



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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Bulletin Edition

April 7, 2017

NEWS

COUNSELS

A Spirit-filled LSS 47 weekend: **Fifty-six candidates open their hearts to the Holy Spirit**



This past weekend, another fruitful Life in the Spirit Seminar was held in Rahway. 56 candidates attended LSS #47 last March 31 – April 2, at the Divine Mercy Auditorium, and wholeheartedly opened their hearts as they welcomed the Holy Spirit in their lives.

The weekend, which was led by Deacon Serge as Spiritual Director, was filled with overflowing graces as the sharers, Rose/Nelson Manzo, Paolo Nolasco, Fil/Hum Flores, Claire Bautista, Bong/Merle Encarnacion, Mat/Precy Yap, Pauline Montemayor and Walter Wade, poured out their hearts and souls conveying His message to the candidates about how the Spirit of Truth transformed their lives.

Of the 56 candidates, more than half are non-encountered. We pray that they will come back and continue their journey through our other spiritual programs. The class includes: from encountered ME classes - Ike Amador, Debbie Amador, Jean Claude Bart, Marie Jean Bart, Paul Magahis, Jocelyn Magahis, Sunday Ohia, Rita Ohia, Sandy Tabobo, Tonette Tabobo; non-encountered couples - Marie Anderson, Marie Antoine, Cathy Dunn, Everald Glasgow, Jacqueline Glasgow, Dori Lavell, ...Continued on page 4

Reflection for April 2017

THEME: The glory of God shines through us when we are obedient to His will.

WORD : Is 50:4-7 / Ps 22:8-9,17-18,19-20,23-24
Phil 2:6-11 / Mt 26:14-27:66

ORDER: *Be obedient to the point of dying to your old self.* (- paraphrase of Phil 2:8)

REFLECTION:

During the month of April, we are given the opportunity to dwell in God's perfect love for mankind as we re-live and experience the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Every year, our faith goes deeper and continues to be strengthened when we remember that we have been saved by the blood of highest sacrificial love and by the victory over sin and death in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. The weekly themes shall guide us in our reflection of our community word this month: **The glory of God shines to those who believe.** Then, we may *"live and declare the deeds of the Lord."* (Ps 118:17)

The theme for the 5th Sunday of Lent is: **The glory of God shines through us when we remain steadfast in our faith.** The liturgical readings for this week bring us to reflect on our belief in eternal life, that death is not the end for us. The Gospel reading shows us one of Jesus' astounding miracles – the raising of Lazarus. Jesus came to the tomb of Lazarus to reveal Himself as the Lord of life, the source of every hope as we face the disturbing mystery of our own death. By deliberately waiting for the death of Lazarus, Jesus wanted to show that He did not come into the world to save us from physical death, but to teach us the way to an eternal life that extends beyond death. ...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; ...I shall not be put to shame." (Is 50:7)

In Peter's Downfall, He Found Christ

So, who am I not to forgive? Who am I not to ask for forgiveness? Who am I to judge? Who am I in the eyes of Jesus?

This week Christ reminds us of our human frailty and the weakness of the flesh. Jesus handpicked His disciples, broke bread with them, shared everything He had, and taught them the Father's way of living. In spite of all of that, when faced with trials, they still succumbed to human weakness.

Just look at Judas and Peter. Judas was entrusted with the disciples' money, but it turned out to be his greatest weakness. He betrayed the Master for 30 pieces of silver (cf Mt 26:15b). Peter, the strongest and closest to Christ, who vowed to lay his life down for Jesus, fell by denying Christ, not once, but three times. He repented when he remembered what Jesus said to him:

"Amen, amen, I say to you, the cock will not crow before you deny me three times." (Jn 13:38b)

Peter and Judas are perfect examples of two broken and sinful men with two different destinies. In the eyes of the world, one was a betrayer and the other a liar, who denied Christ, the Master. They both sinned when they became overpowered by fear, and the pressure of the world closed in on them.

Both men felt sorry for what they did and may have thought themselves unforgivable; but that's where Judas failed, and Peter triumphed. Peter remembered Christ's teachings of love, humility, forgiveness and of giving up everything, including the sacrifice of one's life for the sake of others. But in his downfall, Peter found Christ. He began to see himself as God saw him: a repentant sinner. This brought him joy even at the lowliest point of his life.

Christ proved His love for us and His obedience to the Father, when He gave up everything for the sake of many. Horribly beaten, and with His mangled body hanging on the Cross, with the little strength He had left, He still said ***"Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."*** (Lk 23:34)

"And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." (Jn 12:32) The Son of God was hanged on a cross, but on the third day He rose from the grave and now we recognize Him as ***"the one who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty."*** (Rev 1:8b)

This I pray: Lord, as I re-live Your pains and sufferings on the cross this week; as I see Your pale, beaten and mangled flesh, these make me realize how You had given up so much for me. Just before Your last breath, as You ➔➔

A Well-Trained Tongue

The first reading for Wednesday of Holy Week, April 12, is about God's gift of a "well-trained tongue" – Is 50:4-9a.

The ability to speak and communicate effectively is truly a God-given gift. They are powerful tools that can be used to convey and to dictate thoughts, ideas, needs, directions and requests to those who matter most in our lives. What we say can carry weight and importance to those we interact with daily in any setting. Being honest and thoughtful in what we say is a must, to make sure that the message conveyed is clear and un-ambiguous; as the saying goes, honesty is the best policy. It dictates that what we say should always be truthful. Our integrity depends on the worthiness of our spoken words, and Christian teachings are our guidelines.

As good Christians, the focus is to support our faith, our families, and our neighbors. To maintain and nurture these relationships, honest and respectful communication should be the norm. But because we are humans, on occasion, we stray from the straight path. How many times have we said something to others that we later regret and wish that we had not said it? How many times have we helped spread rumors that may have damaged the reputation of others? How many times did we promise to do something and failed to follow-through? How many times have we lied to cover some indiscretions? Dishonesty and not using the required "well-trained tongue" makes us weak and sinful.

What we say matters because the words that come from our mouths can be wrong and hurtful. When we misspeak, negative consequences occur. We know that God is merciful, and that when we seek forgiveness, He is always forgiving, but we also need to do our best to undo any harm our hurtful words have done.

When we act or speak in ways that are uncharitable, we forget Christ's admonition about entering through the narrow gate. The consequences will surely be dire unless we change our ways and ask for forgiveness for all our transgressions, now, not later. Constantly looking to God for guidance is always a step in the right direction

Jesus, our Savior, reminds us, that having a "well-trained tongue" is a powerful gift. Daily, we need give thanks to God for His gifts and pray that we may use each of them wisely and lovingly.

➔ *commended Your Spirit into the Father's hands for the sake of many, You even asked the Father's forgiveness for all the wrongs we've done to You. It makes me realize what true humility and obedience are.* ...Continued on page 4

A Model to Follow



***“What I am doing,
you do not
understand now,
but you will
understand later.”***

(Jn 13:7)

Ever since I attended BLD’s Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden retreat many years ago, the Mass of the Lord’s Supper has taken on a much more significant place in my spiritual life. I still remember thinking that morning that they couldn’t have been serious about our physically washing each other’s feet. So I was quite surprised when the buckets of water and rolls of paper towels were brought in by the Teaching Ministry’s members and auxies. Little did I know that I was in for an even bigger surprise.

When it came time to it, after some initial hesitation, people got down on bended knees and started doing what Jesus did.

As people washed my feet, each time, I felt the urge to cry out loud, **“NO!”** - but it wasn’t because of any qualms about someone touching my feet. It was because, maybe much like St. Peter who said, **“You will never wash my feet,”** I did not feel worthy to be accorded that service. I did not feel worthy of their affection and love, expressed in what essentially was a simple humble act.

After the surprise of actually having my feet washed, and the strong emotions that came with that, I felt an even more urgent need to get down on my knees and wash the feet of everyone around me. And when it came time to address ME classmates, I had to fight tears of joy as I told them that I loved them by lovingly cradling and caressing their feet in my hands.

No qualms... just joy.

The Mass of the Lord’s Supper remembers what the Lord did on that Passover. Since that retreat, I remember all of the emotions that I felt whenever I see the Holy Thursday re-enactment. And I am amazed all over again, because even with no miracle involved, the Divine message He sent was even more powerful than many other instances when something supernatural happened.

“I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.” (Jn 13:15)

At that retreat I felt immensely loved, and I too was able to express deep love, not just to those who were physically there, but to everyone who’s been a part of my life. I felt incredible joy, proving that Joy comes, when Christ’s model, we follow.

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That the way to eternal life is through our faith in Him. Thus, he leaves us with this promise: ***“I will put my spirit in you that you may come to life.”*** (Ez 37:14a)

The theme for Palm Sunday is: **The glory of God shines through us when we are obedient to His will.** This Sunday signals the start of Holy Week and highlights the most important attitude of Jesus to God’s purpose of sending Him to this world and to us – obedience to the Father’s will. Throughout the ordeal, Jesus was relentlessly humble and obedient; not for a moment did He change His mind even if He foresaw His excruciating passion and shameful death. Again, Jesus is teaching us that God’s reward will be received when we surrender our arrogance and self-centeredness to the Lord. In many ways, we remain disobedient to God and we just maneuver our lives without trusting Him. During Holy Week, let us ask forgiveness for crucifying Jesus to the cross again and again by our sinfulness. Let us learn to surrender to His promise: ***“The Lord God is my help, therefore, I am not disgraced; ...I shall not be put to shame.”*** (Is 50:7)

The theme for Easter Sunday is: **The glory of God shines through us when we rejoice in Christ’s resurrection.** As true Christians, we believe in the Resurrection not just as a historical event in the Church, but that Jesus truly rose from the dead and is alive today, now and forever. Such belief is necessary because this is the key to our Christian faith – to believe in the fulfillment of His promise. Our faith should lead us to believe that Jesus is alive now as He was on that first Easter morning and He still invites people today to know Him, love Him, serve Him, and be happy with Him in eternity. Many of us who were brought into the Church and the community, especially those who have been baptized in the Spirit, have been transformed because we have encountered Jesus, the living God. This is the Easter promise of the Lord: ***“Everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”*** (Acts 10:43b)

The glory of God shines through us when the peace of Christ lives in our heart – is the theme for the 2nd Sunday of Easter. ***“Peace be with you”*** are the re-assuring words that the Lord spoke when He appeared to His disciples after He rose from the dead. This is the same message that Jesus wants to impart to us while we live in our troubled world today. But if there is so much unbelief in Christ, if there is mounting refusal to enter into a relationship with God and trust in His Divine Will, if worldly influences take precedence over taking the path of righteousness, ...*Continued on page 4*

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how can we have peace in our hearts, the kind of peace that Jesus wants to give us? Believing that Jesus is alive seems to be difficult to comprehend amidst the noise and enticements of the world today. Sacrifice and suffering cannot seem to compete with comfort and luxury. But, for true Christians, eternal life is promised to those who are committed to follow Christ – **“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”** (Jn 20:29b)

The glory of God shines through us when our hearts are open to the understanding of scriptures – is the theme for the 3rd Sunday of Easter. Like the two disciples leaving Jerusalem, we are all “on the road to Emmaus.” We are in the state of unbelief and ignorance, simply relying on our own reason, intellect and experience. We choose to be deaf and blind to the truth that our Lord Jesus teaches us. Or we take the shortcut in exercising our faith, the path that our own limited understanding wants us to take, the road that brings us farther away from our relationship with our true Lord and Master. The Holy Scriptures, as the word of God, is the source of understanding and knowledge of our faith. This is our salvation. Christ is risen and He has overcome Satan and his lies. Let us no longer take the detour, but continue on with our faith journey towards the promise of eternal life: **“You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence.”** (Ps 16:11)

In Peter's Downfall...

(from page 2)

Lord, teach me to forgive and how to ask for forgiveness. Grant me the grace that I may continue to see my weaknesses and my brokenness. Heal me of my brokenness so I may be strong and be made whole once again, living my life with You. Give me strength in times of trials, as I surrender to Your will, not mine. Teach me Your ways and grant me to see others as You see them. Help me to love them as You have unconditionally loved me. Send forth Your Spirit upon me and guide me always to be faithful and true to Your Word, Amen.

NEWS

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Adoara Madubuko, Beverly Mitchell, Sean Mitchell, Josie Sanchez, Deacon John Scansaroli, Cathy Scansaroli; in-filling ME - Alice Francisco, Aris Francisco, Marilyn Alejan; from the Solo Parents, SPE - Nora Kenny Eidson; non-encountered - Georgette Alexis, Myriam Alexis, Mateo Barotilla, Kevin Clarkin, Maryliza De Los Santos, Florine Derac, Kathy Ann Guera, Donna Importico, Carmel Jerome, Ada Macaspac, Minda Monsanto, Jules Ngambo; in-filling - Maria Cruz; from the Singles Ministry, SE - Michelle Cruz, Joey Daguio, Fernando Faura, Matt Ferrer, Queeny Gonzales, Christian Ikalina, Kaye Pepino, Neil Puertollano, Rita Yglesias; non-encountered - Jonasse Antoine, January Bacus, Shahael Myrthil, Juliana Nwaigwe, →→

A pdf of this Covenant News is also available online at BLDNEWARK.com

LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings	\$ 1,743	\$ 32,915
Mission Collections	\$ 40	\$ 2,357

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

Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BLD-Newark
1992-2017



BLD-Newark
1992-2017



You are invited to a
BLD 25th Anniversary Event

Feel The Father's Love Retreat
(Parable of the Prodigal Son)
with Msgr. Paul Schetelick

Sat., April 22, 2017 11:30am-6:30pm
Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium

Registration & Lunch start promptly at 11:30am & end at 12:30pm

Seats are limited. Please RSVP early to: teaching@bldnewark.com.

Marriage Encounter # 48

May 19-21, 2017

Hotel Executive Suites

30 Minue Street, Carteret, NJ

Contact email: MLA@bldnewark.com

June 16 -18, 2017

Graymoor Spiritual Life Center
Garrison, NY 10524

Singles Encounter #37

Come all you who are thirsty...

Please contact: [Jutt Bustos](mailto:Jutt.Bustos@graymoor.org)
[Lita Alfaro](mailto:Lita.Alfaro@graymoor.org)

June 23-25, 2017

Days Hotel of East Brunswick
195 Route 18 S
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Solo Parents Encounter #19

"Jesus is calling..."

Please contact: [Cherry and Reuben Vibar](mailto:Cherry.Vibar@days.com)

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Apr 21	Formation
		Apr 28	Management
		May 5	Mission
		May 12	Pastoral

→ Junior Vertil; in-filling: Colleen Atienza, Carl Caparros and Vanessa Fabe.

Although there were no designated sponsoring ME and SE classes, Gods vineyard was packed with helping hands. A heartfelt **“thank you”** to SPE18, Mark10, ME45, John6 ministry, auxies, intercessors and to all who served during the weekend. Truly, we are called to share in His glory. **“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine.”** (Is 43:1)