



Bukás Loób sa Diyós

(Open in Spirit to God)

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY
DISTRICT OF NEWARK

COVENANT NEWS

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NEWS

COUNSELS

BLD launches its Global Teaching Initiative

The Global Formation Apostolate will be conducting monthly supplemental teachings at every District's Praise and Worship, every third week of the month. This is a 12-month pilot initiative with the hope that all BLD members will be on FIRE, that is: Fruitful, Inspired, Renewed and Empowered, as coined by Archbishop Angel Lagdameo. The first of the series will be held today in our district.

In his introductory remarks in the video, Jojo Jalandoni, Servant Leader for Formation explained that the Global Teaching initiative is to remind all BLD members about the basic tenets of the community. This new initiative began last month with the virtual Re-Commitment Retreat presided over by our Community Spiritual Director, Bishop Rey Evangelista. Around 12,000 members attended the retreat and over 5,000 signed and resubmitted their covenant pledges, proving that members have been longing to reconnect with BLD.

The Cluster Shepherd of BLD Manila, Mari Sison-Garcia, will be presenting the first teaching, which is a refresher on the Vision, Charism, and Mission of the BLD Community.

In the video, she will explain BLD's commitment to the Lord's mandate of empowering the lay faithful to be evangelizers and proclaimers of the Good News as Jesus ordered his apostles to *"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you"* (Mt 28:19). Mari will point out that the most powerful way of promoting the values of the kingdom of God is not by preaching, but by witnessing, because actions speak louder than words. **We equip ourselves as evangelizers by living the values of God's kingdom. The choices that we make today will be turned into**

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Childlike Humility

THEME: We witness to God's love and saving grace when we serve others in humility.

WORD: Wis 2:12,17-20 / Ps 54:3-4,5,6,8
Jas 3:16-4:3 / Mk 9:30-37

ORDER: *"...be the last of all and the servant of all."*
– Mk 9:35

REFLECTION:

Humility, according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church is "The virtue by which a Christian acknowledges that God is the author of all good. It avoids inordinate ambition or pride, and provides the foundation for turning to God in prayer" (CCC 2559)

St. Benedict says that to enter God's kingdom, one must travel through the twelve different stages and levels of the key virtue of humility. The poet, T.S. Eliot, also declares that humility is endless and that "The only wisdom we can hope to acquire is the wisdom of humility." He had added that we can clearly see this in the wisdom exhibited by a young 12-year-old chorister from Salisbury who once said, "humility is being selfless, being gentle in nature, and being aware that there is a spiritual presence greater than ourselves, that gives us the strength to trust in God."

Our First Reading tells us about two types of wisdom: the wisdom of the world and the wisdom of God. The former promotes the way of the wicked - full of transgressions and violations, revilement, and torture while the latter is the way of the just - pure, gentle, patient, and true. Oftentimes, the wicked persecute the just but in the end, God will take care of those who embrace His wisdom. ...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"God is my helper; the Lord sustains my life."

– Ps 54:6

1 Corinthians 13 in Close-up (Part 2 of 2) By Deacon Rod A. Soriano

LOVE...

9)	Keeps no record of wrongs -	Forgive the "wrongs" Remember the "rights" What did Jesus do?	Galatians 6:1 Matthew 6:12 John 8:11
10)	Does not delight in evil -	Doesn't watch or read evil things Turn away from gossip Don't gloat when others fail	Matthew 5:29 Proverbs 11:13 Galatians 6:1
11)	Rejoices with the truth -	Be happy about good things Spread good news Tell the truth to yourself and others	Philippians 1:18 Isaiah 60:1 Ephesians 4:25
12)	Always protects -	Protect the helpless and weak Protect yourself against temptation Defend the name of Jesus	James 1:27 Proverbs 4:14-15 1 Peter 3:15
13)	Always trusts -	Trust is believing God's promises Pray about everything and trust Him Believe that all things work for good	Isaiah 14:24 Philippians 4:6 Romans 8:28
14)	Always hopes -	Never give up Remember God does not give up On you Expect good things from God	Ephesians 6:13 Romans 5:10 1 John 3:3
15)	Always perseveres -	Be persistent; keep on praying If God is for us, who can be against us? Be faithful to God and others	James 5:16 Romans 8:31 1 Peter 4:8
16)	Never fails -	Love never fails God's love never fails Pray for a loving heart like His	1 Corinthians 13:13 John 15:9 John 13:35

NEWS

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our values of tomorrow. Our choices form our habits, our habits develop our attitudes, and our attitudes determine our Christian values.

"...The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mk 1:15)

The **vision, charism, and mission (VCM)** of the BLD community was formulated 35 years ago to serve as a guiding light for what BLD aspired to be. It was to be viewed as a living document to be revisited and updated periodically in order to remain relevant.

Our **vision** calls us to servanthood, to give freely and fully of ourselves, to love and serve one another in seeking and proclaiming the kingdom of God. The vision gives us the rationale behind everything that we do in BLD.

"This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (Jn 13:35)

While the vision statement focuses on the long-term aspirations, our mission focuses on realistic, specific, and reasonable goals that are doable in the present and in the short term of up to the next three years.

The new BLD **mission**, after its revision in 2010, is as follows: **We are a community of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about a world of justice, human development, and true peace.** It identifies BLD as a community of disciples, people from all walks of life, called together by God through encounter and renewal; and our communion is defined as a relationship of faith, hope, and love of God.

The **mission** of the BLD community caters to the diverse needs of the various districts. It wraps around families, BLD communities, and country.

For our families, it is evangelization through the encounters, LSS, and discipleship formation, spearheaded by personal and family prayer, pro-life values, catholic social teachings, and stewardship.

For our BLD communities, it is to use our God-given gifts, while we actively participate in the Church as a renewed and empowered Christian faithful.

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COUNSELS (from page 1)

In the Second Reading, James tells us that wars and conflicts are the result of jealousy, selfish ambitions, and worldly passions. When passions reign, we fall into the trap of the flesh which results in our pursuing wicked ways, bringing division instead of unity, disorder instead of harmony.

In the Gospel, Mark tells us of the journey through Galilee. Jesus was telling His disciples for the second time about His coming passion, death, and resurrection. Mark says the disciples did not understand Jesus but were afraid to question him. Upon reaching their home base in Capernaum, Jesus asked His disciples what they were arguing about on the way. They fell silent and they might have felt embarrassed because Jesus knew that they were discussing who was the greatest among them. Jesus said, **“If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.”** *Taking a child, he placed it in their midst and putting his arms around it, he said, ‘Whoever receives one child such as this*



in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me.’” (Mk 9:35-37)

Here, we see two emblematic characters – the humble child on the one hand, and the competitive disciples on the other... or simply what we can refer to as the “child of God” and the “sons of thunder.”

The “sons of thunder” connotes power and self-importance. It involves being high up there, like thunder. Contrast this with the image of a child, who is more lowly and closer to the ground, and dependent on the Master. Earth or dirt or humus is where the word humility comes from. Jesus revealed the right way to the kingdom when He said **“be the last of all and the servant of all.”**

We too might be competing against each other and arguing about who is the greatest among us. Or we could strive to be like the child of God, who, when Jesus says “Come to me,” throws himself into the arms of Jesus and is filled with gratitude, because Jesus is the sole focus of his attention.

The child of God develops and nurtures the “Be-Attitudes;” we become peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits (cf. Jas 3:17-18). On the other hand, the “sons of thunder” → →

→ live life “With Attitude” – rife with jealousy, selfish ambition, disorder, and foul practice (cf. Jas 3:16).

“Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.” (Lk 18:16-17)

As Jesus’ disciples, we ought to be like children, recognizing our weaknesses and shortcomings and fully trusting in His goodness, ready to follow and obey His teachings so that we might enter the kingdom prepared for us by the Father. We need to strive not to let our hearts, minds and bodies be tainted by the things of this world.

As we journey through life, sometimes, we are childlike; but at other times, we are like the rumbling thunder. It behooves us to embrace a childlike disposition in our heart, for us to become better persons, better Christians and better disciples; to become better imitators of Christ.

Brothers and sisters, as disciples, we must realize the importance of the contrasting imagery that we’re deriving here from the Gospel. We are active sojourners on the road, not just passive onlookers. As we travel, we must also reach out to those sitting by the wayside of the road. In BLD, there are those inactive members, the overly busy, those who refuse to take more active roles. In our communities, there are also those who are sick and weak, the depressed and misunderstood, those deprived and underprivileged, the discriminated against, those without power or status, and so many others who are on the peripheries of society. It is incumbent upon us, per this week’s direction, “to reach out to all our brothers and sisters who are in need” and offer our love and support as we are called to do in



humble obedience to God and in loving service to our neighbor. It is when we serve these children in need, and the least among us, that we serve Jesus Himself. We need to let them hear His words and refocus their attention on the person of Jesus, who came to the world not to be served but to serve. We are also directed to serve the community with gentleness, compassion and humility without hesitation.

We may not fully understand what Jesus is saying or we may hesitate

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For our Country, we are to work on poverty alleviation through scholarships, housing for the poor and advocacies for Life, environment, and good governance

In conclusion, our primary role is to be as evangelizers who promote the values of God's Kingdom. We inculcate these values in our members by leading them to the right choices today and for the rest of our lives. As people called together by God, we need to keep our vision close to our hearts so that we can fulfill God's will for us.

COUNSELS

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out of fear but despite the uncertainties we face, we must strive to invite these weakened members of the Church to come back on the road with us – to a place of communal activity and action, to the journey through Galilee or to our road to Calvary, where our faith can be transformed and strengthened. As a community, let us acknowledge God's abiding presence in our lives and not be afraid because we fully believe that God is our helper Who sustains our lives.

Directions

1. Reach out to your brothers and sisters who are in need.
2. Serve the community with gentleness, compassion, and humility without hesitation.

THE WORD MINISTRY IS LOOKING FOR YOUR REFLECTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE COVENANT NEWS!!!

Suggested Topics:

- Reflection based on the Mass Readings for an upcoming birthday or special days
- Blessings during the time of Pandemic
- Various themes involving faith and spirituality

Reach out to Word Ministry (Word@BLDNewark.com) if you have any ideas for the Covenant News.

Please note that a pdf of this Covenant News is also available online at BLDNEWARK.com

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings / E-Giving / Mailed Checks	\$ 1,991	\$ 80,226
Covid 19 Collection	\$ -	\$ 1,990
Mission	\$ -	\$ 5,000

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



A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

- from St. Anthony's Shrine, Boston, MA

Receive my offering, O Lord.

It is not charity because You are not a beggar.

It is not a contribution because You have no need for it.

It is not my leftovers because You want more than that.

My gift, O Lord, represents my gratitude, my love... for whatever I have, it is because You have given it to me.

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

BLD CSL Global Initiative (online)
First Batch: Train the Teachers (TTT)
Saturday, Sep. 18 – Sunday, Sep. 19, 2021

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