



Bukás Loób sa Diyós

(Open in Spirit to God)

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY
DISTRICT OF NEWARK

COVENANT NEWS

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NEWS

COUNSELS

Make room for the Word through silence

Taken from Vatican News:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-12/pope-at-audience-make-room-for-the-word-through-silence.html>

In his catechesis at the Wednesday General Audience on December 15, Pope Francis reflects on St Joseph's silence in the Gospel.

By Christopher Wells

"St Joseph with his silence invites us to make room for the Presence of the Word made flesh, for Jesus," Pope Francis said at the weekly General Audience.

Silence full of listening

However, the Pope continued, "Joseph's silence is not muteness," but is instead "a silence full of listening, an industrious silence, a silence that bring out his great interiority." Quoting St John of the Cross, the Holy Father explained that God the Father spoke the Word, His Son, in eternal silence "and in silence it must be heard by the soul."

In his earthly life, Jesus, too, had this experience of silence, "with the daily example of Mary and Joseph." Pope Francis noted that "He Himself sought spaces of silence... and invited His disciples to have such an experience" as well.

The contemplative dimension of life

The Holy Father emphasized the importance of following St Joseph's example "in recovering this contemplative dimension of life opened wide by silence," but noted that it is not easy. Silence, he said, can be frightening, because "it asks us to delve into ourselves and confront the truest part of us."

Pope Francis invited everyone "to cultivate spaces for silence in which another Word can emerge: that of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us." ...Continued on page 4

Obedience is loving God back

THEME: We prepare for the coming of Jesus, our Savior, when like Mary, we humbly obey the will of God.

WORD : Mi 5:1-4/ Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19/
Heb 10:5-10/ Lk 1:39-45

ORDER: *"Take care of this vine and protect what your right hand has planted with the Son of Man whom You Yourself made strong."*
(Psalm 80:15-16)

REFLECTION:

We prepare for the coming of Jesus, our Savior, when like Mary, we humbly obey the will of God. We know that we need Jesus in our lives more and more and that we should be growing more like Christ this year as compared to, not a brother or sister, but as compared to ourselves a year ago, or even just yesterday. There should be a striving upwards in our lives, to a more holy us, a more disciplined us, a more patient us or a more understanding and loving us. We cannot be perfect instantly, nor can we just remain the same; it is a process of growing. We have to be patient with ourselves and others, but patient with firm determination to change for the better. The Lord is calling us to carry our own crosses and follow the narrow path of righteousness if we are to truly be his disciples and be worthy to enter the gates of heaven.

The Lord never said it would be ...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

(Lk 1:45)



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



Bukás Loób sa Diyós

Catholic Charismatic Covenant Community

A Private Lay Association of the Faithful, Archdiocese of Newark

Divine Mercy Church, 232 Central Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065



A Blessed Christmas and a Purpose-filled New Year from the DCS!

Very soon, we will celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we look around us, we see the illumination which turns the darkness into wonderful display of colored lights. The lights are meant to give witness to the fact that the Light of the World has come into our darkness in order to give us hope and assurance that when He returns again, all who are open to Him will share in the eternal Light.

The Christmas holyday season find ourselves reflecting on the past year and are reminded to take the time to truly appreciate those who have helped shape ourselves, our families, and the BLD community in a most significant way. This is the season in which we are reminded of the greatest blessing ever given when God sent his Son, Jesus, to earth to carry out the greatest rescue in all of history—the gracious, merciful redemption of sinful humanity. Out of that gift flows every blessing we enjoy as the people of God who are his by faith, in Christ.

Part of that blessing is that God has gathered us to be of one mind, body, and spirit in Christ which is critical in our disciple making gospel mission. So many have sacrificed their time, talents and resources and in the witnessing of their love for Jesus. For this, God has rewarded us with his rich blessings.

We have enjoyed countless blessings this year: Many members whom we have not heard from for quite some time have rejoined us in our weekly Praise and Worship and community activities. They remind us of family members going back to their roots, where they find love and comfort. It has been an exciting season of growth!

The year 2022 heralds new challenges and opportunities. But more than the events that are in store for us in 2022, there is the spirit of Christmas, a spirit of joy that runs deeper than tradition. To find it, we must follow our hearts back to that silent night in Bethlehem when ordinary people, just like you and me, could touch and see and worship the very presence of God's love incarnate. Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God is with us, our Savior!

Our beloved BLD Community expresses the warmth and love of God by passing the light of Christ in our lives to others. God's light is very relevant to our times. So, this Christmas, we celebrate God's light that has come into the world, the light no amount of darkness has never been able to extinguish. Yes, this Christmas, we will celebrate God's light that has come into the world.

Have a blessed Christmas and a purpose-filled New Year!



COUNSELS (from page 1)

easy. In the garden of Gethsemane in *Luke 22:42*, we saw the pain and agony of our Lord as He pleaded with His Father saying ***“Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done.”*** All the while, the disciples were asleep. Let us ask ourselves, are we still taking our leisure; is the Lord still waiting for our “yes”?



Let us look at Mary’s life. Although the bible has very little narrative of Our Lady, what we can read and understand about her is truly immense! We learn so much about her by looking at her Son. Mary, according to ancient tradition, was brought up in the temple because her mother & father, Saints Joachim & Anne, were advanced in years when they conceived her. There she learned to be obedient and to love God with all her heart and with all her mind and all her soul. There she said, “yes” to the Lord in many small ways through the years, so that when the Angel Gabriel came to announce the good news, she was ready, open, and willing to undertake the incredible, life-giving task of welcoming the Son of God to the human family!

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Mary’s reply to the angel summarizes her great humility and obedience. Who else would travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem, Joseph’s hometown, a distance of about 68 miles, not on paved roads or in a comfortable carriage, but on a donkey... and nine-months pregnant? Once they arrived, Mary would endure the embarrassment of having to give birth to baby Jesus in a stable surrounded by cattle and sheep because there was no room for them in the inn. And Mary would then live on to witness the most painful, gruesome, and excruciating passion and slow death of her son Jesus Christ on the cross.

I am reminded of the many times I said “no” to serving the Lord in far better circumstances and with far less effort needed. And still received abundant blessings from our Lord.

Obedience to God is so important. Why? There are many reasons, but the most important is that God loves us, and obedience equates to loving God back. Never forget that disobedience separates us from the only source of life, happiness, and peace. →→

→ Disobedience to the will of God brings forth sin and death, the cause of all evil, misery and suffering in this world and in our lives. Jesus our Savior calls us to obey, ***“If you love me, you will keep my commandments”*** (*John 14:15*). Obedience is also an act of spiritual worship; it flows from a heart full of gratitude for the grace it has received. It demonstrates, embodies, and makes visible our faith and trust in the Lord. Obedience is a decision, a choice, an action that shows our faith. This is where we most often get tripped up and fall, especially when the call to serve comes from someone who does not seem very Christ-like or when we think we have a better idea. Maybe we are too busy to pray the rosary or intercede for the community petitions. Or it may involve stepping out of our comfort zone and accepting the call of the Lord to serve the community in a new role or capacity. Which takes us to the next reason why we should obey. Obedience teaches us humility. As *James 4:10* says ***“Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you.”*** Or *Psalms 51:19*, ***“My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit; a contrite, humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn.”***



In BLD, we know that forgiveness and obedience will lead to inner peace and unity. We know that with obedience comes abundant blessings, too numerous to enumerate. And the blessings are not for us alone. Blessed by God, we become a blessing to others, to our families, to our friends and relatives, to our community, to our parish, to our offices, to our government and society, to the whole world.

We see this repeated throughout salvation history, but especially in Mama Mary’s obedience which brought forth the blessing of all blessings, our Lord Jesus Christ. Truly God loves us so much that He will never rest until our lives are with Him, through Him and in Him; until we are transformed into saints, perfected in obedience, mature in disposition, uncompromising with evil and true children of God.

Lord Jesus we pray, give us the strength of faith to be truly your disciples and to obey your will every step and every moment of our lives. Amen.

Directions

1. *Accept assignments in community with humility as a way of obeying the will of God.*
2. *Be sensitive to the needs of the community.*

NEWS

(from page 1)

This will involve being careful of our speech, which if unchecked can become evil, and our words can become “flattery, bragging, lies, backbiting, and slander.”

Learning to cultivate silence

This, the Pope said, “is why we must learn from Joseph to cultivate silence: that space of interiority in our days in which we give the Spirit the opportunity to regenerate us, to console us, to correct us.” And, he concluded, “the benefit to our hearts will also heal our language, our words and above all our choices,” like St Joseph, who combined silence with action.”

Pope Francis concluded the catechesis at Wednesday's General Audience with a prayer to St Joseph:

**Saint Joseph, man of silence,
you who in the Gospel did not utter a single word,
teach us to fast from vain words,
to rediscover the value of words that edify,
encourage, console and support.
Be close to those who suffer from words that hurt,
like slander and backbiting,
and help us always to match words with deeds.
Amen.**



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

Advent/Christmas Reflections:

1. In what ways have you been vigilant during the Advent season?
2. What practices and traditions do you have that might bring for us and others a deeper Advent spirituality?
3. How can you and I invite Jesus into our lives this Christmas?
4. What is your Christmas Prayer?
5. What are your Christmas traditions?
6. How are you planning to celebrate Christmas and who are celebrating it with?
7. What would make Christmas extra special this year?

Send your responses to Word Ministry at Word@BLDNewark.com.



Joe Tobin
@CardinalJWTObin

“The Lord will come and he will not delay. He will illumine what is hidden in darkness and reveal himself to all the nations” (Hb 2:3; 1 Cor 4:5). Come, Lord Jesus!

6:46 AM · Dec 15, 2021 · Twitter for iPad

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	\$ 1,230.16	\$ 102,469.20
Covid 19 Collection	\$ -	\$ 1,990
Mission	\$ -	\$ 5,000

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Livestream Praise and Worship from Manila
Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021 @ 8 pm
Virtual Praise support
by BLD Newark Praise Ministry
with participation by other Global Districts

Soup Kitchen
Saturday, December 18, 2021 | 9:00AM
Missionaries of Charity
Mission Ministry – Contact: Rene & Claire Monje

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



Pope Francis
@Pontifex

#Advent invites us to prepare ourselves for Christmas, welcoming Jesus without fear. If we open wide the doors of our life, everything takes on a new light and our family, work, suffering, health, friendship, become opportunities to discover His consoling presence.

7:30 AM · Dec 14, 2021 · TweetDeck