



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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Bulletin Edition

August 25, 2017

NEWS

COUNSELS

BLD Newark celebrates its 25th Anniversary

- “We’ve been *highered*!!!”

On both days of this past weekend, August 19 and 20, BLD Newark celebrated its 25th Anniversary. And it was a grand occasion indeed! The festivities started in the best way possible – with a Eucharistic Celebration at the spiritual home of BLD Newark, the Church at Divine Mercy Parish in Rahway.

In a stirring homily, based on the Gospel reading from the Community’s actual anniversary date of August 23, Monsignor Paul Schetelick led the many who were present to declare that “WE’VE BEEN HIGHERED!!!” Msgr. Paul had reflected on Jesus’ parable about the laborers who were hired at different times of the day, and applied it to BLD; he pointed out that the BLD members of the various ministries were not just “hired” by the Lord. In doing ministry work, whether it be singing, preparing food, helping the poor, or even in doing administrative tasks for the Community, the Lord provides the blessings that propels us and our efforts “higher.”

After the Mass, the next order of the day was lunch for the 500 or so people from Newark, as well as BLD districts from as far away as North Carolina. During the sumptuous meal, decorated booths added to the festive fiesta atmosphere in the DMP school auditorium and gym. These were set up as early as the night before, and impressed many, including visitors from the other BLD districts who said that they now intend to do something similar in their own BLD Communities. The celebration’s formal program then started around mid-afternoon, with talks by Fr. Paul Lehman, Msgr. Paul, Roger & Irma Santiago and other pioneers who were there at the Community’s inception in 1992. There were also Filipiniana-themed presentations by several ministries ...*Continued on page 3*

Blessed Are You Simon

THEME: We are transformed as we pray for and submit to those in authority.

WORD: Is 22:19-23 ~ Ps 138:1-2,2-3,6,8
Rom 11:33-36 ~ Mt 16:13-20

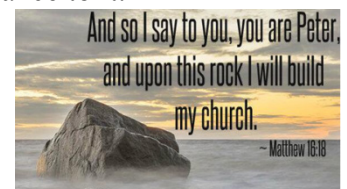
ORDER: **“Upon this rock... build my church.”**
(Mt 16:18)

REFLECTION:

In this week’s Gospel reading, “*But who do you say I am?*” raises the question of Jesus’ authority in our lives. Authority is something that everyone knows we need and everyone thinks should be present, but we find it hard to submit to. At the center of God’s plan of authority is a concern for reconciling humanity to the Father, and to one another.

God’s authority in our lives should be pre-eminent, overruling both human authority and self-concern. His is an authority, the understanding of which primarily comes from the experience of surrender to His will and the subsequent good we encounter. We do not discover it from dwelling in isolation, “me and God,” but by living in community and in communion with the body of Christ, “we and God.” The Community to which we belong, the Church, helps us to understand God’s will and pledge allegiance to it.

The office and ministry of Our Holy Father, the Pope, goes right back to Jesus, and was founded by Jesus, as we heard in the Gospel today.



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Promise of the Week

“Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven.” (Mt 16:19b)

“As we move past Charlottesville, words matter.”

– Joseph W. Cardinal Tobin C.Ss.R., D.D.



August 17, 2017

For nearly a week, the individual and national wounds opened by the violence in Charlottesville, Va., have been raw and pulsating. As a pastor, I struggled to say something to make sense of what we've all heard and seen. I wrote in the name of “the one and a half million Catholic men, women and children of the Archdiocese of Newark – people who trace their roots to every continent of the world and represent every race and ethnicity,” who viewed with horror the recent events in Charlottesville and condemned the racism and vicious rhetoric that contributed to this tragic moment in our nation’s history. This vast Catholic community hopes to stand in prayer and solidarity with all people of good will and we witness to our Christian calling to ‘love your enemies...that you may be children of your heavenly Father’ (Mt. 5:44-45).

In that message, I embraced gratefully the profound wisdom of the mother of Heather Heyer, who told reporters in Charlottesville “hate cannot fix the world. Hate only creates more hate.” I believe that the faithful of our Church want to join her in rejecting the brutality that killed her child, contributed to the deaths of two Virginia State Troopers – Jake Cullen and Berke Bates – and left dozens injured.

Of course, it is not enough simply to denounce such violence, and I called for “a thorough examination of racial bigotry and intolerance in the light of reason and love.” Why? Jesus tells us “For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed” (Jn 3:20). Dark words and deeds must be met with light and love.

The bigotry and hatred that were so visible last Saturday continue to convulse our country. The airwaves and print media have been engulfed by honest and heartfelt words far more eloquent powerful than mine. It is important to speak. It is even more crucial to listen.

Words matter. Truth matters.

Today, words matter even more than we otherwise would expect because the collective body of Americans – regardless of our political viewpoints – represent a nation in need of healing, a nation in search of a moral compass. Vague or tepid responses will not heal us or guide us towards a new and more authentic path. Far too many of our fellow citizens no longer have faith in the systems or institutions that have shaped and guided our daily lives for centuries. Such a void easily is filled by hateful words that seek only to destroy truth and love.

People my age may recall coming of age when Americans struggled to find words to speak to each other. Watching the news last weekend and this week, I wonder how many of us had a vague feeling that we had seen and heard this before. While most of us baby boomers have cherished memories of our wild and wonderful youth, recent events can remind us of the vitriolic fragmentation that lacerated the country in the late 60’s and 70’s.

Is it possible that we still lack the words to speak with each other in a way that generates respect and love, that creates space for justice and peace? Many of the problems and the pain that tormented us then continue to vex us today because we refused to see what was truly there or hear the voices of those on margins. That must stop now.

Let me get back to today, and the challenge that Charlottesville presents us. Leaders must speak clearly and respectfully as they name the real evil that torments our people. There is no time for playing with words that purport to placate, evade or confuse. I am confident that Americans will understand and forgive a leader an occasional verbal gaffe, so long as his or her intentions are true, transparent and consistent. We have far less patience with equivocation.

This painful moment in our history invites us to recognize our national aphasia and learn to speak with each other in new and respectful ways. If we strive to be truly eloquent, we might test the teaching of Jesus, to “love your enemies...that you may be children of your heavenly Father.”

These are words that matter.

(source: RCAN.org)

BLD Newark celebrates ... (from page 1)

and the latest encounter classes that wonderfully complemented the formal program, and served as an enticing appetizer for the Don Moen concert later that evening.

At that concert, over a thousand people first saw a showcase of the musical and singing talents of BLD members from the Singles and Youth Ministries. Then, during the rest of the evening, everyone sang along to the great songs performed by the well-known Christian music artist, who is a favorite among many in BLD.

At the Anniversary Dinner Dance the next day, BLD talent was once again spotlighted by the presentation of a new musical. Adopting the overall theme of the Community's 25th Anniversary, the production was simply called "By His Grace." The well applauded show was developed based on the themes and movements of the Life-in-the-Spirit Seminar, with both old and new songs sung and led by several soloists (including a rewind – Becbec Laxina singing "Light of a Million Mornings" onscreen), with choreography by the adults and young members of John 6 and Mark 10. Casey and Malyn Tanseco, a couple already primarily responsible for two other major BLD presentations spearheaded this third successful effort.

The afternoon and evening of food and dancing was sponsored by the class of ME 40 (along with a host of volunteers). At its conclusion everyone may have been tired, but all were truly satisfied by all of the festivities, of both Saturday and Sunday. We thanked the Lord for His many blessings and graces that He had bestowed upon BLD Newark. All were renewed and now look forward to the next 25 years... and beyond.

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

"Blessed are you, Simon son Of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Mt 16:17-19)

In the Scriptures, when a person's name is changed it signifies a new vocation. Simon's name was changed to Peter by Jesus to signify his. *"Jesus looked at him and said, 'You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas' (which is translated to Peter)."* (Jn 1:42) In the Old Testament, Abram becomes Abraham; Jacob becomes Israel; Hoshea becomes Joshua; and there are many others. In St. Matthew's Gospel account, after Peter's declaration, *"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God,"* Jesus reply established Peter in his new vocation, *"I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church."*

Jesus is the Foundation Stone on which the Church is founded upon and the Pope, the successor of Peter, is the visible human head of the Church on earth, an office and vocation founded by Jesus to guide the Church.

On many other occasions in the Gospels, we see Jesus with Peter, where Peter had a very prominent role. Above all, we think of Jesus' appearance to the apostles by the Sea of Galilee

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COUNSELS

(from page 3)

when He asked Peter if he loved Him and commanded him to look after the flock of the Church. During the Last Supper we read in Luke's Gospel that Jesus spoke to Peter about his future role. ***"Simon, Simon, behold Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail; and once you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers."*** (Lk 22:31-32)

We see the unique position that Peter had among the other apostles, and that he was to be relied upon to strengthen the brothers. Whenever the Gospels list the apostles, it always puts Peter's name first; this seems to serve as an indicator of his eventual role as head of the Church. Again and again in the Acts of the Apostles we see that it is Peter who stepped up as their leader. It was Peter who decided that Judas had to be replaced (Acts 1:15-26), and it was Peter who preached at Pentecost.

Jesus did not leave behind a detailed blueprint for the Church; instead, Peter would have to guide the decisions that had to be made for its establishment and good order, especially as the Church expanded. So in Acts 6, the Twelve Apostles, acting together in unity, decided to institute the Order of Deacons. Peter and his successors would bind and loose many things over the course of the next twenty centuries.

Peter declared his faith in the Messiahship of Jesus, the Son of God. Today, how we answer the question, ***"Who do you say I am?"*** will reveal whether or not we have faith. So, whether or not we accept that we are part of God's plan, Peter's confession is important in its own right because from it, we learn Who Jesus is. He is the Messiah, with Peter as the one whom God inspired to publicly confess Jesus' identity. But Peter's confession is also ours, and so is his commissioning. We share Peter's identity as a flawed disciple who sometimes, in pressure situations, lets Jesus down. We share in his identity as disciples forgiven and empowered to proclaim the Truth of the Gospel. The message is based on the person of Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, and on His work, the work of redemption.

DIRECTIONS:

- * Be transformed in Christ and help build the Church.
- * Be an instrument in the conversion of hearts and minds; invite people to encounters, seminars and formation programs.

LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,411	\$ 45,468
Love Offerings	\$ 960	\$ 41,727
Mission Collections	\$ 60	\$ 3,903

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

Salubungan - Friday, September 1
Seminar - October 13-15, 2017

"Come Holy Spirit ..."

Please contact: [Earl & Flo Manguiat](#)

John 6 Crossing #16

October 6-8, 2017
Fellowship Deaconry
Basking Ridge, NJ

"... let the children come to me ..."



Please contact: [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
			Sep 1	Evangelization
			Sep 8	Formation
			Sep 15	Management
Sep 22	Mission			