



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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November 1, 2019

NEWS

COUNSELS

BLD Newark holds an a-ME-zing weekend!

Victory was once again proclaimed, this time through the lives of these nine couples: Vincent & Cielo Flores, Eloy & Lyn Magno, Nelson & Diana Torna, Bernard & Jenny Caleon, Herme & Rhodora Santayana, Penny & Sally Sambilay, Ezequiel & Carmel Jerome, Craig & Zenia Carey, Lauro & Harriet Ramos. They attended BLD Newark's latest retreat, Marriage Encounter #53, which was held last weekend on October 26 and 27 at the Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Newton, NJ.

ME #53 Weekend presented a variety of talks and activities that engaged the candidates throughout Saturday morning and into Sunday afternoon. The weekend's Spiritual Director, Deacon Serge Bernatchez, led the candidates in understanding the fundamental components of married life, and then, he guided the candidates on how to transform their relationships into truly Christ-centered marriages.

These concepts were reinforced through the heartfelt testimonies of the weekend's sharers - Audie & Vulet Chong and Boyie & Stella Huelgas. Through them, the candidates witnessed how God's Love changes lives through healing and forgiveness. And they saw how the sharers are now strengthened by their new found faith and trust in Him. Additionally, the weekend provided both personal reflection and one-on-one time with their spouses. The dialogues allowed the candidates an opportunity to reconnect with each other, heal and forgive each other, and re-focus on God.

By the end of the weekend, any doubts and trepidations that the candidates came in with at the start of the ME were transformed into feelings of peace and joy. And there was excitement too, at the promise of something good

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Zacchaeus' Encounter with the Lord

THEME: Our hope of glory is in Jesus our King when we repent and make reparation for our sins.

WORD: Wis 11:22-12:2 ~ Ps 145:1-2,8-9,10-11,13,14
2 Thes 1:11-2:2 ~ Lk 19:1-10

ORDER: "**Have mercy on all...**" (Wis 11:23)

REFLECTION:

"For you love all things that are and loathe nothing..." (Wis. 11:24a) How reassuring it is to ponder this verse, for it speaks of a merciful and forgiving God and about the greatness of His love for us. He loves us, despite our loathsome state, for He cannot hate any of His creation and wants us all to be restored to our inheritance as children of the Father. For this reason, He rebukes us, warns us, and disciplines us, because He can never allow us to be forever lost, nor for us to continue to sin and suffer from the destructive consequences of sin.

He is a God of second chances, seeking us out from the wilderness and from the darkness to bring us back into the light, no matter how long it takes. No matter how difficult our circumstances may be, He will patiently wait for us to realize our folly, repent of them, and go back to Him Who is always ready to forgive. That is His mercy flowing from His heart full of love. **"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."** (Lk19:10)

Sunday's Gospel is about the conversion of Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector who was regarded as a sinner and despised by the people of his hometown because he was perceived to be corrupt.

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Promise of the Week

"The Lord lifts up all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down." – cf. Ps 145:14

NEWS

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BLD Newark holds an a-ME-zing weekend...

that seemed to be brewing, as several of the new encounter graduates expressed their desire to have their married family members and friends sign up for BLD's next ME weekend! And as the sponsoring class' *Harana* was heartily applauded into an encore, ME #53, and those who were there to welcome them into the Community, were found dancing along with the sponsoring class in a joy-filled BLD celebration!

We pray for the new class of ME #53, along with their Class Shepherds, Pinky and Cezar Calingo. We pray that all of the couples of ME #53 continue the renewal of both their marriages and their relationships with Jesus Christ!

Thanks to everyone who offered their time, treasure and talents towards this powerful weekend! In particular, we are grateful for the beautiful songs sung by our Praise Ministry, the prayers and service of our auxies, the tireless work of the Liturgy Ministry and the LSA, and the dedication and work of the sponsoring class of ME #52. Thank you to the sharers and to Deacon Serge, and to all who were praying all weekend long for the Lord's victory.

Most importantly, Thank You to our God for making all things possible. and praise be unto Him as His Love endures and triumphs over all! Alleluia!



But with every uphill climb in my life...

I was at the Singles Ministry worship on a recent Friday evening and was stunned into tears by this particular sharing and contrition prayer by their prayer leader. It's not the first time in BLD, I thought, that we adults can learn valuable life lessons from the Community's younger members.

Hardship and fear have never been strangers in my life. I can recall sleepless nights wondering whether or not I could handle the challenges of the days to come. The pains of the past and the fears of the future tend to creep up in my mind and take the joys of the present away from me. The standards of this world seem to say that I just can't fit in. There are lies that whisper into my ears that I'm not good enough; that I'm not capable. If only you were stronger; if only you were smarter. You can't do it... You should be further into your career by now. You messed up. Just quit.

At times, it gets hard not to listen to them and just give in to thinking that they're true. It's just that moving forward in this life has sometimes felt like treading through a desert with weights strapped onto my legs, keeping me stuck in the past, while winds gust a thousand miles per hour towards me, preventing me from moving forward. Multiple times I've felt stuck just wanting to escape from the stress of everyday life, questioning whether this was all worth it, whether I was making the right decisions or if I've just been making more mistakes.

At times, I've felt so controlled by the fear in my mind and the sadness of my heart. My mind would constantly be at war with itself, and I've gotten tired of feeling like this. Meanwhile, I have wanted to take control, and have wanted things to go the way I planned them, and I've wanted things to get better now. This way of thinking and feeling has frequently come up in my life, and every single time, I get confused, frustrated, and find myself losing faith.

The last sentence in Sunday's Gospel says, ***"But when the Son of man comes, will he find any faith on earth?"*** I've wanted more than ever to show the Lord that my trust in Him is without borders. But in the past, it seemed that whenever I truly needed to pray the most, the only words that would come out of my mouth were words of doubt, anger, sadness, jealousy, and frustration. After all, I thought, how much could praying really help me?

But with every uphill climb in my life, the Lord has shown that when I pray to Him unceasingly, He would be there to take care of me, and that He →→

→ would provide and make what seemed impossible, possible. The Lord has promised each and every one of us this, and He reiterates this throughout Scripture.

Just like the widow, who received justice through her persistence, and the victory of Joshua against Amalek that was secured by Moses' intercession, He shows us that, in His time, He will provide. And sometimes, He provides by working through others who are there to help and pray for us during times of hardship, just like Aaron and Hur helped to keep Moses' arms raised during that battle against Amalek. As I look up now, I see my family, friends and community around me; people who have given me joy, hope, and strength.

Despite the uncertainties of this world, God's love and presence in our lives is certain.

And so Lord, as I reflect on everything You've given me, I just wanted to take the time to ask for forgiveness. To my parents, forgive me for the trouble that I may have caused you because of my battle with anxiety and depression. To my siblings, please forgive me for my times of weakness and the times when I couldn't be that strong, big sister figure to the both of you. I pray that as we move forward, that the only words that come out of my mouth are no longer words of doubt and fear, but of hope and praise.

Last but not least, Lord, please forgive me. Forgive me for the times that I have doubted You and Your plan for me. Forgive me for being selfish and wanting things to only go my way. Forgive me for listening to the lies of this world and for the times that I've turned away from You. Forgive me for not seeing myself as the beautiful creature that You have made, and for taking the life that You have given me for granted.

Through earnest prayer and trust in You Lord, You have set me free from the shackles that hold me back. And because of You Lord, we now bring our sorrows and trade them for joy. From these ashes, our new lives are born. May we all praise You, forever and ever. **Amen!**



COUNSELS (from page 1)

We know that Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree to be able to see Jesus amidst the vast crowd. Jesus' magnetic presence must have inspired Zacchaeus to find a way to catch a glimpse of the passing Savior, a Man Whom he had heard was Someone Who radiated with holiness.



His action did not escape Jesus' attention, much to the dismay of the crowds, who looked at Zacchaeus with contempt. But Jesus saw the heart of Zacchaeus, and His mercy reached out to this man who came out to be transformed. *"But you overlook people's sins that they may repent,"* (Wis 11:23)

The conversion of Zacchaeus is not unlike ours in our personal encounter with Jesus during our LSS. This personal encounter was needed for us to truly believe that God loves us, that He sent His only Begotten Son, Jesus, to save us by dying on the cross to take away our sins so that we might have eternal life with the Father. And He gave us His Holy Spirit to empower us to be bearers of this Good News, the Gospel of Christ, to all nations and to all peoples of the earth. Like Zacchaeus, we too have to find a way to climb that tree, the better to see and know our Lord, to repent for our sins and honor God by sincerely living our new life in Christ. Thus, we've become living witnesses to the transforming power of His healing love.

We are emissaries of His boundless mercy and we are His, for *"The Lord lifts up all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down."* (Ps 145:14) Jesus healed the soul of Zacchaeus just with His mere presence. When people see Jesus in us, and see the visible change that has happened because of our Zacchaeus-like personal encounter with the Lord, they too will be encouraged to seek Him, to turn away from sin, to repair any wrongdoing and live transformed lives. For our only hope of glory is in Jesus Christ, our Sovereign King.

Directions:

1. Pray and reach out those who are struggling in life and lead them to Jesus.
2. Repent of your wrongdoing and make reparations to those you have offended.

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,361	\$60,817
Love Offerings	\$ 446	\$ 31,194
E-Giving	\$ 300	\$ 8,565
Mission	\$ 125	\$ 13,754

2019 Raffle Fundraiser (preliminary results):

Ticket sales & cash donations: \$40,852

Printing and other expenses: (5,490)

Net raised: **\$35,362**

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

Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LSS #52 Grand Reunion

Saturday, November 9, 2019 / 12-4 pm

Prayer Healing Seminar 2

Saturday and Sunday, November 23-24, 2019 7 am – 6 pm
2nd floor Library, Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway, NJ
REQUIREMENT: MUST HAVE ALREADY ATTENDED PRAYER HEALING SEMINAR 1
Seminar Fee: \$50 per person (to cover cost of materials & food)
The link to register can be found on bldnewark.com
Contact email: prayer.healing@bldnewark.com

Teaching Calendar

Saturday, November 16, 2019 / 1-6 pm

Apologetics II – ME 48 / SPE 19
Encounter with Jesus – ME 47/49/50
Basic Bible Seminar – LSS 1-52 (ME 51/52, SPE 19, SE 39)
Gifts & Fruits of the Holy Spirit – SPE 20

Did you know that there are fifty-three Hail Mary beads in a Rosary? It's a special number that's also the number for the latest ME!

On Saturday, December 7, come join the Grand Reunion of ME #53! 12-5 pm at the DMP Library

MARCH FOR LIFE 2020



Medical Mission 2020

Jordan, Guimaras, Philippines
February 10 to 13, 2020

2000 Hail Mary's for the Medical Mission – Saturday, January 25, 2020 at the DMP Library

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Nov 8	Management
			Nov 15	Mission
			Nov 22	Pastoral
Nov 29	Evangelization			