that you are not your own.**” The Holy Spirit acts through our bodies, minds and hearts, and yes, even through the Community!

Jesus is a very forgiving God Who does not judge or criticize us, but accepts us for who we are. The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord reminds us that despite our human tendencies and shortcomings, Jesus accepts us as His people, and so He gives us the great eternal commission to proclaim and live the Gospel.

We are empowered by none other than Christ Himself. We are to teach, evangelize, and most importantly, to live as Jesus lived! We are to love as deeply as Jesus continues to love us! Today, may we be mindful that we are meant to walk in Jesus’ footsteps, so that one day, we too may ascend with Him up to Heaven.

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COUNSELS

(from page 3)

Directions:

1. Do not be afraid of spreading the Gospel because the Holy Spirit is with you.
2. Live in a manner worthy of the call you have received by being humble, gentle and patient.

I AM THE BOSS

Tito was recently promoted at work. He was qualified, but after a while, he felt that his staff didn't give him the proper respect that was his due. So, to correct the situation, he brought in a sign to hang on his office door. It simply said:



The reminder seemed to work because soon, Tito noticed that the people there started respecting him more, and that made him happy.

A few weeks later, however, he came back from lunch, and he noticed that the sign was missing! Despite a frantic search for his prized possession, it was nowhere to be found!

He was on the verge of panic when he saw this note on his desk from his administrative assistant:

Dear Boss,

While you were out, your wife Tita came by.

If you are looking for your sign, she took it and asked me to just let you know that she wanted her sign back.



LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,115	\$ 22,224
Love Offerings	\$ 891	\$ 14,794
Mission Collections	\$ 10	\$ 9,810

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Teaching Calendar

Teachings for Saturday, **May 12, 2018** - 1 to 6 pm:

- Apologetics 2 (L55 1-46)
- Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit (L55 1-48)
- Sienna Gifts Inventory (L55 49)

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER # 50

Friday, May 18 – Sunday, May 20, 2018

Hotel Executive Suites, Carteret, NJ

Contact: MLA@BLDNewark.com

Singles Encounter #38

June 8 -10, 2018

Graymoor Spiritual Life Center
Garrison, NY 10524

Come all you who are thirsty...

Please contact: [Jutt Bustos](mailto:Jutt.Bustos@graymoor.org)
[Lita Alfaro](mailto:Lita.Alfaro@graymoor.org)

Solo Parents Encounter #20

"Jesus is calling..."

June 22-24, 2018

Days Hotel of East Brunswick
195 Route 18 S
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Please contact: [Caezar and Vicky Razalan](mailto:Caezar.and.Vicky.Razalan@days.com)



Youth Encounter #25

"Come and Follow Me..."

Please contact: dyc@bidnewark.com

Fellowship Deaconry
3575 Valley Road
Liberty Corner, NJ

July 13-15, 2018

Your family is your first church...



Family Encounter #25

July 20-22, 2018

Malvern Retreat House
315 South Warren Avenue
Malvern, PA 19355

Please contact:

[Mat & Precy Yap](mailto:Mat.Precy@malvernretreat.com)

[June & Edith Buhain](mailto:June.Edith@malvernretreat.com)

[Butch & Malou Morales](mailto:Butch.Malou@malvernretreat.com)

DIVINE MERCY PARISH CALENDAR

FOLLOW ME

Experience the joy of a renewed friendship with Christ

Eight Monday nights beginning on Monday, May 21, 7 pm

DMP Room 104 / Contacts: Ray/Suzie Atienza (908-463-0449)

Marshaling	Date	Apostolate
	May 18	Formation
	May 25	Management
	Jun 1	Mission
	Jun 8	Pastoral