



**Bukás Loób sa Diyós**

(Open in Spirit to God)

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY  
DISTRICT OF NEWARK

# COVENANT NEWS

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**NEWS**

**COUNSELS**

## Formation Update: Celebrate Community Revitalize

When you return to BLD and realize that the life and vibrancy which were once ours is now a thing of the past, you will be inclined to ask what went wrong. Sustaining and enhancing the spiritual health and vitality of our community should remain a priority for everyone.

Today our task is to equip ourselves with the needed resources to strengthen our fellowship as we evolve, move forward, and develop new programs amidst the countless problems that we face as we work for the Lord. These problems are not new, they have been there, probably lost in the mire of many other concerns which were considered priority at some other point in time.

As the old saying goes, the squeaky wheel gets the grease, so we can be tempted to give the most attention to things, situations, or people simply because they squeak the loudest. This is where we could be lost.

Everyone's future and the future of our community are intimately related. If our community is not thriving, it is because, you and I - we - are not thriving. Today our mission is to share the life-giving gift of the Gospel with the people of our time. The problems are many, the solution is solitary, for God is unchanging and One.

After prayerful discernment, the Council of Servant Leaders (CSL) has concluded that we need to revitalize the community and set it on fire!

The need to develop an updated formation program, what we teach and how we present it to the community, is now at center stage.

How do we do that? How do we cultivate our life in Christ so that we may effectively lead our people to Him?

Personal holiness and one's witnessing are among the key answers to address our concerns. A good way to achieve this is to be docile to the Holy Spirit and allow the values, principles, and

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## "The Fires of Gehenna"

**THEME:** We witness to God's love and saving grace when we are pure of heart and charitable in our ways.

**WORD:** Num 11:25-29/ Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14/  
Ja 5:1-6/ Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

**ORDER:** **"Do not prevent him...who performs a mighty deed in my name" (Mk 9:39)**

**REFLECTION:**

***F*or whoever is not against us is for us."**  
(Mk 9:40)

Does exclusivity sound familiar? We read throughout scripture, how the Scribes and Pharisees viewed themselves as the elite, the wealthy, the well-educated and how they were held in the highest regard and so, had the most influence on society. So similarly, we can see how the message from the readings for this Sunday can easily be applied to the world we live in now. Today, the indifference toward others is quite palpable, not just locally or nationally, but worldwide. There's now a penchant for us to be exclusive instead of inclusive. Even the Covid-19 pandemic brought about a plethora of responses, stemming from ideologies, divisions, and inequity. The result is that there is much unrest caused by divisive beliefs.

Yet we must remain resilient, hopeful that with beneficence and advancements in science, together with our collective efforts, we will be able to overcome. Through it all, it is vital for us to remain prayerful, meek, and humble. We don't need to look for hope anywhere

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## *Promise of the Week*

**"... because you belong to Christ ...you will surely not lose his reward." (Mk 9: 41b)**



## “Come Follow Me, I am the way, the truth, and the life”

By Deacon Joey Reyes

Thomas said, “Master we do not know where you are going, how do you expect us to know where to go?” So, Jesus said to His disciples, **“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”** (Jn 14:6) Christ is The Way and therefore He says, **“I Am the way”** for through Him we have access to the Father, the purpose of life, **the ultimate end point**, to be with The Father, and so Jesus adds **“I Am the truth and the life”**, revealing to us that **He is the way and the goal**.

**“No one comes to the Father except through me”**  
(Jn 14:6b)

In Christ’s **human nature**, Jesus is the way and in His **divine nature**, He is the goal. Therefore, speaking as **Our Brother**, He invites us to follow Him because He is the way, and speaking as God He reveals to us, **“I Am the truth and the life.”** These two words are what we seek in life “the truth” and the will to continue “to exist”.

In the world gone wrong after the fall of man, sufferings, sin, and death seems to have plagued humanity. Currently it seems that we live in times of uncertainty, with division at all levels of relationship, violence, and natural disaster from all corners of the world. Truth and life seem to be distant.

Christ is the way by which we come **to know the truth**. Christ is also the way **to come to life**. Christ himself is life, for life was in Him, and not even death could take His Life. → →

→ He is truth and He is the light of men for light is truth.

**“Through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race”** (Jn 1:4)

If you are looking for the way through these dark moments, take Christ and through Christ, because He Himself is the way and the light. My sisters and brothers in the community, let us hold fast to Christ, let our mouths speak His truth to bring light to others. Let us continue to live the **Life in the Spirit** as we serve God through others. Whoever remains with Him does not wander, and he will always be on the right path and cannot be deceived, because Christ is the truth, and will guide you to every truth to help find your way - **the reason for His Incarnation**.

May God continue and finish the good He started in all of us, through our words and deeds, let His truth and the ways of Christ be made known to others bringing to them to the Light of Christ. Amen.

*Modified from the Exposition on John by Saint Thomas Aquinas, priest (Cap. 14, lect. 2)*



## NEWS

(from page 1)

spirit of the Gospel to transform us. The most effective teacher is the witness who lives the message. St. Francis of Assisi once said: “Preach the Gospel at all times, and only, when necessary, use words.” Our community is hungry for authentic lives. Let yours speak.

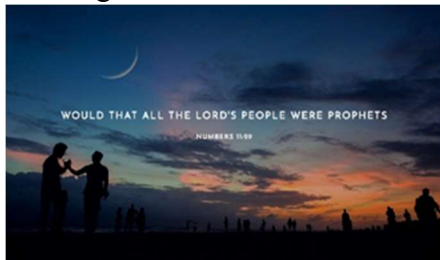
Each of us may have bright ideas to contribute, but it is important that we come together to share and support each other. In the global community, as the CSL mandates the revitalization initiative, we must work together and come up with a new and improved Christian Development Formation Program and Teacher Development Program, and supplemental teachings that will help us all grow to be the people that God wants us to be.

Revitalization will bring us new life in the community only if we come together as one body, remove barriers and cliques, repent for all our sins, forgive, and pray in unity! Only then can we celebrate life in community, life in Christ!

Today, let the celebration begin.

# COUNSELS (from page 1)

other than the Gospel, the Good News, which is universal, for all peoples. There we see that the spirit of the Lord gathers rather than divides. The Good News is egalitarian, not pompous, or narcissistic. It calls us all now more than ever to remain united, to stand shoulder to shoulder, to reach out and be a blessing to others.



In the first reading, Joshua protested to Moses that Eldad and Medad were not present in their gathering, yet they

received the gift of prophecy. Moses responded, ***“are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets! Would that the Lord might bestow his spirit on them all”*** (Nm 11:29). Joshua’s sentiment is echoed in the Gospel account where John grumbled and tried to prevent others from driving out demons in Jesus’ name. Jesus responded, ***“do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me”*** (Mk 9:39).

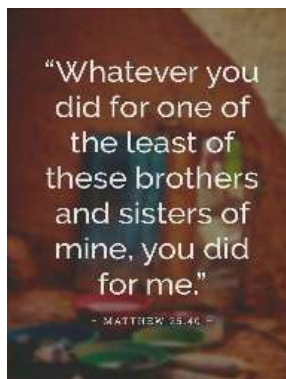
By the very nature of one of our most precious gifts, freewill, we are constantly faced with having to choose and make decisions. Eschatologically speaking, in the end, our choices will either lead us to God or away from Him. We simply cannot serve two masters. We can easily get lost in the abyss of our own desires and social aspirations, be it to achieve wealth, power, pleasure, or honor. But what merit is it to gain the whole world but, in the end, lose our souls? (cf. Mk 8:36).

In the second reading, St. James emphasized that very warning. ***“Come now you rich, weep and wail in your impending miseries. Your wealth has rotted away, your clothes have become moth-eaten, your gold and silver have corroded, and that corrosion will be a testimony against you”*** (Js 5: 1-3). Through his letter to the Galatians, St. Paul also says, ***“For the flesh has desires against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh”*** (Gal 5:17). Let us strive not for what is temporal and fleeting, but eternal.

St. Mark’s style of writing commonly involves cobbling together seemingly unrelated events or topics. Notice how in the Gospel account which started with John grumbling about exorcisms by other groups, St. Mark then switched to another

→→ narrative where Jesus uses hyperbolic statements to emphasize the drastic measures we must heed to avoid sin and the consequential fires of Gehenna. The important point that he makes is that grave (mortal) sins merit hell. The resulting emphasis requires us to take serious decisive actions, actions that can be compared to bodily dismemberment. If your hand, your foot, or your eye causes you to sin, “cut it off...pluck it out.” It is better to enter life maimed, lame, or with one eye than be thrown into the unquenchable fires of hell. Morally, as St. John Chrysostom commented, severing bodily limbs signifies amputation of our so-called intimate friends that pull us away from holiness. It is better to enter heaven without them than remain in their company in eternal misery.

My dear brothers and sisters in BLD community and beyond, together let us remind ourselves not to get too caught-up in our bubble of pride, our arbitrary freedom, and rationales, lest we miss the opportunities to pursue what we’ve been commissioned to do, that is to worship God, to evangelize and to care for the poor. God puts a premium on caring for the poor, His “little ones,” the least and often ignored in our society. Let us take an active part in works of mercy and by so doing, we might receive mercy at the last judgement that is certain to come, like a thief in the night. Jesus exemplifies this in



Mt 25, ***“truly, I say to you, as you did to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me”*** (Mt 25:40). Conversely, Jesus added, ***“as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me. And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life”*** (Mt 25: 45-46). The pandemic upended

our lives, to say the least, yet it presents a tremendous opportunity to recalibrate our goals and priorities, to take part and be a catalyst in giving that cup of water to the thirsty, food to the hungry, clothing to the naked and comfort to the sick and imprisoned. Charity is the very soul of faith; without it, faith dies. These simple acts of compassion are the blueprints of heaven. In the end, we can only hope to hear these words from Our Lord, ***“well-done my good and faithful servant, come and share the master’s joy”*** (Mt 25:23).

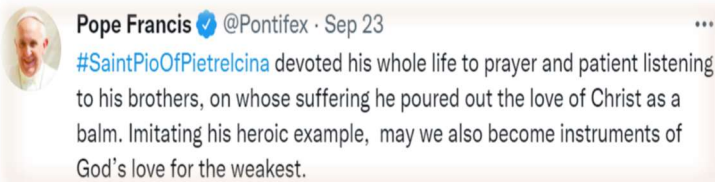
## Directions

***Reach out to all members and welcome them back to community.***

# Prayer from Pope Saint John Paul II

*This prayer was recited by Pope Saint John Paul II on the occasion of the canonization of Padre Pio, on June 16, 2002. (Source: [www.padrepio.org/pray](http://www.padrepio.org/pray))*

*Teach us, too, we pray,  
Humility so that we may  
Be among the humble to whom the Father  
In the Gospel promised  
To reveal the mysteries of His Kingdom.  
Teach us the look of faith that will help us recognize  
The face of Jesus Himself in the poor and suffering.  
Support us in our hours of trouble  
And trial and, should we fall,  
Let us feel the joy of the sacrament of forgiveness.  
Teach us tender devotion  
Towards Maria, mother of Christ and our Mother.  
Accompany us on our earthly pilgrimage  
Towards the blessed Homeland,  
Where we, too, hope to arrive  
To contemplate eternally  
The Glory of the Father,  
The Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*



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- How do you nourish your faith?
  - Do you have favorite Bible verses, prayers, or saints?
  - How about favorite podcast, Bible or Catholic Apps?
  - What are you thankful for?
  - Is autumn your favorite season?
  - Do you like to write or tell stories?
  - Would you like to share your reflections?
  - Do you have any topics you'd like us to consider?

**As we begin a new season, the Word Ministry is also looking to try out new features in the [Covenant News](#).**

Contact us via [Word@BLDNewark.com](mailto:Word@BLDNewark.com).  
We would love to hear from you.

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings / E-Giving / Mailed Checks	\$1,371	\$ 81,597
Covid 19 Collection	\$ -	\$ 1,990
Mission	\$ -	\$ 5,000

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



To donate online:

Go to [Donate to BLD Newark](#) link on the home page of [BLDNewark.com](http://BLDNewark.com)

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR



**BLD Newark Live Stream**

**In-person Meeting**

**Worship Leaders/Team Forum:**

**ALL Worship Leaders from Adult (ME), Solo Parents, and Singles Ministry; Praise Ministry; DLC members are REQUIRED to attend**

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

**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**

**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 Bautist**