



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

Pope praises courageous women of the Church

In Morning Homily, Pope praises courageous women of the Church at Casa Santa Marta; notes Mary's courage displayed in Today's Feast of the Visitation

MAY 31, 2016 ZENIT.ORG KATHLEEN NAAB

Mary's example of reaching out and serving with joy is one that all Christians must follow if we are to be authentic, Pope Francis said today during morning Mass at Casa Santa Marta. According to Vatican Radio, the Pope drew from the readings for today's Feast of the Visitation to encourage Mary's attitude of service, which resulted in her reaching out to Elizabeth. He lauded the generations of women in the Church who have followed Mary's example.

"Christians with a grimace or disgruntled expression on their faces, sad Christians, are a very ugly thing. It's really ugly, ugly, ugly. However, they are not fully Christian. They think they are (Christians) but they are not fully so. This is the Christian message," he said. "And in this atmosphere of joy that today's liturgy gives us like a gift, I would like to underline just two things: first, an attitude; second, a fact. The attitude is one of service or helping others."

The Pope pointed out how the Gospel describes Mary as setting off immediately and without hesitation to visit her cousin, despite being pregnant and despite the dangers. This young girl of 16 or 17, he said, showed her courage in getting up straightaway and setting out on her journey.

"The courage of women. The courageous women who are present in the Church: they are like Mary. These women who bring up their families, these women who are responsible for rearing their children, who have to face so many hardships, so much pain, women who look after the sick.... Courageous: they get up and help other people."

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COUNSELS

Divine Compassion

THEME: The spoken word of God empowers us to be compassionate and sensitive to those in need.

WORD: **1 Kgs 17:17-24 ~ Ps 30:2,4,5-6,11,12,13
Gal 1:11-19 ~ Lk 7:11-17**

ORDER: **"I tell you, arise!" Lk 7:14b**

REFLECTION:

In the first reading, Elijah restores a son back to life through prayer and a series of actions – he lays the dead son on his bed, stretches himself over him and prays for the return of his life, at which the mother is led to exclaim: **"Now indeed I know that you are a man of God, and it is truly the word of the Lord that you speak."** (1 King 17:24) In the Gospel, a mere word from Jesus is sufficient to bring the dead son back to life. In both cases, compassion for the grieving mother triggers the restoration of life.

We are given a glimpse of the human side of Jesus when He encounters a funeral procession upon entering the city of Nain. Seeing the anguish of the mother at the death of her only son, Jesus is moved to pity and restores the dead son back to life. He tells her **"Do not weep,"** (Lk 7:13). And without being asked, He steps forward, touches the coffin and says: **"Young man, I tell you, arise! The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother."** (Lk 7:14-15).

What was the reaction of the crowd? The people were amazed and they glorified God. They exclaimed, **"God has visited His people."** (Lk 7:16) The word "visit" in biblical terms means divine intervention. It stands for salvation. It signifies that God is so concerned, that He acts, doing what is necessary and beneficial. And truly, in His Son Jesus, God has visited His people. *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

You change my mourning into dancing.

~ Ps 30:12

ABOUNDING JOY – IT'S A CATHOLIC WAY

Have you ever felt joy so unspeakable, overflowing, exceeding and great? Believe it or not, God wants us to have that kind of joy. Not just a little joy for us to keep to ourselves. God definitely wants us to show and express joy – the fruit of the Holy Spirit, whenever we can. Will the joy we have send us to dancing, raising our hands in worship, having bright smiles, and loudly singing out praises to our God? Yes! ***“Then all who trust in you will be glad and forever shout for joy.”*** (Ps 5:12)

Keep in mind that the word “joy” and other words like it, such as rejoice, gladness, and delight appears 650 times in the Bible. It therefore shows that joy is God’s especially important agenda for us. He wants us transformed into people of joy because through the fullness of joy we can draw other people to Him.

Fortunately, the Psalmist mentions some guidelines to help us experience joy in our lives: ***“You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever.”*** (Ps 16:11) This means three things: (1) Choose the righteous path. (2) Never stop praising and thanking God. (3) Surrender ourselves to the mercy and love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Are these very difficult tasks to undertake? Certainly not. As soon as you wake up, make sure you start praying and just as Jesus taught us, we praise and thank our Heavenly Father and ask Him to keep us close to His heart. Add to this the reading of His Word every day to increase and enrich our relationship with Him. In one of the BLD Teachings, the acronym for B.I.B.L.E. was taught; the letters stand for: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth. Therefore, let us read this Book of Life as often as we can then. God’s Words promise to bring everlasting joy always. Even in the Book of Job, joy is mentioned five times. One of them is in Job 8:21, ***“Once more will he fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with rejoicing.”*** The book challenges us: should we choose to grumble, harbor ill-feelings, and be unforgiving, hang on to unconfessed sins and wrongdoings, or do we choose to have joy?

And last but not the least, faithfully receive the Sacraments, especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation which many of us tend to leave out. The source of rivers of pleasure and joy, Reconciliation reminds us that God is just like the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, who ran, embraced, and kissed the repentant son and clothed him with the best robes, and threw a party because of his return. If our God of Mercy and Compassion knows how to celebrate, then we who share in His abounding joy should celebrate too.



Fr. Paul Speaks

The Easter season which concluded on the feast of Pentecost is followed by many rich liturgical celebrations. The feast of the most Blessed Trinity was celebrated the Sunday following Pentecost. The feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus (Corpus Christi) was the next Sunday. The Friday following Corpus Christi is the feast of the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**. I would like to spend a few moments to help us center on the deeper meaning of this feast.

The connection between the **Sacred Heart** and the Divine Mercy should be obvious. The rays of love and mercy flow from the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**, which in the divine mercy devotion is hidden. St. Faustina often referred to divine mercy as a furnace of love into which our sins can be thrown to be consumed by God’s love. The **Sacred Heart** is often pictured surrounded by flames. Fire of course can be very destructive. But often in Scripture fire connotes warmth or purification or joy. Sister Faustina referred to divine mercy as a furnace into which our sins are thrown to be consumed in the same way that twigs would be consumed if thrown into a blazing fire. The punishments of hell are also often depicted by fire. So, fire can be an act of love or a punishment. The big difference is that the fire of divine love can be turned into a punishment because of our rejection of mercy.

One of the major sins we can be guilty of is distrust of God’s forgiveness. Some who have committed horrible sins can be tempted to think they have committed an unforgiveable sin. Admittedly there is the danger of “cheap grace” - the attitude that we can sin with abandon, and that God will easily forgive us. But more often than not, many, especially those with habits of sin, can give up the fight and believe they are doomed to a lifetime of sinful failure. The beautiful short verse “Jesus, I trust in you” should be in our hearts often. And even though we may not be hardened sinners we all need constant forgiveness and encouragement to move on.

May this First Friday’s feast of the **Sacred Heart** be another opportunity to celebrate freedom from the bonds of sin especially during this Year of Mercy. Accept forgiveness especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Show your freedom from the bonds of sin by granting forgiveness to those who may have offended you. Together we rejoice in what we have received and what we have been given, divine mercy flowing from the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**.

Liabli to Judgment

As disciples of Christ, we are reminded in the Gospel of Matthew, not to be like the scribes and Pharisees, if we want to enter the kingdom of heaven; if we want to not be liable to judgment. The righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees was known to be only outward, external and ritualistic; in other words, hypocritical. As disciples, we are asked to have the righteousness of Jesus Christ, following God's commandments with our hearts and with God's grace.

A typical example is following the sixth commandment of God – *"Thou shalt not kill."* Do we have to do the actual killing, before we may be liable to judgment? Matthew 5:21-22 says: *"You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, 'Raga,' will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna."* This is a tough call for all disciples, for we know that we do get angry with our spouses, our children, our brothers and sisters in community. However, we also know that we have to be like Jesus Christ, loving and forgiving. We have to preserve Christian love and peace with all our brethren.



Should there be any misunderstanding, we should be quick in confessing our fault, setting aside our pride, humbling ourselves to our offended brother or sister, and offering to repair any wrongdoing. We should quickly make an effort to be reconciled with our brethren. It has to be done quickly, because until then, we will be unfit for communion with God in holy ordinances.

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COUNSELS (continued from page 1)

Jesus's visit demonstrates God's unconditional and constant love for us. Although the act of raising the dead son to life clearly reveals the presence of divine power, St. Luke describes the incident in such a way as to emphasize the love and compassion that motivated Jesus to perform the miracle in the first place. This underscores our theme for this week: *The spoken word of God empowers us to be compassionate and sensitive to those in need.* It is essential to open ourselves to the healing touch of Jesus, the reviving touch of the Lord. Are we humble enough to admit that we need Jesus to raise up the dead areas of our lives?

When Jesus encountered the grieving mother of Nain, He acted without being asked. There was no petition, no prayer, no expectation, or expression of hope or faith on the part of the mother to elicit such a miracle. It was a spontaneous outflow from the compassionate heart of Jesus. By restoring her only son to life, He gave her new hope, new life. *"Jesus gave him back to his mother"* (Lk 7:15) – this phrase summarizes the whole story. While it is about divine compassion, it is also about God's life-giving power. We can say that with Jesus there is always fresh hope, new opportunities. With Jesus, there is salvation, a new life and a future.

The Gospel tells us that Jesus is a man of love and empathy. He feels what we feel. He knows what goes on in our hearts that cause us pain. God allows suffering and trials to happen because He is able to make good come from tough and challenging situations. He showed this through His own Son whom He allowed to suffer and die for our salvation. It is this belief that sustains us in the midst of our sufferings and trials. Ours, then, is the promise taken from Psalm 30:12 - You change my mourning into dancing.

Prayer:

Jesus, our strength, our life, and our hope. Just as You had compassion on the widowed mother and gave her son back to her, surely, You will hear our prayers. Heal us of our pain and sufferings, and grant us the grace we need. As we experience Your compassion, expand our capacity to extend the same compassion to others.

Reflection Questions:

1. How have we demonstrated compassion when confronted by the sufferings of others?
2. Cite an incident in your life when you felt that God "visited" you and your loved ones.

NEWS

(continued from page 1)

“Serving others is a Christian sign. Whoever doesn’t live to serve other people, doesn’t serve to live. Serving others and being full of joy is the attitude that I would like to underline today. There is joy and also service towards others.”

The Holy Father pointed out that Mary was able to serve Elizabeth because she reached out to her.

Pope Francis said if we could learn these two things: to serve others and reach out to them, how much our world would change:

“Reaching out to others is another Christian sign. Persons who describes themselves as Christian and who are unable to reach out to others, to go and meet them are not totally Christian. Being of service and reaching out to others both require going out from themselves: going out to serve and meet others, to embrace another person. Through Mary’s service towards others, through that encounter, our Lord’s promise is renewed and makes it happen now, just as it did then. And it is really our Lord – as we heard during the first Reading: ‘The Lord, your God, is in your midst’ – the Lord is about helping other people, the Lord is about meeting other people.”

Liabie to Judgment (continued from page 3)

We will be like the scribes and Pharisees, if we go to Church every day, receiving the Holy Eucharist with anger and bitterness in our hearts. Matthew 5:23-26 says: **“Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court with him. Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.”**

Let us take some time to reflect and think of the people we might have hurt and people, who have hurt us. Are we truly reconciled with them? Have we made an effort? Let us not waste our time thinking of ourselves as holy, when deep within, we know that we are not reconciled with God. Let us do it, while we can; while we are alive - on our way to our judgment seat. After death, it will be too late. If we do not seek peace with God, we will certainly be liable to judgment.

Please note that a pdf of this covenant News is also available online at BLDNEWARK.com

LORD’S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK’S

Collections	Prior Week	YTD
Tithe & Love Offering	\$ 3,069	\$ 57,386
Mission Collections	\$ 69	\$ 4,304

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

Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Protecting God’s Children Training

Saturday, June 4, 2016 - 9:30 AM

Contact: Elaine Fernando (mefernando@comcast.net)

Marriage Encounter #47

“Restore, Renew, Rekindle ...”

Please contact: Efen & Yollie Cruz

June 17-19, 2016

Hotel Executive Suites

30 Minue Street

Carteret, NJ 07008

Solo Parents Encounter #18

“Jesus is calling...”

Please contact: Vic & Becky Napenas

June 24-26, 2016

Days Hotel Conference

Center East Brunswick

195 Route 18 South, East

Brunswick, NJ 08816

Singles Encounter #36

Come all you who are thirsty...

Please contact: Jutt Bustos

Lita Alfaro

June 24-26, 2016

Graymoor Spiritual Life Center

Garrison, NY 10524

Note change in date

Youth Encounter #23

“Come and Follow Me...”

Please contact: Charlie & Weng Larobis

July 8-10, 2016

Pine Hill, PA (TBC)

Ron & Dina Pangilinan

Oliver & Marissa Rangel

FAMILY ENCOUNTER 23

When: July 15, 16, 17, 2016

Where: Malvern Retreat House
Malvern, PA

Submit Applications to:

Mat & Precy Yap (973) 769-1426
June & Edith Buhain (973) 342-3276
Butch & Malou Morales
(908) 477-5125



TEACHING CALENDAR

Teachings for **Saturday, June 18** - 1 to 6 pm:

- Basic Bible Seminar (LSS 1-46)
- CMP1 Part 1 (LSS 1-44)
- Shepherd’s Training (LSS 1-43)

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			June 10	Management
			June 17	Mission
			June 24	Pastoral
July 1	Evangelization			