



**Bukás Loób sa Diyós**

**(Open in Spirit to God)**

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY  
DISTRICT OF NEWARK

# COVENANT NEWS

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**NEWS**

**COUNSELS**

## Spirit-anointed Aspirants Retreat



It is with grateful and joyful hearts that we share with the community the successful and Spirit-anointed Aspirants Retreat (AR) held the weekend of October 15 to 17, 2021 at the CYO in Kearny, NJ. Fourteen of our fellow community members attended the retreat as part of their Christian Development Formation Program (CDFP). We ask for the community's continued prayers for the following as they discern the signing of their Covenanting Pledges: Danah Alburo, Mayjen and Eric Apiado, Charma Belleza, Bambi and Tina Cabanig, John Cam, Lito and Cheryl de la Cruz, Jezreel Gaudiell, Cheryl Guinto, Mhyll Guinto, Boyet and Marge Trinidad.

The community's spirit of servanthood manifested itself in the tireless work of the whole AR team lead by our beloved Spiritual Director, Fr. Joseph Meagher (pronounced "Mar") with the support of Deacon Rod Soriano and Deacon Joey Reyes, and all the dedicated workers from the Teaching, Discipling, and Praise ministries as well as the sharers who made this retreat a truly Spirit-filled event. A big thank you also to our DCS and Cluster Shepherds for giving their full support and encouragement to the participants of the event. The Lord continues to manifest His love for our community as He blesses us with more disciples who aspire to follow Jesus. Praise God for all His wonderful works!

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## Having Faith

THEME: We obey God's commandment of love when we persevere in our faith.

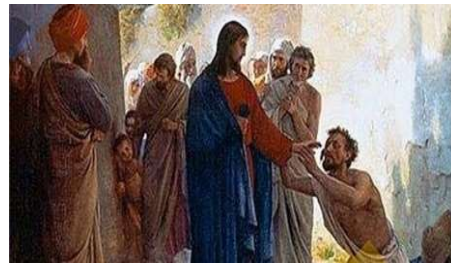
WORD: Jer 31:7-9/ Ps 126:1-6/ Heb 5:1-6/ Mk 10:46-52

ORDER: *"Take courage; get up."* (Mk 10:49)

REFLECTION:

***"Go your way; your faith has saved you"***  
***Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.*** (Mark 10:52)

Here was Bartimaeus, a blind beggar who was treated poorly by many. He was treated as if he were no good and a sinner. When he began to call out for mercy from Jesus, people tried to silence him, but what did the blind man do? Did he give in to their oppression and ridicule? Certainly not. Bartimaeus was full of determination and never lost his faith that one day he would be cured by Jesus, the Messiah, who, he always knew, would come. When he recognized that opportunity, he took it, even though he was surrounded by so many other voices trying to stop him. It was his once-in-a-lifetime chance to be healed of his blindness. And Jesus took notice of his faith and healed him.



When Jesus stopped and asked him *"What do you want me to do to you?"* Bartimaeus already knew exactly what he

wanted, and he didn't hesitate to ask for it. Bartimaeus might have thought to himself

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## Promise of the Week

***"I will console and guide them; I will lead them ... so that none shall stumble."*** (Jer 31:9a)

# NEWS

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The Aspirants Retreat was indeed a Spirit-filled and fruitful weekend! Assuring the community of His faithfulness, the Lord has blessed the community with reflections from three newly covenanted disciples.



*This year, I was invited to attend the Aspirant's retreat. During the weekend, I was given the opportunity to reflect on my personal circumstances which had influenced my decision to say no 7 years ago. At that time, I was conflicted and experienced a great deal of fear. During a period of spiritual dryness and desolation, I questioned whether or not I was worthy of such a call to deeper commitment. I remained in BLD, but questioned whether I still belonged. I explored different groups and churches outside of the community, thinking God was calling me to serve elsewhere. I didn't realize it at the time, but I needed to undergo a process of learning, healing, and growth to clear my vision and renew my mind. I wasn't ready to become a covenanted disciple in 2014, but God's timing is perfect and He was not finished with me yet. God had started a good work in me and is faithful to complete it. Ultimately the joys and sufferings I went through during that span of time have prepared me to detach from my wants, and freely answer the call to a deeper commitment to Jesus with a resounding YES. Time and time again God tells me "DO NOT BE AFRAID." I don't know what to expect on the other side of that YES, but I am placing my faith and trust in the Lord. God reminds me that He has great plans for me, and that He will open doors and lead me through them. More will be entrusted to me, but the Lord will equip me with everything that I need to "SHOW UP" and be fruitful. I am looking forward to using more of my time, talent, and treasure, to grow in spiritual and emotional maturity, and in discernment,*



→ side by side with my brothers and sisters-in-Christ in ME, SP, and Singles ministries.

*This Aspirant's retreat was for me a weekend of revelations. After a few years of preparation and contemplating my response, I finally felt I was ready to make that covenant with the Lord to be His disciple. I joined the retreat with my mind and heart eager to give more of my time, talent and treasure and discover what else the Lord has in store for me. But little did I know, that in these two days, my faith would be challenged, and the certainty of my intentions would be shaken.*

*I soon realized that my time, talent, and treasure were not the only things the Lord wanted from me this time. What the Lord wanted was my will and my whole heart, without reservation.*

*As I listened to the teachings and scriptures on the cost and test of discipleship, I began to doubt my capacity to surrender all to the Lord. Can I really do this? Do I want to do this? How will this affect my loved ones? My own plans and dreams? And because I am having these second thoughts, am I even fit to be His disciple? I plunged into darkness, tormented and anguished that I had disappointed my God.*

*In the middle of that darkness, the Lord said to me: Am I not enough for you? Why did you doubt my mercy and love? Trust in me. Trust that I will work out everything for you as I have always done. Let go, my beloved child, and trust in me.*

*Then as my heart slowly opened and fear lost its grip, the fog lifted, and I began to see more clearly. It was never about MY way, but HIS way.*

*I will seal my covenant with God and humbly serve His people - all for the glory and love of Him who loved me first.*

*In Encounter Ministry's film "Fearless" at [www.fearlessdocumentary.net](http://www.fearlessdocumentary.net), one gets inspired to practice the instant Holy Spirit-God communication line simply by listening for the Lord's messages with one's spiritual ears. These messages come to us interiorly in words or images, through the Scripture, the environment, the person speaking, or through visions and dreams. The first three ways came fast and furious during the Aspirants Retreat at Kearny CYO Center where I was one of 14 participants, which I thought was a perfect number. We were a combination of souls whose participation in this retreat were delayed by doubt, filial death, and ... Continued on page 3*

# COUNSELS

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that he could wait and catch Jesus next time, but there might never be a next time. Even today, we never know when it will be our last chance to cry out to Jesus. Bartimaeus spoke up and received complete healing with no strings attached. Jesus does not bind but frees. Jesus even says to Bartimaeus, "Go your way!" He does not say, "come!" But Bartimaeus freely chooses to follow Jesus.

This man's life presents all of us with a great lesson to be learned. There are many things we will encounter in life that get us down, discourage us and tempt us to despair. There are many things that are oppressive to us and difficult for us to deal with. So, what should we do? Should we give in to the struggle and then retreat into a hole of self-pity?

This blind man gives us the perfect witness of what we should do. When we feel oppressed, discouraged, frustrated or misunderstood, we need to use this as an opportunity to turn to Jesus with even greater passion and courage calling upon His mercy. A relationship with Jesus allows us to have the courage to believe in times of need and in times of fulfillment. Asking for help in a time of need takes courage and risk.



It is important to believe in our faith and believe in receiving help and asking for it. Doing so does not make us weak and does not make us

seem selfish. As a Catholic and a disciple, I know that I may not always be as dedicated as I want to be, but at least I know that I believe in something bigger than all of us and that I have something and someone to follow, and that Someone is our Lord God.

My wife and I had a hard time conceiving our first child and almost came to the point of giving up. We persisted in praying because we firmly believed that God would grant our wish someday, in His own time. Lo and behold, after almost four years, our ever gracious and loving God heard our plea and gave us our daughter. We even named our daughter "Faith." What a merciful God we have!

## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I believe in You and Your promises forever. Through tears and joy, You always hold me in the palm of Your hand. Thank you for all the countless blessings You provide with Your



→ mighty presence in my life. Instead of You Lord asking me "What do you want me to do to you?" I should be asking "What do you want from me or how do I share my faith?" Lead me to live my life in testimony to your incredible goodness so that Your love may be known and experienced by all. I trust in You, Lord and I commit into Your hands all that I am. Amen.

## Direction

1. *Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*
2. *Pray to the Holy Spirit for zeal to actively serve in community.*

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# NEWS

(from page 2)

*the pandemic, but all wholeheartedly agreed we were all meant to be there together, in this time and place. Fr. Joseph Meagher was a wonderful teacher and confessor. He guided the participants, the teaching ministry, and auxies on what it meant to be a disciple—its costs and its charisms.*

*A recurring theme for me was that there is no other role to play that is more important than to tell people about Jesus—to win souls for God whom we love first and last, front and center. BLD provides this opportunity via numerous servant-powered encounters that result in men and women crying out to God with joy for ending their lukewarm commitment and filling their hearts with a fire for eternal things. What a privilege it is to be part of this community and to join with so many others in spreading this saving net of faith!*

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## SALT

***"Do not let the salt of the covenant with your God be lacking from your grain offering."* (Lev 2:13b)**

I felt an urge to scan the Bible for something I could not quite name, and opened the page to Leviticus 2 on Grain Offerings. Before going to sleep I read the first few paragraphs about how to make a grain offering, what type of flour it should be and how to prepare and offer it up to God.

Interesting, I said, but I did not get anything special from the reading, ***"it must be of bran flour mixed with oil and unleavened."*** (Lev 2:5b) The aspect of being unleavened was repeated a number of times ***"for you shall not burn any leaven or honey as an oblation to the Lord"*** (Lev 2:11b), and I thought about a previous teaching I heard about the leaven of the Pharisees. Is leaven a metaphor for pride or

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# SALT

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something else that points to the self? Is God saying that our offering should not be prideful?


It was only the next morning that I got to the end of the page.

**"You shall season all your grain offerings with salt. On every offering you shall offer salt."**

*(Lev 2:13a and c)*

This was the first time I read about the salt in the grain offering, but it seemed to be of the utmost importance. I went and read the footnote for that verse - Leviticus 2:13 - that was indicated by the asterisk "partaking of salt in common was an ancient symbol of friendship and alliance". And I heard, finally I understood. When we make our grain offerings, be it in money, in prayers, in time, in leadership or in submission, let us do this in the spirit of our friendship with God. Because beyond all our offerings, God is looking for a meaningful relationship with us. Does it seem strange that it is the Lord who should be seeking out the relationship? Only because we are so bad at making and maintaining such relationships so he needs to tell us, **"do not let the salt of the covenant with your God be lacking from your grain offering."** (Lev 2:13b) Do everything for love of God. It is your love and fellowship that makes the grain offering acceptable to the Lord. Do not let any of the work you do for the Lord be lacking in fellowship and love.

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**Joe Tobin** @CardinalJWTObin · 11h ...

"The Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep" (cf. Jn 10:11). St. John Paul II, teach us to be co-responsible leaders of the people entrusted to our pastoral care. Help us to listen prayerfully to the Holy Spirit and to the voices of God's people.

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## Share your Talent

### We need 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](mailto: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 | \$1,593   | \$88,952 |
| Covid 19 Collection                                | \$ -      | \$ 1,990 |
| Mission                                            | \$ -      | \$ 5,000 |

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



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## 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**  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confessions will be available starting at 7:30**  
**- Fr. Joe Meagher and Fr. Josef Krajnak**  
**Friday, Oct. 22 - 8 PM / Divine Mercy Parish**

**Ministry Praise and Worship**  
**Singles Ministry - Connell Hall, DMP**  
**Solo Parents Ministry - Library, DMP**  
**Youth Ministry - Zoom Praise and Worship**

**In-Person Community Teaching**  
**Advance Intercession | Orientation to Spiritual Warfare | Healing and Deliverance**  
**Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021 - 1 PM**  
**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