



**Bukás Loób sa Diyós**

(Open in Spirit to God)

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY  
DISTRICT OF NEWARK

# COVENANT NEWS

Volume 27 Issue 44

Bulletin Edition

November 12, 2021

## NEWS

### **Pope at Audience: Walking according to the Spirit makes us free**

Taken from Vatican News:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-11/pope-general-audience-walking-in-the-spirit-makes-us-free.html>

*Pope Francis concludes his General Audience catechetical series on the Letter to the Galatians highlighting how the Apostle Paul teaches that "the fulfillment of the true Law is found in this life of the Spirit given to us by Jesus." And the life of the Spirit "can only be lived in freedom".*

**By Vatican News staff writer**

Speaking to pilgrims gathered in the Paul VI Hall in the Vatican for Wednesday's General Audience, Pope Francis noted that Saint Paul's Letter to the Galatians shows his role as a great evangeliser, theologian, and pastor. He pointed out how he helps us discover "the shocking newness contained in the revelation of Jesus Christ", contemplating the mystery of Christ and sharing it with "creative intelligence" with those to whom he preached.

At the same time, he ably guided and encouraged a lost and confused community at the time with great pastoral sensitivity, the Pope observed, showing how the strength of the Spirit had "truly entered his heart" and how his meeting with the Risen Christ transformed his entire life.

#### **Defending the freedom of Christ**

The Pope emphasised the passion Saint Paul showed in defending the freedom that Christ brought - a passion that "still moves us today". With great conviction, Paul

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### **Jesus, Reign in Our Hearts**

**THEME:** Those who are faithful to Christ the King vigilantly prepare for His coming.

**WORD:** Dn 12:1-3/ Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11/  
Heb 10:11-14, 18/ Mk 13:24-32

**ORDER:** *"... Shine brightly ...lead the many to justice. (Dn 12:3)*

**REFLECTION:**

**T**his This Sunday's Gospel depicts a frightening scenario at the end of time. Imagine: *"the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky and the powers in the heavens will be shaken," (Mk 13:24-25)*. It may seem scary, but in reality, it is a joyous occasion because finally, we *"will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory..." (Mk 13:26)*.



As we approach the end of the Church's liturgical year, this reading is a fitting reminder and a challenge for all of us to be ready for that unpredictable day. *"But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father," (Mk 13:32)*. Should we fear the end of time? Our loving God, in His Word, tells us not to be afraid. Instead, He admonishes us to be vigilant and to continue to trust that

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#### **Promise of the Week**

*"You will show me the path to life, fullness of joys in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever. (Ps 16:11)*

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responded to the call he received to preach the Gospel, the Pope went on to say.

Saint Paul pointed out to the Galatians that they, too, were called to the freedom that liberates them from every form of slavery by making them heirs of the ancient promise and children of God through Christ. Summing up what Paul teaches, the Pope said, "The fulfillment of the true Law is found in this life of the Spirit given to us by Jesus. And this life of the Spirit can only be lived in freedom: Christian freedom."

## **Walking according to the Spirit**

Summing up this catechetical journey on the Letter to the Galatians, the Pope said the Apostle's teaching generates enthusiasm, being drawn to follow the way of freedom and "to walk according to the Spirit", which always makes us free.

At the same time, he noted, we become more aware of our weaknesses as we see how challenging it is to be "docile to the Spirit, to surrender to His beneficial action". But we cannot let discouragement set in, the Pope said, recalling the Gospel episode of the disciples in the boat at the moment of the storm, when the Apostles woke Christ up to save them. In these very difficult moments of life, we need to "wake up Christ who is within us", adding, "We must rouse Christ in our hearts and only then will we be able to contemplate things with His eyes for He sees beyond the storm".

## **Calling on the Holy Spirit**

In conclusion, the Pope said we should never grow weary of doing good, and we can always trust the Spirit will come to assist us in our weakness and give us the support we need. Therefore, we need to "learn to invoke the Holy Spirit more often", he said, and one of the great ways to do that is to recite often "the beautiful prayer" the Church recites on Pentecost: "Come, Holy Spirit".

With the presence of the Spirit, the Pope said, "we will protect our freedom", since "Christian freedom is what makes us grow" and makes true joy come forth.

***"COME, HOLY SPIRIT"***

**BE THANKFUL**

***"Give thanks to the LORD, who is good, whose love endures forever."***

***(1 Chronicles 16:34)***

# Once More about Disciples' Privilege

If you've been in BLD for a while, you've probably already heard some members refer to "disciples' privilege." Loosely defined, it's what many of us attribute answered prayers to. And the petitions range from truly serious requests to other, seemingly, more trivial things.

Over the fifteen plus years that I've been with the community, I've become convinced that God sends such blessings to many in BLD. Although I don't think that anyone has ever fully documented them, most of us probably know some of those who've told about their experience of disciples' privilege.

Sometimes, He has His angels work overtime, such as when early one year, a close friend of ours from our ME class received a stage 4, extremely rare, cancer diagnosis. And then, after months of intense treatment was declared cancer free within the same year!

At other times simpler, more mundane mini-miracles occur. These stories include times when a spot suddenly materializes in a crowded parking lot after a quick prayer petition for it to happen.

Once, after a tiring, sweat-filled morning of yardwork, I sat down in the shade for some rest and to have a drink of water. I wasn't expecting it, but it seems that one of the Lord's angels arranged for a soft, silent, and refreshing breeze to blow my way. I had to smile, thinking that although it could have just been a coincidence, that somehow it must have been disciples' privilege at work once again.

It's easy to think that somehow, these small things just happen, especially when life's many other noises overwhelm our senses, preventing us from recognizing the blessings that God, through His angels, sends our way. Unfortunately, the sensitivity to His goodness doesn't come naturally. It seems that we actually have to train our senses to be on the lookout for them, so that we'd be able to hear, see, smell, taste, and feel His presence. We have to be more acutely aware, first physically, as in our brains registering an awareness of the blessings, and then, afterwards, by planting conscious seeds of gratitude in our hearts. Then, the gratitude to God will grow and will be there all the time.

May He continue to bless us all in our beloved BLD Community!

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He will never forsake us. There are times when we experience problems which seem to be unbearable, that make us feel hopeless, as if it is the end of our world. Remember how God in His goodness and love, always manifests His presence and refuge. God is always in control no matter what the situation may be. He is completely in charge. We should never doubt, but instead we should firmly hold unto Him.

In the Book of Daniel it is written, ***“Those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever”*** (Dn 12:3). And this leads us to our theme for this week – Those who are faithful to Christ the King, vigilantly prepare for His coming.

This Gospel is a message of hope. We know that one thing is certain; the end of time will come. We are just pilgrim people, and our time here on earth is finite. We must remember that everything in this world is temporary, and nothing lasts forever. All our precious possessions will be left behind when our time comes, along with the memory of all our pains and sufferings here on earth. We are called to strengthen our relationship with the Lord, striving for the things that lasts eternally. Our life on earth must be spent as a faith journey, following everything that our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us. This is the way to be vigilant, preparing for that time when all of us will be judged before Jesus if we have truly loved God and our neighbors.

We are blessed to be active members in the renewal Community as we are given the opportunity to vigilantly prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus, King of the Universe. Our daily prayers (rosary, Divine Mercy chaplet and intercession), weekly Corporate Worships, word sharing, Holy Masses, reflections on His Word and service to our needy and poor brethren financially and spiritually – all these give us an assurance that, every day, we have the chance to be in the presence of our Holy God.

God’s promise in Psalms gives us the confidence:



***“...because You will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will You suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption. You will show me the path to life, fullness of joy in your presence, the delights at***

***your tight hand forever,”*** (Ps 16:10-11). →→

## → Prayer:

We are grateful to You, Lord, for leading us to our beloved community. It is such a joy and a delight to be in communion with You daily. It gives us peace of mind, joy in our hearts and assurance that you are always by our side. We praise You, our God, and thank You for Your daily and unending guidance and inspiration. We love You, our dearest Lord. Amen.

## Directions

1. ***Be holy as the Father is holy.***
2. ***Use your God given talents by serving in Community.***

## PARADE OF SAINTS 2021



# A Collection of Thanksgiving Quotes from Catholic Saints:

*"In all created things discern the providence and wisdom of God, and in all things give Him thanks."*

*- St. Teresa of Avila*

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*"No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks."*

*- St. Ambrose*

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*"The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for what He is sending us every day in His goodness."*

*- St. Gianna Beretta Molla*

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*"O God, grant that whatever good things I have, I may share generously with those who have not, and whatever good things I do not have, I may request humbly from those who do."*

*-St. Thomas Aquinas*

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*"Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve You as You deserve."*

*-St. Ignatius of Loyola*

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**Share your Time and Talent:  
Become a **Covenant News** contributor!**

**Question of the month:**

***What are you thankful for?***

Send us a few words or a sentence or two about what you are thankful for during this Thanksgiving Season  
Contact **Word Ministry** at [Word@BLDNewark.com](mailto:Word@BLDNewark.com).

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings / E-Giving / Mailed Checks	\$ 1,579.07	\$92,936.89
Covid 19 Collection	\$ -	\$ 1,990.00
Mission	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00

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

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

*BLD Newark Livestream*

**EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION**

FRIDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2021 • 8:00 PM

**Disciples Assembly**

**Saturday, November 13, Starts at 1:00pm  
In-Person: Divine Mercy Parish 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 @6:30PM  
For more details, please contact  
Ram & Claire Bautista



Joe Tobin @CardinalJW Tobin · Nov 11

Mother of Hope, teach us patience, humility and courage in the face of all the trials that confront us today. Help us stay close to you and your Son. Inspire us to listen to the Word of God with open hearts as you did, and to respond generously to God's will.