



**Bukás Loób sa Diyós**

(Open in Spirit to God)

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY  
DISTRICT OF NEWARK

# COVENANT NEWS

Volume 27 Issue 35

Bulletin Edition

September 10, 2021

**NEWS**

**COUNSELS**

## Cardinal Joseph Tobin's

### Homily from the 9/11 Anniversary Mass at the Sacred Heart Cathedral

Twentieth Anniversary of 9/11  
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart  
September 8, 2021

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

What are you remembering this afternoon? Together with so many around the world, we can recall exactly where we were on that sun-dappled Tuesday morning in early September two decades ago. Even at that distance, it is not difficult to taste the fear, feel the confusion, rekindle the fiery anger that washed over the nation as the events of September 11, 2001, unfolded. The soul-chilling sight of troops in full battle dress patrolling airports and train stations, as well as armed vehicles on the streets are fresh, even a generation later.

Whom are you remembering this afternoon? Here, 9/11 was more than a national tragedy for the people. Here, the carnage was personal. So many families along the Morristown, Northeast Corridor, and Raritan lines, parents, grandparents, siblings and fiancées in communities that necklace the Parkway and Turnpike, had no idea that morning they were saying a final goodbye to someone whose loss would rip out their hearts. In the days that followed, the fire and smoke that wreathed the Towers spewed toxins that would continue to kill long after the rubble had been cleared away again," which should "remain at the centre of our daily life as the Wellspring of salvation".

Perhaps your memories go beyond Archdiocese or nation, and you mourn the young men and women who died or were mutilated on the battlefields of the last 20 years. Perhaps you can glimpse the enormous tsunami of violence that the events of 9/11 unleashed, claiming hundreds of thousands of children, women, and men. Father Thomas Merton observed that there is only one winner in war. The winner is not justice, not liberty, not Christian truth. The winner is war itself. *Continued on page 2*

## Deny Oneself

THEME:	We witness to God's love and saving grace when we deny ourselves for the sake of the Gospel.
WORD:	Is 50:5-9a/ Ps 116: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/ Ja 2:14-18/ Mk 8:27-35
ORDER:	<b><i>"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me". (Mk 8:34)</i></b>

REFLECTION:

I looked up what it means "to deny oneself." Merriam-Webster's definition is this: to not allow oneself to enjoy things or to not have the things one

And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."

Mark 8:34

wants. Upon reflecting on this, I thought about how Jesus did this for us. Jesus went out of his way to help people and to cure the sick. He could have easily become the earthly king of the human world, but he chose another path. Then I thought about myself; as a Christian, have I tried to do the same? Have I denied myself and helped others instead? Do I always want to accumulate the goods of the world, or do I live by seeking just the necessities? We are human, right? That's the excuse that I use all the time. But if we turn our eyes upon our Lord, and not look back to our worldly ways, we can be like Him.

The Dictionary of Bible Themes defines self-denial as "The willingness to deny oneself possessions or status in order to grow in holiness and commitment to God." A perfect example *Continued on page 3*

### Promise of the Week

***"...whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."  
(Mk 8:35b)***

# 1 Corinthians 13 in Close-up (Part 1 of 2)

By Deacon Rod A. Soriano

## LOVE IS...

1) Patient -	Be willing to wait for God's timing Have self-restraint Controlled impulses	Isaiah 40:31 Romans 15:1 James 1:4
2) Kind -	Ask, "What would this person like?" "What does he or she need?" Softly speaking and caringly	Proverbs 25:11 Isaiah 58:6-7 Ephesians 4:32
3) Does not envy -	Be content with what you have List your blessings Be happy for others' good	1 Corinthians 3:3 Exodus 20:17 Philippians 4:11-12
4) Does not boast -	Be humble Don't brag Give credit to others	Psalms 49:6-7 Psalms 34:2 Philippians 3:1-8
5) Not proud -	Don't think you are better than other people Be modest Don't be arrogant or overbearing	1 Corinthians 8:1 Philippians 2:2-8 John 13:14-15
6) Not rude -	Be courteous and kind Be gracious Use good manners	Numbers 12:3 1 Peter 4:9 1 Peter 5:5
7) Not self-seeking -	Think of others first Give someone else first choice Don't be greedy and selfish	1 Corinthians 10:24 Acts 20:35 John 15:13
8) Not easily angered -	Think the best of people Don't jump to conclusions Ask questions and listen	Matthew 5:22 Romans 15:2 James 1:19

## NEWS

(from page 1)

Today the Word of God invites us to remember. Its message is subtle, perhaps easy to miss. Let me try to introduce that message with a story that remembers another time, another place.

Pane e vino ("Bread and Wine") is a novel published a few years before the onset of World War II. The setting is Italy and in one memorable scene, a young woman cries desperately to her parish priest: what can we do? The machinery of death is in motion, the armies of the night are on the march. After pondering her anguish, the old man replies, I don't know what we should do. But I do know this: what topples evil empires and deprives despots of sleep is the little person who steals into the piazza at midnight and scrawls on a wall no!

Today the Church celebrates the birth of Mary. The Gospels recall that a young woman in a backwater town on the fringe of the Roman Empire conceived a child whose name was to be Yeshua or Jesus, because he would save his people from their sins. How? Because Mary's son would be recognized as Emmanuel – God with us.

The message is easy to misunderstand because the Creator of this world is often imagined as the star of a Hollywood blockbuster, assisted by an impressive cohort of angelic hosts. And, over the course of two millennia, the Mother of God has become so loved and so revered that it may be easy to



→ forget that she was only teenager when she pronounced words that would change forever the history of the world as well as its destiny. Through her words, God could scrawl God's no! to the evil that oppresses women and men, the iniquity that seeks to prevent God from going where God wants to go: the human heart. Forever. Christianity has been dismissed by critics as the "worship of weakness" that features a cast of fragile, even sinful characters. A cult in which the absurdity of a crucified God claims center stage. Those who strove to change the world by might have written off the disciples of Jesus because of their weakness. Joseph Stalin is said to have asked an adviser dismissively, "How many divisions does the Pope have?" Had the adviser possessed greater courage, he might have replied: "How many does he need?"

Pope Benedict XVI described like this the saving story that began in fragility:

God did not take away our humanity but shares it with us. He entered into the loneliness of a ruined love as one who shares the sorrow, as a consolation. This is the divine way of redemption. Maybe from this we can best understand what redemption means in the Christian sense: not a magical transformation of the world, not that our humanity is taken away from us, but that we are consoled, that God shares with us the burden of life, and that now the light of his compassionate love remains forever in our midst.

Continued on page 3

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

of this is fasting. Fasting helps our spiritual growth. It helps us stay connected to God. It also makes us yearn for Him when we are at our lowest. This is when we see His works in us. Jesus did the same when he was led to the desert by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil. ***“He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards He was hungry.” (Matthew 4:1-2)***

For the Christian, self-denial means renouncing oneself as the center of existence, which goes against natural human will. It is recognizing Jesus Christ as our God and Savior. It also means acknowledging that the old self must be left behind, for our new life is now with Christ.

How else can we practice self-denial in our daily lives? The best way to do this is to respect our fellow sisters and brothers in Christ. It is the true basis on which we Christians share fellowship and offer service within the church. And do we do this now? Of course, we do. When we come to BLD, we are all happy to see one another and greet each other. When we do this, we become more in His likeness. But it doesn't stop there. We must do this to everyone we meet.

***“No one should seek his own advantage, but that of his neighbor.” (Corinthians 10:24)***

Looking out for the good of others before your own is what Jesus taught us. Understanding this and making it a priority in our lives is what Jesus wants for us. Doing this will bring us one step closer to being more like Him. Jesus knows that the spirit may be willing,



but the flesh is weak. But if we live a life of prayer and self-denial, we can become more like Him. When we start sacrificing our comforts, time, and energy for the sake of Christ we start to display what it means to deny ourselves: → →

→ ***“For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.” (Mark 8:35)***

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus I know that you came down to earth as flesh to save us. You even died a harsh death for the salvation of man. You continue, until this day, to amaze me and I am always in awe of the way you work. Help me Lord to be like you. Help me to deny myself, to live a life of prayer, a life of self-denial. Guide me and let me be a true man of faith, one you can trust. Many times over, I have continued to sin, and yet, many times over, you have forgiven me. Lord, your ways are always good. Your ways are always sure. I will trust in you alone, Lord. Where you move, I will move. Who you love, I will love. Who you serve, I will serve. I will follow you Lord. I will follow you. Amen.

### *Directions*

- 1. Exercise self-control in all things.***
- 2. Put God first, others second and ourselves last.***

## NEWS

(from page 2)

Because of what began in Mary, the no! of God's is scrawled forever across the machinery of death and dark armies. Because God became little and experienced our weakness, those who remember how a sunny morning disappeared into a dark night can be comforted that evil does not have the final word.

The saving love of God begs for imitation. Jesus still invites: Follow me! Mary teaches the far-reaching good that happens when a person says yes! to that love.

A friend of mine often says that today is the second-best day to plant a tree. The best occasion was thirty years ago. Since 1983, the Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children has used that logic to imitate the saving love of God. Seeds planted decades ago bear fruit in assisting parents who want to educate their children in an environment of faith. Your gift will be a decisive no! to marginalization and a yes! to the message that saves a suffering world.

The Mother of God is also called the Sorrowful Mother. May she comfort those who are overwhelmed in sadness as they remember 9/11. May she lead them to hope, hope that has a name and a face, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

--Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.

**Update from the Formation Ministry:  
WHAT MORE CAN WE DO?**

This question has touched the hearts of our BLD brethren amidst everyone’s desire to have a community that truly embodies the will and plan of our Lord, a church that seeks to transform everyone to be truly Christ-like, servant-hearted with an unwavering commitment to serve God and make disciples of all men.

In response to the question, “What more can we do?” the Council of Servant Leaders at the leadership of the Formation Apostolate through the Formation Study and Advisory Group (FSAG), will institutionalize, enhance, review, and amend the existing Community’s Formation Program and provide supplemental teaching modules and aids, making it truly Catholic and centered on Jesus, Our Lord.

As part of the formation revitalization program of the BLD Global Community, it is with great joy and hopeful hearts, that we announce the launch of the initial effort to make our formation program truly effective, through its teachers.

On September 18, 19 and 25,2021, the first batch of teachers from the global districts will go through the "Teach The Trainer Program” (TTT) which has an end goal of further equipping our teachers, upgrading their skills, and familiarizing them with new modes of teaching.

September 18,2021 is certainly the day for our Lord to provide His abundant blessings upon our community as it also marks the day when we commence a change in the way we conduct our Community Praise and Worship service. The global community through the Council of Servant Leaders designated the third week of the month as the global teaching week whereby a standard community teaching will take the place of our usual commentary and reflection by the worship leader.

Looking back, our culture has become a product of various elements at work in community. Every soul who came into our fellowship has in various ways experienced a symbiosis where our individual “raw culture" was transformed by the BLD culture. Through the years, all of us contributed to the growing transformation of our community life and culture.

As we journey on in community guided by a culture of excellence, the spirit for change and improvement is on and we would like all to be part of the new emerging BLD community. We invite you to come back to help us get the new programs off to a good start. We encourage everyone to take part in bringing back the vibrancy that we once had. God is calling everyone, “Come and See.”



<b>LORD’S PROVISION</b>		
<b>PREVIOUS WEEK’S</b>		
<b>Collections:</b>	Last Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings / E-Giving / Mailed Checks	\$ 1,919	\$78,235
Covid 19 Collection	\$ -	\$ 1,990
Mission	\$ -	\$ 5,000

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)



**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary**  
**2000 Hail Mary**  
**Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021**  
**8 am – 6 pm / DMP Auditorium**



**Aspirants Retreat**  
**October 15-17, 2021**  
**CYO Kearny, NJ**

**Live In-Person Teaching/Meeting**  
**Creed – Sacraments – Scriptures**

**Saturday, Sep. 11, 2021 / 1 – 4:30 pm / DMP Library**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Worship Leaders Forum: ALL Worship Leaders, including those from SPM and Singles Ministry are REQUIRED to attend**

**Saturday, Sep. 25, 2021/ 1 – 4:30 pm / DMP Auditorium**

Please join our own Intercessory Ministry in their nightly community prayers via Zoom.

Everyone is most welcome to participate

Zoom ID: 2265467380 / PW: 750109

For more details, please contact Ram & Claire Bautista

➔ Let us pray that our Lord will continue to touch our hearts and transform us to be His authentic community of disciples where love and forgiveness rule, where we give of ourselves for the greater good of God’s people.

Let us ponder in our hearts and minds the question that is upon all of us: “What more can we do?”

***“For this we toil and struggle because we have set our hope on the living God, who is the savior of all, especially of those who believe” (1Tm 4:10).***

Please join us in the new and forthcoming community initiatives that seek to improve our ways of conducting our affairs and our activities.