



Bukás Loób sa Diyós

(Open in Spirit to God)

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY
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NEWS

COUNSELS

Pastoral Letter from Cardinal Tobin

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<https://www.rcan.org/cardinal-tobins-pastoral-letter-introduces-synod-synodality-faithful-archdiocese>

Cardinal Joseph William Tobin, C.S.S.R.

By the Grace of God and the Favor of the Apostolic See
Archbishop of Newark

October 11, 2021

TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE ARCHDIOCESE
OF NEWARK

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ!

This past weekend Pope Francis launched a two-year “synod on synodality,” a call to all the members of the Catholic Church across the world to enter a process of listening to the Holy Spirit and to each other in order to discern the path we must walk together. Yesterday, Pope Francis celebrated the Eucharist in St. Peter’s Square as the first solemn act of the Synod. Next Sunday, October 17 in dioceses across the world, bishops will celebrate the opening of the synodal process in their respective dioceses. On that day, I will preside at the Eucharist in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 12 Noon and would be delighted if you might join us.

The word “synod” traces its roots to the first centuries of the Church. Coming from Greek words meaning the “same road,” synod and synodality are expressions of the fundamental mystery of the Church: people who are gathered from every corner of the earth to be “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises” of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light (1 Peter 2,9).

While the Synod of Bishops has taken place up until now as a gathering of bishops with and...Continued on page 2

Serving Wholeheartedly

THEME: We obey God’s commandment of love when we wholeheartedly serve, not counting the cost.

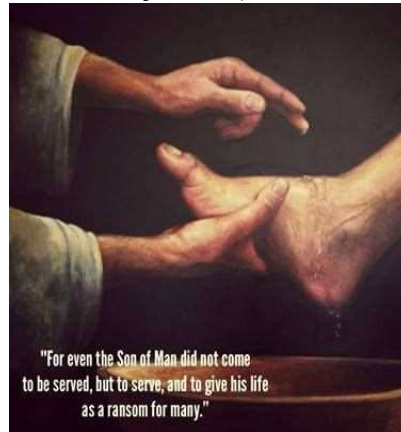
WORD: Is 53:10, 11/ Ps 33:4, 5, 18-20, 22/ Heb 4:14-16/ Mk 10:35-45

ORDER: **“whoever wishes to be first among you ... be the slave of all.” (Mk 10:44)**

REFLECTION:

Jesus teaches us that true greatness is found in serving one another and that He has come “not to be served but to serve.”

Today’s Gospel from Mark (Mk 10:35-45) recounts the memorable request which James and John made to Jesus. They wanted to hold places of honor in His kingdom. **“But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all.” (Mk 10:43-44).**



“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

And so, we see the ambition of the two brothers, James and John. Now this is taking place right after our Lord told the Twelve, for the third time, that He was going to go to Jerusalem to die for our sakes. Jesus was

...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“If he gives his life as an offering...the will of the Lord shall be accomplished through him.” (Is 53:10b)

NEWS

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under the authority of the Pope, the Church increasingly realizes that synodality is the path for the entire People of God. That means making pastoral decisions “that reflect the will of God as closely as possible, grounding them in the living voice of the People of God.”

The present synod will take place in three stages. From now until next April, every diocese in the world is expected to promote a special time of prayer, listening, dialogue and recommendations. After April, this dialogue will continue at national and continental assemblies of Catholics. Finally, in October 2023, bishops and others will gather in Roma with the Holy Father to chart the future of our Church.

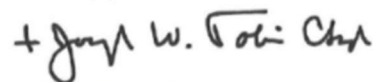
Who can participate in this synod? Is this just for the clergy? No. All of us baptized are invited. Pope Francis never tires of reminding us that the participation of all must be an undeniable commitment of the whole Church.

Sister Donna Ciangio, OP, the Chancellor of the Archdiocese, and Father Bismarck Chau, the rector of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, have agreed to coordinate the synodal process throughout our Archdiocese. Together with their team, they will ensure that every parish will have the opportunity to participate in this important moment in the history of the Church. But they will also be concerned with voices from the “periphery,” voices that are easily and often overlooked in Catholic discussions. The Holy Spirit is moving throughout the Church and we need to listen.

As a result of the diocesan consultation, a report will be written that will collect our voices. But the most important thing will not be answering a questionnaire or attending a meeting, but living synodality, that is, experiencing Church as walking with others. Each fellow pilgrim has received a call and gifts given by the Holy Spirit for the good of the Church. Through this blessed time, the Holy Spirit will enrich the magnificent mosaic that is the People of God, making us a gift for the life of the world.

Let us begin a time of prayer and listening. A time in which all – bishops, priests, deacons, men and women religious and laity – will try to answer two fundamental questions: How are we living this “walking together” in our Archdiocese and what steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow?

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,



Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Newark

Deacon's Column...

Homily on Mary and Martha

Deacon Joey Reyes' Homily on October 5, Feast of Sr. Faustina

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”

In the Gospel, we see two siblings with contrasting personalities. They both have a common love for the Word of God and both love Jesus.

Stretching our imagination, we may see how each of them prays. The two main characters in today's account are both hungry for the Word of God. Martha eagerly welcomes Jesus, however ends up burdened with “much serving.” Mary on the other hand, “sat beside the Lord at his feet listening” intently. Mary's prayer is contemplative. Martha's is a complaint and a demand.

Martha said, ***“Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me.”***

How often does this happen to us during our work in the ministry, in our parish work, or even in our corporate work, or maybe even in our very own household chores? Sometimes we get so preoccupied with what we have to do, that we don't realize what we are missing, like the relational aspect of a gathering and why we are serving.

In the first reading, we all heard of the business and the lifestyle of the people of Nineveh, and how they paused to listen to the preaching and warning of Jonah, “to repent.” We all heard of what happened to the entire town, they were all spared from God's wrath after they listened and acted on the Word of God.

Martha, who actively welcomed Jesus, later realized that she is feeling burdened and prayed “Lord, can you tell her” Just like many of our routine daily prayers, we tell God what to do. This is why Jesus says that Mary chose the better part; we all need our quiet times (Contemplative Prayer).

Take some time just to sit at the foot of Jesus, to enjoy His presence, listen to His voice, allow your relationship with Him to soak in. In the quietness of those moments with Him is when we hear what God wants to tell us.

Today we celebrate the feast of St Faustina, known as Jesus' "secretary and apostle of Divine Mercy." In her quite encounter with

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COUNSELS (from page 1)

going to go and fulfill the role of the “suffering servant” that we saw in our First Reading from the prophet Isaiah: **“through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear”** (Is 53:11).

Perhaps James and John misunderstood Jesus and thought that He was going to go to Jerusalem to finally claim His rightful place as Messiah, the one who would conquer every enemy and win every heart in Israel.

Now, Jesus was indeed about to come into His glory, but it was the glory that can only be had through suffering. He was most certainly going to fulfill His role as the great Messiah, not a Messiah who would conquer earthly enemies, but One who would conquer the two greatest enemies of all time: SIN and DEATH. However, at this point James and John did not get the message. Jesus had to explain to them patiently that any glory associated with Him involved suffering and death—the way of Jesus, was the way of the Cross. Eventually they would understand. James became the first of the Apostles to be martyred, and John became the great Evangelist.

What was the lesson for James and John and for the rest of us? In the world: the higher the men are, the more they are served, but in the Kingdom of God: the higher the men are, the more they serve. The highest has to be the lowest, for the one who is higher than the highest, Jesus Himself, served out of complete obedience to the Father.

You see we tend to forget that God does not want our acts of sacrifice and our perseverance through suffering to go unnoticed or unappreciated. In the case of James and John, Jesus’ message was clear. He told the disciples and He tells us: “I’ll count you in, but you have to be a servant, and you may have to suffer, and you will have to endure. For the one who endures with me will reign with me.” This is the “Recipe for Greatness and Love for God”—having great confidence in our Lord and then with boldness, following Him, and enduring with Him.

Indeed, James and John found out, as we also need to find out, that to follow Jesus, is to follow Him with humility. We will never be close to Jesus if we seek power and praise.

We should be ready to give cheerful service to God and neighbor without expecting anything in return. Christ knows full well the efforts we are making on His behalf. Thus, living a life of service begins with turning to our Lord. Only in prayer, → →

→ → and through prayer, do we learn to serve others. Prayer will give us all the strength and humility required to serve others. Our service to God and others should be characterized by our humility.

We ourselves can learn from Mary, our Blessed Mother, how to be helpful to others, how to have an eye for their needs, how to make their lives pleasant on earth, and how to gently point their sights towards heaven. She gives us the best example: In the middle of the rejoicing at the feast in Cana, only Mary notices that they are short of wine. A soul will notice even the smallest details of service if, like her, it is alive with a passion for helping its neighbor for God. When we practice this life of service, we will be blessed to find Jesus in our midst. Our Blessed Mother Mary and the Apostles gave us a good example of how to obey God’s commandment of love when we wholeheartedly serve without counting the cost.

You may not be a saint just yet, but now you know how to become ONE.

PRAYER

Jesus, our merciful and compassionate High Priest, fill us with Your love and grace so that we’ll be able to serve all people and guide them toward their salvation. Give us, O Lord, a generous heart and a faithful sharing in the blessings which You, O Lord, have provided us. Help us, O Lord, and support us in everything we do, and teach us through Your example that whoever wants to be first should be the slave of all. AMEN.



So let us learn how to serve and enthrone our God the Servant King in our lives. He calls us now to follow Him, for it is

Christ whom we are serving to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.

Direction

1. Practice humility in thought, word, and deed.
2. Accept ministry assignment with a willing heart.



Pope Francis  @Pontifex · 3h

#SaintTeresaofJesus teaches us that prayer is not to experience extraordinary things, but to unite ourselves to Christ. And the works of charity are the sign that this union is real.

Deacon's...

...from page 2

Jesus, she faithfully recorded the messages and vision of her encounter with Christ. In great detail she wrote nearly a 700-page diary reminding us of God's Divine and Infinite Mercy and His love for us and for the whole world.

And so, Jesus said to Martha: *"Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is a need for only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."*

This reminds us of the balance of Faith and Works, that they are inseparable; *"faith without works is dead"* (James 2:20).

Lord tell us what you want us to do today, and please give us the strength to complete it, giving glory to you alone, my Lord and My God.

Jesus, We Put Our Trust in You. Amen.

Deacon Joey Reyes

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The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence

I fly unto thee,

O Virgin of virgins, my Mother

To thee do I come,

before thee I stand,

sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate,

despise not my petitions,

but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

Amen.

+++++

Looking for Contributors for the Covenant News

How do you nourish your faith? What are you thankful for? **Do you have favorite Bible verses, prayers, or saints?** Favorite podcast, Bible or Catholic Apps? **Would you like to share your reflections?** Contact **Word Ministry at Word@BLDNewark.com** to share your time and talent for the **Covenant News**.

We would love to hear from you!

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings / E-Giving / Mailed Checks	\$2,014	\$87,358
Covid 19 Collection	\$ -	\$ 1,990
Mission	\$ -	\$ 5,000

Financial details are available to all members through

treasury@bldnewark.com

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to BLD Newark

Thank you for your
generosity and support

To donate online:

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BLD NEWARK
PRAISE & WORSHIP
A Night of Praise & Worship
Friday, October 15, 2021 - 8:00 PM
"If he gives his life as an offering...the will of the Lord shall be accomplished through him." Is 53:10b

Holy Rosary/ Praise & Worship
Friday, Oct. 15, 2021 / Divine Mercy Parish
In-person Community Teaching:
"Norms and Values"

<https://www.bldnewark.com/live-events.html>

BLD Newark
ASPIRANTS RETREAT
October 15-17, 2021
CYO Kearny, NJ

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

IN-PERSON TEACHING

Advance Intercession | Orientation to Spiritual Warfare | Healing and Deliverance
Friday, Oct. 23, 2021 / Divine Mercy Parish Library

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